

# N Rigid-body Dynamics

Derek C. Richardson

University of Maryland

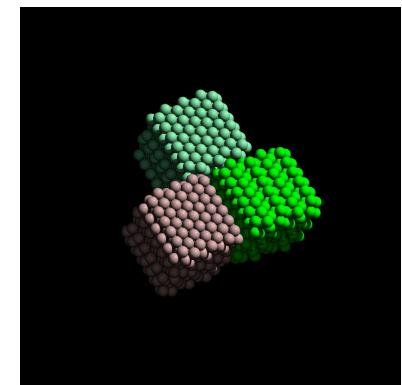
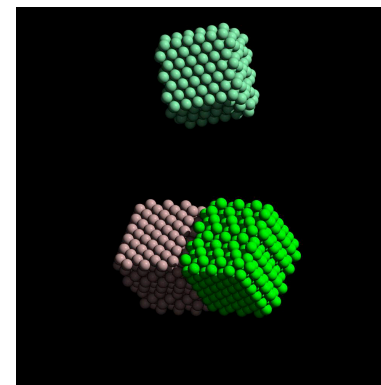
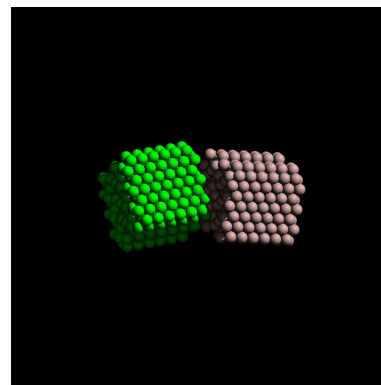
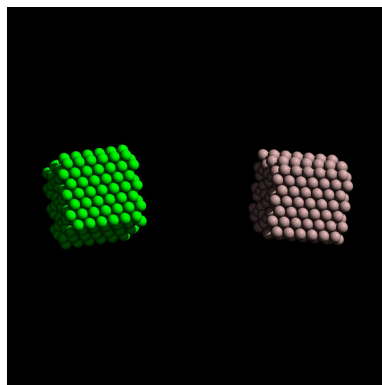
With:

Patrick Michel (Obs. Côte d'Azur)

Randall Perrine (UMd)

Stephen Schwartz (UMd)

Kevin Walsh (Obs. Côte d'Azur)





# Very Brief Outline

- CollisionAL systems
  - With real collisions!
- Simulating sphere-sphere collisions
  - Methods and complications.
- Simulating (non-spherical) rigid bodies
  - Methods and applications.
- New directions
  - Cohesion, granular dynamics, etc.

REVIEW: Richardson et al. 2009, P&SS 57, 183

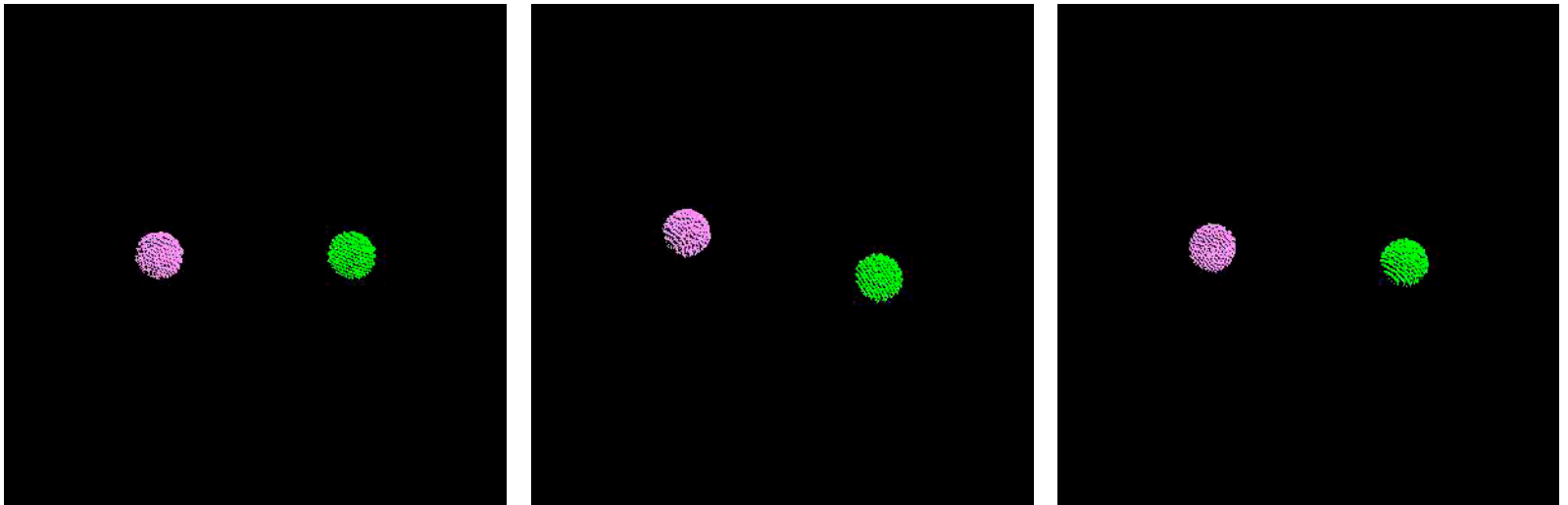


# Collisional Systems

- Here we are concerned not only with close gravitational encounters, but also physical collisions:  $|\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_j| = s_i + s_j$ .
- In astrophysics, usually restricted to planetary dynamics:
  - Planet formation (planetesimal accretion).
  - Planetary rings.
  - Granular dynamics.

# Physical Collisions in Astrophysics

- Planetesimal accretion
  - Gravity + collisions involving rigid particles or groups of rigid particles with some dissipation law and possible fragmentation, etc.



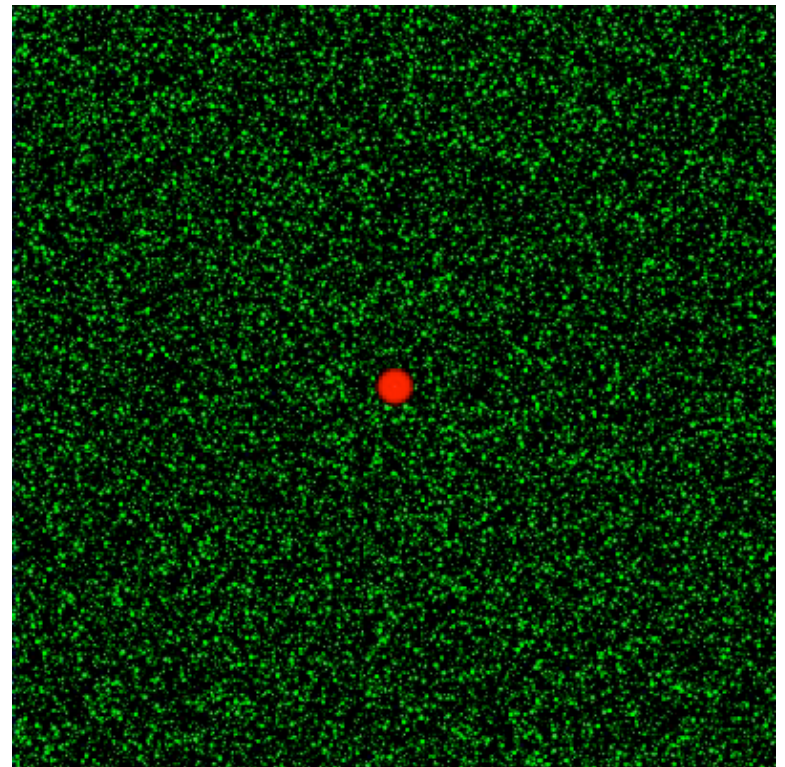
Leinhardt et al. 2000, Icarus 146, 133

# Physical Collisions in Astrophysics

- Planetary rings
  - Gravity + collisions in tidal field of a planet, with dissipation and possible sticking and/or fragmentation.

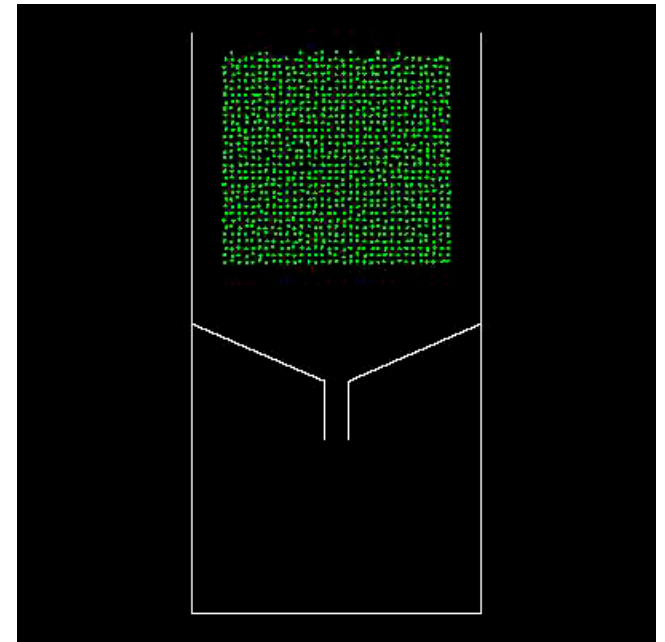
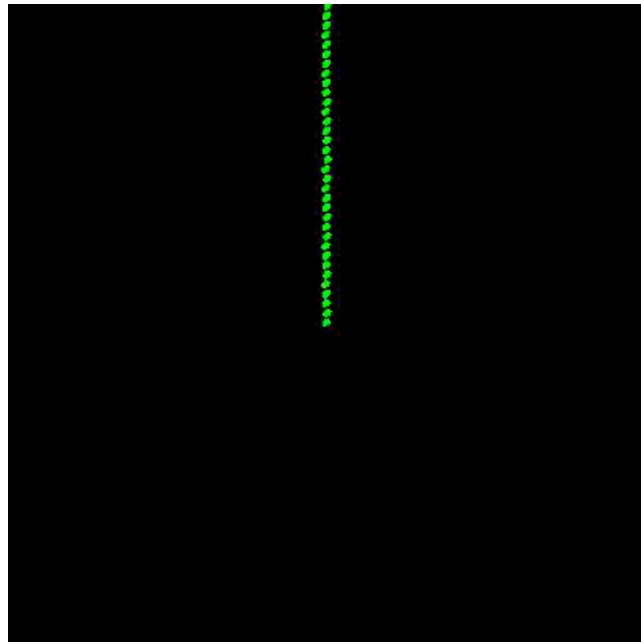
Ring patch with  
embedded moonlet

Tiscareno et al. 2006,  
Nature 440, 648



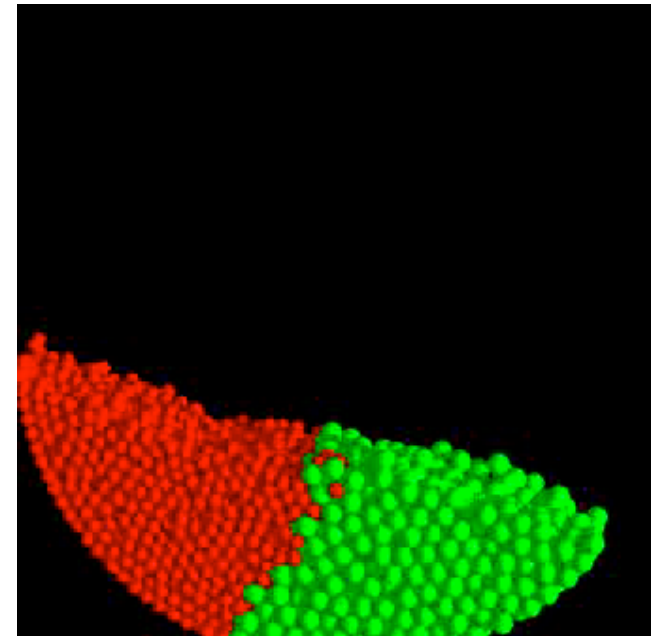
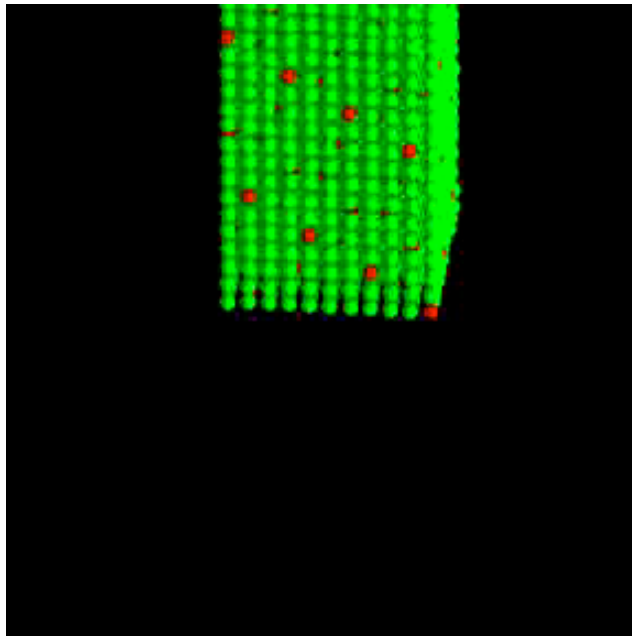
# Physical Collisions in Astrophysics

- Granular dynamics
  - Collisions in uniform gravity field, usually with bouncing only, but possibly with sticky “walls.”
  - Applications: regolith motion, sample return.

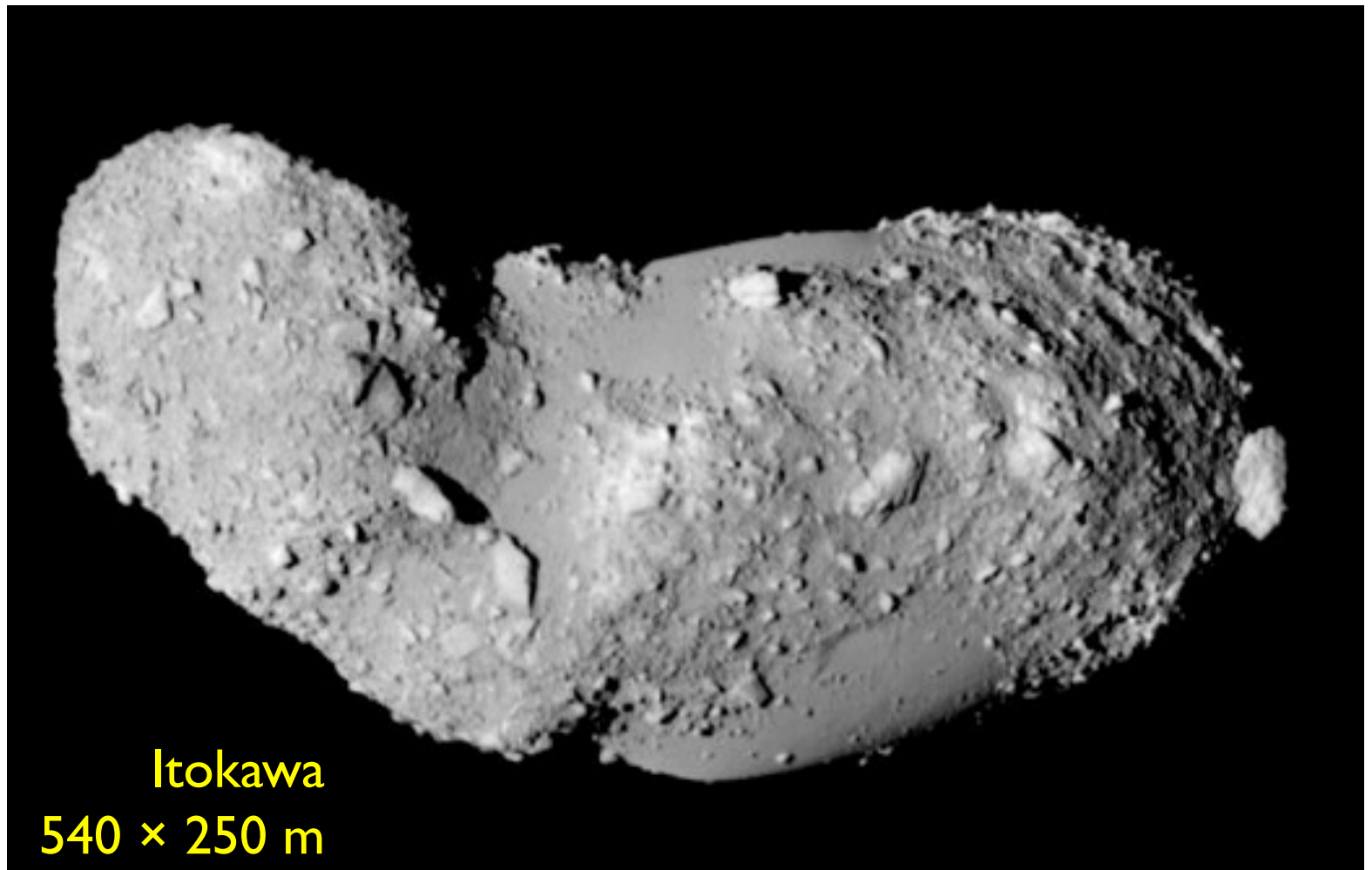


# Physical Collisions in Astrophysics

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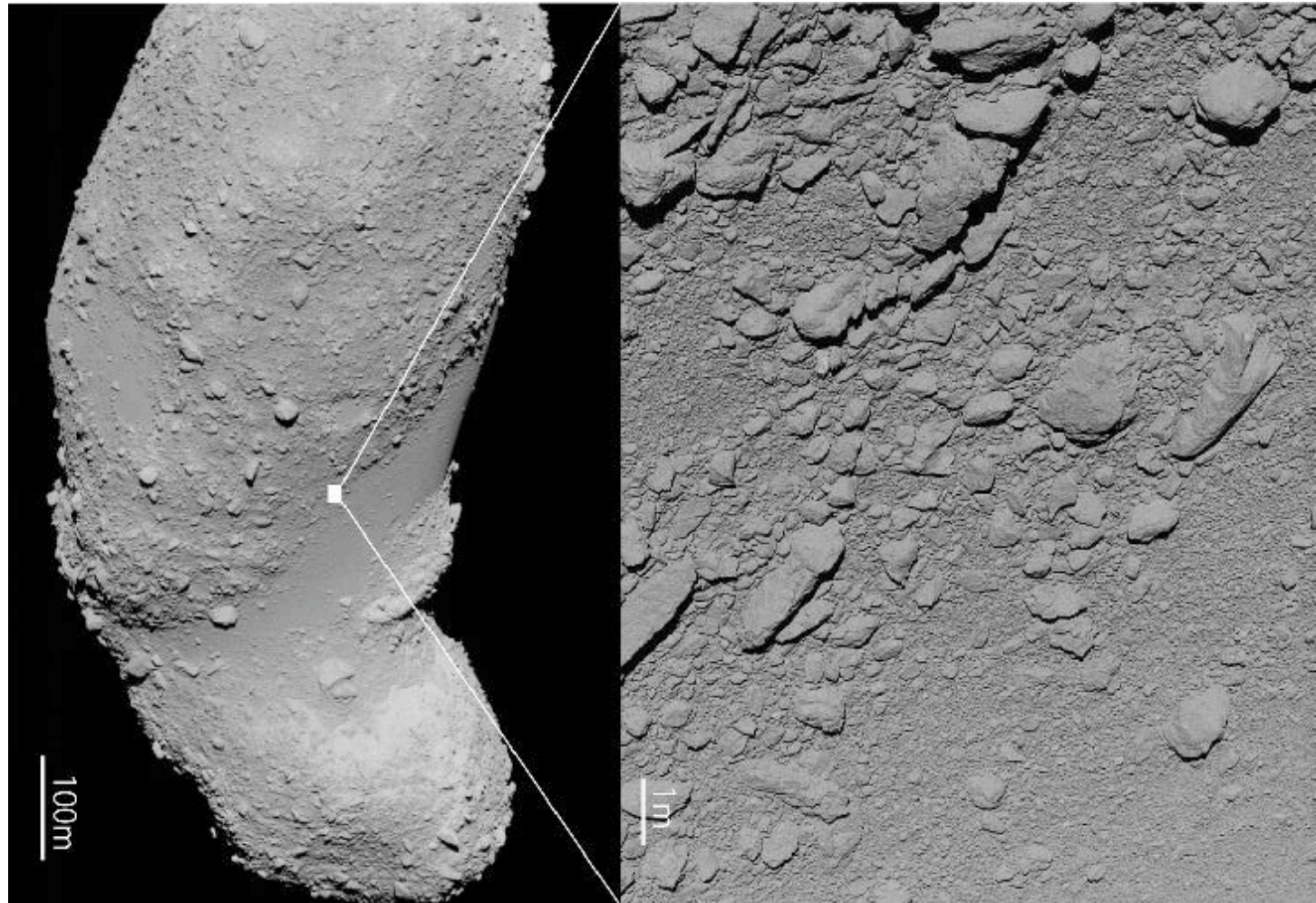


# Rubble is out there...





# Rubble is out there...

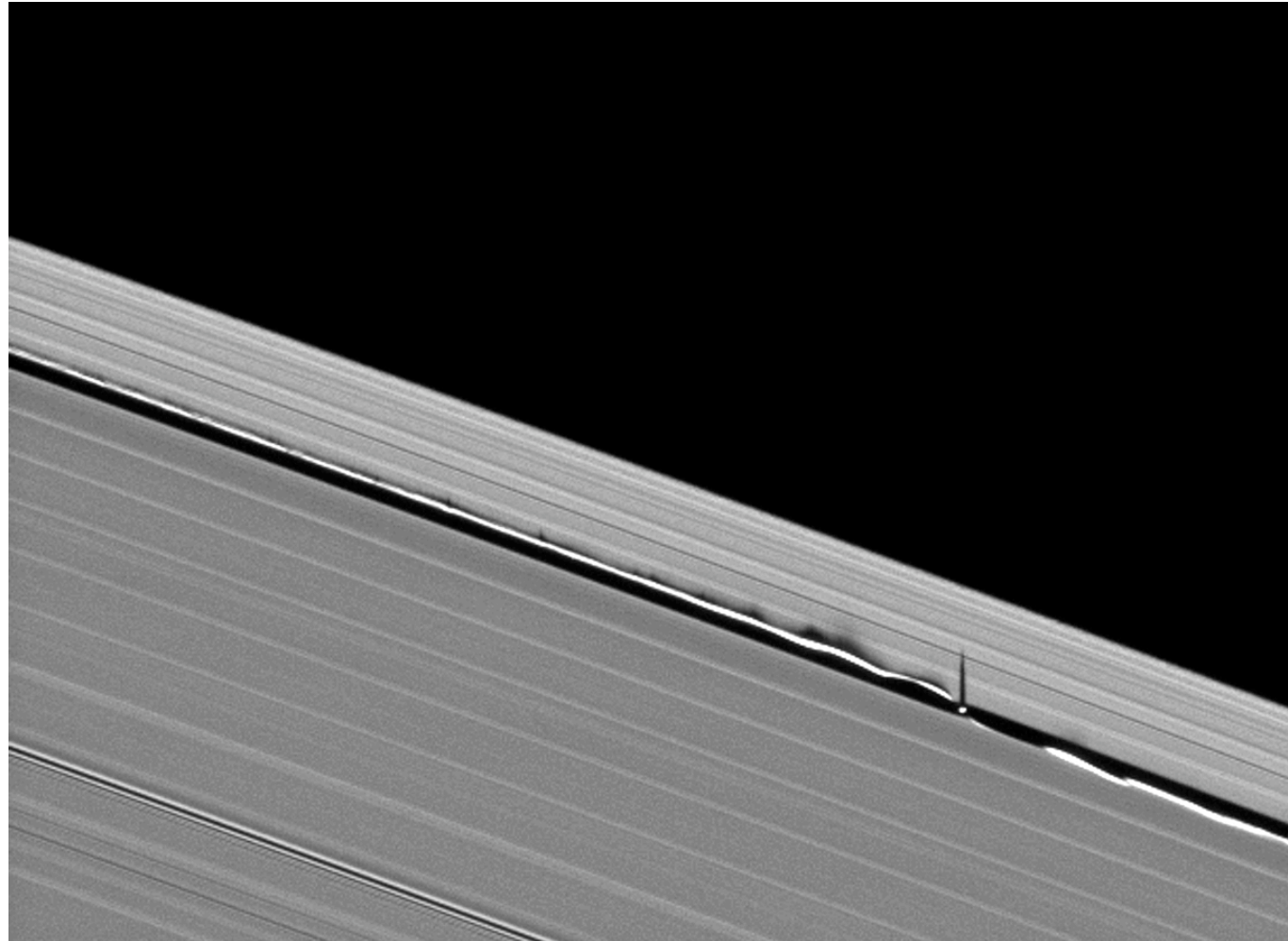


# Rubble is out there...



Image courtesy JAXA/ISIS

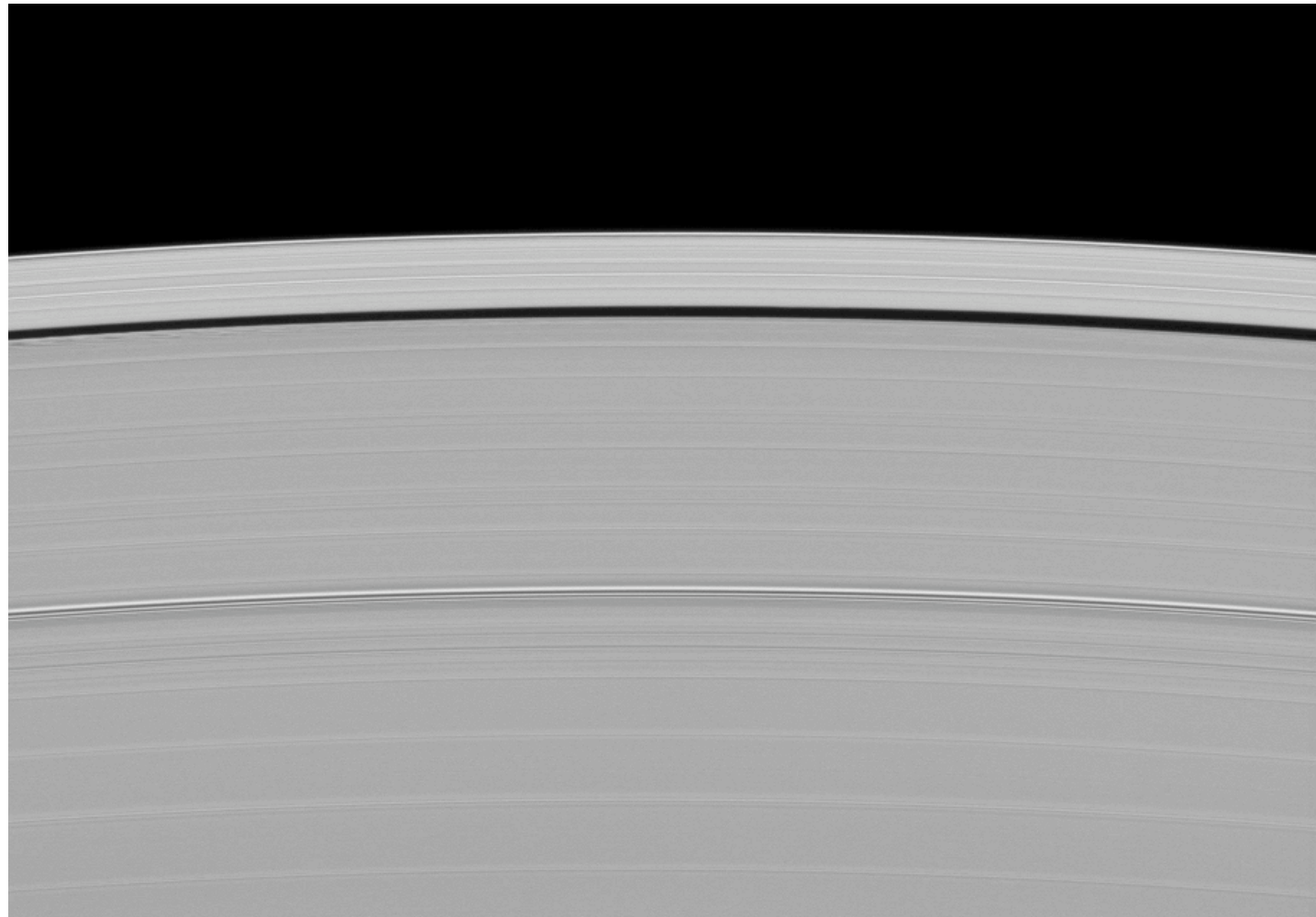
# Rubble is out there...



Daphnis casting a shadow

Cassini Equinox Mission

# Rubble is out there...



Daphnis casting a shadow (movie)

Cassini Equinox Mission

# Collisional systems

- **ADVANTAGES:**

1. No singularities.

- Particles touch before  $|r| \rightarrow 0$ . No softening!

2. Minimum (gravitational) timestep bounded.

- $h = \eta/(G\rho)^{1/2}$ ,  $\rho$  = maximum density,  $\eta \sim 0.03$ .

- **CHALLENGE:**

- Need to predict when collisions occur (or deal with them after the fact), therefore need efficient *neighbor-finding algorithm*.

# Sphere-sphere Equations of Motion

- Same as for point particles:

$$\ddot{\mathbf{r}}_i = - \sum_{j \neq i} \frac{Gm_j (\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_j)}{|\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_j|^3}$$

- Can use any standard ordinary differential equation integrator (see Scott's talk!).
- Turns out 2<sup>nd</sup>-order leapfrog is particularly advantageous.

# Second-order Leapfrog

- Kick-drift-kick (KDK) scheme:

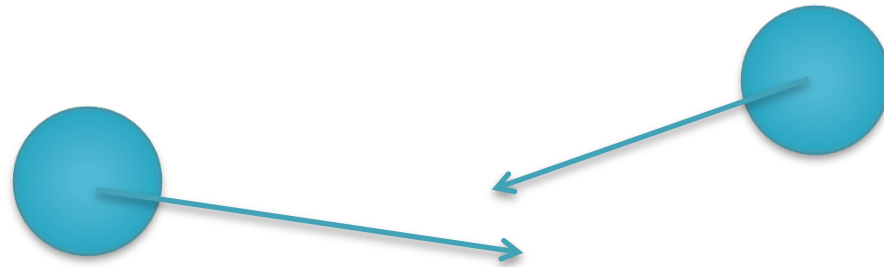
$$\dot{\mathbf{r}}_{i,n+1/2} = \dot{\mathbf{r}}_{i,n} + (h/2)\ddot{\mathbf{r}}_{i,n} \quad \text{“kick”},$$

$$\mathbf{r}_{i,n+1} = \mathbf{r}_{i,n} + h\dot{\mathbf{r}}_{i,n+1/2} \quad \text{“drift”},$$

$$\dot{\mathbf{r}}_{i,n+1} = \dot{\mathbf{r}}_{i,n+1/2} + (h/2)\ddot{\mathbf{r}}_{i,n+1} \quad \text{“kick”},$$

- Notice the drift is linear in the velocities  
—exploit this to search for collisions.

# Collision Prediction



$$\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{r}_2 - \mathbf{r}_1$$

$$\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{v}_2 - \mathbf{v}_1$$

Collision condition at time  $t$ :

$$v^2 t^2 + 2(\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{v})t + r^2 = (s_1 + s_2)^2$$

Solve for  $t$  (take smallest positive root):

$$t = \frac{-(\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{v}) \pm \sqrt{(\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{v})^2 - [r^2 - (s_1 + s_2)^2]v^2}}{v^2}$$



# Neighbor Finding

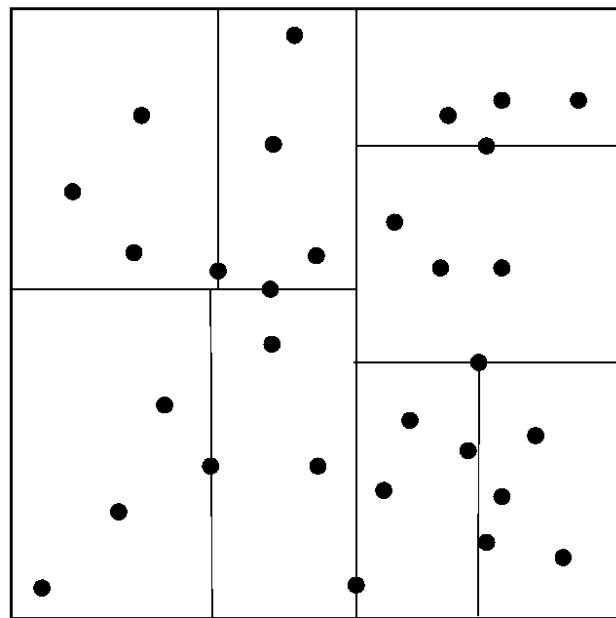
- To check all particle pairs for possible collision carries the same penalty as direct force summation:  $O(N^2)$ .
- Instead, take advantage of the hierarchical nature of a *tree code* to reduce the neighbor search to  $\sim O(N_s \log N)$ , where  $N_s =$  number of neighbors to find.
  - Collision search then becomes an SPH-like “smoothing” operation.



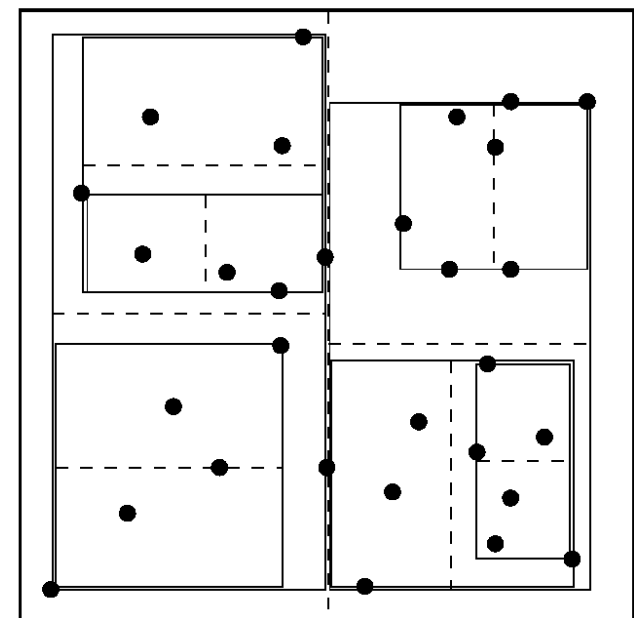
## Some words about pkdgrav/gasoline

- First developed at U Washington, this is a parallel, hierarchical gravity solver for problems ranging from cosmology to planetary science.
- “Parallel  $k$ -D Gravity code” = pkdgrav.
- Gasoline is pkdgrav with SPH enabled.
- Not released into the public domain (yet).
- If you’re interested in using it, see me!

# Spatial Binary Tree



*k*-D Tree

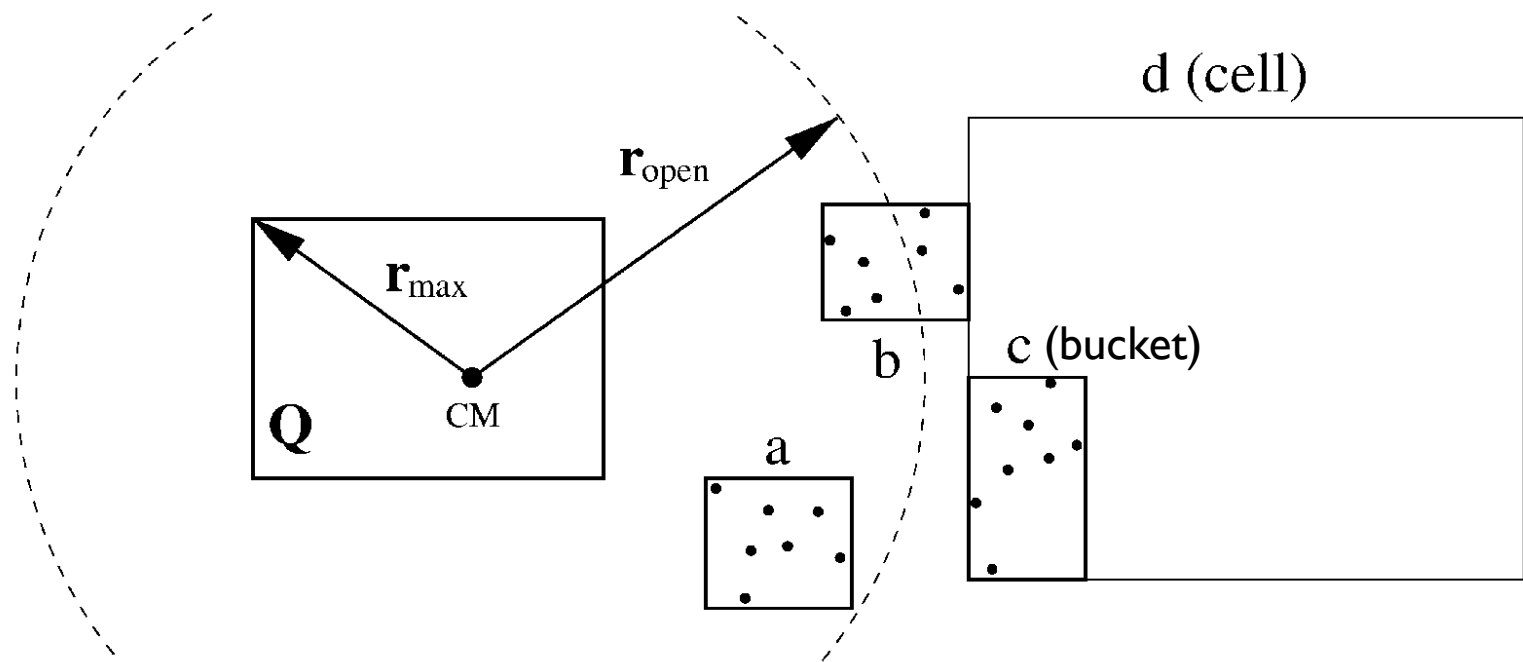


Spatial Binary Tree with Squeeze

# Tree Walking

- Construct particle-particle and particle-cell interaction lists from top down for particles one bucket at a time.
- Define opening ball (based on *critical opening angle*  $\theta$ ) to test for cell-bucket intersection.
  - If bucket outside ball, apply multipole (c-list).
  - Otherwise open cell and test its children, etc., until leaves reached (which go on p-list).
- Nearby buckets have similar lists: amortize.

# Tree Walking



Note multiple **Q** acceptable to all particles in cell **d**.



# Other Issues

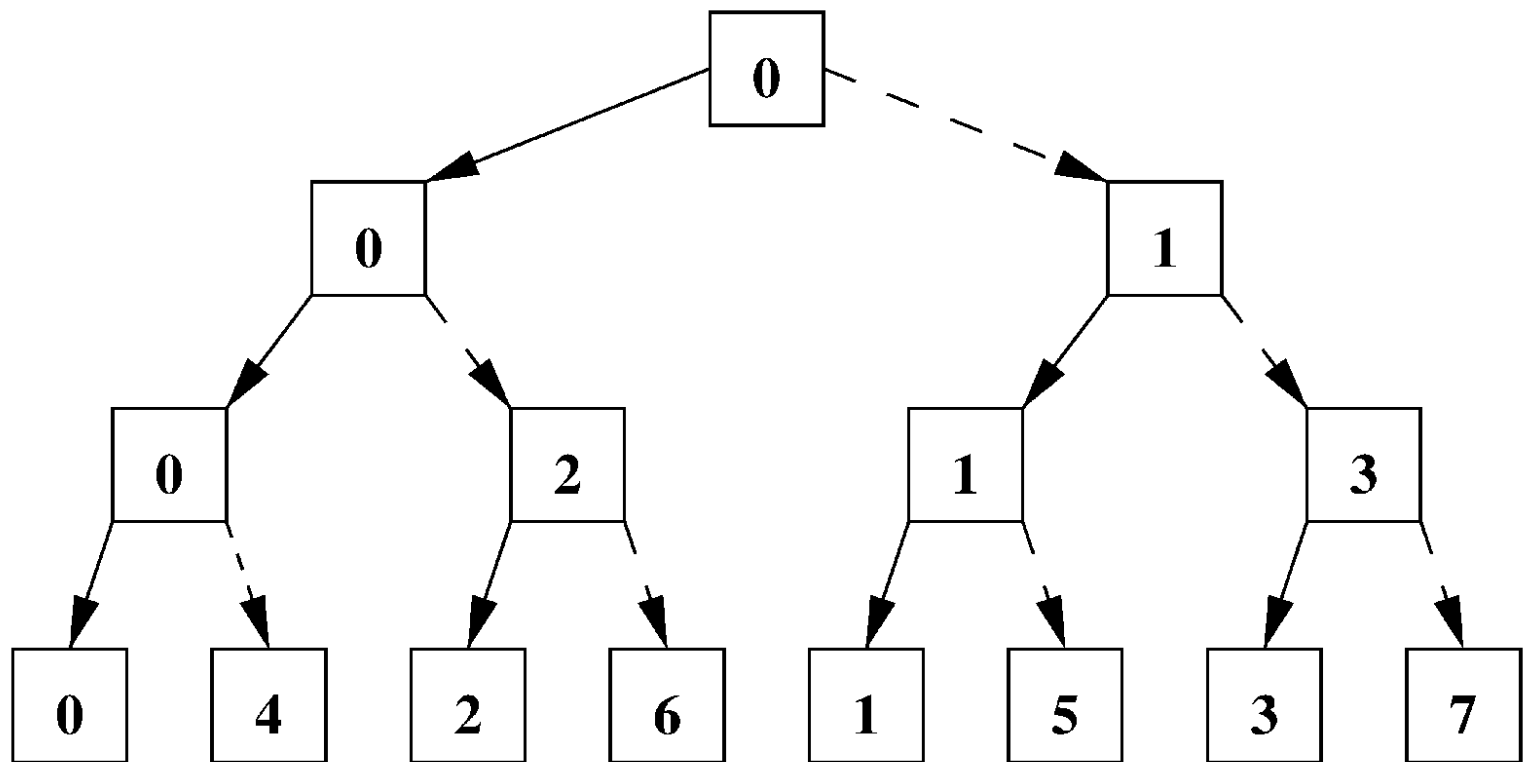
- Multipole expansion order.
  - Use hexadecapole (best bang for buck).
- Force softening (for cosmology).
  - Use spline-softened gravity kernel.
- Periodic boundary conditions.
  - Ewald summation technique available.
- Time steps.
  - Multistepping available (adaptive leapfrog).



# Parallel Implementation

- Master layer (serial).
  - Controls overall flow of program.
- Processor Set Tree (PST) layer (parallel).
  - Assigns tasks to processors.
- Parallel  $k$ -D (PKD) layer (serial).
  - MIMD execution of tasks on each processor.
- Machine-dependent Layer (MDL, separate set of functions).
  - Interface to parallel primitives.

# Domain Decomposition

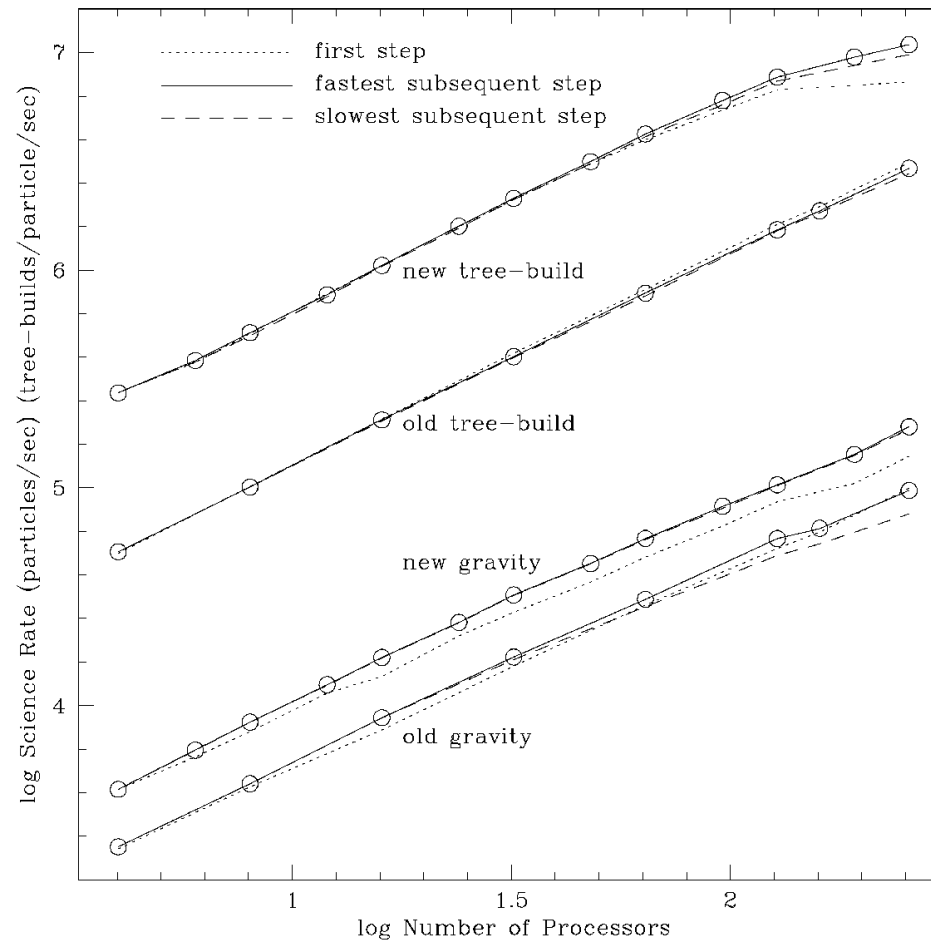


Binary tree balanced by work factors. Nodes construct local trees.



# Scaling at Fixed Accuracy

T3E Science Rate vs. Number of Processors (Dec 2000)



**Clustered  
cosmology  
simulation**

**( $N = 3 \cdot 10^6$ )**

**( $\theta = 0.8$ )**

# Back to collisions...

- How many neighbors to search?
  - Close-packed equal-size spheres have a maximum of 12 touching neighbors.
  - For less-packed situations, only concern is a more distant fast-moving particle.
  - Typically use  $N_s \sim 16\text{--}32$ , with  $h$  small enough to ensure no surprises.
  - Can also search for all neighbors within a fixed ball radius (e.g.  $R \sim vh$ ), but can end up with many more neighbors to check.

# Collision Resolution

Post-collision velocities and spins:

$$\mathbf{v}'_1 = \mathbf{v}_1 + \frac{m_2}{M} [(1 + \epsilon_n)\mathbf{u}_n + \beta(1 - \epsilon_t)\mathbf{u}_t],$$

$$\mathbf{v}'_2 = \mathbf{v}_2 - \frac{m_1}{M} [(1 + \epsilon_n)\mathbf{u}_n + \beta(1 - \epsilon_t)\mathbf{u}_t],$$

$$\boldsymbol{\omega}'_1 = \boldsymbol{\omega}_1 + \beta \frac{\mu}{I_1} (1 - \epsilon_t) (\mathbf{s}_1 \times \mathbf{u}),$$

$$\boldsymbol{\omega}'_2 = \boldsymbol{\omega}_2 - \beta \frac{\mu}{I_2} (1 - \epsilon_t) (\mathbf{s}_2 \times \mathbf{u}),$$

where:

$M = m_1 + m_2$ ,  $\mu = m_1 m_2 / M$ ,  $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{v} + \boldsymbol{\sigma}$ ,  $\hat{\mathbf{n}} = \mathbf{r} / r$ ,  $\mathbf{u}_n = (\mathbf{u} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{n}})\hat{\mathbf{n}}$ ,  $\mathbf{u}_t = \mathbf{u} - \mathbf{u}_n$ ,  $\mathbf{s}_1 = s_1 \hat{\mathbf{n}}$ ,  $\mathbf{s}_2 = -s_2 \hat{\mathbf{n}}$ ,  $\boldsymbol{\sigma}_i = \boldsymbol{\omega}_i \times \mathbf{s}_i$ ,  $\boldsymbol{\sigma} = \boldsymbol{\sigma}_2 - \boldsymbol{\sigma}_1$ ,  $\beta = 2/7$  for spheres, and  $I_i = (2/5) m_i R^2$ .

# What about $\varepsilon_n$ & $\varepsilon_t$ ?



Dan Durda



What about  $\varepsilon_n$  &  $\varepsilon_t$ ?



What about  $\varepsilon_n$  &  $\varepsilon_t$ ?





# Collision Handling in Parallel

- Each processor checks its particles for next collision during current drift interval (could involve off-processor particle).
- Master determines which collision goes next and allows it to be carried out.
- Check whether any future collision circumstances changed.
- Repeat until all collisions occurring within this drift step resolved.



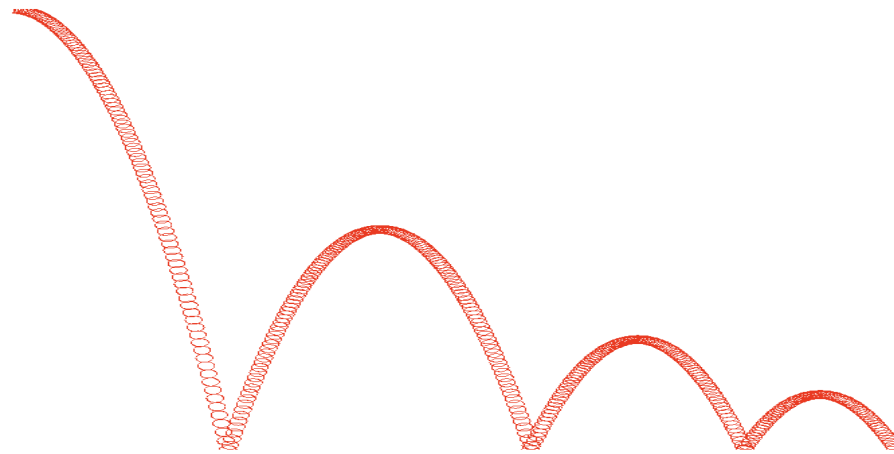


# Complications

- The “restitution” model of billiard-ball collisions is only an approximation of what really happens.
- Collisions are treated as instantaneous (no flexing) and single-point contact.
- This leads to problems:
  - Inelastic collapse.
  - Missed collisions due to round-off error.

# Inelastic Collapse

- A rigid ball bouncing on a rigid flat surface must come to rest, but in the restitution model this requires an infinite number of increasingly smaller bounces to occur in a finite time (Zeno's paradox!).



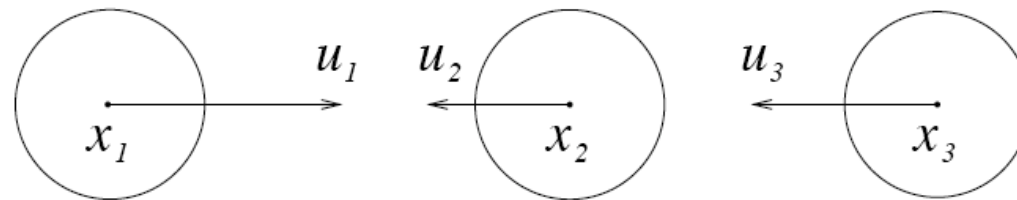
Could also occur between 2 self-gravitating spheres in free space.

# Inelastic Collapse

- How to fix it?
  - Impose minimum impact speed  $v_{\min}$  below which  $\varepsilon_n \rightarrow 1$  (no dissipation).
  - Choose  $v_{\min}$  so that this “vibration energy” is small compared to energy regimes of interest.
    - Petit & Hénon 1987a “sliding phase.”
  - OR, force particles/surfaces to come to rest with one another—but this causes other complications, especially with self-gravity.
    - Requires introducing surface normal forces.

# Inelastic Collapse

- Can occur in other circumstances, even *without* gravity, e.g.



$$\begin{pmatrix} u_1'' \\ u_2'' \\ u_3'' \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{2}(1 - \epsilon) & \frac{1}{2}(1 + \epsilon) & 0 \\ \frac{1}{4}(1 - \epsilon^2) & \frac{1}{4}(1 - \epsilon)^2 & \frac{1}{2}(1 + \epsilon) \\ \frac{1}{4}(1 + \epsilon)^2 & \frac{1}{4}(1 - \epsilon^2) & \frac{1}{2}(1 - \epsilon) \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} u_1 \\ u_2 \\ u_3 \end{pmatrix}$$

For collapse to occur, the matrix must have at least one real eigenvalue between 0 & 1. This is satisfied if  $0 < \epsilon < 7 - 4\sqrt{3}$  ( $\sim 0.072$ ).

# Inelastic Collapse, continued

- It can be shown that as  $N \rightarrow \infty$ ,  $\varepsilon_{n,\text{crit}} \rightarrow 1!$
- Problem occurs in 2- & 3-D as well.
- How to fix it?
  - If distance travelled since last collision small (factor  $f_{\text{crit}}$ ) compared to the particle radius, set  $\varepsilon_n = 1$  for next collision (typically  $f_{\text{crit}} \sim 10^{-6} - 10^{-3}$ ).
  - Other strategy (not implemented): store some fraction of impact energy as internal vibration to be released stochastically.



# Round-off Error and Overlaps

- Despite precautions, if there are many collisions between many particles in a timestep, round-off error can cause a collision to be missed.
- In this case, some particles may be overlapping at start of next step.
  - Minimize by good choices of  $h$ ,  $v_{\min}$ , and  $f_{\text{crit}}$ .
  - But sometimes that's not enough...



# Round-off Error and Overlaps

- **Overlap handling strategies:**
  - Abort with error (default).
  - Trace particles back in time until touching.
  - Push particles directly away until touching.
  - Merge particles (if merging enabled).
  - Apply repulsive force.
- For single particles, trace-back is best.  
For rigid bodies, repulsive force is best.

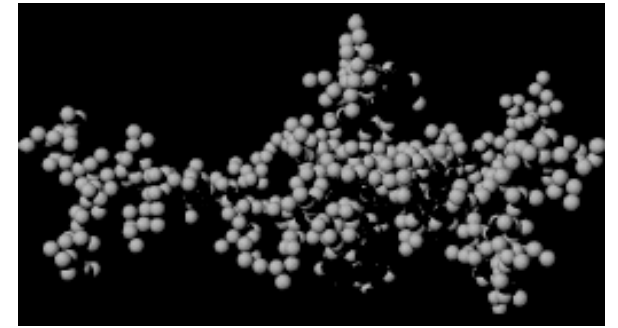


## Finally, Rigid Bodies!

- Spheres are a special (easy, ideal) case.
- Perfect spheres are rarely encountered in nature, and may give misleading results when used to model granular flow, aggregation in planetary rings, etc.
- Simplest generalization: allow spheres to stick together in more complex shapes (“bonded aggregates”). Advantages:
  - Can still use tree code for gravity & collisions.
  - Collisions are still sphere point-contact.

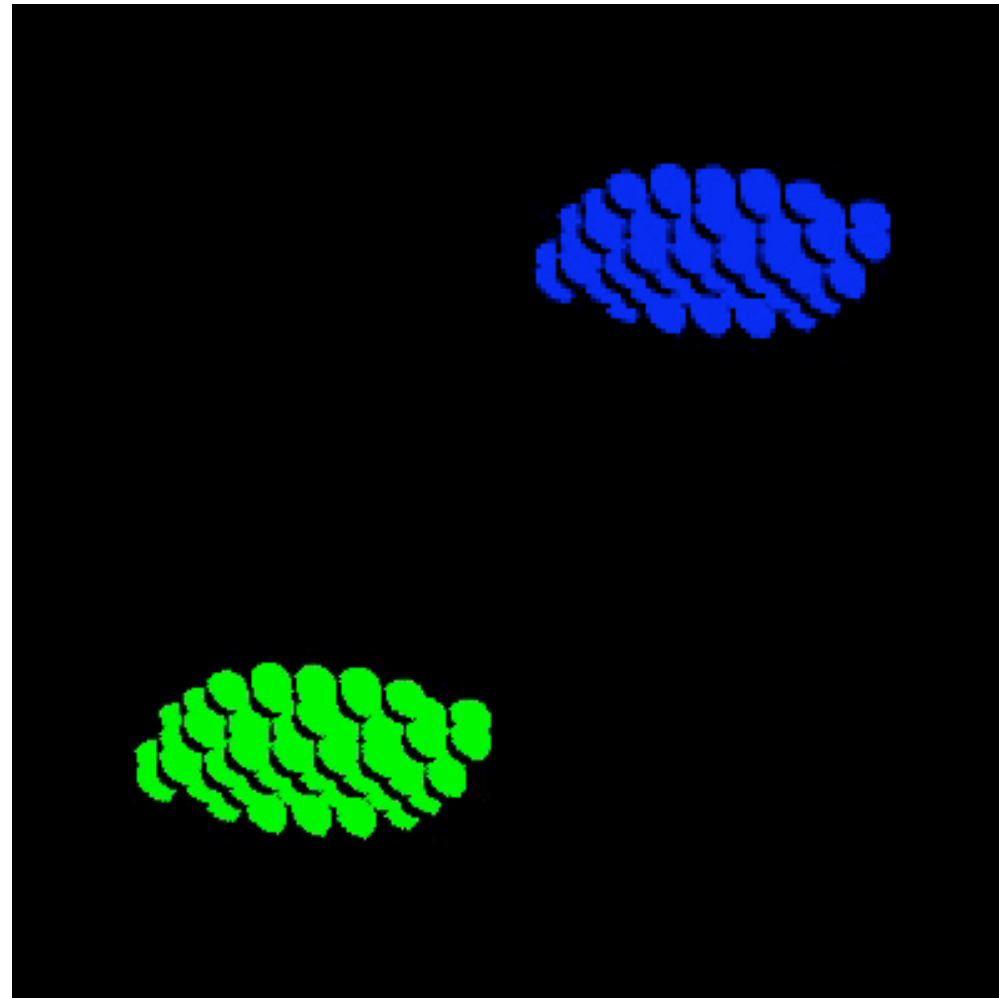


# Rigid Bodies



- Use pseudo-particles to represent aggregate center of mass, including inertia tensor, rotation state, and orientation.
- Constituent particles constrained to move with and around center of mass—KDK only applied to pseudo-particle.
- Torques and collisions alter aggregate motion (translation + rotation).

# Rigid Body Gravity Torques



# Euler's Equations of Rigid Body Rotation

$$I_1 \dot{\omega}_1 - \omega_2 \omega_3 (I_2 - I_3) = N_1,$$

$$I_2 \dot{\omega}_2 - \omega_3 \omega_1 (I_3 - I_1) = N_2,$$

$$I_3 \dot{\omega}_3 - \omega_1 \omega_2 (I_1 - I_2) = N_3,$$

where  $I_i$ ,  $\omega_i$  are principal moments and body spin components, respectively, and  $\mathbf{N}$  is the external torque expressed in the body frame.

# Euler's Equations of Rigid Body Rotation

- Previous equations represent a set of coupled ODEs that evolve the spin axis in the body frame. Need 3 more vector equations to evolve body orientation:

$$\dot{\hat{\mathbf{p}}}_1 = \omega_3 \hat{\mathbf{p}}_2 - \omega_2 \hat{\mathbf{p}}_3,$$

$$\dot{\hat{\mathbf{p}}}_2 = \omega_1 \hat{\mathbf{p}}_3 - \omega_3 \hat{\mathbf{p}}_1,$$

$$\dot{\hat{\mathbf{p}}}_3 = \omega_2 \hat{\mathbf{p}}_1 - \omega_1 \hat{\mathbf{p}}_2,$$

where  $\hat{\mathbf{p}}_i$  are the principal axes of the body.



# Euler's Equations of Rigid Body Rotation

- The moments of inertia (eigenvalues) and principal axes (eigenvectors) are found by diagonalizing the inertia tensor—only need to do this when particles added to/ removed from aggregate.
- Solve this set of 12 coupled ODEs any way you like (up to next collision, or end of drift). I use a fifth-order adaptive Runge-Kutta (for strongly interactive systems, dissipation not a concern).

# For Completeness

- Inertia tensor:

$$\mathbf{I}_{\text{agg}} = \sum_i [\mathbf{I}_i + m_i(\boldsymbol{\rho}_i^2 \mathbf{1} - \boldsymbol{\rho}_i \boldsymbol{\rho}_i)]$$

with  $\mathbf{I}_i = \frac{2}{5} m_i R_i^2 \mathbf{1}$  and  $\boldsymbol{\rho}_i = \mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_a$

- Torques:

$$\mathbf{N} = \boldsymbol{\Lambda}^T \left[ \sum_{i \in a} m_i (\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_a) \times (\ddot{\mathbf{r}}_i - \ddot{\mathbf{r}}_a) \right]$$

where the sum is over all particles in aggregate  $a$  and  $\boldsymbol{\Lambda} \equiv (\hat{\mathbf{p}}_1 | \hat{\mathbf{p}}_2 | \hat{\mathbf{p}}_3)$



# Rigid Body Collisions

- Collision resolution complicated because impacts generally off-axis (non-central).
- Solutions do not permit surface friction.
  - However, off-axis collisions cause impulsive torques, allowing transfer of translational motion to rotation, and vice versa.
- Collision prediction also more complicated, due to body rotation.

# Collision Prediction & Resolution

$$t = \frac{-(\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{u}) \pm \sqrt{(\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{u})^2 - [r^2 - (s_1 + s_2)^2][u^2 + (\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{q})]}}{u^2 + (\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{q})}$$

$$\Delta \mathbf{V}_1 = \gamma(1 + \varepsilon_n)(M_2/M)w_n \hat{\mathbf{n}},$$

$$\Delta \mathbf{V}_2 = -\gamma(1 + \varepsilon_n)(M_1/M)w_n \hat{\mathbf{n}},$$

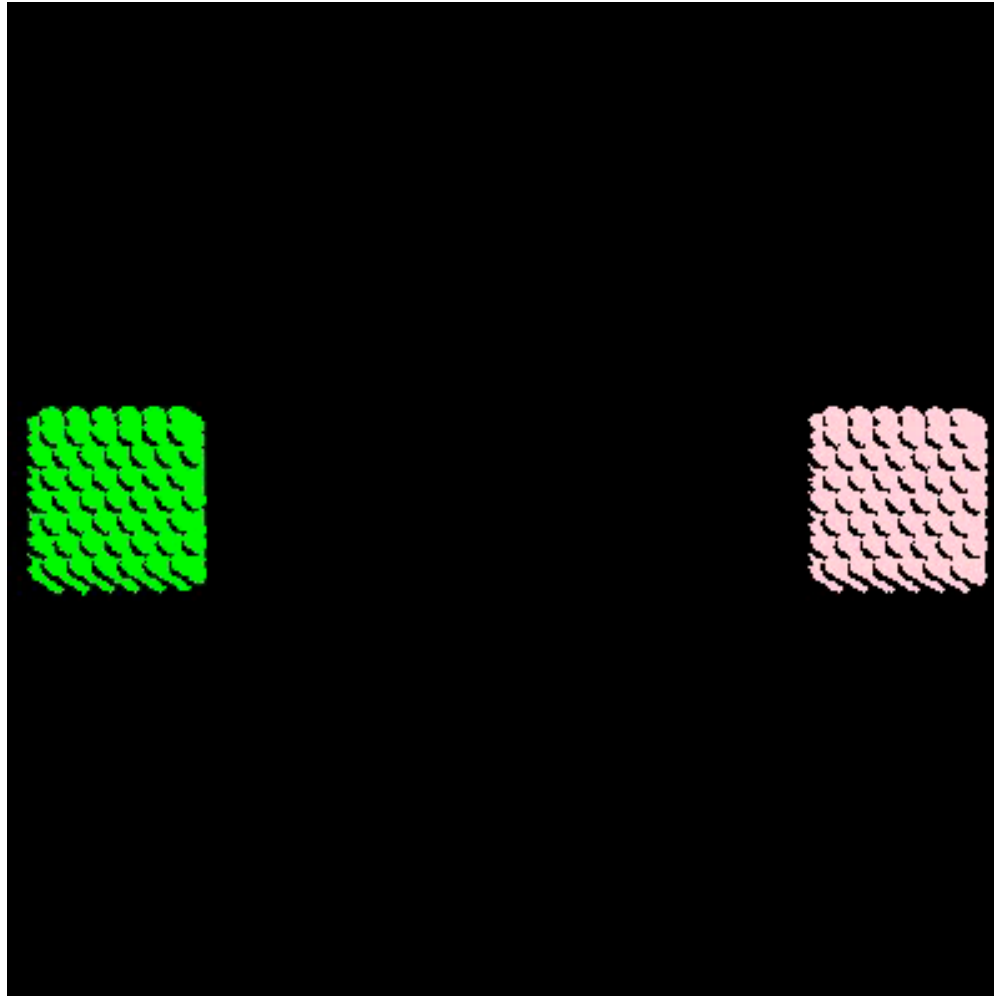
$$\Delta \boldsymbol{\Omega}_1 = M_1 \mathbf{I}_1^{-1}(\mathbf{c}_1 \times \Delta \mathbf{V}_1),$$

$$\Delta \boldsymbol{\Omega}_2 = M_2 \mathbf{I}_2^{-1}(\mathbf{c}_2 \times \Delta \mathbf{V}_2),$$

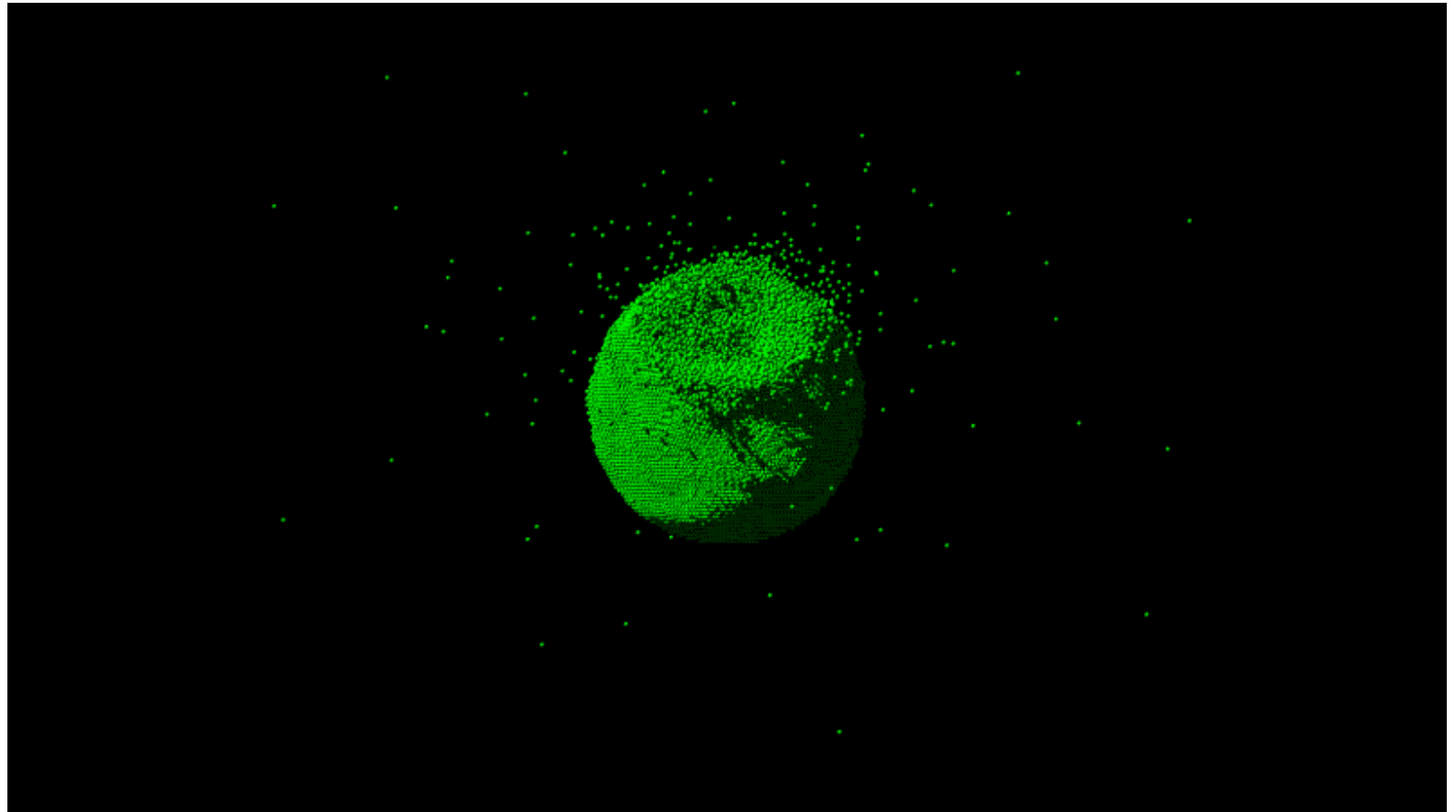
See Richardson et al. 2009  
for definitions of terms!



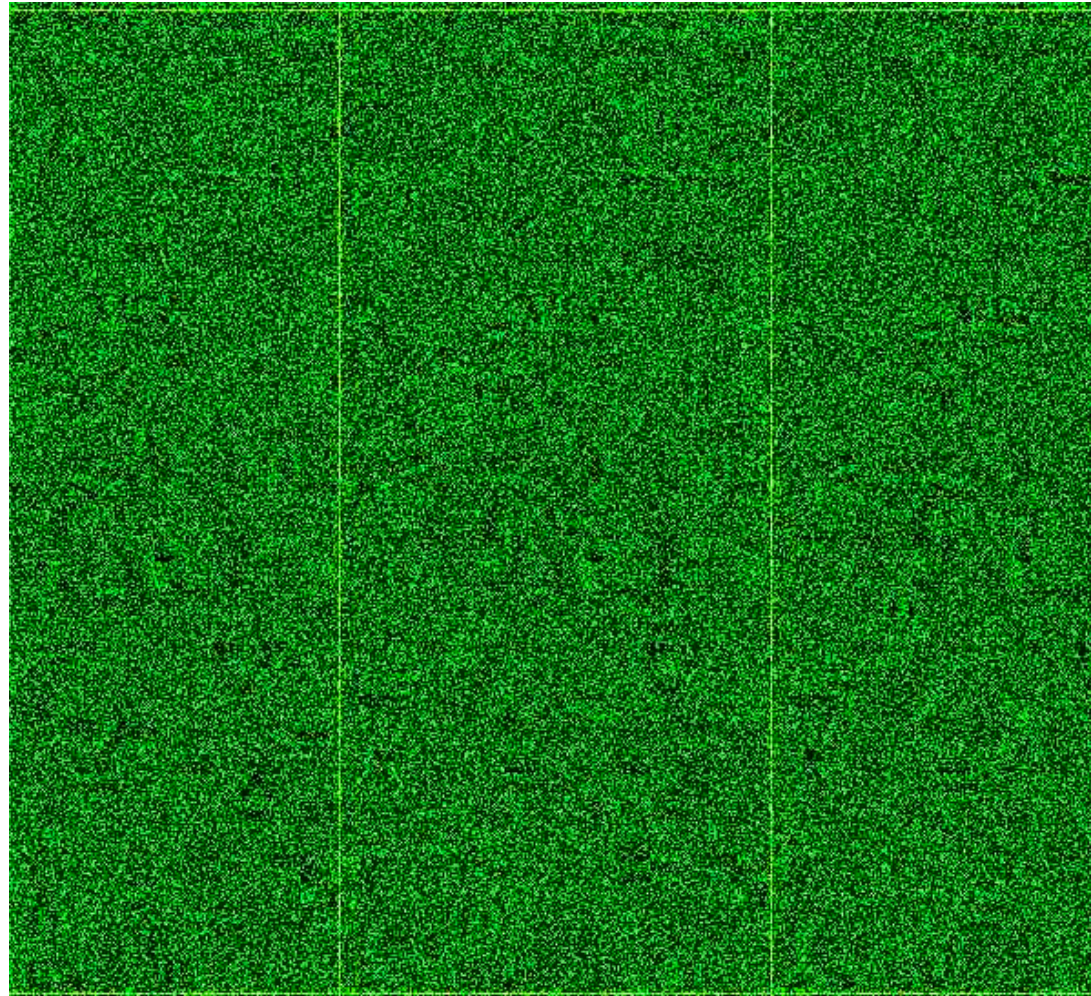
# Bouncing Cubes!



# Asteroid Family Formation



# Bonded Aggregates in Rings





# Homework Exercise

- Posted on the PiTP wiki.
- Basic idea: smash stuff up!



# About gravitational aggregates...

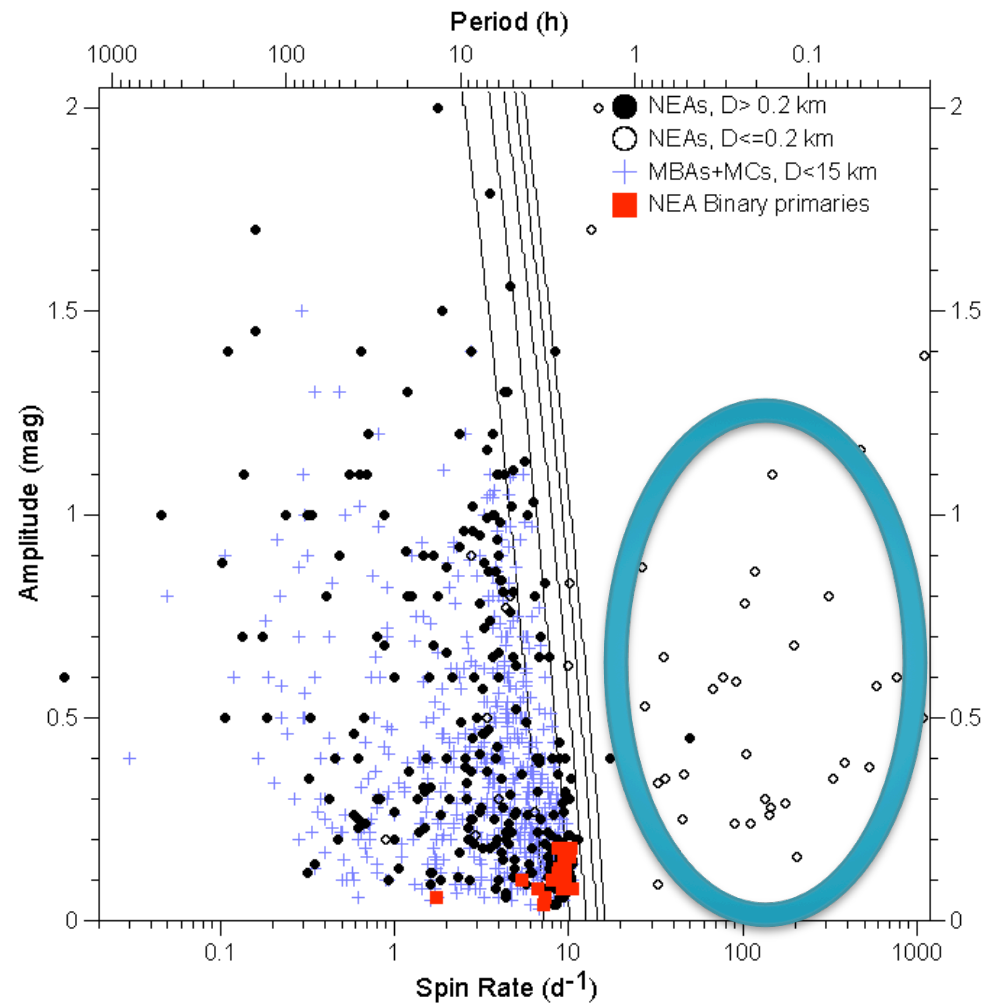
- Loose assemblages of coherent pieces held together mostly by gravity.
- May have *some* cohesion between pieces (tensile strength).
- NOTE: under compression, a gravitational aggregate has *shear* strength.
- A rubble pile is a special case of a jumbled body with no cohesion.



# What about cohesion?

- Lightcurve and radar data show some very small solar system bodies must have tensile strength/cohesion.

# What about cohesion?





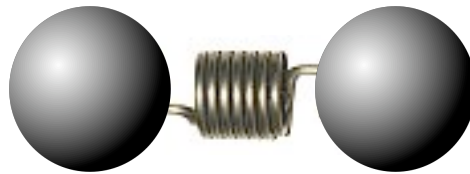
# What about cohesion?

- Upper limits from comets SL9 & Tempel 1  
~100 Pa. Essentially no data for asteroids.
- How to model this?
- What is the effect?



# Modeling cohesion

- Add simple Hooke's law restoring force between nearby particles.



- Deform elastically up to maximum strain (spring rigidity set by Young's modulus).
- Particles act as *tracers* of a continuum solid.

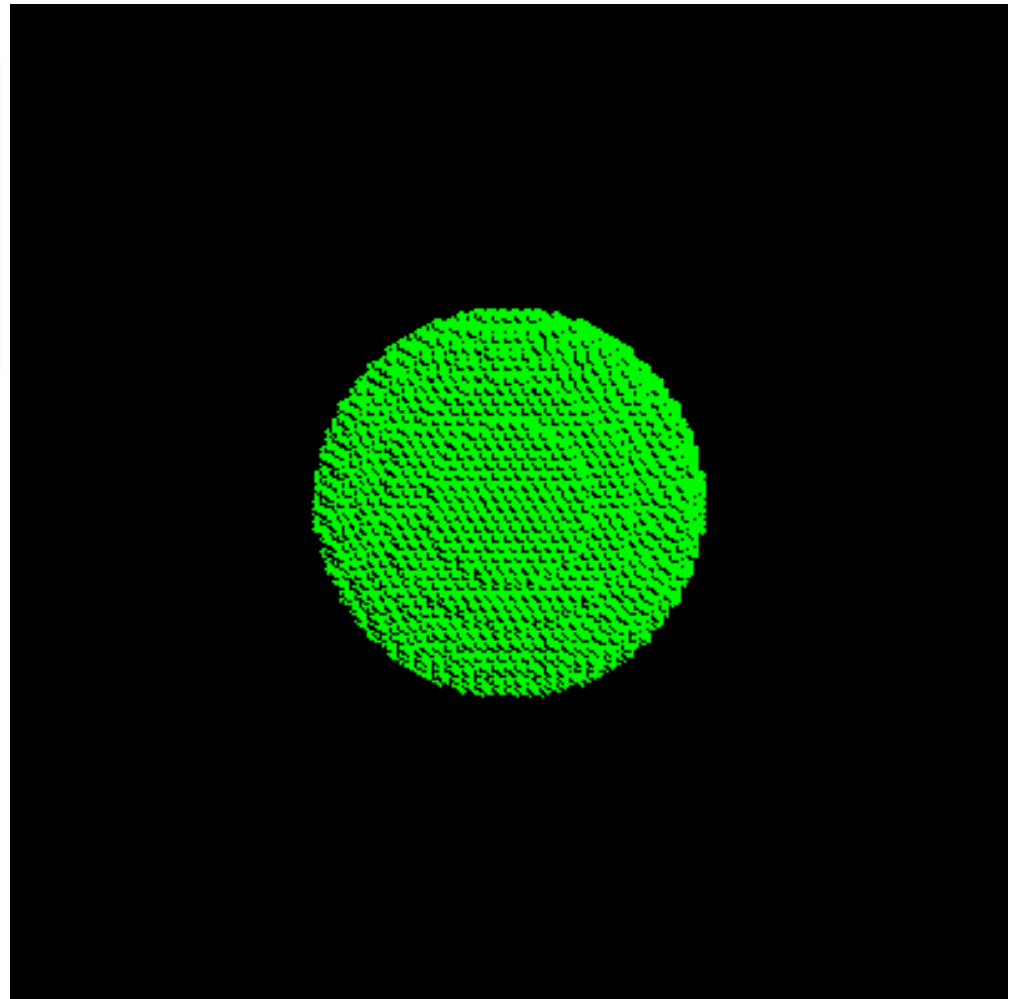
These are NOT bonded aggregates!

# Example: excessive initial spin

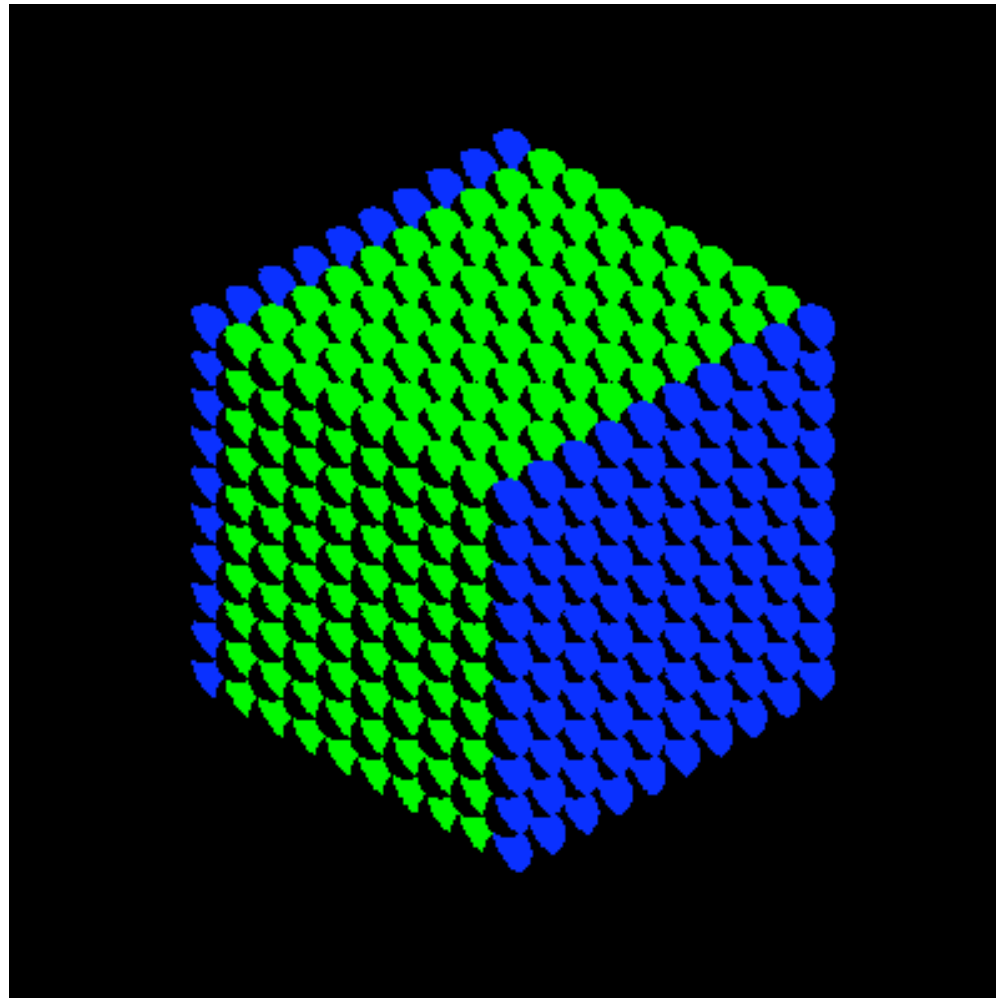
## Color legend:

green	3 or more springs
yellow	2 springs only
orange	1 spring only
red	no springs left

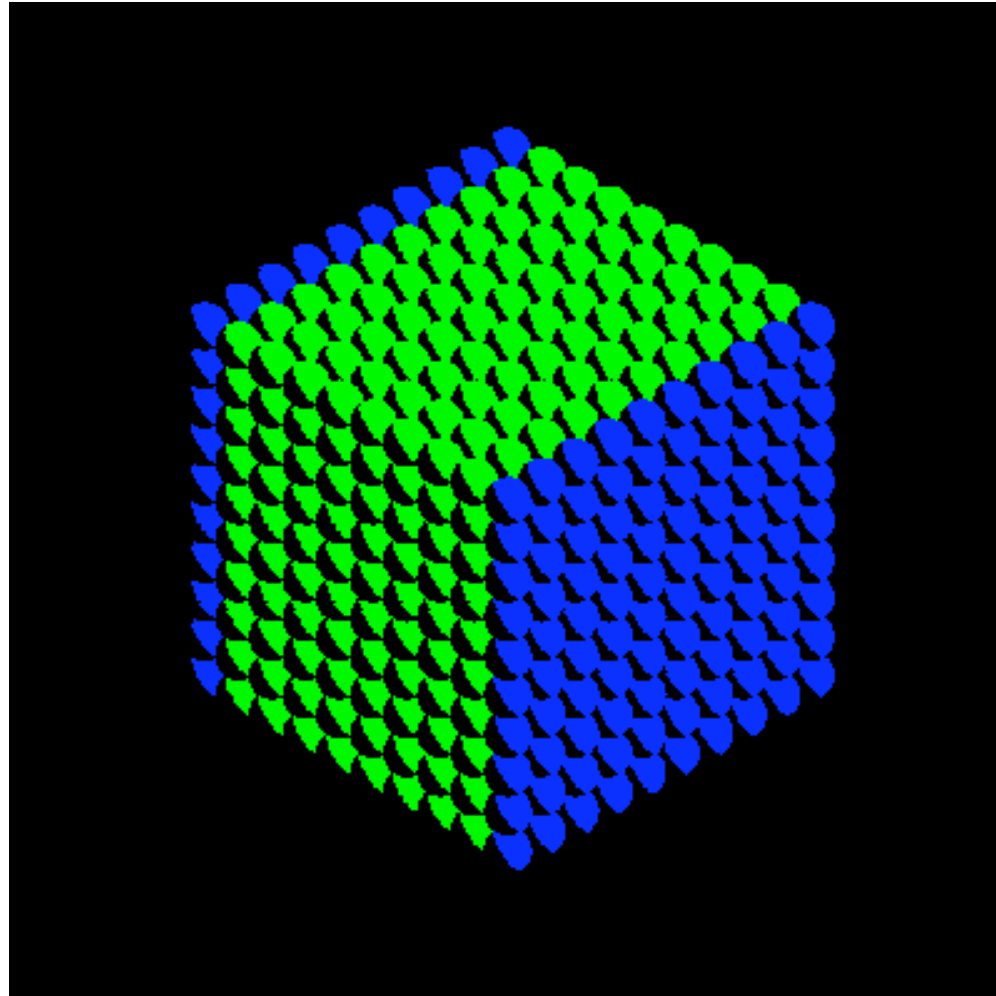
$Y = 250 \text{ Pa}, L = 125 \text{ Pa}$   
Spin period  $P = 0.86 \text{ h}$   
Oblate shape  $\alpha = 0.40$



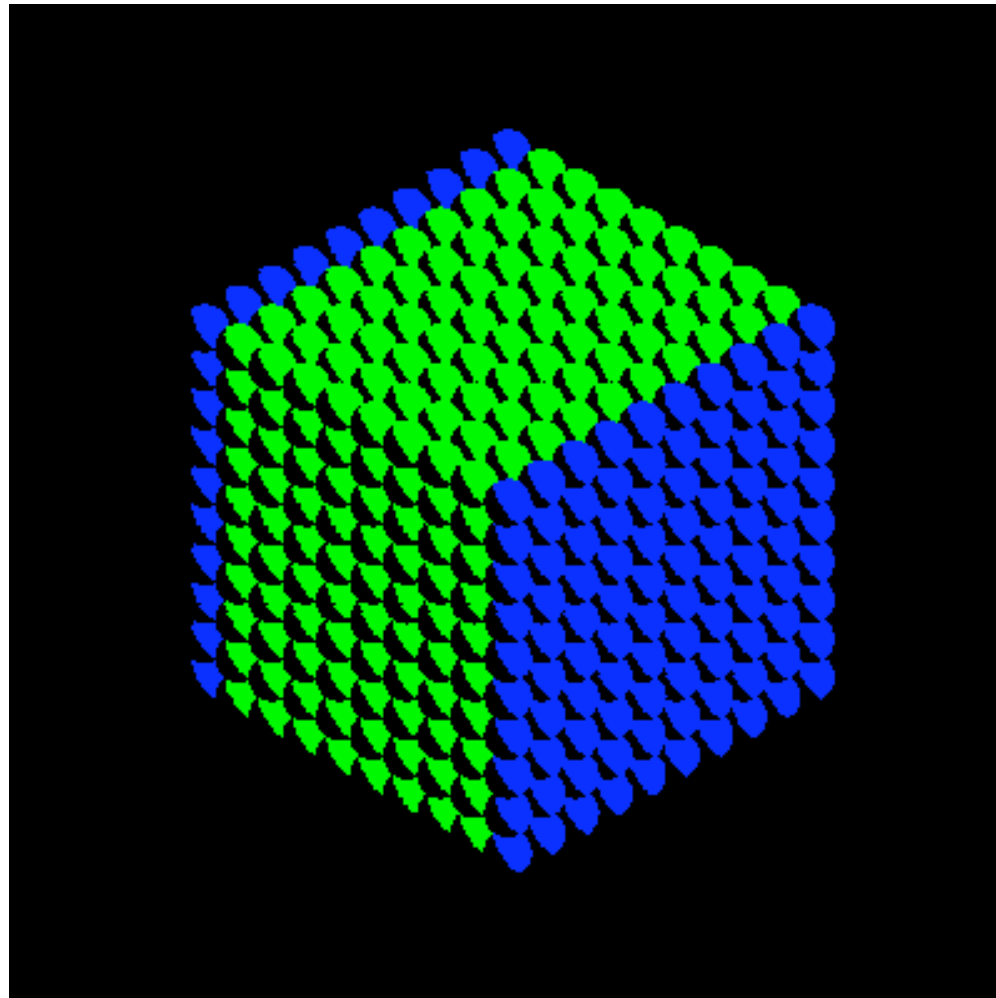
# Failure under tension: slow pull



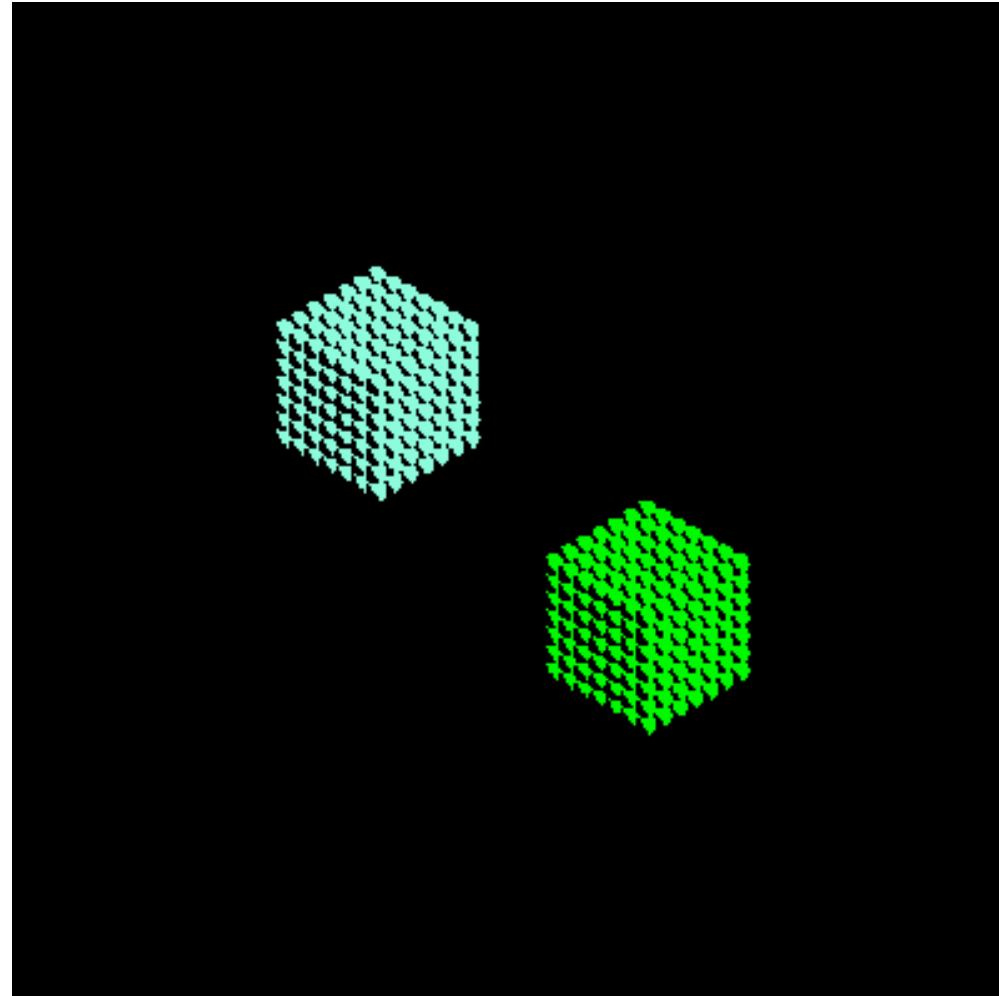
# Failure under tension: fast pull



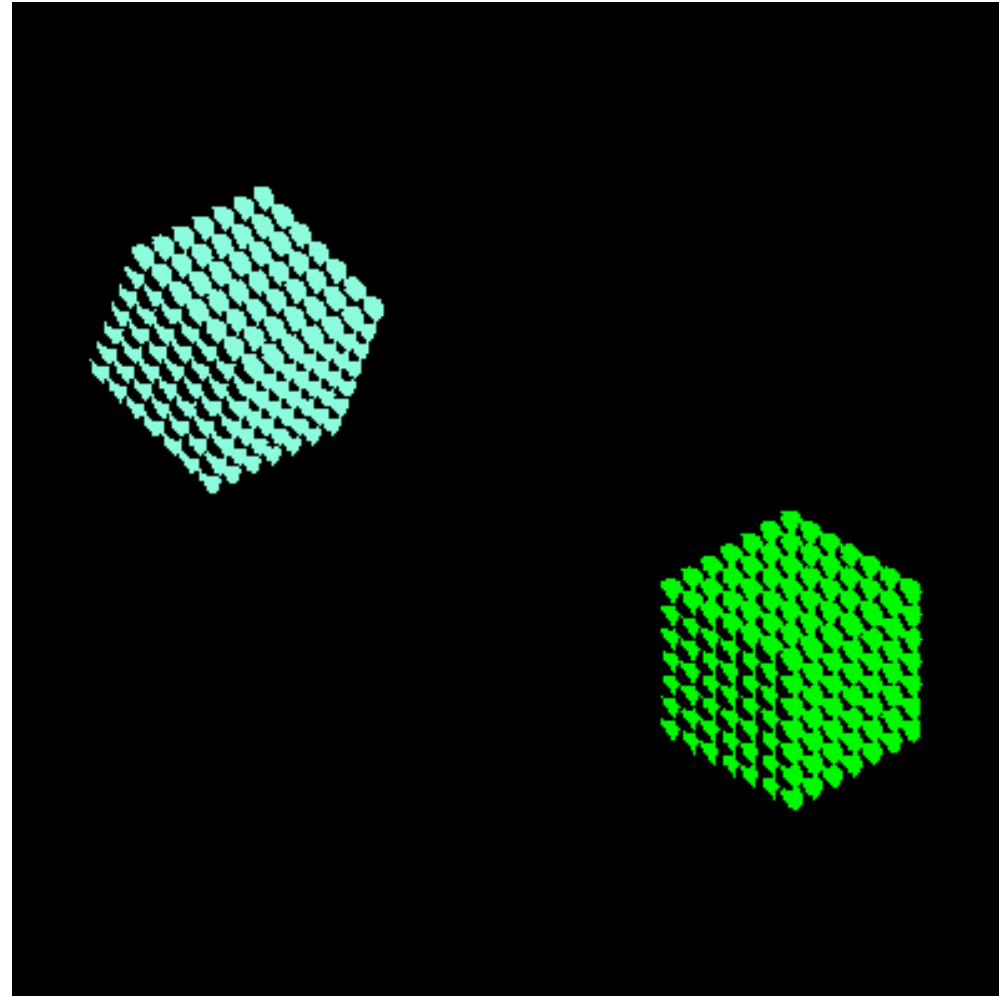
# Failure under shear



# Colliding cubes



# Colliding cubes—faster!





## More on Cohesion

- We are applying these models to rotational disruption simulations (binary asteroid formation) and also comparing with laboratory experiments.
- Next step: allow for individual spring strengths in order to model pre-existing weaknesses/fractures, e.g. Weibull distribution of flaws.





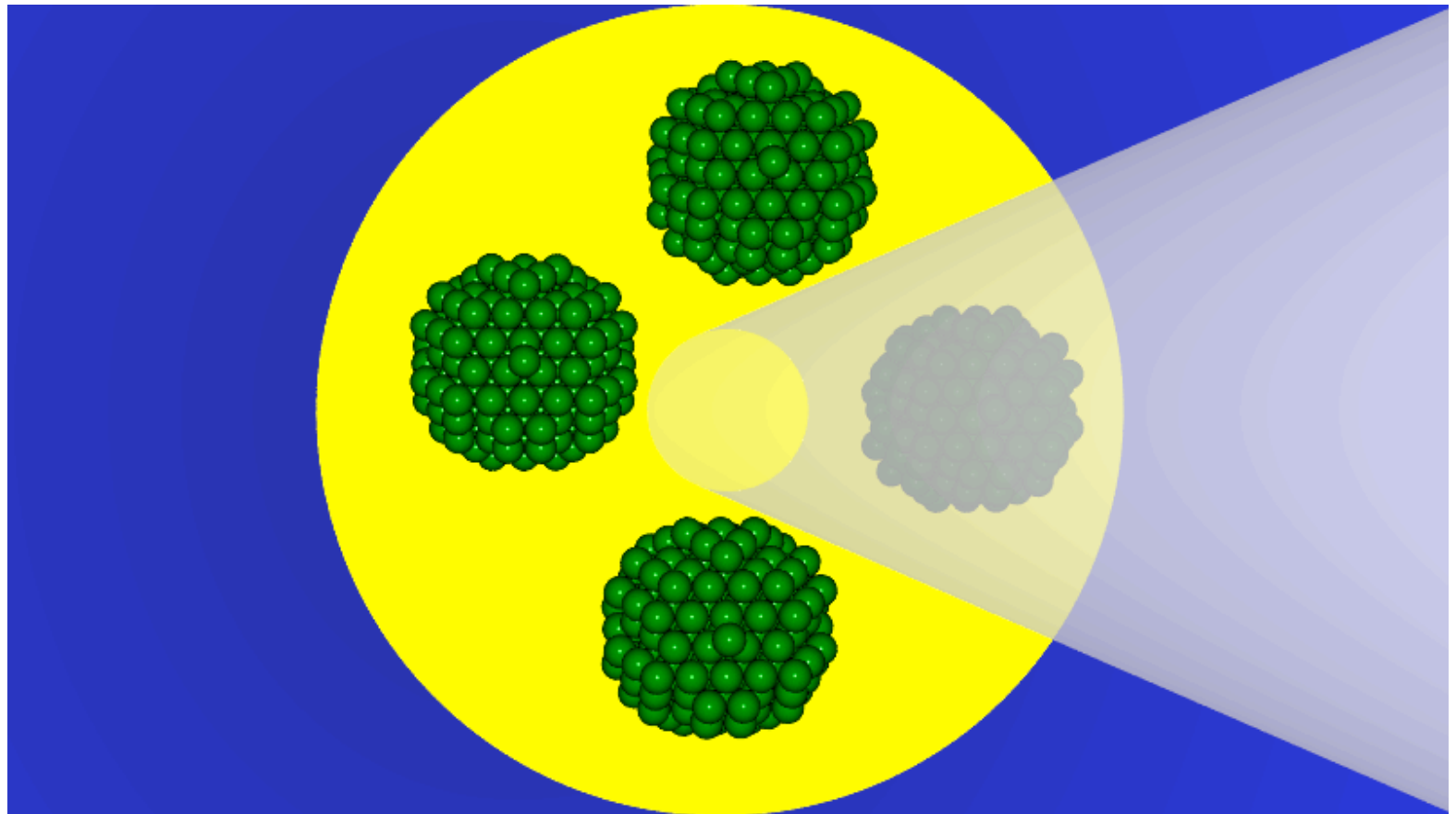
# Working with Walls

- Asteroid sample return missions are faced with anticipating the behavior of granular material in very weak gravity.
- Want to develop simulations of these regimes, but be able to compare with physical experiments.
- Approach: provide wall “primitives” that can be combined to replicate experimental apparatus.

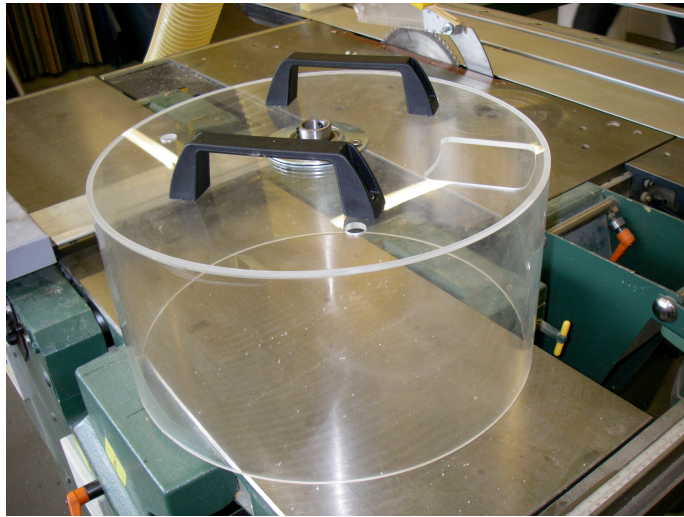
# Particles in an Inclined Cylinder



# Taylor-Couette Shear Cell



# Taylor-Couette Shear Cell



Naomi Murdoch



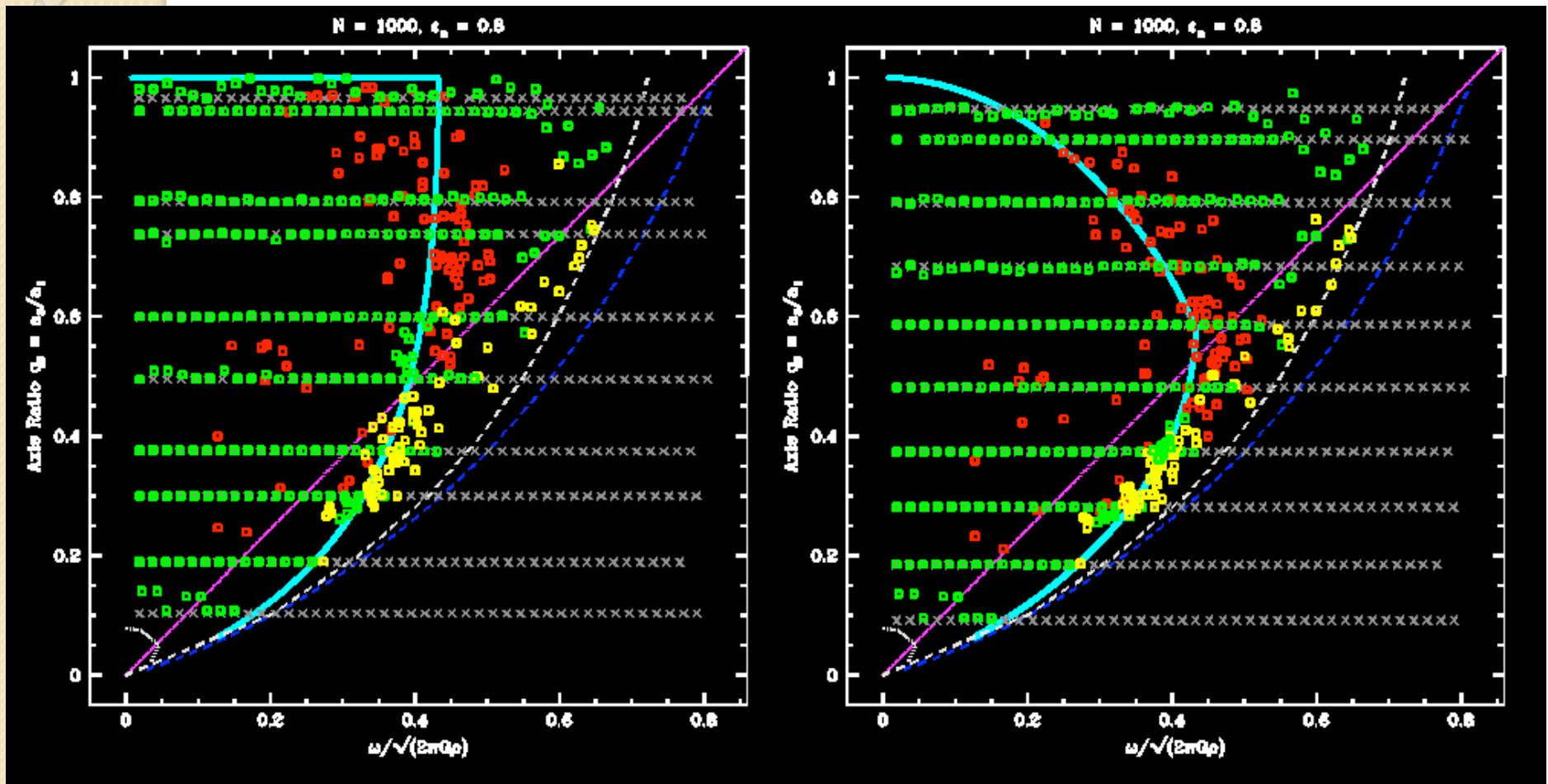
## Summary

- Physical collisions in  $N$ -body codes enabled by neighbor finding and solving collision equations.
- Rigid body mechanics additionally require solving Euler equations and more complex collision prediction and resolution.
- Many applications, ranging from planet formation to granular dynamics.



# Extra Slides

# Rubble Pile Equilibrium Shapes

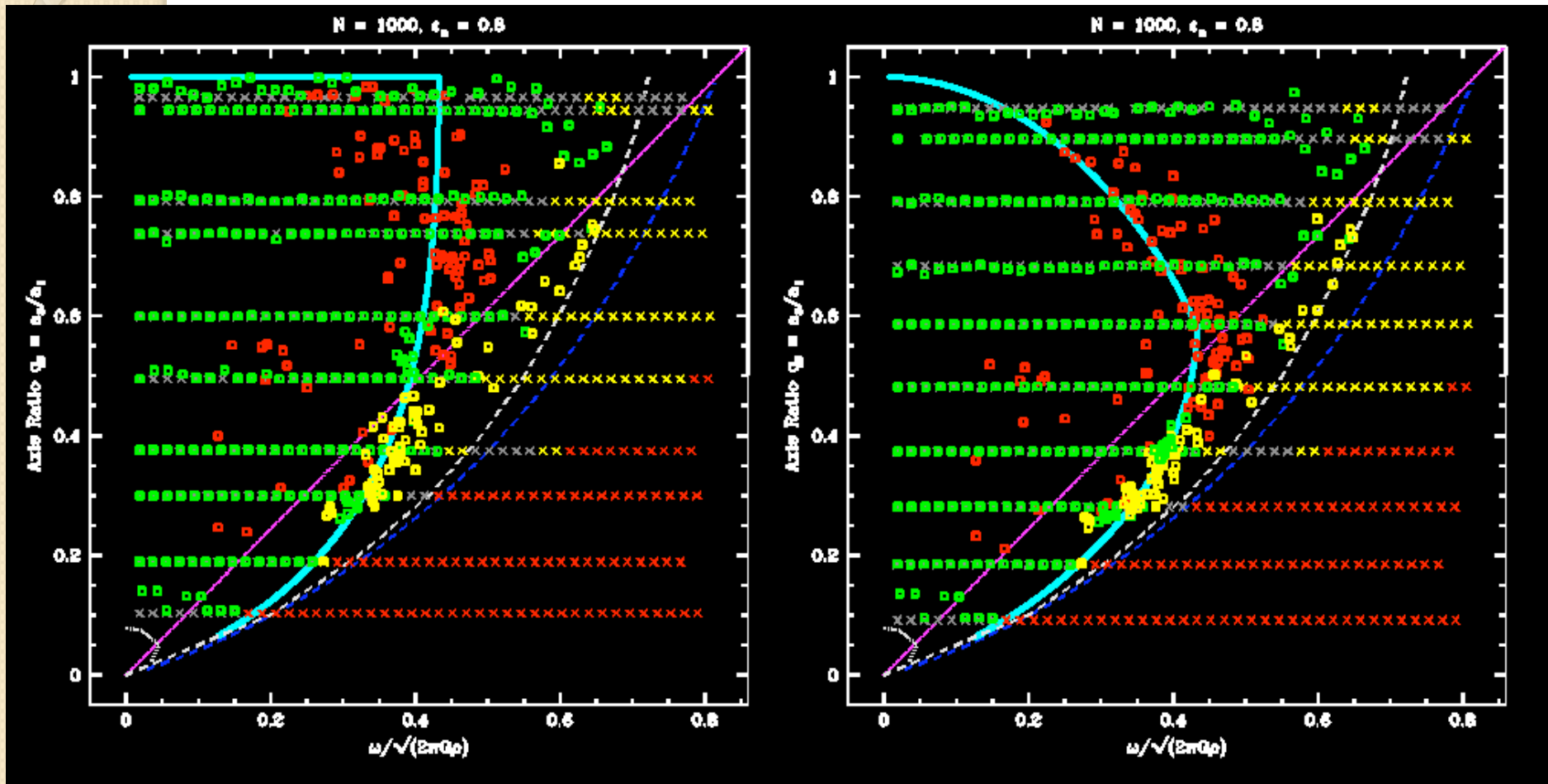


Mass loss: 0% < 10% > 10%

X = initial condition

Richardson et al. "Modeling Cohesion in Gravitational Aggregates" (DPS '08 #55.02)

# Rubble Pile Equilibrium Shapes



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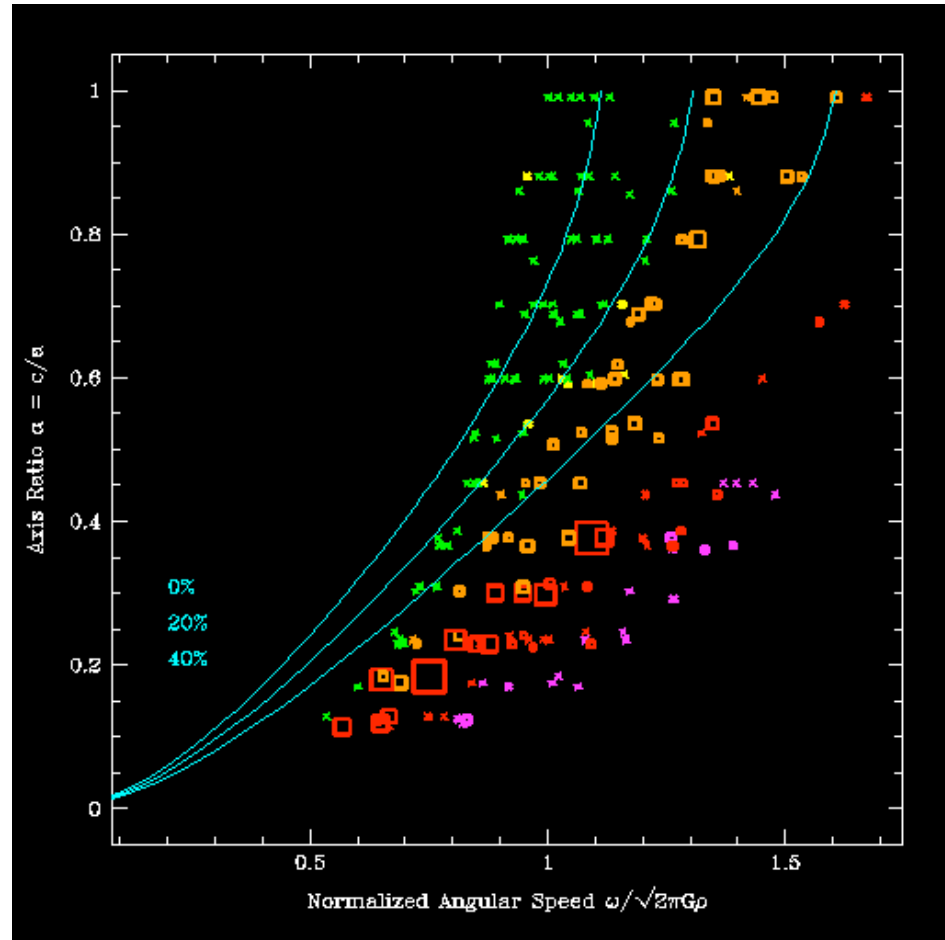
# Oblate, $Y=250$ , $L=125$ Pa

## Color legend:

green no mass loss  
yellow < 10% mass loss  
orange < 50% mass loss  
red < 90% mass loss  
fuchsia  $\geq 90\%$  mass loss

## Symbol legend:

× remnant only  
□ mass in orbit  
★ accreting mass  
(symbol size proportional to mass orbiting/accreting)



# Damping Oscillations

