Are hot neptunes partially evaporated hot jupiters?

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Neptunes and super-Earths ~80 with mass below 20 M_{Earth} known to date



Hot-neptunes and super-earths: what is their origin and nature?

- Failed cores that migrated inwards (e.g. Ida & Lin 2004, Mordasini et al. 2009)
- In-situ formation by accretion of planetesimals (e.g. Brunini & Cionco 2005; Hansen 2009)
- Embryo formation in compact system and subsequent migration through scattering (e.g. Ida & Lin 2010)
- Tidal downsizing of migrating embryo (e.g. Nayakshin 2011)
 Evaporated hot-jupiters? (e.g. Baraffe et al. 2004)

Hints from the observations: the period distribution

Comparison of period distribution for planets with mass below 5 $M_{Jupiter}$ separated in two groups: mass above and below 2 $M_{Neptune}$ (35+116 planets, respectively) Only "single" systems are considered (for P<10 days)



In brief...

- Jovian period distribution has average value of 3.5-days (sigma=1.6-days)
- Neptune period distribution has average value of 5.2 days (sigma=2.7-days)
- Statistically significantly different period distributions
- Confirmed with Kepler observations (Latham et al. 2011)
 - Previous studies have also shown that there seems to be a mass-period relation in giant transiting planets (e.g. Mazeh et al. 2005, Southworth et al. 2007, Davis et al. 2009, Benitez-Llambay et al. 2011)

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- Can evaporation of a Jupiter into a Neptune explain the observed difference?

The model: orbit evolution in a generic case where a planet is evaporating

- Define two parameters:
 - angle between star and direction of ejection (θ)
 - opening angle of the ejection stream (φ)
- Consider a given ejection velocity (V_{esc}): typical values are between 10-20 km/s (*Murray-Clay et al.* 2009)
- Assume circular orbit





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Model results

It can be shown that under such conditions, the evolution of the orbit is given by:

$$\frac{da}{dt} = -\frac{\dot{m}}{m_{\star} + m}a - 2\tau \frac{v_0}{v}\frac{\dot{m}}{m}a \ ,$$

Where the "migration efficiency" parameter T is defined as:

$$\tau = \cos^2 \frac{\varphi}{2} \sin \theta \frac{V_{\rm esc}}{v_0} \; .$$

 If evaporation is isotropic (φ=180°) or radial (θ=0°), no migration occurs
 Maximum efficiency for collimated evaporation with θ=90°



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The equation above implies that the initial and final periods of a neptune that is the result of an evaporated hot jupiter are related by:

$$\frac{P_{\rm Nep}}{P_{\rm Jup}} = \left(1-\tau\ln\frac{M_{\rm Jup}}{M_{\rm Nep}}\right)^{-3} \label{eq:PNep} \,,$$

The distribution of T

Using the observed period distributions (assuming log-normal distributions) and the equation above, we can constrain the probability distribution function of τ



The distribution of T

PDF of τ in the θ - ϕ diagram assuming:

V_{esc}=15 km/s (intermediate value)

v₀=145m/s (P=3.2days)



$$\tau = \cos^2 \frac{\varphi}{2} \sin \theta \frac{V_{\rm esc}}{v_0} \; .$$

The distribution of T



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- The necessary evaporation properties may indeed exist in the real world:
 - Hot spots not necessarily oriented towards the star have been observed and predicted (Knutson et al. 2007, Showman et al. 2011)
 - Planets may have time to evaporate
 - If star is young (T Tauri), there may be enough radiation to explain the escape velocities needed (Ribas et al. 2005, Murray-Clay et al. 2009)
 - If the planet is young (bloated) evaporation times may be short enough! (Mordasini et al. 2009, Erkaev et al. 2007)



 We present a model that explains the formation of hot-neptunes as evaporated hot-jupiters
 Model naturally explains the different observed period distributions
 Model is time-independent: only depends on total

ejected mass and on the geometry of the ejection

Thank you!

For details: Boué et al. 2011 (today in astro-ph)

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