

# On the Dynamics of Planetary Systems in Embedded Cluster Environments

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## ABSTRACT

Using numerical simulations of s-type gas giants orbiting within a binary stellar pair that is integrated simultaneously with an embedded stellar cluster environment, we find that the orbital evolution of the binary companion, when perturbed by the cluster, can affect the stability of the planets within its orbit. We present several initial findings that characterize both the behavior of the binary companion during a planetary disruption event as well as the markers that such an event leaves behind on surviving planets. We note the importance of the inclusion of the cluster environment in these simulations as interactions between the binary and cluster stars are the main driver in planetary instability. Destabilized planetary systems ultimately end with significantly different orbital parameters for the surviving planets as compared to systems that retain all 4 of the original gas giants. The altered orbital configuration of surviving planets in a destabilized system point to a dynamical source of exoplanets that have a spin-orbit misalignment with their host star.

## 1. BACKGROUND & MOTIVATION

The dynamics of planetary systems serve as signposts of their formation and subsequent evolution. Thus the study of dynamical modeling of exoplanets is a form of archaeology: using both observations and simulations of existing stable planets, we can walk back in time to discover which physical processes govern the behavior of extrasolar worlds. Dynamics offers a strong union of computational and observational astronomy, where an influx of exoplanet observational data has dovetailed nicely with a surge in advancements in numerical algorithms over the last two decades.

It has been long thought that most stars spend some of their early lives in a cluster environment, a large scale sphere of gas that acts as a stellar nursery that condense into pre-stellar cores in the gas and dust (Lada & Lada (2003)). Recent work (Sadavoy & Stahler (2017)) has also bolstered the theory (Kroupa (1995)) that the majority of stars are born in a stellar multiple, where their dense pre-stellar cores mutually bound together in a dusty envelope. These multiple bound cores, likely formed via fragmentation (Bonnell & Bate (1994), Bate et al. (2003), Turk et al. (2009)) either stay together in a binary as interactions with their gaseous disk decrease the separation between the pair (Bate (2000), Bate et al. (2003)), or are pulled apart by a cluster environment (Kroupa (2001)). While clusters can unbind so-called 'soft binaries' (Kroupa (2001)), dynamical interactions with a cluster are not sufficient to explain the observed period distribution of binary stars. Thus, their nascent orbital architecture results from the fragmentation process and interactions with a circumstellar disk early on in their lives (Kroupa & Burkert (2001)), and should be considered when we discuss the formation and the dynamics of planets in a holistic manner.

While planets in a binary system have been previously studied in depth with N-Body integration, the binary that interacts with the planets is for the most part unperturbed by outside forces (i.e., Holman & Wiegert (1999), Haghighipour & Raymond (2007)), or, if the binary is modeled in a cluster, planets are not included (i.e. Kroupa & Burkert (2001)). Similarly, planetary systems as they might interact with a cluster environment have been modeled, but often with mock fly-bys of a star rather than a fully evolved cluster (i.e., Reche et al. (2009), Cattolico & Capuzzo-Dolcetta (2020)). A union of these two simultaneous phenomena, a binary's effect on planets and a cluster's effect on a binary, are necessitated by the ubiquitous nature of these interactions in young systems. With N-Body simulations produced by hybrid symplectic integration scheme, we offer a new perspective at this complex problem.

### 1.1. Previous Work

The presence of a binary companion has been considered in studies of planetary formation since the 1960's. Early treatments of planetary stability in a binary system worked within the framework of the restricted 3-body problem (Huang (1960)) and numerical estimates based on analytic models (Heppenheimer (1978)). Early work established

that both the formation and the stability of planets in a binary system was possible.

Later on, numerical integration to evolve these systems began in earnest, owing largely to developments in symplectic integration methods (such as the work described by [Wisdom & Holman \(1991\)](#)) that allowed for efficient integrations of entire planetary systems in the presence of a binary. The main question that arises in such a system is in what cases does a binary companion preclude the existence of stable planets. An early work that used the Wisdom-Holman scheme is the exploration of the Alpha Centauri system in [Wiegert & Holman \(1997\)](#), in which the authors use N-Body integrations in the [Wisdom & Holman \(1991\)](#) scheme to assess the stability of test particles in and around the Alpha Centauri triplet.

The seminal works in the field of planetary stability in a binary system are [Dvorak \(1986\)](#) and [Holman & Wiegert \(1999\)](#). [Dvorak \(1986\)](#) looked at integrating systems of test particles in the the restricted 3-body problem with the Lie series method (Delva 1985) and established an upper and lower critical orbit that began mapping a region of stability for a planet based on the eccentricity of the binary system. [Dvorak \(1986\)](#) looked at various eccentricities of the binary companion, but in all cases the mass of the binary and the central star were the same. Holman & Wiegert further built upon this stability analysis via symplectically integrating binary systems with both p-type and s-type planets. Their integration work, based on the Wisdom-Holman method, produced an analytic form of a planet’s critical orbit based on both the eccentricity of the binary and the mass ratio  $\mu = \frac{M_{bin}}{M_{primary}}$ . Also drawing on [Wisdom & Holman \(1991\)](#) is the work described in [Innanen et al. \(1997\)](#), in which the solar system is integrated in the presence of a binary. The authors exemplify the Kozai effect ([Kozai \(1962\)](#)) in which an inclined binary exchanges angular momentum with the planets, and also show that the planets evolve in concert as a rigid disk. This work revealed that the Kozai effect is a pathway that can lead to increased eccentricity of planets. Another analysis of the Kozai effect on planetary stability that takes a different, secular approach is [Fabrycky & Tremaine \(2007\)](#), in which the authors integrate the motion of planets in the presence of a binary to show that tidal friction can circularize an orbit made eccentric by an inclined binary companion.

The stability analysis of Holman & Wiegert remains of interest to this day, with recent work such as [Lam & Kipping \(2018\)](#) further refining their original critical orbit with a neural network and integrations performed in the publically available REBOUND integrator. Analysis of planets in binaries continue with work in [Chambers et al. \(2002\)](#) in which the authors use a mixed variable symplectic method to analyze planetary accretion both in a system where the test planet orbits a primary and is perturbed by a distant binary and one in which the planet orbits around the binary system in its entirety. While [Chambers et al. \(2002\)](#) utilizes an integrator that allows for the presence of a binary, further work by [Beust \(2003\)](#) introduces a symplectic scheme based on the [Wisdom & Holman \(1991\)](#) method, called Hierarchical Jacobian Symplectic, that allows for the integration of a multiple system of any size (i.e., numbering more massive bodies than just a binary) as long as there is a retained hierarchy among the masses.

The presence of a distant companion has also been considered in numerical integrations of protoplanetary (debris) disks. [Reche et al. \(2009\)](#) use the HJS scheme ([Beust \(2003\)](#)) to integrate the HD141596 triple star system and debris disk in the presence of stellar flybys. [Beust et al. \(2014\)](#) used symplectic integration to model the Fomalhaut triplet in addition to its dust belt.

On the larger scale, N-body simulations of stellar clusters have been used to study how stellar binaries interact with a cluster environment. [Bate et al. \(2003\)](#) use high resolution simulations of a collapsing gas cloud to study the fragmentation of gas into dense cores, and the subsequent evolution of these young stars into binaries. They find that very tight binaries are formed by the hardening of wider binaries via dynamical interactions. [Adams et al. \(2006\)](#) and [Proszkow & Adams \(2009\)](#) used N-Body simulations of moderately sized stellar clusters (100-10,000 members) or embedded clusters to study the impact of a cluster environment on planet formation, particularly in how protoplanetary disks may be affected by stellar raditation. They find that disruption of model solar systems in an evolved cluster environment([Adams et al. \(2006\)](#)) should be relatively rare due to the paucity of encounters between a ‘solar system’ in question and a passing star, but in younger, denser clusters the photoevaporation of disks by a cluster environment can be appreciable([Proszkow & Adams \(2009\)](#))

[Hao et al. \(2013\)](#) takes a monte carlo approach to simulating planetary systems in an open cluster to explore planet-planet scattering. The authors model a stellar flyby and find that multi-planet systems are more sensitive to an open cluster environment than single planet system. In the realm of exploring planetary orbits in clusters via a model stellar fly-by is work by [Malmberg et al. \(2011\)](#) and [Breslau & Pfalzner \(2019\)](#). [Malmberg et al. \(2011\)](#) shows that fly-bys increase the chance of planetary ejection, while [Breslau & Pfalzner \(2019\)](#) shows that a cluster star can

create a retrograde planetary orbit.

In summary, while there is an extensive body of work on the integration of planets in a binary system and the evolution of planets in a cluster environment, previous work largely assumes that the binary is in isolation and does not evolve due to external forces; work concerning cluster environments either model interactions as a flyby or do not include a simultaneous binary system. The work we present here is novel in its approach in that it allows the binary companion to be altered by a cluster environment, and that we fully model the cluster rather than taking a fly by approach.

## 1.2. Numerical Integration

To achieve such a broad assortment of work on the dynamics of stars and planets, astronomers have turned to both N-Body and hydrodynamic simulations as the workhorses of their experiments. In particular, symplectic integration schemes have been popular as they have largely reduced error in energy over time and are faster than other N-body algorithms (Chambers (1999), Saha & Tremaine (1992)). This is due to the formulation of advancing the positions and momenta of bodies via Hamilton's equations, which preserve inherently both energy and angular momentum. In using a symplectic scheme, the Keplerian nature of the orbits of small bodies about a large central mass can be 'built in' to the Hamiltonian, allowing for very fast integrations of situations like the solar system, where the planets are on Keplerian orbits and are not undergoing close encounters with another. Therein we run into our first problem with early symplectic schemes: to investigate the dynamics of celestial bodies, we need to allow for close approaches that could kick bodies off their Keplerian paths. An additional problem that must be considered is that, unlike traditional integration methods, the preservation of phase space in symplectic schemes is dependent on a permanent choice of time step (Lee et al. (1997)). Wisdom & Holman (1991) is the seminal work in introducing a scheme known as a *mixed variable symplectic* (MSV) integrator. Such a scheme can quickly integrate a system with a hierarchical composition (i.e., the Keplerian motion of the planets is a much larger part of the Hamiltonian than perturbations from a distant star). Saha & Tremaine (1994) showed that the limitation of a fixed timestep could be partially overcome by assigning a different timestep to different bodies in an integration. This can lead to an increase in efficiency for systems in which bodies have different orbital periods and therefore require different timescales. Some early applications of these MVS integrators include *SyMBA* described in Duncan et al. (1998) and the *Mercury* integrator by Chambers (1999). *SyMBA* addresses the inability of symplectic integrations to change the value of timesteps via judicious splitting of the Hamiltonian, in which strong perturbative terms have comparatively smaller timesteps (Duncan et al. (1998)). Chambers (1999) cites this choice as difficult to implement, and instead took a hybrid approach in the creation of *Mercury*.

*Mercury* was a similar advancement to *SyMBA* in the field of planetary dynamics in that it was a Wisdom & Holman (1991) scheme that retained the advantages of a symplectic scheme (i.e., no build up of error in energy except due to numerical round off) but allowed for close encounters between bodies. *Mercury* and previous work by Saha & Tremaine (1994) addressed the adaptive time step issue by allowing disparate bodies in the integration to have different time steps, as long as those assigned time steps did not change during the course of the integration. This is useful for instance if a modeled planetary system has bodies with very different orbital periods. Still, the need for adaptive time steps can be seen in the case of a close approach between two bodies where the characteristic timescale of the encounter can be quite a bit smaller than the original time steps. In *Mercury* and other integrators (Duncan et al. (1998), Richardson et al. (2000)), the Hamiltonian that describes can be split and integrated separately (Yoshida (1990), Saha & Tremaine (1992)). In *Mercury*, it is split into a Keplerian portion, which for most of the integration is the largest portion, and an interaction part that dominates when two bodies approach one another. As the interaction part is normally small except when two bodies are close, the Keplerian part of the Hamiltonian is comparably large and can be solved analytically, greatly increasing the speed of the integrator.

A change came to the *Mercury* code as authors (Chambers et al. (2002)) then turned to the next problem: the inclusion of additional massive bodies, such as a binary companion, that interact with the planetary system. Chambers et al. (2002) marked the inclusion of a hierarchical coordinate system to allow for an additional massive body in the Hamiltonian. These coordinates allow for different time steps to be used for concentric shells around the primary star, such that planets orbiting the primary can have different integration time steps. The numerical integrator we use for this work is built on the foundation of the original *Mercury* package but with changes to allow the inclusion of multiple bound massive bodies (i.e., a binary or triplet star system) and unbound massive bodies (i.e. stars in a

cluster environment)(Kaib et al. (2017)). The integration of the planetary system around the primary. We still use the democratic heliocentric coordinates for the planetary system, but the binary is defined relative to the center of mass of the planetary system, and the cluster stars are defined simply with their inertial coordinates. By letting the different bodies be treated with different coordinate system, this version of *Mercury* retains the advantages of a pure symplectic integrator while still being able to evolve the unbound cluster stars. That is, there is not a build up of energy error, the Keplerian nature of the planetary system (while not undergoing a close approach) is retained, and simultaneously the cluster stars and their close approaches can be integrated efficiently in a leapfrog-like scheme.

These changes to *Mercury* are crucial to realistic modeling of binary-planet systems in a stellar cluster. In this work we are largely concerned with the overall fate of binary systems and their planets during interactions with the cluster. Moreover, our work has also revealed some intriguing changes in orbital architecture of planetary systems that have a close encounter with an excited binary companion.

## 2. METHODS

### 2.1. Numerical Intergration

This work is produced by a hybrid symplectic integrator that modifies the public version of *Mercury* such that we can simultaneously evolve a system of planets in the presence of a bound binary companion that is in turn interacting with a large scale embedded stellar cluster. In this scheme, we define 3 distinct types of bodies: planets bound to the primary, the binary companion, and cluster stars. The cluster star positions are treated with their inertial coordinates, measured only with respect to the origin. The binary's position is integrated with respect to the center of mass of the primary star system. The planets are integrated purely with respect to the primary star. The choice of these coordinates means that the cluster stars are integrated with a purely symplectic  $T+V$  leapfrog scheme. This conserves energy and angular momentum, and is quite accurate as the timescale of cluster stars orbiting in the cluster is much larger than the characteristic timescale set by the orbits of the planetary bodies. The binary and the planets are also integrated symplectically, although with a mixed variable symplectic Wisdom-Holman scheme(Wisdom & Holman (1991)). Finally, when close encounters do occur in the simulations, a change is made to integrate these directly with a Bulirsch-Stoer scheme with a much smaller time step than was used prior to the close encounter. Thus, this scheme largely preserves the useful angular momentum and energy conservation of a symplectic scheme while allowing for close encounters. Equation 1 shows how we define the position of each type of object, where  $\vec{X}_A$  represents the position of the primary star,  $\vec{X}_B$  the position of the binary,  $X_i$  for  $1 \leq i \leq N_P$  is the position of a planet, and  $\vec{X}_i$  for  $N_P < i \leq N_P + N_S$  is the position of a cluster star. The lowercase  $\vec{x}$  represents each type of body's inertial coordinates relative to the origin/center of mass of the cluster.

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{X}_A &= \frac{m_a \vec{x}_A + m_B \vec{x}_B + \sum_{j=1}^{N_P} m_j \vec{x}_j}{m_A + m_B + \sum_{j=1}^{N_P} m_j} \\ \vec{X}_i &= \vec{x}_i - \vec{x}_A \text{ for } 1 \leq i \leq N_P \\ \vec{X}_B &= \vec{x}_B - \frac{m_A \vec{x}_A + \sum_{j=1}^{N_P} m_j \vec{x}_j}{m_A + \sum_{j=1}^{N_P} m_j} \\ \vec{X}_i &= \vec{x}_i \text{ for } N_P < i \leq N_P + N_S\end{aligned}\tag{1}$$

As such, we define some useful position vectors for changing between reference frames.

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{s} &= \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{N_P} m_i \vec{X}_i}{m_A + \sum_{i=1}^{N_P} m_i} \\ \vec{\Delta} &= \vec{X}_A - \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{N_P} m_i \vec{X}_i + m_B (\vec{X}_B) + \vec{s}}{m_A + m_B + \sum_{i=1}^{N_P} m_i}\end{aligned}\tag{2}$$

In this symplectic scheme, we must consider how Hamilton's equations evolve for all members of the system. We consider mutual gravitation between the primary star, binary star, planets and cluster stars. We also consider the gravitational tide from the gas of the Plummer potential(Plummer (1911)) that we assume to be binding the cluster

stars together. I will include the derivation for the Plummer potential here. This force from the Plummer potential is dependent on the inertial position of each massive body within the cluster, which can make the calculation in our chosen coordinates fairly complicated. The expression for the force from the sphere of gas is different for each type of body, namely the planets, the binary, and the cluster star. We begin with the expression for the mass distribution of a Plummer sphere in inertial coordinates.

$$\rho(\vec{x}) = \frac{3M_0}{4\pi a_0} + \left(1 + \frac{|\vec{x}|^2}{a_0^2}\right)^{-5/2} \quad (3)$$

This mass distribution, where  $M_0$  is the total mass in gas of the Plummer sphere and  $a_0$  is a scale parameter that sets the size of the flat core region results in a gravitational potential of:

$$\Phi(\vec{x}) = \frac{GM_0}{(|\vec{x}|^2 + a_0^2)^{1/2}} \quad (4)$$

The potential energy of our system can then be written as:

$$\begin{aligned} V_{Plum} = & \sum_{i=N_p+1}^{N_p+N_s} \frac{GM_{gas}m_i}{(X_i^2 + a_0^2)^{1/2}} + \sum_{i=1}^{N_p} \frac{GM_{gas}m_i}{(|\vec{\Delta} + \vec{X}_i|^2 + a_0^2)^{1/2}} \\ & + \frac{GM_{gas}m_B}{(|\vec{\Delta} + \vec{s} + \vec{X}_B|^2 + a_0^2)^{1/2}} + \frac{GM_{gas}m_A}{(|\vec{\Delta}|^2 + a_0^2)^{1/2}} \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

For clarification, the inertial position with which the strength of the Plummer potential is measured in simulation coordinates is  $\vec{X}_i$  for the cluster stars,  $\vec{\Delta} + \vec{X}_i$  for the planets,  $\vec{\Delta} + \vec{s} + \vec{X}_B$  for the binary, and  $\vec{\Delta}$  for the primary. We can then calculate the acceleration due to the Plummer sphere on each body(indexed with  $i$ ) for each cartesian coordinate (indexed with  $u$ ) via:

$$m_i \frac{dv_{i,u}}{dt} = \frac{\partial V_{plum}}{\partial x_{i,u}} \quad (6)$$

#### 2.1.1. Cluster Stars

The positions of the clusters stars in the integration coordinates are exactly their inertial coordinates in this integration scheme (i.e., they are measured relative to the origin). This makes finding the acceleration due to the Plummer tide much more straightforward than for the planets and the binary star pair.

$$\vec{X}_i = \vec{x}_i \text{ for } i > N_p + 1 \quad (7)$$

$$m_i \frac{dv_{i,u}}{dt} = -\frac{\partial V_{Plum}}{\partial X_{i,u}} \quad (8)$$

$$\frac{dv_{i,u}}{dt} = \frac{-1}{m_i} \sum_{k=N_p+1}^{N_p+N_s} \frac{GM_{gas}m_k X_{k,u} \delta_{ik}}{(|\vec{X}_k|^2 + a_0^2)^{3/2}} = \frac{-GM_{gas}X_{i,u}}{(|\vec{X}_i|^2 + a_0^2)^{3/2}} \quad (9)$$

We can see that the acceleration due to the Plummer sphere on the cluster stars is simply a direct term based on the mass of the gas enclosed by the cluster star's current position.

#### 2.1.2. Planets

$$m_p \frac{dv_{i,u}}{dt} = -\frac{\partial V_{Plum}}{\partial X_{i,u}} \quad (10)$$

Recall that  $\Delta$  is a function of the position of the planets. The relevant partial here is:

$$\frac{\partial \Delta}{\partial X_i} = \frac{\partial X_A}{\partial X_i} - \frac{\sum_{k=1}^{N_P} m_k \frac{\partial X_k}{\partial X_i} + m_B \frac{\partial}{\partial X_i}(X_b + s)}{m_A + m_B + \sum_{k=1}^{N_P} m_k} \quad (11)$$

$$\frac{\partial \Delta}{\partial X_i} = - \frac{\sum_{k=1}^{N_P} m_i \delta_{ik} + m_b \frac{\delta s}{\delta X_i}}{m_A + m_B + \sum_{k=1}^{N_P} m_k} \quad (12)$$

$$\frac{\partial \Delta}{\partial X_i} = \frac{-m_i - m_b \frac{m_i}{m_A + \sum_{k=1}^{N_P} m_k}}{m_A + m_B + \sum_{k=1}^{N_P} m_k} \quad (13)$$

$$\frac{\partial \Delta}{\partial X_i} = -m_i \frac{1}{m_A + \sum_{k=1}^{N_P} m_k} \quad (14)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dv_{i,u}}{dt} = & \frac{-GM_{gas}}{m_i} \frac{\partial}{\partial X_{i,u}} \left( \sum_{k=1}^{N_P} \frac{m_k}{\sqrt{|\vec{\Delta} + \vec{X}_k|^2 + a_0^2}} \right. \\ & \left. + \frac{m_A}{\sqrt{|\vec{\Delta}|^2 + a_0^2}} + \frac{m_B}{\sqrt{|\vec{\Delta} + \vec{s} + \vec{X}_B|^2 + a_0^2}} \right) \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dv_{i,u}}{dt} = & \frac{-GM_{gas}}{m_i} \left( \sum_{k=1}^{N_P} \frac{-m_k(\Delta_u + X_{k,u})}{(|\vec{\Delta} + \vec{X}_k|^2 + a_0^2)^{3/2}} \left( \frac{\partial \Delta}{\partial X_i} + \frac{\partial X_k}{\partial X_i} \right) \right. \\ & \left. + \frac{m_A \Delta_u}{(|\vec{\Delta}|^2 + a_0^2)^{3/2}} \frac{m_i}{m_A + \sum_{k=1}^{N_P} m_k} \right) \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dv_{i,u}}{dt} = & \frac{GM_{gas}}{m_A + \sum_{j=1}^{N_P} m_j} \left( \sum_{k \neq i}^{N_P} \frac{m_k(\Delta_u + X_{k,u})}{(|\vec{\Delta} + \vec{X}_k|^2 + a_0^2)^{3/2}} + \frac{m_A \Delta_u}{(|\vec{\Delta}|^2 + a_0^2)^{3/2}} \right) \\ & + \frac{GM_{gas}(\Delta_u + X_i)}{(|\vec{\Delta} + \vec{X}_i|^2 + a_0^2)^{3/2}} \left( \frac{-m_i}{m_A + \sum_{j=1}^{N_P} m_j} + 1 \right) \end{aligned} \quad (17)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dv_{i,u}}{dt} = & \frac{GM_{gas}}{m_A + \sum_{j=1}^{N_P} m_j} \left( \sum_{k=1}^{N_P} \frac{m_k(\Delta_u + X_{k,u})}{(|\vec{\Delta} + \vec{X}_k|^2 + a_0^2)^{3/2}} + \frac{m_A \Delta_u}{(|\vec{\Delta}|^2 + a_0^2)^{3/2}} \right) \\ & - \frac{GM_{gas}(\Delta_u + X_i)}{(|\vec{\Delta} + \vec{X}_i|^2 + a_0^2)^{3/2}} \end{aligned} \quad (18)$$

### 2.1.3. Binary Companion

The coordinate  $\Delta$  is also a function of the position of the binary. Here the useful partial to calculate is:

$$\frac{\partial \Delta}{\partial X_B} = \frac{-m_B}{m_A + m_B + \sum_{i=1}^{N_P} m_i} \quad (19)$$

$$\frac{dv_{B,u}}{dt} = \frac{1}{m_B} \frac{\partial V_{Plum}}{\partial X_B} \quad (20)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dv_{B,u}}{dt} = & \frac{-GM_{gas}}{m_B} \left( \sum_{k=1}^{N_P} \frac{\partial}{\partial X_B} \frac{m_k}{(|\vec{\Delta} + \vec{X}_k|^2 + a_0^2)^{1/2}} \right. \\ & \left. + \frac{\partial}{\partial X_B} \frac{m_B}{(|\vec{\Delta} + \vec{s} + \vec{X}_B|^2 + a_0^2)^{1/2}} + \frac{\partial}{\partial X_B} \frac{m_A}{(|\vec{\Delta}|^2 + a_0^2)^{1/2}} \right) \end{aligned} \quad (21)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dv_{B,u}}{dt} = & \frac{-GM_{gas}}{m_B} \left( \sum_{k=1}^{N_P} \frac{m_k(\Delta + X_k) \frac{\partial}{\partial X_B}(\Delta + X_k)}{(|\vec{\Delta} + \vec{X}_k|^2 + a_0^2)^{3/2}} \right. \\ & \left. + \frac{m_B(\Delta + s + x_B) \frac{\partial}{\partial X_B}(\Delta + s + X_B)}{(|\vec{\Delta} + \vec{s} + \vec{X}_B|^2 + a_0^2)^{3/2}} + \frac{m_A \Delta \frac{\partial \Delta}{\partial X_B}}{(|\vec{\Delta}|^2 + a_0^2)^{3/2}} \right) \end{aligned} \quad (22)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dv_{B,u}}{dt} = & -GM_{gas} \left( \sum_{k=1}^{N_P} \frac{-m_k(\Delta_u + X_{k,u})}{(|\vec{\Delta} + \vec{X}_k|^2 + a_0^2)^{3/2}} \frac{1}{m_A + m_B + \sum_{k=1}^{N_P} m_k} \right. \\ & + \frac{(\Delta_u + s_u + X_{B,u})}{(|\vec{\Delta} + \vec{s} + \vec{X}_B|^2 + a_0^2)^{3/2}} \left( 1 - \frac{m_B}{m_A + m_B + \sum_{k=1}^{N_P} m_k} \right) \\ & \left. + \frac{-m_A \Delta}{(|\vec{\Delta}|^2 + a_0^2)^{3/2} (m_A + m_B + \sum_{k=1}^{N_P} m_k)} \right) \end{aligned} \quad (23)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dv_{B,u}}{dt} = & \frac{GM_{gas}}{m_A + m_B + \sum_{j=1}^{N_P} m_j} \left( \sum_{k=1}^{N_P} \frac{m_k(\Delta_u + X_{k,u})}{(|\vec{\Delta} + \vec{X}_k|^2 + a_0^2)^{3/2}} \right. \\ & \left. + \frac{X_{B,u} + s_u + \Delta_u}{(|\vec{\Delta} + \vec{X}_B + \vec{s}|^2 + a_0^2)^{3/2}} + \frac{m_A \Delta_u}{(|\vec{\Delta}|^2 + a_0^2)^{3/2}} \right) - \frac{GM_{gas}(X_{B,u} + s_u + \Delta_u)}{(|\vec{\Delta} + \vec{X}_B + \vec{s}|^2 + a_0^2)^{3/2}} \end{aligned} \quad (24)$$

## 2.2. Experimental Design

First, we must decide how to build our stellar clusters. The masses of the stars are sampled from the Chabrier (2003) piecewise IMF (Chabrier (2003)) where we set an upper mass limit of  $150M_\odot$  (Weidner & Kroupa (2004)). The positions of the stars are sampled via weights assigned from a Plummer distribution of gas (Plummer (1911)). We are therefore assuming that the stars condense out of mass in a spherical Plummer potential. The mass of the Plummer sphere that acts as the gaseous environment for the embedded stars is chosen assuming a 10% star formation efficiency. Then, the virial speeds of each star are calculated based on their position and we assign them a random initial velocity vector at  $8\%v_{virial}$  (Levison et al. (2010)). Once the cluster is constructed, we generate 100 simulations where for each simulation a random cluster star is assigned the role of the primary. As these simulations are run in democratic heliocentric coordinates, all other stars are redefined with respect to the rest frame of the primary. A set of 4 gas giants, analogous to the orbits and masses of Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune, are set around the primary, and a coplanar binary companion with eccentricity of 0.5 is added. The eccentricity was chosen to match observations of relatively wide (greater than 50au separation) binaries (Tokovinin & Kiyaveva (2016)), although the eccentricities of these systems are not well constrained. Future work will include analysis of other initial binary eccentricity choices, ensuring that the choices are stable in isolation. The binary takes on a range of semi-major axis values between 300au and 800au. We initially tested a range of 100 to 1e4au, but found that approximately closer than 300 au and the planets are unstable, and outside 800au the binary is very quickly stripped away by the cluster and therefore no longer interacts meaningfully with the planets. All of these systems in the final range of binary semi-major axis were verified via numerical integration to be inherently stable for  $10Myr$  when *not* in the presence of a stellar cluster.

To design the parameters of the stellar cluster, we look to the catalog compiled by Lada & Lada (2003) (Lada & Lada (2003)). The majority of clusters in the catalog have a mass less than  $200M_\odot$  and a number of stars less than 250. To model these most common clusters, we created two suites of simulations, one with a total mass of  $80M_\odot$  and one with a mass of  $160M_\odot$ . The smaller  $80M_\odot$  cluster had 122 stars and the larger  $160M_\odot$  has 221. For good measure, we created a third larger cluster that mimics the observed characteristics of the embedded Monoceros R2 cluster, with a mass of  $341M_\odot$  and 509 stellar cluster members (Carpenter et al. (1997)).

The time step of our simulations is set to 100 days, sufficiently small for the orbital periods of the gas giants.

## 3. THE FATE OF BINARY SYSTEMS

### 3.1. Characteristics of Destabilization



First, we will take a holistic look at all simulations that undergo planet loss. In total, we see that  $\approx 6\%$  of our simulations have a planetary instability occur. Characteristics of the systems themselves such as initial binary semi-major axis, total cluster mass, and integration time do not have an appreciable effect on the bulk number of planetary disruptions. This scarcity of planetary destabilization and lack of dependence on cluster size is in agreement with previous work by [de la Fuente Marcos & de la Fuente Marcos \(1999\)](#), and indicates that free-floating planets that have been dynamically ejected from a host system should be relatively rare. This indicates to us that future work should focus more on the initial conditions of the binary-planet system in establishing the parameter space for destabilization, rather than initial conditions of the cluster environment. In the case of the binary semi-major axis, this makes sense, as all of the systems are inherently stable in isolation. Therefore we expect that it is dynamical evolution of the system, binary included, due to the cluster environment that would produce an instability. This is what we see in the vast majority of cases: chaotic interactions with passing cluster stars drive the binary companion to a very eccentric orbit, allowing for close pericenter passages with the primary and its planets. These pericenter approaches destabilize at least one of the gas giants, and most often the Neptune and Uranus analogs are the planets to be lost, leaving the inner giants behind. This is good news for the observational signals of these disruptions: in 77% of cases, at least one planet is left behind, meaning that we can make inferences about orbital changes due to these binary destabilization processes in surviving exoplanets. The frequency of close stellar encounters seems to be the ruling factor in whether a system is destabilized, where the unstable systems have a clear preference for multiple interactions with cluster stars. This is shown in the histogram in Fig. 2. A clear takeaway from this is that when the cluster is still bound and contains gas in the form of the Plummer potential (the first 5 Myr, [Allen et al. \(2007\)](#)) and therefore more dense with stars, destabilizations are more likely to occur. A similar lack of stellar encounters when the stars are unbound from the gas was seen in [Adams et al. \(2006\)](#). Seemingly, the architecture of planet systems is 'frozen in' once the cluster becomes unbound. The pericenter approaches that spell bad fortune for the stability of planets are driven by cluster star interactions.

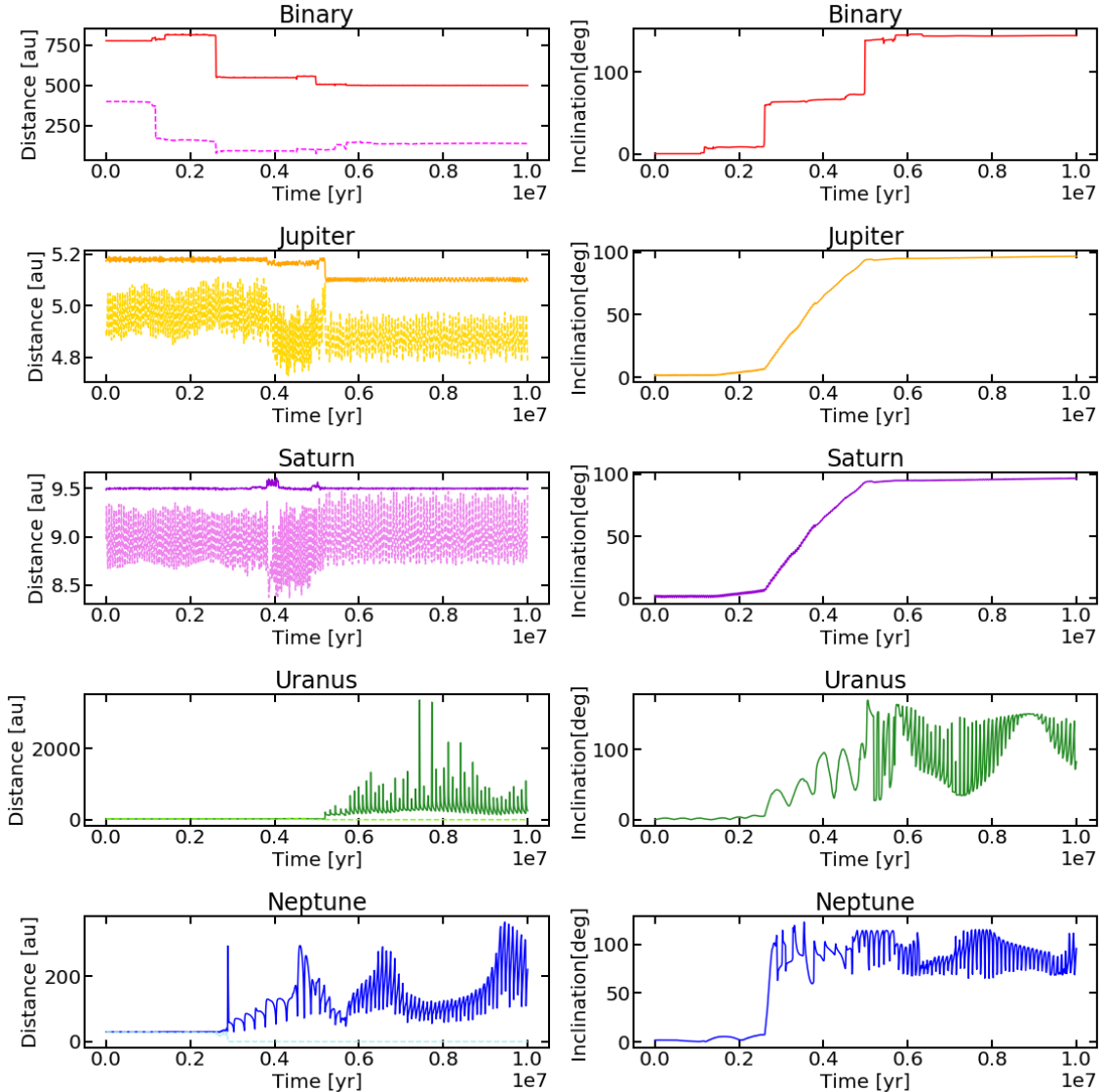
We finally note that the unstable systems with the highest final inclination (greater than  $20^\circ$ ) of the surviving planets all have greater than 10 instances of cluster members approaching within  $1e4\text{au}$  of the primary. An example system with an extremely inclined inner gas giant pair and a binary companion that undergoes several perturbations is shown in Fig. 1. This example system retains its binary companion that migrates from an initial semi-major axis of  $a = 800$  to  $a \approx 500$ . During this migration, Jupiter and Saturn are pulled to  $\approx 100^\circ$  inclination, while Uranus and Neptune are ejected from the system.

We must also look to the fate of the binary companion. In general, the orbit of a surviving binary companion is not closely tied to the orbits of the planets. While unstable systems have a preference for a high inclination, this is not tied to the inclination of the binary companion. Additionally, we can look to whether or not the binary becomes unbound during a simulation. Unstable systems have a nearly 50/50 split as to whether or not the binary is lost. However, stable systems more often than not retain their binary companion. In 93% of systems that keep all 4 planets, the binary remains bound as well. Therefore, where systems can certainly become unstable with or without the binary staying bound, if a binary does become stripped by the cluster, it is more likely that 1 or more of the system's planets will also be lost. It is also worth observing that the binary is very likely to survive the cluster overall, so this architecture of s-type planets with a relatively close binary is quite dynamically stable in the presence of a fully embedded cluster.

### 3.2. *Orbital Architecture Changes*

The main takeaway from this project is that the orbital architectures of surviving planets in unstable (lose at least one planet) versus stable (retain all four planets) have several noticeable, observable signposts. Primarily, the distributions of eccentricity and the predicted spin-orbit angle of the inner gas giants in unstable systems are statistically distinct from their stable counterparts. High eccentricity planets are thought to have a dynamical source ([de la Fuente Marcos & de la Fuente Marcos \(1997\)](#)). We choose to look at the two inner gas giants as they are most likely to survive an instability event and thus act as good markers. These distributions of the final eccentricity and inclination of the inner giants are shown in Figure 3, and a two-sample KS test with an extremely small p-value ( $p_{KS} = 1.32e - 38$  for the eccentricity distributions and  $p_{KS} = 1.5e - 26$  for the inclinations distributions) shows that we can reasonably infer that they are drawn from different parent distributions. Interactions with the binary companion, whether it remains bound to the primary or not, destabilize the planets via an exchange of orbital momentum. If the planets stay bound, this interaction can heat up their orbits to higher eccentricities and inclinations. Often the two inner planets will undergo a coupled evolution as if in a rigid disk (shown in work by [Innanen et al. \(1997\)](#)), reaching similar



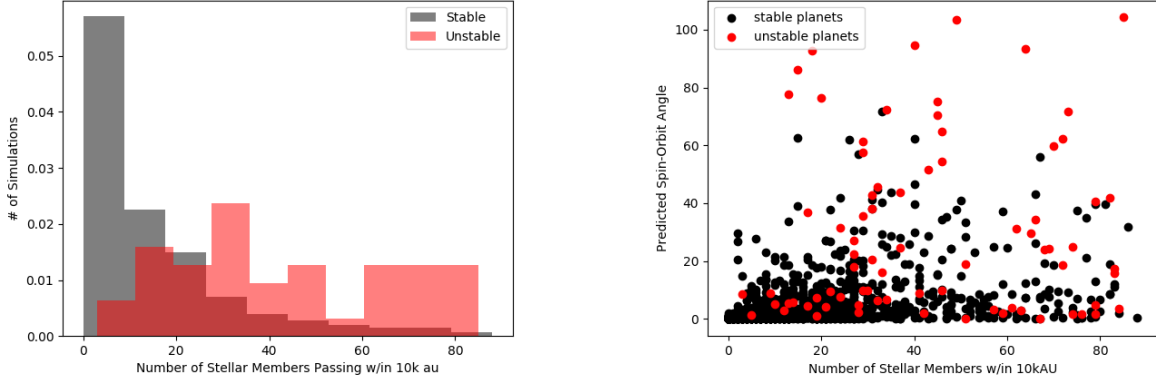


**Figure 1.** The orbital evolution of the 4 giant planets and binary companion. The left panels are the distance of the object from the primary, where the solid line is the semi-major axis and the dashed line is the pericenter of the body. This particular system results in a very high predicted spin-orbital angle for the jupiter and saturn mass bodies. Note the multiple ‘jumps’ as the binary companion enters a close pericenter approach. These jumps are from encounters with cluster stars in which angular momentum is exchanged. In this simulation both the Uranus and Neptune mass planets become unbound and the binary companion remains bound.

inclinations after the instability. Additionally, we note that unstable systems are more likely to reach planetary orbits that have *both* high inclination and high eccentricity. This sort of pairing of high  $\lambda$  and high eccentricity has been seen with Rossiter-McLaughlin observations (Schlaufman (2010)) and points to two separate populations with disparate dynamical histories: misaligned and aligned with the spin of the parent star.

### 3.3. Spin Orbit Misalignment & the birth of Hot Jupiters

The accepted theory of planet formation is that planets form in a dusty, coplanar circumstellar disk (also called a protoplanetary disk). A subset of exoplanets that has challenged existing theories of giant planet formation in the field of planetary astrophysics is the existence of hot jupiters. Their mode of formation, while debated, is likely very closely tied to their dynamics, as their characteristically close position to host stars is not a viable location for in-situ formation. Locations in the disk close to the star where hot jupiters orbit are likely too hot for gas clouds to



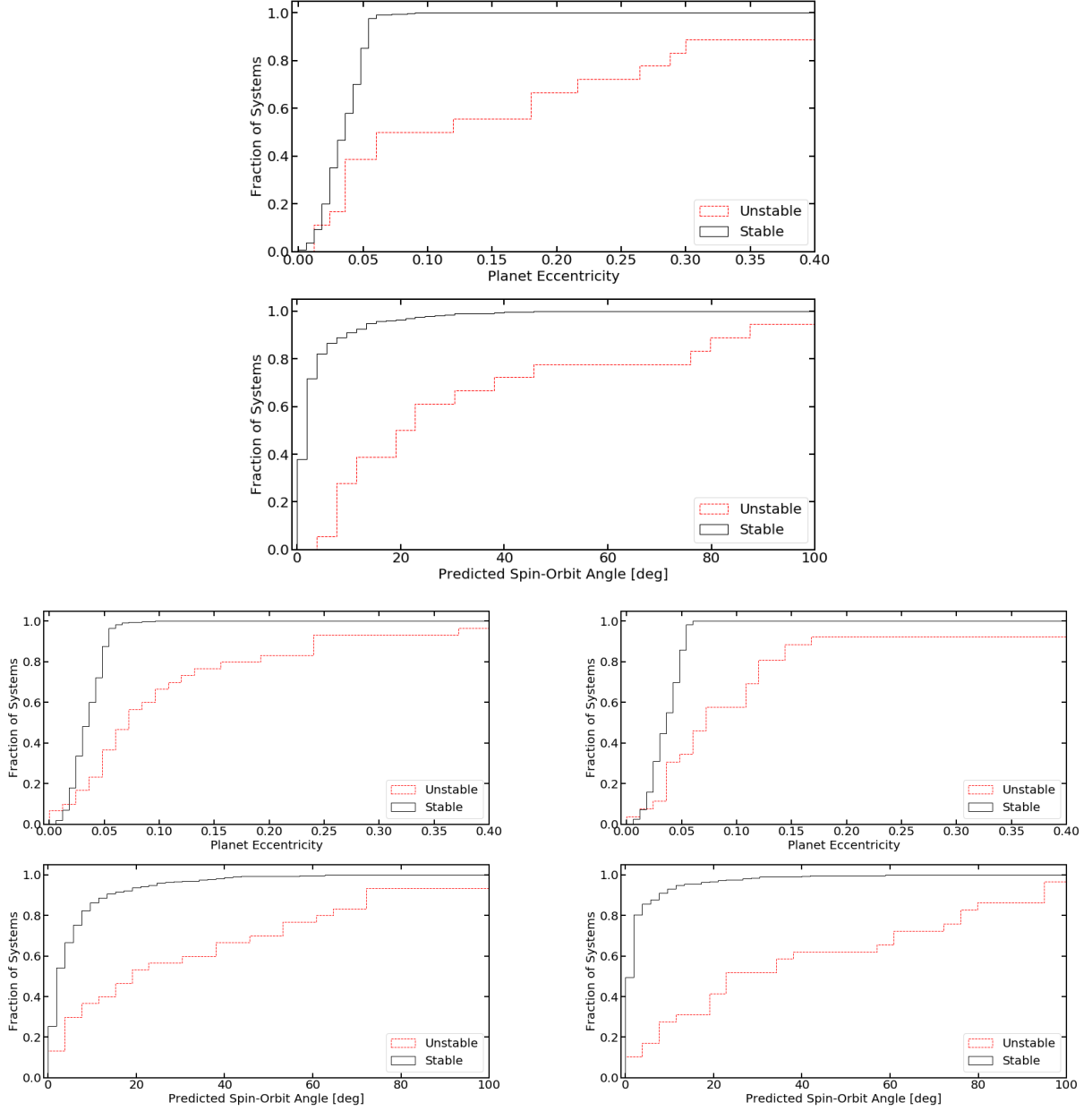
**Figure 2.** A normalized histogram containing results from all 3 suites of simulation depicting the distribution of number of ‘close’ (within 10k au) encounters the planetary system has with cluster stars.

collapse due to gravitational instability (Rafikov (2005)). As for core accretion in the inner disk, Lee & Chiang (2016) argues that it is unlikely that surface densities are appropriate for in-situ formation of Jupiter mass planets (although they and Chiang & Laughlin (2013) note that in-situ super Earth formation by core accretion is possible without the need for fine tuning). Therefore, the gas giants likely form farther out in the protoplanetary disk and somehow migrate inwards (Lee & Chiang (2016)). This migration can occur in several ways. One is smooth migration due to angular momentum exchange with a viscous gaseous disk (Goldreich & Tremaine (1980)). Lin et al. (1996) suggest this mechanism for the orbit of famed hot Jupiter 51 Peg b, the first exoplanet discovered orbiting a main sequence star Mayor & Queloz (1995). Smooth disk migration for the case of a single planet is not likely to produce a very eccentric gas giant, as the gas disk can dampen high eccentricities (Duffell & Chiang (2015)). The presence of *inclined* hot Jupiters (Albrecht et al. (2012)), with their misalignment relative to the Spin of their host star measure via the Rossiter-McLaughlin effect (Rossiter (1924)), further complicates this picture, but also provides more evidence for the dynamical pathway of hot Jupiter production. Other dynamical pathways to produce hot Jupiters include planet-planet scattering, or gravitational interactions with a stellar companion. These mechanisms have the added effect of forcing gas giants to high eccentricities and/or inclinations. They are of interest to this work due to the preponderance of excited planetary orbits among our unstable simulations.

Dynamical instabilities caused by planet-planet scattering can lead to both high eccentricities and high inclinations (Beaugé & Nesvorný (2012)). Following these scattering events, the high eccentricities of the gas giants can be damped out by tidal effects (Nagasawa et al. (2008)), shrinking the orbit and creating a hot Jupiter. Beaugé & Nesvorný (2012) utilized N-Body simulations that include tidal forces. They triggered instabilities by breaking the planets out of an initial resonant configuration. The simulations showed that planet-planet encounters and secular effects are the ruling modes of hot Jupiter formation, as opposed to a Kozai resonance. That is, the dominant way the hot Jupiters are formed are planets are forced to a low pericenter, high eccentricity orbit by a scattering event, and then are circularized by tidal effects. Secular planet-planet interactions can also create a high eccentricity gas giant orbit that can then be circularized. Petrovich (2015) show that this is an efficient process for hot Jupiter formation, but that it does not produce the observed high obliquity sample of misaligned hot Jupiters.

Finally, there can be interactions between a planet system and a binary companion. The binary can exert a torque on either the disk (Batygin (2012)) or a mature planet system (Fabrycky & Tremaine (2007), Kaib et al. (2011), De Rosa et al. (2020)), creating an orbital arrangements of a star’s planets with high obliquities. Previous work (Fabrycky & Tremaine (2007)) on this topic often points to Kozai-Lidov cycles as the driver of this evolution, in which a sufficiently inclined binary cyclically exchanges angular momentum with a planet and causes it to evolve in eccentricity and inclination.

The presence of highly inclined gas giants in our ‘unstable’ systems points to a similar pathway to produce these high  $\lambda$  exoplanets. Excitement of the binary companion from a stellar cluster can cause impulsive perturbations (as opposed to longer cyclic Kozai resonances) of planetary systems that result in bound planets with high predicted spin-orbit angles.



**Figure 3.** A cumulative distribution depicting the end orbital architectures of planetary systems evolved in a  $80M_{\odot}$  (top panel),  $160M_{\odot}$  (bottom left), and  $341M_{\odot}$  (bottom right) cluster.

#### 4. CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE WORK

Our initial work has shown that the presence of cluster stars can have the effect of destabilizing a significant fraction of binary systems by causing the binary companion to migrate closer to the orbiting gas giants. In particular, we have found that these unstable systems have a significantly different orbital architecture than their stable counterparts. Future work with this integrator includes continuing this experiment with different initial planetary configurations and binary configurations to see how the cluster could perturb or destabilize these systems. For instance, we will look into varying the eccentricity distribution of the binary companion to pinpoint in parameter space if there are particular initial conditions more susceptible to destabilization via the cluster environment. We also have found that in some of our simulations, there seem to be a sprinkling of new binaries and triplet groups of bound stars that form as the cluster evolves. Most discussion of stellar multiple formation focuses on fragmentation of dense cores

that examines the binary population at a very early stage (for example [Bonnell & Bate \(1994\)](#)) and utilize largely smooth particle hydrodynamics, so these simulations could form an interesting dynamical approach to stellar multiple formation for more mature stellar systems, similar to integrations done in [Kroupa \(2001\)](#) and [Moeckel & Bate \(2010\)](#). While it is thought that interactions with the primordial gas disk is the ruling determinant in the orbital architecture of binaries ([Kroupa \(2001\)](#); [Kroupa & Burkert \(2001\)](#); [Bate \(2000\)](#)), it would be interesting to see where the small fraction of dynamical multiples fit in the parameter space of binary separation and eccentricity. Their survival rates in the presence of their cluster environment will also be of interest; that is, we would investigate the question of is the formation of multiples in this fashion a stable pathway. [Moeckel & Bate \(2010\)](#) examined this question with a hydrodynamic simulation of an expanding stellar cluster, so the first course of action would be to investigate how the multiples we see fit with prior observations.

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