

$$(1-f)^2 = (1-2f) + f^2$$

$$\begin{aligned} (1-f)(1-2f) &= 1 - 2f - f + 2f^2 \\ &= 1 - 3f + 2f^2 \end{aligned}$$

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## ASTRON 330 - Galaxies: The Virial Theorem

In-Class 09 Exercise: Feb 24, 2025  
Due as Homework 4: March 3, 2025

Riya Kore

$$\text{at } t_0, M_0, R_0, \sigma_0 \rightarrow \text{at } t_1, M_1 = M_0(1-f), \dots \rightarrow \text{at } t_2, M_1, R_2, \sigma_2 \text{ (eq) virial}$$

A young star cluster of mass  $M_0$ , radius  $R_0$ , and velocity dispersion  $\sigma_0$  is initially in equilibrium at time  $t_0$ . Suppose that a fraction,  $f$ , of the cluster's mass is suddenly removed by stars exploding as supernovae at time  $t_1$ , leaving behind a mass,  $M_1 = M_0(1-f)$ . By time  $t_2$ , the cluster has returned to an equilibrium state, with new values of radius,  $R_2$ , and velocity dispersion,  $\sigma_2$ .

The cluster's potential energy (PE) and kinetic energy (KE) can be expressed as follows:

$$PE = -\frac{3\pi GM^2}{32R} \quad KE = \frac{3}{2}M\sigma^2$$

Recall that the total energy is  $E = \underline{\underline{KE}} + \underline{\underline{PE}}$ . The Virial Theorem,  $2\underline{\underline{KE}} + \underline{\underline{PE}} = 0$ , will apply when the cluster is in equilibrium.

1. Show that the initial energy of the cluster is  $E_0 = \underline{\underline{PE}_0}/2$ , where PE<sub>0</sub> is the initial potential energy of the cluster. [3 pts]

$$\begin{aligned} PE_0 &= -\frac{3\pi}{32} \frac{GM_0^2}{R_0} & E_0 &= PE_0 + KE_0 & KE_0 &= -\frac{PE_0}{2} \\ KE_0 &= \frac{3}{2} M_0 \sigma_0^2 & 2KE_0 + PE_0 &= 0 & \therefore E_0 &= PE_0 - \frac{PE_0}{2} = \frac{PE_0}{2} \end{aligned}$$

2. At time,  $t_1$ , in the immediate aftermath of the mass expulsion, the radius and velocity dispersion will not have had time to change from their initial values. Use this fact to show that the new energy of the system is  $E_1 = (1-f)(1-2f)E_0$ . [5 pts]

$$\begin{aligned} E_1 &= KE_1 + PE_1 & E_1 &= (1-f)KE_0(1-2+2f) \\ KE_1 &= \frac{3}{2} M_1 \sigma_0^2 = \frac{3}{2} M_0(1-f) \sigma_0^2 & E_1 &= KE_0(1-f)(-1+2f) \\ KE_1 &= (1-f)KE_0 \quad \textcircled{1} & E_1 &= -E_0(1-f)(-1+2f) \\ PE_1 &= -\frac{3\pi}{32} \frac{GM_0^2(1-f)^2}{R_0} & E_1 &= E_0(1-f)(1-2f) \\ PE_1 &= (1-f)^2 PE_0 \quad \textcircled{2} & \text{Hence, proved.} \end{aligned}$$

$$E_0 = -KE_0 \quad \textcircled{3}$$

$$E_1 = (1-f)KE_0 + (1-f)^2 PE_0$$

$$E_1 = (1-f)KE_0 - (1-f)^2 2KE_0$$

$$E_1 = (1-f)KE_0(1 - (1-f)^2)$$

3. The cluster will become unbound if  $E_1 > 0$  (e.g.,  $KE > -PE$ ). At what value of  $f$  does this occur? (Hint: start with the answer from question 2). [4 pts]

$$E_1 = (1-f)(1-2f)E_0$$

we want to find the value of  $f$  when  $E_1 > 0$

$$(1-f)(1-2f)E_0 > 0$$

so,  $(1-f)(1-2f) > 0$

$$1-f = 0 \quad 1-2f = 0$$

$$1 = f \quad f = \frac{1}{2}$$

at  $f=1$ , all the mass is removed, so no mass will be left. (this option doesn't make sense)

$E_0$  is negative because potential energy dominates kinetic energy.

$(1-f)(1-2f)$  must be positive

$f < \frac{1}{2}$ , both terms are positive, so  $E_1$  remains negative

$f > \frac{1}{2}$ ,  $(1-2f)$  becomes negative, so  $E_1$  becomes positive.

$$\boxed{f = \frac{1}{2}}$$

4. Show that when the cluster reaches equilibrium again, at time  $t_2$ , its new radius will be:

$$R_2 = R_0(1-f)/(1-2f). [4 \text{ pts}]$$

$$E_2 = PE_2 + KE_2 = \frac{PE_2}{2} = E_1 = E_0(1-f)(1-2f)$$

$$2KE_2 + PE_2 = 0$$

$$KE_2 = -\frac{PE_2}{2}$$

$$-\frac{3\pi}{32} \times \frac{GM_0^2(1-f)^2}{2R_2} = \frac{PE_0}{2}(1-f)(1-2f)$$

$$-\frac{3\pi}{32} \times \frac{GM_0^2}{2R_2} (1-f)^2 = -\frac{3\pi}{32} \frac{GM_0^2}{R_0} \times \frac{1}{2} (1-f)(1-2f)$$

$$\frac{(1-f)}{R_2} = \frac{(1-2f)}{R_0}$$

$$R_2 = R_0 \times \frac{(1-f)}{(1-2f)}$$

Hence, proved.

5. How does the velocity dispersion,  $\sigma$ , change? (i.e.,  $\sigma_2/\sigma_0 = ??$ ) [4 pts]

$$E_2 = PE_2 + KE_2$$

$$2KE_2 + PE_2 = 0$$

$$PE_2 = -2KE_2$$

$$E_2 = -2KE_2 + KE_2$$

$$E_2 = -KE_2$$

$$E_1 = -KE_2$$

$$E_0(1-f)(1-2f) = -KE_2$$

$$+ KE_0(1-f)(1-2f) = fKE_2$$

$$\frac{3}{2}M_0\sigma_0^2(1-f)(1-2f) = \frac{3}{2}M_0(1-f)\sigma_2^2$$

$$\sigma_0^2(1-2f) = \sigma_2^2$$

$$\frac{\sigma_2^2}{\sigma_0^2} = (1-2f)$$

$$\left(\frac{\sigma_2}{\sigma_0}\right)^2 = 1-2f$$

$$\boxed{\frac{\sigma_2}{\sigma_0} = \sqrt{1-2f}}$$