Simulating the early stages of planet formation



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Planet formation

	Size and 1	ime —	
Dust	Pebbles	Planetesimals	Planets
μm	mm-cm	10-1,000 km	10,000 km

- Planets form in protoplanetary discs around young stars as dust grains collide and grow to ever larger bodies
- Pebbles form by collisional sticking
- Pebbles have poor sticking properties and drift rapidly towards the star
- Planetesimals likely form by gravitational collapse of dense pebble filaments
- Protoplanets grow to planets by accreting planetesimals, pebbles and gas

Limits to pebble growth



- Dust growth rate $\gamma_{
 m gr} = \dot{R}/R$, drift rate $\gamma_{
 m dr} = \dot{r}/r$
- Pebbles grow maximally to a size where the growth time-scale equals the radial drift time-scale (*Birnstiel et al.*, 2012; *Lambrechts & Johansen*, 2014)
- Yields cm-sized pebbles in inner disc and mm-sized pebbles in outer disc, in good agreement with observations
- Bouncing and fragmentation result in even smaller pebble sizes
- \Rightarrow Protoplanetary discs are good pebble factories

Particle concentration mechanisms



(Johansen et al., Protostars and Planets VI, 2014 arXiv:1402.1344)

Three categories of particle concentration:

Between small-scale low-pressure eddies

(Maxey, 1987; Cuzzi et al., 2001, 2008; Pan et al., 2011)

In pressure bumps and vortices

(Whipple, 1972; Barge & Sommeria, 1995; Klahr & Bodenheimer, 2003; Johansen et al., 2009a)

By streaming instabilities

(Youdin & Goodman, 2005; Johansen & Youdin, 2007; Johansen et al., 2009b; Bai & Stone, 2010a,b,c)

Gravitational collapse



(Johansen, Mac Low, Lacerda, & Bizzarro, 2015)

(Schäfer, Yang, & Johansen, 2017)

- Initial Mass Function of planetesimals at up to 512³ resolution (through European PRACE supercomputing grant)
- ⇒ Filaments fragment to planetesimals with contracted radii 25-200 km

Initial Mass Function of planetesimals



- \blacktriangleright Differential mass distribution is well fitted by a power law with ${\rm d}N/{\rm d}M \propto M^{-1.6}$
- Results with Pencil Code and Athena are very similar
- Most of the mass resides in the largest planetesimals
- Characteristic planetesimal size of ~100 km
- Small planetesimals dominate in number
- Power law concatenated by exponential at high masses (Schäfer et al., 2017)

Metallicity threshold



- The streaming instability makes filaments above threshold metallicity
- Carrera, Johansen, & Davies (2015) mapped the metallicity threshold as a function of St in 2-D simulations
- Lowest around a sweetspot at St \sim 0.1 (1 cm at 10 AU)
- Such pebbles can form by sticking outside ice line (Drazkowska & Dullemond, 2014)
- ► The threshold also depends on the radial pressure support (Bai & Stone, 2010)

Concentrating small particles in 3-D



- With new drag force scheme of Yang & Johansen (2016) we run 3-D simulations of small particles to 1000 orbits (Yang, Johansen, & Carrera, 2017)
- Small particles concentrate at much lower metallicities than previously thought
- Opens up the possibility to concentrate chondrule-sized particles to form asteroids

Forming planetesimals by photoevaporation



- Photoevaporation models including X-rays, EUV and FUV show evolution in gas-to-dust ratio (Gorti et al., 2015)
- ▶ Typically 50–100 M_E of pebbles remain after gas disc gone
- Pebbles turn into planetesimals when including prescription for streaming instability (Carrera et al., 2017)
- $\Rightarrow\,$ Efficient delivery of planetesimals to terrestrial planet formation and to debris phase
 - ? How to form planetesimals that grow to gas-giant cores?

Achieving the conditions for the streaming instability early



- Lots of ongoing work on early planetesimal formation at ice lines
- Pebbles may grow large by condensation outside ice lines (Ros & Johansen, 2013)
- Pile up of ice outside ice line to trigger streaming instability (Schoonenberg & Ormel, 2017; Drazkowska & Alibert, 2017)
- Also dust pile up inside ice line (Ida & Guillot, 2016)
- ? Do planetesimals form in an early and a late generation?



The effect of background turbulence





(Yang, Mac Low, & Johansen, submitted)



- The mid-plane has low α-viscosity, but high diffusion (Okuzumi & Hirose, 2011)
- Pebbles can not sediment below $H_{
 m p}/H_{
 m g}\sim 0.1$
- Filaments still form by the streaming instability above Z = 0.02, helped by the weak radial diffusion (Yang, Mac Low, & Johansen, submitted)
- Are these models consistent with observed stirring? (e.g. α ~ 10⁻⁴ in HL Tau, Pinte et al., 2016)



Summary



- Many particle concentration mechanisms are known
- Streaming instability is very powerful because it can lead to very high particle concentration
- Simulations of the streaming instability are converged on the resolved scales, but higher resolution gives stronger particle concentration as the filamentary structure is resolved better
- ▶ The initial mass function of planetesimals follows a shallow power $dN/dM \propto M^{-q}$ with index $q \approx 1.6$
- The streaming instability can concentrate particles down to mm sizes, but role of realistic turbulence needs to be explored better