

The Relationship Between Ring Properties and Planet Masses

Amena Faruqi, Farzana Meru,
Ralph Pudritz, Jess Speedie

Midlands Discs Meeting 2025

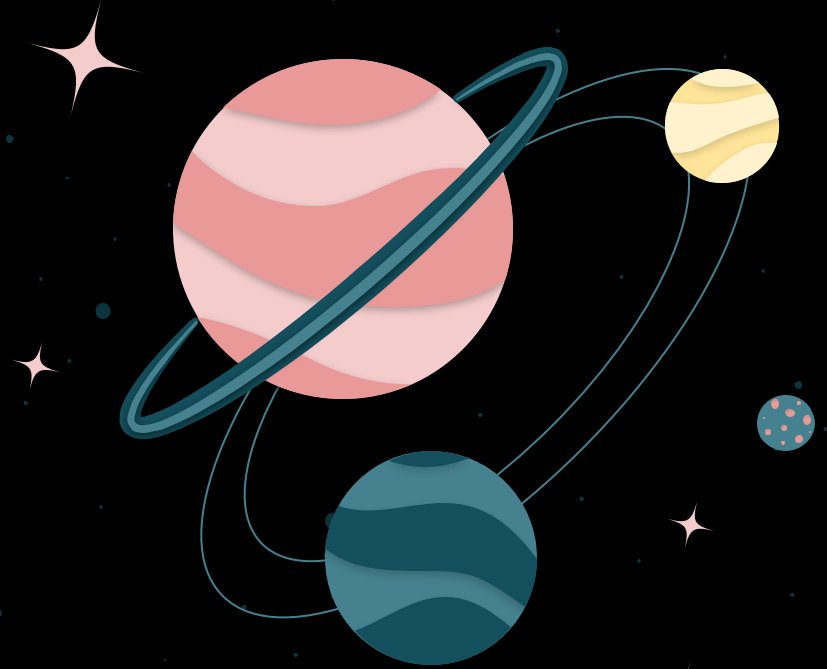
08 May 2025



Credit: ESO/L. Calçada



Background & Theory

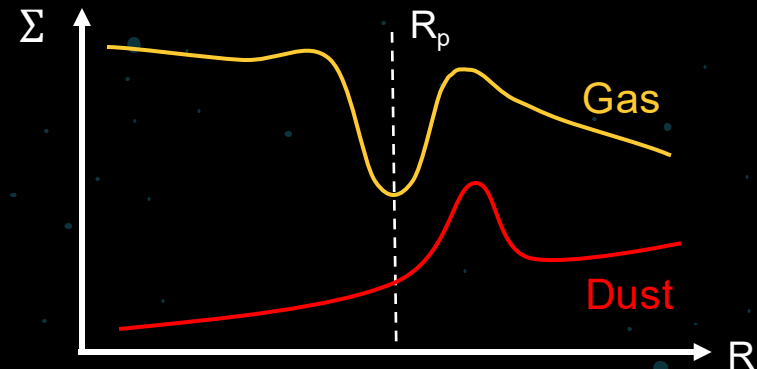
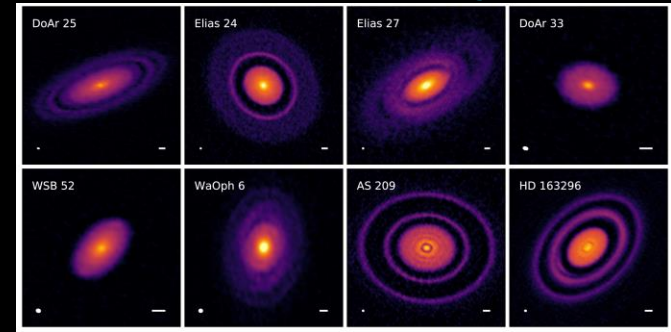


Disc Morphology

Varied morphology seen in discs – could indicate embedded planets!

Exoplanet detection techniques allow us to infer many properties of planets - mass, radius, semi-major axis...

Can ring properties tell us something about the presumed planets creating them?



Inferences from Substructure

We can infer some planet properties from observations:

$$\Delta_{dust\ gap} = 5.5R_H \quad (\text{Lodato et al. 2019})$$

$$\frac{\Delta_{gas\ gap}}{R_p} \sim \alpha^{-\frac{1}{4}} \left(\frac{h_p}{r_p}\right)^{-\frac{3}{4}} \sqrt{\frac{M_p}{M_*}} \quad (\text{Kanagawa et al. 2016})$$

See also: Zhang et al. 2018

These use gaps, rather than rings to infer planet masses

Pebble Isolation Mass

Minimum planet mass able to induce a ring of pebble-sized dust ($St \sim 0.1$) exterior to its orbit:

$$M_{iso} = \left(\frac{h/r}{0.05}\right)^3 \left[1 - \frac{\partial \ln P / \partial \ln r + 2.5}{6}\right] \left[0.34 \left(\frac{\log 10^{-3}}{\log \alpha}\right)^4 + 0.66\right] \left(25 + \frac{\alpha}{2St(0.00476)}\right) M_{\oplus}$$

(Bitsch et al. 2018)

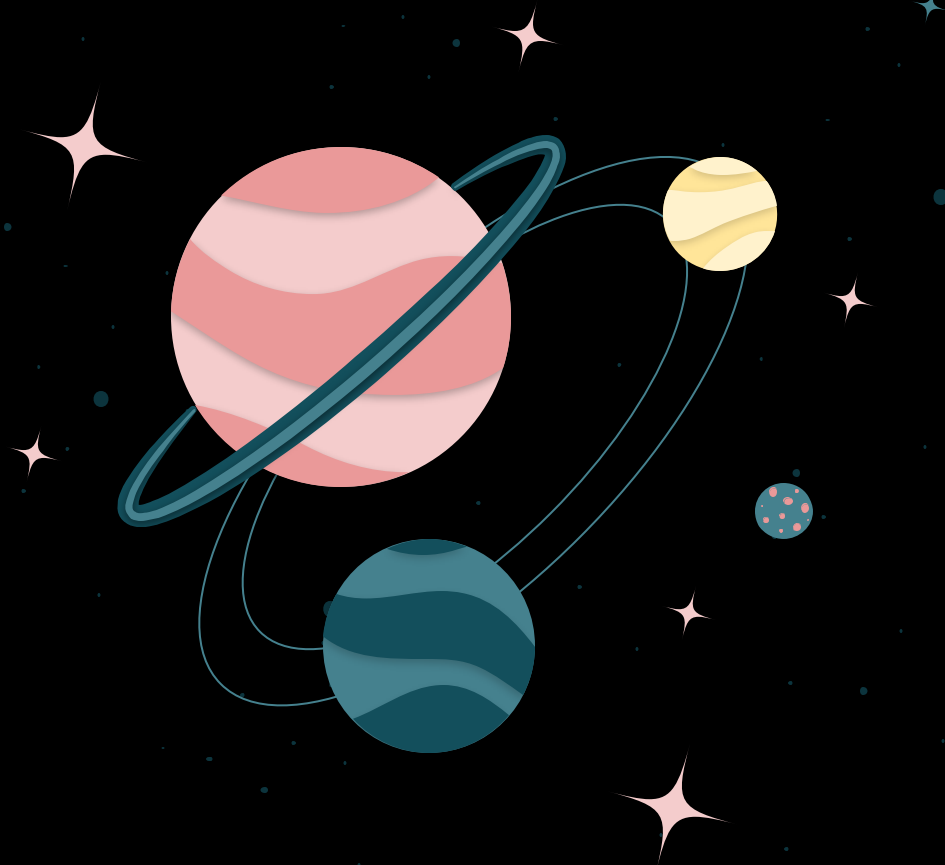
$$M_{iso} = 20 \left(\frac{h/r}{0.05}\right)^3 M_{\oplus}$$

(Lambrechts et al. 2014)

Given that planets form rings at specific masses, is there any relationship between planet mass and ring properties?


















Simulation Setup & Methods



Methods & Goals

- 1) Run a series of 2D ($r + \phi$) FARGO3D gas + dust models at a range of planet masses above and below M_{iso} .
- 2) Identify any ring properties that scale with planet mass.
- 3) Does this tell us anything about the underlying behaviour of dust in a disc?
- 4) Can this allow us to infer planet masses from observations of discs with substructure?

Parameter Space

$M_p(M_{iso})$	0.5	0.75	1.0	1.5	2.0
$h/r = 0.05$					
$h/r = 0.06$					
$h/r = 0.07$					

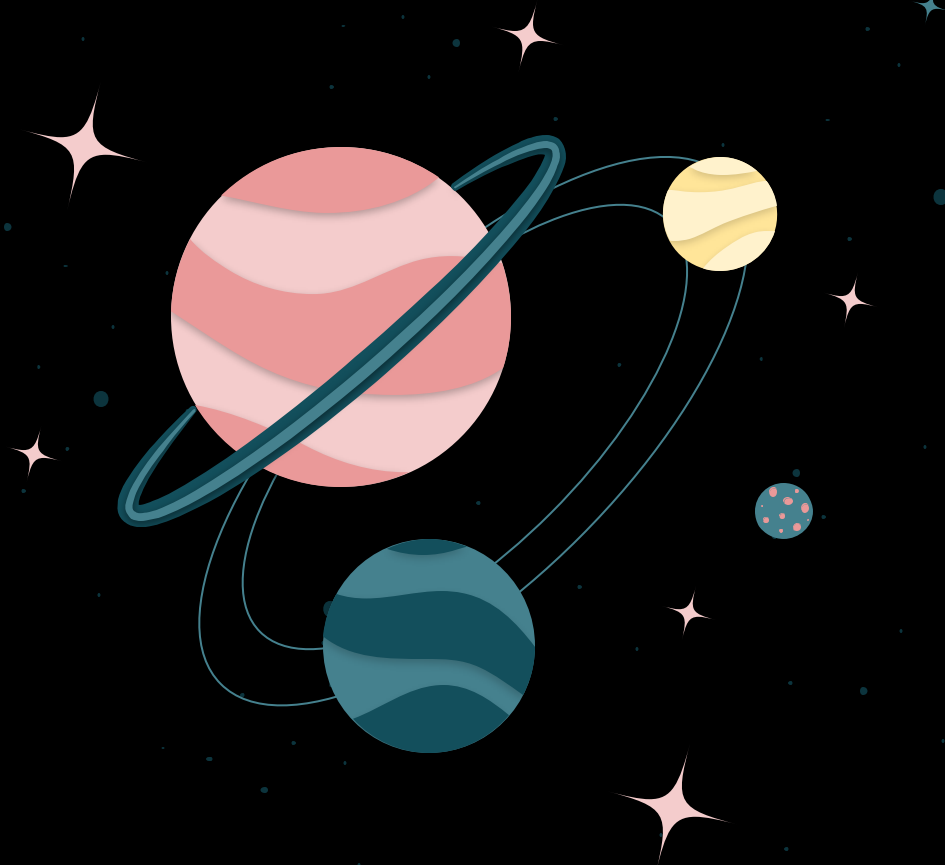
$\alpha = 10^{-4}$ (for now)

5 Stokes numbers:
0.002, 0.0063, 0.02,
0.063, 0.2

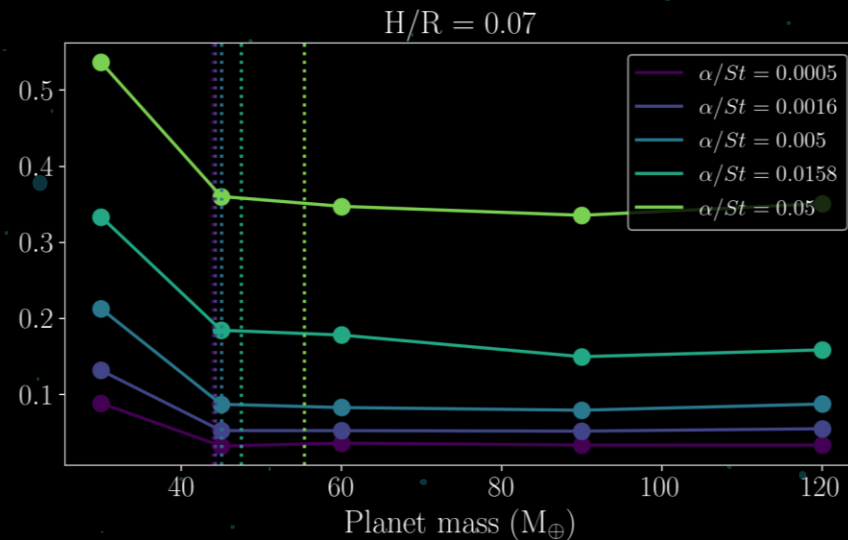
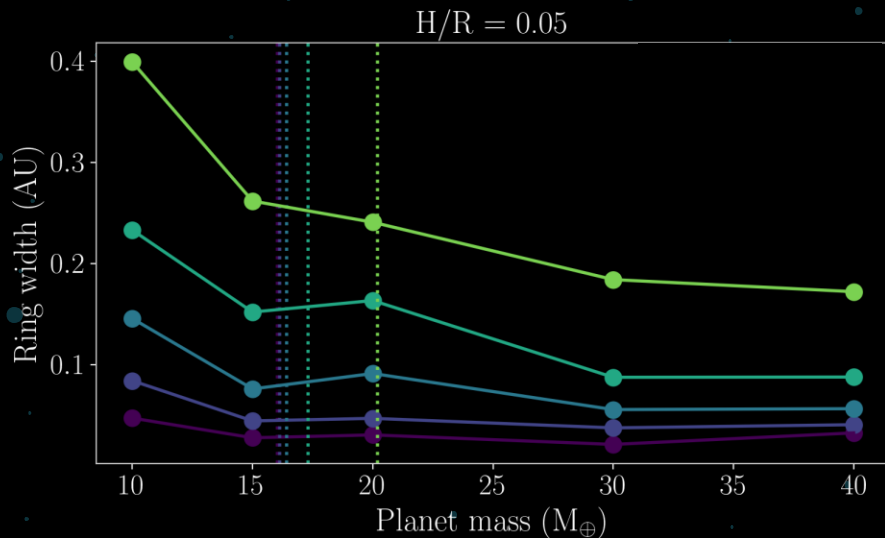
Only run to ~400-600
orbits so far...



Results & Analysis

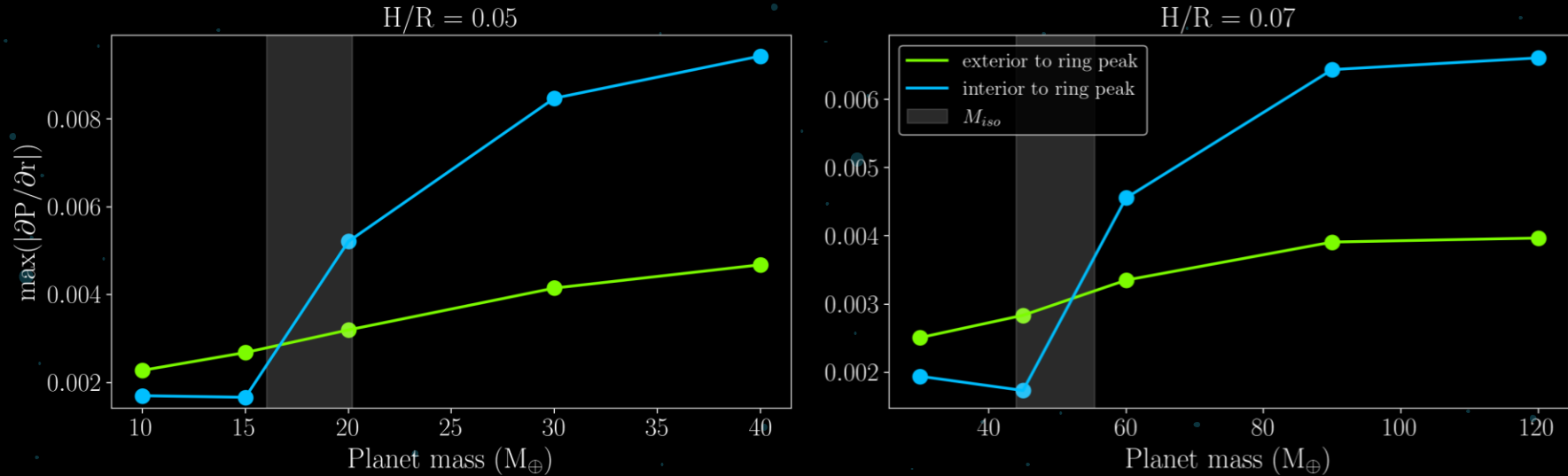


Ring Width vs. Planet Mass



Ring width plateaus for planets with masses greater than M_{iso}

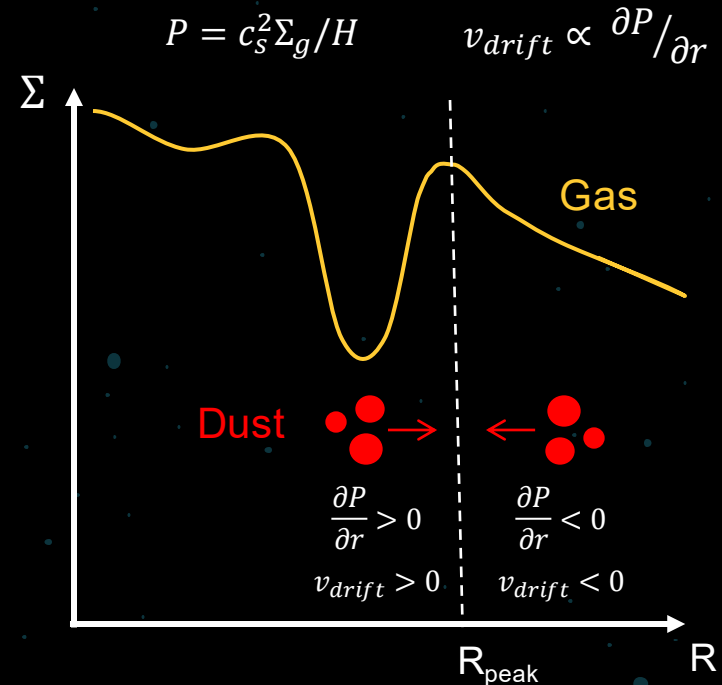
Pressure Gradients



Pebble-isolation mass corresponds to mass at which interior pressure gradient surpasses exterior pressure gradient

Underlying Theory

- 1) For $M_p < M_{iso}$, inward drift outpaces outward drift, material leaks out of ring and ring spreads.
- 2) For $M_p \approx M_{iso}$, inward drift matches outward drift, dust is trapped in a narrow ring.
- 3) For $M_p > M_{iso}$, inward drift is outpaced by outward drift, dust is pushed out of ring but re-enters a region with a positive pressure gradient, so remains trapped on timescales $> \tau_{drift}$.

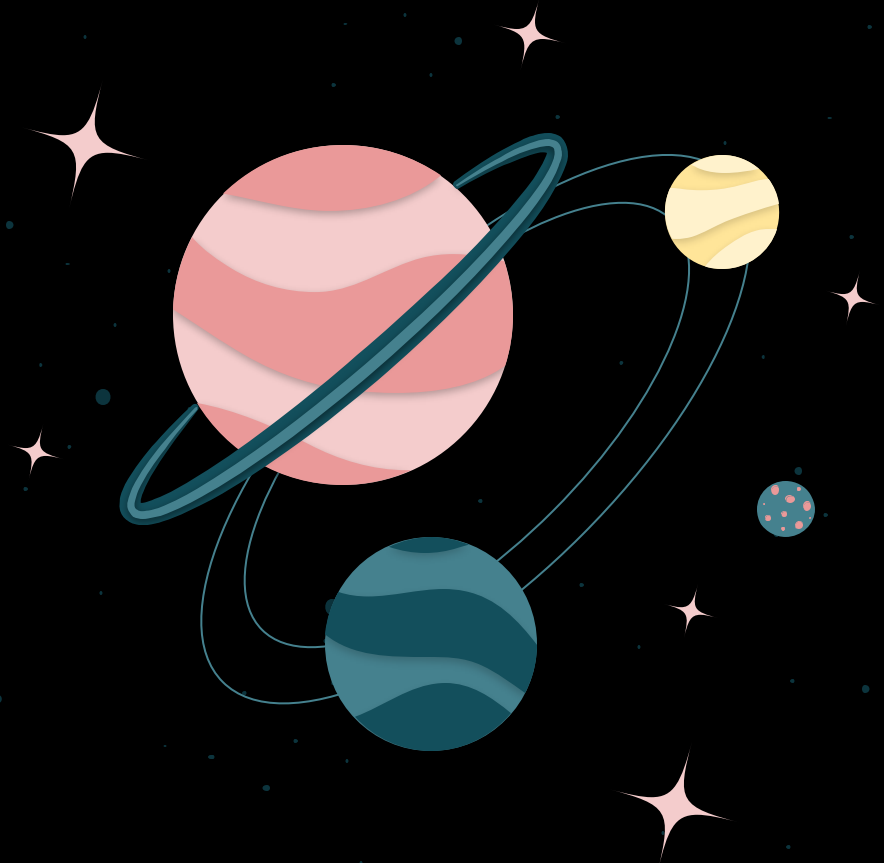


Conclusions & Future Work

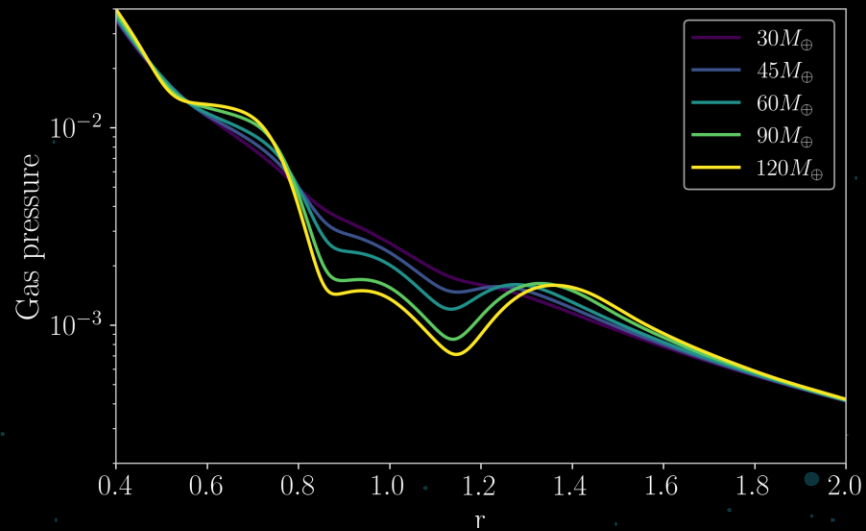
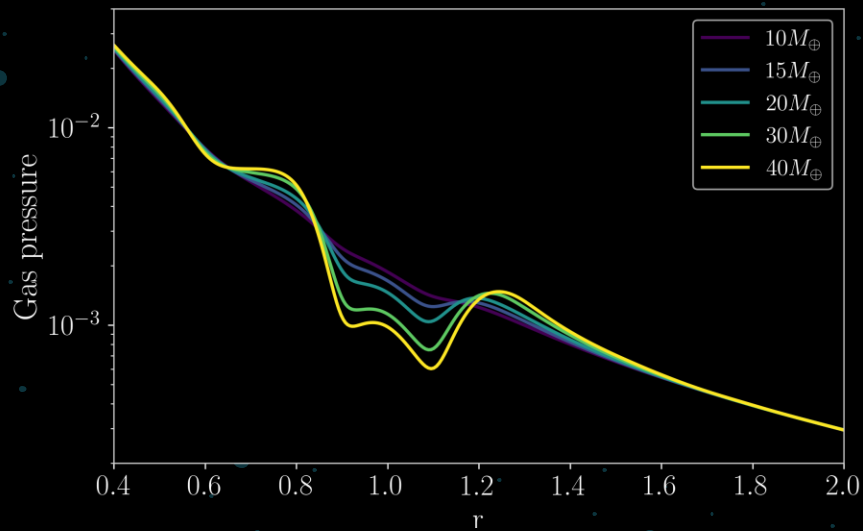
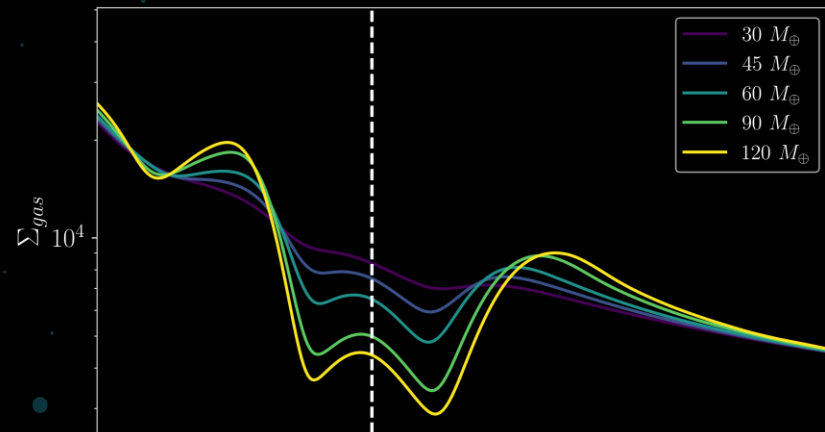
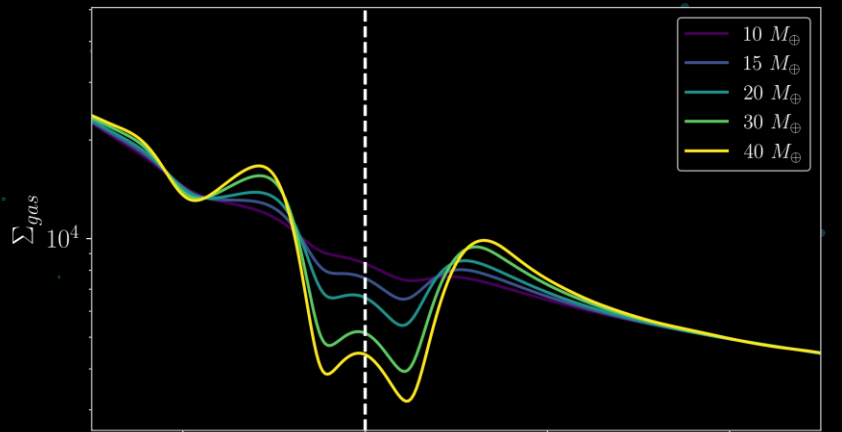
- ✓ Pebble isolation mass is related to
 - (a) the width of dust rings and
 - (b) the ratio of the pressure gradients interior vs exterior to the ring peak – is this observable?

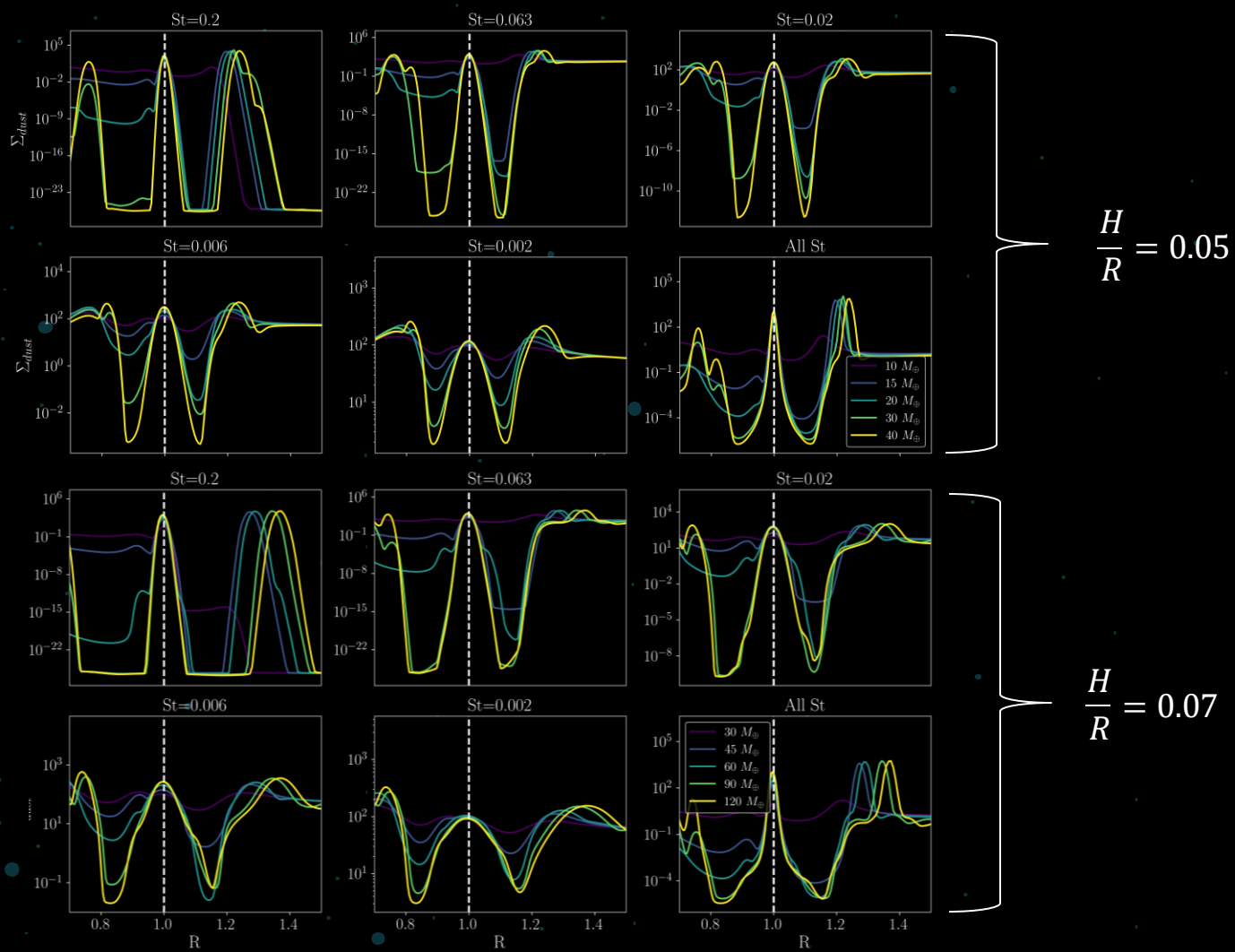
Future Work

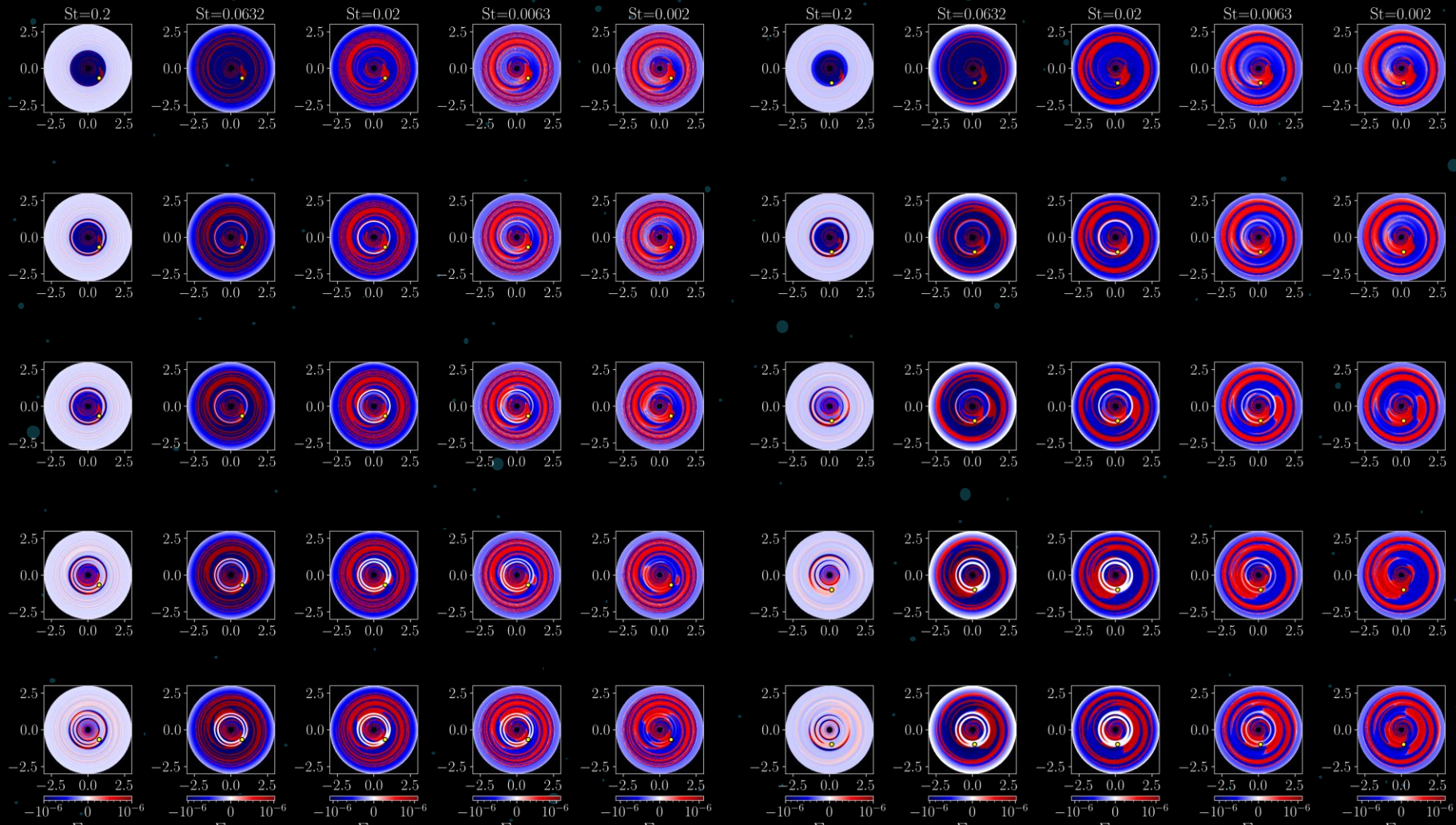
- ❑ Run all models to completion (1000+ orbits)
- ❑ Run models at different α values to check for α/St degeneracy
- ❑ Run models for additional planet masses



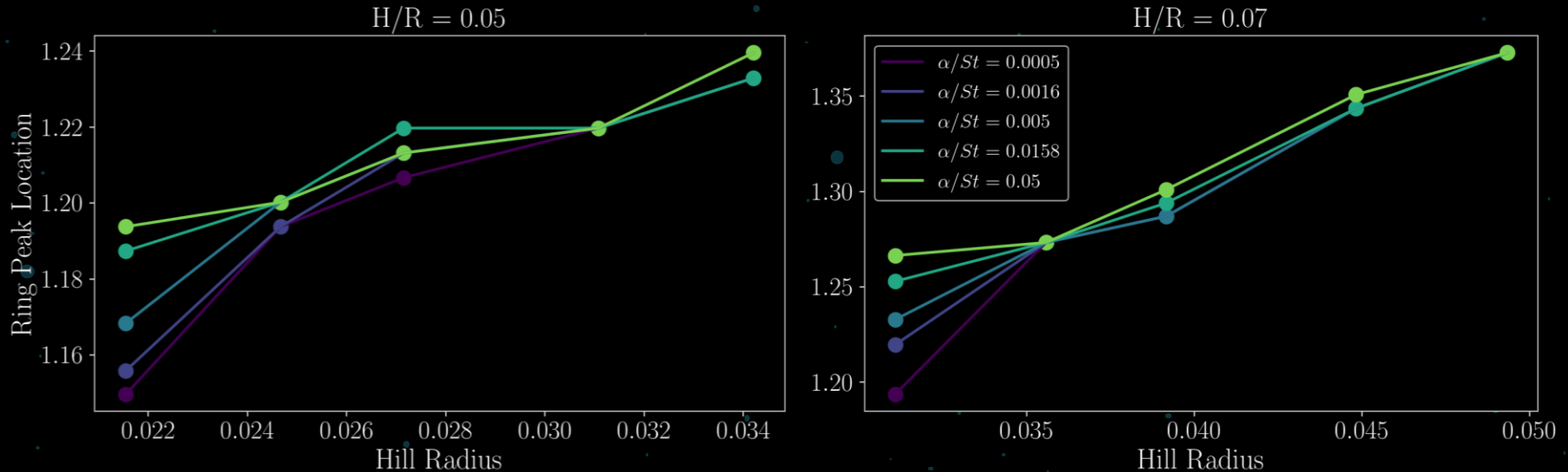
Backup Slides





$H/R = 0.05$ $H/R = 0.07$ 

Ring Peak Location



Linear correlation between ring location and Hill radius