THE FORMATION AND HABITABILITY OF TERTERRESTRIAL PLANETS IN THE PRESENCE OF HOT JUPITERS

SEAN N. RAYMOND1, THOMAS QUINN1, & JONATHAN I. LUNINE2

Draft version January 31, 2022

ABSTRACT

‘Hot jupiters,’ giant planets with orbits very close to their parent stars, are thought to form farther away and migrate inward via interactions with a massive gas disk. If a giant planet forms and migrates quickly, the planetesimal population has time to re-generate in the lifetime of the disk and terrestrial planets may form (Armitage 2003). We present results of simulations of terrestrial planet formation in the presence of hot jupiters, broadly defined as having orbital radii \( \leq 0.5 \) AU. We show that terrestrial planets similar to those in the Solar System can form around stars with hot jupiters, and can have water contents equal to or higher than the Earth’s. For small orbital radii of hot jupiters (e.g. 0.15, 0.25 AU) potentially habitable planets can form, but for semi-major axes of 0.5 AU or greater their formation is suppressed. We show that the presence of an outer giant planet such as Jupiter does not enhance the water content of the terrestrial planets, but rather decreases their formation and water delivery timescales. We speculate that asteroid belts may exist interior to the terrestrial planets in systems with hot jupiters.

Subject headings: planetary formation – extrasolar planets – cosmochemistry – exobiology

1. INTRODUCTION

Roughly one third of the giant planets discovered outside the Solar System have orbits within 0.5 astronomical units (AU) of their central stars. These “hot jupiters” are thought to have formed farther out and migrated inward via gravitational torques with a massive gas disk (Lin, Bodenheimer & Richardson 1996). If this migration occurs within the first million years (Myr) of the disk lifetime, the planetesimal population (the building blocks of terrestrial planets) is not strongly depleted. However, if migration occurs later, planetesimals are destroyed without enough time to re-form, making it impossible for sizable terrestrial planets to form (Armitage 2003).

Recent results show that giant planets can form on very short timescales via gravitational collapse (Boss 1997; Mayer et al. 2002; Rice et al. 2003). New simulations of the standard, core-accretion scenario (Pollack et al. 1996) including turbulence (Rice & Armitage 2003) and migration during formation (Alibert, Mordasini & Benz 2004) have shown that giant planets can form via this mechanism in 1 Myr or less, in agreement with the observed, 1-10 million year lifetime of circumstellar disks (Briceno et al. 2001). Observations of the ~1 Myr old star Coku Tau 4 with the Spitzer Space Telescope have revealed an absence of dust inside 10 AU. One explanation is the presence of a planet orbiting this very young star (Forrest et al., 2004). If correct, this would be observational evidence for fast giant planet formation.

The timescale for the inward migration of a giant planet depends on the mass of the planet and the mass and viscosity of the gaseous disk, and is typically less than 10^5 years for Saturn-to Jupiter- mass planets (D’Angelo, Kley, & Henning 2003). Migration begins immediately after, even during, the formation of the giant planet (Lufkin et al., 2004). The mechanism by which migration stops is not well understood, and may involve interactions with magnetic fields (Terquem 2003) or an evacuated region in the inner disk (Kuchner & Lecar 2002; Matsumiya, Johnstone, & Murray 2003). Many planets may in fact migrate all the way into the star (Nelson & Papaloizou 2000).

Based on the above arguments, we expect that terrestrial planets can form in a standard, bottom-up fashion in the presence of a hot Jupiter.

The character and composition of a system of terrestrial planets is strongly affected by the amount of solid material (Weidenschilling 1996; Chambers & Cassen 2002; Raymond, Quinn & Lunine 2004) and the presence of one or more giant planets (Chambers & Cassen 2002; Levison & Agnor 2003; Raymond et al., 2004). The Earth acquired most of its water during formation from bodies which formed in the outer asteroid belt, past the “snow line,” where water could exist as ice in the low pressure protoplanetary disk (Morbidelli et al., 2000).

The habitable zone around a star is defined as the annulus in which the temperature is right for liquid water to exist on the surface of an Earth-like planet, and is roughly 0.95 - 1.37 AU in our Solar System (Kasting, Whitmire & Reynolds 1993). A potentially habitable planet not only needs to reside in its star’s habitable zone, it also needs a substantial water content. The source of water, however, lies much farther out in the protoplanetary disk, past the snow line. The formation of a habitable planet therefore requires significant radial stirring of protoplanets with different compositions (see Raymond et al., 2004 for a discussion).

Here we present results of dynamical simulations of terrestrial planet formation in the presence of a hot Jupiter, both with and without an exterior giant planet. We include hot jupiters with orbital radii of 0.15, 0.25 and 0.5 AU, and in some cases outer giant planets at 5.2 AU. Section 2 outlines our initial conditions and numerical methods. Section 3 presents our results,

1Department of Astronomy, University of Washington, Box 351580, Seattle, WA 98195 (raymond@astro.washington.edu; trq@astro.washington.edu)
2Lunar and Planetary Laboratory, The University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ 85287. (junine@lpl.arizona.edu)
3Data from http://www.exoplanets.org
4We use the term hot Jupiter to apply to gas giant planets with semi-major axes \( a \leq 0.5 \) AU. This departs from certain uses of the term, which reserve it for planets inside 0.1 AU. In that nomenclature, one might call planets at 0.5 AU “warm jupiters.”
which are discussed in section 4.

2. METHOD

A simulation begins with a disk of protoplanets which reflects the minimum mass solar nebula model (Hayashi 1981). Planetary embryos have densities of \(3 \text{g cm}^{-3}\) and are placed from the hot jupiter out to 5.2 AU. These are randomly spaced by 3-6 mutual Hill radii assuming the surface density of solids scales with heliocentric distance \(r \propto r^{-3/2}\). The surface density is normalized to 10 \(\text{g cm}^{-2}\) at 1 AU, with each disk of embryos containing 6-7 earth masses of material inside 5 AU. The discovered giant planets are found to preferentially orbit stars with metallicities higher than the Sun’s (Laws et al., 2003), indicating that they likely contain a large amount of solid material with which to build terrestrial planets. Our chosen value for the surface density is therefore quite low, and accounts for some depletion during hot jupiter migration. All hot jupiters have masses of 0.5 Jupiter masses and all outer giant planets are 1 Jupiter mass.

We assign protoplanets an initial distribution of water content which reflects the distribution in chondritic meteorites (see Fig. 2 from Raymond et al., 2004), such that the inner bodies are dry, past 2 AU planetary embryos contain 0.1% water, and past 2.5 AU embryos contain 5% water. Their iron distribution is interpolated between the content of the planets and chondritic asteroid classes, ignoring the planet Mercury. These range from 0.40 (40% iron by mass) at 0.2 AU to 0.15 at 5 AU. Each embryo is given a small initial inclination (< 1°) and eccentricity (< 0.02).

Each simulation is evolved for at least 200 million years using a hybrid integrator called Mercury (Chambers 1999), which evolves the orbits of all bodies and keeps track of collisions. The hybrid scheme in Mercury uses a symplectic algorithm to evolve orbits of bodies unless they are involved in a close encounter, in which case it switches to a Bulirsch-Stoer method. Collisions are treated as inelastic mergers which conserve mass and water content. The time step in each simulation is chosen to be less than 1/20 of the orbital period of the innermost body in the simulation, and ranges from 1 day for a hot jupiter at 0.15 AU to 6 days for a hot jupiter at 0.5 AU. Each simulation conserved energy to at least one part in \(10^5\), and took between three weeks and two months to complete on a desktop PC.

3. RESULTS

Figure 1 shows the time evolution of one simulation which formed a planet in the habitable zone, with a hot jupiter at 0.25 AU and an outer giant planet at 5.2 AU (not shown). Planetary embryos are dynamically excited by the giant planets and their mutual gravitation, increasing their eccentricities and causing their orbits to cross. This results in both accretional impacts and close encounters with giant planets, which eject roughly half of the terrestrial bodies. By the end of a simulation only a few terrestrial planets remain. In this case four terrestrial bodies have formed including two planets inside 2 AU, one of which lies in the habitable zone at 1.06 AU with 1.68 times the mass of Earth with water content higher than the Earth’s. As our simulations do not account for water loss during impacts, water content values are upper limits. However, we do not simulate the secondary delivery of volatiles from farther out in the disk (“late veneer”) which would increase the water content, although likely not by more than 10% if it proceeds as in our Solar system (Morbidelli et al., 2000).

Figure 2 shows the final state of twelve simulations (out of twenty), with the Solar System included for scale. Grey circles represent the positions of giant planets in each simulation and are not on the same scale as the terrestrial bodies. The eccentricity of each body is shown beneath it by its radial excursion over the course of one orbit. Terrestrial planets can form in the habitable zone in the presence of a hot jupiter, often with substantial water contents. The possibility of a potentially habitable planet forming depends on the location of the hot jupiter. In most cases, no planets more massive than 0.2 Earth masses form within a factor of 3 in period to the hot jupiter, roughly a factor of two in semi-major axis. If a planet forms in the habitable zone with a hot jupiter at 0.5 AU, it is the innermost terrestrial planet and tends to be relatively small and dry. Water-rich planets form readily in the habitable zone with a hot jupiter at 0.15 or 0.25 AU.

In our Solar System planet formation was suppressed in the asteroid belt by the gravitational effects of Jupiter. This is seen in Fig. 2, as no terrestrial planets form within a factor of 3-4 in period to a hot jupiter or an outer gas giant. We speculate that as this gap is filled with the remnants of terrestrial bodies in our solar system, systems with hot jupiters may contain asteroid belts interior to the terrestrial planets. The resolution of current simulations is too low to test this hypothesis.

Simulations without a giant planet exterior to the terrestrial region form planets of substantial mass in the asteroid belt and beyond on time scales of hundreds of Myr. Indeed, the systems in Fig. 2 with no outer giant planet have not yet finished accreting. Simulations 23 and 24 were run for 200 Myr, sims 9 and 10 for 500 Myr, and sims 13 and 14 for 800+ Myr. A comparison between the outer regions of these demonstrates the long formation timescales. An outer gas giant clears the asteroid belt of protoplanets quickly, although the water content of terrestrial planets is roughly the same in the absence of an outer giant planet. In all cases, terrestrial planets in the habitable zone form more quickly in the presence of an outer giant planet and are delivered water at earlier times than with no outer gas giant. This suggests that an outer giant planet’s net effect is to clear material from the asteroid belt and to accelerate terrestrial planet formation. Its role in delivering water to the terrestrial planets is not a vital one in terms of quantity.

The amount of material ejected from the system is also a function of the number and configuration of giant planets. An outer giant planet ejects approximately one half of the total terrestrial mass in the system, while a hot jupiter can remove up to one third. In the case of a hot jupiter at 0.5 AU and an outer giant planet, the terrestrial planets comprise only one quarter of the initial mass. These planets are systematically depleted in iron, because the inner, iron-rich material has been largely removed by the hot jupiter.

We have run three simulations for one billion years or more to test the long term stability of terrestrial planets in the presence of hot jupiters. The short dynamical timescales in the inner disk result in a fast clearing of unstable objects, so a longer integration produces no change. The asteroid belt is slowly cleared by an outer giant planet, but all planets which are well-separated from a giant planet (by a factor of 3-4 or more in orbital period) are stable for long timescales.

We have run two simulations under the assumption that the hot jupiter’s migration took place later in the lifetime of the protoplanetary disk. The surface density of solid material was reduced by a factor of five, and we included a hot jupiter at 0.25 AU and an outer giant planet. After 200 Myr of evolution,
these systems formed no planets more massive than 0.16 earth masses and left a large number of small bodies in the terrestrial region, reminiscent of a large asteroid belt.

4. DISCUSSION

All the simulations presented here contain giant planets on circular orbits with fixed masses. The observed hot jupiters inside 0.1 AU (51 Peg-type hot jupiters) tend to have circular orbits due to tidal interactions with the central star. More distant giant planets can have a large range in eccentricity and mass. The effects of these parameters can be extrapolated using previous results. An eccentric giant planet preferentially ejects water-rich material from the planetary system rather than scattering it inward, which results in dry terrestrial planets (Chambers & Cassen 2002; Raymond et al., 2004) with large eccentricities, located far from the giant planet. A more massive giant planet or a higher surface density of solid material results in a smaller number of more massive terrestrial planets (Wetherill 1996; Chambers & Cassen 2002; Raymond et al., 2004). We apply this to a known planetary system, 55 Cancri (Marcy et al., 2002), which contains two hot jupiters at 0.115 and 0.241 AU and an exterior giant planet at 5.9 AU. The hot jupiters are close to being in 3:1 resonance and the less massive one has an eccentricity of 0.33. The outer giant planet’s eccentricity is 0.16 and it is four times as massive as Jupiter. By our previous arguments, we expect a small number of terrestrial planets to form in 55 Cancri far away from the hot jupiters as well as from the outer giant. The high eccentricities should strongly deplete the solid material, resulting in low-mass planets. Simulations have shown this to be the case, with at most two terrestrial planets forming in 55 Cancri, with masses no greater than 0.6 earth masses (Raymond & Barnes 2004).

We have argued that terrestrial planets can form in the presence of hot jupiters. We have shown that potentially habitable planets with orbits in the habitable zone and substantial water contents can form in such conditions. We hypothesize that asteroid belts may exist between the terrestrial planets and a hot jupiter. Based on this and previous work it is possible to predict the character of the terrestrial planets around a star, from observables such as the orbit and mass of a giant planet and the metallicity of the star. Our predictions will be testable in the near future with upcoming space missions such as Kepler⁵ and COROT⁶, that will detect giant and (hopefully) terrestrial planets around other stars. Longer-term missions like Terrestrial Planet Finder⁷ and Darwin⁸ hope to obtain spectra of terrestrial planets and search for signs of water and life. We suggest that stars with hot jupiters may be a good place to look for extra solar terrestrial planets.

This result can also be applied to constrain the location of the Galactic Habitable Zone (Gonzalez, Brownlee & Ward 2002; Lineweaver, Fenner & Gibson 2004). This is defined as the region in the galaxy in which various factors conspire to make the area suitable for life (e.g. the average metallicity of stars, the rate of supernovae, time needed for life to evolve). In particular, Lineweaver et al. (2004) assume (from Lineweaver 2001) that the probability of a star to host a potentially habitable planet drops precipitously if its metallicity is higher than 0.2-0.3 dex (solar metallicity is defined to be 0.0). This is based on the fact that higher metallicity stars are more likely to have hot jupiters (Laws et al., 2003), and the assumption that any migration event would preclude the formation of terrestrial planets in the system. Our result, that potentially habitable planets can exist around stars with hot jupiters, effectively widens the Galactic Habitable Zone to include regions at small galactocentric distances and recent times (“too metal rich” regions in Figs. 3 and 4 of Lineweaver et al., 2004).

5. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We thank Lucio Mayer, Chris Laws, and Graeme Lufkin for helpful discussions. This work was funded by NASA’s Astrobiology Institute and NASA Planetary Atmospheres. These simulations were run under Condor, which is publicly available at http://www.cs.wisc.edu/condor.

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⁴http://www.astrsp-mrs.fr/projets/corot
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**Figure 1.** Six snapshots in time from a simulation with two giant planets (not shown): a 0.5 Jupiter-mass hot Jupiter at 0.25 AU and a Jupiter-mass planet at 5.2 AU, both on circular, coplanar orbits. Each panel plots the eccentricity and semi-major axis of each surviving body in the simulation. The size of a body is proportional to its mass$^{1/3}$, and the dark region in the center represents the size of its iron core, on the same scale. The color corresponds to the water mass fraction, which ranges initially from $10^{-5}$ to 0.05.
Fig. 2.— Final configurations of twelve simulations, with the Solar System shown for scale. The gray circles represent the giant planets in each simulation and are not to the same scale as the terrestrial bodies. The eccentricity of each body is represented by its excursion in heliocentric distance over an orbit. The x axis is on a logarithmic scale such that a given separation corresponds to a fixed ratio of orbital periods, shown in the scale bar on the top left. The dashed vertical lines represent the boundaries of the habitable zone (Kasting et al., 1993). Simulations 23 and 24 were run for 200 Myr, simulations 9 and 10 for 500 Myr, and simulations 13 and 14 for 800+ Myr. A comparison shows the long accretion timescales in the outer terrestrial region. Note the presence of protoplanets in 1:1 resonance with a giant planet in some cases.