
EAPS Planetary lunch Colloquium Series (PICS)

Tuesday, September 22nd

Scott J. Kenyon

Senior Astrophysicist

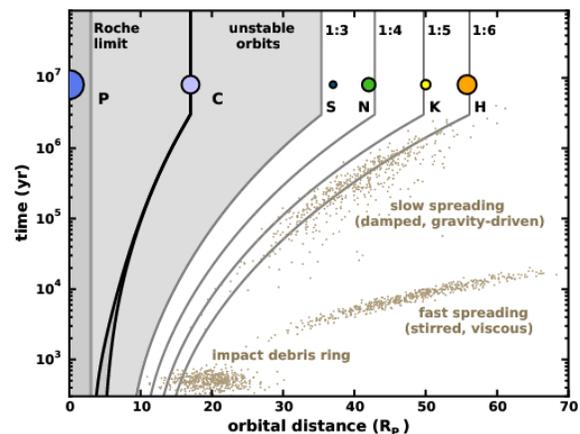
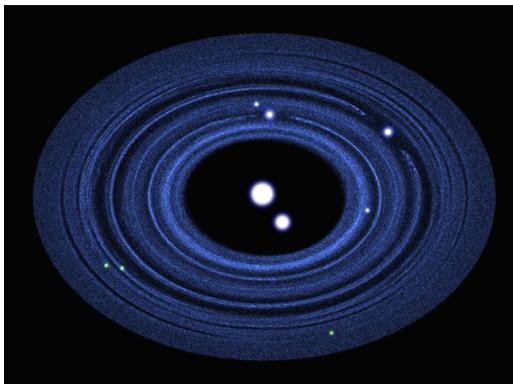
Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory

12:30pm

54-517

Pluto Strikes Back! The Formation of the Pluto-Charon System

In the last decade, HST observations have revealed 4 small satellites orbiting the binary planet Pluto-Charon. After describing the basic system architecture and some recent results from New Horizons, I will discuss a plausible path from the giant impact which produced Pluto-Charon to the formation of small satellites orbiting the binary. To conclude, I will consider how Pluto-Charon provides a nearby laboratory for investigating the formation of planets around binary stars.



For more information, contact Niraj Inamdar (inamdar@mit.edu)



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