

## 5 Collisions

5.1

- Consider a particle of mass  $m_1$ , diameter  $D_1$  (aka target) moving through population of particles of mass  $m_2$  (aka impactor) where  $n = \#$  of  $m_2$  particles / volume

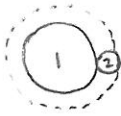
Particle-in-a-box gives rate at which  $m_1$  encounters  $m_2$  as

$$R_{col} = n \sigma V_{rel} \quad \boxed{5.1}$$

where  $\sigma =$  cross-section of interaction,  $V_{rel} =$  relative velocity between particles

$$t_{col} = 1/R_{col} = \text{collision time}$$

$$\boxed{1B} \quad \sigma_{1a} = \frac{\pi}{4} (D_1 + D_2)^2$$



$$\boxed{2B} \quad \sigma_{2B} = \sigma_{1a} (1 + V_{esc}^2 / V_{rel}^2)$$



$\boxed{3B}$  If encounter is slow of orbital motion = shear dominated regime; i.e. if  $V_{rel} < V_H = \sqrt{GM_1/r_H} =$  orbital velocity at Hill radius then need to add  $*$ .

- Outcome depends on:

specific incident energy  $Q = \frac{1}{2} m_2 V_{col}^2 / m_1 = \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{D_2}{D_1} \right)^3 V_{col}^2 \quad \boxed{5.2}$

where  $V_{col} =$  collision velocity

NB  $E_{col} = \frac{1}{2} m_1 m_2 V_{col}^2 / (m_1 + m_2) = \frac{m_1^2}{(m_1 + m_2)} Q \quad \boxed{5.3}$

as well as impact angle, internal structure, composition

Grouped by what happens to mass of  $m_1$

- Sticking = mass gain (accretion) eg protoplanetary disk
- Bouncing = mass conservation (with energy loss) eg planetary ring
- Fragmentation = mass loss (collisional cascade) eg debris disk

but may also care about spin, internal structure (eg compaction), energy

### Sticking

If particle accretes all the mass it encounters, it grows at a rate:

$$\dot{m}_1 = m_2 R_{col} = (n m_2) \frac{\pi}{4} (D_1 + D_2)^2 \left[ 1 + \frac{4G(m_1 + m_2)}{(D_1 + D_2) V_{rel}^2} \right] V_{rel} \quad \boxed{5.4}$$

If  $D_1 \gg D_2$  and  $V_{col} \gg V_{esc}$  then  $\dot{m}_1 \propto D_1^2 \propto m_1^{2/3}$

as  $\dot{D}_1 = \left( \frac{2}{\rho_1} \right) \dot{m}_1 \rightarrow D_1 = D_0 + kt$  i.e. linear growth  $\boxed{5.5}$

$V_{rel} \ll V_{esc}$  then  $\dot{m}_1 \propto D_1^4 \propto m_1^{4/3}$

$\therefore D_1 = D_0 [1 - kt]^{-1}$  i.e. runaway growth as  $\rightarrow \infty$  in finite time  $\boxed{5.6}$

### eg Settling with coagulation (Eq 3.1)

For small particles in subsonic Epstein drag regime  $\boxed{2.37, 2.39} \rightarrow t_s = \frac{1}{2} \rho_s D / \rho_g v_r$

If  $t_s \ll 1$ ,  $\boxed{2.50} \rightarrow \frac{dz}{dt} = -K_z z D \quad \boxed{5.7}$

where  $K_z = \frac{1}{2} \Omega^2 \rho_s / \rho_g v_r$

For  $V_{rel} \gg V_{esc}$ , particle encounters mass at rate  $f \rho_g \frac{\pi}{4} D^2 K_z z D$  where  $f =$  ratio of dust to gas

So if it accretes this mass it grows at rate  $\frac{dD}{dt} = K_0 z D \quad \boxed{5.8}$

where  $K_0 = \frac{1}{2} f \rho_g K_z / \rho_s$

Thus  $dD/dz = -K_0 / K_z = -\frac{1}{2} f \rho_g / \rho_s$

For  $\rho_g$  that is constant with  $z$

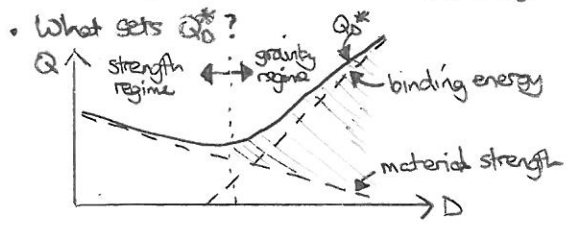
$D = D_0 + (z_0 - z) \frac{1}{2} f \rho_g / \rho_s \quad \boxed{5.9}$

and particle grows to a final size of  $\approx \frac{1}{2} z_0 f \rho_g / \rho_s$  on reaching midplane

These particles grow from  $\sim 0.1 \mu\text{m}$  to  $\sim 1 \text{cm}$  as they settle to midplane on timescales of  $\sim 1000$  years

### Fragmentation

- Define dispersal threshold  $Q_D^*$
- If  $Q = Q_D^*$  then largest fragment has a mass  $f_r m$ , where  $f_r = 0.5$
- $Q < Q_D^*$  then  $f_r \neq 1 - 0.5Q/Q_D^*$  → cratering collisions [NB  $M_{crit} \propto \rho(M, Q)^{1.23}$  for small  $Q$ ]
- $Q > Q_D^*$  then  $f_r = 0.5(Q_D^*/Q)^{1.24}$  → catastrophic collisions



$$Q_D^* = Q_a D^{-a} + Q_b D^b \quad \text{[5.10]}$$

e.g.  $Q_a = 620 \text{ J/kg}$ ,  $a = 0.5$ ,  $Q_b = 5 \times 10^6 \rho \text{ J/kg}$ ,  $b = 1.5$

In shaded region objects fragment but reaccumulate by self gravity → "rubble pile" planetesimals

### Size distributions

- In general particle distributions are not mono-disperse (all same size)
- ∴ define  $n(D)$  s.t.  $n(D)dD$  is # of particles in size range  $D \rightarrow D+dD$
- Let  $n(D) = K D^{-\alpha}$  from  $D_{min}$  to  $D_{max}$
- ∴ distribution of cross-sectional area  $\sigma(D) = K \frac{\pi}{4} D^{2-\alpha}$  [5.11]
- distribution of mass  $M(D) = K \frac{\pi \rho}{6} D^{3-\alpha}$

Usually define  $K$  in terms of total cross-sectional area or mass in distribution

$$\sigma_{tot} = \frac{K\pi}{4(3-\alpha)} [D_{max}^{3-\alpha} - D_{min}^{3-\alpha}] \quad \text{[5.12]}$$

$$M_{tot} = \frac{K\pi\rho}{6(4-\alpha)} [D_{max}^{4-\alpha} - D_{min}^{4-\alpha}]$$

- For  $D_{min} \ll D_{max}$ :  $\alpha < 3$   $\sigma_{tot}$  and  $M_{tot}$  dominated by  $D_{max}$
- $3 < \alpha < 4$   $\sigma_{tot}$  dominated by  $D_{min}$ ,  $M_{tot}$  by  $D_{max}$
- $\alpha > 4$   $\sigma_{tot}$  and  $M_{tot}$  dominated by  $D_{min}$

Also defined using  $n(m)$  s.t.  $n(m)dm$  is # with masses  $m \rightarrow m+dm$

For  $n(m) \propto m^{-q} \propto D^{-3q}$  then as  $n(D) = n(m)dm/dD \propto D^{-2-3q} \Rightarrow \alpha = 3q - 2$  [5.13]

### Collision rates in size distributions

Rate of impacts onto a particle  $D$  from those in size range  $D_{im} \rightarrow D_{im} + dD_{im}$  is  $R_{col}(D, D_{im}) dD_{im}$  where

$$R_{col}(D, D_{im}) = \sigma_v(D_{im}) (1 + D/D_{im})^2 (1 + \Theta) V_{rel} \quad \text{[5.14]}$$

where  $\sigma_v(D_{im}) =$  cross-sectional area volume density distribution  $= n(D_{im}) \frac{\pi D_{im}^2}{4} \frac{1}{V} = \sigma(D_{im})/V$

$V =$  volume filled by particles  $\approx 4\pi r^3 (\Delta r/r) I_{max}$   
for a belt at  $r \pm \Delta r/2$  of scale height  $h \approx I_{max} r$

$\Theta =$  Safronov number  $= (V_{esc}/V_{rel})^2 = \frac{2\pi\rho G (D^3 + D_{im}^3)}{3V_{rel}^2 (D + D_{im})}$

Catastrophic collisions for which  $Q > Q_D^*$  are all those with impactors larger than  $X_c D$  where [5.2] gives

$$X_c = (2Q_D^*/V_{col}^2)^{1/3} \quad \text{[5.15]}$$

So catastrophic collision rate is

$$R_c(D) = \int_{X_c D}^{D_{max}} R_{col}(D, D_{im}) dD_{im} \quad \text{[5.16]}$$

[eg] For  $\alpha < 4$  [5.12]  $\Rightarrow K \approx \frac{6(4-\alpha)}{\pi\rho} D_{max}^{\alpha-4} M_{tot}$  (assuming  $D_{min} \ll D_{max}$ ) [5.17]

$$\sigma(D) = \frac{3}{2} \frac{(4-\alpha)}{\rho} D_{max}^{\alpha-4} M_{tot} D^{2-\alpha}$$

So, for  $\alpha < 4$  (which also means  $V_{col} \approx V_{rel}$ )

$$R_c(D) = \int_{X_c D}^{D_{max}} A D_{im}^{2-\alpha} (1 + D/D_{im})^2 dD_{im} \quad \text{where } A = \frac{3}{2} \left(\frac{4-\alpha}{\rho}\right) D_{max}^{\alpha-4} M_{tot} \frac{1}{V} V_{rel}$$

$$= A \left[ \frac{1}{3-\alpha} D_{im}^{3-\alpha} + \frac{2D}{2-\alpha} D_{im}^{2-\alpha} + \frac{D^2}{1-\alpha} D_{im}^{1-\alpha} \right]_{X_c D}^{D_{max}} \quad \text{[5.18]}$$

If  $\alpha > 3$  it is  $X_c D$  limit that dominates, and if  $X_c D \ll 1$  it is last term that dominates

$$R_c(D) \approx \frac{A}{\alpha-1} X_c^{1-\alpha} D^{3-\alpha}$$

$$= \left(\frac{3}{2}\right) \frac{4-\alpha}{\rho} 2^{\frac{1-\alpha}{3}} \left(\frac{M_{tot}}{\rho V}\right) D_{max}^{\alpha-4} Q_D^{\frac{1-\alpha}{3}} V_{rel}^{\frac{1+2\alpha}{3}} D^{3-\alpha} \quad \text{[5.19]}$$

### Steady state size distribution

Discrete form of size distribution: let  $m_k$  = mass of particles in bin  $k$   
 where bins are logarithmically spaced s.t.  $D_{k+1} = D_k(1+\delta)$  [5.20]

Integrating [5.11] for small  $\delta$  gives  $m_k \approx \left(\frac{110}{\delta}\right) n(D_k) D_k^4 \delta$  [5.21]

Mass conservation:  $\dot{m}_k = \dot{m}_k^{+c} - \dot{m}_k^{-c}$  [5.22]  
 where  $+c$  and  $-c$  are gain and loss from collisions

Define a redistribution function:  $f_i(k)$  is the fraction of mass leaving bin  $i$  from collisions that goes into bin  $k$   
 $\therefore \dot{m}_k^{+c} = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \dot{m}_i^{-c} f_i(k)$

For steady state  $\dot{m}_k = 0 \therefore \dot{m}_{k+1}^{-c} = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \dot{m}_i^{-c} f_i(k)$

Assuming the redistribution function is scale independent, so can be written  $f_i(k) = F(k-i)$   
 $\therefore \dot{m}_{k+1}^{-c} = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \dot{m}_i^{-c} F(k-i)$

As all mass goes somewhere  $\sum_{i=0}^{\infty} F(k-i) = 1$ , so one solution must be:  $\dot{m}_{k+1}^{-c} = \dot{m}_k^{-c} = C$  [5.23]  
 i.e. mass loss rate in logarithmic bins is independent of size.

If  $\dot{m}_k^{-c} \neq m_k R_{cc}(D_k)$  [5.24]

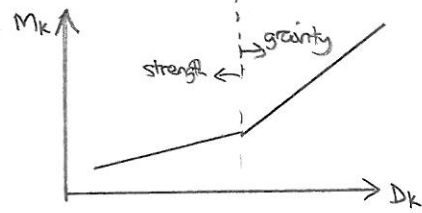
then for a power law size distribution [5.11] we can use [5.19] to get

$$\dot{m}_k^{-c} \propto m_k Q_D^{1-\alpha} D_k^{3-\alpha}$$

and using [5.21] and assuming  $Q_D^* \propto D^b$

$$\dot{m}_k^{-c} \propto D_k^{7-2\alpha+b\left(\frac{1-\alpha}{3}\right)}$$

and for flux to be independent of size  $7-2\alpha+b\left(\frac{1-\alpha}{3}\right) = 0 \therefore \alpha = \frac{21+b}{6+b}$  [5.25]



For a dispersal threshold independent of size  $\alpha = 3.5$   
 But for [5.10] the size distribution has different slopes in strength ( $\alpha = 3.73$ ) and gravity ( $\alpha = 3$ ) regimes.

### Evolution of size distribution

Let  $m_k = m_{k0}(1+\epsilon_k)$   
 Put into [5.22], then using [5.24] and noting  $\dot{m}_k^{+c}$  is unaffected by  $\epsilon_k$ :

$$m_{k0} \dot{\epsilon}_k = \dot{m}_{k0}^{+c} - m_{k0}(1+\epsilon_k) R_{cc}(D_k)$$

$$\therefore \dot{\epsilon}_k / \epsilon_k = -R_{cc}(D_k) \quad [5.26]$$

Thus perturbations are damped on collision timescale, and the distribution achieves steady state at a given size on timescale of collision  $\rightarrow$  largest objects may retain a "primordial" size distribution

For particles in steady state [5.22]  $\rightarrow$  mass loss is balanced by gain from breakup of larger objects. But those at the top cannot be replenished.

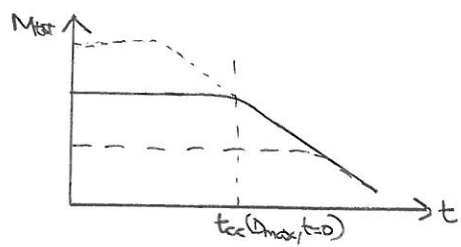
$$dM_{tot}/dt \approx -M_{tot} R_{cc}(D_{max}) \quad [5.27]$$

From [5.19], we can write  $R_{cc}(D_{max}) = B M_{tot}$

$$\therefore dM_{tot}/dt = -B M_{tot}^2$$

$$\int_{M_{tot0}}^{M_{tot}} M_{tot}^{-2} dM_{tot} = \int_0^t -B dt$$

$$\therefore M_{tot} = M_{tot0} [1 + B M_{tot0} t]^{-1} = \frac{M_{tot0}}{1 + t/t_{cc}(D_{max}, t_0)} \quad [5.28]$$



• Mass remains constant until the collision time of largest objects at which point it drops  $1/t$

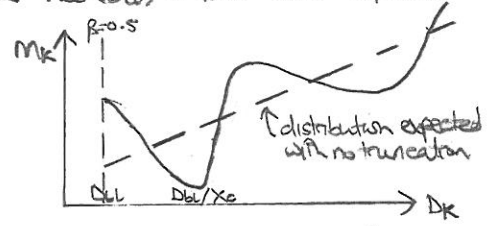
• As  $t \rightarrow \infty$   $M_{tot} \rightarrow (Bt)^{-1}$  [5.29]  
 and so is independent of initial mass

• For a fixed shape of size distribution  $\sigma_{tot} \propto M_{tot}$  (see [5.12] for a single power law distribution) and so dust fractional luminosity  $f \approx \sigma_{tot}/4\pi r^2$  displays same behaviour [5.30]  
 $\rightarrow$  debris disk luminosity falls  $1/t$  at late ages at which point there is a maximum luminosity that the disk can have (for given  $r$ ,  $Q_D^*$  etc.)

# Effect of radiation forces

## Radiation pressure:

To first order this truncates the size distribution at  $D_k$  for which  $\beta(D_k) = 0.5$  [5.3]  
 [5.23] and [5.24] still apply, but the truncation means there are no particles of size  $X \ll D$  close to the truncation.  
 Thus  $R_{cc}(D_k)$  is lower than "expected" and so  $M_{ks}(D_k)$  is higher.



This causes a higher than expected collision rate for particles normally destroyed by those of size  $D_k$  (i.e. of size  $D_k/X_c$ ) and so a lower  $M_{ks}(D_k/X_c)$ , and so on.  
 → wave extending to larger sizes, with amplitude and wavelength that depend on  $X_c$  (so wavelength increases with  $D$  in strength regime)

However, the high eccentricities of particles close to  $D_k$  (2.12) complicates this as such particles move through a larger volume (among other effects).

## P-R drag:

Consider a planetesimal belt at  $r_0$  creating dust all of size  $D$  (with corresponding  $\beta$ ) that evolves due to mutual collisions (that destroy the dust) and P-R drag (that makes it spiral in).

• If  $\Sigma$  = surface density of cross-sectional area and density is uniform in range  $z = \pm r I_{max}$

$$\sigma_v = \int 2\pi r dr / \int 2\pi r dr 2r I_{max} = \Sigma / 2r I_{max} \quad [5.32]$$

If  $v_{rel} \approx I_{max} v_k = I_{max} 2\pi r / t_{per} \quad [5.33]$

then from [5.14] for  $\theta \approx 0$  and  $D_{in} = D$ :  $R_{col} = 4 \sigma_v v_{rel} = 4\pi \Sigma / t_{per} \quad [5.34]$

• For circular orbits:  $\dot{r}_{pr} = -2\alpha/r$  where  $\alpha = r_0^2 / 4 t_{pro}$  and  $t_{pro}$  = time to go from  $r_0$  to  $r = 0$  [2.18] [5.35]

• Continuity equation:  $\partial n(r)/\partial t + \partial n(r) \dot{r}_{pr} / \partial r = N^+(r) - N^-(r) \quad [5.36]$

where  $n(r) = \# / \text{radius} = \Sigma 2\pi r / \sigma$   
 $\partial n(r)/\partial t = 0$  for steady state  
 $N^+(r) = 0$  far from source  
 $N^-(r) = \# \text{ lost} / \text{time} / \text{radius} = n(r) R_{col} = 4\pi \Sigma n(r) / t_{per} = 8\pi^2 \Sigma^2 r / t_{per} \sigma$

$$\therefore d[\Sigma 2\pi r (-2\alpha/r) / \sigma] / dr = -8\pi^2 \Sigma^2 r / t_{per} \sigma$$

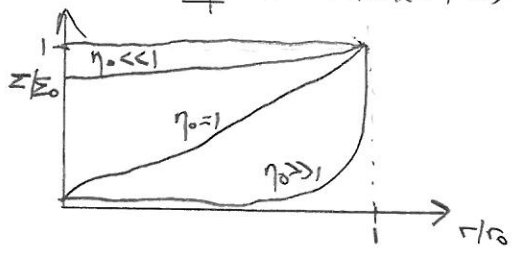
$$\therefore \frac{1}{\Sigma^2} d\Sigma = \left(\frac{2\pi}{\alpha t_{per}}\right) r dr$$

As  $t_{per} = r^{1.5} M_{*}^{-0.5}$

$$\therefore [-\Sigma^{-1}]_{\Sigma_0}^{\Sigma} = \frac{2\pi}{\alpha} M_{*}^{0.5} [2r^{0.5}]_{r_0}^r$$

$$\therefore \Sigma = \Sigma_0 [1 + 4\eta_0 (1 - \sqrt{r/r_0})]^{-1} \quad [5.37]$$

where  $\eta_0 = (4\pi \Sigma_0 / t_{per}) (\alpha r_0^2 / 4\pi) = t_{pro} / t_{col0}$



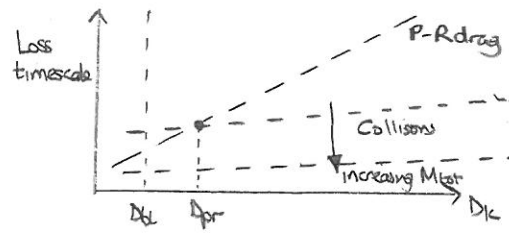
• Radial distribution just depends on  $t_{pro}/t_{col0}$   
 • If  $\eta_0 \ll 1$   $\Sigma = \text{const}$  P-R drag dominated  
 • If  $\eta_0 \gg 1$   $\Sigma$  is depleted Collision dominated  
 tending to  $\Sigma_0 / 4\eta_0$  at  $r \rightarrow 0$  [5.38]  
 which is independent of  $\Sigma_0$ .

• Effect of P-R drag on size distribution: mass conservation should include extra  $-m_k R_k^{pr}$  term on RHS of [5.22]

where  $\dot{m}_k^{pr} = m_k R_k^{pr}$

$$R_k^{pr} \propto \beta \approx \frac{A \pi r D_k^{-1}}{4\pi r^2} \quad [5.39]$$

In the steady state collisional regime, [5.21, 5.23, 5.24]  $\Rightarrow R_{cc}(D_k) \propto D_k^{\alpha-4} \quad [5.40]$



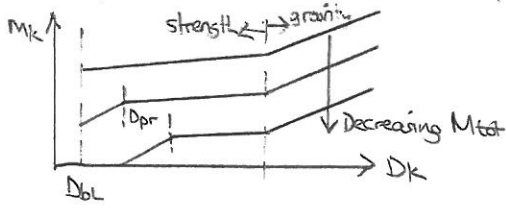
Thus at some size  $D_{pr}$   $R_{cc}(D_{pr}) = R_k^{pr}$   
 If this occurs at  $D_{pr} > D_k \rightarrow$  P-R drag dominated  
 $D_{pr} < D_k \rightarrow$  Collision dominated

In a P-R drag dominated disk, ignore collisional loss for  $D < D_{pr}$ , s.t. steady state mean

$$\dot{m}_{ks}^{to} = \sum_{i=0}^{i_{pr}} \dot{m}_{is}^{-c} F(k-i) = \dot{m}_{ks}^{-pr} = \dot{m}_{ks} A_{pr} D_k^{-1}$$

Substituting for [5.23]  $\dot{m}_{ks} = A_{pr}^{-1} C D_k \sum_{i=0}^{i_{pr}} F(k-i)$  [5.41]

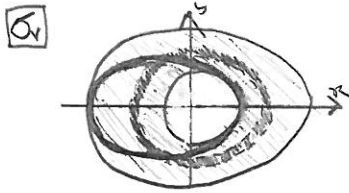
So the shape of the size distribution for  $D < D_{pr}$  is determined by the redistribution function



Accurate collision rates

Collision rates for specific orbits are calculated by assuming  $\lambda/\bar{a}$  and  $\Omega$  to be randomly distributed (due to orbital motion and precession), and needs to consider how the rates and velocity of collisions vary around orbit. As simple case, consider particle with  $a, e$  interacting with particles also with  $a, e$  and random  $\lambda/\bar{a}, \Omega$  and  $I$  distributed s.t. density is uniform between  $0 \rightarrow I_{max}$

Local collision rate of  $D_{in} \rightarrow D_{int} dD_{in}$  onto  $D$  is:  $R_{col}(r, D, D_{in}) dD_{in} = \sigma_V(r, D_{in}) dD_{in} \left[1 + \frac{D}{D_{in}}\right]^2 [1 + \theta(r, D, D_{in})] V_{rel}(r)$  [5.42]



Consider region  $r \rightarrow r+dr$ : Volume of torus is  $dV = 4\pi r^2 dr I_{max}$

Define fraction of orbit spent in region as  $F_r dr$  where  $F_r = 2/r \dot{r} dt$

and  $\dot{r}^2 = v^2 - (r\dot{\theta})^2 = \mu [2/r - 1/a] - \mu a(1-e^2)/r^2$  [5.43]

Let  $u = a/r \therefore F_u = F_r dr/du = -\pi^{-1} u^{-2} [u^2(e^2-1) + 2u - 1]^{-1/2}$  [5.44]

$\therefore \sigma_V(r, D_{in}) = (\sigma(D_{in})/dV) F_u du$  [5.45]

[Vrel] Since  $V_{\theta} = r\dot{\theta} = h/r = \sqrt{\mu a(1-e^2)}/r$ ,  $V_{r1} = V_{r2}$

$\therefore V_{rel} = 2\dot{r}$

$\therefore V_{rel}^2(r) = 4(\mu/a) [u^2(e^2-1) + 2u - 1]$  [5.46]

So, for  $\theta \neq 0$ :

$R_{col}(r, D, D_{in})$ :  $R_{col}(r, D, D_{in}) = \sigma(D_{in}) [1 + D/D_{in}]^2 \sqrt{\mu/a} / [2\pi^2 a r^2 I_{max}]$  [5.47]

$R_{col}(D, D_{in})$ : Need to integrate around orbit weighting by fraction of time spent in each region  $F_u$

$\therefore R_{col}(D, D_{in}) = \int_{(1+e)^{-1}}^{(1-e)^{-1}} R_{col}(r, D, D_{in}) \pi^{-1} u^{-2} [u^2(e^2-1) + 2u - 1]^{-1/2} du$

$= \sigma(D_{in}) [1 + D/D_{in}]^2 \sqrt{\mu/a(1+e)} \frac{1}{2\pi^2 a^2 I_{max}}$  [5.48]

$R_{col}(D)$ :  $R_{col}(r, D) = \int_{D_{in,0}}^{D_{in,max}} \underbrace{\sigma(D_{in}) [1 + D/D_{in}]^2 dD_{in}}_{\propto V_{rel}^{\frac{2}{3}(e-1)}} \frac{1}{dV} V_{rel}(r) F_u du$

which then needs to be integrated around orbit:

$R_{col}(D) = \int_{(1+e)^{-1}}^{(1-e)^{-1}} R_{col}(r, D) F_u du$  [5.49]