

Convection and Mixing in Giant Planet Evolution

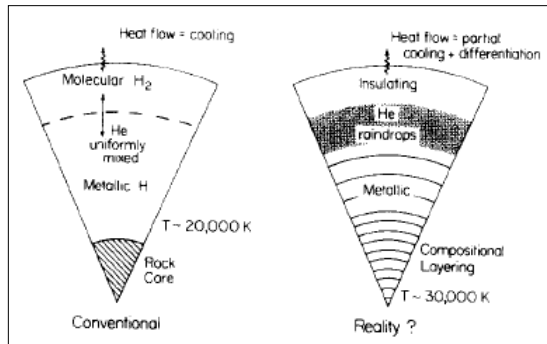
A. Vazan, R. Helled, M. Podolak, A. Kovetz
Tel Aviv University

IAP - From Super-Earths to Brown Dwarfs: Who's Who?

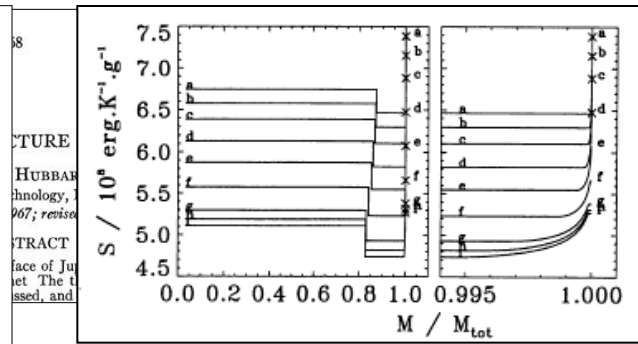
June 29th – July 3rd 2015

Giant Planet Evolution

Heat transport efficiency affects radius-mass-luminosity in time.

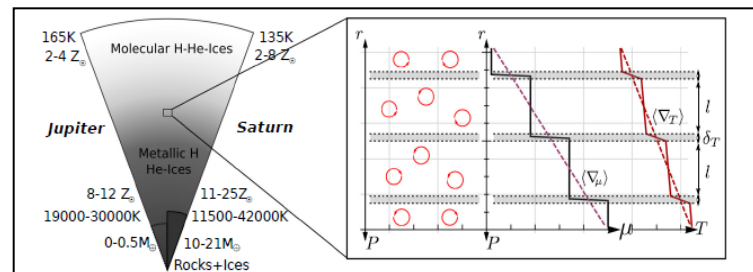


Stevenson 1985



Guillot et al. 1995

“The assumption of large-scale convection in planetary interiors has never been proven to be correct and even slightly inefficient convection can have a major impact on the planet’s structure and evolution.” (Chabrier & Baraffe 2007)



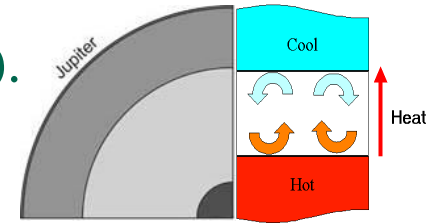
Leconte & Chabrier 2012

Internal Structure

Composition Distribution

Composition distribution affects the heat transport (Ledoux).

- Different internal structures have different cooling rates.



The primordial internal structure?

- Uniformly mixed / distinct homogeneous regions.
- Composition gradients:
 - Immiscibility of materials in hydrogen, helium phase separation (rain).
Stevenson & Salpeter 1977, Wilson & Militzer 2012
 - Planetesimal dissolution in the envelope *e.g., Iaroslavitz & Podolak 2007*
 - Core erosion *Stevenson 1982, Guillot et al. 2004, Lissauer et al. 2007*
 - Rotation and magnetic fields effects *Chabrier et al. 2007*

Internal structure → convection efficiency → cooling rate

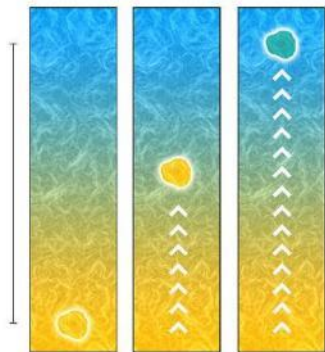
Convective regions → mixing of materials

Modeling Convective-Mixing

Heat transport

$$\frac{\partial \ln T}{\partial m} = \nabla \frac{\partial \ln p}{\partial m}$$

$$\nabla = \begin{cases} \nabla_R, & \nabla_R \leq \nabla_A + \nabla_{Ledoux} \\ MLR, & \nabla_R > \nabla_A + \nabla_{Ledoux} \end{cases}$$



Mixing Length Recipe

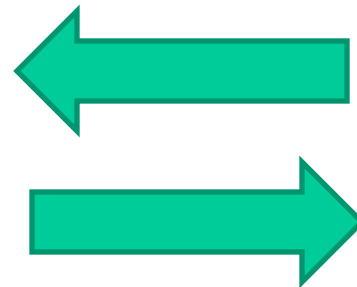
Material transport

$$\frac{\partial Y_j}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial F_j}{\partial m}$$

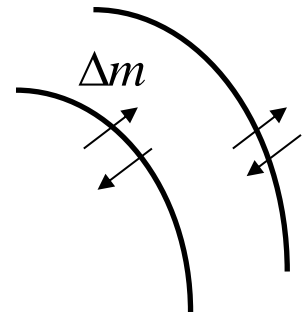
$$F_j = -\sigma \frac{\partial Y_j}{\partial m}$$

$$\sigma = \left(\frac{dm}{dr} \right)^2 D_c$$

$$D_c = \begin{cases} K v_c l_c, & \text{convective} \\ 0, & \text{radiative} \end{cases}$$



Mutual effect



Evolution Model

Continuity
$$\frac{\partial}{\partial m} \frac{4\pi}{3} r^3 = \frac{1}{\rho}$$

Hydrostatic equilibrium
$$\frac{\partial p}{\partial m} = -\frac{Gm}{4\pi r^4}$$

Energy transfer
$$\frac{\partial \ln T}{\partial m} = \nabla \frac{\partial \ln p}{\partial m}$$

Energy balance
$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + p \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \frac{1}{\rho} = q - \frac{\partial L}{\partial m}$$

Composition balance
$$\frac{\partial Y_j}{\partial t} = R_j - \frac{\partial F_j}{\partial m}; \quad F_j = -\sigma_j \frac{\partial Y_j}{\partial m}$$

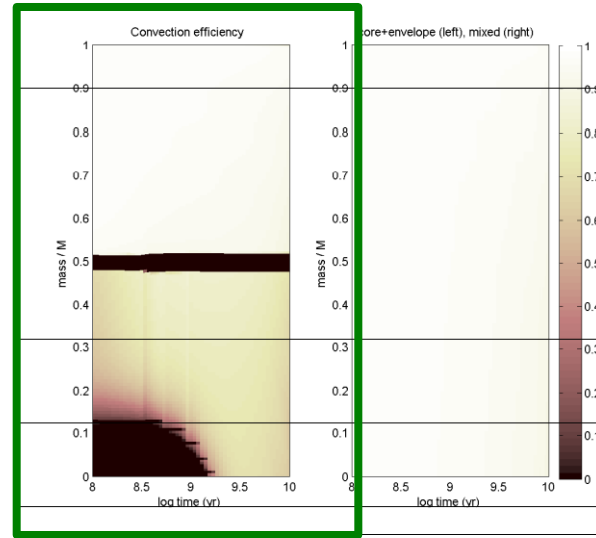
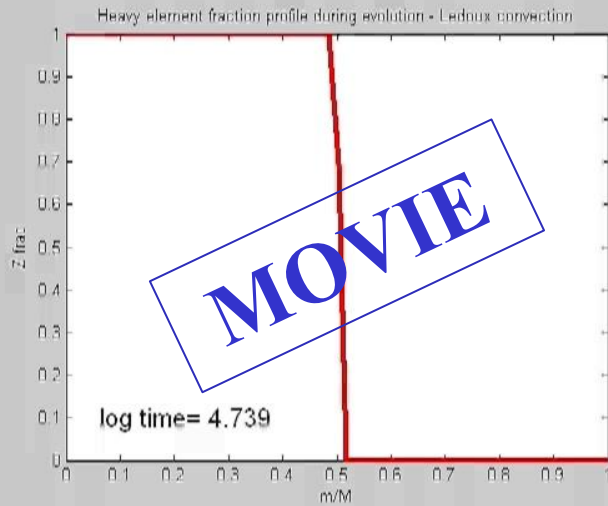
Adaptive mesh grid:
$$f = \left(\frac{m}{M}\right)^{2/3} - c_2 \ln p - c_3 \ln \left(\frac{T}{T + c_4}\right) + c_5 \ln (r^2 + c_6)$$

Opacity: radiative + conductive

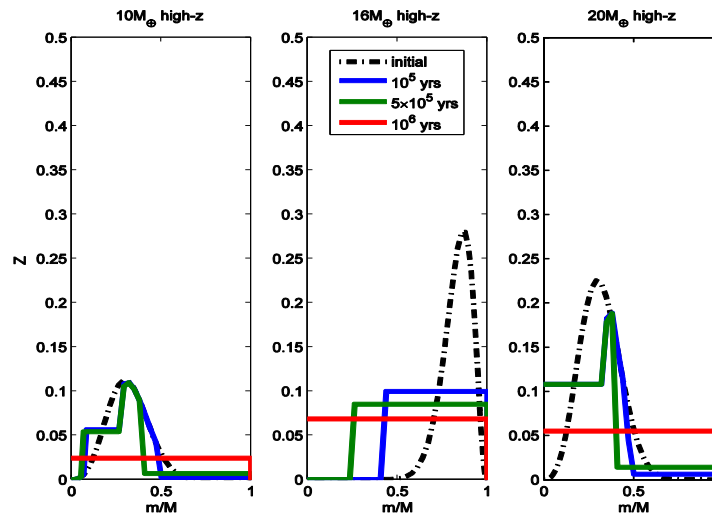
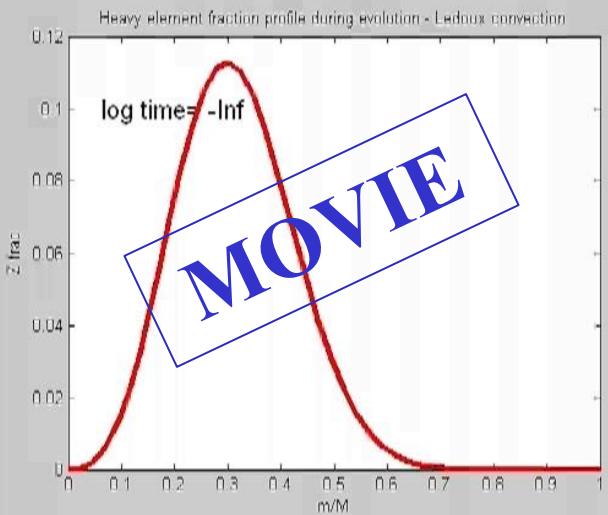
EOS for a mixture

Internal structure

Heat transport



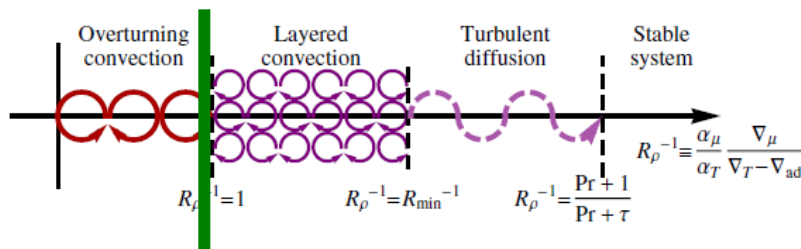
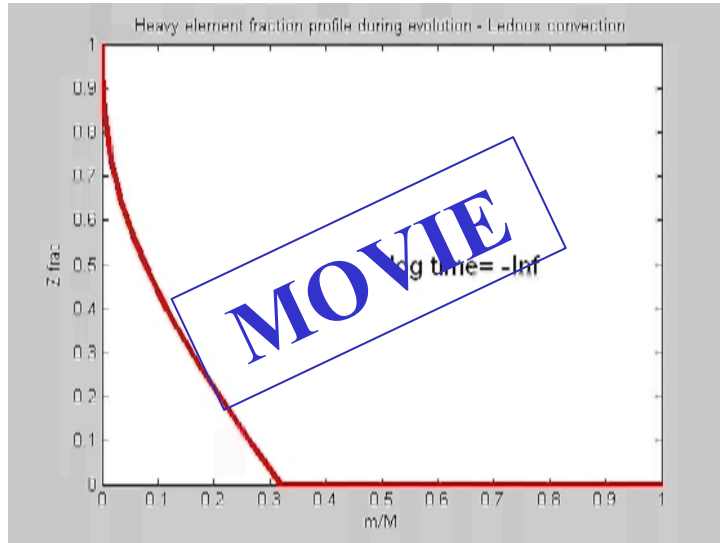
Core-envelope boundary prevents convection and convective-mixing.



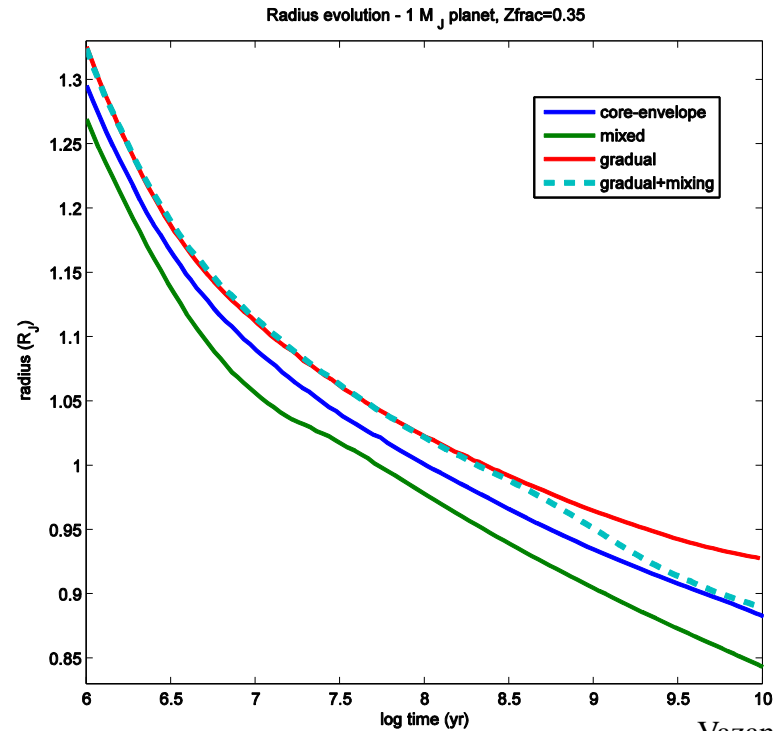
Local high-z concentration is mixed efficiently.

Composition Gradients

Convective-Mixing



Leconte & Chabrier 2012, Mirouh et al. 2012



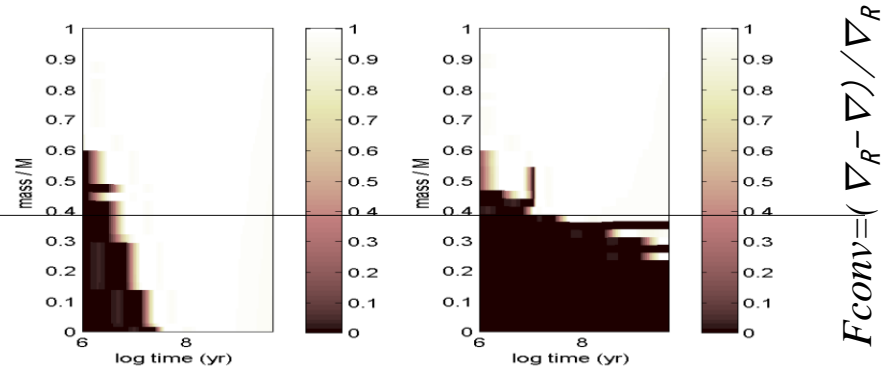
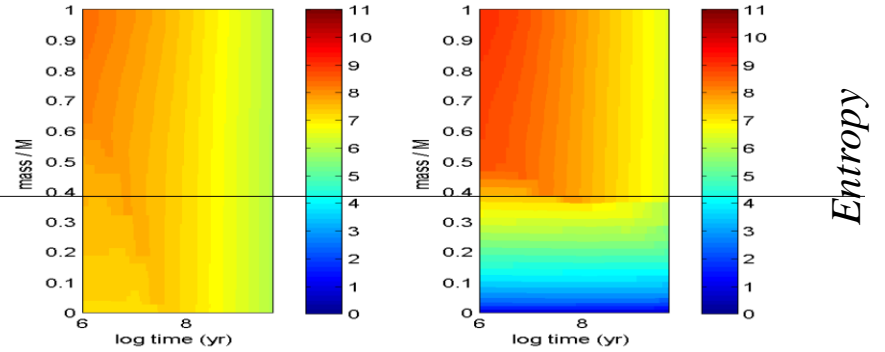
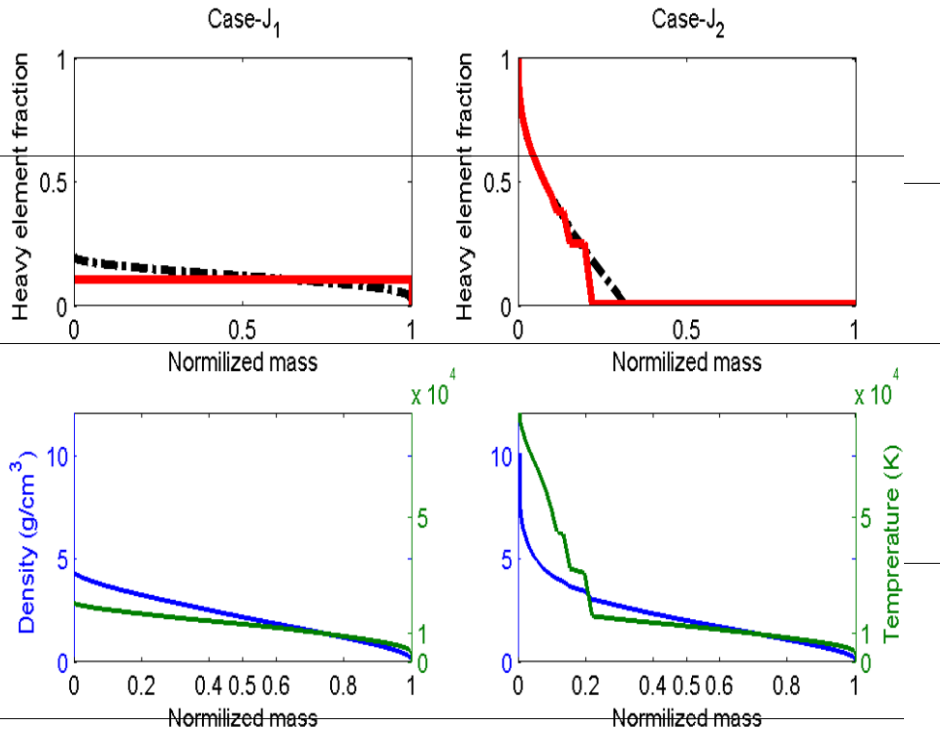
Vazan et al. 2015

Composition gradients decrease the heat transport rate.

Convective-mixing enriches the envelope in high-Z material.

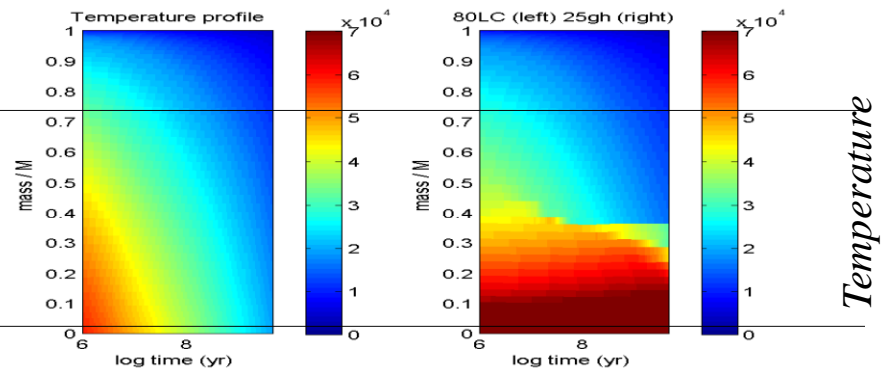
Jovian Planets

Convective Mixing



Heavy element distribution for the non-adiabatic model:

- 4% in radius.
- hotter interior.



Conclusions

- The primordial internal structure has an important effect on the long term evolution of giant planets.
- Internal structure can evolve, the current-state structure is not always the initial.
 - Steep composition gradient reduces the cooling rate of the planet. $R \uparrow$
 - Convective regions can evolve (expand) inward during evolution.
 - Mixing enriches the planetary envelope with heavy materials. $R \downarrow$
- ➔ **Characterization of planets by observed parameters can have greater ambiguity than expected.**
- ➔ **Giant planet modeling requires linking of formation, evolution, and internal structure self-consistently.**



Thank you!