

Erratum

Lecture Notes in Physics

T. Dauxois S. Ruffo E. Arimondo M. Wilkens (Eds.),

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Figure 9 on page 230 of the contribution of Dr. Chavanis is incorrect. Please find here the correct version.

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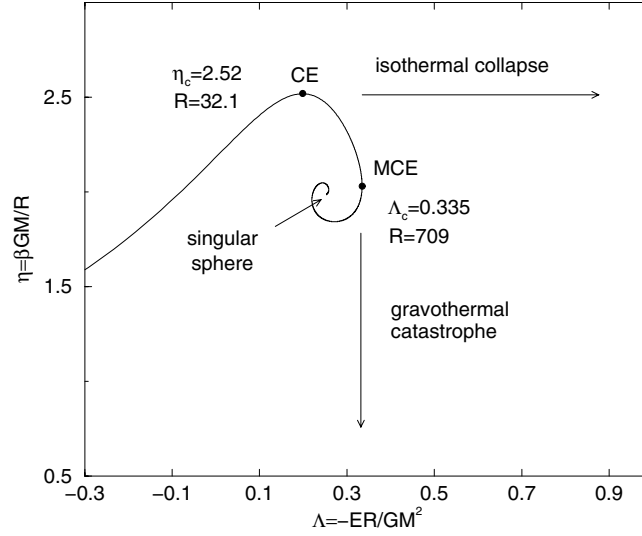


Fig. 9. Equilibrium phase diagram for self-gravitating systems confined within a box. For sufficiently low energy or temperature, there is no equilibrium state and the system undergoes gravitational collapse.

the benefit of a neighboring galaxy. In fact, the evaporation is so slow that we can consider in a first approximation that the system passes by a succession of quasiequilibrium states described by a truncated isothermal distribution function (Michie-King model) [9]. This justifies the statistical mechanics approach in that sense. Another way of solving the infinite mass problem is to confine the system within a box of radius R . However, even in that case, the notion of equilibrium poses problem regarding what now happens at the center of the configuration.

The equilibrium phase diagram (E, T) for bounded self-gravitating systems is represented in Fig. 9. The caloric curve has a striking spiral behavior parametrized by the density contrast $\mathcal{R} = \rho(0)/\rho(R)$ going from 1 (homogeneous system) to $+\infty$ (singular sphere) as we proceed along the spiral. There is no equilibrium state below $E_c = -0.335GM^2/R$ or $T_c = \frac{GMm}{2.52kR}$ [2,92]. In that case, the system is expected to collapse indefinitely. This is called *gravothermal catastrophe* in the microcanonical ensemble (fixed E) and *isothermal collapse* in the canonical ensemble (fixed T). Dynamical models show that the collapse is self-similar and develops a finite time singularity [105,85,56,91,84,46]. However, although the central density goes to $+\infty$, the shrinking of the core is so rapid that the core mass goes to zero. Therefore, the singularity contains no mass and this process alone cannot lead to a black hole.

Since the $T(E)$ curve has turning points, this implies that the microcanonical and canonical ensembles are not equivalent and that phase transitions will occur [103]. In the microcanonical ensemble, the series of equilibria becomes unstable after the first turning point of energy (*MCE*) corresponding to a density contrast of 709. At that point, the solutions pass from local entropy maxima to

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