# A CLOSER EXAMINATION OF THE ORBITAL DISTRIBUTION OF PLUTINOS



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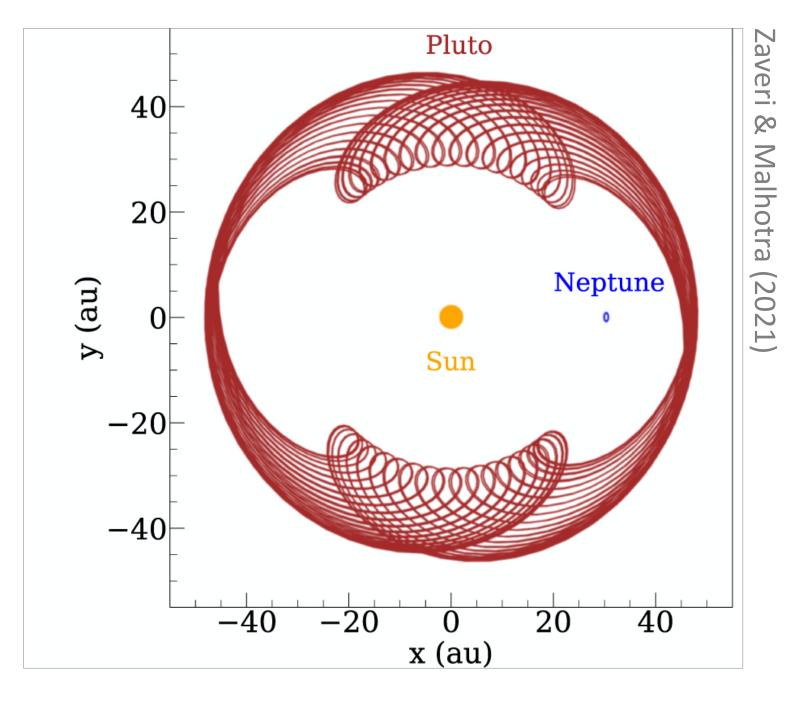
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What are Plutinos? Like Pluto, Plutinos are TNOs with orbital period in 3/2 ratio with Neptune's. They are thought to have been captured in this mean motion resonance by a migratory Neptune in the ancient Solar system and are useful for insights into the nature of the giant planets' migration.

#### **Key take-aways**

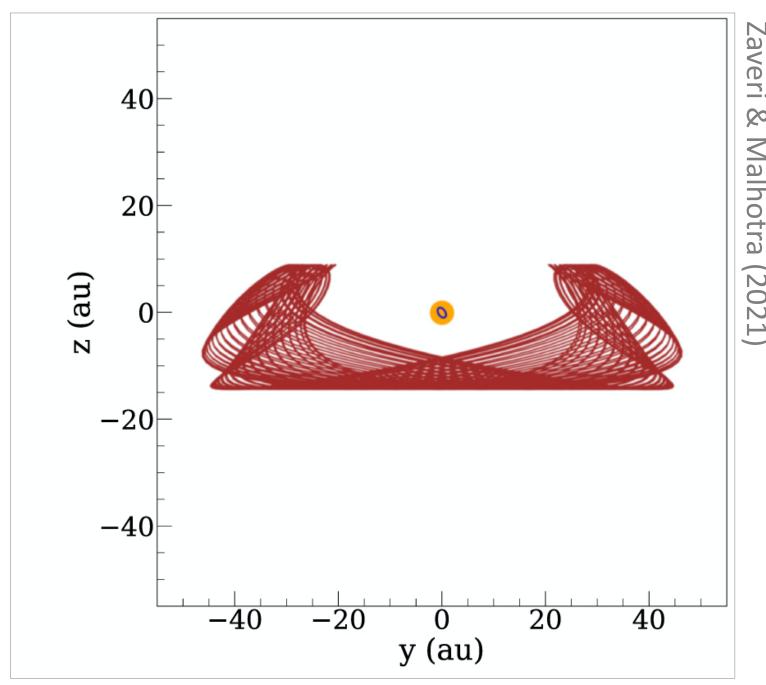
- Approximately 20% of Plutinos exhibit g librations g is argument-of-perihelion; its libration leads to latitudinal libration of the perihelion location
- The g librators have higher eccentricities and inclinations and cluster around a hyperbolic arc in the (e,i) parameter plane
- New questions: Are there physical differences between the g librators and other Plutinos? What does the large fraction of g librators tell us about the nature of the giant planets' migration?

#### **Longitudinal libration**



Pluto's track for 40,000 years in a frame rotating with Neptune's mean angular speed about the Sun. This projection in the ecliptic shows the libration of its perihelion longitude away from Neptune's longitude. The critical resonant angle,  $\sigma = 3\lambda_{Plutino} - 2\lambda_{Neptune} - \varpi$ , of every Plutino librates around 180° with a period of O(104) years ( $\lambda$  denotes mean longitude,  $\omega$  denotes longitude of perihelion)

### **Latitudinal libration**

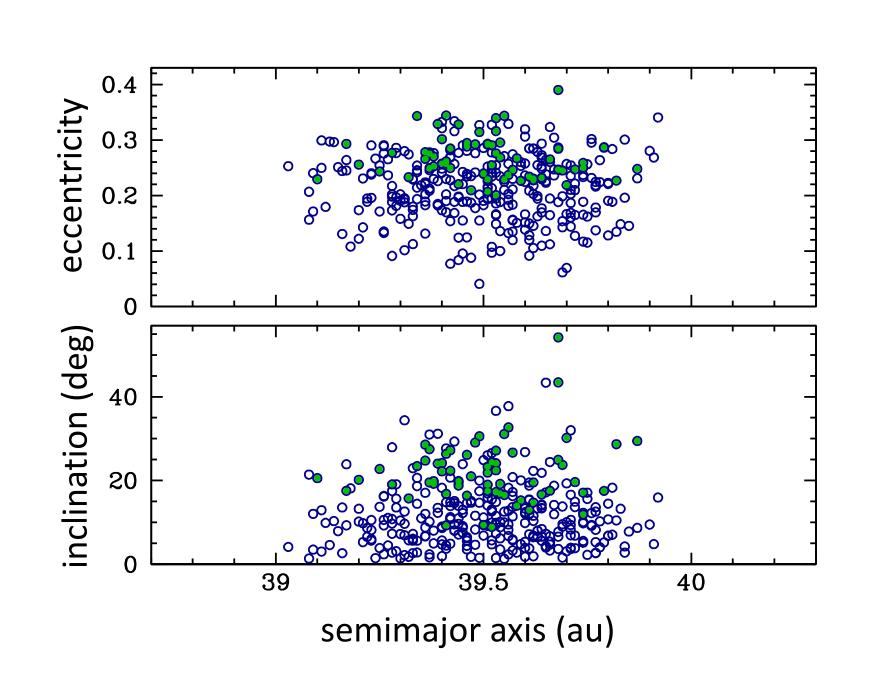


This 'sideways' projection (along the Sun-Neptune line) shows that Pluto reaches perihelion at a high ecliptic latitude. About 20% of Plutinos share this property: their argument of perihelion, g, librates around plus or minus 90° with a period of O(10<sup>6</sup>) years.

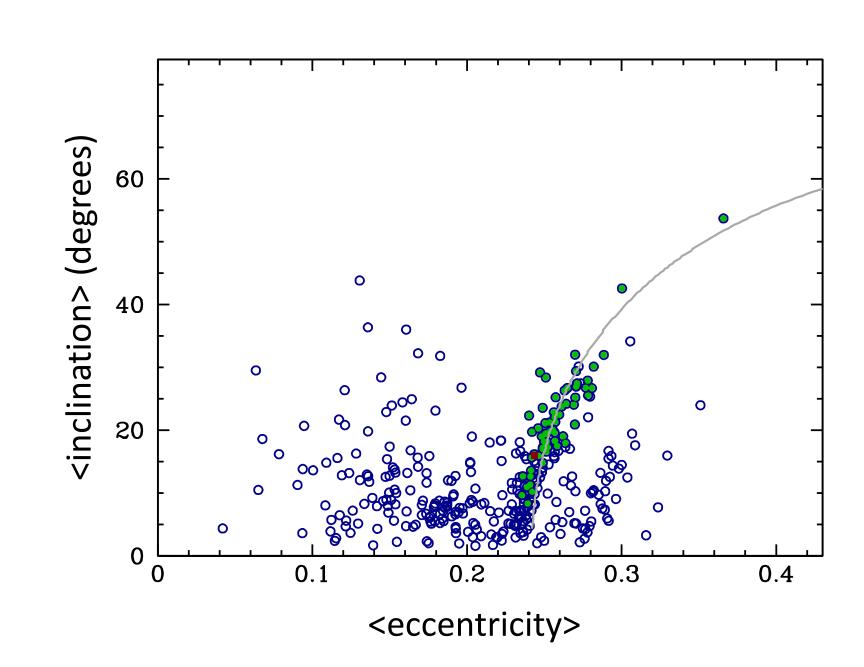
### Methods

- Orbital data and solar system parameters from JPL Horizons (retrieved on May 17, 2022)
- Numerical orbit integration: SWIFT\_RMVS3 (Levison & Duncan, 1994)
- 100 myr simulated time span
- 350 long term stable Plutinos were identified with the criterion
- $1^{\circ} < \sigma < 359^{\circ}$  over 100 myr
- 64 g librators were identified with the criterion  $max\{g\}$ - $min\{g\}$  < 179°

#### **Orbital parameter distributions of Plutinos**



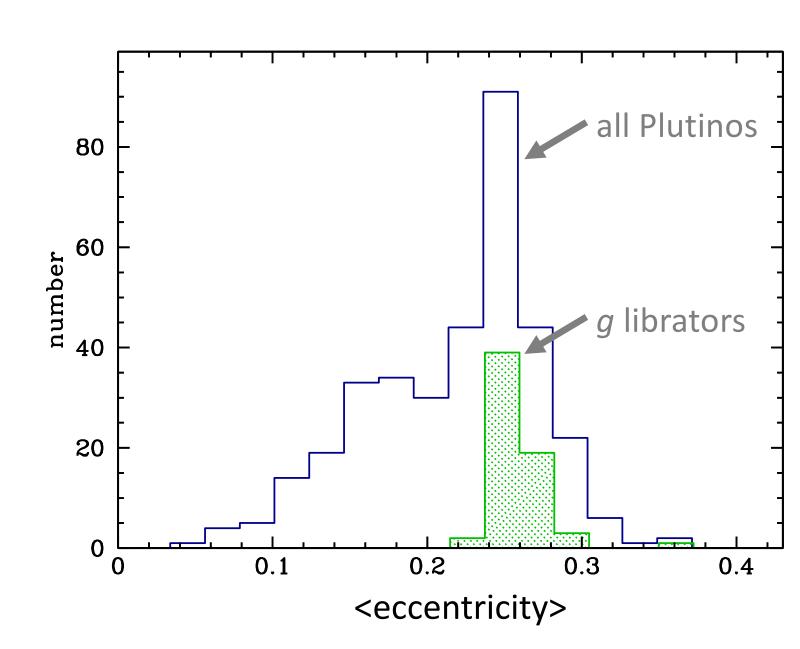
Scatter plots of osculating eccentricity, inclination and semimajor axis. The g librators are in green.

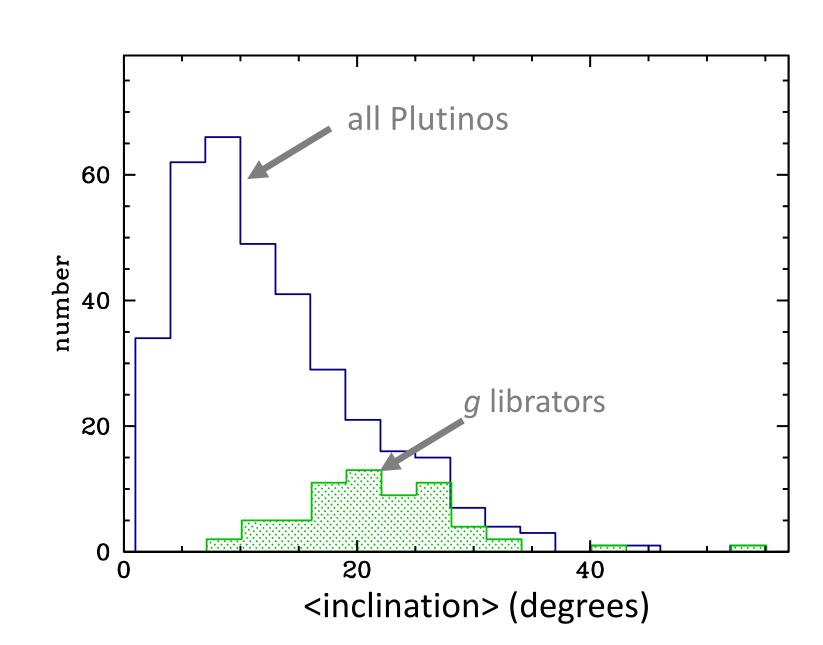


Scatter plot of time-averaged eccentricity and inclination. The gray curve is the locus of the center of g librations in a model of the restricted problem of the Sun + four giant planets + Plutino

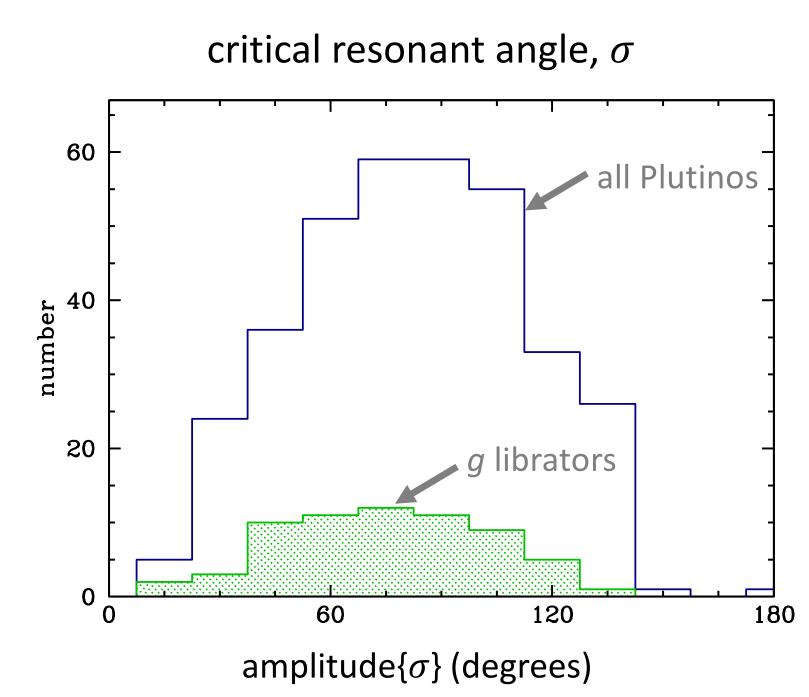
## Time-averaged *e,i* distributions

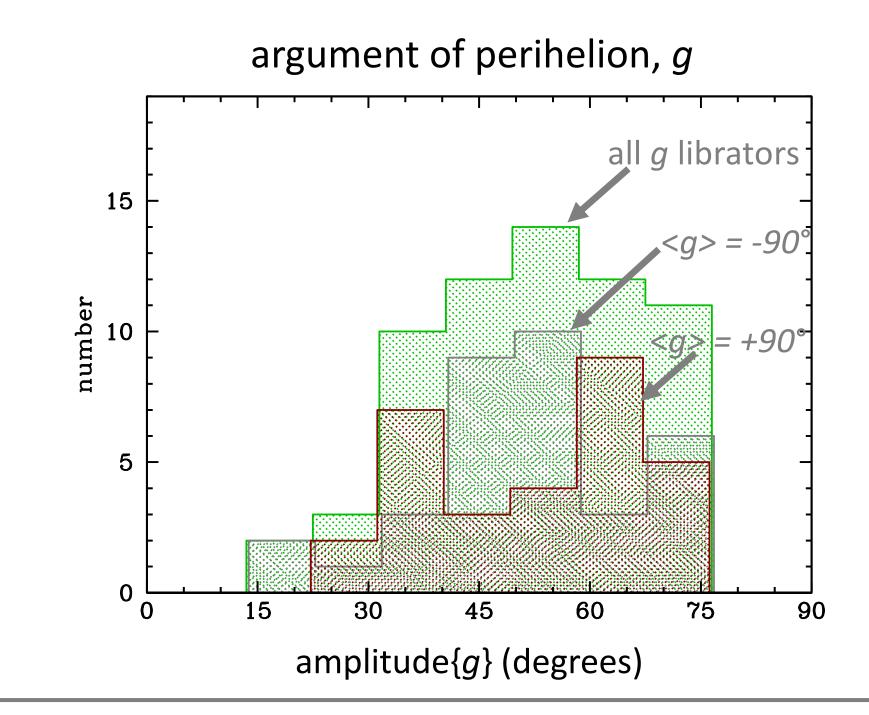
the g librators have higher eccentricities and inclinations





### Libration amplitudes





See also: companion poster #2391 in E-Poster Session Centaurs, TNOs and Trojans

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