Constraining Pluto's system with GAIA

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GAIA Solar System Science - Pisa 2011

Plan

- Introduction
- Dynamical Model
- Data simulation
- Results
- Conclusion

Introduction

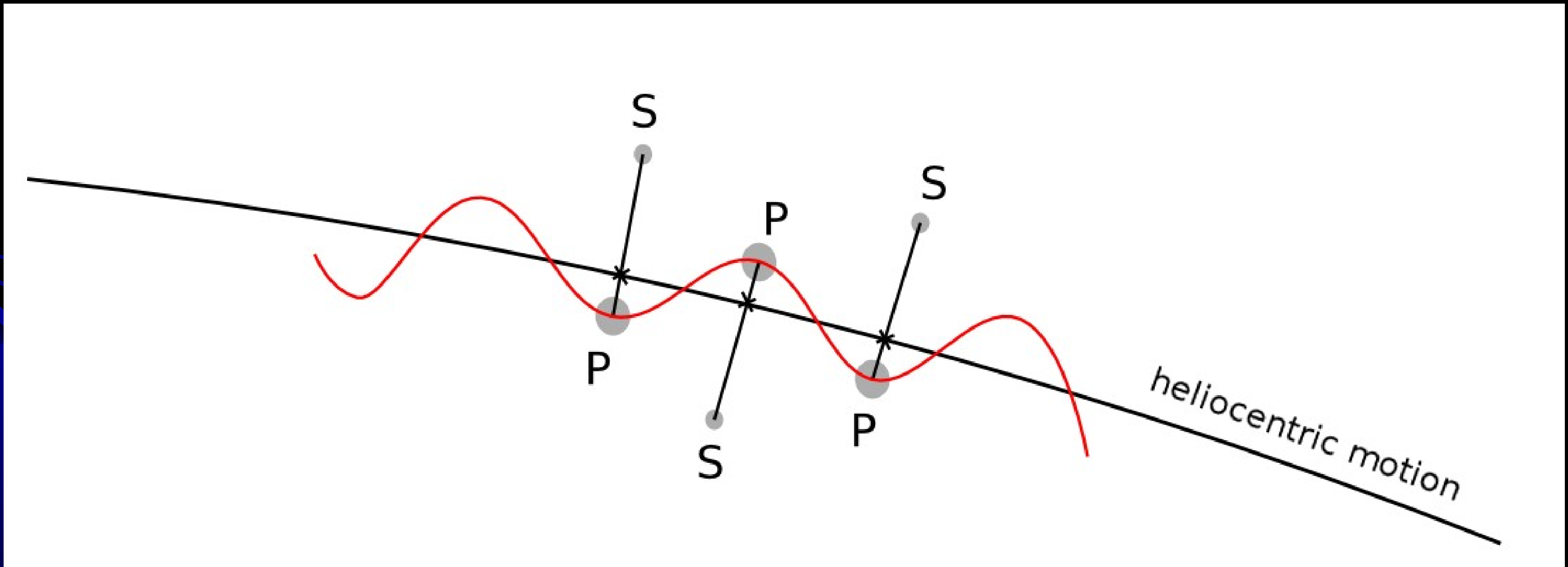
- Pluto's system :
  - Distance from the Sun : ~ 33 AU in 2013
  - 4 objects :
    - Pluto (R=1170 km, V=15.1, D~100 mas)
    - Charon (R=603 km, V=16.8, D~55 mas)
    - Nix (R=44 km, V=23.7, D~4 mas)
    - Hydra (R=36 km, V=23.3, D~3 mas)

- Mission New Horizons, arrival in Pluto's system in 2015

Dynamical model

- Binary object → center of mass not within the primary

Coupling between heliocentric motion of the primary and orbital motion of the satellites



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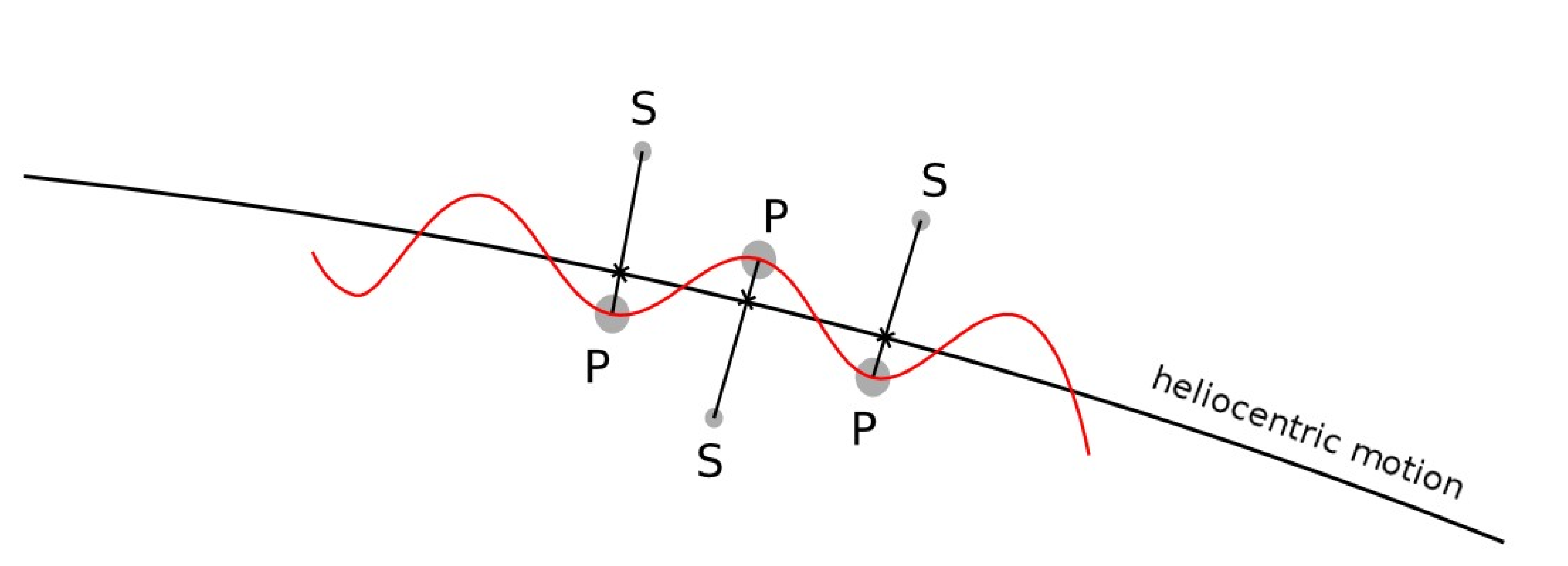


→ solution : fitting the motion of every object around the Sun

- Numerical integration of four objects' motion around the Sun
- Planetary and Sun perturbations using DE406
- Initial conditions and masses from DE406 and Tholen (2008)
- No spherical harmonics included

$$\ddot{\overrightarrow{r_i}} = \sum_{j=1}^{9} -\frac{k^2 M_j(\overrightarrow{P_i} - \overrightarrow{P_j})}{\|\overrightarrow{P_i} - \overrightarrow{P_j}\|^3} + \sum_{l=1, l\neq i}^{4} -\frac{k^2 m_l(\overrightarrow{P_i} - \overrightarrow{P_l})}{\|\overrightarrow{P_i} - \overrightarrow{P_l}\|^3} + \text{oblate interactions}$$

$$U_{i\text{♇}} = -\frac{(R_{\text{♇}})^2 J_{2_{\text{♇}}}}{r^3_{i\text{♇}}}\left(\frac{3}{2}\sin^2\Phi_i - \frac{1}{2}\right) + \frac{(R_{\text{♇}})^2 c_{22_{\text{♇}}}}{r^3_{i\text{♇}}}(3 - 3\sin^2\Phi_i)cos(2\lambda_i)$$

$$U_{i\,\text{Ch}} = -\frac{(R_{\text{Ch}})^2 J_{2\ \text{Ch}}}{r^3_{i\ \text{Ch}}}\left(\frac{3}{2}\sin^2\Phi_i - \frac{1}{2}\right) + \frac{(R_{\text{Ch}})^2 c_{22_{\text{Ch}}}}{r^3_{i\text{Ch}}}(3 - 3\sin^2\Phi_i)cos(2\lambda_i)$$

Data simulation

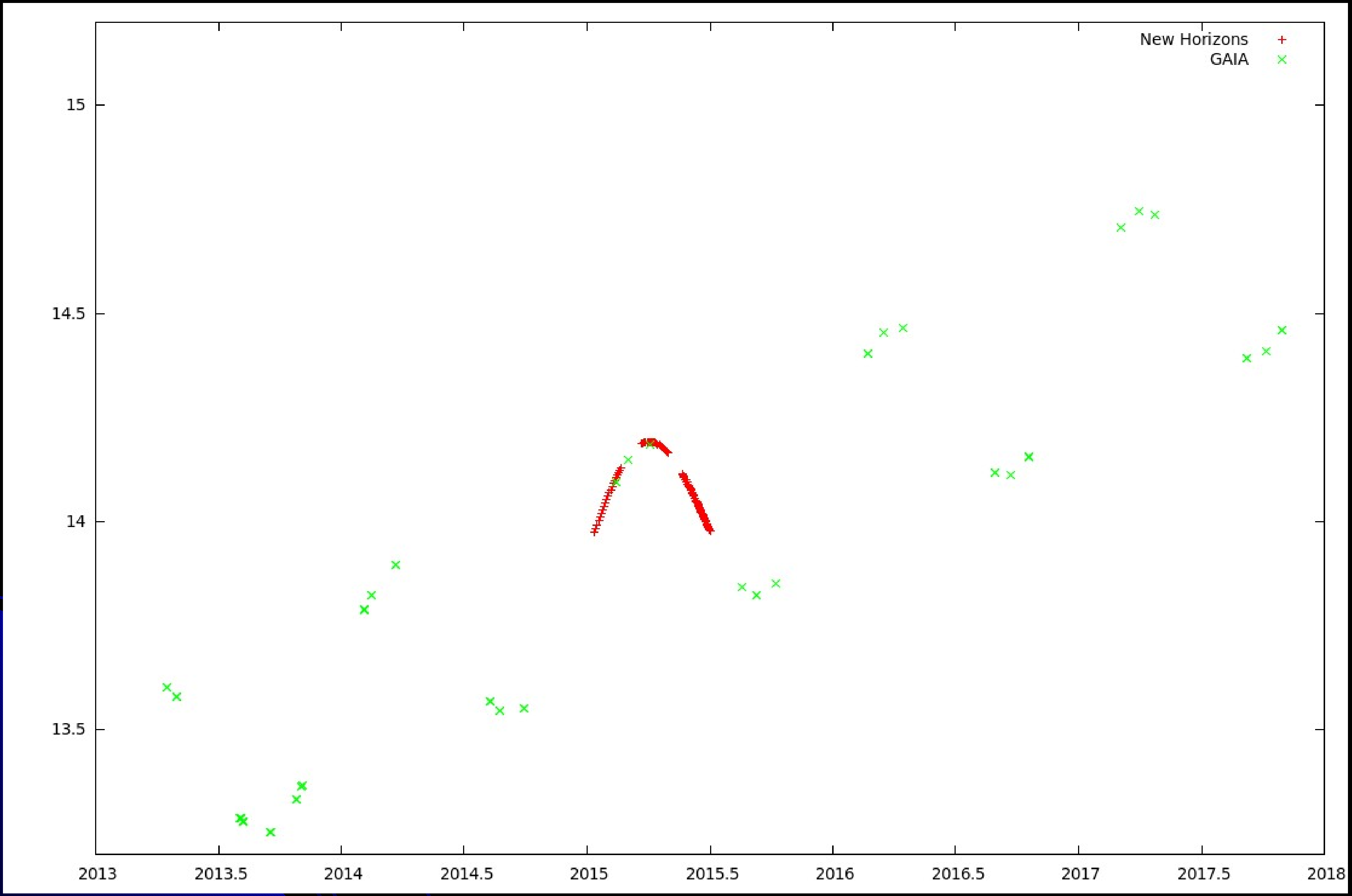
- Goal : estimate the uncertainty we will obtain with a set of observations

- Method :
  - Simulation of observations according to the tested schedule
  - Fitting of the model to the simulations, fitted parameters : initial positions and velocities, and masses
  - Extraction of the 1-σ uncertainty from the least-square procedure

- Schedules used :
  - Currently available observations of the satellites (Buie 2006, Weaver et al. 2005, Sicardy et al. 2006, Tholen 1997)
  - Simulation of future observations between 2010 and 2014, 10 per year
  - New Horizons schedule and uncertainty
  - GAIA schedule simulation

- New Horizons : short period observations, varying precision with the distance of the probe, observations of the four objects of the system

- GAIA : observations simulated from 2013 to 2017, 1 mas constant precision, only Pluto and Charon observed



Pluto's right ascension during the observations of GAIA and New Horizons

Results

set of simulated observations	1-σ error bars on the masses ($km^3.s^{-2}$) number of simulated observations			
	Pluto	Charon	Nix	Hydra
2002-2006	3.29	2.97	0.025	0.056
		73	16	17
2002-2013	0.95	0.24	0.010	0.022
		125	68	69
2002-2006+NH	0.16	0.027	0.0066	0.0016
		129	106	124
2002-2013+NH	0.15	0.021	0.0052	0.0014
		181	158	176
2002-2013+NH+GAIA	0.089	0.0071	0.0017	0.0013
	66	247	158	176

1-σ error bars on the masses given by least square method using different sets of simulated observations, with m1 = 870.3 $km^3.s^{-2}$, m2 = 101.4 $km^3.s^{-2}$, m3 = 0.039 $km^3.s^{-2}$ and m4 = 0.021 $km^3.s^{-2}$.

Orbit enhancement thanks to GAIA before New Horizons arrival

set of simulated observations	1-σ error bars on the masses ($km^3.s^{-2}$) number of simulated observations			
	Pluto	Charon	Nix	Hydra
2002-2013	0.95	0.24	0.010	0.022
		125	68	69
2002-2013+GAIA before 2015	0.45	0.035	0.0086	0.016
	41	166	68	69

set of simulated observations	1-σ error bars on the semi-major axis (km)		
	Charon	Nix	Hydra
2002-2013	5.8	23	155
2002-2013+GAIA before 2015	3.25	10	43

Conclusion

- GAIA will be able to improve the orbit of Pluto's satellites, even before New Horizons arrival
- GAIA will improve the uncertainties on the system's masses
- Though GAIA does not observe Nix and Hydra, the constraints put on Pluto and Charon are expected to lower the uncertainties on Nix's and Hydra's dynamical parameters

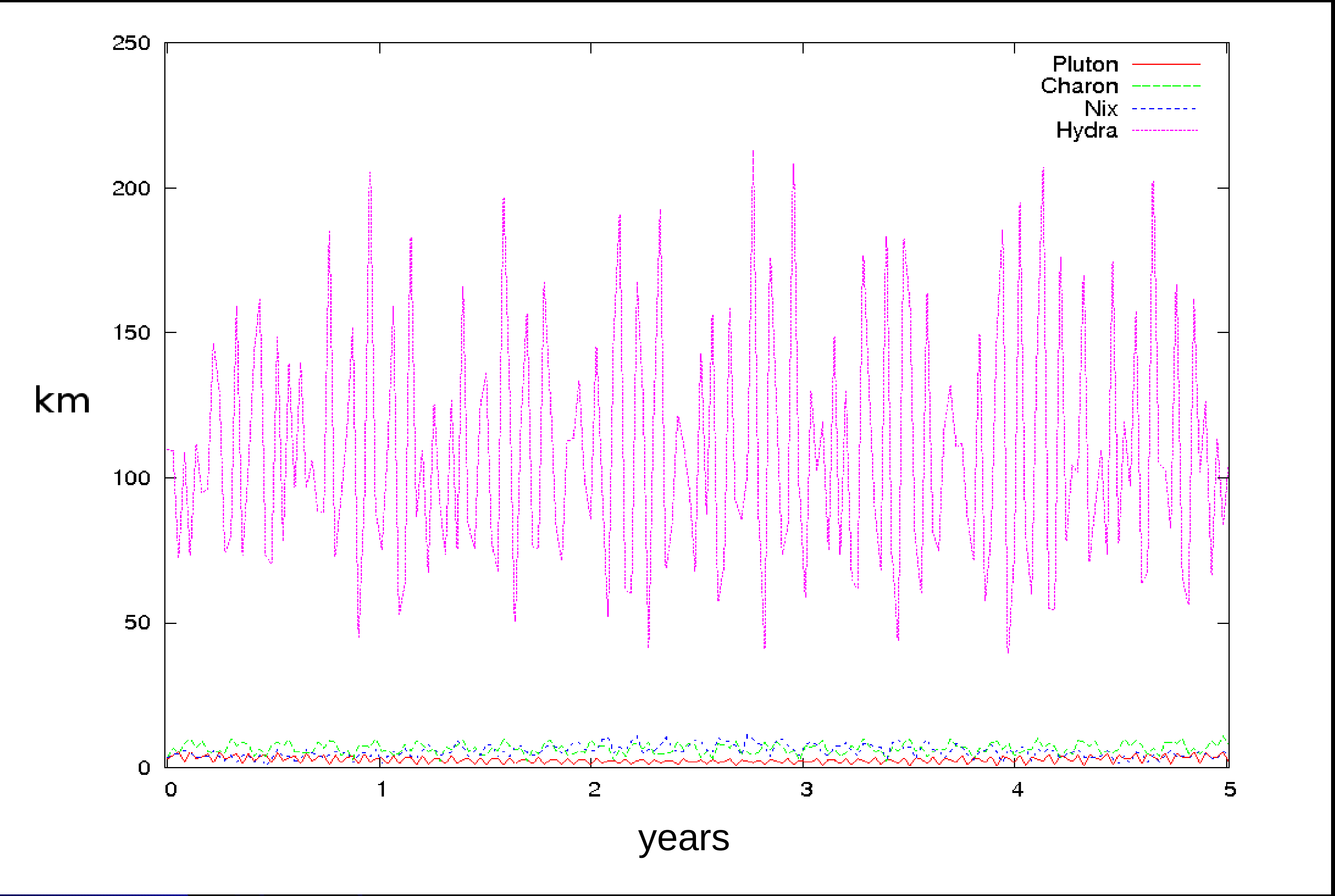
Why constraining Pluto and Charon helps ?

- What influences Nix's and Hydra's orbit :
  - Masses
  - Positions of Pluto and Charon
- When adjusting the orbit, the residuals are reduced by adjusting parameters
- If a parameter which has a strong influence on Pluto and Charon motion is fixed, it can no longer absorb the residuals

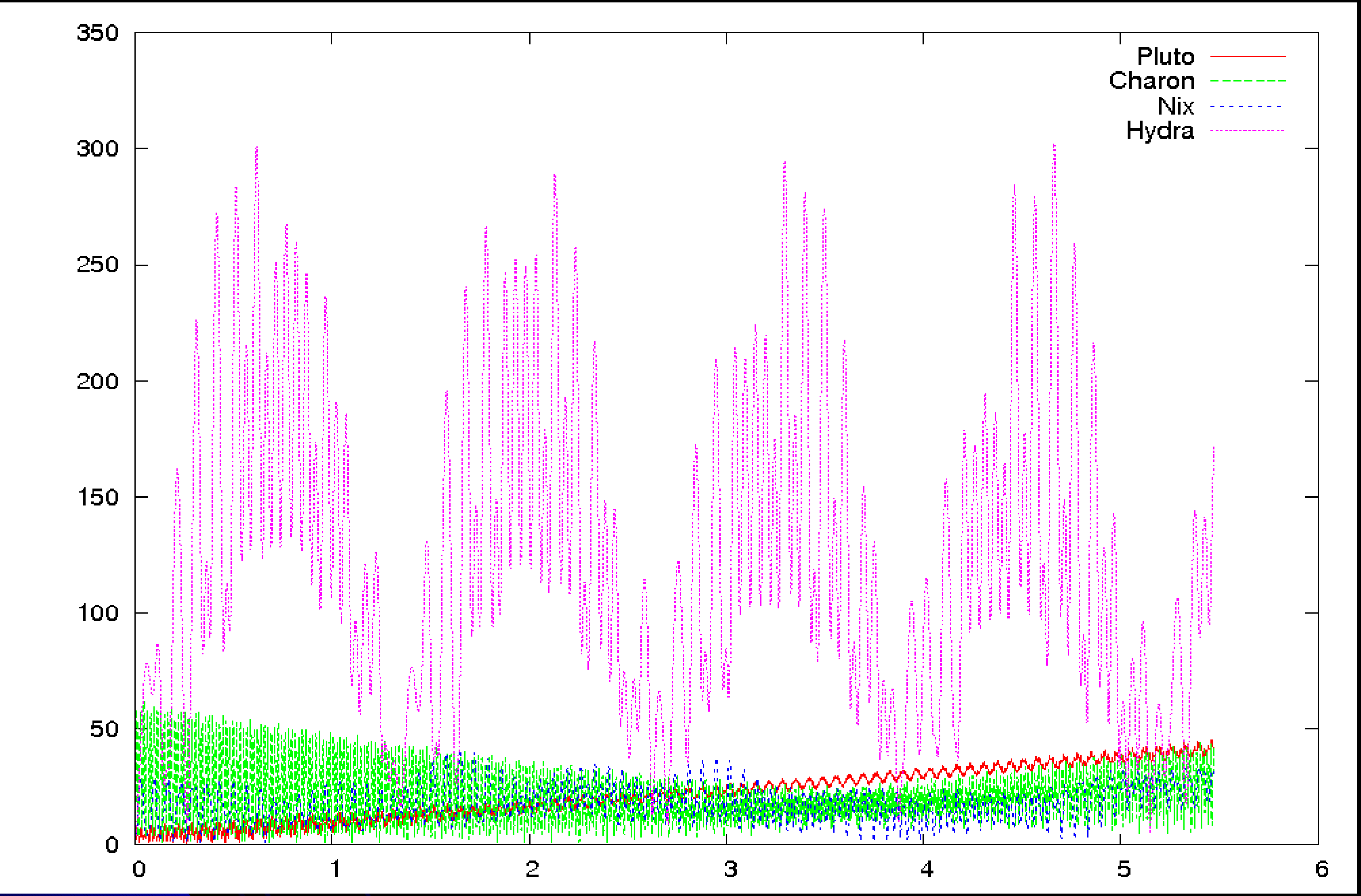
→ constraining Pluto's and Charon's dynamical parameters means higher residuals on Nix and Hydra

→ clearer effect of their dynamical parameters

→ higher precision on these parameters



Post-fit residuals of a model with a massless Nix fitted to simulated observations with GM_{Nix}=0.039 ± 0.034 $km^3.s^{-2}$



Post-fit residuals of a model with a massless Nix fitted to simulated observations with GM_{Nix}=0.039 ± 0.034 $km^3.s^{-2}$