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Citation

Portegies Zwart, S. F., & Huang, S. (2025). Oort cloud ecology: III. The Sun's departure from the parent star cluster shortly after the giant planets formed. *Astronomy And Astrophysics*, 698. doi:10.1051/0004-6361/202554855

Version: Publisher's Version

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Oort cloud ecology

III. The Sun's departure from the parent star cluster shortly after the giant planets formed

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Received 29 March 2025 / Accepted 16 May 2025

ABSTRACT

Context. The Sun was born in a clustered environment with $\lesssim 10\,000$ other stars. Given it is an isolated star today, the Sun must have left the nest. We do not directly know when that happened, how violent the ejection was, or how far its solar siblings have drifted apart.

Aims. The mass of the fragile outer Öpik-Oort cloud (between $r_{\text{inner}} \sim 30\,000$ au and $200\,000$ au from the Sun) and the orbital distribution of planetesimals in the inner Oort-Hills cloud (between ~ 1000 au and $\sim 30\,000$ au) are sensitive to the dynamical processes involving the Sun in the parent cluster. We aim to understand the extent to which we can constrain the Sun's birth environment based on observations of the Oort cloud.

Methods. The approach presented in this work was based on a combination of theoretical arguments and N-body simulations.

Results. We show that the current mass of the Öpik-Oort cloud (between $0.2 M_{\oplus}$ and $2.0 M_{\oplus}$) is best explained by the assumption that the Sun left the nest within ~ 20 Myr after the giant planets formed and migrated.

Conclusions. As a consequence, a possible dynamical encounter with another star, carving the Kuiper belt, the Sun's abduction of Sedna, and other perturbations induced by nearby stars then must have taken place shortly after the giant planets in the Solar System formed – but before the Sun left the parent cluster. Signatures of the time the Sun spent in the parent cluster must still be visible in the outer parts of the Solar System even today. The strongest constraints will be the discovery of a population of relatively low-eccentricity ($e \lesssim 0.9$) objects in the inner Oort cloud (but $500 \lesssim a \lesssim 10^4$ au).

Key words. Oort Cloud

1. Introduction

The Oort cloud (Öpik 1932; Oort 1950) contains $\sim 6 \times 10^{11}$ objects larger than 1 km (Francis 2005; Levison et al. 2010; Kaib & Volk 2022) that were ejected from the circumstellar disk into wide and highly eccentric orbits through gravitational assist by the four giant planets (Fernandez 1980; Duncan et al. 1987; Emel'Yanenko et al. 2007). Generally, planetesimals are not ejected via a single interaction, as they experience a number of pericenter passages. Upon each return to pericenter, the comet receives a kick from a giant planet pumping its eccentricity to $e \gtrsim 0.999$ in $\lesssim 10$ Myr (Dones et al. 2004). Once such a high eccentricity is reached, the planetesimals' survival becomes a random walk, with a $\propto n^{-1/2}$ probability of being kicked to $e \gtrsim 0.9999$ in n orbits (Yabushita 1979). Once the semimajor axis exceeds approximately 10^5 au (Smoluchowski & Torbett 1984), the planetesimal will travel beyond the Sun's Hill radius in the Galactic potential and becomes lost to the system.

A planetesimal may prevent escape if at apocenter distance $\gtrsim 10^4$ au, tidal forces of nearby stars circularize its orbit (Heisler & Tremaine 1986; Wiegert & Tremaine 1999), causing the pericenter to lift beyond Neptune's influence at ~ 35 au (Duncan et al. 1987; Batygin et al. 2021; Hadden & Tremaine 2024). Both processes operate on a timescale of ~ 100 Myr and

are in competition with each other, with eccentricity pumping being somewhat more effective in ejecting planetesimals than perihelion lifting is in preserving them. Once the disk becomes depleted and an insufficient reservoir of planetesimals is left over to replenish the Oort cloud, nearby stars, and the Galactic tidal field drives the Oort cloud's erosion on a timescale of 3000 Myr (Hut & Tremaine 1985) to 13 000 Myr (Hanse et al. 2018). Eventually, the Solar System loses its Öpik-Oort cloud, but the inner parts survive. The Hills-Oort cloud (Oort-Hills cloud, Hills 1981) is protected against such erosion by the Sun's potential well.

The competition between eccentricity pumping and Galactic tidal circularization satisfactorily explains the eccentricities and inclinations of the Öpik-Oort cloud, derived from long-period comets (Wiegert & Tremaine 1999; Fouchard et al. 2020). Therefore, the Sun was not born with an Oort cloud, but grew it over time and is in the process of being shed (Brasser et al. 2006).

2. Oort cloud formation-efficiency for an isolated Sun

We quantified the mass evolution of the Öpik-Oort cloud by performing direct N-body simulations of the Sun, the four giant planets, and a population of planetesimals in a thin debris

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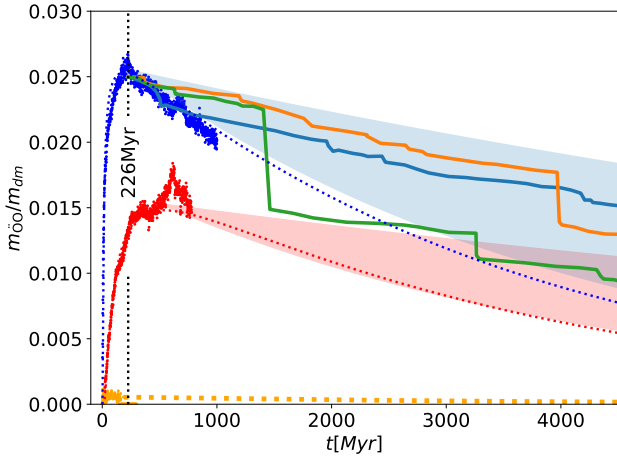


Fig. 1. Relative mass ($\mu_{\text{ÖO}} \equiv m_{\text{ÖO}}/m_{\text{dm}}$) evolution of the Öpik-Oort cloud. Blue dots (top left) result from simulating 1000 Myr evolution of the Oort cloud for an isolated Solar System. Orange points (bottom) represent the formation of an Öpik-Oort cloud in a stellar cluster; no appreciable Oort cloud forms in these models. The red dots give the mass evolution of the Oort cloud if the Sun left the parent cluster at an age of 20 Myr. The dotted curves (blue, red, and orange) fit to the simulated data using a fast-rise-exponential-decay (see Appendix E), with $t_{\text{rise}} = 10$ Myr for the blue and orange curves, 80 Myr for the red curve, and all three curves have $t_{\text{decay}} = 3500$ Myr. The solid curves give the Öpik-Oort cloud mass-evolution for a star in a Galactic orbit for three independent calculations by Hanse et al. (2018). A similar mass evolution of the Öpik-Oort cloud was already calculated by Kaib & Quinn (2008, see their Fig. 7b). The large jumps in these curves result from encounters with other Galactic stars. The blue-shaded region shows the uncertainty interval derived from these calculations (Hanse et al. 2018). The red-shaded region provides the uncertainty interval of a similar analysis for a Solar System that left the parent cluster after 20 Myr. Both areas are bracketed by $t_{\text{decay}} = 4000$ Myr and $t_{\text{decay}} = 13000$ Myr. The vertical black-dotted curve indicates the moment of reaching the maximum Oort-cloud mass for the isolated Solar System (see Appendix A). From this moment, Galactic erosion went on to dominate the Oort cloud’s evaporation.

disk of test particles between 1 au and 42 au along the ecliptic, see Appendix A. Results are presented in terms of $\mu_{\text{ÖO}} \equiv m_{\text{ÖO}}/m_{\text{dm}}$, which is the ratio of the mass in the Öpik-Oort cloud ($m_{\text{ÖO}}$) and the initial mass of the debris disk, m_{dm} , without the giant planet’s cores of $m_{\text{pc}} \lesssim 100 M_{\oplus}$ (see Appendix A). The disk is at an angle of 60.2° to the galactic plane. For convenience, we started with the Sun’s current galactic orbital parameters and adopted a smooth galactic potential. All these conditions were different upon the Sun’s birth. The planets, for example, grew over a timescale of several Myr until they settled into their current orbits (Fernandez & Ip 1984; Brasser 2025). Although it is important for the general understanding of the Solar System, these processes affect the formation of the Oort cloud solely to the second order (see Appendix A) by affecting the parent cluster’s lifetime.

In Fig. 1, we present the mass-evolution of the Öpik-Oort cloud in the simulated Solar System. Initially the Öpik-Oort cloud grows exponentially on a timescale of $t_{\text{rise}} = 9.3_{-4.4}^{+7.6}$ Myr. The maximum relative Öpik-Oort cloud mass of $\mu_{\text{ÖO}} = 0.027 \pm 0.006$ is reached at $t_{\text{max}} = 226 \pm 24$ Myr (see Fig. B.1, and consistent with earlier calculations; Brasser et al. 2008). By that time $62 \pm 2\%$ of the ejected planetesimals are lost from the Solar System, consistent with earlier Öpik-Oort cloud formation efficiency estimates (Yabushita 1979). The lost planetesi-

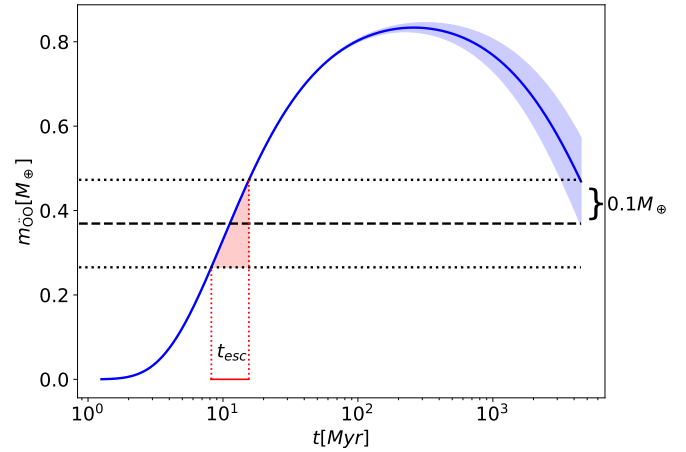


Fig. 2. Reconstruction of the time when the Sun left the parent cluster for a specific set of parameters. The dark blue curve shows the Öpik-Oort cloud’s mass-evolution, assuming it was born in isolation (fast-rise-exponential-decay function with a maximum mass of $\mu_{\text{ÖO}} = 0.027$, $t_{\text{rise}} = 10$ Myr, and $t_{\text{decay}} = 7500$ Myr, see Eq. (E.1)). The blue-shaded area gives the uncertainty of the Öpik-Oort cloud for $t_{\text{decay}} = 5000$ Myr to 10 000 Myr (see also Fig. 3 in the main paper). The dashed line indicates $0.38 M_{\oplus}$ below the endpoint of the solid blue curve. The intersections between the dashed line and the solid blue curve (to the left) indicate the moment the Sun left the parent cluster at $t_{\text{esc}} = 12 \pm 4$ Myr. The horizontal dotted lines are identical to the dashed line, but present the extremes for the blue-shaded region; they define the uncertainty in t_{esc} , indicated in red.

mals become free floaters in the Galactic disk, such as ‘Oumu-mua (Meech et al. 2017).

After reaching the maximum mass, the Öpik-Oort cloud erodes by losing comets through tidal stripping by the Galactic potential and passing stars (see also Kaib & Quinn 2008). Our calculations lasted for a Gyr, during which the half-life of the Öpik-Oort cloud $t_{\text{decay}} \sim 3500$ Myr to 5000 Myr, consistent with Hut & Tremaine 1985 (Hanse et al. 2018 found a slightly longer decay time of $t_{\text{decay}} = 4000$ Myr to 13 000 Myr, see also Fig. 1 and Fig. 2). If the Solar System has evolved in isolation, the Öpik-Oort cloud should then have been roughly 1.9 to 2.2 times as massive at its maximum mass today – or between 0.4 and $4.5 M_{\oplus}$ at the peak. With a retention efficiency of ~ 0.027 , and accounting for erosion, the initial disk must have contained $m_{\text{dm}} \approx 15$ to $170 M_{\oplus}$ in solids after accounting for the planets’ masses. This range is consistent with the estimated $\sim 20 M_{\oplus}$ based on the eccentricity dampening of the giant planets (Nesvorný & Morbidelli 2012). The circum-stellar disk could then have lost (at most) $\sim 5 M_{\oplus}$ before the Oort cloud started forming, resulting in an effective formation efficiency of $\mu_{\text{ÖO}} \sim 0.02$, only slightly less than our estimate from isolated evolution (see Fig. 1). The Sun then cannot have lost much Öpik-Oort cloud material while it was a cluster member, before the tidal field manages to lift their perihelia.

3. Oort cloud survival in a perturbing environment

Irrespective of the birth cluster’s mass, the Öpik-Oort cloud could not have formed while the Sun was a member because its formation process is susceptible to infinitesimal perturbations; furthermore, the cluster density within its Hill sphere in the Galactic potential is independent of mass. From adiabatic perturbations Hut & Tremaine (1985) derived an exponential decay timescale of $t_{\text{decay}} \approx 2100(v_{\text{km/s}}/a_{10^4 \text{ au}}^3) \text{ Myr}$. A planetesimal in

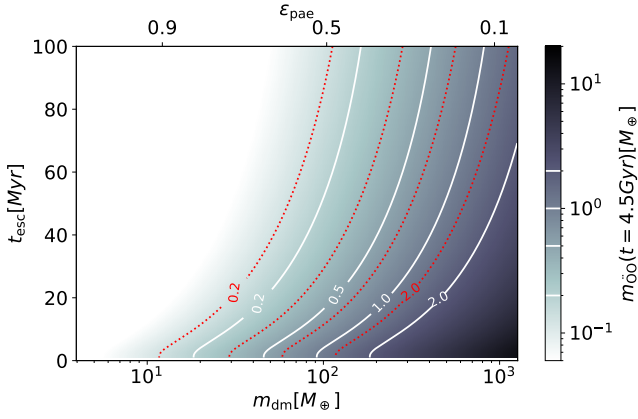


Fig. 3. Today’s Oort cloud mass (m_{OO} , shades) as a function of the planetesimal disk-mass (m_{dm}) and the Sun’s escape time, t_{esc} . Here, m_{dm} is the leftover mass of the debris disk after the giant planets’ cores formed (here, the mass in planets’ cores is m_{pc}). Along the top axis we express m_{dm} in terms of the planet-formation efficiency, $\epsilon_{\text{pae}} \equiv m_{\text{dm}}/(m_{\text{dm}} + m_{\text{pc}})$. The curves indicate the current mass of the Öpik-Oort cloud (in units of M_{\oplus}) for a decay timescale, $t_{\text{decay}} = 5000$ Myr (white) and $t_{\text{decay}} = 10000$ Myr (red). See also the color bar (to the right). Here, we calculated m_{OO} from the analytic model Eq. (E.1) presented in Appendix E (based on Fig. 1).

an $e \sim 0.999$ orbit with a semimajor axis of $a = 55000$ au at apocenter would effectively comove with the Sun. With a typical cluster velocity-dispersion of $v \sim 1$ km/s such a planetesimal escapes on a timescale of ~ 1.6 Myr (see Eq. (47) of Hut & Tremaine 1985), almost an order of magnitude shorter than its orbital period. The formation of the Öpik-Oort cloud in the early Solar System must have been a race against the clock. As planetesimals are ejected by repeated encounters with the giant planets near pericenter (and faced with the threat of becoming unbound), they gradually reach further out into the Öpik-Oort cloud and get kicked out of their orbits by passing cluster members. We simulated Solar System evolution in a clustered environment to quantify this process. The results are summarized in Fig. 1.

The current masses of the Oort cloud and the detached populations (outside the gravitational influence of Neptune, but within ~ 1000 au) are uncertain, but both depend on the moment the Sun leaves the parent cluster. The normalization in our calculations depends on the total mass of planetesimals in the circumstellar disk after the giant planets’ cores formed. In Fig. 3, we present the relation between initial disk mass, escape time (t_{esc}), and today’s Öpik-Oort cloud mass. For $m_{\text{dm}} \lesssim 30 M_{\oplus}$ (or a planet accretion efficiency of $\epsilon_{\text{pae}} \equiv m_{\text{dm}}/(m_{\text{dm}} + m_{\text{pc}}) \gtrsim 0.77$) an Öpik-Oort cloud of $m_{\text{OO}} \gtrsim 0.5 M_{\oplus}$ can form if the Sun left the cluster in $t_{\text{esc}} \lesssim 20$ Myr. A more massive Öpik-Oort cloud can only form if the Sun left even earlier or if the initial disk mass was considerably higher (which contradicts the constraints in Nesvorný & Morbidelli 2012).

The timescale required to reach the maximum Öpik-Oort cloud mass is rather insensitive to the cluster mass. However, the Oort-cloud formation efficiency depends on the growth rate of the giant planets, their orbital migration, and the extent of the primordial solar nebula (Brasser et al. 2007). If migration happens early on (Liu et al. 2022; Griveaud et al. 2024), an Oort cloud can only form when the sun leaves the cluster within ~ 20 Myr after migration ends. However, if the migration timescale exceeds ~ 20 Myr (de Sousa Ribeiro et al. 2020), the

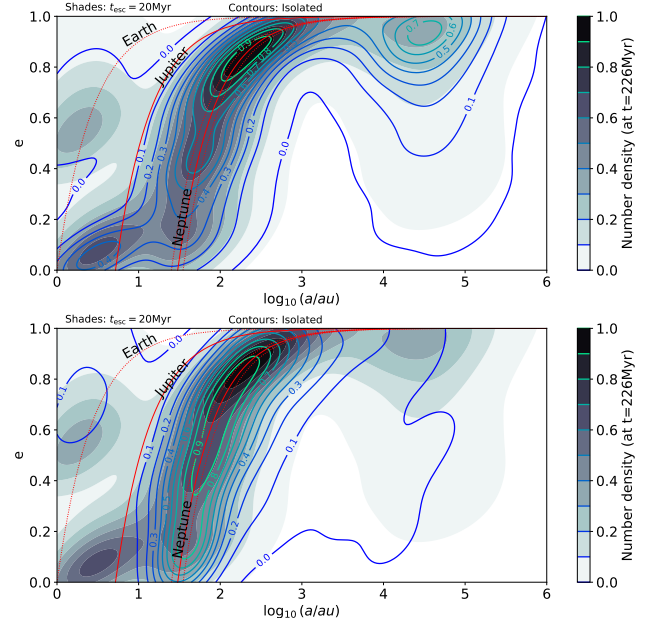


Fig. 4. Distribution of semimajor axis and eccentricity of the Solar System planetesimals. The distributions are presented at their peak, at the age of 226 Myr. The gray shades give the probability density function (linearly interpolated) for the Solar System that was ejected 20 Myr after the formation of the giant planets. The red curves indicate the influence of Earth (left, the dotted curve for reference), Jupiter (middle), and Neptune (rightmost curve). The two dotted curves around Neptune’s influence indicate the range within 5 Hill radii of Neptune. Top panel: Contours (same interpolation) give the probability density distribution for the Solar System that was ejected for its entire lifetime. Bottom panel: Contours (same interpolation and range) refer to the probability density distribution for the Solar System that remained in the cluster for its entire lifetime.

Sun would have left before the migration ends to have the opportunity to grow an Oort cloud.

Processes in the star cluster preventing the formation of the Öpik-Oort cloud end up stimulating the growth of the Oort-Hills cloud. Perturbations due to nearby stars and the cluster potential tend to circularize their orbits, detaching them from the planets’ influence (Portegies Zwart & Jílková 2015). In the cluster, the mass of the Oort-Hills cloud grows on a timescale of $t_{\text{rise}} \sim 100$ Myr to a maximum of $\mu_{\text{OHC}} \sim 0.048$. The mass of the detached population is hardly affected by the cluster, and the Galactic tidal field has a negligible effect on the long-term evolution of the detached population or on the Oort-Hills cloud; up to $\sim 10\%$ of the Öpik-Oort cloud can be replenished by migration from the Oort-Hills cloud due to passing stars and giant molecular clouds (Brasser et al. 2006, 2008).

In Fig. 4, we present distributions in semimajor axis and eccentricity for a hybrid simulation in which we evolved the Solar System for 20 Myr in a stellar cluster and continue the calculation in isolation (see also Fig. 1). We overlay the planetary system that evolved in isolation (contours in top panel) and the one that remained in the cluster (bottom panel). The distributions show a similar morphology for the detached population around Neptune’s influence (the rightmost red curve), but very different distributions around the Oort-Hills (Hills 1981) and Öpik-Oort cloud s. Since the Oort-Hills cloud preserves signatures of the Sun’s birth environment (Jílková et al. 2016), the discovery of planetesimals in 500 au to ~ 5000 au orbits (with an eccentricity

of $e = 0.2$ to 0.9) would put interesting constraints on the birth cluster parameters and the Sun's encounter history.

A prolonged evolution in isolation or in a clustered environment also has consequences for near-Earth objects (NEOs). The number of NEOs at the moment the Oort cloud reaches its peak mass is typically five times higher in the models where the Sun escapes in 20 Myr compared to the Sun born in isolation. Such a higher local planetesimal density, as seen in Fig. 4, may have interesting consequences for the earliest cratering record of the inner planets and Moon (see also Pfalzner et al. 2024a,b).

4. Discussion

According to Hanse et al. (2018), Hands et al. (2019), the Sun accreted the Oort cloud from other stars. Such accretion can only be successful if other stars also have their own Oort clouds. However, since no Öpik-Oort cloud forms while a star is a cluster member, material exchange among stars is prevented. Some inner material with $a \lesssim 10\,000$ au and low eccentricities ($e \lesssim 0.9$) can be exchanged (Jílková et al. 2016; Pfalzner et al. 2024b), but this material is easily lost again when accreted in wide $a \gtrsim 10\,000$ au orbits. The Oort-Hills cloud (Breslau et al. 2017; Hands et al. 2019) and the detached population (Jílková et al. 2015), on the other hand, are quite likely to be rich in extra-solar planetesimals due to exchange of material during close encounters in the young cluster.

The recently discovered population of 92 planetesimals with $a > 50$ au (two of which display $a \gtrsim 10^3$ au) was found by the Horizon mission (Fraser et al. 2024) with an eccentricity of $e = 0.61 \pm 0.16$ and inclination of $i = 13.1^\circ \pm 15.4^\circ$. Their orbits are inconsistent with a formation in situ and from being ejected by giant-planet migration (de Sousa Ribeiro et al. 2020), both of which predict planetesimals beyond 50 au to have low eccentricities and low inclinations in a narrow range. Their orbits are, however, consistent with external perturbations induced by passing stars, which naturally lead to a wide range in eccentricity and inclination, and with much higher values (Jílková et al. 2016; Hands et al. 2019; Pfalzner et al. 2024b).

Alternatively, part of the Oort cloud could be captured from free-floating debris in the parent cluster (Levison et al. 2010) or from freezing out planetesimals into bound pairs with the Sun, much in the same way wide binaries form (Moeckel & Clarke 2011) or planets are captured (Perets & Kouwenhoven 2012). The rate calculated through gas expulsion in the young cluster by (Levison et al. 2010) overestimates the efficiency of this process because of their assumed sudden (in 10^4 yr) removal of the primordial gas from the cluster central region. Recent calculations of cluster formation indicate that gas is ejected in much smaller quantities, more slowly, and coming from the cluster periphery, rather than from the center (Guszejnov et al. 2021; Polak et al. 2024a), in contrast to the assumptions adopted in Levison et al. (2010). The remaining capture rate in a cluster of N stars derived by Moeckel & Clarke (2011), Rozner & Perets (2023) gives only a small fraction of 0.03 to 0.06 and $\propto 1/N$. Although the Sun and potentially each of the other $N \sim 3000$ to 10^4 stars in the cluster have already lost a considerable portion ($\sim 60\%$) of their planetesimals by the time the Sun escapes the cluster, the fraction of objects remaining bound to the escaping Sun would be only 10^{-4} to 10^{-5} . This is substantially smaller than the fraction of native planetesimals that populate the Oort cloud (~ 0.027).

5. Conclusions

The existence of a rich Öpik-Oort cloud can then only be reconciled with an early escape from the parent cluster, much earlier than expected based on the estimated lifetime of a virialized birth cluster, which easily exceeds 100 Myr (Portegies Zwart 2009; Portegies Zwart et al. 2010). If the Sun was ejected from the young cluster by a strong encounter, the Öpik-Oort cloud can only have formed after this event, and the majority of material must be native to the Solar System. The whole cluster likely dissolved quickly. Roughly 50 to 90 percent of the stars are born in non-virial or fractal-structured environments (Arnold et al. 2022) that experience violent relaxation in the first 10 Myr (Goodwin & Bastian 2006). Such a cluster dissolves shortly thereafter (Goodwin 2009), consistent with our estimated time spent in the clustered environment. For the Sun, we then favor a dense (half-mass density $\gtrsim 10^3$ stars/pc³) non-virial birth environment.

It is challenging to derive a minimum amount of time the Sun has spent in the cluster, but it must have been a member long enough to experience a strong encounter, if only to truncate the circumstellar disk at the observed Kuiper cliff (at ~ 50 au, de la Fuente Marcos & de la Fuente Marcos 2024; Pfalzner et al. 2024a) and to explain the hot trans-Neptunian population (Punzo et al. 2014; Fraser et al. 2024) or the irregular moons (Pfalzner et al. 2024b). In that case, the $\gtrsim 50$ au planetesimals were scattered in the last encounter to their current orbits, either originating from the Sun's disk or being captured from the encountering star's disk. An early escape also has consequences for the expected number and the proximity of supernovae in the infant Sun's neighborhood. The first supernova typically happens between 8 and 10 Myr after the cluster's birth (Portegies Zwart 2019). Such a nearby supernova could explain the Solar System's abundance in terms of short-lived radionuclides (Arakawa & Kokubo 2023) and the observed $\sim 7^\circ$ tilt in the ecliptic to the Sun's equatorial plane (Portegies Zwart 2019). We expect that the birth cluster was non-virial, probably containing more stars than the hitherto estimated 2500 ± 500 stars (Portegies Zwart 2009; Higuchi & Kokubo 2015; Arakawa & Kokubo 2023). Finally, we assume the Sun left the nest within 20 Myr after the giant planets formed.

Data availability

This work is carried out using the Astronomical Multipurpose Software Environment (AMUSE). AMUSE is open source under the Apache-2.0 license, and the entire source code can be downloaded via <https://github.com/amusecode/amuse>. The simulations in this work were performed using AMUSE version v2024.6.0. We used the LonelyPlanets AMUSE script, which is open source under the Apache-2.0 license, and the entire source code can be downloaded via <https://github.com/spzwart/LonelyPlanets>

The simulation data, and specific scripts to generate the figures in this manuscript can be downloaded through FigShare at https://figshare.com/articles/preprint/Once_upon_a_time_in_the_Oort_cloud_when_did_the_Sun_Lost_its_Siblings/25744584?file=49605921 (DOI: 10.21203/rs.3.rs-425777/v1).

Acknowledgements. We thank Anthony Brown, Steven Rieder and Eiichiro Kokubo for discussions. Many of our calculations were performed on the two workstations of Ignas Snellen and Yamila Miguel; we thank their students for their patience. This work used the Dutch national e-infrastructure and in particular the Cartesius supercomputer with the support of the SURF Cooperative

using grant numbers EINF-12718 and 2024.058. Considering the climate and energy consumption, we wish to report on the damage our work has done to the environment. The calculations have been running for about four months on dual 128-core Xeon-equipped workstations, totaling about 1024 core-days. Assuming a CPU consumption of 12 Watt h^{-1} , the total energy is roughly 0.3 MWh. For an emission intensity of $0.283 \text{ kWh kg}^{-1}$ (Wittmann et al. 2016), our calculations emitted 1 tonne CO₂.

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Appendix A: Isolated planetary systems

We simulate isolated planetary systems and those perturbed in a clustered environment using the AMUSE framework. AMUSE (Portegies Zwart & McMillan 2018) is a high-performance software instrument for simulating four fundamental physics domains: gravity, hydrodynamics, stellar evolution, and radiative transfer. It can be used for a wide variety of applications. The various codes that solve for these domains are interchangeable and can run concurrently on different resolutions and scales.

To simulate an isolated planetary system, we started with the Sun and the four giant planets using ephemerides at Julian date 2588106.62749, with their current masses. We subsequently added a population of minor bodies in the ecliptic with circular ($e \leq 0.01$) orbits between 1 au and 42 au around the Sun (Marochnik et al. 1988; Gurrutxaga et al. 2024). The minor bodies have no mass and no size. The surface density of the disk follows a -1.5 power-law and has a Toomre Q -parameter of 1.0 (Toomre & Toomre 1972). We generated planetary systems using the AMUSE routine `ProtoPlanetaryDisk`. We rotated the Solar system (planets and planetesimals) along the y -axis by 60.2° and put it in a circular orbit in the Galactic plane at a distance of 8.5 kpc along the x -axis. We then moved the center of mass of the simulated Solar system by 7.5 pc in the Galactic z -coordinate, and give it an additional velocity of 10.1 km/s towards the Galactic center. This places the Solar System in a slightly elliptical and inclined orbit in the Galactic potential, with the Solar System's ecliptic inclined by about 60° . We adopted the simple Galactic potential presented in (Portegies Zwart & McMillan 2018).

The planetesimals in our calculations are massless. Still, we can consider our results in light of the planet formation efficiency. For this estimate, we focused on the mass in rocky cores of the giant planets. Jupiter's core mass has an upper limit of $45 M_\oplus$ (Wahl et al. 2017), for Saturn we adopted $25 M_\oplus$ (Gurrutxaga et al. 2024), $13 M_\oplus$ for Uranus and $15.5 M_\oplus$ for Neptune (Desch 2007; Helled et al. 2011). The upper limit to the mass in a giant planet core is then $m_{pc} \simeq 98.5 M_\oplus$. The original mass of the disk in solids, before the planets formed must then have been at least $98.5 M_\oplus$ plus the current mass of minor planets and planetesimals give a minimum disk mass of $\sim 100 M_\oplus$. The mass scaling from test particles to appropriate mass units is realized by adopting an initial disk mass, as presented in Fig. 3.

The dynamical evolution of the planetary systems was performed with the direct N -body code `Huayno`, using the drift-kick-drift integrator with time step parameter $\eta = 0.03$. The dynamics of the Solar System and the Galaxy are coupled using the bridge method (Fujii et al. 2007) with a time-step of 0.01 Myr. This is a conservative choice considering the static nature of the background potential, but it allows us to use the same time step when including stellar encounters, which require a high time resolution. A bridge time step of 0.01 Myr corresponds to the period of a circular orbit at about 460 au, which is more than a factor 60 shorter than inner edge of the Öpik-Oort cloud boundary at 30 000 au.

Appendix B: Oort cloud formation in isolation

We ran 27 simulations with 4 planets and 10^3 planetesimals. In principle, we could have performed a single simulation with 27 000 planetesimals at the same cost, but we now can address the stochasticity in the results due to the chaotic dynamics of the planetary system, and we adopt the same planetary systems in a dynamical environment, as we discuss further down.

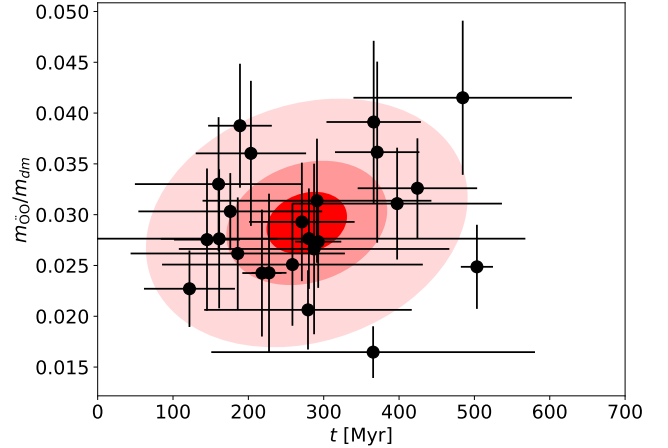


Fig. B.1. Peak in the relative mass of the Öpik-Oort cloud ($\mu_{\text{ÖO}}$) for the isolated Solar System. The black bullet points represent the measured maximum mass of the Öpik-Oort cloud, with 1 standard deviation uncertainty, measured at the time the maximum Öpik-Oort cloud mass is reached. The shaded areas show the uncertainty obtained from 27 calculations centered on the global mean with the error ellipse for 0.5 (darkest shade red), 1.0, and 2.0 (lightest shade) standard deviations. A least-squares fit of a linear function to the data does not give a significant result. The geometric mean of the 27 bullet points is at a mass of $m_{\text{dm}} = 0.027 \pm 0.006$, at an age of 226 ± 24 Myr.

For each simulation, we identified various dynamical classes. Rather than listing the entire procedure for identifying minor bodies, we provide the selection criteria for the various Oort-cloud objects and the remaining trans-Neptunians (which includes the various Kuiper-belt families).

The orbital elements were calculated using a Kepler solver in the Solar System's barycenter. The procedure for identifying dynamical classes is as follows:

1. First, classify the bound planetesimals (with $e < 1$).
2. Then we select those with pericenter distance $a(1 - e) > 5$ Hill radii further away from the Sun than the planet Neptune.
 - (a) Those with $a \geq 30\,000$ au populate the Öpik-Oort cloud.
 - (b) The remaining planetesimals with $a \geq 1\,000$ au populate the Oort-Hills cloud.
 - (c) the left over (detached but with $a < 1\,000$ au) are the detached objects.

We adopted an inner edge of the Öpik-Oort cloud of $r_{\text{inner}} = 30\,000$ au; however, based on Fig. 4 of the main paper, we could consider an inner limit around 10 000 au to be more distinctive, as this is also around the region beyond which the Galactic tidal field starts to become important.

Once classified, we can describe the evolution of the various detached populations. We started by measuring the time and number at the peak of the Öpik-Oort cloud in each of our simulations. The results are presented in Fig. B.1, showing the time and maximum of the Oort cloud in each of the 27 simulation and the statistical average.

Appendix C: Numerical noise and chaos

In principle, the planets in each of our isolated systems should evolve identically because they start with identical initial realization for the Sun and planets, whereas the planetesimals, which are treated as test particles, have orbits randomly selected from the initial conditions. Integrating these systems causes varia-

tions in the round-off at the least significant digit. This round-off drives chaos in our calculations, causing the orbital evolution of the planets to be different for different planetary systems. To validate our results in terms of its chaotic behavior of the system, and to ensure that the results are not driven by the chaotic nature of the system, we calculate the largest positive Lyapunov timescale, t_{Ly} , for each of the 351 unique pairs of planetary systems.

The Lyapunov timescale is calculated by fitting the growth of the difference between the normalized orbital semimajor axes of the four planets. Fitting an exponential relation gives an estimate for the relative growth of numerical errors due to round-off, and the Lyapunov timescale is its reciprocal.

We find a mean Lyapunov timescale of $\langle t_{Ly} \rangle = 800 \pm 230$ Myr, with a tail to $t_{Ly} = 4000$ Myr containing $\sim 20\%$ of the cases. The Lyapunov timescale is of the order of our calculation time (1000 Myr), indicating that our calculations are indeed chaotic, as expected, but this has not affected the results. Upon inspection of the planets' orbital parameters at the end of the simulations, we find slight variations of the order of $\sim 0.4\%$ in orbital separation. We consider these small compared to the variations in orbital separation needed to affect the results, which would be around an order of magnitude larger.

Appendix D: Planetary system in a stellar cluster

Planetary systems in a stellar cluster are simulated in two stages using the LonelyPlanets AMUSE script. This new implementation of the method, introduced in (Cai et al. 2019), is now independent of the adopted N-body integrator, and it is available at github¹. The new LonelyPlanet script includes stellar evolution, collisions, and a semi-analytic background Galactic potential.

Integrating a star cluster, including planetary systems, is impractically expensive in terms of computer time. In LonelyPlanets, we reduce these costs through a two-stage divide-and-conquer strategy (Cai et al. 2019; Stock et al. 2020). In stage one, we simulate a dynamical evolution and stellar evolution of a cluster of N stars in the Galactic potential: In stage two, we integrate the planetary systems with only the nearest perturbing cluster members. This strategy easily saves a factor of 10^4 in computer time.

In stage one, the stars' motion equations in the cluster are integrated using an N-body code dedicated to cluster dynamics. For this work, we opted for the 4th-order Hermite predictor-corrector scheme (Makino & Aarseth 1992) Ph4 (Portegies Zwart & McMillan 2018). The coupling of the direct N-body code for the cluster dynamics and the semi-analytic background potential of the Galaxy is realized using bridge (Fujii et al. 2007). Bridge is a non-intrusive hierarchical code-coupling strategy based on solving the combined Hamiltonian as two separate parts using Strang splitting (Strang 1968). Both parts are later combined to form a homogeneous and self-consistent solution using a kick-drift-kick scheme, as was demonstrated in (Portegies Zwart et al. 2020).

While integrating the cluster, we keep track of the $N_{cc} = 6$ closest encountering stars and the strongest perturbers for a subset of 27 selected stars. We store the encounter information between selected stars and perturbers at a fine time resolution of 0.01 Myr. Stage one is illustrated in Fig. D.1 where we show the orbit of one selected star in a cluster of 10^3 stars over 7 Myr. The right-hand panel shows the distance for the selected star to its $N_{cc} = 6$ nearest neighbors (which includes the 3 strongest

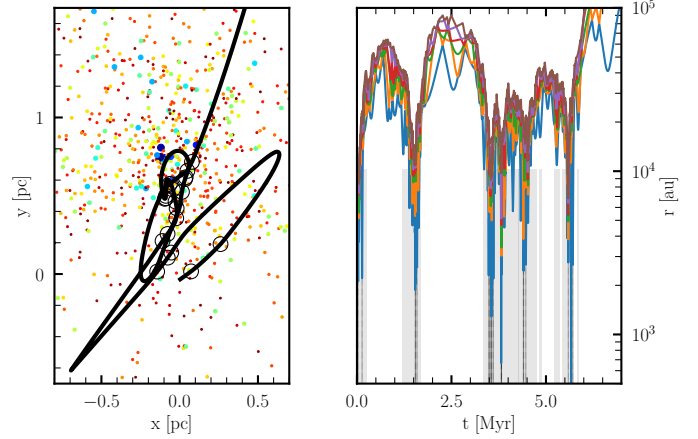


Fig. D.1. Initial cluster (left: rainbow colors and size represent stellar mass) and the orbit of a randomly selected star evolved for 7 Myr (black curve). Circles along the orbit indicate moments of close approach. The right-hand panel shows the distance to the six nearest neighbors as the selected star orbits the cluster. The gray shaded area indicates when another star approaches within 10^4 au.

perturbers). The shaded regions in the right-hand panel indicate when the selected star is strongly perturbed. In this particular case, the selected star escapes the cluster after a particularly strong encounter at ~ 5.7 Myr.

In stage two, each of the stars acquires a system of $N_p = 4$ planets and $N_a = 1000$ planetesimals. The planetesimals are test particles; they do not feel each other's gravity and do not exert a force on any of the planets or stars. We integrate the orbits of the planets and planetesimals together with the earlier stored neighboring stars, replenishing this population every 0.01 Myr. In some sense, we reconstruct the perturbed star's dynamical history while integrating it including its planetary system. Each planetary system, including its perturbers, is integrated using the symplectic coupled-components drift-kick-drift algorithm Huayno (Pelupessy et al. 2012; Jänes et al. 2014).

Stage two is illustrated in Fig. D.2 where we show the evolution of the orbits of six planets around the selected star. The choice of the number of planets is arbitrary; it just shows the workings of the code. The encounter that ejected the star from the cluster (at ~ 5.7 Myr) also caused a variation in the semi-major axis and eccentricity in the outermost planets. This perturbation is propagated to the inner planets' orbits on a secular timescale.

Integrating the planetary system requires $O((1 + N_p + N_{cc})^2 + N_a)$ operations per time step. Once the star escapes the cluster, its planetary system is unlikely to be perturbed by nearby stars, but it remains affected by the Galactic tidal field. The isolated planetary system is integrated by a symplectic integrator, which bridges with the semi-analytic Galactic potential.

Integrating the cluster of 1000 stars and 27 planetary systems for 1000 Myr using a direct (symplectic) method would require some $1.7 \cdot 10^{21}$ flops (28108 stars, planets, and planetesimals in total integrated with a 1 day time step, assuming 60 operations per force calculation). Such a calculation would cost about two weeks on a PetaFlop-scale computer. In LonelyPlanets the same calculations can be done in only $6 \cdot 10^{11}$ operations for the cluster simulation and $1.7 \cdot 10^{15}$ (about two weeks on a 128-core workstation) operations for each of the planetary systems. The speedup due to LonelyPlanets then amounts to a factor of $\gtrsim 10^4$ compared to conventionally integrating the cluster with planets.

¹ see <https://github.com/spzward/LonelyPlanets>

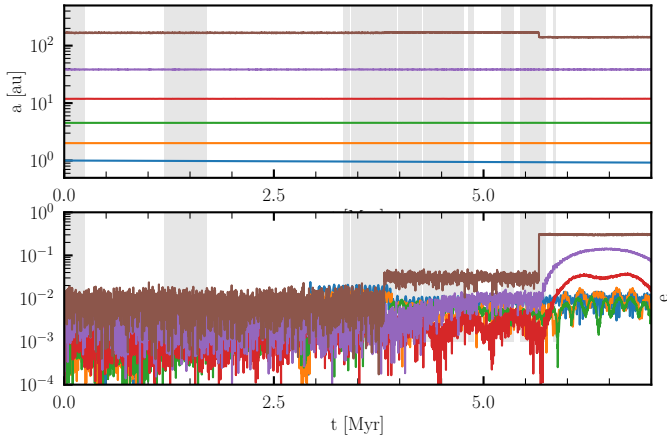


Fig. D.2. Evolution of the orbital separation (top) and eccentricity (bottom) for the selected star in fig. D.1, but now with six planets between 1 au and 180 au according to an Oligarchic planet-formation model (Kokubo & Ida 1998). The planetary system was integrated for 7 Myr, while the 6 nearest stars were taken into account in the gray-shaded areas. The initial planetary system would have been stable if it evolved in isolation, but the perturbations caused several planets to change their orbits considerably. Most noticeable is the high increase in eccentricity to 0.31 of the outermost planet due to the encounter that kicked the star from the cluster (see Fig. D.1). An earlier encounter at 3.8 Myr already affected the outer planet’s orbit.

We performed several calculations of planetary systems in stellar clusters. We adopted the same 27 planetary systems every time but varied the cluster parameters.

We adopted virialized Plummer spheres with 100 to 6000 stars from a Salpeter mass function between $0.1 M_{\odot}$ and $100 M_{\odot}$ with virial radii of 0.5 pc, 1.0 pc and 1.5 pc. These clusters cover a wide range of initial half-mass densities from 3.7 pc^{-3} to 6000 pc^{-3} . We also performed simulations with a more complex initial realization in which we adopted the results from a hydrodynamics molecular cloud collapse simulation until the gas was depleted (Wilhelm et al. 2023; Polak et al. 2024a,b).

After initializing the cluster stars, we select 27 stars with a mass closest to $1 M_{\odot}$ in each of these initial realizations and turn them into $1 M_{\odot}$ stars. After this we correct for the mass change by rescaling the system to virial equilibrium. We note that we did not rescale the clusters resulting from the hydrodynamical simulation, as it was initially not in virial equilibrium.

We continue each simulation to 1000 Myr, but stop integrating each Solar-equivalent system after losing a planet or if the number of planetesimals drops below 50. Many of the planetary systems were destroyed before that time, particularly in those runs with a high stellar density. Eventually, we analyze the data for the surviving planetary systems.

The initial stellar distribution did not make a statistically significant difference for the surviving planetesimal orbital distributions in the Öpik-Oort cloud. The resulting mass evolution of the Öpik-Oort cloud, is summarized in the main paper Fig. 1. In all the simulations, the formation process of an Öpik-Oort cloud turns out to be too fragile to survive a long exposure in a clustered environment.

Appendix E: Further analysis on the growth and erosion of an Oort cloud

Ideally, we would like to infer the initial Oort-cloud mass by calculating backward in time in order to reconstruct when the Sun

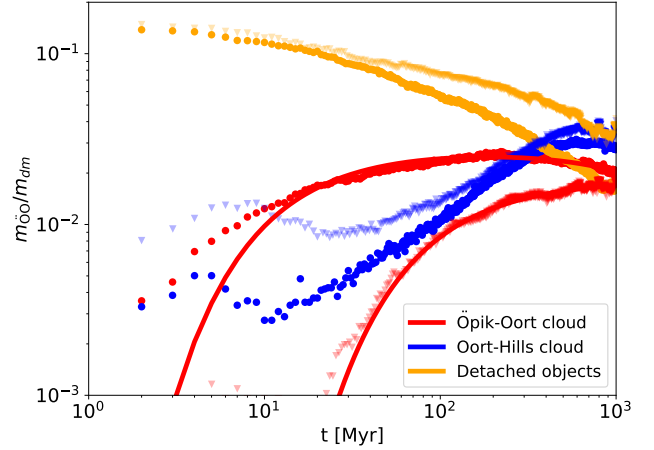


Fig. E.1. Relative mass evolution of the Oort cloud and detached population. For isolated clusters the mass evolution of the Öpik-Oort cloud, Oort-Hills cloud, and the detached populations are given by the upper red, blue and orange symbols, respectively. The triangles give the mass evolution in the simulation where the Solar System left the cluster 20 Myr after the formation of the giant planets, the bullets for the isolated Solar System. Here we adopted the inner Öpik-Oort cloud boundary of $r_{\text{inner}} = 30\,000$ au. The red symbols are identical to the blue and red dots in the main paper’s Fig. 1. The two solid red curves represent the fits to the two Öpik-Oort cloud populations.

left the parent cluster. Since this inversion problem is not possible, we fit the measured Oort-cloud mass evolution and invert the fitted curve. We fit a fast-rise-exponential-decay (FRED) function of the form

$$\text{FRED} = \mu_{\ddot{O}} \sqrt{e^{t_{\text{rise}}/t_{\text{decay}}}} e^{-t_{\text{rise}}/t - t/t_{\text{decay}}}, \quad (\text{E.1})$$

to the mass evolution of the Oort cloud. The three free parameters in this function includes the proportionality constant $\mu_{\ddot{O}}$, and the two timescales, t_{rise} and t_{decay} . The mass of the Oort cloud then peaks at $\sqrt{t_{\text{rise}}t_{\text{decay}}}$. We fitted on the accumulated data for all 27 runs (see Fig. E.1). The Öpik-Oort cloud is best described with a FRED with a relative peak value of $\mu_{\ddot{O}O} = 0.027$, $t_{\text{rise}} = 10$ Myr, and t_{decay} between 4 000 Myr and 13 000 Myr, whereas for Oort-Hills cloud $\mu_{\text{OH}} = 0.027$, $t_{\text{rise}} = 80$ Myr for a similar decay timescale. The resulting fits for the Öpik-Oort cloud are presented in the main paper Fig. 1, Fig. 2, and Fig. E.1. In Fig. E.1 we present the mass evolution of various Oort cloud populations as a function of time. The Öpik-Oort cloud for both simulations are over-plotted with the fit.

Our adopted choice of the inner boundary for the Öpik-Oort cloud of $r_{\text{inner}} = 30\,000$ au is somewhat arbitrary. We therefore fit $\mu_{\ddot{O}O}$ and t_{rise} as a function of this inner boundary. The values for $m_{\ddot{O}}$ and t_{rise} depend on the inner edge r_{inner} as follows

$$\mu_{\ddot{O}} \approx 0.066 - 0.013 (r_{\text{inner}}/10\,000 \text{ au}) \quad (\text{E.2})$$

The rise-time depends on the Öpik-Oort cloud inner edge as follows

$$t_{\text{rise}} \approx 38 \text{ Myr} - 9.5 \text{ Myr} (r_{\text{inner}}/10\,000 \text{ au}). \quad (\text{E.3})$$

The Öpik-Oort cloud in the isolated Solar System, starts growing from the start of the simulation. We anticipate that our starting point coincides with the moment the giant planets stop migrating and have reached their current mass. In the clustered environment, the Öpik-Oort cloud can only start to form after the Sun escapes and becomes isolated, (in the simulation this happens at an age of 20 Myr). This moment is visible in the dip in

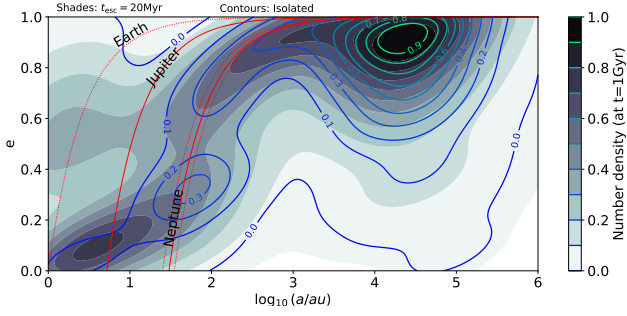


Fig. E.2. Semimajor axis versus eccentricity of the Solar System planetesimals at the age of 1000 Myr for the isolated case (contours), and if the Solar System left the cluster at an age of 20 Myr (shades). Both distributions are normalized independently to the maximum value with 10 equally-spaced contour levels each. In Fig. 4 (main paper), we present the results of the same simulations but at an age of 226 Myr.

the formation of the Oort-Hills cloud, of Fig. E.1 around 20 Myr (see blue triangles). In contrast to the Öpik-Oort cloud The Oort-Hills cloud already starts to be populated while the Solar System is a cluster member. The exchange of planetesimals between the Oort-Hills cloud (blue) and the detached population (yellow) proceeds differently if the Solar System is born in isolation (bullets in Fig. E.1) or in a clustered environment (triangles).

Finally, in Fig. E.2 we present the orbital distribution (semimajor axis and eccentricity) of the planetesimals that remained in the Solar System at an age of 1 Gyr. The shaded regions indicate the density distribution if the Solar System escapes the cluster at the age of 20 Myr. The contours refer to the isolated Solar System.