

Marchal's family

Inclined co-orbitals in the three-body problem

Alexandre Prieur

With Philippe Robutel & Jacques Fejoz

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Introduction

The Lagrange relative equilibrium

Lagrange relative equilibrium of the
3BP

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Elliptic if

$$\frac{m_0 * m_1 + m_0 * m_2 + m_1 * m_2}{(m_0 + m_1 + m_2)^2} > \frac{1}{27}$$

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$$\begin{cases} (1 - \varepsilon, \varepsilon, 0) \rightarrow \varepsilon_G \approx 0.0385 \\ (1 - 2\varepsilon, \varepsilon, \varepsilon) \rightarrow \varepsilon_G \approx 0.0191 \end{cases}$$

The Lagrange relative equilibrium – Lyapunov families

Lyapunov families emerging from the elliptic directions of Lagrange

Homographic family

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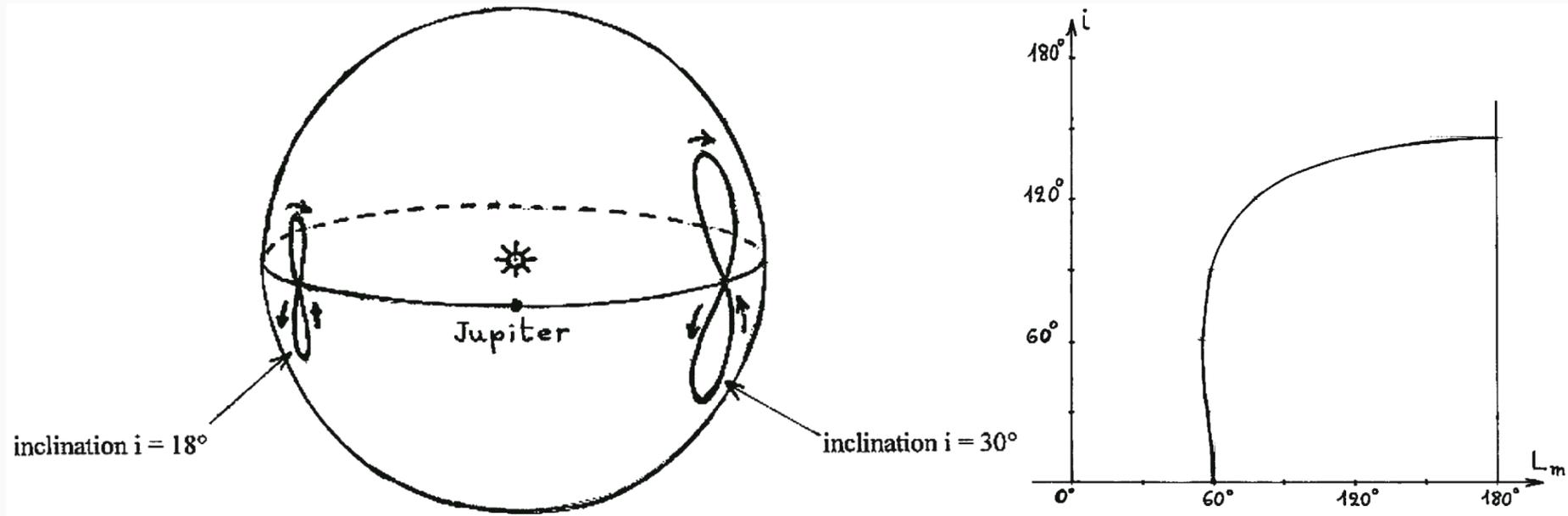
Circular librations

Anti-Lagrange

The vertical family – equal masses: P_{12}

- (Marchal, 1990) – P_{12} near Lagrange
- (Chenciner and Montgomery, 2000) – Eight and P_{12}
- (Chenciner and Fejoz, 2008) – uniqueness of P_{12} near Lagrange
- (Calleja et al., 2024) – global uniqueness of P_{12}

The vertical family – small masses



- (Marchal, 2009) – \mathcal{VF}_L in the average restricted problem
 - Already a conjecture – part of a three-parameter family, including P_{12} !
- (Leleu, 2016) – numerical hints of a stable region in the full planetary problem

Questions

- Q1: Does the family persist in the non-restricted/non-average problem?
- Q2: What is the stability of the orbits along this family?
- Q3: Does it have an impact on the global stability of the co-orbital region?
- Q4: How is it linked to P_{12} ?

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$\mathcal{V}\mathcal{F}_L$ in the average circular
planetary problem

Frame of reference

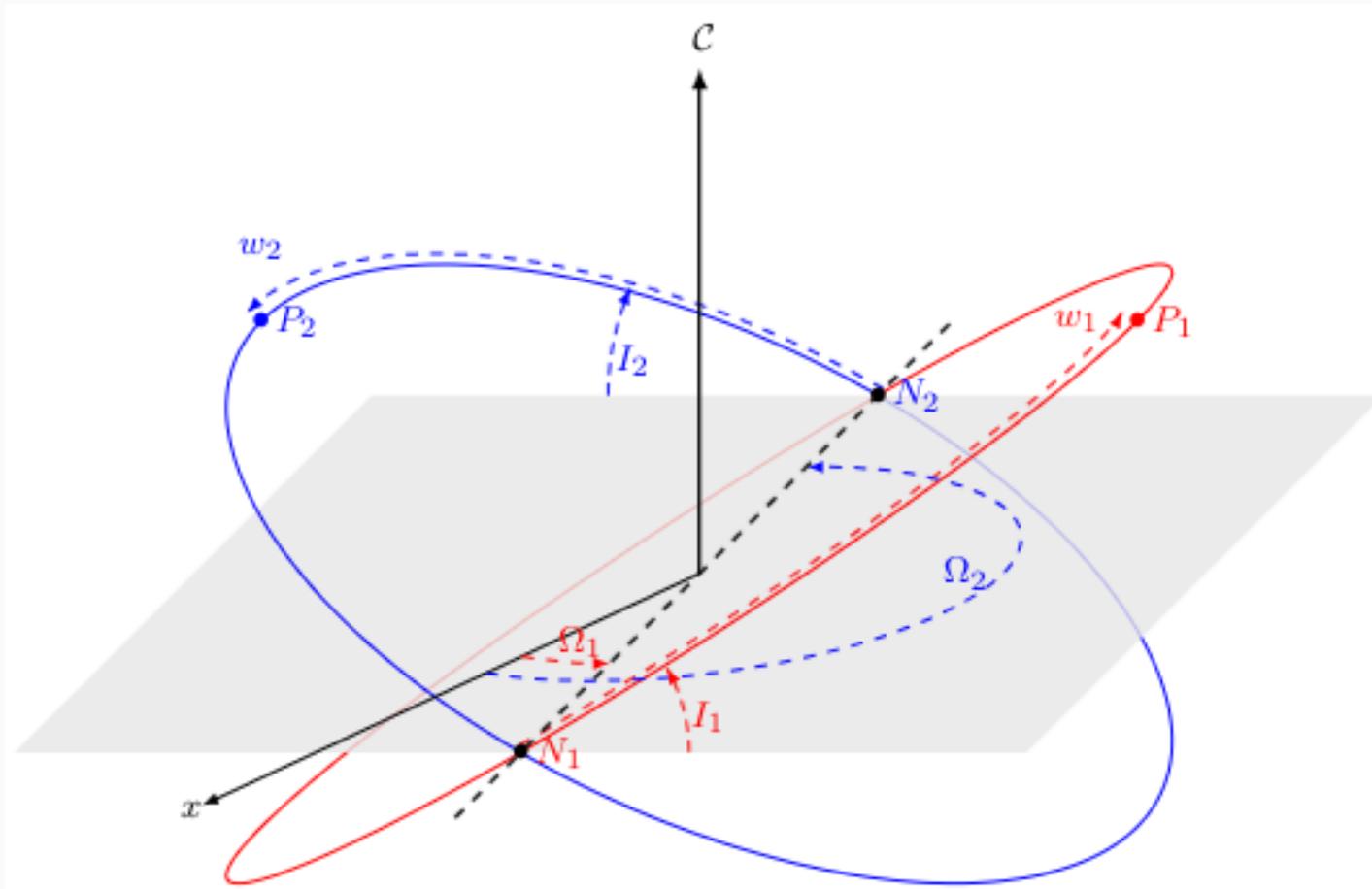
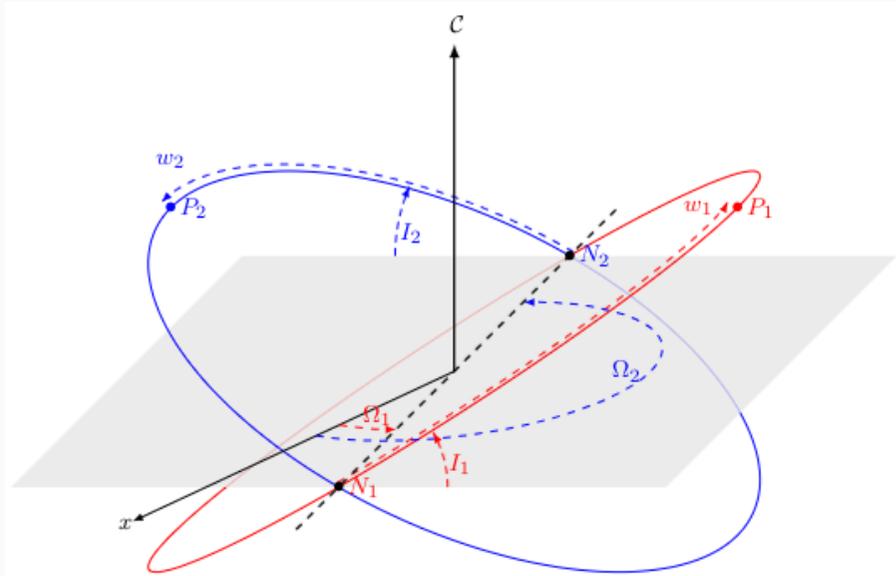


Figure 2: Canonical heliocentric : heliocentric positions, barycentric momenta; $(Oxy) \perp C$
Workshop LYSM, Roma 2026 – Alexandre Prieur

Complex Poincaré coordinates



$$\beta_j = \frac{m_0 m_j}{m_0 + m_j}, \mu_j = \mathcal{G}(m_0 + m_j)$$

$$\Lambda_j = \beta_j \sqrt{\mu_j} a_j$$

$$\tilde{\lambda}_j = M_j + \omega_j$$

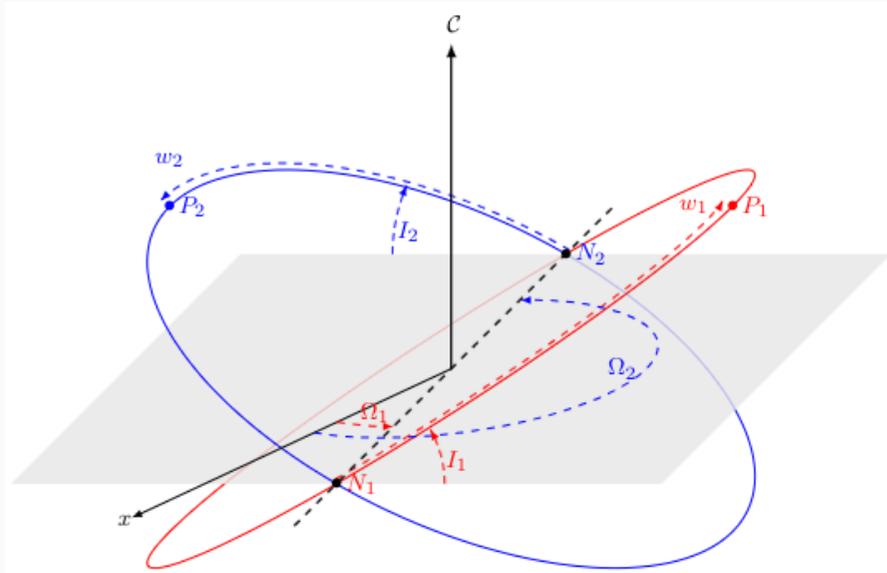
$$x_j = \underbrace{\sqrt{\Lambda_j - G_j}}_{\sim e_j} \exp(i\omega_j)$$

$$\tilde{x}_j = -i\bar{X}_j$$

$$\Phi_j = \mathbf{G}_{1_z} \pm \mathbf{G}_{2_z}$$

$$\varphi_j = \frac{\Omega_1 \pm \Omega_2}{2}$$

Jacobi reduction



$$\Omega_2 - \Omega_1 = \pi = 2\varphi_2$$

$\Rightarrow \varphi_1$ and Φ_1 ignorable

$$\Phi_1 = C_z = C = \text{constant}$$

$\Rightarrow \varphi_2$ ignorable

Jacobi reduction – consequences

We are left with 4 degrees of freedom and one parameter C

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draconic frame

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As we do not track the nodes, they are at a fixed position in this frame:
draconic frame

→ We haven't lost the nodes or the inclinations!

$$\begin{cases} J := I_1 + I_2, & \cos(J) = \frac{C^2 - G_1^2 - G_2^2}{2G_1G_2}, & C \cos(I_j) = G_j + G_{1-j} \cos(J) \\ \dot{\Omega}_j = \frac{\partial H}{\partial C} \end{cases}$$

Co-orbital motion in the planetary case

- Planetary problem

$$(1 - \varepsilon(m_1 + m_2), \varepsilon m_1, \varepsilon m_2), \varepsilon \ll 1$$

- ε -neighborhood of co-orbital motions

$$a_1, a_2 = a^* + \mathcal{O}(\varepsilon)$$

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We set

$$\begin{cases} Z_1 = \Lambda_1 - \Lambda_1^* & \zeta_1 = \Delta\tilde{\lambda}_j + \pi \\ Z_2 = \sum \Lambda_j - \sum \Lambda_j^* & \zeta_2 = \tilde{\lambda}_2 \end{cases}$$

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We stay in an $\sqrt{\varepsilon}$ -neighbourhood of Λ_j^* : $Z_j = \mathcal{O}\left(\varepsilon^{\frac{1}{2}}\right)$

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- Order 1 and ≥ 3 of order $\varepsilon^{\frac{3}{2}}$
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Circular case

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$$\bar{F}(Z_1, \zeta_1, C) = \alpha Z_1^2 + \varepsilon \beta F_1(\zeta_1, C)$$

β depending on m_1, m_2 ; F_1 independant of masses

A one-parameter family: $\mathcal{V}\mathcal{F}_L$

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- Analytical approximation
- Or numerical search

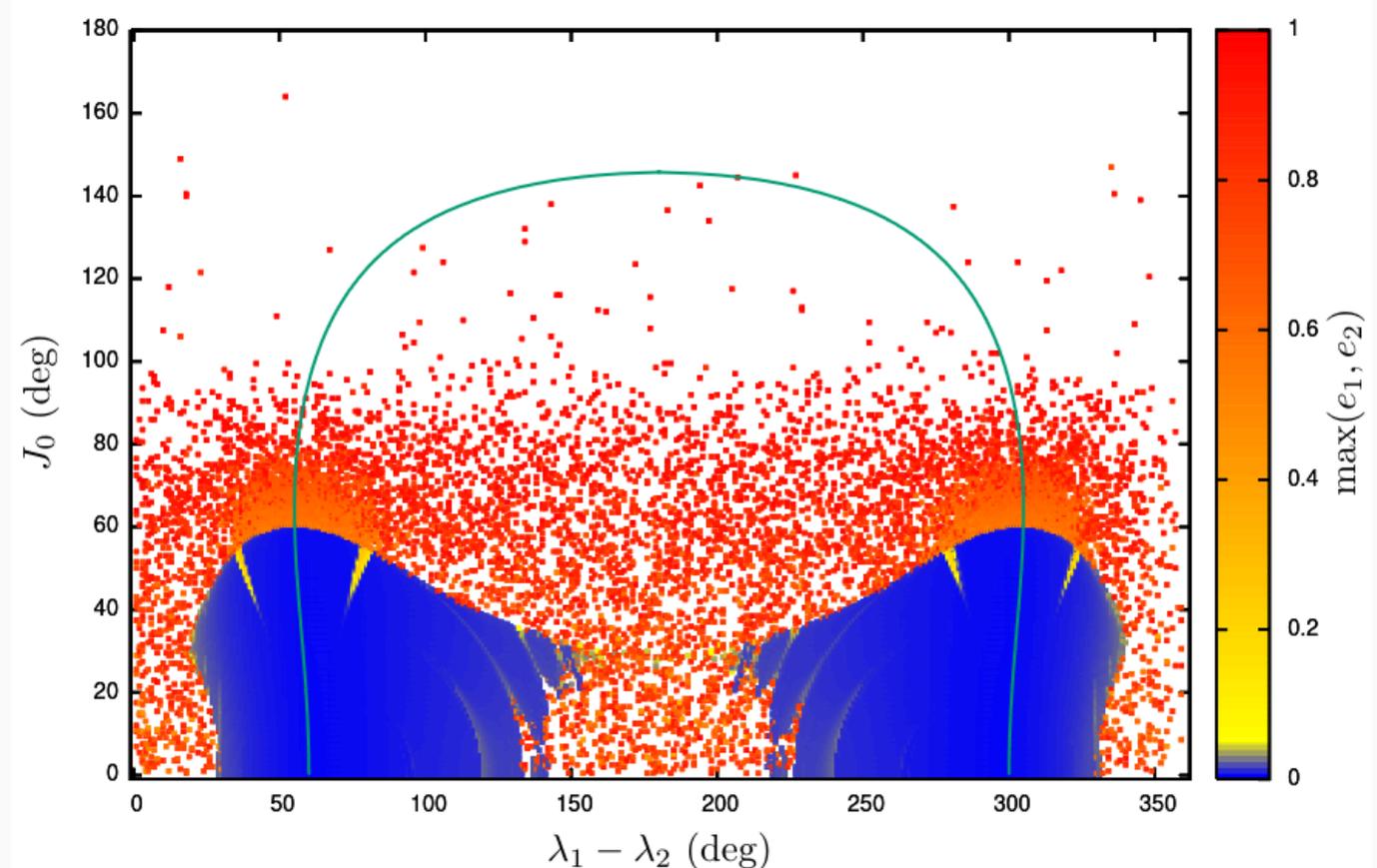
What can we say?

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Stability: $\mathcal{V}\mathcal{F}_L$ is stable
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Numerical search in the full problem

A new set of coordinates

- Numerical integration: need coordinates with **explicit** expression of the Hamiltonian/vector field
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Lagrange in Hill coordinates

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$$r_j = a^* \quad R_j = \frac{\sqrt{3}\omega^* a^* m_1 m_2}{2M}$$
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These are not action-angle variables: Lagrange isn't a fixed point. But this allows for an explicit hamiltonian

How to search for periodic orbits?

Looking for zeros of

$$f : \begin{cases} \mathbb{R}^n & \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n \\ (\mathbf{x}; C) & \mapsto \Phi_T(\mathbf{x}; C) - \mathbf{x} \end{cases}$$

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But the zeros aren't locally unique!

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Looking for zeros of

$$f : \begin{cases} \mathbb{R}^n & \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n+m} \\ (\mathbf{x}; C) & \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} \Phi_T(\mathbf{x}; C) - \mathbf{x} \\ \sigma(\mathbf{x}; C) \end{pmatrix} \end{cases}$$

But the zeros aren't locally unique!

Solution: add **sections**

How to search for periodic orbits?

In our case:

$$\begin{cases} \sigma_1(\mathbf{x}; C) = w_1 + w_2 \\ \sigma_2(\mathbf{x}; C) = J - J_0 \end{cases} \quad \text{Selecting a point on the orbit}$$

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Rootfinding algorithm: multi-dimensional **Newton-Raphson** method

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Rootfinding algorithm: multi-dimensional **Newton-Raphson** method

Numerical integration with `taylor` software (**Jorba and Zou, 2005**) via

`TaylorIntegration.jl` (in **julia** (**Bezanson et al., 2017**))

Small masses: $\varepsilon = 10^{-3}$

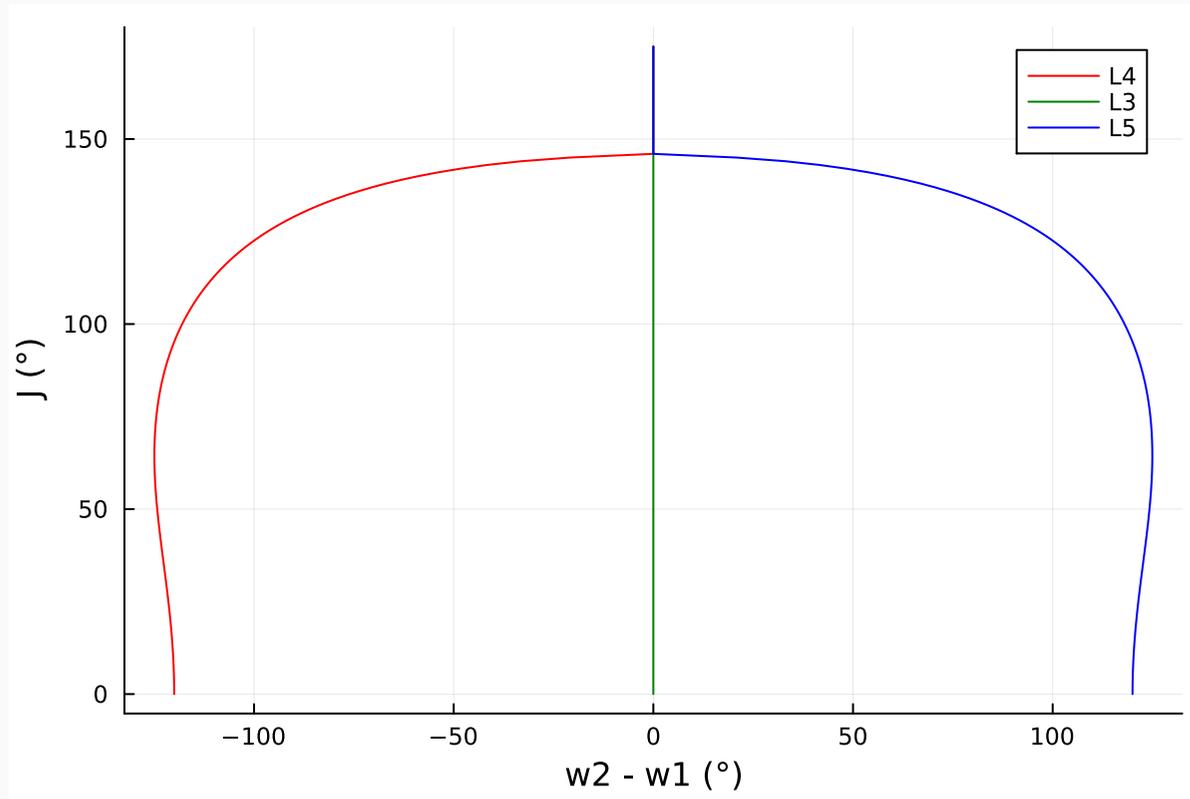
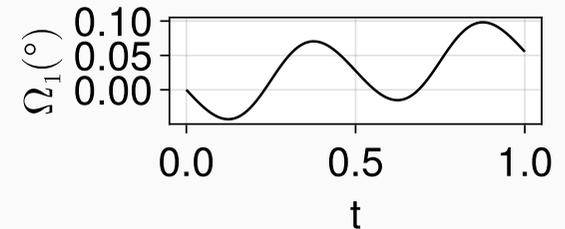
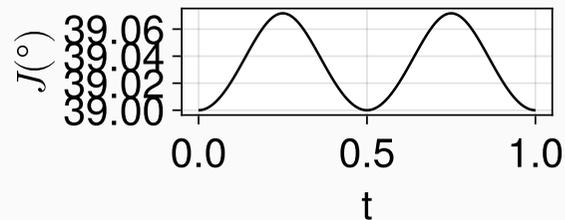
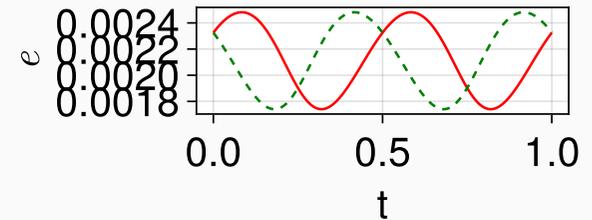
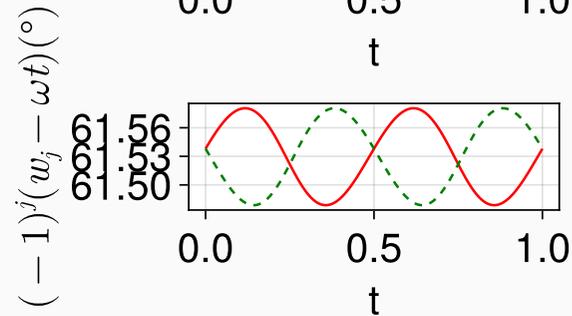
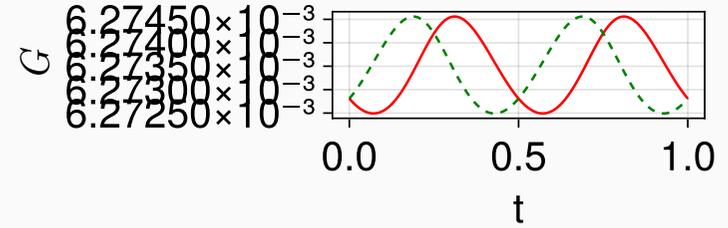
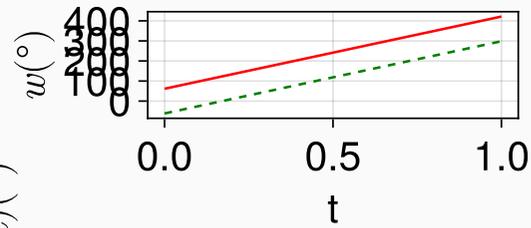
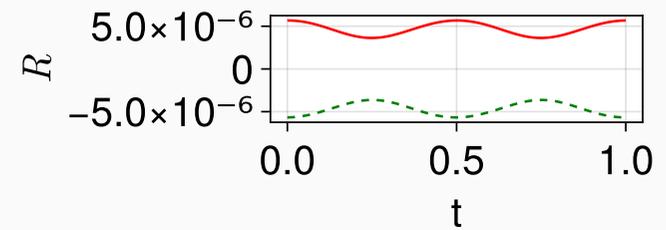
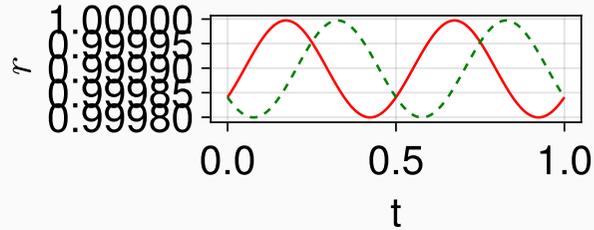


Figure 7: $\mathcal{V}\mathcal{F}_L$ from L_4 and L_5 , $\mathcal{V}\mathcal{F}_E$ from L_3



Coordinates along trajectory at $\varepsilon = 10^{-3}$

Coordinates at $J = 40^\circ$



Symetries

Half-time symetry

$$\forall \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{V}\mathcal{F}_L, \Phi_{\frac{T}{2}}(\mathbf{x}; C) = -\mathbf{x}$$

$$\Rightarrow f : (\mathbf{x}; C) \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} \Phi_{\frac{T}{2}}(\mathbf{x}; C) + \mathbf{x} \\ \sigma_1(\mathbf{x}; C) \\ \sigma_2(\mathbf{x}; C) \end{pmatrix}$$

Cuts integration time in half

Time-reversal symetry

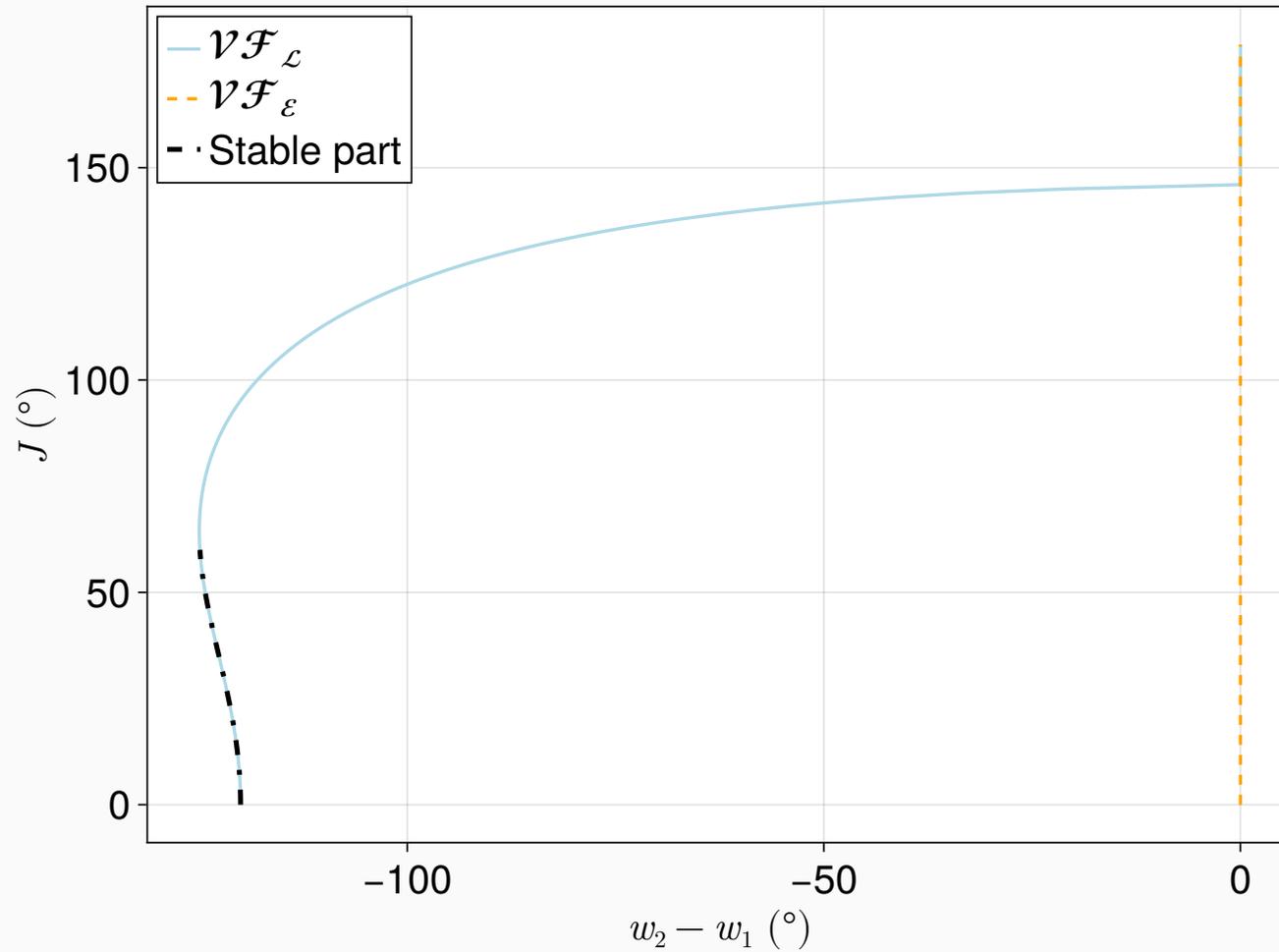
$$\forall \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{V}\mathcal{F}_L, t \in \mathbb{R},$$

$$\Phi_{-t}(\mathbf{x}; C) = R_y(\pi) p_{1 \leftrightarrow 2} \Phi_t(\mathbf{x}; C)$$

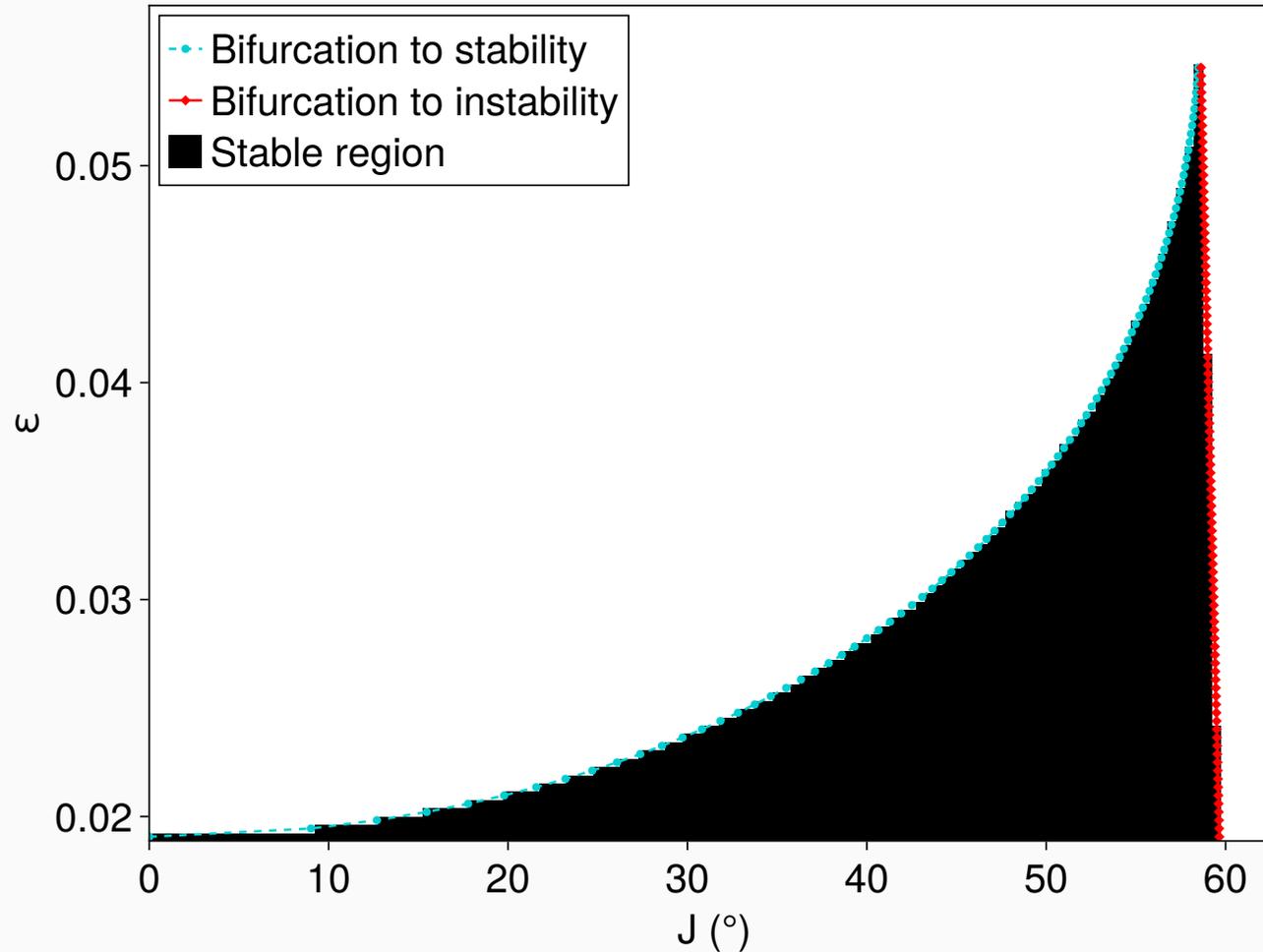
Allows to add sections

$$\sigma_3(\mathbf{x}; C) = \begin{pmatrix} r_1 - r_2 \\ R_1 + R_2 \\ G_1 - G_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Stability at $\varepsilon = 10^{-3}$

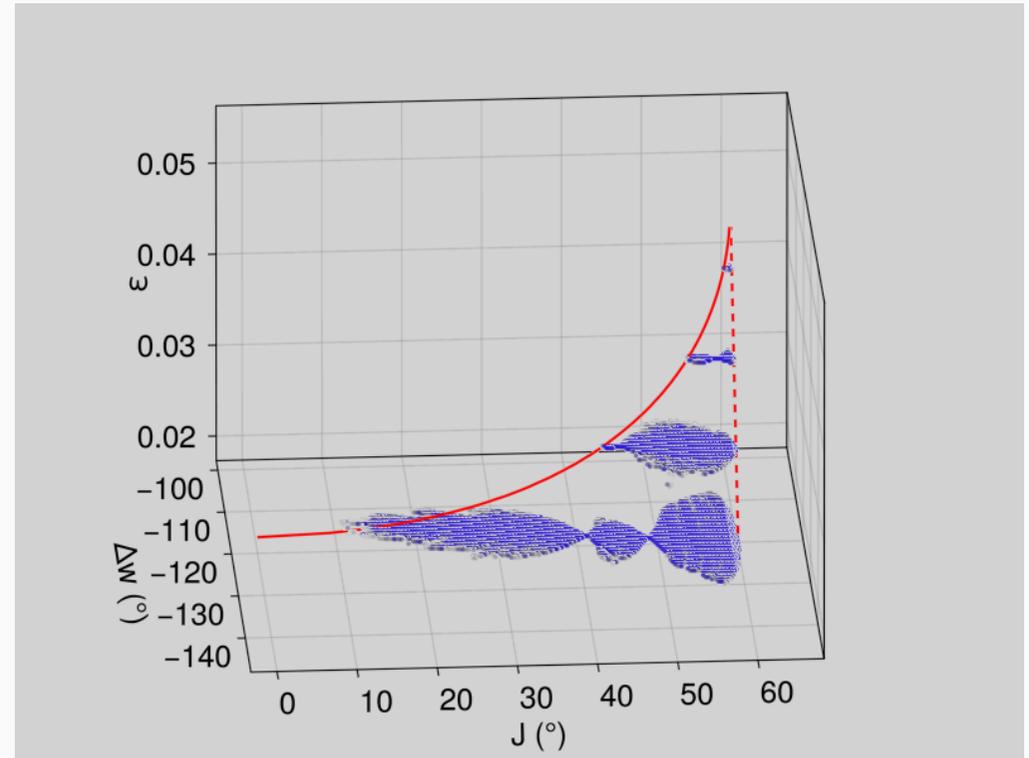
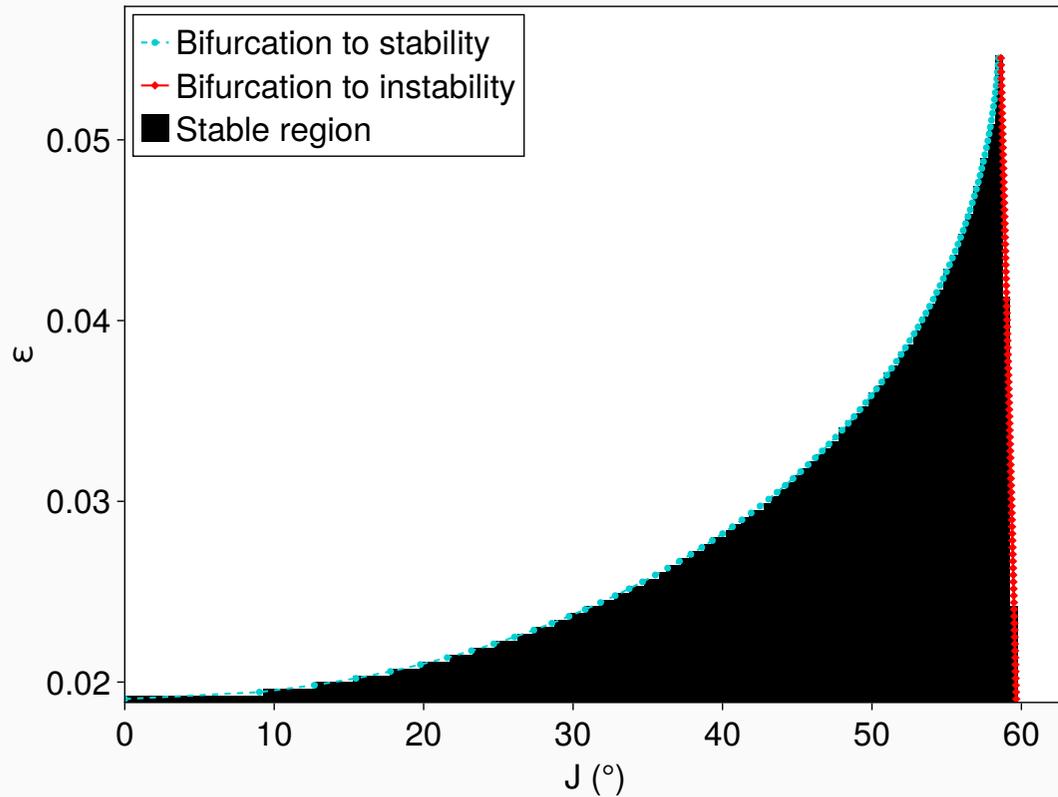


Increasing masses: above Gascheau's value

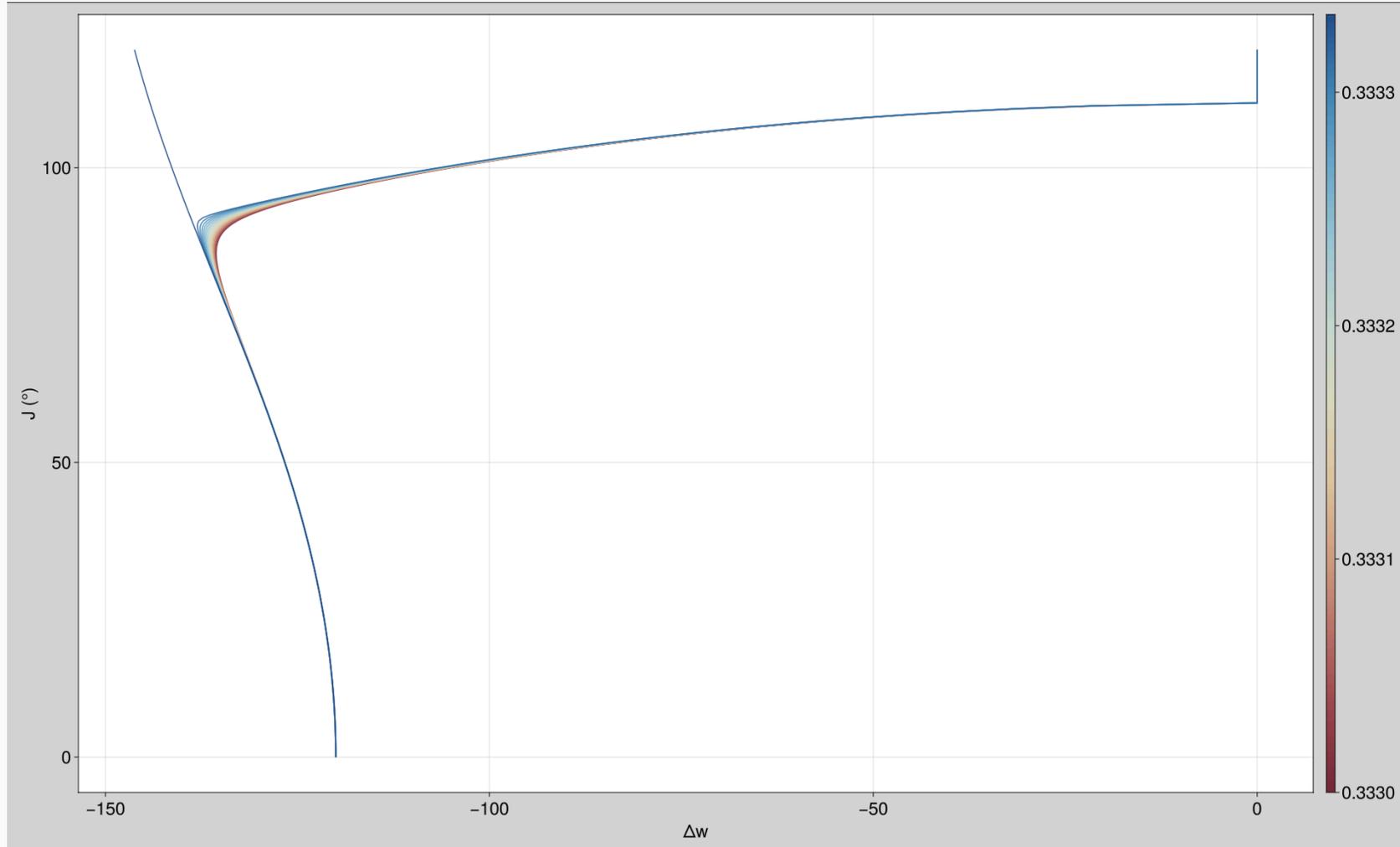


Similar to (Roberts,
2002)

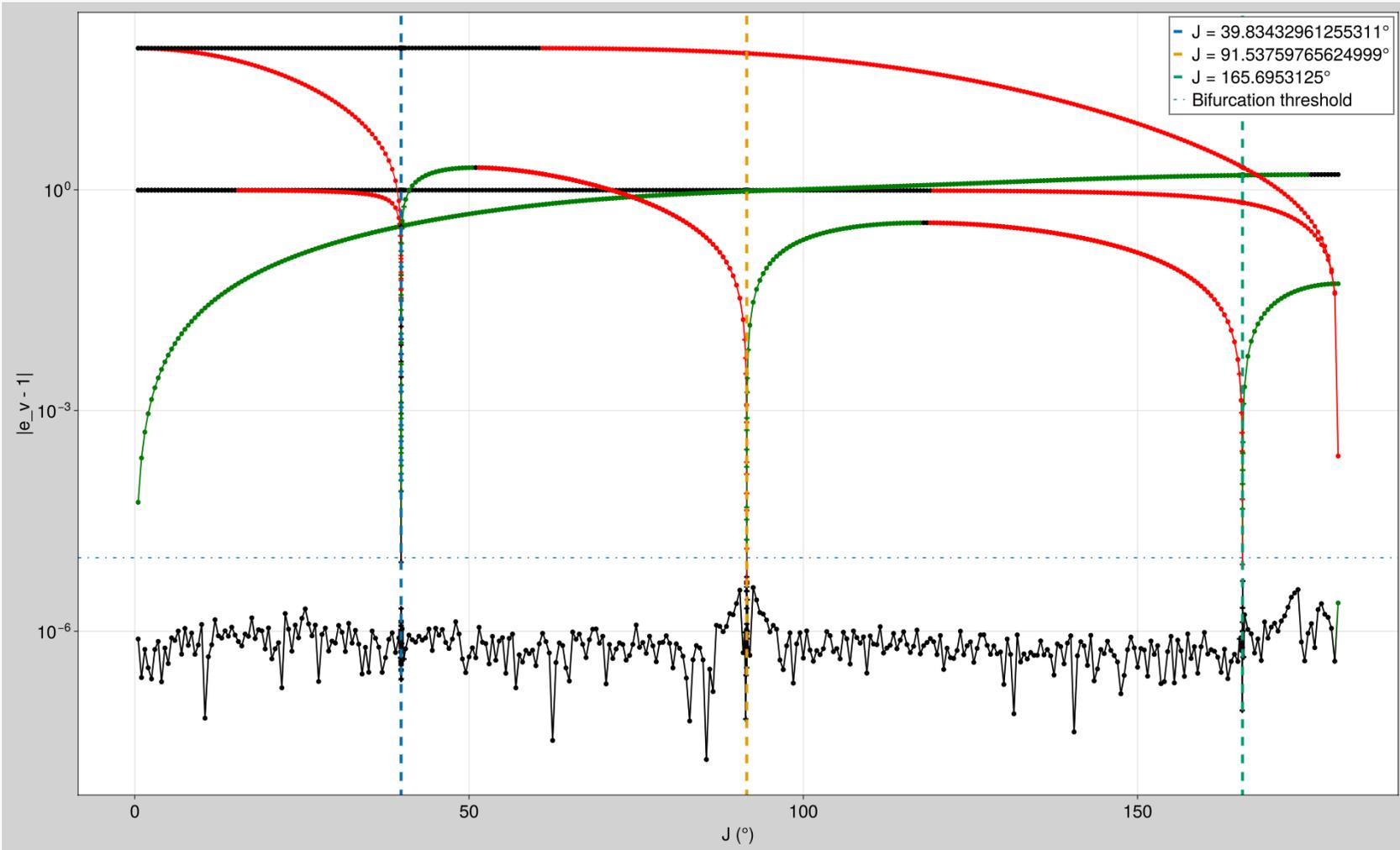
Above Gascheau's value (long-term stability)



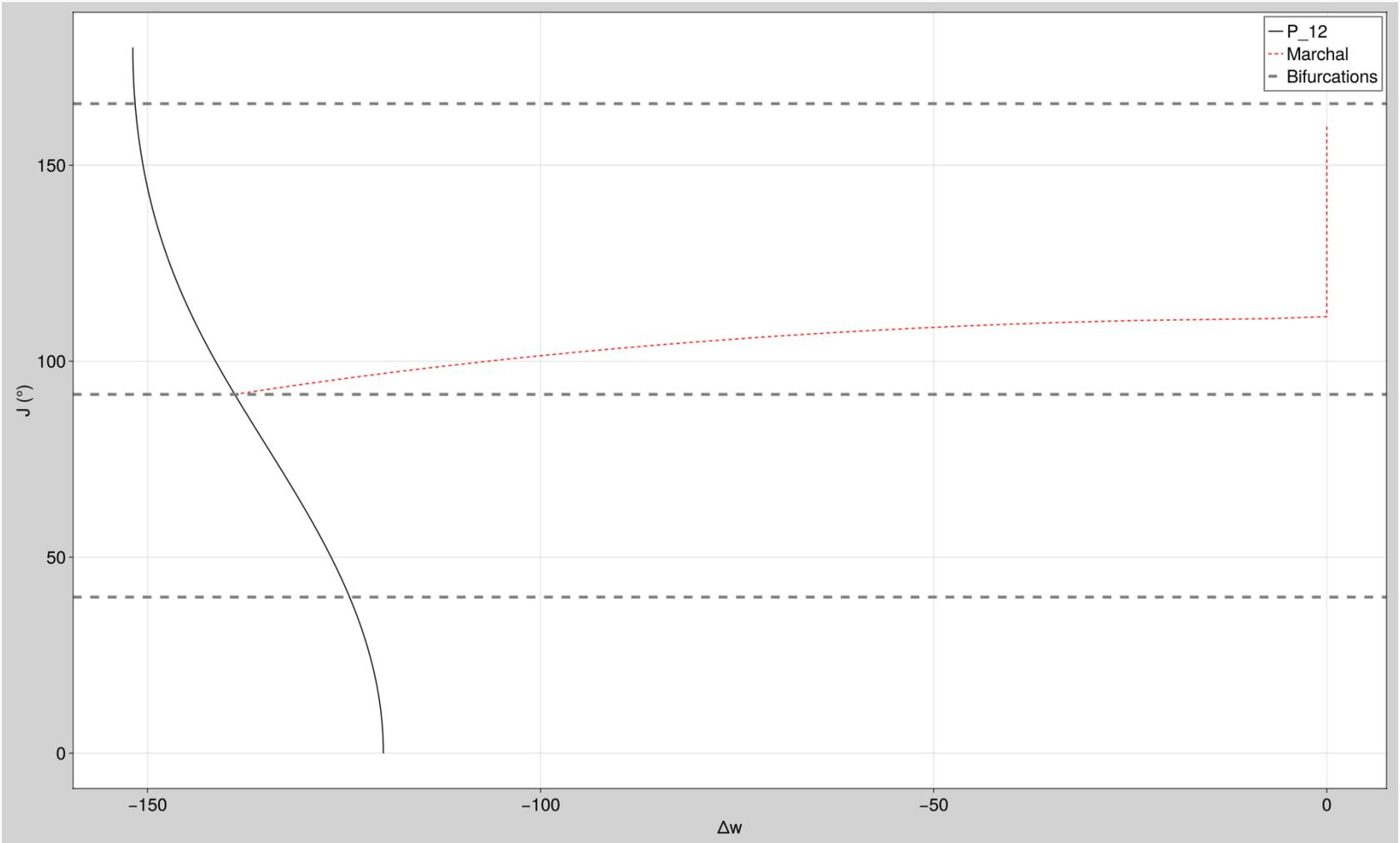
Approaching equal masses



Bifurcations at equal masses



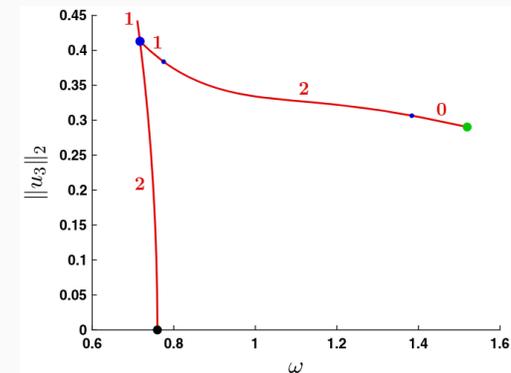
$\mathcal{V}\mathcal{F}_L$ and P_{12} : Marchal's family



The other bifurcations



- Third bifurcation unexplored for now
- First bifurcation to a “lazy Eight”
 - Cf. (Calleja et al., 2021), and Hénot, Fejoz & Chenciner



Bifurcations at non-equal masses

These bifurcations also exist at low masses!

P_{12} confirmed at almost-equal masses ($\frac{1}{3} - \varepsilon \approx 10^{-5}$)

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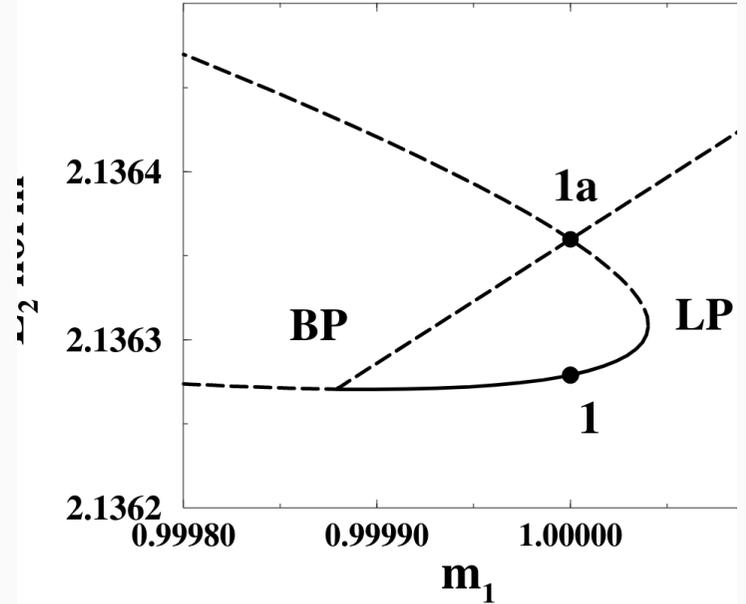
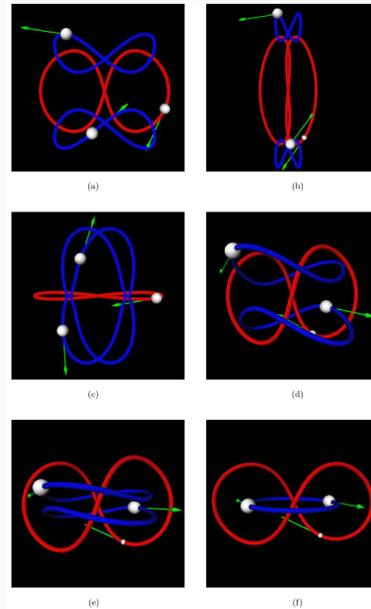
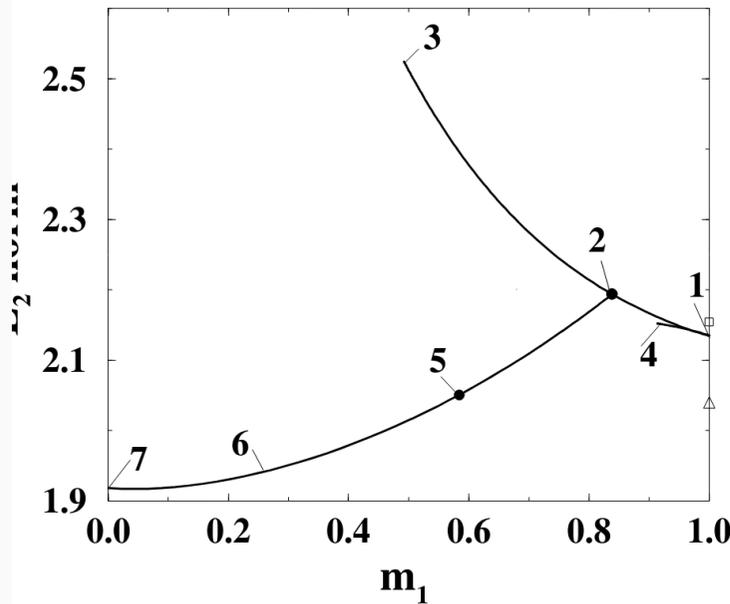


Figure 19: (Doedel et al., 2003)

Conclusion

Answering our initial questions

Q1: Does the family persist in the non-restricted/non-average problem?

- Yes

Q2:

Q3:

Q4:

Answering our initial questions

Q1: Does the family persist in the non-restricted/non-average problem?

- Yes

Q2: What is the stability of the orbits along this family?

- Stability changes, stability remnants beyond Gascheau

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Q3: Does it have an impact on the global stability of the co-orbital region?

- Yes

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- Bifurcations

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Q1 to Q3: in an article, in review (Prieur and Robutel, 2026)

Future work

- Exploring bifurcations at equal masses
- Following P_{12} at non-equal masses
- Applying `TaylorInterface.jl` to other problems

Thank you for your attention!

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