

# Marchal's family

## Inclined co-orbitals in the three-body problem

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With Philippe Robutel & Jacques Fejoz

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# Introduction

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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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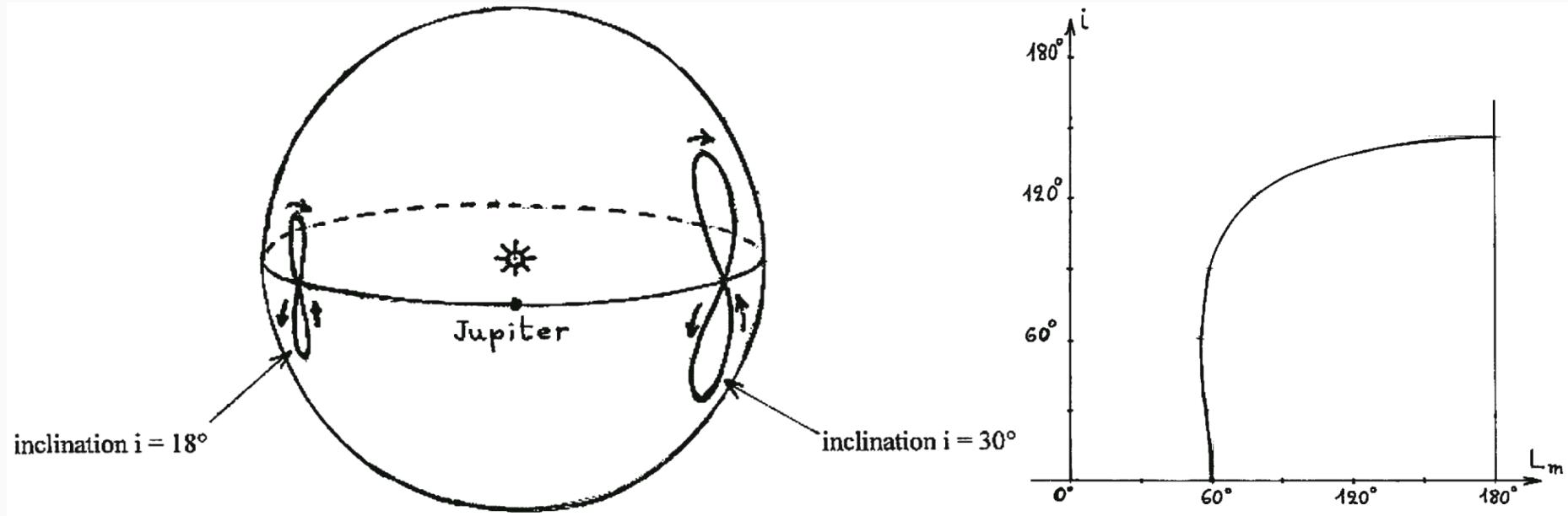
Circular librations

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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$\mathcal{VF}_L$  in the average circular  
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# Frame of reference

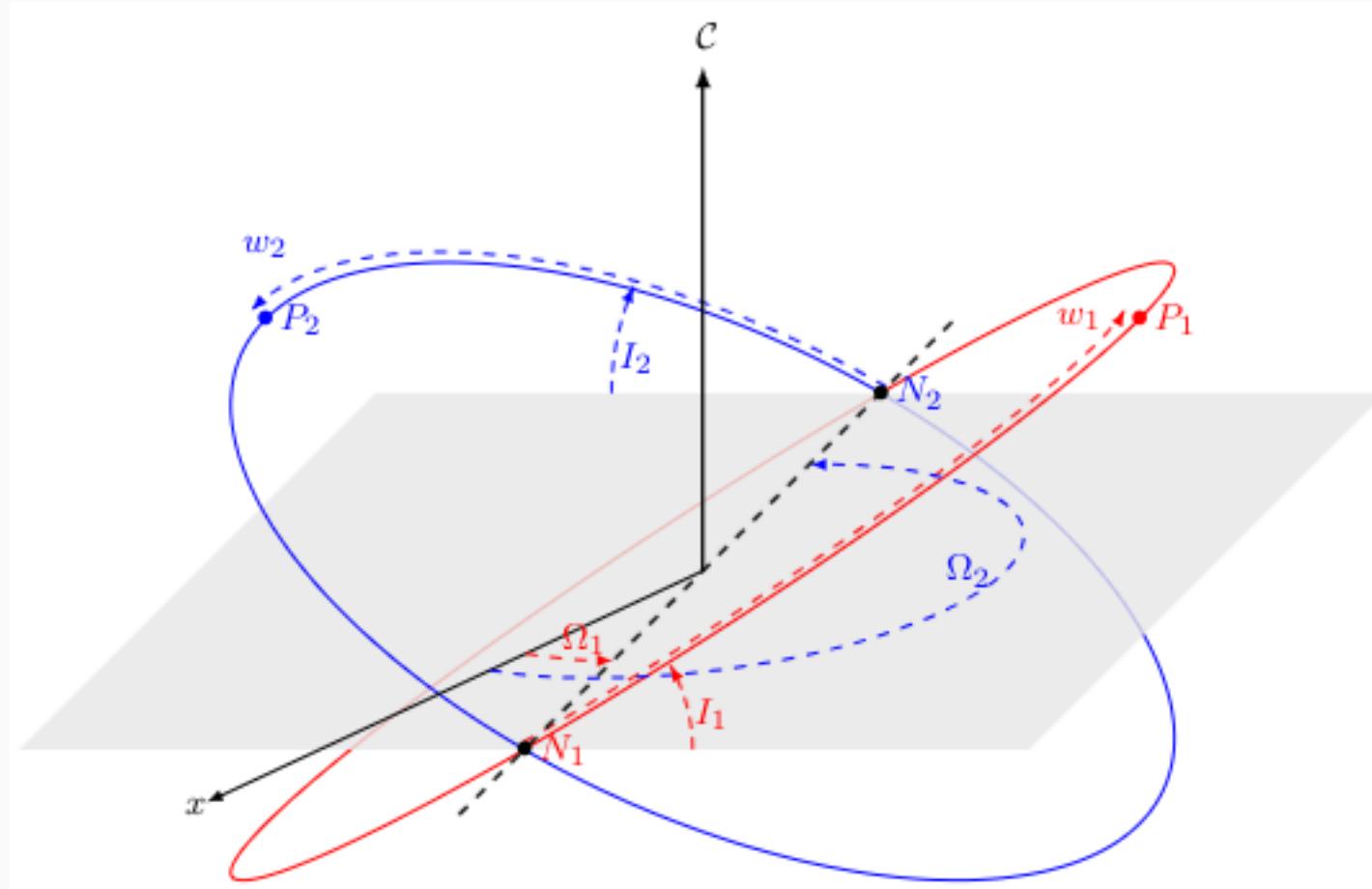
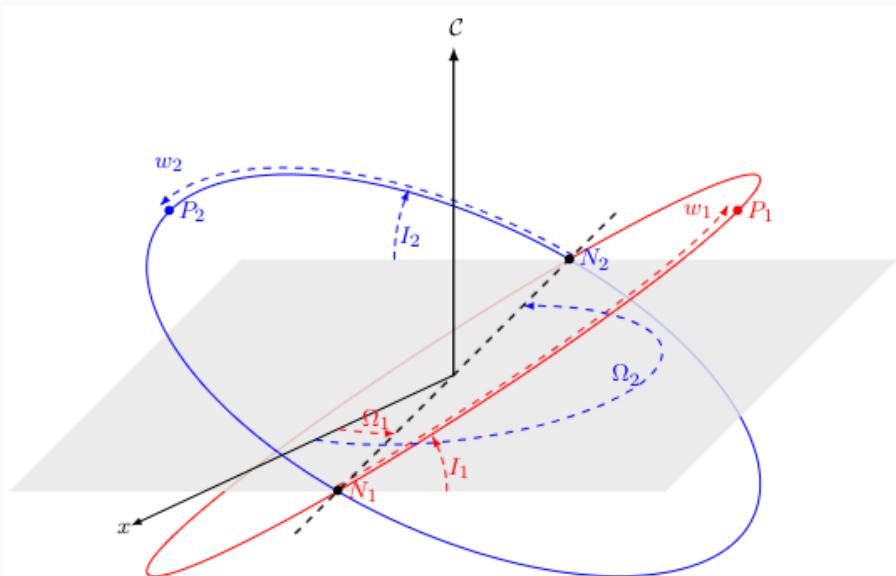


Figure 2: Canonical heliocentric : heliocentric positions, barycentric momenta;  $(Oxy) \perp c$   
Workshop LYSM, Roma 2026 – Alexandre Prieur

# Complex Poincaré coordinates



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

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

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

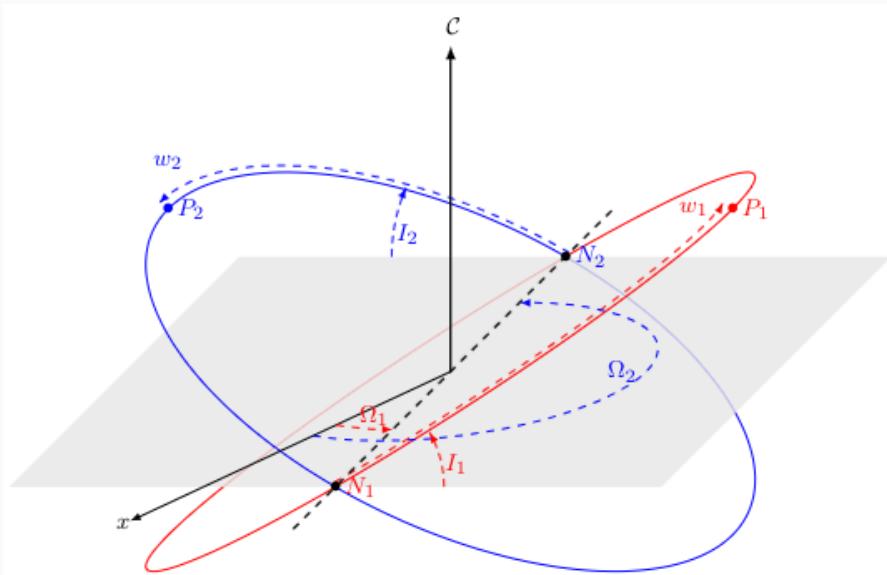
$$x_j = \underbrace{\sqrt{\Lambda_j - G_j}}_{\sim e_j} \exp(i\omega_j)$$

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

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

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

# Jacobi reduction



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

$\Rightarrow \varphi_1$  and  $\Phi_1$  ignorable

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

$\Rightarrow \varphi_2$  ignorable

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

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

# Co-orbital motion in the planetary case

- Planetary problem

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

- $\varepsilon$ -neighborhood of co-orbital motions

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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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$$H(Z, \zeta, x, \tilde{x}, C) = H_K^{(2)}(Z) + \varepsilon H_P(0, \zeta, x, \tilde{x}, C) + \mathcal{O}\left(\varepsilon^{\frac{3}{2}}\right)$$

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$$\bar{F}(z_1, \zeta_1, c) = \alpha z_1^2 + \varepsilon \beta F_1(\zeta_1, c)$$

$\beta$  depending on  $m_1, m_2$ ;  $F_1$  independant of masses

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- Analytical approximation
- Or numerical search

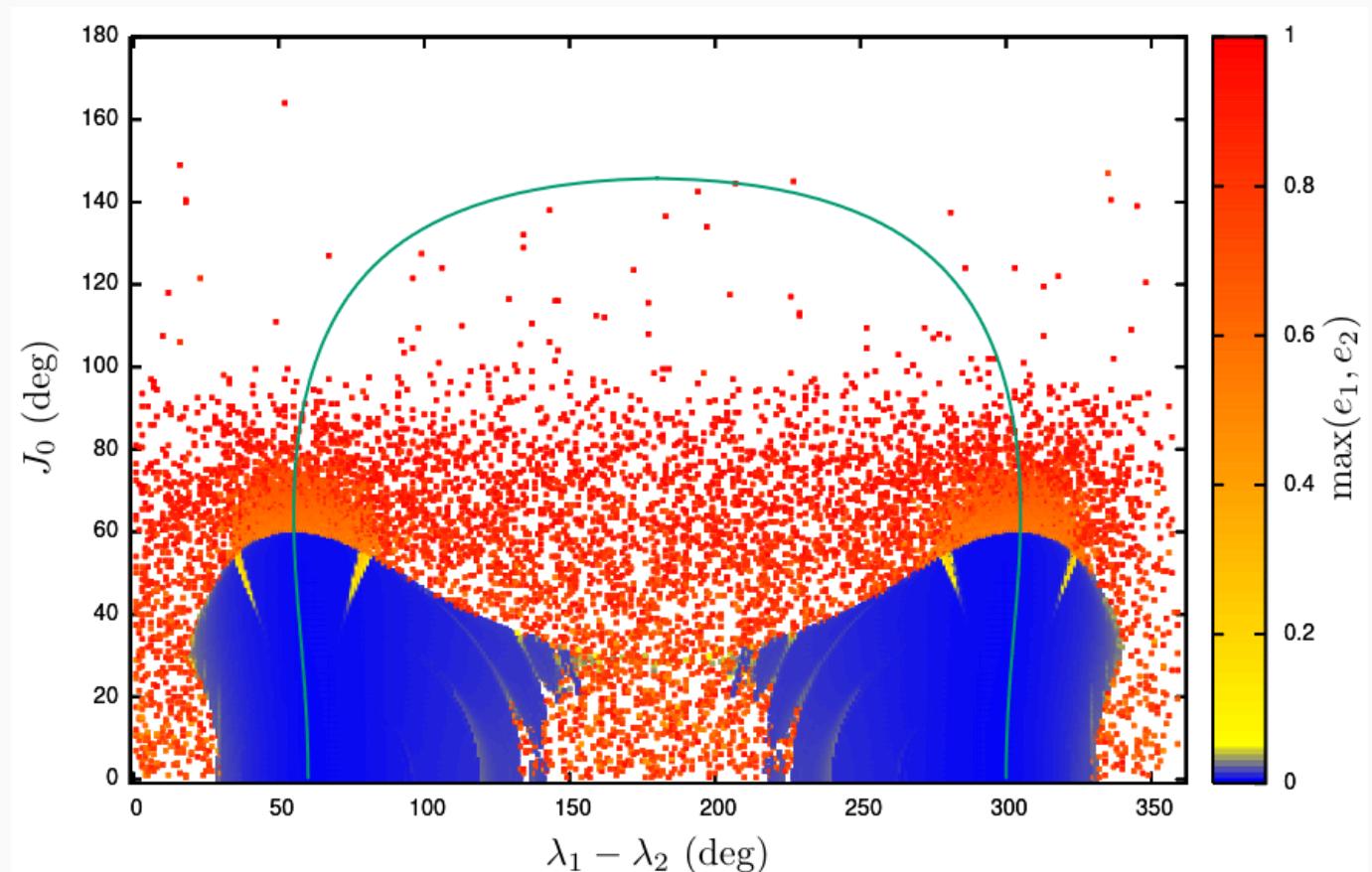
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Stability:  $\mathcal{VF}_L$  is stable  
in the average **circular**  
problem



# Numerical search in the full problem

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- Numerical integration: need coordinates with **explicit** expression of the Hamiltonian/vector field
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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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$$f : \begin{cases} \mathbb{R}^n & \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n+m} \\ (\mathbf{x}; C) \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} \Phi_T(\mathbf{x}; C) - \mathbf{x} \\ \sigma(\mathbf{x}; C) \end{pmatrix} \end{cases}$$

But the zeros aren't locally unique!

Solution: add **sections**

# How to search for periodic orbits?

In our case:

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

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Focusing on the case of **two equal masses**:  $(1 - 2\epsilon, \epsilon, \epsilon)$

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

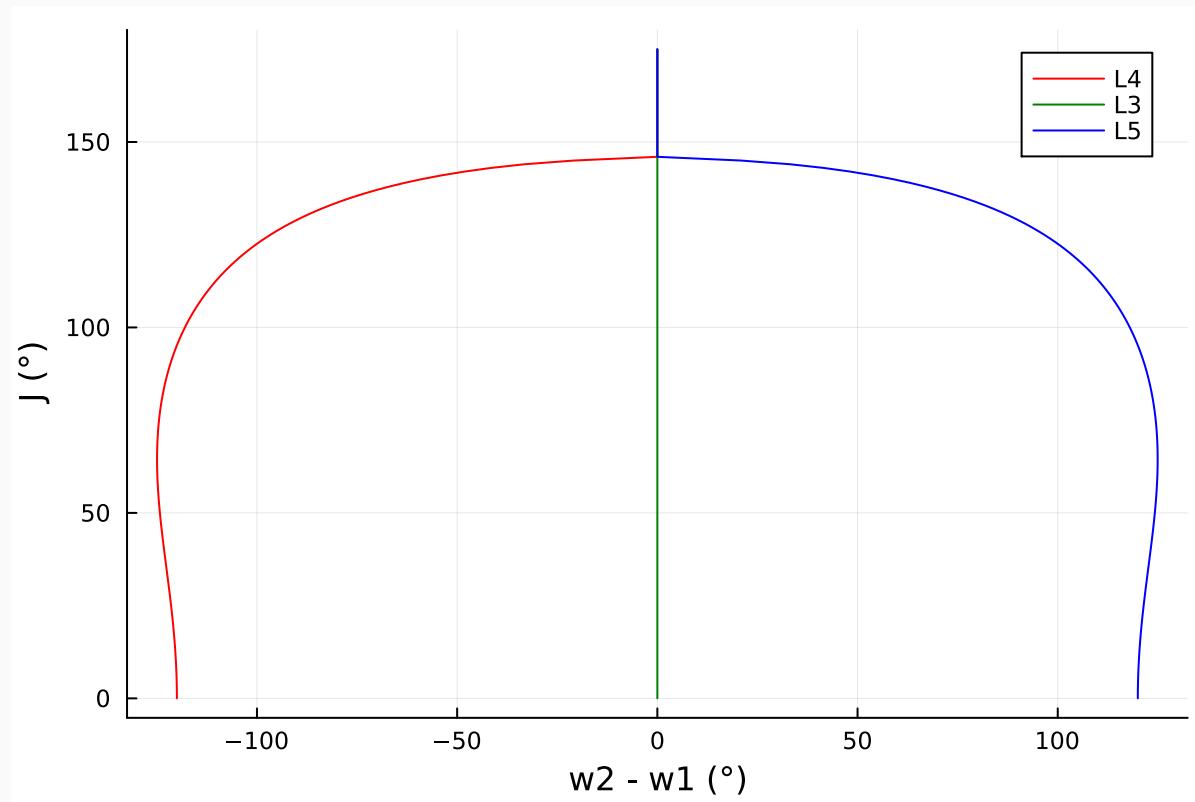
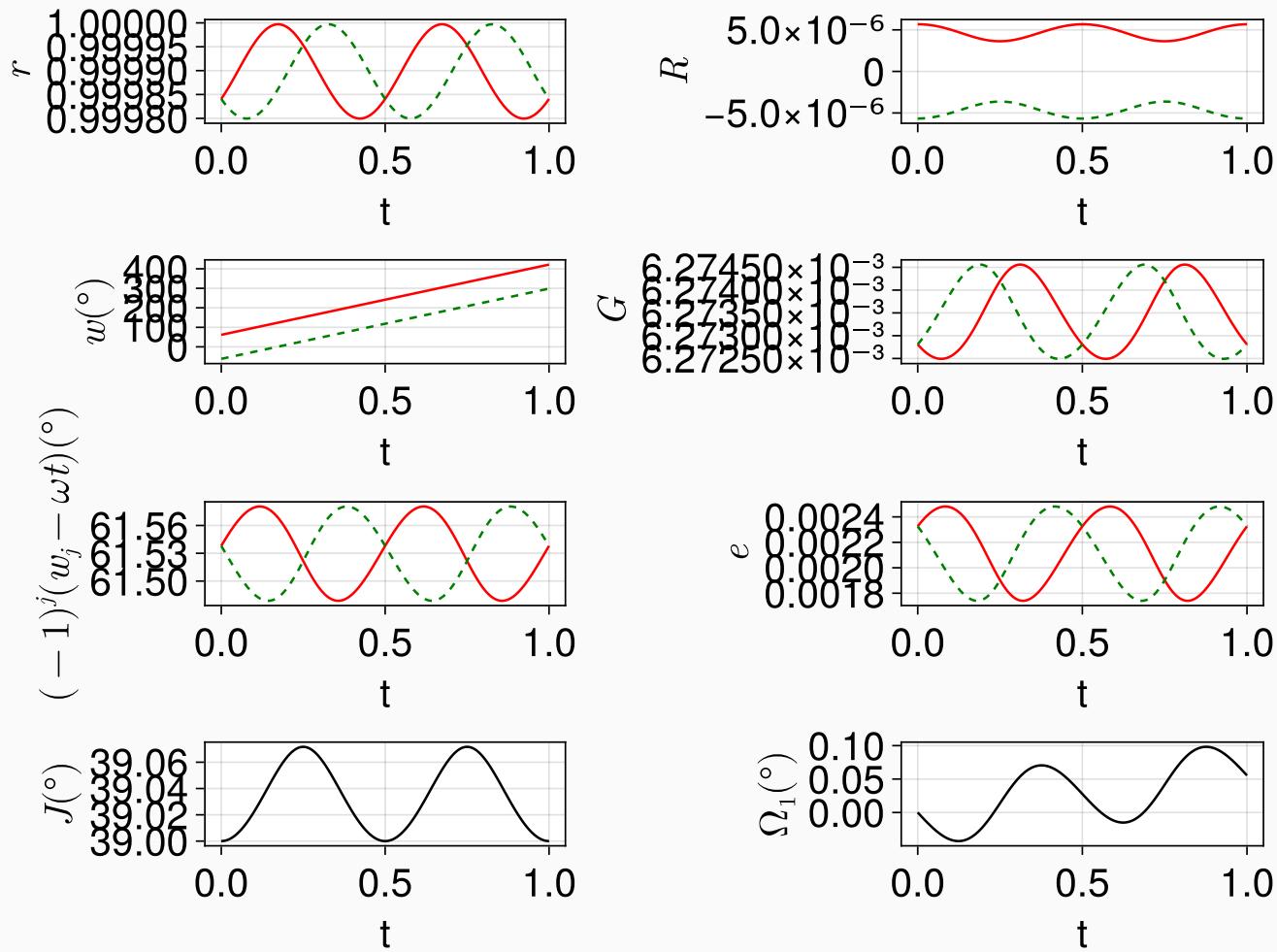


Figure 7:  $\mathcal{VF}_L$  from  $L_4$  and  $L_5$ ,  $\mathcal{VF}_E$  from  $L_3$

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

Coordinates at  $J = 40^\circ$



# Symmetries

Half-time symmetry

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

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

Cuts integration time in half

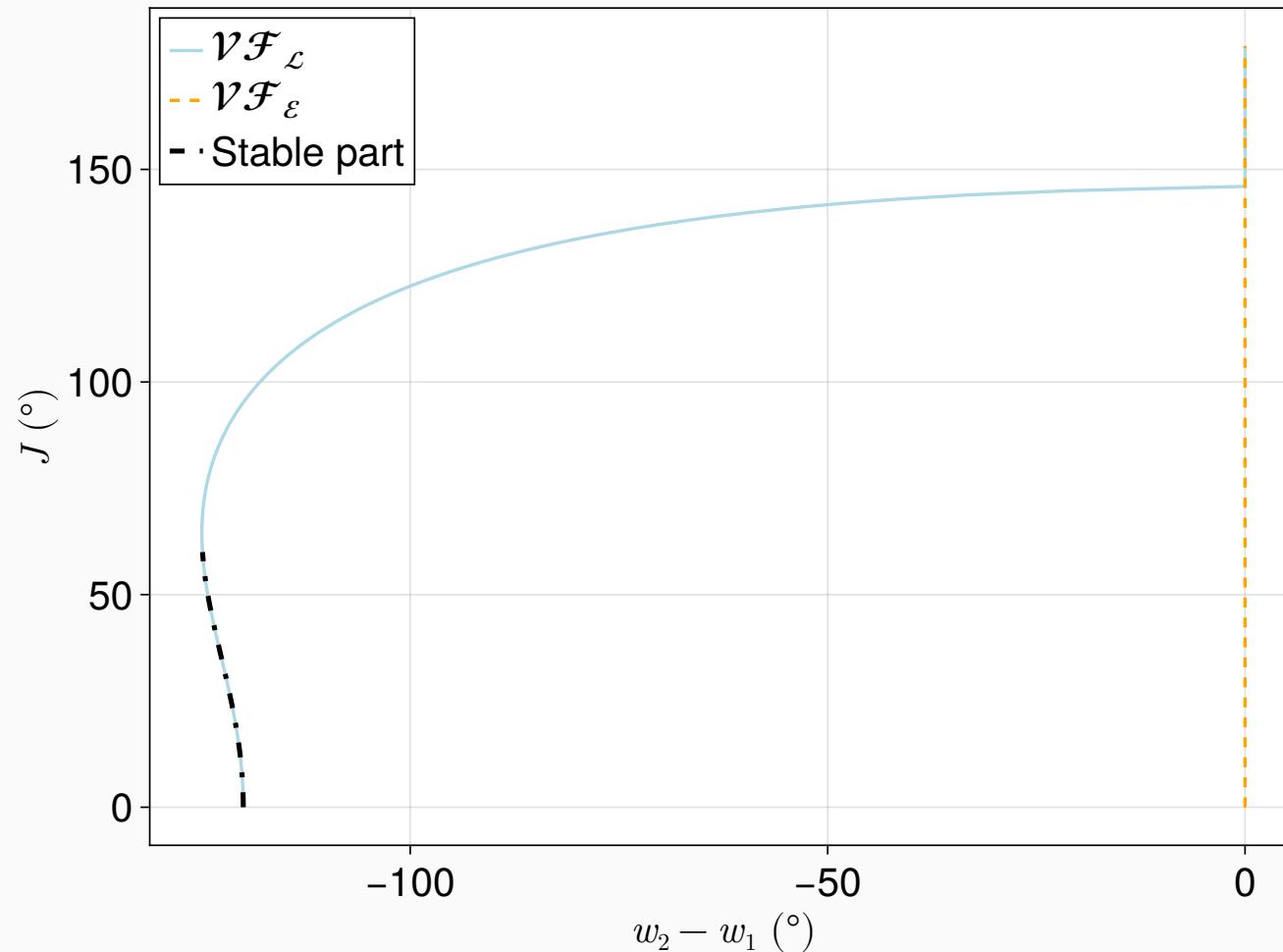
Time-reversal symmetry

$$\forall \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{VF}_L, t \in \mathbb{R},$$
$$\Phi_{-t}(\mathbf{x}; C) = R_y(\pi)p_{1 \leftrightarrow 2}\Phi_t(\mathbf{x}; C)$$

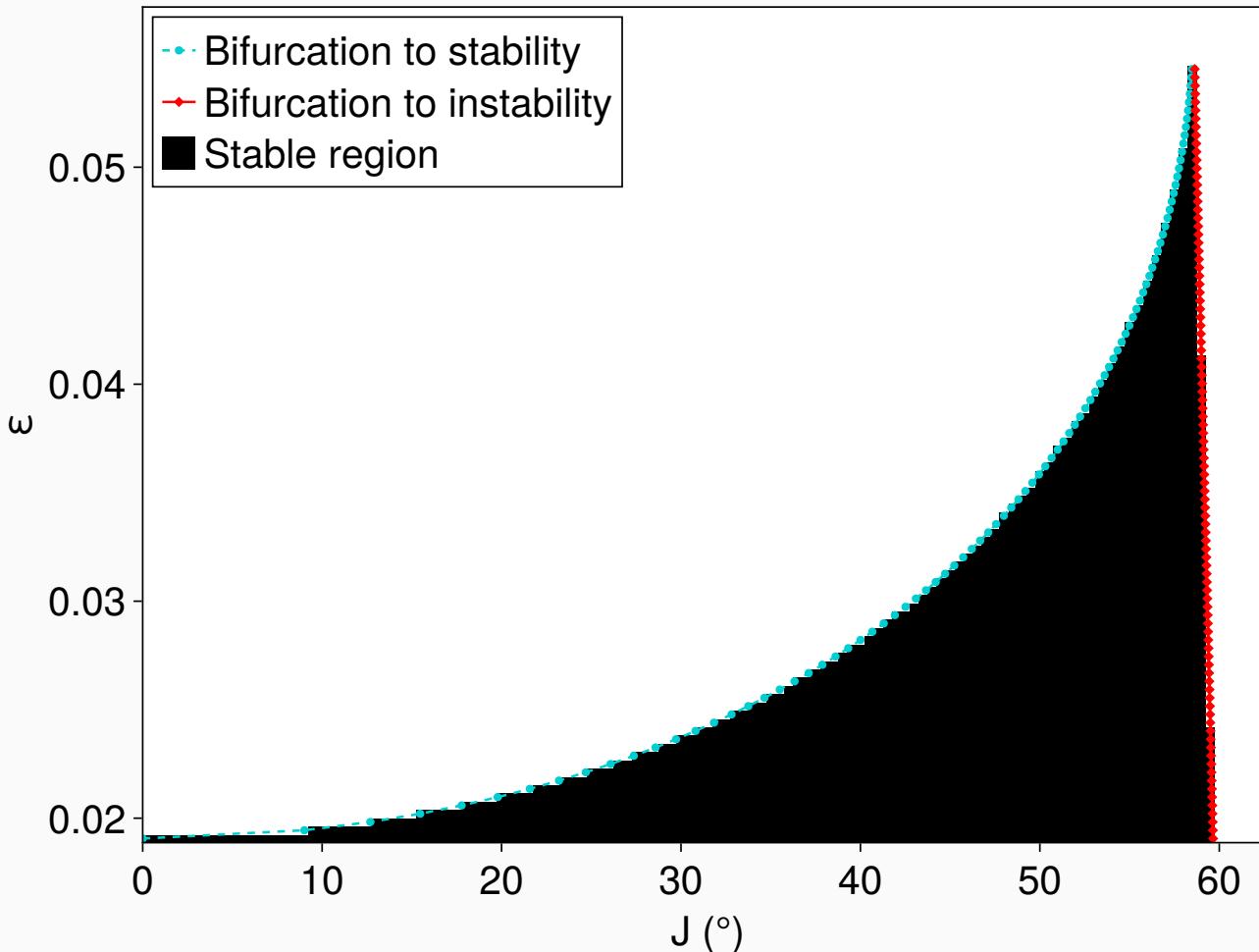
Allows to add sections

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

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

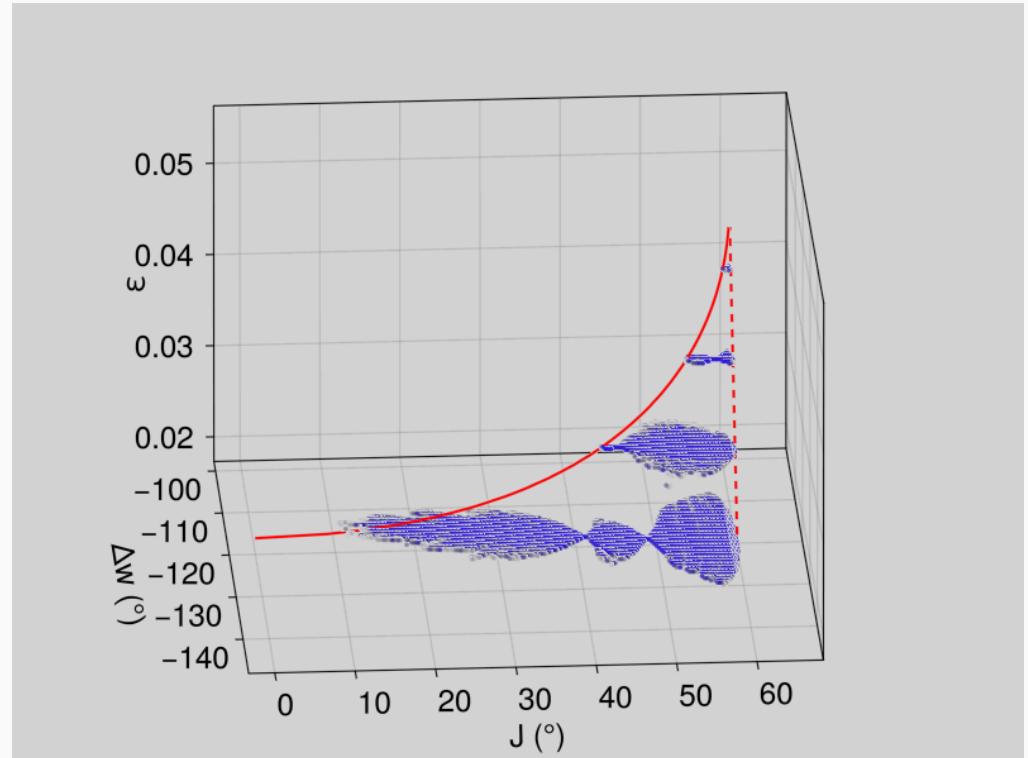
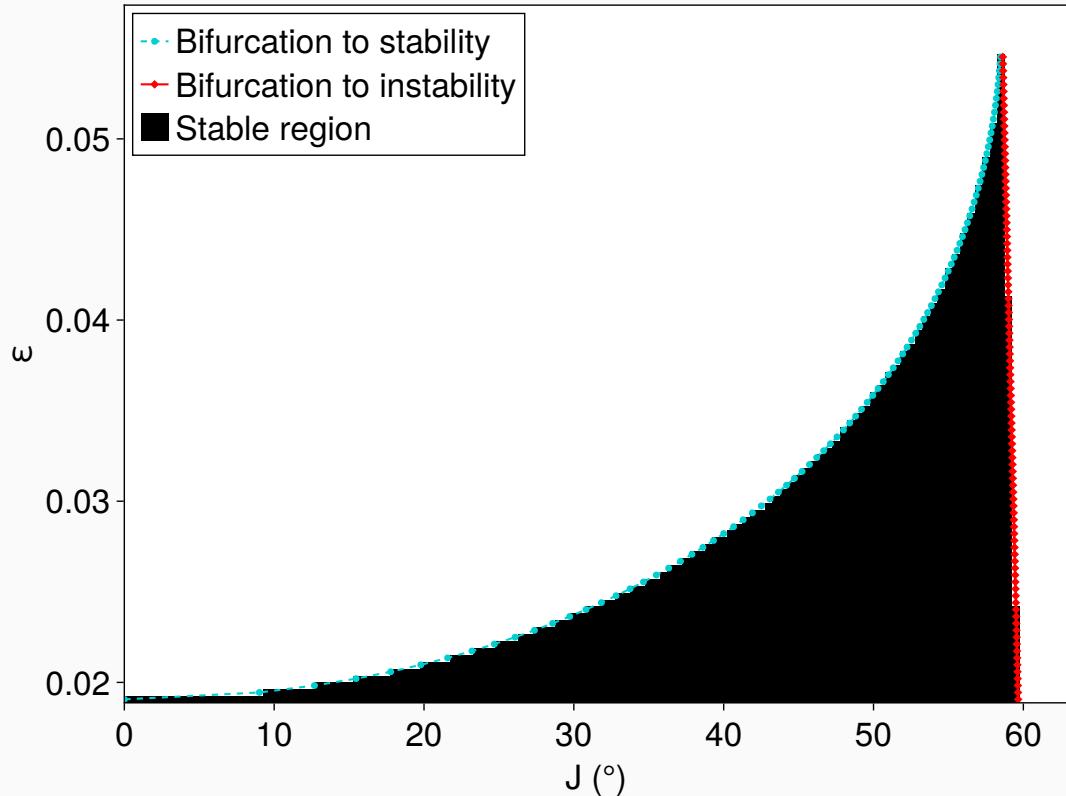


# Increasing masses: above Gascheau's value

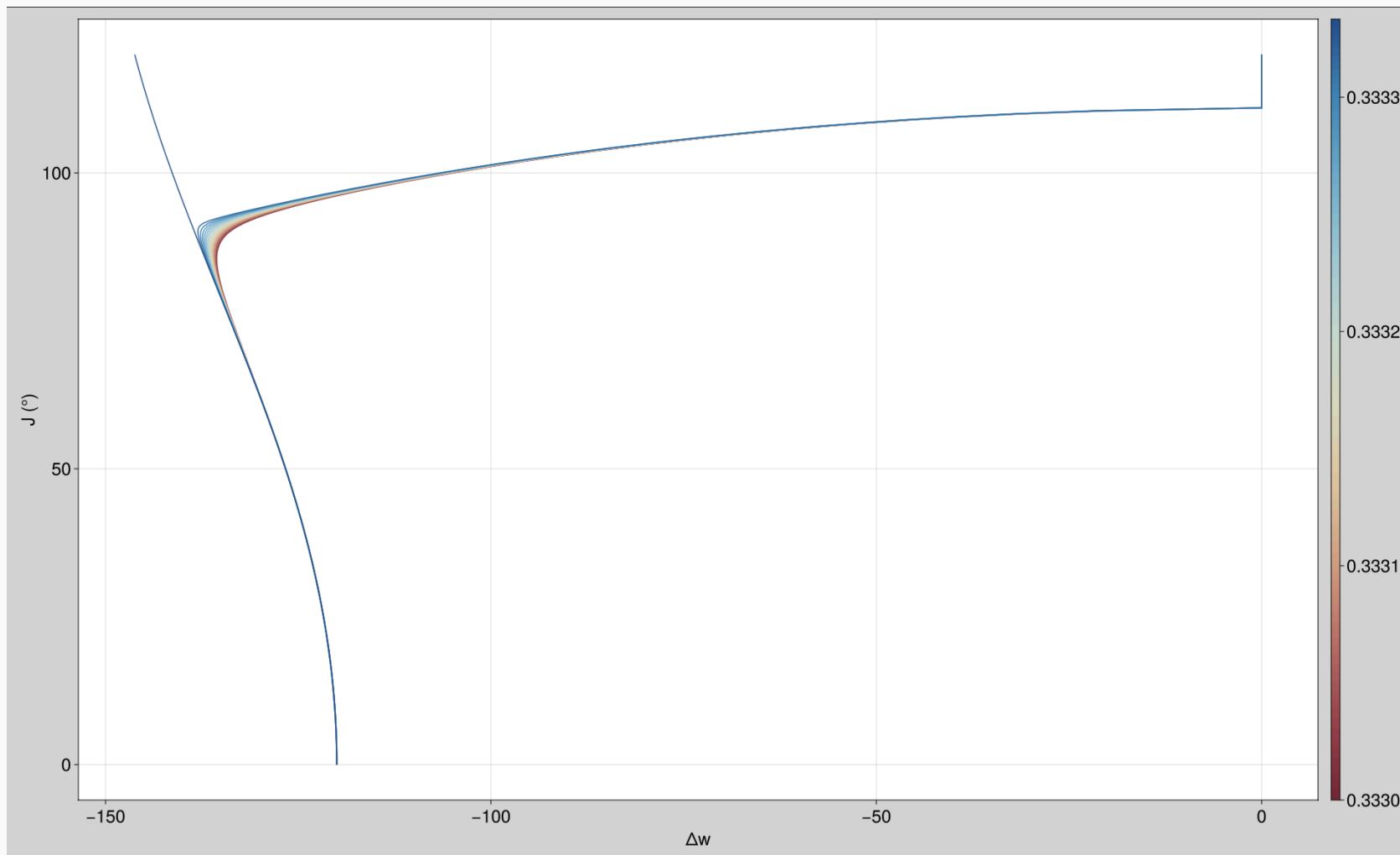


Similar to (Roberts,  
2002)

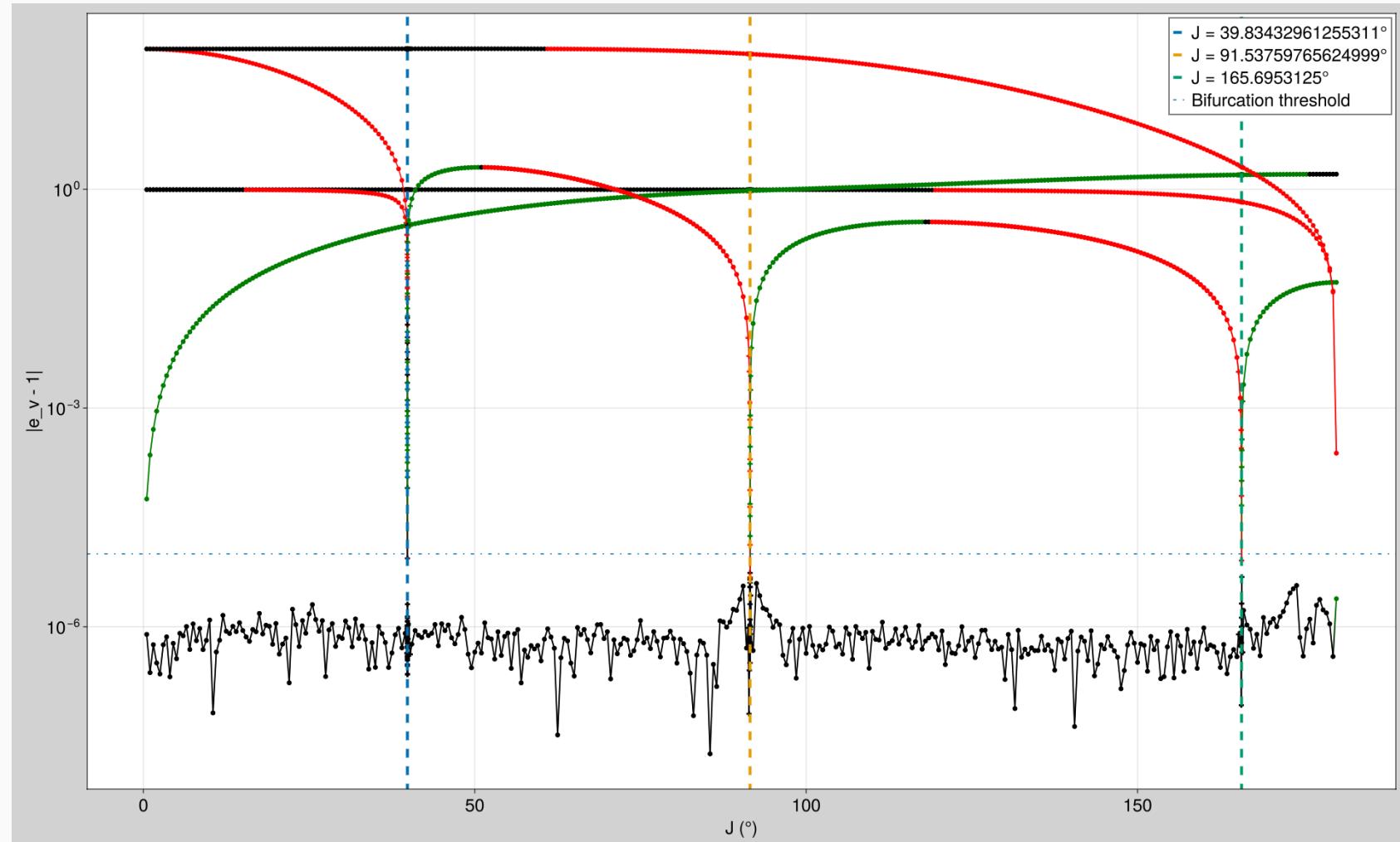
# Above Gascheau's value (long-term stability)



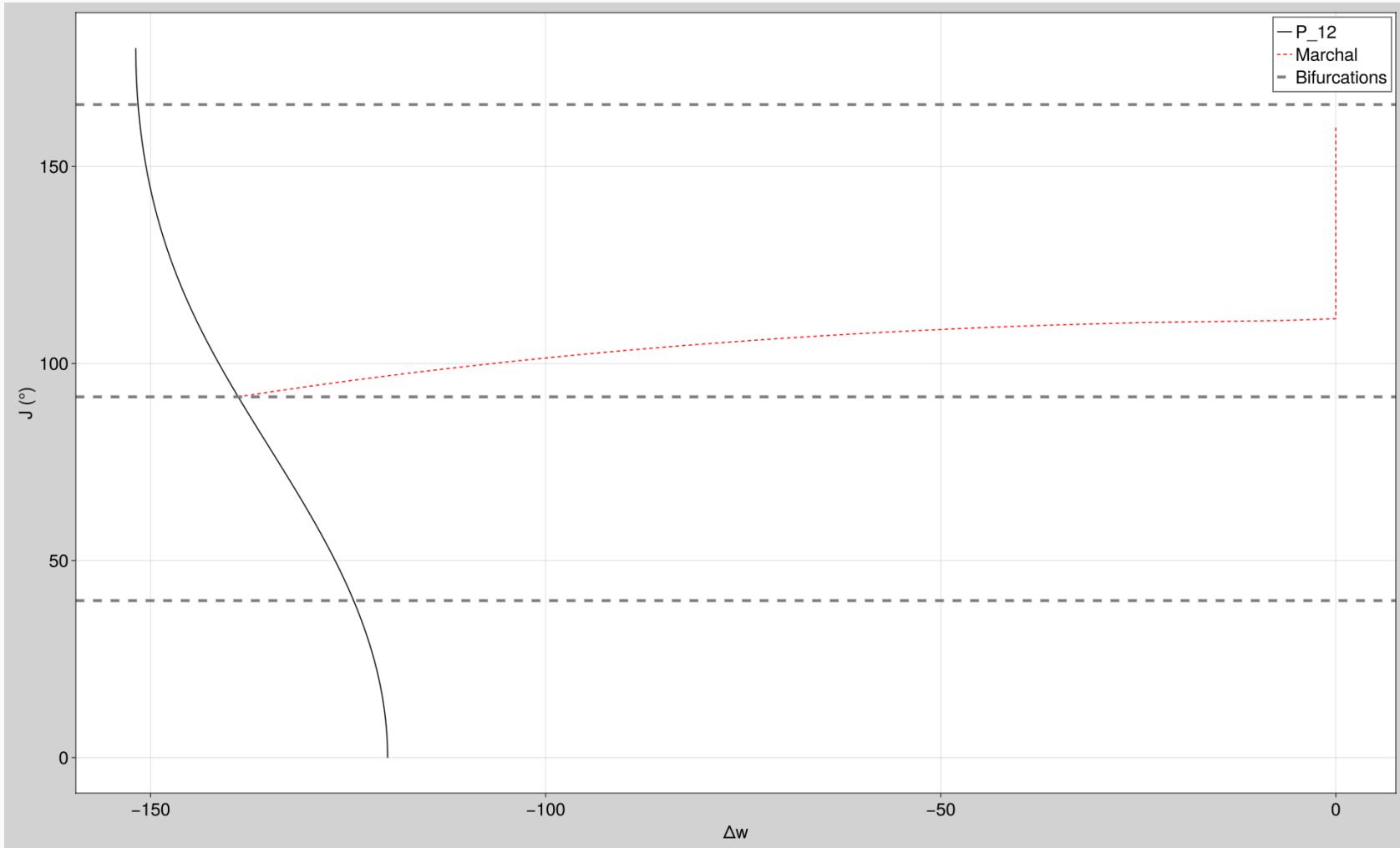
# Approaching equal masses



# Bifurcations at equal masses



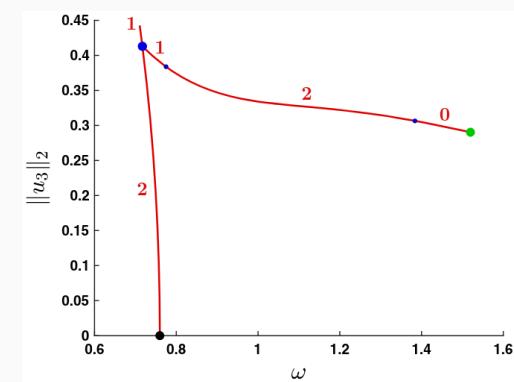
# $\mathcal{VF}_L$ and $P_{12}$ : Marchal's family



# 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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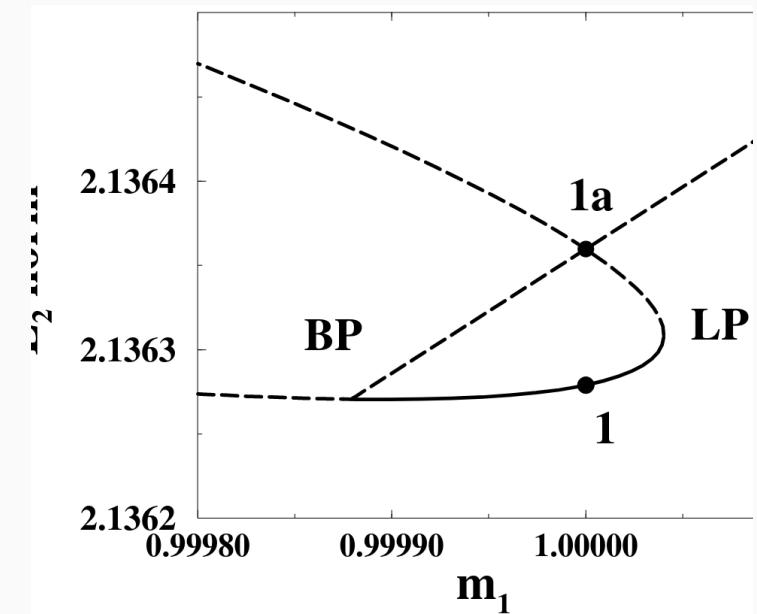
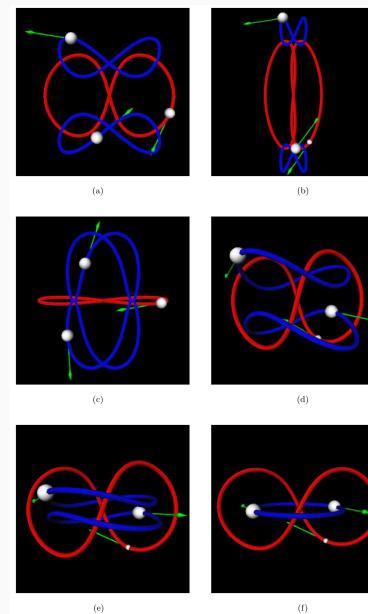
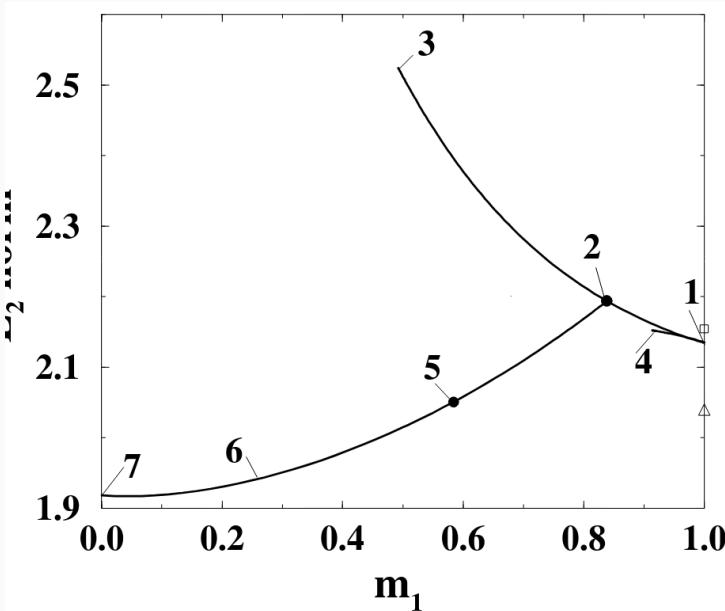


Figure 19: (Doedel et al., 2003)

# Conclusion

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# Answering our initial questions

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- Yes

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Q3:

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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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