Chapter 7. Secular Perturbations

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In this notebook we will present part of the theoretical background of the chapter devoted to *Secular Perturbations* and some mathematical and numerical results which are interested for the theory.

For details on the theory please refer directly to the book:

Murray, C. D., & Dermott, S. F. (1999). Solar system dynamics. Cambridge university press.

Preliminaries

Prerrequisites

```
In [1]: 1 #!pip install -q rebound
2 #!pip install -q Fraction
3 #!pip install -q ipywidgets
```

Other libraries

```
In [2]:

1 #Global packages
import numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import rebound as rb

5

6 #Specific modules and routines
from tqdm import tqdm
from scipy.integrate import quad
from scipy.signal import savgol_filter
from ipywidgets import interact, widgets, fixed
from fractions import Fraction
```

Useful constants

```
In [3]: 1 deg = np.pi/180
2 rad = 1/deg
```

Plots aesthetics

Section 6.9.1 Secular Terms

Experiment: asteroid orbit perturbation due to Jupiter (6.1)

Let's supose we have a little asteroid orbiting sun and that we want to analyse how it's orbital elements are disturbed due to Jupiter's influence. We'll first make a numerical simulation using *Rebound* to see how orbital elements vary with time and then we'll

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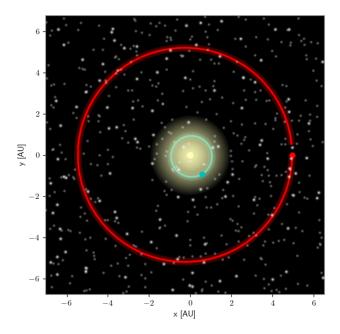
compare this results with the theory that was developed in chapter 6. Initial conditions are described with detail in chapter 6.9.1 $\,$

Firts, let's create the solar system with the Sun, Jupiter and the asteroid (whose mass doesn't care):

```
In [5]:
        1 #Jupiter orbital elements
        2 a_p = 5.204267
        3 alpha = 0.192
        4 e_p = 0.048
        6 #Initial conditions
        7 a0 = alpha*a_p
        8 e0 = 0.1
        9 Omega0 = 200*deg
        10 pomega0 = 130*deg
        11 lambda0 = 300*deg
        12 inc_0 = 1e-4*deg
       13
       14 #Masses
       15 m_p = 1/1047.355
       16 m = 1e-17
       17
       18 #System creation
       19 sim = rb.Simulation()
       20 sim.units = ('au', 'msun', 'yr')
       21 sim.add('Sun', hash='Sun')
       22 sim.add(m=m_p, a=a_p, e=e_p, hash='Jupiter')
       23 sim.add(m=m, a=a0, e=e0, inc=inc_0,
       24
                  Omega=OmegaO, pomega=pomegaO, l=lambdaO, hash='Asteroid')
        25 sim.save('tmp/system.bin')
        Searching NASA Horizons for 'Sun'...
        Found: Sun (10)
```

Let's see a plot of the the system in t = 0:

```
In [6]: 1 fig, ax = rb.OrbitPlot(sim, unitlabel='[AU]', orbit_type='solid', lw=1.5, color:
         2 fig.set_dpi(100)
         3 fig.tight_layout()
         4 #plt.savefig('figs/init_orbit.png', dpi=300, bbox_inches='tight')
           plt.show()
```



Now we'll calcultate the asteorid and Jupiter's periods who are very useful:

```
In [7]:
        1 #Orbital periods
        2 Pjup = sim.particles['Jupiter'].P
        3 njup = 2*np.pi/Pjup
        4 Past = sim.particles['Asteroid'].P
        5 nast = 2*np.pi/Past
           #Gravitational constant
           G = sim.G
```

The time step for integration will be a fraction of the asteroid's initial period, and the total integration time will be 20000 Jupiter periods:

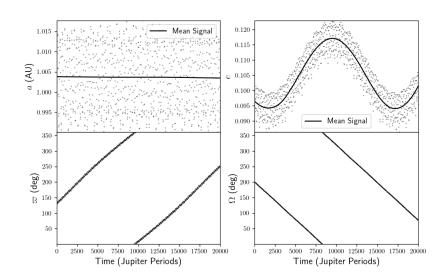
```
In [8]:
         1 #Integration parameters
         2 sim.dt = Past/100
         3 Nt = 1000
           ts = np.linspace(0, 20000*Pjup, Nt)
```

Now let's do the integration (remember to be a little patient):

```
In [9]: 1 #Integration
        2 Es = np.zeros((Nt, 4))
        3 for i,t in enumerate(tqdm(ts)):
              sim.integrate(t)
              sim.move_to_hel()
        6
              orbits = sim.calculate_orbits()
        7
             Es[i] = [orbits[1].a,
                       orbits[1].e,
                       np.mod(orbits[1].pomega,2*np.pi),
                       np.mod(orbits[1].Omega,2*np.pi)]
        10
        100%|
                                                         | 1000/1000 [01:55<00:00,
        8.66it/s]
```

With the simulation done, let's plot a,e,ϖ and Ω as a function of time:

```
In [10]:
          1 #Filter for semimajor axis mean signal
         2 afilt = savgol_filter(Es[:,0], 651, 2)
         4
            #Filter for excentricity mean signal
            efilt = savgol_filter(Es[:,1], 311, 2)
         6
         7
            #Plots
         8 fig, axs = plt.subplots(2, 2, figsize=(8,5), sharex=True, dpi=110)
         9 \text{ ax = fig.gca()}
        10 ax.set_xlabel('Time (Jupiter Periods)', fontsize=14)
        11 axs[0,0].plot(ts/Pjup, Es[:,0], 'ko', ms=0.3)
        12 axs[0,0].plot(ts/Pjup, afilt, 'k-', ms=0.3, label='Mean Signal')
        13 axs[0,0].set_ylabel(r'$a$ (AU)', fontsize=14)
        14 axs[0,0].legend(fontsize=12)
        15 axs[0,0].margins(0)
        16 axs[0,1].plot(ts/Pjup, Es[:,1], 'ko', ms=0.3);
        17 axs[0,1].plot(ts/Pjup, efilt, 'k-', ms=0.3, label='Mean Signal')
        18 axs[0,1].set_ylabel(r'$e$', fontsize=14)
        19 axs[0,1].legend(fontsize=12)
        20 axs[0,1].margins(0)
        21 axs[1,0].plot(ts/Pjup, Es[:,2]*rad, 'ko', ms=0.3)
        22 axs[1,0].set_xlabel('Time (Jupiter Periods)', fontsize=14)
        23 axs[1,0].set_ylabel(r'$\varpi$ (deg)', fontsize=14);
        24 axs[1,0].margins(0)
        25 axs[1,1].plot(ts/Pjup, Es[:,3]*rad, 'ko', ms=0.3)
        26 axs[1,1].set_xlabel('Time (Jupiter Periods)', fontsize=14)
        27 axs[1,1].set_ylabel(r'$\Omega$ (deg)', fontsize=14)
        28 axs[1,1].margins(0)
        29 fig.tight_layout()
        30 plt.subplots_adjust(hspace=0, wspace=0.21)
        31 #plt.savefig('figs/orbital_elements.png', dpi=300, bbox_inches='tight')
            plt.show()
```



As we see in the figure above, the orbital elements vary with time in very particular ways, so now we'll focus on how the theory can describe these behaviours using the results obtained in section 6. First of all, let's rember the series expansion to second order of the direct and indirect parts in the disturbing function of the perturbed object:

$$R_{D} = \left(\frac{1}{2}b_{\frac{1}{2}}^{(j)} + \frac{1}{8}(e^{2} + e'^{2})\left[-4j^{2} + 2\alpha D + \alpha^{2}D^{2}\right]b_{\frac{1}{2}}^{(j)} + \frac{1}{4}(s^{2} + s'^{2})\left(\left[-\alpha\right]b_{\frac{1}{2}}^{(j-1)} + \left[-\alpha\right]b_{\frac{1}{2}}^{(j+1)}\right)\right)$$

$$\times \cos[j\lambda' - j\lambda]$$

$$+ \left(\frac{1}{4}ee'\left[2 + 6j + 4j^{2} - 2\alpha D - \alpha^{2}D^{2}\right]b_{\frac{1}{2}}^{(j+1)}\right)$$

$$\times \cos[j\lambda' - j\lambda + \varpi' - \varpi]$$

$$+ \left(ss'[\alpha]b_{\frac{1}{2}}^{(j+1)}\right)\cos[j\lambda' - j\lambda + \Omega' - \Omega]$$

$$+ \left(\frac{1}{2}e[-2j - \alpha D]b_{\frac{1}{2}}^{(j)}\right)\cos[j\lambda' + (1-j)\lambda - \varpi]$$

$$+ \left(\frac{1}{2}e'[-1 + 2j + \alpha D]b_{\frac{1}{2}}^{(j-1)}\right)\cos[j\lambda' + (1-j)\lambda - \varpi']$$

$$+ \left(\frac{1}{8}e^{2}\left[-5j + 4j^{2} - 2\alpha D + 4j\alpha D + \alpha^{2}D^{2}\right]b_{\frac{1}{2}}^{(j)}\right)$$

$$\times \cos[j\lambda' + (2-j)\lambda - 2\varpi]$$

$$+ \left(\frac{1}{4}ee'\left[-2 + 6j - 4j^{2} + 2\alpha D - 4j\alpha D - \alpha^{2}D^{2}\right]b_{\frac{1}{2}}^{(j-1)}\right)$$

$$\times \cos[j\lambda' + (2-j)\lambda - \varpi' - \varpi]$$

$$+ \left(\frac{1}{8}e'^{2}\left[2 - 7j + 4j^{2} - 2\alpha D + 4j\alpha D + \alpha^{2}D^{2}\right]b_{\frac{1}{2}}^{(j-2)}\right)$$

$$\times \cos[j\lambda' + (2-j)\lambda - 2\varpi']$$

$$+ \left(\frac{1}{2}s^{2}[\alpha]b_{\frac{1}{2}}^{(j-1)}\right)$$

$$\times \cos[j\lambda' + (2-j)\lambda - 2\varpi']$$

$$+ \left(\frac{1}{2}s^{2}[\alpha]b_{\frac{1}{2}}^{(j-1)}\right)\cos[j\lambda' + (2-j)\lambda - \Omega' - \Omega]$$

$$+ \left(\frac{1}{2}s'^{2}[\alpha]b_{\frac{1}{2}}^{(j-1)}\right)\cos[j\lambda' + (2-j)\lambda - 2\Omega']$$

$$R_{E} = -\frac{r}{a}\left(\frac{a'}{r'}\right)^{2}\cos\psi$$

$$\approx \left(-1 + \frac{1}{2}e^{2} + \frac{1}{2}e^{r'^{2}} + s^{2} + s^{r'^{2}}\right)\cos[\lambda' - \lambda]$$

$$- ee'\cos[2\lambda' - 2\lambda - \varpi' + \varpi] - 2ss'\cos[\lambda' - \lambda - \Omega' + \Omega]$$

$$- \frac{1}{2}e\cos[\lambda' - 2\lambda + \varpi] + \frac{3}{2}e\cos[\lambda' - \varpi] - 2e'\cos[2\lambda' - \lambda - \varpi']$$

$$- \frac{3}{8}e^{2}\cos[\lambda' - 3\lambda + 2\varpi] - \frac{1}{8}e^{2}\cos[\lambda' + \lambda - 2\varpi']$$

$$+ 3ee'\cos[2\lambda - \varpi' - \varpi] - \frac{1}{8}e^{2}\cos[\lambda' + \lambda - 2\varpi']$$

$$- \frac{27}{8}e^{r'^{2}}\cos[3\lambda' - \lambda - 2\varpi'] - s^{2}\cos[\lambda' + \lambda - 2\Omega']$$

$$+ 2ss''\cos[\lambda' + \lambda - \Omega' - \Omega] - s^{r'^{2}}\cos[\lambda' + \lambda - 2\Omega']$$

If we want to describe the secular behaviour of the perturbations we then only consider the secular terms in both expansions, that is, the terms who do not contain the mean longitudes λ and λ' . This simplification is done because the mean longitudes are

proportional to the time ($\lambda=nt+\epsilon$), so they will have little period oscillations that for secular purposes are not needed. Secular terms in the direct part are then obtained by setting j=0 in the cosine arguments containing $j\lambda-j\lambda$, and discarding the remaing terms who depend on λ or λ' :

$$\begin{split} \langle \mathcal{R}_{\rm D} \rangle &= \left(\frac{1}{2} b_{\frac{1}{2}}^{(0)} + \frac{1}{8} \left(e^2 + e'^2 \right) \left[2\alpha D + \alpha^2 D^2 \right] b_{\frac{1}{2}}^{(0)} \\ &+ \frac{1}{4} s^2 \left(\left[-\alpha \right] b_{\frac{3}{2}}^{(-1)} + \left[-\alpha \right] b_{\frac{3}{2}}^{(1)} \right) \right) \\ &+ \left(\frac{1}{4} e e' \left[2 - 2\alpha D - \alpha^2 D^2 \right] b_{\frac{1}{2}}^{(1)} \right) \\ &\times \cos \left[\varpi' - \varpi \right] \end{split} \tag{3}$$

It was used that Jupiter's orbital plane is the reference plane, so $s^\prime=0$. Using

$$b_{\frac{3}{2}}^{(-1)} = b_{\frac{3}{2}}^{(1)}$$
:

$$\langle \mathcal{R}_{D} \rangle = \frac{1}{2} b_{\frac{1}{2}}^{(0)} + \frac{1}{8} \left(e^{2} + e^{\prime 2} \right) \left[2\alpha D + \alpha^{2} D^{2} \right] b_{\frac{1}{2}}^{(0)} - \frac{1}{2} \alpha b_{\frac{3}{2}}^{(1)} s^{2}$$

$$+ \left(\frac{1}{4} e e^{\prime} \left[2 - 2\alpha D - \alpha^{2} D^{2} \right] b_{\frac{1}{2}}^{(1)} \right) \cos \left[\varpi^{\prime} - \varpi \right]$$
(3)

This result can be condensed as:

$$\langle \mathcal{R}_{\rm D} \rangle = C_0 + C_1 \left(e^2 + e'^2 \right) + C_2 s^2 + C_3 e e' \cos(\varpi' - \varpi)$$
 (4)

Where:

$$C_{0} = \frac{1}{2} b_{\frac{1}{2}}^{(0)}(\alpha)$$

$$C_{1} = \frac{1}{8} \left[2\alpha D + \alpha^{2} D^{2} \right] b_{\frac{1}{2}}^{(0)}(\alpha)$$

$$C_{2} = -\frac{1}{2} \alpha b_{\frac{3}{2}}^{(1)}(\alpha)$$

$$C_{3} = \frac{1}{4} \left[2 - 2\alpha D - \alpha^{2} D^{2} \right] b_{\frac{1}{2}}^{(1)}(\alpha)$$
(5)

If we check the indirect part in Eq. (2), we see that all terms depend on λ and λ' , so there are no secular contributions from this part to the disturbing function. That is:

$$\langle \mathcal{R}_{\rm E} \rangle = 0 \tag{6}$$

Now, using Eq. (4) and Eq. (6) we find out that:

$$\langle R \rangle = \frac{\mu'}{a'} \left(C_0 + C_1 \left(e^2 + e'^2 \right) + C_2 s^2 + C_3 e e' \cos \left(\varpi' - \varpi \right) \right)$$
 (7)

Now we've found the expression for the (mean) disturbing function, we need to use the *Lagrange planetary equations* to find the osculating orbital elements as a function of time. The equations are shown below:

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}a}{\mathrm{d}t} = \frac{2}{na} \frac{\partial R}{\partial \lambda}
\frac{\mathrm{d}e}{\mathrm{d}t} = -\frac{\sqrt{1 - e^2}}{na^2 e} \left(1 - \sqrt{1 - e^2}\right) \frac{\partial R}{\partial \epsilon} - \frac{\sqrt{1 - e^2}}{na^2 e} \frac{\partial R}{\partial \omega}
\frac{\mathrm{d}\epsilon}{\mathrm{d}t} = -\frac{2}{na} \frac{\partial R}{\partial a} + \frac{\sqrt{1 - e^2}}{na^2 e} \frac{\left(1 - \sqrt{1 - e^2}\right)}{na^2 e} \frac{\partial R}{\partial e} + \frac{\tan\frac{1}{2}I}{na^2\sqrt{1 - e^2}} \frac{\partial R}{\partial I}
\frac{\mathrm{d}\Omega}{\mathrm{d}t} = \frac{1}{na^2\sqrt{1 - e^2}} \frac{\partial R}{\partial e} + \frac{\tan\frac{1}{2}I}{na^2\sqrt{1 - e^2}} \frac{\partial R}{\partial I}
\frac{\mathrm{d}\omega}{\mathrm{d}t} = \frac{-\tan\frac{1}{2}I}{na^2\sqrt{1 - e^2}} \left(\frac{\partial R}{\partial \epsilon} + \frac{\partial R}{\partial \omega}\right) - \frac{1}{na^2\sqrt{1 - e^2}} \sin\frac{I}{I} \frac{\partial R}{\partial \Omega}.$$
(8)

Where we've introduced the ϵ variable, who's defined as:

$$\lambda = M + \varpi$$

$$= n(t - \tau) + \varpi$$

$$= nt + (\varpi - n\tau)$$

$$= nt + \varepsilon$$

$$\therefore \varepsilon \equiv \varpi - n\tau \tag{9}$$

If we suppose that $e \ll 1$ and $I \ll 1$, the Lagrange equations reduce to:

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}a}{\mathrm{d}t} = \frac{2}{na} \frac{\partial \langle \mathcal{R} \rangle}{\partial \lambda}
\frac{\mathrm{d}e}{\mathrm{d}t} = -\frac{1}{na^2 e} \frac{\partial \langle \mathcal{R} \rangle}{\partial \varpi}
\frac{\mathrm{d}\varpi}{\mathrm{d}t} = +\frac{1}{na^2 e} \frac{\partial \langle \mathcal{R} \rangle}{\partial e}
\frac{\mathrm{d}\Omega}{\mathrm{d}t} = +\frac{1}{na^2 \sin I} \frac{\partial \langle \mathcal{R} \rangle}{\partial I}$$
(10)

Introducing Eq. (7) in Eqs. (10) and remembering that $n^2a^3\approx Gm_c$ we found the next set of differential equations:

$$\left(\frac{da}{dt}\right)_{sec} = 0$$

$$\left(\frac{de}{dt}\right)_{sec} = n\alpha \left(m'/m_{c}\right) C_{3}e' \sin(\varpi - \varpi')$$

$$\left(\frac{d\varpi}{dt}\right)_{sec} = n\alpha \left(m'/m_{c}\right) \left[2C_{1} + C_{3}\left(e'/e\right)\cos(\varpi - \varpi')\right]$$

$$\left(\frac{d\Omega}{dt}\right)_{sec} = n\alpha \left(m'/m_{c}\right) (C_{2}/2)$$
(11)

Now we'll suppose that $e'\ll e$, who's a great approximation for this case because the excentricities of asteroids are usually bigger than that of planets. Taking $\varpi'=0$ we can integrate easily Eqs. (11) to:

$$a = a_0$$

$$e = e_0 + \frac{n\alpha}{\dot{\varpi}} (m'/m_c) C_3 e' [\cos \varpi_0 - \cos \varpi]$$

$$\varpi = \varpi_0 + n\alpha (m'/m_c) 2C_1 t$$

$$\Omega = \Omega_0 + n\alpha (m'/m_c) (C_2/2) t$$
(12)

Where a_0, e_0, ϖ_0 and Ω_0 are the initial conditions and $\dot{\varpi} = \alpha \left(m'/m_{\rm c}\right) 2C_1$. The main text has an error in the solution for e, so if you compare this solution with Eq. (6.174) in the main text you'll find it. In this equations we see that up to second order in the excentricities:

- The semimajor axis of the asteroid remains constant in time.
- The excentricity oscillates in a sinusoidal way around a center value.
- ϖ grows linearly with time supposing $C_1 > 0$.
- Ω decreases linearly with time supposing $C_2 < 0$.

Now we can compare this results with the numerical simulation, but before we need a way to calculate the Laplace coefficients and their derivatives. For this we'll use the integral definition and the relations for derivatives described in the book:

$$b_s^{(j)}(\alpha) = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{\cos(j\,\psi)}{\left(1 - 2\alpha\cos\psi + \alpha^2\right)^s} \,d\psi$$

```
In [11]: 1 def blap(a, s, j):
         2
                #Integrand in b_s^j definition
                func = lambda x: np.cos(j*x)/(1-2*a*np.cos(x)+a**2)**s
         3
               return (1/np.pi)*quad(func, 0, 2*np.pi)[0]
         6
         7 def blap_dot(a, s, j):
         8
                #Recursive first derivative
         9
                dot = blap(a, s+1, j-1) - 2*a*blap(a, s+1, j) + blap(a, s+1, j+1)
        10
        11
                return s*dot
        12
        13 def blap_ddot(a, s, j):
        14
                #Recursive second derivative
        15
                ddot = blap_dot(a, s+1, j-1) - 2*a*blap_dot(a, s+1, j) + blap_dot(a, s+1, j-1)
        16
        17
                return s*ddot
```

Now lets calculate the disturbing function coefficients using Eqs. (5):

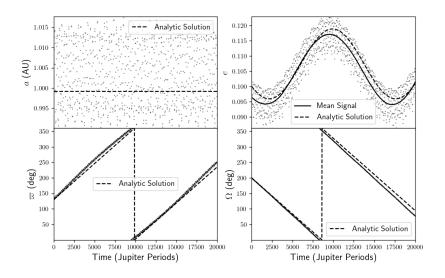
```
In [12]:
         1 def C1_func(alpha):
         2
                return (1/8)*(2*alpha*blap_dot(alpha, 0.5, 0) + alpha**2*blap_ddot(alpha, 0
         3
         4 def C2_func(alpha):
               return =0.5*alpha*blap(alpha, 1.5, 1)
         6
         7 def C3_func(alpha):
                return (1/4)*(2*blap(alpha, 0.5, 1) - 2*alpha*blap_dot(alpha, 0.5, 1) - alph
In [13]: 1 C1 = C1_func(alpha)
         2 C2 = C2_func(alpha)
         3 C3 = C3_func(alpha)
```

Finally we can compute e(t), $\varpi(t)$ and $\Omega(t)$ using Eqs. (12):

```
In [14]:
         1 def pomega_func(t):
               pomega_dot = nast*alpha*m_p*2*C1
         2
         3
                return np.mod(pomega0 + pomega_dot*t, 2*np.pi)
         5 def e_func(t):
         6
                return e0 + (C3/(2*C1))*e_p*(np.cos(pomega0) - np.cos(pomega_func(t)))
         8 def Omega_func(t):
                return np.mod(Omega0 + nast*alpha*m_p*C2/2*t, 2*np.pi)
```

Let's compare the simulation results against the analytic solution:

```
In [15]:
         1 fig, axs = plt.subplots(2, 2, figsize=(8,5), sharex=True, dpi=110)
         2 ax = fig.gca()
         3 axs[0,0].plot(ts/Pjup, Es[:,0], 'ko', ms=0.3)
         4 axs[0,0].plot(ts/Pjup, a0+0*ts, 'k--', label='Analytic Solution')
         5 axs[0,0].set_ylabel(r'$a$ (AU)', fontsize=14)
         6 axs[0,0].legend(fontsize=12, loc=1)
         7 axs[0,0].margins(0)
         8 axs[0,1].plot(ts/Pjup, Es[:,1], 'ko', ms=0.3)
         9 axs[0,1].plot(ts/Pjup, efilt, 'k-', ms=0.3, label='Mean Signal')
        10 axs[0,1].plot(ts/Pjup, e_func(ts), 'k--', label='Analytic Solution')
        11 axs[0,1].set_ylabel(r'$e$', fontsize=14)
        12 axs[0,1].legend(fontsize=12)
        13 axs[0,1].margins(0)
        14 axs[1,0].plot(ts/Pjup, Es[:,2]*rad, 'ko', ms=0.3)
        15 axs[1,0].plot(ts/Pjup, pomega_func(ts)*rad, 'k--', label='Analytic Solution');
        16 axs[1,0].set_xlabel('Time (Jupiter Periods)', fontsize=14)
        17 axs[1,0].set_ylabel(r'$\varpi$ (deg)', fontsize=14)
        18 axs[1,0].legend(fontsize=12)
        19 axs[1,0].margins(0)
        20 axs[1,1].plot(ts/Pjup, Es[:,3]*rad, 'ko', ms=0.3)
        21 axs[1,1].plot(ts/Pjup, Omega_func(ts)*rad, 'k--', label='Analytic Solution')
        22 axs[1,1].set_xlabel('Time (Jupiter Periods)', fontsize=14)
        23 axs[1,1].set_ylabel(r'$\Omega$ (deg)', fontsize=14)
        24 axs[1,1].legend(fontsize=12)
        25 axs[1,1].margins(0)
        26 fig.tight_layout()
        27 plt.subplots_adjust(hspace=0, wspace=0.21)
        28 #plt.savefig('figs/orbital_elements_sol.png', dpi=300, bbox_inches='tight')
        29 plt.show()
```



In the previous figures we can see that up to second order in the excentricities, the analytical result fits well to the numerical simulation, where the main difference appears in the excentricity of the asteroid. This is is a very powerful result, because we've developed a powerful theory that can explain very complex systems. Up next we'll see how to upgrade this to higher body numer problems.