1. My chosen initial conditions for BODY C that...

(a) CAPTURED IN THE ORBIT:

initial position = -3.5e8m initial velocity = $324.55 \frac{m}{s}$

(b) ESCAPED THE SYSTEM:

initial position = -2.5e7m initial velocity = $1.93e3\frac{m}{s}$

(c) CREATED CHAOTIC DYNAMICS:

initial position = -2.5e7m initial velocity = $1.33e3\frac{m}{s}$

For my integration method, I chose the Velocity Verlet, which updates positions using halfstep velocity and full-step acceleration, leading to better energy conservation.

2. see plots below

3. Was energy conserved?

For my simulations of Body C being captured in the Orbit (a) and Body C escaping the system (b), angular momentum was conserved for the most part, with a near constant representation.

However, when it came to total energy, only for (a) was it conserved. The total energy fluctuations from (b) can be explained by Body C leaving the system, and perhaps for the simulation of Body C creating chaotic dynamics (c), that may be explained by its chaotic nature; though it most likely may come from my numerical method.

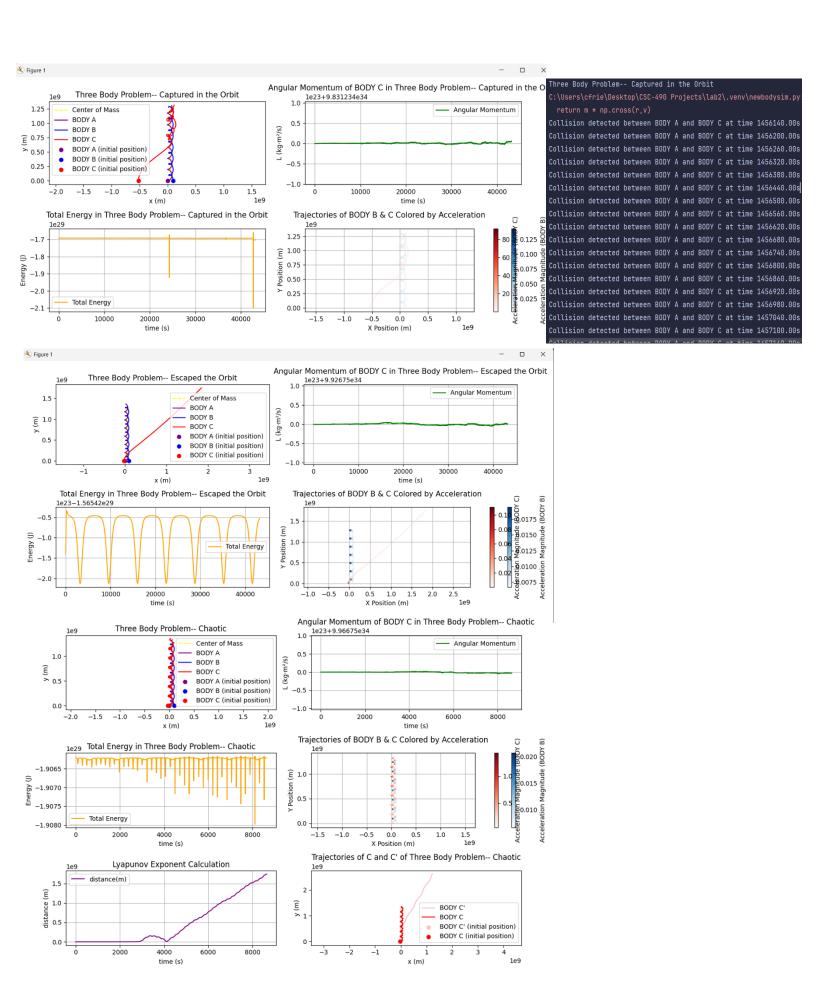
Did orbits appear stable?

The orbits do not seem stable for there is variety in all simulations' Body C's pathways.

Were outcomes sensitive to small changes?

These outcomes were very sensitive to small changes, especially when changing the velocity of (a) and (c). The outcome of (a) being captured and staying in orbit was affected by miniscule tweaks and changing the time step from 1 minute to 5 minutes and so forth drastically changed my results.

4. I only implemented the Velocity Verlet so I cannot compare it to an RK4 simulation, however it is more stable and conserves more energy compared to a Euler's Method implementation.



Three Body Problem-- Chaotic
Collision detected between BODY A and BODY C at time 2431020.00s
Collision detected between BODY A and BODY C at time 2431080.00s
Collision detected between BODY A and BODY C at time 2431140.00s
Collision detected between BODY A and BODY C at time 2431200.00s
Collision detected between BODY A and BODY C at time 2431260.00s
Collision detected between BODY A and BODY C at time 2431320.00s
Collision detected between BODY A and BODY C at time 2431380.00s