



# On the role of resonances in polluting white dwarfs by asteroids

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## ABSTRACT

Pollution of white dwarf atmospheres may be caused by asteroids that originate from the locations of secular and mean-motion resonances in planetary systems. Asteroids in these locations experience increased eccentricity, leading to tidal disruption by the white dwarf. We examine how the  $\nu_6$  secular resonance shifts outwards into a previously stable region of the asteroid belt, as the star evolves to a white dwarf. Analytic secular models require a planet to be engulfed in order to shift the resonance. We show with numerical simulations that as a planet gets engulfed by the evolving star, the secular resonance shifts and the rate of tidal disruption events increases with the engulfed planet's mass and its orbital separation. We also investigate the behaviour of mean-motion resonances. The width of a mean-motion resonance increases as the star loses mass and becomes a white dwarf. The  $\nu_6$  secular resonance is more efficient at driving tidal disruptions than mean-motion resonances with Jupiter. By examining 230 observed exoplanetary systems whose central star will evolve into a white dwarf, we find that along with an Earth mass planet at 1 au, hot Jupiters at a semimajor axis  $a \gtrsim 0.05$  au and super-Earths of mass  $10 M_{\oplus}$  at  $a \gtrsim 0.3$  au represent planet types whose engulfment shifts resonances enough to cause pollution of the white dwarfs to a degree in agreement with observations.

**Key words:** minor planets, asteroids: general – planets and satellites: dynamical evolution and stability – stars: AGB and post-AGB – white dwarfs.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

The majority of the stars in the Milky Way (more than 97 per cent) will evolve to become a white dwarf (Althaus et al. 2010). Spectroscopic observations reveal metallic absorption lines in the atmospheres of white dwarfs (e.g. Zuckerman et al. 2007; Klein et al. 2010; Vennes, Kawka & Németh 2010; Zuckerman et al. 2010; Farihi et al. 2012; Melis & Dufour 2017; Harrison, Bonsor & Madhusudhan 2018; Hollands, Gänsicke & Koester 2018; Xu et al. 2018b; Doyle et al. 2019; Swan et al. 2019; Bonsor et al. 2020; Doyle et al. 2020; Harrison, Shorttle & Bonsor 2021; Kaiser et al. 2021; Klein et al. 2021). Around 20 to 50 per cent of all white dwarfs show traces of metal-polluted atmospheres (Zuckerman et al. 2003, 2010; Koester, Gänsicke & Farihi 2014). The source of this pollution is thought to be associated with the white dwarf disrupting and accreting asteroids or small bodies from their primordial planetary systems (Debes & Sigurdsson 2002; Jura 2003).

The metals eventually sink and diffuse within the atmosphere due to the WD's intense surface gravity (Fontaine & Michaud 1979; Vauclair, Vauclair & Greenstein 1979; Koester & Wilken 2006; Koester 2009; Bauer & Bildsten 2019; Blouin 2020; Cunningham et al. 2021). The stratification time-scale for metals is of the order of days to a few Myr, depending on the composition of the white dwarf's atmosphere (Koester & Wilken 2006). Since the diffusion time-scale of metals is orders of magnitude shorter than the WD cooling ages

(Paquette et al. 1986; Koester 2009), polluted white dwarfs must be continuously accreting metal-rich material. For a recent review on the dynamics of white dwarf pollution, see Veras (2016a).

The prevailing scenario for the provision of long-term accretion of metal-rich material is that planetary debris are excited on to star-grazing orbits and ultimately become disintegrated by tidal forces, forming a debris disc around the white dwarf (Gänsicke et al. 2006; Kilic et al. 2006; von Hippel et al. 2007; Farihi, Jura & Zuckerman 2009; Jura et al. 2009; Melis et al. 2010; Farihi et al. 2010a; Bonsor et al. 2017; Brown, Veras & Gänsicke 2017; Xu et al. 2018a; Debes et al. 2019; Wilson et al. 2019). The planetary debris that have been hypothesized as a source include asteroids (Jura 2003, 2006; Jura et al. 2009; Debes, Walsh & Stark 2012; Veras, Hadjidemetriou & Tout 2013b; Frewen & Hansen 2014; Wyatt et al. 2014; Mustill et al. 2018; Smallwood et al. 2018b; Makarov & Veras 2019; Veras, Higuchi & Ida 2019; Martin et al. 2020), comets (Veras, Shannon & Gänsicke 2014b; Stone, Metzger & Loeb 2015; Caiazzo & Heyl 2017), and moons (Payne et al. 2016, 2017). There is also evidence for pollution of the atmospheres of white dwarfs in close-in binaries which contain a circumbinary debris disc (Farihi, Parsons & Gänsicke 2017). Material originating from the interstellar medium has been ruled out as a source of pollution (Aannestad et al. 1993; Jura 2006; Kilic & Redfield 2007; Farihi et al. 2010b; Barstow et al. 2014).

The mechanisms that could potentially drive white dwarf pollution include mean-motion resonances (Debes et al. 2012; Voyatzis et al. 2013), secular resonances (Smallwood et al. 2018b) and planet–planet scattering (Payne et al. 2016, 2017). Moreover, the Kozai–Lidov instability may also provide pollution within binary

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systems (Hamers & Portegies Zwart 2016; Petrovich & Muñoz 2017; Stephan, Naoz & Zuckerman 2017; Stephan, Naoz & Gaudi 2018). Recently, Veras, Xu & Rebassa-Mansergas (2018) computed the critical separation of binaries required for the atmosphere of a white dwarf to become polluted by Roche lobe overflow or by stellar winds. The critical separation is only a few astronomical units (roughly agreeing with fig. 3 in Debes 2006), which implies that other mechanisms are needed for wide-binary systems (Kratter & Perets 2012; Bonsor & Veras 2015).

Direct observational evidence for the proposed scenarios is still scarce but more are on the horizon (e.g. Guidry *et al.* 2020). Currently, there are only two known white dwarfs to exhibit periodic transits of planetary debris, WD 1145+017 (Vanderburg *et al.* 2015; Xu *et al.* 2016) and ZTF J0139+5245 (Vanderbosch *et al.* 2020). WD 1145+017 also exhibits absorption lines from an eccentric circumstellar gas (Xu *et al.* 2016; Redfield *et al.* 2017) and transits of debris fragments (Gänsicke *et al.* 2016; Rappaport *et al.* 2016; Gary *et al.* 2017; Xu *et al.* 2018a). Veras *et al.* (2017), Duvvuri, Redfield & Veras (2020), and O'Connor & Lai (2020) constrained the interior structure of the asteroid being disintegrated. The planetary debris in ZTF J0139+5245 has a period of 110 d and if the debris passes through the tidal disruption radius of the white dwarf, then the material has an estimated eccentricity of  $>0.97$  (Vanderbosch *et al.* 2020). Even if not, disruption of the progenitor likely occurred within a few Roche radii of the white dwarf (Veras, McDonald & Makarov 2020), still suggesting a highly eccentric orbit. It is estimated that 1 per cent to 4.5 per cent of white dwarfs display an infrared excess from dust (Becklin *et al.* 2005; Kilic *et al.* 2006; Jura, Farihi & Zuckerman 2007; Rebassa-Mansergas *et al.* 2019; Wilson *et al.* 2019). The number of gaseous debris discs around polluted white dwarfs have increased to about 21 (Dennihy *et al.* 2018, 2020; Manser *et al.* 2020; Melis *et al.* 2020; Gentile Fusillo *et al.* 2021). Furthermore, a ferrous core fragment has been discovered orbiting SDSS J1228+1040 (Bromley & Kenyon 2019; Grishin & Veras 2019; Manser *et al.* 2019; Veras & Wolszczan 2019; O'Connor & Lai 2020).

The sequence of events leading to pollution by asteroids is thought to be as follows. As a star's outer envelope expands, close-in planets are engulfed (Siess & Livio 1999; Villaver & Livio 2007, 2009; Mustill & Villaver 2012; Adams & Bloch 2013; Villaver *et al.* 2014; Ronco *et al.* 2020), causing dynamical changes to the system (Duncan & Lissauer 1998). The semimajor axis of the surviving objects expands adiabatically, due to the mass-loss from the star (Reimers 1977; Rosenfield *et al.* 2014, 2016; McDonald & Zijlstra 2015). The mass-loss rate can be as high as  $10^{-4} M_{\odot} \text{yr}^{-1}$  (Veras *et al.* 2011). Smallwood *et al.* (2018b) used secular theory and  $N$ -body simulations to show that in the case of the Solar system, as the Earth is engulfed during stellar evolution (Schröder & Connon Smith 2008), the  $\nu_6$  secular resonance shifts outwards relative to the asteroid belt, into a previously stable region of the asteroid belt. Secular resonances occur when the free apsidal precession frequency of two objects are equal. As the resonance location shifts outwards, it excites the eccentricities of these formerly stable asteroids, thus causing the debris to be perturbed on to star-grazing orbits and eventually to become tidally disrupted by the white dwarf. The disrupted material then forms an accretion disc, which subsequently pollutes the white dwarf atmosphere. Secular resonances can supply a steady pollution of debris to the tidal disruption radius of the white dwarf over Myr time-scales, which is roughly equivalent to the lifetime of the debris discs (Girven *et al.* 2012; Veras & Heng 2020).

In this paper, we extend the work of Smallwood *et al.* (2018b) by examining the effects of the mass and orbital semimajor axis of the

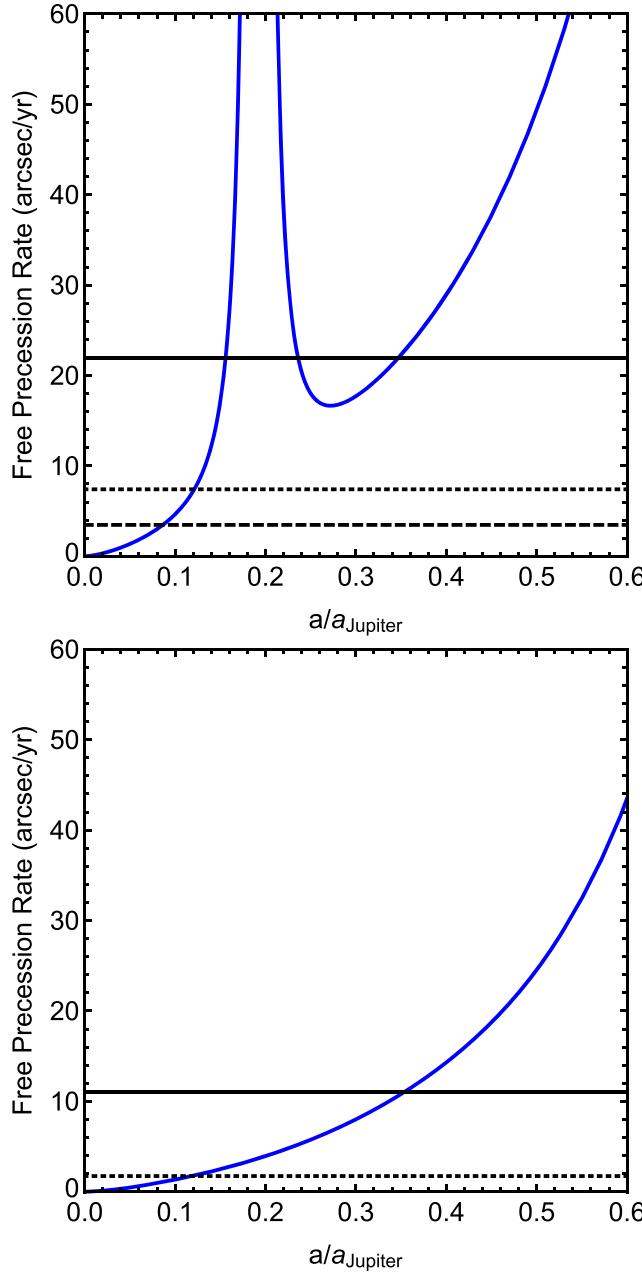
engulfed planet on the secular resonance shift. We assume that the planets and the asteroid belt are sufficiently far from the white dwarf to survive through the red-giant branch and the asymptotic giant branch phases. In Section 2, we summarize the secular perturbation theory and examine the effect of the mass and orbital semimajor axis of the engulfed planet on the secular resonance shift. In Section 3, we describe simulations in which we consider two initially narrow belts of asteroids, the first centred on the  $\nu_6$  resonance and the second centred on the 2:1 mean motion resonance with Jupiter. We consider the effects of engulfed inner planets with an Earth mass and three Earth masses. In Section 4, we consider white dwarf pollution in other observed exoplanetary systems assuming that they have two giant outer planets (similar to Jupiter and Saturn in the Solar system) and an asteroid belt. Although it is difficult to detect giant planets at large orbital radii, this configuration may be common (e.g. Martin & Livio 2015). The snow line radius in a protoplanetary disc is the orbital radius outside of which ice forms (Lecar *et al.* 2006; Martin & Livio 2012, 2013b). Giant planets are expected to form outside the snow line radius in a protoplanetary disc due to the increased solid mass density there (Pollack *et al.* 1996). The occurrence rate of Jupiter analogous around solar-type stars is estimated to be 6 per cent (Wittenmyer *et al.* 2016). However, the occurrence rate of giant planets rises for the stellar masses typical of WD progenitors (Reffert *et al.* 2015), which is around  $2 M_{\odot}$  (Koester *et al.* 2014; Tremblay *et al.* 2016). Asteroid belts are a result of the increased eccentricity of planetesimals inside of the orbit of a giant planet (e.g. Morales *et al.* 2011) and thus asteroid belts likely coincide with the location of the snow line radius (Martin & Livio 2013a). Finally, we draw our conclusions in Section 5.

## 2 SECULAR THEORY

In this section, we generally follow the secular theory described by Smallwood *et al.* (2018b). The Laplace–Lagrange equations are used to calculate the eigen frequencies of  $N$  planets and the free apsidal precession rate of a test particle in the potential of the planetary system. The mean apsidal precession frequency,  $g_0$ , corresponds to the diagonal term of the Laplace–Lagrange matrix including the test particle (Milani & Knezevic 1990; Morbidelli & Henrard 1991). The analytical model we use is expanded to second order in eccentricity and inclination, which indicates that the secular perturbations are to second order in the orbital perturbation. The circumstellar radii at which the free apsidal precession frequencies of test particles are equal to any proper mode of  $N$  planets determines the radial location of secular resonances. In the Solar system, the  $\nu_6$  secular resonance shapes the inner edge of the asteroid belt at about 2 au. At this location, the free apsidal precession frequency of the asteroids is equal to the proper mode dominated by Saturn.

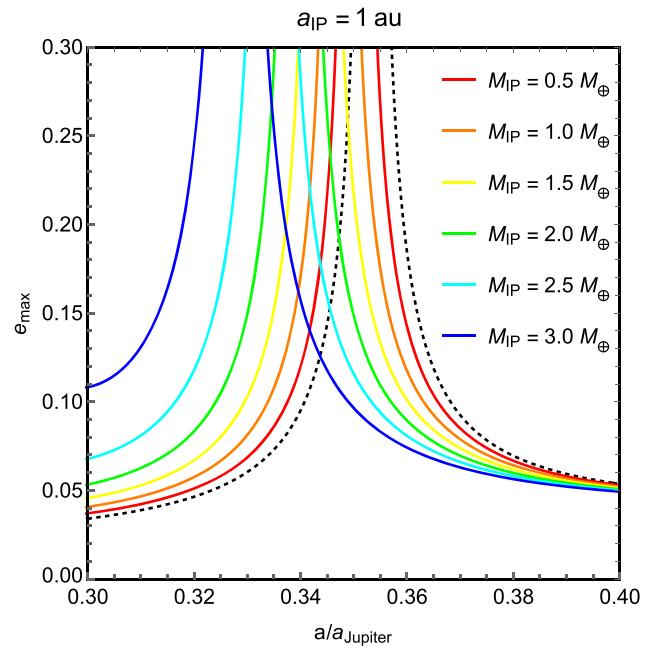
We consider the secular resonance for a planetary system that initially consists of an inner planet, Jupiter, and Saturn. During the main-sequence stage, Jupiter and Saturn are at their current orbital locations with their current masses. In the post-main-sequence stage we take as the mass of the white dwarf into which the Sun has evolved to be half a solar mass. This is consistent, within the uncertainties, with the determined initial–final mass relation (Cummings *et al.* 2018). The inner planet has been engulfed leaving only Jupiter and Saturn that orbit at twice their current orbital separation. It should be noted that during the Sun's giant branch evolution, Jupiter and Saturn will not undergo any instabilities with Uranus and Neptune (e.g. Veras 2016b).

We first consider a system in which the inner planet is an Earth mass planet orbiting at a semimajor axis of  $a_{\text{IP}} = 1 \text{ au}$ . The top



**Figure 1.** The free apsidal precession rate of a test particle (blue) as a function of normalized semimajor axis from the analytic theory. The horizontal lines denote the eigenfrequencies of Earth (dashed), Jupiter (dotted), and Saturn (solid). Top panel: main-sequence stage with Earth, Jupiter, and Saturn. Bottom panel: white dwarf stage with only Jupiter and Saturn. The semimajor axis of Jupiter is  $a_{\text{Jupiter}} = 5.2$  au in the upper panel and  $a_{\text{Jupiter}} = 10.4$  au in the lower panel.

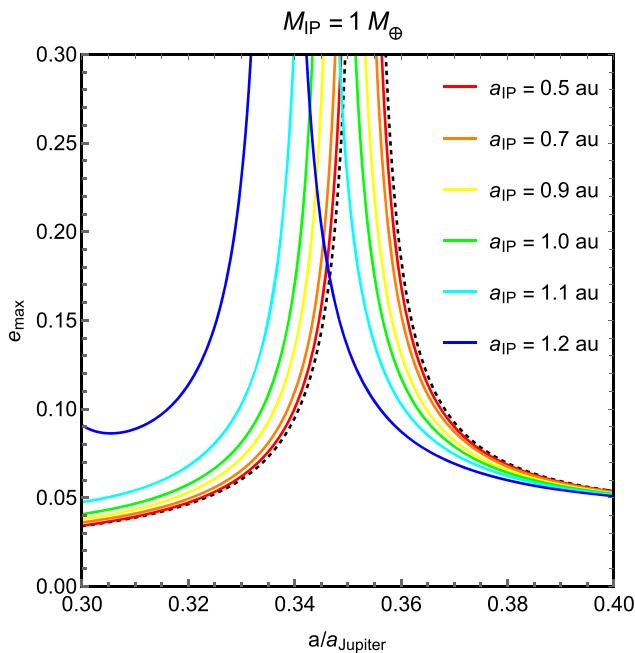
panel of Fig. 1 shows the eigenfrequencies of the three planets during the main-sequence stage (given by the horizontal lines and starting from top to bottom are Saturn, Jupiter, and the Earth) and the free precession rate of the particle is given by the blue curve. The asymptotic feature at about  $0.2a/a_{\text{Jupiter}}$  is the location of the Earth. The location of the  $\nu_6$  resonance in the main-sequence phase is at the outermost crossing of the free precession rate and the eigenfrequency of Saturn. This is at an orbital radius of about  $0.347a_{\text{Jupiter}} = 1.806$  au. The discrepancy between the secular theory and the observed position,  $\sim 2$  au, stems from the theory being of



**Figure 2.** The maximum forced eccentricity as a function of the semimajor axis of a test particle near the  $\nu_6$  secular resonance during the main-sequence stage (solid lines) versus the white dwarf stage (dotted-black line). The eccentricity during the main-sequence is calculated with an inner planet, Jupiter, and Saturn. As the star evolves towards the white dwarf stage, the inner planet is engulfed. The coloured lines show a different initial mass of the inner planet,  $M_{\text{IP}}$ , as indicated by the legend. The inner planets' semimajor axis is fixed to  $a_{\text{IP}} = 1$  au. The region of high maximum eccentricity in the coloured lines that does not overlap with the region of high maximum eccentricity in the dotted lines represents the region where previously stable asteroids that undergo increased eccentricity growth due to secular resonant perturbations. The analytic theory is not accurate for such high values of the eccentricities ( $e \gtrsim 0.2$ ), but we show it as an illustration of the effect.

second-order only, thereby neglecting higher order terms within the disturbing function. The bottom panel of Fig. 1 is identical but for the white dwarf stage, where the Earth had been engulfed. The  $\nu_6$  resonance occurs where the free precession rate crosses the eigenfrequency of Saturn at  $a = 0.353a_{\text{Jupiter}} = 3.675$  AU, where  $a_{\text{Jupiter}}$  is now the adiabatically expanded semimajor axis of Jupiter. Thus, the  $\nu_6$  resonance is shifted outwards by  $0.006a_{\text{Jupiter}}$ . This means that in the adiabatically expanded asteroid belt, the resonance shifts by 0.06 au relative to the belt. These results are independent of the size distribution of the asteroid belt since it is argued that the individual asteroids should breakup into smaller pieces during the asymptotic giant branch evolution (e.g. Veras, Jacobson & Gänsicke 2014a; Veras & Scheeres 2020).

Fig. 2 shows the corresponding maximum forced eccentricity of a test particle as a function of semimajor axis (see e.g. equation 16 in Smallwood et al. 2018b). The maximum eccentricity for the main-sequence stage and the white dwarf stage are given by the solid-coloured lines and the black-dotted line, respectively. We consider the effect of the mass of the inner planet,  $M_{\text{IP}}$ , on the resonance shift. The various coloured lines show the maximum eccentricity for test particles when varying the mass of the engulfed planet for a fixed semimajor axis of the engulfed planet of  $a_{\text{IP}} = 1$  au. The region of high maximum eccentricity in the coloured lines that does not overlap with the region of high eccentricity in the dotted-line indicates where previously stable asteroids undergo higher eccentricity growth



**Figure 3.** Same as Fig. 2 but with a fixed inner planet mass,  $M_{\text{IP}} = 1 M_{\oplus}$ , at different initial values of semimajor axis of the inner planet, as indicated by the legend.

by secular resonant perturbations due to the engulfment of the Earth-like planet. The more massive the inner planet, the wider the region of high eccentricity growth and the smaller the radius of the orbital location of the resonance in the main-sequence stage. The maximum eccentricity in the post-main sequence stage is the same independently of the mass of the engulfed planet. Hence, the dotted line is identical for each case. The more massive the engulfed planet, the more significant the secular resonance shift.

We also explored how the semimajor axis of the inner planet affects the resonance shift. Fig. 3 shows the maximum eccentricity for test particles when varying the semimajor axis of the engulfed planet for a fixed mass of the engulfed planet of  $1 M_{\oplus}$ . The larger the semimajor axis of the inner planet, the broader the region of high eccentricity growth and the smaller the radius of the orbital location of the resonance in the main-sequence stage. As the engulfed planet's orbital separation increases so does the resonance shift distance.

The forced eccentricity and hence the location and width of the secular resonance is unchanged if the planet and star masses are all changed by the same factor. This means that, unlike mean-motion resonances, secular resonances do not broaden with stellar mass-loss. However, systems of lower mass outer planets with the same semimajor axial ratio should also be efficient at delivering planetary material through secular resonances. The time-scale for eccentricity excitation would be longer, but this may allow metal delivery to the white dwarf over longer time-scales without the belt being depleted (e.g. Mustill et al. 2018). The behaviour of the secular resonances beyond the linear regime may be different, reducing the delivery efficiency, but this could be tested with  $N$ -body simulations, which we show in the next section.

In the next section, we use  $N$ -body simulations to examine how the engulfed planet's mass relates to the resonance shift and we compare the effectiveness of the secular resonance to mean-motion resonances at driving tidal disruption events.

**Table 1.** Simulation models denoting the evolutionary stage, main-sequence (ms) or white dwarf (wd), the mass of the inner planet ( $M_{\text{IP}}$ ), and whether the simulation modelled the  $\nu_6$  secular resonance or the 2:1 mean-motion resonance. The models labelled with ‘no planet’, are simulated without an inner planet.

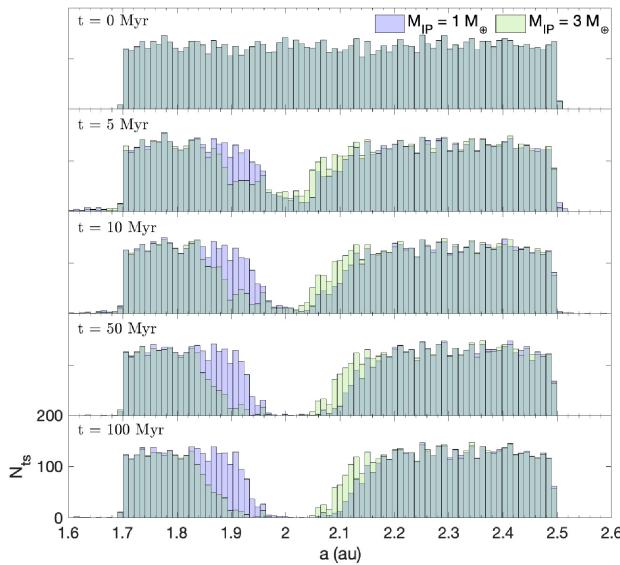
Model	ms/wd	$M_{\text{IP}}/M_{\oplus}$	$\nu_6/2:1$
v6_no_planet_ms	ms	–	$\nu_6$
v6_no_planet_wd	wd	–	$\nu_6$
v6_1ME_ms	ms	1	$\nu_6$
v6_1ME_wd	wd	–	$\nu_6$
v6_3ME_ms	ms	3	$\nu_6$
v6_3ME_wd	wd	–	$\nu_6$
21_no_planet_ms	ms	–	$\nu_6$
21_no_planet_wd	wd	–	$\nu_6$
21_1ME_ms	ms	1	2:1
21_1ME_wd	wd	–	2:1
21_3ME_ms	ms	3	2:1
21_3ME_wd	wd	–	2:1

### 3 N-BODY SIMULATIONS

We use the symplectic integrator in the orbital dynamics package within MERCURY (Chambers 1999) to simulate a planetary system with an asteroid belt during the main-sequence stage and then during the white dwarf stage (skipping the giant branch phases). This is a pure  $N$ -body setup, meaning we neglect any gas drag or radiation forces during the RGB/AGB phases. During the main-sequence phase, we assume the Sun, the inner planet (representing Earth), Jupiter, and Saturn to have the present-day orbital parameters, respectively. For the white dwarf models, the mass of the central object is halved, and the inner planet is removed from the simulation under the assumption that it is engulfed during stellar evolution. All surviving bodies that have orbital radii well below a few hundred au of the star expand adiabatically (Veras et al. 2013a). This adiabatic expansion is relevant when the time-scale for mass-loss is much longer than the orbital periods of the surviving objects.

We explore the dynamics of the secular resonance shift by planetary engulfment for two masses of the inner planet,  $M = 1 M_{\oplus}$  and  $M = 3 M_{\oplus}$ . Based on the analytical approximation presented in Fig. 2, we expect that the  $3 M_{\oplus}$  case should produce more tidal disruption events compared to the  $1 M_{\oplus}$  case. Debes et al. (2012) found that as the mass of the central star decreases, the 2:1 mean-motion resonance width increases and causes previously stable asteroids to become perturbed onto star-grazing orbits. Therefore, within each model, we also test the efficiency of the frequency of tidal disruption events produced from secular resonances versus mean-motion resonances. Table 1 summarizes the simulation models. Each model is simulated for 100 Myr. For the main-sequence models, this time is sufficient for the asteroid belt to approximate a steady-state rate of asteroid clearing. The final conditions for the main-sequence models are then used as the initial conditions for the white dwarf models. We also include simulations for the  $\nu_6$  and 2:1 resonances that do not initially include an inner planet (only Jupiter + Saturn).

Along with the planets, we consider a fiducial belt of test particles. The orbital elements for each particle are chosen as follows: the semimajor axis ( $a$ ) was sampled uniformly in a range based on the type of resonance. For the  $\nu_6$  resonance simulations,  $1.7 \text{ au} < a < 2.5 \text{ au}$ , and for the 2:1 resonance simulations,  $3.15 \text{ au} < a < 3.4 \text{ au}$ . The belts within each model have the same density of particles per unit distance from the star. The initial number of particles is  $\sim 10000$  and  $\sim 7500$  for the  $\nu_6$  and 2:1 models, respectively. The inclination angle ( $i$ ) is randomly distributed in the range  $0-10^{\circ}$ , and the eccentricity ( $e$ )



**Figure 4.** The number distribution of surviving test particles ( $N_{ts}$ ) as a function of semimajor axis at specific times for simulations of the  $\nu_6$  secular resonance. Blue corresponds to the model having a  $1 M_\oplus$  inner planet (model v6\_1ME\_ms), while the green corresponds to the model with a  $3 M_\oplus$  inner planet (model v6\_3ME\_ms). The grey regions represent the overlap between the two models.

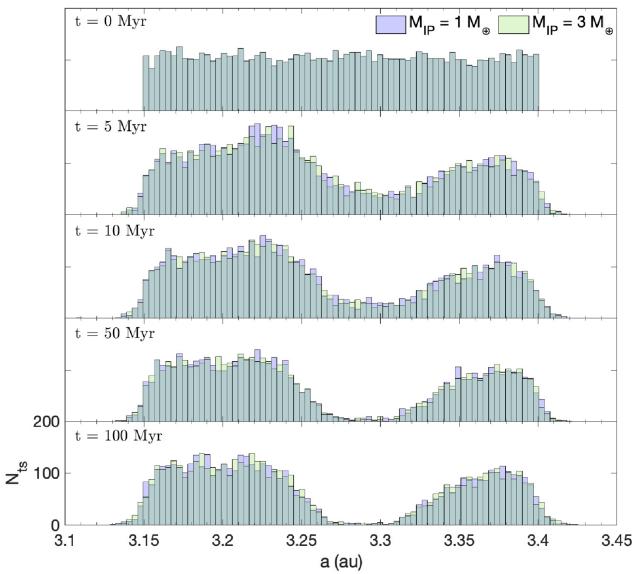
is randomly allocated from the range 0.0–0.1. The remaining orbital elements, the longitude of the ascending node ( $\Omega$ ), the argument of perihelion ( $\omega$ ), and the mean anomaly ( $M_a$ ), were all randomly allocated in the range 0– $360^\circ$ . The asteroids in our simulations are considered to be point particles that do not interact gravitationally with one another. We may neglect this interaction because the time-scale for an asteroid–asteroid collisional interaction is much longer than the time-scale for the action of perturbations by resonance effects. The time-scale for mean-motion resonant effects is of the order of  $\sim 1$  Myr (Ito & Tanikawa 1999), whereas some of the largest asteroids have collisional time-scales that are of the order of the age of the Solar system (Dohnanyi 1969).

The possible outcomes for test particles near secular and mean-motion resonances include ejections, collisions with a larger body, or remaining within the simulation. A particle is considered ejected if its semimajor axis exceeds 100 au and it is counted as a tidal disruption event if the particle passes within the white dwarf’s tidal disruption radius. The tidal disruption radius for a  $0.5 M_\odot$  white dwarf is  $1.22 R_\odot$  with an asteroid density of  $3 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$  (from equation 17 in Smallwood et al. 2018b).

### 3.1 Main-sequence stage

As noted above, to model the shift in the  $\nu_6$  secular resonance, we first simulate a belt of test particles during the main-sequence stage for 100 Myr. This stage includes the Sun, an inner planet, Jupiter, and Saturn, with two different values of the inner planet mass ( $1 M_\oplus$  and  $3 M_\oplus$ ) both at a semimajor axis of 1 au. We also explore the relative efficiency of driving tidal disruption events between the  $\nu_6$  resonance and the 2:1 mean-motion resonance for each.

Fig. 4 shows the number distribution of surviving test particles as a function of semimajor axis at time  $t = 0, 5, 10, 50, 100$  Myr around the  $\nu_6$  secular resonance. Test particles are removed from the simulations through ejections, collisions with the central star, or collisions with the planets. The blue bars correspond to model

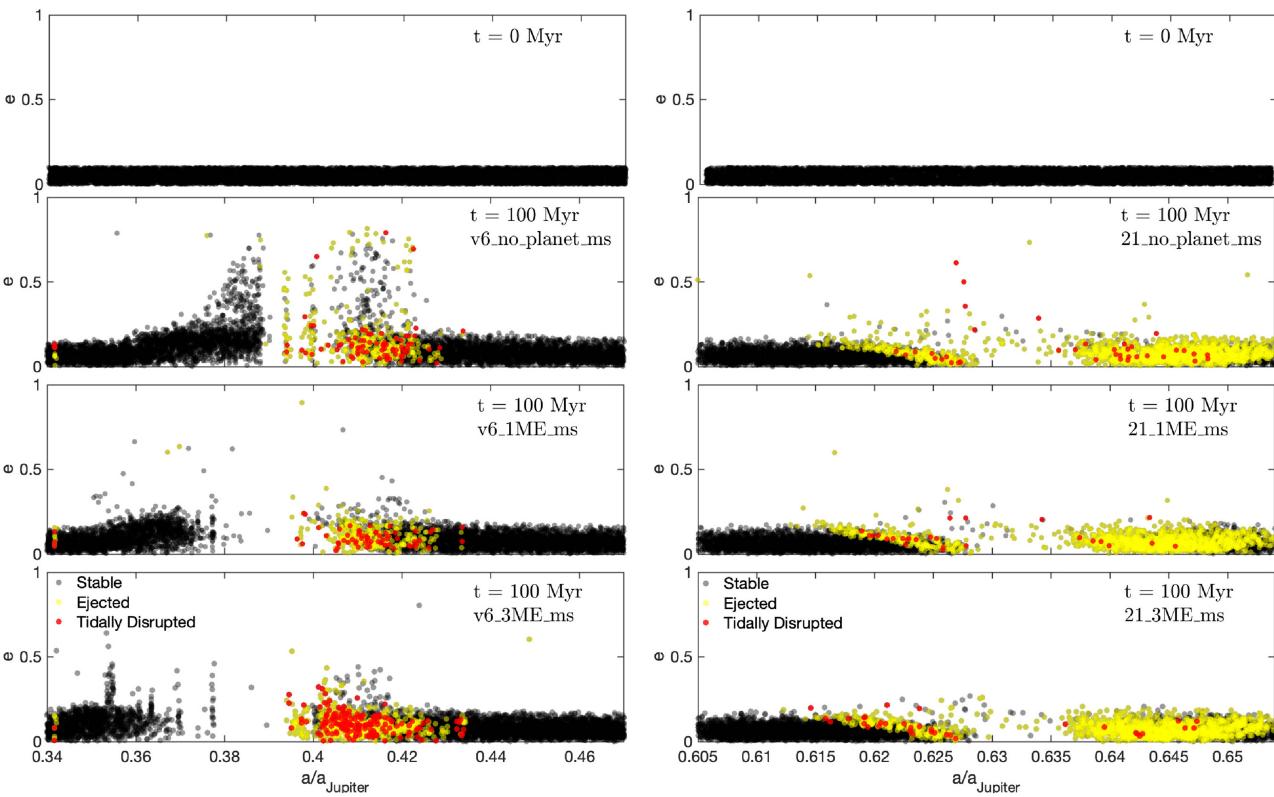


**Figure 5.** Same as Fig. 4 but for simulations around the 2:1 mean-motion resonance (models 21\_1ME\_ms and 21\_3ME\_ms).

v6\_1ME\_ms which has a  $1 M_\oplus$  inner planet, while the green bars correspond to model v6\_3ME\_ms which has a  $3 M_\oplus$  inner planet. The grey bars represent the overlap of the two models. The structure of the  $\nu_6$  resonance gap remains roughly constant in time after about 50 Myr. The time-scale of secular perturbations for the  $\nu_6$  resonance begins at a time of the order of 0.1 Myr (Malhotra et al. 1989; Malhotra 1999; Malhotra 2012). There is a larger population of removed particles in the  $3 M_\oplus$  inner planet simulation compared to the  $1 M_\oplus$  inner planet simulation. This was predicted by the secular theory (Fig. 2), where the excitation region for the  $\nu_6$  resonance is wider for when a  $3 M_\oplus$  inner planet is present compared to a  $1 M_\oplus$  inner planet. The wider excitation region causes more particles to be cleared from the gap. Both models evolve to close to a steady-state of asteroid clearing within 100 Myr, meaning that the loss rate at 100 Myr has become constant. The final conditions of the  $\nu_6$  main-sequence models are taken as the initial conditions for the  $\nu_6$  white dwarf models.

Next, we examine the particle distribution around the 2:1 mean-motion resonance in Fig. 5. The blue bars correspond to model 21\_1ME\_ms, while the green bars correspond to model 21\_3ME\_ms. The grey bars represent the overlap of the two models. The structure of the 2:1 resonance gap remains roughly the same after about 50 Myr. Increasing the mass of the inner planet by a factor of three does not have a significant effect on the dynamics of the 2:1 mean-motion resonance.

Fig. 6 shows the initial and final distributions of asteroids in semimajor axis and orbital eccentricity of the belt for simulation models v6\_1ME\_ms, v6\_3ME\_ms, 21\_1ME\_ms, and 21\_3ME\_ms in Table 1. The top row shows the initial conditions for the belts around the  $\nu_6$  secular resonance (left) and the 2:1 mean-motion resonance (right). The middle row shows the distribution of the belts after 100 Myr with a  $1 M_\oplus$  inner planet, while the bottom row shows the distribution of the belts with a  $3 M_\oplus$  inner planet. As expected, the 2:1 resonance gap is qualitatively unaffected by the mass of the inner planet. However, for the  $\nu_6$  resonance gap, the simulation with a  $3 M_\oplus$  inner planet has a wider gap, and the gap is shifted inwards in agreement with the results in Section 2 (see Fig. 2). There is also some eccentricity growth at certain mean-motion resonances



**Figure 6.** The eccentricity versus semimajor axis of the asteroids at the end of the main-sequence stage. The left-hand column shows the  $v_6$  secular resonance simulations and the right-hand column shows results of the 2:1 mean-motion resonance simulations. The first row denotes the initial distribution of the belt. The second row shows the final distributions with no inner planet. The third row denotes the final distributions for belts with a  $1 M_{\oplus}$  inner planet, while the fourth row denotes the final distributions for belts with a  $3 M_{\oplus}$  inner planet. The colours denote the outcomes of the particles after the white dwarf stage. The outcomes include ejection (yellow), tidal disruption (red), or remaining stable (black).

locations. The 5:1 MMR is located at  $a/a_J \sim 0.34$  and the 7:2 MMR at  $a/a_J \sim 0.434$ , where there are few tidal disruptions and ejections. Moreover, the 4:1 MMR sits at  $a/a_J \sim 0.40$  and may affect the non-linear behaviour of the secular resonance (e.g. Malhotra 2012).

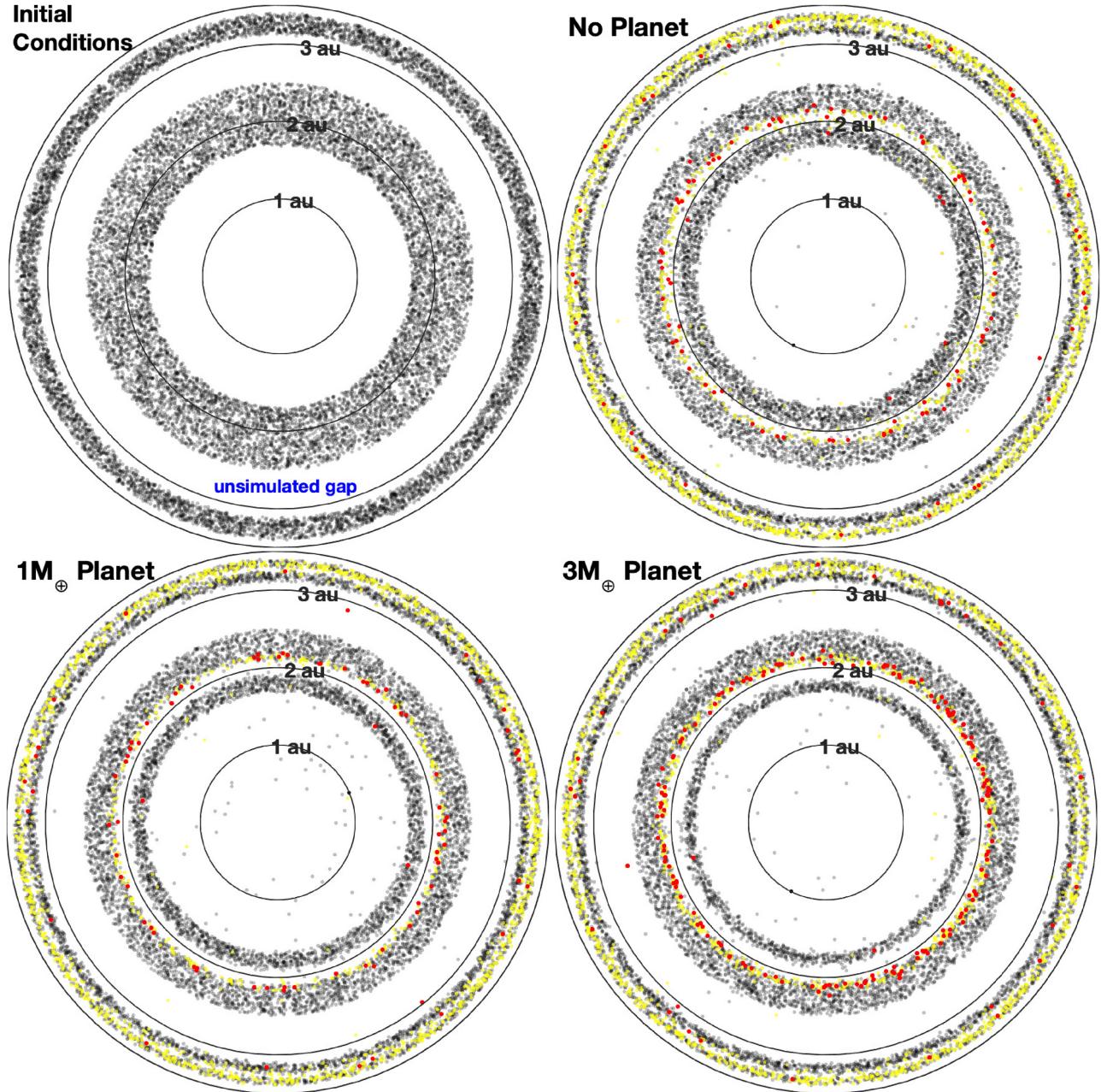
We set up two additional simulations for the secular resonance and 2:1 mean-motion resonance cases, where the main-sequence stage and the white dwarf stage are simulated with no inner planet in either case. The forced secular eccentricity in the lowest order theory is independent of the stellar mass, so this is a test of how important higher order terms are in destabilizing bodies. Each stellar evolutionary stage is simulated for 100 Myr. The bottom left-hand panel of Fig. 6 shows the eccentricity distribution as a function of semimajor axis of the particles at the end of the main-sequence stage of the  $v_6$  resonance. By comparing the  $v_6$  resonance gap structure after 100 Myr to the gap structure produced with the inner planet included, we see that the inner edge of the gap in the ‘no planet’ simulation is shifted outwards. There are multiple mean-motion resonances within the gap that have stabilized particles during the main-sequence stage. The bottom right-hand panel of Fig. 6 shows the eccentricity distribution as a function of semimajor axis of the particles at the end of the main-sequence stage of the 2:1 resonance. The gap size of the 2:1 mean-motion resonance with no inner planet is qualitatively similar to when an inner planet is engulfed.

To better visualize the belt structure, we show 2D polar plots in Fig. 7. The points initially interior to 3 au represent particles in the secular resonance simulation and the points initially beyond 3 au represent particles in the 2:1 mean-motion resonance simulation. The upper left-hand plot represents the initial distribution, while the upper

right-hand, bottom left-hand, and bottom right-hand panels show the results with no inner planet, a  $1 M_{\oplus}$  inner planet, and a  $3 M_{\oplus}$  inner planet, respectively. The  $v_6$  resonance gap is clearly wider and shifted inwards when the belt is under the influence of a more massive inner planet.

### 3.2 White dwarf stage

This section describes the results for models  $v6\_no\_planet\_wd$ ,  $v6\_1ME\_wd$ ,  $v6\_3ME\_wd$ ,  $21\_1ME\_wd$ , and  $21\_3ME\_wd$  from Table 1. As noted, the initial conditions of these models were taken from the final conditions of the main-sequence simulations, models  $v6\_1ME\_ms$ ,  $v6\_3ME\_ms$ ,  $21\_1ME\_ms$ , and  $21\_3ME\_ms$ , except that the inner planet was removed due to engulfment, the mass of the star was halved, and the orbital radii of all surviving asteroidal bodies and planets were expanded adiabatically. For the model  $v6\_no\_planet\_wd$ , there was no inner planet initially during the main-sequence stage (only Jupiter and Saturn). As discussed earlier, when the inner planet is engulfed, the free precession frequencies of all surviving bodies are altered which causes the  $v_6$  secular resonance to shift outwards. We instantaneously remove the inner planet and reduce the stellar mass. In practice, the inner planet’s orbit may decay through tidal decay before the planet is engulfed. This will cause the secular resonances to move smoothly through the system (see fig. 14 of Mustill & Villaver 2012, which only dealt with exterior secular resonances). The effects of this are slightly different from the impulsive change in location in this study, particularly if the resonance moves a substantial distance.



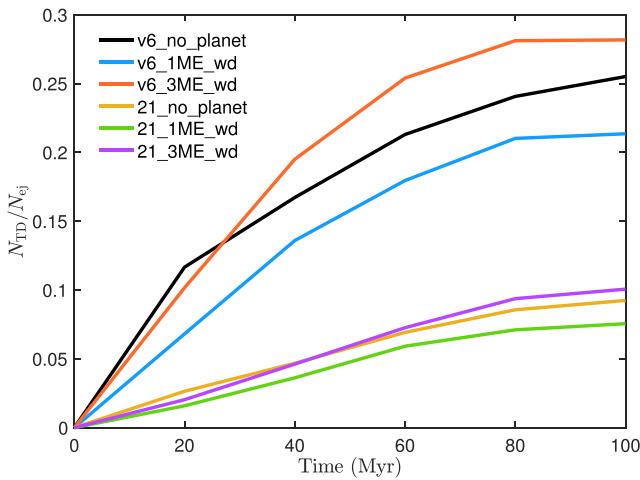
**Figure 7.** 2D polar plots of the particle distributions for asteroids around the  $\nu_6$  secular resonance and the 2:1 mean-motion resonance. The orbital phases of the particles are at the beginning of the WD simulations. The upper left-hand plot shows the initial distribution. The upper right-hand panels denotes the distribution with initially no inner planet. The bottom left-hand and right-hand plots show the distributions with a  $1 M_{\oplus}$  inner planet and a  $3 M_{\oplus}$  inner planet, respectively, after a time of 100 Myr. The dot colours denote the outcomes of the particles during the white dwarf stage with yellow denoting ejection, red depicting tidal disruptions, and black indicating stable particles.

Nevertheless, the dynamics of the secular resonance present in this work will have profound effects on the study of white dwarf pollution.

The left-hand panels of Fig. 6 shows the initial particle eccentricities as a function of initial semimajor axes for the  $1 M_{\oplus}$  engulfed planet (middle panel) and the  $3 M_{\oplus}$  engulfed planet (bottom panel) simulations, models v6\_1ME\_wd and v6\_1ME\_wd, respectively. The yellow colour denotes particles that have been ejected after the star became a white dwarf, and red denotes particles that have been tidally disrupted by the white dwarf. The black colour represents particles that have remained stable throughout the simulation time domain. As shown in the figure, the majority of ejections/tidal

disruptions occur as a result of the outward shift of the  $\nu_6$  secular resonance.

With no inner planet engulfment, i.e. the ‘no planet’ simulation, we still see the secular resonance shifts outwards in Fig. 6. However, by comparing the  $\nu_6$  resonance gap structure after 100 Myr of the ‘no planet’ simulation to the gap structure with a  $1 M_{\oplus}$  planet, we see that the inner edge of the gap in the ‘no planet’ simulation is shifted outwards. This means that the gap is more centred on the neighbouring mean-motion resonances. When a secular resonance is overlapping with mean-motion resonances, the destabilizing perturbations are exacerbated (e.g. Moons & Morbidelli 1995). Therefore, with no

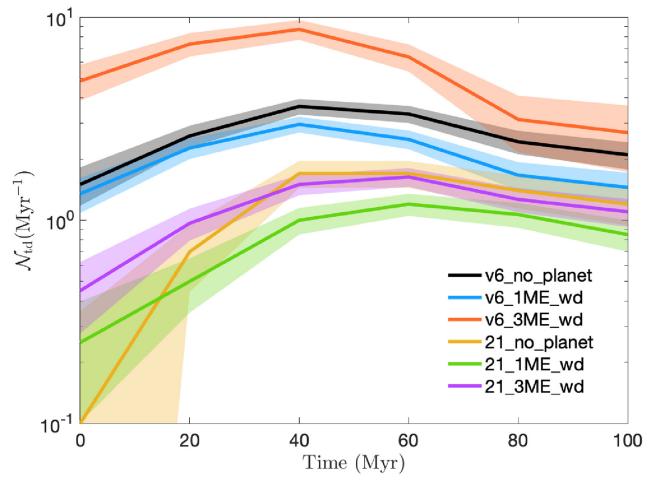


**Figure 8.** The ratio of the number of tidally disrupted particles ( $N_{\text{TD}}$ ) to the number of ejected particles ( $N_{\text{ej}}$ ) as a function of time for models v6\_no\_planet (black), v6\_1ME\_wd (blue), v6\_3ME\_wd (red), 21\_no\_planet (yellow), 21\_1ME\_wd (green), and 21\_3ME\_wd (purple). See Table 1 for a description of the different models.

inner planet engulfment the secular resonance still shifts outwards. The forced secular resonance eccentricity in the higher order theory does have a significant effect on the secular perturbations once the system evolves to a white dwarf. The significance of this result is that white dwarf pollution by secular resonances is much more robust since inner planetary engulfment is not necessarily required. Fig. 6 also shows a similar gap structure of the 2:1 resonance without having an inner planet as it does with the inclusion of the inner planet (right-hand panels of Fig. 6).

The right-hand panels of Fig. 6 shows similar plots for the particles around the 2:1 mean-motion resonance. Due to the mass-loss from the central star, the mean-motion resonance width increases and causes destabilization of particles that were once stable during the main-sequence stage (Debes et al. 2012). The yellow colour denotes particles that have been ejected, and red denotes particles that have been tidally disrupted by the white dwarf. The majority of the outcomes are ejections rather than tidal disruptions. The locations of particles that have been ejected or tidally disrupted around both the 2:1 mean-motion resonance and the secular resonance can be seen in the bottom and right-hand plots in Fig. 7.

Fig. 8 shows the ratio of the number of tidally disrupted particles ( $N_{\text{TD}}$ ) to the number of ejected particles ( $N_{\text{ej}}$ ) for both the secular resonance models and the 2:1 mean-motion resonance models. For each model, the  $N_{\text{TD}}/N_{\text{ej}}$  ratio gradually increases with time. The ratio increases more substantially for the secular resonance models compared to the mean-motion resonance. In each case the ratio is larger when a  $3 M_{\oplus}$  mass planet is engulfed compared to when a  $1 M_{\oplus}$  mass planet is engulfed. However, the difference in the ratio between the two engulfed planet masses is more significant for the secular resonance models than the mean-motion models because increasing the mass of the engulfment planet does not have much impact on the dynamics of mean-motion resonances. For the secular resonance models, this difference arises because the resonance orbital location for the higher mass planet is initially closer-in. The ‘no planet’ simulation mapping the  $\nu_6$  resonance has a higher  $N_{\text{TD}}/N_{\text{ej}}$  ratio than the  $1 M_{\oplus}$  mass planet engulfment scenario. The  $N_{\text{TD}}/N_{\text{ej}}$  ratio for the ‘no planet’ simulation mapping the 2:1 resonance is roughly the same as when the inner planet is included.



**Figure 9.** The number of tidally disrupted particles per Myr,  $N_{\text{td}}$ , as a function of time. The black, blue, and red lines denote the secular resonance models (v6\_no\_planet, v6\_1ME\_wd, and v6\_3ME\_wd; see Table 1), with no inner planet, a  $1 M_{\oplus}$ , and a  $3 M_{\oplus}$  engulfed inner planet, respectively. The yellow, green, and purple lines denote the 2:1 mean-motion resonance models (21\_no\_planet, 21\_1ME\_wd, and 21\_3ME\_wd). The shaded regions identify the standard error in the tidal disruption rate for each model.

These ratios for the 2:1 mean-motion resonance models are relatively small due to the fact that there are significantly more ejections than tidal disruptions compared to the secular resonance case. The 2:1 resonance has a higher probability of producing ejections rather than tidal disruptions because it has a larger orbital radius than the  $\nu_6$  secular resonance. Note that even for the  $\nu_6$  resonance case, there are more ejections than tidal disruptions. The fact that the ratios for the 2:1 mean-motion resonance models are lower than the ratios from the secular resonance models means that the secular resonance is more efficient in driving tidal disruption events. On a more fundamental level, the  $\nu_6$  secular resonance is more efficient in driving white dwarf pollution than all mean-motion resonances, since the 2:1 mean-motion resonance is a first-order resonance, and hence the strongest resonance.

Next we compare the absolute rates of tidally disrupted particles between the secular and mean-motion resonance models. Note that when comparing the tidal disruption rates between the different models, we use the same number of particles per semimajor axis when populating the two resonances. To calculate the tidal disruption rate for a real system, one would have to apply a weighting given the belt surface density profile. Fig. 9 shows the number of tidally disrupted particles per Myr,  $N_{\text{td}}$ , as a function of time for the white dwarf models v6\_no\_planet\_wd, v6\_1ME\_wd, v6\_3ME\_wd, 21\_no\_planet\_wd, 21\_1ME\_wd, and 21\_3ME\_wd. The first three describe the secular resonance models (including the control simulation), and the last three represent the 2:1 mean-motion resonance models. The shaded regions identify the standard error in the tidal disruption rate for each model. The secular resonance simulation that assumed a  $3 M_{\oplus}$  engulfed planet (model v6\_3ME\_wd) has a higher rate of tidally disrupted particles than the simulation that assumed a  $1 M_{\oplus}$  engulfed planet (model v6\_1ME\_wd). When no engulfed inner planet is simulated, the rate of disruptions is higher than the  $1 M_{\oplus}$  engulfed planet scenario, which means that planetary engulfment is not necessarily needed. These two models have overlapping standard error near the beginning of the simulations but then deviate beyond 40 Myr. Smallwood et al. (2018b) showed that a  $1 M_{\oplus}$  mass engulfed inner planet at 1 au can produce a high enough tidal disruption rate

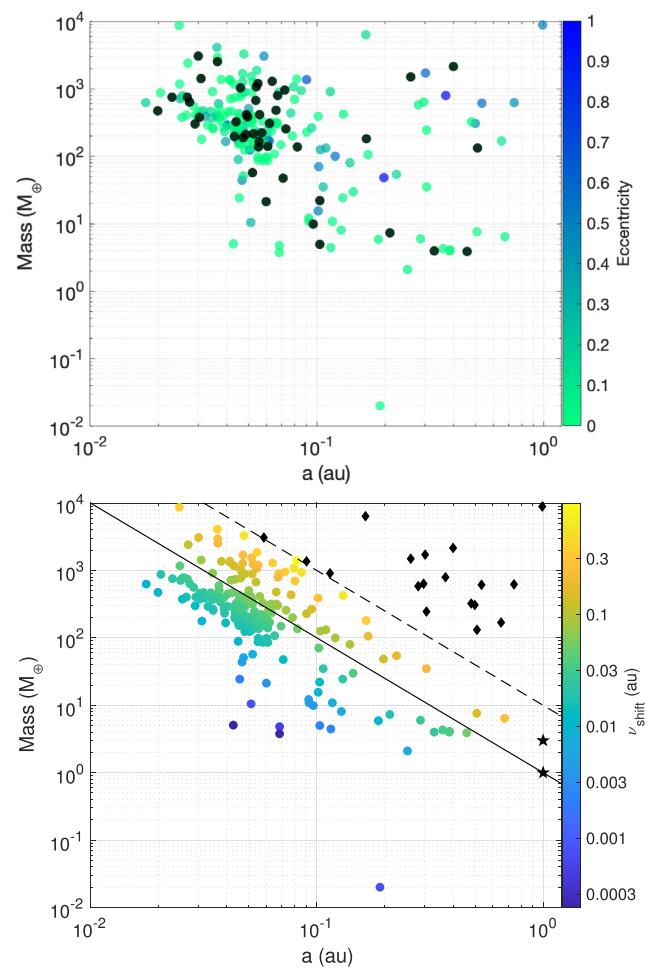
to have a mass accretion rate that is within the range of accretion rates deduced from observations, from  $\sim 10^5$  to  $\sim 10^{11} \text{ g s}^{-1}$  (Koester et al. 2014; Farihi 2016). The tidal disruption rate is estimated to be  $0.0002 \text{ Myr}^{-1}$  per particle for a fiducial belt mass. Thus, the tidal disruption rates for each secular resonance model are able to provide a mass accretion rate that is within the observed limits. The rates of tidally disrupted particles for the 2:1 mean-motion simulations, 21\_no\_planet\_wd, 21\_1ME\_wd and 21\_3ME\_wd, are lower than the tidal disruption rates for the secular resonance models, which again suggests that the secular resonance is more efficient in producing the required accretion rates than the 2:1 mean-motion resonance. Still, both mean-motion resonances and secular resonances are expected to contribute to the accretion process.

#### 4 KNOWN EXOPLANETARY SYSTEMS

White dwarf pollution may occur in planetary systems that are very different from our Solar system. Secular and mean-motion resonances are expected to sculpt the architecture of an asteroid belt (if one exists) in exoplanetary systems. Consequently, the mechanisms presented in this work should occur in numerous planetary configurations. In this section, we consider the potential for white dwarf pollution in observed exoplanetary systems due to planetary engulfment.

From the *Kepler* data, planetary systems are common with an occurrence rate of at minimum one planet per star (Petigura, Howard & Marcy 2013; Foreman-Mackey, Hogg & Morton 2014; Burke et al. 2015; Hsu et al. 2018). This occurrence rate is also seen from microlensing observations (Cassan et al. 2012). There are, however, strong observational biases that are inherent in transit surveys (e.g. Kipping & Sandford 2016). Small planets with long periods are much more difficult to detect than giant planets orbiting nearby to their star. This is because of the transit signal-to-noise which prevents the detection of small planets with periods  $\sim 1$  yr. Due to the operational time of *Kepler* and a planet confirmation criterion of three transits, only giant planets were detectable with periods up to 418 d (Fressin et al. 2013). Large self-luminous planets are more sensitive to direct imaging at large separation,  $\gtrsim 10$  au (Kalas et al. 2008; Marois et al. 2008, 2010; Lagrange et al. 2010). The planet detections to date suggest that giant planets are more common around A stars and that wide-separation planets are more prevalent around high-mass stars (Johnson et al. 2010; Reffert et al. 2014). Furthermore, the occurrence rate of giant planets around stars from direct imaging statistics is of the order of 10 per cent (Galicher et al. 2016; Meshkat et al. 2017; Baron et al. 2019; Nielsen et al. 2019). Moreover, Wahhaj et al. (2013) found, from the Gemini NICI Planet-Finding Campaign, that  $< 20$  per cent of debris disc stars have a  $\leq 3 M_{\text{Jup}}$  planet beyond 10 au.

We apply the secular theory model to exoplanetary systems to study the dynamics of secular resonance shifts due to planetary engulfment. For the inner system architecture, we extract the data of all available exoplanetary systems from the NASA exoplanet archive.<sup>1</sup> We filter the exoplanets to those that (1) have the host star within a mass range that would produce a white dwarf,  $1M_{\odot} \lesssim M \lesssim 10M_{\odot}$ , lower mass stars have not had time to become white dwarfs, (2) have a planet with a known mass, and (3) a semimajor axis  $\leq 1$  au so that they will be engulfed. The two variables that dominate the secular theory calculations are the planet mass and semimajor axis, thus if the eccentricity or argument of the pericentre



**Figure 10.** Upper panel: The mass versus semimajor axis for exoplanets that have a host star with mass in a range that will become a white dwarf. The eccentricity of each exoplanet is denoted by the colour bar. The black dots are exoplanets that have unknown eccentricity. Bottom panel: Same as the upper panel but the colour bar now denotes the secular resonance shift distance ( $v_{\text{shift}}$ ) once the planet has been engulfed. The diamond markers indicate the engulfed planets that cause a newly formed secular resonance. The two star markers represent a  $1M_{\oplus}$  inner planet and a  $3M_{\oplus}$  inner planet located at 1 au, as used in the numerical simulations in Section 3. Systems above the solid line have a resonance shift  $\gtrsim 0.06$  au while those above the dashed line do not have a resonance before the white dwarf stage.

is unknown, we assume values of 0.0 and  $90^\circ$ , respectively. There are 230 exoplanets that fit these criteria. We show the mass as a function of the semimajor axis along with the eccentricity for each exoplanet in the upper panel of Fig. 10. The black dots are the exoplanets that have an unknown eccentricity.

For each exoplanet in our sample, we assume that its outer system architecture has giants like Jupiter and Saturn (which are difficult to detect but likely to exist, even though not with those exact parameters) and we then measure the location of the secular resonance before planetary engulfment and then compare to the location after inner planet engulfment.

The bottom panel of Fig. 10 shows the mass semimajor axis distribution of the exoplanets along with the secular resonance shift distance ( $v_{\text{shift}}$ ) denoted by the colour. The  $1M_{\oplus}$  and  $3M_{\oplus}$  inner planets used in the  $N$ -body simulations are shown by the star markers. There are systems that have sufficiently massive inner

<sup>1</sup><https://exoplanetarchive.ipac.caltech.edu>

planets that there would currently be no resonance because the asteroid free precession rate is larger than the proper mode of Saturn within the asteroid belt region. The engulfment of these planets leads to the formation of a secular resonance (shown by the diamond markers) and the maximum number of tidal disruption events possible occurs for these planets. The dashed black line shows the approximate boundary between forming a new resonance and having a resonance shift after engulfment. The line is given by  $M = 10(a/\text{au})^{-2} M_{\oplus}$ .

An Earth mass planet at 1 au is close to the critical mass and separation for a system in which the resonance moves more than its width and thus a significant number of tidal disruption events occurs. We approximate the mass required for a significant shift in the resonance by  $M > (a/\text{au})^{-2} M_{\oplus}$ . We plot this solid black line in the lower panel of Fig. 10. An Earth mass planet at a smaller orbital radius or a smaller mass planet at the same location causes a smaller resonance shift.

In the solar neighbourhood, it has been observed that over half of the Sun-like stars have at least one super-Earth planet orbiting on a low eccentricity orbit with a period of days to months (Mayor et al. 2011; Batalha et al. 2013; Fressin et al. 2013; Burke et al. 2015; Martin & Livio 2016). A planetary system with an engulfed super-Earth at 1 au will cause a resonance shift of  $> 0.06 \text{ au}$  if the mass is  $1 < M/M_{\oplus} < 10$ . The value of 0.06 au is the resonance shift distance from an engulfed  $1 M_{\oplus}$  planet. However, if the super-Earth mass is  $\geq 10 M_{\oplus}$ , then there will not be a secular resonance present until the super-Earth is engulfed (Smallwood et al. 2018a), which leads to the formation of the resonance after the planet is engulfed and thus the most substantial rate of tidal disruption events. A super-Earth with a mass of  $10 M_{\oplus}$  could have a semimajor axis as low as 0.31 au and cause a shift in the resonance of 0.06 au.

Hot Jupiters orbit their central star at distances of  $\lesssim 0.05 \text{ au}$  (Hartman et al. 2012; Hellier et al. 2012; Weiss et al. 2013). If a hot Jupiter at a semimajor axis of 0.05 au is accompanied by two outer giant planets, we can constrain the mass required for the engulfed hot Jupiter to produce a significant resonance shift to be about  $> 1.3 M_{\text{J}}$ . However, hot Jupiters rarely dwell in multiplanet systems (Gibson et al. 2009; Wright et al. 2009; Latham et al. 2011; Steffen et al. 2012). There are, though, several exceptions, with one being the WASP-47 system which hosts a hot Jupiter along with a Neptune-sized outer companion, a super-Earth inner planet, and a Jupiter-sized planet with a separation of 1 au (Becker et al. 2015; Neveu-VanMalle et al. 2016; Weiss et al. 2017). Other systems that host a hot Jupiter along with outer giant companions include: HIP 14810 (Ment et al. 2018), HD 217107 (Wright et al. 2009; Stassun, Collins & Gaudi 2017), Pr0211 (Malavolta et al. 2016), and HD 187123 (Wright et al. 2009). The lack of observed companions in hot Jupiter systems can be caused by low sensitivity in transit timing variations (Steffen et al. 2012) or large mutual inclinations of the companions (Triaud et al. 2010; Winn et al. 2010; Morton & Johnson 2011; Zhou et al. 2015). In conclusion, engulfing a hot Jupiter can cause a white dwarf to become polluted if there are two outer giant companions present. It should be noted that hot Jupiters would be engulfed very soon after the star leaves the main sequence, after which it takes  $\sim 10^8 - 10^9 \text{ yr}$  (depending on mass) to become a white dwarf. There is therefore the risk that the new location of the secular resonance gets depleted while the star is a giant, leaving little material to survive to pollute the white dwarf.

The results in this section depend on there being two outer massive planets (i.e. Jupiter and Saturn). By varying the properties of these two planets, the location and resulting shift of the secular resonance will be different. For a  $1 M_{\oplus}$  inner engulfed planet at 1 au, changing

the mass of Jupiter by a factor of two will cause the resonance shift distance to increase by a factor of about 3, which would cause the area between the two lines in the bottom panel of Fig. 10 to expand. Likewise, by changing the mass of Saturn by a factor of two, the resonance would shift inwards rather than outwards (Smallwood et al. 2018a). Thus, for this mechanism to produce tidal disruption events of asteroidal bodies, the combination of the parameters of the engulfed planet and the two outer giant planets must work synergistically.

## 5 CONCLUSIONS

In Smallwood et al. (2018b), we found that the  $v_6$  secular resonance in the Solar system shifts outwards when the Earth is engulfed during stellar evolution. This resonance shift causes previously stable asteroids to undergo secular resonant perturbations, to move to star-grazing orbits and become tidally disrupted by the white dwarf. In this work, we investigated how the resonance shift is related to the mass and semimajor axis of the inner engulfed planet. From secular analytical theory, we found that the more massive the engulfed planet and the larger its orbital separation, the more significant is the resonance shift and the higher the rate of tidal disruption events of asteroids. Hence, if secular resonance sweeping is the dominant mechanism to pollute white dwarfs, then the currently observed rate of pollution may represent a proxy for the engulfment history of the star.

We ran higher order numerical simulations with two different inner planet masses,  $M = 1$  and  $3 M_{\oplus}$  at a fixed semimajor axis of 1 au, to validate our second-order secular theory results. We found that the secular resonance does shift outwards as found by Smallwood et al. (2018b). Furthermore, when a  $3 M_{\oplus}$  planet is engulfed, the number of tidally disrupted particles increases (when compared to a lower mass engulfed planet). The tidal disruption rate for both secular resonance models can give an accretion rate in agreement with those deduced from pollution data.

Moreover, we now find that a planet does not necessarily have to be engulfed in order to trigger secular resonant perturbations during the white dwarf stage. Our ‘no planet’ simulation, which includes no inner planetary engulfment, shows that higher order terms in the secular theory (not captured by our analytical calculations) are important in destabilizing particles near secular resonances. However, a more massive engulfed planet will still have a higher tidal disruption rate.

We also tested the efficiency of driving tidal disruption events during the white dwarf stage for particles around the 2:1 mean-motion resonance, which is one of, if not the strongest mean-motion resonances. The tidal disruption rate from the 2:1 mean-motion resonance is lower than that from the secular resonance, which demonstrates that the  $v_6$  resonance is more efficient in driving white dwarf pollution than mean-motion resonances.

Finally, we explored the feasibility of a secular resonance shift within observed exoplanetary systems. We assumed an architecture similar to that of the outer Solar System (i.e. Jupiter and Saturn) and estimated the secular resonance shift by engulfing known exoplanets with a semimajor axis  $\leq 1 \text{ au}$ . We found that in addition to an Earth mass planet at 1 au, hot Jupiters very close to their star and super-Earths farther out are able to produce similar tidal disruption rates. Thus, the mechanism of white dwarf pollution through secular resonances appears to be robust since planetary engulfment is not necessarily required and should operate for a significant fraction of the observed exoplanetary inner system architectures.

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## DATA AVAILABILITY

The data supporting the plots within this article are available on reasonable request to the corresponding author. A public version of the MERCURY code is available at <https://github.com/4xxi/mercury>.

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