Cassini State Capture

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ABSTRACT

Abstract

Key words: planet–star interactions

1 INTRODUCTION

Introduction, test citation (Henrard 1982).

2 CASSINI STATES

Denote \hat{s} spin of planet, \hat{l} angular momentum of planet, and \hat{l}_p angular momentum of perturber. The Cassini state Hamiltonian in the frame corotating with \hat{l}_p about \hat{l} is:

$$H = -\frac{\alpha}{2} \left(\hat{s} \cdot \hat{l} \right)^2 - g \left(\hat{s} \cdot \hat{l}_p \right). \tag{1}$$

 $\alpha>0, g<0$ depend on the particular dynamics of the system. Frequently, parameter

$$\eta \equiv \frac{|*| g}{\alpha} \tag{2}$$

is defined; we refrain from doing so immediately.

Choose $\hat{l}=\hat{z}$ and $\hat{l}_p=\cos I\hat{z}+\sin I\hat{x}$. Furthermore, choose standard convention where $\phi=0$ corresponds to \hat{l}_p,\hat{s} lying on *opposite* sides of \hat{l} . This allows us to evaluate Hamiltonian

$$H = -\frac{\alpha}{2}\cos^2\theta + |g|(\cos\theta\cos I - \sin I\sin\theta\cos\phi)$$
 (3)

Here, $\mu \equiv \cos \theta$, ϕ are canonically conjugate.

2.1 Equilibria

The evolution of \hat{s} in this corotating frame is governed by:

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}\hat{s}}{\mathrm{d}t} = \alpha \left(\hat{s} \cdot \hat{l}\right) \left(\hat{s} \times \hat{l}\right) - |g| \left(\hat{s} \times \hat{l}_p\right). \tag{4}$$

Spin states satisfying $\frac{d\hat{s}}{dt} = 0$ are referred to as *Cassini States* (CS). When $\eta < \eta_C$, there are four CSs, and when $\eta > \eta_C$ there are only two; η_C is

$$\eta_c \equiv \left(\sin^{2/3} I + \cos^{2/3} I\right)^{3/2}.$$
 (5)

Using the standard numbering given in Figure 1, CSs 1, 2, 3 are stable while CS4 is unstable.

2.2 Separatrix

In the four-CS regime, one of the CSs is a saddle point, conventionally denoted Cassini State 4 (CS4). On the cylindrical phase space parameterized by (μ,ϕ) , all trajectories are periodic with finite period except two critical (or heteroclinic) trajectories. These are asymptotic in the past and future to CS4. Together, these two heteroclinic are referred to as the *separatrix* and divide phase space into three zones.

The area enclosed by the separatrix is known exactly in literature (Henrard & Murigande 1987), but a serviceable approximation for small η can be derived as follows. Call H_4 the value of H at CS4, then the separatrix is defined implicitly by solutions to $H\left(\mu_{Sep}(\phi),\phi\right)=H_4$. This may be evaluated and we obtain

$$\mu_{sep}(\phi) \approx \pm \sqrt{2\eta \sin I (1 - \cos \phi)} + \eta \cos I + O\left(\eta^{3/2}\right).$$
 (6)

The enclosed area between the two solutions can be obtained via explicit integration. It can be expressed as a fraction of the total phase space area:

$$\frac{A_{sep}}{4\pi} \approx \frac{4\sqrt{\eta \sin I}}{\pi} + O\left(\eta^{3/2}\right). \tag{7}$$

Contours of equal H, CSs and the separatrix are plotted in Figure 1.

3 SEPARATRIX CROSSING: THEORY

In an exactly Hamiltonian system, H is a conserved quantity and trajectories in phase space coincide with level curves of H. If a system is only slightly non-Hamiltonian, trajectories will generally cross level curves. Of particular interest is the behavior of trajectories near the separatrix (also a level curve), as it frequently governs the dynamics of resonance capture (CITE MMR, Cassini, others). The intersection of system trajectories with the separatrix is referred to as $separatrix\ crossing$.

In previous work by Henrard (1982), separatrix crossing was studied for systems that are Hamiltonian save for an adiabatically-varying parameter. In related work surveyed by Guckenheimer & Holmes (1983), the impact of small perturbations to the equations of motion of a Hamiltonian system are studied (referred to as *saddle connection bifurcations*). However, in some astrophysical systems

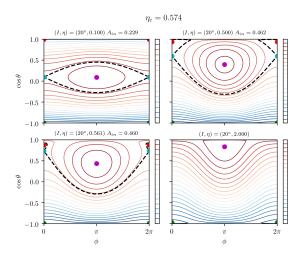


Figure 1. Contours of equal H, given by Equation 3, at different values of $\eta \equiv \frac{|g|}{\alpha}$. Labeled are CS1 (red), CS2 (purple), CS3 (green) and CS4 (cyan). The thick black dashed line is the separatrix (which disappears for $\eta > \eta_C$). Finally, the fractional area enclosed by the separatrix is noted in the plot subtitles, in good agreement with Equation 7.

of interest, leading-order perturbations to a Hamiltonian system contribute in both of the above ways. Such systems resist characterization via either existing technique. We suggest a possible generalization unifying the above techniques. [Probably eventually move this paragraph to the introduction]

3.1 Derivation

Consider our Hamiltonian described in Equation 3 as a unperturbed Hamiltonian $H^{(0)}(\mu, \phi; \eta)$ where η is to be varied adiabatically. As η varies, the location of the separatrix also changes. We follow Henrard (1982) by defining

$$h(\mu, \phi; \eta) \equiv H^{(0)}(\mu, \phi; \eta) - H_4(\eta).$$
 (8)

The significance of h is that it always vanishes along the separatrix. Note that h corresponds to K in Henrard (1982), though in our problem $H^{(0)} > H_4$ corresponds to the *interior* of the separatrix. The evolution of h over time then determines whether and when a trajectory experiences separatrix crossing. Denoting time derivatives with dots, we write

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}h}{\mathrm{d}t} = \frac{\mathrm{d}H^{(0)}}{\mathrm{d}t} - \frac{\partial H_4}{\partial \eta} \dot{\eta},$$

$$= \left[\frac{\partial H^{(0)}}{\partial \mu} \dot{\mu} + \frac{\partial H^{(0)}}{\partial \phi} \dot{\phi} + \frac{\partial H^{(0)}}{\partial \eta} \dot{\eta} \right] - \frac{\partial H_4}{\partial \eta} \dot{\eta},$$

$$= \left[\frac{\partial H^{(0)}}{\partial \mu} \dot{\mu} + \frac{\partial H^{(0)}}{\partial \phi} \dot{\phi} + \frac{\partial H^{(0)}}{\partial \eta} \dot{\eta} \right] - \frac{\partial H_4}{\partial \eta} \dot{\eta},$$

$$= \left[\dot{\phi}^{(0)} \dot{\mu}^{(1)} - \dot{\mu}^{(0)} \dot{\phi}^{(1)} + \frac{\partial H^{(0)}}{\partial \eta} \dot{\eta} \right] - \frac{\partial H_4}{\partial \eta} \dot{\eta}.$$
(9)

We've notated $\dot{\phi}^{(0)} \equiv \frac{\partial H^{(0)}}{\partial \mu}$ and $\dot{\phi}^{(1)} = \dot{\phi} - \dot{\phi}^{(0)}$ and similarly for μ . The scenario studied in Henrard (1982) corresponds to $\dot{\mu}^{(1)} = \dot{\phi}^{(1)} = 0$ while that in Guckenheimer & Holmes (1983) sets $\dot{\eta} = 0$.

In the neighborhood of C_{\pm} , $\frac{\mathrm{d}h}{\mathrm{d}t}$ can be approximated by its value on C_{\pm} . This is the *guiding orbit* approximation; its accuracy

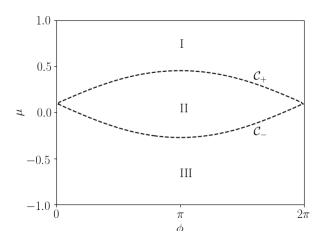


Figure 2. Nomenclature of the two legs of the separatrix C_{\pm} and three zones of the domain. For both C_{\pm} , we will take the positive direction to be anti-clockwise.

is proven in Henrard (1982) for their specific application, while we will take it on good faith in ours. Denote then

$$\Delta_{\pm} \equiv \int_{C_{+}} \frac{\mathrm{d}h}{\mathrm{d}t} \, \mathrm{d}t. \tag{10}$$

These approximate Δh for trajectories near C_{\pm} over one orbit. They are identical to the B_i defined in Henrard (1982).

For concreteness, we consider a specific example first. We assign labels to our phase space as shown in Figure 2. Consider a trajectory that begins in zone III, which is circulating with $\dot{\phi} > 0$ and has h < 0, and consider if $\frac{dh}{dt} > 0$ in all of zone III, such that the trajectory eventually experiences separatrix crossing at C_- . The following sequence of events unfolds:

(i) At the beginning $(\phi=0)$ of its separatrix-crossing orbit, $h_i\equiv h(\mu,\phi=0;\eta)\in (\Delta_-,0)$. Note that $h_i<0$ to still be in zone III at the start of the orbit, while $h_i>\Delta_-$ to be separatrix crossing during the final orbit.

(ii) After traversing the length of C_- , the value of h is now $h_i + \Delta_- > 0$ (recall $\Delta_- > 0$), and so the trajectory has entered zone II. Since zone II hosts only librating solutions, the trajectory will then "turn around" and track C_+ from inside zone II.

(iii) At the end of following C_+ , h now takes value $h_f \equiv h_i + \Delta_- + \Delta_+$. There are now two possibilities:

(iii-a) If $h_f>0$, the trajectory remains inside zone II accrues further multiples of $\Delta_- + \Delta_+ = h_f - h_i > 0$. Thus, the trajectory must securely enter zone II. This outcome commonly corresponds to *resonance capture*, a transition into zone II.

(iii-b) If $h_f < 0$, the trajectory exits zone II and enters zone I. Since $\Delta_+ = h_f - h_i - \Delta_- < 0$ (as $h_f < 0$, $h_i + \Delta_- > 0$), the trajectory will continue circulation in zone I and accrue further multiples of Δ_+ , securely entering zone I. This corresponds to a zone III-zone I transition, *escape*.

Thus, the result of separatrix crossing depends on the sign of $h_i + \Delta_- + \Delta_+$ where Δ_\pm are given by Equation 10 and $h_i \in [-\Delta_-, 0]$. The result of this analysis reproduces the conclusion of Henrard (1982):

- If $\Delta_+ < -\Delta_-$, then $h_f < 0$ necessarily, secure escape ensues.
- If $\Delta_+ > 0$, then $h_f > 0$ necessarily, and secure capture ensues.

• If $\Delta_+ + \Delta_- \in [0, \Delta_-]$, then it is clear that the sign of h_f depends on the precise value of h_i . Generally, Δ_- can be assumed to be small as perturbations are weak, and so Δ_- is usually much smaller than the range of h of interest. Thus, h_i can be treated as uniformly distributed on interval $[-\Delta_-, 0]$, and a probability of resonance capture can be computed:

$$P_C \equiv \frac{\Delta_+ + \Delta_-}{\Delta_-}.\tag{11}$$

With the exception of Equation 9, the above outlines the argument given in Henrard (1982).

Similar derivations can be given for trajectories originating in zone I. TODO say something about zone-II originating systems.

3.2 Equivalence to Stable/Unstable Manifold Splitting

We now establish equivalence to an alternative formulation popular in dynamical systems that is more graphically intuitive. For simplicity, we will take $\dot{\eta} = 0$.

If we return to the unperturbed Hamiltonian system, recall that CS4 is joined to itself by an infinite-period orbit. For a given saddle point, we may define the *stable manifold* W_s of a saddle point to be the set of points whose forward evolution converges to the saddle point. Similarly, we may define the *unstable manifold* W_u of a saddle point to be the set of points that originated *from* the saddle point, or whose backwards evolution converges to the saddle point. A *saddle connection* is when the unstable manifold of one saddle point and the unstable manifold of another saddle point are degenerate. It is evident that the separatrix is formed of two saddle connections: C_+ is the unstable manifold of CS4 at $\phi = 2\pi$ and the stable manifold of CS4 at $\phi = 0$.

In the presence of a small perturbation, the stable and unstable manifolds generally separate, as the perturbations along the saddle connection will generally be different going forwards and backwards in time. The separation distance as a function of time along the *unperturbed* trajectory can be computed via *Melnikov's Method*

$$d(t_0) = \frac{\epsilon}{|f(q^0(-t_0))|} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(q^0(t - t_0)) \wedge g(q^0(t - t_0), t) dt.$$
 (12)

The notation used here is that of Guckenheimer & Holmes (1983), where $d(t_0)$ is the distance between the stable/unstable manifolds at time t_0 along the heteroclinic orbit, $f = (\dot{\mu}^{(0)}, \dot{\phi}^{(0)})$, $\epsilon g = (\dot{\mu}^{(1)}, \dot{\phi}^{(1)})$ a general time-dependent perturbation, $q^0(t)$ is the unperturbed trajectory along the saddle connection (time coordinate defined such that t = 0 coincides with the "middle" of the infinite trajectory), and \wedge is the wedge product.

We will assume ϵg is not explicitly time-dependent, characteristic of secular/averaged equations in astrophysics, then the integral above is simply the familiar

$$d(t_0) \left| \vec{\nabla} H^{(0)} \right| (t_0) = \epsilon \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \dot{\mu}^{(0)} \dot{\phi}^{(1)} - \dot{\phi}^{(0)} \dot{\mu}^{(1)} \, \mathrm{d}t. \tag{13}$$

The right hand side is just the total change in $H^{(0)}$ over the saddle connection though, equivalent to our Equation 10 in the $\dot{\eta}=0$ limit. The left hand side on the other hand is exactly $\left| \vec{d} \cdot \vec{\nabla} H^{(0)} \right|$ where the displacement is along $\vec{\nabla} H^{(0)}$. Thus, the effect of the Δ_{\pm} is to split the stable/unstable manifolds along the saddle connections.

Visually, this is depicted in Figure 3. Note that: trajectories

[t]

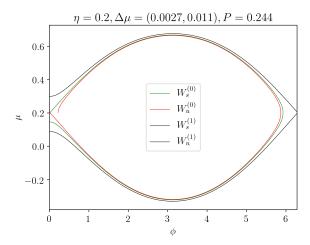


Figure 3. Sample plot of saddle connection breaking in the presence of weakly non-Hamiltonian dissipation. Equations are used from Section 4. Stable and unstable manifolds are indexed such that superscript (0)/(1) belongs to the saddle point at left/right. $\Delta\mu$ represent the manifold separations, resulting in capture probability P_C prediction per Equation 14. Numerical simulations predict $P_C \approx 0.252$.

starting in zone III below $W_s^{(1)}$ fail to separatrix cross; those between $W_s^{(1)}$ and $W_s^{(0)}$ continue between $W_u^{(1)}$ and $W_s^{(0)}$, eventually escaping; those between $W_s^{(0)}$ and $W_u^{(0)}$ are securely captured, and no trajectories can begin above $W_u^{(0)}$ at $\phi=0$.

The saddle connection splitting is easiest to measure where $\vec{\nabla} H^{(0)} \propto \hat{\phi}$, where $\dot{\mu}=0$, and Equation 13 reduces to just $\Delta\mu \frac{\partial H^{(0)}}{\partial \mu}=\Delta H^{(0)}$. Then the capture probability must be given by ratio of $\Delta\mu$ separating $W_s^{(0)}, W_u^{(0)}$ to $\Delta\mu$ separating $W_s^{(1)}, W_u^{(0)}$. These $\Delta\mu$ values are those given in the title, and the resultant P_c capture probability is also quoted.

Finally, the connection between subsection 3.1 and subsection 3.2 is evident: the ratio of the $\Delta\mu$ values is simply

$$P_{c} = \frac{\Delta\mu(W_{s}^{(0)}, W_{u}^{(0)})}{\Delta\mu\left(W_{s}^{(1)}, W_{u}^{(0)}\right)},\tag{14}$$

$$=\frac{\Delta H_{-}^{(0)} + \Delta H_{+}^{(0)}}{\Delta H_{-}^{(0)}}.$$
(15)

This is exactly Equation 11 when $\dot{\eta} = 0$.

4 PROBLEM 1: WEAKLY DISSIPITIVE HAMILTONIAN

We first consider a toy separatrix crossing problem in the $\dot{\eta}=0$ limit, the case discussed in subsection 3.2. Consider adding to the Hamiltonian Cassini State problem an additional aligning term $\left(\frac{\mathrm{d}\theta}{\mathrm{d}t}\right)^{(1)}=-\frac{1}{t_s}\sin\theta$ that favors alignment $\theta=0$ on synchronization timescale t_s . This translates to equation of motion

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}\hat{s}}{\mathrm{d}\tau} = \left(\hat{s} \cdot \hat{l}\right) \left(\hat{s} \times \hat{l}\right) - \eta \left(\hat{s} \times \hat{l}_p\right) - \epsilon \sin\theta \hat{\theta}. \tag{16}$$

4 *Y. Su et al.*

We have divided Equation 4 by α and defined $\tau \equiv \alpha t$, $\epsilon \equiv \frac{1}{\alpha t_s}$. The equations of motion for canonical variables $\mu \equiv \cos \theta$, ϕ are

$$\mu' = -\cos\theta + \eta \left(\cos I + \sin I \frac{\mu}{\sqrt{1 - \mu^2}} \cos\phi\right),\tag{17a}$$

$$\mu' = -\eta \sin I \sin \theta \sin \phi \left[+\epsilon \left(1 - \mu^2 \right) \right]. \tag{17b}$$

Primes denote $\frac{d}{d\tau}$. The bracketed term in μ' is the perturbation component.

With a dissipitive term that favors alignment, we expect that separatrix encounters can only occur from zone II and zone III. We will focus on the outcomes of trajectories originating in zone III for now. We now aim to compute Equation 11, for which we need:

$$\Delta_{-} = \int_{C_{-}} \phi' \epsilon \left(1 - \mu^{2} \right) dt,$$

$$= \int_{C_{-}} \left(1 - \mu^{2} \right) d\phi,$$
(18a)

$$\Delta_{-} + \Delta_{+} = \int_{C_{+}+C_{+}} \epsilon \left(1 - \mu^{2}\right) d\phi. \tag{18b}$$

Note that along C_{\pm} that $d\phi$ has sign \mp respectively, thanks to our sign convention. We proceed to integrate:

- Δ_- : Recalling the parameterization for the separatrix $\mu_{sep}(\phi)$ given by Equation 6, we can approximate the integrand as $1+O(\eta^1)$. This yields simply $\Delta_-\approx 2\pi\epsilon+O(\eta^1)$.
- $\Delta_- + \Delta_+$: Since $\mathrm{d}\phi$ changes signs from C_- to C_+ , only terms in $(1 \mu^2)$ that also change sign over C_\mp contribute to the integral. The leading order term that does so can be read off of Equation 6, so the integral evaluates as

$$\Delta_{-} + \Delta_{+} \approx 2 \int_{0}^{2\pi} \left[(\eta \cos I) \sqrt{2\eta \sin I (1 - \cos \phi)} + O(\eta^{5/2}) \right] d\phi,$$
(19)

$$\approx 32\epsilon \eta^{3/2} \cos I \sqrt{\sin I} + O(\eta^{5/2}). \tag{20}$$

From these two integrals, we obtain

$$P_c = \frac{16\eta^{3/2}\cos I\sqrt{\sin I}}{\pi}. (21)$$

As evidence, we provide the following table of separatrix capture probabilities in Table 1 (TODO make a plot and more robust parameter exploration):

For trajectories originating in zone II, numerical simulations indicate they can never leave the separatrix. This can be intuited by considering trajectories that are near the separatrix; over one orbit, they accumulate $\Delta h = \Delta_+ + \Delta_- > 0$, which acts to drive them *towards* CS2 and away from the separatrix. Thus, separatrix crossing is forbidden in zone II, and our above characterization of separatrix encounters with P_C in Equation 21 is complete.

TODO prove the above completely.

5 PROBLEM 2: ADIABATIC CAPTURE

Here, instead of introducing an aligning perturbation, we will instead adiabatically vary η .

5.1 Spindown Model

We may first consider the unperturbed Hamiltonian system with $\frac{d\eta}{dt} = \frac{\eta}{t_{\eta}}$ growth with characteristic timescale t_{η} . Again rescaling time $\tau \equiv \alpha t$ and defining $\epsilon \equiv \frac{1}{\alpha t_{\eta}}$, we obtain $\eta' = \epsilon \eta$, where $\epsilon > 0$. Such a model is motivated e.g. when a planet's spin \hat{s} orbits a host star with angular momentum \hat{l} while the star spins down; $\dot{\alpha} < 0$ here, and $\eta' > 0$.

We then seek Δ_+ , determined by

$$\Delta_{\pm} = \int_{C_{\pm}} \frac{\partial h}{\partial \eta} \eta' \, d\tau,$$

$$= \int_{C_{\pm}} \frac{\partial h}{\partial \phi'} \eta' \, d\phi.$$
(22)

We must proceed carefully since $\phi' \to 0$ at the endpoints of C_{\pm} ; careful work shows these zeros cancel against zeros of $\frac{\partial h}{\partial n}$, and

$$\Delta_{\pm} = \int_{C_{t}} \eta' \left(\cos I \mp \sin I \sqrt{\frac{1 - \cos \phi}{2\eta \sin I}} \right) d\phi.$$
 (23)

Immediately, we see that if we use $\eta' = \epsilon \eta$, then $\Delta_{\pm} > 0$ and *all separatrix encounters result in capture* regardless of whether the trajectory originates in zone I or zone III. Since increasing η results in larger separatrix, zone II trajectories will not experience separatrix crossing. Indeed, an example of such a simulation is presented in Figure 4. Further simulations with other initial conditions support the guaranteed capture prediction in this system.

If instead $\epsilon<0$, then only zone II initial conditions experience separatrix encounter, and since $\Delta_{\pm}<0$, all trajectories are ejected as the separatrix shrinks.

5.2 Toy Model

It is clear that η' in Equation 23 being the same sign along both C_{\pm} is the source of this guaranteed capture. To assess the accuracy of our formalism, we choose to further study $\eta' = \epsilon \eta \mu$. Straightforward evaluation of Equation 23 yields

$$\Delta_{\pm} = \pm \epsilon \eta_{\star} \left[2\pi \sin I \pm 12 \sqrt{\eta_{\star} \sin I} \cos I + 2\pi \eta_{\star} \cos^2 I \right]. \tag{24}$$

It bears noting that we must evaluate these integrals at $\eta = \eta_{\star}$ the value at separatrix crossing. Since η evolves over time, η_{\star} depends on initial conditions. While one might expect the adiabatic invariance of the action variable determines η_{\star} , this turns out to not be the case; we address this in subsection 5.3.

Since $|\Delta_+| > |\Delta_-|$, separatrix encounters originating in zone III always result in capture. However, encounters originating in zone I experience capture probability

$$P_{c} = \frac{24\cos I\sqrt{\eta_{\star}\sin I}}{2\pi\sin I + 12\sqrt{\eta_{\star}\sin I}\cos I + 2\pi\eta_{\star}\cos^{2}I}.$$
 (25)

This is in good agreement

5.3 Non-conservation of Adiabatic Invariant

Best evidence is η_{\star} when changing I, blatantly wrong scaling

η	0.025	0.05	0.1	0.2
Numerical P_c	0.010 ± 0.002	0.028 ± 0.003	0.085 ± 0.004	0.251 ± 0.006
Analytical P_c	0.0111	0.0313	0.0886	0.2503.

Table 1. Capture probability for four different values of η , all using $\epsilon = 3 \times 10^{-4}$. Different values of ϵ were tried $\epsilon \in 10^{[-2,-4]}$ with no effect on P_c . 10000 random initial conditions were used for the numerical calculations, of which roughly 1/2 experience separatrix crossing. Numerical uncertainties are estimated as \sqrt{N} errors.

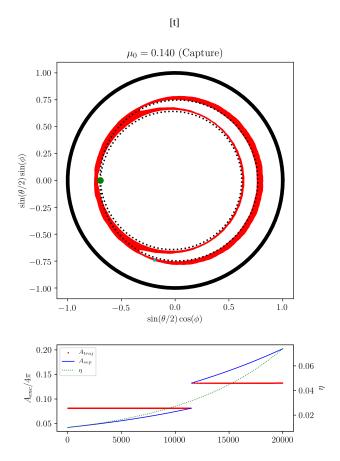


Figure 4. Simulation with initial condition in zone I subject to $\eta' = \epsilon \eta$, where $\epsilon = 10^{-4}$. The top panel shows the trajectory (red) and separatrix at separatrix crossing (dashed black) in the labelled coordinates. The bottom panel shows the evolution of the enclosed area by the trajectory (red dots), area of the separatrix (blue) and η (dotted green) over time.

6 PROBLEM 3: WEAK TIDAL DISSIPATION

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