DYNAMICS AND TRANSIT VARIATIONS OF RESONANT EXOPLANETS

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ABSTRACT

Transit timing variations (TTVs) are deviations of the measured midtransit times from the exact periodicity. One of the most interesting causes of TTVs is the gravitational interaction between planets. Here we consider a case of two planets in a mean motion resonance (orbital periods in a ratio of small integers). This case is important because the resonant interaction can amplify the TTV effect and allow planets to be detected more easily. We develop an analytic model of the resonant dynamics valid for small orbital eccentricities and use it to derive the principal TTV terms. We find that a resonant system should show TTV terms with two basic periods (and their harmonics). The resonant TTV period is proportional \((m/M_*)^{-2/3}\), where \(m\) and \(M_*\) are the planetary and stellar masses. For \(m = 10^{-4} M_*\), for example, the TTV period exceeds the orbital period by about two orders of magnitude. The amplitude of the resonant TTV terms scales linearly with the libration amplitude. The ratio of the TTV amplitudes of two resonant planets is inversely proportional to the ratio of their masses. These and other relationships discussed in the main text can be used to aid the interpretation of TTV observations.

Key words: planets and satellites: dynamical evolution and stability

1. INTRODUCTION

Photometric observation of transits is one of the most powerful methods of planet detection. This method relies on a possibility that, if the planet’s orbit is viewed nearly edge-on, the planet may repeatedly transit over the disk of its host star and periodically block a small fraction of the starlight. Thus, by monitoring the host star’s brightness, the planet’s presence can be revealed by a small dip in the photometric light curve. The main properties of the planet, such as its physical radius and orbital period, can be inferred from transit observations.

The spacing of transit light curves would be exactly the same over the course of observations if a planet moved on a strictly Keplerian orbit. Several dynamical effects, however, can produce deviations from the Keplerian case and induce transit timing variations (TTVs). TTVs were originally proposed as a nontransiting planet detection method (Miralda-Escudé 2002; Agol et al. 2005; Holman & Murray 2005), but they have found more use in validating the transiting planet candidates from NASA’s Kepler mission (e.g., Holman et al. 2010; Lissauer et al. 2011). Only a handful of nontransiting planets so far have been detected and characterized from TTVs (e.g., Nesvorný et al. 2012, 2013).

Significant progress has been made in the theoretical understanding of the various dynamical causes of TTVs. These efforts were pioneered by Agol et al. (2005). Heyl & Gladman (2007) focused on a long-period interaction between planets and showed that the apsidal precession of their orbits can be detected only with a long TTV baseline. Nesvorný & Morbidelli (2008), on the other hand, developed a general analytic model for short-period TTVs and showed that they can be used, under ideal circumstances, to uniquely determine the mass and orbital parameters of the interacting planets.

Explicit analytic formulas for short-period TTVs are now available for zeroth-order (Agol et al. 2005; Nesvorný & Vokrouhlíček 2014; Deck & Agol 2015) and first-order terms (Agol & Deck 2016) in planetary eccentricities. The important case of near-resonant TTVs was highlighted in Lithwick et al. (2012) for the first-order resonances and in Deck & Agol (2016) and Hadden & Lithwick (2016) for the second-order resonances. The near-resonant TTV signal is a special case of the short-periodic variations when one harmonic becomes amplified because of a proximity of the system to a mean motion resonance. Vokrouhlíček & Nesvorný (2014) considered a case of co-orbital planets and showed that co-orbital TTVs are expected to have a characteristic sawtooth profile (for horseshoe orbits).

While the analytic works cited above cover a wide range of dynamically plausible planetary configurations, none of them (except for Agol et al. 2005) considered the case of a fully resonant planetary system, where two (or more) orbits are inside a mean motion resonance (e.g., 2:1, 3:2). This case is important because planetary migration in a protoplanetary gas disk should bring early planets into resonances (e.g., Masset & Snellgrove 2001). Indeed, many known planetary systems are consistent with having resonant orbits (e.g., Winn & Fabrycky 2015). This motivates us to consider the resonant case. Our main goal is to understand how resonant TTVs arise and how their period and amplitude scale with planetary parameters.

The resonant case has not received much attention in the TTV literature so far, at least in part because the resonant interaction of planets is complex and not easily amenable to analytic calculations. The short-periodic or near-resonant TTV signals, for example, can be computed with the standard methods of perturbation theory, where the unperturbed (Keplerian) motion is inserted in the right-hand side of the dynamical equations, and a linear variation of the orbital elements is obtained by quadrature. This method fails for the fully resonant orbits mainly because the resonant dynamics is nonlinear.

Here, we take advantage of recent advances in the theoretical understanding of resonant dynamics (e.g., Batygin & Morbidelli 2013a; hereafter BM13) and derive approximate formulas for TTVs of a resonant pair of exoplanets. In Section 2, we first give a summary of resonant TTVs. The goal of this section is to highlight the main results of this work.
Sections 3 and 4 explain how we obtained these results. We first show how a fully analytic solution can be obtained for a first-order resonance (Section 3). We then proceed to expand the exact solution in the Fourier series and explicitly derive the periods and amplitudes of the leading TTV terms (Section 4). The application of these results to real planetary systems is left for future work.

2. SUMMARY OF RESONANT TTVS

Consider a planar system of two planets with masses \(m_1\) and \(m_2\) orbiting a central star with mass \(M_*\). The two planets gravitationally interact to produce TTVs. The TTV signals of the two planets, \(\delta t_1\) and \(\delta t_2\), can be approximated by

\[
\delta t_j = \frac{1}{n_j}(-\delta \lambda_j + 2\delta h_j) + O(e_j),
\]

where \(n_j\) is the mean orbital frequency of planet \(j\), \(h_j = e_j \sin \varpi_j\), \(\lambda_j\) is the mean longitude, \(e_j\) is the eccentricity, and \(\varpi_j\) is the longitude of periapsis. The observer is assumed to see the system edge-on and measures angles \(\lambda_j\) and \(\varpi_j\) relative to the line of sight. Expression (1) is valid for small orbital eccentricities and small variations of the orbital elements \(\delta \lambda_j\) and \(\delta h_j\) (Nesvorný 2009).

Here we consider a case with two planets in a first-order mean motion resonance (such that \(n_1/n_2 \simeq k/(k - 1)\) with integer \(k\)) and proceed by calculating the variations of orbital elements that are due to the resonant interaction (Sections 3 and 4). The final expressions are given as the Fourier series with harmonics of two basic frequencies. As for \(\delta \lambda_j\) we have

\[
\frac{1}{n_1} \delta \lambda_1 = \frac{3}{2}(1 - \frac{1}{P_2}) \frac{P_1}{2\pi} A_\Psi \left[(1 + \epsilon) \sin ft - \frac{\epsilon}{4} \sin 2ft\right],
\]

\[
\frac{1}{n_2} \delta \lambda_2 = -\frac{3}{2} \frac{k}{P_2} \frac{P_1}{2\pi} A_\Psi \left[(1 + \epsilon) \sin ft - \frac{\epsilon}{4} \sin 2ft\right].
\]

Here, \(\nu = (3/2)((k - 1)^2n_1/\Lambda_1 + k^2n_2/\Lambda_2)\), \(\Lambda_j = m_j \sqrt{GM_*/a_j}\), \(a_j\) is the semimajor axis, \(G\) is the gravitational constant, \(P_2\) is the period of resonant librations in scaled time units (\(P_2 \sim 2 - 4\) in most cases of interest; Section 3.7), \(A_\Psi\) is the amplitude of the resonant oscillations of action \(\Psi\) (ranging from zero for an exact resonance to >1, where the approximation used to derive Equation (2) starts to break down), \(f\) is the frequency of resonant librations, and \(0 \leq \epsilon < 1\) encapsulates the emergence of higher-order harmonics of \(f\).³

The resonant frequency \(f\) is given by

\[
f = \frac{\nu (C^2 \Psi)^3}{2\pi P_2},
\]

with

\[
C = \frac{G m_1 m_2}{a_2 \sqrt{f_1^2 + f_2^2}},
\]

where \(f_1\) and \(f_2\) are the resonant coefficients of the Laplacian expansion of the perturbing function (Table 1). The scaling of the resonant period, \(P = 2\pi/f\), with different planetary parameters is discussed in Section 3.7. For practical reasons, Equation (2) has been truncated at the first order in \(\epsilon\). Higher orders in \(\epsilon\) and higher harmonics of the libration frequency can be computed using the methods described in Section 4.

The second term in Equation (1) is related to the variation of eccentricities and apsidal longitudes of the two planets. In the most basic approximation (Section 4.3), it can be written as

\[
\frac{2}{n_1} \delta h_1 = \frac{P_1 \eta_j}{\pi \sqrt{\Lambda_1}} \frac{A_\Psi}{\sqrt{\Lambda^2 + B^2}} C_{\nu,0} \sin(\theta_0 + f_0 t),
\]

\[
\frac{2}{n_2} \delta h_2 = \frac{P_2 \eta_j}{\pi \sqrt{\Lambda_2}} \frac{B A_\Psi}{\sqrt{\Lambda^2 + B^2}} C_{\nu,0} \sin(\theta_0 + f_0 t),
\]

where \(P_j = 2\pi/n_j\) are the orbital periods, \(\theta_0\) is the initial value of \(\theta = k\lambda_2 - (k - 1)\lambda_1\), and \(f_0\) is the frequency of \(\theta\) defined in Equation (65). In the libration regime, \(f_0 \ll f\). The resonant TTVs can therefore be understood as a sum of the librational variations given in Equation (2) and a slower modulation of the TTV signal given in Equation (5). In Equation (5), \(C_{\nu,0}\) is a coefficient of the order of unity (Equation (67) in Section 4.3). For small libration amplitudes, \(A_\Psi C_{\nu,0} \approx \sqrt{\lambda} \Psi_0\), where \(\Psi_0\) is the initial value of the resonant action \(\Psi\) defined in Equations (21) and (24). This means that, unlike in Equation (2), TTVs from the variation of eccentricities and apsidal longitudes do not vanish when \(A_\Psi = 0\). The dependence of the TTV amplitude on planetary masses arises from \(A\), \(B\), and \(\eta_j\) in Equation (5), where \(A = f_1/\sqrt{\Lambda_1}, B = f_2/\sqrt{\Lambda_2}\), and \(\eta_1 = \nu/C\).

Two main approximations were adopted to derive Equations (2) and (5). In the first approximation, we retained the lowest-order eccentricity terms in the resonant interaction of planets. In the second approximation, we assumed that the libration amplitudes are not very large and expanded the exact solution in the Fourier series. Both these approximations are tested in Section 5. Here we just illustrate the validity of the Fourier expansion for small libration amplitudes (Figures 1 and 2).

Let us briefly consider an application of our results to the TTV analysis. We assume that the photometric transits are detected for planets 1 and 2 and that the orbital periods inferred from the transit ephemeris are such that the orbital period ratio \(P_2/P_1 \approx k/(k - 1)\) with small integer \(k\) (indicating near-resonant or resonant orbits). Furthermore, TTVs are assumed to be detected for both planets. To be specific, let us consider a

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³ Ideally, it would be useful to give the resonant TTV formulas in terms of the orbital elements, but these expressions are excessively complex. Here we therefore opt for expressing TTVs in terms of the orbital elements, \(A_\Psi\) and \(P_2\). The dependence on \(A_\Psi\) is linear, and \(P_2\) admits only a narrow range of values in the libration zone.

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Table 1

| Res. | \(\alpha_{res}\) | \(f_1\) | \(f_2\) |
|------|-----------------|-------|-------|
| 2:1  | 0.630           | -1.190| 0.428 |
| 3:2  | 0.763           | -2.025| 2.484 |
| 4:3  | 0.825           | -2.540| 3.283 |
| 5:4  | 0.862           | -3.650| 4.084 |
| 6:5  | 0.886           | -4.456| 4.885 |
| 7:6  | 0.902           | -5.261| 5.686 |

Note. In the second column, we report the semimajor axis ratio for an exact resonance. The coefficient values are given for \(\alpha = \alpha_{res}\).
We then proceed by comparing the TTV amplitudes of the two planets. From Equation (2) we have that $\delta \lambda_1 / \delta \lambda_2 \approx -(k - 1) / k^{3/2} m_2 / m_1$. The TTV amplitude ratio therefore constrains the ratio of planetary masses (Agol et al. 2005). Figure 3 shows how the TTV amplitudes depend on planetary masses. For $m_1 \ll m_2$, we obtain from Equation (2) that the TTV amplitudes of the inner and outer planets, $A_1$ and $A_2$, are

$$A_1 = \frac{p_1 \rho_1 \lambda_\Psi}{2 \pi \pi k - 1},$$

$$A_2 = \frac{p_2 \rho_2 \sqrt{\pi} A_\Psi m_1}{2 \pi \pi k - 1 m_2},$$

where we denoted $\alpha = a_1 / a_2$. This means that the TTV amplitude of the inner planet is independent of the masses, while that of the outer planet constrains $m_1 / m_2$. For $P_1 = 10$ days, $P_2 = 3$, and $A_\Psi = 1$, $A_1 = 1.52 / (k - 1)$ days for a $k(k - 1)$ resonance. A similar analysis can be performed for $m_1 \gg m_2$.

In addition to the dependence on masses, the TTV amplitudes (linearly) depend on the libration amplitude $A_\Psi$. We therefore expect that some degeneracy should exist between the planetary mass and libration amplitude, with large TTV amplitudes being produced either by large masses or large libration amplitudes. This degeneracy can be broken if the libration frequency harmonics are detected, providing realistic case with the available TTV data spanning several years of observations, which is not long enough to resolve the frequencies related to the apsidal precession of orbits.

The first step of the TTV analysis is to apply the Fourier analysis to the TTV data. This may reveal that the TTV signal contains a basic period. In principle, this period can be one of the following two periods: (1) the superperiod defined as $P_* = (k P_2 - (k - 1) P_1)^{-1}$ (e.g., Lithwick et al. 2012) or (2) the resonant libration period $P = 2 \pi / f$ with $f$ defined in Equation (3). In the first case, the system is not in the libration regime of the resonance, and TTVs can therefore be interpreted using the expressions appropriate for the near-resonant dynamics (Lithwick et al. 2012; Agol & Deck 2016). The results described in this work apply in the second case. Section 3.7 explains how the libration period can be used to constrain planetary masses. Specifically, $P \propto (m/M_\star)^{-2/3}$ (Agol et al. 2005; Holman et al. 2010), and therefore larger planetary masses imply shorter TTV periods. For the 2:1 resonance with $P_1 = 10$ days and $m_1 \simeq m_2 = 10^{-4} M_\odot$, for example, the libration period is $P \simeq 4.5$ years (Section 3.7).

In the next step, it can be useful to check if the Fourier analysis of the TTV data provides evidence for harmonics of the basic period. If that is the case, this can indicate that the libration amplitude is relatively large. A comparison of the amplitudes of different harmonics can then be used to constrain the parameter $\epsilon$ in Equation (2), which is related to the libration amplitude via the equations reported in Appendix A.

Figure 1. Demonstration of the validity of the analytic TTV formulas obtained in this work. Here we set $m_1 = m_2 = 10^{-4} M_\odot$ with $M_\star = M_\odot$. The initial orbital elements were $a_1 = 0.1 \text{ au}$, $a_2 = 0.13115 \text{ au}$, $e_1 = e_2 = 0.02$, $\lambda_1 = \pi$, $\lambda_2 = 0$, $\varpi_1 = 0$, and $\varpi_2 = \pi$. This orbital configuration corresponds to the libration regime in the 3:2 resonance ($k = 3$). The upper (lower) panel shows the results for the inner (outer) planet. The green and blue lines were computed by numerically integrating the differential equations corresponding to the resonant Hamiltonian (9) and (10). The black lines were obtained from the analytic TTV expressions (1) and (2) and a generalization of (5) derived in Section 4.3. From left to right, the panels show TTVs from $\delta \lambda_1$ and $\delta \theta_j$ and their sum from Equation (1). The validity of the analytic model is excellent in this case because the resonant amplitude is relatively small ($A_1 \approx 0.65$ with $\delta = 2.36$ and $\Psi_0 = 3.01$; see Section 3).
constraints on the libration amplitude, or if the measured TTV signal also contains short-period (chopping) terms (e.g., Nesvorný et al. 2013). A detailed analysis of this problem is left for future work.

3. ANALYTIC MODEL OF RESONANT DYNAMICS

Here we discuss a Hamiltonian model of the resonant dynamics. Our approach closely follows the work of BM13. We take several shortcuts to simplify the reduction of the Hamiltonian to an integrable system. Then, in Section 3.6, we present an exact analytic solution. This solution is used in Section 4 to derive Equations (2) and (5).

3.1. Hamiltonian Formulation of the Problem

The Poincaré canonical variables of two planets orbiting their host star are denoted by \((r_n, n, \dot{r}_n; p_0, p_1, p_2)\). The coordinate vector \(r_0\) defines the host star’s position with respect to the system’s barycenter. Vectors \(r_1\) and \(r_2\) are the position vectors of the two planets relative to their host star. The momentum \(p_0\) is the total linear momentum of the system \((p_0 = 0\) in the barycentric inertial frame). Momenta \(p_1\) and \(p_2\) are the linear momenta of the two planets in the barycentric inertial frame. The Poincaré variables are canonical, which can be demonstrated by calculating their Poisson brackets.

Using the Poincaré variables, the differential equations governing the dynamics of the two planets can be conveniently written in a Hamiltonian form, where the total Hamiltonian is a sum of the Keplerian and perturbation parts, \(\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{H}_K + \mathcal{H}_{\text{per}}\), with

\[
\mathcal{H}_K = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j=1}^{2} \left( \frac{p_j^2}{\mu_j} - G \frac{\mu_j M_j}{r_j} \right),
\]

and

\[
\mathcal{H}_{\text{per}} = \frac{p_1 \cdot p_2}{M_b} - G \frac{m_1 m_2}{|r_1 - r_2|}.
\]

Here we denoted \(M_b = m_j + M_b\) and the reduced masses \(\mu_j = m_j M_b / M_j\), where \(j = 1\) and 2 stand for the inner and outer planet, respectively.

We assume that the planets are near or in a first-order mean motion resonance such that the ratio of their orbital periods is \(P_2 / P_1 \simeq k / (k - 1)\) for some integer \(k \geq 2\). In terms of the osculating orbital elements, we have

\[
\mathcal{H}_K = -G \frac{\mu_1 M_1}{2a_1} - G \frac{\mu_2 M_2}{2a_2},
\]

where \(a_1\) and \(a_2\) are the semimajor axes of planets, and

\[
\mathcal{H}_{\text{per}} = -G \frac{m_1 m_2}{a_2}
\times \left[ f_1 \epsilon_1 \cos \left( k\lambda_2 - (k - 1)\lambda_1 - \varpi_1 \right) + f_2 \epsilon_2 \cos \left( k\lambda_2 - (k - 1)\lambda_1 - \varpi_2 \right) \right],
\]

where \(\epsilon_1\) and \(\epsilon_2\) are the orbital eccentricities, \(\lambda_1\) and \(\lambda_2\) are the mean longitudes, and \(\varpi_1\) and \(\varpi_2\) are the longitudes of pericenter. In Equation (10) we only retained the two most
important resonant terms and the lowest (first-order) eccentricity power. This expression is thus valid only near a specific resonance and for low orbital eccentricities of both planets. The planetary orbits are assumed to be in the same plane such that all inclination-dependent terms vanish.

The coefficients \( f_1 \) and \( f_2 \) are functions of the semimajor axis ratio \( \alpha = a_1/a_2 < 1 \) and can be written as

\[
\begin{align*}
  f_1 &= -k b_{1/2}^{(k)}(\alpha) - \frac{\alpha}{2} D b_{1/2}^{(k)}(\alpha), \\
  f_2 &= \left( k - \frac{1}{2} \right) b_{1/2}^{(k-1)}(\alpha) + \frac{\alpha}{2} D b_{1/2}^{(k-1)}(\alpha) - \frac{\delta_{k,2}}{\alpha^{1/2}},
\end{align*}
\]

where \( b_{1/2}^{(k)}(\alpha) \) are the Laplace coefficients, \( D = d/d\alpha \), and \( \delta_{k,2} \) is the Kronecker symbol (e.g., Brouwer & Clemence 1961).

The last term in the expression for \( f_2 \) only appears if \( k = 2 \) (2:1 resonance). The Laplace coefficients were computed using the recurrences described in Brouwer & Clemence (1961, Sections 15.7 and 15.8). Their values are reported in Table 1.

### 3.2. Resonant Variables

The resonant Hamiltonian discussed in the previous section needs to be written in canonical variables. The standard choice is the Delaunay elements

\[
\begin{align*}
  \Lambda_j &= \mu_j \sqrt{GM_j a_j}, \quad \lambda_j, \\
  \Gamma_j &= \Lambda_j (1 - \sqrt{1 - e_j^2}), \quad \gamma_j = -e_j.
\end{align*}
\]

Note that \( \Gamma_j \simeq (1/2)\Lambda_j e_j^2 \) for small \( e_j \). The elements \( (\Lambda_j, \Gamma_j) \) are the canonical momenta, and \( (\lambda_j, \gamma_j) \) are the conjugated canonical coordinates.

The resonant Hamiltonian \( H \) written in terms of the Delaunay elements has four degrees of freedom (doF). Using canonical transformations, we will reduce it to an integrable one-dof system. We first perform a canonical transformation to the resonant canonical variables defined as

\[
\begin{align*}
  K_1 &= \Lambda_1 + (k - 1)(\Gamma_1 + \Gamma_2), \quad \lambda_1, \\
  K_2 &= \Lambda_2 - k(\Gamma_1 + \Gamma_2), \quad \lambda_2, \\
  \Gamma_1, \quad \sigma_1 &= k \lambda_2 - (k - 1)\lambda_1 - \omega_1, \\
  \Gamma_2, \quad \sigma_2 &= k \lambda_2 - (k - 1)\lambda_1 - \omega_2.
\end{align*}
\]

When the new variables are inserted in Equations (9) and (10), it becomes clear that the resonant Hamiltonian depends on \( \sigma_1 \) and \( \sigma_2 \), but not on \( \lambda_1 \) and \( \lambda_2 \). Therefore, \( dK_j/dt = -\partial H/\partial \lambda_j = 0 \), and both momenta \( K_1 \) and \( K_2 \) are the new constants of motion. By summing them, we find that \( K_1 + K_2 = \Lambda_1 + \Lambda_2 - \Gamma_1 - \Gamma_2 \) is the total angular momentum of the system. Also, \( kK_1 - (k - 1)K_2 = k\Lambda_1 - (k - 1)\Lambda_2 = \text{const.} \) implies that any small changes of the semimajor axes, \( \delta \alpha_1 \) and \( \delta \alpha_2 \), must be anticorrelated and have relative amplitudes such that \( \delta \alpha_1/\delta \alpha_2 \simeq -\alpha_{\text{res}}^{1/2}(k - 1)m_2/km_1 \), where we denoted \( \alpha_{\text{res}} = [(k - 1)/k]^{2/3} \).

### 3.3. Approximation for Small Semimajor Axis Changes

The transformation to the resonant canonical variables produced a two-dof Hamiltonian \( H = H(\sigma_1, \sigma_2; \Gamma_1, \Gamma_2) \). In the next step, we assume that any changes of the semimajor axes of planets are small. Specifically, we write \( \alpha_j = \alpha_j^\text{ref} + \delta \alpha_j \), where \( \alpha_j^\text{ref} \) is some reference value and \( \delta \alpha_j \ll \alpha_j^\text{ref} \), insert this expression into the Keplerian part of the Hamiltonian (Equation (9)), and expand it in powers of \( \delta \alpha_j \). The first- and second-order terms in \( \delta \alpha_j \) are retained. We then use \( \delta \alpha_j/\alpha_j^\text{ref} = 2\delta \Lambda_j/\Lambda_j^\text{ref} \) and rewrite all expressions in terms of \( \Lambda_j^\text{ref} \) and \( \delta \Lambda_j^\text{ref} \). Finally, we express \( H_K \) in terms of the canonical variables defined in Equation (13). This leads

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**Figure 3. TTV amplitude from \( \delta \lambda_1 \) (Equation (2)) as a function of \( m_2/M_\ast \). Here we assumed that \( P_1 = 10 \) days, \( P_2 = 3 \), and \( A_0 = 1 \), and we computed the TTV amplitude for several different values of \( m_1/M_\ast \): \( 10^{-6} \) (solid lines), \( 10^{-5} \) (dashed lines), \( 10^{-4} \) (dot-dashed lines), \( 10^{-3} \) (dotted lines). Panels (a) and (b) show the results for the 2:1 and 3:2 resonances, respectively. The green (blue) lines show the amplitude of \( \delta \theta_1 (\delta \theta_2) \).**
to
\[ H_k = n_0 + n_s (\Gamma_1 + \Gamma_2) - \nu (\Gamma_1 + \Gamma_2)^2 \]  
(14)

with
\[ n_0 = 4 (m \Gamma_1 + n_2 K_2) - \frac{3}{2} \left[ \frac{K_1^2}{\Lambda_1^2} + \frac{K_2^2}{\Lambda_2^2} \right], \]
\[ n_s = 4 (K n_2 - (k - 1) n_1) - \frac{3}{2} \left[ k K_2 \frac{n_2}{\Lambda_2^2} - (k - 1) K_1 \frac{n_1}{\Lambda_1^2} \right], \]
\[ \nu = \frac{3}{2} \left[ (k - 1) \frac{n_1}{\Lambda_1^2} + k \frac{n_2}{\Lambda_2^2} \right] \]  
(15)

Here we denoted \( n_j = \sqrt{GM_j/a_j^3} \) and \( \nu_j = \mu_j \sqrt{GM_j/a_j^3} \). The quantities \( n_j, n_s, \) and \( \nu \) are constant parameters. Note that \( n_s \) is related to the so-called super frequency, which is the expected frequency of the TVT signal for a pair of near-resonant planets (e.g., Lithwick et al. 2012). In addition to the usual term, \( k n_2 - (k - 1) n_1 \), here \( n_s \) also includes a correction that is a second order in the eccentricity (through its dependence on \( K_1 \) and \( K_2 \)).

As for \( H_{\text{per}} \) in Equation (10), we have that \( e_j = \sqrt{2 \Gamma_j / \Lambda_j} \) for small eccentricity. In addition, because \( H_{\text{per}} \) is already small, we do not need to retain terms proportional to \( \delta a_j \) (thus \( \Lambda_j \rightarrow \Lambda_j^* \)). The perturbation function then admits the following form:
\[ H_{\text{per}} = -G \frac{m_1 m_2}{a_2^3} [A \sqrt{2 \Gamma_1} \cos \sigma_1 + B \sqrt{2 \Gamma_2} \cos \sigma_2], \]  
(16)
where we introduced constants \( A = f_1 / \sqrt{\Lambda_1^*} \) and \( B = f_2 / \sqrt{\Lambda_2^*} \).

**3.4. Reducing Transformation**

The Hamiltonian in Equations (14) and (16) has two degrees of freedom. It can be reduced to one dof by the following canonical transformations (Sissis & Ferraz-Mello 1984; Henrard et al. 1986; Wisdom 1986). First, we move from variables \((\sigma_1, \sigma_2; \Gamma_1, \Gamma_2)\) to \((y_1, y_2; x_1, x_2)\) such that
\[ x_1 = \sqrt{2 \Gamma_1} \cos \sigma_1, \quad y_1 = \sqrt{2 \Gamma_1} \sin \sigma_1, \]
\[ x_2 = \sqrt{2 \Gamma_2} \cos \sigma_2, \quad y_2 = \sqrt{2 \Gamma_2} \sin \sigma_2. \]  
(17)

Second, we perform a reducing transformation to the new variables \((v_1, u_1, v_2, u_2)\) defined as
\[ u_1 = \frac{A x_1 + B x_2}{\sqrt{A^2 + B^2}}, \quad v_1 = \frac{A y_1 + B y_2}{\sqrt{A^2 + B^2}}, \]
\[ u_2 = \frac{B x_1 - A x_2}{\sqrt{A^2 + B^2}}, \quad v_2 = \frac{B y_1 - A y_2}{\sqrt{A^2 + B^2}}. \]  
(18)

And last, we introduce new polar variables \((\phi_1, \phi_2; \Phi_1, \Phi_2)\) such that
\[ u_1 = 2 \Phi_1 \cos \phi_1, \quad v_1 = 2 \Phi_1 \sin \phi_1, \]
\[ u_2 = 2 \Phi_2 \cos \phi_2, \quad v_2 = 2 \Phi_2 \sin \phi_2. \]  
(19)

It can be shown that \( \Gamma_1 + \Gamma_2 = \Phi_1 + \Phi_2 \). Therefore, after dropping the first constant term in Equation (14) and rewriting Equation (16) in the new variables, the Hamiltonian becomes
\[ H = n_s (\Phi_1 + \Phi_2) - \nu (\Phi_1 + \Phi_2)^2 - C \sqrt{2 \Phi_1} \cos \phi_1, \]  
(20)
where we denoted \( C = G m_1 m_2 \sqrt{A^2 + B^2} / a_2^3 \). Notably, the new Hamiltonian (20) is independent of \( \phi_2 \), and the canonical momentum \( \Phi_2 \) is therefore a new constant of motion. That is the magic of the reducing transformation.

The momenta \( \Phi_1 \) and \( \Phi_2 \) defined by the transformations discussed above can be expressed in a compact form:
\[ \Phi_1 = \frac{1}{2} \left[ A \frac{z_1 + B z_2}{a_2^2} \right], \]
\[ \Phi_2 = \frac{1}{2} \left[ B \frac{z_1 - A z_2}{a_2^2} \right], \]  
(21)
where \( z_j = x_j + i y_j = \sqrt{2 \Gamma_j} \exp i \sigma_j \). Condition \( \Phi_2 = \text{const.} \) thus defines a circle in the plane of complex variables \( z_1 \) and \( z_2 \) and requires that \( B z_1 - A z_2 \) lies on the circle at any time. Also, \( \phi_1 = \text{arg}(A z_1 + B z_2) \) and \( \phi_2 = \text{arg}(B z_1 - A z_2) \), where \( \text{arg}(z) \) denotes the argument of \( z \).

**3.5. Final Scaling**

The Hamiltonian (20) depends on parameters \( n_s, \nu, \) and \( C \). We rescale \( \Phi_1 \) and \( \Phi_2 \), and \( C \) time to bring the Hamiltonian to a simple form:
\[ H = - (\Psi - \delta)^2 - \frac{1}{\sqrt{2 \Psi}} \cos \psi, \]  
(22)
where the parametric dependence is expressed by a single parameter:
\[ \delta = \eta_1^{2/3} \left[ \frac{n_s}{2 \nu} - \Phi_2 \right], \]  
(23)
with \( \eta_1 = \nu / C \). Here, \( \psi = \phi_1 \), and
\[ \Psi = \eta_1^{2/3} \Phi_1. \]  
(24)

The Hamiltonian equations are
\[ \frac{d \psi}{d \tau} = - \frac{\partial H}{\partial \psi} = - \frac{1}{\sqrt{2 \Psi}} \cos \psi, \]
\[ \frac{d \Psi}{d \tau} = - \frac{\partial H}{\partial \Psi} = - \frac{1}{\sqrt{2 \Psi}} \sin \psi, \]  
(25)
(26)
where \( \tau \) relates to normal time \( t \) by
\[ \tau = \eta_2^{1/2} t, \]  
(27)
with \( \eta_2 = \nu C^2 \). When a solution of Equations (25) and (26) is found, the scaling parameters \( \eta_1 \) and \( \eta_2 \) can be used to map the solution back to the original variables.

The Hamiltonian (22) and the corresponding Equations (25) and (26) have been extensively studied in the past. They are equivalent to the second fundamental model of resonance (Henrard & Lemaître 1983) and to the Andoyer model discussed in Ferraz-Mello (2007). Here we first consider the dynamical flow arising from this Hamiltonian and its dependence on \( \delta \). In the next section, we show that Equations (25) and (26) have an exact analytic solution in terms of the Weierstrass elliptic functions.

The equilibrium points of Equations (25) and (26) control the general structure of the dynamical flow. Since \( \partial \Psi / \partial \tau = 0 \) implies that \( \sin \psi = 0 \) in (26), the equilibrium points occur for
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3.6. Exact Analytic Solution

A rearrangement of Equations (25) and (26) shows that the momentum $\Psi$ satisfies

$$\left( \frac{d\Psi}{d\tau} \right)^2 = f(\Psi),$$

with the right-hand side being a quartic polynomial:

$$f(\Psi) = a_0 \Psi^4 + 4a_1 \Psi^3 + 6a_2 \Psi^2 + 4a_3 \Psi + a_4.$$  

(29)

The coefficients are

$$a_0 = -1, \quad a_1 = \delta, \quad a_2 = -\frac{1}{3} [h_0 + 3\delta^2], \quad a_3 = \frac{1}{2} [1 + 2\delta (h_0 + \delta^2)], \quad a_4 = [-h_0 + \delta^2]^2,$$

(30)

where $\mathcal{H}(\Psi_0, \psi_0) = h_0$ is the conserved energy, and $(\Psi_0, \psi_0)$ is the initial condition. Equation (28) admits a general analytic solution (see Whittaker & Watson 1920, Section 20.4):

$$\Psi(\tau) = \Psi_0 + \sum_{n} \left( \frac{C_n}{\Delta} \right) \varphi(\tau - \tau_0)^n,$$

(31)

where $\Psi(\tau_0) = \Psi_0, \varphi = f(\Psi_0). C_n = f^{(n)}(\Psi_0)$ is the $n$th derivative of $f$ at $\Psi = \Psi_0 (n = 1, \ldots, 4)$, and $S = \text{sgn}[\sin \psi_0]$ is the sign function (1 for $\sin \psi_0 > 0$ and $-1$ for $\sin \psi_0 < 0$). The time dependence of the solution is given in terms of the Weierstrass elliptic function $\varphi(z)$ and its derivative $\varphi'(z)/dz$, where the invariants are

$$g_2 = a_0 a_2 - 4a_1 a_3 + 3a_2^2,$$

$$g_3 = a_0 a_2 a_4 + 2a_1 a_2 a_3 - a_2^3 - a_0 a_3^2 - a_1^2 a_4.$$  

(32)

Interestingly, as far as we know, the general solution (31) has not been discussed in the literature. Ferraz-Mello (2007) mentioned a particular solution valid for $\sin \psi_0 = 0$, which implies that $f_0 = 0$ (see also Shinkin 1995).

The solution (31) is most conveniently evaluated using the relation of the Weierstrass functions to the Jacobi elliptic functions $\text{sn}$ and $\text{cn}$. The form of the solution depends on the values of the discriminant $\Delta = g_2^3 - 27g_3^2$, which is a function of $\tau_0$, the period of the solution.

For large $\delta$, $\Psi_{eq} \approx \delta$ (Henrard & Lemaître 1983).

\[ \text{Figure 4. Equilibrium points and different dynamical regimes of the resonant Hamiltonian (22). The solid line denoted “stable 1” is the first stable equilibrium that exists for any value of $\delta$. The second stable equilibrium, denoted by “stable 2,” appears only for $\delta > \delta_0$. The dashed line is the unstable equilibrium. The gray area is the place where the resonant librations occur. The dynamical regime where the two orbits are just wide}
\]

\[ \text{progressively better with increasing $\delta$.} \]

\[ \psi = 0 \text{ or } \pi. \text{ The equilibrium values of $\Psi$ are obtained from } d\Psi/d\tau = 0, \text{ which leads to a problem of finding the roots of a cubic equation} \]
\[ \Psi^3 - 2\delta \Psi^2 + \delta^2 \Psi - 1/8 = 0. \text{ There is only one (stable) equilibrium point for} \]
\[ \delta \leq \delta_0 = (27/32)^{1/3} \approx 0.945. \text{ This equilibrium point is located at} \]
\[ \psi = \pi \text{ and } 0 < \Psi < 1.26 \text{ (Figure 4). The dynamical flow around the equilibrium point is simple. When projected to the} \]
\[ (\Psi \cos \psi, \Psi \sin \psi) \text{ plane, the trajectories are concentric, slightly deformed circles centered on the equilibrium point (Figure 5(a)). Here, $\Psi$ changes only slightly during each cycle, and $\psi$ circulates in the clockwise direction for most initial conditions except for the ones located very close to the equilibrium point, where $\psi$ oscillates around $\pi$.} \]

\[ \text{For } \delta = \delta_0, \text{ the stable equilibrium point is already substantially displaced from the origin. The dynamical transition is heralded by the appearance of a cusp trajectory (shown by a thin line in Figure 5(b)). Three equilibrium points appear for} \delta > \delta_0, \text{ two of which are stable and one is unstable. The unstable equilibrium point is traversed by a separatrix (shown by thick lines in Figures 5(c) and (d)), which surrounds the truly resonant trajectories for which $\psi$ librates around $\pi$. The stable equilibrium point in the center of the resonant island is a smooth extension of the equilibrium point from} \]
\[ \delta < \delta_0 \text{ to} \delta > \delta_0. \text{ It is located at} \psi = \pi \text{ and } \Psi = \Psi_{eq}, \text{ where $\Psi_{eq}$ increases with $\delta$ (Figure 4). For large $\delta$, $\Psi_{eq} \approx \delta$ (Henrard & Lemaître 1983).} \]

\[ \text{\footnote{It is more common in this context to use } (\sqrt{2} \Psi \cos \psi, \sqrt{2} \Psi \sin \psi) \text{ because these variables are canonical.}} \]
with \( u = \sqrt{e_1 - e_3 (\tau - \tau_0)} \) and modulus \( k = \sqrt{\frac{e_3 - e_1}{e_1 - e_3}} \). In the second case (\( \Delta < 0 \)), we have
\[
\varphi(\tau - \tau_0) = e_2 + \gamma \frac{1 + \cn(u, k)}{1 - \cn(u, k)},
\]
(34)
with \( u = 2\sqrt{3} (\tau - \tau_0) \), \( \gamma = \sqrt{9\alpha^2 + \beta^2} \), and \( k = \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{1 - \frac{\beta}{\gamma}} \).

The Jacobi elliptic functions are computed following the numerical recipe from Press et al. (2007). The derivative \( \varphi' \) is obtained from the derivatives of the Jacobi functions.

3.7. Resonant Period

The solution (31) is periodic with a period
\[
P_T = \frac{2 \mathcal{K}(k)}{\sqrt{e_1 - e_3}},
\]
(35)
for \( \Delta > 0 \), and
\[
P_T = \frac{2 \mathcal{K}(k)}{\sqrt{\Delta}},
\]
(36)
for \( \Delta < 0 \). Here, \( \mathcal{K}(k) \) is the complete elliptic integral of the first kind.

Figure 7 shows the period of small-amplitude librations around the stable equilibrium points. Away from the resonance and if the eccentricities are small, \( \eta_f/(2\nu) \gg \Phi_2 \), and the first bracketed term in Equation (23) outweighs the second. In this case, \( \delta \) is related to the superfrequency and increases, in the absolute value, when the system moves away from the resonance. In this sense, \( \delta \) is a measure of the distance from the resonance.\(^6\)

\(^6\) Inside the resonant island, \( \eta_f \) is small and \( \delta \) is controlled by the contribution from \( \Phi_2 \). Since \( \Phi_2 \propto e^3 \), \( \delta \) is a measure of the orbital eccentricities inside the libration island.
Figure 6. Range in parameters $\delta$ and $\psi_0 \cos \psi$ where Equation (31) admits different functional dependence on the Jacobi elliptic functions. In the void domain, the discriminant $\Delta > 0$, and Equation (33) applies. In the dotted domain, $\Delta < 0$, and Equation (34) applies. The lines show the location of the equilibrium points. See the caption of Figure 4 for more information.

Figure 7. Period of small-amplitude librations around the stable equilibrium points. The solid and dashed lines show the periods in the libration (“stable 1” in Figure 4) and circulation domains (“stable 2” in Figure 4), respectively. The dotted lines are various approximations. The dotted line denoted by “a” is the superperiod approximation with $P_t = \pi/|\delta|$. The one denoted by “b” is an oscillator approximation $P_t = \pi (2/\Psi_{eq})^{1/4}$, where $\Psi_{eq}$ of the libration point is computed exactly for each $\delta$. The dotted line “c” shows $P_t = \pi (2/\delta)^{1/4}$.

Negative values of $\delta$ imply that the planetary orbits are spaced more widely than the actual resonance ($P_2/P_1 > k/(k - 1)$), while $\delta > 0$ means that the orbits are packed more tightly ($P_2/P_1 < k/(k - 1)$). Also, $\delta \simeq \eta_2^{-2/3} n_2^2/2$ away from the resonance, and therefore the scaled period $P_t \approx \pi/|\delta|$. This represents a very good approximation of the period if $\delta < -2$ or $\delta > 3$ (see Figure 7).

Inside the libration island for $\delta > \delta_0$, the period of small-amplitude librations decreases with $\delta$ (i.e., toward larger eccentricities). It can be approximated by $P_t = \pi (2/\Psi_{eq})^{1/4}$, where $\Psi_{eq}$ is the equilibrium value of $\Psi$ (Figure 4). For large values of $\delta$, $\Psi_{eq} \simeq \delta$, and

$$P_t \simeq \pi \left( \frac{2}{\delta} \right)^{1/4}. \quad (37)$$

Figure 7 shows that this approximation works very well for $\delta > 3$.

The period $P_t$ for different libration amplitudes is plotted in Figure 8. The period is the shortest near the equilibrium point and increases with the libration amplitude. It becomes infinite on the separatrices. This corresponds to a situation when the amplitude of angle $\psi$ becomes full $\pi$, and it takes infinitely long to reach the unstable equilibrium point at $\psi = 0$. Except for trajectories near the separatrices, the period values inside the libration island are $P_t \simeq 2.5-4$. They become shorter for $\delta > 5$ (i.e., for higher eccentricities).

When rescaled according to Equation (27), $P_t = \eta_2^{-1/3} P_2$ is the period of resonant librations in the normal time units (e.g., Julian days). It has the same dependence on $P_r$ on $\delta$ and amplitude that we discussed above and, in addition, contains an explicit dependence on the orbital period and planetary masses through the scaling parameter $\eta_2 = \nu C^2$. If $m_1 \ll m_2$, then

$$P_t \simeq P_1 \frac{P_2}{2 \pi} \left( \frac{m_2}{M_2} \right)^{-2/3} \left[ \frac{3}{2} (k - 1)^2 \Omega_2^2 \right]^{-1/3}. \quad (38)$$

If, on the other hand, $m_1 \gg m_2$, then

$$P_t \simeq P_2 \frac{P_1}{2 \pi} \left( \frac{m_1}{M_1} \right)^{-2/3} \left[ \frac{3}{2} k^2 \beta_2^2 \right]^{-1/3}. \quad (39)$$

The multiplication coefficients in the square brackets are $\approx 1$ for $k = 2$ (2:1 resonance) and decrease with increasing $k$. This expresses a stronger interaction of orbits that are more tightly packed for larger values of $k$. According to Equations (38) and (39), the orbital periods $P_1$ and $P_2$ set the basic time unit for $P_r$. The libration period scales with the mass of the more massive planet as $(m/M_2)^{-2/3}$ and is therefore shorter for a larger mass. It is insensitive to the mass of the lighter planet. If the masses of the two planets are comparable, then $P_2$ will depend on their combination via the scaling parameter $\eta_2$.  

![Figure 6](image6.png)

![Figure 7](image7.png)

![Figure 8](image8.png)
Figure 9 shows the contour plots of $P_1$ as a function of $m_1/M_*$ and $m_2/M_*$. In the $\alpha \to 1$ limit, the period is proportional to $[(m_1 + m_2)/M_*]^{-2/3}$. A reasonable approximation of the period is then

$$P_1 \approx \frac{P_1 + P_2}{2} \frac{P_1}{2\pi} \left(\frac{m_1 + m_2}{M_*}\right)^{-2/3} \left[\frac{3}{2} k (k - 1) |f_1/f_2|^{-1/3}\right].$$

These considerations have important implications for the TTV period and its scaling with various parameters. For example, for two planets in the 2:1 resonance with $m_2/M_* = 10^{-4}$ and $m_1 \ll m_2$, the expected TTV period is $P_1 \sim 78P_1P_2$. Thus, if $P_1 = 10$ days, and assuming that $P_1 \sim 3$ in the libration regime, the TTV period will be $P_1 \sim 6.4$ years. We can therefore very roughly write in this case

$$P_{2:1} \sim 6.4 \text{ years} \times \frac{P_1 + P_2}{2} \frac{P_1}{2\pi} \left(\frac{m_2}{M_*}\right)^{-2/3}.$$}

If, on the other hand, $m_1/M_* = 10^{-4}$ and $m_1 \gg m_2$, then the period will be approximately twice as long because of having $P_2$ in Equation (39) (instead of $P_2$ in Equation (38)). Finally, if $m_1/M_* = m_2/M_* = 10^{-4}$, then $P_{2:1} \sim 4.5$ years. The periods in the $k > 2$ resonances are expected to be shorter (Figure 9(b)).

### 3.8. Approximation of Near-resonant Orbits

Lithwick et al. (2012; hereafter L12) derived elegant TTV expressions for two planets near (but not in) the first-order resonance. Here we discuss the relationship of these expressions to the results obtained here. Let us consider the Hamiltonian in Equations (14) and (16)

$$H = n_s (\Gamma_1 + \Gamma_2) - \nu (\Gamma_1 + \Gamma_2)^2 + \beta \sqrt{2\Gamma_1} \cos \sigma_1 + \beta \sqrt{2\Gamma_2} \cos \sigma_2,$$

where we denote $\beta = -Gm_1m_2A/a_1^2$ and $\beta = -Gm_1m_2B/a_2^2$. We assume that the orbital eccentricities are small and that the two orbits are far enough from the resonance such that the term $\nu (\Gamma_1 + \Gamma_2)^2$ can be neglected. Introducing $x_j$ and $y_j$ from Equation (17) into Equation (14), we find that

$$H = \frac{n_s}{2} [x_1^2 + y_1^2 + x_2^2 + y_2^2] + \beta_1 x_1 + \beta_2 x_2.$$  (43)

This Hamiltonian has a simple solution (e.g., Batygin & Morbidelli 2013b). Defining complex variables $z_j = x_j + iy_j$, the solution can be written as

$$z_j = -\frac{\beta_j}{n_s} + C_j \exp(m_s t),$$

where $C_j$ are integration constants related to the initial conditions. Now, since $\sigma_j = \theta - \omega_j$, we can define $L_2$’s “complex eccentricities” $w_j = \epsilon_j \exp(i \omega_j)$ and recast the approximate solution (44) as

$$w_j = \frac{C_j}{n_s \sqrt{\Lambda^*}} \exp(i \theta_0 - \frac{\beta_j}{n_s \Lambda^*} \exp(i \theta),$$

where $C_j$ is the complex conjugate of $C_j$. Here we assumed that $\theta = \theta_0 + n_s t$ and replaced $\Lambda_j \to \Lambda^*_j$. These assumptions are equivalent to those of L12, where the unperturbed (Keplerian) solution was inserted into the right-hand sides of the Lagrange equations, and the linearized solution was found by quadrature.

Equation (45) can be compared to Equation (A15) in L12. The first term in Equation (45) is constant and corresponds to the “free” term in Equation (A15). The second term in Equation (45) is identical to the second term in Equation (A15) (this can be trivially shown by resolving notation differences). L12 proceeded by using the constants $K_1$ and $K_2$ (Equation (13)) to derive expressions for $a_j(t)$, which were...
then used to obtain $\lambda_j = n_j t$ with $n_j = \sqrt{GM_*/a_j^3(t)}$.\footnote{The method of L12 ignores the contribution to $\lambda_j$ from the derivatives of the Laplace coefficients. This is a correct assumption for the near-resonant orbits because these terms have $n_i$ in the denominator, while the terms from $n_j(t)$ have $n_j^*$ in the denominator. The latter terms are thus amplified near a resonance where $n_i$ is small.}

Finally, L12 used a formula equivalent to Equation (1) to compute TTVs. None of these steps requires a special clarification.

The main assumption of L12 was therefore to (effectively) neglect the term $\nu(\Gamma_1 + \Gamma_2)^2$ in Equation (42). For this to be valid, $|n_i| \gg \nu(\Gamma_1 + \Gamma_2)$. Assuming that the masses and eccentricities of the two planets are comparable, and neglecting all factors of the order of unity, this condition can be written as $e_j^2 \ll |P_2/P_1 - k/(k-1)|$. This shows that the eccentricities cannot exceed a certain threshold for the L12 formulas to be valid. This threshold is not excessively restrictive. For example, for planetary orbits just outside the 2:1 resonance with $P_2/P_1 - 2 = 0.05$, the eccentricities need to be $e_j < \sqrt{0.05} = 0.22$.

In addition to the above eccentricity condition, the planetary orbits cannot be too close to a resonance where the nonlinear effects become important, even for negligible eccentricities. We tested this condition assuming initial orbits with small eccentricities and found that the L12 model is perfectly valid for $\delta < -4$. A small, $\sim 10\%$ discrepancy in both the amplitude and frequency of $\omega_j$ appears for $\delta \approx -2$. A further increase of $\delta$ leads to a situation where Equation (45) is no longer an adequate representation of the resonant dynamics. According to our tests with $e_1 \approx e_2 < 0.01$, the L12 model cannot usually be trusted for $\delta > -1$. Figure 10 shows these thresholds as a function of the planetary mass and orbit period ratio.

4. TRANSIT TIMING VARIATIONS

If the variation of orbital elements is small, the TTVs of two planets, $\delta t_1$ and $\delta t_2$, can be computed from

$$-n_j\delta t_j = \delta \lambda_j + 2(\delta e_j / \sin \lambda_j^* - \delta h_j / \cos \lambda_j^*) + \mathcal{O}(e)$$

(46)

(see, for example, Nesvorný & Morbidelli 2008). Here, $k_j = e_j \cos \omega_j$, $h_j = e_j \sin \omega_j$, and $\lambda_j = \lambda_j^* + \delta \lambda_j$, where $\lambda_j^* = n_j(t - t_0)$ with constant $n_j$. If the reference frame is chosen such that the orbital angles are measured with respect to the line of sight, transits occur when $\lambda_j^* \approx 0$ (assuming small eccentricities). We therefore have $-n_j\delta t_j = \delta \lambda_j + 2\delta h_j + \mathcal{O}(e)$. The first-order eccentricity terms, which can be used to improve the validity for higher eccentricities, were given in Nesvorný (2009).

TTVs will thus have a contribution from the mean longitude variation, $\delta \lambda_j$, and another contribution from the variation of eccentricity and apsidal longitude, $\delta h_j = \delta (e_j \sin \omega_j)$. Defining $Y_j = -\sqrt{2f_j} / \sin \omega_j$, we have for small eccentricities that $\Gamma_j \approx \frac{1}{2} \lambda_j e_j^2$ and $h_j = -Y_j / \sqrt{\lambda_j}$. We then write $\lambda_j = \lambda_j^* + \delta \lambda_j$ with constant $\lambda_j^*$ and obtain

$$-n_j\delta t_j = \delta \lambda_j + \frac{2}{\sqrt{\lambda_j}} \delta Y_j + \mathcal{O}(e),$$

(47)

where we retained only the first-order terms in small variations.

It remains to compute $\delta \lambda_j$ and $\delta Y_j$. As for $\delta \lambda_j$, we have $d\lambda_j/dt = \partial \mathcal{H}_K / \partial K_j$, where $\mathcal{H}_K$ is given in Equation (14) (note that $K_j$ appears in the $n_k$ term in (15)). Substituting $\Gamma_1 + \Gamma_2 \to \Phi_1 + \Phi_2$ in Equation (14), taking the derivative with respect to $K_j$, and integrating with respect to $t$, we
obtain

\[
\lambda_1 = \left[ 4 - \frac{3}{\Lambda_1^2} (K_1 - (k-1)\Phi_2) \right] n_1(t - t_0) + 3(k-1) \frac{n_1}{\Lambda_1} \int_{t_0}^{t} \Phi_1 dt,
\]

\[
\lambda_2 = \left[ 4 - \frac{3}{\Lambda_2^2} (K_2 + k\Phi_2) \right] n_2(t - t_0) - 3k \frac{n_2}{\Lambda_2} \int_{t_0}^{t} \Phi_2 dt.
\]

Using the scaling relationship from Equations (24) and (27), we have that

\[
\int_{t_0}^{t} \Phi_1(t) dt = \frac{1}{\nu} \int_{\tau_0}^{\tau} \Psi(\tau) d\tau,
\]

where \(\Psi(\tau)\) is given in Equation (31). The first terms in (48) describe a uniform circulation of angles \(\lambda_1\) and \(\lambda_2\) (note that \(4n_1 - 3K_1(n_1/\Lambda_1^2) = n_1\) for \(e_1 = 0\), as expected). They will not contribute to TTVs. Instead, TTVs will arise from the integral term. As the sign in front of the integral term is positive for \(\lambda_1\) and negative for \(\lambda_2\), the TTVs of the two planets are anticorrelated. The amplitudes of \(\delta \lambda_1\) and \(\delta \lambda_2\), denoted here by \(A_{\lambda,1}\) and \(A_{\lambda,2}\), satisfy

\[
A_{\lambda,1} = k - \frac{1 - \Lambda_2^2}{\Lambda_1^2} \approx \left( 1 - \frac{k}{k-1} \right)^{2/3} \frac{m_2}{m_1}.
\]

Thus, apart from a coefficient of the order of unity, the ratio of the TTV amplitudes from the \(\lambda\) terms is expected to be equal to the inverse of the planetary mass ratio.

As for \(\delta Y_n\), we have

\[
Y_1 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{A^2 + B^2}} [A(v_1 \cos \theta - u_1 \sin \theta) + BV_2],
\]

\[
Y_2 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{A^2 + B^2}} [B(v_1 \cos \theta - u_1 \sin \theta) - AV_2],
\]

where \(u_1\) and \(v_1\) were defined in Equation (18). They are related to the \(\Phi_1\) and \(\phi_1\) variables via Equation (19). Expressions (51) are derived in Appendix B. As we show in Appendix B, \(V_2\) is a constant of motion, does not contribute to variations, and does not need to be computed.

Since the coefficients \(f_1\) and \(f_2\) have opposite signs (Table 1), \(A\) and \(B\) in Equation (51) will also have opposite signs, and the TTVs of the two planets will be anticorrelated. TTVs arising from the terms in (51) will have amplitudes \(A_{h,1}\) and \(A_{h,2}\) such that

\[
\frac{A_{h,1}}{A_{h,2}} = \frac{n_2 A}{n_1 B} \left( \frac{\Lambda_2^*}{\Lambda_1^*} \right) \approx \left( k - \frac{1}{k} \right)^{2/3} \frac{f_1}{f_2} \frac{m_2}{m_1}. \tag{52}
\]

The ratio of TTV amplitudes from the \(h\) terms is inversely proportional to the ratio of planetary masses. This is the same mass dependence as in Equation (50). Thus, while the resonant TTV period discussed in Section 3.7 can be used to constrain \(m_1/M_*\) or \(m_2/M_*\), the TTV amplitude ratio is sensitive to \(m_2/m_1\).

Above we reduced the problem at hand to the evaluation of \(v_1 \cos \theta - u_1 \sin \theta\). The \(\theta\) terms are simple. From Equation (48) we have that

\[
\theta = [n_1 - 2\nu \Phi_1](t - t_0) - 2\nu \int_{t_0}^{t} \Phi_1 dt. \tag{53}
\]

As for the \(u_1\) and \(v_1\) terms, we obtain

\[
u_1 = \eta_1 \sqrt{\frac{2\Psi}{\cos \psi}} \cos \psi = -\eta_1 \sqrt{\frac{\Psi}{\cos \psi}} h_0 + (\Psi - \delta^2),
\]

\[
v_1 = \eta_1 \sqrt{\frac{2\Psi}{\sin \psi}} \sin \psi = -\eta_1 \sqrt{\frac{\Psi}{\sin \psi}} \frac{d \Psi}{d \tau}. \tag{54}
\]

This is all we need for the computation of TTVs. To summarize, \(\Psi(\tau)\) from Equation (31) needs to be inserted into (49) and (54). The integral in (49) needs to be computed and substituted into Equations (48) and (53). Then, \(\theta, \nu_1,\) and \(v_1\) obtained from Equations (53) and (54) are substituted into (51). The constant terms in \(\lambda_1\) and \(\lambda_2\) can be neglected because they do not contribute to TTVs. Finally, Equation (47) is used to compute the TTVs.

In principle, the method outlined above can be used to derive fully analytic expressions for \(\delta \lambda_1\) and \(\delta \lambda_2\), which would have the same general validity for low eccentricities as the analytic solution (31). For that, however, we would need to compute the derivative (needed for \(v_1\)) and integral (needed for \(\lambda_1\) and \(\lambda_2\)) of \(\Psi(\tau)\) from (31). The integral ends up producing complex expressions (Appendix C). Here we therefore opt for a different approach, where we seek to find an expression for resonant TTVs in terms of the Fourier series.

### 4.1 Fourier Series Expansion

The solution (31) is valid for any initial condition \((\psi_0, \Psi_0)\). Here we are not primarily interested in finding a general TTV expression for any \((\psi_0, \Psi_0)\). Instead, our primary goal is to understand the general scaling of TTVs with planetary masses, resonant amplitude, and so on. We therefore opt for setting \(\sin \psi_0 = 0\). This simplifies (31) considerably. Specifically, \(\sin \psi_0 = 0\) implies that \(f_0 = 0\), and (31) becomes

\[
\Psi(\tau) = \Psi_0 + \frac{c_1}{4} 1 - \text{cn}(a, k) \frac{1 - \text{cn}(u, k)}{a + b \text{cn}(u, k)}. \tag{55}
\]

where we denoted \(a = \gamma + e_2 - C_2/24,\)

\(b = \gamma - e_2 + C_2/24,\)

and \(\gamma = \sqrt{9\alpha^2 + \beta^2}.\)

This equation is valid in the domain \(\Delta < 0\) shown in Figure 6, which includes the whole resonant libration zone. We used Equation (34) to relate the Weierstrass functions in (31) to the Jacobi functions.

At the equilibrium point, \(\Delta = 0, \quad b = 0,\) and

\(a = 2(\Psi_{eq} - \delta^2) + \sqrt{2\Psi_{eq}}\) (Appendix A). For librations around the equilibrium point, we have that \(a \gg b\) (Figure 11).

We therefore identify a small parameter \(\epsilon = b/a \ll 1\) and expand Equation (55) in the Taylor series in \(\epsilon\).

Retaining only the first-order terms in \(\epsilon\) (approximation of low-amplitude librations), we obtain

\[
\Psi(\tau) = \Psi_0 + \frac{c_1}{4a} [1 - (1 + \epsilon) \text{cn}(u, k) + \epsilon \text{cn}^2(u, k)] + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^2). \tag{56}
\]

Including higher-order terms in \(\epsilon\) would improve the validity of the approximation for large libration amplitudes. Next, we
express $cn$ and $cn^2$ in the Fourier series:

$$cn(u, k) = \frac{2\pi}{kK} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{q^{n-1/2}}{1 + q^{2n-1}} \cos \left(\frac{2n - 1}{2K}u\right)$$

(57)

and

$$cn^2(u, k) = \frac{E - k'^2K}{k^2K} + \frac{2\pi^2}{k'^2K} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{nq^n}{1 - q^{2n}} \cos \frac{n\pi}{K}u.$$  

(58)

Here we have $k' = \sqrt{1 - k^2}$ and $q = \exp(-\pi k'/K)$ with $K = K(k')$. General expressions for $cn^n(u, k)$, which can become useful when higher-order terms in (56) are accounted for, can be found in Kiper (1984).

Both of these Fourier series converge very rapidly, and we can therefore afford to use the lowest harmonics. In practice, given that the evaluation of $u_1$ from Equation (54) will require a multiplication of the Fourier series, we consider only the first and second harmonics of $u = 2J_x^c/\tau - \tau_0)$. After substituting these terms into Equation (56), we obtain

$$\Psi = \Psi_0 + D \left(1 + \frac{\epsilon}{2}\right) - D(1 + \epsilon)\cos f, \Sigma + \frac{1}{2}D \epsilon \cos 2f, \Sigma.$$  

(59)

Here we denoted the frequency $f_1 = 2\pi/P, \pi, \sqrt{\gamma}/K$ and $D = C/4a$. To simplify things, we set $\tau_0 = 0$ and drop all multiplication terms appearing from Equations (57) and (58) that are $\approx 1$.

Note that $D$ is a proxy for the libration amplitude of $\Psi$ (Figure 11). Equation (59) can be used to trivially compute the integral $\int \Psi d\tau$ appearing in Equation (49), which is then inserted into Equations (48) and (53). In the following text, the two TVT contributions, $\delta \lambda$ and $\delta \theta_\Sigma$, will be considered separately.

4.2. Contribution from Mean Longitude Variations

The calculation of $\delta \lambda$ is simple. Retaining the periodic terms in Equation (48), we obtain

$$\delta \lambda_1 = -(k - 1) \frac{P}{\lambda_1^*} D[c_1^1 \sin \lambda_1 + c_2^2 \sin 2\lambda_1],$$

$$\delta \lambda_2 = 3k \frac{P}{\lambda_2^*} D[c_1^1 \sin \lambda_1 + c_2^2 \sin 2\lambda_1].$$  

(60)

with the coefficients $c_1^1 = 1 + \epsilon$ and $c_2^2 = -\epsilon/4$ and frequency $f = \eta_1^1 f + \eta_1^2 \pi/\sqrt{\gamma}/K$ (Section 3.7).

These equations are the source of Equation (2) in Section 2, where we give the final expressions for TVTs arising from the variation of $\lambda_1$ and $\lambda_2$. In Equation (2), we have taken the liberty to drop the star from $\lambda_1^*$, but it is understood that $n_1, \lambda_1$, and other quantities depending on these parameters in Equation (2) are considered to be constant. Also, since $D$ is a good proxy for the amplitude $A_\Psi$, we replaced $D \rightarrow A_\Psi$ in Equation (2). Note that $A_\Psi$ is positive for $\Psi_0 < \Psi_{eq}$ and negative for $\Psi_0 = \Psi_{eq}$. We then use the following expansions to obtain $\cos \phi$ and $\sin \phi$:

$$\cos(x \sin \varphi) = J_0(x) + 2 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} J_{2n}(x) \cos 2n \varphi,$$

$$\sin(x \sin \varphi) = 2 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} J_{2n-1}(x) \sin(2n - 1) \varphi,$$

(63)

where $J_n(x)$ are the Bessel functions. Both these Fourier series converge rapidly for $x \ll 1$. We therefore retain only the lowest-order harmonics. This leads to

$$\cos \theta = J_0(C_0) \cos(\theta_0 + f_0\theta) + 2 J_1(C_0) \sin(\theta_0 + f_0\theta) \sin f,$$

$$\sin \theta = J_0(C_0) \sin(\theta_0 + f_0\theta) + 2 J_1(C_0) \cos(\theta_0 + f_0\theta) \cos f.$$  

(64)

Here we neglected the coefficients $C_1$ that are of the order of $\epsilon$ (note that $\epsilon < D$; Figure 11).

The harmonics with $f$ in Equation (64) appear from the resonant librations (Section 3.7). Since $\theta = \phi_1 - \zeta_1$ (Appendix B) and $\phi_1$ oscillates around $\pi$ in the librational state, $\theta$ has the same circulation frequency as $\zeta_1$. Now, given
that $\zeta$ is defined from the apsidal longitudes $\varpi_1$ and $\varpi_2$ (Appendix B), the interpretation of $f_0$ is that it is the mean precession frequency of the longitudes of periapsis. Neglecting terms $\mathcal{O}(\varepsilon)$ and using the definition of $\delta$ in Equation (23), we find from (62) that

$$f_0 = 2\eta_2^{1/3}(\delta - \Psi_{eq}),$$

(65)

where $\Psi_0 + D \to \Psi_{eq}$ is substituted (see Figure 11). The $f_0$ frequency therefore scales in the same manner with planetary parameters as $f = \eta_2^{1/3}f_r$ (as expressed by the $\eta_2^{1/3}$ factor). Unlike $f_r$, which derives from $f_r = 2\pi/P_r \sim 3$ in the libration island, $f_0$ contains the factor $2(\delta - \Psi_{eq})$. This factor is $\ll 1$ (compare the dotted and solid “stable 1” lines in Figure 4). Therefore, $f_0$ is substantially smaller than $f_r$ which shows that the variations from $\theta$ are expected to occur on a long timescale.

Specifically, the period $P_0 = 2\pi/f_0 = \pi/(\delta - \Psi_{eq})$ is equal to 10.1 for $\delta = 1$, 13.3 for $\delta = 2$, and 18.1 for $\delta = 4$. The longer periods for larger $\delta$ values are a consequence of $\Psi_{eq}$ approaching $\delta$ for increasing values of $\delta$ (Section 3.5). Note that $P_{\delta}$, at least in the approximation adopted here, is independent of the libration amplitude. Also, given that $\delta - \Psi_{eq} < 0$ in the libration island, the $f_0$ frequency is negative as well, meaning that the circulation of $\theta$ is retrograde (implying retrograde rotation of $\varpi_1$ and $\varpi_2$).

The terms in Equation (64) containing frequencies $f_0$ and $f$ could be combined to produce harmonics with frequencies $f_0 \pm f$ and $f_0 \pm 2f$. Given that, as we discussed above, the characteristic periods of these terms are largely different, we prefer to leave them multiplying each other in Equation (64). Accordingly, Equation (64) is interpreted as the resonant variations around the mean value that is slowly modulated with frequency $f_0$.

The expressions for $u_1$ and $v_1$ are derived from Equation (54) after substituting $\Psi$ from Equation (59). After some algebra we obtain

$$u_1 = \eta_1^{-1/3}D(C_{u,0} + C_{u,1}\cos ft)
+ C_{u,2}\cos 2ft + C_{u,3}\cos 3ft),$$

$$v_1 = \eta_1^{-1/3}\frac{2\pi}{f_r}D(-(1 + \varepsilon)\sin ft + \varepsilon \sin 2ft)$$

(66)

with coefficients

$$C_{u,0} = \frac{\eta_1^{1/3}}{D} - D\left(\frac{3}{2} + 2\varepsilon\right) - (2 + \varepsilon)(\Psi_0 - \delta),$$

$$C_{u,1} = D\left(2 + \frac{7}{2}\varepsilon\right) + 2(1 + \varepsilon)(\Psi_0 - \delta),$$

$$C_{u,2} = -D\left(\frac{1}{2} + 2\varepsilon\right) - \varepsilon(\Psi_0 - \delta),$$

$$C_{u,3} = \frac{1}{2}D.$$  

(67)

In the above expression for the coefficient $C_{u,0}$, $u_0$ denotes the initial value:

$$u_0 = \sqrt{2\Psi_0} = -h_0 - (\Psi_0 - \delta)^2.$$  

(68)

Figure 12 compares Equation (66) with the exact solution of Equations (25) and (26). It shows that the approximation (66) is excellent for small libration amplitudes but loses precision for large libration amplitudes. This happens mainly because the terms $\mathcal{O}(\varepsilon^2)$ were neglected in Equation (56). In principle, it should be possible to include these and higher-order terms and improve the validity of the Fourier approximation by producing more general expressions. We leave this for future work.

Now we should combine Equations (64) and (66). Unfortunately, this generates a very long expression for $\delta Y_\ell$. We do not explicitly give this equation here. The full expression was coded in a program and used to generate Figures 1 and 2. We find that the TTV terms from $v_1 \cos \theta - u_1 \sin \theta$ with the frequency $f$ have amplitudes that are generally much smaller than the TTV amplitudes arising from the $\delta \lambda$ terms (Equation (66)). Here we therefore explicitly report only the most important harmonic with frequency $f_0$. These terms do not have a counterpart in Equation (60). They are important for the long-term modulation of the TTV signal. Specifically, we find that

$$\delta Y_1 = -\eta_1^{-1/3}\frac{AD}{\sqrt{A^2 + B^2}}C_{u,0}J_0(C_{u,1})\sin(\theta_0 + f_0 t),$$

$$\delta Y_2 = -\eta_1^{-1/3}\frac{BD}{\sqrt{A^2 + B^2}}C_{u,0}J_0(C_{u,1})\sin(\theta_0 + f_0 t).$$

(69)

This is the source of Equation (5). Since $J_0(C_{u,1}) \sim 1$, we do not list this term in Equation (5), where we also substitute $D \to A_\Psi$.

5. THE DOMAIN OF VALIDITY

We adopted several approximations in this work:

I. The Laplacian expansion of the perturbing function used in Section 3.1 is convergent only if the planetary eccentricities are small enough (Sundman 1912). For a planet on a circular orbit, this limits the validity of the expansion to $e < 0.25$ ($e < 0.2$) for orbits near its inner
(outer) 2:1 resonance, and to $e < 0.15$ ($e < 0.12$) for orbits near its inner (outer) 3:2 resonance. The analytic results derived here are not valid above these limits. See Nesvorný & Morbidelli (2008) for a discussion of Sundman’s criterion.

II. All nonresonant terms were neglected in Section 3.1. The short-periodic terms with nonresonant frequencies produce short-periodic TTVs that can be calculated by the method described in Nesvorný & Morbidelli (2008). These terms can be linearly added to the expressions obtained here for resonant TTVs. The secular terms are second and higher orders in planetary eccentricities and contribute by only a small correction to the precession of orbits if the eccentricities are small.

III. The second- and higher-order resonant terms in planetary eccentricities were neglected in the perturbing function. This is an important approximation that limits the validity of the results to small eccentricities. The same assumption was adopted when writing $\delta t_j$ as a variation of orbital elements.

IV. The amplitude of the semimajor axis variations was assumed to be small (this allowed us to simplify the Keplerian Hamiltonian in Section 3.3). The same assumption was adopted to compute $\delta t_j$ from Equation (1), where we also neglected all second- and higher-order terms in small variations of the orbital elements. We find that these approximations are generally valid and do not impose any meaningful limits on the range of planetary parameters where our analytic results are valid.

V. The exact solution of the second fundamental model of resonance was expanded in the Taylor series in $e$, and only the terms $O(e)$ were retained (Section 4.1). In addition, the Jacobi elliptic functions were written as the Fourier series, and only the lowest harmonics were retained. Both these approximations limit the validity of our analytic TTV model to relatively small libration amplitudes. (In principle, the methods described in Section 4 can be used to obtain more general expressions.)

Here we perform tests of these assumptions to establish the domain of validity of our analytic model. To this end, we developed several codes that compute the resonant TTV signal at various stages of approximation. They are as follows:

A. A full N-body integrator of Equations (7) and (8), where the gravitational interaction of planets is taken into account exactly. We used the symplectic code known as Swift (Levison & Duncan 1994) with routines for an efficient and precise determination of TTVs (Nesvorný et al. 2013; see also Deck et al. 2014).

B. A numerical integrator in orbital elements that uses the Laplacian expansion of the perturbing function. Various terms can be included or excluded in this integrator. In the most basic approximation, the code includes only the first-order resonant terms from Equation (10). Optionally, it also accounts for the second-order secular or resonant terms. This code is used to test the approximations II and III listed above.

C. A code that maps the initial orbital elements onto (22) and numerically integrates the corresponding Equations (25) and (26). Another code uses the exact analytic solution (31). As expected, these two codes give exactly the same result, which shows that our implementation of Equation (31) is working correctly.

D. A TTV code based on the analytic formulas derived in Section 4. This code is subject to all approximations discussed above. It cannot produce accurate results if the orbital eccentricities or libration amplitudes exceed certain limits.

We first test the approximation V. To this end we compare the results obtained with code B with the analytic results from method D. In B, we include the two first-order resonant terms and neglect terms that are second or higher order in planetary eccentricities. The masses and initial orbits are chosen such that $\delta = 2$ (Figure 13) or $\delta = 4$ (Figure 14). The initial orbits are then varied to survey different libration amplitudes. These tests show that the analytic method produces very reliable results for $A_\Phi \lesssim 1$ (top panels in Figures 13 and 14). For the libration amplitudes much larger than that, our analytic expressions for $u_1$ and $v_1$ in Equation (66) become inaccurate (see Figure 12). As a consequence, the analytic approximation of the TTV terms from $\delta t_j$ fails (bottom panels in Figures 13 and 14).}

Interestingly, however, the analytic approximation of the full TTV signal is reasonable even if $A_\Phi > 1$. This happens because the TTV terms from $\delta \lambda_i$ increase with $A_\Phi$ and become dominant for large $A_\Phi$. We are able to reproduce these terms correctly because the analytic formula in Equation (2) has a more general validity than the one that requires a correct approximation of the boomerang-shaped trajectories in the $(u_1, v_1)$ plane (Equation (66)). We therefore conclude that the analytic TTV model can be used, with some caution, even if the libration amplitudes are relatively large.

We now turn our attention to the approximations I, II, and III. We find that the omission of the higher-order resonant terms in III is the most restrictive assumption. To illustrate this, Figures 15 (inner planet) and 16 (outer planet) show a comparison of the analytic model with TTVs computed from the N-body code (method A above). Here we set different planetary eccentricities ranging from $e_1 = e_2 = 0.001$ (left panels in both figures) to $e_1 = e_2 = 0.05$ (right panels). We find that the analytic model works well for $e_1 = e_2 = 0.001$.

Already for $e_1 = e_2 = 0.01$, a significant discrepancy appears (see middle panels in Figures 15 and 16). An important part of the discrepancy, however, is not due to assumption III, but is rather related to the choice of initial conditions. Recall that, in addition to the resonant terms, the exact computation of TTVs with method A also contains the short-periodic harmonics, while the analytic method D does not account for these terms. This presents a difficulty when choosing the initial conditions in A and D that are consistent with each other. If the same values are adopted in A and D, the initial semimajor axes in A generate slightly different values of the mean orbital frequencies than the same initial semimajor axes in D. This effect then propagates into a difference in the libration frequency $f$. To demonstrate this, we surveyed a small neighborhood of the initial conditions and found that it is always possible, if the eccentricities are sufficiently small, to apply a small adjustment such that the difference between the analytical and numerical results vanishes (left and middle bottom panels in Figures 15 and 16). Note that this initial value

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9 The same comparison method was used to produce Figures 1 and 2 in Section 2.
problem does not seriously limit the application of the analytic model to the real data because it requires only a very small adjustment of $a_1$ or $a_2$ (or equivalently $n_1$ and $n_2$), which can easily be absorbed by other parameters.

Another more fundamental discrepancy appears for $e_1 = e_2 = 0.05$. In this case, the TTV frequency computed from the analytic model is nearly 40% higher than the actual frequency, and the TTV amplitudes are $\approx 25\%$ smaller than their actual values (right panels in Figures 15 and 16). In this case, it is not possible to adjust the initial conditions to cancel the difference. This shows that the assumption III starts to fail. We confirm this by method B, where it becomes apparent that including the second-order resonant terms improves the model’s precision. Still, for $e_1 = e_2 = 0.05$, the amplitude discrepancy is relatively minor and can be compensated for, for example, by a relatively small correction of planetary masses. We therefore find that the analytic model is still useful in this case. Our additional tests show that the analytic expressions for TTVs are not reliable for eccentricities exceeding $\sim 0.1$. (The validity domain in $e$ should be slightly larger for distant resonances such as 2:1 and smaller for $k \geq 4$.)

The analytic model was developed under the assumption of exactly coplanar planetary orbits. This assumption was used in Section 3.1 to neglect all terms in the Laplacian expansion of the perturbing function that depend on inclinations. The model is therefore not expected to be valid if the mutual inclination
between orbits, \( I_{\text{mutual}} \), is large. We performed various tests of this assumption and found that the analytic model is reasonably accurate for \( I_{\text{mutual}} < 10^\circ \) but fails to produce reliable results for \( I_{\text{mutual}} \geq 10^\circ \). This should not be a severe limitation of the applicability of the analytic results to the multitransiting planetary systems because the orbits in these systems are expected to be nearly coplanar (e.g., Fang & Margot 2012).

6. CONCLUSIONS

In this work we developed an analytic model for TTVs of a pair of resonant planets and discussed how the TTV period and amplitude constrain the masses and orbits of the two planets. The model is strictly valid only for small orbital eccentricities \( (e < 0.1) \). It was developed under the assumption of coplanar orbits, but our tests show that it is valid even if the mutual inclination of orbits is not large \(< 10^\circ \).

Figure 14. Same as Figure 13 but for \( \delta = 4 \). In this case, the stable equilibrium point is at \( \Psi_{\text{eq}} = 4.14 \). From top to bottom, the different panels correspond to \( \Psi_0 = 3.5 \) \( (A_\psi = 0.67) \), \( \Psi_0 = 2.5 \) \( (A_\psi = 1.17) \), and \( \Psi_0 = 2 \) \( (A_\psi = 1.57) \).

The resonant TTV signal is expected to contain the harmonics of two basic periods: the period of resonant librations and the period of apsidal precession of orbits. The latter is expected to be \(~5\) times longer than the former and may be difficult to detect with a short baseline of the TTV measurements. The libration period is relatively insensitive to the exact location of the system parameters in the resonant island and scales with \( (m/M_*)^{-2/3} \). Its determination from the TTV measurements can therefore help to constrain the planetary masses. This is an important difference with respect to the near-resonant case (Lithwick et al. 2012), where the TTV period is the superperiod, which is independent of mass.

The TTV amplitudes, on the other hand, can be used to constrain the ratio of planetary masses \( m_1/m_2 \). Since both the TTV period and amplitude depend on the resonant amplitude \( A_\psi \), some mild degeneracies between the mass and orbital
parameters are expected, but these degeneracies can be broken by a detection of higher-order resonant harmonics, which constrain $A_{\Psi}$, or short-periodic (chopping) effects. A detailed analysis of this problem and the application of our analytic model to the resonant exoplanets (Winn & Fabrycky 2015) is left for future work.

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### APPENDIX A

#### PARAMETER $\epsilon = b/a$

The coefficients $C_n$ in Equation (31) are obtained from the derivatives of $f(\Psi)$ with $\Psi = \Psi_0$:

$$C_1 = 2[1 - 2(\Psi_0 - \delta)\sqrt{2\Psi_0}],$$

$$C_2 = -4[2(\Psi_0 - \delta)^2 + \sqrt{2\Psi_0}].$$

The expressions for $C_3$ and $C_4$ are not needed if we set $\psi_0 = \pi$ and thus $f_0 = 0$. The invariants in Equation (32) can be written as

$$g_2 = \frac{4}{3}\left(h_0^2 - \frac{3}{2}\delta\right),$$

$$g_3 = \frac{1}{4} - \frac{8}{27}h_0^2 h_0 - \frac{9}{4}\delta\right),$$

where we denoted $h_0 = -(\Psi_0 - \delta)^2 + \sqrt{2\Psi_0}$. The determinant $\Delta$ becomes

$$\Delta = -\frac{27}{16} - 8\delta^3 + 4h_0\left(h_0 + \delta^2 h_0 - \frac{9}{4}\delta\right).$$

If we define

$$F = \frac{1}{2}\left(g_3 + \frac{1}{3}\sqrt{-\Delta}\right)^{1/3},$$

then the three roots of the cubic equation can be obtained from

$$\alpha = -\frac{1}{2}\left(F + \frac{g_2}{12F}\right),$$

$$\beta = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{3}}\left(F - \frac{g_2}{12F}\right),$$

$$e_2 = F + \frac{g_2}{12F} = -2\alpha.$$

In the equilibrium point, $\Psi_0 = \Psi_{eq}$, we have that $\Delta = 0$, and thus $F = g_3^{1/3}/2$. It follows that $\beta = 0$ and

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**Figure 15.** Comparison of TTVs obtained with the analytic model (black lines) and the precise N-body integrator (green lines). From left to right, the orbital eccentricities of planets were increased to test the validity of the analytic model. We fixed $m_1 = m_2 = 10^{-3} M_\odot$, $M_\star = 1 M_\odot$, $a_1 = 0.1$ au, and $a_2$ near the external 3:2 resonance with the inner planet ($a_2 = 0.13095$ au). The TTVs of the inner planet are shown here. The case with $e_1 = e_2 = 0.001$ (left panels) corresponds to $\delta = 0.51$ and $\Psi_0 = 0.007$. The case with $e_1 = e_2 = 0.01$ (middle panels) corresponds to $\delta = 1.25$ and $\Psi_0 = 0.75$. The case with $e_1 = e_2 = 0.05$ corresponds to $\delta = 19.3$ and $\Psi_0 = 18.8$. In the two bottom panels on the left, we illustrate how a small adjustment of the initial conditions improves the results (see the main text for a discussion). In the bottom-right panel, we rescaled time to show that a modest adjustment of the frequency can resolve the discrepancy when eccentricities are larger.
\[ a = -F = -9^{1/3}/2 = C_2/24 < 0. \] Therefore, \( b = 0 \) and \( a = -C_2/4 \), where \( a \) and \( b \) are defined in the main text.

Figure 11 shows \( \delta = b/a \) for \( \delta = 3 \). It is zero at the equilibrium point and increases to \( \delta \approx 0.2 \) at the separatrix. Higher values of \( \delta \) lead to smaller values of \( \delta \). For \( \delta > 1 \), on the other hand, \( \delta \) can be as large as 0.6 near the separatrix.

**APPENDIX B**

**EXPRESSIONS FOR \( Y_j \)**

In Section 3 we omitted explaining one important issue that becomes apparent if the degree of freedom related to \( g_{ll} = -k \lambda_1 - (k - 1) \lambda_1 \) is treated separately from those related to \( \omega_1 \) and \( \omega_2 \) (as was done in BM13). To explain this issue, we first define in direct correspondence to Equation (17)

\[
X_1 = \sqrt{2T_1} \cos \gamma_1, \quad Y_1 = \sqrt{2T_1} \sin \gamma_1, \\
X_2 = \sqrt{2T_2} \cos \gamma_2, \quad Y_2 = \sqrt{2T_2} \sin \gamma_2, 
\]

where \( \gamma_j = -\omega_j \). Second, we perform a transformation (see Section 3.4) to the new variables \( (V_1, V_2; U_1, U_2) \):

\[
U_1 = \frac{AX_1 + BX_2}{\sqrt{A^2 + B^2}}, \quad V_1 = \frac{AY_1 + BY_2}{\sqrt{A^2 + B^2}}, \\
U_2 = \frac{BX_1 - AX_2}{\sqrt{A^2 + B^2}}, \quad V_2 = \frac{BY_1 - AY_2}{\sqrt{A^2 + B^2}}. 
\]

And last, we introduce new polar variables \( (\zeta_1, \zeta_2; \Phi_1, \Phi_2) \) such that

\[
U_1 = \sqrt{2\Phi_1} \cos \zeta_1, \quad V_1 = \sqrt{2\Phi_1} \sin \zeta_1, \\
U_2 = \sqrt{2\Phi_2} \cos \zeta_2, \quad V_2 = \sqrt{2\Phi_2} \sin \zeta_2. 
\]

The inverse transformation to (76) is

\[
X_1 = \frac{AU_1 + BU_2}{\sqrt{A^2 + B^2}}, \quad Y_1 = \frac{AV_1 + BV_2}{\sqrt{A^2 + B^2}}, \\
X_2 = \frac{BU_1 - AU_2}{\sqrt{A^2 + B^2}}, \quad Y_2 = \frac{BV_1 - AV_2}{\sqrt{A^2 + B^2}}. \tag{78}
\]

With these definitions, it is straightforward to show that \( \phi_j = \theta + \zeta_j \), where \( \phi_j \) are the original angles defined in (19), \( \zeta_1 = \text{arg}(AZ_1 + BZ_2) \), and \( \zeta_2 = \text{arg}(BZ_1 - AZ_2) \), where \( Z_j = X_j + iY_j = \sqrt{2T_j} \exp \gamma_j \). We thus find that \( V_1 = \rho_1 \cos \theta - U_1 \sin \theta \). When substituted into (78), we obtain Equation (51) in the main text. In addition, it can be shown that \( d\zeta_2/dt = d\phi_2/dt - d\theta/dt = 0 \). The angle \( \zeta_2 \) is therefore constant. Consequently, since \( \Phi_2 = \text{const.} \) as well, both \( U_2 \) and \( V_2 \) are constants of motion. This result is used in Section 4, where \( V_2 \) in Equation (51) does not contribute to TTWs.

**APPENDIX C**

**INTEGRAL \( \int \Psi d\tau \)**

The integral in Equation (49) with \( \Psi(\tau) \) from Equation (55) admits the following exact solution:

\[
\int \Psi(\tau) d\tau = \left( \Psi_0 - \frac{C_1}{4ae} \right) \tau + \frac{C_1(1 + \epsilon)}{8a \epsilon \sqrt{\tau}} \int \frac{du}{1 + \epsilon \text{cn}(u, k)}, \tag{79}
\]
where \( \epsilon = b/a \) and \( \gamma \) are defined in Section 4.1. From Byrd & Friedman (1971) (BF 341.03) we have

\[
\int \frac{du}{1 + \epsilon \, \text{cn}(u, k)} = \frac{1}{1 - \epsilon^2} \left[ \Pi(\varphi, n, k) - \epsilon \, C \tan^{-1}\left( \frac{\text{sd}(u, k)}{C} \right) \right]
\]

where \( \Pi(\varphi, n, k) \) is the Legendre elliptic integral of the third kind, \( \varphi = \text{am} u \) is the Jacobi amplitude, and \( \text{sd}(u, k) = \text{sn}(u, k)/\text{dn}(u, k) \). The constants \( n \) and \( C \) are

\[
n = \frac{\epsilon^2}{\epsilon^2 - 1}, \quad C = \frac{1 - \epsilon^2}{\sqrt{k^4 + \epsilon^2 \, k^2}}.
\]

Note that Byrd & Friedman (1971) use a different notation for the coefficient \( n \) than Press et al. (2007). To use the numerical subroutines from Press et al. (2007), \( n = \epsilon^2/(1 - \epsilon^2) \).

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