

Strange attractor for the renormalization flow for invariant tori of Hamiltonian systems with two generic frequencies

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We analyze the stability of invariant tori for Hamiltonian systems with two degrees of freedom by constructing a transformation that combines Kolmogorov-Arnold-Moser theory and renormalization-group techniques. This transformation is based on the continued fraction expansion of the frequency of the torus. We apply this transformation numerically for arbitrary frequencies that contain bounded entries in the continued fraction expansion. We give a global picture of renormalization flow for the stability of invariant tori, and we show that the properties of critical (and near critical) tori can be obtained by analyzing renormalization dynamics around a single hyperbolic strange attractor. We compute the fractal diagram, i.e., the critical coupling as a function of the frequencies, associated with a given one-parameter family.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Invariant tori play a fundamental role in the stability of Hamiltonian systems. For two degrees of freedom, they act as barriers in phase space. Renormalization-group (RG) transformations have been proposed to understand the breakup of invariant tori for area-preserving maps [1,2] and for Hamiltonian systems with two degrees of freedom [3–8]. The RG-transformations described in Refs. [4,7,8] combine an elimination of the irrelevant part of the perturbation, and a rescaling of phase space which is adapted to the frequency of the specific invariant torus. These transformations are constructed as canonical changes of coordinates. They have been implemented numerically for the golden mean torus [with frequency $\gamma = (\sqrt{5} - 1)/2$]. Based on the numerical analysis of the renormalization flow, the following picture emerges: a trivial fixed point H_0 (which is an integrable Hamiltonian) of the RG-transformation characterizes the domain where the Hamiltonians have a smooth invariant torus with frequency γ , i.e., all Hamiltonians attracted to H_0 by renormalization are locally canonically conjugated to an integrable Hamiltonian. The boundary of the domain of attraction of H_0 is the domain where the tori are critical, at the threshold of their breakup. This boundary (named the *critical surface*) is expected to be of codimension 1, and to coincide with the set of Hamiltonians with critical coupling beyond which they no longer have an invariant torus with frequency γ . The critical surface is expected to be the stable manifold of a nontrivial fixed point H_* . This global picture is still at the stage of conjecture: In the perturbative regime, it is supported by rigorous results [4]. From the numerical analysis of the neighborhood of H_* , the scaling properties of critical tori [9,10] are found by these renormalization transformations: it is a strong argument in favor of the link between H_* and critical invariant tori. Furthermore, this renormalization approach gives a method to calculate the critical coupling for a given one-parameter family (the value of the parameter for which the considered invariant torus is critical). It has been verified that this critical coupling coincides with the critical couplings obtained by other methods like Greene's criterion [11]

or Laskar's frequency analysis [12].

Since the relevant quantity for stability is the ratio between the two components of the frequency vector, we consider an invariant torus with frequency vector $\omega_0 = (\omega, -1)$ where the frequency ω is irrational (the frequency vector must satisfy a Diophantine condition). The purpose of the RG-transformations we define is to analyze the stability of this invariant torus for Hamiltonians with two degrees of freedom. The idea is to set up a transformation \mathcal{R} as a canonical change of coordinates that maps a Hamiltonian H into a rescaled one $\mathcal{R}(H)$, such that irrelevant degrees of freedom are eliminated. The transformation \mathcal{R} should have the following properties: \mathcal{R} has an attractive fixed set (trivial fixed set) composed by integrable Hamiltonians. Every Hamiltonian in its domain of attraction \mathcal{D} has a smooth invariant torus with frequency vector ω_0 . The aim is to show that there is another fixed set which lies on the boundary $\partial\mathcal{D}$ (the critical surface) and that is attractive for every Hamiltonian on $\partial\mathcal{D}$.

Renormalization-group approaches for the breakup of invariant tori for arbitrary frequency have been proposed for circle maps [13–17] and for area-preserving maps [18]. The boundary of Siegel disks has also been analyzed by renormalization [19]. The numerical results suggest that *statistical* self-similarity characterizes the considered problems at criticality. It has been conjectured that it can be described by an ergodic attractor of a renormalization transformation.

The numerical implementation of the RG-transformation for Hamiltonian systems with two degrees of freedom, gives support to this picture: we conjecture that the properties (scaling factors and critical exponents) of critical tori can be obtained by analyzing renormalization dynamics around a *single* strange chaotic attractor. Each critical torus displays a sequence of critical exponents, which are the eigenvalues of the linearized renormalization map along its trajectories. Two different critical tori display the same set of critical exponents but with a different probability distribution. In that sense, we can speak of a single universality class describing critical invariant tori for Hamiltonian systems with two degrees of freedom.

In Sec. II, we construct the RG transformations for an invariant torus with bounded entries in the continued fraction expansion of its frequency. In Sec. III, we apply this construction numerically for a set of frequencies which have only 1 and 2 in their continued fraction expansion. We show that a critical strange attractor can be expected to describe the properties of critical invariant tori. In Sec. IV, we compute a fractal diagram which is the set of critical couplings $\varepsilon_c(\omega)$ for a given one-parameter family of Hamiltonians. In Sec. V, we construct a simple approximate RG transformation that gives qualitatively all the relevant features of the renormalization dynamics.

II. RENORMALIZATION TRANSFORMATION

We describe the renormalization scheme for a torus with arbitrary frequency vector $\boldsymbol{\omega}_0 = (\omega, -1)$ where $\omega \in]0, 1[$. This renormalization relies upon the continued fraction expansion of ω :

$$\omega = \frac{1}{a_0 + \frac{1}{a_1 + \dots}} \equiv [a_0, a_1, \dots].$$

The best rational approximations of ω are given by the truncations of this expansion: $p_k/q_k = [a_0, a_1, \dots, a_k = \infty]$. The corresponding periodic orbits with frequency vectors $\boldsymbol{\omega}_{\nu_k} = (p_k/q_k, -1)$ accumulate at the invariant torus. We call ‘‘resonance,’’ a vector $\boldsymbol{\nu}_k = (q_k, p_k)$ (for $k \geq 1$) which is orthogonal to $\boldsymbol{\omega}_{\nu_k}$. The word resonance refers to the fact that the small denominators $\boldsymbol{\omega}_0 \cdot \boldsymbol{\nu}_k$ that appear in the perturbation expansion are the smallest ones, i.e., $|\boldsymbol{\omega}_0 \cdot \boldsymbol{\nu}_k| < |\boldsymbol{\omega}_0 \cdot \boldsymbol{\nu}|$ for any $\boldsymbol{\nu} = (q, p)$ different from zero and $\boldsymbol{\nu}_k$, and such that $|q| < q_{k+1}$ [20]. The sequence of resonances satisfies $|\boldsymbol{\omega}_0 \cdot \boldsymbol{\nu}_{k+1}| < |\boldsymbol{\omega}_0 \cdot \boldsymbol{\nu}_k|$ and $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} |\boldsymbol{\omega}_0 \cdot \boldsymbol{\nu}_k| = 0$, and $\boldsymbol{\nu}_k$ is given by

$$\boldsymbol{\nu}_k = N_{a_0} \cdots N_{a_{k-1}} \boldsymbol{\nu}_0, \quad (2.1)$$

where $\boldsymbol{\nu}_0 = (1, 0)$ and N_{a_i} denotes the matrix

$$N_{a_i} = \begin{pmatrix} a_i & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Moreover, $\boldsymbol{\omega}_0 \cdot \boldsymbol{\nu}_k$ and $\boldsymbol{\omega}_0 \cdot \boldsymbol{\nu}_{k+1}$ are of opposite sign (as the stable eigenvalue of N_{a_i} is negative); thus the torus is approached from above and from below by the sequence of periodic orbits with frequency vectors $\{\boldsymbol{\omega}_{\nu_k}\}$.

The main scale of the torus is characterized by the periodic orbit with frequency vector $\boldsymbol{\omega}_{\nu_0} = (0, -1)$ for the torus with frequency vector $\boldsymbol{\omega}_0 = (\omega, -1)$. The next smaller scale is characterized by $\boldsymbol{\omega}_{\nu_1} = (1/a_0, -1)$. The renormalization transformation, denoted \mathcal{R}_{a_0} , changes the coordinates such that the next smaller scale becomes the main one, i.e., the main scale in the new coordinates is characterized by $\boldsymbol{\omega}'_{\nu_0} = \boldsymbol{\omega}_{\nu_1}$. It acts as a microscope in phase space: it looks the system at a smaller scale in phase space, and at a longer time scale.

We consider Hamiltonians H written in terms of actions $\mathbf{A} = (A_1, A_2) \in \mathbb{R}^2$ and angles $\boldsymbol{\varphi} = (\varphi_1, \varphi_2) \in \mathbb{T}^2$, of the form

$$H(\mathbf{A}, \boldsymbol{\varphi}) = H_0(\mathbf{A}) + V(\boldsymbol{\Omega} \cdot \mathbf{A}, \boldsymbol{\varphi}), \quad (2.2)$$

where $\boldsymbol{\Omega} = (1, \alpha)$ is a vector not parallel to the frequency vector $\boldsymbol{\omega}_0$, and H_0 is given by

$$H_0(\mathbf{A}) = \boldsymbol{\omega}_0 \cdot \mathbf{A} + \frac{1}{2} (\boldsymbol{\Omega} \cdot \mathbf{A})^2.$$

We notice that the invariant torus with frequency vector $\boldsymbol{\omega}_0$ is located, for H_0 , at \mathbf{A} such that $\boldsymbol{\Omega} \cdot \mathbf{A} = 0$ and $\boldsymbol{\omega}_0 \cdot \mathbf{A} = E$, where E is the total energy of the system. The RG-transformation \mathcal{R}_{a_0} consists of four steps:

(1) A shift of the resonances constructed from the condition $\boldsymbol{\nu}_1 \mapsto \boldsymbol{\nu}_0$: we require that $\cos[(a_0, 1) \cdot \boldsymbol{\varphi}] = \cos[(1, 0) \cdot \boldsymbol{\varphi}']$. This change is done via a linear canonical transformation

$$(\mathbf{A}, \boldsymbol{\varphi}) \mapsto (\mathbf{A}', \boldsymbol{\varphi}') = (N_{a_0}^{-1} \mathbf{A}, N_{a_0} \boldsymbol{\varphi}).$$

This step changes the frequency vector $\boldsymbol{\omega}_0$ into $\boldsymbol{\omega}'_0 = (\omega', -1)$, since $N_{a_0} \boldsymbol{\omega}_0 = -\omega \boldsymbol{\omega}'_0$, where the frequency ω' is given by the Gauss map

$$\omega \mapsto \omega' = \omega^{-1} - [\omega^{-1}], \quad (2.3)$$

and $[\omega^{-1}]$ denotes the integer part of ω^{-1} . Expressed in terms of the continued fraction expansion of the frequency, it corresponds to a shift to the left

$$\omega = [a_0, a_1, a_2, \dots] \mapsto \omega' = [a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots].$$

The sequence of the resonances $\{\boldsymbol{\nu}_k\}$ is mapped into the sequence

$$\boldsymbol{\nu}'_k = N_{a_1} \cdots N_{a_{k-1}} \boldsymbol{\nu}_0.$$

The linear term in the actions of H_0 is changed into $-\omega \boldsymbol{\omega}'_0 \cdot \mathbf{A}'$.

(2) We rescale the energy by a factor ω^{-1} (or equivalently time by a factor ω), and we change the sign of both phase space coordinates $(\mathbf{A}, \boldsymbol{\varphi}) \mapsto (-\mathbf{A}, -\boldsymbol{\varphi})$, in order to have $\boldsymbol{\omega}'_0$ as the new frequency vector, i.e., the linear term in the actions for H_0 is $\boldsymbol{\omega}'_0 \cdot \mathbf{A}$. Furthermore, $\boldsymbol{\Omega} = (1, \alpha)$ is changed into $\boldsymbol{\Omega}' = (1, \alpha') = (1, (a_0 + \alpha)^{-1})$. The map $\alpha \mapsto (a_0 + \alpha)^{-1}$ is the inverse of the Gauss map, i.e., if $\alpha = [b_0, b_1, \dots]$, then $\alpha' = [a_0, b_0, b_1, \dots]$. We remark that if α has the continued fraction expansion $\alpha = [b_0, b_1, \dots]$, and if we define the two-sided sequence

$$[\alpha | \omega] = [\dots, b_2, b_1, b_0 | a_0, a_1, a_2, \dots],$$

then the map $[\alpha | \omega] \mapsto [\alpha' | \omega']$ corresponds to the (two-sided) Bernoulli shift

$$\begin{aligned} & [\dots, b_2, b_1, b_0 | a_0, a_1, a_2, \dots] \\ & \mapsto [\dots, b_2, b_1, b_0, a_0 | a_1, a_2, \dots]. \end{aligned}$$

(3) Then we perform a rescaling of the actions: H is changed into

$$H'(A, \varphi) = \lambda H\left(\frac{A}{\lambda}, \varphi\right),$$

with $\lambda = \lambda(H)$ such that the mean value (i.e., the average over the angles) of the quadratic term in the actions in H' is equal to $(\Omega' \cdot A)^2/2$. This normalization condition is essential for the convergence of the transformation. After Steps 1, 2, and 3, the Hamiltonian expressed in the new variables is

$$H'(A, \varphi) = \lambda \omega^{-1} H\left(-\frac{1}{\lambda} NA, -N^{-1} \varphi\right). \quad (2.4)$$

For H given by Eq. (2.2), this expression becomes

$$\begin{aligned} H'(A, \varphi) &= \omega'_0 \cdot A + \frac{\omega^{-1}}{2\lambda} (a_0 + \alpha)^2 (\Omega' \cdot A)^2 \\ &+ \lambda \omega^{-1} V\left(-\frac{a_0 + \alpha}{\lambda} \Omega' \cdot A, -N^{-1} \varphi\right). \end{aligned} \quad (2.5)$$

Thus the choice of the rescaling in the actions (Step 3) is

$$\lambda = \omega^{-1} (a_0 + \alpha)^2 (1 + 2\langle V^{(2)} \rangle), \quad (2.6)$$

where $\langle V^{(2)} \rangle$ denotes the mean value of the quadratic part of V , in the $(\Omega' \cdot A)$ variable.

(4) The last step is a canonical transformation that eliminates the nonresonant part of the perturbation in H' .

The choice of which part of the perturbation is to be considered resonant or not is somewhat arbitrary. The set of nonresonant modes includes the modes of the perturbation which are sufficiently far from the resonances in order to avoid small denominator problems during this elimination step. A reasonable choice for the nonresonant modes is the set I^- of integer vectors $\nu \in \mathbb{Z}^2$ such that $|\nu_2| > |\nu_1|$. A mode which is not an element of I^- , will be called resonant. We notice that Eq. (2.1) defining $\nu_k = (q_k, p_k)$ shows that $q_k \geq p_k$ for $k \geq 0$, i.e., the resonances are not elements of I^- . From the form of the eigenvectors of N_{a_i} , one can see that every $\nu \in \mathbb{Z}^2 \setminus \{0\}$ goes into I^- after sufficiently many iterations of matrices N_{a_i} (as the eigenvector of $N_{a_i}^{-1}$ with an eigenvalue of norm larger than 1 points into I^-). In other terms, a resonant mode at some scale turns out to be nonresonant at a sufficiently smaller scale. We notice that 0 is not an element of I^- , i.e., it is resonant.

We eliminate completely all the nonresonant modes of the perturbation by a canonical transformation, connected to the identity, which is defined by iterating KAM-type transformations (Kolmogorov-Arnold-Moser; one iteration reduces the nonresonant modes of the perturbation from ε to ε^2).

One iteration step is performed by a Lie transformation $\mathcal{U}_S : (A, \varphi) \mapsto (A', \varphi')$ generated by a function $S(A, \varphi)$. The expression of the Hamiltonian in the new coordinates is given by

$$H' = H \circ \mathcal{U}_S = e^{\hat{S}} H = H + \{S, H\} + \frac{1}{2!} \{S, \{S, H\}\} + \dots, \quad (2.7)$$

where $\{, \}$ is the Poisson bracket of two functions of the action and angle coordinates

$$\{f, g\} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial \varphi} \cdot \frac{\partial g}{\partial A} - \frac{\partial f}{\partial A} \cdot \frac{\partial g}{\partial \varphi},$$

and the operator \hat{S} is defined as $\hat{S}H = \{S, H\}$. The generating function S is chosen such that the order ε of the nonresonant part (the modes in I^-) of the perturbation vanishes. We construct recursively the Hamiltonians H_n , starting with $H_1 = H'$, such that the limit H_∞ is canonically conjugated with H' but does not contain nonresonant modes. One step of this elimination procedure, $H_n \mapsto H_{n+1}$, is done by applying a change of coordinates \mathcal{U}_n such that the order of the nonresonant modes of $H_{n+1} = H_n \circ \mathcal{U}_n$ is ε_n^2 , where ε_n denotes the order of the nonresonant modes of H_n . At the n -th step, the order of the nonresonant modes of H_n is $\varepsilon_0^{2^{n-1}}$, where ε_0 is the order of the nonresonant modes of H' . If this procedure converges, it defines a canonical transformation $\mathcal{U}_S = \mathcal{U}_1 \circ \mathcal{U}_2 \circ \dots \circ \mathcal{U}_n \circ \dots$, such that the final Hamiltonian $H_\infty = H' \circ \mathcal{U}_S$ does not contain any nonresonant mode.

The specific implementation of this step can be performed in two versions: the first one (RG1) is a transformation acting in a space of quadratic Hamiltonians in the actions of the form

$$H(A, \varphi) = \omega_0 \cdot A + \frac{1}{2} m(\varphi) (\Omega \cdot A)^2 + g(\varphi) \Omega \cdot A + f(\varphi), \quad (2.8)$$

following Thirring's approach [21,7,22], where m , g , and f are three scalar functions of the angles. The second version (RG2) is a transformation acting on a more general family of Hamiltonians, with a power series expansion in the actions,

$$H(A, \varphi) = \omega_0 \cdot A + \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} f^{(j)}(\varphi) (\Omega \cdot A)^j, \quad (2.9)$$

following Ref. [8], where $\{f^{(j)}\}$ are scalar functions of the angles. The key-point for the implementation for quadratic Hamiltonians is that the KAM-transformations do not reduce the nonresonant modes of the quadratic part of the Hamiltonian. These transformations are performed by Lie transformations generated by functions linear in the actions. Following this procedure, the iterated Hamiltonians H_n remain quadratic in the actions.

The equations defining the elimination part for Hamiltonians (2.8), are given in Refs. [7,23]. Concerning those for Hamiltonians (2.9), they are given in the Appendix.

The convergence of the elimination procedure (step 4, definition of \mathcal{U}_S) has been rigorously analyzed in Ref. [4] for the second version of the transformation. It has been proven that for a sufficiently small perturbation, the elimination converges. Concerning the quadratic case, we lack, at this moment, a theoretical framework to prove an analogous theorem. The convergence of the elimination procedure outside the perturbative regime is observed in both cases numerically.

In summary, the RG-transformations for a given torus act as follows: first, some of the resonant modes of the perturbation are turned into nonresonant modes by a frequency

shift and a rescaling in phase space, then a KAM-type iteration eliminates these nonresonant modes, while producing some new resonant modes.

Essentially, both versions of the RG transformation give qualitatively and quantitatively the same results for the class of invariant tori considered in this article. The main advantage of the first version is that it is numerically more efficient as one only works with three scalar functions of the angles. But from a theoretical point of view, there are some advantages to work with the second version, since the first one leads asymptotically to nonanalytic Hamiltonians for the attracting fixed sets (in the quadratic part in the actions) [7].

III. NUMERICAL RESULTS

For a given frequency ω (with bounded entries in its continued fraction expansion), the numerical implementation of the RG transformation shows that there are two main domains in the space of Hamiltonians: one where the iteration converges towards a family of integrable Hamiltonians (trivial fixed set), and the other where it diverges to infinity. These domains are separated by a surface called *critical surface* (which is conjectured to coincide with the set of Hamiltonians which have a nonsmooth critical invariant torus of the considered frequency) and denoted $\mathcal{S}(\omega)$ in what follows.

The domain of attraction of the trivial fixed set is the domain where the perturbation of the iterated Hamiltonians tends to zero. However, the renormalization trajectories do not, in general, converge to a fixed Hamiltonian but to a trajectory related to the Gauss map (2.3). The trivial fixed set is composed by Hamiltonians of the form

$$H_l(\mathbf{A}) = \boldsymbol{\omega}_l \cdot \mathbf{A} + \frac{1}{2} (\boldsymbol{\Omega}_l \cdot \mathbf{A})^2, \quad (3.1)$$

where $\boldsymbol{\omega}_l = (\omega_l, -1)$ and $\boldsymbol{\Omega}_l = (1, \alpha_l)$. The renormalization map transforms the vectors $\boldsymbol{\omega}_l$ and $\boldsymbol{\Omega}_l$ following the Gauss map

$$\begin{aligned} \omega_{l+1} &= \omega_l^{-1} - [\omega_l^{-1}], \\ \alpha_{l+1} &= (\alpha_l + [\omega_l^{-1}])^{-1}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus the trivial fixed set can be a fixed point, a periodic cycle, or in general a set of Hamiltonians labeled by a trajectory of the Gauss map, i.e., by the asymptotic entries of the continued fraction expansion of ω .

Correspondingly, on the critical surface $\mathcal{S}(\omega)$, the renormalization flow converges to a periodic cycle if the frequency ω is a quadratic irrational (its continued fraction expansion is asymptotically periodic), and to a low dimensional attracting set which is a strange chaotic attractor, in the case where ω is not quadratic. The nontrivial attractor has a codimension 1 stable manifold, i.e., one expansive direction transverse to the critical surface $\mathcal{S}(\omega)$.

We take the definitions as formulated by Grebogi *et al.* [24]: An attractor of a map is called strange if it is not a finite number of points, nor a piecewise differentiable set. An attractor is chaotic if typical orbits on it have a positive Lyapunov exponent.

Quadratic irrational frequencies. We start by analyzing the effect on ω and α , of s renormalization steps. Denote by $\{b_j\}$ the continued fraction expansion of α : $\alpha = [b_0, b_1, \dots]$. The renormalization $\mathcal{R}_{a_{s-1}} \mathcal{R}_{a_{s-2}} \dots \mathcal{R}_{a_0}$ changes $\omega = [a_0, a_1, \dots]$ into $[a_s, a_{s+1}, \dots]$, and α into $[a_{s-1}, a_{s-2}, \dots, a_0, b_0, b_1, \dots]$. If ω has a periodic continued fraction expansion of period $s > 1$, i.e., $\omega = [(a_1, \dots, a_s)_\infty]$, we notice that α converges to $[(a_s, \dots, a_1)_\infty]$. Therefore $\boldsymbol{\Omega}$ converges to the unstable eigenvector of the matrix $N_{a_s} \dots N_{a_1}$ (the stable eigenvector of this matrix is $\boldsymbol{\omega}_0$). In that case, the RG transformation has no fixed points but two periodic cycles with period s : a trivial cycle which is attractive in all the directions in the space of Hamiltonians, and a hyperbolic (critical) cycle with a codimension 1 stable manifold. The trivial cycle characterizes the domain of Hamiltonians that have a smooth invariant torus of the considered frequency, and the nontrivial cycle, the domain where the torus is critical. These periodic cycles can be equivalently considered as fixed points of the RG transformation defined by the composed operator $\mathcal{R}_s = \mathcal{R}_{a_s} \mathcal{R}_{a_{s-1}} \dots \mathcal{R}_{a_1}$. The nontrivial fixed point of \mathcal{R}_s associated with ω defines a universality class that we characterize with critical exponents such as the total rescaling of phase space (product of the s rescalings), and the unstable eigenvalue of the linearized map around the fixed point.

The interpretation of these attracting periodic cycles (trivial and nontrivial) of the RG trajectories in terms of the structure in phase space, of the invariant tori is the following: in the perturbative regime, there exists a geometrical accumulation of a sequence of periodic orbits. The fact that it also happens in the critical case, but with a nontrivial ratio, implies universal self-similar properties of the critical torus [9,10].

Two frequencies ω_1 and ω_2 having the same periodic tail (and different first entries) in their continued fraction expansions (ω_1 and ω_2 are called equivalent), belong to the same universality class: after a finite number of steps of the RG transformation, the equations defining the renormalization trajectories for ω_1 are the same as those for ω_2 . Thus they have the same critical exponents and scaling factors. The initial integers in the continued fraction expansion are irrelevant for the breakup of the torus. Associated with this nontrivial fixed point, we also have nontrivial fixed sets related to the nontrivial fixed point by symmetries [25,4,6,23], which therefore belong to the same universality class.

Nonquadratic irrational frequencies. The RG transformations constructed in Sec. II are in principle defined for an arbitrary irrational frequency $\omega \in]0, 1[$. They are based on the continued fraction expansion of the frequency. The numerical analysis of the renormalization transformation on the critical surface $\mathcal{S}(\omega)$ requires a large number of entries in the continued fraction representation of $\omega = [a_0, a_1, a_2, \dots]$, since each iteration involves a matrix

$$N_{a_i} = \begin{pmatrix} a_i & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

and we have to perform enough iterations to reach the attractor and to explore its shape. Therefore, in the numerical implementation, instead of selecting a generic frequency

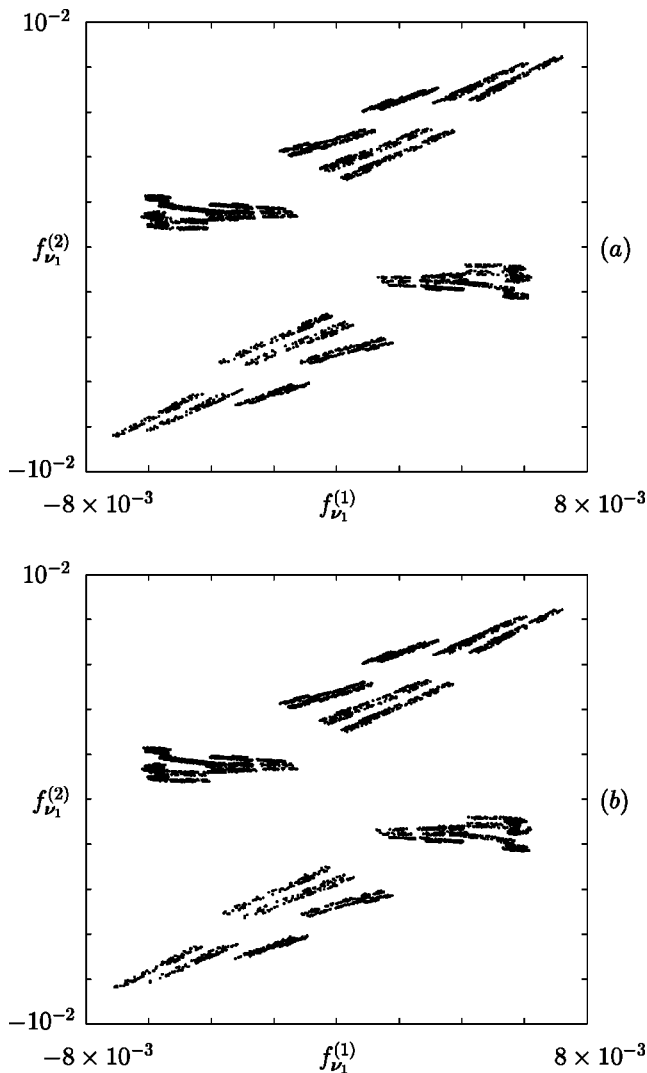


FIG. 1. (a) and (b): Projection on the plane $(f_{\nu_1}^{(1)}, f_{\nu_1}^{(2)})$, of the critical attractor obtained for two different frequencies whose continued fraction expansion is a random sequence of 1 and 2 with probability $P(1)=1/2$.

given by a decimal representation, we consider directly a continued fraction, whose entries are chosen randomly from a finite set of integers, for instance, 1 or 2. Each entry in the continued fraction expansion is chosen independently of the others according to the probability $P(1)=p$ and $P(2)=1-p$. For $p=1$, the frequency is equal to the golden mean γ , and it is equal to $\sqrt{2}-1$ for $p=0$.

For a given frequency ω with $p \in [0,1]$, the numerical analysis shows that there are two main attracting sets in the space of Hamiltonians: a trivial fixed set composed by integrable Hamiltonians, and a nontrivial one which lies on the critical surface $\mathcal{S}(\omega)$. Figures 1(a) and 1(b) depict a projection of the critical attractor obtained for two different typical frequencies with $p=1/2$, and Fig. 2 for a frequency with $p=9/10$, on the plane $(f_{\nu_1}^{(1)}, f_{\nu_1}^{(2)})$, where $f_{\nu_1}^{(i)}$ denotes the Fourier coefficient ν_1 of the function $f^{(i)}(\varphi) = \sum_{\nu} f_{\nu}^{(i)} e^{i\nu \cdot \varphi}$ of a Hamiltonian (2.9) on the critical attractor. These pictures have been obtained numerically with the transformation RG2 by representing the Hamiltonians in power series in A and in Fourier series of the functions of the angles $f^{(j)}(\varphi)$. We

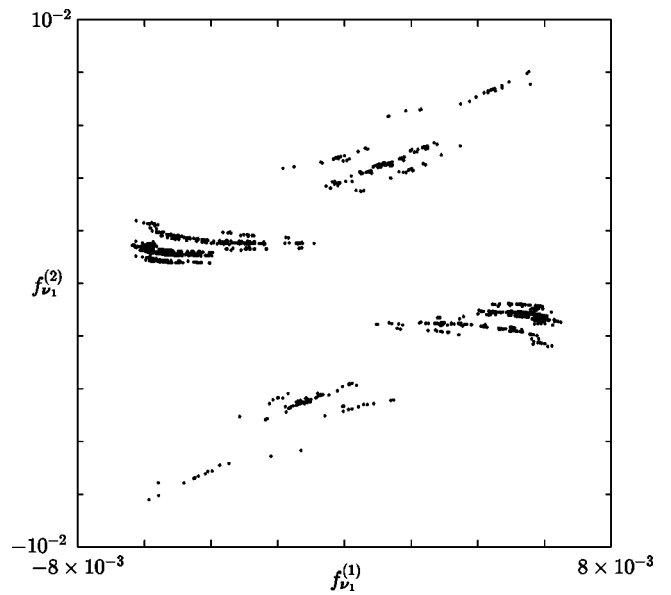


FIG. 2. Projection on the plane $(f_{\nu_1}^{(1)}, f_{\nu_1}^{(2)})$, of the critical attractor for a frequency whose continued fraction expansion is a random sequence of 1 and 2 with probability $P(1)=9/10$.

truncate all terms of orders higher than $(\Omega \cdot A)^J$, with $J=5$, and Fourier modes with $\max_i |\nu_i| > L$, with $L=5$. A RG-trajectory on the critical attractor displays different scaling factors and critical exponents at each point of the trajectory. The distribution of these exponents depends only on the frequency of the torus.

In Fig. 3, we depict the values of the rescalings $(\lambda_i, \lambda_{i+1})$, where λ_i denotes the value of the rescaling value (2.6) after i iterations on the critical attractor. This picture is obtained for a frequency ω with $p=1/2$, and the cut-off parameters are $J=5$ and $L=5$. There are four main parts in this graph. They correspond to the four possible changes of the first entry (to the second one) of the continued fraction of

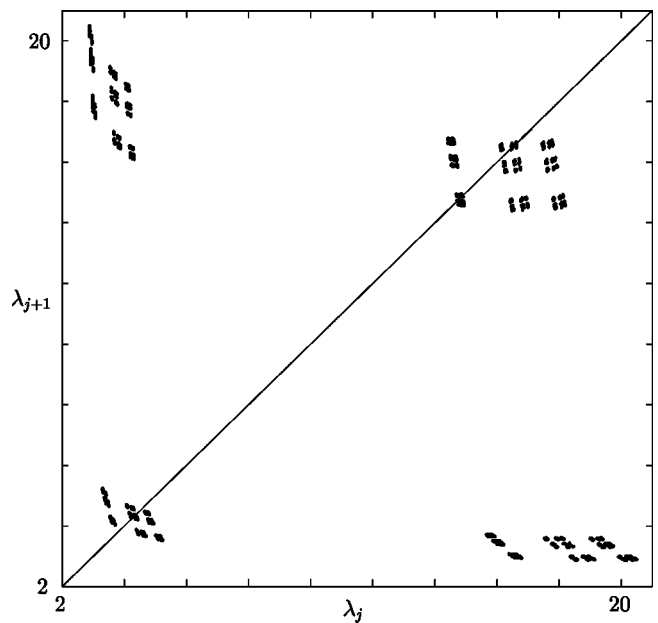


FIG. 3. Values of the rescalings $(\lambda_i, \lambda_{i+1})$ after i iterations on the critical attractor of Fig. 1.

the frequency: $1 \rightarrow 1$, $1 \rightarrow 2$, $2 \rightarrow 1$, $2 \rightarrow 2$. There are two values for which $\lambda_{i+1} = \lambda_i$: 4.339 and 14.871 which are the values for the rescaling for the frequencies $(\sqrt{5}-1)/2$ and $\sqrt{2}-1$ [10,26].

If we consider two frequencies associated with a same probability $P(1)=p$, the numerically computed projections on the Fourier modes of the perturbation, of the critical attractors for each frequency, look identical. This is illustrated in Figs. 1(a) and 1(b) which show projection on the plane $(f_{\nu_1}^{(1)}, f_{\nu_1}^{(2)})$, of the critical attractor obtained for two different frequencies whose continued fraction expansion is a random sequence of 1 and 2 with probability $P(1)=1/2$. This suggests that the properties of critical tori do not depend on the order of the entries in the continued fraction expansion, but only on the distribution of the values of the entries. In other words, critical tori with frequencies ω_1 and ω_2 associated with a same probability distribution in the continued fraction expansion, are *statistically* self-similar. We notice that this discussion encompasses also the case of two equivalent frequencies.

For two frequencies associated to different distributions of the entries in the continued fraction expansion (for different values of p), the support of projections (on the Fourier modes of the perturbation) of the critical attractors are the same, but the renormalization trajectories visit the attractor with different densities. For instance, concerning the projection of the attractor found for a frequency with probability $p=9/10$ in Fig. 2, since $p \geq 1/2$ the renormalization trajectory is more concentrated around the fixed point (or around a periodic cycle related to this fixed point by symmetry) obtained for the golden mean ($p=1$).

In order to describe a more precise image of the renormalization flow, we consider an enlarged space where we add to the space of Hamiltonians a direction corresponding to the frequency of the considered torus. The RG transformations act in this enlarged space consisting of couples (H, ω) (we iterate a renormalization operator for a given Hamiltonian H and for a given torus characterized by its frequency ω). The numerical results lead to the following conjecture: The enlarged space is divided into two main parts: one where the RG iteration converges to a trivial fixed set, that consists of couples (H_l, ω_l) , where H_l is integrable [of the form (3.1)]. This trivial fixed set attracts all points (H, ω) such that H has a smooth invariant torus with frequency ω . The dynamics on it is determined by the Gauss map. The domain of attraction of this trivial fixed set is bounded by a critical surface \mathcal{S} which is the set of the critical surfaces $\mathcal{S}(\omega)$, i.e., composed by points (H, ω) such that H has a nonsmooth invariant torus with frequency ω . The surface \mathcal{S} has a fractal structure: in Sec. IV, we display a section of this surface, and analyze the fractal diagram of a given one-parameter family. On the critical surface \mathcal{S} , there is a *single* critical attractor to which all Hamiltonians on \mathcal{S} are attracted. On these attractors (trivial or critical), we have subsets that are periodic cycles of all the periods; these cycles correspond to quadratic irrational frequencies. For instance, we have two fixed points on the nontrivial attractor: one corresponding to the golden mean γ , and the other one, to $\sqrt{2}-1$. We also have on the critical attractor, cycles (periodic and nonperiodic) related to the previous ones by sym-

metries, and therefore have identical properties. We can consider them as artifacts of the definition of the RG transformation (for instance, when the frequency is equal to the golden mean, the RG transformation can be modified such that the cycle of period three [6,23] becomes a fixed point).

The critical attractor is not irreducible [27,28] because it contains all the fixed points, periodic cycles, etc., corresponding to specific frequencies (e.g., quadratic frequencies). For a typical frequency, we expect the RG trajectory to visit a subset which is dense in the whole attractor.

Two invariant tori with frequencies ω_1 and ω_2 belong to the same universality class in the following sense: The properties of these tori at the threshold of their breakup are given by the analysis of a single hyperbolic attractor of a given renormalization transformation. These two tori display the same set of scaling factors and critical exponents (eigenvalues of the linearized map at each point of the attractor), with a different probability distribution, depending on the distribution of the entries in the continued fraction of the frequency.

Based on our numerical results, we can speak of a single generic universality class for the breakup of invariant tori for Hamiltonian systems with two degrees of freedom. The universal properties are obtained from a single critical attractor of a RG transformation. The critical attractor itself is not universal as it depends on the specific implementation of the transformation, but the properties derived from it such as scaling parameters or critical exponents, are universal.

IV. FRACTAL DIAGRAM

In order to visualize the critical surface \mathcal{S} in the enlarged space, in which the critical attractor is contained, we represent a section of \mathcal{S} by computing the fractal diagram $\varepsilon_c(\omega)$ of the following one-parameter family of Hamiltonians:

$$H_\varepsilon(\mathbf{A}, \boldsymbol{\varphi}) = \boldsymbol{\omega}_0 \cdot \mathbf{A} + \frac{1}{2}(\boldsymbol{\Omega} \cdot \mathbf{A})^2 + \varepsilon[\cos \varphi_1 + \cos(\varphi_1 + \varphi_2)], \quad (4.1)$$

where $\boldsymbol{\Omega} = (1, 0)$ and $\boldsymbol{\omega}_0 = (\omega, -1)$, where ω is the frequency of the invariant torus. For the golden mean γ , we checked that $\varepsilon_c(\gamma)$ coincides with the value of the coupling where the RG iteration starts to diverge, i.e., as n tends to infinity, we have

$$\mathcal{R}^n H_\varepsilon \rightarrow \infty \quad \text{for } \varepsilon > \varepsilon_c(\gamma), \quad (4.2)$$

$$\mathcal{R}^n H_\varepsilon \rightarrow H_0 \quad \text{for } \varepsilon < \varepsilon_c(\gamma). \quad (4.3)$$

We compute $\varepsilon_c(\omega)$, defined by Eqs. (4.2) and (4.3), with \mathcal{R} the renormalization transformation constructed for quadratic Hamiltonians (2.8). We base our analysis on the conjecture that this $\varepsilon_c(\omega)$ coincides with the threshold at which the torus with frequency ω breaks up. Each frequency ω of the diagram is chosen at random in the interval $[0.5, 1]$. In order to iterate \mathcal{R} (defined by a sequence of operators \mathcal{R}_{a_i}), we compute the ten first entries in the continued fraction expansion of ω , and the tail of this expansion is filled with a

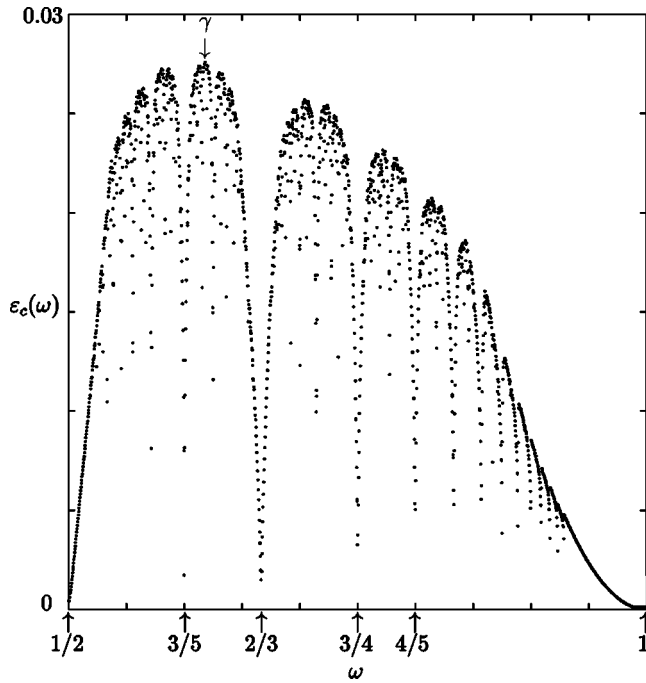


FIG. 4. Fractal diagram $\varepsilon_c(\omega)$ for the one-parameter family of Hamiltonians (4.1).

sequence of 1. The cutoff parameter for \mathcal{R} (the restriction of the Fourier series to the modes ν such that $\max_i |\nu_i| \leq L$) is $L = 10$.

The curve $\varepsilon_c(\omega)$ depicted on Fig. 4, indicates the fractal structure of the critical surface $\mathcal{S} = \cup_{\omega} \mathcal{S}(\omega)$. For rational frequencies, ε_c is zero. In Fig. 4, we observe strong resonances (Arnold tongues) close to rational frequencies $\omega = p/q$ with small q . Similar pictures have been obtained for the standard map [29–33]. The curve $\varepsilon_c(\omega)$ for $\omega \in [0, 0.5]$ is obtained from the one for $\omega \in [0.5, 1]$ by the symmetry $\varepsilon_c(\omega) = \varepsilon_c(1 - \omega)$ which can be found by applying the canonical transformation

$$(A, \varphi) \mapsto (A', \varphi') = (\tilde{T}A, T\varphi),$$

where \tilde{T} denotes the transposed matrix of

$$T = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

The effect of this transformation on H_{ε} is just to change the frequency from ω to $1 - \omega$. From Fig. 4, we can see a numerical indication that the golden mean torus (with frequency $\gamma \approx 0.618$) is the most robust one for the one-parameter family (4.1): $\varepsilon_c(\gamma) > \varepsilon_c(\omega)$ for all other $\omega \in [0.5, 1]$.

For each line going through the origin in the MP -parameter plane for Hamiltonians

$$H_{\varepsilon}(A, \varphi) = \omega_0 \cdot A + \frac{1}{2} (\Omega \cdot A)^2 + M \cos \varphi_1 + P \cos(\varphi_1 + \varphi_2),$$

we can calculate in the same way, the critical coupling as a function of the frequency ω . This leads to pictures similar to Fig. 4. Putting together all these sections, we obtain a critical

surface $\varepsilon_c(M, P, \omega)$ for this two-parameter family of Hamiltonians and tori of frequencies ω . The universal critical attractor is contained in a surface of this kind $\varepsilon_c(\{f_{\nu}^{(j)}\}, \omega)$, but with an infinite number of parameters $f_{\nu}^{(j)}$ which are the coordinates of the considered space of Hamiltonians.

V. DIMENSIONAL RENORMALIZATION SCHEME

In this section, we construct an approximate renormalization scheme based on simple dimensional arguments. It is close to the type of transformations considered in Refs. [34–37], and by MacKay and Stark [26]. This scheme is built by arguments based on the dimensional analysis of the renormalization transformation. The aim is to see that the qualitative features of the renormalization flow obtained in the previous section, are already contained in a very simple scheme.

We suppose that the initial Hamiltonian contains only the two Fourier modes $M e^{i\varphi_2}$ and $P e^{i\varphi_1}$. The main scale is then determined by $\nu_{-1} = (0, 1)$ and $\nu_0 = (1, 0)$. The next smaller scale is represented by the mode $\nu_1 = (a_0, 1)$, where a_0 denotes the integer part of ω^{-1} . The transformation is a change of coordinates that eliminates the mode $\nu_{-1} = (0, 1)$, and produce the mode $\nu_1 = (a_0, 1)$. As $\nu_1 = a_0 \nu_0 + \nu_{-1}$, the amplitude of this mode is $M P^{a_0}$ (to the lowest order). Then we shift the Fourier modes: the mode ν_1 (respectively, ν_0) becomes the mode ν_0 (respectively, ν_{-1}). Consequently the frequency ω is changed into ω' according to the Gauss map (2.3).

We obtain thus the following RG-scheme:

$$M' = k_1 P, \quad (5.1)$$

$$P' = k_2 M P^{a_0}, \quad (5.2)$$

$$\omega' = [\omega^{-1}] - a_0, \quad (5.3)$$

where $a_0 = [\omega^{-1}]$. In general, k_i are functions of ω , so the RG scheme is equivalent to a system (5.1)–(5.2) driven by the Gauss map. To give an example, we consider $k_1 = k_2 = \omega^{-2} (a_0 + \alpha)^2$, where α is determined by the inverse of the Gauss map $\alpha' = 1/(a_0 + \alpha)$. We have chosen these coefficients identical to the rescaling coefficient of the constant term in the actions for the renormalization explained in Sec. II. This choice is to a large extent arbitrary, and is meant only as an illustration. The idea is that any function that reflects the Gauss map should lead to qualitatively similar results for the attractor and to the same critical exponents. We denote \mathcal{R}_{a_0} the following map, where $a_0 = [\omega^{-1}]$:

$$\mathcal{R}_{a_0}: (M, P, \omega, \alpha) \mapsto (M', P', \omega', \alpha').$$

For a given frequency $\omega = [a_1, a_2, \dots]$, the transformation \mathcal{R} is a sequence of \mathcal{R}_{a_i} . This transformation \mathcal{R} has two main domains: one where the iteration converges to $M = P = 0$ (trivial fixed set), and one where the iteration diverges. If the frequency is quadratic $\omega = [b_1, b_2, \dots, b_l, (a_1, a_2, \dots, a_s)_{\infty}]$, there is a hyperbolic (nontrivial) fixed point for the transformation $\mathcal{R}_s = \mathcal{R}_{a_s} \mathcal{R}_{a_{s-1}} \dots \mathcal{R}_{a_1}$. The critical surface is the codimension 1 stable manifold of this nontrivial fixed point.

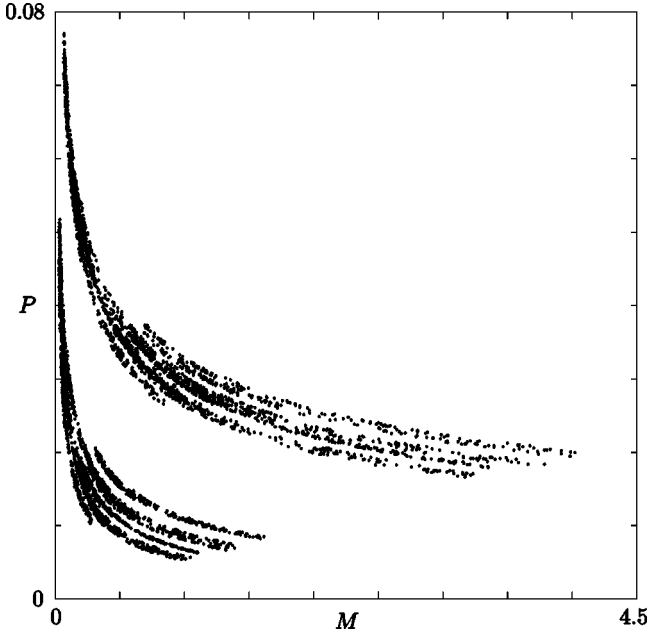


FIG. 5. Critical attractor for the approximate renormalization scheme for a frequency whose continued fraction expansion is a random sequence of 1 and 2 with probability $P(1)=1/2$.

For nonquadratic irrational frequencies, the critical surface is the codimension 1 stable manifold of a strange chaotic attractor: the chaoticity comes from the random sequence of the \mathcal{R}_{a_i} . We depict this critical attractor on Fig. 5, computed using a frequency whose continued fraction expansion is a random sequence of 1 and 2 with $p=1/2$. The shape of this attractor looks different from the attractor in Fig. 1. The precise shape of the attractor depends on the way the renormalization is performed. However, the attractor obtained by the simple dimensional scheme displays already the essential property that the critical invariant set is a chaotic strange attractor. The positive Lyapounov exponent corresponding to the direction transversal to the critical surface is $\kappa \approx 0.68$ (for $p=1/2$), which is very close to the exact one obtained with the complete scheme (also $\kappa \approx 0.68$). This Lyapounov exponent [38–40] κ gives the link between different Hamiltonians (of a given one-parameter family) near the critical surface. It measures how far are two Hamiltonians H_1 and H_2 (near the critical surface), as we iterate the renormalization \mathcal{R} :

$$\mathcal{R}^n H_1 - \mathcal{R}^n H_2 \approx e^{\kappa n} (H_1 - H_2).$$

This exponent depends on p because it is computed for a given RG trajectory which visits the different regions of the attractor with some p -dependent distribution. For $p=1$ (golden mean), $\kappa \approx 0.49$ and for $p=0$, $\kappa \approx 0.89$.

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APPENDIX: EQUATIONS DEFINING THE KAM TRANSFORMATIONS FOR HAMILTONIANS (2.9)

In this appendix, we describe one step of the elimination procedure $H \mapsto H'$, defined for Hamiltonians (2.9), by considering that $f^{(j)}$ depends on a small parameter ε , such that $\mathbb{I}^- f^{(j)}$ is of order $O(\varepsilon)$, where $\mathbb{I}^- f^{(j)}$ denotes the nonresonant part of $f^{(j)}$, i.e.,

$$\mathbb{I}^- f^{(j)}(\varphi) = \sum_{\nu \in \mathbb{I}^-} f_{\nu}^{(j)} e^{i\nu \cdot \varphi},$$

where $f_{\nu}^{(j)}$ denotes the Fourier coefficient of $f^{(j)}$ with frequency vector ν . We define H_0 as

$$H_0(\mathbf{A}) = \boldsymbol{\omega}_0 \cdot \mathbf{A} + \langle f^{(2)} \rangle (\boldsymbol{\Omega} \cdot \mathbf{A})^2. \quad (\text{A1})$$

In order to eliminate the nonresonant modes of $f^{(j)}$ to the first order in ε , we perform a Lie transformation $\mathcal{U}: (\mathbf{A}, \varphi) \mapsto (\mathbf{A}', \varphi')$ generated by a function S of the form

$$S(\mathbf{A}, \varphi) = i \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} Y^{(j)}(\varphi) (\boldsymbol{\Omega} \cdot \mathbf{A})^j + a \boldsymbol{\Omega} \cdot \varphi. \quad (\text{A2})$$

The expression of the Hamiltonian in the new coordinates is given by Eq. (2.7). The first order in the perturbation of this Hamiltonian is $V + \{S, H_0\}$. Then S is determined by the following condition

$$\mathbb{I}^- \{S, H_0\} + \mathbb{I}^- V = 0. \quad (\text{A3})$$

The constant a eliminates the linear term in the $(\boldsymbol{\Omega} \cdot \mathbf{A})$ variable, $\langle f^{(1)} \rangle$, by requiring that $\langle \{S, H_0\} \rangle + \langle f^{(1)} \rangle \boldsymbol{\Omega} \cdot \mathbf{A} = \text{const}$:

$$a = - \frac{\langle f^{(1)} \rangle}{2\boldsymbol{\Omega}^2 \langle f^{(2)} \rangle}, \quad (\text{A4})$$

and $Y^{(j)}$ is determined by

$$i \boldsymbol{\omega}_0 \cdot \partial Y^{(0)} + \mathbb{I}^- f^{(0)} = \text{const}, \quad (\text{A5})$$

$$i \boldsymbol{\omega}_0 \cdot \partial Y^{(j)} + \mathbb{I}^- f^{(j)} + 2i \langle f^{(2)} \rangle \boldsymbol{\Omega} \cdot \partial Y^{(j-1)} = 0, \quad (\text{A6})$$

for $j \geq 1$, where ∂ denotes the derivative with respect to the angles: $\partial \equiv \partial / \partial \varphi$. These equations are solved by representing them in the Fourier space:

$$Y^{(0)}(\varphi) = \sum_{\nu \in \mathbb{I}^-} \frac{f_{\nu}^{(0)}}{\boldsymbol{\omega}_0 \cdot \nu} e^{i\nu \cdot \varphi}, \quad (\text{A7})$$

$$Y^{(j)}(\varphi) = \sum_{\nu \in \mathbb{I}^-} \frac{1}{\boldsymbol{\omega}_0 \cdot \nu} (f_{\nu}^{(j)} - 2 \langle f^{(2)} \rangle \boldsymbol{\Omega} \cdot \nu Y_{\nu}^{(j-1)}) e^{i\nu \cdot \varphi}, \quad (\text{A8})$$

for $j \geq 1$. Then we compute $H' = H \circ \mathcal{U}$ by calculating recursively the Poisson brackets $\hat{S}^k H = \hat{S} \hat{S}^{k-1} H$, for $k \geq 1$. Denoting $H_k = \hat{S}^k H$, H' becomes

$$H' = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{H_k}{k!}. \quad (\text{A9})$$

We expand H' in power series in the actions

$$H'(\mathbf{A}, \boldsymbol{\varphi}) = \boldsymbol{\omega}_0 \cdot \mathbf{A} + \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} f'^{(j)}(\boldsymbol{\varphi})(\boldsymbol{\Omega} \cdot \mathbf{A})^j. \quad (\text{A10})$$

The Hamiltonian H' is expressed by the image of the functions $f^{(j)}$ given by the following expressions:

$$f'^{(j)} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{f_k^{(j)}}{k!}, \quad (\text{A11})$$

where

$$f_0^{(j)} = f^{(j)}, \quad (\text{A12})$$

$$f_1^{(j)} = i \sum_{l=0}^j (j+1-l) (f^{(j+1-l)} \boldsymbol{\Omega} \cdot \boldsymbol{\partial} Y^{(l)} - Y^{(j+1-l)} \boldsymbol{\Omega} \cdot \boldsymbol{\partial} f^{(l)}) \quad (\text{A13})$$

$$+ a \Omega^2 (j+1) f^{(j+1)} + i \boldsymbol{\omega}_0 \cdot \boldsymbol{\partial} Y^{(j)}, \quad (\text{A14})$$

$$f_{k+1}^{(j)} = i \sum_{l=0}^j (j+1-l) (f_k^{(j+1-l)} \boldsymbol{\Omega} \cdot \boldsymbol{\partial} Y^{(l)} - Y^{(j+1-l)} \boldsymbol{\Omega} \cdot \boldsymbol{\partial} f_k^{(l)}) + a \Omega^2 (j+1) f_k^{(j+1)}, \quad (\text{A15})$$

for $k \geq 1$ and $j \geq 0$. Numerically, we compute $f'^{(j)}$ for $j = 0, 1, \dots, J$, by truncating the series (A11) to a finite sum over $0 \leq k \leq K$. For the calculation of $f_k'^{(j)}$, it is not necessary to compute it for j too large as its contribution in H' might exceed the truncation in the actions. More precisely, we compute $f_k'^{(j)}$ for $j = 0, \dots, \min(J+k(J-1), J+K-k)$. For instance, if we truncate at $J=3$, we compute $\hat{S}H$ up to order $(\boldsymbol{\Omega} \cdot \mathbf{A})^5$ for $K \geq 3$.

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