

Appendix C

Phase Space Gallery II: Amplitude-Modulated Pendulum

Now we examine the phase space for the other system that we study in this dissertation, the amplitude-modulated pendulum. This system is described by the Hamiltonian

$$H(x, p, t) = \frac{p^2}{2} - 2\alpha \cos^2(\pi t) \cos(x) , \quad (\text{C.1})$$

which is just the pendulum Hamiltonian with a single-frequency modulation of the well depth. As the time dependence here can be decomposed into three frequencies, the phase-space is dominated by the three corresponding primary resonances, located at $p = 0$ and $p = \pm 2\pi$. These three resonances form as α increases from zero, and they dissolve into the surrounding chaotic sea as α continues to grow. Especially dramatic is the “molting” behavior of the islands, where they grow an island chain and then shed it into the chaotic sea; this can be seen, for example, for a period-4 chain in the center island around $\alpha = 3.2$, and a period-4 island chain in the outer islands around $\alpha = 5.2$. Also interesting is that the remnants of the center island disappear around $\alpha = 11$, but the island makes a strong reappearance around $\alpha = 18$.

In the following graphics, the trajectory coordinates are plotted, sampled at unit times $t = n$ (for integer n). The phase plots here show about 60 different trajectories, with around 4000 iterations per trajectory. To retain the symmetry of the phase space, the three symmetric images $(x, -p)$, $(-x, p)$, and $(-x, -p)$ of each (x, p) point is also plotted.

The phase-space plots in this gallery were again hand-coded directly in `POSTSCRIPT`, where the code contained two embedded integrators, a fixed-step, second-order Stoermer routine and a fourth-order Runge-Kutta routine. Despite the lower order of the Stoermer method, it was much more accurate for the same step size than the Runge-Kutta integrator. These graphics files were again rasterized before inclusion in the PDF-formatted version of this document, as they require extensive processing time compared to the standard-map phase plots.

























