

# Isolas of periodic orbits as a source of complexity in molecular lasers with a saturable absorber.

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**Workshop on Nonlinear Physics and Applications (NOLPA) ,  
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# Outline

- (1) Introduction : Chaos in single-mode lasers.**
- (2) A molecular model for the CO<sub>2</sub> laser with saturable absorber and the 3-level-2-level model.**
- (3) Isolas of pulsations (spikes) , bifurcation and phase diagrams.**
- (4) LSA chaotic dynamics.**
- (5) Conclusions.**

Volume 11, Number 3

APPLIED PHYSICS LETTERS

1 August 1967

## PASSIVE Q-SWITCHING OF A CO<sub>2</sub> LASER\*

O. R. Wood and S. E. Schwarz

Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences  
University of California  
Berkeley, California  
(Received 16 June 1967)

Passive *Q*-switching of a CO<sub>2</sub>-N<sub>2</sub>-He laser has been obtained, using SF<sub>6</sub> gas as the saturable absorber. Peak power is 1 kW, in what appears to be a single transverse mode. This is 200 times the CW level for the same configuration and one-fifth that obtained with a mechanical *Q* switch. Pulse rates are in the range 10<sup>3</sup> to 10<sup>4</sup> pulses per sec. Operation is on a single vibrational-rotational line, unlike the case of CW operation.

# *1. Chaos in single-mode lasers.*

**Lasers, operating**

**with a single longitudinal mode and**

**with a single transverse mode,**

**are able to induce chaotic behaviour.**

**Hybrid laser systems :**

**lasers with modulated parameters or  
electro-optical feedback (Theor.+Exp.)**

**Consider, however, an all-optical laser system.**

**Consider a CO<sub>2</sub> Laser with an Intracavity Saturable Absorber (CO<sub>2</sub> LSA).**

**Main Parameters :**

- \* Excitation Current in the Amplifier**
- \* Detuning of the Laser Cavity Frequency**
- \* Pressure in the Absorber**

Cavity Detuning



Amplifier

Absorber

Laser Pulse

[

]

Excitation Current

Pressure



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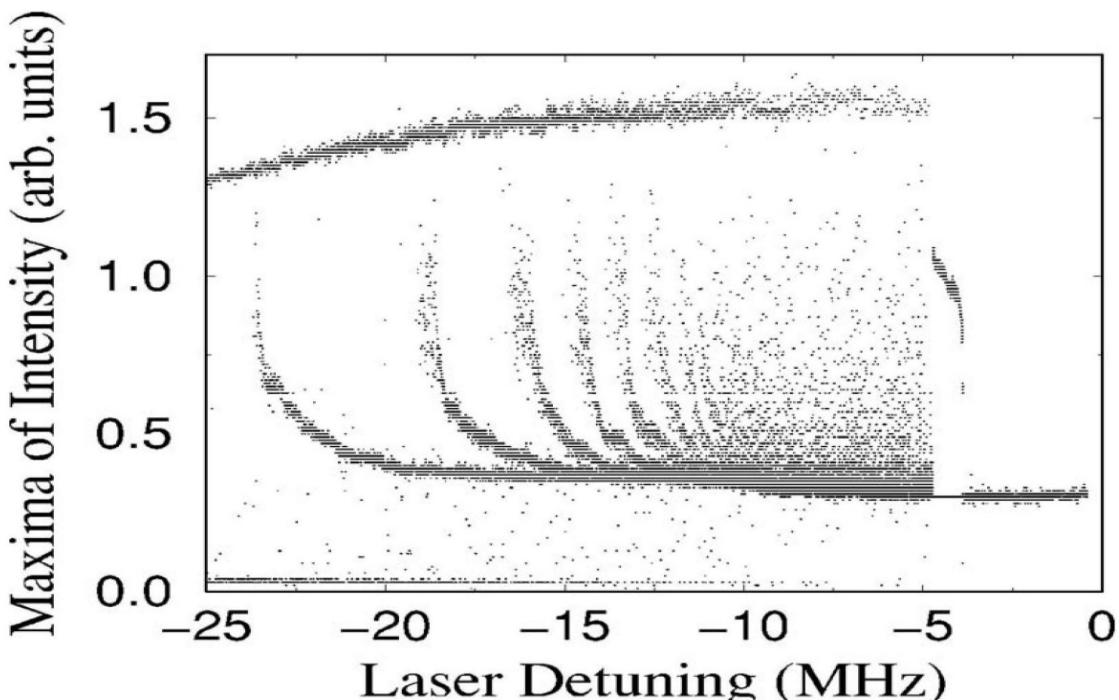
## PASSIVE Q-SWITCHING OF A CO<sub>2</sub> LASER\*

O. R. Wood and S. E. Schwarz

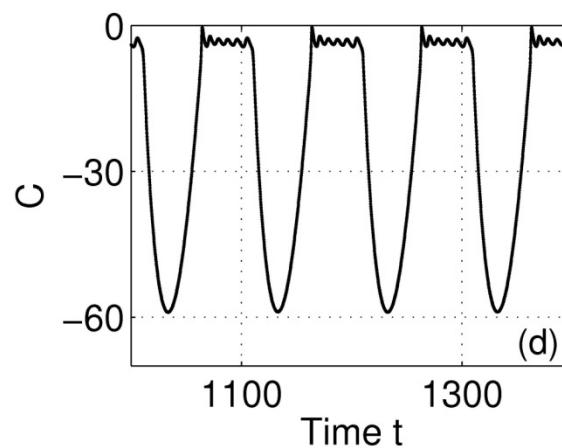
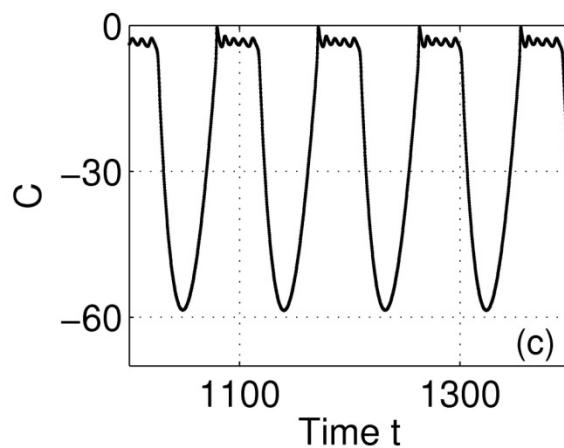
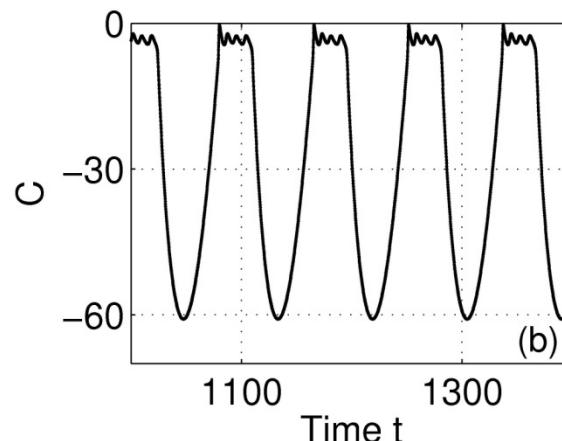
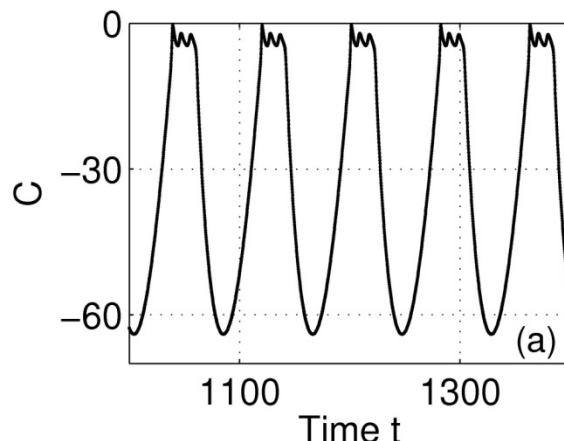
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Passive *Q*-switching of a CO<sub>2</sub>-N<sub>2</sub>-He laser has been obtained, using SF<sub>6</sub> gas as the saturable absorber. Peak power is 1 kW, in what appears to be a single transverse mode. This is 200 times the CW level for the same configuration and one-fifth that obtained with a mechanical *Q* switch. Pulse rates are in the range 10<sup>3</sup> to 10<sup>4</sup> pulses per sec. Operation is on a single vibrational-rotational line, unlike the case of CW operation.

# **Period-adding cascades of stable periodic orbits (pulsations, spikes) with chaos in the LSA.**



H.L.D. de S. Cavalcante  
and J.R. Rios Leite, Chaos  
v. 18 , 023107 (2008)



As  $Q$  changes

→

Period-Adding

Cascades :

$\pi(n) \rightarrow \pi(n+1)$

$$C = \ln(I)$$

Period-adding cascades :  $\pi(n) \rightarrow \pi(n+1)$

$\leftrightarrow$

Regions in parameter space where  
stable  $\pi(n)$  coexist according to a  
certain order.

How do the stability intervals become,  
eventually, unstable ?

(1)The Periodic Orbits (  $\pi(n)$  ) are  
organized along Isolas in parameter space,  
, in “all” CO<sub>2</sub> LSA models!

ISOLA : family of periodic orbits that forms  
a closed branch (isola),  
as a control parameter is changed.

(2) The “characteristic” chaotic behavior of the LSA is a complex hopping mechanism between neighborhoods of the unstable  $\pi(n)$  which belong to different isolas, in “all” CO<sub>2</sub> LSA models !

## 2. CO<sub>2</sub> LSA Models

Spiking Behaviour ,  $\pi(n)$  ,



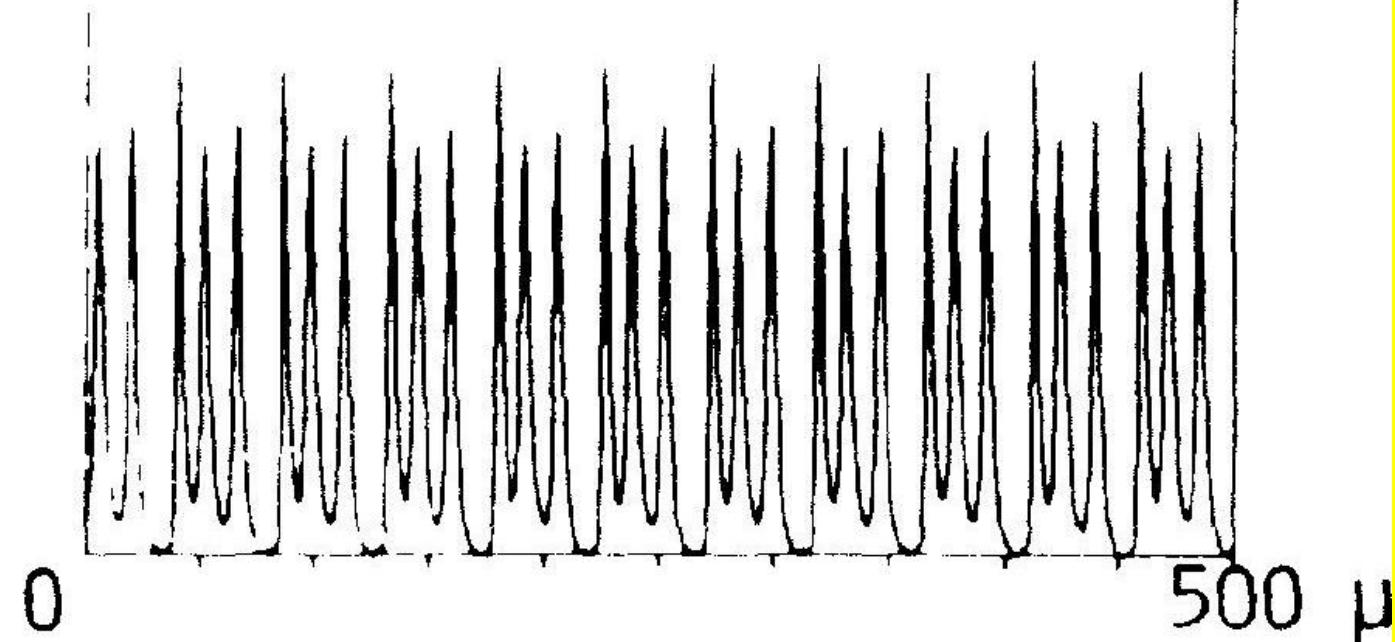
Nonlinear Losses of the Absorber

N. B. Abraham et al, Progress in Optics XXV p. 3 (1998).  
P. Mandel , Theoretical Problems in Cavity Nonlinear Optics,  
CUP, NY, (1997)

(e)

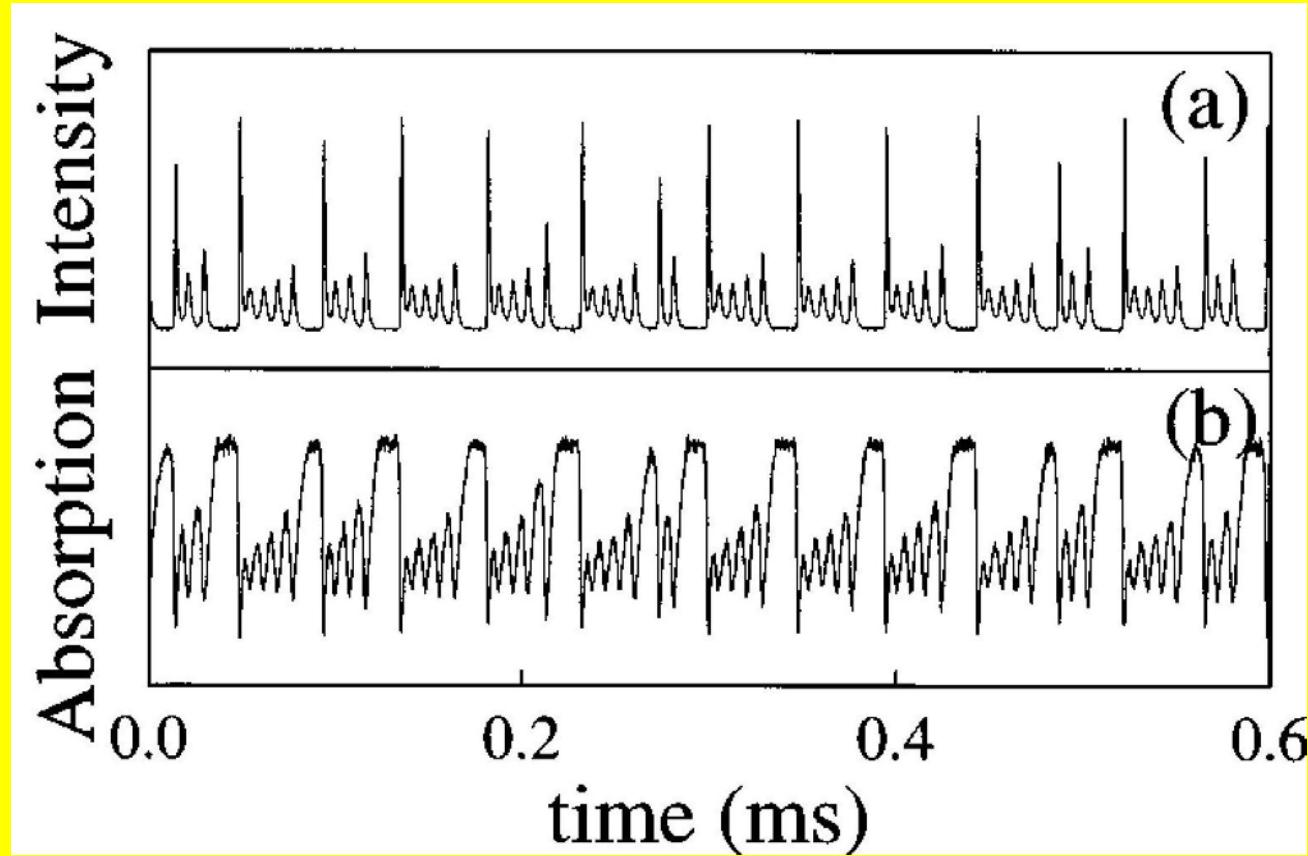
PERIODIC-  
WINDOW

$i = 6.3 \text{ mA}$

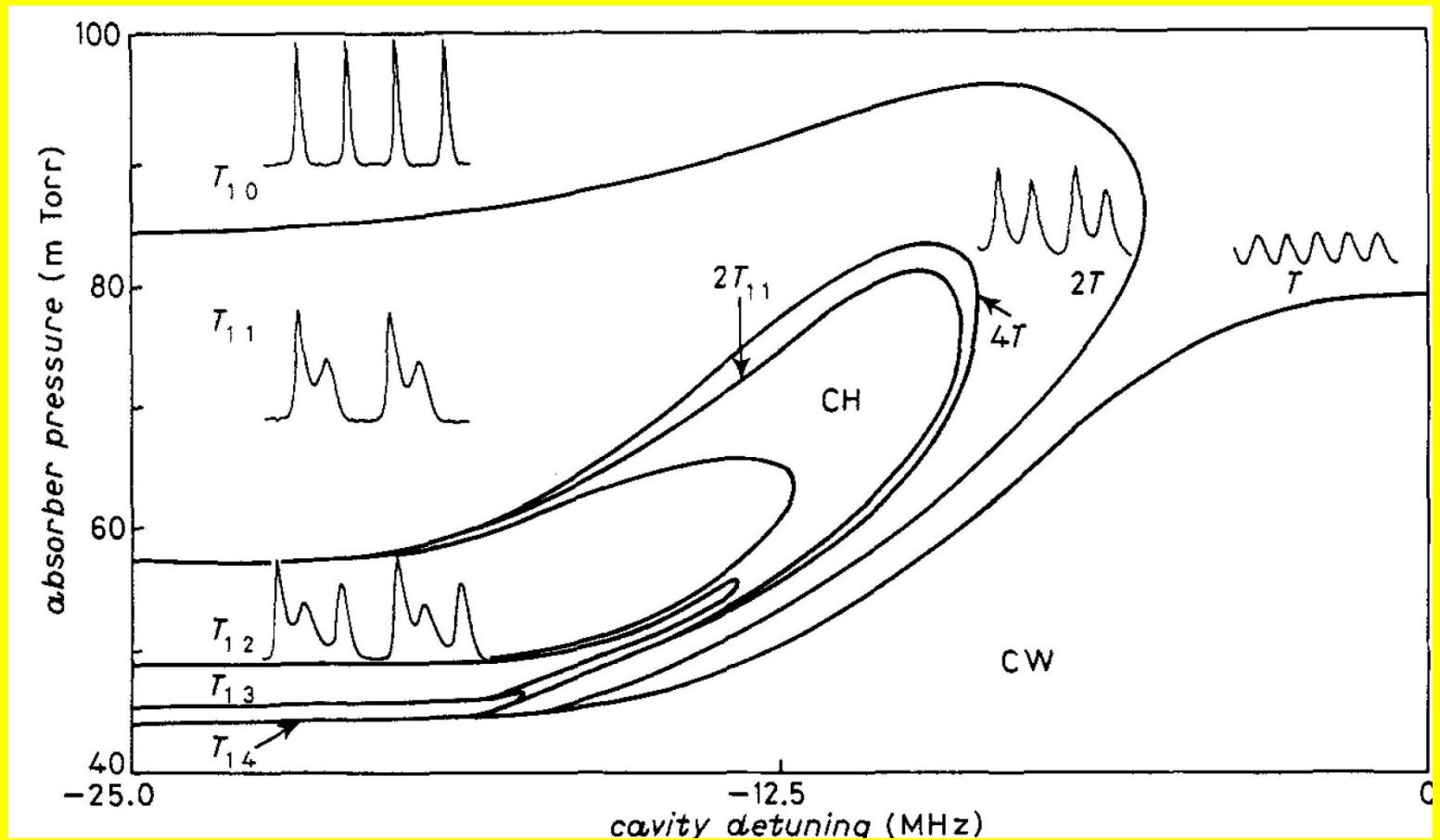


M. Tachikawa et al, PRL v. 60 p. 2268 (1988)

Parameters : pressure (absorber) & discharge current (amplifier)



P.C. de Oliveira et al, PRA , v. 55 p. 2463 (1997)  
Parameters : Cavity detuning & discharge current gain medium.

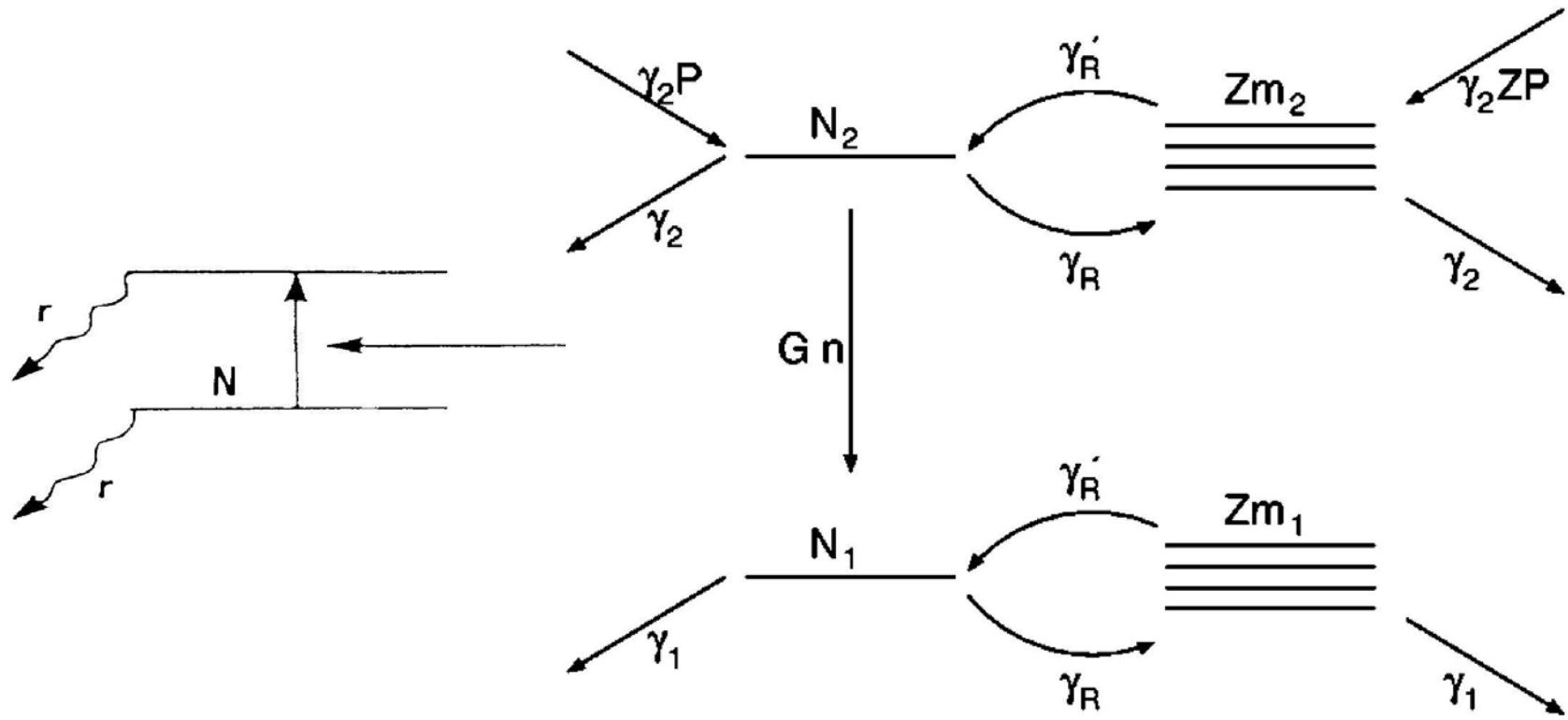


D. Dangoisse et al., EPL v. 6 , p. 335 (1988)

## 4 Level Model

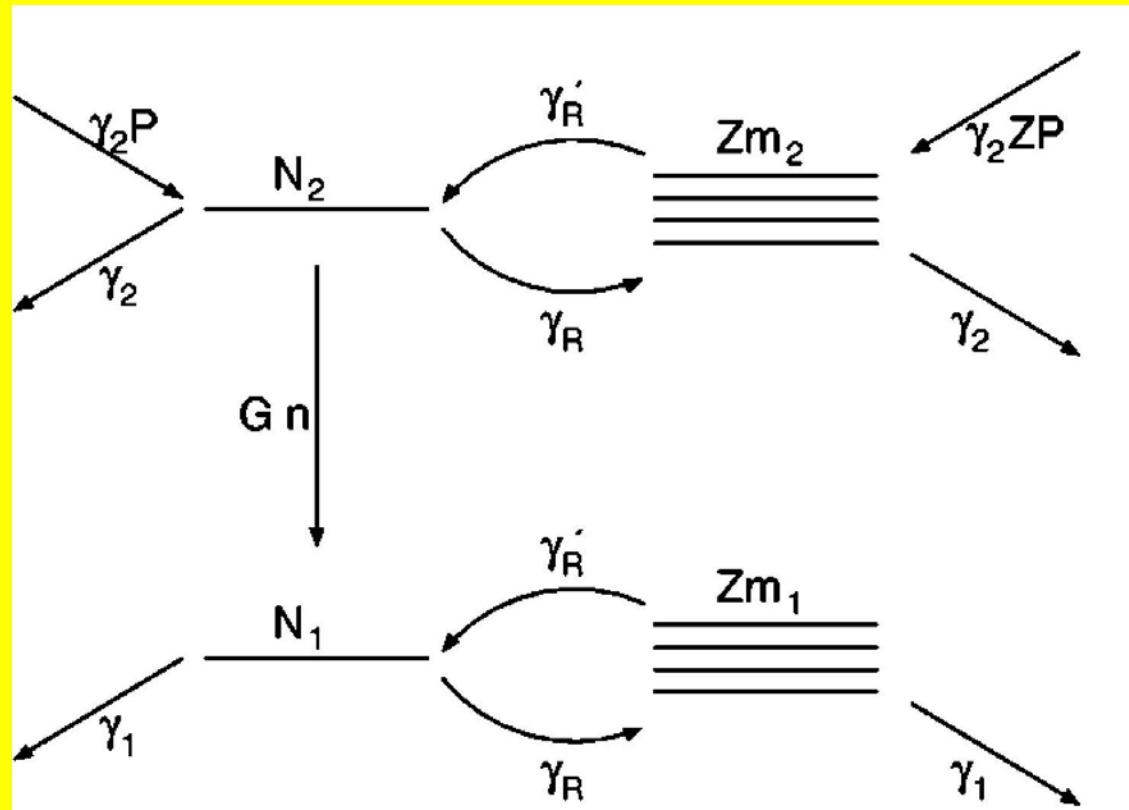
Absorber Medium

Amplifier Medium



E.J. Doedel, B. Oldeman, C.L. Pando L., IJBC v. 21 p.305 (2011),  
 C.L. Pando L., PLA v.210 p.391 (1996).

## Amplifier (CO<sub>2</sub>)



I. Burak et al. , IEEE v. 7 p.73 (1971).

The Absorber is assumed to be a  
FAST Saturable Absorber ( large relaxation rates).

We apply a reduction technique.

( M. Ciofini et al., PRE v. 48 p. 605 (1992),  
P. Braza, SIAM 1999,  
Y. Kuznetsov, “Elements of Applied Bif. Th.”  
(the reduction principle).

## *LSA Equations*

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dI}{dt} &= -I + \frac{(z+1)\Omega}{z}(w-v) - \frac{\alpha I}{1+2\beta I} , \\ \frac{dv}{dt} &= -(\Omega + \gamma_1)v + \Omega w , \\ \frac{dw}{dt} &= \Omega v - (\Omega + \gamma_2)w + z\gamma_2 Q .\end{aligned}$$

$$\Omega = \Omega_1 I , \quad \Omega_1 = \frac{z+1}{(z+1)^2 + 2zI/\gamma_R'}$$

$I$  is the laser intensity within the laser cavity.

$V, W$  are the effective atomic populations

$\Omega(I)$  is a rational function of  $I$  (laser intensity),

In our CO<sub>2</sub> LSA model we have,

$$\Omega \rightarrow \Omega_1(1) \text{ I} \quad (\text{"built-in absorber"}).$$

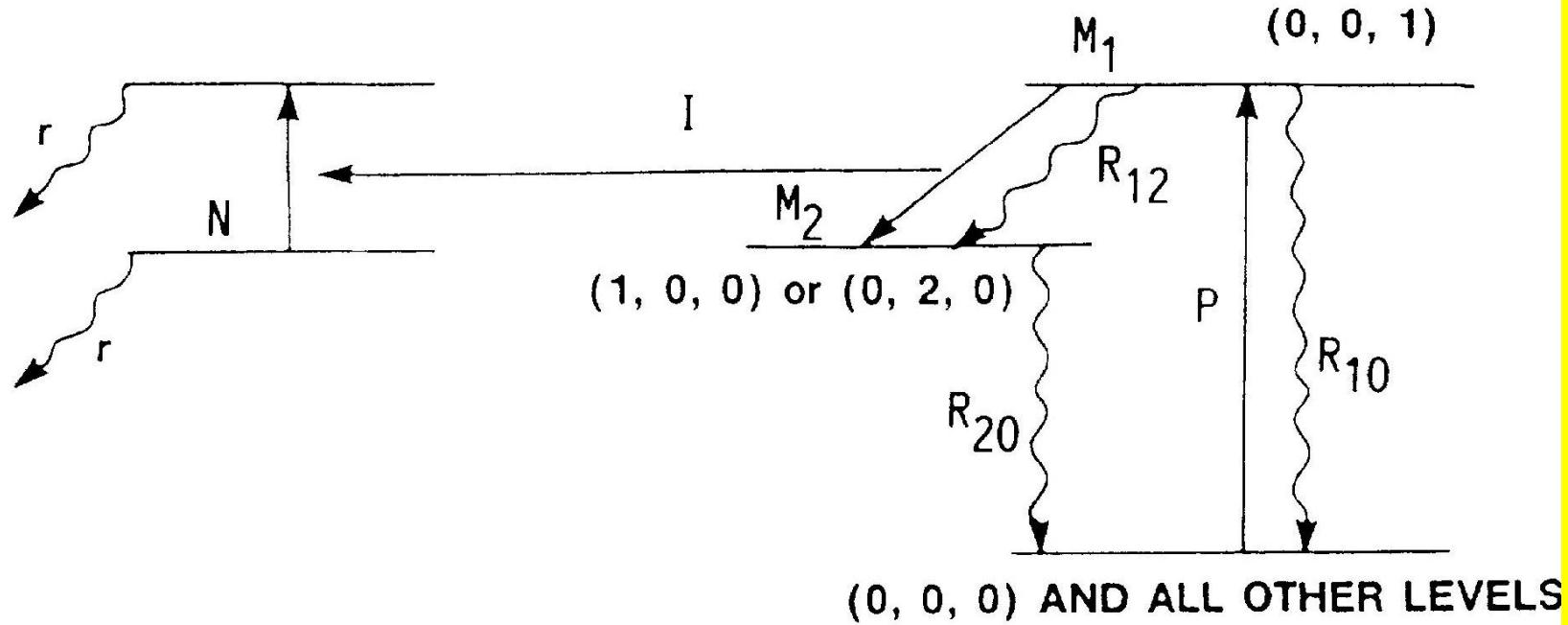
The “3 : 2” level model for the CO<sub>2</sub> LSA (with a fast absorber) is a limit case.

(M. Tachikawa et al. , Appl. Phys. B, v. 39 p. 83 (1986))

$$\Omega \rightarrow \Omega_1(0) \text{ I} \quad (\text{large nonradiative relaxation rates})$$

Absorber Medium

Amplifier Medium

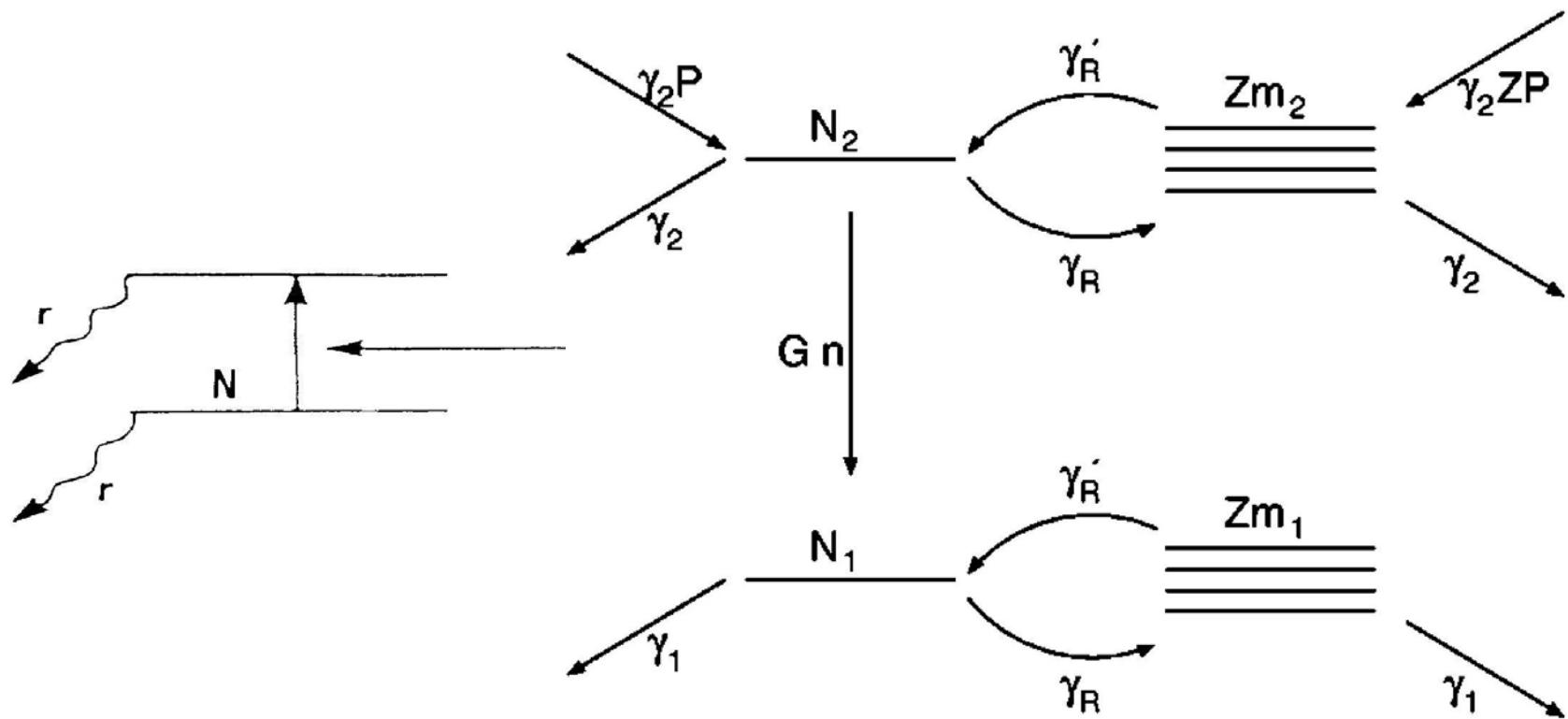


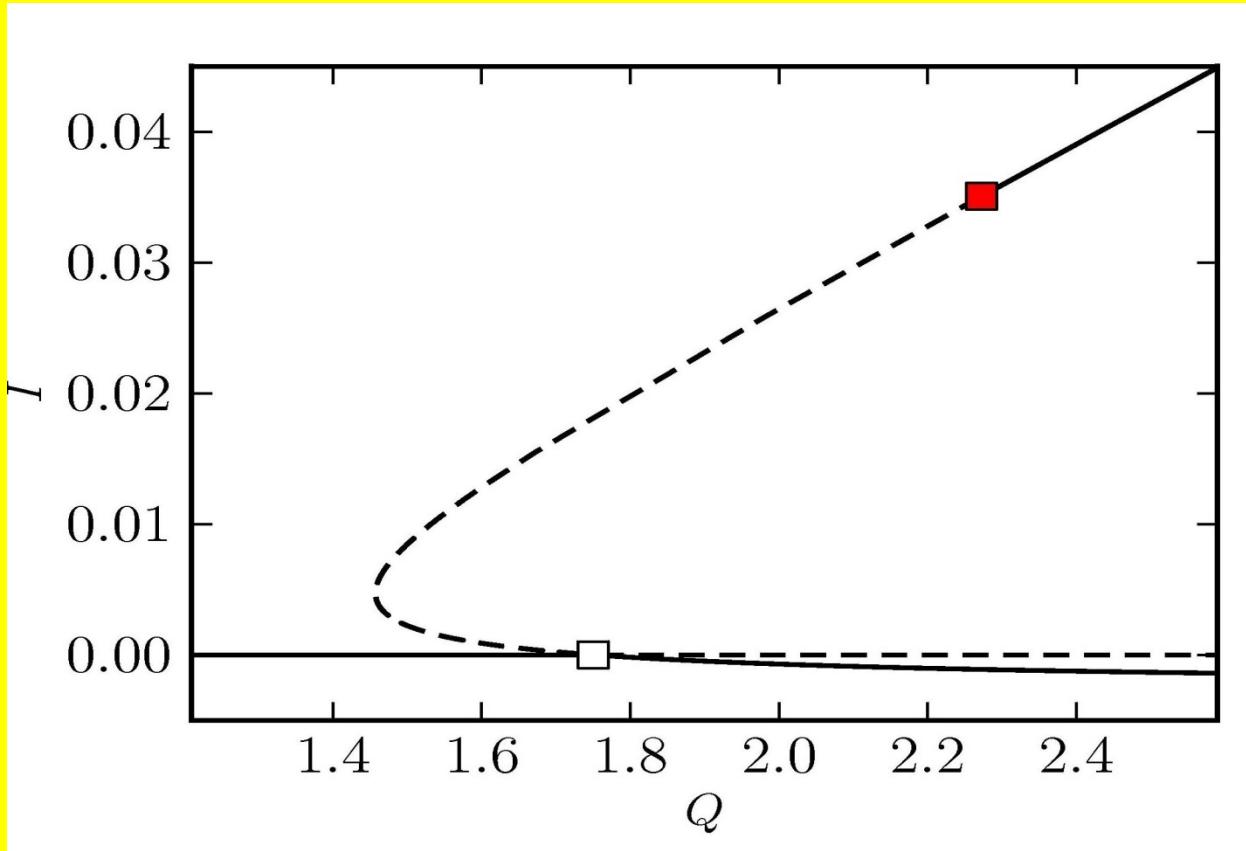
T. Tohei et al, PRA v. 45 p. 5166 (1992)

Parameters : SA pressure &amp; discharge current gain medium

Absorber Medium

Amplifier Medium





4 Level Model

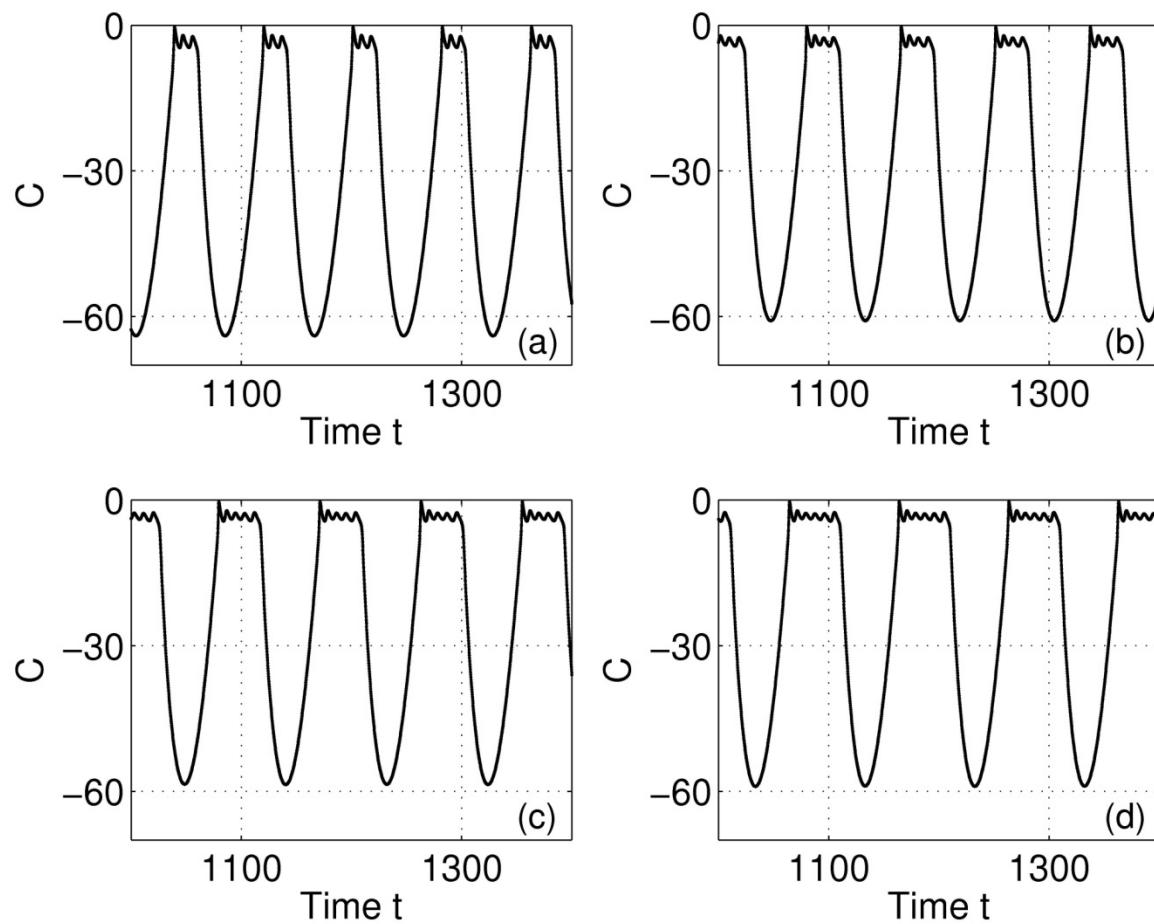
$I=0$  is stable when  $Q < 1+\alpha$ .

$Q = 1+\alpha$  , TC bifurcation (white square)

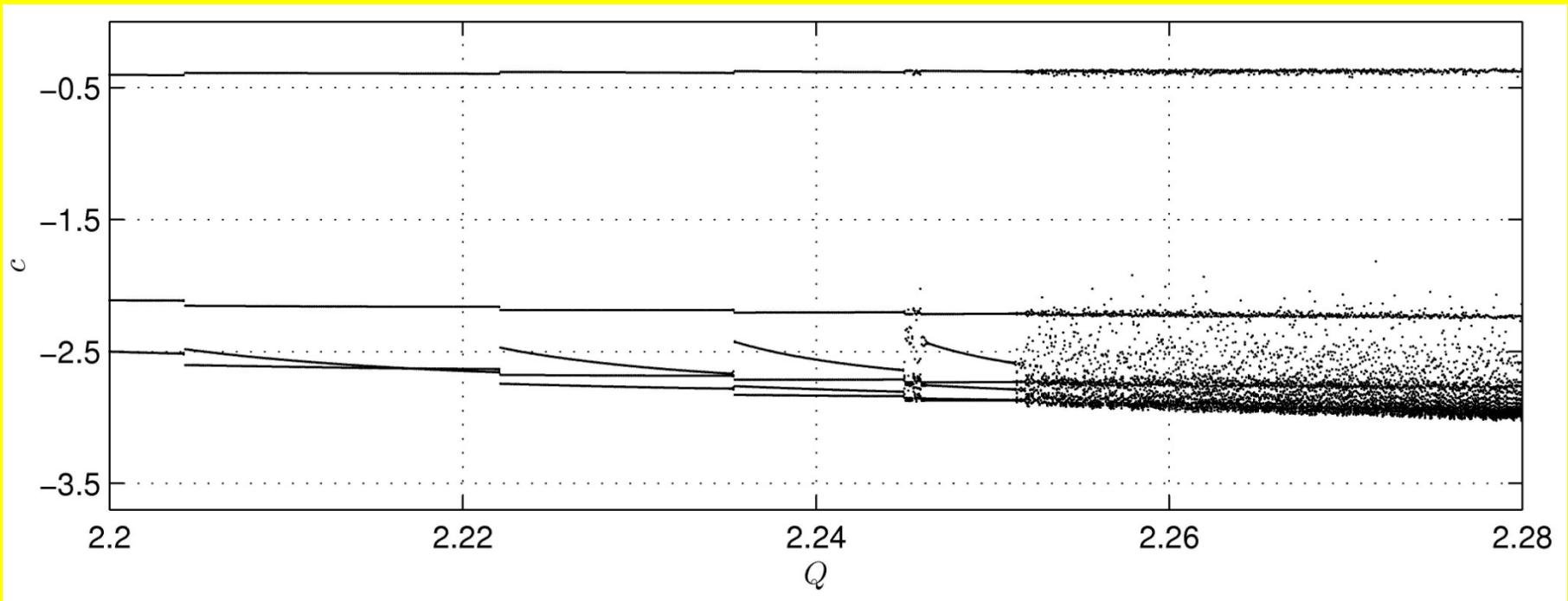
$\alpha=0.75$  ,  $\beta=200$

HB(red square) at  $Q_{HB} \approx 2.271$

### 3. *Isolas of Periodic Orbits*



$Q$  changes  $\rightarrow$   
Period-Adding  
Cascades



Maxima of the  
 $C = \ln(I)$   
versus  $Q$ .

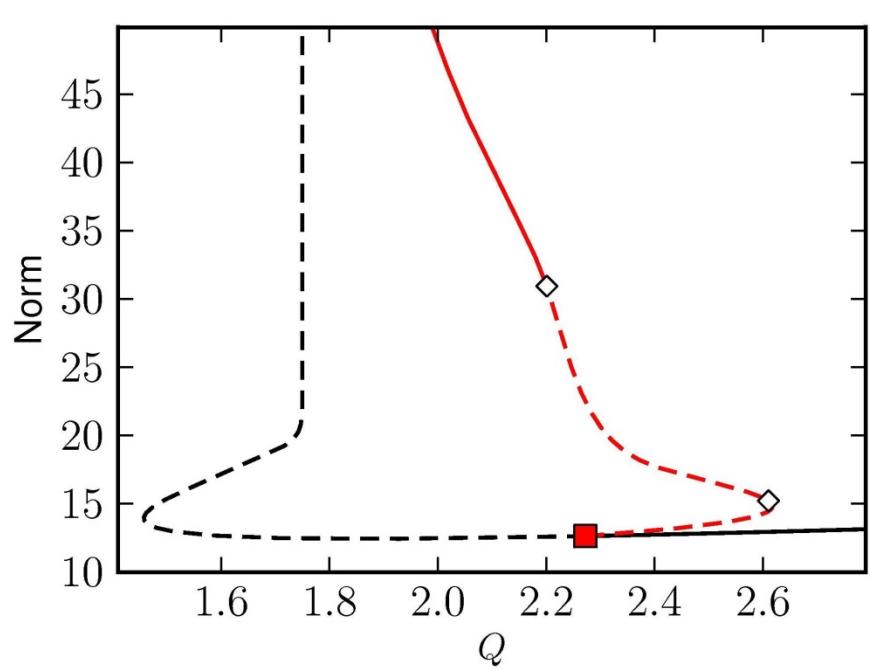
Phase Diagram  
as  $Q$  changes  $\rightarrow$   
Period-Adding  
Cascades

The Norm for the Stationary Solutions :

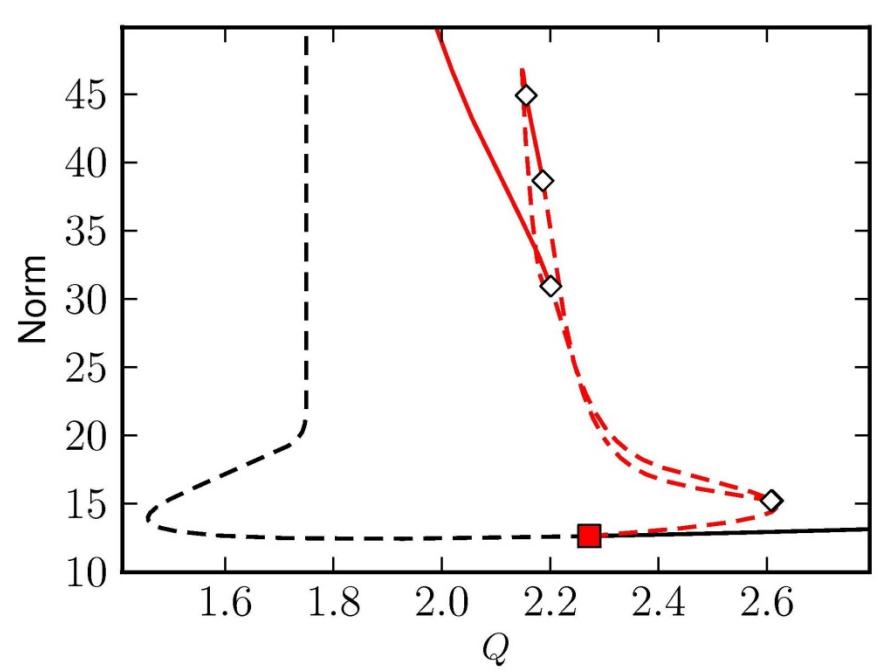
$$\sqrt{c^2 + v^2 + w^2} .$$

The Norm for Periodic Solutions :

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{T}} \left[ \int_0^T ( c(t)^2 + v(t)^2 + w(t)^2 ) dt \right]^{1/2} .$$



(a)

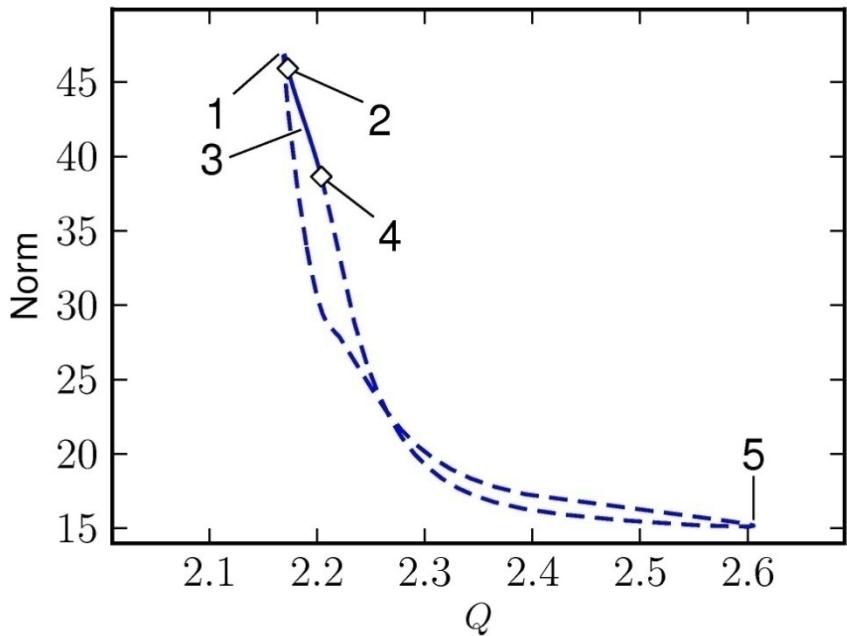


(b)

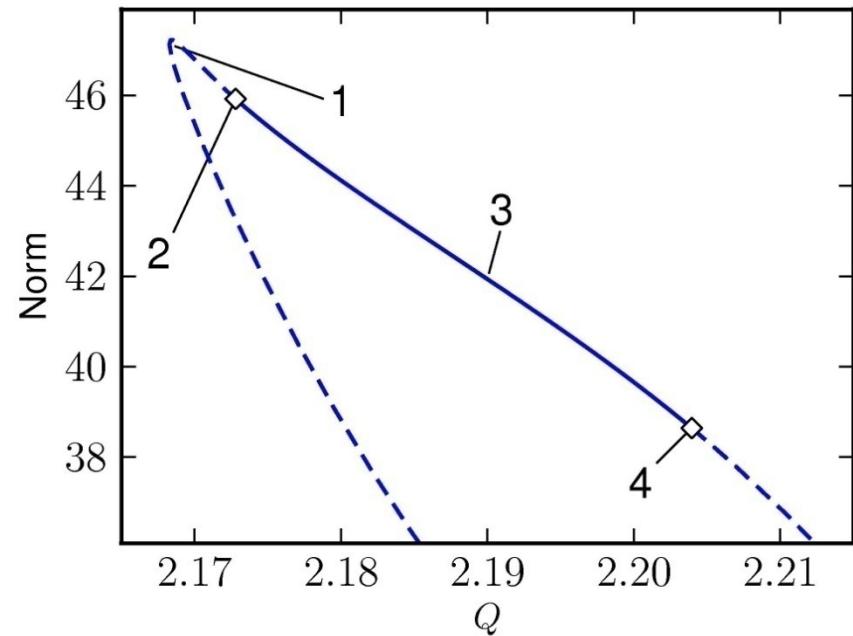
Norm  $\rightarrow \infty \blacktriangleright C \rightarrow -\infty \blacktriangleright I \rightarrow 0$ .

Red Square : HB , Diamond : PDB.

## Isola ( Closed Branch of Periodic Solutions ) as Q is changed.

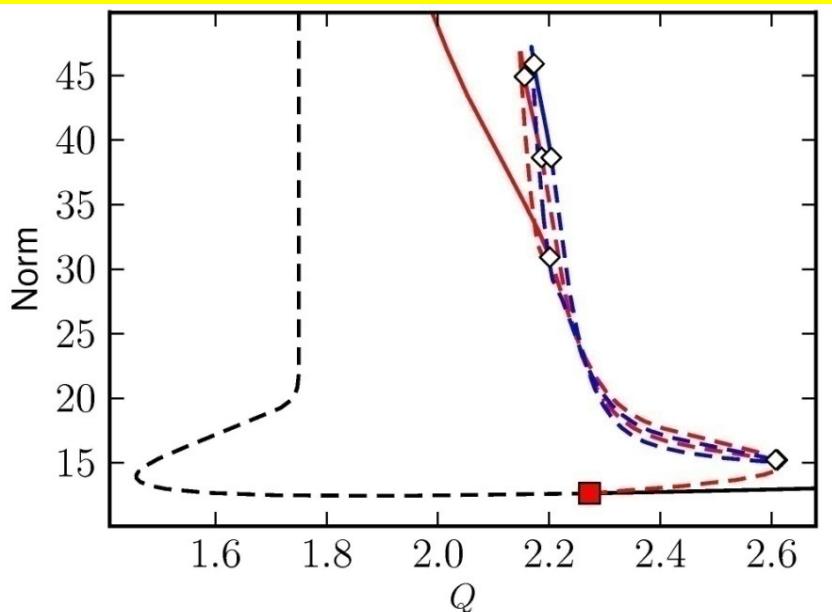


(a)

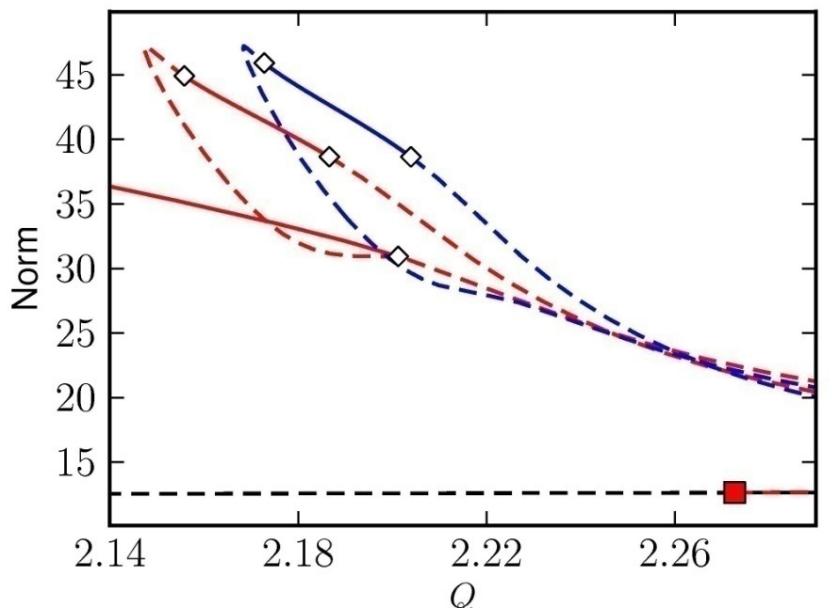


(b)

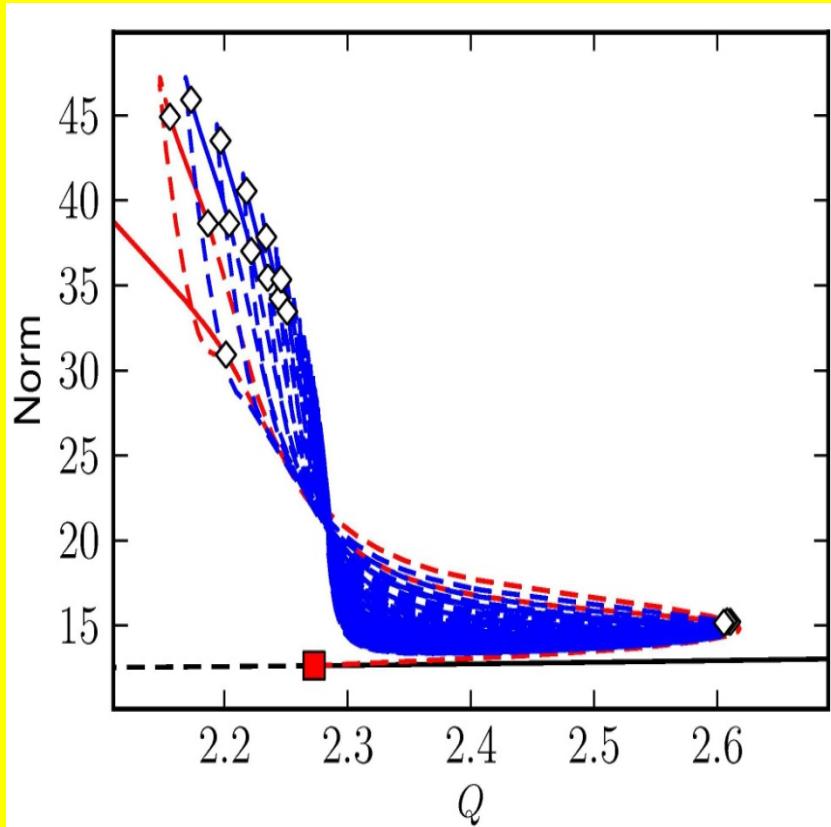
Isola of periodic orbits (pulsations) with 3 maxima,  $\Pi(3)$ .



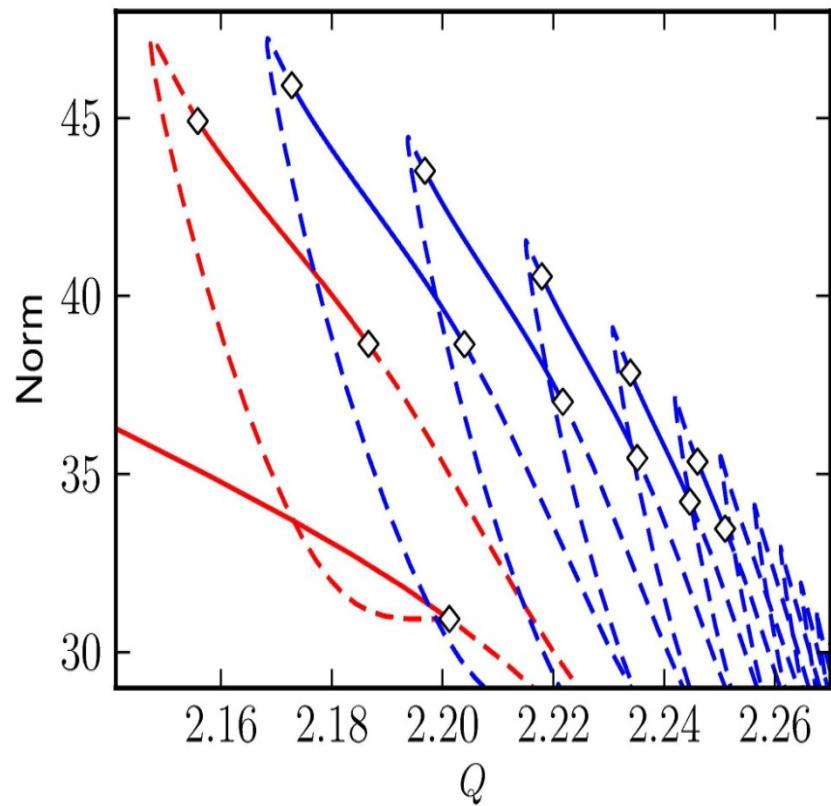
(a)



Branches of  
stationary solutions,  
main periodic orbits,  
PD period orbits and  
periodic orbits with  
3 maxima,  
 $\Pi(3)$ .

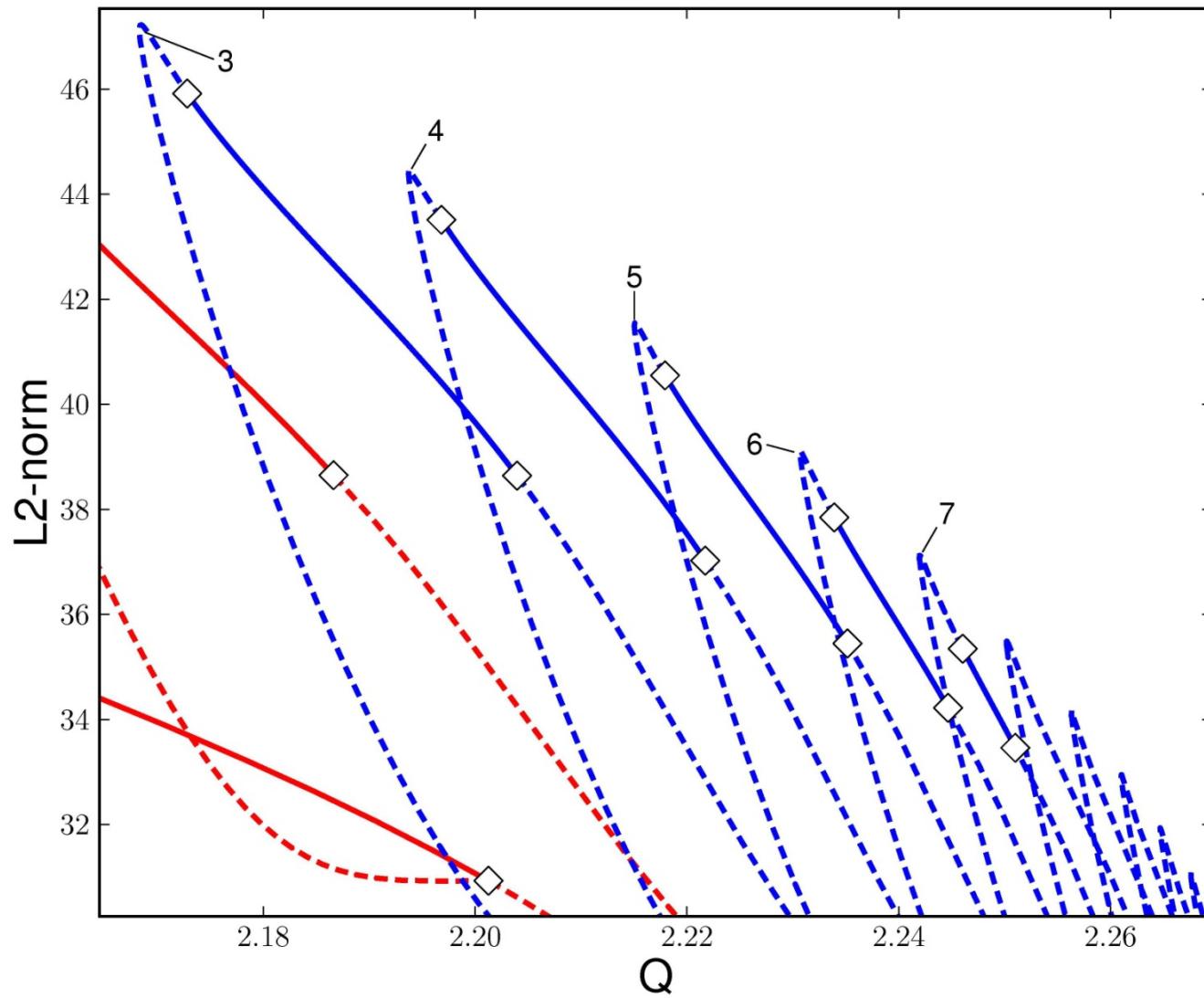


(a)



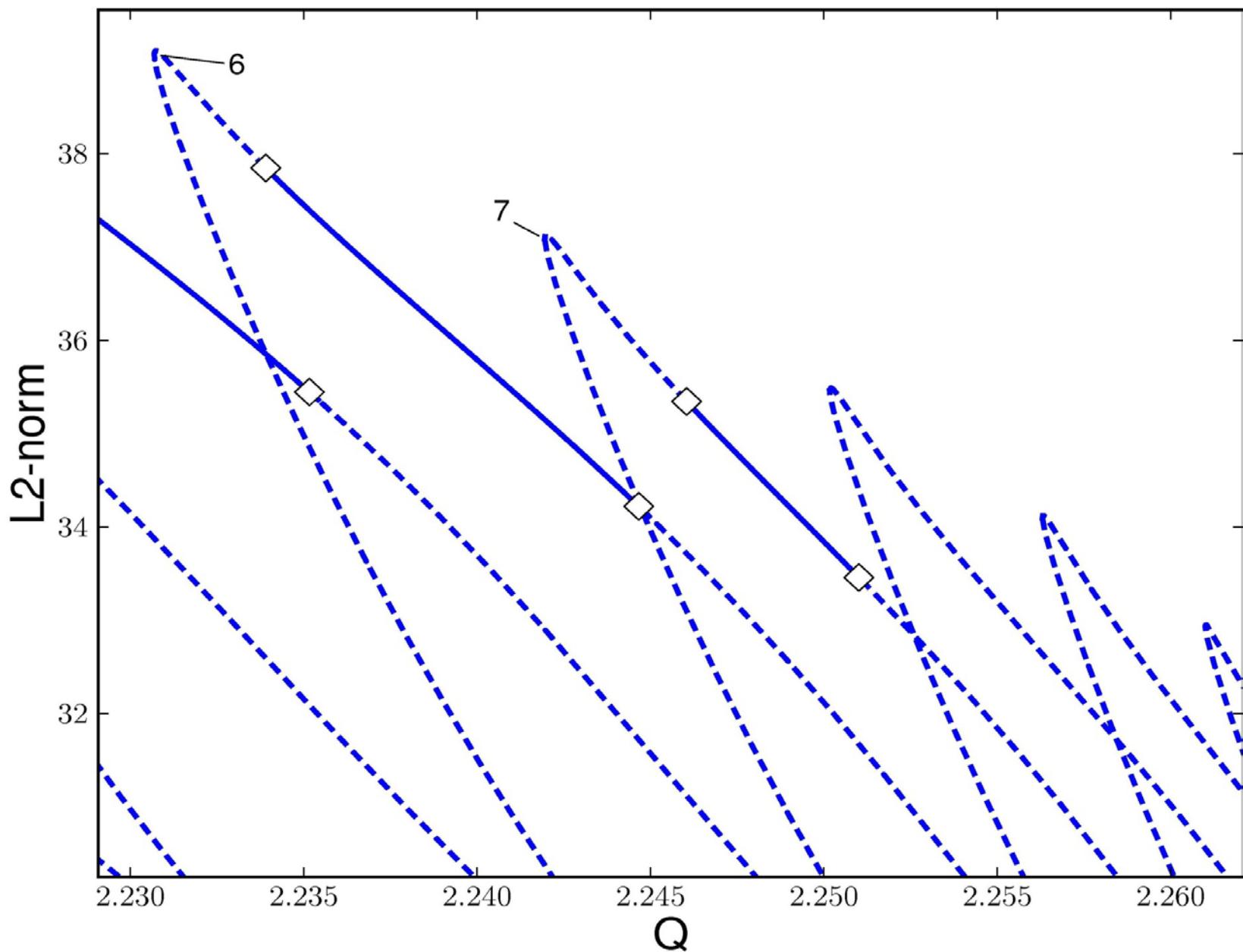
(b)

Branches of stationary solutions, main periodic orbits,  
PD period orbits and ISOLAS of  
periodic orbits with  $N=3, 4, 5, 6, \dots, 50$  maxima,  $\Pi(N)$ .

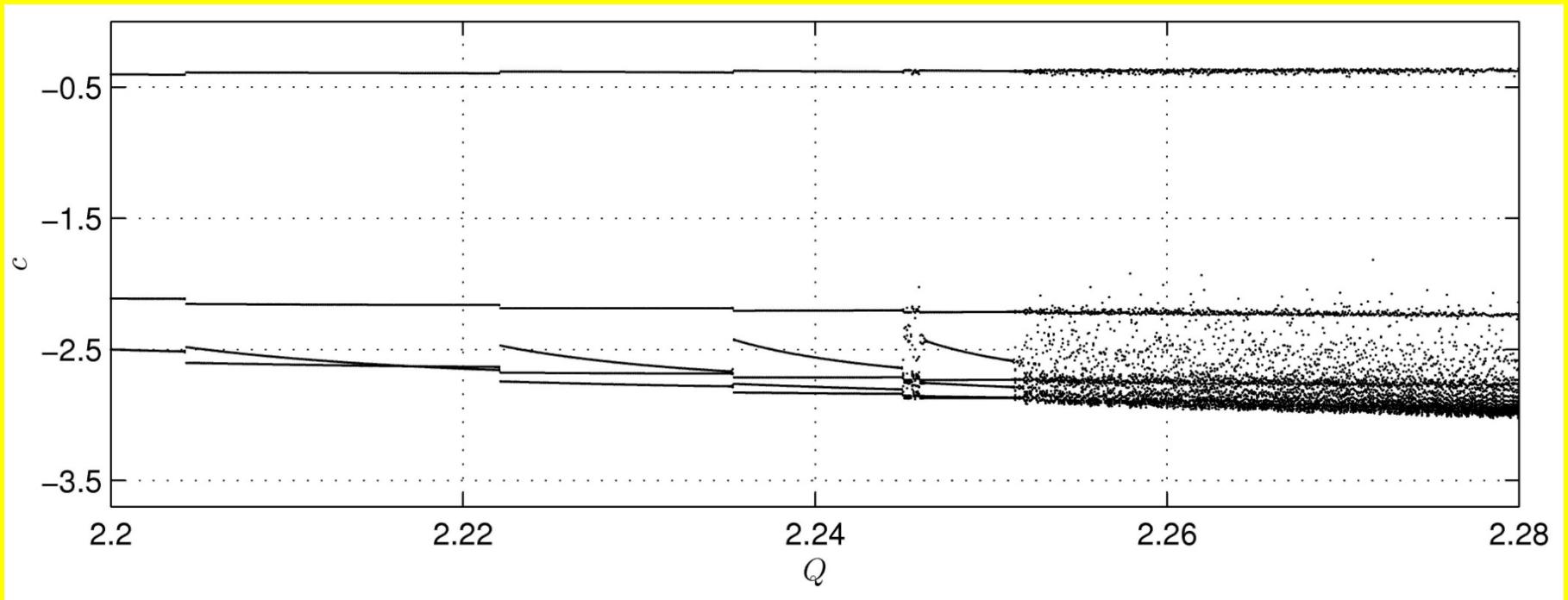


Branches of main periodic orbits,  
PD period orbits and ISOLAS of  
periodic orbits with  $N=3, 4, 5, 6, \dots, 50$  maxima,  $\Pi(N)$ .

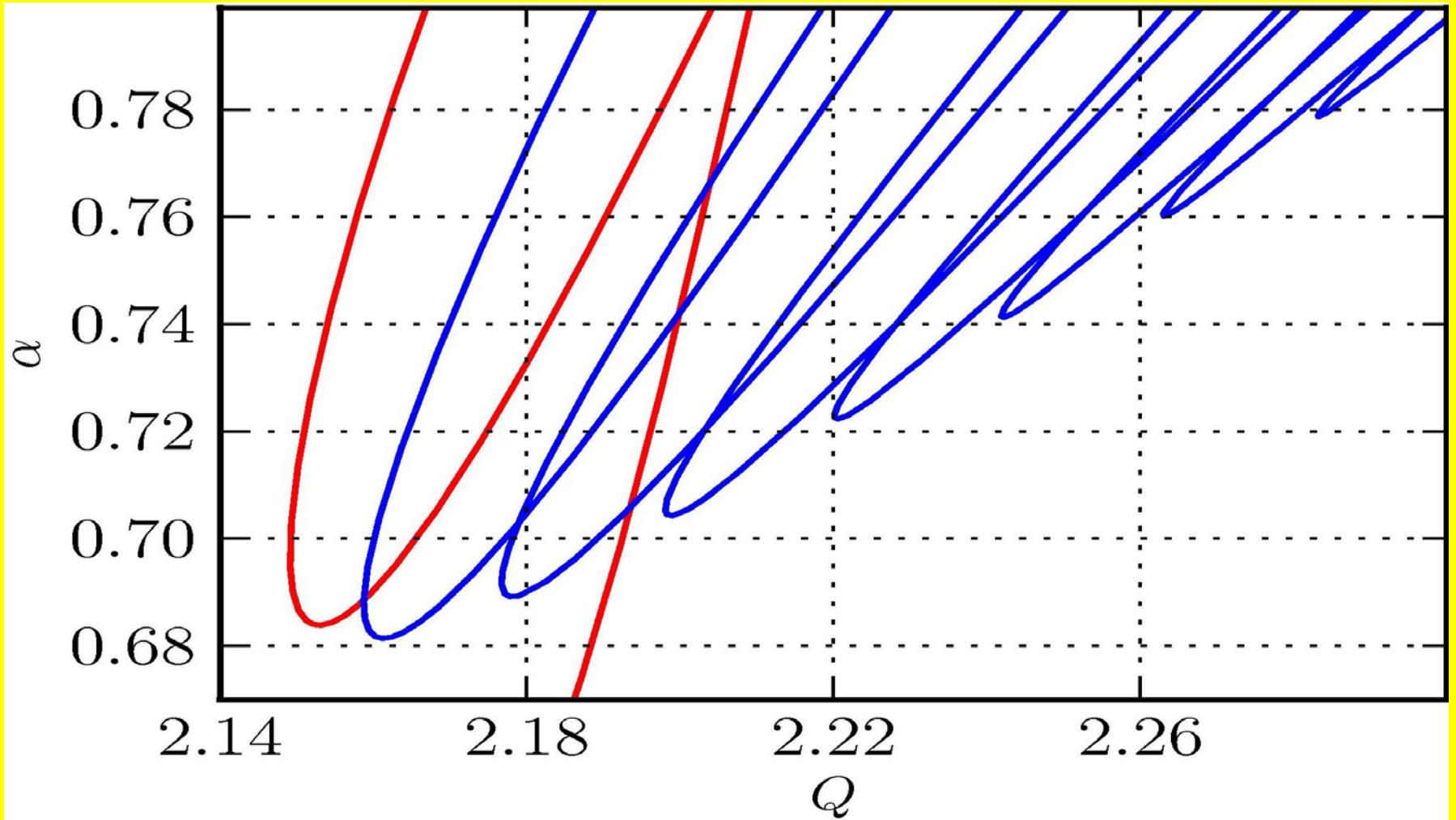
# LSA-3D



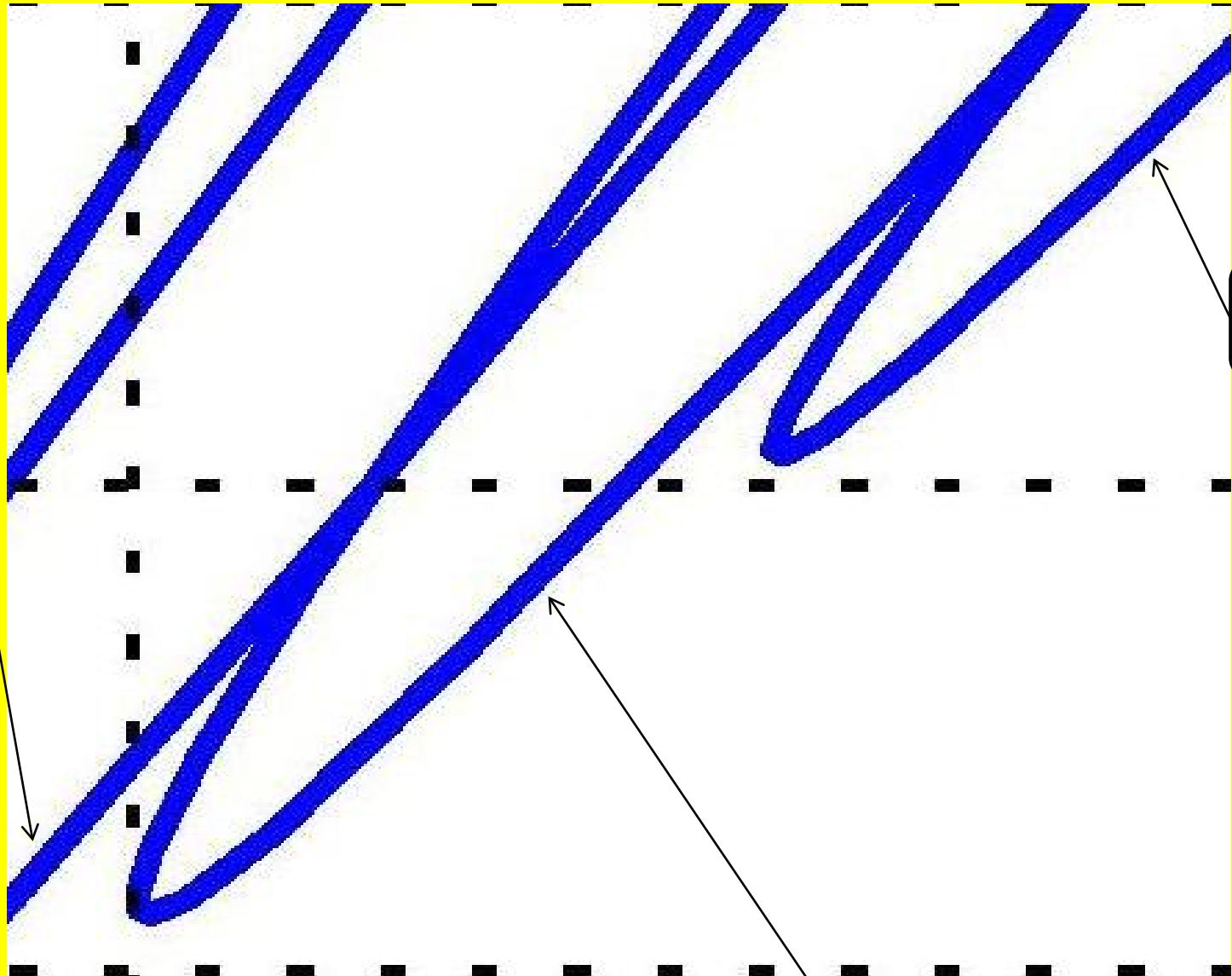
Blowup of previous figure.



Phase Diagram, where “Q” (pump) is swept.



Intervals of stability for the main periodic orbit (red),  
The PD period orbit (red) and  
periodic orbits with M maxima.

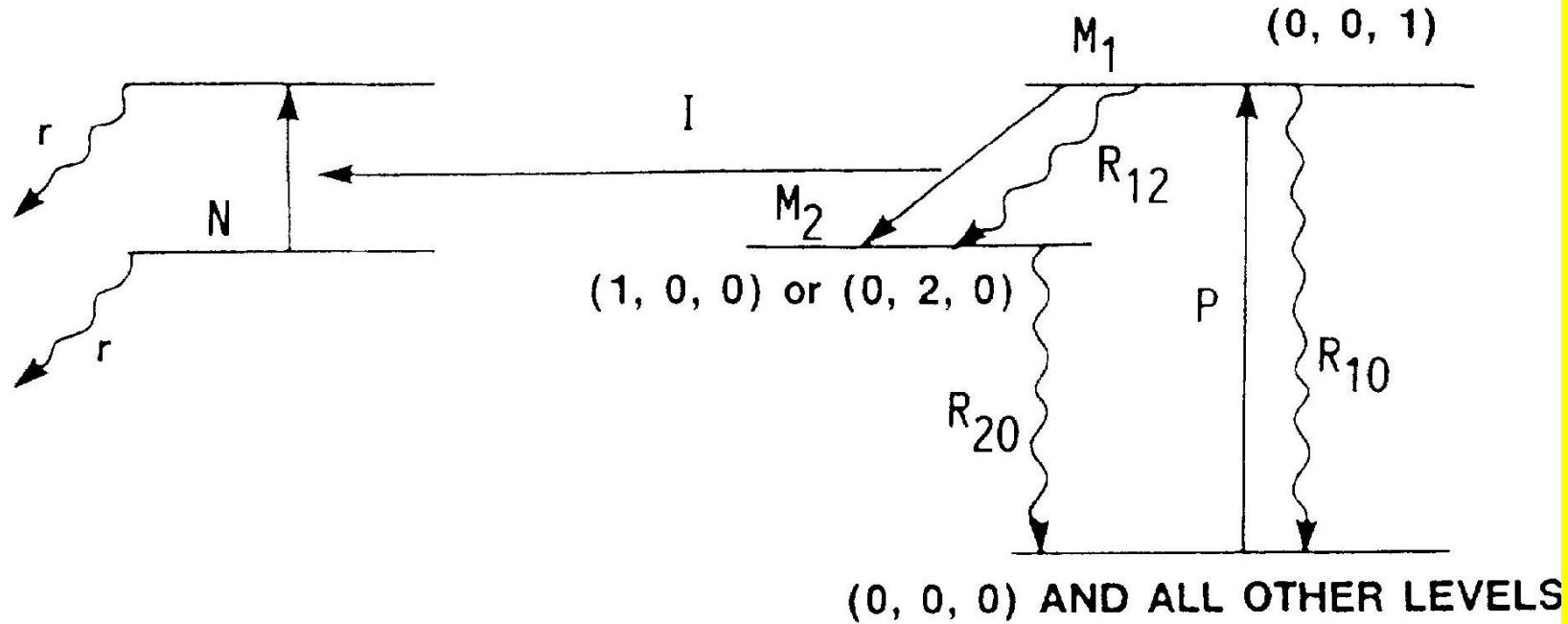


Blowup of previous figure

## 3:2 Level Model

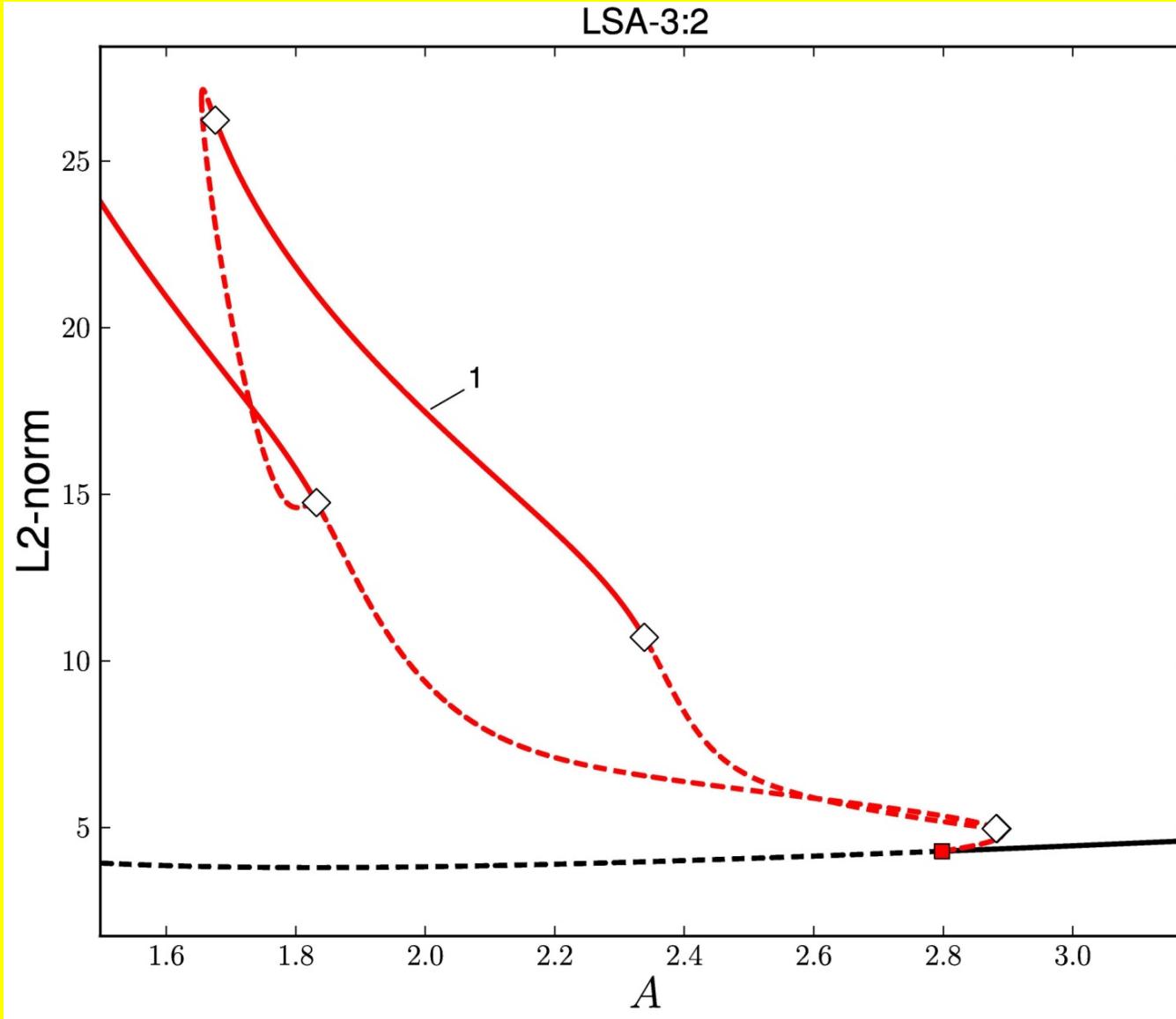
Absorber Medium

Amplifier Medium

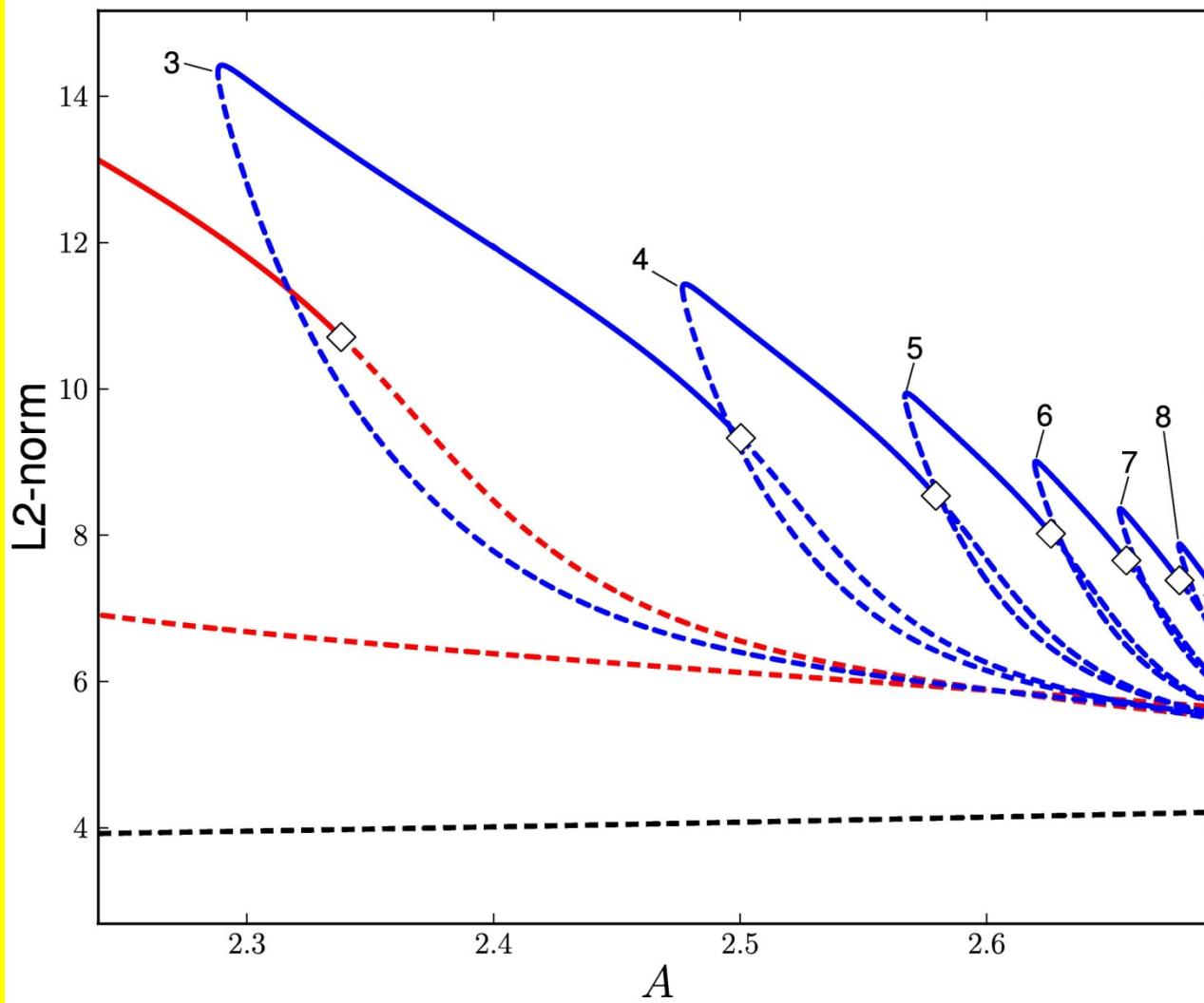


T. Tohei et al, PRA v. 45 p. 5166 (1992)

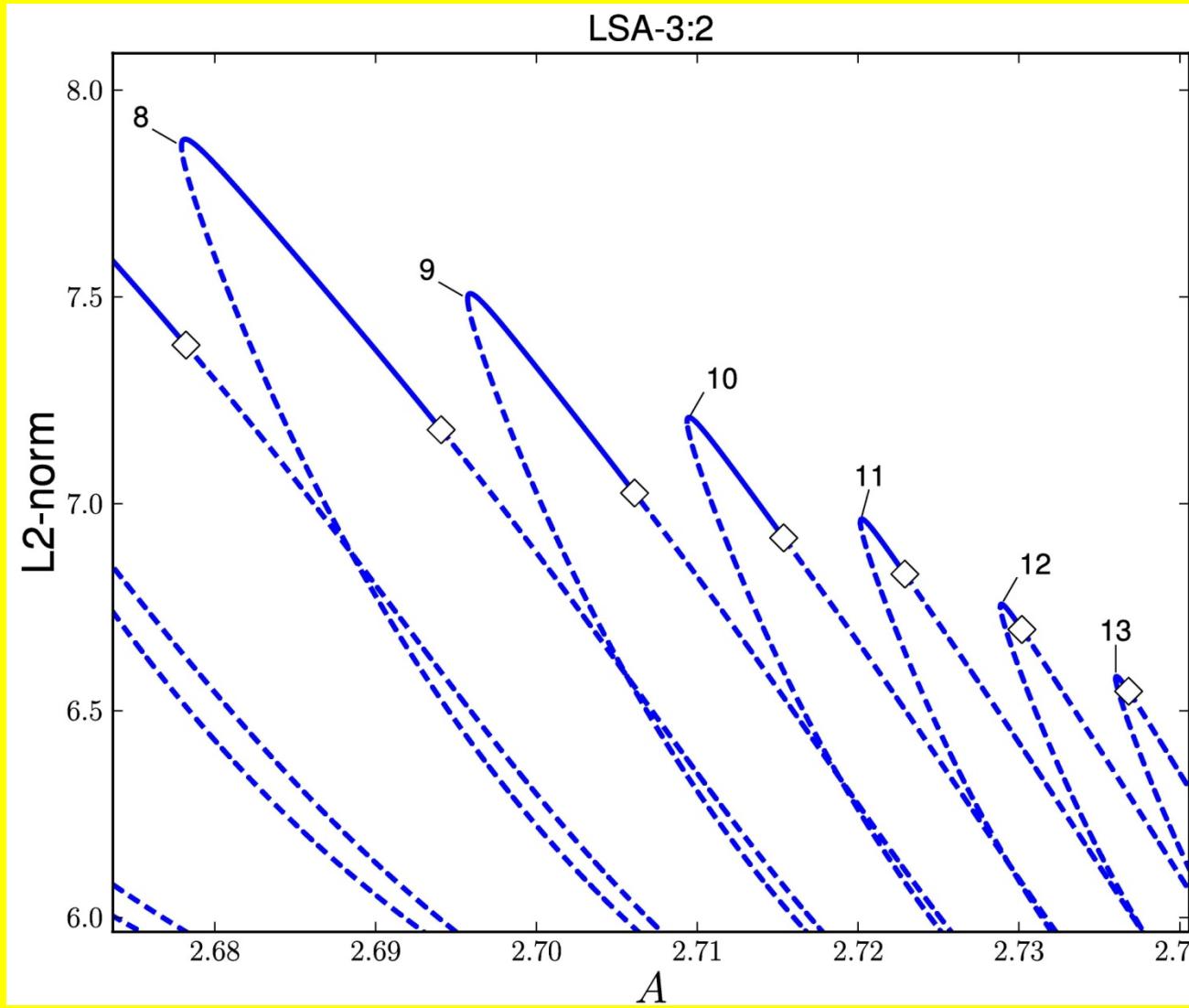
Parameters : SA pressure & discharge current gain medium



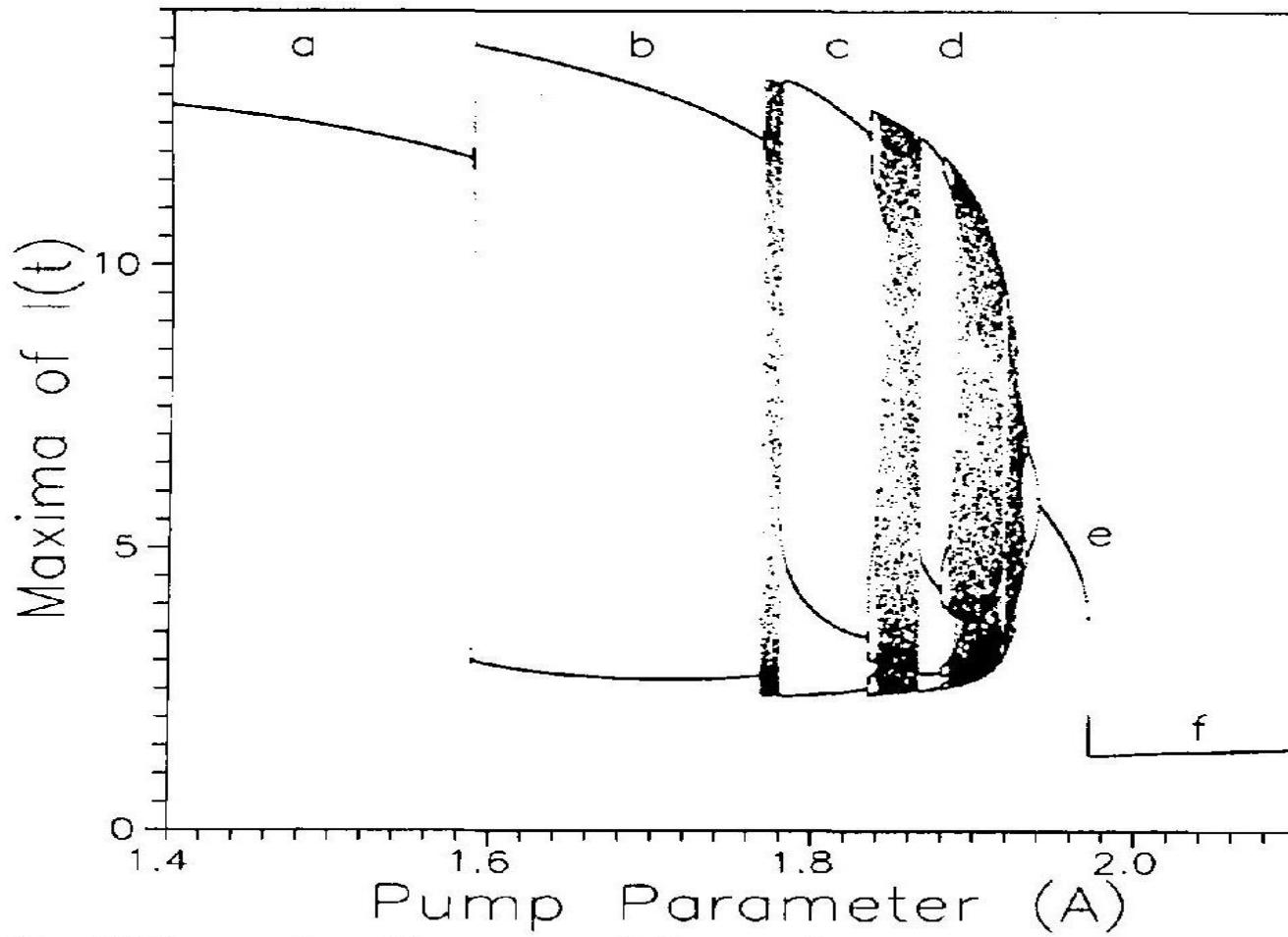
Branches of stationary solutions, main periodic orbits,  
and PD period orbits



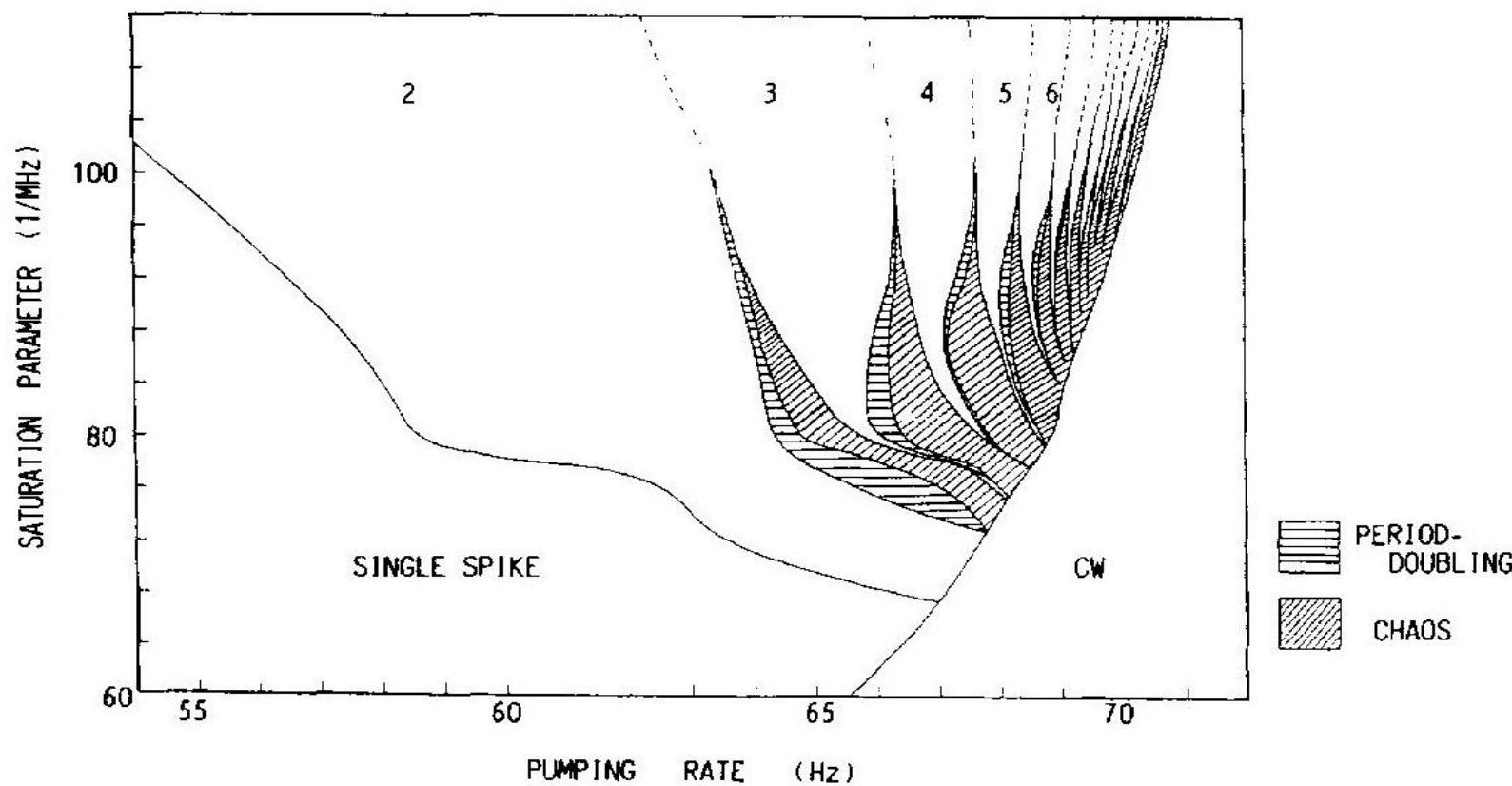
Branches of stationary solutions, main periodic orbits,  
PD period orbits and ISOLAS of  
periodic orbits with  $N=3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8$  maxima,  $\Pi(N)$ .



Blow Up of ISOLAS of  
periodic orbits with  $N=3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8$  maxima,  $\Pi(N)$ .

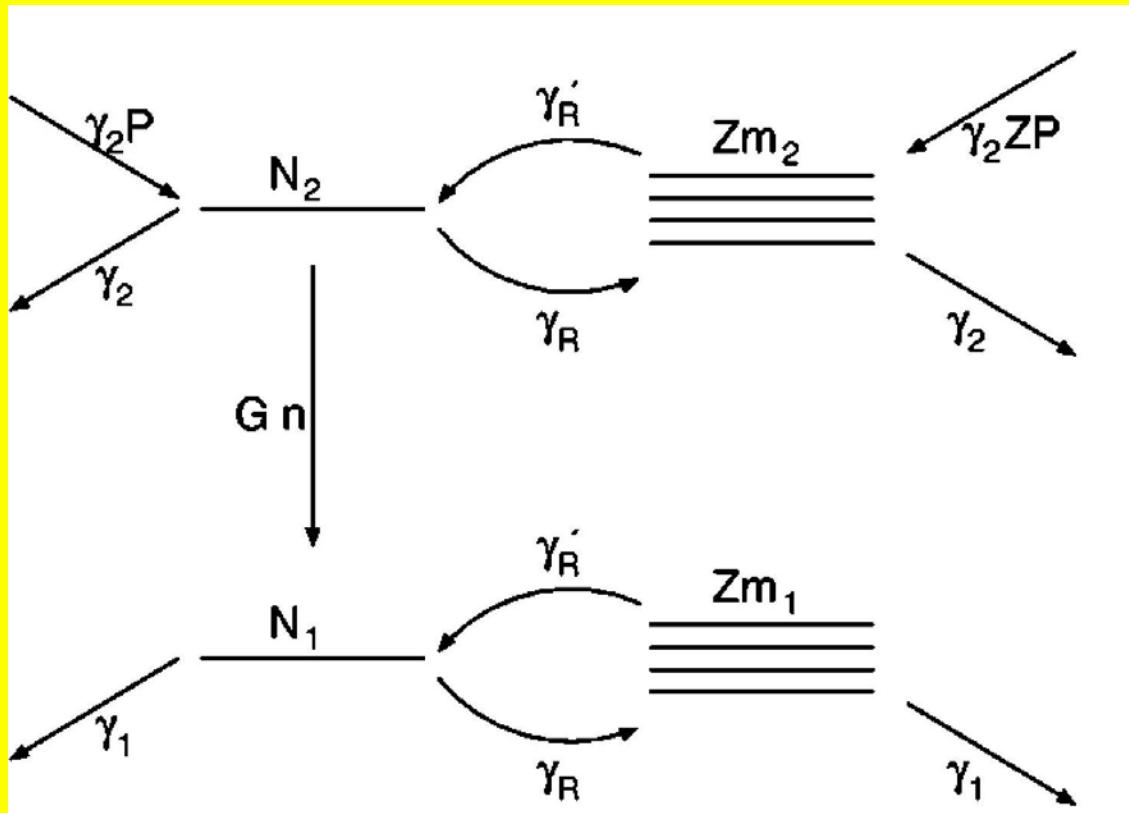


**Fig. 5.** Bifurcation diagram of the model of the LSA for parameters of Table 1. The letters indicate the following regimes: a,  $P^{(0)}$ ; b,  $P^{(1)}$ ; c,  $P^{(2)}$ ; d,  $P^{(3)}$ ; e, T; f,  $I_+$ .

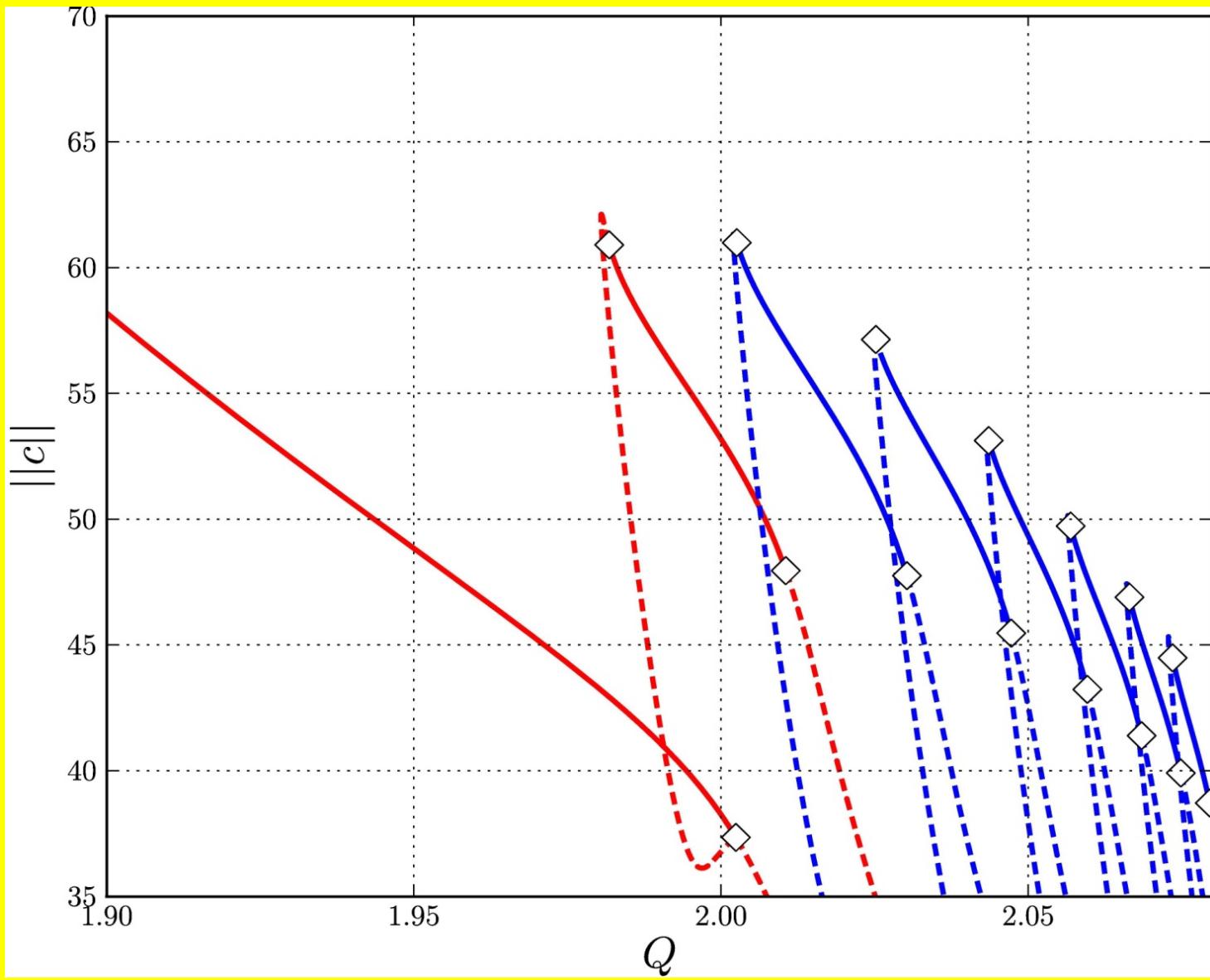


**FIG. 2.** Theoretically obtained phase diagram for the pumping rate and the saturation parameter where the regions for regular and chaotic PQS are depicted. The figures in the phase diagram indicate the number of peaks involved in a single PQS pulse.

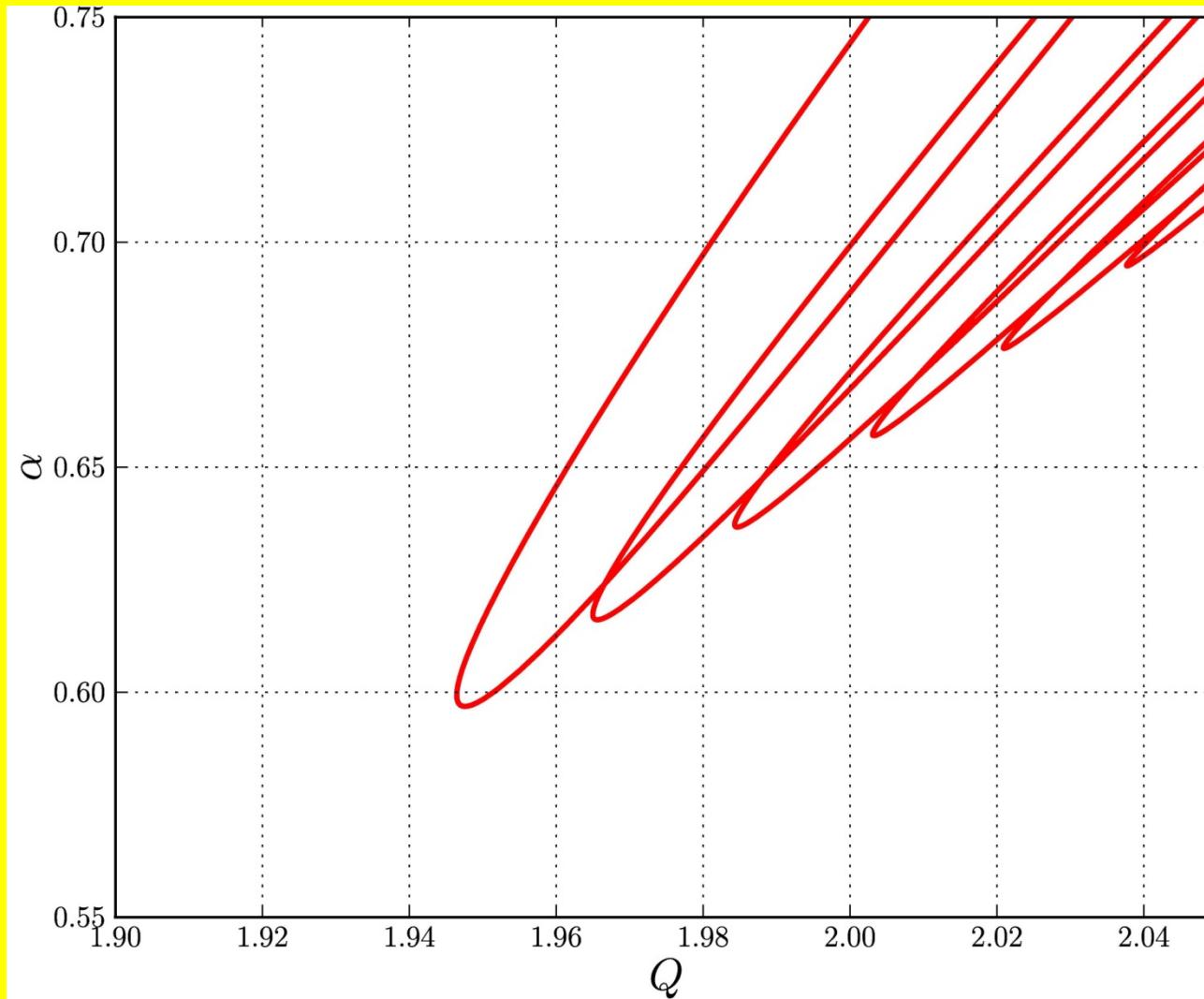
**FULL MOLECULAR MODEL : 4LM for Amplifier (CO<sub>2</sub>) and Absorber (SF<sub>6</sub>)**



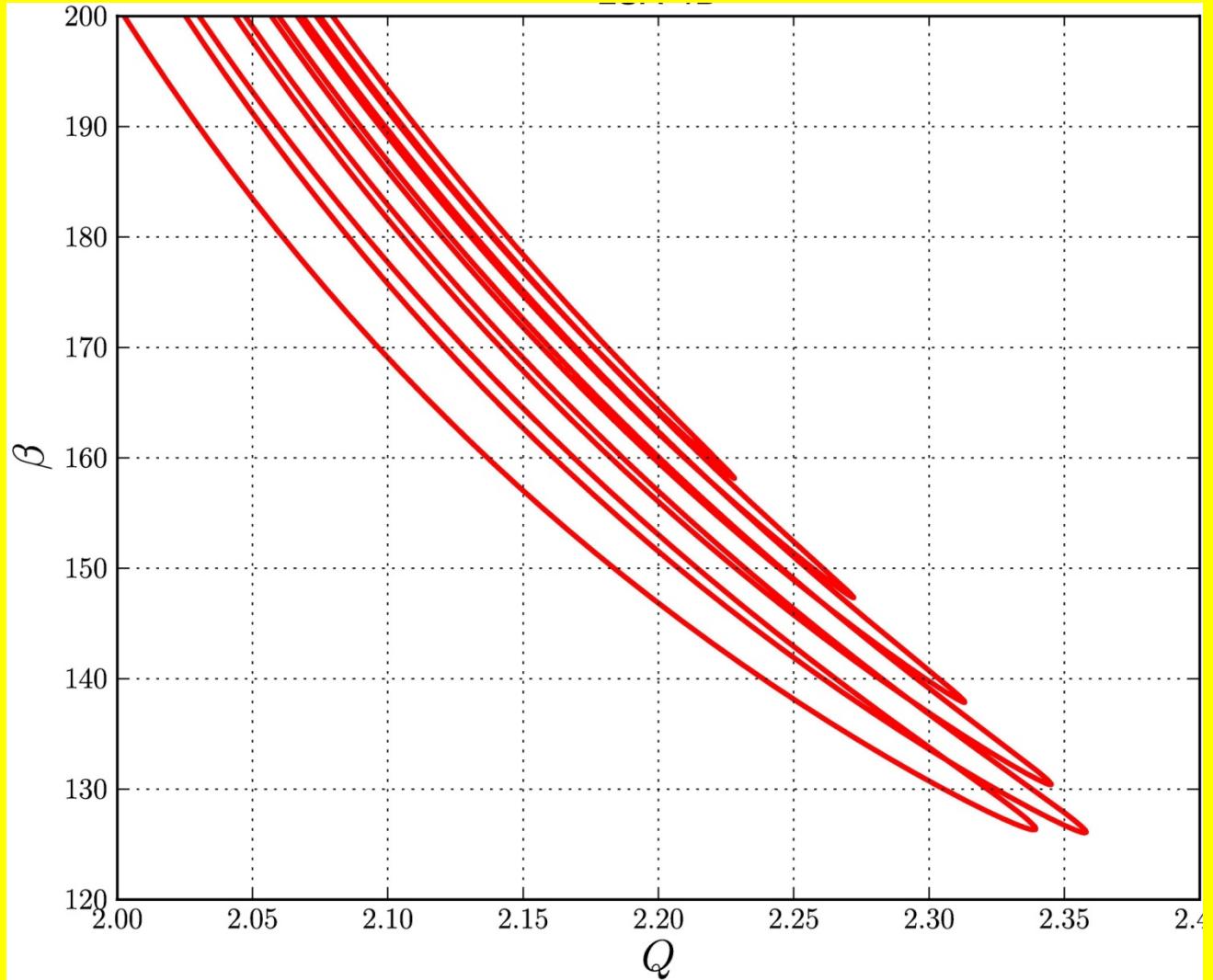
- I. Burak et al. , IEEE v. 7 p.73 (1971).  
J. Dupré et al., Rev. Phys. Appl. v. 10, p. 285 (1975).  
E. Arimondo et al. Applied Physics B v.30 p.57 (1983)



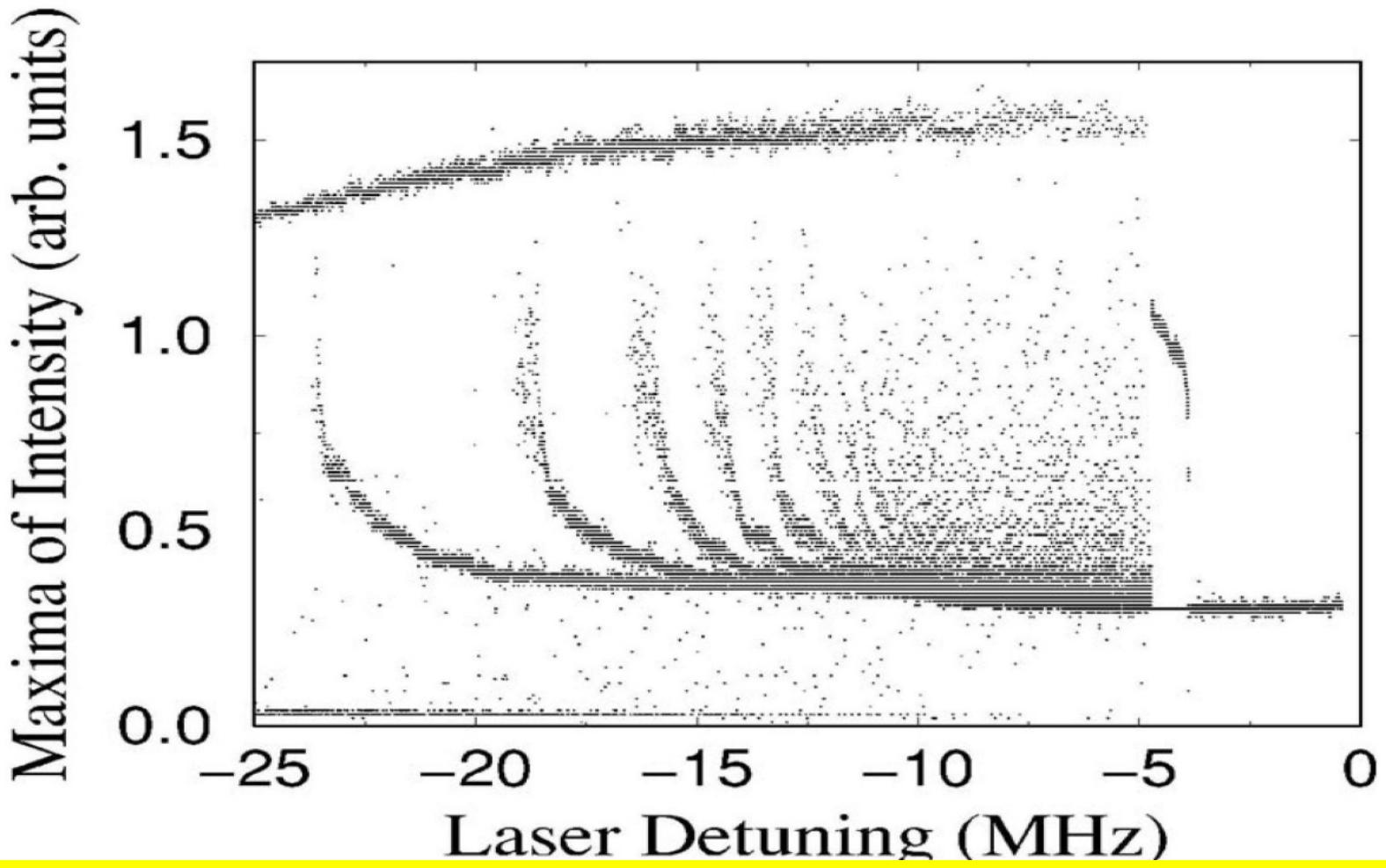
Branches of main periodic orbits, PD period orbits and ISOLAS of periodic orbits with  $N=3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8$  maxima,  $\Pi(N)$ .



Intervals of stability vs.  $\alpha$  for the  
periodic orbits with  $N=3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8$  maxima,  $\pi(N)$ .

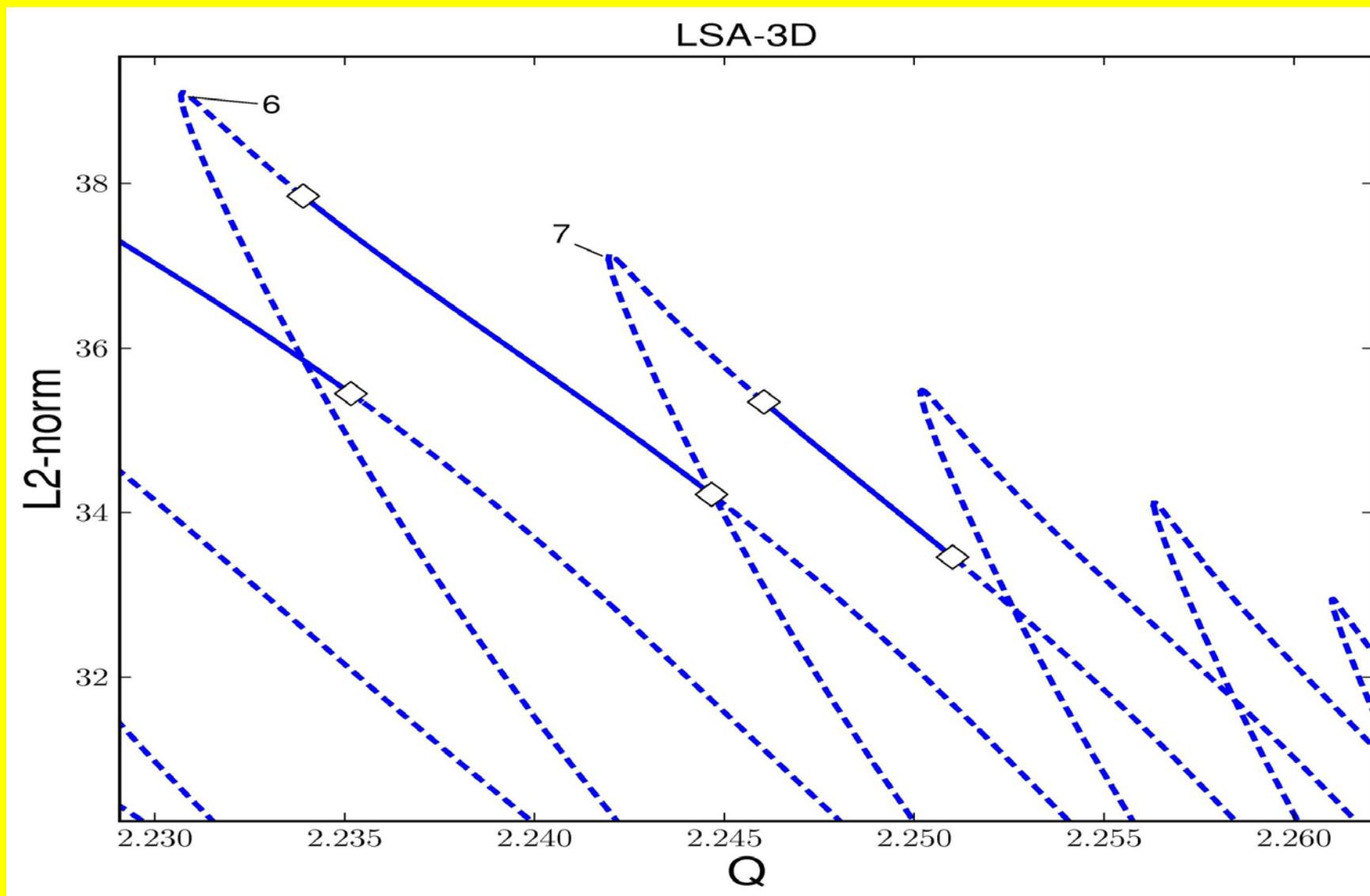


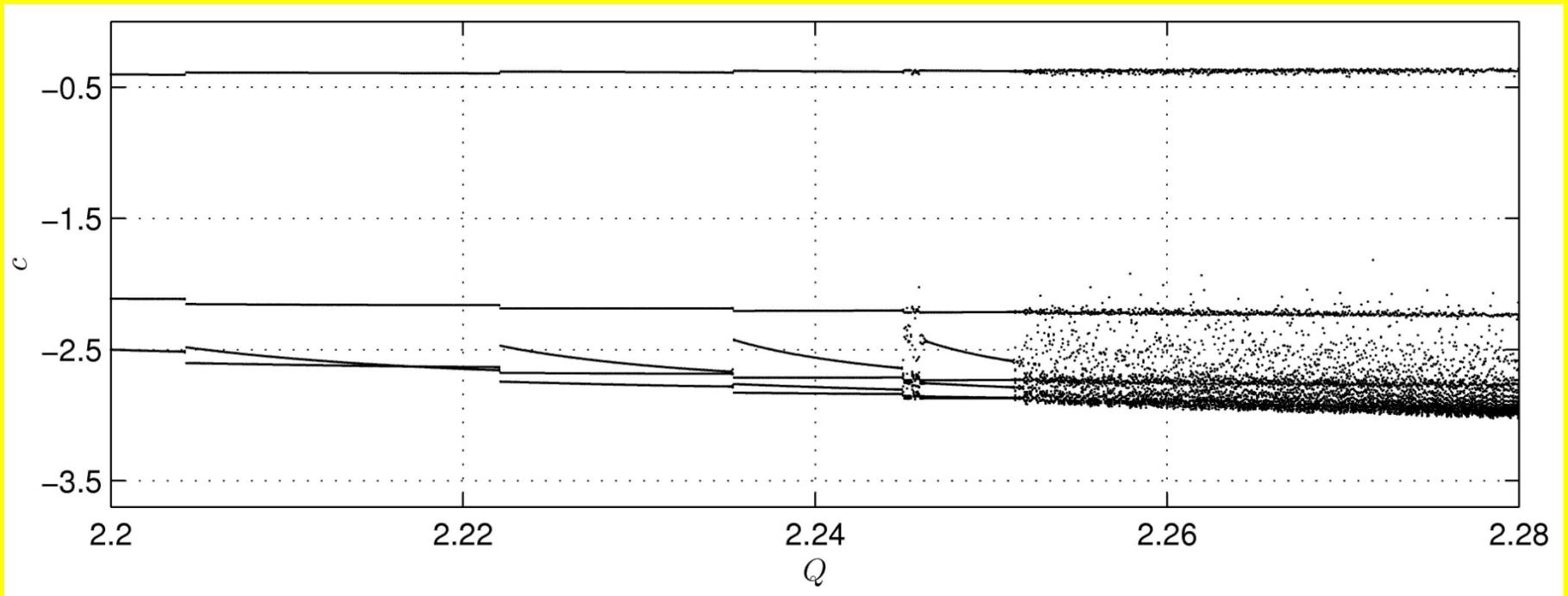
Intervals of stability vs.  $\beta$  for the  
periodic orbits with  $N=3,4,5,6,7,8$  maxima,  $\pi(N)$ .



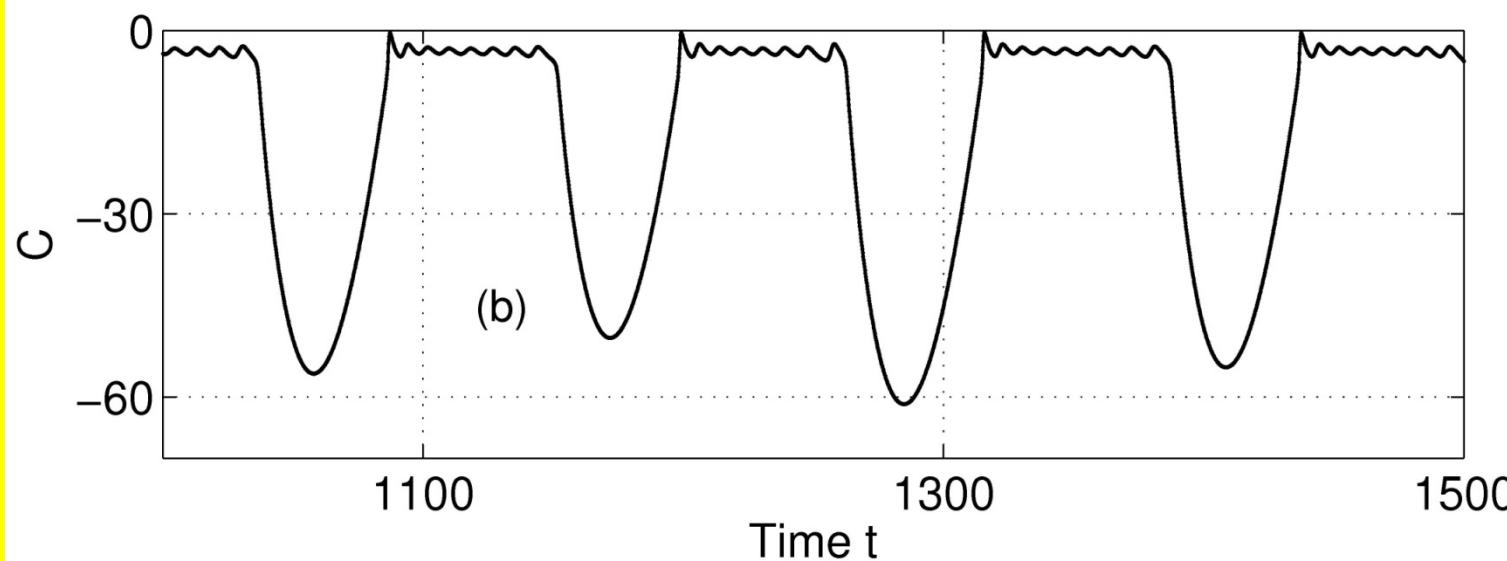
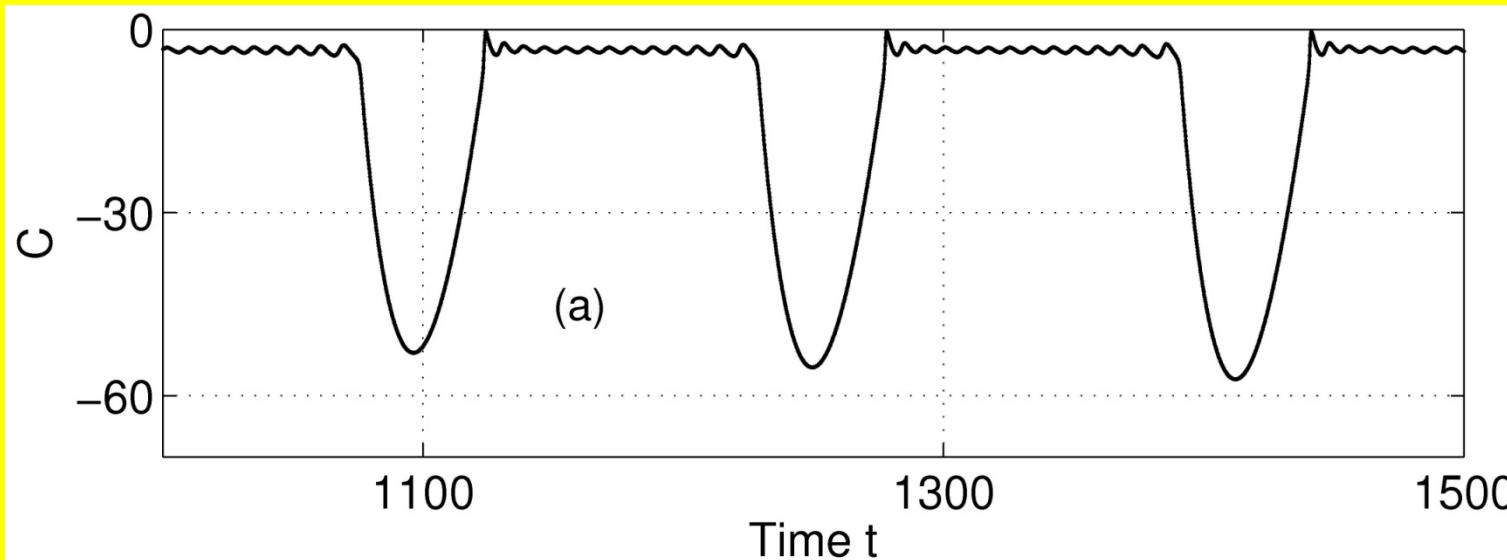
H.L.D. de S. Cavalcante  
And J.R. Rios Leite, Chaos  
v. 18 , 023107 (2008)

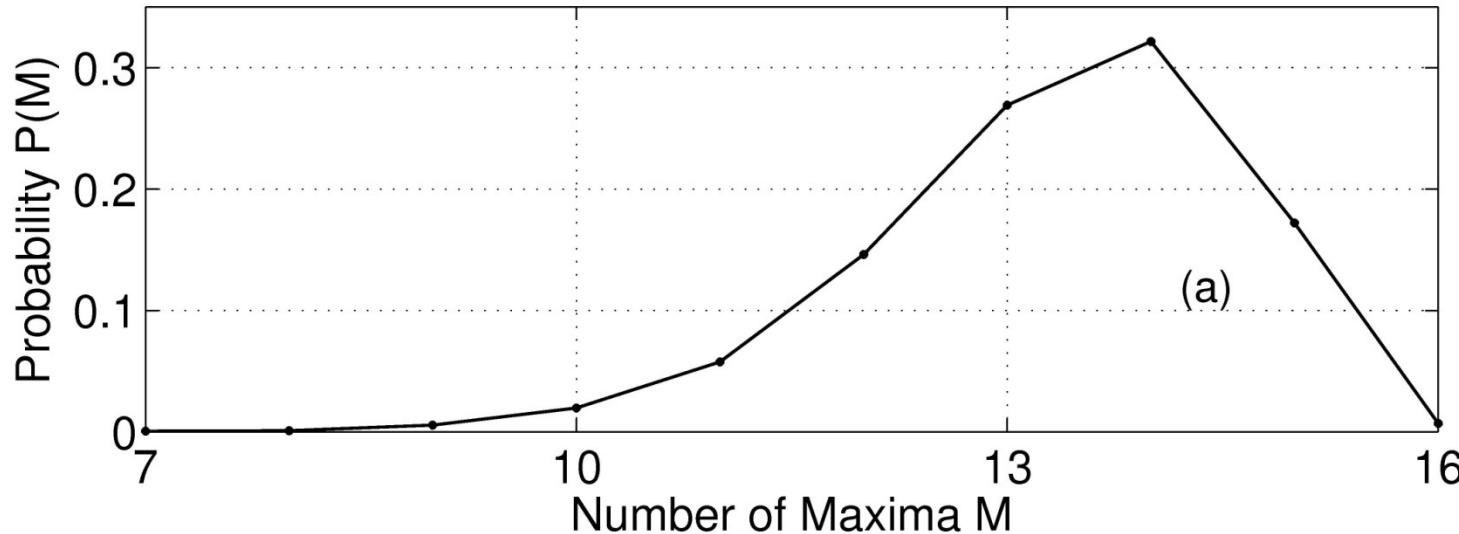
## 4. LSA Chaotic Dynamics



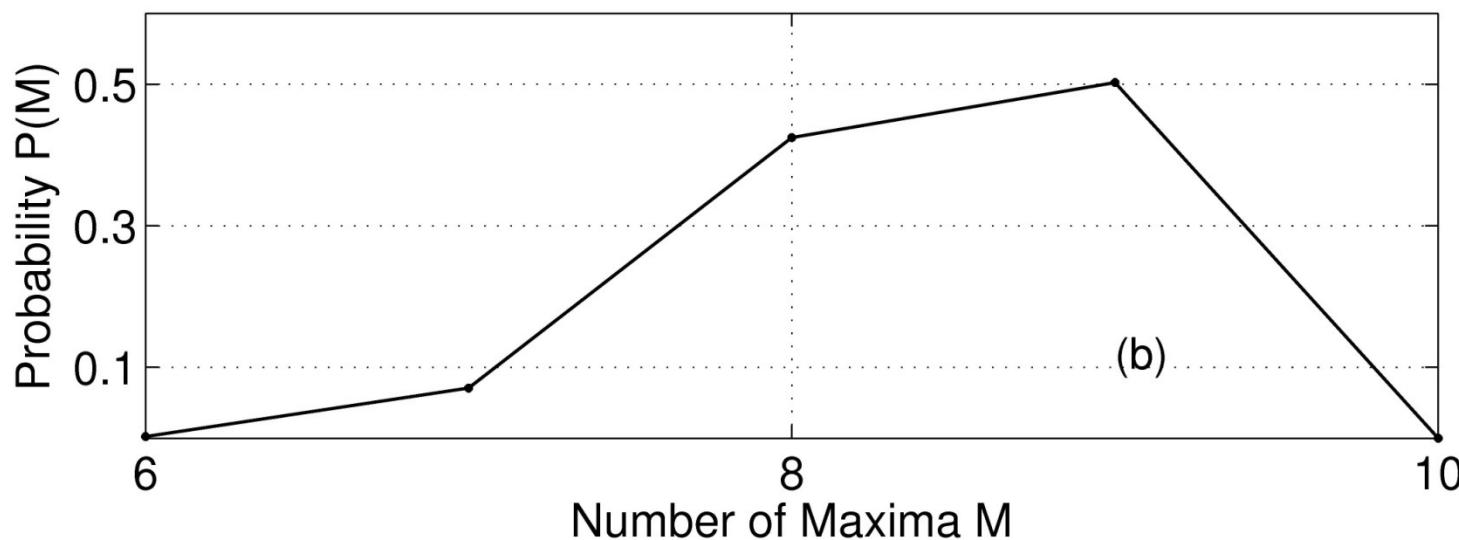


Which is The Mechanism of the Chaotic Motion ?



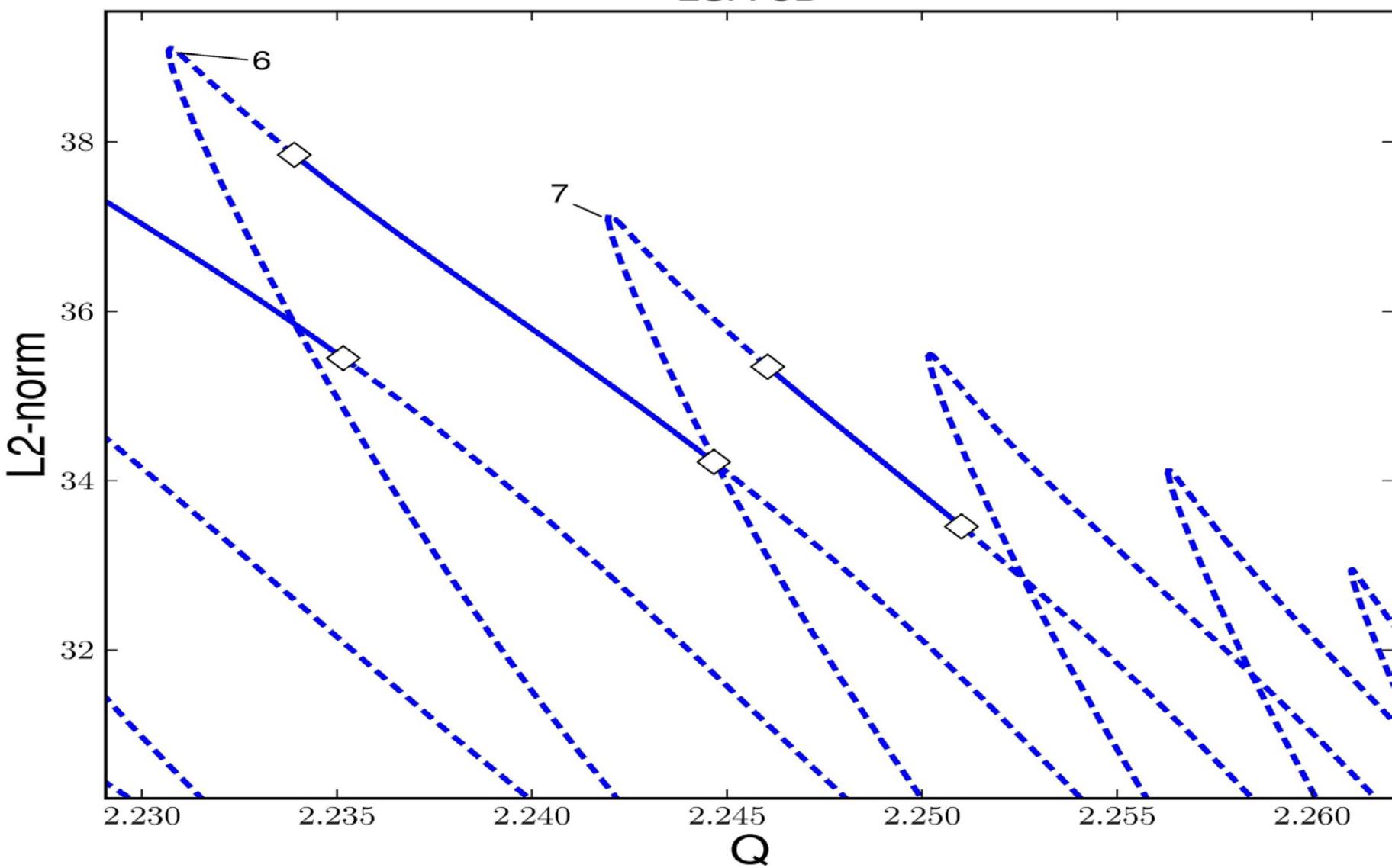


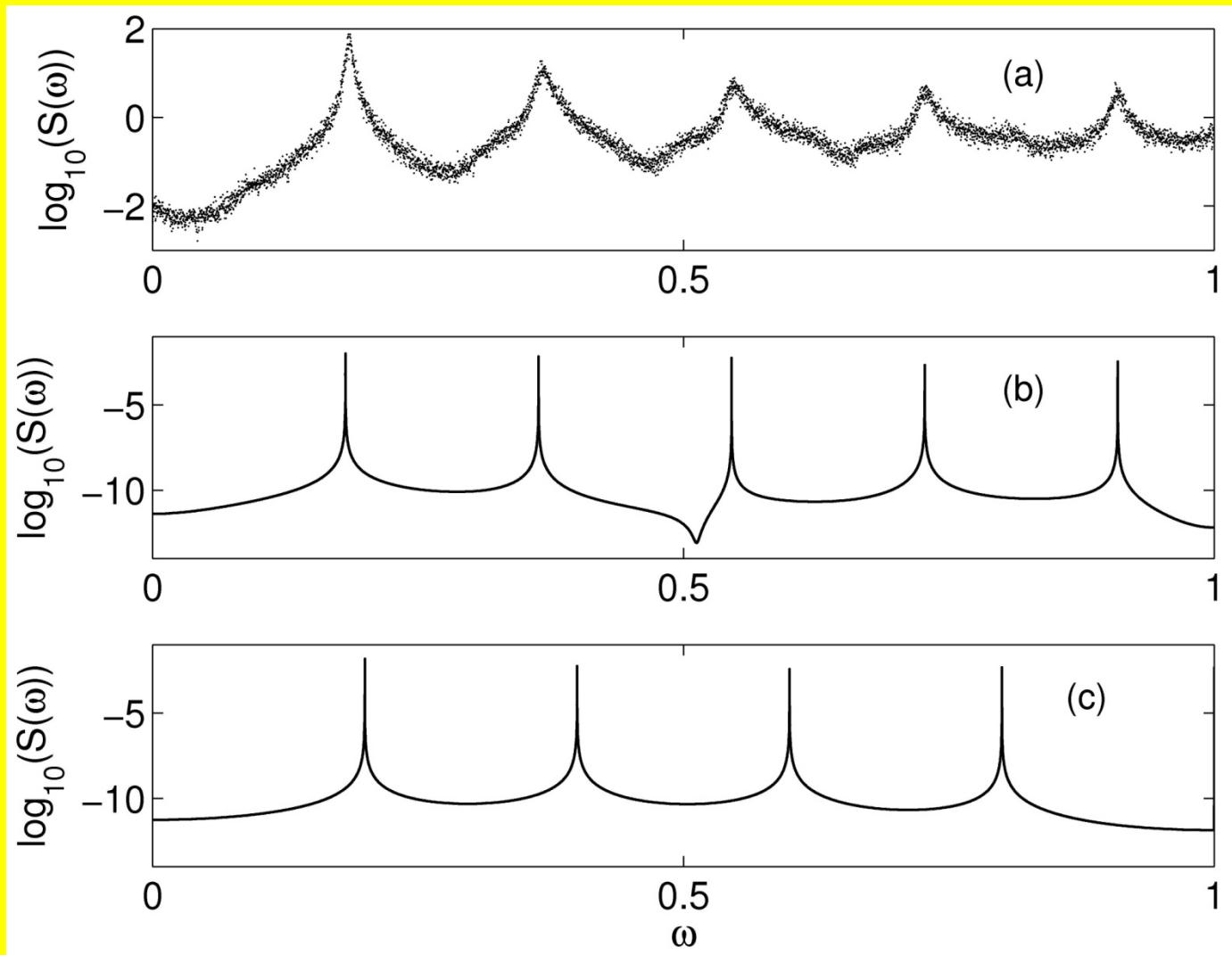
$Q=2.275$

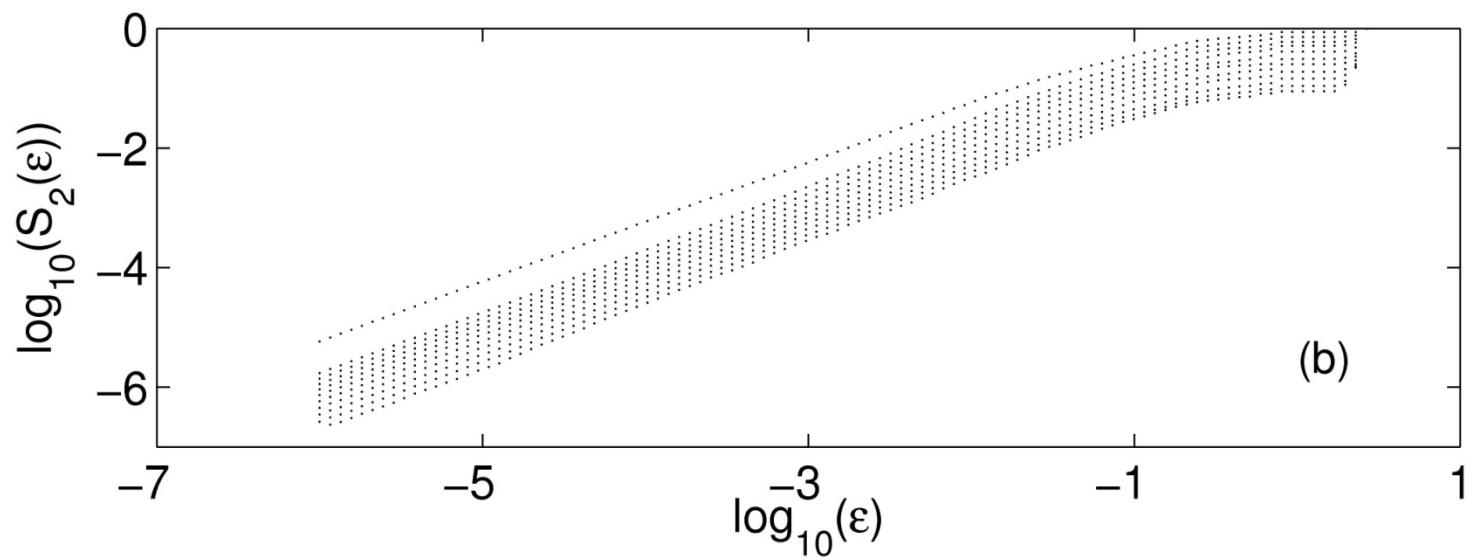
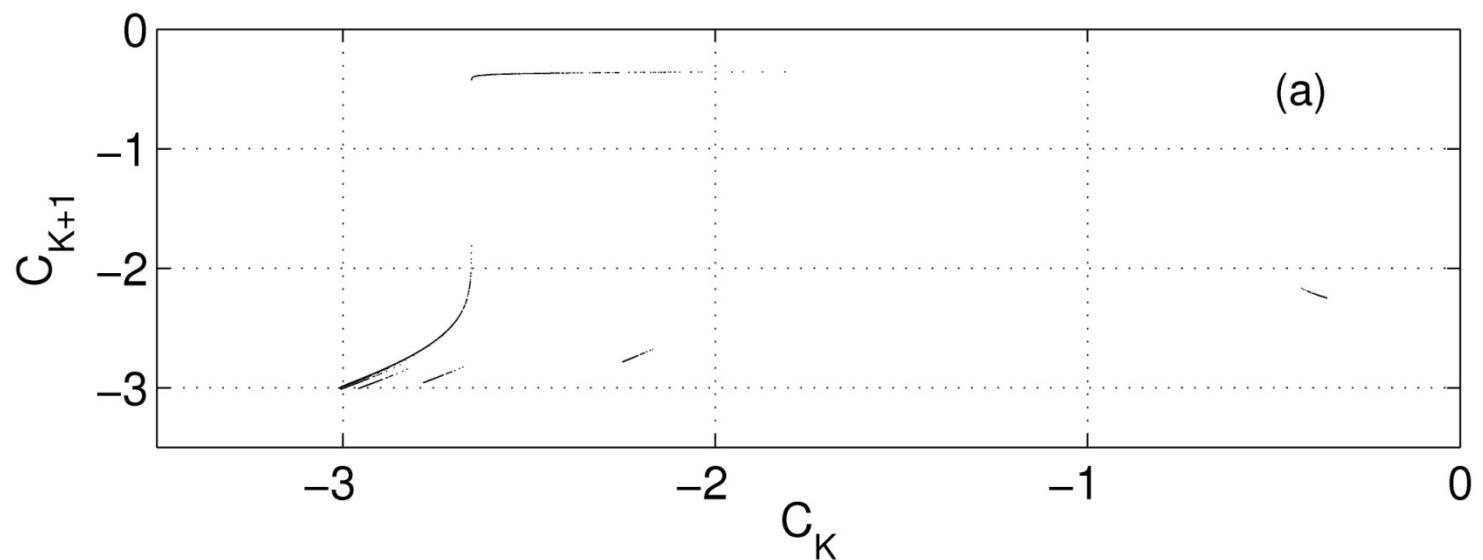


$Q=2.26$

# LSA-3D







## *5. Conclusions*

1. All the models are able to display the PQS Pulsations (spikes),  $\Pi(N)$ .  
Moreover, in all models,  
the  $\Pi(N)$  are organized  
along Isolas of periodic orbits.

## 5. Conclusions

with a gaseous saturable absorber in its cavity [2–6]. The two-level model [7] and the four-level model [8,9] for the laser system were not successful in reproducing chaotic PQS, while the three-level–two-level model (the 3-2 model) proposed by Tachikawa *et al.* [10] has given successful interpretations of the observed behaviors of the unstable laser oscillation. In the 3-2 model, the vibrational relaxa-

T. Tohei et al, PRA v. 45 p. 5166 (1992)

Nevertheless, there remained a qualitative discrepancy, since this four-level model is unable to predict the  $P^{(n)}$  regimes observed experimentally. A definite step

M. Lefranc *et al.*, JOSA B v. 8 p.239 (1991).

## *5. Conclusions*

2. The numerical continuation of a few periodic orbits explains to a good extent the phase diagram (simulations): the period-adding cascades and the windows, the observables.

## *5. Conclusions*

3. The subtle differences among the models – such as the number of windows- can help to determine consistently the validity of the models in a given experiment.

C.L. Pando L., PLA v.210 p.391 (1996).

E.J. Doedel, B. Oldeman, C.L. Pando L.,  
IJBC v. 21 p.305 (2011),

E.J. Doedel, C.L. Pando L.,  
Accepted in PRE, 2011

¡Thank You for your attention!

