

Classical and Fractional-Order Analysis of the Free and Forced Double Pendulum

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Abstract

This paper presents the fractional-order dynamics of the double pendulum by means of fractional-order modeling. Equations of motion have been derived for cases with and without external forcing. Generalized force terms have been obtained for five different cases of forcing. Both integer and fractional-order analysis have been carried out. Phase diagrams have been plotted to visualize the effect of fractional order approach. The originality of this work arises from the fact that the double pendulum has been modeled with the fractional dynamics approach. The governing equations of motion of the system have been obtained through fractional variational principles.

Keywords: Double Pendulum, Fractional Dynamics, Lagrangian Dynamics

1. Introduction

The double pendulum is a system made of a simple pendulum attached to the end of another simple pendulum, displaying rich dynamic behavior (**Figure 1**). The motion of a double pendulum becomes chaotic above a certain energy level. It has attracted the attention of many researchers due to its complex behavior, including chaotic behavior. A close inspection at a simple mechanical system such as the double pendulum exhibits a remarkable variety of motions. By examining its dynamics with and without an external force, the system gives the researcher essential ideas of linearity and non-linearity, including chaos. Some important properties and constants which can be measured in systems characterized as “pendulum type systems” are gravitational constant, viscosity, attraction of charged particles and time. Besides, some of the classical, chaotic and quantum dynamics concepts, such as period, frequency, resonance, conservation of energy, conservation of angular momentum, forcing, harmonic motion, dissipation, damping, linearization assumption, Fourier spectra, bifurcation, period doubling, non-linearity, chaotic behavior, phase diagrams, Poincare maps, fractal structures, the Lorentz attractor, quantum pendulum, duality, probability amplitude, uncertainty and the discrete energy spectrum, can all be easily defined through the dynamics of a pendulum. The preced-

ing reasons are quite enough to make the pendulum dynamics attractive.

Advances in high capacity computer technology and non-linear dynamics turn the attention of scientists and engineers to fractional variational principles, due to their various applications in many fields of science and engineering, including dynamics, fluid flow, rheology, diffusion phenomena, electromagnetic theory, electrical networks and probability. Application of fractional-order dynamics in these fields can be found in open literature, however the trend seems that hardly any field in science or engineering has remained untouched by the fractional approach.

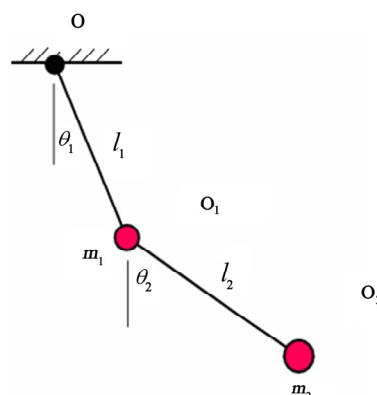


Figure 1. The double pendulum.

The double pendulum has attracted the interest of many researchers due to its remarkable dynamics as a prominent example of transition to chaos, despite its simple structure. The characteristics of its motion change significantly as its energy level increases. The forces in the double pendulum system have been computed in [1] and periodic, quasi-periodic and chaotic orbits have been identified. Existence of irregular vibrations and both periodic and chaotic trajectories of a mathematical double pendulum system is proven in [2]. Stabilization of a double pendulum with an elastic motor shaft in inverted position is achieved experimentally in [3]. The nonlinear response of a three degree of freedom vibratory system with a double pendulum in the neighborhood of internal and external resonances is investigated. It is stated that one mode of vibration may excite or damp another in such systems, and there may appear chaotic vibrations along with different kinds of periodic vibrations in [4]. The analogy between a double pendulum and an oscillating electrical system is established in [5] and the chaotic regime of the circuit is studied. The numerical analysis of chaos in [6] confirms the passing of the system from regular low-energy motion into chaos as energy is increased, by making use of bifurcation diagrams, Poincaré sections and Lyapunov exponents.

Fractional calculus extends differentiation and integration from integer-order space into fractional space. Fractional-order modeling describes various physical phenomena such as viscoelasticity, diffusion, polarization or electromagnetic waves. Fractional dynamics has gained increasing popularity by researchers over the years. In the case of oscillatory problems or the dynamics of a pendulum, what is generally done is that systems are modeled using classical integer-order approach, and then some of the integer-order differential terms are replaced by fractional-order differentials, instead of modeling the system directly and completely using fractional approach. For example, in [7] the damping term of the Duffing equation is replaced by a fractional derivative, and then the chaotic dynamics of the system has been examined. Likewise, Duffing's equation is cast into a set of first-order differential equations in [8], and then the conventional derivative expressions are replaced by fractional derivatives. In the same manner, classical time derivatives in the state space equations of the Van der Pol oscillator are replaced by fractional ones in [9]. Fractional damping has also been applied to a pendulum system in [10].

In this study, the dynamics of the double pendulum has been modeled using fractional dynamics approach. In order to show the similarities and differences between the solution sets, both classical and fractional modeling approaches are applied to the double pendulum problem.

Classical integer-order and fractional-order modeling of the double pendulum are carried out under five different forcing conditions and three sets of initial conditions. Generalized forces have been obtained for each case of forcing, which are horizontal, vertical, and axial forcing at the tip of the second arm, vertical forcing through the center of gravity of the second arm, and the generalized case of forcing. Effects of fractional order modeling on the dynamics of the double pendulum are observed and presented visually through trajectory diagrams and phase diagrams in Section 7.

The organization of this paper is as follows. Equations of motion of the free, integer-order double pendulum are derived in Section 2. Fractional calculus is introduced and equations of motion are derived through fractional principles in Section 3. Generalized force terms related to each case of forcing are derived in Section 4. Terms derived in Sections 2-4 are combined to give the global equations of motion in Section 5. Initial conditions used in the calculations are given in Section 6. Diagrams and results are given in Sections 7 and 8.

2. Double Pendulum and the Equations of Motion

Equations of motion of the double pendulum can be derived using Lagrange's equation

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}_i} \right) - \frac{\partial L}{\partial q_i} = Q_i \quad (1)$$

where $L = T - V$ is defined as the Lagrangian of the system, T is the kinetic energy, and V is the potential energy of the system. The motion of the double pendulum has two generalized coordinates, θ_1 and θ_2 , as seen in **Figure 1**, resulting in two equations of motion pertaining to the dynamics of the double pendulum.

It should be noticed that the generalized force $Q_i = 0$ when there is no external forcing function. The Lagrangian of the double pendulum in terms of the generalized coordinates θ_1 and θ_2 is

$$L = \frac{1}{2} m_1 l_1^2 \dot{\theta}_1^2 + \frac{1}{2} m_2 \left(l_1^2 \dot{\theta}_1^2 + l_2^2 \dot{\theta}_2^2 + 2l_1 l_2 \dot{\theta}_1 \dot{\theta}_2 \cos(\theta_2 - \theta_1) \right) + (m_1 + m_2) g l_1 \cos \theta_1 + m_2 g l_2 \cos \theta_2 \quad (2)$$

where m_1 and m_2 are the masses of the pendulum bobs located at points O_1 and O_2 , respectively, l_1 is the distance OO_1 , l_2 is the distance O_1O_2 , l_1 and l_2 are inextensible elements and g is the gravitational acceleration. Substituting Equation (2) into Equation (1) yields the equations of motion of the double pendulum.

$$(m_1 + m_2)l_1^2 \ddot{\theta}_1 + m_2 l_1 l_2 \ddot{\theta}_2 \cos(\theta_2 - \theta_1) - \tag{3}$$

$$m_2 l_1 l_2 \dot{\theta}_2^2 \sin(\theta_2 - \theta_1) + (m_1 + m_2) g l_1 \sin(\theta_1) = Q_1$$

$$m_2 l_2^2 \ddot{\theta}_2 + m_2 l_1 l_2 \ddot{\theta}_1 \cos(\theta_2 - \theta_1) + \tag{4}$$

$$m_2 l_1 l_2 \dot{\theta}_1^2 \sin(\theta_2 - \theta_1) + m_2 g l_2 \sin(\theta_2) = Q_2$$

where Q_1 and Q_2 are the generalized forces which will have nonzero values in the case of external forcing and vanish otherwise.

3. Fractional Calculus and Derivation of the Fractional Terms

Fractional calculus refers to generalization of derivatives and integrals into fractional, non-integer orders. The advantage of fractional calculus over classical integer-order calculus is that fractional-order derivatives describe the memory of a dynamical system. Interestingly, in relativistic mechanics, the motion of material objects is not always in three dimensions, it rather depends on restraint conditions. Researchers have extended integer space into fractional space as the dimension of space plays an important role in areas such as quantum field theory and Casimir effect. Even more interestingly, the dimension of the real world was measured experimentally and found to be 3 ± 10^{-6} . This is in accordance with general relativity that gravitational fields are curvatures in space-time, instead of being entities in a flat space-time [11].

There are several definitions of fractional derivatives, like Grünwald-Letkinov, Riemann-Liouville or Caputo formulations [12]. Right and left Riemann-Liouville fractional derivatives are [13], respectively

$$D^\alpha y(t) = \left(\frac{d}{dt}\right)^n I^{n-\alpha}, \quad \text{for } t > a \tag{5}$$

$$D^\alpha y(t) = \left(-\frac{d}{dt}\right)^n I^{n-\alpha}, \quad \text{for } t < b \tag{6}$$

where α , fulfilling the condition $0 < \alpha < 1$, is the fractional order, $n - 1 \leq \alpha < n$ and $I^{n-\alpha}$ terms are the Riemann-Liouville fractional integrals. It should be noted that replacing α with 1 gives classical integer-order derivatives.

Riemann-Liouville fractional integrals are given as

$$I^\alpha y(t) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \int_a^t \frac{y(\xi) d\xi}{(t-\xi)^{1-\alpha}}, \quad \text{for } t > a \tag{7}$$

$$I^\alpha y(t) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \int_t^b \frac{y(\xi) d\xi}{(\xi-t)^{1-\alpha}}, \quad \text{for } t < b \tag{8}$$

where Γ is the gamma function. For a Lagrangian function defined as $L(t, {}_a D_t^\beta q, {}_t D_b^\gamma q)$ [11] where ${}_a D_t^\beta q$

and ${}_t D_b^\gamma q$ denote the right and left fractional integrals of order β and γ , respectively, and q denotes the generalized coordinates, the Euler-Lagrange equations of motion for the unforced system are

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial q} + \frac{1}{(t-\xi)^{\alpha-1}} \left[{}_t D_b^\beta \left(\frac{\partial L}{\partial ({}_a D_t^\beta)} (t-\xi)^{\alpha-1} \right) + {}_a D_t^\gamma \left(\frac{\partial L}{\partial ({}_t D_b^\gamma)} (t-\xi)^{\alpha-1} \right) \right] = 0 \tag{9}$$

By definition, the Lagrangian is evidently obtained in terms of integer-order derivatives. Thus, it would be logical to substitute $\beta = 1$ and $\gamma = 1$. Moreover, the Lagrangian depends only on ${}_a D_t^\beta q$ or ${}_t D_b^\gamma q$, due to the fact that the double pendulum is a continuous system and the right and left derivatives are equal to each other. Therefore, the fractional equations of motion in the case of external forcing are

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}_i} \right) - \frac{\partial L}{\partial q_i} - \frac{\alpha-1}{t-\xi} \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}_i} = Q_i \tag{10}$$

It should be noticed that the right hand side of Equation (9) is zero since the Q_i term vanishes in unforced systems. The last term on the left side of Equation (10) is the consequence of fractional-order modeling. These additional terms associated with Equations (3) and (4) are written explicitly as

$$-\frac{\alpha-1}{t-\xi} \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}_1} = -\frac{\alpha-1}{t-\xi} \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{\theta}_1} \tag{11}$$

$$= -\frac{\alpha-1}{t-\xi} \left[(m_1 + m_2)l_1^2 \dot{\theta}_1 + m_2 l_1 l_2 \dot{\theta}_2 \cos(\theta_2 - \theta_1) \right]$$

$$-\frac{\alpha-1}{t-\xi} \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}_2} = -\frac{\alpha-1}{t-\xi} \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{\theta}_2} \tag{12}$$

$$= -\frac{\alpha-1}{t-\xi} \left[m_2 l_2^2 \dot{\theta}_2 + m_2 l_1 l_2 \dot{\theta}_1 \cos(\theta_2 - \theta_1) \right]$$

It is evident that replacing α with 1 in Equation (10) yields the Lagrangian equations of motion in integer space. This is due to the fact that that replacing α with 1 in definitions 5 and 6 yield integer-order derivatives.

4. Non-Conservative Forces and Derivation of the Generalized Forces

The following five cases of non-conservative forcing conditions have been assumed in this study.

- 1) Horizontal forcing: A periodic force of $A \cos \omega t$ has been applied to O_2 horizontally, as seen in **Figure 2**.
- 2) Vertical forcing: A periodic force of $A \cos \omega t$ has been applied to O_2 vertically, as seen in **Figure 3**.

- 3) Axial forcing: A periodic force of $A \cos \omega t$ has been applied to O_2 along the axis O_1O_2 , as seen in **Figure 4**.
- 4) Vertical forcing through the center of gravity of O_1O_2 : A periodic force of $A \cos \omega t$ has been applied to the center of gravity of O_1O_2 vertically, as seen in **Figure 5**. Since the arms are assumed to be homogenous, the point of application is the midpoint of O_1O_2 .
- 5) General forcing: A periodic force of $A \cos \omega t$, making an angle β with the vertical, has been applied to O_2 , as seen in **Figure 6**.

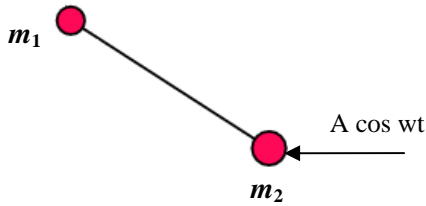


Figure 2. Case a—horizontal forcing.

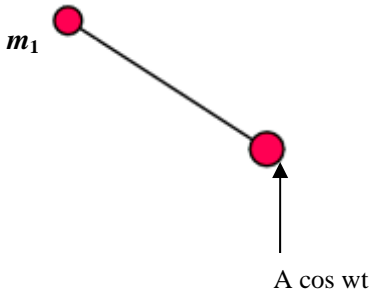


Figure 3. Case b—vertical forcing.

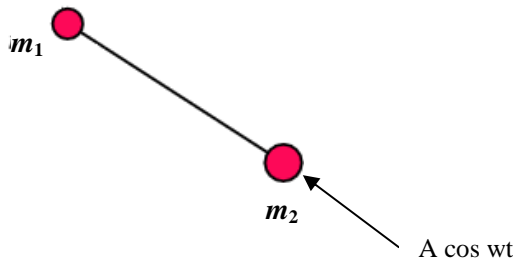


Figure 4. Case c—axial forcing.

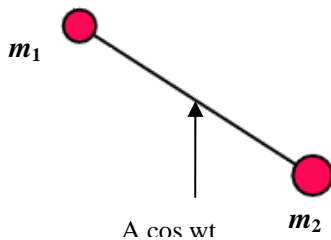


Figure 5. Case d—vertical forcing through the center of gravity of O_1O_2 .

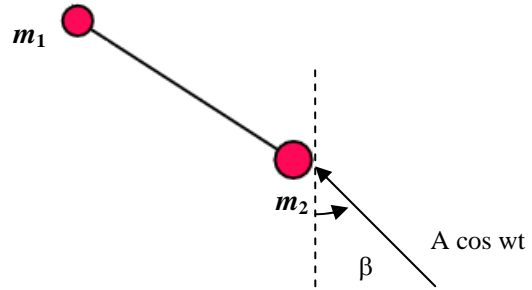


Figure 6. Case e—general forcing.

Generalized forces have been obtained using the relation

$$Q_k = \sum_{i=1}^n F_i \frac{\partial r_i}{\partial q_k} \tag{13}$$

where Q_k is the generalized force associated with the k^{th} equation of motion, F_i is the applied force, r_i is the position of the point of application and q_k is the generalized coordinate. Apparently, no generalized forces appear in the equations of free motion and the right hand sides of Equation (10) vanish. In matrix notation, the above relation can be given as

$$Q = r_q^T \cdot F \tag{14}$$

Generalized forces related to each of the forcing conditions given above were found as the following.

Case a Since O_2 is the point of application,

$$r = \begin{bmatrix} l_1 \sin \theta_1 + l_2 \sin \theta_2 \\ l_1 \cos \theta_1 + l_2 \cos \theta_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$r_q^T = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial r}{\partial q_1} & \frac{\partial r}{\partial q_2} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} l_1 \cos \theta_1 & -l_1 \sin \theta_1 \\ l_2 \cos \theta_2 & -l_2 \sin \theta_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$F = \begin{bmatrix} A \cos \omega t \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$Q = r_q^T \cdot F = \begin{bmatrix} l_1 \cos \theta_1 & -l_1 \sin \theta_1 \\ l_2 \cos \theta_2 & -l_2 \sin \theta_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} A \cos \omega t \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Thus, the generalized forces are

$$Q_1 = A \cos \omega t l_1 \cos \theta_1 \tag{15}$$

$$Q_2 = A \cos \omega t l_2 \cos \theta_2 \tag{16}$$

Case b Point of application is the same as in case a, and the applied force is

$$F = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ A \cos \omega t \end{bmatrix}$$

Thus, the generalized forces are

$$Q_1 = -A \cos \omega t l_1 \sin \theta_1 \tag{17}$$

$$Q_2 = -A \cos \omega t l_2 \sin \theta_2 \tag{18}$$

Case c Point of application is the same as in cases a and b, and the applied force is

$$F = \begin{bmatrix} A \cos \omega t \sin \theta_2 \\ A \cos \omega t \cos \theta_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Thus, the generalized forces are

$$Q_1 = A \cos \omega t l_1 \sin(\theta_2 - \theta_1) \quad (19)$$

$$Q_2 = 0 \quad (20)$$

Case d Point of application is the midpoint of O_1O_2 ,

$$r = \begin{bmatrix} l_1 \sin \theta_1 + \frac{l_2}{2} \sin \theta_2 \\ l_1 \cos \theta_1 + \frac{l_2}{2} \cos \theta_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Applied force is the same as in case b. Thus, the generalized forces are

$$Q_1 = -A \cos \omega t l_1 \sin \theta_1 \quad (21)$$

$$Q_2 = -A \cos \omega t \frac{l_2}{2} \sin \theta_2 \quad (22)$$

Case e Point of application is the same as in cases a, b and c, and the applied force is

$$F = \begin{bmatrix} A \cos \omega t \sin \beta \\ A \cos \omega t \cos \beta \end{bmatrix}$$

Thus, the generalized forces are

$$Q_1 = A \cos \omega t l_1 \sin(\beta - \theta_1) \quad (23)$$

$$Q_2 = A \cos \omega t l_2 \sin(\beta - \theta_2) \quad (24)$$

It should be observed that the generalized force terms in cases a, b and c (horizontal, vertical and axial forcing, respectively) can be derived from the generalized force term of case e. Replacing β in Equations (23,24) with $\pi/2$ yields Equations (15,16); replacing β with 0 yields Equations (17,18); and replacing β with θ_2 yields Equations (19,20). These are the results obtained by incorporating horizontal, vertical and axial forcing functions into the equations, respectively.

The generalized force terms 15-24 derived in this section constitute the right hand sides of the equations of motion of the forced double pendulum. Q_1 term represents the right hand side of the first equation of motion, which had been derived by differentiating the Lagrangian (2) with respect to θ_1 and its derivative, and likewise, Q_2 term represents the right hand side of the second equation of motion, which had been derived by differentiating the Lagrangian (2) with respect to θ_2 and its derivative. Apparently, both Q_1 and Q_2 will be equal to zero when there is no forcing function.

5. Equations of Motion

Equations describing the dynamics of the unforced dou-

ble pendulum were derived in Section 2. Fractional terms related to fractional-order modeling of the system were defined in section 3. Generalized forces pertaining to each of the five forcing conditions were derived in Section 4. The complete set of equations describing the motion of the double pendulum thus become

$$\begin{aligned} & (m_1 + m_2) l_1^2 \ddot{\theta}_1 + m_2 l_1 l_2 \ddot{\theta}_2 \cos(\theta_2 - \theta_1) - \\ & m_2 l_1 l_2 \dot{\theta}_2^2 \sin(\theta_2 - \theta_1) + (m_1 + m_2) g l_1 \sin(\theta_1) \\ & + \frac{\alpha - 1}{t - \xi} \left[(m_1 + m_2) l_1^2 \dot{\theta}_1 + m_2 l_1 l_2 \dot{\theta}_2 \cos(\theta_2 - \theta_1) \right] = Q_1 \\ & m_2 l_2^2 \ddot{\theta}_2 + m_2 l_1 l_2 \ddot{\theta}_1 \cos(\theta_2 - \theta_1) + m_2 l_1 l_2 \dot{\theta}_1^2 \sin(\theta_2 - \theta_1) \\ & + m_2 g l_2 \sin(\theta_2) + \frac{\alpha - 1}{t - \xi} \left[m_2 l_2^2 \dot{\theta}_2 + m_2 l_1 l_2 \dot{\theta}_1 \cos(\theta_2 - \theta_1) \right] = Q_2 \end{aligned} \quad (25)$$

Left hand sides of the equations comprise of the terms in Equations (3,4,11,12). The terms containing α indicate the additional terms resulting from the fractional-order model, as given in Equations (11,12). Right hand sides denote the generalized force terms resulting from the forcing functions. There is a specific set of values for Q_1 and Q_2 for each case of forcing, given by Equations (15-24).

6. Initial Conditions and Numerical Values

In this study, three different sets of initial conditions were considered. Each equation of motion was solved for each set of these initial conditions, which are set 1

$$\theta_1(0) = 1, \theta_2(0) = 2, \theta_1'(0) = 0, \theta_2'(0) = 0$$

set 2

$$\theta_1(0) = 1, \theta_2(0) = -1, \theta_1'(0) = 0, \theta_2'(0) = 0$$

set 3

$$\theta_1(0) = 0, \theta_2(0) = 0, \theta_1'(0) = 0, \theta_2'(0) = 0$$

where the angles are measured in radians. Sets 1 and 2 correspond to the case where the pendulum bob has an initial displacement from equilibrium position but no initial velocity while set 3 corresponds to the case where the pendulum bob has no initial displacement and no initial velocity. It should be noticed that the last set of initial conditions yields no motion in the unforced case and cases b, c, and d. These cases are vertical forcing, axial forcing and vertical forcing through the center of gravity of O_1O_2 , respectively. This is because $\theta_1(0) = 0, \theta_2(0) = 0$ is a stable equilibrium point. **Table 1** shows the cases considered in this study and the sets of boundary conditions utilized for each. Selected results will be presented in the following section.

$m_1 = m_2 = 1$ kg, $l_1 = l_2 = 1$ m and $g = 9.81$ m/s² in this study.

7. Results

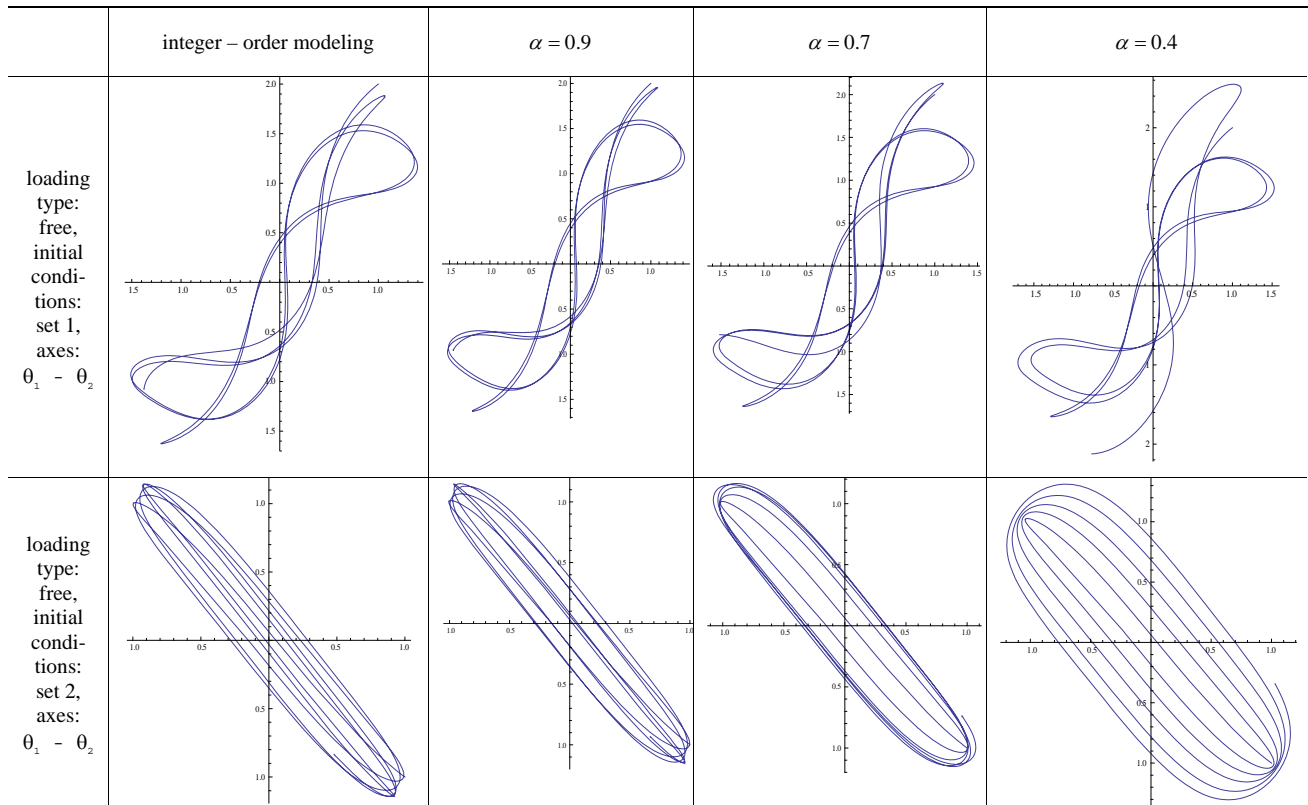
A quick inspection of **Table 1** reveals the cases examined in this study. The double pendulum has been modeled with and without external forcing, using both integer and fractional order modeling. It is stated above that the double pendulum cannot start its motion under null initial conditions in the unforced case and in cases of vertical forcing, axial forcing and forcing through the center of gravity of O_1O , not only when it is modeled

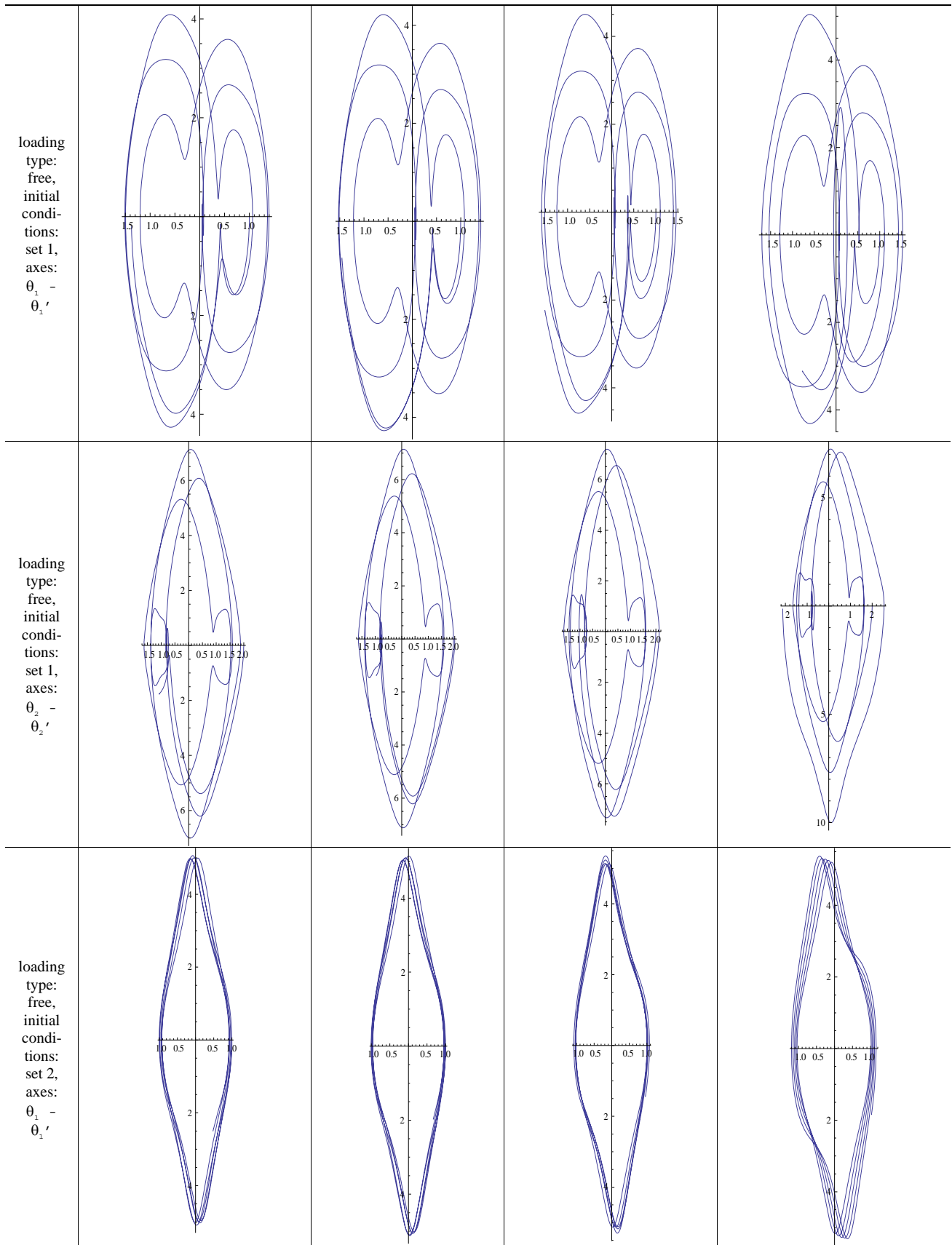
with the integer-order approach, but also the fractional approach. Equations modeling the dynamics of all the other cases have been solved and their phase diagrams have been plotted. Blank phase diagrams were obtained for the cases where the double pendulum was not supposed to move, which verifies the calculations. The effect of the fractional variable α_2 is observed. As α approaches 1, the results approach those obtained by integer-order modeling. This can be observed in the following figures in **Table 2**.

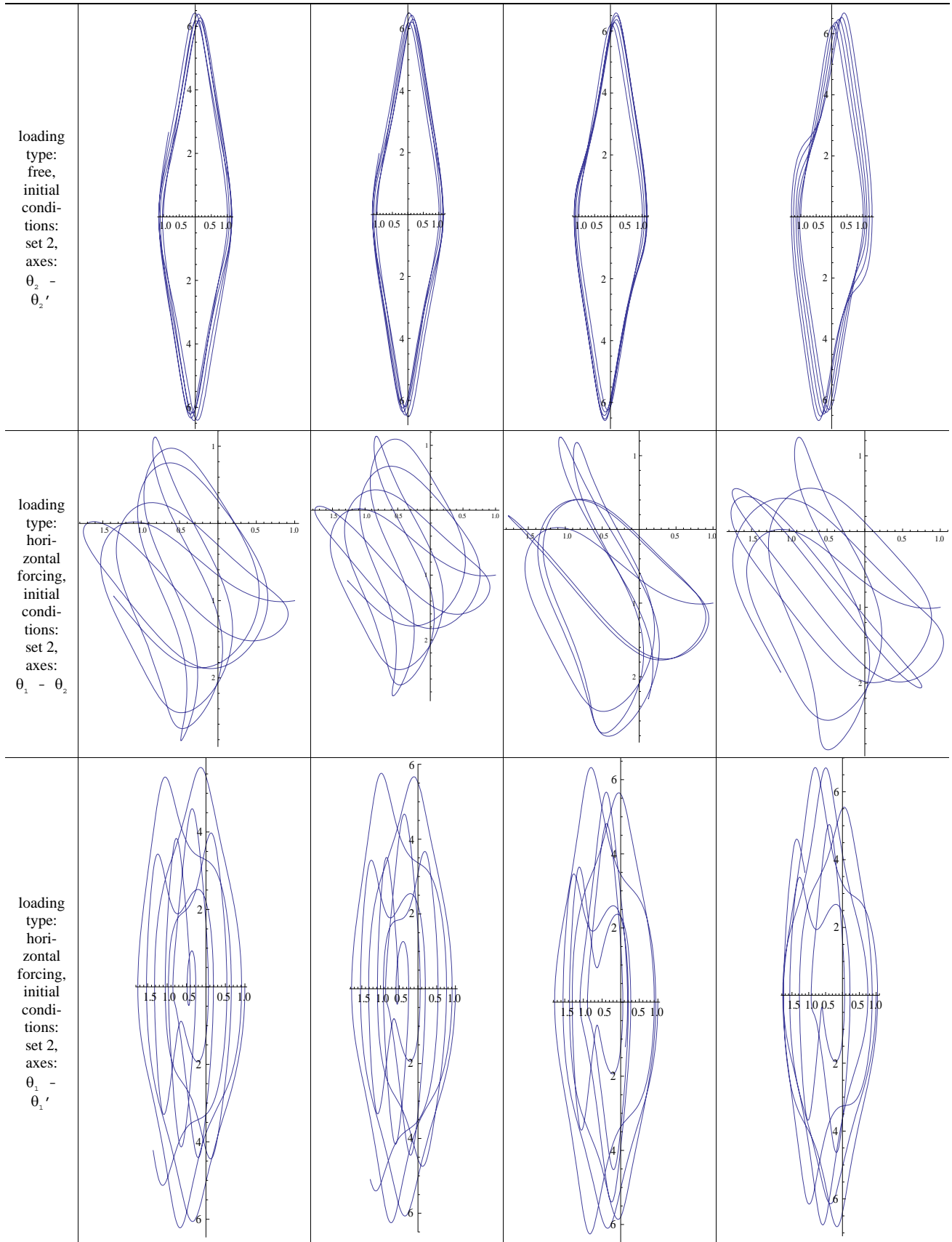
Table 1. Cases solved in this study.

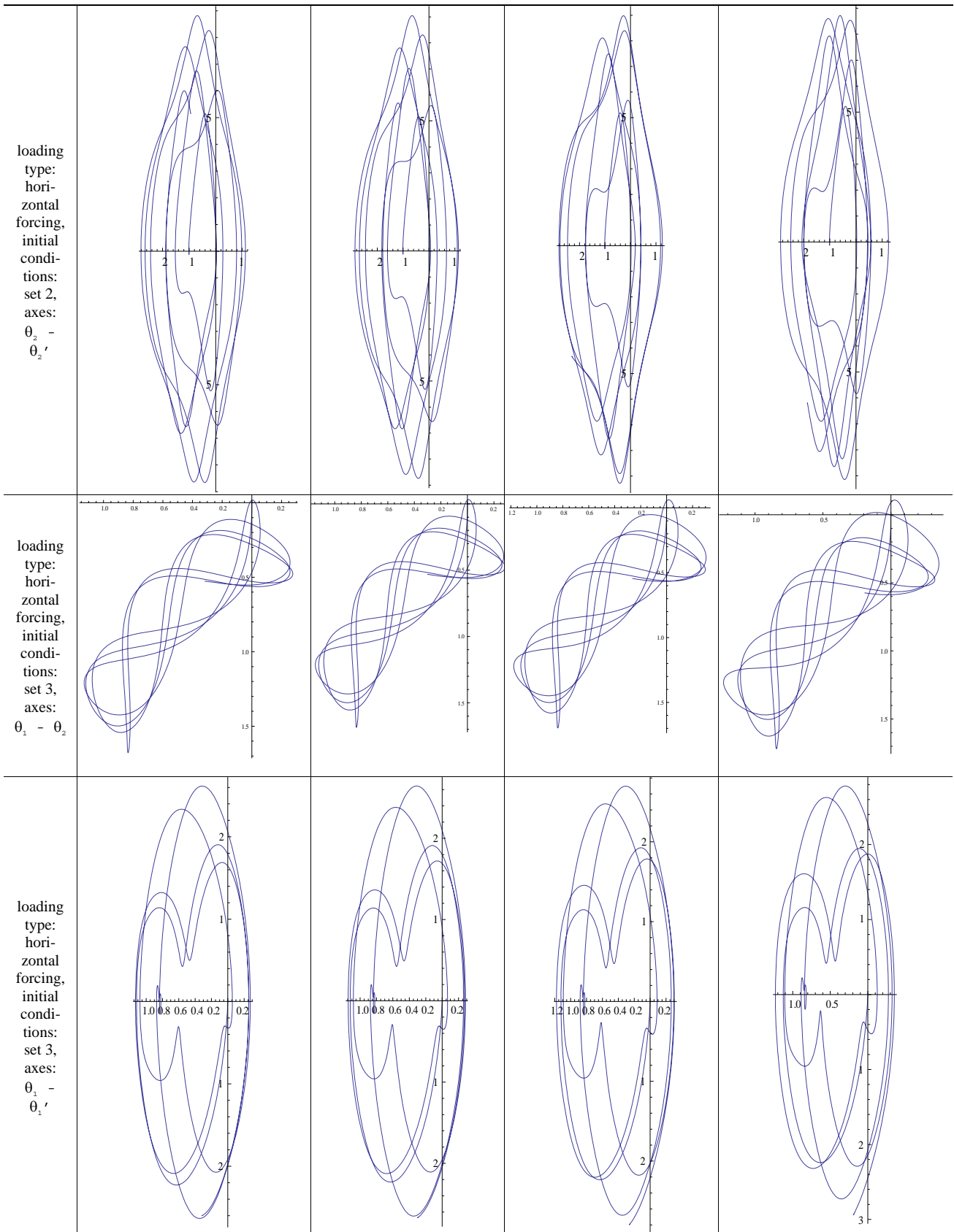
Loading type	Modeling	α	Initial conditions
Free	integer		sets 1 and 2
Free	fractional	0.4, 0.7, 0.9	sets 1 and 2
horizontal forcing	integer		sets 1, 2 and 3
horizontal forcing	fractional	0.4, 0.7, 0.9	sets 1, 2 and 3
vertical forcing	integer		sets 1 and 2
vertical forcing	fractional	0.4, 0.7, 0.9	sets 1 and 2
axial forcing	integer		sets 1 and 2
axial forcing	fractional	0.4, 0.7, 0.9	sets 1 and 2
vertical forcing through cg of O_1O_2	integer		sets 1 and 2
vertical forcing through cg of O_1O_2	fractional	0.4, 0.7, 0.9	sets 1 and 2
general forcing	integer		sets 1, 2 and 3
general forcing	fractional	0.4, 0.7, 0.9	sets 1, 2 and 3

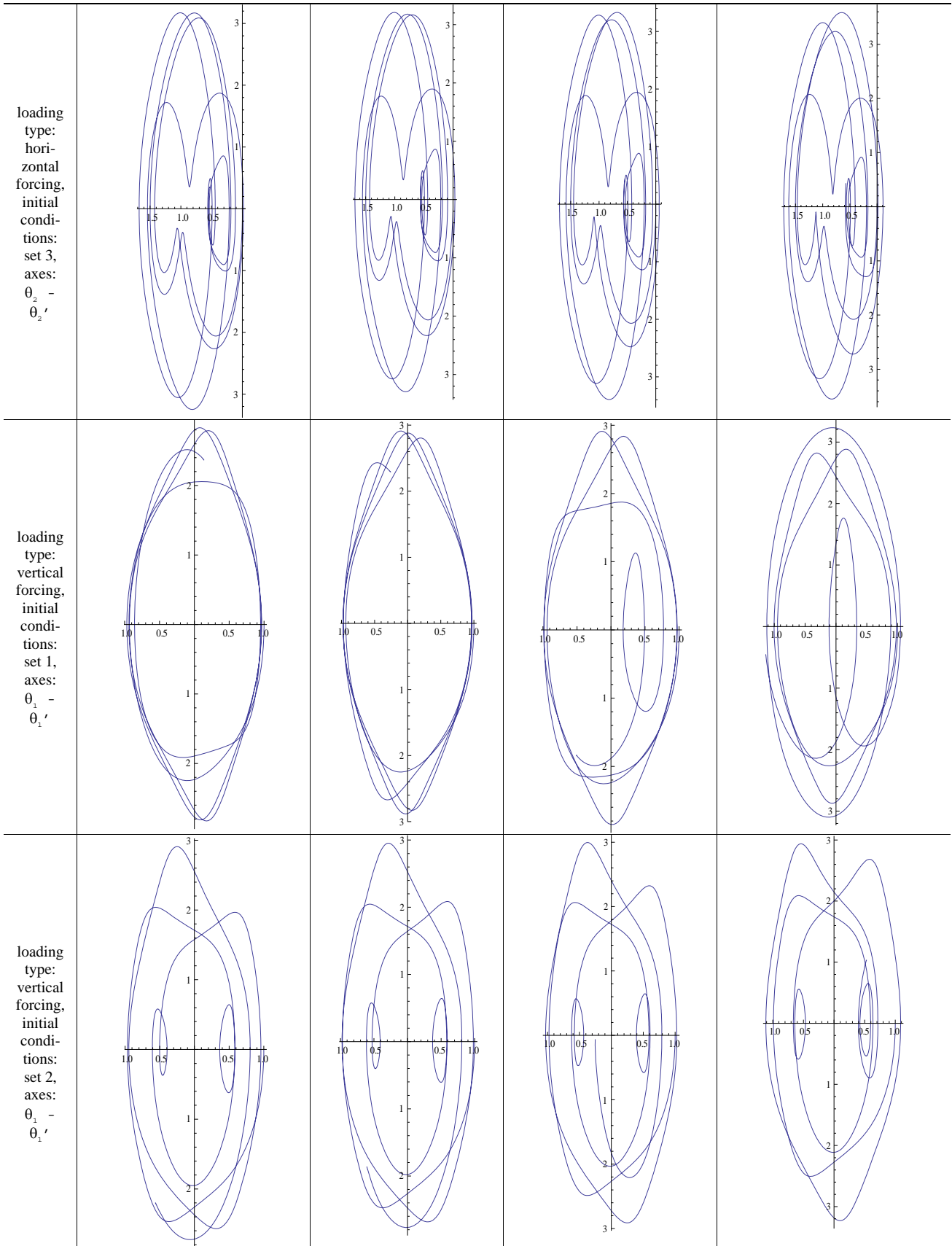
Table 2. Phase diagrams and trajectory diagrams.

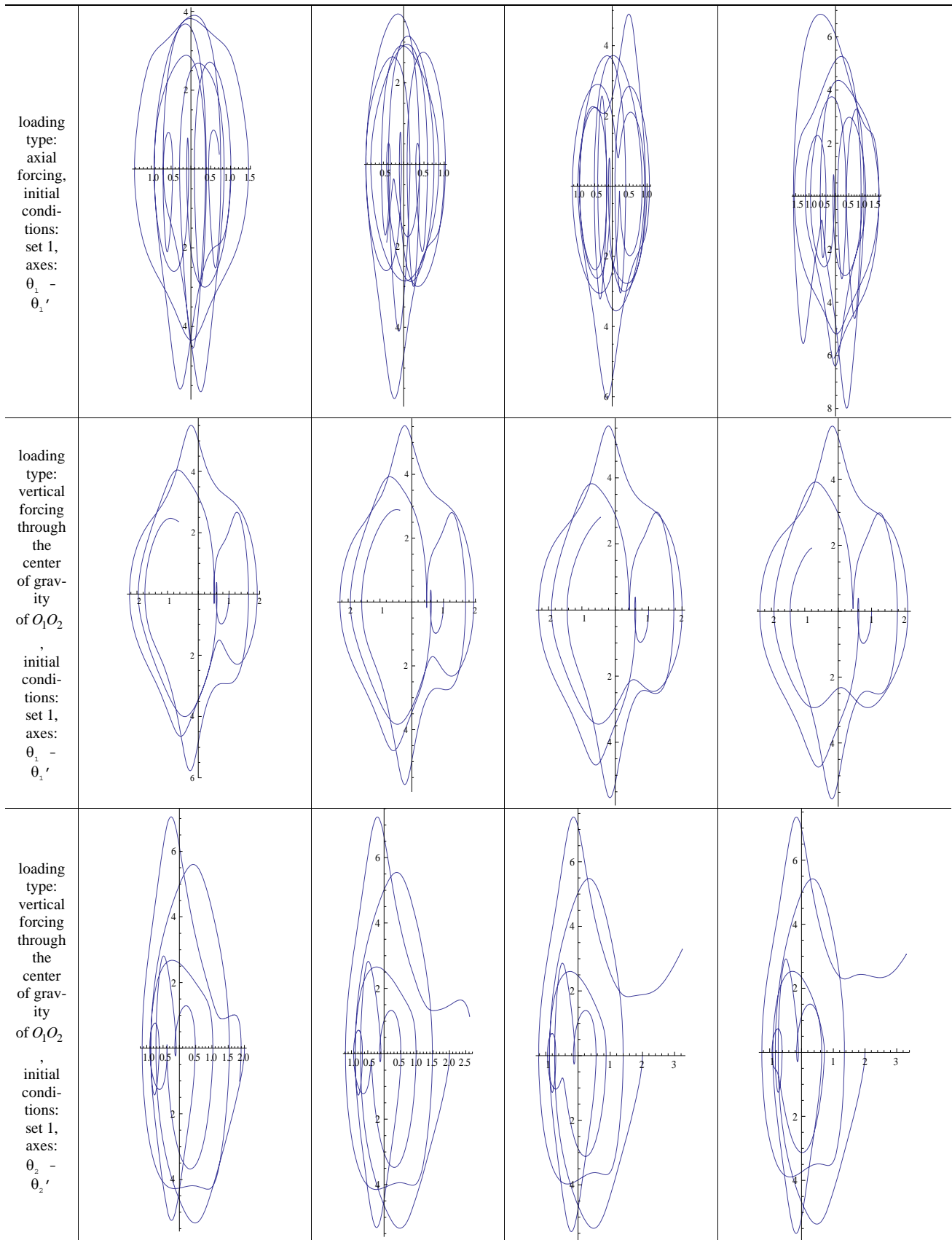


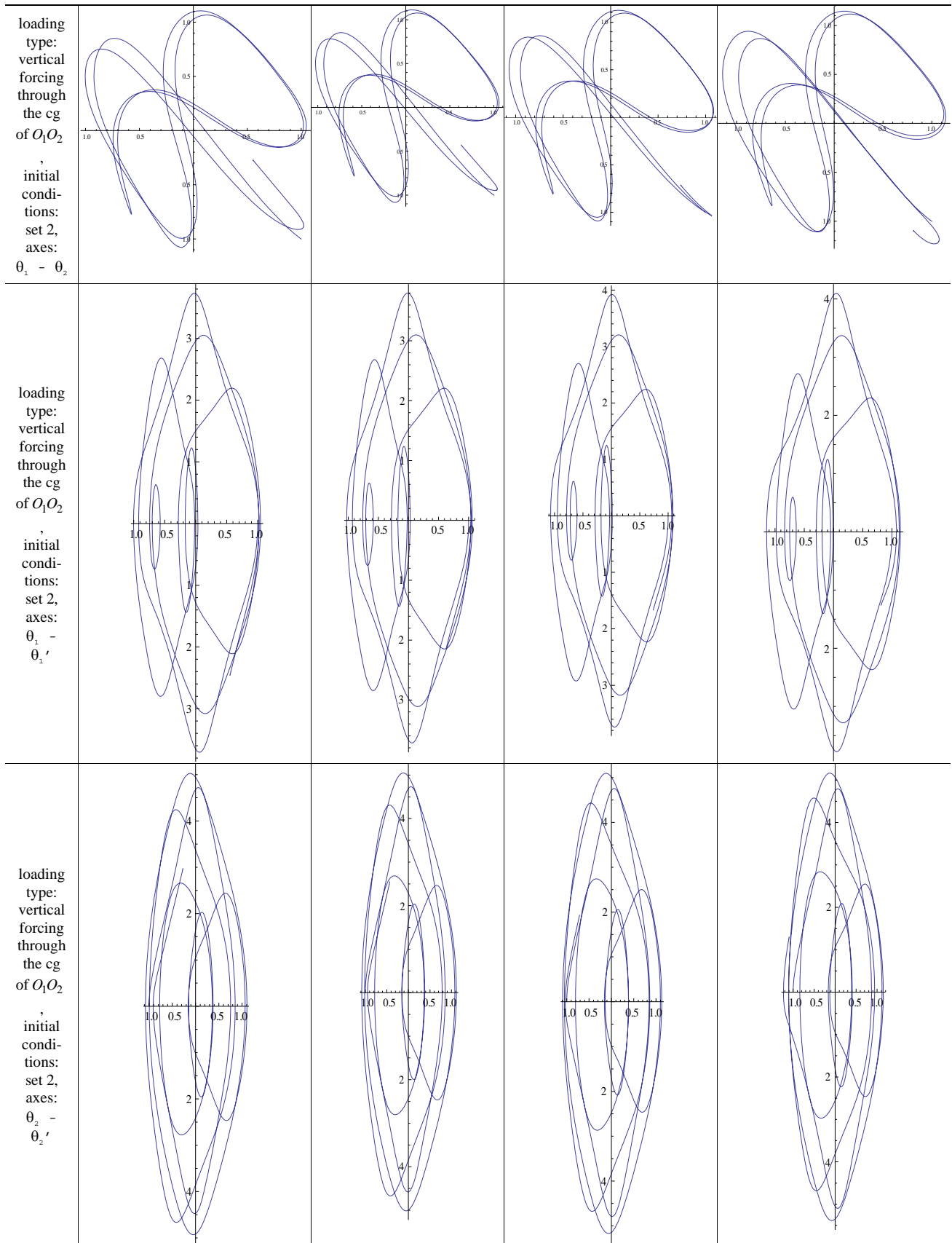


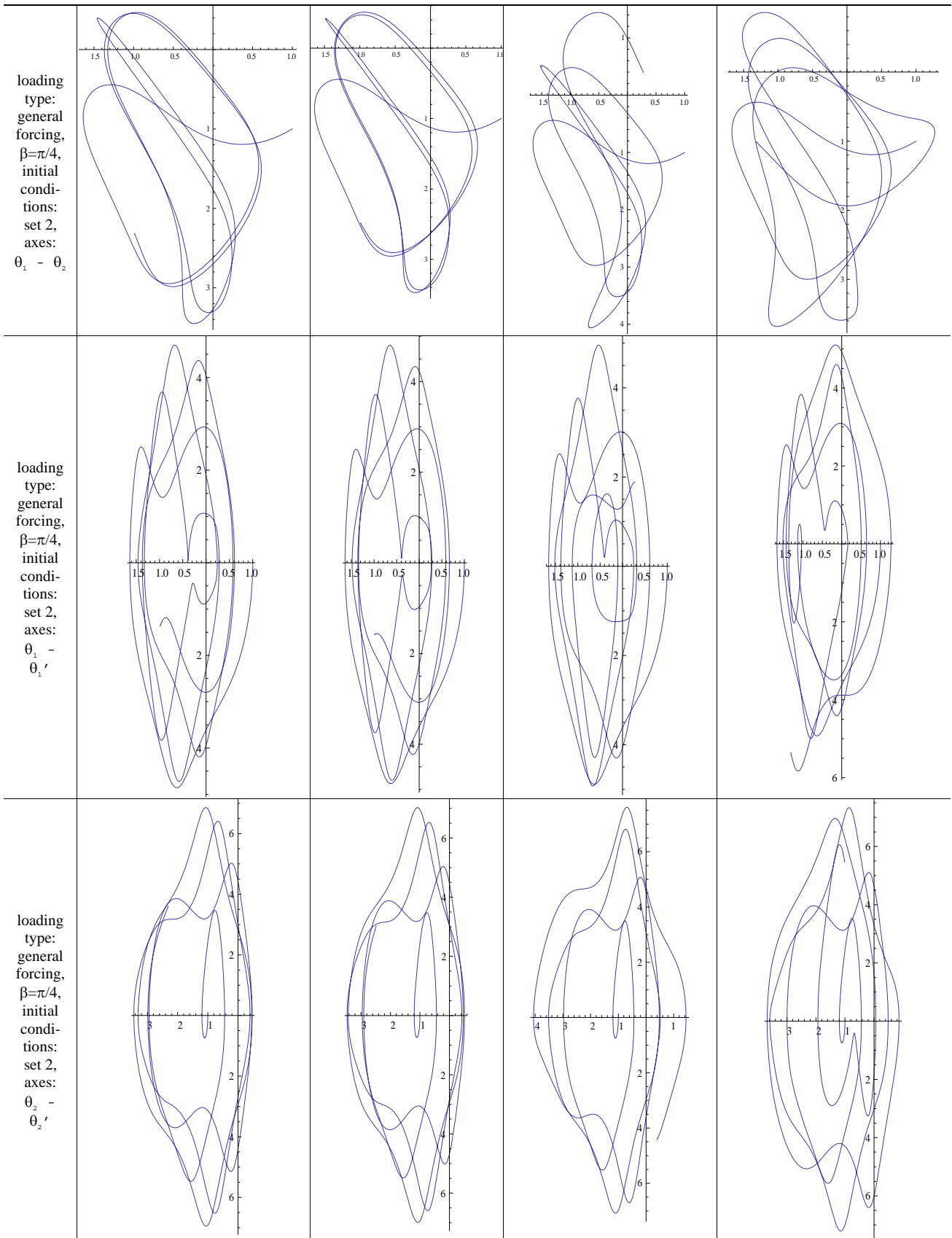


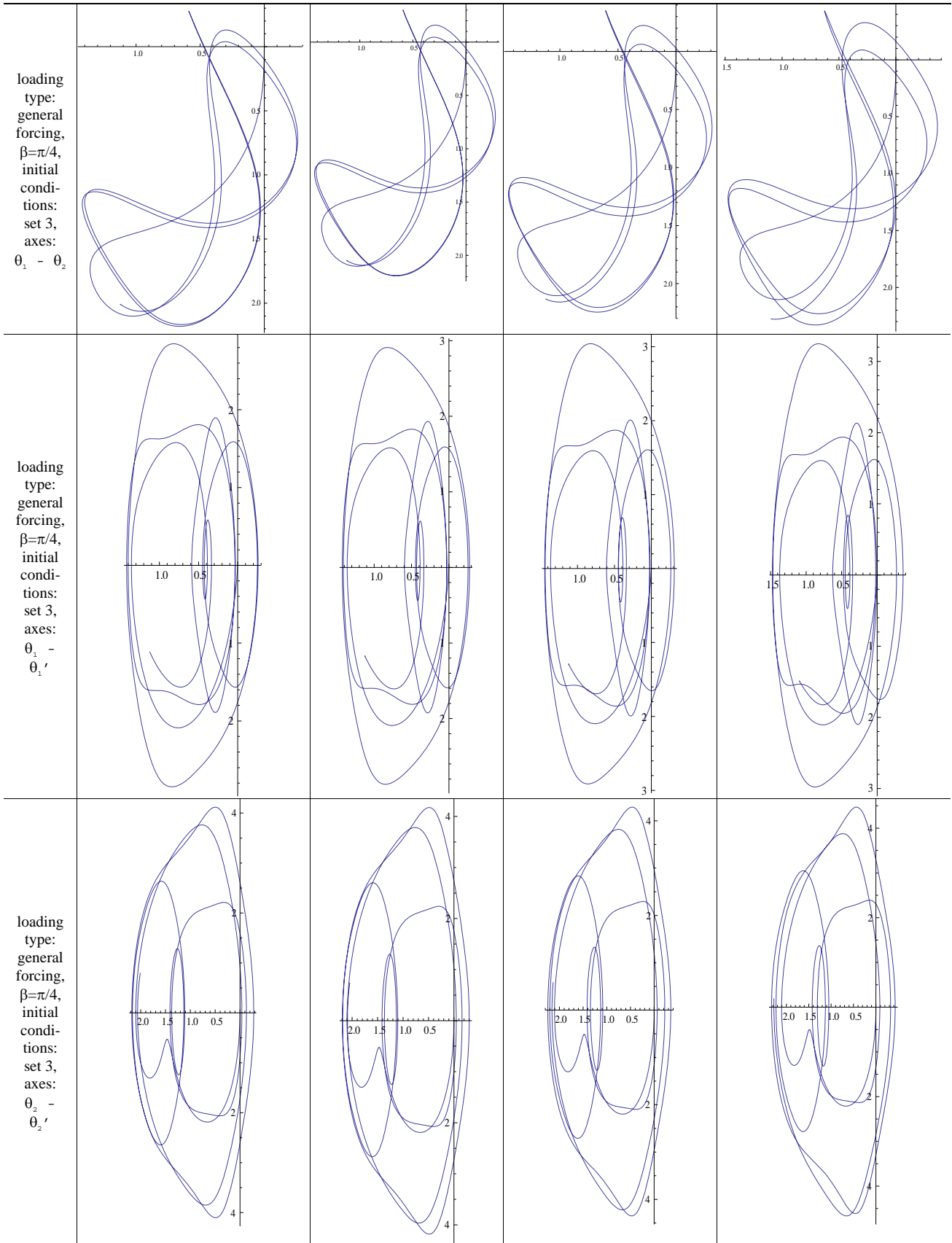












In addition, this study can be used as a source for modeling pendulum-type structures in fractional space, since the governing equations are derived using a step by step procedure and the differences between integer modeling and fractional-order modeling are outlined. Physically possible initial conditions are applied in both modeling approaches and the results are presented graphically.

8. Discussion

Integer and fractional-order modeling of the double pendulum are done under various forcing conditions and three different sets of initial conditions. Three different values have been used for the fractional order α . It was observed that as α approaches 1, phase diagrams converge to those obtained by integer-order modeling. However, experiments should be conducted to obtain more realistic results about whether fractional-order models are more accurate than integer-order models.

9. References

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