## Escape from potential wells in multi-dimensional systems: experiments and partial control

Shane Ross<br>Engineering Mechanics Program, Virginia Tech<br>Dept. of Biomedical Engineering and Mechanics<br>shaneross.com

Amir BozorgMagham (Maryland), Lawrie Virgin (Duke), Shibabrat Naik (Virginia Tech)

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## Intermittency and chaotic transitions

e.g., transitioning across "bottlenecks" in phase space; 'metastability'


## Multi-well multi-degree of freedom systems

- Examples: chemistry, vehicle dynamics, structural mechanics





## Transitions through bottlenecks via tubes



Topper [1997]

- Wells connected by phase space transition tubes $\simeq S^{1} \times \mathbb{R}$ for 2 DOF
- Conley, McGehee, 1960s
— Llibre, Martínez, Simó, Pollack, Child, 1980s
- De Leon, Mehta, Topper, Jaffé, Farrelly, Uzer, MacKay, 1990s
— Gómez, Koon, Lo, Marsden, Masdemont, Ross, Yanao, 2000s


## Motion near saddles

Near rank 1 saddles in $N$ DOF, linearized vector field eigenvalues are

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$\square$ Equilibrium point is of type saddle $\times$ center $\times \cdots \times$ center $(N-1$ centers).


the saddle-space projection and $N-1$ center projections - the $N$ canonical planes

## Motion near saddles

$\square$ For excess energy $\Delta E>0$ above the saddle, there's a normally hyperbolic invariant manifold (NHIM) of bound orbits

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$\square N=2, \omega=\omega_{2}$,

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$$

$\mathcal{M}_{\Delta E} \simeq S^{1}$, a periodic orbit of period $T_{\mathrm{po}}=2 \pi / \omega$

## Motion near saddles: 2 DOF

$\square$ Cylindrical tubes of orbits asymptotic to $\mathcal{M}_{\Delta E}$ : stable and unstable invariant manifolds, $W_{ \pm}^{s}\left(\mathcal{M}_{\Delta E}\right), W_{ \pm}^{u}\left(\mathcal{M}_{\Delta E}\right) \simeq \simeq S^{1} \times \mathbb{R}$
$\square$ Enclose transitioning trajectories


## Motion near saddles: 2 DOF

- B : bounded orbits (periodic): $S^{1}$
- A : asymptotic orbits to 1 -sphere: $S^{1} \times \mathbb{R}$ (tubes)
- T : transitioning and NT : non-transitioning orbits.



## Tube dynamics - global picture

## Poincare Section $U_{i}$


$\square$ Tube dynamics: All transitioning motion between wells connected by bottlenecks must occur through tube

- Imminent transition regions, transitioning fractions
- Consider $k$ Poincaré sections $U_{i}$, various excess energies $\Delta E$

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- celestial mechanics, asteroid escape rates e.g., Jaffe, Ross, Lo, Marsden, Farrelly, Uzer [2002]




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- Structural mechanics
- re-configurable deformation of flexible objects


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Virgin, Lyman, Davis [2010] Am. J. Phys.

## Ball rolling on a surface - 2 DOF

- The potential energy is $V(x, y)=g H(x, y)$, where the surface is arbitrary, e.g., we chose

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H(x, y)=\alpha\left(x^{2}+y^{2}\right)-\beta\left(\sqrt{x^{2}+\gamma}+\sqrt{y^{2}+\gamma}\right)-\xi x y+H_{0}
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typical experimental trial

## Transition tubes in the rolling ball system



## Transition tubes in the rolling ball system



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transition tube from quadrant 1 to 2


## Transition tubes in the rolling ball system



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- Area of the transitioning region, the tube cross-section (MacKay [1990])

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A_{\text {trans }}=T_{\mathrm{po}} \Delta E
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- For slightly larger values of $\Delta E$, there will be a correction term leading to a decreasing slope,

$$
\frac{\partial p_{\text {trans }}}{\partial \Delta E}=\frac{T_{\mathrm{po}}}{A_{0}}\left(1-2 \frac{\tau}{A_{0}} \Delta E\right)
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- avoid a transition in the presence of a disturbance which is larger than the control


## Partial control - safe set $S$

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Region to be avoided in white


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Region to be avoided in white - could include holes

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## Tubes leading to capsize



## Partial control to avoid capsize




- Safe set shown when disturbance (red) is random ocean waves and smaller control (green) is via steering or control moment gyroscope
- Could inform control schemes to avoid capsize in rough seas


## Partial control to avoid capsize


initial set $Q$

safe set $S$

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## Next steps - structural mechanics



Buckling, bending, twisting, and crumpling of flexible bodies

- adaptive structures that can bend, fold, and twist to provide advanced engineering opportunities for deployable structures, mechanical sensors


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- Future work:
- analysis and control of transitions in other multi-DOF systems
e.g., triggering and avoidance of buckling in flexible structures, capsize avoidance for ships in rough seas and floating structures


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## Papers in preparation; check status at: shaneross.com

