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

Shane Ross

Engineering Mechanics Program, Virginia Tech Dept. of Biomedical Engineering and Mechanics

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]

- \bullet 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

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□ Equilibrium point is of type saddle × center × · · · × center (N - 1 centers).



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

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□ So, $\mathcal{M}_{\Delta E} \simeq S^{2N-3}$, topologically, a (2N-3)-sphere □ N = 2, $\omega = \omega_2$, $\mathcal{M}_{\Delta E} = \left\{ \frac{\omega}{2} \left(p_2^2 + q_2^2 \right) = \Delta E \right\}$ $\mathcal{M}_{\Delta E} \simeq S^1$, a periodic orbit of period $T_{\text{po}} = 2\pi/\omega$

Motion near saddles: 2 DOF

- Cylindrical **tubes** of orbits asymptotic to $\mathcal{M}_{\Delta E}$: stable and unstable invariant manifolds, $W^s_+(\mathcal{M}_{\Delta E}), W^u_+(\mathcal{M}_{\Delta E}), \simeq S^1 \times \mathbb{R}$
- 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



De Leon [1992]

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 ΔE

• Good agreement with **direct numerical simulation**

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



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 ship stability / capsize, etc.

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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) = gH(x,y), where the surface is arbitrary, e.g., we chose

$$H(x,y) = \alpha(x^{2} + y^{2}) - \beta(\sqrt{x^{2} + \gamma} + \sqrt{y^{2} + \gamma}) - \xi xy + H_{0}.$$



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typical experimental trial






























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and

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• The transitioning fraction, under well-mixed assumption,

$$p_{\text{trans}} = \frac{A_{\text{trans}}}{A_{\Delta E}}$$
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• For slightly larger values of ΔE , there will be a correction term leading to a decreasing slope,

$$\frac{\partial p_{\text{trans}}}{\partial \Delta E} = \frac{T_{\text{po}}}{A_0} \left(1 - 2\frac{\tau}{A_0} \Delta E \right)$$






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— avoid a transition in the presence of a disturbance which is larger than the control



Region to be avoided in white



Region to be avoided in white - could include holes

















Partial control - safe set S



Control smaller than disturbance



• Model built around Hamiltonian,

$$H = p_x^2 / 2 + R^2 p_y^2 / 4 + V(x, y),$$

where x = roll and y = pitch are coupled



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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

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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