

# On Some Mathematical Topics in Classic Synchronization

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## **Abstract**

A few mathematical problems arising in the classical synchronization theory are discussed; especially those relating to complex dynamics. The roots of the theory originate in the pioneering experiments by van der Pol and van der Mark, followed by the theoretical studies done by Cartwright and Littlewood. Today we focus specifically on the problem on a periodically forced stable limit cycle emerging from a homoclinic loop to a saddle point. Its analysis allows us to single out the regions of simple and complex dynamics, as well as to yield a comprehensive description of bifurcational phenomena in the two-parameter case. Of a particular value among ones is the global bifurcation of a saddle-node periodic orbit. For this bifurcation, we

prove a number of theorems on birth and breakdown of nonsmooth invariant tori.

## 1 Introduction. Homoclinic loop under periodic forcing

The following two problems are the enduring ones in the classic theory of synchronization: the first is on the behavior of an oscillatory system forced by a periodic external force and the second is on the interaction between two coupled oscillatory systems. Both cases give a plethora of dynamical regimes that occur at different parameter regions. Here a control parameter can be the amplitude and frequency of the external force or the strength of the coupling in the second problem.

In terms of the theory of dynamical systems the goal is to find a synchronization region in the parameter space that corresponds to the existence of a stable periodic orbit, and next describe the ways synchronization is lost on the boundaries of such a region.

Since a system under consideration will be high dimensional (the phase space is of dimension three in the simplest case and up) one needs the whole arsenal of tools of the today's dynamical systems theory.

However our drill can be simplified substantially if the amplitude of the external force (or the coupling strength)  $\mu$  is sufficiently small. So when  $|\mu| \ll 1$ , a two-dimensional invariant torus replaces the original limit cycle. The behavior of the trajectories on this torus is given by the following diffeomorphism of the circle:

$$\bar{\theta} = \theta + \omega + \mu f(\theta, \mu) \pmod{2\pi}, \quad (1)$$

where  $f$  is  $2\pi$ -periodic in  $\theta$ , and  $\omega$  measures the difference in frequencies. The typical  $(\omega, \mu)$ -parameter plane of (1) looks like one shown in Fig.1. In theory, each rational value  $\omega$  on the axis  $\mu = 0$  is an apex for a synchronization zone known as Arnold's tongue. Within each Arnold's tongue the Poincaré rotation number

$$r = \frac{1}{2\pi} \lim_{N \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=0}^N (\theta_{n+1} - \theta_n)$$

stays rational but becomes irrational outside of it. The synchronous regime or phase-locking is observed at rational values of the rotation number corre-

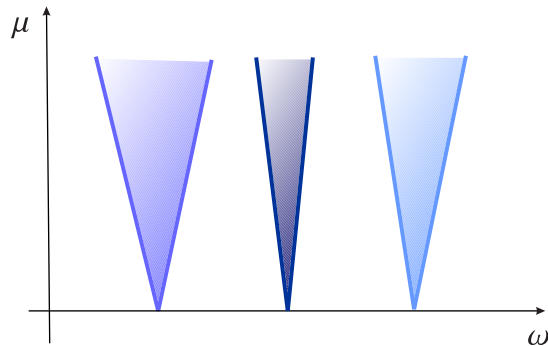


Figure 1: Arnold's tongues in the  $(\omega, \mu)$ -parameter plane.

sponding to the existence of the stable periodic orbits on the torus, followed by the beatings — quasi-periodic trajectories existing at irrational  $\omega$ .

Note that long periodic orbits existing in narrow Arnold's tongues corresponding to high order resonances are hardly distinguishably in application from quasi-periodic ones covering densely the torus.

Saying above is also true for the van der Pol equation:

$$\ddot{x} + \mu(x^2 - 1)\dot{x} + \omega_0^2 x = \mu A \sin \omega t \quad (2)$$

in the “quasi-linear” case, i.e. when  $|\mu| \ll 1$  and  $A^2 < \frac{4}{27}$ , as shown by van der Pol [37], Andronov and Vitt [7], Krylov and Bogolubov [15], as well as recently by Afraimovich and Shilnikov [1] who prove the persistence of the torus after the saddle-node periodic orbit vanishes on the boundary of a principal resonance zone.

The case of a non-small  $\mu$ , which is a way complicated than the quasi-linear one, has a long history. In 1927 van der Pol and van der Mark published their new results on experimental studies of the sinusoidally driven neon bulb oscillator. Although they put the primary emphasis upon the effect of division of the frequency of the oscillations in the system, they also noticed that: “often an irregular noise is heard in the telephone receiver before the frequency jumps to the next lower value.” This might mean that they run across the co-existence of stable periodic regimes with different periods (often rather long: in the experiments these periods were 100-200 times larger than one of the driving force) as well as, in modern terminology, a complex dynamics (though considered as a side-product then). The latter may indicate if not the existence of a strange attractor in the phase space of the system,

then, at least, the abundance of saddle orbits comprising a nontrivial set in charge for the sophisticated transient process.

These experiments had drawn Cartwright and Littlewood' attention. In 1945 they published some astonishing results of their analysis carried out for van der Pol equation (2) with  $\mu \gg 1$  [8]. Namely, they had pointed out the presence of two kinds of intervals for amplitude values  $A$  in the segment  $(0, 1/3)$ : the intervals of the first kind corresponded to a trivial (periodic) dynamics in the equation; whereas in the intervals of the second kind, besides both co-existing stable periodic orbits there was a nontrivial non-wandering set consisting of unstable orbits and admitting a description in terms of symbolic dynamics employing two symbols. Thus, they had first found that a three-dimensional dissipative model might have countably many periodic orbits and a continuum of aperiodic ones. The elaborative presentation of these results was done by Littlewood some later, in 1957 [18, 19].

In 1949 Levinson [17] had presented an explanation of these results on example of the following equation:

$$\varepsilon \ddot{x} + \dot{x} \operatorname{sign}(x^2 - 1) + \varepsilon x = A \sin t, \quad (3)$$

with  $\varepsilon \ll 1$ . Since this equation is piece-wise linear, the study of the behavior of its trajectories can be essentially simplified making the analysis quite transparent.

The idea of typicality of the complex behavior of trajectories for a broad class of nonlinear equations was voiced by Littlewood [18, 19] in the explicit form. Today it is curious to note that the very first paper [8] contained a prophetic statement about the topological equivalence of the van der Pol equations with different values of  $A$  corresponding to complex nontrivial behavior. In other words, the dynamical chaos had been viewed by Cartwright and Littlewood as a robust (generic) phenomenon. When Levinson had pointed Smale to these results, the latter found that they might admit a simple geometric interpretation, at least at the qualitative level. This led Smale to his famous example (dated by 1961) of a diffeomorphism of the horseshoe with a nontrivial hyperbolic set conjugated topologically with the Bernoulli subshift on two symbols. The commencement of the modern theory of dynamical chaos as we all know it now was thus proclaimed.

The study of equations of Levinson's type was proceeded by in the works by Osipov [25] and Levi [16] in 70-80s. They produced a complete description for non-wandering sets as well as proved their hyperbolicity in the indicated intervals of the parameter  $A$  values.

The analysis in the works mentioned above was done only for a finite number of intervals of the values of  $A$  (the intervals of hyperbolicity). The total length of the remaining part tends to zero as  $\mu \rightarrow \infty$  (or  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ ). Thus, it turns out that the studied dynamical features occurring within the intervals of non-hyperbolicity could be, generally speaking, neglected in the first approximation. Note however that it is those intervals which correspond to the transition from simple to complex dynamics coming along with appearances and disappearances of stable periodic orbits as well as onsets of homoclinic tangencies leading to the existence of the Newhouse intervals of structural instability, and so forth... In systems which are not singularly-perturbed all these effects have to be subjected to a scrupulous analysis.

A suitable example in this sense can be an autonomous system

$$\dot{x} = X(x, \mu),$$

which is supposed to have a stable periodic orbit  $L_\mu$  becoming a homoclinic loop to a saddle equilibrium state as  $\mu \rightarrow 0^+$ . One may wonder what happens as system is driven periodically by a small force of amplitude of order  $\mu$ ? This problem was studied in a series of papers by Afraimovich and Shilnikov [2, 3, 4]. Below we overview the number of the obtained results that are of a momentous value for the synchronization theory.

For the sake of simplicity we confine the consideration to two equations. Suppose that the autonomous system

$$\begin{aligned}\bar{x} &= \lambda x + f(x, y, \mu), \\ \bar{y} &= \gamma y + g(x, y, \mu)\end{aligned}$$

have an equilibrium state of the saddle type at the origin with a negative saddle value

$$\sigma = \lambda + \gamma < 0. \tag{4}$$

Let this saddle have a separatrix loop at  $\mu = 0$ , see Fig. 2(a). As well known [5, 6] the system shall have a single periodic orbit bifurcating off the loop for small  $\mu$ . Let that be so when  $\mu > 0$ , see Fig. 2(b). In general, the period of the new born cycle is of order  $|\ln \mu|$ . The last observation makes this problem and that on van der Pol equation having, at  $A = 0$ , a relaxation limit cycle of period  $\sim 1/\varepsilon$  resembling: in both cases the period of the bifurcating limit cycle grows with no bound as the small parameter tends to zero.

As far as the perturbed system

$$\begin{aligned}\bar{x} &= \lambda x + f(x, y, \mu) + \mu p(x, y, t, \mu), \\ \bar{y} &= \gamma y + g(x, y, \mu) + \mu q(x, y, t, \mu),\end{aligned} \tag{5}$$

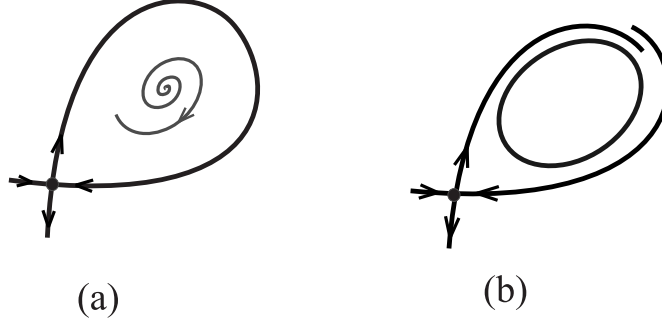


Figure 2: Homoclinic bifurcation leading to the birth of the stable limit cycle, plane.

is concerned, where  $p$  and  $q$  are  $2\pi$ -periodic functions in  $t$ , we shall also suppose that the Melnikov function is positive, which means that the stable  $W^s$  and unstable  $W^u$  manifolds of the saddle periodic orbit (passing nearby the origin ( $x = y = 0$ )) do not cross, see Fig. 3. Now one can easily see that the plane  $x = \delta$  in the space  $\{x, y, t\}$  is a cross-section for system (5) at small  $\delta$ . The corresponding Poincaré map  $T_\mu$  is in the form close to the following modelling map:

$$\begin{aligned}\bar{y} &= [y + \mu(1 + f(\theta))]^\nu \\ \bar{\theta} &= \theta + \omega - \frac{1}{\gamma} \ln[y + \mu(1 + f(\theta))],\end{aligned}\tag{6}$$

where  $\nu = -\frac{\lambda}{\gamma} > 1$ ,  $\omega$  is a constant, and  $\mu(1 + f(\theta))$  is the Melnikov function with  $\langle f(\theta) \rangle = 0$ . The right-hand side of the second equation is to be evaluated in modulo  $2\pi$  since  $\theta$  is an angular variable. The last can be interpreted as the phase difference between the external force and the response of the system. Thus, attracting fixed points (for which  $\bar{\theta} = \theta \bmod 2\pi$ ) of the above map correspond to the regime of synchronization.

The limit set of the map  $T_\mu$  at sufficiently small  $\mu$  lies within an annulus  $K_\mu = \{0 < x < C\mu^\nu, 0 \leq \theta < 2\pi\}$  with some  $C > 0$ . After rescaling  $y \rightarrow \mu^\nu y$  the map assumes the form

$$\begin{aligned}\bar{y} &= [1 + f(\theta)]^\nu + \dots \\ \bar{\theta} &= \theta + \tilde{\omega} - \frac{1}{\gamma} \ln[1 + f(\theta)] + \dots,\end{aligned}\tag{7}$$

where the ellipsis stand for the terms converging to zero along with the their derivatives, while  $\tilde{\omega} = \left(\omega - \frac{1}{\gamma} \ln \mu\right)$  tends to infinity as  $\mu \rightarrow +0$ , i.e.  $\tilde{\omega} \bmod 2\pi$  assumes arbitrary values in the interval  $[0, 2\pi)$  countably many

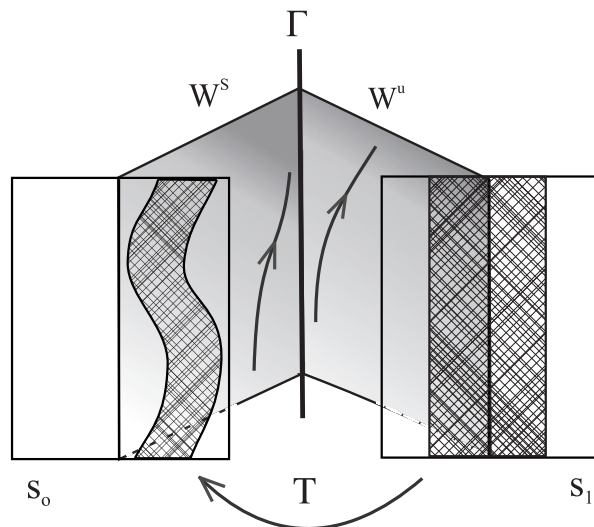


Figure 3: Poincaré map taking a cross-section  $S_1$  in the plane  $x = \delta$  transverse to the unstable manifold  $W^u$  of the saddle-periodic orbit  $\Gamma$  onto a cross-section  $S_0$  (in the same plane) to the stable manifold.

times. Hence, the dynamics of the Poincaré map is dominated largely by the properties of the family of the circle maps:

$$\bar{\theta} = \theta + \tilde{\omega} + \mathcal{F}(\theta) \bmod 2\pi, \quad (8)$$

where  $\mathcal{F}(\theta) = -\frac{1}{\gamma} \ln[1 + f(\theta)]$ .

Assertions [4] 1. In the case where

$$\frac{1}{\gamma} \frac{f'(\theta)}{1 + f(\theta)} < 1, \quad (9)$$

the map  $T_\mu$  has an attracting smooth invariant closed curve of the form  $y = h(\theta, \mu)$  that contains  $\omega$ -limit set of any trajectory in  $K_\mu$ .

2. Let an interval  $I = [\theta_1, \theta_2]$  exist such that either

$$f'(\theta) < 0 \quad \text{everywhere on } I \quad (10)$$

and

$$\frac{1}{\gamma} \ln \frac{1 + f(\theta_1)}{1 + f(\theta_2)} > 2\pi(m + 1), \quad m \geq 2, \quad (11)$$

or

$$\frac{1}{\gamma} \frac{f'(\theta)}{1+f(\theta)} > 2 \quad \text{everywhere on } I \quad (12)$$

and

$$\frac{1}{\gamma} \ln \frac{1+f(\theta_2)}{1+f(\theta_1)} > 2(\theta_2 - \theta_1) + 2\pi(m+1), \quad m \geq 2. \quad (13)$$

Then, for all sufficiently small  $\mu > 0$  the map  $T_\mu$  will have a hyperbolic set  $\Sigma_\mu$  conjugated with the Bernoulli subshift on  $m$  symbols.

For example, in case  $f(\theta) = A \sin \theta$  we have that if  $A < \frac{\gamma}{\sqrt{1+\gamma^2}}$ , then the invariant closed curve is an attractor of the system for all small  $\mu$ , while we have complex dynamics for  $A > \tanh 3\pi\gamma$ .

The meaning of conditions (10) and (12) is that they provide expansion in the  $\theta$ -variable within the region  $\Pi : \theta \in I$  and, therefore, hyperbolicity of the map (6) in the same region (contraction in  $y$  is always achieved for all  $y$  sufficiently small since  $\nu > 1$ ). Furthermore, if the conditions (11) and (13) are fulfilled, then the image of the region  $\Pi$  overlaps with  $\Pi$  at least  $m$  times (see Fig. 4(a)). Hence, we obtain a construction analogous to the Smale horseshoe; then the second assertion above becomes proven by, say, referring to the lemma on a saddle fixed point in a countable product of Banach spaces [30].

In the first assertion the condition (9) leads to that the image of the annulus  $K_\mu$  under  $T_\mu$  has no folds for small  $\mu$  (see Fig. 4(b)), in other words it is also an annulus bounded by two curves of the form  $y = h^\pm(\theta)$ . The following image of this annulus is self-alike too, and so on. As the result we obtain a sequence of embedded annuli; moreover, the contraction in the  $y$ -variable guarantees that they intersect in a single and smooth closed curve. This curve is invariant and attracting as follows, say, from the annulus principle of [2, 3] (see also [27]).

In attempt for a comprehensive investigation of the synchronization zones we restrict ourself to the case  $f(\theta) = A \sin \theta$  (or  $f(\theta) = Ag(\theta)$ , where  $g(\theta)$  is a function with preset properties). This choice let us build a quite reasonable bifurcation diagram (Figs. 5-6) in the plane of the parameters  $(A, -\ln \mu)$  in the domain  $\{0 \leq A < 1, 0 < \mu < \mu_0\}$ , where  $\mu_0$  is sufficiently small. Each such a region can be shown to adjoin to the axis  $-\ln \mu_0$  at a point with the coordinates  $(2\pi k, 0)$ , where  $k$  is a large enough integer. Inside it there co-exist a pair of the fixed points of the Poincaré map such that  $\bar{\theta} = \theta + 2\pi k$ .



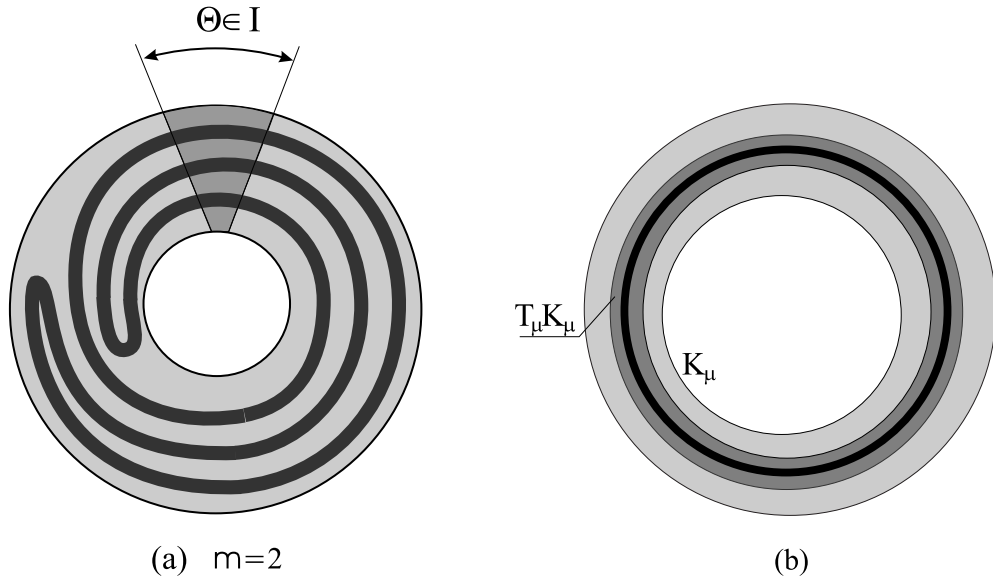


Figure 4: a) The image of the segment of the region  $\Pi$  overlaps with  $\Pi$  at least  $m$  times. b) The image of the annulus  $K_\mu$  under  $T_\mu$  has no folds.

Their images in the system (5) are the periodic motions of period  $2\pi k$ . The borders of a resonant zone  $D_k$  are the bifurcation curves  $B_k^1$  and  $B_k^2$  on which the fixed points merge into a single saddle-node. The curves  $B_k^1$  continue up to the line  $A = 1$ , while the curves  $B_k^2$  bend to the left (as  $\mu$  increases) staying in the strip below  $A = 1$ . Therefore, eventually these curves  $B_k^2$  will cross the curves  $B_m^1$  and  $B_m^2$  where  $m < k$ . Inside the region  $D_k$  one of the fixed points of the map, namely  $Q_k$  is always of the saddle type. The other point  $P_k$  is stable in the region  $S_k$  right between the curves  $B_k^1$ ,  $B_k^2$  and  $B_k^-$ . Above  $B_k^-$  the point  $P_k$  loses stability that goes to a cycle of period 2 bifurcating from it. The region  $S_k$  is the synchronization zone as it corresponds to the existence of a stable periodic orbit of period  $2\pi k$ . Note that for any large enough integers  $k$  and  $m$  the intersection of the regions  $S_k$  and  $S_m$  is non-empty – in it the periodic points of periods  $2\pi k$  and  $2\pi m$  coexist.

Within the region  $S_k$  the closed invariant curve, existing (see Assertion 1) at least when  $A < \frac{\gamma}{\sqrt{1 + \gamma^2}}$ , is the unstable manifold  $W^u$  of the saddle fixed point  $Q_k$  which closes on the stable point  $P_k$ , as sketched in Fig. 7. After crossing  $B_k^-$  the invariant curve no longer exists, see Fig. 8.

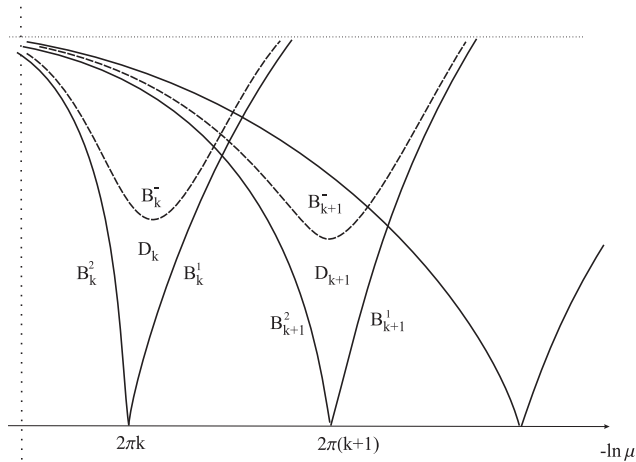


Figure 5: Overlapping resonant zones.

Another mechanism of breakdown of the invariant circle is due to the onset of homoclinic tangencies produced by the stable and unstable manifolds of the saddle point  $Q_k$ . The tangencies occur on the bifurcation curves  $B_{tk}^1$  and  $B_{tk}^2$  where each corresponds to a homoclinic contact to its own component of the set  $W^u \setminus Q_k$  (see Fig. 9).

The curves  $B_{tk}^1$  and  $B_{tk}^2$  are noteworthy because they break each sector  $S_k$  into regions with simple and complex dynamics. Below the curves  $B_{tk}^1$  and  $B_{tk}^2$  in  $S_k$  the stable point  $P_k$  is a single attractor grabbing all the trajectories other than the saddle fixed point  $Q_k$ . In the region above the curves  $B_{tk}^1$  and  $B_{tk}^2$  the point  $Q_k$  has a transverse homoclinic trajectory, and, consequently, the map must possess a nontrivial hyperbolic set [30]. Note that  $S_m$  ( $m < k$ ) should overlap with  $S_k$  always above  $B_{tk}^2$ . Hence if so, in the region  $S_k \cap S_m$  where a pair of stable periodic orbits of periods  $2\pi k$  and  $2\pi m$  coexists, the dynamics of the phenomenologic model is always complex like the corresponding case of the van der Pol equation.

In fact, stable points of other periods may also exist in the region above the curves  $B_{tk}^1$  and  $B_{tk}^2$ : since the homoclinic tangencies arising on the curves  $B_{tk}^1$  and  $B_{tk}^2$  are not degenerate (quadratic), it follows from [22] that the regions above these curves in the parameter plane may be the Newhouse ones where the system has simultaneously an infinite set of stable periodic orbits for dense set of parameter values. On the other hand, it follows from [23] (see [33] for a higher dimensional case) that in addition to that there

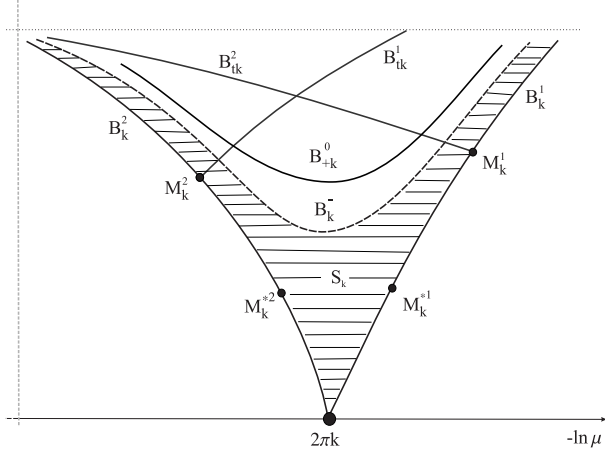


Figure 6: Constitution of a resonant zone.

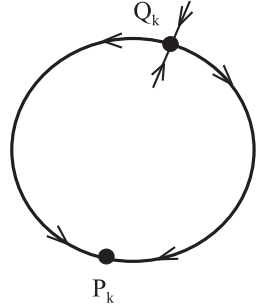


Figure 7: The closure of the unstable manifold of a saddle fixed point is a closed invariant curve.

will exist regions of hyperbolicity too up here; moreover the stable point  $P_k$  may be shown to be the only attractor for the parameter values from these regions.

It should be remarked that the synchronization is always *incomplete* in the synchronization zone  $S_k$  above the curves  $B_{tk}^1$  and  $B_{tk}^2$ . This is due to the likelihood of the presence of other stable periodic orbits of different periods that co-exist along with the orbit  $L_k$  corresponding to the stable fixed point  $P_k$  of the Poincaré map. However, even if this is not the case and  $L_k$  is the only attractor still, the phase difference between  $L_k$  and other trajectories from the hyperbolic set nearby the transverse homoclinics to the saddle point  $Q_k$  will grow at the asymptotically linear rate, i.e. the phase locking may be

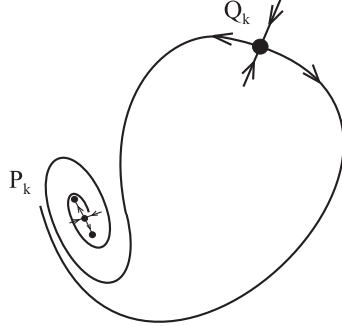


Figure 8: After a period-doubling on  $B_k^-$ , the closure of the unstable manifold of the saddle-fixed point is no longer homeomorphic to circle.

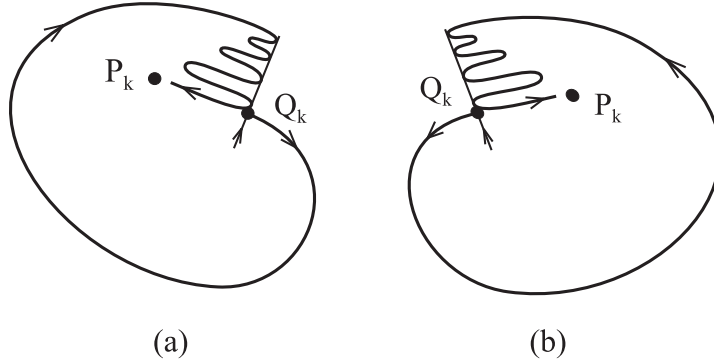


Figure 9: End of the closed invariant curve: the very first and last homoclinic touches of the stable manifold of the saddle fixed point with the unstable one that occur on the curves  $B_{tk}^1$  and  $B_{tk}^2$ , respectively.

broken at least within the transient process.

We should remark too that chaos itself is less important for desynchronization than the presence of homoclinics to the saddle point  $Q_k$ . So, for example, in the region  $D_k \setminus S_k$  beneath the curves  $B_{tk}^1$  and  $B_{tk}^2$  where  $Q_k$  has no homoclinics, the difference in the phase stays always bounded, which means a *relative* synchronization, so to speak. Meanwhile the dynamics can be nonetheless chaotic: for instance, in the region above the curve  $B_{tk}^0$ , the fixed point  $P_k$  is no longer stable but a saddle with a transverse homoclinic orbit. On the curve  $B_{tk}^0$  its stable and unstable manifolds have a homoclinic tangency of the third class in terminology introduced in [10] (illustrated in Fig. 10) which implies particularly the complex dynamics persisting below

the curve  $B_{tk}^0$  as well.

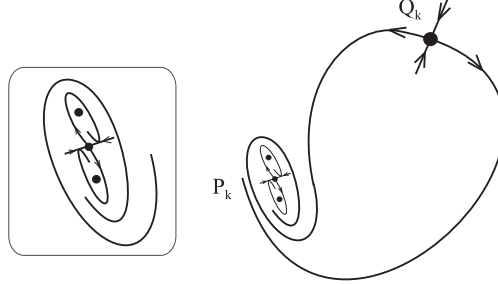


Figure 10: Homoclinic contacts between the invariant manifolds of the saddle point  $P_k$ .

Thus, the region  $D_k$  corresponding to the existence of the  $2\pi k$ -periodic orbit, may be decomposed into the zones of complete, incomplete and relative synchronization. The regime of incomplete synchronization, where there are periodic orbits with different rotation numbers, always yields the complex dynamics. Further, in the zone of relative synchronization there is another “non-rotating” type of chaotic behavior. It can be shown that such a tableau of the behavior in the resonance zone  $D_k$  is drawn not only for  $f(\theta) = A \sin \theta$ , but in generic case too for an arbitrary function  $f$ .

The following question gets raised: what will happen upon leaving the synchronization zone  $S_k$  through its boundary  $B_k^2$  or  $B_k^1$ , i.e. as the saddle-node orbit vanishes? The answer to this question relies essentially on the global behavior of the unstable manifold  $W^u$  of the saddle-node. Above the points  $M_k^1$  and  $M_k^2$  ending up, respectively, the curves  $B_{tk}^1$  and  $B_{tk}^2$  corresponding to the beginning of the homoclinic trajectories, the unstable manifold  $W^u$  of the saddle-node has the points of transverse crossings with its strongly stable manifold  $W_{ss}$  (see Fig. 11). It is shown in [20] that this homoclinic structure generates the nontrivial hyperbolic set similar to that existing nearby a transverse homoclinic trajectory to a saddle. Upon getting into the region  $D_k$  the saddle-node disintegrates becoming a stable node and a saddle, the latter inherits the homoclinic structure, and hence the hyperbolic set persists. Upon exiting  $D_k$  the saddle-node dissolves, however a great portion of the hyperbolic set survives [20], i.e. as soon as the boundaries  $B_k^2$  and  $B_k^1$  are crossed above the points  $M_k^1$  and  $M_k^2$  we enter the land of desynchronization (“rotational chaos”). The points  $M_k^1$  and  $M_k^2$  correspond to the homoclinic contact between the manifolds  $W^u$  and  $W^{ss}$  (see Fig. 12). At

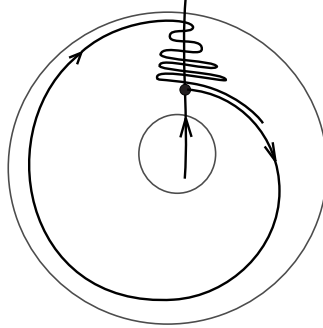


Figure 11: Homoclinic crossings of the unstable manifold with the strongly stable one of a saddle-node.

them the limit set for all trajectories in  $W^u$  is the saddle-node itself, and  $W^u$  is homeomorphic to a circle. Below these points the manifold  $W^u$  returns always to the saddle-node from the node region. It is yet homeomorphic to a circle. Note that for the parameter values near  $M_k^1$  and  $M_k^2$  the folds on  $W^u$  persist; this implies that  $W^u$  can not be a smooth manifold (a vector tangent to  $W^u$  wiggles as the saddle-node is being approached from the side of the node region and has no limit). This is always so until  $W^u$  touches a leaf of the strongly stable invariant foliation  $F^{ss}$  at some point in the node region (see [24, 28]). On the other hand, if  $W^u$  crosses the foliation  $F^{ss}$  transversely, then the former adjoins to the saddle-node smoothly. This is the case where  $A$  is small enough: here the smooth invariant closed curve serves for the only attractor; it coincides with  $W^u$  on the lines  $B_k^{1,2}$ . We denote as  $M_k^{*1}$  and  $M_k^{*2}$  the points on the curves  $B_k^1$  and  $B_k^2$ , respectively, such that below them the manifold  $W^u$  adjoins at the saddle-node smoothly, and non-smoothly above them.

We will show in the next section that if either boundary  $B_k^1$  or  $B_k^2$  of the complete synchronization zone is crossed outbound below the points  $M_k^{*1}$  or  $M_k^{*2}$ , respectively, the stable smooth invariant closed curve persists. It contains either a dense quasi-periodic trajectory (with an irrational rotation number) or an even number of periodic orbits of rather long periods at rational rotation numbers. In application these double-frequency regimes are practically indistinguishable. When the synchronization zone is exited through its boundaries  $B_k^1$  and  $B_k^2$  above the points  $M_k^{*1}$  and  $M_k^{*2}$  we flow either into chaos right away, or we enter the land where the intervals of the parameter values corresponding to chaotic and simple dynamics may alter.

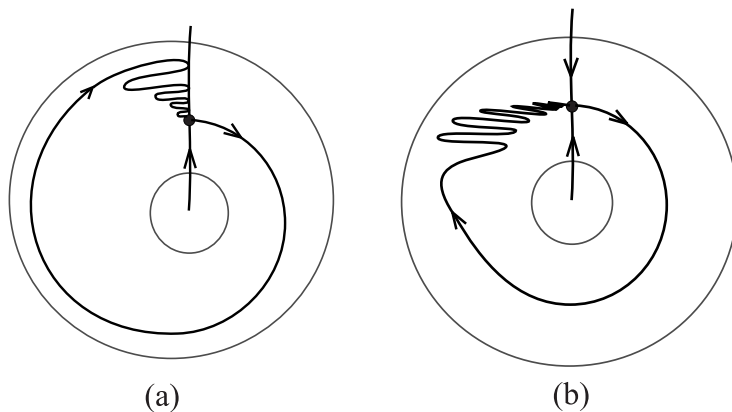


Figure 12: (a) Homoclinic tangencies involving the unstable and the strongly stable manifolds of a saddle-node. (b) Pre-wiggles of the unstable manifold of the saddle-node.

The former situation takes always place by the points  $M_k^{1,2}$  (as above as below), while the alternation occurs near and above the points  $M_k^{*1}$  and  $M_k^{*2}$ .

## 2 Disappearance of the saddle-node

In this section we will analyze a few versions of global saddle-node bifurcations. The analysis will be carried out with concentration on continuous time systems because they provide a variety unseen in maps.

Let us consider a one-parameter family of  $\mathcal{C}^2$ -smooth  $(n+2)$ -dimensional dynamical systems depending smoothly on  $\mu \in \mu(-\mu_0; \mu_0)$ . Suppose that the following conditions are hold:

1. At  $\mu = 0$  the system has a periodic orbit  $L_0$  of the simple saddle-node type. This means that all multipliers besides a single one equal  $+1$ , lie in the unit circle, and the first Lyapunov coefficient is not zero.
2. All the trajectories in the unstable manifold  $W^u$  of  $L_0$  tend to  $L_0$  as  $t \rightarrow \infty$  and  $W^u \cap W^{ss} = \emptyset$ , i.e. the returning manifold  $W^u$  approaches  $L_0$  from the node region.
3. The family under consideration is transverse to the bifurcational set of systems with a periodic orbit of the saddle-node type. This implies that as  $\mu$  changes the saddle-node bifurcates: it decouples into a saddle and a node when, say,  $\mu < 0$ , and does not exist when  $\mu > 0$ .

According to [32], one may introduce coordinates in a small neighborhood of the orbit  $L_0$  so that the system will assume the following form

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{x} &= \mu + x^2[1 + p(x, \theta, \mu)], \\ \dot{y} &= [A(\mu) + q(x, \theta, y, \mu)]y, \\ \dot{\theta} &= 1,\end{aligned}\tag{14}$$

where the eigenvalues of the matrix  $A$  lie in the left open half-plane. Here  $\theta$  is an angular variable defined modulo of 1, i.e. the points  $(x, y, \theta = 0)$  and  $(x, \sigma y, \theta = 1)$  are identified, where  $\sigma$  is some involution in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  (see [27]). Thus  $p$  is a 1-periodic function in  $\theta$ , whereas  $q$  is of period 2. Moreover, we have  $p(0, \theta, 0) = 0$  and  $q(0, \theta, 0) = 0$ . In addition, the indicated coordinates are introduced so that  $p$  becomes independent of  $\theta$  at  $\mu = 0$  (the Poincaré map on the center manifold is imbedded into an autonomous flow; see [34]).

The saddle-node periodic orbit  $L_0$  is given by equation  $(x = 0, y = 0)$  at  $\mu = 0$ . Its strongly stable manifold  $W^{ss}$  is locally given by equation  $x = 0$ . The manifold  $W^{ss}$  separates the saddle region (where  $x > 0$ ) of  $L_0$  from the node one where  $x < 0$ . The manifold  $y = 0$  is invariant, this is a center manifold. When  $\mu < 0$  it contains two periodic orbits: stable  $L_1$  and saddle  $L_2$ , both coalesce in one  $L_0$  at  $\mu = 0$ . When  $\mu > 0$  there are no periodic orbits and a trajectory leaves a small neighborhood of the phantom of the saddle-node.

At  $\mu = 0$  the  $x$ -coordinate increases monotonically. In the region  $x < 0$  it tends slowly to zero, at the rate  $\sim 1/t$ . Since the  $y$ -component decreases exponentially, it follows that all trajectories in the node region tend to  $L_0$  as  $t \rightarrow +\infty$  tangentially to the cylinder given by  $y = 0$ . In the saddle region  $x(t) \rightarrow 0$  now as  $t \rightarrow -\infty$ , and since  $y$  increases exponentially as  $t$  decreases, the set of the trajectories converging to the saddle-node  $L_0$  as  $t \rightarrow -\infty$ , i.e. its unstable manifold  $W^u$ , is the cylinder  $\{y = 0, x \geq 0\}$ .

As time  $t$  increases, a trajectory starting in  $W^u \setminus L_0$  leaves a small neighborhood of the saddle-node. However, in virtue of Assumption 2, it is to return to the node region as  $t \rightarrow +\infty$ , i.e. it converges to  $L_0$  tangentially to the cylinder  $y = 0$ . Hence, a small  $d > 0$  can be chosen so that  $W^u$  will cross the section  $S_0 : \{x = -d\}$ . Obviously,  $\bar{l} = W^u \cap S_0$  will be a closed curve. It can be imbedded in  $S_0$  variously. We will assume that the median line  $l_0 : \{y = 0\}$  in the cross-section  $S_0$  is oriented in direction of increase of  $\theta$ , so is the median line  $l_1 : \{y = 0\}$  of the section  $S_1 : \{x = +d\}$ . Because  $l_1 = W^u \cap S_1$ , it follows that the curve  $\bar{l}$  is an image of the curve  $l_1$  under the map defined by the trajectories of the system, and therefore the orientation



on  $l_1$  determines the orientation on  $\bar{l}$  too. Thus, taking the orientation into account the curve  $\bar{l}$  becomes homotopic to  $ml_0$ , where  $m \in \mathbb{Z}$ . In case  $n = 1$ , i.e. when the system is defined in  $R^3$  and  $S_0$  is a 2D ring, the only cases possible are ones where  $m = 0$ , or  $m = +1$ . However, if  $n \geq 2$  all integers  $m$  become admissible. The behavior of  $W^u$  in case  $m = 0$  is depicted in Fig. 13(a). When  $m = 1$  the manifold  $W^u$  is homeomorphic to a 2D torus, and to a Klein bottle in case  $m = -1$ , see Figs. 13(b) and (c). When  $|m| \geq 2$  the set  $W^u$  is a  $|m|$ -branched manifold (exactly  $|m|$  pieces of the set  $W^u$  adhere to any point of the orbit  $L_0$  from the node region). Note also that in the discussed above problem on a periodically forced oscillatory system, as for example (5), the first case  $m = 1$  can only occur regardless of the dimension of the phase space.

The analysis of the trajectories near  $W^u$  presents interest only when  $\mu > 0$  (it is trivial when  $\mu \leq 0$ ). When  $\mu > 0$  the Poincaré map  $T : S_1 \rightarrow S_1$  is defined as the superposition of two maps by the orbits of the system:  $T_1 : S_1 \rightarrow S_0$  followed by  $T_0 : S_0 \rightarrow S_1$ .

As shown in [32], if the system was before brought to form (14) and the function  $p$  is independent of  $\theta$  at  $\mu = 0$ , the map  $T_0 : (y_0, \theta_0) \in S_0 \mapsto (y_1, \theta_1) \in S_1$  can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} y_1 &= \alpha(y_0, \theta_0, \nu), \\ \theta_1 &= \theta_0 + \nu + \beta(\theta_0, \nu), \end{aligned} \tag{15}$$

where  $\nu(\mu)$  is the flight time from  $S_0$  to  $S_1$ . As  $\mu \rightarrow +0$ , this time  $\nu$  tends monotonically to infinity:  $\nu \sim 1/\sqrt{\mu}$ ; meanwhile the functions  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  converge uniformly to zero, along with all derivatives. Thus, the image of the cross-section  $S_0$  under action of the map  $T_0$  shrinks to the median line  $l_1$  as  $\mu \rightarrow +0$ .

It takes a finite time for trajectories of the system to travel from the cross-section  $S_1$  to  $S_0$ . Hence, the map  $T_1 : S_1 \rightarrow S_0$  is smooth and well-defined for all small  $\mu$ . It assumes the form

$$\begin{aligned} y_0 &= G(y_1, \theta_1, \mu) \\ \theta_0 &= F(y_1, \theta_1, \mu). \end{aligned} \tag{16}$$

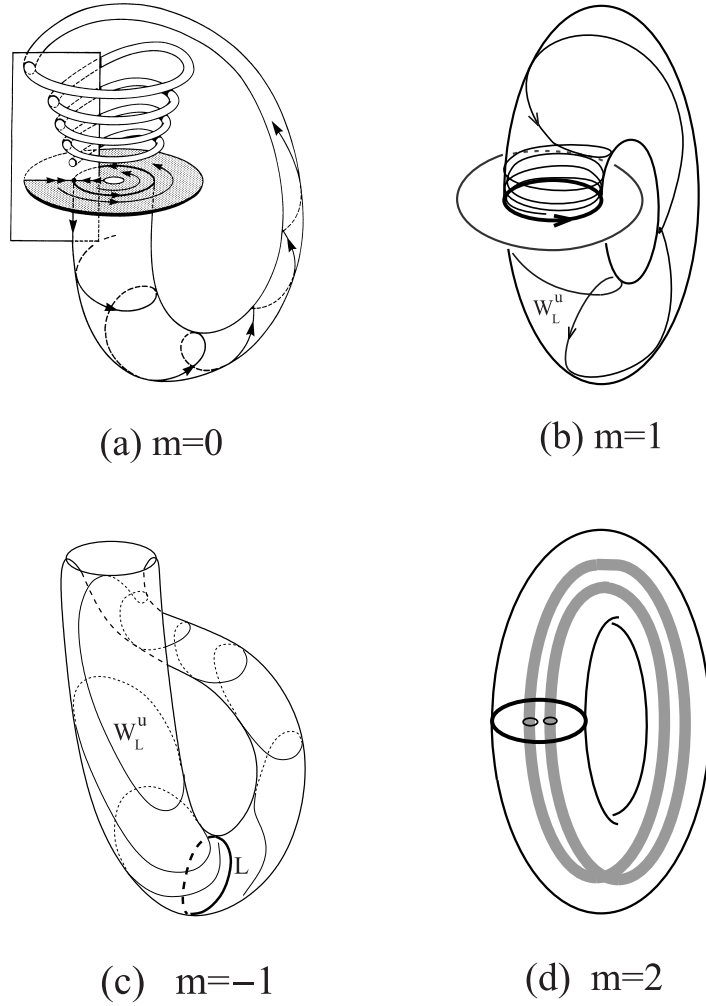


Figure 13: Case  $m = 0$  – the blue sky catastrophe. Cases  $m = 1$  and  $-1$ : closure of the unstable manifold of the saddle-node periodic orbit is a smooth 2D torus and a Klein bottle, respectively. Case  $m = 2$  – the solid-torus is squeezed, doubly expanded and twisted, and inserted back into the original and so on, producing the Wietorius- van Danzig solenoid in the limit

The image of  $l_1$  will, consequently, be given by

$$y_0 = G(0, \theta_1, 0), \quad \theta_0 = F(0, \theta_1, 0). \quad (17)$$

The second equation in (16) is a map taking a cycle into another one. That

is why this map may be written as

$$\theta_0 = m\theta_1 + f(\theta_1), \quad (18)$$

where  $f(\theta)$  is a 1-periodic function, and the degree  $m$  of the map is the homotopy integer discussed above.

By virtue of (15), (16) and (18) the Poincaré superposition map  $T = T_0T_1 : S_1 \rightarrow S_1$  can be recast as

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{y} &= g_1(y, \theta, \nu), \\ \bar{\theta} &= m\theta + \nu + f(\theta) + f_1(y, \theta, \nu), \end{aligned} \quad (19)$$

where the functions  $f_1$  and  $g_1$  tend to zero as  $\nu \rightarrow +\infty$ , so do all their derivatives. Thus, we may see that if the fractional part of  $\nu$  is set fixed, then as its integral part  $\nu$  tends to infinity, the map  $T$  degenerates into the circle map  $\tilde{T}$ :

$$\bar{\theta} = m\theta + f(\theta) + \nu \pmod{1}. \quad (20)$$

It becomes evident that the dynamics of the map (19) is dominated by the properties of the map (20). The values of  $\nu$  with equal fractional parts give the same map  $\tilde{T}$ . Hence, the range of the small parameter  $\mu > 0$  is represented as a union of the countable sequence of the intervals  $J_k = [\mu_{k+1}, \mu_k)$  (where  $\nu(\mu_k) = k$ ) such that the behavior of the map  $T$  for each of such segments  $J_k$  is likewise in main.

Let us next outline the following two remarkable cases  $m = 0$  and  $|m| \geq 2$  considered in [36, 31, 32, 28].

**Theorem** [36, 32]. At  $m = 0$  the map  $T$  has, for all sufficiently small  $\mu$ , a single stable fixed point if  $|f'(\theta)| < 1$  for all  $\theta$ .

After the map  $T$  was reduced to the form (19), the claim of the theorem follows directly from the principle of contracting mappings. It comes clear from the theorem that as the orbit  $L_0$  vanishes the stability goes to a new born, single periodic orbit whose length and period both tend to infinity as  $\mu \rightarrow +0$ . This bifurcation is called a blue sky catastrophe. The question of a possibility of infinite increase of the length of a stable periodic orbit flowing into a bifurcation was set first in [26]; the first such example (of infinite codimension) was built in [21]. Our construction produces the blue sky catastrophe through the codimension-1 bifurcation. We may refer the reader to the example of the system with the explicitly given right hand side with such catastrophe constructed in [11]. Point out also [28, 29] showing

that the blue-sky catastrophe in our setting is typical for singularly perturbed systems with at least two fast variables.

**Theorem** [36, 31]. Let  $|m| \geq 2$  and  $|m + f'(\theta)| > 1$  for all  $\theta$ . Then the map  $T$  will have the hyperbolic Smale-William attractor for all small  $\mu > 0$ .

In these conditions the map  $T$  acts similarly to the construction proposed by Smale and Williams. Namely, a solid torus  $S_0$  is mapped into itself in such a way that the limit  $\Sigma = \bigcap_{k \geq 0} T^k S_0$  is a Wietorius- van Danzig solenoid which is locally homeomorphic to the direct product of a Cantor set by an interval. Furthermore, the conditions of the theorem guarantee a uniform expansion in  $\theta$  and a contraction in  $y$ , i.e. the attractor  $\Sigma$  is a uniformly hyperbolic set. Besides, since the map  $T|_{\Sigma}$  is topologically conjugated to the limit of the inverse spectrum for the expanding circle map (of degree  $|m|$ ), it follows that all the points of  $\Sigma$  are non-wandering. In other words, we do have here a genuine hyperbolic attractor (see more in [36, 31]).

As we mentioned above, in case  $m = \pm 1$  the surface  $W^u$  at  $\mu = 0$  may adjoin to the saddle-node  $L_0$  smoothly as well as non-smoothly, depending upon how  $W^u$  crosses the strongly stable invariant foliation  $F^{ss}$  in the node region. When the system is reduced to the form of (14), the leaves of the foliation are given by  $\{x = const, \theta = const\}$ , i.e. on the cross-section  $S_0$  the leaves of  $F^{ss}$  are the planes  $\{\theta_0 = const\}$ . The intersection  $W^u \cap S_0$  is the curve (17). Therefore (see (18)),  $W^u$  adjoins to  $L_0$  smoothly if and only if

$$m + f'(\theta) \neq 0 \tag{21}$$

for all  $\theta$ . This condition is equivalent to that the limiting map  $\tilde{T}$  (see(20)) is a diffeomorphism of the circle for all  $\nu$ .

**Theorem** [1]. If the limit map  $\tilde{T}$  is a diffeomorphism, then for all  $\mu > 0$  sufficiently small the map (19) has a closed stable invariant curve attracting all the trajectories of the map.

The proof of the theorem follows directly from the annulus principle [3, 27]. Remark that this smooth stable invariant circle of the Poincaré map  $T$  corresponds to a smooth attractive 2D torus in the original system in case  $m = 1$ , and to a smooth invariant Klein bottle in case  $m = -1$ .

The case where the map  $\tilde{T}$  is no diffeomorphism is more complex. We put the case  $m = -1$  aside and focus on  $m = 1$  because the later is characteristic for synchronization problems.

Thus we have that  $m = 1$  and that the limiting map  $\tilde{T}$  has critical points.

Introduce a quantity  $\delta$  defined as

$$\delta = \sup_{\theta_1 < \theta_2} (\theta_1 + f(\theta_1) - \theta_2 - f(\theta_2)).$$

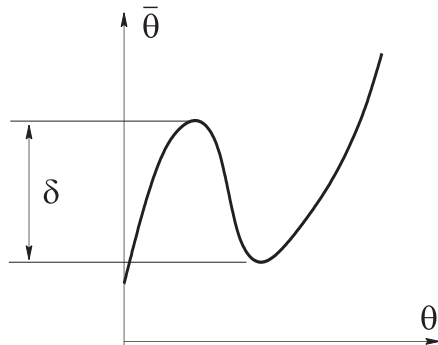


Figure 14:  $\delta$  is the absolute value of the difference between certain minimal value of the right-hand side of the map and the preceding maximal one.

It becomes evident that  $\delta = 0$  if and only if the map  $\tilde{T}$  is a homeomorphism for all  $\nu$ , i.e. when its graph is an increasing function. If  $\delta > 0$ , this map is to have at least one point of a maximum as well as one point of a minimum; in essence  $\delta$  determines the magnitude between the given minimal value of the right-hand side of the map (18) and the preceding maximal one (see Fig. 14). One can easily evaluate  $\delta(A) = \frac{1}{\pi} \left( \sqrt{4\pi^2 A^2 - 1} - \arctan \sqrt{4\pi^2 A^2 - 1} \right)$  for the case  $f = A \sin 2\pi\theta$ , for example.

When  $\delta \geq 1$  each  $\theta$  has at least three pre-images with respect to map (18). In terms of the original system the condition  $\delta > 0$  holds true if and only if some leaf of the foliation  $F^{ss}$  has more than one (three indeed) intersections with the unstable manifold  $W^u$  of the saddle-node orbit at  $\mu = 0$ , and that  $\delta \geq 1$  is when and only when  $W^u$  crosses each leaf of the foliation  $F^{ss}$  at least three times.

Borrowing the terminology introduced in [1] we will refer to the case of  $\delta > 1$  as the case of the big lobe.

**Theorem** [35]. In case of the big lobe the map  $T$  has complex dynamics for all  $\mu > 0$  sufficiently small.

For its proof we should first show that the map  $\tilde{T}$  for each  $\nu$  has a homoclinic orbit of some fixed point of the map. Recall that a homoclinic point

of such orbit in a non-invertible map reaches the fixed point after a finite number of iterations in forward direction and after infinitely many backward iterations.

Let  $\theta^* < \theta^{**}$  be the maximum and minimum points of the map  $\tilde{T}$ , such that

$$M^* \equiv \nu + \theta^* + f(\theta^*) = \nu + \theta^{**} + f(\theta^{**}) + \delta \equiv M^{**} + \delta$$

(here  $M^*$  and  $M^{**}$  stand for the corresponding maximum and minimum of the function in the right-hand side of the map). It follows from the condition  $\delta > 1$  that the difference between such values of  $f$  in (20) exceeds 1. Therefore, by adding, if needed, a suitable integer to  $\nu$ , one can always achieve that  $\nu + f(\theta)$  has some zeros. They are the fixed points of the map  $\tilde{T}$ . Let  $\theta_0$  be a fixed point next to  $\theta^*$  from the left. By translating the origin, one can achieve  $\theta_0 = 0$ . Thus, we let  $\nu + f(0) = \nu + f(1) = 0$ , and hence  $M^* \geq 0$ .

For the beginning let  $M^* > \theta^*$ . Then the fixed point at the origin is unstable (at least where  $\theta > 0$ ) and each  $\theta \in (0, M^*]$  has a pre-image with respect to the map  $\tilde{T}$  that is less than  $\theta$  but positive. Consequently, for each point  $\theta \in (0, M^*]$  there exists a negative semi-trajectory converging to the fixed point at the origin. Thus, in case  $M^* > 1$  (see Fig. 15) we obtain the sought homoclinic orbit (in backward time it converges to  $\theta = 0$ , while in forward time it jumps at the point  $\theta = 1$  equivalent to  $\theta = 0$  in modulo 1). Whenever  $M^* \leq 1$ , leads to  $M^{**} < 0$ . Since  $M^* > 0$ , the segment  $(\theta^*, \theta^{**})$

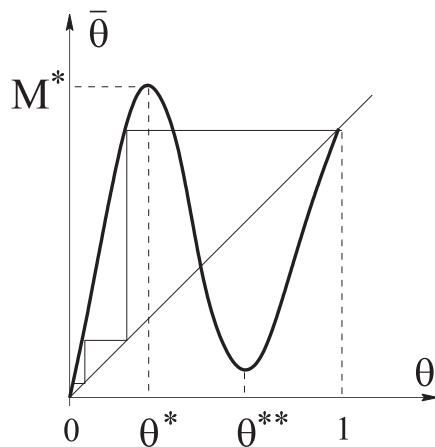


Figure 15: Homoclinic orbit to  $\theta = 0$  in the case  $M^* > 1$ .

contains a pre-image of zero which we denote by  $\theta^+$ . If  $\theta^+ < M^*$ , then this

point has a negative semi-trajectory tending to zero, i.e. there is a desired homoclinics, see Fig. 16. In all remaining cases —  $M^* \leq \theta^+$  or even  $M^* \leq \theta^*$

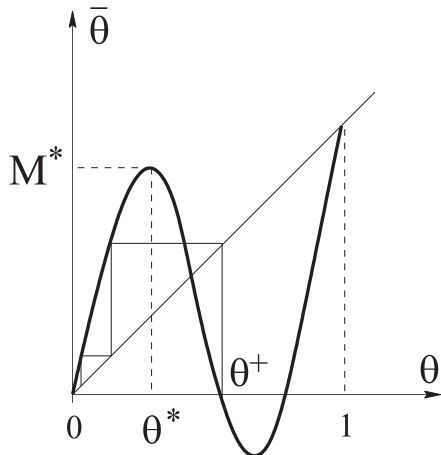


Figure 16: Homoclinic orbit to  $\theta = 0$  in the case  $\theta^+ < M^* \leq 1$

we have that  $M^{**} < \theta^{**} - 1$ . Let  $\theta_1 \geq 1$  be a fixed point right closest to  $\theta^{**}$ . Because  $M^{**} < \theta^{**}$  it follows that  $\theta_1$  is an unstable point and that each  $\theta \in [M^{**}, \theta_1)$  has a pre-image greater than  $\theta$  but less than  $\theta_1$ , i.e. there exists a negative semi-trajectory tending to  $\theta_1$ . Now, since  $M^{**} < \theta^{**} - 1 < \theta_1 - 1$ , we have that the point  $\theta = \theta_1 - 1$  begins a negative semi-trajectory tending to  $\theta_1$ , which means that there is a homoclinics in the given case too, see Fig. 17. The obtained homoclinic trajectory is structurally stable when it does not pass through a critical point of the map and when the absolute value of derivative of the map at the corresponding fixed point of the map does not equal 1. If it is so, then the original high-dimensional map  $T$  has, for all  $\mu$  sufficiently small, a saddle fixed point with a transverse homoclinic orbit. This implies automatically a complex dynamics. One, nonetheless, cannot guarantee the structural stability of the obtained homoclinic orbits in the map (20) for all  $\nu$  and for all functions  $f$ . To complete the proof of the theorem we need additional arguments.

Observe first that the constructed homoclinic trajectory of the map  $\tilde{T}$  has the following feature. Let  $\theta^0$  be a fixed point, and let  $\theta^1$  be some point on the homoclinic trajectory picked nearby  $\theta^0$ . As the map is iterated backward, the pre-images  $\theta^2, \theta^3, \dots$  of the point  $\theta^1$  converge to  $\theta^0$ , at least from one side. By definition, the image  $\tilde{T}^{k_0}\theta^1$  is the point  $\theta^0$  itself at some  $k_0$ . The

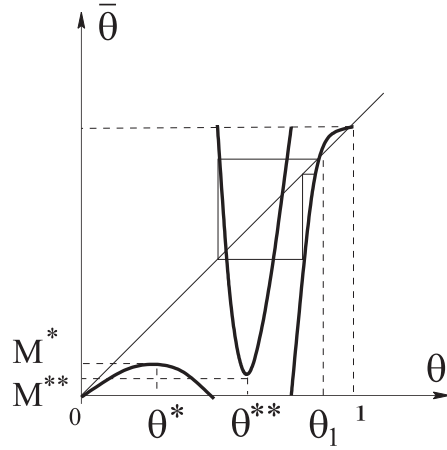


Figure 17: Homoclinic orbit to  $\theta_1$ .

property we are speaking about is that the forward images of an open interval  $I_1$  containing  $\theta^1$  covers a half-neighborhood of the point  $\theta^0$ , which hosts pre-images of the point  $\theta^1$ . It comes from here that the image of the interval  $I_1$  after certain large number of iterations of the map  $\tilde{T}$  will contain the point  $\theta^1$  and its pre-image  $\theta^2$  along with the interval  $I_1$  itself and some small interval  $I_2$  around the point  $\theta^2$  such that the image of  $I_2$  covers  $I_1$ , as shown in Fig. 18. Thus we have shown that if  $\delta > 1$ , then for each  $\nu$  there is a pair of intervals

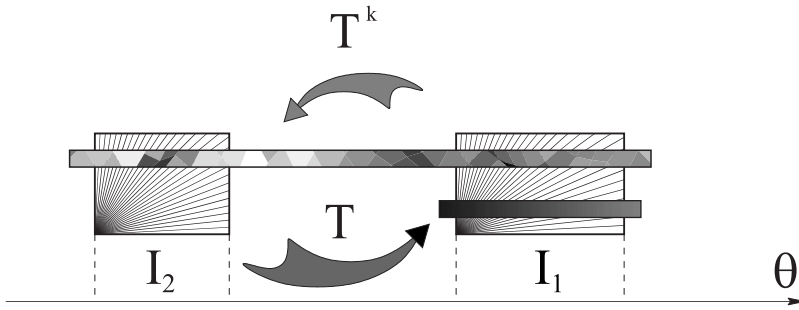


Figure 18: The image of  $I_1$  covers both  $I_1$  and  $I_2$ . The image of  $I_2$  covers  $I_1$ .

$I_1$  and  $I_2$  such, and the integer  $k$  such that the image  $\tilde{T}(I_2)$  covers  $I_1$ , while the image  $\tilde{T}^k(I_1)$  covers both  $I_1$  and  $I_2$ . In virtue of the closeness of the map (19) to (20) we obtain that for all  $\mu$  sufficiently small there exists a pair of the intervals  $I_1$  and  $I_2$  such that the images of the back sides  $\{\theta = \text{const}\}$  of the cylinder  $\theta \in I_2$  mapped by  $T$  will be on the opposite side of the cylinder



$\theta \in I_1$ , while the images of the back sides of the cylinder  $\theta \in I_1$  due to the action of the map  $T^k$  will be on the opposite sides of the union of the cylinders  $\theta \in I_1$  and  $\theta \in I_2$ , see Fig. 18. This picture is quite similar to the Smale horseshoe with a difference that we do not require hyperbolicity (uniform expansion in  $\theta$ ). It is not hard to show that the map  $T'$  which is equal to  $T$  at  $\theta \in I_2$  and to  $T^k$  at  $\theta \in I_1$ , in restriction to the set of its trajectories remaining in the region  $\theta \in I_1 \cup I_2$  is semi-conjugate to the topological Markov chain shown in Fig. 19. It follows that the topological entropy of the

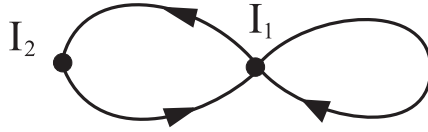


Figure 19: On the set of the points whose trajectories never leave the region  $\theta \in I_1 \cup I_2$  the map  $T'$  is semi-conjugate to a subshift with positive entropy.

map  $T$  is positive for all small  $\mu > 0$ . Note also that here there is always a hyperbolic periodic orbit with a transverse homoclinic trajectory. Indeed, the positiveness of the topological entropy implies (see [13]) the existence of an ergodic invariant measure with a positive Lyapunov exponent. Moreover, since the map (19) contracts two-dimensional areas for small  $\mu$ , the remaining Lyapunov exponents are strictly negative so that the existence of a non-trivial uniformly hyperbolic set follows in the given case right away from [13]. This completes the proof of the theorem.

We see that if  $\delta$  is large enough, the complex dynamics exists always as the saddle-node disappears. Two theorems below show that when  $\delta$  is small the intervals of simple dynamics alter with ones of complex dynamics as  $\mu \rightarrow 0$ .

**Theorem** [35]. If  $\delta > 0$  in the map (20) and all its critical points are of a finite order, then the map  $T$  has complex dynamics in the intervals of values of  $\mu$  which are located arbitrarily close to  $\mu = 0$ .

After the Poincaré map  $T$  is brought to the form (19), this theorem follows almost immediately from the Newhouse-Palis-Takens theory of rotation numbers for noninvertible maps of a circle. Indeed, according to [24], when all critical points of the circle map (20) are of finite order, some periodic orbit must have a homoclinic at some  $\nu = \nu_0$ , provided  $\delta > 0$ . Therefore, arguing same as above, when  $\delta > 0$  there is a value of  $\nu_0$  such that a pair of intervals  $I_1$  and  $I_2$  can be chosen so that the image  $\tilde{T}^{k_1}(I_2)$  covers  $I_2$ , and the

image  $\tilde{T}^{k_2}(I_1)$  covers both  $I_1$  and  $I_2$ , for certain  $k_1$  and  $k_2$ . The rest follows exactly as in the previous theorem: due to the closeness of the maps  $T$  and  $\tilde{T}$  we obtain the existence of an invariant subset of the map  $T$  on which the latter is semi-conjugate with a nontrivial topological Markov chain for all  $\mu$  small such that  $\mu \bmod 1$  is close to  $\nu_0$ .

**Theorem** [35]. If  $2\delta \max_{\theta} f''(\theta) < 1$ , then arbitrarily close to  $\mu = 0$  there are intervals of values of  $\mu$  where the map  $T$  has the trivial dynamics: all trajectories tend to a continuous invariant curve, homeomorphic to a circle, with a finite number of fixed points.

Proof. Let  $\theta_0$  be a minimum of  $f$ , i.e.  $f(\theta) \geq f(\theta_0)$  for all  $\theta$ . Choose  $\nu = \nu^*$  so that this point becomes a fixed one for the map  $\tilde{T}$ , i.e.  $\nu^* = -f(\theta_0)$  (see (20)). By construction the graph of the map  $\tilde{T}$  is nowhere below the bisectrix  $\bar{\theta} = \theta$  and only touches it at the point  $\theta_0$ . Let  $\theta_1$  be a critical point of the  $\tilde{T}$  closest to  $\theta_0$  on the left. The derivative of the map vanishes at this point, equals 1 at the point  $\theta_0$  and it is positive everywhere between  $\theta_1$  and  $\theta_0$ . One can then derive that

$$\theta_1 + f(\theta_1) \leq \theta_0 + f(\theta_0) - \frac{1}{2 \max_{\theta} f''(\theta)}. \quad (22)$$

Indeed,

$$\theta_0 + f(\theta_0) - (\theta_1 + f(\theta_1)) = \int_{\theta_1}^{\theta_0} (1 + f'(\theta)) d\theta.$$

Since  $1 + f'(\theta) \geq 0$  in the integration interval, we have

$$\theta_0 + f(\theta_0) - (\theta_1 + f(\theta_1)) \geq \frac{1}{\max_{\theta} f''(\theta)} \int_{\theta_1}^{\theta_0} (1 + f'(\theta)) f''(\theta) d\theta,$$

i.e.

$$\theta_0 + f(\theta_0) - (\theta_1 + f(\theta_1)) \geq \frac{1}{2 \max_{\theta} f''(\theta)} [(1 + f'(\theta_0))^2 - (1 + f'(\theta_1))^2].$$

Now, since  $f'(\theta_0) = 0$  and  $f'(\theta_1) = -1$ , we obtain the inequality (22).

Now, by the condition of the theorem it follows from (22) that the value  $\bar{\theta}$  which the map takes on at the point  $\theta_1$  is less the corresponding value at the fixed point  $\theta_0$  and the difference does exceed  $\delta$ . It follows then from the definition of  $\delta$  that when  $\theta < \theta_1$  the value of  $\bar{\theta}$  is strictly less than  $\theta_0$ . By construction, same is also true for  $\theta \in [\theta_1, \theta_0)$ .

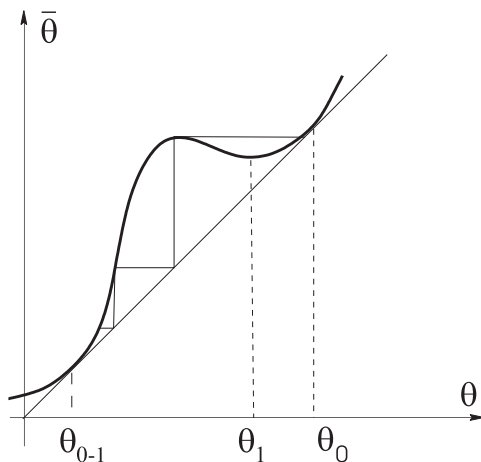


Figure 20: The map has only semi-stable fixed points and trajectories tending to them.

Thus, at the given  $\nu$ , the graph of the map on  $(\theta_0 - 1, \theta_0)$  belongs entirely to the region  $\theta \leq \bar{\theta} < \theta_0$ , see Fig. 20.

This means that there are only semi-stable fixed points and trajectories tending to them. Now, we can pick  $\nu$  a bit less than  $\nu^*$  so that these fixed points disintegrate in a finite number of stable and unstable ones; the remaining trajectories will go to the stable fixed point in forward time and to the unstable ones in backward time.

This is a structurally stable situation. It persists within a small interval  $\Delta$  of values of  $\nu$ . It persists too for all close maps, i.e. for the map  $T$  at sufficiently small  $\mu$  such that  $\nu(\mu) \pmod{1} \in \Delta$ . Here, the stable fixed point of the map  $\tilde{T}$  correspond such ones of the map  $T$ , while unstable ones to saddles. The one-dimensional unstable separatrices of the saddles tend to the stable fixed points; their closures forms an invariant circle. End of the proof.

### 3 Conclusion

We can resume now that the common feature of the problems in the classical synchronization theory is that they are often reducible to the study of an

annulus map, i.e. a map in the characteristic form

$$\begin{aligned}\bar{x} &= G(x, \theta), \\ \bar{\theta} &= \theta + \omega + F(x, \theta) \pmod{1},\end{aligned}\tag{23}$$

where the functions  $F$  and  $G$  are 1-periodic in  $\theta$ . We focused on the simplest case where the map (23) contracts areas. We described the structure of the bifurcation diagrams typical for this case, possible synchronization regimes and the connection between desynchronization and chaos.

We should mention that when the area-contraction property does not hold and higher dimensions become involved, the situation may be a way more complicated. So for example, in addition to saddle-node and period-doubling bifurcations, the system may possess a periodic orbit with a pair of complex-conjugate multipliers on the unit circle. Furthermore, when the corresponding bifurcation curve meets the boundary of the synchronization zone we will have already a periodic orbit with the triplet of multipliers  $(1, e^{\pm i\varphi})$ . An appropriate local normal form for this bifurcation will be close to that of an equilibrium state with characteristic exponents equal to  $(0, \pm i\omega)$  (the so-called Gavrilov-Guckenheimer point), and its local bifurcations are quite non-trivial [9, 12]. If, additionally, on the boundary of the synchronization zone this periodic orbit has a homoclinic trajectory, then one arrives to the necessity of studying global bifurcations of Gavrilov-Guckenheimer points with homoclinic orbits. Such a bifurcation has been already seen in the example of the blue sky catastrophe [11]. It has been also noticed recently in a synchronization problem [14]. It is getting evident that other codimension-two cases like  $(\pm 1, \pm 1)$  and  $(-1, e^{\pm i\varphi})$  with homoclinic orbits are worth a detailed analysis and will be called for soon too.

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