# SHIL'NIKOV SADDLE-FOCUS HOMOCLINIC ORBITS IN SINGULARLY PERTURBED SYSTEMS IN DIMENSION HIGHER THAN THREE

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# **Abstract**

We consider a singularly perturbed system depending on two parameters with a normally hyperbolic centre manifold. We assume that the unperturbed system has a homoclinic orbit connecting a hyperbolic fixed point on the centre manifold. We give conditions concerning the persistence of this connecting orbit and apply the result to construct a class of singularly perturbed systems in  $R^{m+2}$  which possess Shilnikov saddle-focus homoclinic orbits.

# **Key words**

Bifurcations, Chaos, Nonlinear systems

#### 1 Introduction

In this talk we consider a singularly perturbed system like:

$$\begin{cases} \dot{x} = \varepsilon f(x, y, \lambda, \varepsilon) \\ \dot{y} = g(x, y, \lambda, \varepsilon) \end{cases}$$
 (1)

where  $x \in \mathbf{R}^2$ ,  $y \in \mathbf{R}^m$ ,  $\lambda$  and  $\varepsilon$  are small real parameters and  $f(x,y,\lambda,\varepsilon)$ ,  $g(x,y,\lambda,\varepsilon)$  are  $C^r$ -functions in their arguments bounded with their derivatives,  $r \geq 1$ . We suppose that the following conditions hold:

(i) for any  $x \in \mathbf{R}^2$ , the equation

$$q(x, y, 0, 0) = 0$$

has a solution  $y = v(x) \in C_b^r(\mathbf{R}^2)$  (i.e. v(x) and its first r derivatives are bounded on  $\mathbf{R}^2$ ),

- (ii) there exists  $\delta_0 > 0$  such that, for any  $x \in \mathbf{R}^2$ , the eigenvalues  $\lambda(x)$  of  $g_y(x,v(x),0,0)$  satisfy  $|\mathrm{Re}\lambda(x)| > \delta_0$
- (iii) the equation on the centre manifold

$$\dot{x} = F(x) := f(x, v(x), 0, 0)$$

has an unstable focus  $\xi_0$ . We denote with  $\mu \pm i\omega$  (with  $\mu, \omega > 0$ ) the eigenvalues of the Jacoban matrix  $F'(\xi_0)$ .

(iv) the equation

$$\dot{y} = g(\xi_0, y, 0, 0)$$

has a solution  $\gamma_0(t)$  satisfying  $\gamma_0(t) \to v(\xi_0)$  as  $|t| \to \infty$  (homoclinic orbit) and  $\dot{\gamma}_0(t)$  is the unique bounded solution, up to a multiplicative constant, of the variational system  $\dot{y} = g_u(\xi_0, \gamma_0(t), 0)y$ .

(v) let  $\psi(t)$  be the unique (up to a multiplicative factor) bounded solution of the adjoint system

$$\dot{y} + g_y^*(\xi_0, \gamma_0(t), 0, 0)y = 0.$$

Then the following generic condition holds:

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \psi^*(t) g_x(\xi_0, \gamma_0(t), 0, 0) y \neq 0.$$

Conditions (i) and (ii) imply the existence of a centre manifold  $y=v(x,\lambda,\varepsilon)$  for the perturbed system together with their associated centre–stable and centre–unstable manifolds. Condition (iii) implies that the system on the perturbed centre manifold:

$$\dot{x} = F(x, \lambda, \varepsilon) := f(x, v(x, \lambda, \varepsilon), \lambda, \varepsilon) \tag{2}$$

has a hyperbolic fixed point  $\xi_0(\lambda, \varepsilon)$  and

$$q(\lambda, \varepsilon) = (\xi_0(\lambda, \varepsilon), v(\xi_0(\lambda, \varepsilon), \lambda, \varepsilon)$$

is a hyperbolic fixed point of system (1). Condition (iv) is a kind of nondegenerateness condition which

is automatically satisfied when (as we will assume in this paper)  $g_y(x,v(x),0)$  has a simple negative eigenvalue and all the other eigenvalues have positive real parts. Condition (v) implies that the *centre-stable* and the *centre-unstable* manifold of system (1) intersect transversally in a family of solutions which are homoclinic to the centre manifold  $y=v(x,\lambda,\varepsilon)$ . Here by centre-stable manifold we mean the submanifold of  $\mathbf{R}^{m+2}$  consisting of the initial point we have to assign to (1) so that the distance of the corresponding solution to the perturbed centre manifold  $y=v(x,\lambda,\varepsilon)$  tends to zero as  $t\to\infty$ . Centre-unstable manifold has a similar meaning.

Our purpose is to give a general class of singularly perturbed systems in  $\mathbf{R}^{m+2}$  which possess Shil'nikov saddle-focus homoclinic orbits.

To reach this goal we proceed in two steps. Using a result of [Battelli and Palmer, to appear] we find  $\lambda = \lambda(\varepsilon)$  such that system (1) with  $\lambda = \lambda(\varepsilon)$  has an orbit  $p(t,\varepsilon) = (x(t,\varepsilon),y(t,\varepsilon))$  which is homoclinic to the fixed point and, finally, we give a condition so that this homoclinic orbit satisfies the Shil'nikov-Deng conditions (see [Deng, 1993])

The theory of Shil'nikov saddle-focus homoclinic orbits is developed in [Shil'nikov, 1970; Deng, 1993]. Such orbits have been found in special systems (see, for example, [Deng, 1993; Deng and Hines, 2002; Feng and Wiggins; Hastings, 1982]) but not many general classes of systems with such orbits have been found, apart from that of Rodriguez [Rodriguez, 1986] where, however, only three-dimensional systems are studied. On the other hand, in higher dimensions, two extra conditions must be verified.

# 2 Homoclinic orbits to the fixed point

In the following theorem, we treat two cases: the first where the homoclinic orbit  $\gamma_0(t)$  breaks as  $\lambda$  passes through  $\lambda=0$  and a second degenerate case where  $\gamma_0(t)$  does not break as  $\lambda$  passes through  $\lambda=0$ , so that there is a one-parameter family  $y(t,\lambda)$  of homoclinic orbits of  $\dot{y}=g(y,\xi_0(\lambda,0),\lambda,0)$ .

Let  $\alpha, \sigma$  be positive numbers such that  $\alpha < \mu$  and  $\sigma < \delta_0$ . In [Battelli and Palmer to appear] the following theorem has been proved.

**Theorem** Let f and g be  $C^r$  functions  $(r \ge 2)$ , bounded together with their derivatives and satisfying conditions (i)-(v). Suppose also that either the condition

(vi)

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \psi^*(t) [g_x(\xi_0, \gamma_0(t), 0, 0) \xi_0'(0) + g_{\lambda}(\xi_0, \gamma_0(t), 0, 0)] dt \neq 0$$

or the following two conditions

(vii) the stable and unstable manifolds of the hyperbolic equilibrium  $y = v(\xi_0, \lambda, 0)$  of

$$\dot{y} = q(\xi_0(\lambda), y, \lambda, 0)$$

intersect near  $\gamma_0(0)$  so that there is a solution  $\gamma_0(t,\lambda) \to v^{\pm}(\xi_0,\lambda,0)$  as  $t \to \pm \infty$  with  $\gamma(0,\lambda)$  depending continuously on  $\lambda$  and  $y_0(0,0) = y_0(0)$ ;

(viii) if we denote with  $\psi(t,\lambda)$  the unique (up to a multiplicative constant), bounded solution of the adjoint linear system

$$\dot{y} + g_y^*(\xi_0(\lambda), \gamma_0(t, \lambda), \lambda, 0)y = 0,$$

then the Melnikov function

$$\mathcal{M}(\lambda) = -\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \psi(t,\lambda)^* \Big\{ g_{\varepsilon}(\xi_0(\lambda), \gamma_0(t), \lambda), \lambda, 0) \\ + g_x(\xi_0(\lambda), \gamma_0(t,\lambda), \lambda, 0) \cdot \Big( \int_{t}^{\infty} f(\xi_0(\lambda), \gamma_0(\tau, \lambda), \lambda, 0) d\tau - \frac{\partial \xi_0}{\partial \varepsilon}(\lambda, 0) \Big) \Big] \Big\} dt$$

has a simple zero at  $\lambda = 0$ 

hold. Then there exists a  $C^{r-1}$ -function  $(C^{r-2}$  in the second case)  $\lambda(\varepsilon)$  with  $\lambda(0)=0$  such that for  $\varepsilon$  sufficiently small and nonnegative, system (1) with  $\lambda=\lambda(\varepsilon)$  has a homoclinic solution  $p(t,\varepsilon)=(x(t,\varepsilon),y(t,\varepsilon))$ , that is,

$$p(t,\varepsilon) \neq q^{\pm}(\lambda(\varepsilon),\varepsilon)$$

but  $p(t,\varepsilon) \to q^{\pm}(\lambda(\varepsilon),\varepsilon)$  as  $t \to \pm \infty$ . Moreover  $p(t,0) = (\xi_0,\gamma_0(t))$ , and

$$\sup_{t \in \mathbf{R}_{\pm}} |x(t,\varepsilon) - \xi_0^{\pm}(\lambda(\varepsilon),\varepsilon)| e^{\varepsilon \alpha t} = O(\varepsilon), \\ \sup_{t \in \mathbf{R}} |y(t,\varepsilon) - \gamma_0(t)| = O(\varepsilon).$$
 (3)

Finally,  $\dot{p}(t,\varepsilon)$  is not in the tangent space to the unstable fibre through  $p(t,\varepsilon)$ , provided that

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(\xi_0, \gamma_0(t), 0, 0) dt \neq 0, \tag{4}$$

where, according to Theorem 3 in [Battelli and Palmer, to appear], vectors in the tangent space to the unstable fibre at  $p(t,\varepsilon)$  are the initial values of the solutions of the variational system along  $p(t,\varepsilon)$  which approach zero as  $t\to -\infty$  at an exponential rate greater than  $\sigma$ .

# 3 Shil'nikov-Deng condition

Here we recall the definition of saddle-focus homoclinic orbit as given in [Deng and Hines, 2002]. Let  $\dot{z}=F(z)$  be an autonomous system. The conditions for Shil'nikov chaos are:

(D1) q is an equilibrium such that the eigenvalues of F'(q) having the smallest positive real part are  $\mu\pm i\omega$  with  $\omega>0$  and

$$0 < \mu < -\text{Re}(\lambda)$$

for all eigenvalues  $\lambda$  with negative real parts; (D2) there is a homoclinic orbit p(t) to q, that is,  $p(t) \neq q$  and  $p(t) \in \mathcal{W}^s \cap \mathcal{W}^u$  ( $\mathcal{W}^s$ ,  $\mathcal{W}^u$  denote the stable and unstable manifolds of q), such that

$$\dim T_{p(t)}\mathcal{W}^s \cap T_{p(t)}\mathcal{W}^u = 1.$$

- (D3) as  $t \to -\infty$ , p(t) is asymptotically tangent to the linear span of the eigenvectors of  $\mu \pm i\omega$ ;
- (D4) there is a submanifold  $\mathcal{M}_0$  of  $\mathcal{W}^u$  containing p(0) with  $\dim \mathcal{M}_0 = \dim \mathcal{W}^{uu}$  such that

$$\lim_{t\to\infty} T_{p(t)}\mathcal{M}_t = T_q \mathcal{W}^{uu},$$

where  $\mathcal{M}_t = \phi(t, \mathcal{M}_0)$  and  $\mathcal{W}^{uu}$  is the strong unstable manifold of the equilibrium q that is a locally invariant manifold containing q whose tangent space at q consists of the sum of the generalized eigenspaces of F'(q) corresponding to the eigenvalues with real part greater than  $\mu$ .

Conditions (D1), (D2) are the only conditions needed in  ${\bf R}^3$ , although in  ${\bf R}^3$  the second part of (D2) is automatically satisfied. In higher dimensions, we have to add conditions (D3) and (D4). Note that solutions of (1) starting in  ${\cal W}^{uu}$  approach q as  $t\to -\infty$  at an exponential rate faster than  $\mu$ .

If there is such a homoclinic orbit, Shil'nikov and Deng show the presence of chaotic dynamics near it.

Assuming the conditions of Theorem 1 hold, we take  $z=(x,y), F(z)=(\varepsilon f(x,y,\lambda(\varepsilon),\varepsilon),g(x,y,\lambda(\varepsilon),\varepsilon)), q=q(\lambda(\varepsilon),\varepsilon)$  and  $p(t)=p(t,\varepsilon)$ . The Jacobian matrix F'(q) is

$$\begin{pmatrix} \varepsilon f_x(q(\lambda(\varepsilon),\varepsilon)) \ \varepsilon f_y(q(\lambda(\varepsilon),\varepsilon)) \\ g_x(q(\lambda(\varepsilon),\varepsilon)) \ g_y(q(\lambda(\varepsilon),\varepsilon)) \end{pmatrix}$$

and has the eigenvalues  $\varepsilon(\mu\pm i\omega+O(\varepsilon))$  and  $\pm\lambda+O(\varepsilon)$ . Thus (D1) is satisfied, if  $\varepsilon>0$  is sufficiently small. Next, since  $\dim \mathcal{W}^s$  equals the number of eigenvalues with negative real parts and we only have one such eigenvalue, we see that (D2) is satisfied. Next (D3) is equivalent to saying that  $\dot{p}(t,\varepsilon)$  is not in the tangent space to the unstable fibre through  $p(t,\varepsilon)$  and this follows from Theorem 1, provided condition (4) holds. Thus we only have to check that (D4) is satisfied. It turns out this is equivalent to the condition:  $\dim(T_{p(0,\varepsilon)}\mathcal{W}^u\cap W^{cs})=2$  where  $W^{cs}=T_{p(0,\varepsilon)}\mathcal{M}^{cs}$ 

is the tangent space to the centre stable manifold. We show that  $T_{p(0,\varepsilon)}\mathcal{W}^u=T_{p(0,\varepsilon)}\mathcal{M}^{cu}$ , the tangent space to the centre unstable manifold. For this, it suffices to show that  $T_{p(0,\varepsilon)}\mathcal{W}^u\subset T_{p(0,\varepsilon)}\mathcal{M}^{cu}$  since both subspaces have the same dimension. However it follows from [Battelli and Palmer, to appear] that  $T_{p(0,\varepsilon)}\mathcal{M}^{cu}$  consists of the initial values of solutions of the variational system which do not grow at too high an exponential rate as  $t\to -\infty$ . However, all the solutions beginning in  $T_{p(0,\varepsilon)}\mathcal{W}^u$  tend to zero as  $t\to -\infty$ . So the inclusion follows. Then (D4) follows, since (vi) implies that  $\mathcal{M}^{cs}$  and  $\mathcal{M}^{cu}$  intersect transversely at  $p(0,\varepsilon)$  (see [Battelli and Palmer, 2001]). So we obtain the following

**Theorem**. Assume that conditions (i)—(iv), equation (4) and that either (v)-(vi) or (vi)—(viii) hold. Then system (1) has a Shil'nikov saddle focus homoclinic orbit with the induced chaotic behaviour.

# 4 An example

We consider the following system in  $\mathbb{R}^5$ 

$$\begin{cases} \dot{x} = \varepsilon f(x, y, \varepsilon) + \varepsilon^2 f_1(x, y, z, \lambda, \varepsilon) \\ \dot{y} = g(x, y, z) + \lambda g_1(x, y, z, \varepsilon) \\ \dot{z} = zh(z) + \varepsilon h_1(x, y, z, \lambda, \varepsilon) \end{cases}$$
(5)

where  $x,y \in \mathbf{R}^2$  and  $z \in \mathbf{R}$ . We assume that  $f(x,y,\varepsilon)$ ,  $f_1(x,y,z,\lambda,\varepsilon)$ , g(x,y,z),  $g_1(x,y,z,\lambda,\varepsilon)$ , h(z) and  $h_1(x,y,z,\lambda,\varepsilon)$  are  $C^2$ -functions bounded together with their derivatives and the following conditions hold:

1) 
$$g(x,0,0) = 0$$
,  $g_1(x,0,0,0) = 0$ 

Taking x as slow variable and (y,z) as fast variable, it follows from 1) that when  $\varepsilon=\lambda=0$  system (5) has the centre manifold (y,z)=v(x)=0. Moreover, according to 1), this centre manifold persists when  $\lambda\neq 0$ , that is  $v(x,\lambda,0)=0$ .

Then we assume

2) h(0) > 0 and  $\dot{y} = g(0, y, 0)$  has a homoclinic orbit  $y_0(t)$  to the fixed point y = 0 and for any  $x \in \mathbf{R}^2$ ,  $g_y(x, 0, 0)$  has the eigenvalues  $\pm \alpha(x)$  with  $\alpha(x) > \alpha > 0$ .

Conditions 1) and 2) imply that (ii) is satisfied. Moreover 2) implies that the fast system

$$\begin{cases} \dot{y} = g(0, y, z) \\ \dot{z} = zh(z) \end{cases}$$
 (6)

has the fixed point (y,z)=(0,0) and the homoclinic orbit to it:  $\gamma_0(t)=(y_0(t),0)$ . Moreover the Jacobian matrix of (6) at (y,z)=(0,0) has two positive eigenvalues  $(\alpha(0))$  and h(0) and the negative eigenvalue  $-\alpha(0)$ . Thus the intersection of the stable and unstable manifold of (y,z)=(0,0) is one–dimensional and then condition (iv) is satisfied.

Next we assume

3) x=0 is a focus of equation  $\dot{x}=f(x,0,0)$ , that is f(0,0,0)=0 and  $f_x(0,0,0)$  has the eigenvalues  $\mu+i\omega, \mu, \omega>0$ .

Hence condition (iii) is satisfied. To apply our Theorem we need that conditions (v), (vi) and (4) are satisfied. Since when  $\varepsilon=0$  the equation on the centre manifold  $(y,z)=v(x,\lambda,0)=0$  is always  $\dot{x}=f(x,0,0)$ , we see that  $\xi_0(\lambda,0)=0$ . Hence (v) and (4) read respectively:

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \psi^*(t)g_1(0, y_0(t), 0, 0)dt \neq 0 \tag{7}$$

and

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(0, y_0(t), 0) dt \neq 0.$$
 (8)

Thus we obtain the following:

**Proposition 1.** Assume  $f(x, y, z, \lambda, \varepsilon)$ , g(x, y, z),  $g_1(x, y, z, \varepsilon)$ , h(z) and  $h_1(x, y, z, \lambda, \varepsilon)$  are  $C^2$  – functions bounded with their derivatives and that conditions 1)–3) and (7), (8) hold together with

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \psi^*(t) g_x(0, y_0(t), 0) dt \neq 0.$$

Then system (5) has a Shil'nikov saddle-focus orbit with the induced chaotic behaviour.

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