

Validated computation of spectral stability via conjugate points

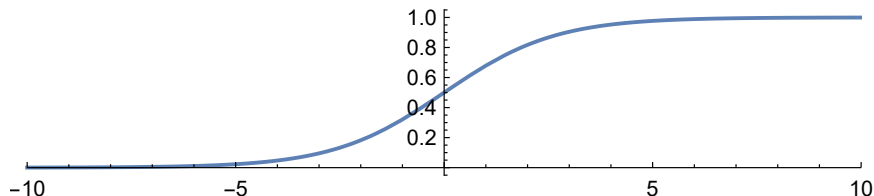
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Boston University

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Equations and Wave Phenomena:
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Nonlinear Waves

Coherent structures (eg pulse solutions and traveling waves) are an essential part of understanding nonlinear PDEs

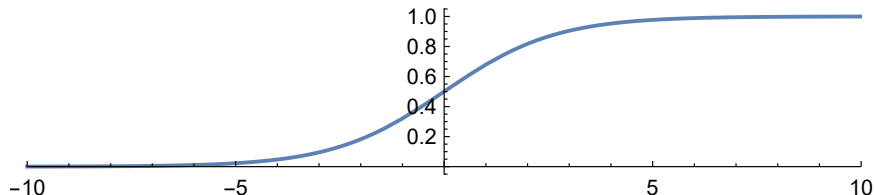


We prove existence and spectral stability of standing waves

- Novel approach based on Maslov index (cf Evans functions)
- This approach produces efficient numerics
- ... and computer assisted proofs!

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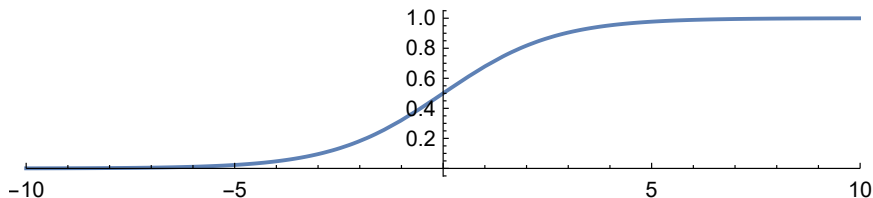
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Reaction Diffusion System

Consider a reaction diffusion equation

$$u_t = Du_{xx} + \nabla G(u), \quad u \in \mathbb{R}^n \quad x \in \mathbb{R}$$

for diffusion matrix D and nonlinearity $G \in C^2(\mathbb{R}^n, \mathbb{R}^n)$



Assume $\varphi(x) : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ is a stationary solution

For symmetric $\mathcal{M}(x) = \nabla^2 G(\varphi(x))$, one obtains the eigenvalue problem

$$\lambda u = Du_{xx} + \mathcal{M}(x)u =: \mathcal{L}u, \quad u \in \mathbb{R}^n, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}$$

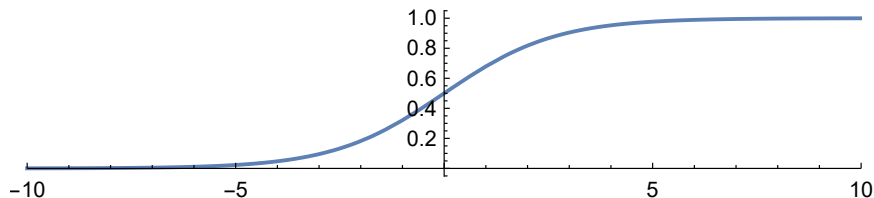
Note $\sigma(\mathcal{L}) = \sigma_{ess}(\mathcal{L}) \cup \sigma_{pt}(\mathcal{L})$. $\sigma_{ess}(\mathcal{L})$ is easy $\sigma_{pt}(\mathcal{L})$ is hard

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Gradient Nonlinearity & Symplectic Structure

Rewrite $\mathcal{L}u = Du_{xx} + \mathcal{M}(x)u$ using a symplectic structure

$$U_x = JB(x; \lambda)U \quad U \in \mathbb{R}^{2n} \quad J = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -Id \\ Id & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \lambda \in \mathbb{R} \quad (1)$$

where $J^2 = -I$, and we define $U = (u, Du_x)$ and the symmetric matrix

$$B(x; \lambda) = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda - \mathcal{M}(x) & 0 \\ 0 & -D^{-1} \end{pmatrix}$$

For $U, W \in \mathbb{R}^{2n}$ we define a symplectic form by

$$\omega : \mathbb{R}^{2n} \times \mathbb{R}^{2n} \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \quad \omega(U, W) = \langle U, JW \rangle$$

Symplectic Form is Preserved Under the Flow

If $U(x)$ and $W(x)$ solve

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Eigenvalue Problem: A nonautonomous linear ODE

λ and a solution $U_x = JB(x; \lambda)U$ is an eigen-pair iff

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \pm\infty} |U(x)| = 0$$

Define $JB_{\pm}(\lambda) := \lim_{x \rightarrow \pm\infty} JB(x; \lambda)$

Define $\mathbb{E}_{\pm}^{u/s}(x; \lambda)$ as the space of solutions which are asymptotic to the unstable (stable) eigenspace of $JB_{\pm}(\lambda)$ as $x \rightarrow \pm\infty$

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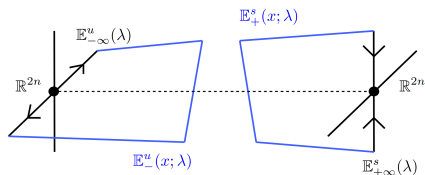
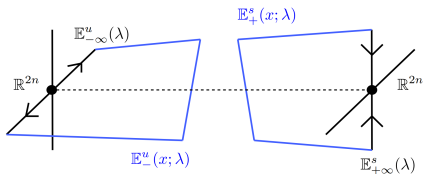


Figure: (MB) The spaces $\mathbb{E}_{-}^u(x; \lambda)$ and $\mathbb{E}_{+}^s(x; \lambda)$ consist of solutions which go to 0 as $x \rightarrow -\infty$ and $x \rightarrow +\infty$ respectively.

λ is an eigenvalue iff

$$\mathbb{E}_-^u(x; \lambda) \cap \mathbb{E}_+^s(x; \lambda) \neq \{0\}$$



Mild Ansatz: $J\mathcal{B}_\pm(0)$ is hyperbolic with n positive & n negative e-val
 If φ is a wave, then

$$\begin{pmatrix} \varphi'(x) \\ D\varphi''(x) \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{E}_-^u(x; 0) \cap \mathbb{E}_+^s(x; 0)$$

Sturm Liouville Theory ($n = 1$)

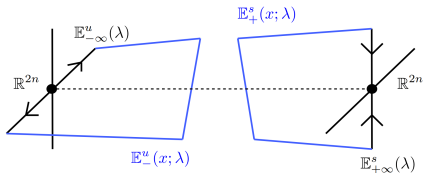
One can count unstable eigenvalues by counting zeros of $\varphi'(x)$

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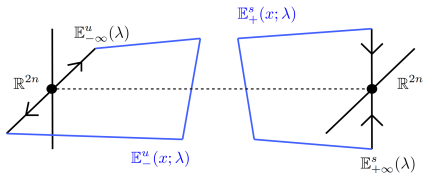
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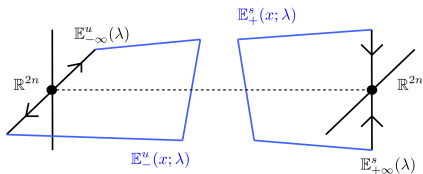
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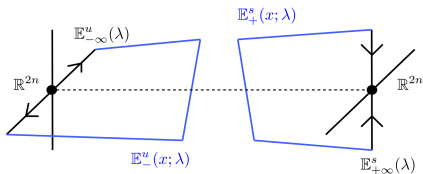
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The Lagrangian Grassmannian

$$\Lambda(n) := \{ \ell \subset \mathbb{R}^{2n} : \dim(\ell) = n, \omega(U, W) = 0 \ \forall U, W \in \ell \}$$

$\Lambda(n)$ has dimension $n(n+1)/2$ and has same \mathbb{Z}_2 homology as $\mathbb{S}^1 \times \cdots \times \mathbb{S}^n$

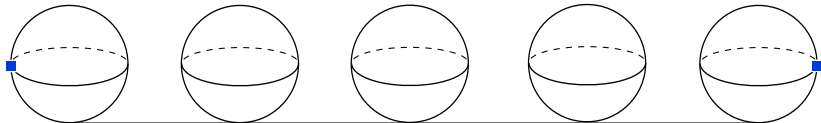


Figure: Cartoon picture of $\Lambda(2)$, which is double covered by $\mathbb{S}^1 \times \mathbb{S}^2$

$\pi_1(\Lambda(n)) = \mathbb{Z}$ and **Maslov Index** measures the homotopy type of paths.

$\Lambda(n) \cong U(n)/O(n)$ and

$$\det^2 : U(n)/O(n) \rightarrow \mathbb{S}^1 \subseteq \mathbb{C}$$

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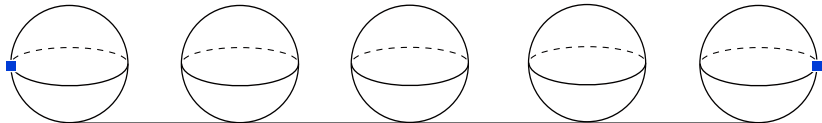


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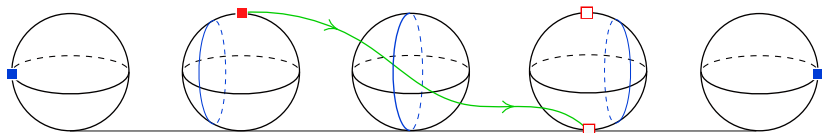
Conjugate Points

Define the **Dirichlet subspace** as

$$\mathcal{D} := \{(u, v) \in \mathbb{R}^{2n} : u = 0\}$$

Define the **train of \mathcal{D}** as

$$\mathcal{T} := \{\ell \in \Lambda(n) : \ell \cap \mathcal{D} \neq \{0\}\}$$



For fixed $\lambda = 0$, define **conjugate points** as values of x s.t. $\mathbb{E}_-^u(x; 0) \in \mathcal{T}$

Theorem [BCJ⁺18]

The number of positive eigenvalues of \mathcal{L} is equal to the number of conjugate points

All conjugate points are in $[-L_-, L_+]$ for some $L_-, L_+ \in \mathbb{R}$

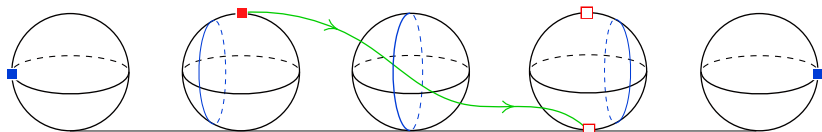
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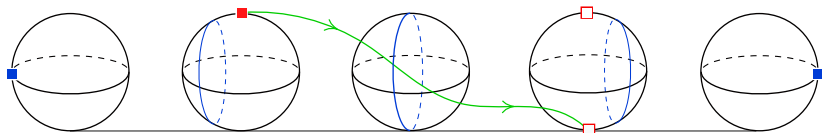
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How to Find Conjugate Points?

If the columns of $A(x) = \begin{pmatrix} A_1(x) \\ A_2(x) \end{pmatrix}$ span $\mathbb{E}_-^u(x)$ then A is said to be a **frame matrix**

$$\begin{array}{ccc} x \in \mathbb{R} & \xrightarrow{A} & \mathbb{R}^{2n \times n} \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ x \in \mathbb{R} & \xrightarrow{\mathbb{E}_-^u} & \Lambda(n) \end{array}$$

Lemma

$$\mathbb{E}_-^u(x; 0) \in \mathcal{T} \iff \det A_1(x) = 0$$

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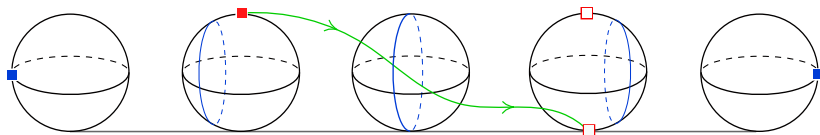
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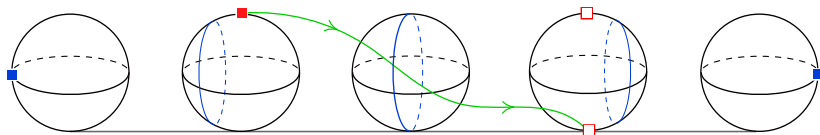
Our Numerical Methodology



- 1 Compute a stationary solution
- 2 Fix L_- and prove $\mathbb{E}_-^u(x; 0) \notin \mathcal{T}$ for $x \in (-\infty, -L_-]$
- 3 Fix L_+ and calculate a frame matrix of $\mathbb{E}_-^u(x; 0)$ for $x \in [-L_-, L_+]$
- 4 Prove $\mathbb{E}_-^u(x; 0) \notin \mathcal{T}$ for $x \in [L_+, +\infty)$
- 5 Count all the conjugate points in $[-L_-, L_+]$

Paper [BJ22] & code [BJ21] are available

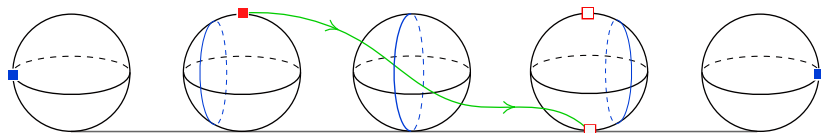
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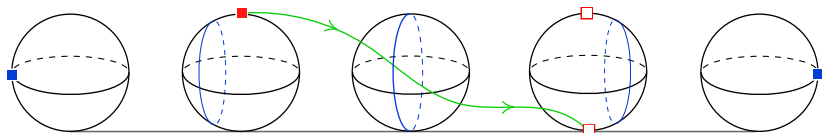
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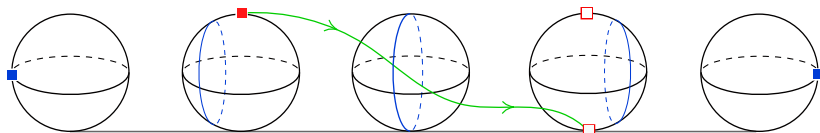
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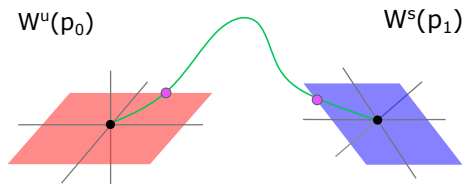
Step 1: Compute a Connecting Orbit

Want to find a stationary solution $\varphi(x) : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ to

$$u_t = Du_{xx} + \nabla G(u)$$

Corresponds to a connecting orbit $\phi = (\varphi, D\varphi_x)$ to the Hamiltonian ODE

$$H(v, w) = \frac{1}{2} \|D^{-1}w\|^2 + G(v)$$
$$(v, w)' = -J\nabla H(v, w)$$



Suppose $p_0, p_1 \in \mathbb{R}^{2n}$ are equilibria with equal energy $H(p_0) = H(p_1)$
Each with n -stable and n -unstable real eigenvalues in their linearization.

A lot of prior work on the subject w/ computer assisted proofs.

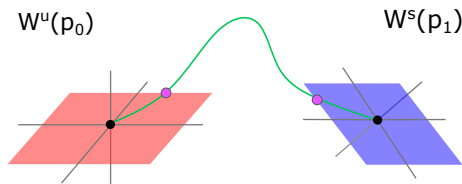
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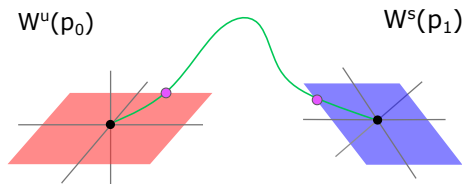
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Step 2: How to define $A(x)$, a frame matrix for $\mathbb{E}_-^u(x; 0)$?

Let v_k be the unstable e-vectors of JB_- . Then

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \mathbb{E}_-^u(x) = \text{span}\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$$

There exist eigenfunctions $V_k : (-\infty, -L_-] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{2n}$ such that

$$V_k' = JB(x; 0)V_k, \quad \left\| V_k(x)e^{-\lambda_k x} - v_k \right\|_{L^\infty((-\infty, -L_-], \mathbb{R}^{2n})} < \epsilon$$

Use exponential dichotomies!

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Step 2: Defining the frame matrix $A(-L_-)$

Let $\mathcal{V}_-^u, \mathcal{V}_-^s$ denote frame matrices for the (un)stable eigenspace of JB_- .

For fixed $L_- \geq 0$, compute error bounds \mathcal{E} for a frame matrix of $\mathbb{E}_-^u(-L_-)$

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Choose $L_- \gg 1$ s.t. no conjugate pts for $x \in (-\infty, -L_-]$

Error bounds in the unstable eigen-directions will grow exponentially!

We multiply by an invertible matrix to get a new frame matrix

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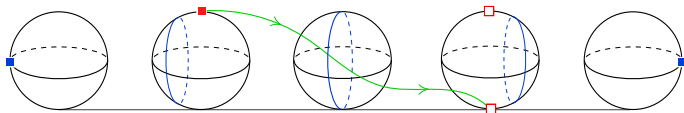
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Step 3: Defining $A(x)$ for $x \in [-L_-, L_+]$



Fix L_- , L_+ and initial frame matrix

$$A(-L_-) = \mathcal{V}^u + \mathcal{V}^s \mathcal{E}^s (I + \mathcal{E}^u)^{-1}$$

Define $A(x)$ by integrating the columns forward according to

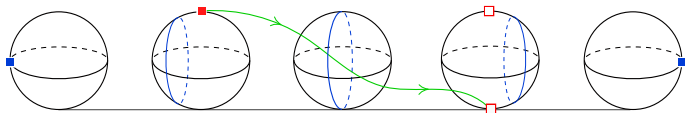
$$U_x = J\mathcal{B}(x; \lambda)U, \quad U \in \mathbb{R}^{2n}$$

where $\varphi(x)$ is a connecting orbit &

$$\mathcal{B}(x; \lambda) = \begin{pmatrix} -\nabla^2 G(\varphi(x)) & 0 \\ 0 & -D^{-1} \end{pmatrix}$$

- $\Lambda(n)$ is compact, but frame matrices are not; solutions grow exponentially large
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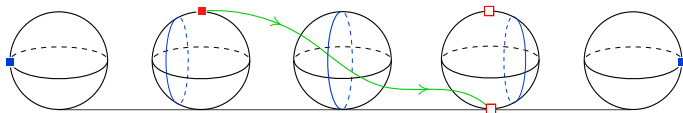
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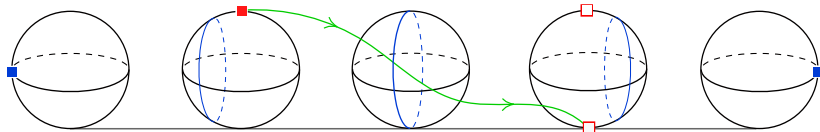
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Step 4: Proving there are no conjugate points past L_+



Consider flow on $\Lambda(n)$ induced by $\dot{U} = J\mathcal{B}_+ U$,

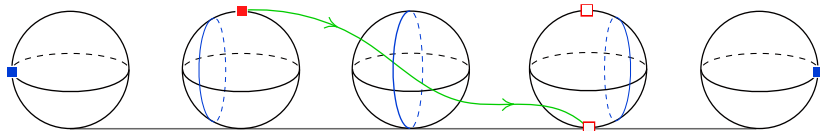
- Fixed points in $\Lambda(n)$ are subspaces spanned by e-vectors of $J\mathcal{B}_+$
- Unstable e-space $\mathbb{E}_{+\infty}^u$ of $J\mathcal{B}_+$ is stable under the flow
- Derivative of the wave is an e-function, so

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \mathbb{E}_-(x; 0) \cap \mathbb{E}_{+\infty}^s \neq \{0\}$$

$\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \mathbb{E}_-(x; 0)$ is unstable under the flow!

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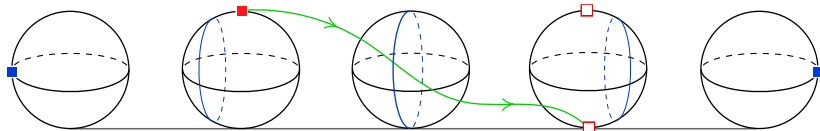
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Number of conjugate points equals number of positive e-values

All conjugate points are in $[-L_-, L_+]$

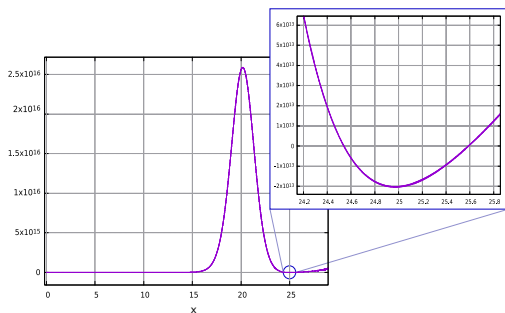


Figure: Graph of $\det A_1(x)$ with two conjugate points

- Consider frame matrix of $\mathbb{E}_-^u(x)$,

$$A(x) = \begin{pmatrix} A_1(x) \\ A_2(x) \end{pmatrix}$$

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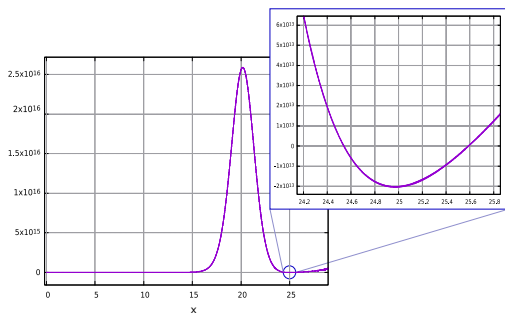


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Results: Coupled Bistable Equations

Consider the (uncoupled) scalar reaction diffusion equation

$$u_t = u_{xx} + \nabla G(u), \quad u \in \mathbb{R}^1 \quad x \in \mathbb{R}$$

where

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The resulting PDE is

$$\partial_t u = \partial_x^2 u + b f(u)$$

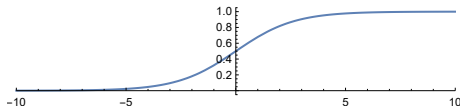
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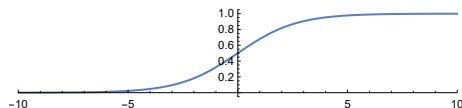
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For $n = 3$, this becomes

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Theorem with computer assisted proof [BJ22]

Fix the parameter $b = (b_1, b_2, b_3) = (1, .98, .96)$

At each of the four parameter combinations

$$c_{\pm, \pm} = (\pm c_{12}, \pm c_{23}) = (\pm .04, \pm .02)$$

there exists a **standing wave solution** $\varphi_{\pm, \pm}$ to (2) such that

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Acknowledgments

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- Margaret Beck
- Mathematical Sciences Research Institute 2018 semester on:
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- Maciej Capiński
- You the audience!



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