# slow passage through folds and pitchforks

**BKT 2024** Ryan Goh

Fronts in the wake of a parameter ramp:

### How does growth and heterogeneity control pattern formation?













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# Growth and patterns

### Examples in both natural and experimental systems

6 nm

0 nm

[Bradley, et.al]

• Heterogeneities

(c)

500 nm

Ion bombardment of alloys

- Growth mechanisms •
- Quenching/solidification interfaces
- Deposition/reaction fronts



[Thomas et.al, '13]

### **Outline:** Fronts and slow parameter ramps

Slow parameter ramps control front formation through various dynamic bifurcations, depending on ramp speed.

- Motivating Examples: coherent structures in presence of slow ramps
- Fronts in Allen-Cahn model
  - Moving parameter ramp: absolute/convective instability, and slow passage through a fold i)
  - Stationary parameter ramp, Painlevé-II and slow passage through a pitchfork bifurcation 11)
  - iii) Stability (in 2 slides)
  - iv) Gluing the two regimes: Painlevé-II with drift
- Homogeneous Ramps: fronts and patterns 3.

4. Outlook

### Collaborators

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### Slow ramps and patterns



Also [Rehberg, Riecke, 1987], [Chomaz, Couraion], [Pomeau,Zaleski]

### **Swift-Hohenberg**

$$u_t = -(1 + \partial_x^2)^2 u + \mu(x)u - u^3$$
$$\mu(x) = -\mu_0 \tanh(\epsilon x)$$

Ramp slope:  $\epsilon$ 

Front solutions: 
$$u(x) \to \sqrt{4\mu_0/3} \cos(k_x x + \phi) + O(\mu_0)$$
 as  
 $u(x) \to 0$  as  $x \to +\infty$ 







 $x \to -\infty$ 



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### Swift-Hohenberg - moving ramp

$$u_t = -(1 + \partial_x^2)^2 u + \mu(x - ct)u - u^3$$
  
$$\mu(\xi) = -\mu_0 \tanh(\epsilon\xi), \qquad \xi := x - ct$$

Front solutions with:

 $u(\xi, \omega t) \rightarrow \sqrt{4\mu_0/3} \cos(k_x \xi + \omega t) + O(\mu_0)$ , as  $x \rightarrow -\infty$ , frequency  $\omega = ck_x$ 

 $u(\xi, \omega t) \to 0 \text{ as } x \to +\infty$ 

 $u(\xi, \tau + 2\pi) = u(\xi, \tau)$ 



 $\epsilon = +\infty \longrightarrow [RG, Scheel, '18, '23]$ 





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### First step: Allen-Cahn model

 $u_t = u_{xx} + \mu(x - ct)u - u^3, \quad (x, t) \in \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}_+$  $\mu(\xi) = -\tanh(\epsilon\xi), \quad 0 < \epsilon \ll 1$ 

Ramp speed:  $c \ge 0$ Ramp slope:  $\epsilon$ 

Travelling wave solutions:  $u(x, t) = u(x - ct), \quad \xi := x - ct$ 

$$0 = u_{\xi\xi} + cu_{\xi} + \mu u - u^3,$$
  
$$\mu_{\xi} = -\epsilon(1 - \mu^2)$$

$$\lim_{\substack{\xi \to -\infty \\ \xi \to -\infty}} u(\xi) = 1, \qquad \qquad \lim_{\substack{\xi \to +\infty \\ \xi \to -\infty}} u(\xi) = 0 \qquad \qquad \begin{array}{c} 0.8 \\ 0.6 \\ \lim_{\xi \to +\infty} \mu(\xi) = -1 \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{c} 0.6 \\ 0.6 \\ 0.4 \end{array}$$

0.2



### Two generic regimes



 $c = \mathcal{O}_{\epsilon}(1), \qquad 0 < c < 2$ 

- Fronts do not (!) take off at instantaneous stability transition  $\mu = 0$ 

- Leading order: front interface governed by  $\mu$  transition between convective and absolute instability

- Slow ramp induces a further *delay*, controlled by *slow* passage through a fold (of eigenspaces)

(Technically  $c \gg$ 

 $c \sim 0$ 

- Diffusive tail of front into  $\mu < 0$  region

- Slow passage through a pitchfork bifurcation

controls front interface

- Hastings-McLeod *connecting* solution of Painlevé-II equation gives "inner" solution

$$e^{1/3}, \qquad c \ll e^{1/3}$$
)



#### 0 < c < 21st Regime: $c = \mathcal{O}_{\epsilon}(1)$ ,

Absolute and convective instability

Convective instability  $\mu < \mu_c$ 

 $\mathcal{V}$ 

Dispersion relation  $\lambda = \nu^2 + c\nu + \mu \implies$  transition at  $\mu_c = c^2/4$ .

 $v_t = v_{\xi\xi} + cv_{\xi} + \mu v =: L(\mu, c)v$  $\mathcal{V}$  $\longrightarrow$  decreasing  $c \longrightarrow$  $\rightarrow$  increasing  $\mu$   $\rightarrow$ Absolute instability  $\mu > \mu_c$ 

set  $\mu(\xi_c) = \mu_c$ 

# 1st Regime: $c = \mathcal{O}_{\epsilon}(1)$ ,





Convective instability  $\mu < \mu_c$ 

 $\mathcal{V}$ 

Dispersion relation  $\lambda = \nu^2 + c\nu + \mu \implies$  transition at  $\mu_c = c^2/4$ .



Secondary Delay!



**Theorem:** Existence of transverse front solution for  $\epsilon$  sufficiently small,  $u(\xi)$  positive, monotone, with front interface location given by

$$\begin{split} \mu_{\rm fr} = & \frac{c^2}{4} + \Omega_0 \left( 1 - \frac{c^4}{16} \right)^{\frac{2}{3}} \epsilon^{\frac{2}{3}} + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon \log(\epsilon)) \\ \Omega_0 \longrightarrow Smallest \ positive \ root \ of \ J_{-1/3}(2z^{3/2}/3) + J_{1/3}(2z^{3/2}/3), \quad J_n \to Bessel \ Function \ of \ 1st \ kind \ J_{-1/3}(2z^{3/2}/3) + J_{1/3}(2z^{3/2}/3), \quad J_n \to Bessel \ Function \ of \ 1st \ kind \ J_{-1/3}(2z^{3/2}/3) + J_{1/3}(2z^{3/2}/3), \quad J_n \to Bessel \ Function \ of \ 1st \ kind \ J_{-1/3}(2z^{3/2}/3) + J_{1/3}(2z^{3/2}/3), \quad J_n \to Bessel \ Function \ of \ 1st \ kind \ J_{-1/3}(2z^{3/2}/3) + J_{1/3}(2z^{3/2}/3), \quad J_n \to Bessel \ Function \ of \ 1st \ kind \ J_{-1/3}(2z^{3/2}/3) + J_{1/3}(2z^{3/2}/3), \quad J_n \to Bessel \ Function \ of \ 1st \ kind \ J_{-1/3}(2z^{3/2}/3) + J_{-1/3}(2z^{3/2}/3), \quad J_n \to Bessel \ Function \ J_{-1/3}(2z^{3/2}/3) + J_{-1/3}(2z^{3/2}/3), \quad J_n \to Bessel \ Function \ J_{-1/3}(2z^{3/2}/3) + J_{-1/3}(2z^{3/2}/3), \quad J_n \to Bessel \ Function \ J_{-1/3}(2z^{3/2}/3) + J_{-1/3}(2z^{3/2}/3), \quad J_n \to Bessel \ Function \ J_{-1/3}(2z^{3/2}/3) + J_{-1/3}(2z^{3/2}/3) +$$



$$0 = u_{\xi\xi} + cu_{\xi} + \mu u - u^3,$$
$$\mu_{\xi} = -\epsilon(1 - \mu^2)$$



### Geometric singular perturbation theory



Track  $W_{\epsilon}^{u}$  and  $W_{\epsilon}^{u}$  by studying  $\epsilon = 0$  phase portraits: -  $W_0^{\mu} = \bigcup_{\mu} W_0^{\mu \mu}$  for  $\mu < 0$  when  $S_0 = \{(0,0,\mu), \mu < 0\}$  is normally hyperbolic -  $W_0^s = \bigcup_{\mu} W_0^{ss}$ , for  $\mu > 0$  when  $S_+ = \{(\sqrt{\mu}, 0, \mu), \mu > 0\}$  is normally hyperbolic Fenichel theory  $\implies S_0$  and  $S_+$  persist as slow invariant manifolds for  $0 < \epsilon \ll 1$  with strong foliations creating  $W_{\epsilon}^{u}$  and  $W_{\epsilon}^{u}$ 

*Difficulty:* Tracking invariant manifolds through non-normally hyperbolic point at (0,0,0)

### Desingularization: Blow-up of line $(u, v) = 0, \mu \in [-1, 1]$

$$\begin{split} u_{\zeta} &= v \\ v_{\zeta} &= cv - \mu u + u^3 \\ \mu_{\zeta} &= \epsilon (1 - \mu^2) \,. \end{split}$$

 $u = r \cos \phi, \quad v = r \sin \phi, \qquad (r, \phi) \in \mathbb{R}_+ \times [0, 2\pi)$ 



- r = 0 dynamics give flow on 1-Grassmanian, induced by linearized dynamics (u, v) = (0, 0)
- Jordan block yielding oscillatory dynamics
- $0 < \epsilon \ll 1$ : Geometric singular perturbation theory [Fenichel]  $\implies$  slow-manifolds  $S_{\epsilon}^{a}$  persists,

•  $\epsilon = 0$ : fold of equilibria curves  $S_0^a$ ,  $S_0^r$  at  $\mu = c^2/4$ , corresponds to real eigenspaces (in u, v dynamics) colliding in



### **Projectivized Flow**

Projectivized coordinate chart: z = v/u + c/2, u,  $\theta = \mu - c^2/4$ 

$$z_{\zeta} = -z^2 - \theta + u^2,$$
  

$$u_{\zeta} = (z + c/2)u,$$
  

$$\theta_{\zeta} = \epsilon(1 - (\theta + c^2/4)^2).$$

 $U_0 := \{u = 0\}$  is normally hyperbolic invariant manifold



Slow passage through a fold in  $U_0$  dynamics:





### Normal hyperbolicity and slow passage through a fold

[Krupa & Szmolyan, 2001]: Geometric blow-up of fold point in  $U_0$  dynamics —>

Bifurcation delay of slow manifold  $S_{\epsilon}^{a}$  is  $\mathcal{O}(\epsilon^{2/3})$ 



... use Fenichel theory, and normal hyperbolicity in the  $u\mbox{-direction}$  to locate heteroclinic intersection in neighborhood of  $U_0$ 



### Stationary case, c = 0: slow passage through a pitchfork

$$u_{\xi} = v$$
$$v_{\xi} = -\mu u + u^{3}$$
$$\mu_{\xi} = -\epsilon(1 - \mu^{2})$$



See also [Haberman '80, Mareé '96, Krupa/Szmolyan '01] for related but different studies



### Stationary case, c = 0: slow passage through a pitchfork

$$\begin{split} u_{\xi} &= v & \text{Quasi-homogeneous blow-up} \\ v_{\xi} &= -\mu u + u^3 \\ \mu_{\xi} &= -\epsilon(1-\mu^2) \\ \epsilon_{\xi} &= 0. \end{split}$$

μ

Blows-up  

$$(0,0,0,0) \rightarrow S_3 = \{r = 0, \ \overline{u}^2 + \overline{v}^2 + \overline{\mu}^2 + \overline{\epsilon}^2 = 1\}$$
  
 $\overline{\mu} > 0$   
 $S_0^0$ 

 $S_0^+$  - line of critical equilibria  $(u, v, \mu, \epsilon) = (1, 0, \mu, 0)$  $S_0^0$  - line of critical equilibria  $(u, v, \mu, \epsilon) = (0, 0, \mu, 0)$ 



... track evolution of invariant manifolds using coordinate charts  $K_1 \sim \bar{\mu} = 1$  $K_2 \sim \bar{\epsilon} = 1$  $K_3 \sim \bar{\mu} = -1$ 



#### Crucial part: rescaling chart $K_2 \sim \bar{\epsilon} = 1$ $u = r_2 u_2, v = r_2^2 v_2, \mu = r_2^2 \mu_2, \epsilon = r_2^3$ , and time re-scaling: $u'_{2} = v_{2}$ $u'_{2} = v_{2}$ $r_2 = 0 \qquad v_2' =$ $v_2' = -\mu_2 u_2 + u_2^3$ $\begin{array}{c} r_2 - \upsilon \\ \hline \\ \text{Restrict to sphere} \end{array} & \mu_2' = -1 \\ r_2' = 0. \end{array}$ $\mu_2' = -1 + r_2^4 \mu_2^2$ $r_{2}' = 0.$ [Hastings & McLeod 1980] —> Exists a unique connecting orbit $\tilde{u}_{2}^{*}$ with $\tilde{u}_2^*(\xi_2) \sim \sqrt{-\xi_2/2}, \ \xi_2 \to -\infty, \qquad \tilde{u}_2^*(\xi_2) \sim \operatorname{Ai}(\xi_2), \ \xi_2 \to +\infty,$ 0.7 0.35 0.6 0.3 0.5 0.25 0.4 0.2 $\mathfrak{A}$ $\mathfrak{n}$ 0.3 0.15 0.2 0.1 0.1 0.05 -0.5 0.5 0 -0.1 -0.05 0

"Inner solution" for front

$$\begin{array}{l} \mu_2 u_2 + u_2^3 \\ 1 \end{array} \xrightarrow{u_2 = \sqrt{2} \tilde{u}_2} \quad \tilde{u}_2'' = \xi_2 \tilde{u}_2 + 2\tilde{u}_2^3 \,. \end{array}$$

#### Painlevé's 2nd Equation!!!





## **Rest of proof:**

- Use monotonicity of the linearized operator  $L_0 w = w'$ orbit  $u_2^*$  (new!)
- Use exponential trichotomies and inclination propert nearby center-stable and center-unstable manifolds

**Theorem:** Existence of heteroclinic orbit for all  $\epsilon > 0$ sufficiently small, with inner asymptotics

 $u^*(\xi) = u_{HM}(\xi) + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^{2/3}), \qquad |\xi| \le \rho \epsilon^{-1/3},$ 

where  $u_{HM}(\xi) = \sqrt{2}\epsilon^{1/3}w_{HM}(\epsilon^{1/3}\xi)$  and  $w_{HM}$  is the unique Hastings-McLeod connecting solution

### • Use monotonicity of the linearized operator $L_0 w = w'' - (\xi_2 + 3(u_2^*)^2)w$ to obtain transversality of Hastings-McLeod

• Use exponential trichotomies and inclination properties of  $K_1, K_3$  charts to conclude transverse intersection of





### Stability in one slide

Co-moving frame:  $u_t = u_{\zeta\zeta} - cu_{\zeta} + \mu u - u^3$ 

### **Spectral Stability**

Stable essential spectrum by study of asymptotic states

#### **Point-spectrum:**

- Conjugate  $\mathscr{L}_c v := (e^{-c\zeta/2} \mathscr{L}_0 e^{c\zeta/2})v = v_{\zeta\zeta} + (\mu \frac{c^2}{4} 3(u^*)^2)v,$
- $\lambda < 0$
- Note: no translational eigenvalue at zero!

Standard theory then allows one to conclude linear and nonlinear stability of front  $u^*$  in co-moving frame

**Remark:** Slow absolute spectrum work by [RG, de Rijk, 2022] or [Carter, Rademacher, Sandstede] should yield spectral stability in systems without monotonicity properties

• Apply Sturm-Liouville/maximal eigenvalue argument (with strictly positive eigenfunction) to show all spectrum has



### Unstable non-monotonic fronts, 0 < c < 2





### Unstable non-monotonic fronts, 0 < c < 2



Initial Data with small negative interval 400  $\int 1$  $\xi < (c^2/4 - 0.1)/\epsilon$ 300

$$u^{\tau}(\xi,0) = \begin{cases} 1, & \zeta < (c^{-1/4} - 0.1)/c \\ \tau, & (c^{2}/4 - 0.1)/c \le \xi \le (c^{2}/4 + 0.1)/c \\ 0, & \xi > (c^{2}/4 + 0.1)/c . \end{cases}^{200}$$

100

0

-100

500

-80



 $\tau = -9.96975 \times 10^{-3}$ 











### Gluing the two regimes: $c \sim 0$ , $c = \mathcal{O}_{c}(1)$ , 0 < c < 2

Study the regime  $c \sim \epsilon^{1/3}$ , here transition occurs near  $\mu = 0$ ,  $\implies \mu = -\tanh(\epsilon\xi) \sim -\epsilon\xi$ 

Critical scaling:  $u = e^{1/3} \tilde{u}, \quad \xi = e^{-1/3} \tilde{\xi}, \quad c = e^{1/3} \tilde{c}, \quad t = e^{-2/3} \tilde{t},$ 

Singular sphere eqn.  $\implies$  Painlevé-II with drift!  $0 = \tilde{u}_{\tilde{\xi}\tilde{\xi}} + \tilde{c}\tilde{u}_{\tilde{\xi}} - \tilde{\xi}\tilde{u} - \tilde{u}^3$  (\*)

**Theorem:** For all  $\tilde{c} \in \mathbb{R}$ , there exists unique monotone decreasing front  $\tilde{u}_*(\tilde{x}; \tilde{c})$  of (\*) with  $\lim_{\tilde{\xi} \to -\infty} \left( \tilde{u}_*(\tilde{\xi}; \tilde{c}) - \sqrt{-\tilde{\xi}} \right) = 0, \qquad \lim_{\tilde{\xi} \to \infty} \tilde{u}_*(\tilde{\xi}; \tilde{c}) = 0.$ 



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$$= \tilde{u}_{\xi\xi} + \tilde{c}\tilde{u}_{\xi} - \tilde{\xi}\tilde{u} - \tilde{u}^3 \qquad (*)$$



## Outline of proof (in 1 slide)

Dynamics arguments (center manifold expansions, GSPT, blow-up....):

(i) Exist front solution for each  $\tilde{c} \ll -1$ 

(ii) Exist front solutions for each  $\tilde{c} \gg 1$ Functional analysis:

(iii) Linearization  $\mathscr{L}_{\tilde{c}} := \partial_{\tilde{\xi}\tilde{\xi}} + \tilde{c}\partial_{\tilde{\xi}} - (\tilde{\xi} + 3\tilde{u}_*^2)$  is a negative operator (iv) Implicit function theorem  $\implies$  set of monotone fronts is open (v) Compactness argument  $\implies$  set of monotone fronts is closed

 $\implies$  existence for all  $\tilde{c}$ 

<u>Remark</u>: To complete analysis of Allen-Cahn from (\*), would need a global heteroclinic gluing argument similar to above, (\*) does give accurate ``inner" solution!



• Study fast limit  $c \leq 2$ 

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- Extend analysis to pattern-forming systems: complex Ginzburg-Landau, Swift-Hohenberg, Reaction-Diffusion, etc...

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Analysis of Green's Function of linearization  $v_t = v_{xx} + v_{xx}$ 

Refined predictions using half-line analysis with Dirchlet BC and moving frame  $y = x - x_f(t) > 0$ :



Joint with B. Hosek, M. Avery, and 2 REU students: Odalys Garcia-Lopez, Ethan Shade, [in progress]

$$\mu(t)v: \ x_f(t) \approx 2\left(t \int_0^t \mu(s)ds\right)^{1/2}$$
$$\begin{cases} v_t = v_{yy} + x'_f(t)v_y + \mu(t)v, \quad y > 0\\ v = 0, \quad y = 0 \end{cases}$$

See [Hamel, Nolen, Roquejoffre, Ryzhik, '13]





### Homogeneous quenches: patterns

 $A_{t} = (1 + i\alpha)A_{xx} + \mu(t)A - (1 + i\beta)A |A|^{2}$ 

Linearized Green's Function analysis,  $v_t = (1 + i\alpha)v_{xx} + \mu(t)v$ ,

• 
$$|v| = c$$
  $x_f(t) \approx 2\left((1 + \alpha^2)t \int_0^t \mu(s)ds\right)^{1/2}$ 

- Measure frequency  $\arg v = \omega_f(t) = \alpha \mu(t)$
- Wavenumber prediction at leading edge through dispersions relation

$$\omega_f(t) = (\beta - \alpha)k_f(t)^2 + x'_f(t)k - \beta\mu(t)$$

• Burgers' modulation eqn. for bulk wavenumber dynamics











### **Thanks!**

- RG, T.J. Kaper, A. Scheel, T. Vo, Fronts in the wake of a parameter ramp: slow passage through pitchfork and fold bifurcations, SIADS '23.
- RG, T.J. Kaper, A. Scheel, Fronts in the wake of a parameter ramp: coherent structures in the critical scaling, Stud. App. Math '24
- RG, A. Scheel, *Growing patterns*, Nonlinearity '23
- RG, B. Hosek, M. Avery, O. Garcia-Lopez, E. Shade Invasion fronts under slow homogeneous quenching, in progress

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