# Fronts in the wake of a parameter ramp: 

 slow passage through folds and pitchforksHow does growth and heterogeneity control pattern formation?


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## Growth and patterns

Examples in both natural and experimental systems

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




Light-sensing CDIMA

[Miguez, et.al, '12]
[Dolnik, et. al. '19]

## Chemical precipitation

[Thomas et.al, '13]

## Outline: Fronts and slow parameter ramps

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

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

## Collaborators

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## Slow ramps and patterns



Biologically inspired models
[Hiscock \& Megason 2015]

## Swift-Hohenberg

$u_{t}=-\left(1+\partial_{x}^{2}\right)^{2} u+\mu(x) u-u^{3}$
$\mu(x)=-\mu_{0} \tanh (\epsilon x)$

Ramp slope: $\epsilon$




Front solutions: $u(x) \rightarrow \sqrt{4 \mu_{0} / 3} \cos \left(k_{x} x+\phi\right)+O\left(\mu_{0}\right) \quad$ as $x \rightarrow-\infty$

$$
u(x) \rightarrow 0 \text { as } x \rightarrow+\infty
$$



## Swift-Hohenberg

$$
\begin{gathered}
u_{t}=-\left(1+\partial_{x}^{2}\right)^{2} u+\mu(x) u-u^{3} \\
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$$
u(x) \rightarrow 0 \text { as } x \rightarrow+\infty
$$


$\underline{c=0}$ : Strain-Displacement relations, $\epsilon=\infty->$ [Weinburd, Morrissey, Scheel]



## Swift-Hohenberg - moving ramp

$$
\begin{align*}
& u_{t}=-\left(1+\partial_{x}^{2}\right)^{2} u+\mu(x-c t) u-u^{3} \\
& \quad \mu(\xi)=-\mu_{0} \tanh (\epsilon \xi), \quad \xi:=x-c t
\end{align*}
$$


$-\operatorname{Re} \sqrt{4 \mu_{0} / 3}$



## Front solutions with:

$u(\xi, \omega t) \rightarrow \sqrt{4 \mu_{0} / 3} \cos \left(k_{x} \xi+\omega t\right)+O\left(\mu_{0}\right)$, as $x \rightarrow-\infty$, frequency $\omega=c k_{x}$
$u(\xi, \omega t) \rightarrow 0$ as $x \rightarrow+\infty$
$u(\xi, \tau+2 \pi)=u(\xi, \tau)$

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Front solutions with:
$-u$
$-\operatorname{Re} \sqrt{4 \mu_{0} / 3}$

$u(\xi, \omega t) \rightarrow \sqrt{4 \mu_{0} / 3} \cos \left(k_{x} \xi+\omega t\right)+O\left(\mu_{0}\right)$, as $x \rightarrow-\infty$, frequency $\omega=c k_{x}$
$u(\xi, \omega t) \rightarrow 0$ as $x \rightarrow+\infty$
$u(\xi, \tau+2 \pi)=u(\xi, \tau)$


$c>0$ : wavenumber selection


## First step: Allen-Cahn model

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

Ramp speed: $c \geq 0 \quad$ Ramp slope: $\epsilon$

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

$$
\begin{aligned}
0 & =u_{\xi \xi}+c u_{\xi}+\mu u-u^{3}, \\
\mu_{\xi} & =-\epsilon\left(1-\mu^{2}\right)
\end{aligned}
$$

$\lim _{\xi \rightarrow-\infty} u(\xi)=1$,
$\lim _{\xi \rightarrow-\infty} \mu(\xi)=1$,

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \lim _{\xi \rightarrow+\infty} u(\xi)=0 \\
& \lim _{\xi \rightarrow+\infty} \mu(\xi)=-1
\end{aligned}
$$



## Two generic regimes



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

- 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)

$$
\text { (Technically } c \gg \epsilon^{1 / 3}, \quad c \ll \epsilon^{1 / 3} \text { ) }
$$

## 1st Regime: $c=\mathcal{O}_{\epsilon}(1), \quad 0<c<2$

Absolute and convective instability $\quad v_{t}=v_{\xi \xi}+c v_{\xi}+\mu \nu=: L(\mu, c) v$


Convective instability $\mu<\mu_{c}$
Dispersion relation $\lambda=\nu^{2}+c \nu+\mu \Longrightarrow$ transition at $\mu_{c}=c^{2} / 4$.


Absolute instability $\mu>\mu_{c}$
set $\mu\left(\xi_{c}\right)=\mu_{c}$

## 1st Regime: $c=\mathcal{O}_{\epsilon}(1), \quad 0<c<2$

Absolute and convective instability $\quad v_{t}=v_{\xi \xi}+c v_{\xi}+\mu \nu=: L(\mu, c) v$


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Secondary Delay!


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

$$
\mu_{\mathrm{fr}}=\frac{c^{2}}{4}+\Omega_{0}\left(1-\frac{c^{4}}{16}\right)^{\frac{2}{3}} \epsilon^{\frac{2}{3}}+\mathcal{O}(\epsilon \log (\epsilon))
$$

$\Omega_{0} \longrightarrow$ Smallest positive root of $J_{-1 / 3}\left(2 z^{3 / 2} / 3\right)+J_{1 / 3}\left(2 z^{3 / 2} / 3\right), \quad J_{n}->$ Bessel Function of 1 st kind


Heteroclinic intersection: $W^{\mathrm{u}}(0,0,-1) \cap W^{\mathrm{s}}(1,0,1)$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& 0=u_{\xi \xi}+c u_{\xi}+\mu u-u^{3}, \\
& \mu_{\xi}=-\epsilon\left(1-\mu^{2}\right) \\
& \longrightarrow
\end{aligned} \quad \begin{aligned}
& u_{\zeta}=v \\
& v_{\zeta}=c v-\mu u+u^{3} \\
& \mu_{\zeta}=\epsilon\left(1-\mu^{2}\right) .
\end{aligned}
$$



## Geometric singular perturbation theory



Track $W_{\epsilon}^{u}$ and $W_{\epsilon}^{u}$ by studying $\epsilon=0$ phase portraits:

- $W_{0}^{u}=\cup_{\mu} W_{0}^{u u}$ for $\mu<0$ when $S_{0}=\{(0,0, \mu), \mu<0\}$ is normally hyperbolic
- $W_{0}^{S}=\cup_{\mu} W_{0}^{s s}$, for $\mu>0$ when $S_{+}=\{(\sqrt{\mu}, 0, \mu), \mu>0\}$ is normally hyperbolic

Fenichel theory $\Longrightarrow S_{0}$ 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 $(u, v)=0, \mu \in[-1,1]$

$$
\begin{aligned}
u_{\zeta} & =v \\
v_{\zeta} & =c v-\mu u+u^{3} \\
\mu_{\zeta} & =\epsilon\left(1-\mu^{2}\right) .
\end{aligned}
$$

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



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


## Projectivized Flow

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

$$
\begin{aligned}
z_{\zeta} & =-z^{2}-\theta+u^{2}, \\
u_{\zeta} & =(z+c / 2) u, \\
\theta_{\zeta} & =\epsilon\left(1-\left(\theta+c^{2} / 4\right)^{2}\right) .
\end{aligned}
$$

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


Slow passage through a fold in $U_{0}$ dynamics:

$$
0<\epsilon \ll 1
$$



## Normal hyperbolicity and slow passage through a fold

[Krupa \& Szmolyan, 2001]:
Geometric blow-up of fold point in $U_{0}$ dynamics

$$
\begin{aligned}
z_{\zeta} & =-z^{2}-\theta, \\
\theta_{\zeta} & \approx \epsilon
\end{aligned}
$$

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

...use Fenichel theory, and normal hyperbolicity in the $u$-direction to locate heteroclinic intersection in neighborhood of $U_{0}$

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

$$
\begin{aligned}
& u_{\xi}=v \\
& v_{\xi}=-\mu u+u^{3} \\
& \mu_{\xi}=-\epsilon\left(1-\mu^{2}\right)
\end{aligned}
$$



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

$$
\begin{aligned}
u_{\xi} & =v \\
v_{\xi} & =-\mu u+u^{3} \\
\mu_{\xi} & =-\epsilon\left(1-\mu^{2}\right) \\
\epsilon_{\xi} & =0 .
\end{aligned}
$$

## Quasi-homogeneous blow-up: $u=r \bar{u}, \quad v=r^{2} \bar{v}, \quad \mu=r^{2} \bar{\mu}, \quad \epsilon=r^{3} \bar{\epsilon}$,

## Blows-up

$$
(0,0,0,0) \rightarrow S_{3}=\left\{r=0, \bar{u}^{2}+\bar{v}^{2}+\bar{\mu}^{2}+\bar{\epsilon}^{2}=1\right\}
$$

$S_{0}^{+}$- line of critical equilibria $(u, \nu, \mu, \epsilon)=(1,0, \mu, 0)$
$S_{0}^{0}$ - line of critical equilibria $(u, v, \mu, \epsilon)=(0,0, \mu, 0)$

... track evolution of invariant manifolds using coordinate charts

$$
\begin{aligned}
& K_{1} \sim \bar{\mu}=1 \\
& K_{2} \sim \bar{\epsilon}=1 \\
& K_{3} \sim \bar{\mu}=-1
\end{aligned}
$$

## 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:

$$
\begin{aligned}
u_{2}^{\prime} & =v_{2} \\
v_{2}^{\prime} & =-\mu_{2} u_{2}+u_{2}^{3} \\
\mu_{2}^{\prime} & =-1+r_{2}^{4} \mu_{2}^{2} \\
r_{2}^{\prime} & =0 .
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
\begin{array}{ll}
u_{2}^{\prime}=v_{2} \\
\text { Restrict to sphere } \\
r_{2}^{\prime}=0
\end{array} \begin{aligned}
& v_{2}^{\prime}=-\mu_{2} u_{2}+u_{2}^{3} \\
& \mu_{2}^{\prime}=-1
\end{aligned} \quad \xrightarrow{r_{2}^{\prime}=0 .} \begin{aligned}
& u_{2}=\sqrt{2} \tilde{u}_{2}
\end{aligned} \quad \tilde{u}_{2}^{\prime \prime}=\xi_{2} \tilde{u}_{2}+2 \tilde{u}_{2}^{3} .
$$

[Hastings \& McLeod 1980] $\longrightarrow$ Exists a unique connecting orbit $\tilde{u}_{2}^{*}$ with

$$
\tilde{u}_{2}^{*}\left(\xi_{2}\right) \sim \sqrt{-\xi_{2} / 2}, \xi_{2} \rightarrow-\infty, \quad \tilde{u}_{2}^{*}\left(\xi_{2}\right) \sim \operatorname{Ai}\left(\xi_{2}\right), \xi_{2} \rightarrow+\infty,
$$





## Rest of proof:

- Use monotonicity of the linearized operator $L_{0} w=w^{\prime \prime}-\left(\xi_{2}+3\left(u_{2}^{*}\right)^{2}\right) w$ to obtain transversality of Hastings-McLeod orbit $u_{2}^{*}$ (new!)
- Use exponential trichotomies and inclination properties of $K_{1}, K_{3}$ charts to conclude transverse intersection of nearby center-stable and center-unstable manifolds

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

$$
u^{*}(\xi)=u_{H M}(\xi)+\mathcal{O}\left(\epsilon^{2 / 3}\right), \quad|\xi| \leq \rho \epsilon^{-1 / 3}
$$


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

## Stability in one slide

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

$$
\mathscr{L}_{0} v=v_{\zeta \zeta}-c v_{\zeta}+\left(\mu-3\left(u^{*}\right)^{2}\right) v
$$

## Spectral Stability

- Stable essential spectrum by study of asymptotic states


## Point-spectrum:

- Conjugate $\mathscr{L}_{c} v:=\left(e^{-c \zeta / 2} \mathscr{L}_{0} e^{c \zeta / 2}\right) v=v_{\zeta \zeta}+\left(\mu-\frac{c^{2}}{4}-3\left(u^{*}\right)^{2}\right) v$,
- Apply Sturm-Liouville/maximal eigenvalue argument (with strictly positive eigenfunction) to show all spectrum has $\lambda<0$
- 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

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


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




$$
i 00
$$

Initial Data with small negative interval

$$
u^{\tau}(\xi, 0)= \begin{cases}1, & \xi<\left(c^{2} / 4-0.1\right) / \epsilon \\ \tau, & \left(c^{2} / 4-0.1\right) / \epsilon \leq \xi \leq\left(c^{2} / 4+0.1\right) / \epsilon \\ 0, & \xi>\left(c^{2} / 4+0.1\right) / \epsilon\end{cases}
$$



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



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

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

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

Singular sphere eqn. $\Longrightarrow \quad$ Painlevé-II with drift! $\quad 0=\tilde{u}_{\tilde{\xi} \tilde{\xi}}+\tilde{c} \tilde{u}_{\tilde{\xi}}-\tilde{\xi}_{\tilde{u}}-\tilde{u}^{3}$
Theorem: For all $\tilde{c} \in \mathbb{R}$, there exists unique monotone decreasing front $\tilde{u}_{*}(\tilde{x} ; \tilde{c})$ of $\left({ }^{*}\right)$ with

$$
\lim _{\tilde{\xi} \rightarrow-\infty}\left(\tilde{u}_{*}(\tilde{\xi} ; \tilde{c})-\sqrt{-\tilde{\xi}}\right)=0, \quad \lim _{\tilde{\xi} \rightarrow \infty} \tilde{u}_{*}(\tilde{\xi} ; \tilde{c})=0
$$



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$$

__ Allen-Cahn
.-.... P-II with drift



## 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 $\mathscr{L}_{\tilde{c}}:=\partial_{\tilde{\xi} \tilde{\xi}}+\tilde{c} \partial_{\tilde{\xi}}-\left(\tilde{\xi}+3 \tilde{u}_{*}^{2}\right)$ is a negative operator
(iv) Implicit function theorem $\Longrightarrow$ set of monotone fronts is open
(v) Compactness argument $\Longrightarrow$ set of monotone fronts is closed
$\Longrightarrow$ existence for all $\tilde{c}$
Remark: To complete analysis of Allen-Cahn from (*), would need a global heteroclinic gluing argument similar to above, $\left(^{*}\right)$ does give accurate ``inner" solution!
=-=-=- = $\quad$ P-II with drift

## Outlook

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- Homogeneous quenches: $\mu=\mu(t)=\tanh (\epsilon t), \epsilon t$


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## Homogeneous quenches: fronts

$$
u_{t}=u_{x x}+\mu(t) u-u^{3}, \quad \mu(t)=\tanh (\epsilon t), \quad \text { or } \mu(t)=\epsilon t
$$



Naive Prediction: $x_{f}(t) \approx \int_{0}^{t} 2 \sqrt{\mu(s)} d s$


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

Analysis of Green's Function of linearization $v_{t}=v_{x x}+\mu(t) v: x_{f}(t) \approx 2\left(t \int_{0}^{t} \mu(s) d s\right)^{1 / 2}$
Refined predictions using half-line analysis with Dirchlet BC and moving frame $y=x-x_{f}(t)>0$ :

$$
\begin{cases}v_{t} & =v_{y y}+x_{f}^{\prime}(t) v_{y}+\mu(t) v, \quad y>0 \\ v & =0, \quad y=0\end{cases}
$$

## Homogeneous quenches: patterns

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

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

- $|v|=c \quad x_{f}(t) \approx 2\left(\left(1+\alpha^{2}\right) t \int_{0}^{t} \mu(s) d s\right)^{1 / 2}$
- Measure frequency $\arg v=\omega_{f}(t)=\alpha \mu(t)$
- Wavenumber prediction at leading edge through dispersions relation

$$
\omega_{f}(t)=(\beta-\alpha) k_{f}(t)^{2}+x_{f}^{\prime}(t) k-\beta \mu(t)
$$

- 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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