

Bifurcations of Relative Equilibria near Zero Momentum

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Oberwolfach, July 2008

Context

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Two questions ...

1. generic REs

G. Patrick and M. Roberts (2000) define the notion of *transverse RE*, and show that for *generic* systems with symmetry all RE are transverse.

In particular,

for generic Hamiltonian systems with $\mathbf{SO}(3)$ symmetry, when $\mu = 0$ then $\xi \neq 0$.

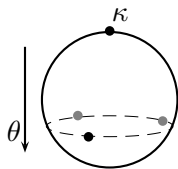
(μ = angular momentum, ξ = angular velocity)

This is not what we see in “simple mechanical systems”

2. Stability

Bifurcation diagram for 4 point vortices on the sphere:

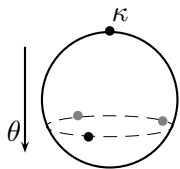
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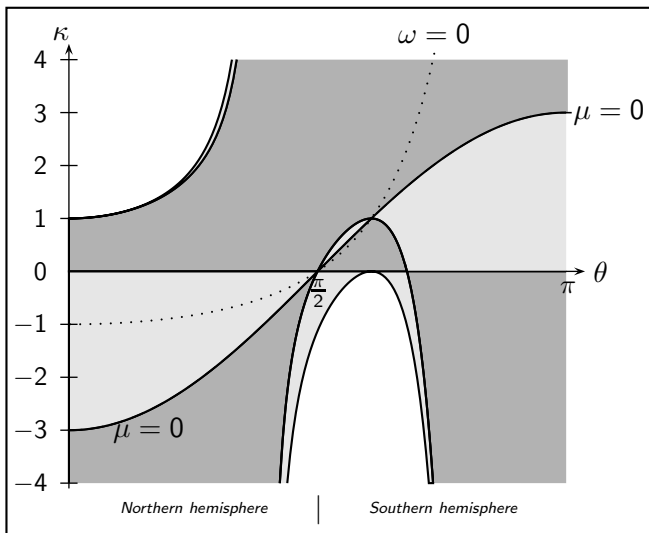


Key:

■ Lyapounov stable

□ elliptic

□ linearly unstable



3. Reduction

Orbit reduction for a free action: write locally

$$\mathcal{P}/G \simeq \mathcal{P}_0 \times \mathfrak{g}^*$$

Then with $s \in \mathcal{P}_0$, $\mu \in \mathfrak{g}^*$, $H(s, \mu)$ is Hamiltonian on orbit space.

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Theorem (JM, 1997): *If $(0, 0)$ is a non-degenerate RE in \mathcal{P}_0 then there is a map $\phi : \mathfrak{g}^* \rightarrow \mathcal{P}_0$ such that*

$$(s, \mu) \text{ is a RE of } H \iff \begin{cases} s = \phi(\mu) \\ d(h|_{\mathcal{O}_\mu})(\mu) = 0, \end{cases}$$

where $h : \mathfrak{g}^* \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ is just $h(\mu) := H(\phi(\mu), \mu)$.

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Moreover at such a RE, $\xi = dh$.

4. Generic case

Interested in critical points of a function h on \mathfrak{g}^* , when restricted to spheres (=energy-Casimir method).

Generically, $dh(0) \neq 0$. In that case near 0 there is a smooth curve of RES, and at 0, $\xi = dh \neq 0$. (These are the transverse RES from before).

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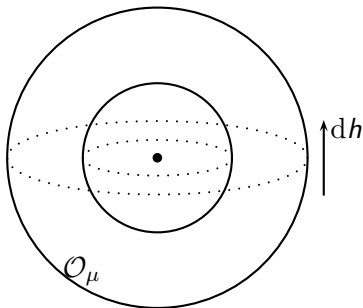
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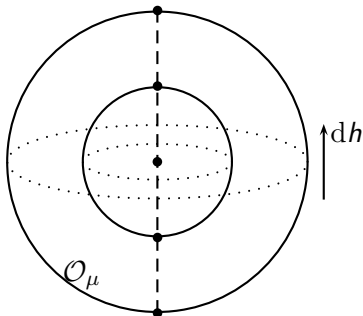
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5. Stabilities

Assume $(0,0)$ is a local minimum of $H(s,0)$
(so Lyapounov stable RE in \mathcal{P}_0) then

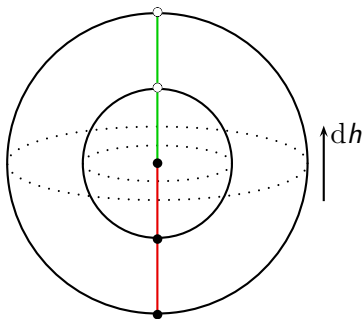
with $h(x,y,z) = z$

h restricted to sphere has

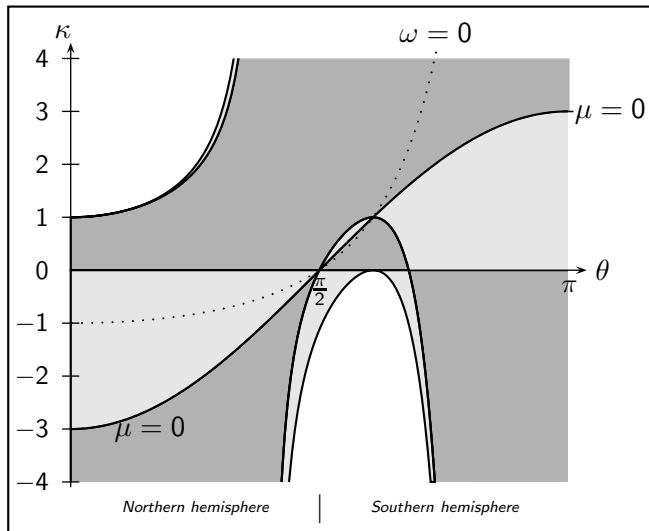
- minimum at $(0,0,z)$ with $z < 0$, and
- a maximum at $(0,0,z)$ with $z > 0$.

Thus:

- overall **Lyapounov stable RE** at points $(0,0,z)$ with $z < 0$
- and only **elliptic** at points with $z > 0$ (because of coupling with \mathcal{P}_0).



Example revisited



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■ Lyapounov stable

□ elliptic

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6. Non-generic RE

Now suppose $dh(0) = 0$, — eg time reversible system or simple mechanical system.

Then (Taylor series) $h(x, y, z) = ax^2 + by^2 + cz^2 + \dots$

If a, b, c distinct, can show (Singularity Theory) that ' \dots ' are irrelevant.

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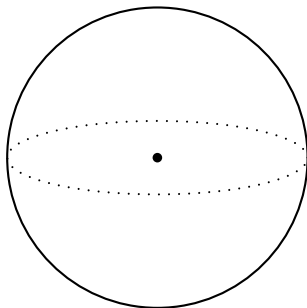
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Suppose $a > b > c$. Then

- $(0, 0, \pm z)$ is minimum (Lyapounov)
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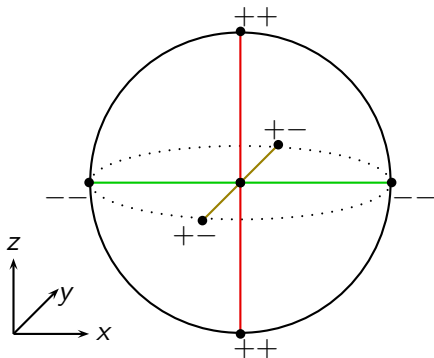
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7. Unfolding

The condition $dh(0) = 0$ is really 3 conditions, so it's a codimension-3 singularity.

3 unfolding parameters α, β, γ :

$$h(x, y, z) = ax^2 + by^2 + cz^2 + \alpha x + \beta y + \gamma z$$

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Condition for RE is $dh - \lambda d(x^2 + y^2 + z^2) = 0$,

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$$\text{rank} \begin{bmatrix} x & y & z \\ h_x & h_y & h_z \end{bmatrix} < 2$$

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3 equations in 3 unknowns, but solution set is a curve!

Unfolding

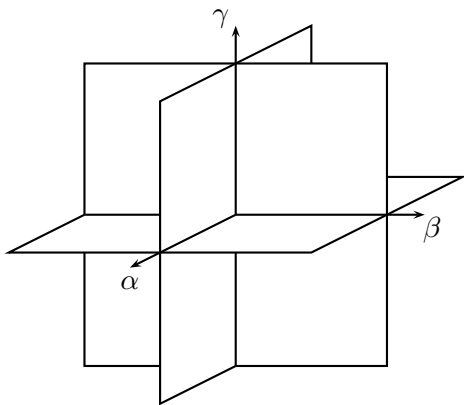
Equations are (taking $a = 1, b = 0, c = -1$):

$$(x + \alpha)(y - \beta) = -\alpha\beta$$

$$(y + \beta)(z - \gamma) = -\beta\gamma$$

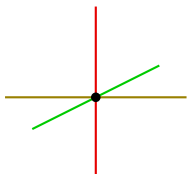
$$(2x + \alpha)(2z - \gamma) = -\alpha\gamma$$

Unfolding

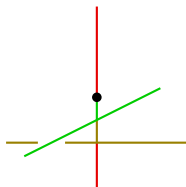


Discriminant in unfolding space

Unfolding — with stabilities



(i) $\alpha = \beta = \gamma = 0$



(ii) $\alpha = \beta = 0$
 $\gamma > 0$

Key:

— Lyapounov stable

— elliptic

— linearly unstable

• $\mu = 0$

Unfolding — with stabilities

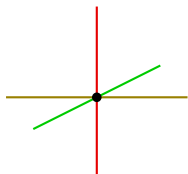
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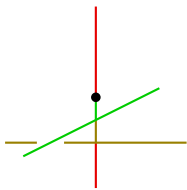
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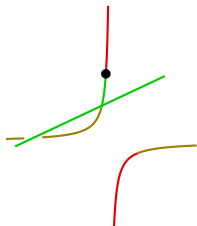
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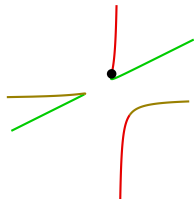
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(iii) $\alpha = 0, \beta, \gamma > 0$



(iv) $\alpha, \beta, \gamma > 0$

the 3 degenerate deformations

Along the axes of the discriminant —

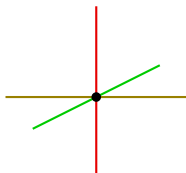
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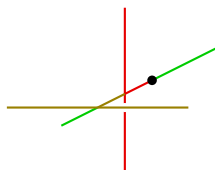
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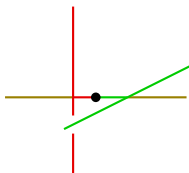
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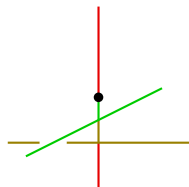
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