# Experimental validation of phase space conduits of transition between potential wells

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NODYCON 2019 (Rome, February 18, 2019)







#### Intermittency and chaotic transitions

e.g., escaping or transitioning through "bottlenecks" in phase space



## Multi-well multi-degree of freedom systems

• Examples: chemistry, vehicle dynamics, structural mechanics



## Transitions through bottlenecks via tubes



Topper [1997]

- $\bullet$  Wells connected by phase space transition tubes  $\simeq S^1 \times \mathbb{R}$  for 2 DOF
  - Conley, McGehee, 1960s
  - Llibre, Martínez, Simó, Pollack, Child, 1980s
  - De Leon, Mehta, Topper, Jaffé, Farrelly, Uzer, MacKay, 1990s
  - Gómez, Koon, Lo, Marsden, Masdemont, Ross, Yanao, 2000s

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• **Bottleneck region** is a saddle  $\times$  center  $\times \cdots \times$  center (N-1 centers)



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so  $\mathcal{M}_{\Delta E} \simeq S^1$  is just a periodic orbit of period  $T_{\rm po} = 2\pi/\omega$ 

## **McGehee representation of energy surface**

- Cylindrical **tubes** of trajectories asymptotic to  $\mathcal{M}_{\Delta E}$ : stable & unstable invariant manifolds,  $W^s_{\pm}(\mathcal{M}_{\Delta E}), W^u_{\pm}(\mathcal{M}_{\Delta E}), \simeq S^1 \times \mathbb{R}$
- Tubes enclose transitioning trajectories crossing the bottleneck



## **McGehee representation of energy surface**

- **B** : **bounded orbits** (periodic)
- A : asymptotic stable and unstable manifolds to B (tubes)
- T : transitioning and NT : non-transitioning trajectories



# Tube dynamics — global picture

Poincare Section  $U_i$ 



De Leon [1992]

Tube dynamics: All transitioning motion between wells connected by bottlenecks must occur through tube

- Imminent transition regions, transitioning fractions
- Consider k Poincaré sections  $U_i$ , various excess energies  $\Delta E$

• Good agreement with **direct numerical simulation** 

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— celestial mechanics, asteroid escape rates e.g., Jaffé, Ross, Lo, Marsden, Farrelly, Uzer [2002]



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- Structural mechanics
  - re-configurable deformation of flexible objects

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Virgin, Lyman, Davis [2010] Am. J. Phys.

# Ball rolling on a surface — 2 DOF

• The potential energy is V(x,y) = gH(x,y), where the surface is arbitrary, e.g., we chose

$$H(x,y) = \alpha(x^{2} + y^{2}) - \beta(\sqrt{x^{2} + \gamma} + \sqrt{y^{2} + \gamma}) - \xi xy + H_{0}.$$



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#### typical experimental trial






























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• The transitioning fraction, under well-mixed assumption,

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• For slightly larger values of  $\Delta E$ , there will be a correction term leading to a decreasing slope,

$$\frac{\partial p_{\text{trans}}}{\partial \Delta E} = \frac{T_{\text{po}}}{A_0} \left( 1 - 2\frac{\tau}{A_0} \Delta E \right)$$












Buckling, bending, twisting, and crumpling of flexible bodies

• adaptive structures that can bend, fold, and twist to provide advanced engineering opportunities for deployable structures, mechanical sensors









• Ross, BozorgMagham, Naik, Virgin [2018] *Phys. Rev. E* 98, 052214.

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