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

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## 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]

- 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)



the saddle-space projection and $N-1$ center projections - the $N$ canonical planes


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

## McGehee representation of energy surface

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

$D$


McGehee representation of energy surface of the structure $S^{2} \times \mathbb{R}$

## 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]
$\square$ 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 $\Delta E$

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- celestial mechanics, asteroid escape rates e.f., Jaffe, Ross, Lo, Marsden, Farrell, 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 $V(x, y)=g H(x, y)$, where the surface is arbitrary, e.g., we chose

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H(x, y)=\alpha\left(x^{2}+y^{2}\right)-\beta\left(\sqrt{x^{2}+\gamma}+\sqrt{y^{2}+\gamma}\right)-\xi x y+H_{0}
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typical experimental trial

## Transition tubes in the rolling ball system



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transition tube from quadrant 1 to 2


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- Area of the transitioning region, the tube cross-section (MacKay [1990])

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

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## Next steps - structural mechanics



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


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