APPLICATION OF A CENTER MANIFOLD THEORY TO A
REACTION-DIFFUSION SYSTEM OF COLLECTIVE MOTION OF
CAMPHOR DISKS AND BOATS

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Abstract. Unidirectional motion along an annular water channel can be observed in an
experiment even with only one camphor disk or boat. Moreover, the collective motion of
camphor disks or boats in the water channel exhibits a homogeneous and an inhomogeneous
state, depending on the number of disks or boats, which seems a kind of bifurcation phe-
nomena. In a theoretical research, the unidirectional motion is represented by a traveling
wave solution in a model. Hence it suffices to investigate a linearized eigenvalue problem
in order to prove the destabilization of a traveling wave solution. However, the eigenvalue
problem is too difficult to analyze even if the number of camphor disks or boats is 2. Hence
we need to make a reduction on the model. In the present paper, we apply the center
manifold theory and reduce the model to an ordinary differential system.

Keywords: center manifold theory, bifurcation, traveling wave solution, collective motion

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1. INTRODUCTION

Self-driven motion of animal and inanimal organisms is observed in several fields,
e.g., biology [6], chemistry [1], and nonlinear physics [4], [10], [11]. Organisms move
spontaneously to aggregate and form self-organized structures through long-range
interactions [5]. Therefore it is important not only to clarify the mechanism of the
self-sustaining motion of each organism but also to study how organisms behave as
a whole system.

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Spatiotemporal collective motions in chemical experiments with camphor have been investigated in [7], [8], [9]. A camphor scraping at an air–water surface exhibits several motions, e.g., clockwise / counterclockwise rotation, and translation ([8]). Also, it was shown in [7] and [9] that unidirectional motion can be observed if we put a camphor disk or boat in an annular water channel. In an experimental setup, a camphor boat is composed of a plastic disk and a camphor disk stuck on the edge of the plastic disk with an adhesive. Camphor disks and boats constitute a system for changing the number of particles and with simple interaction. In this system we find two different states depending on the number. It was reported in [9] that when the number of boats is less than 30, camphor boats move with a constant velocity and spatially disperse with the same spacing between the boats, which is called a homogeneous state. On the other hand, when the number is larger than 30, the velocities of the boats change with temporal oscillation, and the shock wave appears in the line of the boats, which is an inhomogeneous state.

Various motions which a camphor disk and boat exhibit have been studied mathematically. In this article we are based on [7] and [9], and introduce the following mathematical model for the self-sustaining motion of a camphor disk and boat:

\[
\begin{align*}
\frac{dx_{c}'}{dt} &= -\mu x_{c}' + \frac{\gamma_1}{2\rho} \left[ \frac{1}{1 + au(x_{c}(t) + \rho, t)} - \frac{1}{1 + au(x_{c}(t) - \rho, t)} \right], \\
\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} &= \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} - ku + f(x, x_{c}(t)),
\end{align*}
\]

where \( a, \gamma_1, k, \mu, \rho \) are positive constants. The first equation is described by the Newtonian equation with the surface tension of water given by \( \gamma_1/(1 + au) \) as a function of \( u \). In this model, a camphor scraping is regarded as a particle, and the center of a camphor disk or boat is denoted by \( x_{c}(t) \). The surface concentration, denoted by \( u \), of a camphor molecular layer is supposed to yield to the reaction-diffusion equation with the function \( f(x, x_{0}) \) defined by

\[
 f(x, x_{0}) = \begin{cases} 
 1, & 0 < x - x_{0} < \rho, \\
 s, & -\rho < x - x_{0} < 0, \\
 0, & \text{otherwise},
\end{cases}
\]

which represents that camphor molecules are supplied only from \((x_{0} - \rho, x_{0} + \rho)\) where a camphor disk or boat contacts the water surface. Let \( s \in [0, 1] \), which means that a camphor disk considered in this model is an inhomogeneous medium and the amount of the supply on \((x_{0} - \rho, x_{0})\) is not larger than on \((x_{0}, x_{0} + \rho)\).
The spontaneous motion of a camphor disk and boat can be characterized by a traveling wave solution of

\[
\begin{cases}
\dot{x}_c(t) = y_c(t), \\
\dot{y}_c(t) = -\mu(y_c(t) - c) + \frac{\gamma_1}{2\rho} \left[ \frac{1}{1 + au(z_c(t) + \rho, t)} - \frac{1}{1 + au(z_c(t) - \rho, t)} \right], \\
\partial_t u - \partial^2_{zz} - \frac{c}{\partial z} - ku + f(z, z_c(t)), \\
\end{cases}
\]

where we set \(z_c(t) = x_c(t) + ct, y_c(t) = z'_c(t), z = x + ct \) in (1.1). We denote the right-hand side of (1.2) by \(F(z_c(t), y_c(t), u(z, t); c)\) for simplicity. A stationary solution of (1.2) is called a traveling wave solution, and the parameter \(c\) is called a wave speed, where the function \(p(z)\) is supposed to be a \(C^1\)-function. It is easy to see that if a traveling wave solution \((0, 0, p(z))\) in (1.2) exists with \(c \geq 0\) for any parameter set.

As shown in [7], there is a critical value such that (1.2) for \(s = 1\) has a traveling wave solution with a positive wave speed only in the case that \(\mu\) is smaller than the critical value. Hence the pair of the critical value and \(c = 0\) is obviously a bifurcation point. Actually, there is a bifurcation point with \(s < 1\) in (1.2). For example, we set \((a, \gamma_1, k, \rho) = (0.64, 1.7, 0.011, 0.84)\). Then, there are \(s \in (0.12, 0.13)\) and a bifurcation point \((\mu_0, c_0)\) such that \(0.298 < \mu_0 < 0.3\) and \(0.271 < c_0 < 0.273\). We will characterize such a bifurcation point in a mathematical sense later.

The existence of the bifurcation point affects the linearized eigenvalue problem

\[
\lambda \Phi = F'(0, 0, p; c_0) \Phi
\]

for \(\Phi = (Z, Y, \phi)\), where \(^t\) denotes the transpose. A linear functional \(A(\phi, Z)\) with the domain \(H^1(\mathbb{R}) \times \mathbb{R}\) is determined by the following trilinear form

\[
(A(\phi, Z), \varphi) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \left( -\phi' \varphi' - c_0 \phi' \varphi - k \phi \varphi \right) dz - Z[s \varphi(-\rho) - (s - 1) \varphi(0) - \varphi(\rho)]
\]

for \(\varphi \in H^1(\mathbb{R})\), where \((\cdot, \cdot)\) is the pairing between \((H^1(\mathbb{R}))', \) the dual space of \(H^1(\mathbb{R})\), and \(H^1(\mathbb{R})\). It is obvious that \(\Phi'(z) = (-1, 0, p'(z))\) is a solution of (1.3) for \(\lambda = 0\). Actually, (1.3) has a degeneracy condition at \(\mu = \mu_0\), and it holds that there is a solution \(\Psi(z) = \Psi(Z, Y, \psi(z))\) of \(F'(0, 0, p; c_0) \Psi = -\Phi\). The existence of \(\Psi(z)\) generically means that the multiplicity of the zero eigenvalue of \(F'(0, 0, p; c_0)\) is equal to 2. More precisely, we suppose that the following conditions holds true at \((\mu_0, c_0)\):
(A1) There is a solution $\Psi(z)$ of $F'(0,0,p;c_0)\Psi = -\Phi$.

(A2) The spectra of $F'(0,0,p;c_0)$, denoted by $\Sigma_c$, consist of $\{0\}$ and $\Sigma_1$, where $\Sigma_1 \subset \{ \lambda \in C \mid \text{Re} \lambda \leq -\kappa \}$ for $\kappa > 0$, and Re$\lambda$ denotes the real part of a complex value $\lambda$.

(A3) The generalized eigenspace associated to 0 is spanned by $\Phi$ and $\Psi$.

Now we consider the collective motions of $(N+1)$-camphors on a one-dimensional circuit $(0,L)$. Our system is described by

\begin{equation}
\begin{aligned}
z_i' &= y_i, \\
y_i' &= -\mu(y_i - c_0) + \frac{\gamma_1}{2\rho} \left[ \frac{1}{1 + au(z_i + \rho, t)} - \frac{1}{1 + au(z_i - \rho, t)} \right], \quad t > 0, \\
\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} &= \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial z^2} - c_0 \frac{\partial u}{\partial z} - ku + \sum_{i=0}^{N} f(z, z_i), \quad 0 < z < L, \quad t > 0, \\
u(0, t) = u(L, t), \quad \frac{\partial u}{\partial z}(0, t) = \frac{\partial u}{\partial z}(L, t), \quad t > 0
\end{aligned}
\end{equation}

(1.4)

for $N \geq 1$ and $i = 0, \ldots, N$, where $z_i = z_i(t)$, $y_i = y_i(t)$, and $u = u(z, t)$. For simplicity, we denote an operator associated with the right-hand side of (1.4) by $\mathcal{L}(U) = \{ \mathcal{L}_0(U), \mathcal{L}_R(U), \mathcal{L}_N(U), \mathcal{L}_0^u(U), \mathcal{L}_N^u(U) \}$, where $U = t(z_0, y_0, \ldots, z_N, y_N, u)$ for $z_i, y_i \in \mathbb{R}$ $(i = 0, \ldots, N)$, $u \in H^1(0,L)$, and $\mathcal{L}_i^z, \mathcal{L}_i^u$ $(i = 0, \ldots, N)$, $\mathcal{L}_i^u$ are given by

\[\mathcal{L}_i^z(U) = y_i,\]
\[\mathcal{L}_i^u(U) = -\mu(y_i - c_0) + \frac{\gamma_1}{2\rho} \left[ \frac{1}{1 + au(z_i + \rho, t)} - \frac{1}{1 + au(z_i - \rho, t)} \right],\]
\[\mathcal{L}_i^u(U) = Tu + \sum_{i=0}^{N} f(z, z_i).\]

The linear operator $T : H^1(0,L) \rightarrow (H^1(0,L))^N$ is determined by the bilinear form $(Tu, \varphi) = \int_{0}^{L} (-u' \varphi' - c_0 u' \varphi - ku \varphi) dz$ for $\varphi \in H^1(0,L)$. In the same way as in (1.2), there exists a traveling wave solution of (1.4) such that $z_i = iL/(N+1)$, which corresponds to the homogeneous state observed in the experiment of [9]. According to the result obtained in [9], the traveling wave solution is expected to be unstable for a large number $N$. In order to prove the instability of the traveling wave solution, it is necessary to find an unstable eigenvalue. However the linearized eigenvalue problem is too difficult to analyze theoretically even in the case of $N = 2$. From this point of view, we need to reduce (1.4) and derive a new system. This is our motivation in this article.

Let $l$ be a position of the 0th particle and denote the distance between the center of the $i$-th particle and that of the $(i+1)$-th particle by $h_i$ for $i = 0, \ldots, N - 1$. Since
we consider a one-dimensional circuit, \( h_N \) is defined by the distance between the \( N \)-th and the 0-th particles. Thus we define a relative position of the \( i \)-th particle by \( \bar{z}_i = z_i(h) \equiv \sum_{j=0}^{i-1} h_j \), where \( h = (h_0, \ldots, h_N) \). We put \( z_0 = 0 \). Note that the position of the \( i \)-th particle is given by \( z_i = \bar{z}_i + l \). Here we assume that one particle is sufficiently separated from any others. In other words, \( h_i \) is assumed to satisfy \( h_i > h^* \) for any \( i = 0, \ldots, N \), where \( h^* \) is sufficiently large and fixed.

Due to the interactions described by \((1.4)\), the positions of the particles will be varied. Then the position \( l \) and the distance \( h_i \) become functions in time, denoted by \( l(t) \) and \( h_i(t) \). In the statement of our result, we use the several notation. Put \( r = (r_0, \ldots, r_N) \), \( P(z, l, h) = \sum_{i=0}^{N} \left[(\bar{z}_i + l)e_{2i+1} + p(z - \bar{z}_i - l)e_{2N+3}\right] \), \( \xi(z, l, h, r) = \sum_{i=0}^{N} r_i[Z\psi e_{2i+1} + Y\psi e_{2i+2} + \psi(z - \bar{z}_i - l)e_{2N+3}] \), and \( S(z, l, h, r) = P(z, l, h) + \xi(z, l, h, r) \), where \( e_i \) is the unit vector in \( \mathbb{R}^{2N+3} \) given by \( e_i = (0, \ldots, 0, 1, 0, \ldots, 0) \). Define \( \delta \equiv \delta(h) = \max_i |\mathcal{L}^i(P(z, l, h))| + \sup_{z \in (-\infty, \infty)} |\mathcal{L}^u(P(z, l, h))| \). Then, if \( h_i > h^* \), \( \delta \) is small. Let \( \mathcal{M}(h^*, r^*) = \{ S(z, l, h, r) \mid l \in \mathbb{R}, h_i > h^*, |r_i| < r^* \text{ for all } i = 0, \ldots, N \} \).

Set \( \eta = \mu - \mu_0 \).

**Theorem 1.1.** There exist \( h^*, r^*, \eta^*, \mathcal{C}_0 > 0 \) and a neighborhood \( \mathcal{N} \) of \( \mathcal{M}(h^*, r^*) \) such that for the initial data \( U_0 \in \mathcal{N} \) of \((1.4)\), then there exist \( l(t), h(t), r(t) \) such that \( \|U(\cdot, t) - S(\cdot, l(t), h(t), r(t))\| \leq \mathcal{C}_0 (|\delta| + |r|^2 + |\eta|) \) holds true as long as \( h_i > h^*, |r_i| < r^* \) for any \( i = 0, \ldots, N \), where \( U(z, t) \) is a solution of \((1.4)\), and \( h_i(t), r_i(t) \) \( (i = 0, \ldots, N) \) yield to

\[
\begin{cases}
  l' = r_0 + O(\delta + |r|^2 + \eta), \\
  h_i' = r_{i+1} - r_i + O(\delta + |r|^2 + \eta), \\
  r_i' = O(\delta + |r|^2 + \eta),
\end{cases}
\]

for \( i = 0, \ldots, N \), where \( r_{N+1} = r_0 \).

This theorem says that the partial differential equation \((1.4)\) can be reduced to the ordinary differential equation \((1.5)\). Our result for \( N = 2 \) is similar to one as in [3], where the authors considered the interaction between two pulses with very small velocity near a bifurcation point in a reaction-diffusion system. In that article each pulse can be approximated by a stationary solution, which implies that all eigenfunctions \( \Phi, \Psi, \Phi^*, \Psi^* \) are expected to be symmetric, that is, odd or even functions. As a result, several calculations in the reduction process become easier than in our case. Actually, we can obtain higher order terms in \((1.5)\) by a similar argument in [3] though \((1.5)\) has only \( r_i \), which we will show in the forthcoming paper.
In the next section, we will describe the outline of the proof of Theorem 1.1. We apply a center manifold theory developed in [2] and [3] for the derivation of (1.5). In order to construct a center manifold, generalized eigenfunctions play an important role. Those functions will be defined in Proposition 2.1. Finally we do calculations and derive (1.5) from (1.4) in a formal way.

2. OUTLINE OF THE PROOF

In this section, we describe the outline of the proof. In the reduction process to show Theorem 1.1, we will project the solution to show Theorem 1.1, we will project the solution and derive (1.5) from (1.4) in a formal way. Those functions will be defined in Proposition 2.1. Finally we do calculations and derive (1.5) from (1.4) in a formal way.

Proposition 2.1. There exist $\Phi_i(h)$, $\Psi_i(h)$, $\Phi_i^*(h)$, and $\Psi_i^*(h)$ such that

$$
[\Phi_i(h)](z) = -e_{2i+1} + p'(z - 2i)e_{2N+3} + O(\delta),
$$

$$
[\Psi_i(h)](z) = Z_\Phi e_{2i+1} + \phi'(z - 2i)e_{2N+3} + O(\delta),
$$

$$
[\Phi_i^*(h)](z) = Z_\Phi^* e_{2i+1} + \phi^*(z - 2i)e_{2N+3} + O(\delta),
$$

$$
[\Psi_i^*(h)](z) = Z_\Phi^* e_{2i+1} + \phi^*(z - 2i)e_{2N+3} + O(\delta),
$$

and these functions are supposed to satisfy

$$
(\Phi_i(h), \Psi_i^*(h)) = 1, \quad (\Phi_i(h), \Phi_i^*(h)) = 0, \quad (\Phi_i(h), \Psi_k(h)) = 0,
$$

$$
(\Psi_i(h), \Phi_i^*(h)) = 1, \quad (\Psi_i(h), \Psi_i^*(h)) = 0, \quad (\Psi_i(h), \Phi_k(h)) = 0
$$

for any $i = 0, \ldots, N$ and $k \neq i$.

This proposition can be proved in the same way as in [2] and [3] so that we omit the details of the proof. Thanks to (2.1), $\{\Phi_i(h), \Psi_i(h)\}_{i=0}^N$ is linearly independent in $X$. Then we define $E(h)$ by a linear space spanned by $\Phi_i(h), \Psi_i(h)$ ($i = 0, \ldots, N$). Let $Q(h)$ be the projection from $X$ to $E(h)$, where $Id$ is the identity on $X$. Note that $Q(h)U$ for $U \in X$ is given by $Q(h)U = \sum_{i=0}^N (\langle U, \Phi_i^*(h) \rangle \Phi_i(h) + \langle U, \Psi_i^*(h) \rangle \Psi_i(h)$.
Now we are in a position to derive the reduced equation (1.5) from (1.4) by formal calculations and describe the outline of the proof of Theorem 1.1. We first substitute $S(z, l, h, r)$ into $U(z, l)$ in (1.4). Note that (1.4) is simply written as $U_l = L(U)$. Since the function $\xi(z, l, h, r)$ is represented by $\xi(z, l, h, r) = \sum_{i=0}^{N} r_i |\psi_i(h)| (z - l)$, straightforward calculations give us

\[
(2.2) \quad - \sum_{i=0}^{N} (l' + l_i') \left( |\Phi_i(h)| (z) + r_i \frac{\partial |\Phi_i(h)|}{\partial z} (z) \right) + \sum_{i=0}^{N} r_i' [\psi_i(h)] (z) = L(S(z, 0, h, r))
\]

by putting $z - l \to z$, where $l_i(t) \equiv \xi_i(h(t)) (i = 0, \ldots, N)$. Then, multiplying $Q(h)$ to the both side of (2.2) and thanks to Proposition 2.1, we have

\[
(2.3) \quad -(l' + l_i') \left( 1 + r_i \left( \frac{\partial |\Phi_i(h)|}{\partial z}, \Psi_i(h) \right) \right) = (L(S(z, 0, h, r)), \Psi_i(h)) + O(\delta),
\]

\[-r_i' = (L(S(z, 0, h, r)), \Phi_i^*(h)) + O(\delta).\]

Next we obtain the lowest order terms of the right-hand side of (2.3). Set $S(z, 0, h, r) = t(\xi_0, \xi_0, \ldots, \xi_N, \xi_0, u(z))$. Since all particles are separated and $r$ is small due to the assumptions, the functions $S$ is approximated as $S(z, 0, h, r) = [P_i(h)](z) + r_i |\psi_i(h)| (z) + O(\delta + |r|^2)$ on the interval $[\xi_i - h_i/2, \xi_i + h_i+1/2]$, where we set $P_i(h) = [P_i(h)](z) = \xi_i e_i + p(z - \xi_i) e_{2N+3}$ for simplicity. From the approximation above and $F_i(0, 0, p; a_0) \psi = -\Phi$, we have

\[
(2.4) \quad L^*_i(S(z, 0, h, r)) = r_i + O(\delta + |r|^2 + \eta),
\]

\[
L^u_i(S(z, 0, h, r)) = O(\delta + |r|^2 + \eta).
\]

Next we calculate the inner product of $L^u(S(z, 0, h, r))$ and $\phi^*(z - \xi_i)$. By the similar argument to obtain (2.4), it holds true that $L^u(S(z, 0, h, r)) = \sum_{i=0}^{N} [f(z, \xi_i) - f(z, \xi_i) + r_i T \psi(z - \xi_i)]$. Since $\phi^*, \psi^*$ decay exponentially to 0 as $|z| \to \infty$, we have

\[
\int_{0}^{L} [f(z, \xi_i) - f(z, \xi_i) + r_i T \psi(z - \xi_i)] \phi^*(z - \xi_i) dz
\]

\[
= r_i (A(\psi, Z\psi), \phi^*) + O(\delta + |r|^2) = -r_i \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} p'(z) \phi^*(z) dz + O(\delta + |r|^2)
\]

owing to $A(\psi, Z\psi) = -p'$. Similarly, the inner product of $L^u(S(z, 0, h, r))$ and $\psi^*(z - \xi_i)$ is equal to $-r_i \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} p'(z) \psi^*(z) dz + O(\delta + |r|^2)$. Finally, we obtain the lowest order term of the two inner product $\langle L(S(z, 0, h, r)), \Phi^*_i(h) \rangle$, and $\langle L(S(z, 0, h, r)), \Psi^*_i(h) \rangle$. From these calculations above, see that $\langle L(S(z, 0, h, r)), \Phi^*_i(h) \rangle = -r_i + O(\delta + |r|^2 + \eta)$ from the orthogonal condition. Similarly, $\langle L(S(z, h, r, 0)), \Phi^*_i(h) \rangle = O(\delta + |r|^2 + \eta)$, which concludes Theorem 1.1.
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References


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