

# Cable Project

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When  $\lambda < 0$ , if  $c^2 \geq 4(1 + \lambda)$ , then  $F(\xi) = Ae^{\frac{1}{2}(-c + \sqrt{c^2 + 4(1 + \lambda)})\xi} + Be^{-\frac{1}{2}(c + \sqrt{c^2 + 4(1 + \lambda)})\xi}$ . The boundary condition in equation ?? requires that  $B = 0$  when  $V > \theta$  and that  $A = 0$  when  $V < \theta$ .

When  $\lambda < 0$ , if  $c^2 < |4(1 + \lambda)|$ , then  $F(\xi) = e^{\frac{-c}{2}\xi} \left( C \cos\left(\frac{\sqrt{|c^2 + 4(1 + \lambda)|}}{2}\xi\right) + D \sin\left(\frac{\sqrt{|c^2 + 4(1 + \lambda)|}}{2}\xi\right) \right)$ .  
 $v(x, t) = V(\xi) + \epsilon\psi(\xi, t)$

## 0.1 Stability of the Traveling Front Solutions

Now that we have found the traveling front solutions, it is important to understand their stability using linear stability analysis. Consider the solution  $v(x, t) = V(\xi) + \epsilon\psi(\xi, t)$ , where  $0 < \epsilon \ll 1$  and  $\psi(\xi, t)$  represents a small perturbation to the traveling wave solution,  $V(\xi)$ . The goal of the linear stability analysis is to understand how  $\psi(\xi, t)$  behaves over time. Recall the governing partial differential equation

$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial x^2} - v + H(v - \theta) \quad (1)$$

The chain rule allows us to obtain the following partial derivatives of  $v(x, t) = V(\xi) + \epsilon\psi(\xi, t)$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial v}{\partial t} &= \frac{\partial \xi}{\partial t} \frac{dV}{d\xi} + \epsilon \left( \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial \xi} \frac{\partial \xi}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} \right) = -c \frac{dV}{d\xi} + \epsilon \left( -c \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial \xi} + \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} \right) \\ \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} &= \frac{\partial \xi}{\partial x} \frac{dV}{d\xi} + \epsilon \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} \frac{\partial \xi}{\partial x} = \frac{dV}{d\xi} + \epsilon \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial \xi} \\ \frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial x^2} &= \frac{\partial \xi}{\partial x} \frac{d^2 V}{d\xi^2} + \epsilon \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial \xi^2} \frac{\partial \xi}{\partial x} = \frac{d^2 V}{d\xi^2} + \epsilon \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial \xi^2} \end{aligned}$$

Equation (1) is rewritten as

$$-c \frac{dV(\xi)}{d\xi} + \epsilon \left( -c \frac{\partial \psi(\xi, t)}{\partial \xi} + \frac{\partial \psi(\xi, t)}{\partial t} \right) = \frac{d^2 V(\xi)}{d\xi^2} + \epsilon \frac{\partial^2 \psi(\xi, t)}{\partial \xi^2} + f(V(\xi) + \epsilon\psi(\xi, t)) \quad (2)$$

Analysis of equation (2) can be simplified by using the Taylor expansion of  $f(V(\xi) + \epsilon\psi(\xi, t))$  with respect to  $V(\xi)$ , and discounting  $O(\epsilon^2)$  terms.

$$f(V + \epsilon\psi) \approx f(V) + \frac{\partial f(V)}{\partial V} \epsilon\psi = -V + \mathcal{H}(V - \theta) - \epsilon\psi + \delta(V - \theta)\epsilon\psi$$

Equation 2 becomes

$$-c \frac{dV}{d\xi} + \epsilon \left( -c \frac{\partial\psi}{\partial\xi} + \frac{\partial\psi}{\partial t} \right) = \frac{d^2V}{d\xi^2} + \epsilon \frac{\partial^2\psi}{\partial\xi^2} - V + H(V - \theta) + \epsilon\psi(-1 + \delta(V - \theta))$$

Look at the terms involving  $\psi$  and  $\epsilon$  to analyze the long term behavior of the disturbance. The partial differential equation that models the behavior of the perturbation is

$$\frac{\partial\psi}{\partial t} = c \frac{\partial^2\psi}{\partial\xi^2} + \frac{\partial\psi}{\partial\xi} - (1 - \delta(V - \theta))\psi \quad (3)$$

## 0.2 Separation of Variables

This equation can be solved using separation of variables, where solutions have the form of  $\psi(\xi, t) = S(\xi)T(t) \neq 0$ .

$$\frac{1}{T} \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} = \frac{1}{S} \frac{\partial^2 S}{\partial\xi^2} + \frac{c}{S} \frac{\partial S}{\partial\xi} - 1 + \delta(V - \theta) = \lambda$$

Before proceeding with the analysis, we need to define the boundary conditions. Recall that the boundary condition  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \pm\infty} \frac{\partial v(x, t)}{\partial x} = 0$  is necessary to ensure a physically realistic solution. Because we previously imposed the boundary condition that  $\lim_{\xi \rightarrow \pm\infty} \frac{dV}{d\xi} = 0$ , it must also be true that

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \pm\infty} \frac{\partial(V(\xi) + \epsilon\psi(\xi, t))}{\partial x} = \lim_{\xi \rightarrow \pm\infty} \frac{dV}{d\xi} + \lim_{\xi \rightarrow \pm\infty} \epsilon \frac{\partial\psi}{\partial\xi} = 0 \implies \lim_{\xi \rightarrow \pm\infty} \frac{d\psi}{d\xi} = 0$$

The time-dependent equation is a homogeneous ODE with the following solutions, where  $a \in \mathbb{R}$ .

$$\frac{1}{T} \frac{dT}{dt} = \lambda \implies \int \frac{dT}{T} = \int \lambda dt \implies T(t) = ae^{\lambda t} \quad (4)$$

For the spatial dependence, we split the domain of the equation into three regions, depending on the value of  $\delta(V(\xi) - \theta)$ , with the boundary condition that  $\lim_{\xi \rightarrow \pm\infty} \psi = 0$ :

Region 1:  $\xi < 0$  and  $\delta(V(\xi) - \theta) = 0$

Region 2:  $\xi > 0$  and  $\delta(V(\xi) - \theta) = 0$

Region 3:  $\xi = 0$  and  $\delta(V(\xi) - \theta) = \infty$

### 0.2.1 Region 1 and 2

In Region 1 and 2, we solve the equation:

$$\frac{d^2S}{d\xi^2} + c \frac{dS}{d\xi} - (\lambda + 1)S = 0 \quad (5)$$

The boundary conditions are in Region 1:  $\lim_{\xi \rightarrow -\infty} S_1 = 0$ ; and in Region 2:  $\lim_{\xi \rightarrow \infty} S_2 = 0$ . The solutions have the form:

$$\begin{aligned}
S_1(\xi) &= c_1 e^{\frac{-c + \sqrt{c^2 + 4(\lambda + 1)}}{2} \xi} \\
S_2(\xi) &= c_2 e^{\frac{-c - \sqrt{c^2 + 4(\lambda + 1)}}{2} \xi}
\end{aligned} \tag{6}$$

### 0.2.2 Region 3

At Region 3, we integrate the equation at a small interval around the point of discontinuity to examine the effect  $\delta(V(\xi) - \theta)$  has on the solution. The spatial equation in this region is

$$\frac{d^2 S}{d\xi^2} + c \frac{dS}{d\xi} - [\lambda + 1 + \delta(V(\xi) - \theta)] S = 0 \tag{7}$$

Since there is a discontinuity due to the dirac delta function here at  $V(\xi) = \theta$ ,  $\xi = 0$ , we integrate a small interval  $(+\epsilon, -\epsilon)$  around the discontinuity. Then, we take the limit  $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$  gives us information as to how the solutions in Region 1 and 2, (6), connect in Region 3.

$$\int_{-\epsilon}^{+\epsilon} \frac{d^2 S}{d\xi^2} d\xi + c \int_{-\epsilon}^{+\epsilon} \frac{dS}{d\xi} d\xi - \int_{-\epsilon}^{+\epsilon} (\lambda + 1) S d\xi - \int_{-\epsilon}^{+\epsilon} \delta(V(\xi) - \theta) S d\xi = 0$$

For the first two terms, the fundamental theorem of calculus gives us the first derivative evaluated at the endpoints and the function evaluated at the endpoints.

$$\frac{dS}{d\xi}(+\epsilon) - \frac{dS}{d\xi}(-\epsilon) + c[S(+\epsilon) - S(-\epsilon)] - \int_{-\epsilon}^{+\epsilon} (\lambda + 1) S d\xi - \int_{-\epsilon}^{+\epsilon} \delta(V(\xi) - \theta) S d\xi = 0$$

Now we take the limit:

$$\lim_{\xi \rightarrow 0} \left[ \frac{dS}{d\xi}(+\epsilon) - \frac{dS}{d\xi}(-\epsilon) + c[S(+\epsilon) - S(-\epsilon)] - \int_{-\epsilon}^{+\epsilon} (\lambda + 1) S d\xi - \int_{-\epsilon}^{+\epsilon} \delta(V(\xi) - \theta) S d\xi \right] = 0$$

Of the remaining two integrals, the first one goes to zero as the bounds shrink to zero since the integral is continuous, even if  $S$  is not. The second integral involving the dirac delta function evaluates to  $S(0)$  by the *sampling property*, since we are specifically looking at the small region centered around where  $V(\xi) = \theta$ . Therefore we get:

$$\lim_{\xi \rightarrow 0} \left[ \frac{dS}{d\xi}(+\epsilon) - \frac{dS}{d\xi}(-\epsilon) + c[S(+\epsilon) - S(-\epsilon)] \right] = S(0)$$

$S$  must be continuous if we are assuming that the derivative  $\frac{dS}{d\xi}$  exists so  $S(0^+) = S(0^-)$  and the constants in front of the homogeneous solutions (6) are equal,  $c_1 = c_2 = K$ , revealing a relationship between the value of the spatial term and the discontinuity between its derivative at  $\xi = 0$ .

$$S(0) = \lim_{\xi \rightarrow 0} \left[ K \left( \frac{-c - \sqrt{c^2 + 4(\lambda + 1)}}{2} e^{\frac{-c - \sqrt{c^2 + 4(\lambda + 1)}}{2} \xi} - \frac{-c + \sqrt{c^2 + 4(\lambda + 1)}}{2} e^{\frac{-c + \sqrt{c^2 + 4(\lambda + 1)}}{2} \xi} \right) \right]$$

Taking the limit, we find the following, where  $S(0) \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $K \in \mathbb{R}$  since this is a physical system and we assume the solutions are real-valued.

$$S(0) = K \left( \frac{-c - \sqrt{c^2 + 4(\lambda + 1)}}{2} - \frac{-c + \sqrt{c^2 + 4(\lambda + 1)}}{2} \right) \quad (8)$$

$S$  is the spatial part of some arbitrary perturbation function that satisfies  $\lim_{\xi \rightarrow \pm\infty} S(\xi) = 0$ , and its value at zero could be either non-zero, or it could be 0. Since the boundary conditions provided do not fix  $S(0)$  or  $K$ , we will examine both cases. In the latter case, if  $S(0) = 0$  then  $K = c_1 = 0$  and we find the trivial solution of  $S = 0$  which gives us  $\psi(\xi, t) = 0$ . In the following section, we explore the former case.

## 0.3 Eigenvalues

### 0.3.1 $\lambda = 0$ Case

Now to examine the family of solutions that depend on  $\lambda$ , we start with the  $\lambda = 0$  case. Assuming we can rescale  $S(0)$  to unity, eq (8) simplifies to:

$$1 = K \left( \frac{-c - \sqrt{c^2 + 4}}{2} - \frac{-c + \sqrt{c^2 + 4}}{2} \right) = -K\sqrt{c^2 + 4}$$

or

$$K = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{c^2 + 4}}$$

Plugging this constant back into our solutions for Region 1 and 2 (6) and multiplying it by the time-dependent solution (4), we find a solution for  $\psi(\xi, t)$ :

$$\psi_{\lambda=0}(\xi, t) = \begin{cases} \frac{-1}{\sqrt{c^2+4}} e^{\frac{-c+\sqrt{c^2+4}}{2}\xi}, & \xi < 0 \\ \frac{-1}{\sqrt{c^2+4}} e^{\frac{-c-\sqrt{c^2+4}}{2}\xi}, & \xi > 0 \end{cases} \quad (9)$$

Recalling our traveling wave solution  $V(\xi)$  (??), we note that  $\psi(\xi, t) = V'(\xi)$ . This solution corresponds to  $v(x, t) = V(\xi) + \epsilon V'(\xi)$ , a Taylor expansion linearization around the traveling wave solution. This perturbation is independent of time. We plot  $v(x, t)$  with various values of  $\epsilon$  to show its effect on  $V(\xi)$ .

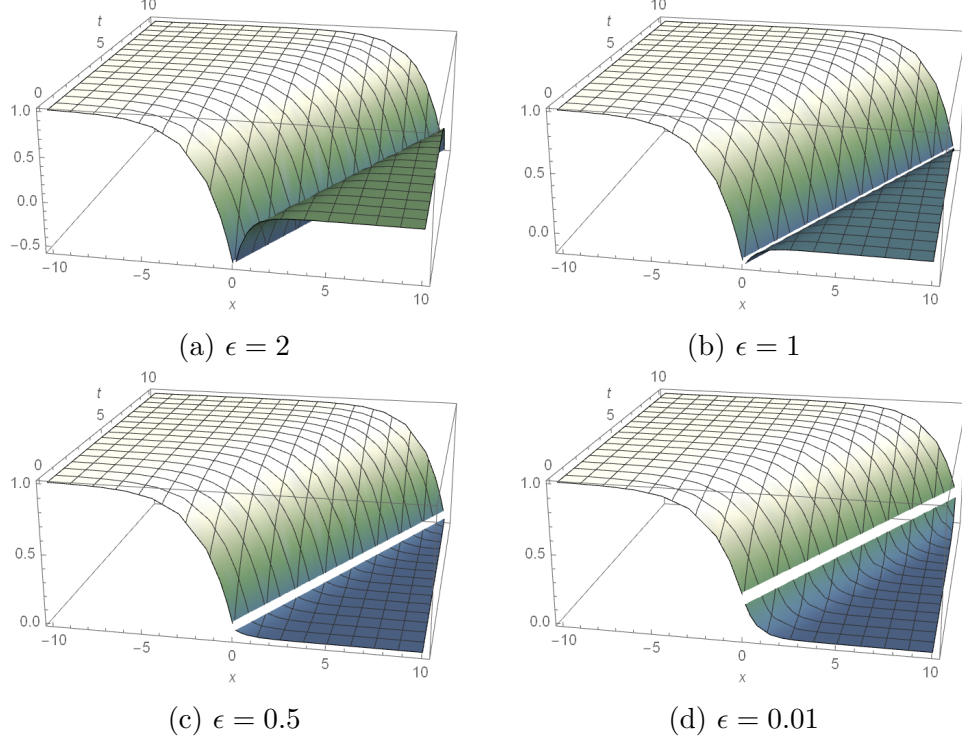


Figure 1:  $v(x, t) = V(\xi) + \epsilon V'(\xi)$  with various  $\epsilon$  values

### 0.3.2 $\lambda > 0$ Case

$$\psi_{\lambda>0}(\xi, t) = \begin{cases} \frac{-1}{\sqrt{c^2+4(\lambda+1)}} e^{\frac{-c+\sqrt{c^2+4(\lambda+1)}}{2}\xi}, & \xi < 0 \\ \frac{-1}{\sqrt{c^2+4(\lambda+1)}} e^{\frac{-c-\sqrt{c^2+4(\lambda+1)}}{2}\xi}, & \xi > 0 \end{cases} \quad (10)$$

### 0.3.3 $\lambda < 0$ Case

$$\psi_{\lambda<0}(\xi, t) = \begin{cases} \frac{-1}{\sqrt{c^2-4(\lambda-1)}} e^{\frac{-c+\sqrt{c^2-4(\lambda-1)}}{2}\xi}, & \xi < 0 \\ \frac{-1}{\sqrt{c^2-4(\lambda-1)}} e^{\frac{-c-\sqrt{c^2-4(\lambda-1)}}{2}\xi}, & \xi > 0 \end{cases} \quad (11)$$

## References

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