Multiple solutions for 1-D quasilinear indefinite Schrödinger equations

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1 Introduction

To find standing waves $\psi(t,x) = e^{-i\omega t}u(x)$ of QL Schrödinger equation $i\partial_t \psi = -\Delta \psi + U(x) - \psi \Delta (|\psi|^2) - \bar{g}(|\psi|^2)\psi \qquad (t,x) \in \mathbb{R}^+ \times \mathbb{R}^N,$

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Then many results for $\inf V > 0$ appear. Until Shen & Han (2015) for N = 1 and Liu & Zhou (2018) for $N \ge 1$, no results if $-\Delta + V$ is indefinite.

In Liu & Zhou (2018): $g(t) \approx |t|^{p-2} t$ for some $p \in (4, 2 \cdot 2^*)$.

so that the working space

$$E = \left\{ u \in H^1(\mathbb{R}^N) \, \middle| \, ||u|| = \left(\int \left(|\nabla u|^2 + Vu^2 \right) \right)^{1/2} < \infty \right\} \hookrightarrow \hookrightarrow L^2(\mathbb{R}^N).$$

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$$-u'' + V(x)u - (u^2)''u = f(x, u), \quad u \in H^1(\mathbb{R}).$$
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Assume $V \in C(\mathbb{R})$ is bounded from below. Let

$$\lambda_n = \inf_{X \in \mathcal{X}_n} \sup_{u \in X \setminus \{0\}} \frac{\int \left(\dot{u}^2 + V(x)u^2\right)}{\int u^2},$$

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$$\lambda_n \to \lambda_m < \infty$$
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then λ_{∞} is the bottom of the essential spectrum of $S = -\frac{d^2}{dx^2} + V$

 $\lim_{|t|\to\infty}V(x)=+\infty,$

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then λ_{∞} is the bottom of the essential spectrum of $S = -\frac{d^2}{dx^2} + V$ and $\lambda_n < \lambda_{\infty}$ implies that λ_n is an eigenvalue of S of finite multiplicity.

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Increasing h a little bit we may assume that h in (f_3^*) is not an eigenvalue.

Thm 1. Suppose (V_1) , (f_1) , (f_2) and (f_3^*) are satisfied, then (3) has at least two nontrivial solutions.

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- Increasing h a little bit we may assume that h in (f_3^*) is not an eigenvalue.
- **Thm 1**. Suppose (V_1) , (f_1) , (f_2) and (f_3^*) are satisfied, then (3) has at least two nontrivial solutions. If in addition $f(x, \cdot)$ is odd for all $x \in \mathbb{R}$, then (3) has k pairs of nontrivial solutions.

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Rem 1. Under (V_1) , (f_1) , (f_2) and the following condition weaker than (f_3^*) :

 (f_3) There exists $h \in (0, \lambda_\infty)$ such that $F(x, t) \leq \frac{1}{2}ht^2$ for all $(x, t) \in \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}$, a nontrivial solution is obtained by Wang & Yang (2015).

Thm1 is motivated by Chen & Wang (2014) who obtained similar results for

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta u + V(x)u + \phi u = f(x, u) & \text{in } \mathbb{R}^3, \\ -\Delta \phi = u^2 & \text{in } \mathbb{R}^3. \end{cases}$$

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Motivated by Liu & Wu (2017) on indefinite problem (4), we consider (3) when $f(x, \cdot)$ is 4-superlinear:

$$\lim_{|t| \to \infty} \frac{F(x,t)}{t^4} = +\infty \quad \text{a.e. } x \in \mathbb{R}, \quad \text{where } F(x,t) = \int_0^t f(x,\cdot).$$

$$(f_4)$$
 $0 < 4F(x,t) \le tf(x,t)$ for all $(x,t) \in \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}$,
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Example: $f(x, t) = a(x) |t|^{p-2} t$, $\lim_{|x| \to \infty} a(x) = 0$.

 $(f_4) \ 0 < 4F(x,t) \le tf(x,t) \text{ for all } (x,t) \in \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R},$

$$\lim_{|t| \to \infty} \frac{F(x, t)}{t^4} = +\infty \quad \text{a.e. } x \in \mathbb{R}.$$
 (5)

 (f_5) if $u_n \to u$ in $H^1(\mathbb{R})$, then $\overline{\lim_{n \to \infty}} \int f(x, u_n)(u_n - u) \le 0$.

Thm 2. Suppose (V_1) , (f_1) , (f_2) , (f_4) and (f_5) are satisfied, then (3) has at least one nontrivial solutions. If in addition $f(x, \cdot)$ is odd for $x \in \mathbb{R}$, then (3) has a sequence of solutions $\{u_n\}$ such that $\Phi(u_n) \to +\infty$.

Rem 3. Condition (f_5) holds in e.g. one of the following:

(1) for
$$\forall r > 0$$
, $\lim_{|x| \to \infty} \sup_{0 < |t| \le r} \left| \frac{f(x, t)}{t} \right| = 0$,

Bartsch et al. (2004)

Example: $f(x, t) = a(x) |t|^{p-2} t$, $\lim_{|x| \to \infty} a(x) = 0$.

(2)
$$|f(x,t)| \le \alpha_+(x)|t|^{p_+-1} + \alpha_-(x)|t|^{p_--1}$$
, $\alpha_{\pm} \in L^{q_{\pm}}(\mathbb{R})$ for some $q_{\pm} > 1$.

2. Proof of Thm 1

We denote $X = H^1(\mathbb{R})$. By Poppenberg et al. (2002), $N: X \to \mathbb{R}$ given by

$$N(u) = \int \dot{u}^2 u^2$$

is of class C^1 ,

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$$\langle N'(u), v \rangle = 2 \int (\dot{u}^2 u v + u^2 \dot{u} \dot{v}).$$

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Therefore, $\Phi: X \to \mathbb{R}$

$$\Phi(u) = \frac{1}{2} \int (\dot{u}^2 + V(x)u^2) + \int \dot{u}^2 u^2 - \int F(x, u)$$

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is of class C^1 as well, with derivative

$$\langle \Phi'(u), \nu \rangle = \int (\dot{u}\dot{v} + V(x)uv) + \langle N'(u), \nu \rangle - \int f(x, u)v.$$

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Critical points of Φ are weak solutions of the problem (3).

$$\overline{\lim_{n\to\infty}}\left(\langle N'(u_n),u\rangle-4N(u_n)\right)\leq 0.$$

$$\overline{\lim_{n\to\infty}} \left(\langle N'(u_n), u \rangle - 4N(u_n) \right) \le 0. \tag{6}$$

Pf. The inequality (6) is a consequence of

$$\frac{1}{2}\langle N'(u_n),u\rangle = \int \left(\dot{u}_n^2 u_n u + u_n^2 \dot{u}_n \dot{u}\right)$$

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Lem 2. Suppose $g \in C(\mathbb{R}^N \times \mathbb{R})$, $|g(x,t)| \le \Lambda |t|$ for $(x,t) \in \mathbb{R}^N \times \mathbb{R}$.

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$$\int g(x,u_n)\phi \to \int g(x,u)\phi.$$

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$$\int g(x, u_n)\phi \to \int g(x, u)\phi. \tag{7}$$

Rem 4. By Brézis & Lieb (1983) we get

$$g(u_n) \to g(u)$$
 in $L^2(\mathbb{R}^N)$,

which implies (7).

Pf (Without using B-L). Since q is of linear growth and $\{u_n\}$ is bounded,

$$\beta := \sup_{n} |g(x, u_n) - g(x, u)|_2 < \infty.$$

Given $\varepsilon > 0$, choose R > 0 such that

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$$\left| \int g(x, u_n) \phi - \int g(x, u) \phi \right| \\ \leq \int_{|x| \geq R} |g(x, u_n) - g(x, u)| |\phi| + \int_{|x| < R} |g(x, u_n) - g(x, u)| |\phi|$$

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Using Hölder inequality we have

$$\left| \int g(x, u_{n}) \phi - \int g(x, u) \phi \right|$$

$$\leq \int_{|x| \geq R} |g(x, u_{n}) - g(x, u)| |\phi| + \int_{|x| < R} |g(x, u_{n}) - g(x, u)| |\phi|$$

$$\leq |g(x, u_{n}) - g(x, u)|_{2} \left(\int_{|x| \geq R} \phi^{2} \right)^{1/2} + \int_{|x| < R} |g(x, u_{n}) - g(x, u)| |\phi|$$

$$\leq \beta \varepsilon + \int_{|x| < R} |g(x, u_{n}) - g(x, u)| |\phi|.$$

Since $H^1(\mathbb{R}^N) \hookrightarrow \hookrightarrow L^2_{loc}(B_R)$ we deduce $g(x, u_n) \to g(x, u)$ in $L^2(B_R)$.

Given $\varepsilon > 0$, choose R > 0 such that

$$\int_{|x|>R} \phi^2 \le \varepsilon^2.$$

Using Hölder inequality we have

$$\begin{split} \left| \int g(x, u_n) \phi - \int g(x, u) \phi \right| \\ & \leq \int_{|x| \geq R} |g(x, u_n) - g(x, u)| |\phi| + \int_{|x| < R} |g(x, u_n) - g(x, u)| |\phi| \\ & \leq |g(x, u_n) - g(x, u)|_2 \left(\int_{|x| \geq R} \phi^2 \right)^{1/2} + \int_{|x| < R} |g(x, u_n) - g(x, u)| |\phi| \\ & \leq \beta \varepsilon + \int_{|x| < R} |g(x, u_n) - g(x, u)| |\phi|. \end{split}$$

Since $H^1(\mathbb{R}^N) \hookrightarrow \hookrightarrow L^2_{loc}(B_R)$ we deduce $g(x, u_n) \to g(x, u)$ in $L^2(B_R)$. Hence

$$\overline{\lim_{n\to\infty}}\bigg|\int g(x,u_n)\phi-\int g(x,u)\phi\bigg|\leq \beta\varepsilon.$$

Let E^- be the negative subspace of S - h and $E^+ = (E^-)^{\perp}$.

Let E^- be the negative subspace of S-h and $E^+=(E^-)^{\perp}$. Then dim $E^-<\infty$

and there is an equivalent norm $\|\cdot\|$ on $X = E^- \oplus E^+$

$$\int (\dot{u}^2 + V(x)u^2 - hu^2) = ||u^+||^2 - ||u^-||^2,$$

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where u^{\pm} are the orthogonal projections of u on E^{\pm} .

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Lem 3. Under conditions (V_1) , (f_1) and (f_3^*) , Φ satisfies the $(PS)_c$ condition for all $c \in \mathbb{R}$.

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Pf. Under (V_1) , (f_1) and the following condition weaker than (f_3^*) :

 (f_3) There exists $h \in (0, \lambda_\infty)$ such that $F(x, t) \leq \frac{1}{2}ht^2$ for all $(x, t) \in \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}$,

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it has been shown by Wang & Yang (2015) that Φ is coercive. Let $\{u_n\}$ be a $(PS)_c$ sequence of Φ , that is

$$\Phi(u_n) \to c, \quad \Phi'(u_n) \to 0.$$

By the coerciveness of Φ , $\{u_n\}$ is bounded in X.

$$\int \left(\dot{u}^2 + V(x)u^2 - hu^2\right) = \|u^+\|^2 - \|u^-\|^2,$$

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Lem 3. Under conditions (V_1) , (f_1) and (f_3^*) , Φ satisfies the $(PS)_c$ condition for all $c \in \mathbb{R}$.

Pf. Under (V_1) , (f_1) and the following condition weaker than (f_2^*) :

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$$f_3$$
) There exists $h \in (0, \lambda_\infty)$ such that $F(x, t) \leq \frac{1}{2}ht^2$ for all $(x, t) \in \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}$, it has been shown by Wang & Yang (2015) that Φ is coercive. Let $\{u_n\}$ be a $(PS)_C$ sequence of Φ , that is

$$\Phi(u_n) \to c, \qquad \Phi'(u_n) \to 0.$$

By the coerciveness of Φ , $\{u_n\}$ is bounded in X. We may assume $u_n \to u$ in X. Since dim $E^- < \infty$, we have $u_n^- \to u^-$ and $||u_n^-|| \to ||u^-||$.

Since
$$\Phi'(u_n) \to 0$$
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$$o(1) = o(\|u_n\|) = \langle \Phi'(u_n), u_n \rangle$$

= $\int (\dot{u}_n^2 + V(x)u_n^2 - hu_n^2) + \langle N'(u_n), u_n \rangle - \int (f(x, u_n)u_n - hu_n^2)$

$$\begin{split} o(1) &= o(\|u_n\|) = \langle \Phi'(u_n), u_n \rangle \\ &= \int \left(\dot{u}_n^2 + V(x) u_n^2 - h u_n^2 \right) + \langle N'(u_n), u_n \rangle - \int \left(f(x, u_n) u_n - h u_n^2 \right) \\ &= \|u_n^+\|^2 - \|u_n^-\|^2 + 4N(u_n) + \int \left(h u_n^2 - f(x, u_n) u_n \right). \end{split}$$

$$o(1) = o(\|u_n\|) = \langle \Phi'(u_n), u_n \rangle$$

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$$= \|u_n^+\|^2 - \|u_n^-\|^2 + 4N(u_n) + \int (hu_n^2 - f(x, u_n)u_n).$$
(8)

Applying Lem2 to $g:(x,t)\mapsto ht-f(x,t)$ yields

$$\int (hu_n u - f(x, u_n)u) = \int (hu^2 - f(x, u)u) + o(1).$$

$$o(1) = o(\|u_n\|) = \langle \Phi'(u_n), u_n \rangle$$

$$= \int (\dot{u}_n^2 + V(x)u_n^2 - hu_n^2) + \langle N'(u_n), u_n \rangle - \int (f(x, u_n)u_n - hu_n^2)$$

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Therefore

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$$o(1) = o(\|u_n\|) = \langle \Phi'(u_n), u_n \rangle$$

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Therefore

$$o(1) = \langle \Phi'(u_n), u \rangle$$

= $||u^+||^2 - ||u^-||^2 + \langle N'(u_n), u \rangle + \int (hu^2 - f(x, u)u) + o(1).$

Since $\Phi'(u_n) \to 0$, we have

$$o(1) = o(\|u_n\|) = \langle \Phi'(u_n), u_n \rangle$$

$$= \int \left(\dot{u}_n^2 + V(x) u_n^2 - h u_n^2 \right) + \langle N'(u_n), u_n \rangle - \int \left(f(x, u_n) u_n - h u_n^2 \right)$$

$$= \|u_n^+\|^2 - \|u_n^-\|^2 + 4N(u_n) + \int \left(h u_n^2 - f(x, u_n) u_n \right). \tag{8}$$

Applying Lem2 to $g:(x,t)\mapsto ht-f(x,t)$ yields

$$\int (hu_n u - f(x, u_n)u) = \int (hu^2 - f(x, u)u) + o(1).$$

Therefore

$$o(1) = \langle \Phi'(u_n), u \rangle$$

= $\|u^+\|^2 - \|u^-\|^2 + \langle N'(u_n), u \rangle + \int (hu^2 - f(x, u)u) + o(1).$ (9)

From (8), (9), Lem1, and

$$\int \left(hu^2 - f(x, u)u\right) \le \lim_{n \to \infty} \int \left(hu_n^2 - f(x, u_n)u_n\right), \qquad ((f_3^*) \& \text{Fatou})$$

Since $\Phi'(u_n) \to 0$, we have

$$\begin{split} o(1) &= o(\|u_n\|) = \langle \Phi'(u_n), u_n \rangle \\ &= \int \left(\dot{u}_n^2 + V(x) u_n^2 - h u_n^2 \right) + \langle N'(u_n), u_n \rangle - \int \left(f(x, u_n) u_n - h u_n^2 \right) \\ &= \|u_n^+\|^2 - \|u_n^-\|^2 + 4N(u_n) + \int \left(h u_n^2 - f(x, u_n) u_n \right). \end{split}$$

Applying Lem 2 to $g:(x,t)\mapsto ht-f(x,t)$ yields

$$\int (hu_n u - f(x, u_n)u) = \int (hu^2 - f(x, u)u) + o(1).$$

Therefore

$$o(1) = \langle \Phi'(u_n), u \rangle$$

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From (8), (9), Lem1, and

$$\int \left(hu^2 - f(x, u)u\right) \le \lim_{n \to \infty} \int \left(hu_n^2 - f(x, u_n)u_n\right), \qquad ((f_3^*) \& \text{Fatou})$$

as well as $||u_n^-|| \rightarrow ||u^-||$,

(8)

(9)

$$\overline{\lim}_{n \to \infty} \|u_n^+\|^2 = \|u^+\|^2 + \int \left(hu^2 - f(x, u)u\right) + \overline{\lim}_{n \to \infty} \left(\left[\langle N'(u_n), u \rangle - 4N(u_n)\right] - \int \left(hu_n u - f(x, u_n)u\right)\right)$$

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So Φ has a loc link at u=0, hence has **3** critical points (Liu (1989)).

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Step 2. Assume $u_n \to u$. We show that $||u_n|| \to ||u||$.

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Hence $||u_n^+|| \to ||u^+||$.

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Hence $\|u_n^+\| \to \|u^+\|$. Noting $\|u_n^-\| \to \|u^-\|$, we conclude $\|u_n\| \to \|u\|$.

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Lem 5. Assume (V_1) , (f_1) , (f_4) , there exists $A < \inf_{B_2} \Phi$, s.t. if $\Phi(u) \le A$, then

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}t}\Big|_{t=1}\Phi(tu)<0.$$

Pf. Otherwise, there is a sequence
$$\{u_n\} \subset X$$
 such that $\Phi(u_n) \leq -n$ but $\langle \Phi'(u_n), u_n \rangle = \frac{d}{dt} \Big|_{t=1} \Phi(tu_n) \geq 0$.

Pf. Otherwise, there is a sequence $\{u_n\} \subset X$ such that $\Phi(u_n) \leq -n$ but

$$\langle \Phi'(u_n), u_n \rangle = \frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}t} \Big|_{t=1} \Phi(tu_n) \ge 0. \tag{12}$$

Using (f_4) , we deduce

$$||u_n^+||^2 - ||u_n^-||^2 \le (||u_n^+||^2 - ||u_n^-||^2) + \int [f(x, u_n)u_n - 4F(x, u_n)]$$

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Shibo Liu

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$$\langle \Phi'(u_n), u_n \rangle = \frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}t} \Big|_{t=1} \Phi(tu_n) \ge 0. \tag{12}$$

Using (f_4) , we deduce

$$||u_n^+||^2 - ||u_n^-||^2 \le (||u_n^+||^2 - ||u_n^-||^2) + \int [f(x, u_n)u_n - 4F(x, u_n)]$$

$$= 4\Phi(u_n) - \langle \Phi'(u_n), u_n \rangle \le -4n.$$

Let $v_n = ||u_n||^{-1}u_n$, then $v_n^- \to v^-$ in X (dim $X^- < \infty$), $v^- \neq 0$. Hence

$$\int \frac{f(x, u_n)u_n}{\|u_n\|^4} \ge 4 \int \frac{F(x, u_n)}{\|u_n\|^4} \to +\infty.$$

$$0 \le \frac{\langle \Phi'(u_n), u_n \rangle}{\|u_n\|^4}$$

(see (11))

(13)

Pf. Otherwise, there is a sequence $\{u_n\} \subset X$ such that $\Phi(u_n) \leq -n$ but

$$\langle \Phi'(u_n), u_n \rangle = \frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}t} \Big|_{t=1} \Phi(tu_n) \ge 0. \tag{12}$$

Using (f_4) , we deduce

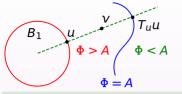
$$||u_n^+||^2 - ||u_n^-||^2 \le (||u_n^+||^2 - ||u_n^-||^2) + \int [f(x, u_n)u_n - 4F(x, u_n)]$$

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$$0 \le \frac{\langle \Phi'(u_n), u_n \rangle}{\|u_n\|^4} \le \frac{\|u_n^+\|^2 - \|u_n^-\|^2}{\|u_n\|^4} + \frac{\langle N'(u_n), u_n \rangle}{\|u_n\|^4} - \int \frac{f(x, u_n)u_n}{\|u_n\|^4} \to -\infty.$$

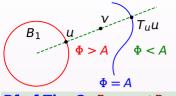
(13)



$$\varphi: X \backslash B_1 \to \Phi_A,$$

$$\varphi(v) = \begin{cases} T_{v/||v||} \frac{v}{||v||} & \text{if } \Phi(v) > A \\ v & \text{if } \Phi(v) \le A \end{cases}$$

$$\Phi(tu) \to -\infty$$
 as $t \to +\infty$.

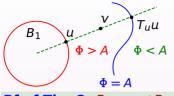


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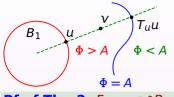
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$$\frac{d}{ds}\Big|_{s=T_u}\Phi(su)$$



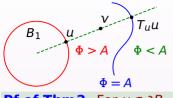
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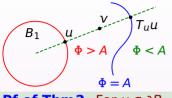
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Following Wang (1991), by IFT $u \mapsto T_u$ is continuous,



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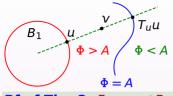
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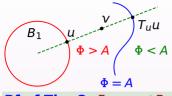
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Following Wang (1991), by IFT $u \mapsto T_u$ is continuous, and we construct a deformation $\varphi : X \setminus B_1 \to \Phi_A$, and deduce (critical groups)

$$C_i(\Phi, \infty) = H_i(X, \Phi_A)$$



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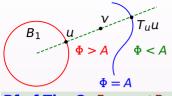
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$$C_i(\Phi, \infty) = H_i(X, \Phi_A) = H_i(X, X \setminus B_1) = 0$$
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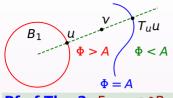
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Since Φ has a loc link at u=0, by Liu (1989) (for $\ell=\dim X^-$) $C_{\ell}(\Phi,0)\neq 0$.



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Since Φ has a loc link at u=0, by Liu (1989) (for $\ell=\dim X^-$)

$$C_{\ell}(\Phi, 0) \neq 0$$
. Hence $C_{\ell}(\Phi, 0) \neq C_{\ell}(\Phi, \infty)$,

Applying Bartsch & Li (1997), Φ has a crt pt $u \neq 0$.

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Thank you!

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