

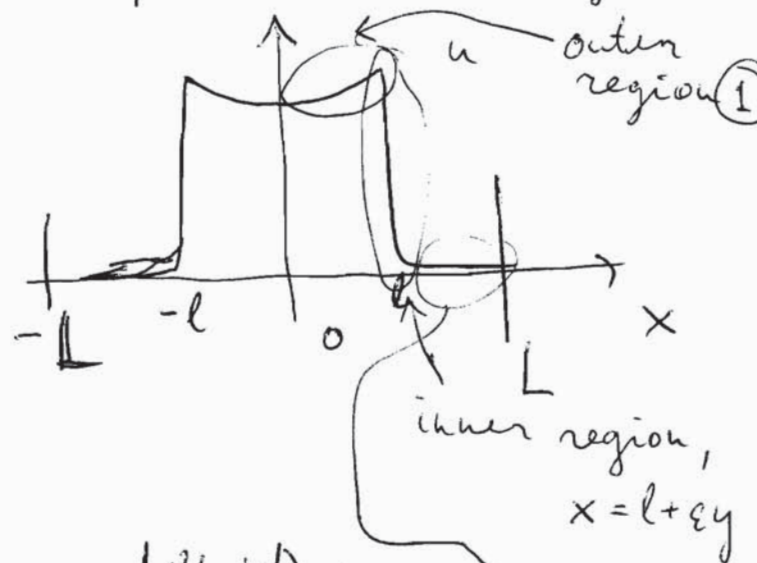
# Stability of mesa patterns, $D \gg 0(1)$

(1)

Again we consider the steady-state solution but with  $D \gg 0(1)$ :

$$\begin{cases} \varepsilon^2 u'' - u + u^2(w - u) = 0 \\ Dw'' + 1 - \beta_0 u = 0 \end{cases}$$

If  $D = 0(1)$  then the mesa pattern is no longer flat on top:



## Inner region:

$$\begin{aligned} x = l + \varepsilon y &\Rightarrow u_{yy} = f(u, w); \\ u = U(y) & \\ w = W(y) & \end{aligned} \quad \frac{D}{\varepsilon^2} W_{yy} = \beta_0 U - 1$$

$$\Rightarrow W_{yy} \sim 0 \Rightarrow W \sim W_0 \text{ so as before,}$$

$$\Rightarrow W_0 = \frac{3}{\sqrt{2}}; \quad U(y) = U_{h^+}(y) \text{ is}$$

a heteroclinic with  $U_{h^+}(y) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left( 1 + \tanh\left(\frac{y}{2}\right) \right)$

and with  $U(y) \rightarrow \sqrt{2}, \quad y \rightarrow -\infty$   
 $U(y) \rightarrow 0, \quad y \rightarrow +\infty.$

(2)

Outer region:  $u$  has no sharp gradients so we may ignore the  $O(\epsilon^2 u'')$  term so that

$$-u + u^2(\omega - u) = 0.$$

Note that  $\begin{cases} u \rightarrow 0 & \text{as } x \rightarrow l^+ \\ u \rightarrow \sqrt{2} & \text{as } x \rightarrow l^- \end{cases}$

in order to match the inner region.

Outer ②:  $u(-1 + u(\omega - u)) = 0 \Rightarrow \boxed{u=0}$   
and  $w$  is quadratic,  $Dw'' = -1$ .

Outer ①:  $-1 + u\omega - u^2 = 0 \Rightarrow \omega = \frac{1}{u} + u \equiv g(u)$

So  $u$  is slave to  $w$  and

$$\begin{cases} Dw'' = \beta_0 g^{-1}(w) - 1 \\ w'(0) = 0, \quad w(l) = \frac{3}{\sqrt{2}} \end{cases} \quad (a)$$

and

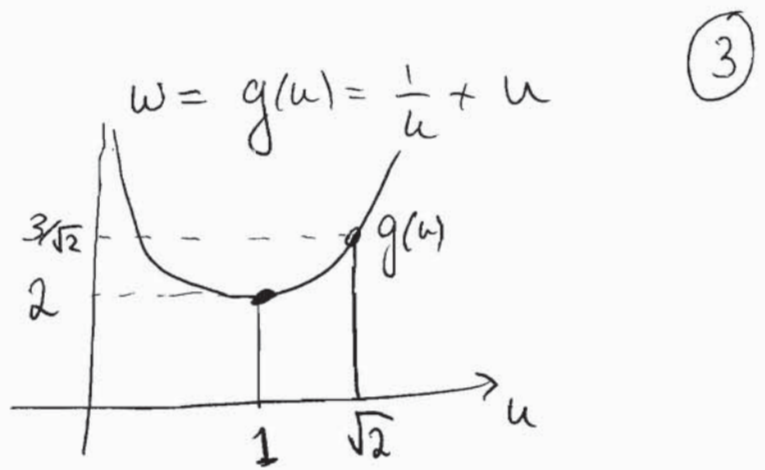
$$\int_0^l u \, dx = \frac{L}{\beta_0} \quad (b)$$

The solution to (a)+(b) exists provided that

$D > D_c$  for some  $D_c = D_c(\beta_0, L)$  [independent of  $\epsilon$ ];

and it does not exist if  $D < D_c$ .

In fact note that  
has the shape



so that  $u \in [1, \sqrt{2}]$   
 $w \in [2, \frac{3}{\sqrt{2}}]$ .

Thus

$$w'' = (\beta_0 u - 1) / D$$

$$\geq \frac{\beta_0 - 1}{D}$$

$$\Rightarrow w(x) \geq w(0) + \frac{\beta_0 - 1}{2D} x^2$$

$$\Rightarrow w(l) \geq 2 + \frac{\beta_0 - 1}{2D} l^2$$

On the other hand,  $\frac{L}{\beta_0} = \int_0^l u \leq l \sqrt{2}$

$$\Rightarrow l^2 \geq \frac{L^2}{2\beta_0^2}$$

Thus  $\omega(l) \geq 2 + \frac{\beta_0 - 1}{4\beta_0^2 D} L^2 \gg \frac{3}{\sqrt{2}}$  (4)

provided that  $D < \underline{D}_c = \frac{\beta_0 - 1}{4\beta_0^2} L^2 \frac{1}{\frac{3}{\sqrt{2}} - 2}$

So  $D_c \geq \underline{D}_c$ .

Similarly, we have

$$\omega(x) \leq \omega(0) + \frac{(\sqrt{2}\beta_0 - 1) x^2}{D} ;$$

$$\omega(0) \geq \frac{3}{\sqrt{2}} - \frac{l^2}{D} \frac{\sqrt{2}\beta_0 - 1}{2}$$

$$\text{and } l \leq \frac{L}{\beta_0} \Rightarrow -l^2 \geq -\frac{L^2}{\beta_0^2}$$

$$\Rightarrow \omega(0) \geq \frac{3}{\sqrt{2}} - \frac{L^2}{\beta_0^2} \frac{\sqrt{2}\beta_0 - 1}{2} \geq 2$$

as long as  $D \geq L^2 \frac{\sqrt{2}\beta_0 - 1}{2\beta_0^2} \frac{1}{\left(\frac{3}{\sqrt{2}} - 2\right)} \equiv \overline{D}_c$ .

Thus we obtain  $\underline{D}_c < D_c < \overline{D}_c$ .

$$\left( \frac{1}{\frac{3}{\sqrt{2}} - 2} \right) \frac{\beta_0 - 1}{4\beta_0^2} \leq \frac{D_c}{L^2} \leq \frac{1}{\left( \frac{3}{\sqrt{2}} - 2 \right)} \frac{\sqrt{2}\beta_0 - 1}{2\beta_0^2}$$

Stability: As before, set

$$u(x, t) = u(x) + e^{\lambda t} \varphi(x)$$

$$w(x, t) = w(x) + e^{\lambda t} \psi(x)$$

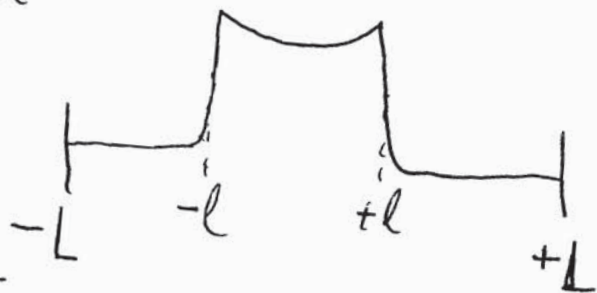
and we will also take  $\tau = 0$ . Then:

$$\begin{cases} \lambda \varphi = \varepsilon^2 \varphi_{xx} - f_u(u, w) \varphi - f_w(u, w) \psi \\ \frac{\lambda}{\alpha} \varphi = D \psi_{xx} - \beta_0 \varphi \end{cases}$$

where  $D = \frac{\varepsilon^2}{\alpha}$ . We will consider a single-mesa pattern on  $[-L, L]$ :

and label interface location  $\pm l$ .

Near  $x = \pm l$ , we rescale,



$$y = \frac{x - (\pm l)}{\varepsilon};$$

$$\varphi(x) = \Phi(y)$$

$$\psi(x) = \Psi(y)$$



(6)

so that , using  $D = \frac{\varepsilon^2}{\alpha}$  ,

$$\lambda \bar{\Phi} = \bar{\Phi}_{yy} - f_u(u, w) \bar{\Phi} - f_w(u, w) \Psi$$

$$\frac{\lambda}{\alpha} \bar{\Phi} = \frac{1}{\alpha} \Psi_{yy} - \beta_0 \bar{\Phi} .$$

Next, expand  $\bar{\Phi} = \bar{\Phi}_0 + \alpha \bar{\Phi}_1 + \dots$

$$\lambda = \alpha \lambda_1 + \dots$$

$$\Psi = \alpha \Psi_1 + \dots$$

Then  $O(1)$  gives:

$$\bar{\Phi}_{yy} - f_u \bar{\Phi} = 0$$

so that  $\bar{\Phi} = C_{\pm} U_{h^{\mp}}(y)$

where  $C_{\pm}$  is to be determined

We also expand  $U = U_0 + \alpha U_1 + \dots$

$$W = W_0 + \alpha W_1 + \dots$$

and we found  $U_0 = U_{h^{\mp}} \quad ; \quad W_0 = \frac{3}{\sqrt{2}}$

The following order equation for  $\Phi$  is: (7)

$$\lambda_1 \Phi_0 = \Phi_{\pm yy} - f_u(u_0, w_0) \Phi_1 - f_w(u_0, w_0) \Psi_1 \\ - \Phi_0 (f_{uu}(u_0, w_0) u_1 + f_{uw}(u_0, w_0) w_1)$$

Multiply by  $u_0'$  & integrate by parts & use  $\Phi_0 = c_{\pm} u_0'$

$$(a) \Rightarrow \lambda_1 c_{\pm} \int u_0'^2 = - \int \Psi_1 f_w u_0' \\ - \int \Phi_0 u_0' (f_{uu} u_1 + f_{uw} w_1).$$

Now we also have:

$$(b) \quad u_1'' - f_u u_1 - f_w w_1 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow (u_1')'' - u_0' (f_{uu} u_1 - f_{uw} w_1)$$

$$(c) \quad - f_u u_1' - f_w w_1' = 0.$$

Multiply by  $\Phi_0$  & integrate:

$$(d) \quad - \int \Phi_0 u_0' (f_{uu} u_1 - f_{uw} w_1) - \int f_w w_1' \Phi_0 = 0$$

Sub (d) into (a):

$$\lambda_{\pm} c_{\pm} \int u_0'^2 = c_{\pm} \int f_w W_1' u_0' - \int f_w \Psi_1 u_0' \quad (8)$$

Now  $w = w_0 + \alpha W_1(y)$

$$= w(\pm l + \varepsilon y)$$

$$\sim w(\pm l) + \varepsilon y w'(\pm l)$$

$$\Rightarrow W_1(y) = \frac{\varepsilon}{\alpha} y w'(\pm l)$$

$$W_1'(y) \sim \frac{\varepsilon}{\alpha} w'(\pm l).$$

Similarly,  $\Psi \sim \alpha \Psi_1(y) = \Psi(\pm l + \varepsilon y) \sim \Psi(\pm l) + \dots$

$$\Rightarrow \Psi_1(y) \sim \frac{1}{\alpha} \Psi(\pm l)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{So } \int f_w W_1' u_0' &\sim \frac{\varepsilon}{\alpha} w'(\pm l) \int -(u_0)^2 u_0' \\ &\sim -\frac{\varepsilon}{\alpha} w'(\pm l) \frac{u_0^3}{3} \Big|_{-\infty}^{\infty} \\ &\sim \pm \frac{\varepsilon}{\alpha} w'(\pm l) \frac{2^{3/2}}{3} \end{aligned}$$

Similarly,  $\int f_w \Psi_1 u_0' \sim \pm \frac{1}{\alpha} \Psi(\pm l) w'(\pm l) \frac{2^{3/2}}{3}.$

Finally,  $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} u_0'^2 = \frac{1}{3}$  [please check this!]



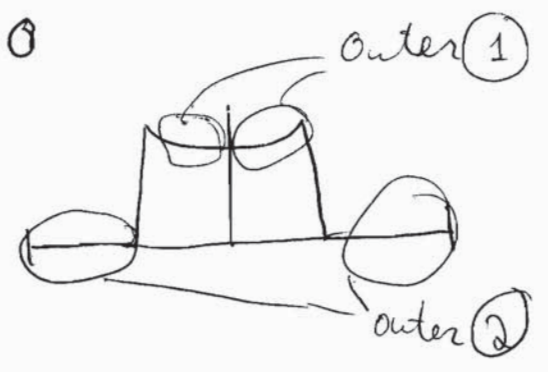
We then obtain,

$$(***) \quad \lambda_1 C_{\pm} \frac{1}{3} = \pm \frac{2^{3/2}}{3} \quad \frac{1}{\alpha} \left( \omega'(l) C_{\pm} \varepsilon - \Psi(\pm l) \right)$$

Outer region: Ignore  $\varepsilon^2 \phi_{xx} \ll 1 \Rightarrow$

$$f_u \phi + f_w \Psi = 0 \Rightarrow \phi = -\frac{f_w}{f_u} \Psi \in \frac{u'}{w'} \Psi$$

$$(*) \quad D \Psi_{xx} - (\beta_0 + \lambda_1) \phi = 0$$



Note that  $f(u, w) = 0$   
 $f_u u' + f_w w' = 0$   
 $\Rightarrow \phi = \frac{u'}{w'} \Psi$

$$(**) \quad D \Psi_{xx} - (\beta_0 + \lambda_1) \frac{u'}{w'} \phi = 0$$

In outer (2),  $\frac{u'}{w'} \sim 0 \Rightarrow D \Psi_{xx} = 0$ .

Since  $\Psi'(L) = 0$ , we obtain  $\Psi(x) \equiv \Psi(l^+)$ ,  $x > l$   
 $\Psi(x) \equiv \Psi(-l^-)$ ,  $x < -l$ .

To determine  $\Psi$  in regions (1), integrate (\*) over the interfaces:

$$D \Psi_x \Big|_{\pm l^-}^{\pm l^+} \sim (\beta_0 + \lambda_1) \int_{\pm l^-}^{\pm l^+} \varphi$$

Recall that near interfaces, we have

$$\varphi(x) \sim C_{\pm} U_{k^{\mp}}'(y)$$

$$\Rightarrow \int_{\pm l^-}^{\pm l^+} \varphi(x) \sim C_{\pm} \int U_{k^{\pm}}'(y) \frac{dx}{\varepsilon y}$$

$$\sim \frac{-}{+} \varepsilon C_{\pm} \sqrt{2} .$$

So near  $x = \pm l$  we obtain [using  $\Psi_x(\pm l^{\pm}) = 0$ ]:

$$D \Psi_x(\pm l^{\mp}) = (\beta_0 + \lambda_1) C_{\pm} \varepsilon \sqrt{2}$$

i.e. we need to solve:

$$(a) \quad D \Psi_x(+l^-) = (\beta_0 + \lambda_1) C_+ \varepsilon \sqrt{2}$$

$$(b) \quad D \Psi_x(-l^+) = (\beta_0 + \lambda_1) C_- \varepsilon \sqrt{2}$$

$$(c) \quad D \Psi_{xx} - (\beta_0 - \lambda) \frac{\partial u}{\partial \omega} \Psi = 0, \quad x \in (-l, l)$$

(10)

Next, let  $\Psi_r, \Psi_e$  solve (c) together with

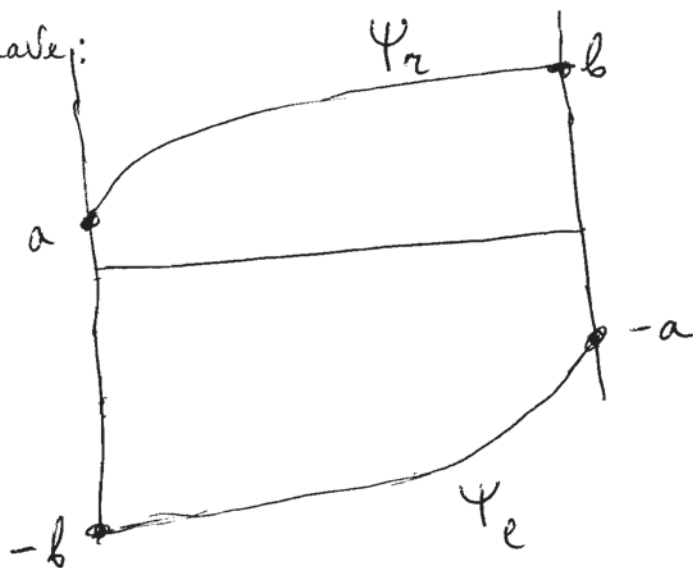
$$\Psi_r'(-l) = \bullet, \quad \Psi_r'(l) = 0$$

$$\Psi_e'(-l) = 0, \quad \Psi_e'(l) = \bullet$$

Note that  $\frac{\partial u}{\partial \omega}$  is even function;

thus  $\Psi(-x)$  solves (c)  $\Leftrightarrow$   $\Psi(x)$  solves (c)

So we have:



$$\Psi_e = -\Psi_r(-x)$$

Let  $a = \Psi_r(-l)$ ,  $b = \Psi_r(l)$ ; so then

$$-b = \Psi_e(-l), \quad -a = \Psi_e(l).$$

In terms of  $\Psi_e$ ,  $\Psi_R$  we obtain:

$$\Psi(x) = \Psi'(l) \Psi_e(x) + \Psi'(-l) \Psi_R(x)$$

satisfies (a), (b), (c),

$$\Rightarrow \Psi(l) = \Psi'(l)(-a) + \Psi'(-l)b$$

$$\Psi(-l) = \Psi'(l)(-b) + \Psi'(-l)a$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} \Psi(l) \\ \Psi(-l) \end{bmatrix} = \frac{(\beta_0 + \lambda_1) \varepsilon \sqrt{2}}{D} \begin{bmatrix} c_+(-a) + c_- b \\ c_+(-b) + c_- a \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \frac{(\beta_0 + \lambda_1) \varepsilon \sqrt{2}}{D} \begin{bmatrix} -a & b \\ -b & a \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} c_+ \\ c_- \end{bmatrix}.$$

Next, note that  $\frac{\varepsilon^2}{\alpha} = D = O(1) \Rightarrow \frac{\varepsilon}{\alpha} \gg 1$ .

Thus from page 9, eq. (\*\*\*) we obtain:

$$\Psi(\pm l) = w'(\pm l) c_{\pm} \varepsilon$$

By symmetry,  $w'(l) = -w'(-l)$  and

for  $x > l$  we have:  $Dw'' \sim 1$ ;  $w'(L) = 0$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{w'(l) = \frac{L-l}{D}}$$

So we have:

$$\frac{(\beta_0 + \lambda_1)}{D} \varepsilon \sqrt{2} \begin{bmatrix} -a & b \\ -b & a \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} C_+ \\ C_- \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{L-l}{D} C_+ \varepsilon \\ -\frac{(L-l)}{D} C_- \varepsilon \end{bmatrix}$$

or:

$$(\beta_0 + \lambda_1) \sqrt{2} \begin{bmatrix} -a & -b \\ -b & -a \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} C_+ \\ C_- \end{bmatrix} = (L-l) \begin{bmatrix} C_+ \\ C_- \end{bmatrix}$$

Thus  $\frac{L-l}{(\beta_0 + \lambda_1) \sqrt{2}}$  is an eigenvalue of  $\begin{bmatrix} -a & -b \\ -b & -a \end{bmatrix}$

These are given by  $(-a - \hat{\lambda})^2 - b^2 = 0$

$$\Rightarrow \hat{\lambda} = \pm b - a$$

Summary:  $\lambda_1$  satisfies

$$\frac{L-l}{(\beta_0 + \lambda_1) \sqrt{2}} = \pm b - a$$

where  $a = \Psi_R(-l)$ ,  $b = \Psi_R(l)$ , and

$$\begin{cases} D \Psi_R'' - (\beta_0 + \lambda_1) \frac{w'}{w} \Psi_R = 0, & x \in (-l, l) \\ \Psi_R'(-l) = 1, \quad \Psi_R(l) = 0. \end{cases}$$



Next, let 
$$\begin{cases} V_o(x) = \Psi_R(x) + \Psi_l(x) \\ V_e(x) = \Psi_l(x) - \Psi_R(x) \end{cases}$$

Then we have: 
$$V_o'(l) = 1$$

$$V_o(0) = 0 \quad [V_o \text{ is odd}]$$

$$V_e'(0) = 0 \quad [V_e \text{ is even}]$$

and 
$$V_o(l) = b - a,$$

$$V_e(l) = -b - a.$$

Summary:  $\lambda_1$  satisfies either

$(\lambda_1 \text{ odd}): \quad \frac{L-l}{\sqrt{2}} = V_o(l)(\beta_0 + \lambda_1)$  with

$$\begin{cases} D V_o'' - (\beta_0 + \lambda_1) \frac{u'}{u} V_o = 0 \\ V_o(0) = 0, \quad V_o'(l) = 1 \end{cases}$$

or  $(\lambda_1, \text{ even}): \quad \frac{L-l}{\sqrt{2}} = V_e(l)(\beta_0 + \lambda_1)$

$$D V_e'' - (\beta_0 + \lambda_1) \frac{u'}{u} V_e = 0$$

$$V_e'(0) = 0, \quad V_e'(l) = 1$$

Claim 1:  $(\lambda_1, \text{odd})$  satisfies:  $\lambda_1 < 0$

Claim 2:

$$\lambda_{1, \text{even}} < \lambda_{1, \text{odd}}$$

Proof of claim 1: Let  $\mu = \beta_0 + \lambda_1$  and let

$$f(\mu) = \mu v_0(l)$$

Step 1:  $f(\mu)$  is increasing for  $\mu > 0$

[Remark: we have  $\begin{cases} v_0'' - \mu v_0 h(x) = 0, & h(x) = \frac{u'}{\omega'} > 0; \\ v_0(0) = 0, & v_0'(l) = 0 \end{cases}$

Exercise: show that  $\mu \rightarrow v_0(l)$  is decreasing.

So  $f(\mu)$  is a product of an increasing and of decreasing function ]

Proof: Let  $W(x) = \frac{\partial}{\partial \mu} (\mu v_0(x)) = v_0 + \mu \frac{\partial}{\partial \mu} v_0$ .

We have  $v_0'' - \mu h(x) v_0 = 0$

$$v_{0\mu}'' - h W(x) = 0$$

and  $W'' = v_0'' + \mu v_{0\mu}''$

$$\Rightarrow W'' - h \mu W = v_0'' = \mu h v_0$$

so that:

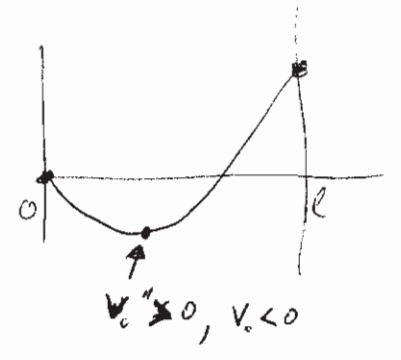
$$\begin{cases} w(0) = 0; & w'(l) = 1 \\ w'' - h\mu w = \mu h v. \end{cases}$$

Then let  $w_\mu = \frac{2}{\mu} w$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} w_\mu''(0) = 0, & w_\mu'(l) = 0 \\ w_\mu'' - \mu h w_\mu = 2 h w \end{cases}$$

By max principle,  $v_0 > 0$

[ counter-example:



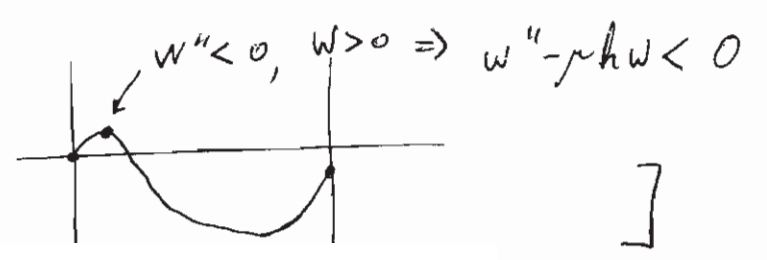
$$\Rightarrow \underbrace{v''}_{>0} - \underbrace{\mu h v}_{>0} > 0 \neq 0$$

Now suppose that

$w(l) \leq 0$ . Then since  $v_0 > 0$ ,  $w'' - h\mu w > 0$

$\Rightarrow$  we get that  $w(x) < 0 \forall x \in (0, l)$  by max principle

[ Counter-example:



But in this case, we have

$$w_\mu'' - \mu h w_\mu < 0, \quad x \in (0, l)$$

$\Rightarrow w_\mu > 0$  by max principle

[ Counter-example: ]



$$w'' > 0, w < 0$$

$$\Rightarrow w'' - \mu h w > 0$$

Conclusion:  $f''(\mu) > 0$  whenever  $f'(\mu) < 0$ .

Thus  $f$  has no local max.

To complete the proof of Step 1, it suffices to show that  $f'(0) > 0$ .

For small  $\mu$ , we expand:  $V_{\text{odd}} = V_0 + \mu V_1 + \dots$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} V_0'' = 0 \\ V_0(0) = 0, V_0'(l) = 1 \end{cases}$$

$$\Rightarrow V_0 = x \Rightarrow V_0(l) = l$$

$$\Rightarrow f(\mu) \sim \mu l, \quad \mu \ll 1$$

$$\Rightarrow f'(0) = l > 0$$



Step 2:  $f(\beta_0) > \frac{L-l}{\sqrt{2}}$ .

Proof: When  $\mu = \beta_0$ , we have:  $DV_0'' - \beta_0 \frac{u'}{w'} V_0 = 0$

Note that  $DW'' - \beta_0 u = 0$

$$\Rightarrow D(w')'' - \beta_0 \frac{u'}{w'} w' = 0$$

So let  $V_1 = \frac{w'(x)}{w'(l)} = \frac{DW'(x)}{\beta_0 \sqrt{2} - 1}$

Then  $\begin{cases} DV_1 - \beta_0 \frac{u'}{w'} V_1 = 0, & V_1(0) = 0 \\ & V_1'(l) = 1 \end{cases}$

Comparison principle:  $V_0 \geq V_1$

Then  $f(\beta_0) \geq \beta_0 \left( \frac{DW'(l)}{\beta_0 \sqrt{2} - 1} \right) = \frac{L-l}{\sqrt{2} - \frac{1}{\beta_0}} > \frac{L-l}{\sqrt{2}}$

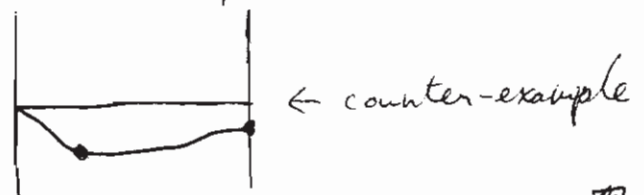
¶ Proof of comparison principle:

Let  $\varphi = V_0 - V_1$ ; then

$$D\varphi'' - \beta_0 \frac{u'}{w'} \varphi = 0, \quad \varphi(0) = 0,$$

$$\varphi'(0) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \varphi \geq 0$$





Summary:  $f(\mu) = \frac{L-l}{\sqrt{2}}$ ,  $f(\mu) \uparrow$  for  $\mu > 0$   
 and  $f(\beta_0) > \frac{L-l}{\sqrt{2}}$

$$\Rightarrow \mu = \lambda_1 + \beta_0 < \beta_0 \Rightarrow \boxed{\lambda_1 < 0}$$

Proof of Claim 2: It suffices to show that

$$V_e(l) > V_0(l) \quad \text{Whenever } \mu = \beta_0 + \lambda_1 \geq 0.$$

Let  $\varphi = V_e - V_0$ ;  $\varphi'' - \mu h \varphi = 0$ ;

$\varphi'(l) = 0$ . If  $\varphi(l) < 0$  then

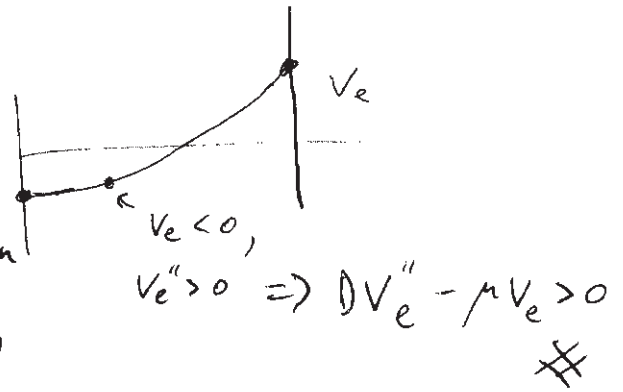
by max principle,  $\varphi < 0 \forall x$

$$\Rightarrow V_e(0) < 0.$$

But then:

max principle  $\Rightarrow$  contradiction

[  $V_e > 0$  by max principle ]



Reference:

T. Kolokolnikov, M. Ward and J. Wei,  
*Self-replication of mesa patterns in reaction-diffusion models*,  
 Physica D, Vol.236(2), 2007, Pages 104-122