

# **Granular Waves: The Dynamical Systems Approach**

**Ko van der Weele**



**University of Patras  
Greece**



# Based on the following papers:

- D. Razis, G. Kanellopoulos, and K. van der Weele, *A dynamical systems view of granular flow: from monoclinical flood waves to roll waves*, J. Fluid Mech. **869**, 143-181 (2019).
- D. Razis, G. Kanellopoulos, and K. van der Weele, *The granular monoclinical wave*, J. Fluid Mech. **843**, 810-846 (2018).
- D. Razis, A.N. Edwards, J.M.N.T. Gray, and K. van der Weele, *Arrested coarsening of granular roll waves*, Phys. Fluids **26**, 123305 (2014).

# Granular Chute Flow





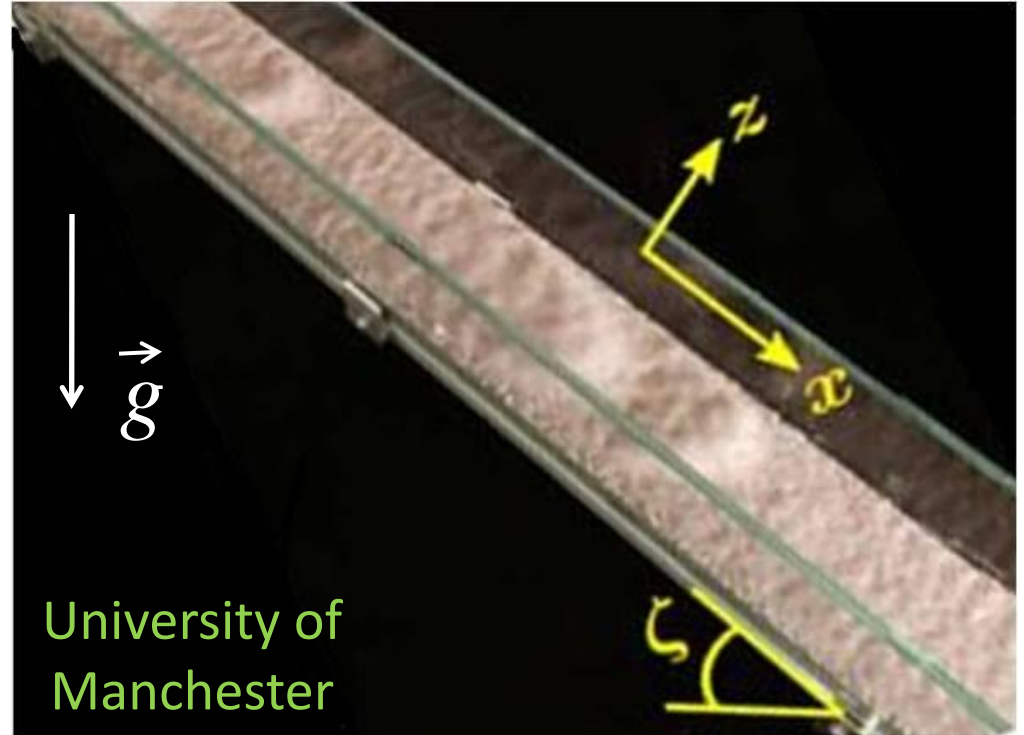
# The “chute” may also be a mountainside:



**rock avalanche paths**



# In the laboratory:

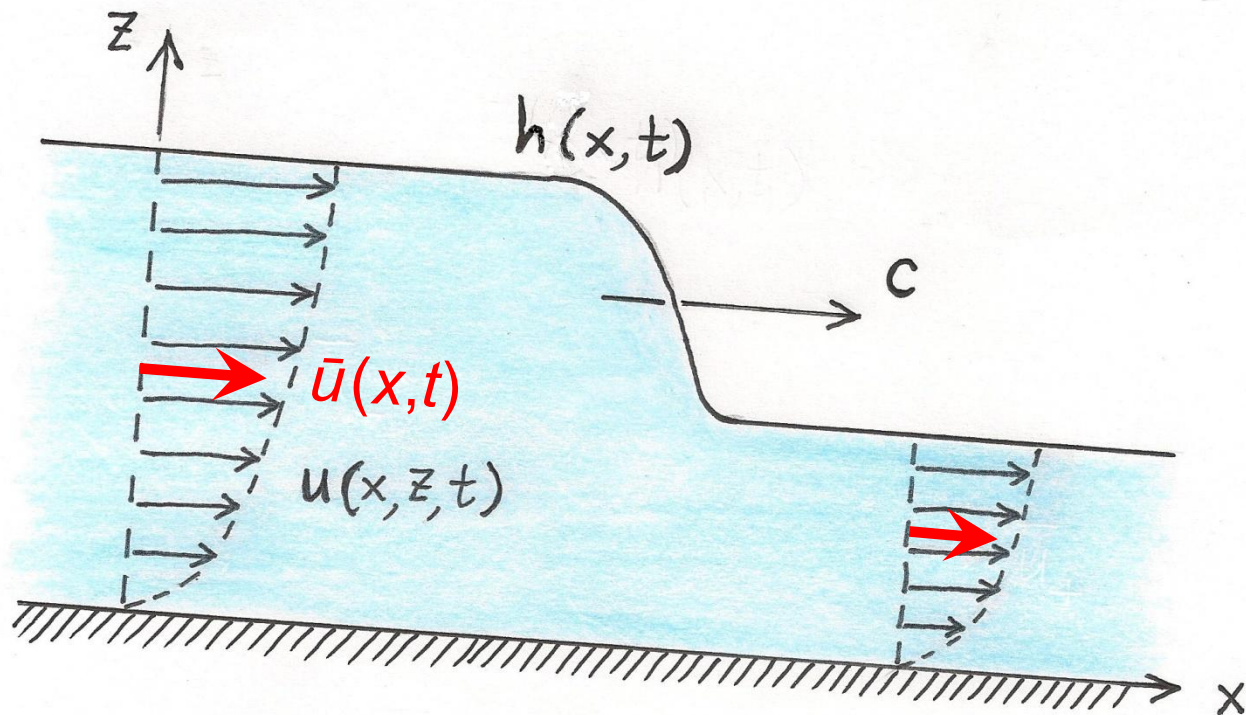


height of the sheet  $h(x, t)$

depth-averaged velocity  $\bar{u}(x, t)$

# Depth-averaged velocity:

$$\bar{u}(x,t) = \frac{1}{h(x,t)} \int_0^{h(x,t)} u(x,z,t) dz$$



**An important player:  
the Froude number**

$$F = \frac{\bar{u}(x, t)}{\sqrt{h(x, t) g \cos \zeta}}$$

**measures the relative importance of the  
inertial forces vs. the gravitational force**

# Saint-Venant equations for granular chute flow

Mass conservation:  $\partial_t h + \partial_x (h\bar{u}) = 0$

Momentum balance:

$$\partial_t (h\bar{u}) + \partial_x (h\bar{u}^2) =$$

$$gh \sin \zeta - \mu(h, \bar{u}) gh \cos \zeta - \frac{1}{2} \partial_x (gh^2 \cos \zeta) + \nu(\zeta) \partial_x (h^{3/2} \partial_x \bar{u})$$



*gravity  
component  
in x-direction*



*friction with  
the chute*

Pouliquen &  
Forterre,  
JFM 453 (2002)



*gradient of  
depth-averaged  
pressure*

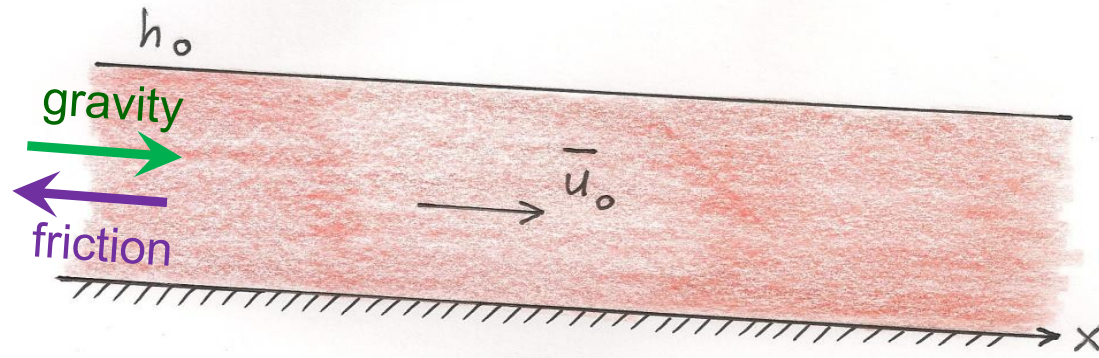


*viscous-like  
term*

Gray & Edwards,  
JFM 755 (2014)



# Basic solution: steady uniform flow



Mass conservation:  $\cancel{\partial_t h} + \cancel{\partial_x (h\bar{u})} = 0$  trivially satisfied

Momentum balance:

$$\cancel{\partial_t (h\bar{u})} + \cancel{\partial_x (h\bar{u}^2)} =$$

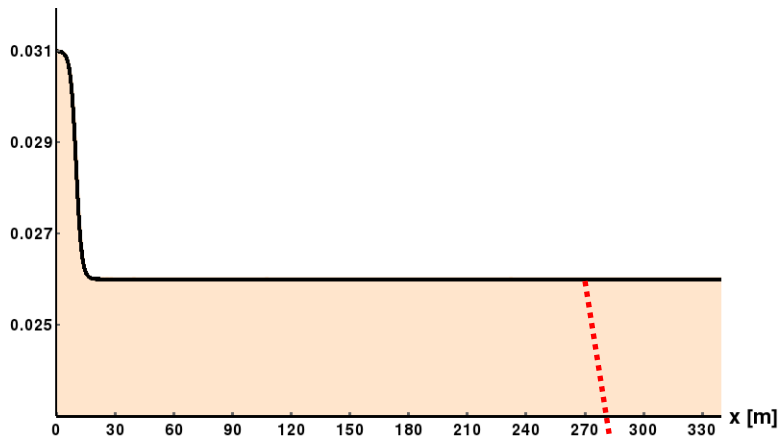
$$gh \sin \zeta - \mu(h, \bar{u}) gh \cos \zeta - \frac{1}{2} \cancel{\partial_x (gh^2 \cos \zeta)} + \nu(\zeta) \cancel{\partial_x (h^{3/2} \partial_x \bar{u})}$$

**gravity vs. friction**

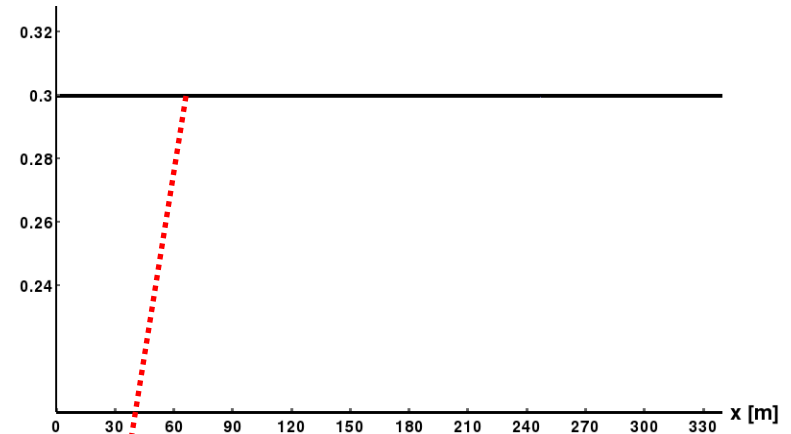
**balance of two forces**

**Stable for  $\beta < F < 2/3$**

For the same range of  $F$   
also the combination of uniform flows is stable



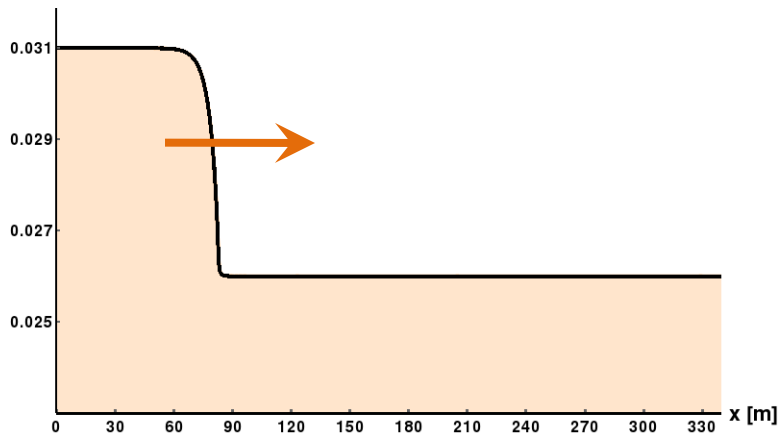
$h(x,t)$  [m]



$\bar{u}(x,t)$  [m/s]

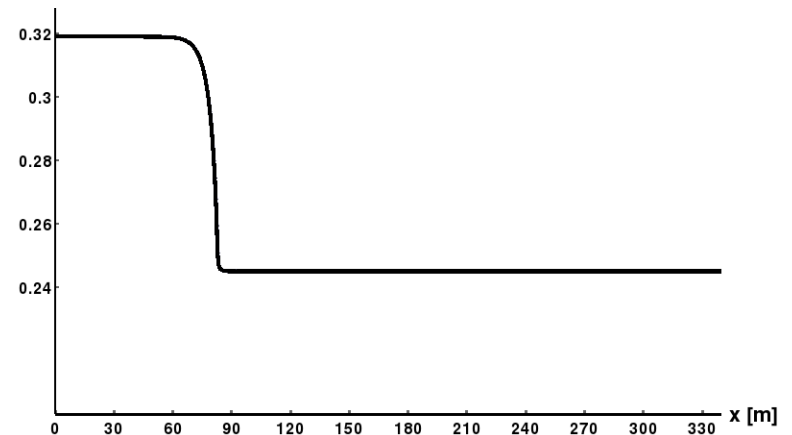
$t = 0$  s

To illustrate this, we perform a numerical experiment  
with these initial conditions  $h(x,0)$  and  $\bar{u}(x,0)$



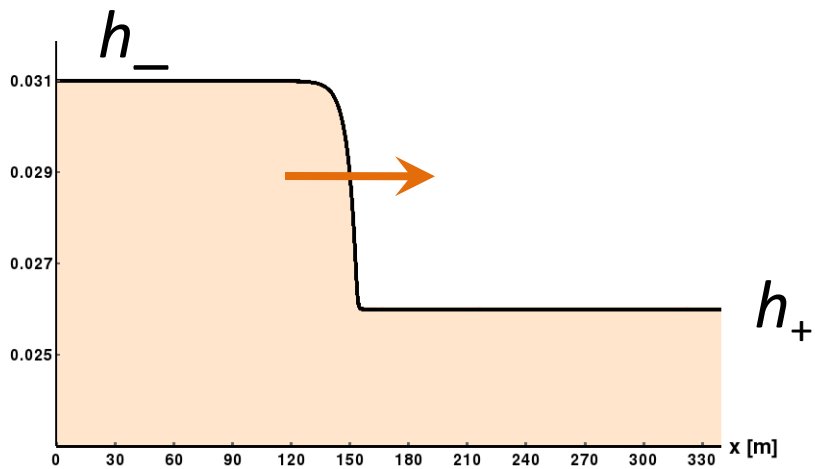
$h(x,t)$  [m]

$t = 100$  s



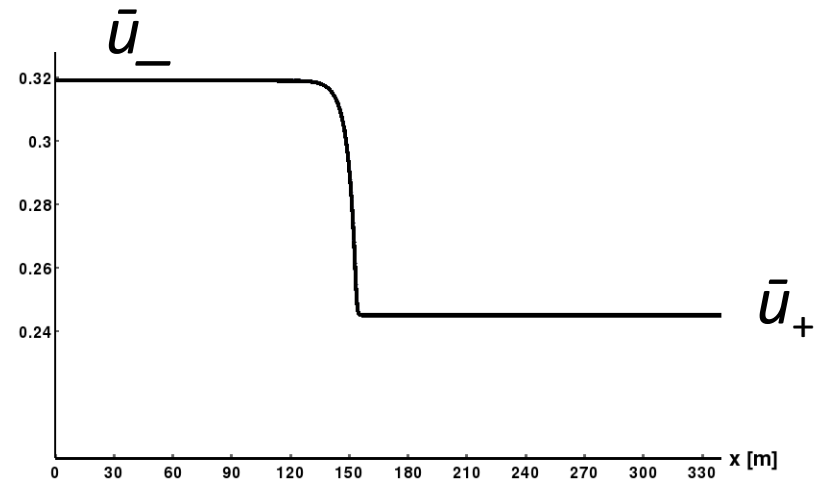
$\bar{u}(x,t)$  [m/s]

The flow spontaneously organizes itself in the form of a traveling **monoclinal wave**.

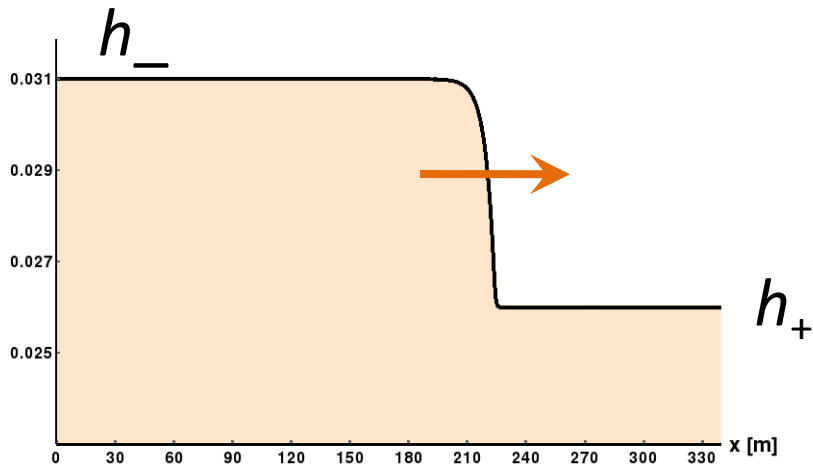


$h(x,t)$  [m]

$t = 200$  s

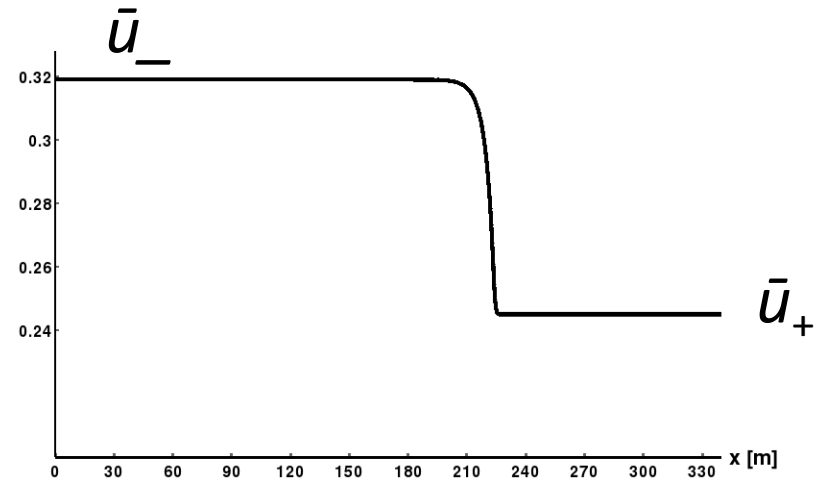


$\bar{u}(x,t)$  [m/s]



$h(x,t)$  [m]

$t = 300$  s



$\bar{u}(x,t)$  [m/s]

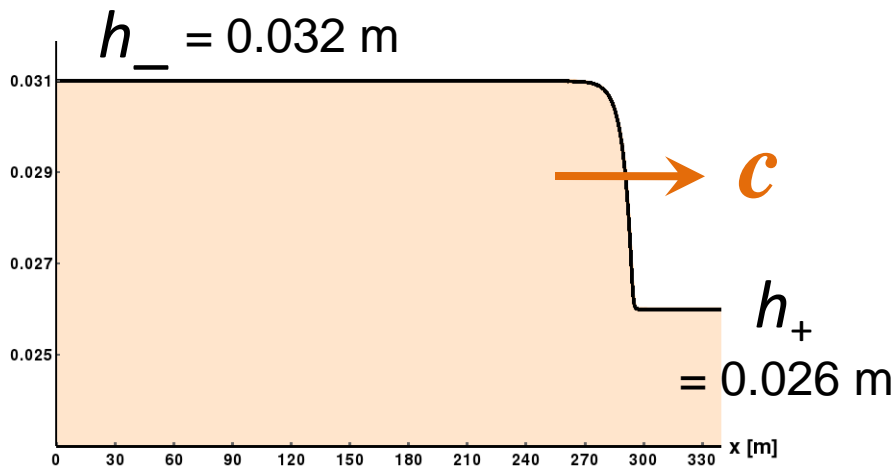
**new  
granular  
waveform**

*J. Fluid Mech.* (2018), vol. 843, pp. 810–846. © Cambridge University Press 2018  
doi:10.1017/jfm.2018.149

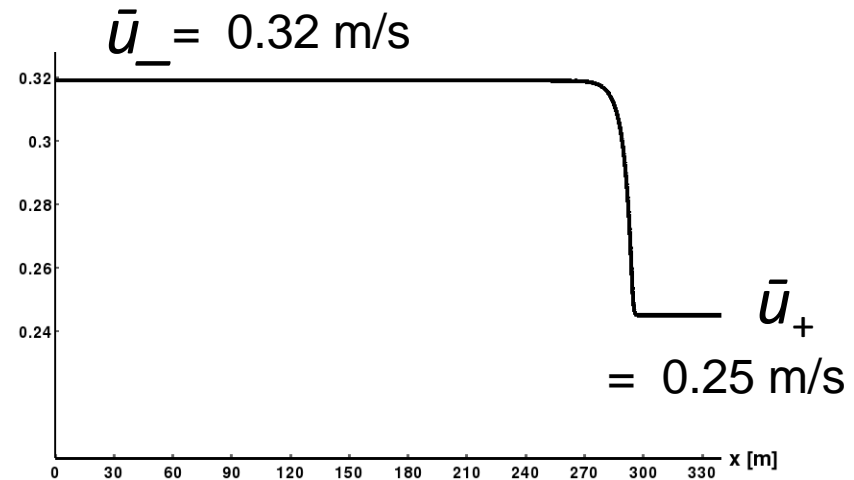
## The granular monoclinal wave

Dimitrios Razis<sup>1</sup>, Giorgos Kanellopoulos<sup>1,2</sup> and Ko van der Weele<sup>1,†</sup>





$h(x,t) \text{ [m]}$



$\bar{u}(x,t) \text{ [m/s]}$

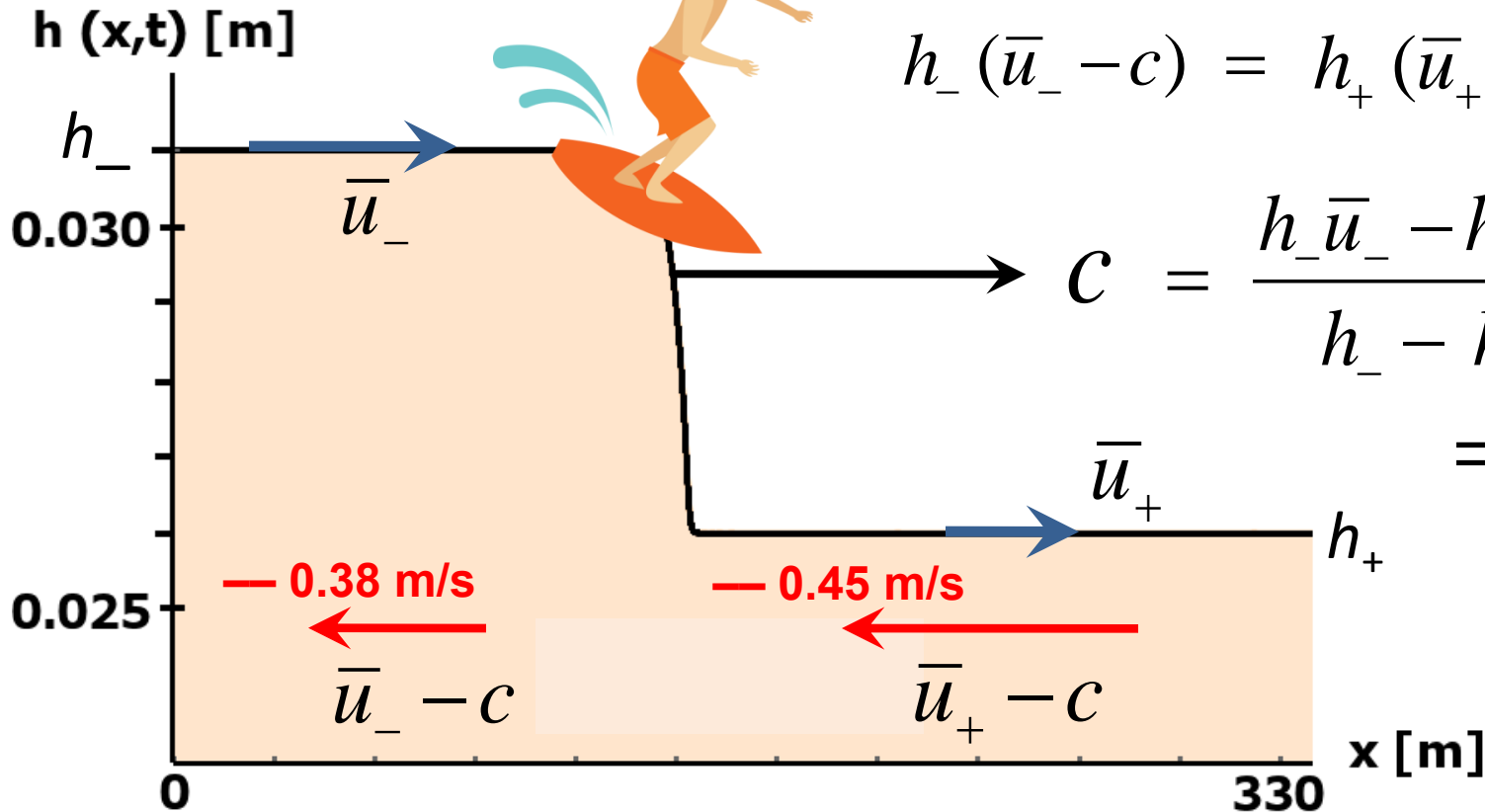
$t = 400 \text{ s}$

**wave speed:  $c = 0.70 \text{ m/s}$**

# Wave speed:

For an observer in the co-moving frame, the flux of material leaving the shock zone must be equal to the flux entering the shock zone:

$$h_- (\bar{u}_- - c) = h_+ (\bar{u}_+ - c)$$



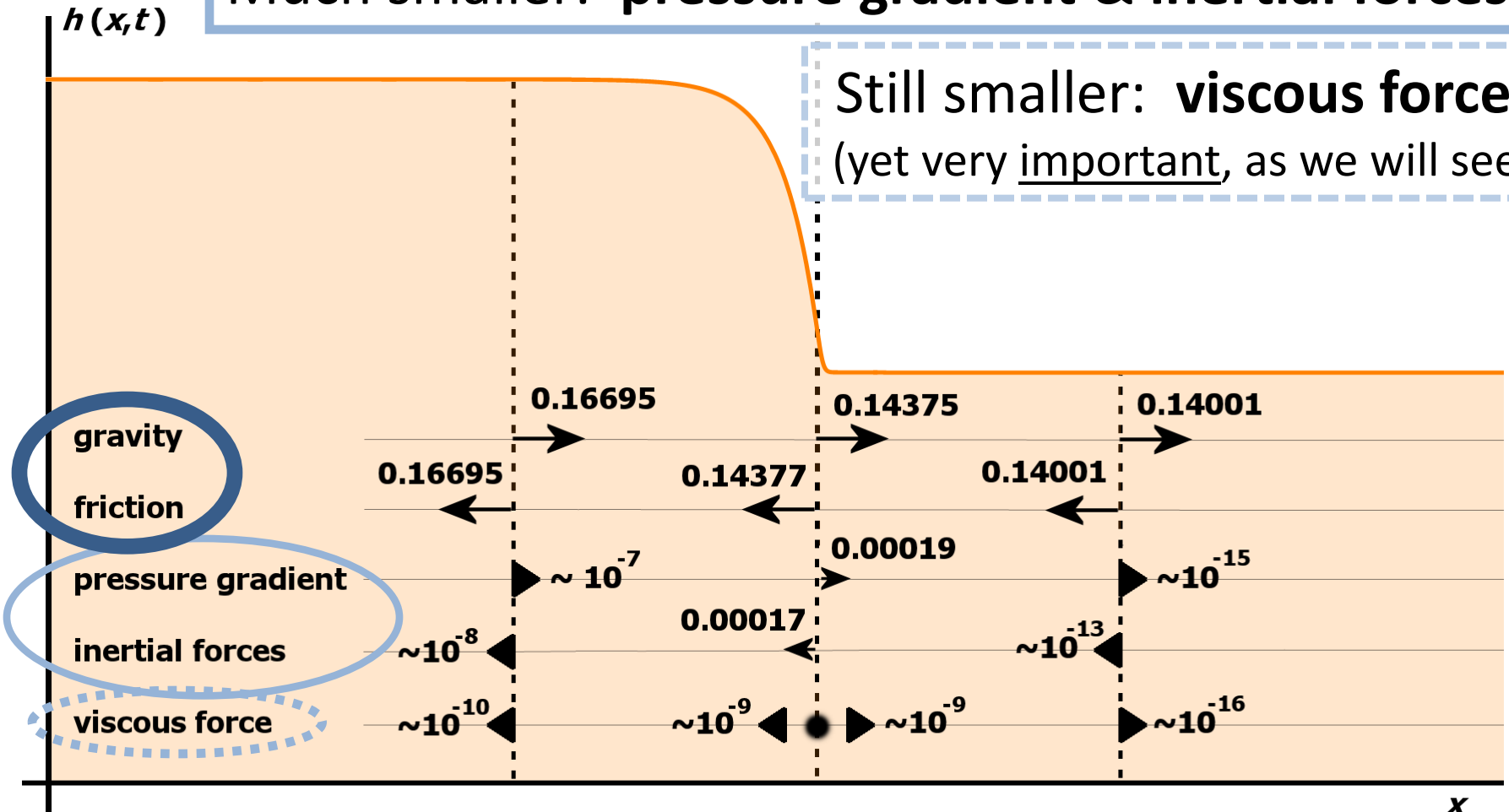
$$c = \frac{h_- \bar{u}_- - h_+ \bar{u}_+}{h_- - h_+} = 0.70 \text{ m/s}$$

# Balance of forces:

Main contributors: **gravity & friction**

Much smaller: **pressure gradient & inertial forces**

Still smaller: **viscous force**  
(yet very important, as we will see)



# Traveling wave analysis

We introduce the traveling-wave variable

$$\xi = x - ct$$

and are interested in solutions of the form

$$h(x, t) = h(x - ct) = h(\xi)$$

$$\bar{u}(x, t) = \bar{u}(x - ct) = \bar{u}(\xi)$$

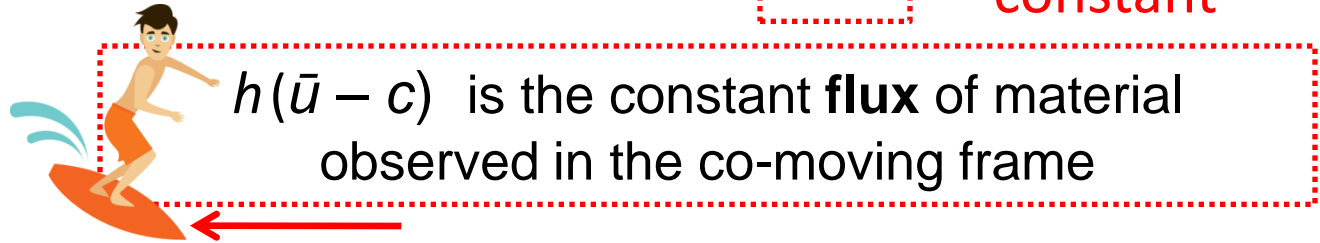
The mass conservation then becomes:

$$-c \frac{dh}{d\xi} + \frac{d}{d\xi} (h\bar{u}) = 0$$

$$\text{or: } -c h' + (h\bar{u})' = 0$$

This can be integrated immediately:

$$-c h' + (h \bar{u})' = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad -c h + h \bar{u} = -K \quad \text{integration constant}$$



With this ( $\bar{u} = c - K h^{-1}$  and hence  $\bar{u}' = K h^{-2} h'$ , etc.) we can eliminate  $\bar{u}$  and its derivatives from the momentum balance, which then takes the form

$$\frac{\nu K}{h^{3/2}} h'' - \frac{\nu K}{2h^{5/2}} (h')^2 + \left( \frac{K^2}{h^3} - g \cos \zeta \right) h' + g \sin \zeta - \mu(h) g \cos \zeta = 0$$



! Note that in the absence of viscosity ( $\nu = 0$ )  
the ODE would only be of 1<sup>st</sup> order.

This 2<sup>nd</sup> order ODE for  $h(\xi)$ ,  
with the proper boundary conditions,  
governs *all* traveling waveforms on the chute:

$$\frac{\nu K}{h^{3/2}} h'' - \frac{\nu K}{2h^{5/2}} (h')^2 + \left( \frac{K^2}{h^3} - g \cos \zeta \right) h' + g \sin \zeta - \mu(h) g \cos \zeta = 0$$

# Dynamical Systems approach

The second-order ODE can be written as a system of 2 first-order equations:

$$\begin{cases} h' = s \\ s' = \dots \end{cases} \longrightarrow \boxed{s \text{ denotes the } \underline{\text{slope}} \text{ of } h(\xi)}$$

or non-dimensionally: with all length scales measured in units of the thickness  $h_-$  of the incoming stream

$$\begin{cases} \frac{d\tilde{h}}{d\tilde{\xi}} = \tilde{s} \\ \frac{d\tilde{s}}{d\tilde{\xi}} = \frac{\tilde{s}^2}{2\tilde{h}} - \frac{9\tilde{h}^{3/2}}{2 \tan \zeta (\tilde{c} - 1)} \left[ \left( \frac{F_{in}^2 (\tilde{c} - 1)^2}{\tilde{h}^3} - 1 \right) \tilde{s} + \tan \zeta - \mu(\tilde{h}) \right] \end{cases}$$

Instead of  $\tilde{c}$  one may also choose  $\tilde{h}_+$ ,

$$\text{since } \tilde{c} = \tilde{c}(\tilde{h}_+) = \frac{1 - \tilde{h}_+^{5/2}}{1 - \tilde{h}_+}$$

Three dimensionless parameters:

$$F_{in}, \tilde{c} \text{ and } \zeta$$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \frac{d\tilde{h}}{d\tilde{\xi}} = \tilde{s} = f(\tilde{h}, \tilde{s}) \\ \frac{d\tilde{s}}{d\tilde{\xi}} = \frac{\tilde{s}^2}{2\tilde{h}} - \frac{9\tilde{h}^{3/2}}{2 \tan \zeta (\tilde{c} - 1)} \left[ \left( \frac{F_{in}^2 (\tilde{c} - 1)^2}{\tilde{h}^3} - 1 \right) \tilde{s} + \tan \zeta - \mu(\tilde{h}) \right] = g(\tilde{h}, \tilde{s}) \end{array} \right.$$

# Fixed points:

fixed points correspond to  
**flat regions** of the flow!

$$\begin{cases} \frac{d\tilde{h}}{d\tilde{\xi}} = 0 & \longrightarrow & f(\tilde{s}) = \tilde{s} = 0 \\ \frac{d\tilde{s}}{d\tilde{\xi}} = 0 & \longrightarrow & g(\tilde{h}, \tilde{s}) = g(\tilde{h}, 0) = 0 \end{cases}$$

→ **two** fixed points:  $(\tilde{h}_+, 0)$  and  $(\tilde{h}_-, 0) = (1, 0)$

## ... and their stability:

determined by the eigenvalues of the Jacobian matrix

$$J = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial f(\tilde{s})}{\partial \tilde{h}} & \frac{\partial f(\tilde{s})}{\partial \tilde{s}} \\ \frac{\partial g(\tilde{h}, \tilde{s})}{\partial \tilde{h}} & \frac{\partial g(\tilde{h}, \tilde{s})}{\partial \tilde{s}} \end{pmatrix}_{(\tilde{h}_\pm, 0)} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ \frac{\partial g(\tilde{h}, \tilde{s})}{\partial \tilde{h}} & \frac{\partial g(\tilde{h}, \tilde{s})}{\partial \tilde{s}} \end{pmatrix}_{(\tilde{h}_\pm, 0)}$$

## Eigenvalues for the two fixed points:

$$(\tilde{h}_+, 0)$$

$$\lambda_{a,b}^{(\tilde{h}_+, 0)} (\tilde{h}_+, F, \zeta)$$



Real and of-opposite-sign  
for all relevant values of  
the system parameters.

→ So  $(\tilde{h}_+, 0)$  is a **saddle**.

$$(\tilde{h}_-, 0) = (1, 0)$$

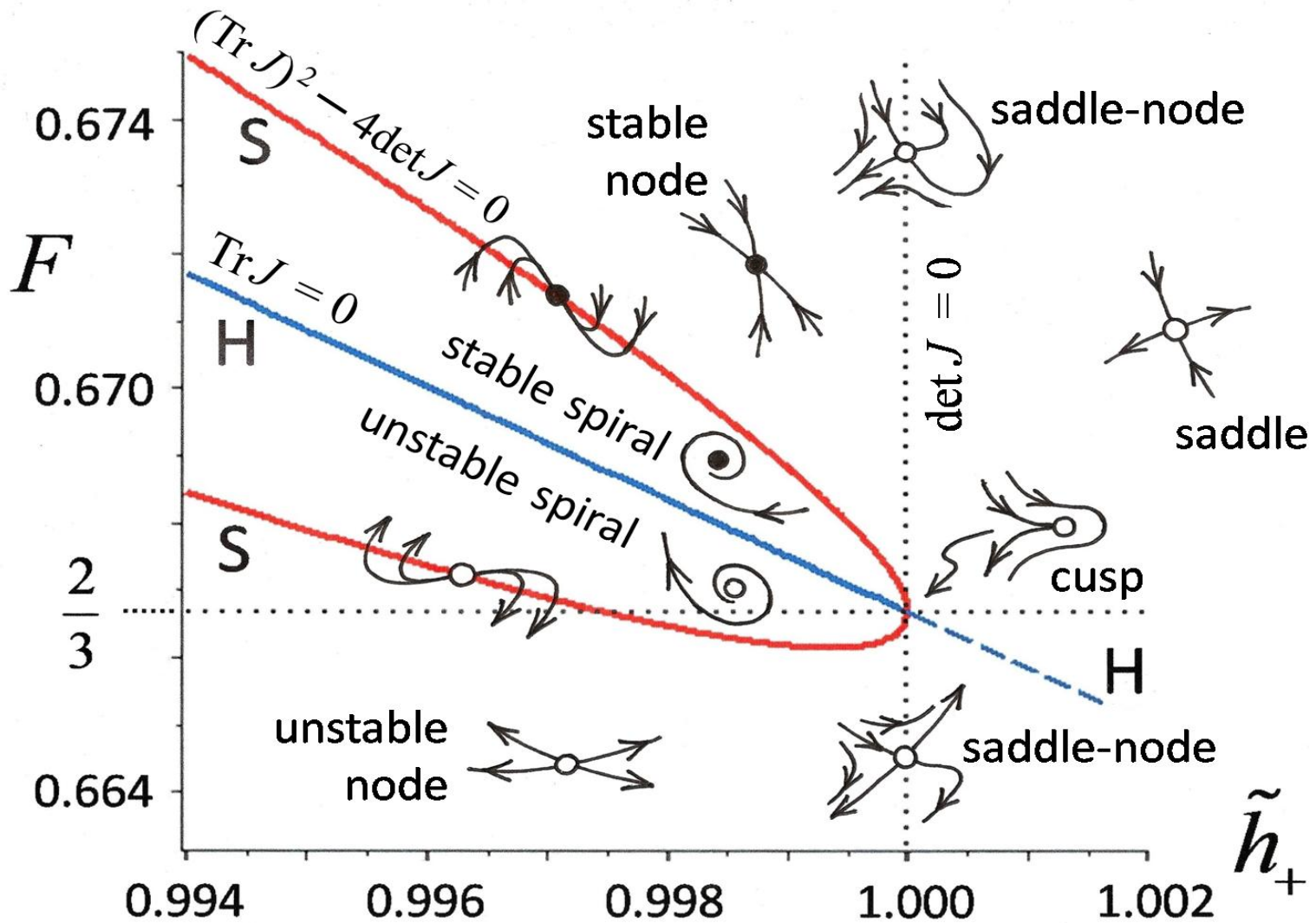
$$\lambda_{a,b}^{(1,0)} (\tilde{h}_+, F, \zeta)$$



More versatile:  
 $(1, 0)$  can be **any** type  
of fixed point, depending  
on the system parameters.

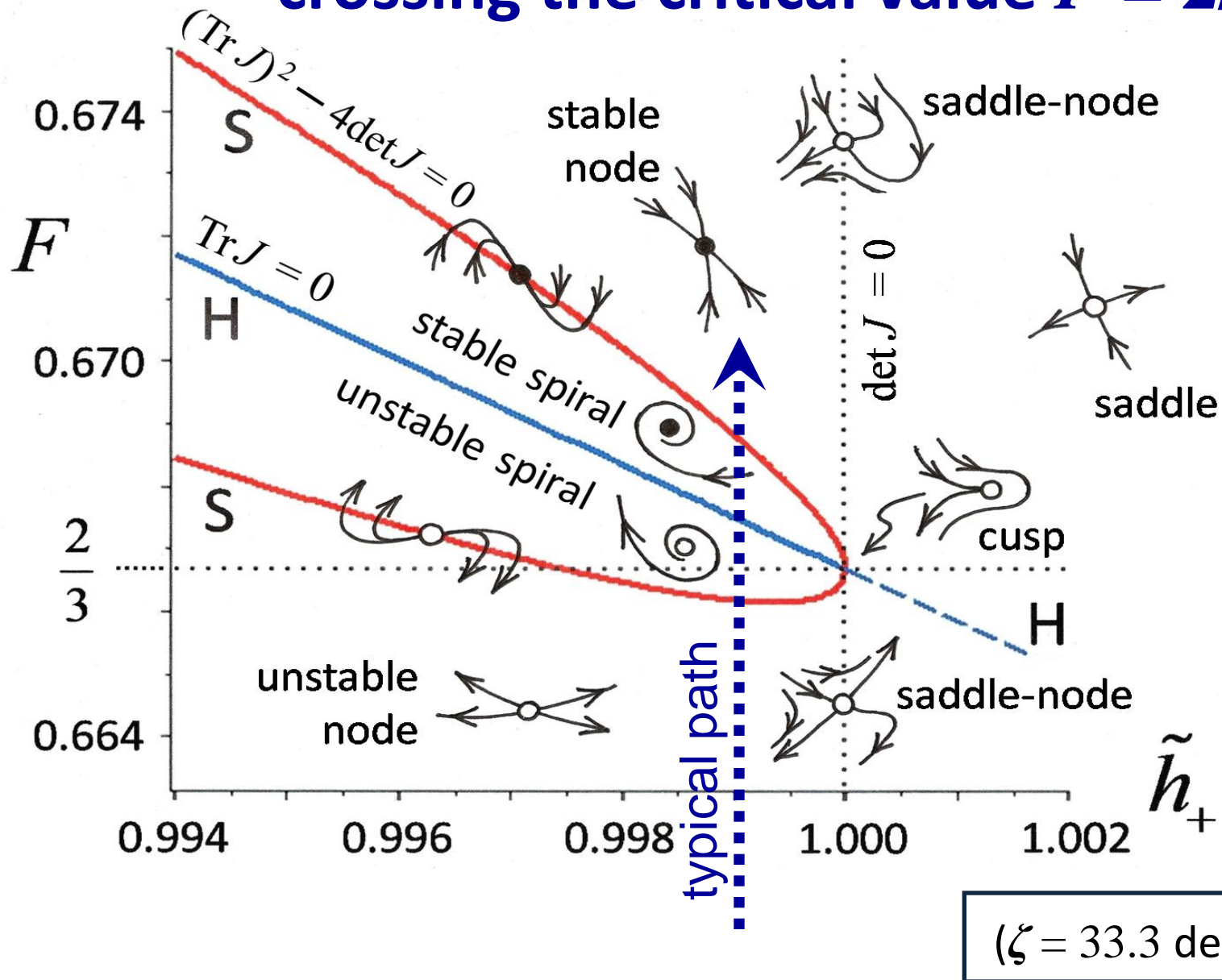


# Fixed point (1,0) depending on $F$ and $\tilde{h}_+$ :

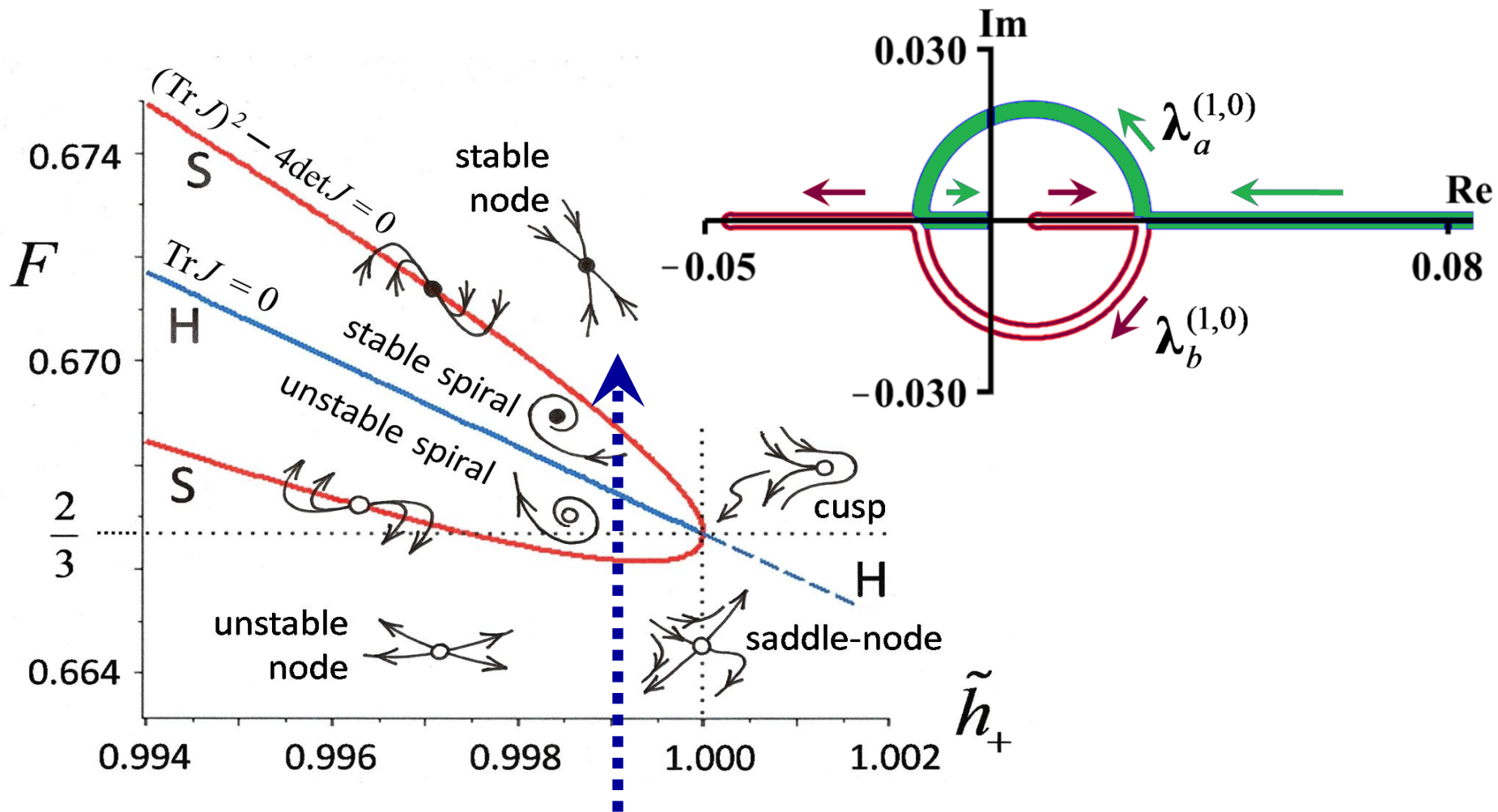


$(\zeta = 33.3 \text{ degrees})$

# Typical path through the parameter diagram, crossing the critical value $F = 2/3$

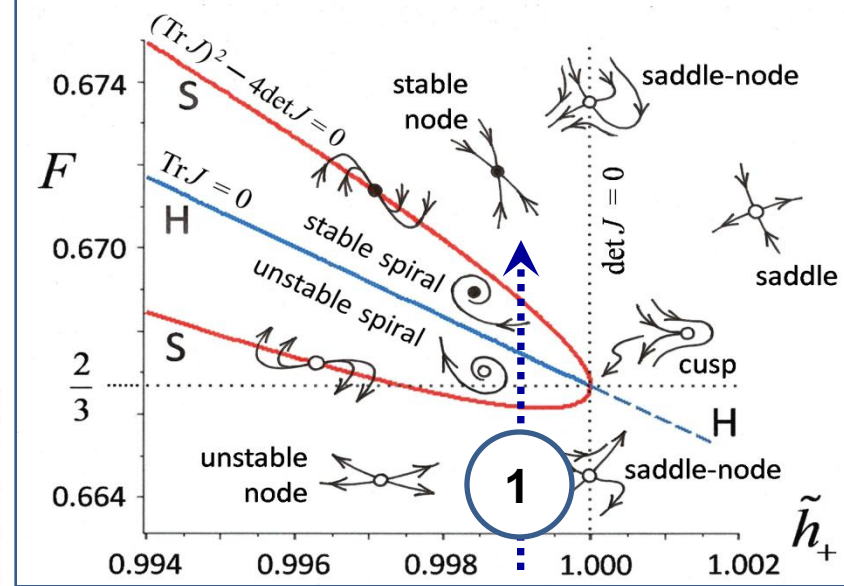
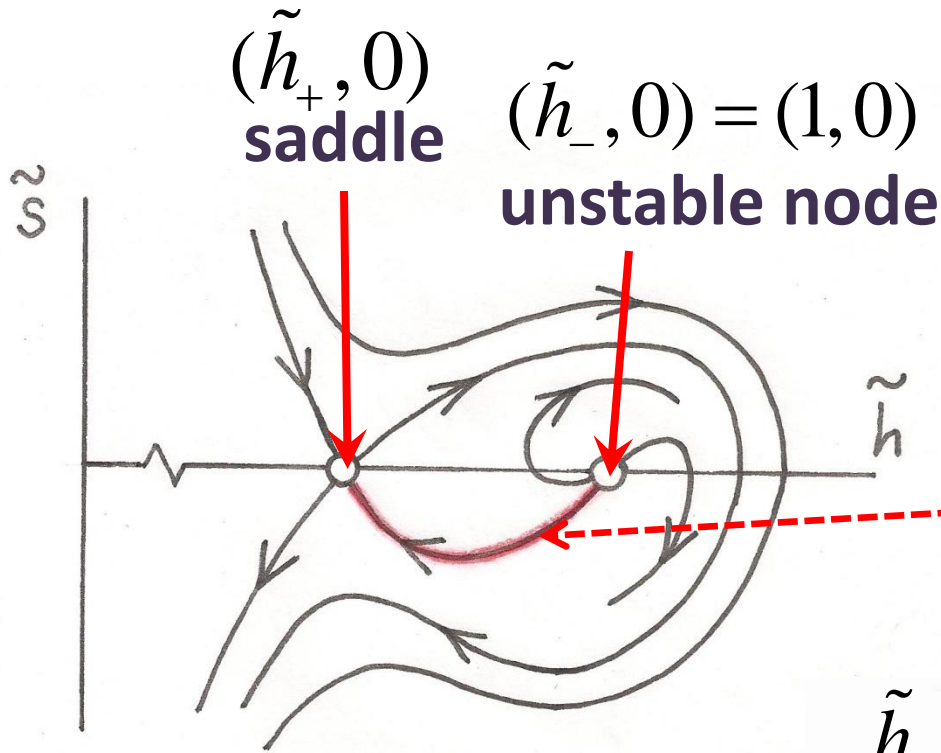


# Eigenvalues of (1,0) along the path:

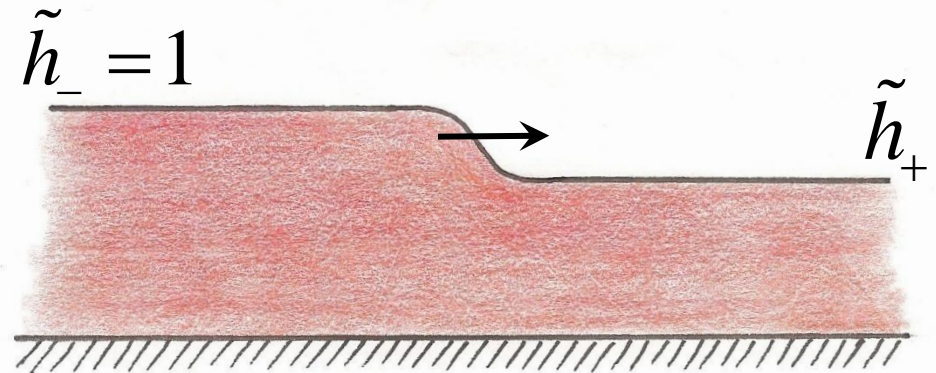


$(\zeta = 33.3 \text{ degrees})$

# Stage 1:



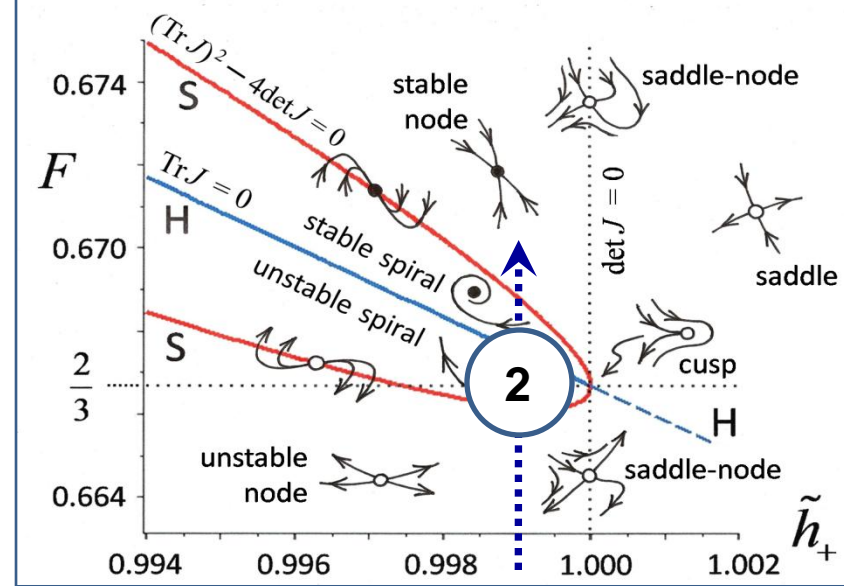
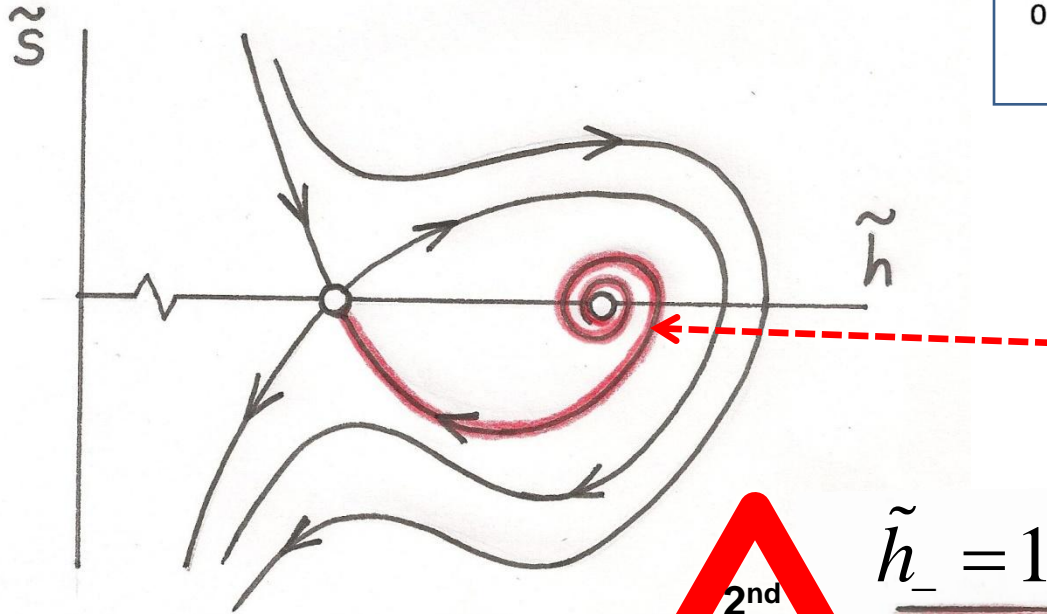
**heteroclinic connection = monoclinal wave**





# Stage 2:

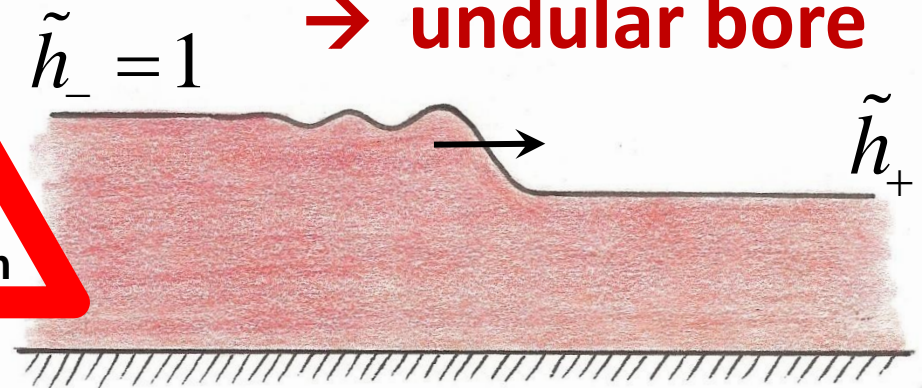
**(1,0) becomes an unstable spiral**



**The heteroclinic connection now spirals around (1,0)**

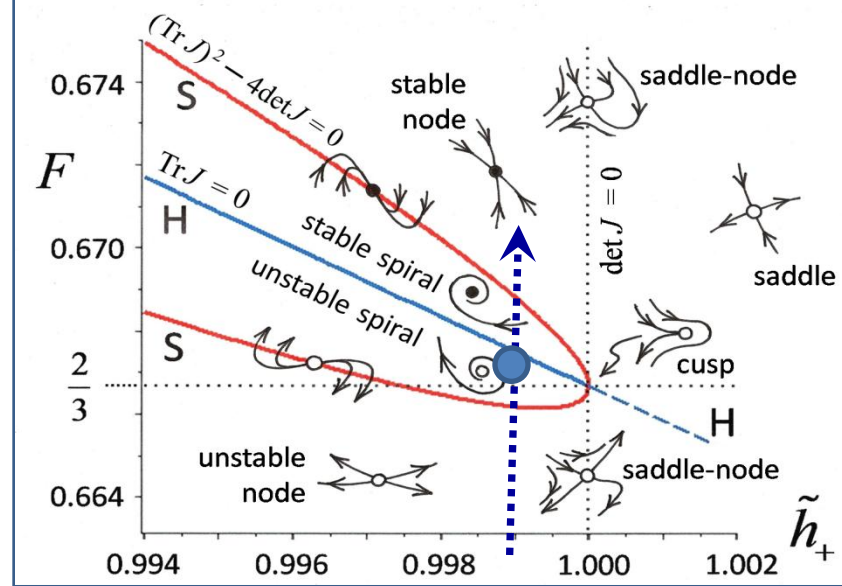
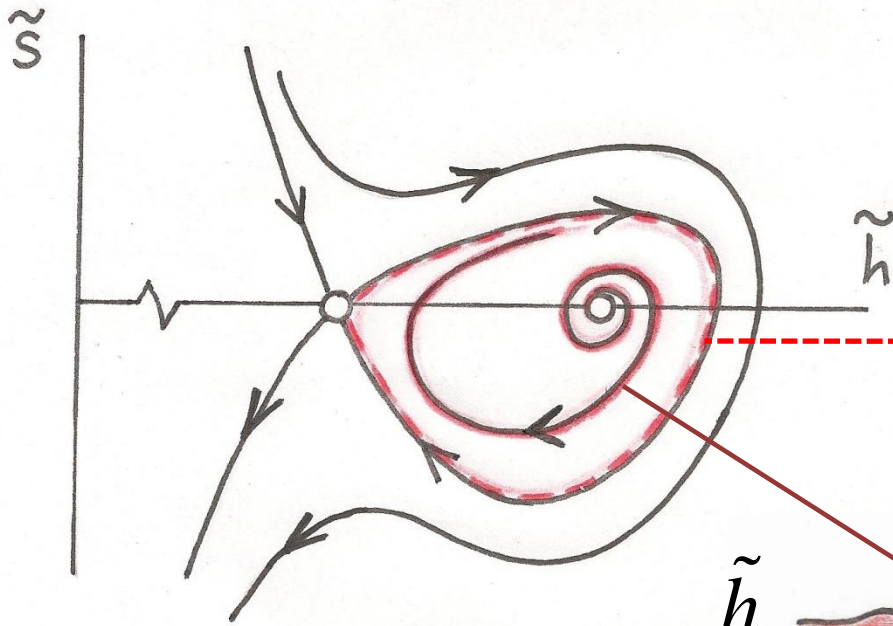
**→ undular bore**

**2<sup>nd</sup> new granular waveform**

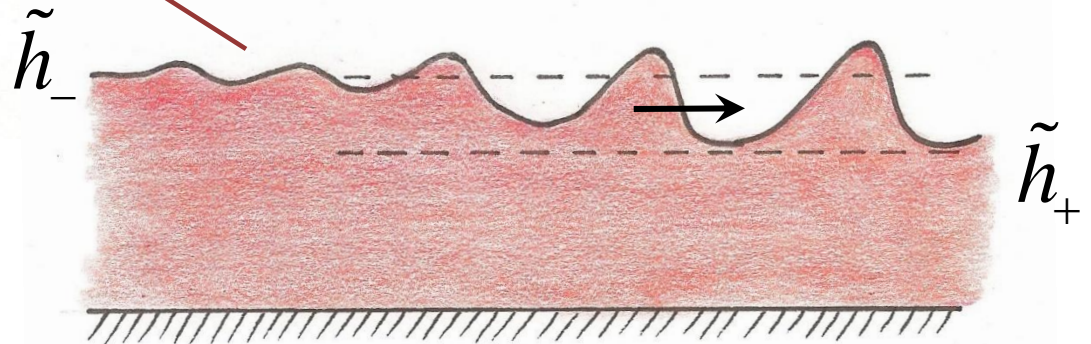


# Intermediate event:

a saddle-loop bifurcation!

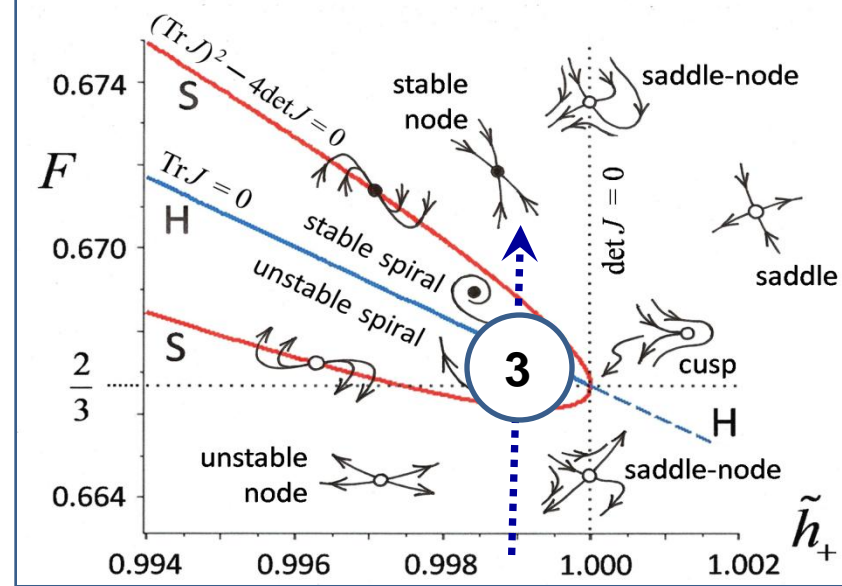
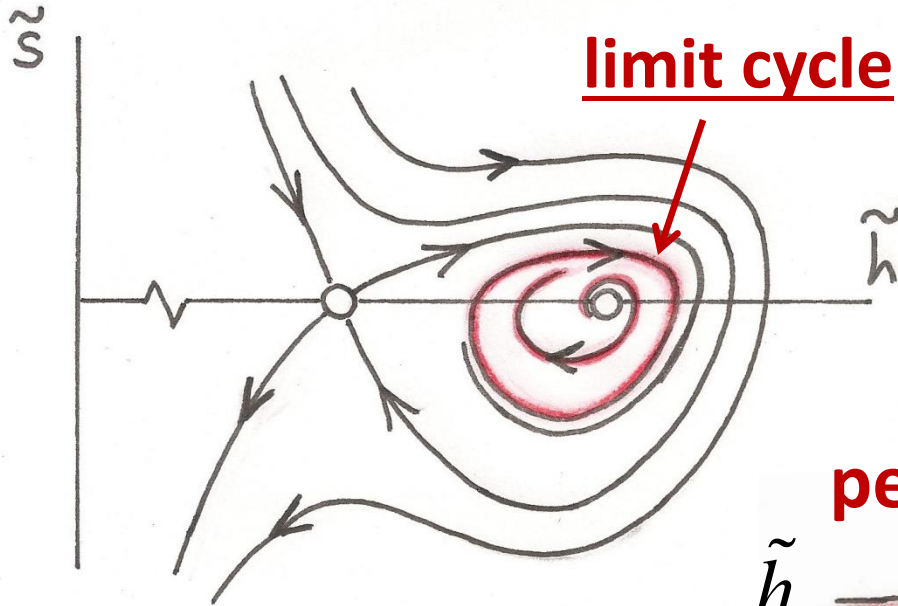


The saddle-loop corresponds to a solitary roll wave

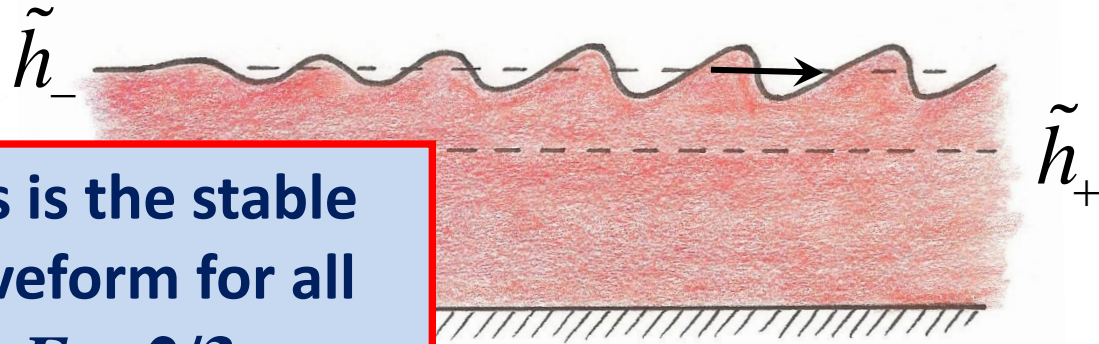


# Stage 3:

The saddle-loop has evolved into a stable limit cycle

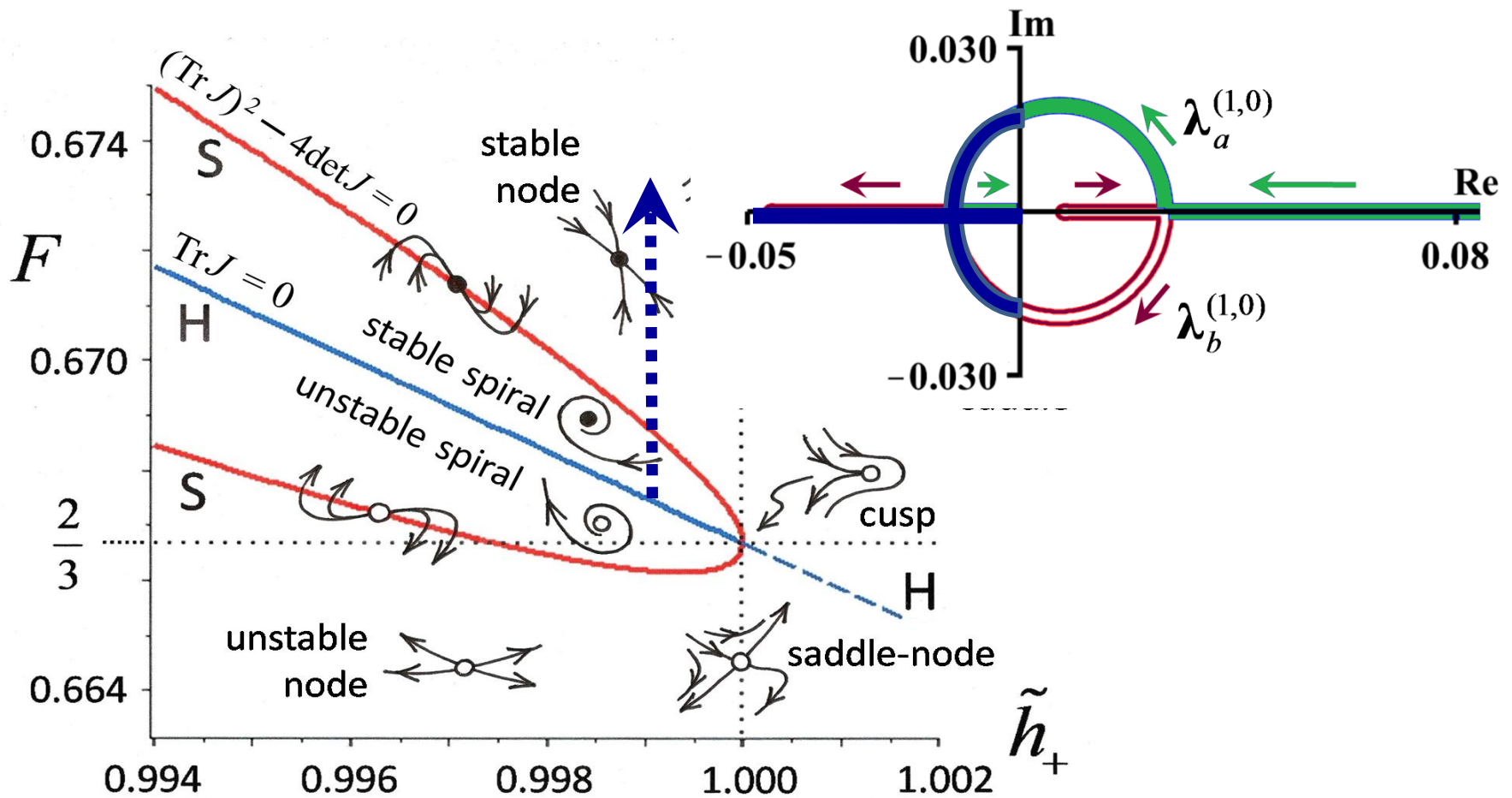


..., corresponding to a periodic train of roll waves:



This is the stable waveform for all  $F > 2/3$





The next stages are mathematically interesting (involving a Hopf bifurcation etc.) but yield only unstable waveforms.



# So we arrive at the following transition scenario:

*J. Fluid Mech.* (2019), vol. 869, pp. 143–181. © Cambridge University Press 2019  
doi:10.1017/jfm.2019.168

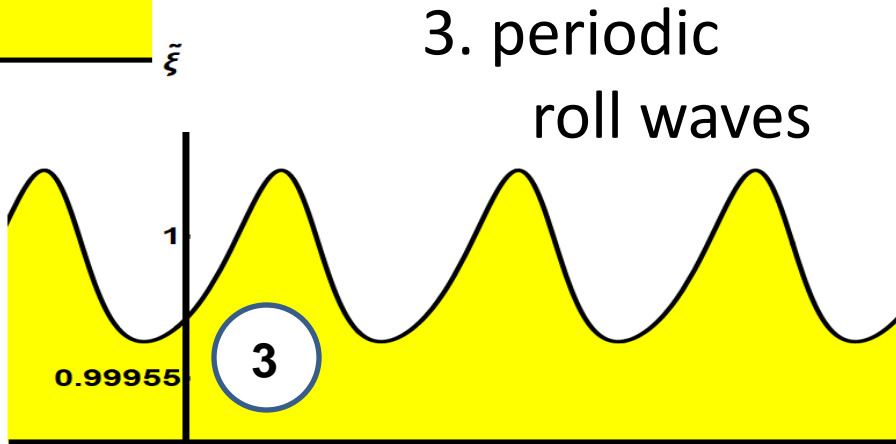
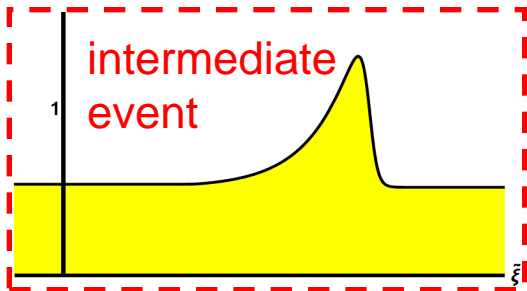
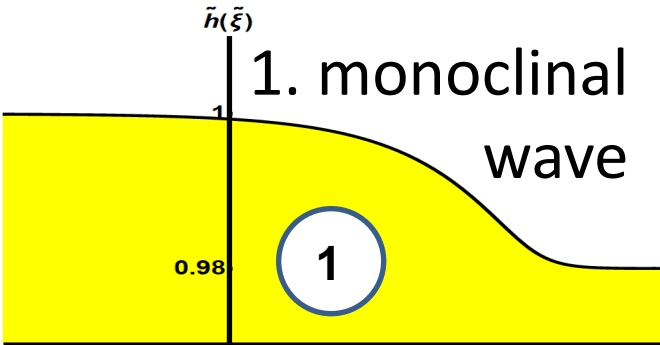
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## A dynamical systems view of granular flow: from monoclinal flood waves to roll waves

Dimitrios Razis<sup>1</sup>, Giorgos Kanellopoulos<sup>1</sup> and Ko van der Weele<sup>1,†</sup>

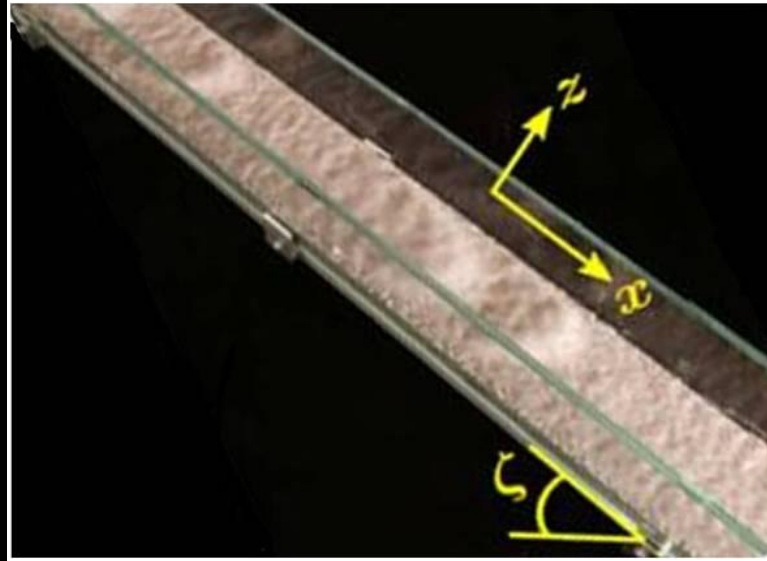
<sup>1</sup>Department of Mathematics and Center for Research and Applications of Nonlinear Science,  
University of Patras, 26500 Patras, Greece

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# Conclusion

- A. The **Dynamical Systems** approach is a powerful tool for analyzing the waves that may be encountered in granular chute flow.
- B. It has revealed a whole **spectrum of waveforms** that were hitherto unknown in granular flow:
  - monoclinal flood wave   ● undular bore
  - solitary roll wave,   ● and various unstable ones.
- C. For growing  $F$ , we predict the **transition**  
**monoclinal wave** → **undular bore** → **roll waves**
- D. The challenge is now to verify this **in experiment**.



**The End**