



Inertial manifolds and hidden oscillations in delay equations

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In our work [3], we develop a geometric theory of inertial manifolds (these are, roughly speaking, normally hyperbolic and globally attracting invariant manifolds, which provide a decomposition of the system into fast and slow modes) based on the use of indefinite quadratic Lyapunov-like functionals. In applications, various versions of the Frequency Theorem provide a variational approach, which is concerned with the study of infinite-horizon quadratic optimization problems, for the construction of such functionals [4,5].

We plan to discuss nuances concerned with abstract applications of the theory to delay equations. These include the well-posedness of such equations in a proper Hilbert space setting (see [1]; J.A. Burns, T. L. Herdman and H.W. Stech [8]) and mainly concerned with some specificity of the quadratic regulator problem [4]. This allows to provide a unification of some results due to R.A. Smith on the Poincaré-Bendixson theory [13]; Yu.A. Ryabov, R.D. Driver and C. Chicone [10] for equations with small delays; S. Chen and J. Shen [9] for neutral equations with small delays and relate these results to classical results for semilinear parabolic equations [5] in the context of [3]. We refer to our works [1,3,6,7] for various discussions on the topic.

As for concrete applications to study applied models, we will show how the theory can be applied to provide analytical-numerical methods for studying complex systems, where multistability and presence of hidden oscillations may occur. We refer to the surveys of D. Dudkowski et al. [11] and G.A. Leonov and N.V. Kuznetsov [12] for various discussions on the theory of hidden oscillations in the context of finite-dimensional systems.

In this direction we apply the theory to study the delayed oscillator, which was proposed by M.J. Suarez and P.S. Schopf in [14] as a simple model for ENSO, given by the scalar delay equation

$$\dot{x}(t) = x(t) - \alpha x(t - \tau) - x^3(t), \quad (1)$$

where $\alpha \in (0, 1)$ and $\tau > 0$ are parameters. We provide analytical-numerical evidence for the existence of two-dimensional inertial manifolds in the model for parameters from the region of linear stability, where the symmetric equilibria $\pm\sqrt{1 - \alpha}$ are linearly stable. This allows to propose a qualitative description of dynamics in the region, where the presence of multistability with hidden and self-excited periodic orbits is possible. We also discuss how the influence of a small periodic forcing can cause quasi-periodic, almost automorphic (strange non-chaotic) [6] and chaotic behavior in the model. This relates the model to well-known oscillators on the plane. These results are described in our paper [2].

We also use the intuition obtained in the study of the Suarez-Schopf model to numerically detect hidden and self-excited asynchronous oscillations in the model describing a ring array of coupled lossless transmission lines, which was proposed by J. Wu and H. Xia in [15] and is described as the coupled system of neutral delay equations:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} [D(q)x_t^k] &= -ax^k(t) - bqx^k(t - \tau) - g(x^k(t)) + qg(x^k(t - \tau)) + \\ &+ dD(q) [x_t^{k+1} - 2x_t^k + x_t^{k-1}], \quad k = 1, \dots, N \pmod{N} \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

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where $\tau, b, q, d > 0$ are positive parameters, a is not sign definite and $D(q)\phi = \phi(0) - q\phi(-\tau)$. Putting $g(x) = x^3$, for certain values of parameters with $a < 0$ we show that hidden or self-excited asynchronous periodic regimes may arise.

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