# Singular limit problem for some elliptic systems

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## **1** Introduction

We consider the following singularly perturbed elliptic systems:

$$\epsilon^2 \Delta u + f(u) - v = 0, \qquad \Delta v + g(u, v) = 0, \tag{1}$$

where u = u(y) and v = v(y) are real-valued functions on  $y \in \mathbb{R}^2$ ;  $\epsilon > 0$  is a positive constant;  $f \in C^1(\mathbb{R})$  is a negative derivative of a double-equal-well potential  $W \in C^2(\mathbb{R})$ satisfying  $W(1) = W(-1) = 0 < W(s)^{\forall} s \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{1, -1\}, W''(1)W''(-1) > 0$ ; and  $g \in C^1(\mathbb{R}^2)$  is a smooth function such that g(1, 0) = 1 - m > 0, g(-1, 0) = -m < 0. Note that there hold  $f(s) = -W'(s), \int_{-1}^1 f(s) ds = 0$ , and f(i) = 0, f'(i) < 0 ( $i = \pm 1$ ). A typical example of (f, g)is FitzHugh-Nagumo type, i.e.,  $f(s) = s - s^3$ ,  $g(u, v) = \frac{1}{2}u - v$ . The general case is referred to as the stationary activator-inhibitor system.

When the parameter  $\epsilon$  is extremely small, very interesting patterns, such as stripes or spots, often appear. As a mathematical approach to understand this pattern formation, we consider the limit  $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$ . Then usually the domain is divided into two regions and the remaining part becomes a thin layer. In some cases, the width of the internal transition layer approaches 0 in the limit, and the discontinuity surface inside the domain, which is called sharp interface, appears. Recently very fine layered patterns of (1) have attracted a great deal of attention. See [5, 14, 15]. We consider this fine pattern which has the space scale of  $\epsilon^{1/3}$  order. This is the unique scale that the driving force of  $\nu$  has the same order as that of the curvature of the sharp interface. See [12]. This scale also appeared in [5]. After rescaling  $x = \frac{\gamma}{\epsilon^{1/3}}$  and

 $\varepsilon = \epsilon^{2/3}$ , we obtain

$$\begin{cases} \Delta u + \frac{1}{\varepsilon^2} (f(u) - v) = 0, \\ \Delta v + \varepsilon g(u, v) = 0. \end{cases}$$
(2)

We consider the solutions of (2) subject to the homogeneous Neumann boundary condition:

$$(-\varepsilon^{2}\Delta u = f(u) - v, \text{ in } \Omega,$$
  

$$-\Delta v = \varepsilon g(u, v), \text{ in } \Omega,$$
  

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial n} = \frac{\partial v}{\partial n} = 0, \text{ on } \partial \Omega,$$
(3)

where  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^2$  is a bounded domain with the smooth bounday  $\partial \Omega$ ;  $\partial/\partial n$  is the outward normal derivative on  $\partial \Omega$ .

We shall formally deduce the reduced problem. If we assume  $u \to u_0$  and  $v \to v_0$  in the limit  $\varepsilon \to 0$ , we have  $f(u_0) = v_0$ ,  $\Delta v_0 = 0$  in  $\Omega$ ,  $\frac{\partial v_0}{\partial n} = 0$  on  $\partial \Omega$ . Hence  $v_0$  is a constant. Now assume that  $v_0$  is close to 0 and  $u_0 = f_1^{-1}(v_0)\mathbf{1}_{\Omega^+} + f_{-1}^{-1}(v_0)\mathbf{1}_{\Omega^-}$ , where  $\Omega^+$ ,  $\Omega^-$  are mutually disjoint open sets in  $\Omega$  such that  $\Gamma = \Omega \setminus (\Omega^+ \cup \Omega^-)$  is a curve embedded in  $\Omega$ ;  $\mathbf{1}_{\Omega^\pm}$  denote the characteristic functions of  $\Omega^{\pm}$ ;  $u = f_{\pm 1}^{-1}(v)$  are the inverse functions of v = f(u) near  $u = \pm 1$ respectively. Here we call  $\Gamma$  sharp interface. We shall identify the profile of u near  $\Gamma$ .

It is known that there exists a constant  $\tau > 0$ , depending on f, such that for any  $v \in (-\tau, \tau)$ , the equation for u,  $u_t = u_{xx} + f(u) - v$ , has a traveling wave solution u(x, t) = Q(x - ct; v)with the speed c = c(v) and the profile  $Q = Q(\xi; v)$ . More precisely, c(v) and  $Q(\xi; v)$  for  $v \in (-\tau, \tau), \xi \in \mathbb{R}$  satisfy

$$\begin{cases} \ddot{Q} + c(v)\dot{Q} + f(Q) - v = 0, & \text{in } \mathbb{R}, \\ \lim_{\xi \to -\infty} Q(\xi; v) = f_1^{-1}(v), \\ \lim_{\xi \to +\infty} Q(\xi; v) = f_{-1}^{-1}(v), \\ c(0) = 0. \end{cases}$$

Here dot means  $d/d\xi$ . See, for example, [4]. Near the sharp interface  $\Gamma$ , consider the function

$$u(x)=Q\bigg(\frac{d(x)}{\varepsilon};v\bigg),$$

where d = d(x) is the signed distance function from  $\Gamma$  such that d(x) > 0 if  $x \in \Omega^-$  and d(x) < 0 if  $x \in \Omega^+$ . If the above function satisfy the first equation of (3) for each prescribed v, noting that  $|\nabla d| = 1$ , there holds  $\ddot{Q} + \varepsilon(\Delta d)\dot{Q} + f(Q) - v = 0$ . Since  $\Delta d$  is equal to the curvature  $\kappa$  of  $\Gamma$  on the interface  $\Gamma$  (here we choose the sign such that  $\kappa > 0$  when  $\Omega^+$  is a disk), it follows that  $c(v) = \varepsilon \kappa$  on  $\Gamma$ . Since c(0) = 0 by the assumption, we may assume that  $v_0 = 0$  and  $u_0 = \mathbf{1}_{\Omega^+} - \mathbf{1}_{\Omega^-}$ .

Next we consider the higher order term. Assume  $v = \varepsilon v_1 + O(\varepsilon^2)$ . Then we obtain the reduced problem

$$-\Delta v_1 = g(u_0, 0) = \mathbf{1}_{\Omega^+} - m, \quad \text{in } \Omega,$$
$$\frac{\partial v_1}{\partial n} = 0, \qquad \text{on } \partial \Omega,$$
$$c'(0)v_1 = \kappa, \qquad \text{on } \Gamma.$$

It is easily seen that there holds  $c'(0) = -\frac{2}{\sigma} < 0$  with

$$\sigma=\int_{-1}^1\sqrt{2W(s)}\,ds.$$

Therefore, letting  $\beta = 2/\sigma$ , we finally obtain

$$\begin{cases}
-\Delta v = \mathbf{1}_{\Omega^{+}} - m, & \text{in } \Omega, \\
\frac{\partial v}{\partial n} = 0, & \text{on } \partial \Omega, \\
\beta v + \kappa = 0, & \text{on } \Gamma.
\end{cases}$$
(4)

Recall that  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^2$  is a bounded domain with the smooth boundary  $\partial\Omega$ ;  $\partial/\partial n$  is the normal derivative on  $\partial\Omega$ ;  $\Omega^+$  is an open set in  $\Omega$ ;  $\Gamma = \partial\Omega^+ \subset \Omega$  is a  $C^2$ -curve embedded in  $\Omega$ ;  $\kappa$  is the curvature of  $\Gamma$ ;  $m \in (0, 1)$  is a constant; and  $\mathbf{1}_{\Omega^+}$  denotes the characteristic function of  $\Omega^+$ .

The essentially same equation as (4) was obtained in [13] by using the matched expansion method. Once you have a "non-degenerate" solution of (4) in some sense, you can find a layered solution for the singularly perturbed elliptic problem (3). See [13]. For the reduction from the parabolic system to the sharp interface model, see [19].

In this résumé, we consider the problem to find a non-degenerate solution of (4) which does not necessarily correspond to the global minimizers. The radially symmetric case for the related problems is studied in [6, 7, 13, 17, 18, 20]. We do not assume any symmetry of the domain.

This résumé is organized as follows. In Section 2, we consider the existence of solutions. In Section 3, we consider the linearized non-degeneracy of the problem.

### 2 Existence

In order to state the result, we define the Green's function and its harmonic part.

**Definition 2.1** For each  $y \in \Omega$ , let G(x, y) be the solution to

$$-\Delta_x G(x, y) = \delta(x - y) - \frac{1}{|\Omega|}, \quad x \in \Omega,$$
$$\frac{\partial G}{\partial n_x}(x, y) = 0, \qquad x \in \partial\Omega,$$
$$\int_{\Omega} G(x, y) \, dx = 0.$$

Set

$$G(x,y) = -\frac{1}{2\pi} \log |x-y| + \frac{|x-y|^2}{4|\Omega|} + H(x,y), \quad x,y \in \Omega.$$

Then it is known that H(x, y) is symmetric and harmonic in both x and y. Let  $\mathcal{H}(x) = H(x, x)$ .

We define the following two conditions.

- (A1)  $0 \in \Omega$  is a strict local minimum point of  $\mathcal{H}$ . More precisely, there exists a neighborhood U of 0 in  $\Omega$  such that  $\mathcal{H}(0) < \mathcal{H}(x)$  for all  $x \in U \setminus \{0\}$ .
- (A2)  $0 \in \Omega$  is a non-degenerate critical point of  $\mathcal{H}$ .

*Remark.* When  $\Omega = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^2 ; |x| < 1\}, x = 0$  is a unique minimum point of  $\mathcal{H}$  and both (A1) and (A2) are satisfied. Indeed, we have  $\mathcal{H}(x) = -\frac{1}{2\pi} \log(1-|x|^2) + \frac{|x|^2}{2\pi} + \mathcal{H}(0)$ , and hence  $\frac{\partial^2 \mathcal{H}}{\partial x_i \partial x_j}(0) = \frac{2}{\pi} \delta_{ij}$ .

The regular part of Green's function subject to the homogeneous Dirichlet boundary condition has a unique non-degenerate minimum point when  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^2$  is convex (see [2]). On the other hand, the regular part of Green's function subject to the homogeneous Neumann boundary condition is studied in [8]. We denote by  $d_{\rm H}$  the Hausdorff metric

 $d_{\rm H}(K_1, K_2) = \max[\sup\{\operatorname{dist}(x, K_2); x \in K_1\}, \sup\{\operatorname{dist}(y, K_1); y \in K_2\}],$ 

 $S_r(0) = \{x \in \mathbb{R} ; |x| = r\}$ , and  $B_r(0) = \{x \in \mathbb{R} ; |x| < r\}$ .

**Theorem 2.1** Assume that (A1) or (A2). If  $r_0 := \sqrt{\frac{m|\Omega|}{\pi}} < \text{dist}(0, \partial\Omega)$ , then there exists a constant  $\beta_0 > 0$  such that (4) has a solution  $(\Gamma, \nu, \Omega^+) = (\Gamma_\beta, \nu_\beta, \Omega_\beta^+)$  for all  $\beta < \beta_0$  satisfying  $d_{\mathrm{H}}(\Gamma_\beta, S_{r_0}(0)) \to 0$  as  $\beta \to 0$ .

#### 2.1 Notations

We identify  $2\pi$ -periodic functions on  $\mathbb{R}$  with the functions on  $S^1 = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^2; |x| = 1\} \cong \mathbb{R}/2\pi\mathbb{Z}$ . For  $q \in C^2(S^1)$ , we use the following notations:

$$\dot{q}(\omega) = \frac{dq}{d\omega}(\omega) = \frac{d}{d\theta}q(\cos\theta,\sin\theta), \quad \omega = (\cos\theta,\sin\theta) \in S^{1}$$

and

$$\ddot{q}(\omega) = \frac{d^2q}{d\omega^2}(\omega) = \frac{d^2}{d\theta^2}q(\cos\theta,\sin\theta), \quad \omega = (\cos\theta,\sin\theta) \in S^1$$

We set  $X = C^2(S^1)$ ,

$$\|q\|_{X} = \max_{\omega \in S^{\perp}} |q(\omega)| + \max_{\omega \in S^{\perp}} |\dot{q}(\omega)| + \max_{\omega \in S^{\perp}} |\ddot{q}(\omega)|,$$

 $Y = C(S^1)$ , and

$$||q||_Y = \max_{\omega \in S^1} |q(\omega)|.$$

For  $q_1, q_2 \in L^2(S^1)$ , denote

$$\langle q_1, q_2 \rangle = \int_{S^1} q_1(\omega) q_2(\omega) d\omega = \int_0^{2\pi} q_1(\cos\theta, \sin\theta) q_2(\cos\theta, \sin\theta) d\theta$$

and  $||q_1||^2 = \langle q_1, q_1 \rangle$ . Let  $\Pi_{n^2} : L^2(S^1) \to L^2(S^1)$  denote the projections with respect to  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ onto span{cos  $i\theta$ , sin  $i\theta$ ;  $i = 0, 1, \dots, n$ } for  $n = 0, 1, \dots$ . Let  $\Pi_{n^2}^{\perp} = \mathbf{Id} - \Pi_{n^2}$ .

Define  $\Phi_0(\omega) = 1/\sqrt{2\pi}$ ,  $\Phi_1(\omega) = \omega_1/\sqrt{\pi}$ , and  $\Phi_2(\omega) = \omega_2/\sqrt{\pi}$  for  $\omega = (\omega_1, \omega_2) \in S^1$ . Then  $\Pi_0^{\perp}, \Pi_1^{\perp}$  are the projections onto the orthogonal complements of span{ $\Phi_0$ } and span{ $\Phi_i$ ; i = 0, 1, 2} respectively.

#### 2.2 Outline of Proof of Theorem 2.1

For brevity's sake, we assume that  $r_0 = 1 < \text{dist}(0, \partial \Omega)$ . For  $\ell > 0$ , define  $X_{\ell} = \{q \in X; ||q||_X \le \ell\}$ . We can choose a constant  $\delta \in (0, 1/2)$  such that  $B_{1+\delta}(0) \subset \Omega$  by the assumption. For  $q \in X_{\delta/2}$ , define

$$\Gamma(q) = \{\sqrt{1+q(\omega)}\omega; \ \omega \in S^1\}, \quad \Omega^+(q) = \{r\omega; \ 0 \le r \le \sqrt{1+q(\omega)}, \ \omega \in S^1\}.$$

Note that there hold  $\Gamma(q) \subset \Omega$  and  $|\Omega^+(q)| = \pi$  for any  $q \in X_{\delta/2} \cap \Pi_0^{\perp} X$ . Let

$$L(t, p, s) = \frac{1 + t + \frac{3p^2}{4(1+t)} - \frac{1}{2}s}{\left[1 + t + \frac{p^2}{4(1+t)}\right]^{3/2}}$$

for t > -1,  $p \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $s \in \mathbb{R}$ . Then  $K(q) = L(q, \dot{q}, \ddot{q})$  is the curvature of  $\Gamma(q)$  for any  $q \in X_{\delta/2}$ . Let  $M_{\beta}$  be the map from  $X_{\delta/2}$  to Y defined by

$$M_{\beta}(q)(\omega) = K(q)(\omega) + \beta \int_{\Omega^{+}(q)} G(\sqrt{1+q(\omega)}\omega, y) \, dy, \qquad \omega \in S^{1}$$

for  $q \in X_{\delta/2}$ . In order to prove Theorem 2.1, we need only show the following:

**Proposition 2.1** Suppose either (A1) or (A2). If  $1 = \sqrt{m|\Omega|/\pi} < \operatorname{dist}(0, \partial\Omega)$ , then there exists a constant  $\beta_0 > 0$  such that  $\prod_0^{\perp} M_{\beta}(q) = 0$  has a solution  $q = q_{\beta} \in X_{\delta/2} \cap \prod_0^{\perp} X$  for all  $\beta \in (0, \beta_0)$  satisfying  $q_{\beta} \to 0$  in X as  $\beta \to 0$ . In addition,  $\Gamma(q_{\beta}) = P_{\beta} + \Gamma(\tilde{q}_{\beta})$  for some  $P_{\beta} \in \Omega$ ,  $\tilde{q}_{\beta} \in X$  such that  $P_{\beta} \to 0$ ,  $\|\tilde{q}_{\beta}\|_X = O(\beta)$  as  $\beta \to 0$ .

Indeed, if  $q \in X_{\delta/2} \cap \Pi_0^{\perp} X$  is a solution of  $\Pi_0^{\perp} M_{\beta}(q) = 0$ , then there exists a constant  $C_1$  such that  $M_{\beta}(q) \equiv C_1$ . Now set

$$v(x) = \int_{\Omega^+(q)} G(x, y) \, dy - \frac{1}{\beta} C_1, \quad x \in \Omega.$$

Then v satisfies

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta v = \mathbf{1}_{\Omega^+(q)} - m, & \text{in } \Omega, \\\\ \frac{\partial v}{\partial n} = 0, & \text{on } \partial \Omega. \end{cases}$$

Hence we see that

$$\Gamma = \Gamma(q), \quad v(x) = \int_{\Omega^+(q)} G(x, y) \, dy - \frac{1}{\beta} C_1, \quad \Omega^+ = \Omega^+(q)$$

solves our equation (4) and completes the proof of Theorem 2.1.

### **3** Non-degeneracy

Throughout this section, we assume that there exists a compact subset  $\mathcal{N} \subset \Omega$  satisfying dist $(\mathcal{N}, \partial \Omega) > 1$ . We linearize the equation around  $\mathbf{P} + \Gamma(q) = \{\mathbf{P} + \sqrt{1 + q(\omega)}\omega; \omega \in S^1\}$  for  $\mathbf{P} \in \mathcal{N}$ . Set

$$M_{\beta}(q; \boldsymbol{P})(\omega) := K(q)(\omega) + \beta \int_{\boldsymbol{P} + \Omega^{+}(q)} G(\boldsymbol{P} + \sqrt{1 + q(\omega)}\omega, y) \, dy, \qquad \omega \in S^{1}$$

for  $q \in X_{\delta/2}$ , where  $P + \Omega^+(q)$  is the region surrounded by  $P + \Gamma(q)$ .

Theorem 3.1 Suppose that

(B1) for every small  $\beta > 0$ , there exist  $\tilde{q}_{\beta} \in X$  and  $P \in \mathcal{N}$  such that

$$(\Pi_4 - \Pi_1) M_\beta(\tilde{q}_\beta; \boldsymbol{P}) = 0,$$

(B2)  $\|\tilde{q}_{\beta}\|_{X} = O(\beta) \text{ as } \beta \to 0, \text{ and}$ (B3) the Hessian matrix  $\left(\frac{\partial^{2}\mathcal{H}}{\partial x_{i}\partial x_{j}}(P)\right)_{1 \le i,j \le 2}$  of  $\mathcal{H}$  is non-degenerate for any  $P \in \mathcal{N}$ .

Then for sufficiently small  $\beta$ ,  $\mathcal{L} = \prod_0^{\perp} M'_{\beta}(\tilde{q}_{\beta}; P)$  is non-degenerate in the sense that  $\mathcal{L}\zeta = 0$ ,  $\int_{S^1} \zeta \, d\omega = 0$  implies that  $\zeta = 0$ .

Let  $q_{\beta}$  be a solution obtained in Proposition 2.1. Then there exist  $P_{\beta} \in \Omega$  and  $\tilde{q}_{\beta} \in X$  such that  $\Gamma(q_{\beta}) = P_{\beta} + \Gamma(\tilde{q}_{\beta})$ , (B1) with  $P = P_{\beta}$ , and (B2) hold. Thus we have the following:

**Corollary 3.1** Suppose (A2). Then the solution obtained in Theorem 2.1 is non-degenerate in the sense of Theorem 3.1.

#### 3.1 Outline of Proof of Theorem 3.1

For brevity's sake, we write  $q = \tilde{q}_{\beta}$ . Set

$$B(\zeta,\zeta) = \int_{S^1} \left[-L_s(q,\dot{q},\ddot{q})\dot{\zeta}^2 + L_t(q,\dot{q},\ddot{q})\zeta^2\right]d\omega$$
  
+  $\frac{\beta}{2}\int_{S^1}\int_{S^1}\zeta(\omega)G(P + \sqrt{1+q(\omega)}\omega, P + \sqrt{1+q(\hat{\omega})}\hat{\omega})\zeta(\hat{\omega})\,d\omega d\hat{\omega}$   
+  $\frac{\beta}{2}\int_{S^1}d\omega \frac{\zeta(\omega)^2}{\sqrt{1+q(\omega)}}\int_{P+\Omega^+(q)}\omega \cdot \nabla_x G(P + \sqrt{1+q(\omega)}\omega, y)\,dy,$ 

for  $\zeta \in H^1(S^1)$ , where

$$L(t, p, s) = \frac{1 + t + \frac{3p^2}{4(1+t)} - \frac{1}{2}s}{\left[1 + t + \frac{p^2}{4(1+t)}\right]^{3/2}}$$

for t > -1,  $p \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $s \in \mathbb{R}$ . We regard  $\mathcal{L}$  as the operator on  $\Pi_0^{\perp} H^2(S^1)$  satisfying  $B(\zeta, \zeta) = \langle \mathcal{L}\zeta, \zeta \rangle$  for all  $\zeta \in \Pi_0^{\perp} H^2(S^1)$ . Then we have the following two lemmas:

**Lemma 3.1** Suppose (B2). Let  $\lambda_1 \leq \lambda_2 \leq \lambda_3 \leq \cdots$  be the eigenvalues of  $\mathcal{L} : \prod_0^{\perp} H^2(S^1) \rightarrow \prod_0^{\perp} L^2(S^1)$  and  $\zeta_i \in \prod_0^{\perp} H^2(S^1)$  be the normalized eigenfunctions associated with  $\lambda_i$ . Then

$$\lambda_{1} = \inf_{\substack{\zeta \in \Pi_{0}^{\perp} H^{1}(S^{1}), \|\zeta\|=1\\ \zeta \in \Pi_{0}^{\perp} H^{1}(S^{1}), \|\zeta\|=1\\ \zeta \in \Pi_{0}^{\perp} H^{1}(S^{1}), \|\zeta\|=1\\ \zeta \in \Omega_{1}^{\perp}} B(\zeta, \zeta) = B(\zeta_{2}, \zeta_{2}) = O(\beta),$$

$$\lambda_3 = \inf_{\substack{\zeta \in \Pi_0^\perp H^1(S^1), \|\zeta\|=1\\ \zeta \perp \operatorname{span}(\zeta_1, \zeta_2)}} B(\zeta, \zeta) = B(\zeta_3, \zeta_3) = \frac{3}{2} + O(\beta).$$

**Lemma 3.2** 1. There hold  $L_{ts}(0,0,0) = L_{tt}(0,0,0) = L_{pp}(0,0,0) = \frac{3}{4}$  and  $L_{ss}(0,0,0) = L_{ps}(0,0,0) = L_{tp}(0,0,0) = 0.$ 

2. There hold

$$\int_{S^1} d\omega \Phi_j(\omega) \Phi_k(\omega) \omega \cdot \nabla_x H(\boldsymbol{P} + \omega, \boldsymbol{P}) = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2 H}{\partial x_j \partial x_k}(x, y) \Big|_{x=y=\boldsymbol{P}}$$

and

$$\int_{S^{\perp}} \int_{S^{\perp}} \Phi_j(\omega) H(\boldsymbol{P} + \omega, \boldsymbol{P} + \hat{\omega}) \Phi_k(\hat{\omega}) \, d\omega d\hat{\omega} = \pi \frac{\partial^2 H}{\partial x_j \partial y_k}(x, y) \Big|_{x=y=\boldsymbol{P}}$$

for each j, k = 1, 2.

3. Suppose (B1) and (B2). Then

$$\lim_{\beta \to 0} \frac{1}{\beta} \langle \dot{q} \Phi_k, \dot{\Phi}_j \rangle = -\frac{\pi}{3} \frac{\partial^2 H}{\partial x_j \partial x_k} (x, y) \Big|_{x=y=P}$$

for each j, k = 1, 2.

Using these lemmas, we can show the following:

**Lemma 3.3** Suppose (B1) and (B2). Then there exists an orthogonal matrix  $(c_{ij})_{i,j=1,2}$  such that for each  $i = 1, 2, \zeta_i^R = \zeta_i - (c_{1i}\Phi_1 + c_{2i}\Phi_2)$  satisfies  $||\zeta_i^R||^2 = O(\beta)$  as  $\beta \to 0$ . In addition, there holds

$$\sum_{k=1}^{2} \frac{\pi}{4} \frac{\partial^{2} \mathcal{H}}{\partial x_{j} \partial x_{k}} (\boldsymbol{P}) c_{ki} = o(1) + \frac{\lambda_{i}}{\beta} c_{ji}$$

for each i, j = 1, 2.

**Completion of the proof of Theorem 3.1**. Assume by contrary that there exists a sequence  $\zeta_{\beta}$  such that  $\mathcal{L}\zeta_{\beta} = 0$ ,  $||\zeta_{\beta}|| = 1$ , and  $\int_{S^1} \zeta_{\beta} d\omega = 0$ . This means that  $\zeta_{\beta}$  is an eigenfunction of of  $\mathcal{L}$  associated with the eigenvalue 0. We see that for sufficiently small  $\beta$ , either  $\lambda_1$  or  $\lambda_2$  is equal to 0. Then by Lemma 3.3, we have  $\zeta_{\beta} = c_1 \Phi_1 + c_2 \Phi_2 + \zeta^R$  such that  $(c_1, c_2) \in S^1$  and  $||\zeta^R||^2 = O(\beta)$ , and

$$\sum_{k=1}^{2} \frac{\partial^2 \mathcal{H}}{\partial x_j \partial x_k} (\boldsymbol{P}) c_k = o(1) \quad \text{for } j = 1, 2,$$

as  $\beta \to 0$ . Taking a subsequence if necessary, we may assume that  $(c_1, c_2) \to (\hat{c}_1, \hat{c}_2) \in S^1$ and

$$\sum_{k=1}^{2} \frac{\partial^2 \mathcal{H}}{\partial x_j \partial x_k} (\boldsymbol{P}) \hat{c}_k = 0 \quad \text{for } j = 1, 2.$$

It follows from (B3) that  $\hat{c}_1 = \hat{c}_2 = 0$ . This is a contradiction and completes the proof.

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