

# Crisis dynamics of a class of single-degree-of-freedom piecewise linear oscillators

Han Su<sup>a</sup>, Yuan Yue<sup>a,\*</sup>, Run Liu<sup>a</sup>, Celso Grebogi<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup>*Applied Mechanics and Structure Safety Key Laboratory of Sichuan Province, School of  
Mechanics and Aerospace Engineering, Southwest Jiaotong University,  
Chengdu 610031, China*

<sup>b</sup>*Institute for Complex Systems and Mathematical Biology King's College,  
University of Aberdeen, Aberdeen AB24 3UE, United Kingdom*

**Abstract:** We investigate boundary crises, interior crises, and merging crises of a class of single-degree-of-freedom piecewise linear oscillators. From the perspective of the tangency of manifolds, the mechanisms of boundary crises are revealed, and the critical exponents are determined to distinguish between homoclinic crises and heteroclinic crises. As the parameter changes continuously, a chaotic orbit suddenly disappears at a certain critical point and reappears suddenly at another critical point. This phenomenon of two sudden changes in the chaotic orbit is related to boundary crises caused by the tangency of the stable and unstable manifolds of the same unstable periodic orbit. We call the regions formed by the intersection of the stable and unstable manifolds of the unstable period orbits associated with boundary crises as the escape regions. The change in the area of the escape regions induces the sudden disappearance and reappearance of a chaotic orbit. Detailed numerical simulations and analyses show that boundary crises may interact with the hysteresis loop, which induces complex dynamical behaviors, including transitions between a stable periodic orbit and a chaotic orbit repeatedly. In the two parameters space, changing a parameter value in the same direction will cause the decreases of the distance between the two boundary-crisis curves. When the distance is zero, there exist a coalescence point, which we call the crisis-disappearance point. Beyond this point, the chaotic orbit will no longer contact unstable periodic orbits, leading to the disappearance of the boundary crisis. Besides, the crisis-disappearance points associated with interior crises and merging crises are also uncovered.

**Keywords:** Single-degree-of-freedom piecewise linear oscillators; Chaotic orbits; Crises; Manifolds; Hysteresis.

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\* Correspondencing author.

E- mail addresses: [suhan001116@163.com](mailto:suhan001116@163.com) (Han Su), [leyuan2003@sina.com](mailto:leyuan2003@sina.com) (Yuan Yue), [run139315@163.com](mailto:run139315@163.com) (Run Liu), [grebogi@adbn.ac.uk](mailto:grebogi@adbn.ac.uk) (Celso Grebogi).

# 1. Introduction

Many dynamical systems in practical engineering can be simulated as piecewise linear systems. Piecewise linear systems are an important research topic in the field of dynamical systems. Current research on the dynamics of piecewise linear systems includes modal response<sup>[1]</sup>, stability analysis<sup>[2]</sup>, grazing bifurcations<sup>[3]</sup>, chaos control<sup>[4]</sup>, and so on. Numerous numerical methods have been employed to analyze the time-frequency response of piecewise linear systems. Afzali et al.<sup>[5]</sup> used the multiple scales method to study secondary resonances of the van der Pol equation with parametric damping under both with and without external excitation. Jayaprakash et al.<sup>[6]</sup> proposed an averaging method applicable to a class of resonantly forced piecewise linear systems with zero offset. The harmonic balance method is one of the effective methods for analyzing amplitude-frequency responses and can be applied to piecewise linear systems<sup>[7]</sup> and quasi-periodically forced systems<sup>[8]</sup>.

In their seminal work, Grebogi et al.<sup>[9][10]</sup> revealed crises in dynamical system, and elucidated the dynamical mechanism of crises. In dynamical systems, the sudden discontinuous changes in chaotic orbits are often related to crises. Crises occur when chaotic orbits collide with unstable periodic orbits. Based on the characteristic behavior of chaotic orbits after crises, they classified crises into boundary crises, interior crises, and merging crises.

Researchers have observed crises in a wide range of dynamical systems and experiments, and uncovered some new mechanisms that lead to the occurrence of crises. Yang et al.<sup>[11]</sup> considered a logistic map model driven by parametric noise and discovered a new crisis resulting from the formation of channels caused by the backward tangent bifurcation. Combining experimental data and employing symbolic dynamics techniques, Finardi et al.<sup>[12]</sup> obtained a precise criterion for interior crises by analyzing the symbolic sequence changes of unstable periodic orbits before and after heteroclinic crises. Hong and Xu<sup>[13]</sup> used the generalized cell mapping digraph (GCDM) method to study the crisis dynamics phenomenon of chaotic saddle colliding with chaotic orbits in a forced Duffing oscillator, referred to as chaotic crises. Tanaka et al.<sup>[14]</sup> considered a hybrid dynamical model obtained in a drug treatment system and discovered crises induced by grazing bifurcations. Liu et al.<sup>[15]</sup> investigated the phenomena of interior crises and boundary crises in fractional-order piecewise systems.

To achieve a deeper understanding of the crisis behavior, one must analyze manifolds<sup>[16][17]</sup>. When a boundary crisis occurs, the unstable periodic orbit colliding with the chaotic orbit is located on the basin boundary of the chaotic orbit, and its stable manifold forms the basin boundary of the chaotic orbit. During the crisis, its stable manifold becomes tangent to the branch of the unstable manifold toward the interior of the basin of attraction, and the chaotic orbit is the closure of this unstable manifold branch. The tangency of stable and unstable manifolds of the unstable periodic orbits on the basin boundary will also lead to basin boundary metamorphoses<sup>[18][19]</sup>. For interior crises or merging crises, the unstable periodic orbit that collides with the chaotic orbit is located

within the basin of attraction. When the stable manifold becomes tangent to the unstable manifold,  $n$ -piece chaotic orbits are equal to the closure of the unstable manifold. Taking a quasi-periodically forced Hénon map as an example, Osinga and Feudel<sup>[20]</sup> found that the collision between chaotic orbits and unstable invariant circles can also lead to the occurrence of crises, and the two-dimensional stable manifold of the invariant circle becomes tangent to its own unstable manifold for crises.

Extending the boundary-crisis curve in the two-parameter space, each point on the curve is related to the tangency between stable and unstable manifolds of unstable periodic orbits. The intersection of boundary-crisis curves corresponding to two different unstable orbits results in a vertex, which is referred to as a double-crisis vertex<sup>[21][22]</sup>. As one continues the extension of the two curves through this vertex, the tangency of manifolds leads to interior crises and basin boundary metamorphoses. Initially, the boundary-crisis curve was thought to be piecewise smooth when the double-crisis vertex was discovered. However, subsequent research revealed that there are infinite small gaps along the boundary-crisis curve. These gaps are related to the existence of periodic windows in the chaotic region of the single-parameter bifurcation diagram<sup>[23]</sup>. In non-smooth systems, due to the occurrence of certain boundary crises related to grazing bifurcations<sup>[24]</sup>, Mason and Piironen<sup>[25]</sup> discovered a new double-crisis vertex associated with the sudden disappearance of chaotic orbits. This double-crisis vertex is generated by the intersection of a grazing curve related to the sudden disappearance of chaotic orbits and a boundary crisis curve, which is called as a grazing-crisis vertex.

This paper demonstrates the existence of three types of crises in a single-degree-of-freedom piecewise linear oscillator. From the perspective of manifold tangency, the mechanisms of different crises are revealed, and critical exponents are determined to distinguish between homoclinic crises and heteroclinic crises. As the parameter continuously changes, chaotic orbits disappear abruptly at a certain critical point and reappear suddenly at another critical point. This phenomenon is related to the two tangencies of the stable and unstable manifolds of the boundary saddle. Besides we show that there are complex interactions between boundary crises and hysteresis, inducing transition repeatedly between a stable periodic orbit and a chaotic orbit.

The remaining structure is as follows. In Section 2, we give the mechanical model and the equations of motion. In Section 3, the theory of homoclinic crises and heteroclinic crises from the standpoint of manifold tangency proposed by Grebogi et al. is represented, and the concept of escape regions and intermittency regions formed by the intersection of manifolds after crises are introduced, and the mechanism of crisis disappearance is revealed using crisis-disappearance points in the two parameters domain. In Section 4, we reveal the dynamic behavior of the sudden disappearance and reappearance of chaotic orbits based on tangencies of the stable and unstable manifolds of the boundary saddle, and show and the presence of multiple boundary-crisis points can lead to a complex hysteresis phenomenon. Besides, crisis-disappearance points related to interior crises and merging crises are discovered, and the existence of crisis-disappearance points is demonstrated by

numerical simulation. Section 5 gives a short summary.

## 2. Mechanical model

The single-degree-of-freedom piecewise linear oscillator is shown as in Fig. 1. There is a mass block  $M$  on the horizontal surface, and the displacement of the mass block  $M$  in the horizontal direction is denoted by  $X$ . When the displacement  $X < 0$ , the mass block  $M$  is connected to the wall through a linear spring  $K_1$  and linear damping  $C$ . When the displacement is  $X = 0$ , the mass block  $M$  contacts with the linear spring  $K_2$ . The mass block  $M$  is subjected to an external force  $F$ .

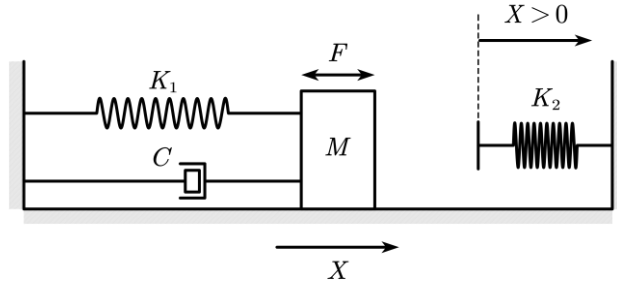


Fig. 1. A single-degree-of-freedom piecewise linear oscillator.

According to Newton's laws, the motion differential equation of the oscillator can be expressed as

$$M\ddot{X} + C\dot{X} + KX = F, \quad (1)$$

where  $K$  represents the stiffness, expressed as a piecewise linear function

$$K = \begin{cases} K_1, & X < 0, \\ K_1 + K_2, & X \geq 0. \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

When the external force  $F = W + B\sin(\Omega t)$ , this equation can be used to simulate the dynamics of a suspension bridge model<sup>[26]</sup>, where  $W$  represents a constant force,  $B$  represents the amplitude of harmonic excitation, and  $\Omega$  represents the frequency of harmonic excitation. Nondimensional parameters  $x = XK_1 / W$ ,  $\tau = t\sqrt{K_1 / M}$ ,  $\omega = \Omega\sqrt{M / K_1}$ ,  $2\xi = C / \sqrt{K_1 M}$ ,  $k = K_2 / K_1$ ,  $f = F / M$  are introduced. Let  $x' = dx / d\tau$ . The motion differential equation (1) can be rewritten as

$$\begin{cases} x' = y, \\ y' = f - 2\xi y - bx, \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

where

$$b = \begin{cases} 1, & x < 0, \\ 1 + k, & x \geq 0. \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

### 3. Crisis dynamics

In the following section 3.1 and 3.2, the theory of crises proposed by Grebogi et al.<sup>[9][10][27]</sup> will be discussed briefly, and we introduce the concept of the escape regions and the intermittency regions on this basis. In the section 3.3, we will give the concept of crisis-disappearance points.

#### 3.1 Homoclinic crises and heteroclinic crises

Crises can be divided into homoclinic crises and heteroclinic crises based on the type of manifolds tangency. It should be noted that before the manifolds are tangent, the chaotic orbit lies on a branch of the unstable manifold but is not the closure of this branch. In other words, it is a subset of the closure of a certain unstable manifold branch associated with an unstable periodic orbit. It is only when tangency occurs that the chaotic orbit equals the closure of the unstable manifold branch.

#### 3.2 Two types of regions related to crises

The concepts of boundary saddles (i.e., saddle orbits located on the basin boundary, denoted by  $BS$ ) and interior saddles (i.e., saddle orbits located within the basin of attraction, denoted by  $IS$ ) contribute to a deeper understanding of the crisis dynamics induced by the tangency of manifolds.

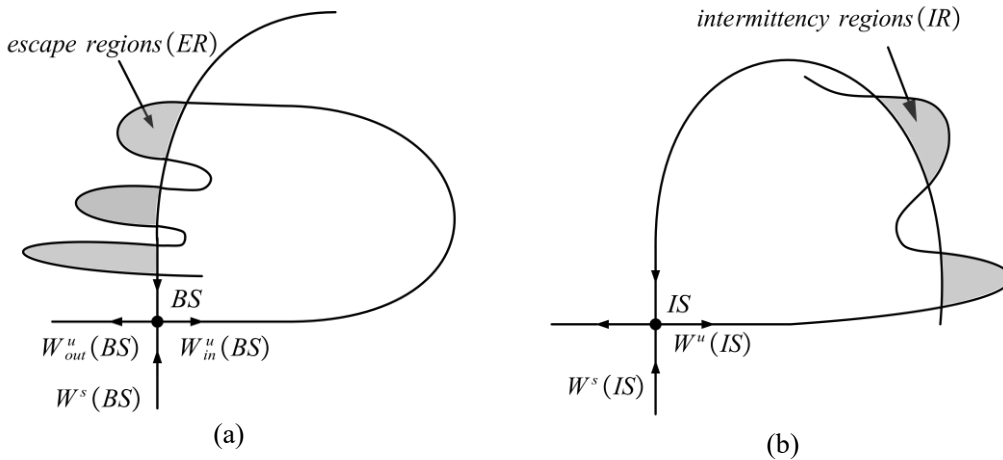


Fig. 2. The regions caused by the intersection of the stable and unstable manifolds of the unstable orbits after crises, (a) the escape regions; (b) the intermittency regions.

##### 3.2.1 The escape regions.

As shown in Fig. 2(a), the stable and unstable manifolds of the boundary saddle  $BS$  are denoted by  $W^s(BS)$  and  $W^u(BS)$ , respectively  $W_{in}^u(BS)$  and  $W_{out}^u(BS)$  represent unstable manifold branches located on the inner and outer sides of the basin of attraction of the chaotic orbit, respectively. After a boundary crisis, the unstable manifold intersects transversally with the stable manifold, creating the escape regions indicated by the shaded area. In fact, there are infinite such escape regions,

because that once  $W^s(BS)$  and  $W^u(BS)$  intersect to one point, there will be infinite intersection points. If the initial point is chosen in the basin of the chaotic orbit before the crisis, the trajectory will be attracted by the chaotic orbit before the crisis for an arbitrary long time. This is almost indistinguishable from the chaotic orbit before the crisis, and this phenomenon is called chaotic transients<sup>[10]</sup>. The lifetime of chaotic transients is highly sensitive to initial condition. As time increases, the trajectory may leave the old region suddenly, enter an escape region  $ER$  along the direction of the stable manifold, and then leave the old region along the direction of  $W_{out}^u(BS)$ , ultimately being attracted by the attractor from other regions (infinity can also be considered as an attractor).

Let the critical parameter value for a boundary crisis occurrence be denoted as  $B^*$ , and the mean lifetime of chaotic transients be denoted as  $\tau(\sigma)$ . In a general case, assuming that the tangency between the stable manifold and the unstable manifold is quadratic, and the manifolds intersect with nonzero speed at the tangency. The variation of  $\tau(\sigma)$  with respect to parameters can be expressed as<sup>[28]</sup>

$$A(\sigma) \sim b^{-\sigma}, \quad (5)$$

where

$$b = |B - B^*|. \quad (6)$$

$\sigma$  is referred to as the critical exponent, depending on the type of manifold tangency during the crisis.

When the heteroclinic tangency occurs, we have

$$\sigma = \frac{1}{2} + (\ln|\alpha_1|) / |\ln|\alpha_2||, \quad (7)$$

where  $\alpha_1$  and  $\alpha_2$  are the expanding ( $|\alpha_1| > 1$ ) and contracting ( $|\alpha_2| < 1$ ) eigenvalues, respectively.

When the homoclinic tangency occurs, we have

$$\sigma = (\ln|\beta_2|) / (\ln|\beta_1\beta_2|^2), \quad (8)$$

where  $\beta_1$  and  $\beta_2$  are the expanding ( $|\beta_1| > 1$ ) and contracting ( $|\beta_2| < 1$ ) eigenvalues, respectively.

### 3.2.2 The intermittency regions

Unlike boundary crises, interior crises are related to the interior saddle  $IS$ , but the basin boundary of the chaotic orbit is formed by the closure of the stable manifold of the boundary saddle  $BS$ . As shown in Fig. 2(b), the regions formed by the intersection of the stable manifold  $W^s(IS)$  and the unstable manifold  $W^u(IS)$  of the interior saddle  $IS$  after an interior crisis is referred to as the intermittency regions  $IR$ . Additionally, there is a return region, which is formed by the preimage of the chaotic orbit before the interior crisis. When the stable manifold of the interior saddle is tangent

to its unstable manifold, the interior crisis occurs, and there is a sudden change in the size of the chaotic orbit.

For parameter values changes slightly after the crisis, the trajectory tends to stay on the chaotic orbit before the crisis. When the chaotic orbit accidentally enters an intermittency region  $IR$ , it moves towards the expanded region of the chaotic orbit along the direction of the stable manifold  $W^s(IS)$ . After a short stretch of bounce in the expanded region, the trajectory enters the return region and then returns to the original region, exhibiting an intermittency between expanded region and original region.

Merging crises is similar to interior crises, after the crisis point, the intersection of manifolds also creates intermittency regions, and the trajectory exhibits intermittently switches between the two-piece chaotic orbit before the crisis.

### 3.3 Crisis-disappearance points

In the case where the stable and unstable manifold of the same boundary saddle undergo two tangencies, it leads to the sudden disappearance and re-emergence of a chaotic orbit. With the changes of the parameter  $B$ , let  $D_B$  represent the distance between the two parameters where the tangency occur, so  $D_B$  can be defined as

$$D_B = |B_{BC_2} - B_{BC_1}|, \quad (9)$$

Where  $B_{BC_1}$ ,  $B_{BC_2}$  represent the parameter values corresponding to the occurrences of the two boundary crises.

In the two-parameter space, varying parameters  $B$  and  $\xi$  simultaneously, the relationship between  $D_B$  and the parameters  $B$  and  $\xi$  can be illustrated by the schematic diagram in Fig. 3. In this diagram, the crisis curves  $C_{BC_1}$  and  $C_{BC_2}$  correspond to the boundary crises  $BC_1$  and  $BC_2$ , respectively. Each point on curves  $C_{BC_1}$  and  $C_{BC_2}$  represents a tangency between the stable and unstable manifolds of a boundary saddle. The curves  $C_{BC_1}$  and  $C_{BC_2}$  coalesce and annihilate each other at a vertex. We call this vertex a crisis-disappearance point. Continuing to increase  $\xi$  beyond the crisis-disappearance point, the boundary crisis will no longer occur, so the chaotic orbit will persist. According to Ref. [23], we believe that there are infinitely many gaps caused by period windows on curves  $C_{BC_1}$  and  $C_{BC_2}$ .

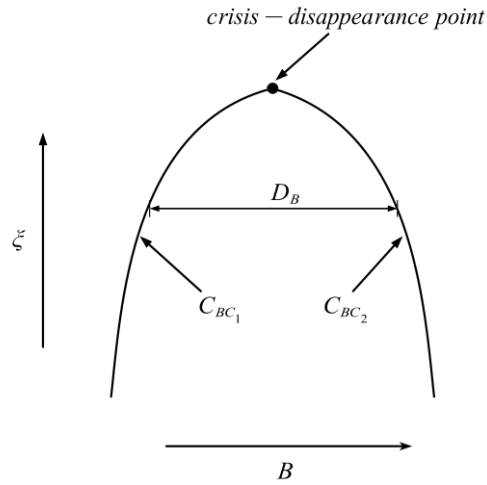


Fig. 3. A crisis-disappearance point.

## 4. Crisis dynamics of piecewise linear oscillators

In this Section, taking  $B$  as the bifurcation parameter and fixing some parameters of the system as  $W = 1$ ,  $k = 50$ ,  $\omega = 0.6$ , we investigate the crisis dynamics of the system for different values of  $\xi$ .

### 4.1. Boundary crises

#### 4.1.1. $\xi=0.073$

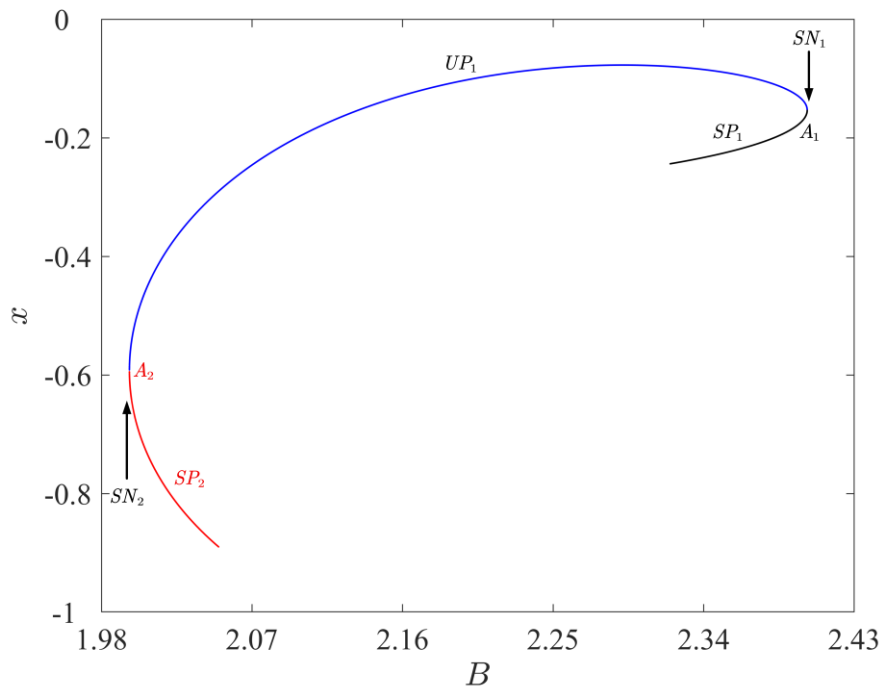


Fig. 4. Two saddle-node bifurcations generate the same unstable orbit  $UP$ ,  $\xi = 0.073$ .



As shown in Fig. 4, when  $\xi = 0.073$ , saddle-node bifurcations  $SN_1$  and  $SN_2$  occur at  $B = B_{SN_1} = 2.40187$  and  $B = B_{SN_2} = 1.99671$ , respectively. These two saddle-node bifurcations generate the same unstable periodic orbit  $UP_1$ . Next, we will analyze the complex crisis dynamics of the two stable orbits  $A_1$  and  $A_2$ .

Figure 5 shows the bifurcation diagram corresponding to the stable period-1 orbit  $SP_1$  generated by saddle-node bifurcation  $SN_1$  when the parameters  $B$  change continuously. As the parameter decreases to  $B = B_{PD_1} = 2.17221$ , the stable period-1 orbit  $SP_1$  undergoes the period-doubling bifurcation at  $PD_1$ , generating an unstable period-1 orbit  $UP_2$  and a stable period-2 orbit. As the parameter continues to decrease, each branch of the stable period-2 orbit, through a period-doubling cascade, produces a chaotic band. The two chaotic bands collide with the unstable period-1 orbit  $UP_2$  at  $MC_1$  leading to a merging crisis, and the two chaotic bands merge into one. As the parameter decreases to  $B = B_{IC_1} = 2.03834$ , the chaotic orbit resulting from the merging crisis collides with an unstable period-3 orbit  $UP_3$  born in the saddle-node bifurcation  $SN_3$ , causing an internal crisis. The internal crisis makes the chaotic orbit to be in a larger-sized chaotic orbit  $CA_{11}$ . As the parameter continues to decrease to  $B = B_{BC_1} = 2.0282696$ , the chaotic orbit collides with the unstable orbit  $UP_1$ , resulting in a boundary crisis  $BC_1$ . The chaotic orbit  $CA_{11}$  disappears abruptly. When the parameter decreases to  $B = B_{BC_2} = 2.0128459$ , another boundary crisis  $BC_2$  occurs, and the chaotic orbit  $CA_{12}$  reappears suddenly. The types and dynamical behaviors at each crises point are shown in Tab. 1.

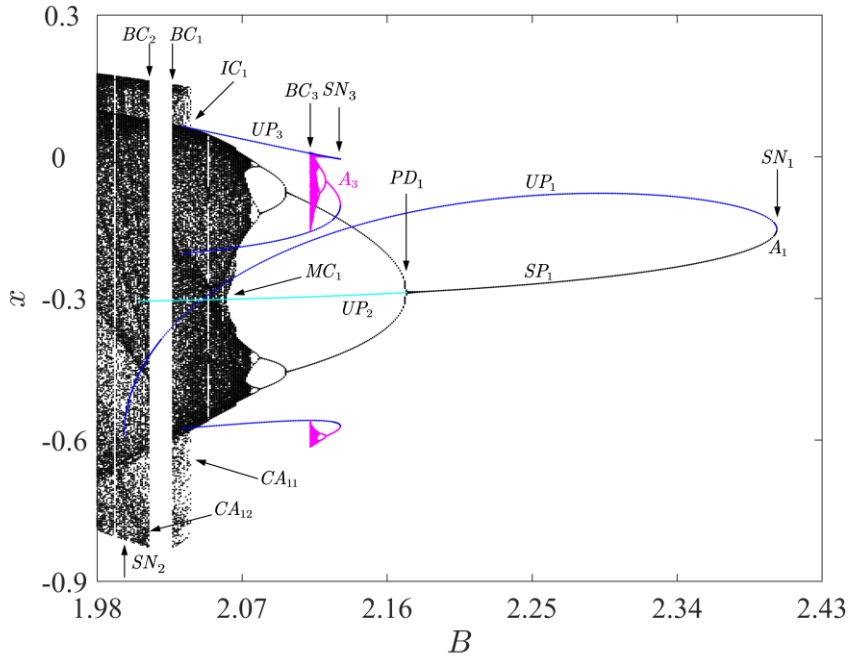


Fig. 5. The bifurcation diagram,  $\xi = 0.073$  and  $B \in [1.98, 2.43]$ .

Tab. 1. The corresponding crisis dynamics in Fig. 5.

Parameter value	Type of crises	Dynamics behavior
$B_{BC_1}$	Boundary crisis	Chaotic orbit $CA_{11}$ collides with unstable orbit $UP_1$
$B_{BC_2}$	Boundary crisis	Chaotic orbit $CA_{12}$ collides with unstable orbit $UP_1$
$B_{BC_3}$	Boundary crisis	Three-piece Chaotic orbit collides simultaneously with unstable orbit $UP_3$
$B_{IC_1}$	Interior crisis	Chaotic orbit collides with unstable orbit $UP_3$
$B_{MC_1}$	Merging crisis	Two-piece Chaotic orbit collides simultaneously with unstable orbit $UP_2$

Boundary crises  $BC_1$  and  $BC_2$  are both associated with unstable orbit  $UP_1$ . The stable manifold closure of  $UP_1$  forms the basin boundary between stable orbits  $A_1$  and  $A_2$ , so it belongs to the boundary saddle  $BS_1$ . Let the unstable manifold branch corresponding to the stable orbit  $A_1$  be  $W^u(BS_1)$ , and the intersection of the stable manifold  $W^s(BS_1)$  and the unstable manifold  $W^u(BS_1)$  provides escape regions for chaotic transients after the crisis. As the parameter  $B$  increases, the area of escape regions also increases, leading to a greater possibility of escape for chaotic transients. Figure 8 shows how the mean lifetime  $\tau$  of chaotic transients near two boundary crises depends on  $|B - B_{BC}|$ . Figure 6(a) (Fig. 6(b)) show the relationship between the mean lifetime of chaotic

transients and the parameter value after the occurrence of boundary crisis  $BC_1$  (before the occurrence of boundary crisis  $BC_2$ ). In the log-log scale plot, the critical exponent corresponds to the slope of the line, and the blue dashed line represents the fitted result. Table 2 presents critical exponents fitted and calculated by Eqs. (7) and (8).  $\sigma_1$  and  $\sigma_2$  represent the critical exponents corresponding to boundary crises  $BC_1$  and  $BC_2$ , respectively. By comparing the results of numerical fitting with the theoretical calculation, it is shown that  $BC_1$  belongs to the heteroclinic crisis, while  $BC_2$  belongs to the homoclinic crisis.

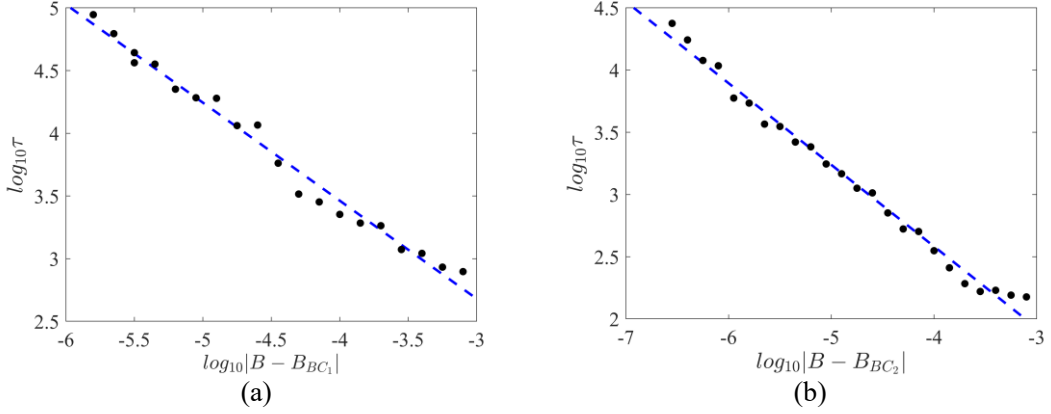


Fig. 6. The mean lifetime of chaotic transients, (a) after the occurrence of boundary crisis  $BC_1$ ; (b) before the occurrence of boundary crisis  $BC_2$ .

Tab. 2. The critical exponents corresponding to  $BC_1, BC_2$ .

Critical exponents	Numerical fitting	Heteroclinic crisis	Homoclinic crisis
$\sigma_1$	0.7821	0.7590	0.6747
$\sigma_2$	0.6558	0.7223	0.6429

Figures 7 and 8 present the manifold diagrams at boundary crises  $BC_1$  and  $BC_2$ , respectively. As shown in Fig. 7, the stable manifold  $W^s(BS_1)$  of the boundary saddle  $BS_1$  (i.e., unstable orbit  $UP_1$ ) undergoes a heteroclinic tangency with the unstable manifold  $W^u(IS_1)$  of the internal saddle  $IS_1$  (i.e., unstable orbit  $UP_2$ ) born in the period-doubling bifurcation  $PD_1$ . This leads to a sudden disappearance of the chaotic orbit  $CA_{11}$ . Here, the chaotic orbit  $CA_{11}$  is not only the closure of the unstable manifold branch  $W^u(IS_1)$ , but also the closure of the unstable manifold branch  $W_1^u(BS_1)$ . As shown in Fig. 8, the homoclinic tangency of the stable manifold  $W^s(BS_1)$  and the unstable manifold branch  $W_1^u(BS_1)$  causes the reappearance of disappeared chaotic orbit  $CA_{11}$ , forming a chaotic orbit

$CA_{1_2}$ . The phenomenon of the chaotic orbit  $CA_{1_1}$  suddenly disappearing and then reappearing can be explained from the perspective of manifolds. For  $B > B_{BC_1}$ , the unstable manifold branch  $W_1^u(BS_1)$  of the chaotic orbit  $CA_{1_1}$  is within basin boundary formed by the closure of the stable manifold  $W^s(BS_1)$ . After the merging crisis  $MC_1$  occurs, the chaotic orbit always is the closure of the unstable manifold  $W^u(IS_1)$ . The tangency of the stable manifold  $W^s(BS_1)$  with the unstable manifold branch  $W^u(IS_1)$  ( $W_1^u(BS_1)$ ) causes a heteroclinic crisis at  $B = B_{BC_1}$ . As  $B$  further decreases, the stable manifold  $W^s(BS_1)$  intersects with the unstable manifold  $W_1^u(BS_1)$ , forming escape regions. The area of the escape regions exhibits a pattern of increasing and then decreasing as the parameter  $B$  decreases. When  $B$  decreases to  $B = B_{BC_2}$ , the area of escape regions decreases to zero, and the stable manifold  $W^s(BS_1)$  and the unstable manifold  $W_1^u(BS_1)$  are homoclinically tangent. Once the homoclinic crisis occurs, the chaotic orbit  $CA_{1_2}$  reappears.

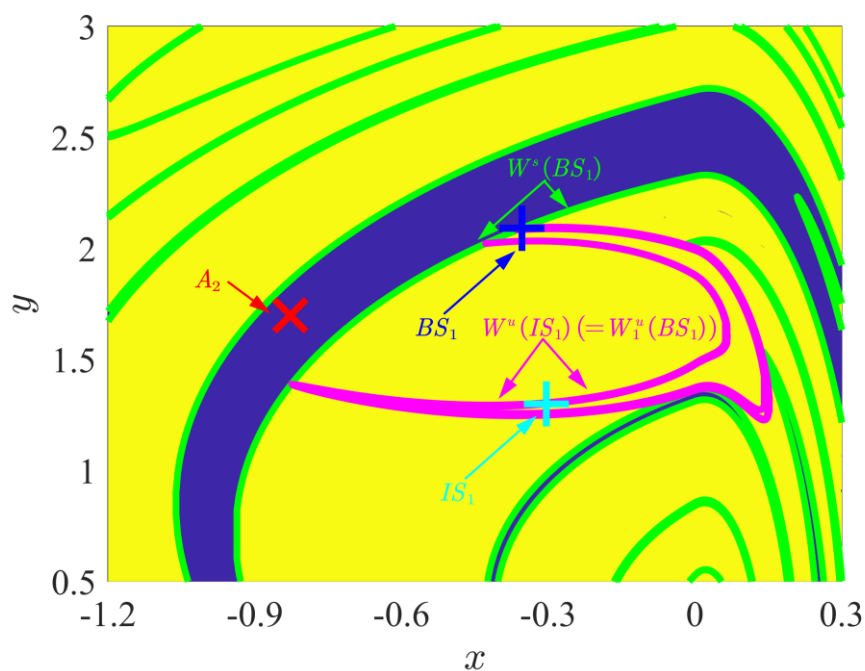


Fig. 7. The heteroclinic tangency between the unstable manifold  $W^u(IS_1)$  of the interior saddle  $IS_1$  and the stable manifold  $W^s(BS_1)$  of the boundary saddle  $BS_1$ ,  $B = B_{BC_1}$ .

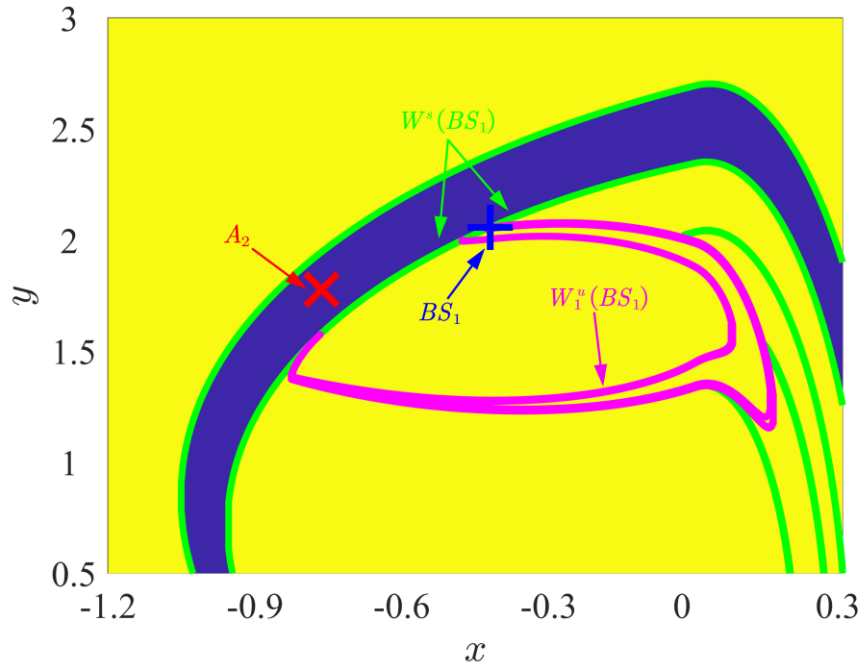


Fig. 8. The homoclinic tangency between the stable manifold  $W^s(BS_1)$  and the unstable manifold branch  $W_1^u(BS_1)$  of the boundary saddle  $BS_1$ ,  $B = B_{BC_2}$ .

The coexistence of stable orbits  $A_2, A_4$  is illustrated in Fig. 9. Similarly, for stable orbits  $A_2$ , as the parameter  $B$  increases, firstly, a stable period-1 orbit  $SP_2$  undergoes a period-doubling cascade into a chaotic orbit  $CA_{21}$ . This chaotic orbit collides with an unstable orbit  $UP_1$  at  $B_{BC_4} = 2.2057122$ , leading to a boundary crisis  $BC_4$ , and the chaotic orbit  $CA_{21}$  abruptly disappears. When  $B$  increases to  $B_{BC_5} = 2.3926124$ , boundary crisis  $BC_5$  occurs, and the chaotic orbit  $CA_{22}$  reappears.

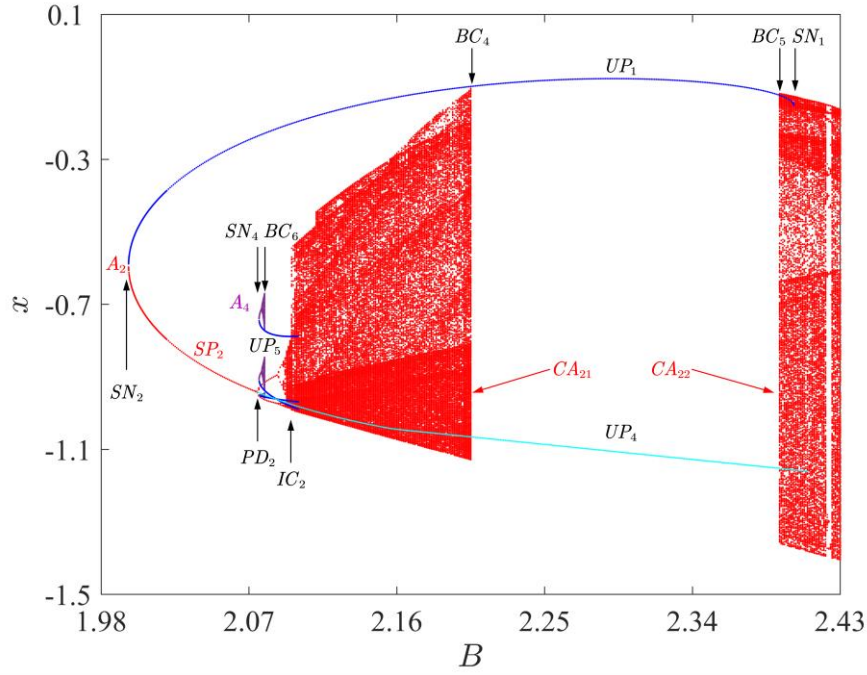


Fig. 9. The bifurcation diagram,  $\xi = 0.073$  and  $B \in [1.98, 2.43]$ .

Tab. 3. The corresponding crisis dynamics in Fig. 9.

Parameter value	Type	Dynamics behavior
$B_{BC_4}$	Boundary crisis	Chaotic orbit $CA_{21}$ collides with unstable orbit $UP_1$
$B_{BC_5}$	Boundary crisis	Chaotic orbit $CA_{22}$ collides with unstable orbit $UP_1$
$B_{BC_6}$	Boundary crisis	Three-piece Chaotic orbit collides simultaneously with unstable orbit $UP_5$
$B_{IC_2}$	Interior crisis	Chaotic orbit collides with unstable orbit $UP_5$

In the log-log scale plot, Fig. 10(a) (Fig. 10(b)) shows the relationship between the mean lifetime of chaotic transients and the parameter value after the occurrence of the boundary crisis  $BC_4$  (before the occurrence of the boundary crisis  $BC_5$ ). Table 2 presents critical exponents fitted and calculated by Eqs. (7) and (8).  $\sigma_4$  and  $\sigma_5$  represent the critical exponents corresponding to boundary crises  $BC_4$  and  $BC_5$ , respectively. By comparing the results of numerical fitting with the theoretical calculation, it is shown that  $BC_4$  belongs to the heteroclinic crisis, while  $BC_5$  belongs to the homoclinic crisis.

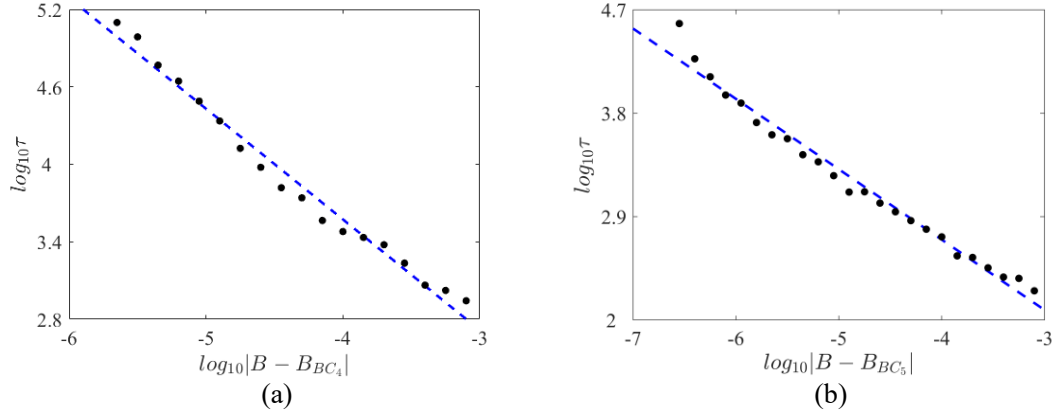


Fig. 10. The mean lifetime of chaotic transients, (a) after the occurrence of boundary crisis  $BC_4$ ; (b) before the occurrence of boundary crisis  $BC_5$ .

Tab. 4. The critical exponents corresponding to  $BC_4, BC_5$ .

Critical exponent	Numerical fitting	Heteroclinic crisis	Homoclinic crisis
$\sigma_4$	0.8574	0.8344	0.7512
$\sigma_5$	0.6123	0.6872	0.6152

Figures 11 and 12 give the manifold diagrams corresponding to  $BC_4$  and  $BC_5$ , respectively. As shown in Fig. 11, the stable manifold  $W^s(BS_1)$  of the boundary saddle  $BS_1$  (i.e., unstable orbit  $UP_1$ ) and the unstable manifold  $W^u(IS_2)$  of the internal saddle  $IS_2$  (i.e., unstable orbit  $UP_4$ ) born in the period-doubling bifurcation  $PD_2$  undergoes a heteroclinic tangency, causing the sudden disappearance of the chaotic orbit  $CA_{21}$ . Simultaneously, the chaotic orbit  $CA_{21}$  is the closure of the unstable manifold  $W^u(IS_2)$  and the closure of the unstable manifold branch  $W_2^u(BS_1)$ . As shown in Fig. 12, the unstable manifold branch  $W_2^u(BS_1)$  of the boundary saddle  $BS_1$  and its stable manifold  $W^s(BS_1)$  have a homoclinic tangency, leading to the reappearance of the disappeared chaotic orbit  $CA_{21}$ , forming a chaotic orbit  $CA_{22}$ . The process of the chaotic orbit  $CA_{21}$  suddenly disappearing and then reappearing is also caused by the change in the area of escape regions formed by the intersections of manifolds.

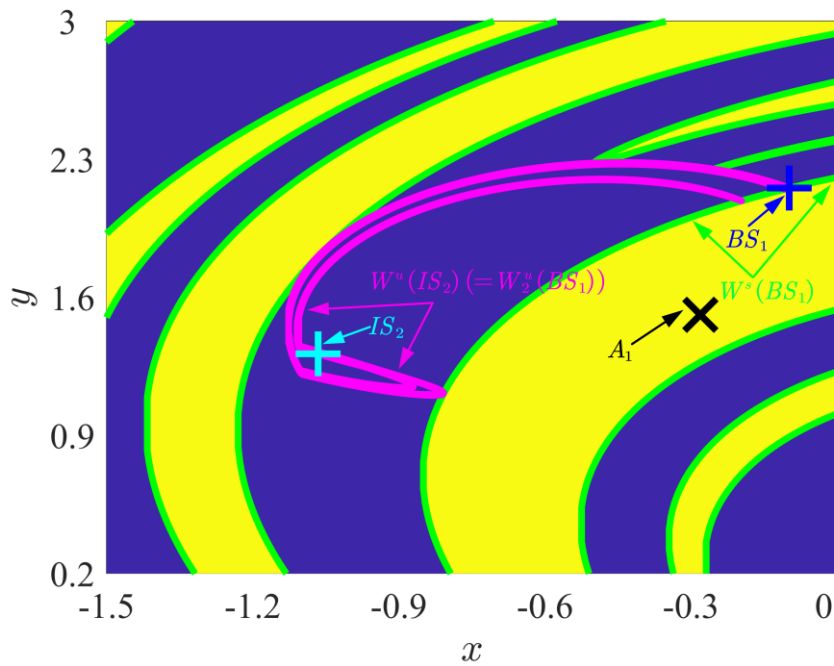


Fig. 11. The heteroclinic tangency between the unstable manifold  $W^u(IS_2)$  of the interior saddle  $IS_2$  and the stable manifold  $W^s(BS_1)$  of the boundary saddle  $BS_1$ ,  $B = B_{BC_4}$ .

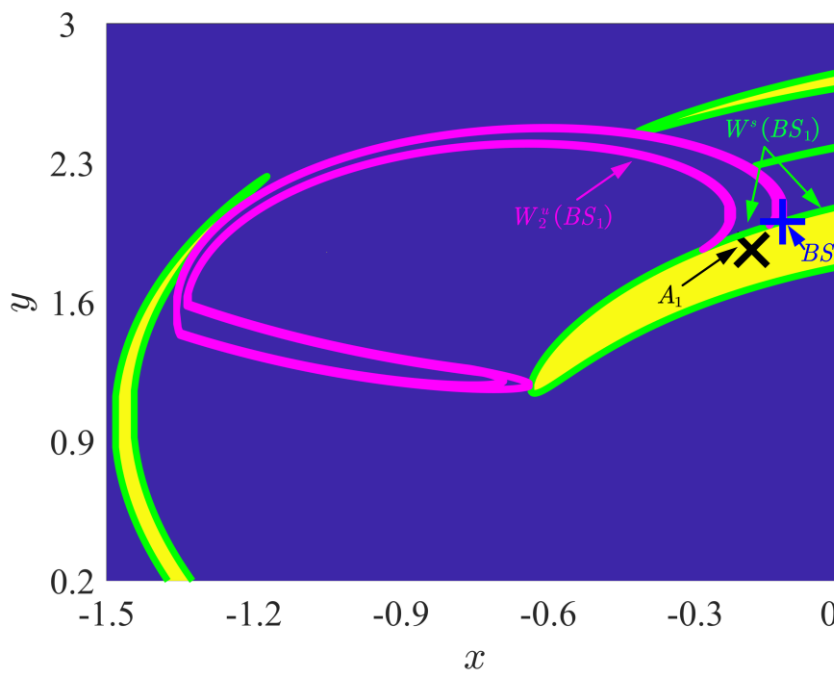


Fig. 12. The homoclinic tangency between the stable manifold  $W^s(BS_1)$  and the unstable manifold  $W_2^u(BS_1)$  of the boundary saddle  $BS_1$ ,  $B = B_{BC_5}$ .

As chaotic orbits suddenly disappearing and reappearing in the orbits  $A_1$  and  $A_2$ , the stable



manifold  $W^s(BS_1)$  of the boundary saddle  $BS_1$  and its two unstable manifold branches  $W_1^u(BS_1)$ ,  $W_2^u(BS_1)$  both undergo two tangencies as the parameter  $B$  continuously changes.

The bifurcation diagram in Fig. 13 is the combination of Fig. 5 and Fig. 9. It is shown that two stable orbits  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  exhibit a complex hysteresis effect in the region  $B \in [B_{SN_2}, B_{SN_1}]$ . Due to boundary crises caused by collisions with  $UP_1$ , the corresponding chaotic orbits of the two stable orbits  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  are interrupted in intervals  $B \in [B_{BC_2}, B_{BC_1}]$  and  $B \in [B_{BC_4}, B_{BC_5}]$ , respectively. Consequently, the dynamics of system exhibit complex hysteresis behaviors.

(1) Along the direction of the increasing parameter  $B$ : As  $B = 1.98$ , the steady state is the chaotic orbit  $CA_{12}$  (on  $A_1$ ); as the parameter increases to the boundary bifurcation  $BC_2$ ,  $CA_{12}$  suddenly disappears, and the stable state transitions from  $CA_{12}$  to the period-1 orbit  $SP_2$  (on  $A_2$ ), Subsequently,  $SP_2$  goes through a period-doubling cascade, leading to the formation of the chaotic orbit  $CA_{21}$  (on  $A_2$ ); When the parameter increases to another boundary crisis  $BC_4$ ,  $CA_{21}$  is disrupted, and the stable state transitions from  $CA_{21}$  to another period-1 orbit  $SP_1$  (on  $A_1$ ); As the parameter continues to increase, and surpasses the saddle-node bifurcation  $SN_1$ , the system transitions back to the chaotic orbit  $CA_{22}$  (on  $A_2$ ). The transition relationship of the steady state is as follows:

$$\text{Chaotic orbit } CA_{12} \text{ (on } A_1) \xrightarrow{BC_2} \text{Period-1 orbit } SP_2 \text{ (on } A_2) \xrightarrow{\text{period-doubling cascade}} \text{Chaotic orbit } CA_{21} \text{ (on } A_2) \xrightarrow{BC_4} \text{Period-1 orbit } SP_1 \text{ (on } A_1) \xrightarrow{SN_1} \text{Chaotic orbit } CA_{22} \text{ (on } A_2)$$

(2) Similarly, along the direction of decreasing parameter  $B$ , the transition relationship of the steady state is as follows:

$$\text{Chaotic orbit } CA_{22} \text{ (on } A_2) \xrightarrow{BC_5} \text{Period-1 orbit } SP_1 \text{ (on } A_1) \xrightarrow{\text{period-doubling cascade}} \text{Chaotic orbit } CA_{11} \text{ (on } A_1) \xrightarrow{BC_1} \text{Period-1 orbit } SP_2 \text{ (on } A_2) \xrightarrow{SN_2} \text{Chaotic orbit } CA_{12} \text{ (on } A_1)$$

In summary, within the hysteresis region  $B \in [B_{SN_2}, B_{SN_1}]$ , due to boundary crises, the chaotic orbits associated with the coexisting stable orbits  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  are disrupted, leading to a dynamic transition phenomenon inside the hysteresis region. This means that there is a mutual transition of dynamic states among the orbits  $A_1$  and  $A_2$ .

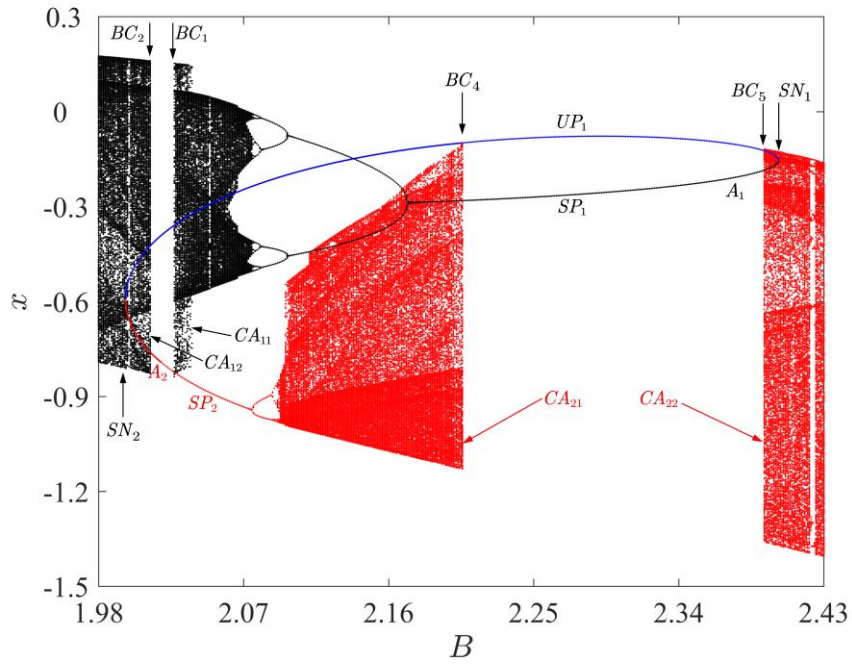


Fig. 13. The complex impact of crisis dynamics on hysteresis effects,  $B \in [1.98, 2.43]$ .

#### 4.1.2. $\xi=0.075$

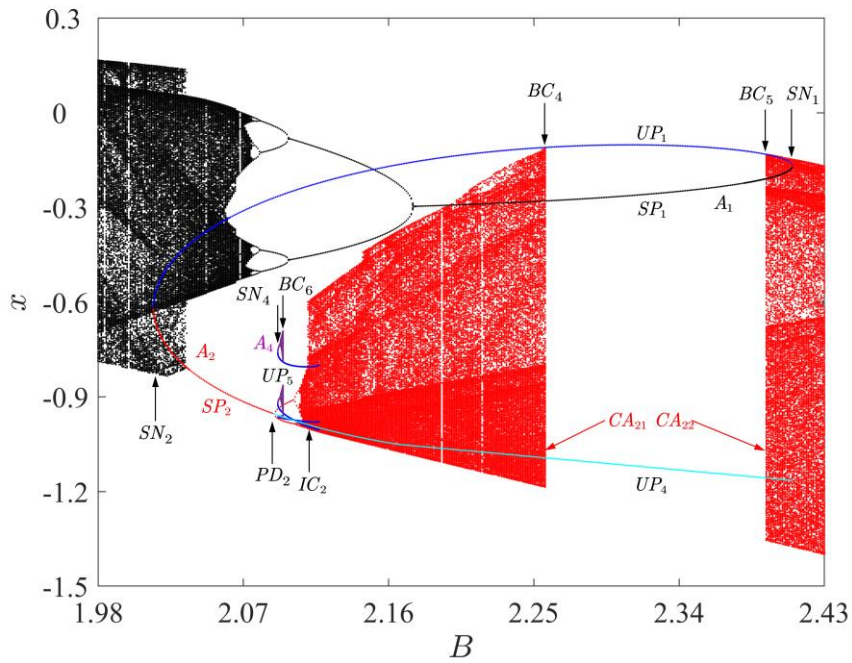


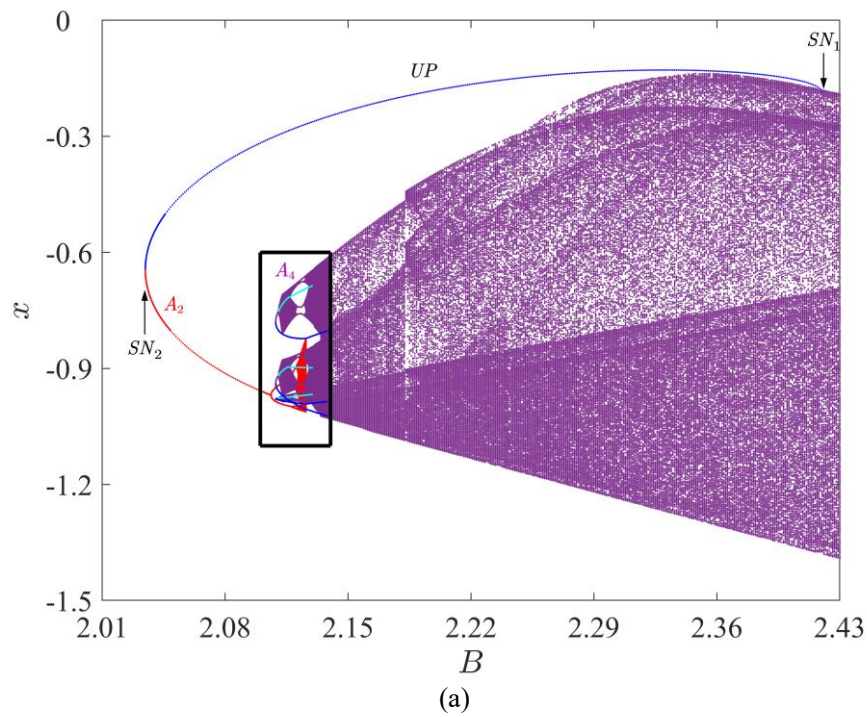
Fig. 14. The bifurcation diagram when  $\xi = 0.075$  and  $B \in [1.98, 2.43]$ .

When  $\xi$  increases to 0.075, the bifurcation diagram is shown in Fig. 14. Boundary crises  $BC_1, BC_2$  disappears, indicating that it exceeds the crisis-disappearance point associated with the

boundary crisis  $BC_1, BC_2$ . For the stable orbit  $A_1$ , the stable manifold  $W^s(BS_1)$  of the boundary saddle  $BS_1$  no longer has a tangency with its unstable manifold branch  $W_1^u(BS_1)$ , and the stable orbit  $A_1$  persists in the given parameter range. The phenomenon of the sudden disappearance and reappearance of chaotic orbits indicates that the existence of crisis-disappearance point is related to boundary crises.

#### 4.1.3. $\xi = 0.0773$

In the previous bifurcation diagrams, with the increase of parameter  $\xi$ , the boundary crises  $BC_1, BC_2$  related to stable orbit  $A_1$  disappear, and the distance between the boundary crises  $BC_4, BC_5$  related to stable orbit  $A_2$  decreases. The parameter values at which boundary crises  $BC_4, BC_5$  disappear can be determined.



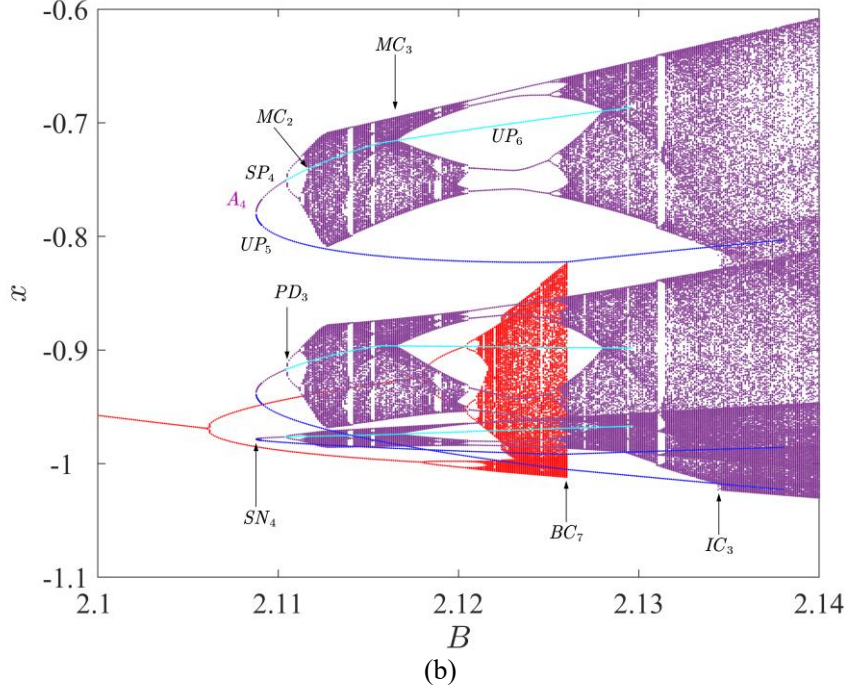


Fig. 15 The bifurcation diagram at  $\xi = 0.0773$ , (a)  $B \in [2.01, 2.43]$ ; (b)  $B \in [2.1, 2.14]$ .

Tab. 5. The corresponding crisis dynamics in Fig. 15.

Parameter value	Type	Dynamics behavior
$B_{BC_7}$	Boundary crisis	Chaotic orbit collides with unstable orbit $UP_5$
$B_{IC_3}$	Interior crisis	Three-piece Chaotic orbit collides simultaneously with unstable orbit $UP_5$
$B_{MC_2}$	Merging crisis	Two-piece Chaotic orbit collides simultaneously with unstable orbit $UP_6$
$B_{MC_3}$	Merging crisis	Two-piece Chaotic orbit collides simultaneously with unstable orbit $UP_6$

The bifurcation diagram at  $\xi = 0.0773$  is shown in Fig. 15. The partial enlargement corresponding to the marked region in Fig. 17(a) is depicted in Fig. 17(b). The saddle-node bifurcation  $SN_4$  at  $B = 2.10878$  induces a stable period-3 orbit  $SP_4$ . This orbit  $SP_4$  occupies a region within the basin of attraction of the stable orbit  $A_2$ . The stable manifold closure of the unstable period-3 orbit  $UP_5$  forms the basin boundary of the stable orbit  $A_4$ , so  $UP_5$  is referred as the boundary saddle  $BS_2$ . As the parameter  $B$  increases continuously,  $SP_4$  evolves into a three-piece chaotic orbit through a period-doubling cascade. Before  $B = B_{BC_6} = 2.12604$ , the unstable orbit  $UP_5$  did not collide

with the stable orbit  $A_4$ , because that it has already exceeded the crisis-disappearance point associated with the unstable orbit  $UP_5$ . Since the stable orbit  $A_4$  is not disrupted as the parameter  $B$  continues to increase, the basin of attraction for the stable orbit  $A_4$  also increases. As shown in Fig. 16, the chaotic orbit corresponding to the stable orbit  $A_2$  collides with  $BS_2$  and collides with the basin boundary of  $A_4$  at  $B = B_{BC_7}$  simultaneously. As the boundary crisis  $BC_7$  occurs, and the stable orbit  $A_2$  and its basin of attraction suddenly disappears. The basin of attraction of  $A_2$  is rapidly occupied by the basin of attraction of  $A_4$ , so the boundary saddle  $BS_2$  corresponding to the unstable period-3 orbit born in  $SN_4$  transforms into an interior saddle  $IS_3$ . As shown in Fig. 17, when  $B = B_{IC_3} = 2.13427$ , the chaotic orbit formed by  $A_4$  collides with the interior saddle  $IS_3$ . Interior crisis  $IC_3$  occurs, and the chaotic orbit suddenly expands. During the parameter  $B$  increase to  $SN_1$  continuously, the chaotic orbit does not collide with the unstable orbit  $UP_1$ , so the boundary crises  $BC_4$  and  $BC_5$  disappears.

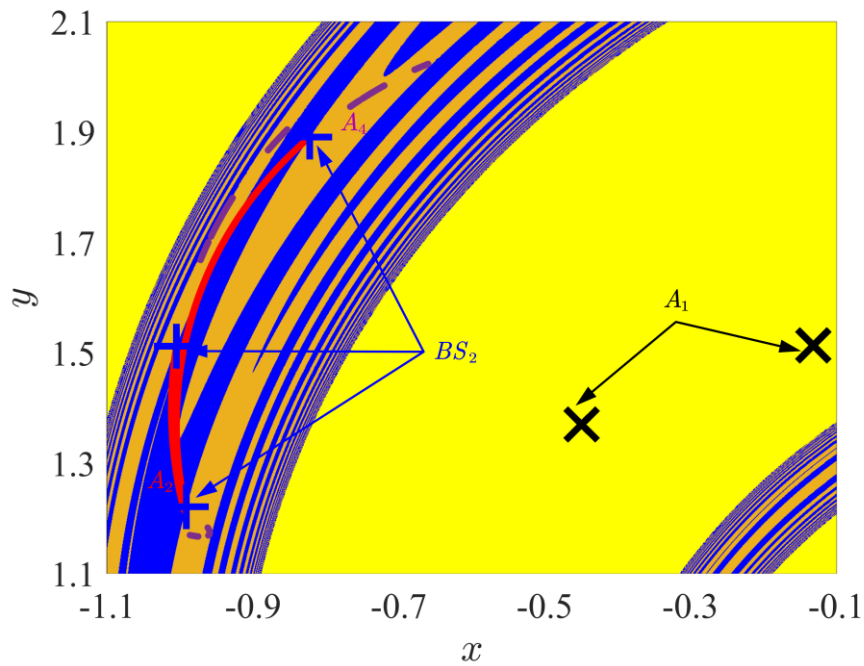


Fig. 16. Stable orbit  $A_2$  collides with boundary saddle  $BS_2$  at boundary crisis  $BC_7$ ,  $B = B_{BC_7}$ .

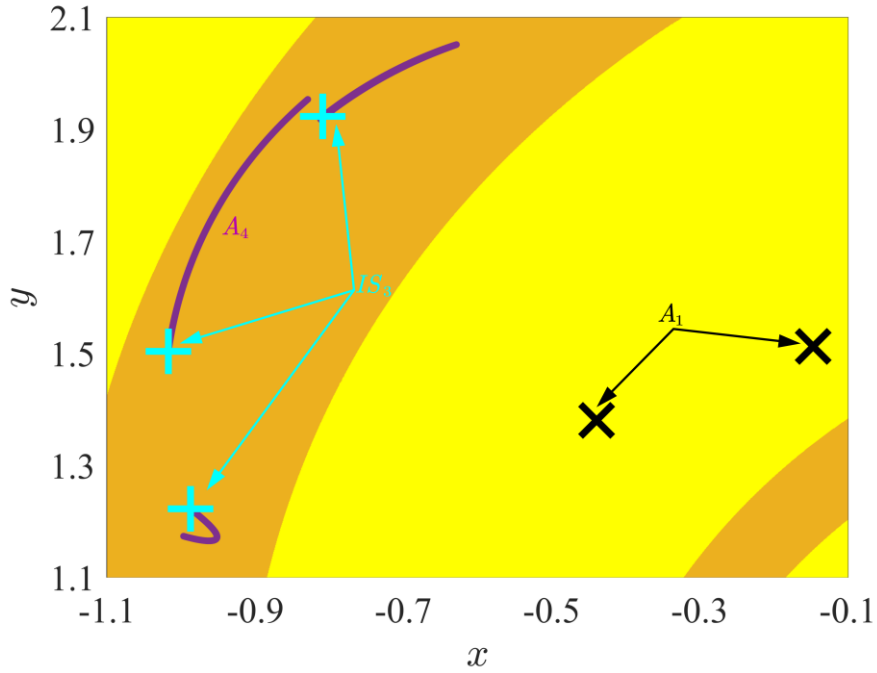


Fig. 17. Stable orbit  $A_4$  collides with interior saddle  $IS_3$  at interior crisis  $IC_3$ ,  $B = B_{IC_3}$ .

#### 4.2 Interior crises and merging crises

As shown in Fig. 15(b), there is a merging crisis  $MC_3$ , leading to the sudden splitting of chaotic orbits that merged at a merging crisis  $MC_2$ . This process is similar to the phenomenon described earlier, where a chaotic orbit suddenly disappears and then reappears. Merging crises  $MC_2$  and  $MC_3$  are both related to the unstable periodic orbit  $UP_6$  born in the period-doubling bifurcation  $PD_3$ . Similarly, we can examine this process by the changes in the area of intermittency regions formed by the intersection of the stable and unstable manifolds of the unstable periodic orbit  $UP_6$ . The stable and unstable manifolds of the unstable periodic orbit  $UP_6$  undergo the first tangency at  $B = B_{MC_2}$ , resulting in the sudden merging of a chaotic orbit. Beyond a critical value  $B_{MC_2}$ , the intersections of the manifolds forms intermittency regions. As the parameter continues to increase, the area of these regions grows initially and then decreases. When  $B = B_{MC_3}$ , the area of the intermittency regions becomes zero, indicating the second tangency of the manifolds. This causes the sudden splitting of the previously merged chaotic orbit.

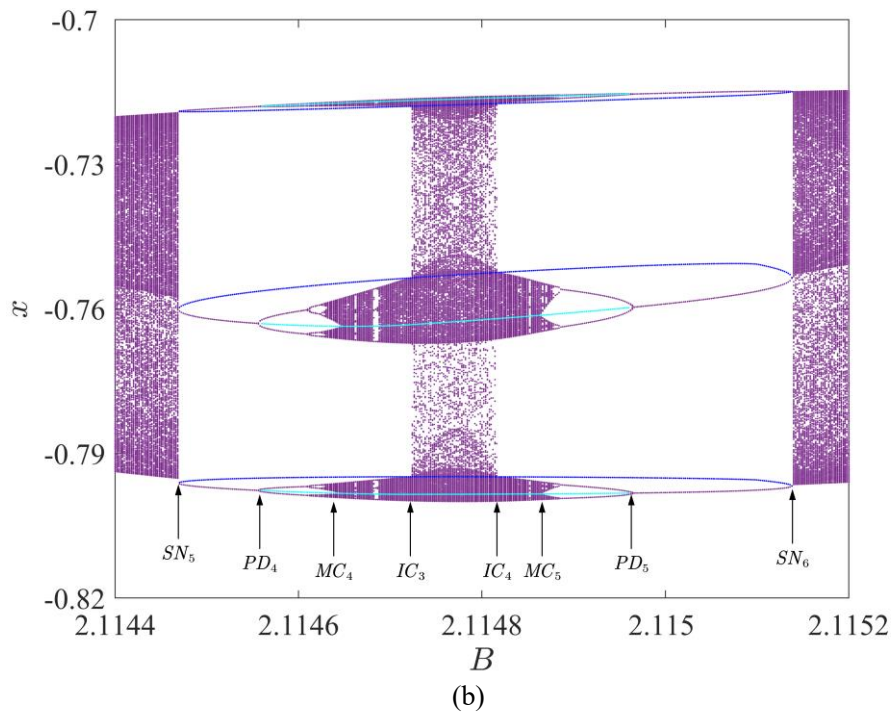
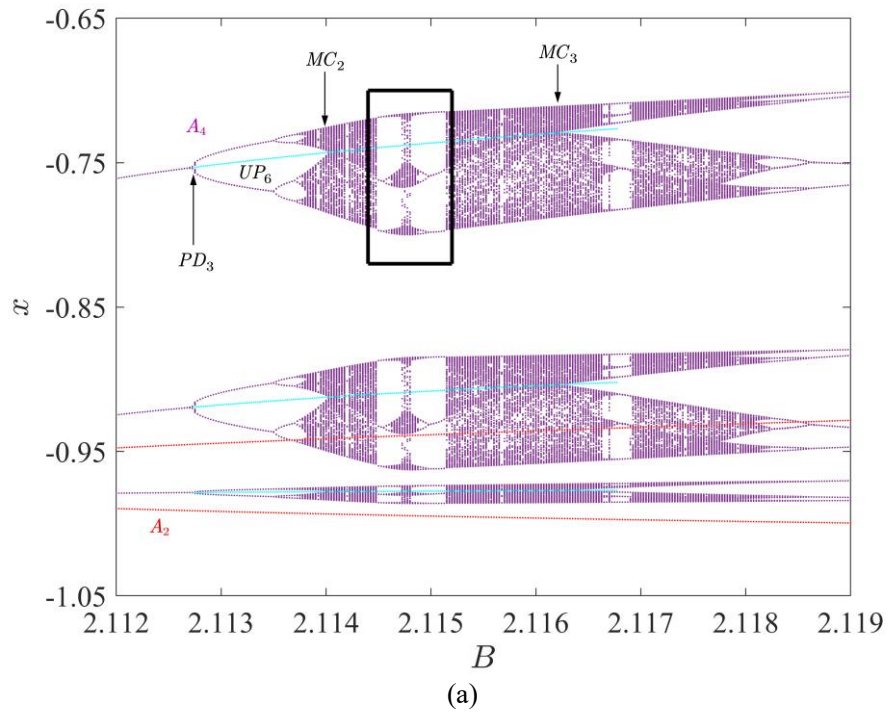


Fig. 18. The bifurcation diagram at  $\xi = 0.0776$ , (a)  $B \in [2.111, 2.119]$ ; (b)  $B \in [2.1144, 2.1152]$ .



Tab. 6. The corresponding crisis dynamics in Fig. 18.

Parameter value	Type	Dynamics behavior
$B_{IC_4}$	Interior crisis	Nine-piece Chaotic orbit collides simultaneously with unstable orbit $UP_8$
$B_{IC_5}$	Interior crisis	Nine-piece Chaotic orbit collides simultaneously with unstable orbit $UP_8$
$B_{MC_4}$	Merging crisis	Eighteen-piece Chaotic orbit collides simultaneously with unstable orbit $UP_7$
$B_{MC_5}$	Merging crisis	Eighteen-piece Chaotic orbit collides simultaneously with unstable orbit $UP_7$

When parameter  $\xi = 0.0776$ , the corresponding bifurcation diagram is shown in Fig. 18. Figure 18(b) provides a partial enlargement of Fig. 18(a). This represents a "special" period window: the unstable orbit  $UP_8$  between the period-doubling bifurcations  $PD_4$  and  $PD_5$  leads to the sudden merging of chaotic orbit at the merging crisis  $MC_4$ , and re-split at the merging crisis  $MC_5$ . In this window, a similar process is observed for interior crises. The collision between the unstable orbit  $UP_7$  and a chaotic orbit between the saddle-node bifurcations  $SN_5$  and  $SN_6$  leads to the occurrence of interior crises  $IC_4$  and  $IC_5$ . The interior crisis  $IC_4$  causes a sudden expansion in the size of the chaotic orbit. As the parameter  $B$  increases, an interior crisis  $IC_5$  results in the previously enlarged chaotic crisis to shrink suddenly. This process of the sudden expansion and shrinking in a chaotic orbit is explained by examining the change in the area of intermittency regions formed when the stable manifold of the interior saddle intersects with its unstable manifold.

The occurrence of merging crises  $MC_2, MC_3, MC_4, MC_5$  and interior crises  $IC_4, IC_5$  indicates the existence of crisis-disappearance points related to merging crises and interior crises. There are infinite such "special" periodic windows, but as the period increases, their existence intervals become smaller and harder to observe. This also suggests that there is more than one crisis-disappearance point associated with merging crises and interior crises.

#### 4.3 Crisis- disappearance points in parameter space $(\xi, B)$

The case of two parameters is considered. Let  $D_{B_i} = |B_{BC_4} - B_{BC_5}|$  corresponding to different damping coefficient  $\xi$ , as shown in Tab. 7. With the increase of  $\xi$ , although the parameter values for boundary crises may change, their distance shows a decreasing trend. The mean lifetime of chaotic transients is related to the area of escape regions. When  $D_{B_i}$  reaches a very small value, the relationship between the area of escape regions and the parameter  $B$  does not satisfy Eq. (5). It is

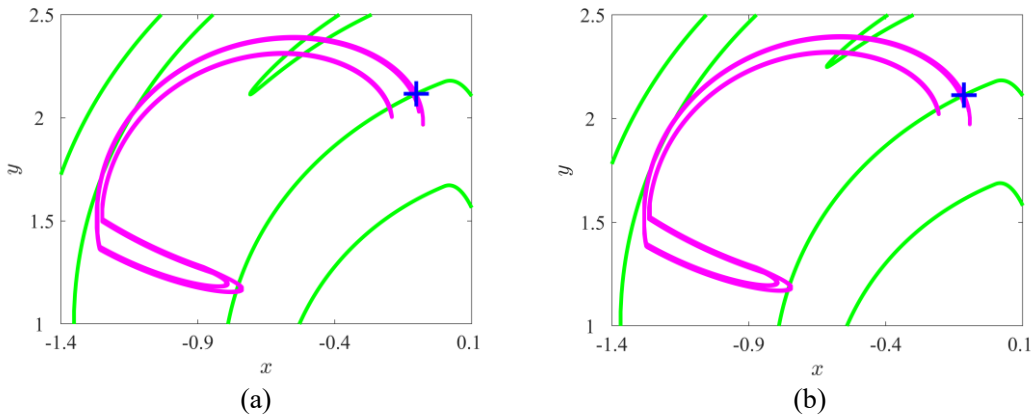


worth noting that when  $\xi = 0.0767$ , boundary crisis  $BC_6$  have already occurred. When  $\xi$  changes from 0.0765 to 0.077, the amplitude of the change in  $D_{B_1}$  becomes larger, which may be related to crisis dynamics caused by the appearance of boundary crisis  $BC_6$ .

Tab. 7. The parameter distance  $D_{B_1}$  corresponding to different damping coefficient  $\xi$ .

$\xi$	$B_{BC_4}$	$B_{BC_5}$	$D_{B_1} =  B_{BC_5} - B_{BC_4} $
0.075	2.256	2.395	0.139
0.0755	2.270	2.393	0.123
0.076	2.281	2.390	0.109
0.0765	2.308	2.383	0.075
0.077	2.339	2.366	0.027
0.07707	2.351	2.355	0.004

Simultaneously, by the variation of the maximum area  $A_{\max}(B)$  of escape regions, the existence of the crisis-disappearance point can be determined. As  $\xi$  increases,  $A_{\max}(B)$  also exhibits a decreasing trend. Although it is not possible to determine at which point the area of escape regions reaches its maximum value, the trends of equivalent in  $A_{\max}(B)$  can be determined by the changes in the area of the escape region produced by the intersection of the stable and unstable manifolds of the boundary saddle at the midpoint of the interval  $[B_{BC_1}, B_{BC_2}]$  at different  $\xi$ , as shown in Fig. 19. It is evident that with a decrease in  $\xi$ , the area of escape regions also decreases. The likelihood of trajectories escaping from the region where chaotic orbits existed originally decrease, leading to a reduction in the lifetime of chaotic transients.



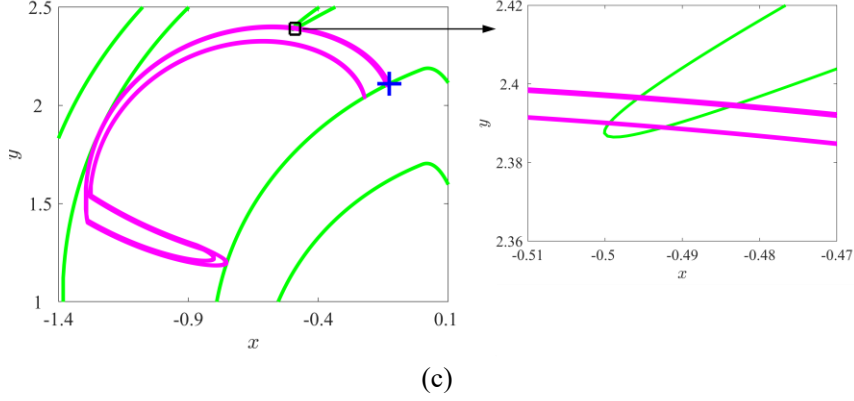


Fig. 19. The change of escape regions under different parameter  $(\xi, B)$ , (a)  $\xi = 0.075$ ,  $B = 2.3255$ ; (b)  $\xi = 0.076$ ,  $B = 2.3355$ ; (c)  $\xi = 0.077$ ,  $B = 2.3525$ .

$D_{B_2} = |B_{MC_2} - B_{MC_3}|$  is used to represent the parameter distance of merging crises  $MC_2, MC_3$ . It is shown that  $D_{B_2}$  exhibits a decreasing trend with an increase in  $\xi$ . Table 8 gives the numerical results for  $D_{B_2}$  corresponding to different parameter.

Tab. 8. The change of  $D_{B_2}$  with the variation of  $\xi$ .

$\xi$	$B_{MC_2}$	$B_{MC_3}$	$D_{B_2}$
0.0772	2.1108	2.1170	0.0062
0.0775	2.1135	2.1164	0.0029
0.0779	2.1165	2.1171	0.0006

## 5. Conclusions

We focus on the crisis dynamics in a class of single-degree-of-freedom piecewise-linear oscillators. From the perspective of manifolds, it is shown that the sudden disappearance and reappearance of a chaotic orbit are related to boundary crises caused by collisions between the chaotic orbit and the same unstable periodic orbit, and the types of these two boundary crises are different. By comparing the numerical relationship between the mean lifetime of chaotic transients and parameter values with the result of theoretical calculations, it is shown that one of these two boundary crises belongs to a homoclinic crisis, while the other belongs to heteroclinic crisis. Furthermore, by changing two parameters simultaneously, two boundary-crisis curves related to the same unstable periodic orbit will produce a coalescence point that we name the crisis-disappearance point. We also identify crisis-disappearance points related to interior crises and merging crises.

Due to the presence of boundary crises, the hysteresis phenomenon will exhibit a more complex

form, inducing transition repeatedly between two stable orbits. There are complex dynamical transition not only on the hysteresis boundary, but also within the hysteresis region, the chaotic orbits coexisting with periodic orbits may be destroyed or generated. This leads to the occurrence of complex dynamical transitions within the hysteresis region. Generally, in engineering, dynamical systems should avoid dynamical transitions as much as possible. However, these transitions are widespread in dynamical systems. The results of this detailed study can provide a guidance for the optimization design of dynamical systems.

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