

The equation for the capsize of ships in seas with high winds and periodic beam waves has been shown to be modeled by a one-well potential oscillator with a saddle. Rewriting this equation in the form

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{x} - y &= 0 \\ \dot{y} - x + x^2 &= \varepsilon[-\beta'y + F' \sin \omega t]\end{aligned}$$

assume that ε is small and derive the criteria using the Melnikov function. As a hint, note that the unperturbed Hamiltonian is given by

$$H = \frac{1}{2}\dot{y}^2 - \frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{x^3}{3}$$

and that the unperturbed homoclinic orbit (i.e., the orbit that goes through the saddle when $\varepsilon=0$) is given in parametric form

$$\begin{aligned}x_h(t) &= 1 - \frac{3}{1 + \cosh t} \\ y_h(t) &= \frac{3 \sinh t}{(1 + \cosh t)^2}\end{aligned}$$

the Melnikov function can be written as two integrals on the line $(-\infty < t < \infty)$ I_1, I_2 . The value of I_1 , is $2/15$, while the value of the second I_2 , is solved using the calculus of complex variables and the method of residues. Plot the critical value of forcing amplitude versus frequency and show that the lowest values occur at a value of $\omega < 1$.