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# On the growth of the number of non-compact heteroclinic curves\*

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*Abstract:* We consider a class  $SD(M^3)$  of gradient-like diffeomorphisms on closed 3-manifolds  $M^3$  that have surface dynamics. In [1] it was proven that the ambient manifold  $M^3$  for such diffeomorphisms is a mapping torus  $M_{g,\tau}$ ,  $g \geq 0$ , and the number of non-compact heteroclinic curves is no less than  $12g$ . In this paper it is established that for any integer  $n \geq 12g$  there exists a mapping torus  $M_{g,\tau(n)}$  and a diffeomorphism from the class  $SD(M_{g,\tau(n)})$  having exactly  $n$  heteroclinic curves.

*Keywords:* Heteroclinic curve, gradient-like diffeomorphism, mapping torus.

## 1. Introduction

S. Smale in his fundamental paper [2] introduced a class of dynamical systems on closed manifolds, called later Morse-Smale systems, and provided inequalities connecting a number of fixed points and periodic trajectories of such a system, and the topology of its ambient manifold. Conditions that determine Morse-Smale systems generalize the necessary and sufficient conditions for the roughness (structural stability) of flows on a two-dimensional sphere, obtained by A.A. Andronov and L.S. Pontryagin. Despite the fact that the Morse-Smale systems do not exhaust the class of structurally stable systems on manifolds of dimension two and higher (for cascades), and three and higher (for flows), they have been in the focus of attention of mathematicians for a long time. This is explained both by the importance of the Morse-Smale system for applications, and the remarkable interrelation between their dynamics and the topology of the carrying manifold. Recent research has shown that it is possible to get formulas connecting the number of periodic points with the topology of the carrying manifolds as well as an estimation of the number of heteroclinic curves. Such results can be applied for studying a topological structure of magnetic field (see, for example, [3]).

There are few fundamental results on the existence of heteroclinic curves for Morse-Smale 3-diffeomorphisms. In [4] the existence of heteroclinic curves was established for every Morse-Smale diffeomorphism given on a closed 3-manifold distinct from the 3-sphere  $S^3$  and the connected sum of a finite number of copies of  $S^2 \times S^1$ . In [3] the existence of non-compact heteroclinic curves was proved for every polar 3-diffeomorphism (a diffeomorphism with a unique sink and a unique source) given on an irreducible 3-manifold (a manifold where each bi-collared 2-sphere bounds a 3-ball) what was effectively applied for the finding of heteroclinic separators of magnetic fields in electrically conducting fluids. By [5], if a polar diffeomorphism is given on a lens  $L_{p,q}$  and its non-wandering set contains exactly two saddle points with trivially embedded one-dimensional manifolds then the wandering set contains at least  $p$  heteroclinic curves.

In [1] a class of diffeomorphisms with surface dynamics (SD-diffeomorphisms) were introduced and the exact lower estimate of the number of the non-compact heteroclinic curves for gradient-like SD-diffeomorphisms was given. We recall this result as Statements 1, 2 before formulating the main result of the present paper.

Everywhere below we will assume that  $f$  is an orientation preserving diffeomorphism given

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on an orientable closed smooth 3-manifold  $M^3$ .

We say that an  $\Omega$ -stable diffeomorphism  $f : M^3 \rightarrow M^3$  has a surface dynamics (is SD-diffeomorphism) if its non-wandering set  $\Omega_f$  consists of two disjoint families  $\Omega_+, \Omega_-$  of basic sets such that the sets  $\mathcal{A}_f = W_{\Omega_+}^u$  and  $\mathcal{R}_f = W_{\Omega_-}^s$  are disjoint and every connected component of  $\mathcal{A}_f$  and  $\mathcal{R}_f$  is a locally flat orientable closed surface<sup>1</sup>.

It was proven in [1] that sets  $\mathcal{A}_f, \mathcal{R}_f$  consists of the same number  $k_f$  of connected components, all the components have the same genus  $g_f$  and the carrying manifold  $M^3$  is a mapping torus<sup>2</sup>  $M_{g_f, \tau_f}$ . We will associate the numbers  $k_f, g_f$  with every SD-diffeomorphism  $f$ .

We will focus on gradient-like SD-diffeomorphisms. Let's recall that a diffeomorphism  $f : M^n \rightarrow M^n$  of a connected closed smooth manifold  $M^n$  of the dimension  $n$  is called a *Morse-Smale diffeomorphism* if its non-wandering set  $\Omega_f$  is finite and consists of the hyperbolic periodic points, and for different saddle periodic points  $p, q \in \Omega_f$  the invariant manifolds  $W_p^s, W_q^u$  either are disjoint or intersect transversely. Let  $p, q$  are different saddle periodic points of a Morse-Smale diffeomorphism  $f : M^n \rightarrow M^n$ . If  $\dim(W_p^s \cap W_q^u) = 0$  then every point of the set  $W_p^s \cap W_q^u$  is called a *heteroclinic point*. The diffeomorphism  $f$  is called a *gradient-like* if the condition  $W_p^s \cap W_q^u \neq \emptyset$  leads to the fact  $\dim W_p^u < \dim W_q^u$ . So if the wandering set of  $f$  does not contain heteroclinic points, then  $f$  is a gradient-like.

**Утверждение 1 ([1, Theorem 2])** For any integer  $g \geq 0$  and a diffeomorphism  $\tau : S_g \rightarrow S_g$  there is a gradient-like SD-diffeomorphism on  $M_{g, \tau}^3$ .

Let  $f : M^3 \rightarrow M^3$  be a gradient-like diffeomorphism,  $p, q$  are its different saddle periodic points such that  $\dim(W_p^s \cap W_q^u) = 1$ . Then every connected component of the set  $W_p^s \cap W_q^u$  is called a *heteroclinic curve*.

**Утверждение 2 ([1, Theorem 3])**

1. Let  $f : M_{g_f, \tau_f}^3 \rightarrow M_{g_f, \tau_f}^3$  be a gradient-like diffeomorphism with surface dynamics. Then a number of non-compact heteroclinic curves is not less than  $12g_f k_f$ .
2. The estimation is exact, namely for every integers  $k > 0, g \geq 0$  there is a gradient-like SD-diffeomorphism  $f : S_g \times S^1 \rightarrow S_g \times S^1$  such that its wandering set contains exactly  $12gk$  non-compact heteroclinic curves.

The lower estimation of the number of the non-compact heteroclinic curves given in the Statement 2 in fact depends only on  $g$  and  $k$  and is reached on the direct product  $S_g \times S^1$ . We improve this estimation by the following.

**Теорема 1** For any integers  $g \geq 1, k \geq 1$  and  $n \geq 12gk$  there is a diffeomorphism  $\tau(n) : S_g \rightarrow S_g$  and a gradient-like SD-diffeomorphism on a mapping torus  $M_{g, \tau(n)}$  whose number of non-compact heteroclinic curves equals  $n$ .

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<sup>1</sup>Let  $S_g$  be an orientable surface (closed 2-dimensional manifold) of a genus  $g$  and  $e : S_g \rightarrow M^3$  be a topological embedding. A surface  $S_g = e(S_g)$  is called *locally flat* if for every point  $p \in S_g$  there exists a neighborhood  $U_p \subset M^3$  and a homeomorphism  $h_p : U_p \rightarrow R^3$  such that the set  $h_p(S_g \cap U_p)$  is a coordinate plane in  $R^3$ . An orientable locally flat surface is a *bi-collared*, that is there exists a topological embedding  $h : S_g \times [-1; 1] \rightarrow M^3$  such that  $h(S_g \times \{0\}) = S_g$ .

<sup>2</sup>A mapping torus  $M_{g, \tau}^3$  is a factor space  $S_g \times [0, 1] / \sim$ , where  $(z, 1) \sim (\tau(z), 0)$  for a diffeomorphism  $\tau : S_g \rightarrow S_g$  (*gluing map*) of the closed surface  $S_g$  of genus  $g$ .

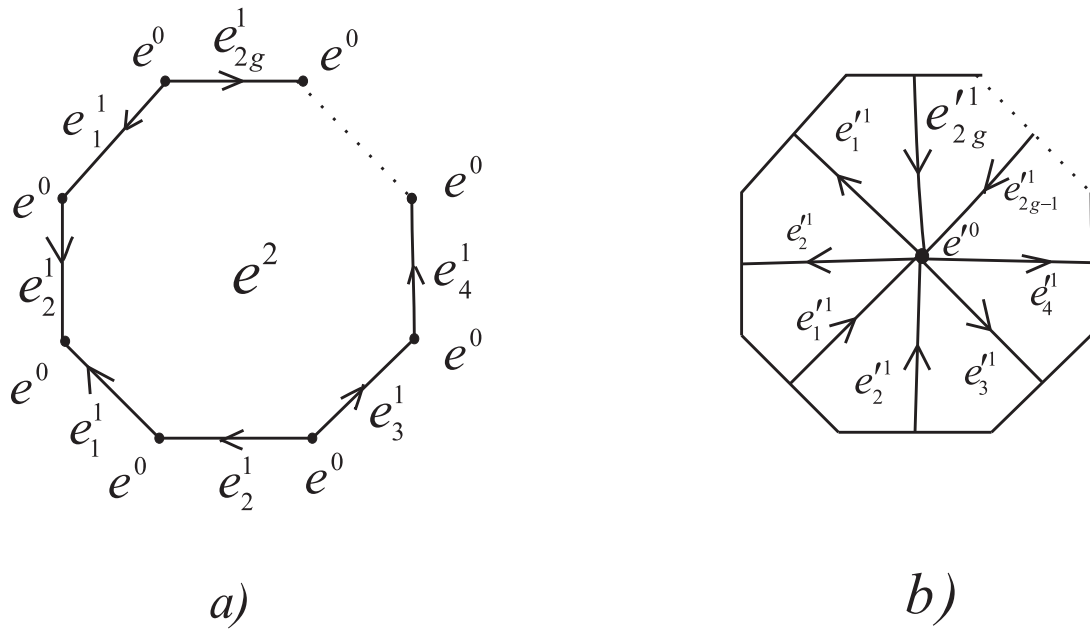


Рис. 1. Dual cell decompositions of the surface  $S_g$

## 2. Construction of a SD-diffeomorphism with a given number of heteroclinic curves

### 2.1. Dehn twist

Let  $c \in S_g$  be a smooth simple curve. A *Dehn twist along  $c$*  is a homeomorphism  $\rho_c : S_g \rightarrow S_g$  defined in the following way. Consider a circle  $S^1$  as a subset of the complex plane  $\mathbf{C}$ . Let  $h : S^1 \times [-1, 1] \rightarrow S_g$  be a diffeomorphism such that  $h(S^1 \times \{0\}) = c$ , and  $g : S^1 \times [-1, 1] \rightarrow S^1 \times [-1, 1]$  a homeomorphism such that  $g(z, r) = (z, r)$  for  $z \in S^1, r \in [-1, 0]$  and  $g(z, r) = (ze^{2\pi r i}, r)$  for  $r \in [0, 1]$ . Then

$$\rho_c(p) = \begin{cases} p, & p \in S_g \setminus h(S^1 \times [-1, 1]); \\ h(g(h^{-1}(p))), & p \in h(S^1 \times [-1, 1]). \end{cases}$$

For two closed smooth curves  $c, c' \in S_g$  that intersect transversely denote by  $N(c, c')$  a number of points in the set  $c \cap c'$ .

Let  $K, K'$  be dual cellular decompositions of  $S_g$  such that the 1-dimensional cells of  $K$  are arcs  $e^1_1, \dots, e^1_{2g}$ , and the 1-dimensional cells of  $K'$  are arcs  $e'^1_1, \dots, e'^1_{2g}$  represented in the figure 2.1, a), b) correspondently. Notice that the both families represent generators of the group  $H_1(S_g, \mathbf{Z})$ .

Dehn twists  $\rho_{e^1_1}$  along the curve  $e^1_1$  keeps homology classes  $[e^1_j]$  for  $j \in \{3, \dots, 2g\}$  and acts on classes  $[e^1_1], [e^1_2]$  in the following way:  $\rho_{e^1_1}([e^1_1]) = [e^1_1]$ ,  $\rho_{e^1_1}([e^1_2]) = [e^1_1 \pm e^1_2]$ . This observation immediately leads to the following lemm.

#### Лемма 1

1.  $N(e^1_1, \rho_{e^1_1}^m(e'^1_2)) = 0$ ;
2.  $N(e^1_1, \rho_{e^1_1}^m(e'^1_1)) = 1$ ;
3.  $N(e^1_2, \rho_{e^1_1}^m(e'^1_2)) = 1$ ;

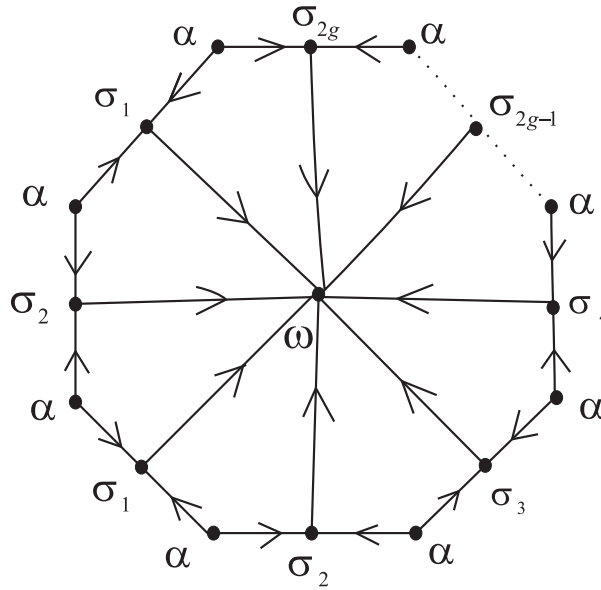


Рис. 2. Morse-Smale diffeomorphism on a surface of a genus  $g$

4.  $N(e_2^1, \rho_{e_1^1}^m(e_1^1)) = m;$

5.  $N(e_i^1, \rho_{e_1^1}^m(e_j^1)) = 1$  if  $i = j$  and 0 otherwise,  $i, j \in \{3, 4, \dots, 2g\}.$

## 2.2. Proof of the Theorem 1

To proof the Theorem 1 we use a scheme of building a gradient-like SD-diffeomorphism for given  $g, k$  and  $\tau$ , that was suggested in [1], but clarify the diffeomorphism  $\tau$  to get the desire number  $n$  of heteroclinic curves.

Let  $g, k, n \geq 12gk$  are arbitrary integers.

Denote by  $\psi : [0; 1] \rightarrow [0, 1]$  a time-1 map of the flow  $\dot{r} = \sin 2\pi kr$ , and by  $\varphi_g^t : S_g \rightarrow S_g$  a gradient-like flow whose non-wandering set consists of exactly one sink  $\omega$ , one source  $\alpha$  and  $2g$  saddle equilibria  $\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_{2g}$ . Figure 2.2 shows an unfolding of the surface  $S_g$  as a  $2g$ -gon and a phase portrait of the flow  $\varphi_g^t$  on it. Denote by  $f_0$  the time-1 map of the flow  $\varphi_g^t$ . Put  $e_i^1 = W_{\sigma_i}^s$ ,  $e_i^1 = W_{\sigma_i}^u$ ,  $i \in \{1, \dots, 2g\}$ . Set of arcs  $\Gamma^s = \{e_1^1, \dots, e_{2g}^1\}$  and  $\Gamma^u = \{e_1^1, \dots, e_{2g}^1\}$  form 1-dimensional cells of the dual decompositions  $K, K'$ .

Let  $m = n - 12gk$ ,  $\tau_m = \rho_{e_1^1}^m$ , where  $\rho_{e_1^1} : S_g \rightarrow S_g$  is the Dehn twist along  $e_1^1$ . Put  $f_1 = \tau_m^{-1} f_0 \tau_m$ , and, finally,  $\varphi_g^{[t]}$  is a time- $t$  map along trajectories of the  $\varphi_g^t$ .

Remark that

(\*)  $\Gamma^u$  is transversal to  $\tau_m(\Gamma^s);$

(\*\*)  $\tau_m(\alpha) \notin (\Gamma^u \cup \omega)$  and  $\omega \notin \tau_m(\Gamma^s \cup \alpha).$

Choose  $r_0 \in (1 - \frac{1}{2k}, 1)$ , put  $r_1 = \psi^{-1}(r_0)$ ,  $r_2 = \psi^{-1}(r_1)$  ( $r_0 < r_1 < r_2$ ) and define a diffeomorphism  $F : S_g \times [0; 1] \rightarrow S_g \times [0; 1]$  by the formula

$$F(z, r) = \begin{cases} (f_0(z), \psi(r)), r \in [0; r_0]; \\ (\varphi_g^{\lfloor \frac{r_1-r}{r_1-r_0} \rfloor}(z), \psi(r)), r \in [r_0; r_1]; \\ (\tau_m^{-1} \varphi_g^{\lfloor \frac{r-r_1}{r_2-r_1} \rfloor} \tau_m(z), \psi(r)), r \in [r_1; r_2]; \\ (f_1(z), \psi(r)), r \in [r_2; 1]. \end{cases}$$

Denote by  $\pi_{\tau_m} : S_g \times [0, 1] \rightarrow M_{g,\tau}$  the natural projecture and by  $\tilde{F} : M_{g,\tau} \rightarrow M_{g,\tau}$  a diffeomorphism such that  $\tilde{F} = \pi_{\tau_m} F \pi_{\tau_m}^{-1}$ . By construction, the non-wandering set of diffeomorphism  $\tilde{F}$  is finite, hyperbolic and belongs to surfaces  $\pi_{\tau_m}((S_g \times \{\frac{i}{2k}\}))$ ,  $i \in \{0, \dots, k\}$ . The wandering set of  $F$  contains:

- exactly  $8gk$  non-compact heteroclinic curves belonging to the union  $\pi_{\tau}(S_g \times \{\frac{i}{2k}\})$ ,  $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, k\}$ ;
- exactly  $4gk - 2g$  non-compact heteroclinic curves belonging to the set  $\pi_{\tau}((S_g \times [0, 1 - \frac{1}{2k}]) \setminus (S_g \times \{\frac{i}{2k}\}))$ .

To complete the proof of the theorem we are going to prove that the diffeomorphism  $\tilde{F}$  is a gradient like and its non-wandering set contains exactly  $n$  non-compact heteroclinic curves. It is enough to show that in the region  $S_g \times (1 - \frac{1}{2k}, 1)$  one-dimensional saddle separatrices of diffeomorphism  $F$  do not intersect any other saddle separatrices and two-dimensional manifolds of saddle points of  $F$  have a transversal intersection consisting exactly of  $m + 2g$  connected components.

For this aim notice that a region  $D = S_g \times [r_1; r_2]$  is a fundamental domain of the restriction  $F|_{S_g \times (1 - \frac{1}{2k}, 1)}$ . It follows from the construction of the diffeomorphism  $F$  that the two-dimensional stable separatrices intersect  $D$  along  $\Gamma^s \times [r_1; r_2]$ , two-dimensional unstable separatrices intersect  $D$  along  $\tau^{-1}(\Gamma^u) \times [r_1; r_2]$ , one-dimensional stable separatrices intersect  $D$  along  $\alpha \times [r_1; r_2]$  and one-dimensional unstable separatrices intersect  $D$  along  $\tau^{-1}(\omega) \times [r_1; r_2]$ . Due to (\*) two-dimensional manifolds of saddle points of  $F$  have a transversal intersection in  $D$  and, hence, in  $S_g \times (1 - \frac{1}{2k}, 1)$ . Due to corollary 1 the number of connected components of this intersection is  $2g + m$ . Due to (\*\*) one-dimensional saddle separatrices do not intersect any other saddle separatrices in  $D$  and, hence, in  $S_g \times (1 - \frac{1}{2k}, 1)$ .

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