



Drift perturbation's influence on traveling wave speed in KPP-Fisher system

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Abstract

This paper dressed the drift perturbation effects on the traveling wave speed in a reaction-diffusion system. We prove the existence of a traveling front solution of a KPP-Fisher equation and we show an asymptotic expansion of her speed. Finally, we discuss according all parameters of our system regions of the plane in which the traveling wave speed increases or decreases as a function of a small parameter ε .

1 Introduction

Front propagation is a phenomenon that has many scientific applications ; such as : the sprawl of epidemics and diseases, biological invasions and collective behavior, ecology, population dynamics, reaction kinetics, the flow in porous materials, etc.

This phenomenon is generally modeled by a reaction-diffusion equation of the following form

$$\begin{cases} U_t = \nabla \cdot (A \nabla U) + f(U) \\ U(0, x) = U_0(x) \end{cases}$$

where the diffusivity A is a positive definite matrix and the reaction term f is a C^2 nonlinear function.

Key Words: Reaction-diffusion equations, heterogeneous media, traveling wave speed, drift perturbation, KPP-Fisher equations.

2010 Mathematics Subject Classification: Primary 35B20, 35B27, 35B50; Secondary 35C20, 35K55, 35K57, 41A60.

Received: 17.02.2014

Revised: 3.05.2014

Accepted: 12.05.2014.

Understanding the mechanism of the settings of perturbation on the diffusion and (or) reaction influences the traveling fronts like configuring their location, profile, and their speed is one of the most fundamental issues. In fact, variational principles for the speed of front propagation for KPP-type nonlinearities, respectively Fisher's population genetic model as well as various other implications of the qualitative behavior of propagating waves, were given by Haderer and Rothe in [7] and Gärtner and Freidlin in [6]. Paper [2] is used to handle the speed of traveling fronts of reactions-diffusion equations of bistable or combustion type with rapidly oscillating diffusion and drift coefficients. In the monostable case (KPP-Fisher type), the variation of the traveling wave speed was treated in [3] for nonlocally perturbed reaction-diffusion equations. Compare the survey papers ([14],[16],[15]) in order to have an excellent reference on propagation phenomenas mathematical results especially on the existence and stability of traveling waves, and other references that has not already been cited here.

In this paper we consider a particular kind of reaction-diffusion system with drift perturbation. The type of system we are dealing with is the following

$$\begin{cases} u_t &= \alpha \Delta u + \gamma u(1 - u - v) \\ v_t &= \beta \Delta v + \delta b \nabla v + \eta v(1 - u - v) \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

with:

$x = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) \in D = \mathbb{R} \times \Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n, t > 0,$
 $b = b(x_2 \dots x_n), \beta = \beta(\varepsilon) \rightarrow \alpha, \eta = \eta(\varepsilon) \rightarrow \gamma$ and $\delta = \delta(\varepsilon) \rightarrow 0$ as $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0.$
 The cross section of the cylinder $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^{n-1}$ is bounded with $C^{1,\lambda}$ boundary.
 For simplicity, we will consider here traveling waves in direction $e_1 = (1, 0, \dots, 0).$
 A very important question is how to study the variation of the traveling wave speed in discussing the influence of drift perturbation and all parameters $\alpha, \gamma, \beta, \delta, \eta$ of system (1).

Existence of unique monotone and stable traveling waves were shown in [5], [9], [10] and [13] for monotonic systems. A variational characterization given in [12] allows to prove an asymptotic expansion for the traveling wave speed solution of system (1).

The paper is organized as follows. In section 2, we rescale system (1) to obtain a monotone system and we show the existence of unique monotone and stable traveling wave up to translation and we give a variational characterization of the wave speed. In section 3, we prove that the traveling wave has an asymptotic expansion. Finally in section 4, we determine regions of the plane in which the traveling wave speed solution of system (1) increases or decreases as a function of $\varepsilon.$

2 The variational characterization

We rescale the system (1). So, with no loss of generality, we can suppose that $\alpha = \gamma = 1$ and our system becomes

$$\begin{cases} u_t = \Delta u + u(1 - u - v) \\ v_t = \beta \Delta v + \delta b \nabla v + \eta v(1 - u - v) \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

with $b = b(x_2 \dots x_n)$, $\beta = \beta(\varepsilon) \rightarrow 1$, $\eta = \eta(\varepsilon) \rightarrow 1$ and $\delta = \delta(\varepsilon) \rightarrow 0$ as $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$.

We pose $w = 1 - u$. Thereby system (2) becomes

$$\begin{cases} w_t = \Delta w - (1 - w)(w - v) \\ v_t = \beta \Delta v + \delta b \nabla v + \eta v(w - v). \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

We can easily see that system (3) is monotone. Therefore there exists a unique monotone traveling wave $(c_\varepsilon, w_\varepsilon, v_\varepsilon)$ in direction e_1 solution of (3) connecting two zeros of its nonlinearities; this wave is stable with respect to some subset I_s of initial data. For more detail, see for example [5], [9], [10] and [13]. The traveling wave solution $(c_\varepsilon, w_\varepsilon, v_\varepsilon)$ of system (3) will satisfy the following boundary conditions

$$(w_\varepsilon, v_\varepsilon)(-\infty) = (1, 0) \quad \text{and} \quad (w_\varepsilon, v_\varepsilon)(+\infty) = \left(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}\right).$$

Let (c_0, w_0, v_0) be the traveling wave solution of the system (3) when $\varepsilon = 0$ (i.e. $\beta = 1$, $\eta = 1$ and $\delta = 0$).

Let $W_0 = 1 + v_0 - w_0 = u_0 + v_0$, then W_0 is a traveling front solution of the following KPP-Fisher equation

$$\begin{cases} c_0 W_0' = W_0'' + W_0(1 - W_0) \\ W_0(-\infty) = 0, W_0(+\infty) = 1 \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

with $W_0(t, x) = W_0(x + c_0 t e_1)$ and W_0' represent the derivative of W_0 with respect to the first component x_1 of x .

Let

$$W_\varepsilon = 1 + v_\varepsilon - w_\varepsilon = v_\varepsilon + u_\varepsilon, \quad (5)$$

then W_ε is a traveling wave solution of the following equation

$$\begin{cases} c_\varepsilon W_\varepsilon' = \Delta W_\varepsilon + W_\varepsilon(1 - W_\varepsilon) + (\beta - 1)\Delta v_\varepsilon + \delta b \nabla v_\varepsilon + (\eta - 1)v_\varepsilon(1 - W_\varepsilon) \\ W_\varepsilon(-\infty) = 0, W_\varepsilon(+\infty) = 1. \end{cases} \quad (6)$$

Let

$$\mathcal{K} = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} y \in C^1(\mathbb{R}, C^2(D)) \mid \partial_t y(t, x) > 0, 0 < y(t, x) < 1, y(0, \cdot) \in I_s, \\ y(-\infty) = 0, y(+\infty) = 1 \end{array} \right\}$$

be the sets of admissible comparison functions. For $y \in \mathcal{K}$ define

$$\psi(y) = \frac{\Delta y + y(1 - y) + (\beta - 1)\Delta v_\varepsilon + \delta b \nabla v_\varepsilon + (\eta - 1)v_\varepsilon(1 - y)}{\partial_t y}.$$

In [5] a variational characterization of the wave speed was given for more general situations. Here we will state a specific version of the result as a lemma.

LEMMA 2.1. [5] *Suppose that there exists a unique stable traveling wave for problem (6) then the traveling wave speed c_ε is given by*

$$\sup_{y \in \mathcal{K}} \inf_{(t,x) \in (\mathbb{R} \times D)} \psi(y(t, x)) = c_\varepsilon = \inf_{y \in \mathcal{K}} \sup_{(t,x) \in (\mathbb{R} \times D)} \psi(y(t, x)). \quad (7)$$

The proof of this minimax characterization of the wave speed c_ε is based on the maximum principle and relates technically to results given by Vol'pert et al in [12] for monotone systems of ODE's.

3 Asymptotic expansion

THEOREM 3.1. *The traveling wave $(c_\varepsilon, w_\varepsilon, v_\varepsilon)$ solution of the system (3) has the following expansion:*

$$\begin{aligned} c_\varepsilon &= c_0 + \varepsilon c_1 + o(\varepsilon) \\ v_\varepsilon &= v_0 + \varepsilon v_1 + o(\varepsilon) \\ w_\varepsilon &= w_0 + \varepsilon w_1 + o(\varepsilon). \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

Proof. We note $\beta' = \frac{d\beta}{d\varepsilon}|_{\varepsilon=0}$, $\eta' = \frac{d\eta}{d\varepsilon}|_{\varepsilon=0}$ and $\delta' = \frac{d\delta}{d\varepsilon}|_{\varepsilon=0}$ then equation (6) becomes

$$W_{\varepsilon t} = \Delta W_\varepsilon + W_\varepsilon(1 - W_\varepsilon) + \varepsilon [\beta' \Delta v_\varepsilon + \delta' b \nabla v_\varepsilon + \eta' v_\varepsilon(1 - W_\varepsilon)] + o(\varepsilon).$$

Since W_ε and v_ε are regular and bounded functions, then the comparison principle implies that

$$W_\varepsilon = W_0 + \varepsilon W_1 + o(\varepsilon).$$

Furthermore, we have

$$\begin{cases} u_{\varepsilon t} &= \Delta u_{\varepsilon} + u_{\varepsilon}(1 - u_{\varepsilon} - v_{\varepsilon}) \\ u_{0t} &= \Delta u_0 + u_0(1 - u_0 - v_0) \end{cases}$$

We subtract these two equations to get

$$(u_{\varepsilon} - u_0)_t - \Delta(u_{\varepsilon} - u_0) - (u_{\varepsilon} - u_0)(1 - u_0 - v_0) = u(W_0 - W_{\varepsilon}).$$

Using the comparison principle, we obtain

$$u_{\varepsilon} = u_0 + \varepsilon u_1 + o(\varepsilon).$$

Therefore, we deduce from (5) that

$$w_{\varepsilon} = w_0 + \varepsilon w_1 + o(\varepsilon)$$

and

$$v_{\varepsilon} = v_0 + \varepsilon v_1 + o(\varepsilon)$$

which justify our expansion for v_{ε} and w_{ε} .

To show the asymptotic expansion of c_{ε} , we consider the test function:

$$y(x) = W_0 + \varepsilon y_1(x),$$

where y_1 will be determined below.

An easy computation gives that

$$\begin{aligned} \psi(y) &= \frac{\Delta y + y(1 - y) + (\beta - 1)\Delta v_{\varepsilon} + \delta b \nabla v_{\varepsilon} + (\eta - 1)v_{\varepsilon}(1 - y)}{\partial_t y} \\ &= \frac{c_0 W_0' + \varepsilon [y_1'' + (1 - 2W_0)y_1 + \eta' v_0(1 - W_0) + \beta' v_0'' + \delta' b v_0']}{W_0' + \varepsilon y_1'} + o(\varepsilon) \\ &= c_0 + \frac{\varepsilon}{W_0'} [y_1'' - c_0 y_1' + (1 - 2W_0)y_1 + \eta' v_0(1 - W_0) + \beta' v_0'' + \delta' b v_0'] \\ &\quad + o(\varepsilon). \end{aligned}$$

We choose y_1 such that the coefficient of ε in $\psi(y)$ is constant. Thus y_1 solves the following equation

$$\begin{cases} y_1'' - c_0 y_1' + (1 - 2W_0)y_1 &= -c_1 W_0' - \eta' v_0(1 - W_0) - \beta' v_0'' - \delta' b v_0' \\ y_1(\pm\infty) &= 0. \end{cases}$$

Near $\pm\infty$ all derivatives of W_0 have the same exponential decay rate as W_0' . Therefore with our choice of y we have $\partial_t y > 0$ for small ε . Thus y is an admissible function for the minimax characterization (7) and we have

$$c_\varepsilon = c_0 + \varepsilon c_1 + o(\varepsilon).$$

This ends the proof of Theorem 3.1.

4 Sign of c_1

In this section, we discuss according to derivative perturbations parameters how c_1 may change sign.

PROPOSITION 4.1. *Let $(c_\varepsilon, w_\varepsilon, v_\varepsilon)$ be the traveling wave solution of system (3), then the variation of c_ε is as follows.*

- If $c_0\beta' + \delta' \oint b \leq 0$ and $\eta' - \beta' \leq -\frac{c_0 + \sqrt{c_0^2 - 4}}{2} \left(c_0\beta' + \delta' \oint b \right)$

then c_ε decreases as a function of ε .

- If $c_0\beta' + \delta' \oint b \geq 0$ and $\eta' - \beta' \geq -\frac{c_0 + \sqrt{c_0^2 - 4}}{2} \left(c_0\beta' + \delta' \oint b \right)$

then c_ε increases as a function of ε .

Proof. We note w' and v' the derivatives of w and v with respect to the first variable then we have

$$\begin{cases} c_\varepsilon w'_\varepsilon &= \Delta w_\varepsilon - (1 - w_\varepsilon)(w_\varepsilon - v_\varepsilon) \\ c_\varepsilon v'_\varepsilon &= \beta \Delta v_\varepsilon + \delta b v'_\varepsilon + \eta v_\varepsilon (w_\varepsilon - v_\varepsilon) \end{cases}$$

this can be written as

$$\begin{cases} (c_0 + \varepsilon c_1)(w_0 + \varepsilon w_1)' &= \Delta(w_0 + \varepsilon w_1) - (1 - w_0 - \varepsilon w_1)(w_0 + \varepsilon w_1 - v_0 - \varepsilon v_1) + o(\varepsilon) \\ (c_0 + \varepsilon c_1)(v_0 + \varepsilon v_1)' &= \beta \Delta(v_0 + \varepsilon v_1) + \delta b(v_0 + \varepsilon v_1)' + \eta(v_0 + \varepsilon v_1)(w_0 + \varepsilon w_1 - v_0 - \varepsilon v_1) + o(\varepsilon). \end{cases}$$

Since (c_0, w_0, v_0) is a solution of the system (3) when $\varepsilon = 0$ then we have

$$\begin{cases} c_1 w'_0 + c_0 w'_1 &= \Delta w_1 - (1 - w_0)(w_1 - v_1) + w_1(w_0 - v_0) \\ c_1 v'_0 + c_0 v'_1 &= \beta' \Delta v_0 + \Delta v_1 + \eta' v_0(w_0 - v_0) + \delta' b v'_0 + v_0(w_1 - v_1) \\ &\quad + v_1(w_0 - v_0) \end{cases}$$

which implies that

$$\begin{cases} \Delta w_1 - c_0 w'_1 - (1 - w_0)(w_1 - v_1) + w_1(w_0 - v_0) = c_1 w'_0 \\ \Delta v_1 - c_0 v'_1 + v_0(w_1 - v_1) + v_1(w_0 - v_0) = c_1 v'_0 - \beta' \Delta v_0 - \eta' v_0(w_0 - v_0) \\ \quad - \delta' b v'_0. \end{cases}$$

We subtract these two equations to obtain

$$\begin{aligned} &\Delta(v_1 - w_1) - c_0(v_1 - w_1)' - (v_1 - w_1)(1 + 2(v_0 - w_0)) \\ &= c_1(v_0 - w_0)' - \beta' \Delta v_0 - \eta' v_0(w_0 - v_0) - \delta' b v'_0. \end{aligned}$$

We pose $\phi = v_1 - w_1$ then this equation is equivalent to

$$\Delta \phi - c_0 \phi' - \phi(1 - 2W_0) = c_1 W'_0 - \beta' \Delta v_0 - \eta' v_0(w_0 - v_0) - \delta' b v'_0. \quad (9)$$

Using that W_0 is a solution of (4) and the Fredholm alternative, the solvability condition of the equation (9) can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} c_1 \int_{\mathbb{R} \times \Omega} W_0'^2 e^{-c_0 \xi} &= \beta' \int_{\mathbb{R} \times \Omega} \Delta v_0 W_0' e^{-c_0 \xi} dx + \eta' \int_{\mathbb{R} \times \Omega} v_0 (1 - W_0) W_0' e^{-c_0 \xi} \\ &\quad + \delta' \int_{\mathbb{R} \times \Omega} b v_0' W_0' e^{-c_0 \xi}. \end{aligned}$$

Since v_0 satisfies $\Delta v_0 = c_0 v'_0 - v_0(1 - W_0)$ and using the fact that v_0 and W_0 are independent on $(x_2, \dots, x_n) \in \Omega$ then the solvability condition is equivalent to

$$\begin{aligned} c_1 \int_{\mathbb{R}} W_0'^2 e^{-c_0 \xi} &= c_0 \beta' \int_{\mathbb{R}} v_0' W_0' e^{-c_0 \xi} + (\eta' - \beta') \int_{\mathbb{R}} v_0 (1 - W_0) W_0' e^{-c_0 \xi} \\ &\quad + \delta' \int_{\mathbb{R}} b v_0' W_0' e^{-c_0 \xi}. \end{aligned}$$

After an integration by part we obtain that

$$c_1 \int_{\mathbb{R}} W_0'^2 e^{-c_0 \xi} = \int_{\mathbb{R}} \left((c_0 \beta' + \delta' \int b) W_0 + (\eta' - \beta') W_0' \right) v_0 (1 - W_0) e^{-c_0 \xi}.$$

We know that $v_0(1 - W_0) > 0$, so that if $\left(c_0 \beta' + \delta' \int b \right) W_0 + (\eta' - \beta') W_0'$ does not change sign then we can deduce the sign of c_1 . Here we have three cases.

First case: $\left(c_0\beta' + \delta' \oint b\right)$ and $(\eta' - \beta')$ have the same sign then it is the sign of c_1 .

Second case: one of $\left(c_0\beta' + \delta' \oint b\right)$ and $(\eta' - \beta')$ is zero then the sign of c_1 is the sign of the non zero term.

Third case: $\left(c_0\beta' + \delta' \oint b\right)$ and $(\eta' - \beta')$ have an opposite sign. In this case we need a good estimate on W'_0 .

Equation (4) is equivalent to

$$W_0'' - (c_0 - a)W_0' = aW_0' - W_0(1 - W_0) \quad \forall a \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Since $0 < W_0 < 1$ then we have

$$W_0'' - (c_0 - a)W_0' > a(W_0' - \frac{1}{a}W_0) \quad \forall a \neq 0. \quad (10)$$

We choose a such that $c_0 - a = \frac{1}{a}$ which is possible since we have $c_0^2 \geq 4$, (see [1] and [11]).

We note

$$a_{\pm} = \frac{c_0 \pm \sqrt{c_0^2 - 4}}{2} > 0.$$

After multiplication by $e^{-\frac{1}{a}\xi}$ and integrating the inequality (10) on (ξ, ∞) for any $\xi \in \mathbb{R}$ we obtain that

$$W_0' < aW_0$$

$$\text{with } a = a_- = \frac{c_0 - \sqrt{c_0^2 - 4}}{2}.$$

We discuss two subcases

1. $\eta' - \beta' > 0$ and $c_0\beta' + \delta' \oint b < 0$. We have that

$$\begin{aligned} \left(c_0\beta' + \delta' \oint b\right) W_0 + (\eta' - \beta')W_0' &< \left(c_0\beta' + \delta' \oint b + a_-(\eta' - \beta')\right) W_0 \\ &< \left(\frac{c_0}{2}(\eta' + \beta') + \delta' \oint b - \frac{\eta' - \beta'}{2}\sqrt{c_0^2 - 4}\right) W_0. \end{aligned}$$

So that if $\frac{c_0}{2}(\eta' + \beta') + \delta' \oint b < 0$ then $c_1 < 0$.

If not, we have

$$\frac{c_0}{2}(\eta' + \beta') + \delta' \oint b > 0,$$

therefore an easy computation gives that

$$\frac{c_0}{2}(\eta' + \beta') + \delta' \oint b - \frac{\eta' - \beta'}{2} \sqrt{c_0^2 - 4} \leq 0,$$

if and only if

$$\frac{(-c_0 + \sqrt{c_0^2 - 4})}{2} (c_0\beta' + \delta' \oint b) \leq \eta' - \beta'$$

and

$$\eta' - \beta' \leq -\frac{(c_0 + \sqrt{c_0^2 - 4})}{2} (c_0\beta' + \delta' \oint b).$$

Hence, in this subcase we have $c_1 < 0$ and then c_ε decreases as a function of ε , for ε small enough.

2. $\eta' - \beta' < 0$ and $c_0\beta' + \delta' \oint b > 0$. We have that

$$\begin{aligned} (c_0\beta' + \delta' \oint b) W_0 + (\eta' - \beta') W'_0 &> (c_0\beta' + \delta' \oint b + a_-(\eta' - \beta')) W_0 \\ &> \left(\frac{c_0}{2}(\eta' + \beta') + \delta' \oint b - \frac{\eta' - \beta'}{2} \sqrt{c_0^2 - 4} \right) W_0. \end{aligned}$$

So that if $\frac{c_0}{2}(\eta' + \beta') + \delta' \oint b > 0$ then $c_1 > 0$.

If not, we have

$$\frac{c_0}{2}(\eta' + \beta') + \delta' \oint b < 0,$$

therefore an easy computation gives that

$$\frac{c_0}{2}(\eta' + \beta') + \delta' \oint b - \frac{\eta' - \beta'}{2} \sqrt{c_0^2 - 4} \geq 0,$$

if and only if

$$-\frac{c_0 + \sqrt{c_0^2 - 4}}{2} (c_0\beta' + \delta' \oint b) \leq \eta' - \beta'$$

and

$$\eta' - \beta' \leq \frac{-c_0 + \sqrt{c_0^2 - 4}}{2} \left(c_0 \beta' + \delta' \oint b \right).$$

Hence, in this subcase we have $c_1 > 0$ and then c_ε increases as a function of ε , for ε small enough.

This ends the proof of proposition 4.1.

Return now to the full system (1). A simple scaling argument allow to conclude the result in a general way. We note c_ε^* the traveling wave speed solution of (1). Then we have the following

THEOREM 4.2. *Let $(c_\varepsilon^*, u_\varepsilon^*, v_\varepsilon^*)$ be the traveling wave solution of system (1) for ε small enough. Then $c_\varepsilon^* = \frac{\tilde{c}_\varepsilon}{\alpha}$ and has the following variations.*

- If $\frac{c_0}{\alpha} \beta' + \delta' \oint b \leq 0$ and $\alpha \eta' - \gamma \beta' \leq -\frac{c_0 + \sqrt{c_0^2 - 4\alpha\gamma}}{2} \left(\frac{c_0}{\alpha} \beta' + \delta' \oint b \right)$

then c_ε^* decreases as a function of ε .

- If $\frac{c_0}{\alpha} \beta' + \delta' \oint b \geq 0$ and $\alpha \eta' - \gamma \beta' \geq -\frac{c_0 + \sqrt{c_0^2 - 4\alpha\gamma}}{2} \left(\frac{c_0}{\alpha} \beta' + \delta' \oint b \right)$

then c_ε^* increases as a function of ε .

Where c_ε is the traveling wave speed solution of (3).

Figure 1 presents the different regions of the plane

$$\left(X = \frac{c_0}{\alpha} \beta' + \delta' \oint b, \quad Y = \alpha \eta' - \gamma \beta' \right)$$

in which c_ε^* increases or decreases as a function of ε .

REMARK 4.3. *In the regions*

$$\left(X > 0, Y < -\frac{c_0 + \sqrt{c_0^2 - 4\alpha\gamma}}{2} X \right) \text{ and } \left(X < 0, Y > -\frac{c_0 + \sqrt{c_0^2 - 4\alpha\gamma}}{2} X \right)$$

of Figure 1, the determination of the sign of c_1 rest an open problem.

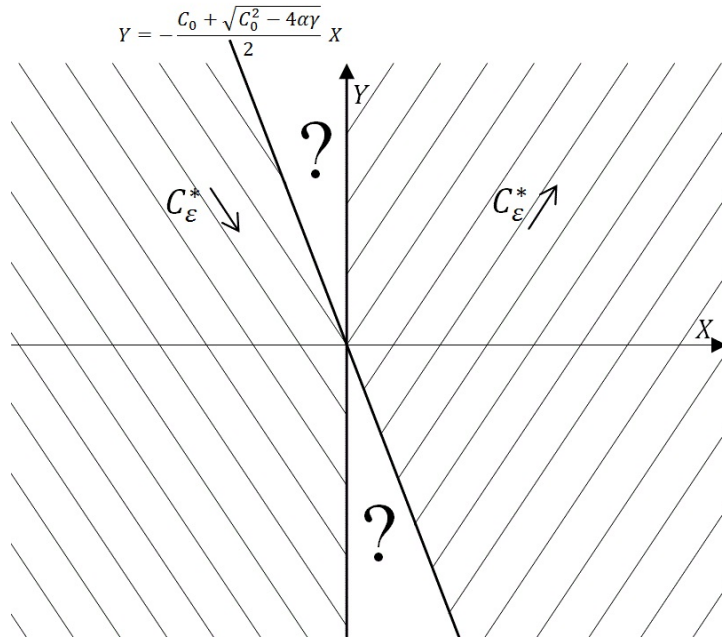


Figure 1: c_ϵ^* variation.

Acknowledgment

The authors are very grateful to Hatem Zaag for his helpful comments.

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