

# HIGHER DIMENSIONAL BIRKHOFF ATTRACTORS

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ABSTRACT. We extend to higher dimensions the notion of Birkhoff attractor of a dissipative map. We prove that this notion coincides with the classical Birkhoff attractor defined by Birkhoff in [Bir32]. We prove that for the dissipative system associated to the discounted Hamilton-Jacobi equation the graph of a solution is contained in the Birkhoff attractor. We also study what happens when we perturb a Hamiltonian system to make it dissipative and let the perturbation go to zero. The paper contains two important results on  $\gamma$ -supports and elements of the  $\gamma$ -completion of the space of exact Lagrangians. Firstly the  $\gamma$ -support of a Lagrangian in a cotangent bundle carries the cohomology of the base and secondly given an exact Lagrangian,  $L$ , any Floer theoretic equivalent Lagrangian  $L'$  is the  $\gamma$ -limit of Hamiltonian images of  $L$ .

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## 1. INTRODUCTION AND MAIN RESULTS

We let  $(M, \omega)$  be an exact symplectic manifold and  $\lambda$  a Liouville form, i.e. a 1-form such that  $d\lambda = -\omega$ . We also assume that  $(M, \omega)$  is Liouville: there exists a sequence of compact subsets with smooth boundary  $K_1 \subset K_2 \subset \dots$  with  $M = \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} K_i$  and such that for each  $i$ , the Liouville vector field  $X$  (defined by  $\iota_X \omega = \lambda$ ) is transverse to  $\partial K_i$  and points inward. The standard example is given by a Liouville domain, that is an compact exact symplectic manifold  $(W, -d\lambda)$  with boundary  $\partial W$ , such that the Liouville vector field defined by  $i_X \omega = \lambda$  is transverse to the boundary. We can then extend  $W$  to  $W \cup \partial W \times [1, +\infty[$  with symplectic form on  $\partial W \times [1, +\infty[$  given by  $-d(t\lambda)$ . Then  $X$  extends to the vector field  $-\frac{\partial}{\partial t}$  on  $\partial W \times [1, +\infty[$  and its flow is complete<sup>1</sup>. This case includes in particular the cotangent bundle  $(T^*N, -d\lambda)$  of any closed smooth manifold  $N$  with the standard Liouville form  $\lambda = p dq$ .

Let  $\varphi$  be a *conformally symplectic* diffeomorphism<sup>2</sup> in  $(M, \omega)$ : this is a diffeomorphism  $\varphi$  such that  $\varphi^* \omega = a\omega$  for some  $a > 0$ . Notice that if  $a \neq 1$ , then  $M$  must be a non-compact manifold of infinite volume, and refer to [AF24] for recent results on this topic. The map  $\varphi$  is said *conformally exact symplectic* if  $\varphi^* \lambda - a\lambda$  is exact for some Liouville form  $\lambda$  (i.e. satisfying  $\omega = -d\lambda$ ). According to Appendix B of [AF24], if  $\varphi$  is homotopic to identity there exists a primitive  $\lambda$  such that  $\varphi$  is conformally exact symplectic for  $\lambda$ . Moreover, under mild assumptions at infinity,  $\varphi$  is conjugate to a conformally exact symplectic map for the original  $\lambda$ .

For the two-dimensional annulus, it is well-known since the 1930's that at least if  $\varphi$  sends an annulus to a sub-annulus,  $\varphi$  has an invariant set that is a continuum (i.e. compact connected subset) that separates the annulus in two connected components: the Birkhoff attractor<sup>3</sup>. So far there was no higher-dimensional version of the Birkhoff attractor. This is one of the goals of this paper and is done in Section 3. Then we want to understand the properties of such an attractor from two different viewpoints: first the analytic viewpoint to establish, when the Hamiltonian is Tonelli and the equation is the corresponding discounted Hamilton- Jacobi equation, that the graph of the differential of a viscosity solution is contained in the Birkhoff attractor. This is the subject of Section 4. Then from the topological viewpoint, we prove that the Birkhoff attractor carries the cohomology of the base. This is the higher dimensional equivalent of "separating" (which actually means separating the two ends of the annulus), since one easily checks that a connected set in the annulus is "separating" if the cohomology of  $\mathbb{S}^1$  injects in its cohomology and is the subject of Section 6. The higher dimensional Birkhoff attractor is obtained as the  $\gamma$ -support of an element in the space of generalized Lagrangian submanifolds. As the contraction factor tends to 1, the Birkhoff attractor will have converging subsequences, and their limit yield an invariant set for the Hamiltonian flow. One could hope that the generalized Lagrangians themselves do converge. In Section 5 we prove that already for the pendulum, this is unfortunately false. Finally, we show a result of independent interest in symplectic topology, under the name of the weak nearby Lagrangian conjecture. A consequence of our results is that for many statements in symplectic topology involving the spectral norm  $\gamma$ , they hold for a class of Hamiltonianly equivalent Lagrangians if and only if they hold for a class of Floer theoretic equivalent ones. We refer to Section 7 for more details and examples.

Let us now state more precisely some of our results.

The space of closed exact Lagrangian submanifolds in  $M$  is denoted by  $\mathfrak{L}(M, \omega)$ . Exact conformal maps act on  $\mathfrak{L}(M, \omega)$  and  $\mathfrak{L}(M, \omega)$  carries the so-called spectral norm  $\gamma$  (see Section 2). Its

<sup>1</sup>We shall often need this completeness, not only in forward time, but also in backward time. It follows from the above description that this is always the case for this extension of a Liouville domain.

<sup>2</sup>In dimension 2 for any map  $\varphi$  we have  $\varphi^* \omega = a(z)\omega$  with  $a$  a non-constant function. We say that  $\varphi$  is conformally symplectic if  $a$  is constant. It is dissipative if  $0 < a(z) < 1$ . In higher dimension  $\varphi^* \omega = a(z)\omega$  implies  $a(z)$  is constant, so the terminology "conformally symplectic" is unambiguous.

<sup>3</sup>One has to be careful, this is not exactly an attractor, since some points do not converge to the Birkhoff attractor.

completion with respect to the spectral norm is denoted  $\widehat{\mathcal{L}}(M, \omega)$ . The elements of these completions have a  $\gamma$ -support, which is a closed subset of  $M$  (see Section 2 and [Vit22b]).

A special case of our main theorem (See Theorem 3.1 below) is the following result.

**Theorem 1.1.** *Given a conformally exact symplectic map  $\varphi$  with  $a \neq 1$  on  $T^*N$ , there is a closed invariant subset  $B(\varphi)$  canonically associated to  $\varphi$ , and of the form  $\gamma\text{-supp}(L)$ , where  $L \in \widehat{\mathcal{L}}(T^*N)$  is fixed by  $\varphi$ .*

*Remark 1.2.* Sets of the form  $\gamma\text{-supp}(L)$  have a number of properties. In particular they are  $\gamma$ -coisotropic (see [Vit22b]), which implies that their Hausdorff dimension is at least  $n$ . We shall prove more in Theorem 1.4.

The fixed point and its  $\gamma$ -support will be respectively denoted by  $L_\infty$  and  $B$ , or  $L_\infty(\varphi)$  and  $B(\varphi)$  if needed. The subset  $B$  will be called *generalized Birkhoff attractor* of  $\varphi$ . This terminology is justified by the following result.

**Theorem 1.3.** *Let  $\varphi$  be a conformally symplectic map homotopic to identity of the annulus  $\mathbb{A} = [-1, 1] \times \mathbb{S}^1$  with conformal ratio  $a < 1$  and such that  $\varphi(\mathbb{A}) \subset (-1, 1) \times \mathbb{S}^1$ . Then  $B(\varphi)$  coincides with the classical Birkhoff attractor (see [Bir32]).*

We recall the definition of the classical Birkhoff attractor in Section 3.2. We point out that even though the Birkhoff attractor is classically defined for twist maps, its definition extends to the general case. We assume for the rest of this introduction that  $M = T^*N$  is the cotangent bundle of a smooth closed manifold  $N$ .

The topology of  $B(\varphi)$  is rather well understood in the case  $N = \mathbb{S}^1$ :  $B(\varphi)$  separates the annulus, is connected, but can be an indecomposable continuum<sup>4</sup>(see [Cha34; Cha35]). What can we say in general? The following result partially answers this question.

**Theorem 1.4.** *For any conformally exact symplectic map, the natural map  $H^\ell(N) \rightarrow \bar{H}^\ell(B(\varphi)) := \varinjlim_{U \supset B(\varphi)} H^\ell(U)$  is injective.*

The following question remains open: Is  $B$  always connected? Note that this holds in the case  $N = \mathbb{S}^1$ .

When  $\varphi = \phi_{H,\alpha}^1$  is the time-1 map of a damped Hamiltonian system (which is conformally symplectic of ratio  $a = e^{-\alpha}$ ) a classical approach to finding closed invariant subsets consists in studying the discounted Hamilton-Jacobi equation

$$(1.1) \quad \alpha u(x) + H(x, du(x)) = 0.$$

For given  $\alpha > 0$ , and for  $H$  coercive such an equation has a viscosity solution, and this solution is unique (see [Lio82; Bar94] in the case of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , but the general case is proved similarly). We denote it by  $u_{H,\alpha}$ .

We prove:

**Theorem 1.5.** *For any Tonelli Hamiltonian  $H : T^*N \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , consider the viscosity solution  $u_{H,\alpha}$ , and  $x$  a point of differentiability of  $u_{H,\alpha}$ . Then  $(x, du_{H,\alpha}(x))$  belongs to the generalized Birkhoff attractor of  $\phi_{H,\alpha}^1$ .*

*Remark 1.6.* Maxime Zavidovique informed us that he can construct an example of a non-Tonelli Hamiltonian for which the conclusion of the theorem does not hold, as well as an example of a Tonelli Hamiltonian for which the Birkhoff attractor of  $\phi_{H,\alpha}^1$  is strictly larger than the closure of  $\bigcup_{t \in \mathbb{R}} \phi_{H,\alpha}^t(\text{graph}(du_{H,\alpha}))$ .

<sup>4</sup>That is a connected compact metric space that cannot be decomposed as the union of two proper connected compact subsets.

An intermediate step in the proof of Theorem 1.5 consists in showing that the viscosity solution coincides with the graph selector of the fixed point  $L_\infty(\varphi)$  in  $\widehat{\mathcal{L}}(T^*N)$ . See Section 4.

We also study the limit  $\alpha \rightarrow 0$  or equivalently  $a \rightarrow 1$ . By compactness, the Birkhoff attractors of  $\phi_{H,\alpha}^1$  admit a limit point as  $\alpha \rightarrow 0$ , which provides a closed invariant subset of the Hamiltonian map  $\phi_H^1$ . Moreover, Davini, Fathi, Ituriaga and Zavidovique ([DFIZ]) have shown that under the assumption that  $H$  is Tonelli, as  $\alpha$  converges to 0, the solution  $u_\alpha$  of (1.1) converges uniformly to some  $u_0$ . It is then natural to ask whether the same holds for the fixed point  $L_\infty(\phi_{H,\alpha}^1)$ , with respect to the  $\gamma$ -topology. It turns out that this is not true in the case of a pendulum even though it is a uniformly bounded sequence with respect to the distance  $\gamma$ .

**Theorem 1.7.** *If  $H : T^*\mathbb{S}^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is the Hamiltonian for a standard pendulum, then  $L_\infty(\phi_{H,\alpha}^1)$  does not admit any limit point as  $\alpha$  goes to 0 in  $\widehat{\mathcal{L}}(T^*\mathbb{S}^1)$ .*

For the proof, we refer to Section 5.

In a second more symplectic part of the paper, we prove on one hand Theorem 1.4 (see Section 6), as well as a weak version of the Nearby Lagrangian conjecture (see Conjecture 2.3). We denote by  $\mathcal{D}\mathfrak{Ham}(M, \omega)$  the set of smooth Hamiltonian diffeomorphisms. Let  $\widehat{\mathcal{D}\mathfrak{Ham}}(M, \omega)$  be the completion of  $\mathcal{D}\mathfrak{Ham}(M, \omega)$  with respect to the spectral norm.

**Theorem 1.8.** *Any smooth closed exact Lagrangian submanifold in  $T^*N$  is the image of the zero section by an element of  $\widehat{\mathcal{D}\mathfrak{Ham}}(T^*N)$ .*

Heuristically this theorem tells us that to prove a statement involving the  $\gamma$ -distance for exact Lagrangians in  $T^*M$ , it is enough to prove it for Lagrangians Hamiltonianly isotopic to the zero section. In fact in Section 7 we prove a generalization to any Liouville manifold; (see Theorem 7.4).

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## 2. PRELIMINARIES ON $\gamma$ AND ITS COMPLETION

**2.1. Basic definitions and notation.** Any compactly supported smooth Hamiltonian  $H : \mathbb{S}^1 \times M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  generates a Hamiltonian isotopy  $\phi_H = (\phi_H^t)_{t \in \mathbb{R}}$  obtained by integrating the time-dependent vector field  $X_{H_t}$  which is defined by  $\iota_{X_{H_t}}\omega = -dH_t$ , where we use the notation  $H_t(x) = H(t, x)$ . The group of compactly supported Hamiltonian diffeomorphisms, i.e. the set of diffeomorphisms generated this way, will be denoted by  $\mathcal{D}\mathfrak{Ham}_c(M, \omega)$ .

A *conformally symplectic* (CS) diffeomorphism is a diffeomorphism  $\varphi$  for which there is a constant  $a \in \mathbb{R}$ , called the *conformal ratio* and such that

$$\varphi^* \omega = a\omega.$$

We are specifically interested in the case where  $a \neq 1$  and we will most of the time assume  $a < 1$ . A conformally symplectic diffeomorphism is called *exact* (CES) if  $f^*\lambda - a\lambda$  is an exact 1-form. It is called *Hamiltonian* if it is the time-1 map of a time-dependent vector field  $X_t$  such that  $\iota_{X_t}\omega = \alpha_t\lambda - dH_t$ , for some time dependent  $\alpha_t \in \mathbb{R}$ . For instance, the Liouville vector field  $X$  is Hamiltonian (with  $H_t = 0$  and  $\alpha_t = 1$ ). We denote by  $\phi_{H,\alpha}^t$  the isotopy generated by this vector field.

Hamiltonian conformally symplectic diffeomorphisms model mechanical systems whose friction force is proportional to velocity.

*Remark 2.1.* One can easily check that Hamiltonian CS diffeomorphisms are CES. As already mentioned in the introduction, it is proved in the appendix of Arnaud-Fejoz [AF24] that any CS diffeomorphism which is homotopic to identity is CES for some Liouville form, and furthermore that given a Liouville form  $\lambda$  any CS diffeomorphism which is homotopic to identity and satisfies some mild assumptions at infinity is smoothly conjugate to a CES diffeomorphism with respect to  $\lambda$ . In the sequel we shall only deal with CES maps, unless otherwise stated, and let the reader apply the result of [AF24] to extend the results to the CS case.

A Lagrangian submanifold  $L$  is called *exact* if the restriction  $\lambda|_L$  is exact. In this case, there exists a primitive function  $f_L : L \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  of  $\lambda$  on  $L$ , i.e.  $\lambda|_L = df_L$ . If  $L$  is connected, the primitive  $f_L$  is unique up to addition of a constant.

A *Lagrangian brane* of  $L$  is a triple  $(L, f_L, \tilde{G}_L)$  where  $L$  is an exact Lagrangian submanifold,  $f_L$  is an action function for  $L$  and  $\tilde{G}_L$  is a grading of  $L$ , in the sense of [Sei00]. More precisely,  $\tilde{G}_L : L \rightarrow \tilde{\Lambda}(TM)$  is a lift of the natural map  $G_L : L \rightarrow \Lambda(TM)$  to the fiberwise universal cover of the Lagrangian Grassmanian of the tangent bundle  $TM$ . However, we will mostly forget about the grading and denote Lagrangian branes by  $\tilde{L} = (L, f_L)$ . We will say that  $\tilde{L}$  is a brane associated to  $L$  or simply a *lift* of  $L$ .

Branes may be shifted as follows: for  $\tilde{L} = (L, f_L)$  and  $c \in \mathbb{R}$ , we have a *shift* map  $T_c$  given by  $T_c(L, f_L) = (L, f_L + c)$ . Moreover the natural action of  $\mathcal{D}\mathfrak{Ham}_c(M, \omega)$  on exact Lagrangian lifts to an action on branes given by  $\phi_H^1(L, f_L) = (\phi_H^1(L), H\sharp f_L)$ , where

$$(2.1) \quad H\sharp f_L(\phi_H^1(x)) = f_L(x) + \int_{\{\phi_H^t(x)\}_{t \in [0,1]}} \lambda + H dt.$$

Finally, let us see how CES diffeomorphisms act on branes. Let  $\varphi$  be a CES diffeomorphism of conformal ratio  $a$ . Choose a function  $h$  such that  $\varphi^*\lambda - a\lambda = dh$  and denote by  $\tilde{\varphi}$  the pair  $(\varphi, h)$ . Then any brane  $\tilde{L} = (L, f_L)$  has an associated brane

$$(2.2) \quad \tilde{\varphi}(\tilde{L}) = (\varphi(L), (a f_L + h|_L) \circ \varphi^{-1}).$$

We see that this depends on the choice of  $h$ . For instance, if  $\varphi = \phi_{H,\alpha}^t$  is the time- $t$  flow of a damped Hamiltonian, then a possible choice for  $h$  is

$$(2.3) \quad h(x) = \int_{-t}^0 e^{\alpha s} (\iota_{X_{H,\alpha}} \lambda + H) \circ \phi_{H,\alpha}^{t+s}(x) ds,$$

which gives a lift  $\Phi_{H,\alpha}^t$  whose action on a brane  $\tilde{L} = (L, f_L)$  is given by  $\Phi_{H,\alpha}^t(\tilde{L}) = (\phi_{H,\alpha}^t(L), F_L)$  where

$$(2.4) \quad F_L(x) = e^{-\alpha t} f_L(\phi_{H,\alpha}^{-t}(x)) + \int_{-t}^0 e^{\alpha s} (\lambda_{\phi_{H,\alpha}^s(x)}(X_{H,\alpha}(\phi_{H,\alpha}^s(x)) + H(\phi_{H,\alpha}^s(x)))) ds.$$

**2.2. Lagrangian spectral invariants and the Lagrangian  $\gamma$ -distance.** Since our manifold is convex at infinity, the Floer cohomology of any pair of closed connected exact Lagrangian submanifolds  $L, L'$  is well defined (see [Flo88; McD91; Vit99]). We denote it by  $HF^*(L, L')$ . Recall that the PSS map is a map  $H^*(L) \rightarrow FH^*(L, L)$ .

**Definition 2.2.** We let  $I(M, \omega)$  denote the set of equivalence classes of connected exact Lagrangians for the Floer theoretic equivalence relation (see [AK18; Sei08; She19]):  $L \sim L'$  if and only if  $HF^*(L, L') \simeq H^*(L) \simeq H^*(L')$  where it is assumed that the isomorphism is induced by the PSS maps.

The condition  $L \sim L'$  ensures that  $\gamma(L, L')$  is well-defined (see for example [She19]). If  $\mathcal{L} \in I(M, \omega)$  is an equivalence class, we denote by  $\mathcal{L}$  the corresponding set of branes. Note that any  $\mathcal{L} \in I(M, \omega)$  is stable under Hamiltonian isotopy but could in general be bigger than the Hamiltonian isotopy class. In the case of a cotangent bundle  $(T^*N, \omega)$  it is known [FSS08; Kra13a] that there exists a unique equivalence class, which we denote by  $\mathcal{L}(T^*N)$ .

A conjecture usually attributed to Arnold (and first published in [LS91]) states

**Conjecture 2.3** (Nearby Lagrangian conjecture). *Let  $L$  be an exact Lagrangian in  $T^*N$ , where  $L, N$  are closed manifolds. Then there exists a Hamiltonian isotopy such that  $L = \phi(0_N)$ .*

In dimension 4, some partial results towards the conjecture are known (see [EP96; Hin04; Kim20; DGI16]), but nothing is known in higher dimensions. This conjecture implies that the projection of  $L$  on  $N$  is a homotopy equivalence and that we have an isomorphism  $FH^*(L, 0_N) \simeq H^*(N)$ . These have been proved independently (see [FSS08; Kra13b]). As stated in the introduction (Theorem 1.8), we establish a weak version of this conjecture in Section 7.

Recall that if  $L$  and  $L'$  are transverse, the Floer cohomology is defined from a cochain complex whose underlying module is freely generated (over a ring  $\mathbb{A}$ ) by the intersection points of  $L$  and  $L'$ :

$$CF(L, L') := \bigoplus_{x \in L \cap L'} \mathbb{A}x.$$

Let now  $\tilde{L} = (L, f_L)$ ,  $\tilde{L}' = (L', f_{L'})$  be branes associated to Lagrangians  $L, L'$ . Then, the Floer complex may be filtered by the action of intersection points. Namely, denoting the *action* by

$$\mathcal{A}_{\tilde{L}, \tilde{L}'}(x) := f_L(x) - f_{L'}(x),$$

we have for any real number  $a$  a subcomplex

$$CF_{\geq a}(\tilde{L}, \tilde{L}') := \bigoplus_{x \in L \cap L', \mathcal{A}_{\tilde{L}, \tilde{L}'}(x) \geq a} \mathbb{A}x.$$

The homology of the quotient

$$CF_{< a}(\tilde{L}, \tilde{L}') = CF(\tilde{L}, \tilde{L}') / CF_{\geq a}(\tilde{L}, \tilde{L}'),$$

will be denoted  $HF_a(\tilde{L}, \tilde{L}')$  and called *filtered Floer cohomology* of  $(\tilde{L}, \tilde{L}')$ . The inclusion of complexes induces a map  $i_a : H^*(L) \simeq HF(L, L') \rightarrow HF_a(\tilde{L}, \tilde{L}')$ .

*Remark 2.4.* If  $L$  and  $L'$  are not transverse,  $HF(L, L')$  is defined as  $HF(L, L'')$  for any sufficiently small Hamiltonian deformation  $L''$  of  $L'$  which is transverse to  $L$ . Then  $HF(L, L'')$  has a limit as  $L''$  converges (in the  $C^\infty$  topology) and remains transverse to  $L'$ , and this is denoted by  $HF(L, L')$ . It does not depend on the deformation (see e.g. [Sei08]).

*Remark 2.5.* (Generating functions) If  $L \in \mathcal{L}(T^*N, \omega)$  is Hamiltonian isotopic to the zero section, then it admits a generating function quadratic at infinity [LS85], i.e. a function  $S : N \times \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  such that  $S(x, \xi)$  coincides with a non-degenerate quadratic form  $Q : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  outside a compact set and

$$L = \left\{ (x, p) \in T^*N : \exists \xi \in \mathbb{R}^d, \partial_x S(x, \xi) = p, \partial_\xi S(x, \xi) = 0 \right\}.$$

The choice of  $S$  determines a choice of brane  $\tilde{L}$  for which we have canonical isomorphisms [Vit95; Mil00; MO97]

$$HF_a(\tilde{L}, 0_N) \simeq H^*(S^a, S^{-\infty})$$

for any  $a \in \mathbb{R}$  and where  $S^a = \{(x, \xi) : S(x, \xi) < a\}$  and  $S^{-\infty}$  denotes  $S^{< A}$  for  $A \ll 0$ .

For any transverse pair  $(L, L')$  in the same class  $\mathcal{L} \in I(M, \omega)$  we may now define the spectral invariants of any corresponding branes  $\tilde{L}$  and  $\tilde{L}'$ . For any non-zero cohomology class  $\alpha \in H^*(L)$ , we set

$$\ell(\alpha; \tilde{L}, \tilde{L}') = \inf \{ a \in \mathbb{R} : i_a(\alpha) \neq 0 \}.$$

Spectral invariants were first introduced and studied by Viterbo [Vit92] using generating functions, and then extended to more general situations using Floer theory by Oh [Oh97], Schwarz [Sch00], Leclercq [Lec08]. In [Lec08], even though he assumes  $L' = \varphi(L)$  it is clear that the construction extends to the general case when  $L, L'$  are Floer theoretic equivalent. It turns out that the map

$\ell(\alpha, \cdot, \cdot)$  extends to all pairs of Floer theoretic equivalent branes  $(\tilde{L}, \tilde{L}') \in \mathcal{L} \times \mathcal{L}$  (not necessarily associated to transverse Lagrangians). Moreover, these invariants have the following properties:

**Proposition 2.6.** *Let  $\tilde{L}, \tilde{L}' \in \mathcal{L}$  and  $\alpha \in H^*(L) \setminus \{0\}$ . Then,*

- (1) (SPECTRALITY) *There exists  $x \in L \cap L'$ , such that  $\ell(\alpha; \tilde{L}, \tilde{L}') = \mathcal{A}_{\tilde{L}, \tilde{L}'}(x)$ .*
- (2) (MONOTONICITY AND HOFER CONTINUITY) *For any Hamiltonian  $H \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{S}^1 \times M)$  the following inequalities hold:*

$$\int_0^1 \min_{x \in M} H_t(x) dt \leq \ell(\alpha; \phi_H^1(\tilde{L}), \tilde{L}') - \ell(\alpha; \tilde{L}, \tilde{L}') \leq \int_0^1 \max_{x \in M} H_t(x) dt$$

- (3) (SHIFT) *For any constant  $c \in \mathbb{R}$ , we have:*

$$\ell(\alpha; \tilde{L} + c, \tilde{L}') = \ell(\alpha; \tilde{L}, \tilde{L}' - c) = \ell(\alpha; \tilde{L}, \tilde{L}') + c.$$

- (4) (CONFORMAL INVARIANCE) *For any CES diffeomorphism  $\varphi$  of conformal ratio  $a$ , we have*

$$\ell(\alpha; \tilde{\varphi}(\tilde{L}), \tilde{\varphi}(\tilde{L}')) = a \ell(\varphi^* \alpha; \tilde{L}, \tilde{L}').$$

*In particular, this does not depend on the choice of lift  $\tilde{\varphi}$  of  $\varphi$ .*

- (5) (TRIANGLE INEQUALITY) *For any third Lagrangian brane  $\tilde{L}'' \in \mathcal{L}$ , and any class  $\beta$  such that  $\alpha \cup \beta \neq 0$ , we have*

$$\ell(\alpha \cup \beta; \tilde{L}, \tilde{L}'') \geq \ell(\alpha; \tilde{L}, \tilde{L}') + \ell(\beta; \tilde{L}', \tilde{L}'').$$

We may now define the spectral distance as in [Vit92] and [Vit22b]<sup>5</sup>. Given two equivalent Lagrangians  $L, L'$ , and two choices of respective branes  $\tilde{L}, \tilde{L}'$ , we set

$$c(\tilde{L}, \tilde{L}') = \max\{0, \ell(\mu; \tilde{L}, \tilde{L}')\} - \min\{0, \ell(1; \tilde{L}, \tilde{L}')\}$$

where  $\mu$  and 1 respectively denote top-degree and 0-degree generators of  $HF^*(L)$ . We also define

$$\gamma(L, L') = \ell(\mu; \tilde{L}, \tilde{L}') - \ell(1; \tilde{L}, \tilde{L}').$$

Note that by the shift property in Proposition 2.6, the real number  $\gamma(L, L')$  does not depend on the choice of branes  $\tilde{L}, \tilde{L}'$ . Moreover, we have  $\gamma(L, L') = \inf c(\tilde{L}, \tilde{L}')$  where the infimum runs over all branes  $\tilde{L}, \tilde{L}'$  of  $L, L'$  ([Vit22b, Prop 5.2])

The proposition below follows immediately from the fourth item of Proposition 2.6 and plays an important role in our story.

**Proposition 2.7.** *Let  $\mathcal{L} \in I(M, d\lambda)$ . Then,  $c$  is a distance function on  $\mathcal{L}$  and  $\gamma$  is a distance function on  $\mathcal{L}$ . Moreover, for any CES diffeomorphism  $\varphi$  of ratio  $a$ , any  $L, L' \in \mathcal{L}$  and any lifts  $\tilde{\varphi}, \tilde{L}, \tilde{L}'$  of these objects, we have*

$$c(\tilde{\varphi}(\tilde{L}), \tilde{\varphi}(\tilde{L}')) = a c(\tilde{L}, \tilde{L}') \quad \text{and} \quad \gamma(\varphi(L), \varphi(L')) = a \gamma(L, L').$$

The distance  $\gamma$  is called the *spectral distance*. The metric spaces  $(\mathcal{L}, \gamma)$  and  $(\mathcal{L}, c)$  are not complete (and not even Polish, see [Vit22b, Prop A.1]). We denote their respective completions by  $\widehat{\mathcal{L}}$  and  $\widehat{\mathcal{L}}$ . Their study was initiated in [Hum08] (in their Hamiltonian version in  $\mathbb{R}^{2n}$ ) and pushed further in [Vit22b].

*Remark 2.8.* The following operations extend to completions in a very natural way. All these operations obviously still satisfy properties (2)-(5) from Proposition 2.6.

- (1) The natural projection  $u: \mathcal{L} \rightarrow \mathcal{L}$ ,  $(L, f_L) \mapsto L$  is 1-Lipschitz hence extends to a map  $u: \widehat{\mathcal{L}} \rightarrow \widehat{\mathcal{L}}$ . This extension is surjective [Vit22b, Prop 5.5].

<sup>5</sup>More precisely, [Vit92] defines  $\gamma$  via generating functions and [Vit22b] defines  $c$  via sheaves but these are equivalent to the Floer theoretic version we give according to [MO97] and [Vit19] respectively.

- (2) The group  $\mathcal{D}\mathfrak{H}\mathfrak{a}\mathfrak{m}_c(M, \omega)$  acts by isometry on  $\mathcal{L}$  and  $\mathcal{L}$ . Therefore, this extends to actions of  $\mathcal{D}\mathfrak{H}\mathfrak{a}\mathfrak{m}_c(M, \omega)$  on  $\widehat{\mathcal{L}}$  and  $\widehat{\mathcal{L}}$ . We will use the same notation for these actions as before taking completion; namely we will write  $\phi_H^1(L)$  and  $\phi_H^1(\widehat{L})$ .
- (3) By Proposition 2.7, any CES diffeomorphism of ratio  $a$  acts as an  $a$ -Lipschitz map on  $\mathcal{L}$  hence extends to a self-map of  $\widehat{\mathcal{L}}$ .
- (4) The shift map  $T_c$  also acts as an isometry on  $\mathcal{L}$ , hence extends to a map  $T_c : \widehat{\mathcal{L}} \rightarrow \widehat{\mathcal{L}}$ .
- (5) For any class  $\alpha$ , the spectral invariant  $\ell(\alpha; \cdot, \cdot)$  is Lipschitz on  $\mathcal{L} \times \mathcal{L}$  hence extends to  $\widehat{\mathcal{L}} \times \widehat{\mathcal{L}}$ .

*Example 2.9.* Let  $f$  be a smooth function on a closed connected manifold  $N$ . If  $L = \Gamma_f$  is the graph of  $df$ ,  $\mu_N, 1_N$  are the generators of  $H^n(N), H^0(N)$ , then

$$c(\mu_N, \Gamma_f) = \max_{x \in N} f(x), \quad c(1_N, \Gamma_f) = \min_{x \in N} f(x),$$

and the other  $c(\alpha, \Gamma_f)$  are critical values of  $f$  obtained by minmax on the cohomology class  $\alpha$ , i.e. setting  $f^c = \{x \in N \mid f(x) \leq c\}$ ,

$$c(\alpha, \Gamma_f) = \inf\{c : \alpha \neq 0 \text{ in } H^*(f^c)\}$$

**2.3. The  $\gamma$  support.** We fix a given class  $\mathcal{L} \in I(M, \omega)$  throughout this section. The elements of the completion  $\widehat{\mathcal{L}}$  are very abstract objects. Indeed, by definition, they are certain equivalence classes of Cauchy sequences of Lagrangian submanifolds with respect to the spectral distance. The  $\gamma$ -support addresses this issue by associating to any element in  $\widehat{\mathcal{L}}$  a closed subset of  $M$ .

**Definition 2.10** ( $\gamma$ -support, [Vit22b]). *Let  $L \in \widehat{\mathcal{L}}$ . The  $\gamma$ -support of  $L$  is the set of all  $x \in M$  such that for any neighborhood  $U$  of  $x$ , there exists  $\phi \in \mathcal{D}\mathfrak{H}\mathfrak{a}\mathfrak{m}_c(M, \omega)$  supported in  $U$  which satisfies*

$$\phi(L) \neq L.$$

The  $\gamma$ -support is well behaved in many respects. The following proposition lists some important properties.

**Proposition 2.11.** *We have*

- (1) (REGULAR LAGRANGIANS) *For any genuine smooth Lagrangian  $L \in \mathcal{L}$ , we have  $\gamma\text{-supp}(L) = L$ .*
- (2) (INVARIANCE) *For any CES diffeomorphism  $\psi$  (e.g. if  $\psi \in \mathcal{D}\mathfrak{H}\mathfrak{a}\mathfrak{m}_c(M, \omega)$ ), and for any  $L \in \widehat{\mathcal{L}}$ , we have*

$$\gamma\text{-supp}(\psi(L)) = \psi(\gamma\text{-supp}(L)).$$

- (3) ( $\gamma$ -COISOTROPIC) *For any  $L \in \mathcal{L}$ ,  $\gamma\text{-supp}(L)$  is  $\gamma$ -coisotropic in the sense of [Vit22b], i.e. for any  $x \in \gamma\text{-supp}(L)$  there exists a ball  $B$  centered at  $x$  such that for any smaller ball  $B' \subsetneq B$  centered at  $x$ , there is  $\delta > 0$  such that:*

$$\forall \varphi \in \mathcal{D}\mathfrak{H}\mathfrak{a}\mathfrak{m}_c(B), (\varphi(\gamma\text{-supp}(L)) \cap B' = \emptyset \implies \gamma(\varphi) > \delta.$$

*In particular, if  $\gamma\text{-supp}(L)$  is a smooth submanifold then it is coisotropic.*

- (4) (SEMI-CONTINUITY) *For any open subset  $U$  and any sequence  $L_k \in \widehat{\mathcal{L}}$ ,  $k \geq 0$ , which  $\gamma$ -converges to some  $L \in \widehat{\mathcal{L}}$  and satisfies  $\gamma\text{-supp} L_k \subset U$  for all  $k \geq 0$ , then  $\gamma\text{-supp}(L) \subset U$ . In other words, we have*

$$\gamma\text{-supp}(L) \subset \bigcap_{k_0 \geq 0} \overline{\bigcup_{k \geq k_0} \gamma\text{-supp}(L_k)}.$$

*Remark 2.12.* Homeomorphisms which are  $C^0$ -limits of Hamiltonian diffeomorphisms are sometimes called *Hamiltonian homeomorphism*. Since the  $\gamma$ -norm on  $\mathcal{D}\mathfrak{H}\mathfrak{a}\mathfrak{m}_c(M, \omega)$  is  $C^0$  continuous<sup>6</sup>, the natural action of Hamiltonian diffeomorphisms on  $\widehat{\mathcal{L}}$  extends to an action of Hamiltonian

<sup>6</sup>This follows from [Vit92] on  $\mathbb{R}^{2n}$  and [BHS21] for the general case.



homeomorphisms on  $\widehat{\mathcal{L}}$ . It then follows from Proposition 2.11 items (2),(4), that

$$\gamma\text{-supp}(\psi(L)) = \psi(\gamma\text{-supp}(L)).$$

holds for any Hamiltonian homeomorphism  $\psi$ .

The  $\gamma$ -support has many more properties. For instance, it is known that in a cotangent bundle  $T^*N$ , it has non-trivial intersection with all fibers as well as with every closed exact Lagrangian submanifolds. We refer the reader to [Vit22b] for proofs as well as many more properties.

We will also need the following lemma.

**Lemma 2.13** ([Vit22b], Lemma 6.12). *Let  $\tilde{L} \in \widehat{\mathcal{L}}$  correspond to an element  $L \in \widehat{\mathcal{L}}$ , and let  $H$  be a Hamiltonian for which there exists  $C \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $H(t, x) = C$  for any  $t \in \mathbb{S}^1$ ,  $x \in \gamma\text{-supp}(L)$ . Then  $\phi_H^1$  acts on  $\tilde{L}$  as a shift:*

$$\phi_H^1(\tilde{L}) = T_C \tilde{L}.$$

Note that in the case  $\tilde{L} \in \mathcal{L}$  is a genuine smooth brane, this would follow immediately from (2.1).

### 3. THE GENERALIZED BIRKHOFF ATTRACTOR

**3.1. Proof of Theorem 1.1 and first properties.** In this section we assume that  $\varphi$  is a conformally exact symplectic diffeomorphism with  $a \neq 1$ , on some Liouville manifold  $(M, \omega = d\lambda)$ .

Our first task will be to prove a generalization of Theorem 1.1 to such manifolds. In fact we will prove a refined version which applies to Lagrangian branes and obviously implies Theorem 1.1. We will then end the section with some extra properties and remarks.

Recall that  $\varphi$  not only acts on  $\widehat{\mathcal{L}}(M, \omega)$ , but also on the completion of Lagrangian branes  $\widehat{\mathcal{L}}(M, \omega)$  with respect to the metric  $c$ , by Remark 2.8.

**Theorem 3.1.** *Assume that  $(M, \omega)$  admits a non-empty class of closed exact Lagrangian submanifolds  $\mathcal{L} \in I(M, \omega)$  which is preserved by  $\varphi$  and denote by  $\mathcal{L}$  the corresponding class of branes. Then for any lift  $\tilde{\varphi}$  of  $\varphi$ , there is a unique element  $\tilde{L}_\infty$  in the  $c$ -completion  $\widehat{\mathcal{L}}$  such that  $\tilde{\varphi}(\tilde{L}_\infty) = \tilde{L}_\infty$ . As a consequence, denoting by  $L_\infty$  the element of  $\widehat{\mathcal{L}}$  corresponding to  $\tilde{L}_\infty$ , the subset*

$$B(\varphi) = \gamma\text{-supp}(L_\infty)$$

*is an invariant, closed and  $\gamma$ -coisotropic subset of  $\varphi$ .*

*Proof of Theorem 1.1.* Changing  $\varphi$  to  $\varphi^{-1}$  we may assume  $a < 1$ . Then  $\tilde{\varphi}$  acts on  $\mathcal{L}(M, \omega)$  as a contraction, by Proposition 2.7. By Picard's fixed point theorem,  $\tilde{\varphi}$  has a unique fixed point  $\tilde{L}_\infty \in \widehat{\mathcal{L}}(M, \omega)$ . By Proposition 2.11, item (2), we must then have  $\varphi(\gamma\text{-supp}(L_\infty)) = \gamma\text{-supp}(L_\infty)$ .  $\square$

We also have

**Proposition 3.2.** *Assume that  $B(\varphi)$  contains a closed exact Lagrangian submanifold  $\Lambda$ . Then the union of the images  $\varphi^k(\Lambda)$  (for  $k \geq k_0$ ) is dense in  $B(\varphi)$ .*

*Proof.* In this situation, the fixed point  $L_\infty(\varphi)$  must be the  $\gamma$ -limit of  $\varphi^k(\Lambda)$ . But then, by the fourth item of Proposition 2.11,

$$B(\varphi) = \gamma\text{-supp}(L_\infty) \subset \overline{\bigcup_{k \geq k_0} \gamma\text{-supp}(\varphi^k(\Lambda))} = \overline{\bigcup_{k \geq k_0} \varphi^k(\Lambda)}.$$

Since on the other hand  $\bigcup_{k \geq k_0} \varphi^k(\Lambda) \subset B(\varphi)$  for any  $k_0$ , this implies that the union of images  $\varphi^k(\Lambda)$  (for  $k \geq k_0$ ) is dense in  $B(\varphi)$ .  $\square$

We can say more if the following conjecture holds

**Conjecture 3.3** (Viterbo [Vit23]). *For any  $r$ , the metric  $\gamma$  is bounded on the space of exact Lagrangians which are included in a disc bundle  $\{(q, p) \in \mathcal{T}^*N : \|p\| \leq r\}$ .*

This conjecture is known to hold on a large class of manifolds, for instance  $\mathbb{S}^n$ ,  $\mathbb{T}^n$ , compact Lie groups, compact homogenous spaces and others [She18; She19; GVic22; Vit22a].

**Corollary 3.4.** *Assume Conjecture 3.3 holds for  $N$ . If  $B(\varphi)$  contains a closed exact Lagrangian  $\Lambda$ , then  $B(\varphi) = \Lambda$ .*

*Remark 3.5.* The set  $B(\varphi)$  is the minimal invariant set of the form  $\gamma\text{-supp}(\Lambda)$ ,  $\Lambda \in \widehat{\mathcal{L}}(M, \omega)$ . Indeed, if  $\gamma\text{-supp}(\Lambda) \subset B$  then  $\gamma\text{-supp}(\varphi(\Lambda)) \subset B$  and since the sequence  $\varphi^k(\Lambda)$   $\gamma$ -converges to  $L_\infty$  and each element has support in  $B$ , we deduce that the sequence  $\varphi^k(\gamma\text{-supp}(\Lambda))$  must be dense in  $B(\varphi)$ .

*Question 3.6.* Are there examples where we can find an invariant set strictly containing  $B(\varphi)$  and of the form  $\gamma\text{-supp}(\Lambda)$  ?

**3.2. Connection with the Birkhoff attractor for the annulus.** We refer to [LeCal86] and [LeCal87] for details on the classical Birkhoff attractor, whose construction we now recall.

Let us consider the annulus  $\mathbb{A} = \mathbb{S}^1 \times [-1, 1]$  supposed to be contained in the sphere  $\mathbb{S}^2$  as the thickening of the equator. Let  $\varphi$  be dissipative map of  $\mathbb{A}$ , i.e. there exists  $\alpha < 1$  such that  $\mu(\varphi(U)) \leq \alpha\mu(U)$ . We assume that  $\varphi(\mathbb{A}) \subset \mathbb{S}^1 \times (-1, 1)$ . Then the set  $C_0 = \bigcap_{n \geq 1} \varphi^n(\mathbb{A})$  is an invariant set, and has measure zero. As a decreasing sequence of compact connected sets, it is compact connected. Furthermore,  $C_0$  is the largest compact invariant subset of  $\mathbb{A}$ . If we set  $U_n \cup V_n = \mathbb{A} \setminus \varphi^n(\mathbb{A})$ , where  $U_n$  is the connected component containing  $\mathbb{S}^1 \times \{1\}$  and  $V_n$  the connected component containing  $\mathbb{S}^1 \times \{-1\}$ , we have  $U_0^+ = \bigcup_n U_n$ ,  $U_0^- = \bigcup_n V_n$  satisfy  $U_0^+ \cup U_0^- = \mathbb{A} \setminus C_0$ .

But we can find a smaller invariant set by “cutting out the hair” from  $C_0$ . In other words  $C_0$  is a compact connected subset separating  $\mathbb{S}^2$  in two simply connected sets,  $U_0^+, U_0^-$  such that  $\mathbb{S}^2 \setminus C_0 = U_0^+ \cup U_0^-$ . Then if  $\text{Fr}(U_0^+)$  denotes the frontier of  $U_0^+$ ,  $C_1 = \text{Fr}(U_0^+) \cap \text{Fr}(U_0^-)$ , then  $C_1$  is contained in  $C_0$  and is an invariant set. It is obtained by removing the points of  $C_0$  which are not adherent to both  $U_0^+$  and  $U_0^-$  (see Figure 1 and 2). We shall denote by  $U_1^+, U_1^-$  the connected components of  $\mathbb{A} \setminus C_1$ . We then have  $C_1 = \overline{U_1^+} \cap \overline{U_1^-} = \text{Fr}(U_1^+) = \text{Fr}(U_1^-)$ . The subset  $C_1$  is called the *Birkhoff attractor* of  $\varphi$ .

Since the subset  $B(\varphi)$  from Theorem 3.1 is a compact invariant subset, we have  $B(\varphi) \subset C_0$ . However,  $B(\varphi)$  cannot be equal to  $C_0$ , because  $C_0$  can be non  $\gamma$ -coisotropic at certain points e.g. at the end of the hair ( see Figure 1) for the same reason  $[0, 1] \subset \mathbb{R}^2$  is not  $\gamma$ -coisotropic at 0 or 1.

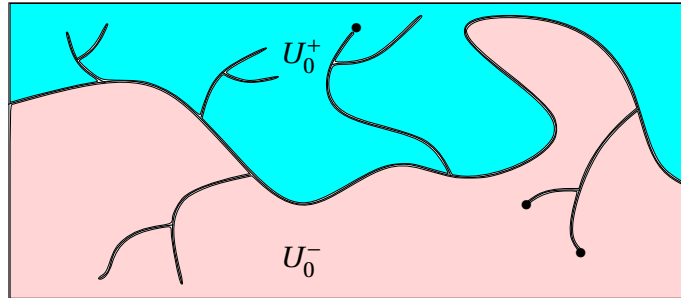
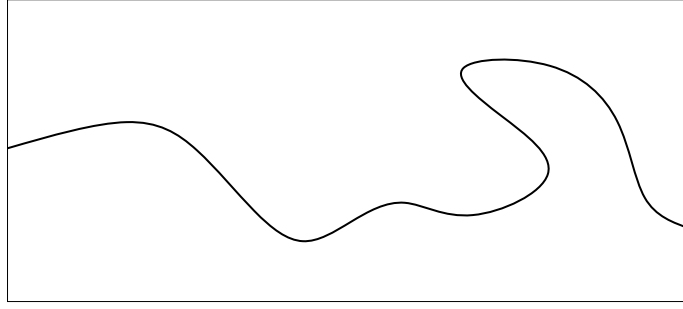


FIGURE 1. The invariant set  $C_0$  : it is not  $\gamma$ -coisotropic for example at the points marked “•”. The blue set is  $U_0^+$ , the pink set is  $U_0^-$ .

We are now ready to prove Theorem 1.3, namely the fact that our invariant subset  $B(\varphi)$  coincides with the Birkhoff attractor  $C_1(\varphi)$ .

FIGURE 2. The invariant set  $C_1$ 

*Proof of Theorem 1.3.* As a first step, we prove the inclusion

$$(3.1) \quad B(\varphi) \subset C_1(\varphi)$$

To prove this inclusion, we need to consider for  $a \in [-1, 1]$ , the set  $\mathcal{L}_a(\mathbb{A})$  of simple curves homologous to  $\mathbb{S}^1 \times \{0\}$ , with Liouville class  $a \in H^1(\mathbb{S}^1, \mathbb{R}) \simeq \mathbb{R}$ . We have  $\mathcal{L}_a(\mathbb{A}) = \tau_a \mathcal{L}(\mathbb{A})$ , where  $\tau_a$  denotes the translation  $(x, p) \mapsto (x, p + a)$ . Note that  $\varphi$  sends  $\mathcal{L}_a(\mathbb{A})$  to  $\mathcal{L}_{\alpha a}(\mathbb{A})$ .

We claim that for any  $\Lambda$  in  $\mathcal{L}_a(\mathbb{A})$ , the sequence of exact curves  $\Lambda_k = \tau_{-\alpha^k a} \varphi^k(\Lambda)$  converges with respect to  $\gamma$  to the fixed point  $L_\infty(\varphi)$ . By taking  $\Lambda = \mathbb{S}^1 \times \{a\}$  for  $a$  close enough to 1, we have  $\Lambda \subset U_1$ , and by Proposition 6.17 of [Vit22b]

$$\gamma\text{-supp}(L_\infty(\varphi)) \subset \liminf_k \Lambda_k = \liminf_k \varphi^k(\Lambda) \subset \liminf_k U_k = \overline{U_1^+}$$

Similarly  $\gamma\text{-supp}(L_\infty(\varphi)) \subset \overline{U_1^-}$  and (3.1) follows since  $B(\varphi) = \gamma\text{-supp}(L_\infty(\varphi))$ .

Let us now prove our claim, i.e. that  $\Lambda_k$   $\gamma$ -converges to  $L_\infty$ . We will first prove that  $\Lambda_k$  is a Cauchy sequence. For all  $k \geq 1$ , we set  $f_k = \tau_{-\alpha^k a} \varphi \tau_{\alpha^{k-1} a}$ , so that  $\Lambda_k = f_k(\Lambda_{k-1})$ . We have that  $f_k$  converges to  $\varphi$  for  $\gamma$ , and the  $f_k$  (and  $\varphi$ ) are  $\alpha$ -contractions on  $\widehat{\mathcal{L}}(\mathbb{A})$ .

We now have the following fixed point theorem for which we have not found any reference

**Proposition 3.7.** *Let  $(T_k)_{k \geq 1}$  be a sequence of maps from a complete metric space  $(X, d)$  to itself. Assume that*

- (1) *there exists  $\alpha \in [0, 1)$  such that, for all  $k$  the map  $T_k$  is  $\alpha$ -Lipschitz,*
- (2)  *$(T_k)_{k \geq 1}$  converges uniformly to a map  $T_\infty$ .*

*Then for any  $x \in X$ , the sequence  $T_k \circ T_{k-1} \circ \dots \circ T_1(x)$  converges to  $x_\infty$ , the unique fixed point of  $T_\infty$ .*

*Proof.* We know that  $T_\infty^k(x)$  converges to  $x_\infty$  by the standard proof of Banach's fixed point theorem. Now we set

$$u_k = \sup_{x \in X} d(T_k \circ T_{k-1} \circ \dots \circ T_1(x), T_\infty^k(x))$$

We have

$$\begin{aligned} & d(T_k \circ T_{k-1} \circ \dots \circ T_1(x), T_\infty^k(x)) \\ & \leq d(T_k \circ T_{k-1} \circ \dots \circ T_1(x), T_k(T_\infty^{k-1}(x))) + d(T_k(T_\infty^{k-1}(x)), T_\infty(T_\infty^{k-1}(x))) \\ & \leq \alpha d(T_{k-1} \circ \dots \circ T_1(x), T_\infty^{k-1}(x)) + d(T_k, T_\infty) \end{aligned}$$

which means, setting  $\varepsilon_k = d(T_k, T_\infty) = \sup_{x \in X} d(T_k(x), T_\infty(x))$

$$u_k \leq \alpha u_{k-1} + \varepsilon_k$$

Moreover  $u_1$  is finite, since we may always assume  $d(T_1, T_\infty) < +\infty$ . Using the identity

$$u_n - \alpha^{n-1} u_1 = \sum_{j=0}^{n-2} \alpha^j (u_{n-j} - \alpha u_{n-(j+1)})$$

this implies that

$$u_n \leq \sum_{j=0}^{n-2} \alpha^j \varepsilon_{n-j} + \alpha^{n-1} u_1.$$

If  $M$  is a bound for the sequence  $(\varepsilon_k)_{k \geq 2}$  and for  $k \geq r$  we have  $\varepsilon_k \leq \varepsilon$  then

$$u_n \leq \sum_{j=0}^{n-2} \alpha^j \varepsilon_{n-j} + \alpha^{n-1} u_1 \leq \varepsilon \sum_{j=0}^{n-r} \alpha^j + M \sum_{j=n-r+1}^{n-2} \alpha^j \leq \frac{\varepsilon \alpha}{1-\alpha} + \alpha^{n-r+1} \frac{M}{1-\alpha}.$$

Clearly this is bounded by  $\frac{2\varepsilon}{1-\alpha}$  for  $n$  large enough. We thus proved that  $u_k = d(T_k \circ T_{k-1} \circ \dots \circ T_1(x), T_\infty^k(x))$  converges to 0, hence  $T_k \circ T_{k-1} \circ \dots \circ T_1(x)$  converges to  $x_\infty$ .  $\square$

*Remark 3.8.* In the assumptions, it is of course sufficient to assume that the convergence from  $T_k$  to  $T_\infty$  is uniform on bounded sets, as we only need to bound  $d(T_k(T_\infty^{k-1}(x)), T_\infty(T_\infty^{k-1}(x)))$  and we know that the sequence  $T_\infty^k(x)$  is bounded.

Applying the above Proposition to  $f_k$  and  $\varphi$ , we conclude that  $\gamma\text{-lim } \Lambda_k = \Lambda_\infty$  with  $\Lambda_\infty = L_\infty$ . In other words, the sequence  $\Lambda_k$  converges to  $L_\infty$ . This proves our claim and concludes the proof of the inclusion (3.1).

We now turn to the proof of the equality. By Proposition 6.10 in [Vit22b], the subset  $B(\varphi) = \gamma\text{-supp}(L_\infty(\varphi))$  intersects all curves isotopic to the vertical. Therefore, it is an annular set, i.e. it separates the annulus.

So  $\mathbb{A} \setminus B(\varphi) = W^+ \cup W^-$ , the two unbounded connected components of the boundary, as there can be no bounded connected component, otherwise the union of such components would be invariant and being open have non-zero measure. Since  $B(\varphi) \subset C_1(\varphi)$ , we must have  $\mathbb{A} \setminus C_1(\varphi) \subset \mathbb{A} \setminus B(\varphi)$  hence  $U_1^+ \subset W^+$  and  $U_1^- \subset W^-$ . We claim that we have equality in both inclusions. Indeed, let  $x \in W^+ \setminus U_1^+$ . Then there is a positive  $\varepsilon$  such that  $B(x, \varepsilon) \subset W^+$ , hence  $d(x, W^-) \geq \varepsilon$ . But then  $d(x, U_1^-) \geq \varepsilon$  since  $U_1^- \subset W^-$ . But if  $x \notin U_1^+$  we must have  $x \in \overline{U_1^-}$  and  $d(x, U_1^-) = 0$  a contradiction. So we must have  $U_1^+ = W^+$  and  $U_1^- = W^-$  and we may conclude  $B(\varphi) = C_1(\varphi)$ .  $\square$

The following example of  $\gamma$ -support then follows from the work of Birkhoff ([Bir32] and Marie Charpentier ([Cha34]). Remember that a continuum is a connected compact metric space. It is indecomposable if it cannot be written as the union of two non-trivial (i.e. different from the whole space and the empty set) continua. Note that a closed curve is NOT indecomposable.

**Corollary 3.9.** *There exists a conformally symplectic map such that  $\gamma\text{-supp}(L_\infty)$  is an indecomposable continuum.*

*Proof.* Note that Birkhoff's construction in section 7 of [Bir32] is not only dissipative (i.e. strictly reduces the areas by a factor bounded by  $\alpha < 1$ ), it is a conformally symplectic map of ratio  $1 - \varepsilon$  for  $\varepsilon > 0$ . Moreover Birkhoff proves that in this example, the Birkhoff attractor has two distinct rotation numbers. According to M. Charpentier ([Cha34]) this implies that  $C_1$  is an indecomposable continuum. But by Theorem 1.3, this implies that  $\gamma\text{-supp}(L_\infty)$  is an indecomposable continuum.  $\square$

*Remark 3.10.* Even though this is quite far from the subject of this article, according to [AGHIV], the  $\gamma$ -support of  $L_\infty$  coincides with the reduced singular support of its quantifying sheaf (defined in [GVit22a])  $\mathcal{F}_{L_\infty}$  belonging to the derived category of limits of constructible sheaves. Thus there exists a limit of constructible sheaves such that its singular support in  $T^*(\mathbb{S}^1 \times \mathbb{R}) \setminus 0_{\mathbb{S}^1 \times \mathbb{R}}$  is an indecomposable continuum.

## 4. THE DISCOUNTED HAMILTONIAN-JACOBI EQUATION AND THE BIRKHOFF ATTRACTOR

The goal of this section is to prove Theorem 1.5. The proof will use discounted weak KAM theory and graph selectors. We introduce the relevant material from weak KAM theory in Section 4.1 and for graph selectors in Section 4.2. The proof of Theorem 1.5 is then done in Section 4.3.

In this section we work on a cotangent bundle  $M = T^*N$ , endowed with the standard Liouville form  $\lambda$ . We fix a Riemannian metric on  $N$  and denote by  $\|p\|$  the (dual) norm of an element  $p \in T_q^*N$ . We assume that  $H : T^*N \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is the opposite of an autonomous Tonelli Hamiltonian, i.e. that its second order fiberwise derivative is negative definite and that  $H(q, p)$  goes to  $-\infty$  as  $\|p\| \rightarrow \infty$ . The authors apologize for using the opposite of the usual convention for the Hamiltonian, but symplectic geometers and dynamicists have conflicting conventions.

It is proven in [ASZ24] that if  $C = \inf\{H(q, 0); q \in M\}$  is the minimum of  $H$  on the zero-section, then  $-H$  is a strict Lyapunov function on  $U_H = \{H < C\}$  for  $(\Phi_{H,\alpha}^t)$ . Hence the conformally Hamiltonian flow  $(\phi_{H,\alpha}^t)$  is defined for all positive times. However, it is not always complete for negative times (see also [MS17]). This implies that the compact subset

$$(4.1) \quad \mathcal{K}_H = T^*M \setminus U_H$$

is forward invariant,  $\mathcal{K}_H$  contains the  $\omega$ -limit set of every point and for every compact subset  $K$ , there is a positive time such that  $\phi_{H,\alpha}^t(K) \subset \mathcal{K}_H$ . This last point implies that the Birkhoff attractor  $B_{H,\alpha}$  is compact (and contained in  $\mathcal{K}_H$ ). Then, the largest invariant compact set is  $K_{H,\alpha} = \bigcap_{t>0} \phi_{H,\alpha}^t(\mathcal{K}_H)$ , which also contains  $B_{H,\alpha}$ .

We recall Proposition 18 of [Con+00].

**Proposition 4.1.** *Given a Tonelli Hamiltonian  $H : T^*N \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  and  $k \in \mathbb{R}$ , there is a Tonelli Hamiltonian  $H_0$ , convex and quadratic at infinity such that  $H_0(x, p) = H(x, p)$  for every  $(x, p)$  such that  $H(x, p) \leq k$ .*

We choose  $k \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $H$  is a Lyapunov function on  $\{H \geq k\}$  and pick  $H_0$  as in the above proposition. Then  $(\phi_{H,\alpha}^t)$  and  $(\phi_{H_0,\alpha}^t)$  have the same Birkhoff attractor, that is contained in  $\{H \leq k\}$ .

Reminders on discounted weak KAM theory are given in Section 4.1 below. The weak KAM solution is also the viscosity solution of the discounted Hamilton-Jacobi equation

$$(1.1) \quad \alpha u(x) + H(x, du(x)) = 0.$$

In [DFIZ, p.38], it is explained that for  $k$  large enough, the viscosity solutions of  $\alpha u(x) + H(x, du(x)) = 0$  and  $\alpha u(x) + H_0(x, du(x)) = 0$  are the same. Hence, replacing  $H$  by  $H_0$ , we can assume in the remainder of the article that the discounted flow of  $H$  is complete. Moreover, if there exists a constant  $C$  such that  $|\partial_p H \cdot p| \leq C|H|$ , then  $X_{H,\alpha}$  is complete. In both cases, there is a maximal invariant compact subset that will be denoted by  $K_{H,\alpha}$ . It contains the Birkhoff attractor of  $\phi_{H,\alpha}^t$  which we denote by  $B_{H,\alpha}$ . Recall that  $B_{H,\alpha}$  is by definition the  $\gamma$ -support of the unique fixed point  $L_\infty(H, \alpha)$  of  $\phi_{H,\alpha}^t$  in  $\widehat{\mathcal{L}}$ . Also recall that the choice of Hamiltonian  $H$  determines a lift  $\Phi_{H,\alpha}^t$  of  $\phi_{H,\alpha}^t$  by Formula (2.3). The action of  $\Phi_{H,\alpha}^t$  on the space of branes  $\mathcal{L}$  is given by formula (2.4), which we now recall for the reader's convenience:  $\Phi_{H,\alpha}^t(L, f_L) = (\phi_{H,\alpha}^t(L), F_L)$  where

$$F_L(z) = e^{-\alpha t} f_L(\phi_{H,\alpha}^{-t}(z)) + \int_{-t}^0 e^{\alpha s} (\lambda_{\phi_{H,\alpha}^s(z)}(X_{H,\alpha}(\phi_{H,\alpha}^s(z)) + H(\phi_{H,\alpha}^s(z)))) ds.$$

The unique fixed point of  $\Phi_{H,\alpha}^t$  in  $\widehat{\mathcal{L}}$ , which is provided by Theorem 3.1, will be denoted by  $\tilde{L}_\infty(H, \alpha)$ .

We define the function  $U_{H,\alpha} : K_{H,\alpha} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  by

$$U_{H,\alpha}(x) = \int_{-\infty}^0 e^{\alpha t} (\lambda_{\phi_{H,\alpha}^t(x)}(X_{H,\alpha}(\phi_{H,\alpha}^t(x)) + H(\phi_{H,\alpha}^t(x)))) dt.$$

**4.1. Discounted weak KAM theory.** When  $-H$  is Tonelli, a Lagrangian function  $L : TN \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is associated to  $-H$  and the discounted Lax-Oleinik semi-group  $(T_{H,\alpha}^t)_{t \geq 0}$  is defined on the set  $C^0(N, \mathbb{R})$  of continuous functions by

$$(4.2) \quad T_{H,\alpha}^t u(q) = \inf_{\gamma: [-t,0] \rightarrow N, 0 \rightarrow q} \left( e^{-\alpha t} u(\gamma(-t)) + \int_{-t}^0 e^{\alpha s} L(\gamma(s), \dot{\gamma}(s)) ds \right),$$

where the infimum is taken over all absolutely continuous curves  $\gamma$  ending at  $q$ . As  $\|T_{H,\alpha}^t u_1 - T_{H,\alpha}^t u_2\|_\infty \leq e^{-\alpha t} \|u_1 - u_2\|_\infty$ , the semi-group has a unique fixed point called *discounted weak KAM solution* and denoted by  $u_{H,\alpha}$ . Moreover, for every  $u \in C^0(N, \mathbb{R})$ , the functions  $T_{H,\alpha}^t u$  converge uniformly to  $u_{H,\alpha}$  as  $t$  goes to  $+\infty$ .

Then we have

$$(4.3) \quad \forall t \geq 0, u_{H,\alpha}(q) = \inf_{\gamma: [-t,0] \rightarrow N, 0 \rightarrow q} \left( e^{-\alpha t} u_{H,\alpha}(\gamma(-t)) + \int_{-t}^0 e^{\alpha s} (L(\gamma(s), \dot{\gamma}(s))) ds \right),$$

and

$$(4.4) \quad u_{H,\alpha}(q) = \inf_{\gamma: (-\infty,0] \rightarrow N, 0 \rightarrow q} \int_{-\infty}^0 e^{\alpha t} L(\gamma(t), \dot{\gamma}(t)) dt$$

where the infimum is taken over all absolutely continuous curves  $\gamma : (-\infty, 0] \rightarrow M$  such that  $\gamma(0) = q$ . Moreover, there exists a curve  $\gamma_\alpha : (-\infty, 0] \rightarrow M$  such that we have equality in (4.3) and (4.4); see [DFIZ, Appendix B]. It then follows from a classical computation that this curve is a solution of the discounted Euler-Lagrange equations

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left( e^{\alpha t} \partial_v L \right) = e^{\alpha t} \partial_q L.$$

Recall that a covector  $p \in T_{q_0}^* N$  is a *super-differential* of a function  $u$  if there exist a local coordinate chart around  $u$  and  $K > 0$  such that for any  $q$  we have:  $u(q) - u(q_0) \leq p(q - q_0) + K \|q - q_0\|^2$ .

**Proposition 4.2.** *If the infimum in (4.4) is attained at a curve  $\gamma : (-\infty, 0] \rightarrow M$ , then  $\partial_v L(\gamma(0), \dot{\gamma}(0))$  is a super-differential of  $u_{H,\alpha}$  at  $q = \gamma(0)$ .*

*Proof.* We use ideas similar to the proof of Proposition 4.11.1 in [Fat08] (see also [Ber08]). We choose  $\gamma : (-\infty, 0] \rightarrow N$  such that the minimum in (4.4) is attained at  $\gamma$ . We work in a coordinate chart around  $q$ . Let  $Q$  be close to  $q$ . Fixing a large real number  $A > 0$ , we denote by  $\gamma_1 : (-\infty, 0] \rightarrow N$  the arc such that  $\gamma_1|_{(-\infty, -1/A]} = \gamma|_{(-\infty, -1/A]}$  and in our chosen chart

$$\forall \sigma \in [-1/A, 0], \quad \gamma_1(\sigma) = \gamma(\sigma) + (1 + A\sigma)(Q - q).$$

Note that  $\gamma_1(0) = Q$ . We deduce from (4.4) that  $u_{H,\alpha}(Q) \leq \int_{-\infty}^0 e^{\alpha t} L(\gamma_1(t), \dot{\gamma}_1(t)) dt$ , hence

$$\begin{aligned} u_{H,\alpha}(Q) - u_{H,\alpha}(q) &\leq \int_{-1/A}^0 e^{\alpha \sigma} (L(\gamma_1(\sigma), \dot{\gamma}_1(\sigma)) - L(\gamma(\sigma), \dot{\gamma}(\sigma))) d\sigma \\ &\leq \int_{-1/A}^0 e^{\alpha \sigma} \left( \partial_q L(\gamma(\sigma), \dot{\gamma}(\sigma)) (\gamma_1(\sigma) - \gamma(\sigma)) + \partial_v L(\gamma(\sigma), \dot{\gamma}(\sigma)) (\dot{\gamma}_1(\sigma) - \dot{\gamma}(\sigma)) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + C \|\gamma_1(\sigma) - \gamma(\sigma)\|^2 + C \|\dot{\gamma}_1(\sigma) - \dot{\gamma}(\sigma)\|^2 \right) d\sigma \end{aligned}$$

for some constant  $C > 0$ .

Using integration by part, and the fact that  $\gamma$  is a solution of the Euler-Lagrange equations, we deduce

$$u_{H,\alpha}(Q) - u_{H,\alpha}(q) \leq \left[ e^{\alpha \sigma} \partial_v L(\gamma(\sigma), \dot{\gamma}(\sigma)) (\gamma_1(\sigma) - \gamma(\sigma)) \right]_{-1/A}^0 + C' \|Q - q\|^2$$

for some  $C' > 0$  independent of  $A$ . Letting  $A$  go to infinity, this yields

$$u_{H,\alpha}(Q) \leq u_{H,\alpha}(q) + \partial_\nu L(\gamma(0), \dot{\gamma}(0))(Q - q) + C' \|Q - q\|^2.$$

This shows that  $\partial_\nu L(\gamma(0), \dot{\gamma}(0))$  is a super-differential of  $u_{H,\alpha}$ .  $\square$

**Proposition 4.3.** *For every  $q \in N$ , we have*

$$u_{H,\alpha}(q) = \min_{p \in T_q^* N \cap K_{H,\alpha}} U_{H,\alpha}(q, p).$$

Moreover, at every  $p \in T_q^* N \cap K_{H,\alpha}$  where the minimum is attained,  $p$  is a super-differential of  $u_{H,\alpha}$  at  $q$ .

*Proof.* For  $x \in K_{H,\alpha}$ , we set  $(q_t, p_t) = \phi_{H,\alpha}^t(x)$ . Then

$$\lambda_{(q_t, p_t)}(X_{H,\alpha}(q_t, p_t)) + H(q_t, p_t) = p_t \dot{q}_t + H(q_t, p_t) = L(q_t, \dot{q}_t)$$

because  $\dot{q}_t = -\partial_p H(q_t, p_t)$  and  $L$  is the Lagrangian associated to  $-H$ . We deduce from (4.4) that

$$U_{H,\alpha}(x) = \int_{-\infty}^0 e^{\alpha t} L(q_t, \dot{q}_t) dt \geq u_{H,\alpha}(q).$$

We know that there is a solution  $\gamma : (-\infty, 0] \rightarrow N$  of the Euler-Lagrange equations for which we have equality in (4.4) for  $q = q_0$ . This implies that  $x = (\gamma(0), \partial_\nu L(\gamma(0), \dot{\gamma}(0)))$  satisfies

$$U_{H,\alpha}(x) = \int_{-\infty}^0 e^{\alpha t} L(\gamma(t), \dot{\gamma}(t)) dt = u_{H,\alpha}(q_0).$$

$\square$

**4.2. Graph selectors.** The first version of graph selector is due to Sikorav and Chaperon ([Sik89; Cha91]), and was studied in [OV94; Vit96] in the case of a Lagrangian Hamiltonianly isotopic to the zero section (this is always the case for the Lagrangian occurring in the evolution Hamilton-Jacobi equation) and using Floer homology by Oh ([Oh97]). The general case (without assuming  $L$  Hamiltonianly isotopic to  $0_N$ ) was first written by Amorim-Oh-Santos ([AOO18]). In a different vein, the selectors are defined by Guillermou from the sheaf-theoretic viewpoint ([Gui22]).

We recall that every  $\tilde{L} = (L, f_L) \in \mathcal{L}(T^*N, \omega)$  has a unique graph selector that is a Lipschitz continuous function  $u_{\tilde{L}} : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ . If  $L$  is  $C^k$ , there exists an open subset  $U_{\tilde{L}}$  of  $N$  with full Lebesgue measure on which  $u_{\tilde{L}}$  is  $C^{k+1}$  and such that for any  $q \in U_{\tilde{L}}$  we have:

$$du_{\tilde{L}}(q) \in L \quad \text{and} \quad u_{\tilde{L}}(q) = f_L(du_{\tilde{L}}(q)).$$

Moreover, if  $\tilde{L}_i = (L_i, f_{L_i}) \in \mathcal{L}(T^*N, \omega)$  for  $i = 1, 2$ , then  $\|u_{\tilde{L}_1} - u_{\tilde{L}_2}\|_\infty \leq c(\tilde{L}_1, \tilde{L}_2)$  (when  $L$  is Hamiltonianly isotopic to  $0_N$ , this is an immediate consequence of the reduction inequality from [Vit92] and is mentioned for example in [CV08], p.263. The general case follows for example from [Vic12], Prop. 8.13 by taking  $\mathcal{F}_2 = k_x, \mathcal{F}_1 = \mathcal{F}_{L_1}, \mathcal{F}_3 = \mathcal{F}_{L_3}$  yielding  $u_{L_1}(x) - u_{L_2}(x) \geq c(1; L_1, L_2)$ ). Hence the graph selector can be continuously extended to the completion  $\widehat{\mathcal{L}}(T^*N, \omega)$ .

**Proposition 4.4.** *For every  $u \in C^2(N, \mathbb{R})$ ,  $T_{H,\alpha}^t u$  is the graph selector of  $\Phi_{H,\alpha}^t(\text{graph}(du), u)$ .*

*Proof.* It is proven in [Roo19] that when  $u$  is  $C^2$  and  $-H_t$  is Tonelli and time dependent, then  $T_{H,0}^t u = u_{\Phi_{H,0}^t(\text{graph}(du), u)}$ . In our case, we consider the isotopy  $(\phi_{0,\alpha}^{-t} \circ \phi_{H,\alpha}^t)$ . Then

$$Y = \frac{d}{dt}(\phi_{0,\alpha}^{-t} \circ \phi_{H,\alpha}^t) = -X_{0,\alpha} \circ \phi_{0,\alpha}^{-t} \circ \phi_{H,\alpha}^t + D\phi_{0,\alpha}^{-t} X_{H,\alpha} \circ \phi_{H,\alpha}^t = D\phi_{0,\alpha}^{-t}(X_{H,\alpha} - X_{0,\alpha}) \circ \phi_{H,\alpha}^t.$$

Since  $(\phi_{0,\alpha}^t)$  is conformally symplectic, we deduce that

$${}^t_Y \omega \circ (\phi_{H,\alpha}^t)^{-1} = {}^t_{D\phi_{0,\alpha}^{-t}(X_{H,\alpha} - X_{0,\alpha})} \omega = e^{-\alpha t} {}^t_{X_{H,\alpha} - X_{0,\alpha}} \omega \circ (D\phi_{0,\alpha}^{-t})^{-1}$$

hence

$$\iota_Y \omega \circ \phi_{H,\alpha}^{-t} = e^{-\alpha t} (\alpha \lambda - dH - \alpha \lambda) \circ (D\phi_{0,\alpha}^{-t})^{-1} = -e^{-\alpha t} D(H \circ \phi_{0,\alpha}^t) \circ \phi_{0,\alpha}^{-t}.$$

We deduce that the isotopy  $(\phi_{0,\alpha}^{-t} \circ \phi_{H,\alpha}^t)$  is Hamiltonian for the time-dependent Hamiltonian

$$\mathcal{H} = (H_t) = (e^{-\alpha t} H \circ \phi_{0,\alpha}^{-t}).$$

As  $\phi_{0,\alpha}^{-t}$  preserves the fibers and its restriction to every fiber is linear,  $-H_t$  is Tonelli. Moreover, if  $L$  is the Lagrangian function associated to the Hamiltonian  $-H$ , then the Lagrangian function associated to  $-H_t$  is  $e^{-\alpha t} L$ . We deduce that the Lax-Oleinik semi-group  $(T^t)$  associated to  $-\mathcal{H}$  is related to the discounted Lax-Oleinik semi-group  $(T_{H,\alpha}^t)$  by

$$T_{H,\alpha}^t u = T^t(e^{-\alpha t} u).$$

Because  $\phi_{H,\alpha}^t = \phi_{\mathcal{H}}^t \circ \phi_{0,\alpha}^t$ , we have also  $\Phi_{H,\alpha}^t = \Phi_{\mathcal{H}}^t \circ \Phi_{0,\alpha}^t$  and then for every  $u \in C^2(N, \mathbb{R})$

$$\Phi_{H,\alpha}^t(\text{graph}(du), u) = \Phi_{\mathcal{H}}^t(\text{graph}(e^{-\alpha t} du), e^{-\alpha t} u).$$

Finally, as  $-\mathcal{H}$  is Tonelli, we know that  $T^t(e^{-\alpha t} u)$  is the graph selector of  $\Phi_{\mathcal{H}}^t(\text{graph}(e^{-\alpha t} du), e^{-\alpha t} u)$  and this gives the wanted result.  $\square$

**Corollary 4.5.**  $u_{H,\alpha}$  is the graph selector of  $\tilde{L}_\infty(H, \alpha)$ .

*Proof.* We pick any  $u \in C^2(N, \mathbb{R})$ , for instance  $u = 0$ . We know that  $\Phi_t(\text{graph}(du), u)$   $c$ -converges to  $\tilde{L}_\infty(H, \alpha)$  as  $t$  goes to  $+\infty$ . We deduce that the graph selector  $T_{H,\alpha}^t u$  of  $\Phi_t(\text{graph}(du), u)$  converges uniformly to the graph selector of  $\tilde{L}_\infty(H, \alpha)$  as  $t$  goes to  $+\infty$ . But we also know that  $T_{H,\alpha}^t u$  converges to  $u_{H,\alpha}$ . This concludes the proof.  $\square$

**4.3. Proof of Theorem 1.5.** The following proposition records formulas that will be useful later in the proof.

**Proposition 4.6.** *Let  $\psi$  be an exact symplectic diffeomorphism of  $T^*N$  and  $S$  be a function satisfying  $\psi^* \lambda - \lambda = dS$ . We consider  $K = H \circ \psi - \alpha S$ . Then the following identities hold:*

$$\begin{aligned} X_{K,\alpha} &= \psi^* X_{H,\alpha}, & \phi_{K,\alpha}^t &= \psi^{-1} \circ \phi_{H,\alpha}^t \circ \psi, & K_{K,\alpha} &= \psi^{-1}(K_{H,\alpha}), \\ L_\infty(H, \alpha) &= \psi(L_\infty(K, \alpha)), & U_{K,\alpha} &= U_{H,\alpha} \circ \psi - S. \end{aligned}$$

*Proof.* The vector field associated to the flow  $(\psi^{-1} \circ \phi_{H,\alpha}^t \circ \psi)$  is  $Y = \psi^* X_{H,\alpha}$ , thus the second identity follows from the first one. Moreover, since  $\psi$  is symplectic, we have

$$\iota_Y \omega = \psi^*(\iota_{X_{H,\alpha}} \omega) = -\psi^* dH + \alpha \psi^* \lambda = -d(H \circ \psi) + \alpha \lambda + \alpha dS = -dK + \alpha \lambda.$$

Hence  $Y = X_{K,\alpha}$ . We deduce that  $K_{K,\alpha} = \psi^{-1}(K_{H,\alpha})$  and  $X_{K,\alpha} = \psi^* X_{H,\alpha}$ . We deduce from Proposition 2.11 that  $L_\infty(H, \alpha) = \psi(L_\infty(K, \alpha))$ .



Finally, for  $x \in K_{K,\alpha}$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}
U_{K,\alpha}(x) &= \int_{-\infty}^0 e^{\alpha t} (\lambda_{\phi_{K,\alpha}^t(x)} X_{K,\alpha}(\phi_{K,\alpha}^t(x)) + K(\phi_{K,\alpha}^t(x))) dt \\
&= \int_{-\infty}^0 e^{\alpha t} (\lambda_{\psi^{-1}\phi_{H,\alpha}^t\psi(x)} ((D\psi(x))^{-1} X_{H,\alpha}(\phi_{H,\alpha}^t\psi(x)) + K(\phi_{H,\alpha}^t\psi(x)))) dt \\
&= \int_{-\infty}^0 e^{\alpha t} (\lambda_{\phi_{H,\alpha}^t(\psi(x))} (X_{H,\alpha}(\phi_{H,\alpha}^t\psi(x))) - d(S \circ \psi^{-1})(\phi_{H,\alpha}^t\psi(x)) X_{H,\alpha}(\phi_{H,\alpha}^t\psi(x))) \\
&\quad + (H(\phi_{H,\alpha}^t\psi(x)) - \alpha S \circ \psi^{-1}(\phi_{H,\alpha}^t\psi(x))) dt \\
&= U_{H,\alpha}\psi(x) - \int_{-\infty}^0 \frac{d}{dt} (e^{\alpha t} S \circ \psi^{-1}(\phi_{H,\alpha}^t\psi(x))) dt \\
&= U_{H,\alpha}(\psi(x)) - S(x).
\end{aligned}$$

□

We are now ready to prove Theorem 1.5. Let  $q \in N$  be a point where  $u_{H,\alpha}$  has a derivative. Let  $B$  be a small ball centered at  $(q, du_{H,\alpha}(q))$ . Our goal is to build a Hamiltonian diffeomorphism  $\psi$  with support in  $B$  so that  $L_\infty(H, \alpha) \neq \psi(L_\infty(H, \alpha))$ . By definition of the  $\gamma$ -support, this will imply that  $(q, du_{H,\alpha}(q)) \in B_{H,\alpha}$  and conclude our proof of Theorem 1.5.

Let  $(f_t)$  be a  $C^2$ -small isotopy of diffeomorphisms of the cotangent fiber  $T_q^*N$  so that  $f_0 = \text{Id}_{T_q^*N}$ , the support of the isotopy is in a small ball centered at  $du_{H,\alpha}(q)$  and  $f_1(du_{H,\alpha}(q)) \neq du_{H,\alpha}(q)$ .

We extend  $(f_t)$  to a symplectic isotopy  $G_t$  in a small Darboux chart by the formula

$$G_t(Q, P) = (q + {}^t Df_t(P)^{-1}(Q - q), f_t(P)).$$

Since  $(f_t)$  is  $C^2$ -close to identity,  $G_t$  is  $C^1$  close to identity, thus it admits a generating function  $s_t(Q, P_t)$  such that

$$(4.5) \quad G_t(Q, P) = (Q_t, P_t) \iff \begin{cases} Q_t = \partial_{P_t} s_t(Q, P_t) \\ P = \partial_Q s_t(Q, P_t) \end{cases}$$

More precisely, we have

$$s_t(Q, P_t) = \langle (f_t)^{-1}(P_t), Q - q \rangle + \langle P_t, q \rangle.$$

Using a bump function  $\eta$  around  $q$ , we set

$$\sigma_t(Q, P) = \eta(Q) s_t(Q, P) + (1 - \eta(Q)) \langle P, Q \rangle.$$

The function  $\sigma_t$  is the generating function in the sense of (4.5) of an exact symplectic diffeomorphism  $F_t$ , which is close to identity, and whose support is contained in a small neighbourhood of  $(q, du_{H,\alpha}(q))$ . As  $\sigma_t = s_t$  in a neighbourhood of  $T_q^*N$ , we have  $F_t(T_q^*N) = T_q^*N$ ,  $F_1(q, du_{H,\alpha}(q)) \neq (q, du_{H,\alpha}(q))$  and  $\sigma_t|_{T_q^*N} = s_t|_{T_q^*N}$ .

Moreover, if we let  $(Q_t, P_t)$  denote  $F_t(Q, P)$ , we have

$$F_t^* \lambda - \lambda = P_t dQ_t - P dQ = d(\langle P_t, Q_t \rangle) - Q_t dP_t - P dQ = d(\langle P_t, Q_t \rangle) - d\sigma_t.$$

Thus, we have  $F_t^* \lambda - \lambda = d\Sigma_t$  where  $\Sigma_t = \langle P_t, Q_t \rangle - \sigma_t$ . Note that on the fiber  $T_q^*N$ , i.e. for  $Q = q$ , we have

$$\Sigma_t = \langle P_t, Q_t \rangle - s_t = \langle Q_t - q, P_t \rangle - \langle (f_t)^{-1}(P_t), Q - q \rangle = 0.$$

As  $F_1$  is close to identity and  $\Sigma_1$  close to the zero function, the opposite of the Hamiltonian  $K = H \circ F_1 - \alpha \Sigma_1$  is Tonelli, which implies by Corollary 4.5 that  $u_{K,\alpha}$  is the graph selector of  $\tilde{L}_\infty(K, \alpha)$ . By Proposition 4.6, we also know that  $L_\infty(K, \alpha) = F_1^{-1}(L_\infty(H, \alpha))$ . Thus, if we prove that  $u_{K,\alpha} - u_{H,\alpha}$  is

not a constant function, we will deduce that  $L_\infty(H, \alpha) \neq L_\infty(K, \alpha)$ , hence  $L_\infty(H, \alpha) \neq F_1^{-1}(L_\infty(H, \alpha))$ . We will then have reached our goal explained at the beginning of the proof.

By Proposition 4.6,  $K_{K, \alpha} = F_1^{-1}(K_{H, \alpha})$ , hence

$$K_{K, \alpha} \cap T_q^* N = F_1^{-1}(K_{H, \alpha} \cap T_q^* N).$$

We also have  $U_{K, \alpha} = U_{H, \alpha} \circ F_1 - \Sigma_1$  and  $\Sigma_1|_{T_q^* N} = 0$ , hence  $U_{K, \alpha}|_{T_q^* M} = U_{H, \alpha} \circ F_1|_{T_q^* N}$ . Using Proposition 4.3, we deduce the following equalities:

$$\begin{aligned} u_{H, \alpha}(q) &= \min_{p \in T_q^* N \cap K_{H, \alpha}} U_{H, \alpha}(q, p) = U_{H, \alpha}(q, du_{H, \alpha}(q)) \\ \min_{p \in T_q^* N \cap K_{H, \alpha}} U_{K, \alpha} \circ F_1^{-1}(q, p) &= U_{K, \alpha} \circ F_1^{-1}(q, du_{H, \alpha}(q)) \\ \min_{p \in T_q^* N \cap K_{K, \alpha}} U_{K, \alpha}(q, p) &= U_{K, \alpha}(F_1^{-1}(q, du_{H, \alpha}(q))) \\ u_{K, \alpha}(q) &= U_{K, \alpha}(F_1^{-1}(q, du_{H, \alpha}(q))). \end{aligned}$$

Proposition 4.3 then implies that  $F_1^{-1}(q, du_{H, \alpha}(q))$  is a super-differential of  $u_{K, \alpha}$  at  $q$ . Since by construction  $F_1^{-1}(q, du_{H, \alpha}(q)) \neq (q, du_{H, \alpha}(q))$ , we deduce that  $u_{K, \alpha} - u_{H, \alpha}$  admits a non-zero super-differential, hence is not a constant function.

**4.4. The time dependent case.** We can adapt all the previous proofs to the time-dependent setting. We assume that  $-H : T^* N \times \mathbb{T} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is a Tonelli Hamiltonian such that:

- the time-dependent vectorfield  $X_{H_t, \alpha}$  is complete,
- there is compact neighborhood of the zero section which is forward invariant.

The evolutive discounted Hamilton-Jacobi equation is in this case

$$(4.6) \quad \frac{d}{dt} u_t(x) + \alpha u_t(x) + H_t(x, du_t(x)) = c.$$

The Lagrangian action functional  $\mathcal{A}_L$  is defined for  $t_1 < t_2$  and  $x, y \in N$  by

$$\mathcal{A}_L(x, t_1; y, t_2) = \inf_{\substack{\gamma: [t_1, t_2] \rightarrow N \\ t_1 \rightarrow x, t_2 \rightarrow y}} \int_{t_1}^{t_2} e^{\alpha s} L(s; \gamma(s), \dot{\gamma}(s)) ds.$$

The cost function  $c : N \times N \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is defined by  $c(x, y) = \mathcal{A}_L(x, -1; y, 0)$ . Observe that it is a continuous function. For every  $u \in C^0(N, \mathbb{R})$  and  $t_1 > t_2$ , we define

$$T_{H, \alpha}^{t_2, t_1} u(q) = \inf_{q' \in N} (e^{\alpha(t_2 - t_1)} u(q') + e^{-\alpha t_1} \mathcal{A}_L(q', t_2; q, t_1)).$$

We have then  $T_{H, \alpha}^{t_2, t_1} \circ T_{H, \alpha}^{t_3, t_2} = T_{H, \alpha}^{t_3, t_1}$  and  $T_{H, \alpha}^{t_1+1, t_2+1} = T_{H, \alpha}^{t_1, t_2}$ . The discrete Lax-Oleinik operator is also defined by  $\mathcal{T} = T_{H, \alpha}^{0, 1}$ , i.e.,

$$\mathcal{T} u(q) = \inf_{q' \in N} (e^{-\alpha} u(q') + c(q', q)).$$

The weak KAM solution is then the unique fixed point of  $\mathcal{T}$ . Using the continuous-time dependent setting, we can adapt the proof of the autonomous case and deduce that the pseudo-graph of the weak KAM solution is contained in Birkhoff attractor of the time-one map of the Hamiltonian isotopy.

5. THE LIMIT  $\alpha \rightarrow 0$  AND THE PENDULUM WITH FRICTION

The goal of this section is twofold. First we want to understand what happens to the Birkhoff attractor of the composition of a conformal and a Hamiltonian diffeomorphism when the conformal factor  $a = e^{-\alpha}$  converges to 1. We shall see that there are several possible limits, yielding invariant sets. One could hope that this limit of invariant sets, each of which is a  $\gamma$ -support of some element  $L_\infty(\alpha)$  in  $\widehat{\mathcal{L}}(M, \omega)$  could correspond to the  $\gamma$ -limit of the  $L_\infty(\alpha)$ . In a second part we show that this is unfortunately not the case even in the simple case of the pendulum.

**5.1. Invariant sets for Hamiltonian flows.** We consider again a Hamiltonian map on  $(M, \omega)$ . Let us consider a Liouville vector field, with flow  $\chi^\alpha$ , so that  $(\chi^\alpha)^* \lambda = e^{-\alpha} \lambda$ . Let  $\varphi$  be a Hamiltonian diffeomorphism. Then  $\chi^\alpha \circ \varphi$  is also conformal of ratio  $e^{-\alpha} = a$ . For each  $\alpha > 0$ , we let  $B^\alpha(\varphi)$  denote the Birkhoff attractor  $B(\chi^\alpha \circ \varphi)$ . Using compactness of the Hausdorff topology on compact sets we may define

**Definition 5.1.** *We assume that the  $B^\alpha(\varphi)$  remain in a compact subset as  $\alpha$  goes to 0. We denote by  $B^-(\varphi)$  (resp.  $B^+(\varphi)$ ) the inferior limit (resp. superior limit) of  $B^\alpha(\varphi)$ , i.e.*

$$B^-(\varphi) = \liminf_{\alpha \rightarrow 0} B^\alpha(\varphi)$$

$$B^+(\varphi) = \limsup_{\alpha \rightarrow 0} B^\alpha(\varphi)$$

Moreover, we denote by  $B^0(\varphi)$  any “limsup” of  $B^{\alpha_k}(\varphi)$  for some sequence  $\alpha_k$  going to 0.

*Remark 5.2.* Such limits exist by compactness of the Hausdorff distance on subsets of a compact set. If  $B^-(\varphi) = B^+(\varphi)$ , then we just have one Hausdorff limit and  $B^0(\varphi) = B^-(\varphi) = B^+(\varphi)$  (see [Kec95, p.26, Exercice 4.23, 4.24]).

**Proposition 5.3.** *Any set  $B^0(\varphi)$  is invariant by  $\varphi$ . The same holds for  $B^-(\varphi)$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $x \in B^0(\varphi) = \limsup_{k \rightarrow \infty} B^{\alpha_k}(\varphi)$ . Then there exists a subsequence  $(\beta_k)$  of  $(\alpha_k)$ , such that  $x = \lim_k x_k$  where  $x_k \in B^{\beta_k}(\varphi)$ .

By assumption  $\varphi(x_k) \in \chi^{-\beta_k} B^{\beta_k}(\varphi)$ , and  $d(B^{\beta_k}(\varphi), \chi^{-\beta_k} B^{\beta_k}(\varphi))$  goes to 0 as  $\beta_k$  goes to 0, so  $\varphi(x_k)$  converges to  $\limsup \chi^{-\beta_k} B^{\beta_k}(\varphi) = B^0(\varphi)$ . This means that  $\varphi(x)$  is in  $B^0(\varphi)$ .  $\square$

*Remarks 5.4.* (1) If we have a common bound for all the  $B^\alpha(\varphi)$  (for example if  $H$  is autonomous and Tonelli), we have at least one non-empty invariant set. Of course it could be the whole space, but this can often be excluded, for example if for  $c$  large enough  $\{H \leq c\}$  is transverse to the Liouville vector field.

(2) The subset  $B^+(\varphi)$  is always non empty. A priori  $B^-(\varphi)$  could be empty, but by Proposition 5.5 below this cannot happen in the Tonelli case.

(3) If  $(X_k)_{k \geq 1}$  is a family of subsets in a metric space,  $x \in \liminf_k X_k$  if and only if  $\lim_k d(x, X_k) = 0$ , while  $x \in \limsup_k X_k$  if and only if the closure of the sequence  $(d(x, X_k))_{k \geq 1}$  contains 0. Note that if the  $X_k$  are contained in a compact set,  $X_k$  converges for the Hausdorff distance to  $X_\infty$  if and only if  $X_\infty = \limsup_k X_k = \liminf_k X_k$  (see [Kec95], pp. 25-26).

**Proposition 5.5.** *If  $-H$  is Tonelli and autonomous, then  $B^-(\phi_H)$  contains the graph of the weak KAM solution  $u_0$  of the Hamilton-Jacobi equation  $H(x, d_x u) = 0$  which, by [DFIZ], is the limit as  $\alpha$  goes to zero of the functions  $u_{H, \alpha}$ .*

*Proof.* By Theorem 1.5,  $\text{graph}(du_{H, \alpha})$  is included in  $B^\alpha(\phi_H)$  and in  $\mathcal{X}_H$ , see (4.1). If we look at the proof of Proposition 4.2, we see that the constant  $C$  of semi-concavity that appears in the proof is a little larger than the maximum of the  $C^2$ -norm of  $L$  at  $(\gamma(0), \dot{\gamma}(0))$  where  $\gamma : (-\infty, 0] \rightarrow M$  is a curve where the minimum is attained in Equation (4.4). Moreover,  $\partial_v L(\gamma(0), \dot{\gamma}(0))$  is a super-differential

of  $u_{H,\alpha}$  at  $q = \gamma(0)$  and thus is contained in the union of the convex hull of  $\overline{\text{graph}(du_{H,\alpha})} \cap T_q^*M$ , see Proposition 3.3.4 of [CS04].

We have proved that for every  $\alpha > 0$ , there are inclusions  $\text{graph}(du_{H,\alpha}) \subset B_{H,\alpha} \subset \mathcal{K}_\alpha$ . We deduce that  $\partial_v L(\gamma(0), \dot{\gamma}(0))$  is contained in the compact set  $\mathcal{C}_H$  that is obtained by taking the fiberwise convex hull of  $\mathcal{K}_H$ . Hence the semi-concavity constant of every  $u_{H,\alpha}$  is less than  $\sup\{\|p\|; (q, p) \in N\}$  where  $N$  is a fixed compact neighbourhood of  $\mathcal{C}_H$ .

Therefore, the functions  $u_{H,\alpha}$  are uniformly semi-concave and uniformly converge to  $u_0$ , thus according to [Att77] (who proved it in the convex case, but this immediately implies the uniformly semi-concave case)

$$\text{graph}(du_0) \subset \liminf_{\alpha \rightarrow 0} \text{graph}(du_{H,\alpha}).$$

The proposition follows.  $\square$

*Remark 5.6.* There are many possible choices for  $\lambda$  and hence  $\chi^t$ . For example in  $T^*N$  we can replace the tautological 1-form  $\lambda$  by  $\lambda - \pi^* \mu$  where  $\mu$  is a closed 1-form on  $N$  and  $\pi : T^*N \rightarrow N$  is the canonical projection. Then let  $\chi_0^\alpha(q, p) = (q, e^{-\alpha} p)$  and  $\chi_\mu^\alpha(q, p) = (q, \mu(q) + e^{-\alpha}(p - \mu(q)))$ . Applying this to the above, we get for any closed 1-form  $\mu \in H^1(N, \mathbb{R})$  invariant subsets  $B_\mu^0(\varphi), B_\mu^-(\varphi), B_\mu^+(\varphi)$ . Note that these subsets depend on  $\mu$  and not only on its cohomology class. For example, for  $\mu = df$  we have  $B^\alpha(\text{Id}) = \text{graph}(df)$

**Definition 5.7.** Let  $(\varphi_t)$  be an isotopy generated by a 1-periodic Hamiltonian such that  $\varphi_0 = \text{Id}$  and  $\varphi_1 = \varphi$ . For every  $x \in T^*N$ , consider the linear maps  $g_{k,x} : Z^1(N) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  defined by

$$\eta \mapsto \frac{1}{k} \int_0^k \eta(\dot{\varphi}_t(x)) dt.$$

Every limit point  $g_\infty$  of  $(g_{k,x})_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$  is also linear and vanishes on the exact forms, hence defines an element  $g_\infty \in H_1(N)$  which we call a rotation vector. The set of all rotation vectors for  $x \in B_\mu^*(\varphi)$  is denoted by  $R^*(\mu, \varphi)$ .

This can be used to prove that we get distinct sets  $B_\omega^0(\varphi)$ . Indeed, whenever  $R^0(\mu, \varphi) \neq R^0(\mu', \varphi)$  we have  $B_\mu^0(\varphi) \neq B_{\mu'}^0(\varphi)$  and whenever  $R(\mu, \varphi) \cap R(\mu', \varphi) = \emptyset$  we have  $B_\mu^0(\varphi) \cap B_{\mu'}^0(\varphi) = \emptyset$ .

**5.2. The pendulum with friction.** One could ask, since the invariant sets  $B_\mu^\alpha(\varphi)$  are the  $\gamma$ -supports of some  $L_{\mu,\infty}^\alpha(\varphi) \in \widehat{\mathcal{L}}(T^*N)$ , is it true that  $\gamma - \lim_{\alpha \rightarrow 0} L_{\mu,\infty}^\alpha(\varphi) = L_{\mu,\infty}^0(\varphi)$  with  $\gamma\text{-supp}(L_{\mu,\infty}^0(\varphi)) = \mathcal{B}_\mu^0(\varphi)$ . As we shall see, this is not the case in general.

**Proposition 5.8.** Let  $H(q, p) = -\frac{1}{2}p^2 + \cos(\theta)$  be the Hamiltonian for the pendulum on  $T^*\mathbb{S}^1$  and set  $\mu = 0$ . Then the sequence  $L_{0,\infty}^\alpha(\varphi_H)$  has no limit point as  $\alpha$  goes to 0.

Let us consider the equation of the pendulum with friction  $\alpha$ , that is for  $(\theta, p) \in T^*\mathbb{S}^1$

$$(5.1) \quad \ddot{\theta} + \alpha \dot{\theta} + f(\theta) = 0$$

We shall assume  $f(\theta) = \sin(\theta)$ , but the same results would hold for any  $f$  such that

- (1)  $f(\theta) = 0 \Leftrightarrow \theta \in \{0, \pi\}$
- (2)  $f'(0) > 0$  and  $f'(\pi) < 0$

We write the equation as

$$(5.2) \quad \begin{cases} \dot{\theta} = p \\ \dot{p} = -\alpha p - f(\theta) \end{cases}$$

Note that for  $\alpha = 0$  we have the standard pendulum equation, and the vector field corresponding to the equation is  $(p, -\alpha p - f(\theta)) = (p, -f(\theta)) - \alpha(0, p)$ . In our conventions, the vector field  $(0, -p)$

is the Liouville vector field for  $p d\theta$ , while  $(p, -f(\theta))$  is the Hamiltonian vector field corresponding to  $H(\theta, p) = -\frac{1}{2}p^2 + F(\theta)$  where  $F'(\theta) = f(\theta)$ . In other words, these equations generates the flow  $\phi_{H,\alpha}^t$ . We shall always assume  $\alpha > 0$ .

Note that the equilibrium points are given by  $p = 0, f(\theta) = 0$ , so there are only two equilibria, one at  $(0,0)$ , since  $f'(0) > 0$  it is a stable focus, and one at  $\theta = \pi$  with  $f'(\pi) < 0$ , a saddle. Finally note that the time-one flow is a conformally symplectic map with ratio  $a = e^{-\alpha}$ .

**Proposition 5.9.** *The origin  $(0,0)$  is a stable equilibrium, while  $(0,\pi)$  is unstable. There is a single pair of heteroclinic orbits, from  $(\pi,0)$  to  $(0,0)$ , that we denote  $\gamma_L$  and  $\gamma_R$  defined on  $\mathbb{R}$ , such that  $\lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \gamma_{\alpha,R}(t) = \lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \gamma_{\alpha,L}(t) = (0,0)$  while  $\lim_{t \rightarrow -\infty} \gamma_{\alpha,R}(t) = \lim_{t \rightarrow -\infty} \gamma_{\alpha,L}(t) = (\pi,0)$ . The Birkhoff attractor is  $B_\alpha = \gamma_{\alpha,R}(\mathbb{R}) \cup \gamma_{\alpha,L}(\mathbb{R})$ .*

*Proof.* We refer to [Mar06], where it is proved that the largest bounded invariant set is  $B_\alpha$ . Since there is no smaller non-trivial continuum that is an invariant set,  $B_\alpha$  must be the Birkhoff attractor.  $\square$



FIGURE 3. The Birkhoff attractor for the pendulum with friction

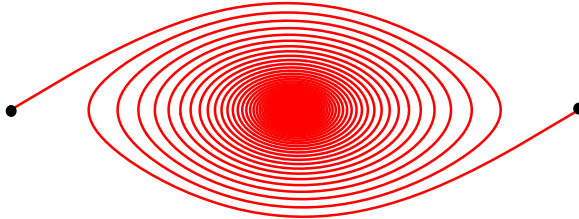


FIGURE 4. The Birkhoff attractor for the pendulum with very small friction

Note that in our case, the Birkhoff attractor is a  $C^0$ -curve which is the image of the zero section by a Hamiltonian homeomorphism. We claim that as such, it is the  $\gamma$ -support of a unique element of  $\widehat{\mathcal{L}}$  denoted by  $L_\alpha$ . To explain this point, we call  $(U)$  the property satisfied by a subset of  $T^*S^1$  if and only if it is the  $\gamma$ -support of a unique element  $L \in \widehat{\mathcal{L}}$ . It follows from [Vit22b, Theorem 8.6] that the zero section satisfies  $(U)$ . Moreover, by Remark 2.12, the property  $(U)$  is invariant under the action of Hamiltonian homeomorphisms on  $\widehat{\mathcal{L}}$ . This shows our claim that  $B_\alpha$  satisfies  $(U)$ .

In particular,  $L_\alpha$  is the fixed point provided by Theorem 3.1. The question is now whether as  $\alpha$  goes to 0, the sequence  $L_\alpha$  converges or at least has a converging subsequence. We claim

**Proposition 5.10.** *Let  $(\alpha_k)_{k \geq 1}$  be a sequence of positive real numbers converging to 0. Then the sequence  $(L_{\alpha_k})_{k \geq 1}$  does not  $\gamma$ -converge.*

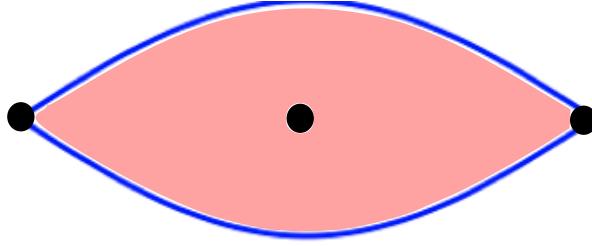


FIGURE 5. The limit of the Birkhoff attractors as  $\alpha$  goes to 0 for the pendulum

This will immediately follow from

**Proposition 5.11.** *For any  $\alpha > 0$  we can find  $0 < \beta_0 < \alpha$  so that for  $0 < \beta < \beta_0$  we have*

$$\gamma(L_\alpha, L_\beta) \geq 4 \left(1 - \frac{\beta}{\alpha}\right)$$

Note that the curves  $L_\alpha$  are not smooth as — at least for  $\alpha$  small enough<sup>7</sup> — they twist infinitely many times around the point  $(0, 0)$ . We will need to approximate them by smooth curves which are spirals described as follows. In the phase space  $\mathbb{R}/2\pi\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{R}$  of the pendulum, we consider the closed disc  $D$  of radius  $\pi$  centered at  $(0, 0)$  and endow it with polar coordinates  $(r, \varphi)$ . For any  $s > 0$ , we consider homeomorphisms  $\rho$  supported in  $D$  and of the form given by

$$\rho(r, \varphi) = (r, \varphi + h(r)), \quad \forall (r, \varphi) \in D$$

where  $h : [0, \pi] \rightarrow [-s, 0]$  is an increasing continuous map with  $h(0) = -s$  and  $h(\pi) = 0$ . We will say that a curve  $L_2$  is a *smooth spiral* if it is an embedded smooth closed curve in  $\mathbb{R}/2\pi\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{R}$  transverse to the zero section  $L_1 = \mathbb{R}/2\pi\mathbb{Z} \times \{0\}$  and if there exist a parameter  $t > 0$  and an orientation preserving homeomorphism  $\psi$  of  $\mathbb{R}/2\pi\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{R}$  which fixes  $L_1$  and satisfies  $L_2 = \psi(\rho^t(L_1))$  (See Figure 6). The above definition also makes sense if  $s = \infty$ , in this case, the curve  $L_2$  is only continuous and we call it an *infinite spiral*. The argument given above shows that infinite spiral satisfy Property (U), i.e. are the  $\gamma$ -support of a unique element in  $\widehat{\mathcal{C}}$ . In the argument below, we sometimes abuse notation and also denote by  $L_2$  this unique element.

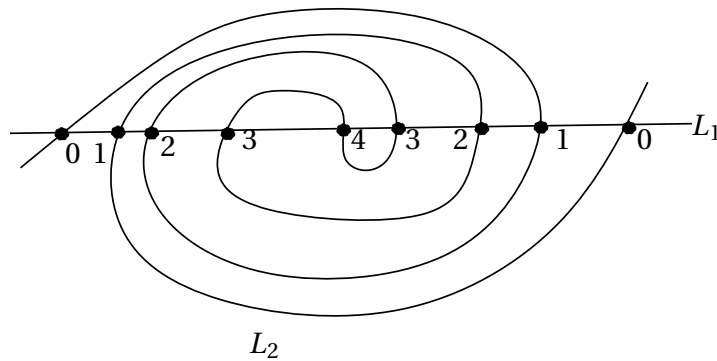
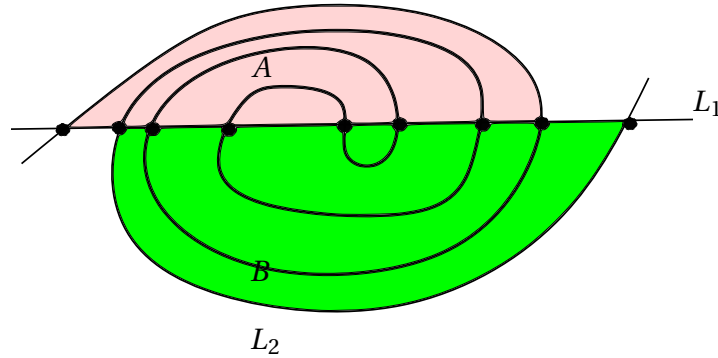


FIGURE 6.  $L_1, L_2$  and the Maslov index of the intersections

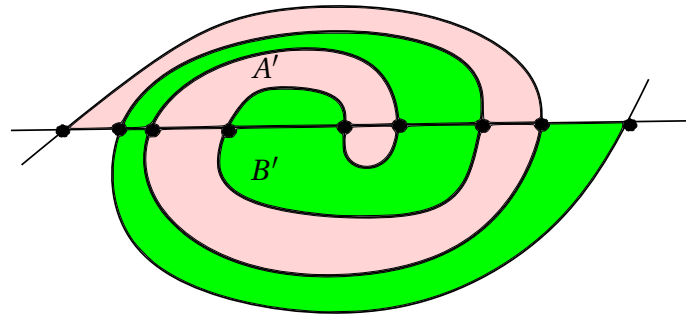
<sup>7</sup>in fact  $\alpha < 2$ , which implies the equilibrium is elliptic.

In the following lemma and proof, we will use the green and pink  $A, A', B, B'$  represented in green and pink on Figure 7. In order to describe them, note that the point  $t_0 = (\pi, 0)$  belongs to  $L_2 \cap L_1$  and let  $t_-$  and  $t_+$  be the two points of  $L_2 \cap L_1$  which are adjacent to  $t_0$  and such that  $t_-$  is on the left of  $t_0$  and  $t_+$  on its right. Note that  $L_1$  has a canonical orientation, which induces an orientation of  $L_2$ . We let:

- $A$  be the area enclosed by the oriented segments of  $L_1$  and  $L_2$  that go from  $t_0$  to  $t_-$ .
- $A'$  be the area enclosed by the oriented segments of  $L_1$  and  $L_2$  that go from  $t_0$  to  $t_+$ .
- $B$  be the area enclosed by the oriented segments of  $L_1$  and  $L_2$  that go from  $t_+$  to  $t_0$ .
- $B'$  be the area enclosed by the oriented segments of  $L_1$  and  $L_2$  that go from  $t_-$  to  $t_0$ .



(A) The areas  $A$  in pink and  $B$  in green



(B) The areas  $A'$  in pink and  $B'$  in green

FIGURE 7.  $\gamma(L_1, L_2)$  is bounded below by the smallest of the areas  $A, A', B, B'$

We are now ready to state

**Lemma 5.12.** *Assume  $L_1$  is the zero section and  $L_2$  is a smooth spiral as described above. Then,*

$$\gamma(L_1, L_2) \geq \min(A, A', B, B').$$

*Proof.* Assume  $\gamma(L_1, L_2)$  is less than the minimum  $m$  of these four numbers. We point out that  $\gamma(L_1, L_2)$  must equal the difference of action between two points of consecutive index. Some of the possible values obtained are represented on Figure 8 as the area of the red or blue discs.

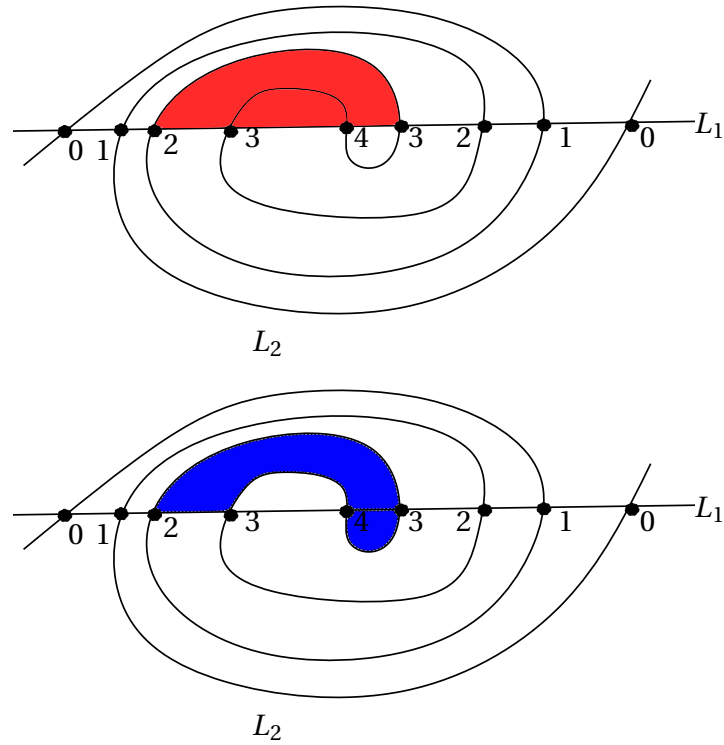


FIGURE 8. Areas realizing some of the possible values of  $\gamma(L_1, L_2)$

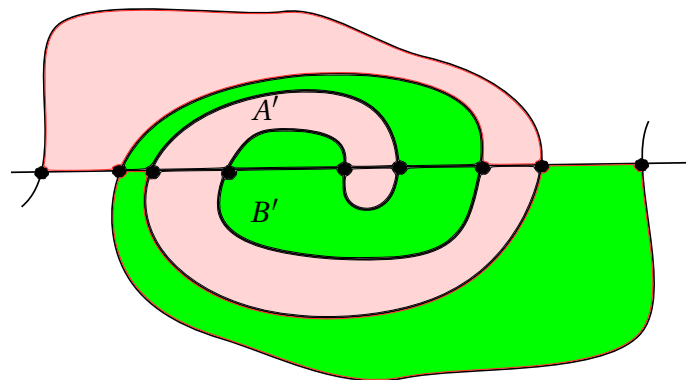


FIGURE 9. The deformation  $L_2(t)$

We see that if the area of the disc is less than  $m$ , then the boundary of the disc does not touch either of the outside curves bounding the green or pink domain on Figure 7. Indeed the only discs connecting two consecutive points and having one of the two outside curves as a boundary are the pink or green discs in Figure 7, subfigure 7a or 7b.

We may then continuously deform  $L_2$  as  $L_2(t)$  (see Figure 9) so that we increase the area of  $A(t), A'(t), B(t), B'(t)$  by inflating the lower boundary of the green part and (to preserve exactness) simultaneously increase the upper boundary of the pink part. Then only  $A(t), B(t), A'(t), B'(t)$  change, and so the values of the areas of the disc representing  $\gamma(L_1, L_2(t))$  are unchanged by assumption, and since this varies continuously and starts below  $m$  this quantity remains constant. But this is impossible, since for  $t$  large enough we can find the image of a symplectic disc of arbitrarily large area such that the image of a diameter goes to  $L_1$  while the image of the disc avoids



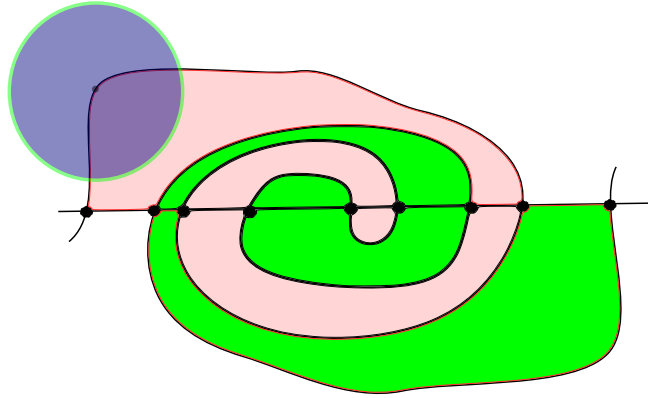


FIGURE 10. The disc centered on the Lagrangian

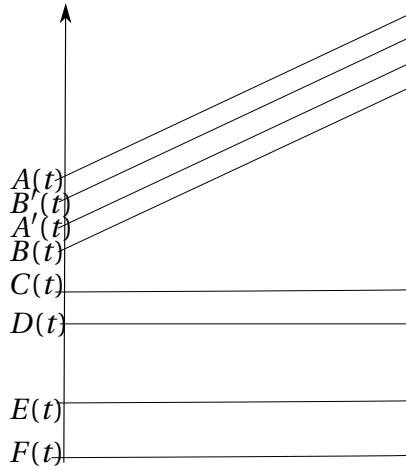


FIGURE 11. Actions of the intersection points  $L_1 \cap L_2(t)$ .

$L_2(s)$  and this implies  $\gamma(L_1, L_2(s))$  is larger than half the area of such a disc (see [HLS15, Lemma 7]). This contradicts our assumption.  $\square$

By a simple approximation argument, we can show

**Lemma 5.13.** *Lemma 5.12 still holds for  $L_2$  an infinite spiral.*

*Proof.* Let  $L_2$  be an infinite spiral. Recall that if  $L \in \mathcal{L}$  and if  $\phi$  is a Hamiltonian diffeomorphism supported in a ball of radius  $r$ , then  $\gamma(L, \phi(L)) \leq \pi r^2$ . Using this fact, we may construct a  $\gamma$ -Cauchy sequence representing  $L_2$  by considering smooth spirals which coincide with  $L_2$  outside balls centered at  $(0, 0)$  and whose radius goes to 0. Lemma 5.13 then follows immediately by applying Lemma 5.12 to each element of the sequence.  $\square$

We may now turn to the proof of Proposition 5.11.

*Proof of Proposition 5.11.* Consider the red curve on Figure 3. This represents the set  $L_\alpha$  for some value of the parameter  $\alpha$ . Below, on Figure 12 we represented  $L_\alpha$  and  $L_\beta$ . Obviously for  $0 < \beta < \alpha$ , the curve  $L_\alpha$  tends to the origin faster than  $L_\beta$ . Now by an area preserving map, we can straighten  $L_\beta$  to the zero section, and then the pair  $(L_\alpha, L_\beta)$  is equivalent to a pair of the type  $(L_2, L_1)$ , where  $L_2$  is an infinite spiral and  $L_1$  is the zero section. By Lemma 5.13,  $\gamma(L_\alpha, L_\beta)$  must be greater than

the area between the curves, that is the area in light blue in Figure 13. Notice that it is clear from Figure 7 that  $A + B = A' + B'$  and since our figure is now symmetric with respect to the origin, we have  $A = B, A' = B'$  hence  $A = A' = B = B'$ .

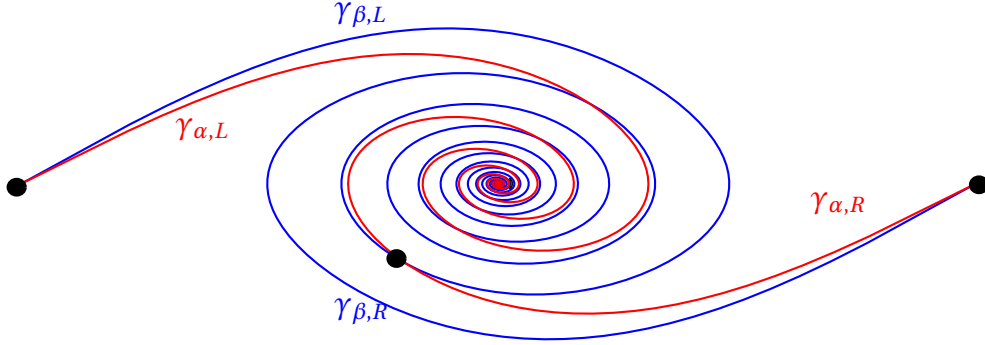


FIGURE 12. The first intersection points of  $L_\alpha$  (red) and  $L_\beta$  (blue).

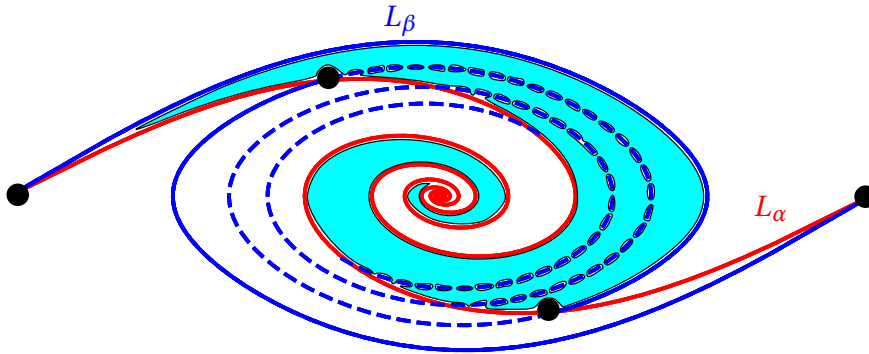


FIGURE 13. The blue area is a lower bound for  $\gamma(L_\alpha, L_\beta)$

To estimate this area, we shall use energy estimates as follows.

Let  $E_\alpha(t)$  be the energy of the pendulum at time  $t$ , i.e.

$$E_\alpha(t) = E(\theta_\alpha(t), p_\alpha(t)) = \frac{\dot{\theta}_\alpha(t)^2}{2} - \cos(\theta_\alpha(t))$$

Note that  $E(\theta, p) = \frac{1}{2}p^2 - \cos(\theta)$  does not depend on  $\alpha$ . By (5.1), we have

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{\dot{\theta}_\alpha(t)^2}{2} - \cos(\theta_\alpha(t)) \right) = -\alpha \dot{\theta}_\alpha(t)^2 = -\alpha p_\alpha(t) \dot{\theta}_\alpha(t).$$

As a result we have that the area below  $L_\alpha$  during the time interval  $[t_0, t_1]$  is

$$\int_{t_0}^{t_1} p_\alpha \dot{\theta}_\alpha(t) dt = \frac{1}{\alpha} (E_\alpha(t_0) - E_\alpha(t_1)).$$

The curve  $\gamma_{\alpha,L}$  on the left starts from  $E_{\alpha}(-\infty) = E(-\pi, 0) = 1$  (and the same holds for  $\gamma_{\alpha,R}$ ). Note that given  $\varepsilon > 0$ , if we fix  $\alpha < \varepsilon$  we can find  $\beta < \alpha$  such that the first intersection point between  $\gamma_{\beta,L}$  and  $\gamma_{\alpha,R}$  is as close as one wishes from the point  $(-\pi, 0)$ . In other words  $\gamma_{\beta,L}(t_{\beta}) = \gamma_{\alpha,R}(t_{\alpha})$  and  $\gamma_{\alpha,R} ] -\infty, t_{\alpha}[$  is contained in a neighborhood of  $(\pi, 0)$ .

Then we see from Figure 13 that  $\gamma(L_{\alpha}, L_{\beta})$  is bounded from below by the blue area surrounded by  $\gamma_{\beta,L} ] -\infty, t_{\beta}[ \cup \gamma_{\alpha,R} ] t_{\alpha}, +\infty[$ . The area surrounded by this curve will be

$$\frac{1}{\beta}[1 - E_{\beta}(t_{\beta})] - \frac{1}{\alpha}[1 - E_{\alpha}(t_{\alpha})]$$

But

$$E_{\alpha}(t_{\alpha}) = E(\theta_{\alpha}(t_{\alpha}), p_{\alpha}(t_{\alpha})) = E(\theta_{\beta}(t_{\beta}), p_{\beta}(t_{\beta})) = E_{\beta}(t_{\beta})$$

and so setting  $C(\alpha, \beta) = 1 - E_{\alpha}(t_{\alpha}) = 1 - E_{\beta}(t_{\beta})$  the area we are trying to estimate is  $C(\alpha, \beta)(\frac{1}{\beta} - \frac{1}{\alpha})$

Notice that for fixed  $\alpha$ , as  $\beta$  goes to 0, the intersection point converges to  $(-\pi, 0)$  and

$$1 - E_{\beta}(t_{\beta}) = \beta \int_{-\infty}^{t_{\beta}} p_{\beta}(t) \dot{\theta}_{\beta}(t) dt \simeq 8\beta$$

since  $\lim_{\beta \rightarrow 0} \int_{-\infty}^{t_{\beta}} p_{\beta}(t) \dot{\theta}_{\beta}(t) dt$  is the area under the separatrix of the frictionless pendulum, that is  $\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \sqrt{2(1 + \cos(\theta))} d\theta = 8$  so the term  $\frac{1}{\beta}[1 - E_{\beta}(t_{\beta})]$  is approximately equal to 8, while the other term is  $\simeq \frac{8\beta}{\alpha}$ , so we get

$$\gamma(L_{\alpha}, L_{\beta}) \simeq 8(1 - \frac{\beta}{\alpha})$$

However small is  $\alpha$ , we can choose  $\beta$  to be smaller and such that the above quantity is greater than  $\frac{1}{4}(1 - \frac{\beta}{\alpha})$ .  $\square$

*Remark 5.14.* The curves  $L_{\alpha}$  can be smoothed, while preserving the conclusion of Proposition 5.11. since the  $L_{\alpha}$  are contained in a bounded subset of  $T^*\mathbb{S}^1$ ; and by Shelukhin's theorem ([She18]), the set of such Lagrangians is a  $\gamma$ -bounded set. However the above just proves that it is not compact!

## 6. TOPOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

The goal of this section is to prove Theorem 1.4. The proof will use spectral invariants for Hamiltonian diffeomorphisms and an ingredient from Lusternik-Schnirelman theory. We introduce the relevant material in § 6.1 (this will also be used in Section 7). The proof of Theorem 1.4 is then done in § 6.2.

In this section we work on a cotangent bundle  $M = T^*N$ , endowed with the standard Liouville form  $\lambda$ . In particular, there is only one class of exact Lagrangian  $\mathcal{L}$  and branes  $\mathcal{L}$ . Also recall that for any  $L, L' \in \mathcal{L}$ , we have a canonical (up to shift of the grading) isomorphism  $HF(L, L') \simeq H^*(N)$ .

**6.1. Hamiltonian spectral invariants.** Spectral invariants and the spectral distance may also be defined for Hamiltonian diffeomorphisms similarly as in Section 2 by using Hamiltonian Floer theory instead of Lagrangian Floer theory. In our setting this was first defined in [FS07] (see also [Lan16]). The upshot is a collection of real numbers  $c(\beta, \phi)$ , for all non-zero cohomology classes  $\beta \in H^*(N)$  and all compactly supported Hamiltonian diffeomorphisms  $\phi$ . These invariants are related to the Lagrangian spectral invariants by the following inequality (see [MVZ12, Prop 2.14]):

$$(6.1) \quad c(\beta, \phi) \leq \ell(\beta; \phi(\tilde{L}), \tilde{L}),$$

for any exact Lagrangian brane  $\tilde{L}$  and any  $\phi \in \mathcal{D}\mathfrak{H}\text{am}_c(T^*N)$ .

If  $H$  is sufficiently  $C^2$ -small and autonomous, then we have

$$(6.2) \quad c(\beta, \phi_H^1) = \rho(\beta, H)$$

where  $\rho(\beta, H)$  denotes the Morse theoretic spectral invariant of  $H$ , defined by the following procedure. Let  $\nu : [0, +\infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a non-increasing function vanishing on some interval  $[0, R]$  and linear near infinity with small derivative. We assume that  $R$  is large enough so that the support of  $H$  is included in the cotangent disc bundle of radius  $R$  (with respect to some given Riemannian metric). We set

$$(6.3) \quad H_\nu(x, p) := H(x, p) + \nu(\|p\|).$$

Since  $H_\nu$  is proper, the Morse theoretic spectral invariants of  $H_\nu$  may be defined by

$$\rho(\beta; H_\nu) = \inf \{ a \in \mathbb{R} : T(\beta) \text{ is non-zero in } \{x \in T^*N : H_\nu(x) < a\} \},$$

where  $T(\beta)$  is the image of  $\beta$  by the Thom isomorphism  $H^*(N) \rightarrow H_c^{*+n}(T^*N)$ . Observe that  $\rho(\beta; H_\nu)$  is a critical value of  $H$ . A deformation argument then shows that the value  $\rho(\beta; H_\nu)$  does not depend on the choice of the function  $\nu$ . We thus define  $\rho(\beta, H)$  as  $\rho(\beta, H_\nu)$  for any choice of  $\nu$ .

Since we will use them in Appendix 7, we introduce here the spectral distance on  $\mathcal{D}\mathfrak{Ham}_c(T^*N)$  and its completion. We will use the following notation:

$$c_-(\phi) = c(1, \phi), \quad c_+(\phi) = -c(1, \phi^{-1}) \quad \text{and} \quad \gamma(\phi) = c_+(\phi) - c_-(\phi).$$

The spectral distance  $\gamma$  on  $\mathcal{D}\mathfrak{Ham}_c(T^*N)$  is then defined by

$$\gamma(\phi, \psi) = \gamma(\psi^{-1}\phi).$$

We denote by  $\widehat{\mathcal{D}\mathfrak{Ham}_c}(T^*N)$  the completion of  $\mathcal{D}\mathfrak{Ham}_c(T^*N)$  with respect to  $\gamma$ .

It can be checked using inequality (6.1) that the Lagrangian  $\gamma$  introduced in Section 2 interacts with the above *Hamiltonian*  $\gamma$  by the following inequality:

$$\gamma(\phi(L), \psi(L')) \leq \gamma(L, L') + \gamma(\phi, \psi),$$

for any  $L, L' \in \mathcal{L}$  and any  $\phi, \psi \in \mathcal{D}\mathfrak{Ham}_c(T^*N)$ . As a consequence we see that the natural map  $\mathcal{D}\mathfrak{Ham}_c(T^*N) \times \mathcal{L} \rightarrow \mathcal{L}$ ,  $(\phi, L) \mapsto \phi(L)$  extends continuously to a map  $\widehat{\mathcal{D}\mathfrak{Ham}_c}(T^*N) \times \widehat{\mathcal{L}} \rightarrow \widehat{\mathcal{L}}$ . We still denote by  $\phi(L)$  the result of this extended map for  $\phi$  and  $L$  in the completions.

**6.2. Proof of Theorem 1.4.** As the title suggests we prove here Theorem 1.4. Our proof will use the following classical lemma from Lusternik-Schnirelman theory.

**Lemma 6.1** (Lusternik-Schnirelman [LS29](see also [Vit06])). *Let  $f : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a proper<sup>8</sup> function on a manifold  $M$ . Let  $a \in H_c^*(M)$  and  $b \in H^*(M)$  be classes with  $\deg(b) > 0$  and  $a \cup b \neq 0$ . If  $\rho(a \cup b, f) = \rho(a, f)$ , then  $b$  induces a non-zero class in any neighborhood of the critical locus*

$$\{x \in M : df(x) = 0, f(x) = \rho\}$$

where  $\rho$  denotes the common value  $\rho(a \cup b, f) = \rho(a, f)$ .

The above lemma in particular applies in the situation where  $M = T^*N$ ,  $f = H_\nu$ ,  $a = T(\alpha)$  and  $b = \pi^*\beta$  with the notations of Section 6.1, since  $T(\alpha \cup \beta) = T(\alpha) \cup \pi^*\beta = a \cup b$ . We are now ready for the proof of Theorem 1.4.

*Proof.* To prove Theorem 1.4, we need to prove that for any open neighborhood  $U$  of  $\gamma\text{-supp}(L)$ , the natural map  $H^\ell(N) \rightarrow H^\ell(U)$  is injective for any integer  $\ell$ . Since this map sends the class  $1 \in H^0(N)$  to  $1 \in H^0(U)$ , we may assume that  $\ell$  is positive. Let  $U$  be an open neighborhood of  $\gamma\text{-supp}(L)$  and let  $\beta \in H^\ell(N)$  be a non-zero cohomology class of positive degree  $\ell$ .

Let  $V$  be a closed neighborhood of  $\gamma\text{-supp}(L)$  included in  $U$  and  $h$  be a Hamiltonian diffeomorphism generated by some  $C^2$ -small autonomous Hamiltonian  $H$  which is equal to some constant  $-\varepsilon$  on  $V$  and satisfies  $H > -\varepsilon$  in the complement of  $V$ .

<sup>8</sup>The properness condition can be relaxed to the so-called Palais-Smale condition but we will not need it here.

Let  $\tilde{L}$  be a lift of  $L$  (this exists by the first item in Remark 2.8). By (6.1), we have

$$c(\beta, h) \leq \ell(\beta; h(\tilde{L}), \tilde{L}).$$

Since  $H$  is  $C^2$  small, the above left hand side coincides with the Morse theoretic spectral invariant  $\rho(\beta, H)$ . On the other hand, since  $H = -\varepsilon$  on a neighborhood of  $\gamma$ -supp( $L$ ), Lemma 2.13 implies that  $h(\tilde{L}) = T_{-\varepsilon}\tilde{L}$ . Thus, by the shift property of Lagrangian spectral invariants, the right hand side satisfies:

$$\ell(\beta; h(\tilde{L}), \tilde{L}) = \ell(\beta; \tilde{L}, \tilde{L}) - \varepsilon = -\varepsilon = \min(H).$$

As a conclusion, we obtain

$$\rho(\beta, H) \leq \min(H).$$

By construction, we have  $\rho(\beta, H) = \rho(\beta, H_\nu)$  where  $H_\nu$  is given by (6.3). Since  $\min(H) = \rho(1, H)$ , we obtain  $\rho(\beta, H_\nu) = \rho(1, H_\nu)$ . We may now apply Lusternik-Schnirelman theory (Lemma 6.1) to  $H_\nu$ . We deduce that  $\beta$  induces a non-zero class in any neighborhood of the min locus of  $H$ , which is nothing but  $V$ . In particular,  $\beta$  induces a non-zero class in  $U$ . This concludes the proof that the map  $H^\ell(N) \rightarrow H^\ell(U)$  is injective.  $\square$

## 7. THE WEAK NEARBY LAGRANGIAN CONJECTURE

We let  $(M, \omega)$  with  $\omega = -d\lambda$  be a Liouville manifold obtained by completing a Liouville domain. Recall that this implies in particular that the vector field  $X_\lambda$  defined by  $i_{X_\lambda}\omega = \lambda$  is complete. Let  $\mathfrak{L} \in I(M, \omega)$  be a non-empty class of Lagrangian submanifolds, so that the spectral distance is well defined for  $L, L'$  in  $\mathfrak{L}$ .

**Lemma 7.1.** *Let  $\rho$  be a CS diffeomorphism of  $(M, \omega)$  with conformal factor  $a$ . Then the map*

$$\begin{aligned} \Theta : \widehat{\mathfrak{D}\mathfrak{H}\mathfrak{a}\mathfrak{m}}(M, \omega) &\longrightarrow \widehat{\mathfrak{D}\mathfrak{H}\mathfrak{a}\mathfrak{m}}(M, \omega) \\ u &\longmapsto \rho u \rho^{-1} \end{aligned}$$

is Lipschitz of ratio  $a$ .

*Proof.* We have  $\gamma(\rho u \rho^{-1}, \rho v \rho^{-1}) = \gamma(\rho u v^{-1} \rho^{-1} = a\gamma(uv^{-1}))$  by the basic properties of  $\gamma$ .  $\square$

**Proposition 7.2** (Weak conjugacy of conformally symplectic maps). *Let  $\rho, \sigma$  be two conformally symplectic maps such that  $\rho^{-1}\sigma$  is in  $\mathfrak{D}\mathfrak{H}\mathfrak{a}\mathfrak{m}_c(M, \omega)$  (in particular they have the same ratio and coincide in the complement of a compact set). Then there exists  $u \in \widehat{\mathfrak{D}\mathfrak{H}\mathfrak{a}\mathfrak{m}}(M, d\lambda)$  such that*

$$(7.1) \quad \sigma = u^{-1} \rho u.$$

As written above, equality (7.1) abuses notation since it is not a priori defined what it means for a conformally symplectic map to be composed with an element of  $\widehat{\mathfrak{D}\mathfrak{H}\mathfrak{a}\mathfrak{m}}(M, \omega)$ . This equality should be understood as:

$$(\sigma^{-1} u^{-1} \rho) u = \text{Id} \quad \text{in } \widehat{\mathfrak{D}\mathfrak{H}\mathfrak{a}\mathfrak{m}}(M, \omega).$$

Indeed,  $u \mapsto \sigma^{-1} u^{-1} \rho$  defines an isometry of  $\mathfrak{D}\mathfrak{H}\mathfrak{a}\mathfrak{m}(M, \omega)$ , so extends to  $\widehat{\mathfrak{D}\mathfrak{H}\mathfrak{a}\mathfrak{m}}(M, \omega)$ .

*Proof.* Let  $\psi \in \mathfrak{D}\mathfrak{H}\mathfrak{a}\mathfrak{m}(M, \omega)$  and consider the map  $u \mapsto \rho u \rho^{-1} \psi$ . This is a contraction provided the ratio  $a$  of  $\rho$  is smaller than 1 hence has a unique fixed point. Choose  $\psi = \rho \sigma^{-1}$ , so that this fixed point now satisfies

$$\rho u \rho^{-1} \rho \sigma^{-1} = u$$

that is  $u \sigma u^{-1} = \rho$ , so  $u$  realizes the conjugation.  $\square$

**Proposition 7.3.** *Let  $0 < a < 1$  and  $L_0 \in \mathfrak{L}$  be an exact Lagrangian. Then there exists a Liouville form  $\mu_0$  which differs from  $\lambda$  by the differential of a compactly supported function, and whose associated Liouville flow  $\rho_0^t$  is complete and satisfies  $\rho_0^t(L_0) = L_0$  for all  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ .*

*Proof.* Consider  $U$  a Weinstein neighbourhood of  $L_0$  with Liouville form  $\lambda_0$ . By exactness of  $L_0$ , there is a function  $f$  defined on  $U$  such that  $\lambda = \lambda_0 + df$ . Let  $\beta : U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a smooth function equal to 1 near  $L_0$  and to 0 near  $\partial U$ , and consider the form  $\mu_0 = \lambda - d(\beta f)$ . Obviously  $d\lambda = d\mu_0$  and  $\mu_0 = \lambda_0$  near  $L_0$ . As a result the vector field  $X_{\mu_0}$  defined by  $\mu_0 = i_{X_{\mu_0}}\omega$  coincides with  $X_\lambda$  outside of  $U$  and with  $X_{\lambda_0}$  in a neighbourhood of  $L_0$ . Thus the Liouville form  $\mu_0$  suits our needs. Since it differs from  $\lambda$  only on a compact set, its flow is also complete.  $\square$

We are now ready to prove Theorem 1.8, whose statement we recall.

**Theorem 7.4** (Weak nearby Lagrangian conjecture). *Let  $L_0, L_1 \in \mathfrak{L}$ . Then there exists  $\varphi \in \widehat{\mathfrak{D}\mathfrak{H}\mathfrak{am}}(M, \omega)$  such that  $\varphi(L_0) = L_1$ .*

*Proof.* According to Proposition 7.3, there exist Liouville forms  $\mu_0, \mu_1$  whose associated Liouville flows  $\rho_0^t, \rho_1^t$  are complete and satisfy  $\rho_j^t(L_j) = L_j$  for  $j = 0, 1$ . Moreover,  $\mu_1 = \mu_0 + dg$  for some compactly supported function  $g$ . As a result,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt}\rho_0^t\rho_1^{-t}(x) &= X_{\mu_0}(\rho_0^t\rho_1^{-t}(x)) - d\rho_0^t(X_{\mu_1}(\rho_1^{-t})) = \\ &X_{\mu_0}(\rho_0^t\rho_1^{-t}(x)) - d\rho_0^t(X_{\mu_1}(\rho_0^{-t}\rho_0^t\rho_1^{-t})). \end{aligned}$$

Thus,  $\rho_0^t\rho_1^{-t}$  is the flow of

$$Z_t(x) = X_{\mu_0}(x) - d\rho_0^t(\rho_0^{-t}(x))X_{\mu_1}(\rho_0^{-t}(x))$$

and  $i_Z\omega = \mu_0 - i_{(\rho_0^t)^*X_{\mu_1}}\omega$ . Since  $i_Y f^*(\alpha) = f^*(i_{f_*Y}\alpha)$  and  $(\rho_j^t)^*\omega = e^t\omega$  for  $j = 0, 1$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} i_Z\omega &= \mu_0 - e^t(\rho_0^{-t})^*i_{X_{\mu_1}}\omega \\ &= \mu_0 - e^t(\rho_0^{-t})^*\mu_1 \\ &= \mu_0 - e^t(\rho_0^{-t})^*\mu_0 - e^t(\rho_0^{-t})^*dg \\ &= d(e^t \cdot g \circ \rho_0^{-t}) \end{aligned}$$

so  $Z$  is a Hamiltonian vector field.

Let  $\rho_0, \rho_1$  denote  $\rho_0^t, \rho_1^t$  for some negative  $t$ . Then, Proposition 7.2 applies and we deduce that  $\rho_0$  and  $\rho_1$  are conjugate by an element  $u \in \widehat{\mathfrak{D}\mathfrak{H}\mathfrak{am}}(M, \omega)$ , that is  $u^{-1}\rho_0u = \rho_1$ . The fixed points of  $\rho_0$  and  $\rho_1$  in  $\widehat{\mathfrak{L}}(M, \omega)$  are unique. But if  $L_0$  is fixed by  $\rho_0$  then  $u(L_0)$  is fixed by  $\rho_1$ . We may thus conclude that  $u(L_0) = L_1$ .  $\square$

In the case where  $(M, \omega)$  is a cotangent bundle  $T^*N$ , as explained in Section 2.2, there exist only one class of closed exact Lagrangian denoted  $\mathfrak{L}(T^*N)$ . We immediately deduce

**Corollary 7.5.** *Let  $L, L' \in \mathfrak{L}(T^*N)$ . Then there exists  $\psi \in \widehat{\mathfrak{D}\mathfrak{H}\mathfrak{am}}(T^*N)$  such that  $\psi(L) = L'$ .*

In  $T^*N$ , we have a more precise statement:

**Proposition 7.6.** *Let  $L, L' \subset \mathfrak{L}(T^*N)$  contained in  $DT^*N$ . Then there exists a sequence  $(\varphi_k)_{k \geq 1}$  in  $\mathfrak{D}\mathfrak{H}\mathfrak{am}(T^*N)$  such that  $\gamma\text{-}\lim(\varphi_k(L)) = L'$  and  $\varphi_k$  is supported in  $DT^*N$ .*

*Proof of the Proposition.* Let us first prove that for  $\psi^t(q, p) = (q, e^{-t}p)$ , and  $L \subset DT^*N$ , we have that for  $t \geq 0$ ,  $\psi^t(L)$  is obtained by applying a Hamiltonian isotopy to  $L$ , and this isotopy can be assumed to be supported in  $DT^*N$ . Indeed, it is well known that exactness of  $\psi^t(L)$  implies that the isotopy is realized by a Hamiltonian isotopy  $\rho^t$ . Since the image of  $L$  remains in  $DT^*N$  we may truncate the Hamiltonian outside  $DT^*N$  without changing  $\psi^t(L) = \rho^t(L)$ . Now as  $t$  goes to  $+\infty$ ,  $\psi^t(L)$  converges to  $0_N$  since  $\gamma(\psi^t(L), 0_N) = e^{-t}\gamma(L, 0_N)$ . So by the preceding argument, we have

two sequences  $(\rho_k)_{k \geq 1}, (\rho'_k)_{k \geq 1}$  such that  $\rho_k(L)$  and  $\rho'_k(L')$   $\gamma$ -converge to  $0_N$ . Then fix  $\varepsilon > 0$  and choose  $k$  large enough so that  $\gamma(\rho_k(L), 0_N), \gamma(\rho'_k(L'), 0_N)$  are both less than  $\varepsilon/2$ . Now

$$\gamma((\rho'_k)^{-1}\rho_k(L), L') = \gamma(\rho_k(L), \rho'_k(L')) \leq \gamma(\rho_k(L), 0_N) + \gamma(\rho'_k(L'), 0_N) = 2\varepsilon/2 = \varepsilon$$

Since both  $\rho_k$  and  $\rho'_k$  are supported in  $DT^*N$  so is  $\varphi_k = (\rho'_k)^{-1}\rho_k$  and  $\gamma\text{-}\lim((\rho'_k)^{-1}\rho_k(L)) = L'$ .  $\square$

Let us now give an example of application of the above. Let us remind the reader of the following conjecture

**Conjecture 7.7.** *Let  $g$  be riemannian metric on the closed manifold  $N$ . There exists a constant  $C_N(g)$  such that for any Lagrangian  $L$  in  $\mathcal{L}(T^*N)$  contained in  $D_1 T^*N = \{(q, p) \mid |p|_g \leq 1\}$  we have*

$$\gamma(L) \leq C_N(g)$$

A variant of this conjecture is

**Conjecture 7.8.** *Let  $g$  be riemannian metric on the closed manifold  $N$ . There exists a constant  $C_N(g)$  such that for any Lagrangian  $L = \varphi_H(0_N)$  that is the image of the zero section by a Hamiltonian map and contained in  $D_1 T^*N$  satisfies*

$$\gamma(L) \leq C_N(g)$$

Obviously the first conjecture is stronger than the second one. We claim that

**Proposition 7.9.** *Conjecture 7.7 and Conjecture 7.8 are equivalent.*

*Proof.* Obviously it is enough to prove that Conjecture 7.8 implies Conjecture 7.7. So let  $L \in \mathcal{L}(T^*N)$  and assume it is contained in  $DT^*N$ . There exists  $\varphi_k$  in  $\mathcal{D}\mathfrak{Ham}(T^*N)$  supported in  $DT^*N$  such that  $\varphi_k(0_N)$   $\gamma$ -converges to  $L$ . In other words  $\lim_k \gamma(\varphi_k(0_N), L) = 0$ . But then  $\varphi_k(0_N)$  is contained in  $DT^*N$  (since  $\varphi_k$  has support in  $DT^*N$  and  $0_N \subset DT^*N$ !) and Conjecture 7.8 claims that  $\gamma(\varphi_k(L)) \leq C_N(g)$ . But then  $\gamma(L) = \lim_k \gamma(\varphi_k(0_N)) \leq C_N(g)$  which proves Conjecture 7.7.  $\square$

Let us conclude by stating the following

**Metatheorem 7.10.** *Let  $(M, \omega)$  be a Liouville manifold. Let  $L$  be an exact Lagrangian. Then any closed property involving only  $\gamma$  which is true for all Lagrangians  $L'$ , Hamiltonianly isotopic to  $L$ , holds for any  $L'$  in the same Floer theoretic class as  $L$ .*

*Proof.* Indeed let  $\psi^t$  be the flow of the Liouville vector field. Then  $\psi^t(L')$  is Hamiltonianly isotopic to  $L'$  and  $\psi^t(L)$  is Hamiltonianly isotopic to  $L$ . So  $\psi^t(L') = \rho^t(L'), \psi^t(L) = \sigma^t(L)$ . Since  $\gamma(\psi^t(L'), \psi^t(L))$  goes to zero, we have  $\gamma(\rho^t(L'), \sigma^t(L)) = \gamma(L', (\rho^t)^{-1}\sigma^t(L))$  goes to zero as  $t$  goes to infinity. So if  $(\rho^t)^{-1}\sigma^t(L)$  belongs to some interval, the same holds for  $\gamma(L')$ .  $\square$

*Remark 7.11.* In the case of cotangent bundles, where we have a single class, a statement concerning the  $\gamma$  metric will hold for exact Lagrangians if it holds for any Lagrangian Hamiltonianly isotopic to the zero section.

*Remark 7.12.* Let  $L_1, L_2$  be two smooth Lagrangians in the Fukaya-Donaldson category of  $T^*N$ , with  $N$  closed. Let  $\psi^t(q, p) = (q, e^{-t}p)$  for  $t > 0$ . Then the sequence  $\psi^k(L_j)$  is Cauchy, hence  $\gamma$ -converges to some  $\Lambda_j$  ( $j \in \{1, 2\}$ ), where  $\Lambda_j \in \widehat{\mathcal{F}}(T^*N)$ . But we must have  $\psi^1(\gamma\text{-supp}(\Lambda_j)) = \gamma\text{-supp}(\Lambda_j)$ , and since an invariant set of  $\psi^1$  is contained in  $0_N$  we must have  $\gamma\text{-supp}(\Lambda_j) \subset 0_N$ . Since a  $\gamma$ -support is  $\gamma$ -coisotropic, we must have  $\gamma\text{-supp}(\Lambda_j) = 0_N$  (since no proper subset of a smooth Lagrangian is  $\gamma$ -coisotropic). But then by [AGHIV-2], we must have  $\Lambda_j = 0_N$ , hence  $\Lambda_1 = \Lambda_2 = 0_N$ . If we know that the Fukaya-Donaldson classes are  $\gamma$ -closed (which should be the case by definition), we may deduce that  $L_1$  and  $L_2$  are isomorphic.

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