

Towards a new ball bearing cage to address cage instability

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THE LINK BETWEEN THESE PROGRAMS?...

...CAGE INSTABILITY!

- Under certain circumstances, the cage exhibits dynamical instabilities
- Impacts of the cage with the rolling elements or the rings may lead to an erratic behavior
- Thus significant increase in the bearing power losses and also in the frictional bearing torque
- Space applications have been highly concerned by cage instabilities for the last decades

DANGER: CHAOTIC PROBLEM!

- Similar to the “Butterfly effect” described by Lorentz, when trying to explain the chaotic nature of the climate
- Impossible to predict **when** an instability will occur
- Does it mean that information cannot be extracted from a chaotic model? **NO!**
- The purpose is not to predict **where** and **when** a cage instability will appear but to explain **why** it will happen, in order to prevent any occurrence



SUCCESSFUL DEVELOPMENT OF A CAGE MODEL

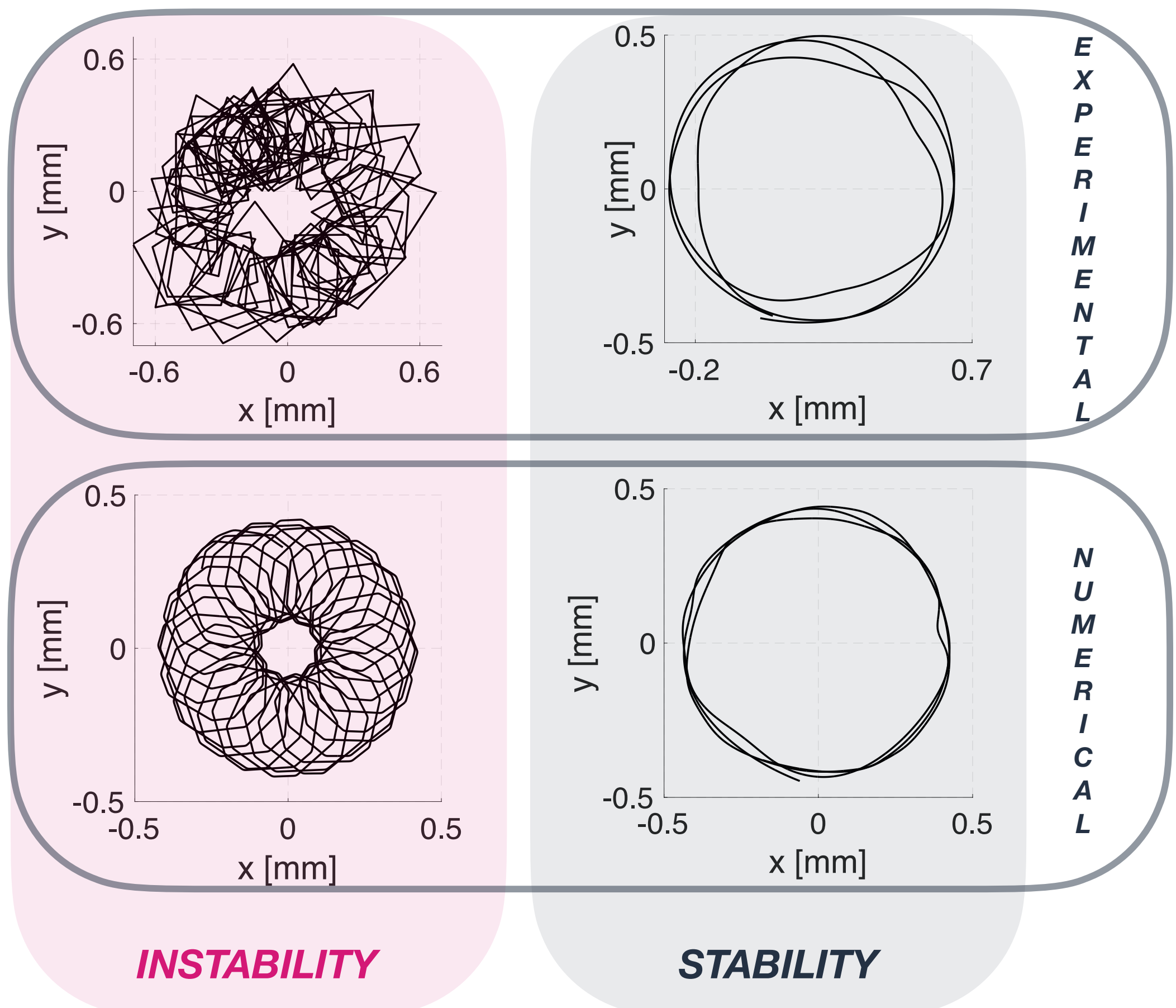
- Highly nonlinear
- Original integration scheme of the set of equations
- Easy to use with regard to the complexity of the problem
- Identification of the deep nature of cage instability

• Both stable and unstable phases have been successfully reproduced **numerically** and **experimentally**

• Unstable phases have been confirmed by high intensity and high frequency perturbations in the bearing torque

• For more information, please see our related paper!

Examples of cage center trajectories



STRONG ADDED VALUE FOR THE EUROPEAN SPACE COMMUNITY

- Connection between the new cage model and the ESTL's software CABARET in progress
- Intensive use of the cage model led to a new cage design (patent pending), which is **intrinsically stable**