## 3 The Problem

## 3.1 Some basic geometry

We present an abstract setup for a global Lyapunov-Schmidt decomposition for the nonlinear operator to be defined in the next section.

Let X and Y be Banach spaces which are split as direct sums of horizontal and vertical subspaces,  $X = W_X \oplus V_X$  and  $Y = W_Y \oplus V_Y$ . Here  $W_X$  and  $W_Y$  are closed subspaces and  $k = \dim V_X = \dim V_Y < \infty$ . There are unique projections  $P_X : X \to W_X$  and  $P_Y : Y \to W_Y$  with kernels  $V_X$  and  $V_Y$  respectively, and complementary projections  $Q_X : X \to V_X$  and  $Q_Y = Y \to V_Y$  given by  $Q_X = I - P_Y$  and  $Q_Y = I - P_X$ . Sets of the form  $x + W_X$  (resp.  $y + W_Y$ ) or  $x + V_X$  (resp.  $y + V_Y$ ) will be denoted by horizontal and vertical affine subspaces. The height of a horizontal affine subspace  $v + W_X$  (resp.  $v + W_Y$ ) is  $v \in V_X$ (resp.  $v \in V_Y$ ). In the definitions below, F is a  $C^1$  operator from X to Y, not necessarily linear.

**Definition 1.** A fiber through a point  $x \in X$  is the set  $F^{-1}(y + V_Y)$ , where y = F(x).

That is, a fiber is the inverse image of a vertical line. Fibers were used in [4] and [18] to provide very geometric proofs of results of Ambrosetti-Proditype. They were also considered in the study of first order periodic differential equations in [14].

**Definition 2.** Given an arbitrary  $v \in V_X$ , we define the projected restriction operator  $F_v : W_X \to W_Y$  by  $F_v(w) = PF(v+w)$ .

The working hypothesis on F is very stringent: we assume that F is a  $C^1$  map for which  $F_v: W_X \to W_Y$  is a diffeomorphism for any v. Thus, horizontal affine subspaces are sent injectively by F to their images, which are graphs of functions from  $W_Y$  to  $V_Y$ . For brevity, we then say that F is *flat*. Clearly, the definition depends on the decompositions of X and Y, but we will not mention them in order to simplify notation. There is a global form of operators for which  $F_v$  is as above.

**Proposition 2.** Let  $F : X \to Y$  be flat. Then the function

$$\Phi: X = W_Y \oplus V_X \to W_X \oplus V_X, \quad \Phi(z, v) = ((F_v)^{-1}(z), v)$$

is a  $C^1$  diffeomorphism such that  $\tilde{F} = F \circ \Phi : \tilde{X} \to Y$  becomes  $\tilde{F}(z, v) = (z, \phi(z, v))$  for a  $C^1$  function  $\phi : \tilde{Y} \to V_Y$ .

*Proof.* We denote by  $\partial_w F_v$ ,  $\partial_v F_v$  the partial derivatives of the map  $(w, v) \mapsto PF(w, v)$ . Analyzing the diagram below,

$$(w,v) \xrightarrow{F} (F_v(w), Q_Y F(w,v))$$
  
$$\xi \searrow \bigwedge \Phi \xrightarrow{\nearrow} F\xi^{-1} =: \tilde{F}$$
  
$$(F_v(w), v)$$

we see that  $\Phi = \xi^{-1}$ ,  $\phi = Q_Y F \xi^{-1}$ . The function  $\xi$  is one-to-one and onto and its derivative, in block-matrix notation, is

$$\xi'(w,v) = \begin{bmatrix} \partial_w F_v(w) & \partial_v F_v(w) \\ 0 & I \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} F'_v(w) & \partial_v F_v(w) \\ 0 & I \end{bmatrix}.$$

Applying the inverse function theorem  $(F'_v \text{ is invertible and thus also } \xi')$ , we see that  $\xi$  is a global diffeomorphism.

Not only do fibers stretch out indefinitely, but they do so in a smooth way.

**Proposition 3.** Let  $F : X \to Y$  be flat. Then each fiber  $\alpha$  is a  $C^1$  surface of dimension  $k = \dim V_X$ , which intersects each horizontal affine subspace exactly once, always transversally. The height map  $x \mapsto Q_X x$  is a diffeomorphism between  $\alpha$  and  $V_X$ .

The fact that  $\alpha$  and a horizontal affine subspace  $x+W_x$  meet transversally at a point x means that X is a direct sum of the tangent space of  $\alpha$  at xand  $W_x$ . According to the proposition, the horizontal subspace parametrizes (bijectively) the set of fibers, and the vertical subspace is a parametrization of each fiber. Also, horizontal affine subspaces are sent injectively by F to their images, which are graphs of functions from  $W_Y$  to  $V_Y$ . On the other hand, fibers are not taken injectively (nor subjectively!) to vertical subspaces necessarily. In particular, the given hypothesis are not enough to imply the properness of the map  $F: X \to Y$ .

*Proof.* We use the change of variables  $\Phi(z, v) = (F_v^{-1}(z), v)$  defined in the previous proposition. This map, from the domain of  $\tilde{F}$  to the domain of F,

clearly takes each vertical affine subspace in  $\tilde{X}$  to a fiber of F diffeomorphically and so that that heights are preserved. Every statement about fibers now follows from its analogous counterpart for vertical affine subspaces in  $\tilde{X}$ .  $\Box$ 

We now consider the effect of flatness on the linearizations.

**Corollary 1.** Let  $F : X \to Y$  be flat. The Jacobian  $F'(x) : X \to Y$  is a Fredholm operator of index zero at  $x \in X$ . The restriction of F'(x) to  $W_X$  is an isomorphism between  $W_X$  and its (closed) range, which is transversal to  $V_Y$ . If  $x_c$  is a critical point of F contained in the fiber  $\alpha$ , then  $\text{Ker}(F'(x_c)) \subset T_{x_c}\alpha$ .

Again, transversality here means that  $Y = F'(x)W_X \oplus V_Y$ .

Proof. By flatness, the derivative  $P_Y F'(x) : W_X \to W_Y$  is a linear isomorphism, hence a Fredholm operator of index 0. Thus the map  $T : W_X \oplus V_X \to W_Y \oplus V_Y$ given by  $T(w, v) = (P_Y F'(x), 0)$  is also Fredholm of index zero. The same is true for  $F'(x) : X \to H^{-1}(\Omega)$ , since F'(x) - T is the finite range operator  $w + v \mapsto QDF(x)w + F'(x)V$ .

Transversality of  $F'(x)W_x$  and  $V_Y$  follows from the fact that F'(x):  $W_x \to F'(x)W_x$  must be injective, with closed range.

At a critical point  $x_c \in \alpha$ , use the transversality of the intersection of  $\alpha$ and  $(x_c + W_x)$  proved in the previous proposition to split  $X = W_x \oplus T_{x_c} \alpha$ . Now combine  $Y = F'(x)W_x \oplus V_Y$  with the fact that  $F'(x) : W_x \to F'(x)W_x$  is an isomorphism and  $F'(x)T_{x_c}\alpha \subset V_Y$  to conclude that  $\operatorname{Ker}(F'(x_c)) \subset T_{x_c}\alpha$ .

## 3.2 The Nonlinear Operator

For this section we set  $X = H_0^1(\Omega)$ ,  $Y = H^{-1}(\Omega)$ . The corresponding projections will be denoted  $P_1$ ,  $Q_1$ ,  $P_{-1}$ ,  $Q_{-1}$ . The norm used in  $H_0^1(\Omega)$  will be  $||u|| = |u|_1 = \langle u, u \rangle_1^{\frac{1}{2}}$ . Notice that this is equivalent to the full  $H^1$  norm, by Friedrich's inequality. We will use often this result. For the expansion of  $u \in H_0^1(\Omega)$  we use the notation  $u(x) = \sum u_i \varphi_i(x)$ , with  $u_i = \langle u, \varphi_i \rangle_1 / \langle \varphi_i, \varphi_i \rangle_1$ . We have  $H_0^1(\Omega) \simeq H^{-1}(\Omega)$  via  $\langle \tilde{u}, \cdot \rangle = \langle u, \cdot \rangle_1$ , where we denote with a tilde the functional induced by an element of  $H_0^1(\Omega)$ . From Hilbert space theory we also know that

 $\|\tilde{u}\|_{-1} = \|u\|_1$  and  $\tilde{u}_n \stackrel{H^{-1}}{\to} \tilde{u} \Leftrightarrow u_n \stackrel{H^1_0}{\to} u.$ 

For a  $C^1$  function f of bounded derivative, we define  $F: X \to Y$  by

$$F(u) = -\Delta u - f(u). \tag{3-1}$$

The Laplacian above is understood as the weak Laplacian, acting as  $u \stackrel{-\Delta}{\mapsto} \langle u, \cdot \rangle_1$ and f(u) is the functional associated to the  $L^2(\Omega)$  function

$$f(u): z \stackrel{f(u)}{\longmapsto} \langle f(u), z \rangle_0$$

We wish now to split our spaces in direct sums of a certain finite-dimensional space and its orthogonal complement. Denote the eigenvalues of  $-\Delta$  :  $H_0^1(\Omega) \to H^{-1}(\Omega)$  by  $0 < \lambda_1 < \lambda_2 \leq \ldots$  with corresponding eigenvectors  $\varphi_i$ . The eigenvectors may be taken to be orthogonal functions (in the occasional situation of multiplicity) and orthogonality holds simultaneously for all considered Sobolev spaces.

**Definition 3.** A set J of indices is said to be complete if  $j \in J$  whenever  $\lambda_i = \lambda_j$  and  $i \in J$ .

That is, if a complete set includes an index of a multiple eigenvalue, then it contains *all* indices associated with it.

For J a given *finite* complete set of indices, define the spaces  $V_1 = \text{Span}\{\varphi_j, j \in J\}$  and  $V_{-1} = \text{Span}\{\tilde{\varphi}_j, j \in J\}$ . Since each space is closed (they are finite-dimensional), we can split the whole spaces as

 $X = W_1 \oplus V_1, \quad Y = W_{-1} \oplus V_{-1}, \quad \text{where} \quad W_1 = V_1^{\perp}, \quad W_{-1} = V_{-1}^{\perp}.$ 

Recall that the inner product in Y is  $\langle \tilde{u}, \tilde{v} \rangle_{-1} = \langle u, v \rangle_{1}$ .

**Proposition 4.** The correspondence  $\tilde{u} \leftrightarrow u$  is also a bijection between  $W_1$  and  $W_{-1}$ . Moreover,  $W_1 = \{w \in X : \forall \tilde{v} \in V_{-1}, \langle \tilde{v}, w \rangle = 0\}$  and  $\Delta W_1 = W_{-1}$ .

*Proof.* This follows directly from  $\langle \tilde{v}, w \rangle = \langle v, w \rangle_1 = \langle \tilde{v}, \tilde{w} \rangle_{-1}$ . and the fact that  $\langle \Delta w, \tilde{v} \rangle_{-1} = \langle w, v \rangle_1$ 

**Definition 4.** Given a complete set J, a  $C^1$  function  $f : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$  interacts with J if

- 1. the only eigenvalues  $\lambda_i$  in the image of f' are labeled by indices in J,
- 2. there are no eigenvalues in the boundary of the image of f'.

As in the abstract case, we define the orthogonal projection  $P_{-1}: Y \to W_{-1}$ , defined by  $\langle P_{-1}\tilde{u}, \tilde{w} \rangle_{-1} = \langle \tilde{u}, \tilde{w} \rangle_{-1} = \langle u, w \rangle_1$  for each  $\tilde{w} \in W_{-1}$ . For a given  $v \in V_1$ , we define the restricted projection  $F_v: W_1 \to W_{-1}$  by

$$F_{v}(w) = P_{-1}F(v+w), \qquad (3-2)$$

Our next goal is to prove that if f interacts with a complete set J, then the function F is flat with respect to the decompositions induced by J. The first step is the local version of this property.

**Proposition 5.** Let  $J = \{l + 1 \leq \ldots \leq r - 1\}$  be a complete set and  $f : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$  a  $C^1$  function interacting with J, then the derivatives of the restricted projection  $F_v$  are uniformly bounded below. More precisely, there exists C > 0 such that

$$\forall v \in V_1 \; \forall w \in W_1 \; \forall h \in W_1, \quad \|F'_v(w)h\|_{-1} \ge C \|h\|_1.$$
(3-3)

Also, all derivatives of  $F_v$  are invertible.

This estimate, for the case  $J = \{1\}$ , i.e., when the nonlinearity f interacts only with the first eigenvalue  $\lambda_1$ , has been extensively used ([1], [4]). It is also used in [9] in the case  $J = \{1, \ldots, r\}$ .

Proof. From Proposition 1, each restricted projection  $F_v: W_1 \to W_{-1}$  is  $C^1$ with derivative  $F'_v(w): W_1 \to W_{-1}$  given by  $F'_v(w)h = -\Delta h - f'(w)h$ . Let  $\overline{\operatorname{Ran} f'} = [a, b]$ , so that  $\lambda_l < a < \lambda_{l+1}$  and  $\lambda_{r-1} < b < \lambda_r$ . Let  $h \in W_1$  be of unit norm and let  $\tilde{h^0}$  be the functional  $\langle \tilde{h^0}, \cdot \rangle = \langle h, \cdot \rangle_0$  and  $\gamma = (a+b)/2$ . Adding and subtracting  $\gamma \tilde{h^0}$  and setting u = w + v we have

$$\|F'_{v}(w)h\|_{-1} = \|P_{-1}(-\Delta h - \gamma \tilde{h^{0}}) - P_{-1}(f'(u)h - \gamma \tilde{h^{0}})\|_{-1}$$
  

$$\geq \|P_{-1}(-\Delta h - \gamma \tilde{h^{0}})\|_{-1} - \|P_{-1}(f'(u)h - \gamma \tilde{h^{0}})\|_{-1}$$
  

$$\geq \|\tilde{A}\|_{-1} - \|\tilde{B}\|_{-1}.$$
(3-4)

In what follows, we will write z for an arbitrary element of  $H_0^1(\Omega)$ , and w for one in  $W_1$ . Let us start with a bound for  $\|\tilde{B}\|_{-1}$ .

$$\begin{split} \|\tilde{B}\|_{-1} &= \sup_{\|z\|=1} \langle P_{-1}(f'(u)h - \gamma \tilde{h^{0}}), z \rangle = \sup_{\|w\|=1} \langle f'(u)h - \gamma \tilde{h^{0}}, w \rangle \\ &= \sup_{\|w\|=1} \langle (f'(u) - \gamma)h, w \rangle_{0} \leq \|f' - \gamma\|_{\infty} \sup_{\|w\|=1} \langle |h|, |w| \rangle_{0}. \end{split}$$

By Cauchy-Schwartz, the supremum above is realized when |w| is a scalar multiple of |h|, which is achieved by  $w = \rho h$ . Since h is assumed unitary,  $\rho = 1$  and, defining  $c = ||f' - \gamma||_{\infty}$ ,

$$\|\tilde{B}\|_{-1} \le c \langle |h|, |h| \rangle_0 = c \, \|h\|_0^2 = \sum_{i \notin J} c \, h_i^2 \|\varphi_i\|_0^2 = \sum_{i \notin J} (c/\lambda_i) h_i^2 |\varphi_i|_1^2.$$
(3-5)

We will use now the decomposition  $W_1 = W_+ \oplus W_-$ . The spaces are given by  $W_- = \{u : u = \sum_{i \leq l} u_i \varphi_i\}, W_+ = \{u : u = \sum_{i \geq r} u_i \varphi_i\}$  and are orthogonal both in  $\langle, \rangle_0$  and  $\langle, \rangle_1$ .

To estimate  $\|\tilde{A}\|_{-1}$ , start with

$$\begin{split} \|\tilde{A}\|_{-1} &= \sup_{\|z\|=1} \langle P_{-1}(-\Delta h - \gamma \tilde{h^{0}}), z \rangle = \sup_{\|w\|=1} \langle -\Delta h - \gamma \tilde{h^{0}}, w \rangle \\ &= \sup_{\|w\|=1} \left( \langle h, w \rangle_{1} - \gamma \langle h, w \rangle_{0} \right). \end{split}$$

Now we choose  $w = h_+ - h_-$  above, noting that it also has unit norm.

$$\begin{split} \|\tilde{A}\|_{-1} &\geq \langle h, h_{+} - h_{-} \rangle_{1} - \gamma \langle h, h_{+} - h_{-} \rangle_{0} \\ &= (|h_{+}|_{1}^{2} - \gamma \|h_{+}\|_{0}^{2}) + (\gamma \|h_{-}\|_{0}^{2} - |h_{-}|_{1}^{2}) \\ &= \sum_{i \geq r} h_{i}^{2} (|\varphi_{i}|_{1}^{2} - \gamma \|\varphi_{i}\|_{0}^{2}) + \sum_{i \leq l} h_{i}^{2} (\gamma \|\varphi_{i}\|_{0}^{2} - |\varphi_{i}|_{1}^{2}) \\ &= \sum_{i \geq r} (1 - \gamma / \lambda_{i}) h_{i}^{2} |\varphi_{i}|_{1}^{2} + \sum_{i \leq l} (\gamma / \lambda_{i} - 1) h_{i}^{2} |\varphi_{i}|_{1}^{2}. \end{split}$$

That the coefficients above are all positive follows from the completeness of the set J. We have then

$$\|\tilde{A}\|_{-1} \ge \sum_{i \notin J} |1 - \gamma/\lambda_i| h_i^2 |\varphi_i|_1^2 = \sum_{i \notin J} (C_i/\lambda_i) h_i^2 |\varphi_i|_1^2.$$
(3-6)

Combining equations (3-4), (3-5) and (3-6) we get

$$\begin{split} \|F'_v(w)h\|_{-1} &\geq \sum_{i \notin J} (C_i - c)/\lambda_i h_i^2 |\varphi_i|_1^2 \\ &\geq \left(\inf_{i \notin J} (C_i - c)/\lambda_i\right) \sum_{i \notin J} h_i^2 |\varphi_i|_1^2 \\ &= \left(\inf_{i \notin J} (C_i - c)/\lambda_i\right) |h|_1^2 \\ &= C|h|_1^2 = C, \end{split}$$

which establishes (3-3), since  $C \ge \min\{1 - b/\lambda_{r+1}, a/\lambda_{l-1} - 1\} > 0$ . In particular, the derivative of  $F_v(w)$  is always injective. To prove invertibility, we write

$$F'_{v}(w)h = P_{-1} \circ F'(v+w) \circ \iota h,$$

where  $\iota$  denotes the inclusion from  $W_1$  into  $H_0^1(\Omega)$  and notice that the composition of these three Fredholm operators is also Fredholm, with index given by the sum of the individual indices, namely, zero.

The following result is a global inversion theorem, first obtained by Hadamard in the finite-dimensional case [3].

**Lemma 1.** Let  $\Phi : X \to Y$  be a  $C^1$  map between Banach spaces X and Y such that  $\Phi'(u)$  is invertible for each u. Suppose there exists C > 0 such that

$$\forall u, h, \|\Phi'(u)h\| \ge C \|h\|.$$
 (3-7)

Then  $\Phi$  is a global  $C^1$ -diffeomorphism.

**Theorem 1.** Let J be a complete set and  $f : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$  be a  $C^1$  function interacting with J. Then each restricted projection  $F_v : W_1 \to W_{-1}$  is a  $C^1$ diffeomorphism. Thus  $F : H_0^1(\Omega) \to H^{-1}(\Omega)$  is flat.

*Proof.* Simply combine Proposition 5 and the lemma above.

In the case where f does not interact with the spectrum, the full operator is a diffeomorphism. This result was fully obtained by [11], after an initial version of it by [12], and follows from a simple adaptation of the proof of the above theorem.

When f interacts with a set J containing a single element j, then only the j-th eigenvalue of the Jacobian F' may become zero.

**Proposition 6.** If  $f \in C^1$ ,  $\overline{f'(\mathbb{R})} = [a, b]$ , with  $\lambda_{k-1} < a < \lambda_k < b < \lambda_{k+1}$  and  $u_c$  is a critical point of F, then the only zero eigenvalue of  $F'(u_c)$  is the k-th one. In particular, it is simple.

An analogous result holds for a general complete set J: the only zero eigenvalues of F' are labelled by indices in J.

*Proof.* By the Fredholm property, we must have a nonzero  $\xi$  with  $F'(u_c)\xi = -\Delta\xi - f'(u_c)\xi = 0$ . In other words, 1 is an eigenvalue of the generalized problem  $-\Delta u = \mu f'(u_c)u$ , which we write as  $\mu_j(f'(u_c)) = 1$  for some j. An application of a comparison theorem yields then

$$\lambda_{k-1} < f'(u_c) < \lambda_{k+1} \Rightarrow \mu_j(\lambda_{k-1}) > \mu_j(f'(u_c)) > \mu_j(\lambda_{k+1}), \qquad (3-8)$$

or, since  $\mu_j(\lambda) = \lambda_j/\lambda$  for constant  $\lambda$ ,

$$\lambda_j / \lambda_{k-1} > 1 > \lambda_j / \lambda_{k+1} \Rightarrow \lambda_{k-1} < \lambda_j < \lambda_{k+1} \Rightarrow j = k.$$
(3-9)

The bound in Proposition 5 allows to make precise the idea that fibers are uniformly steep and images under F of horizontal affine subspaces are uniformly flat.

**Proposition 7.** Let J be a complete set of indices with |J| = k and  $f : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$  a  $C^1$  function interacting with J. Let  $u(t) = w(t) + \sum_{j \in J} t_j \varphi_j$  be a

parametrization of a fiber  $\alpha$ , where  $t = (t_1, \ldots, t_k) \in \mathbb{R}^k$  and  $w(t) \in W_1$ . Then there exists a positive constant C, independent of t, such that

$$\|\nabla_t w(t)\|_1 \le C \sum_{j \in J} \|\varphi_j\|_1.$$

In particular, there exist positive constants A, B, independent of t, such that

$$||w(t)||_1 \le A + B||t||.$$

Let  $\mathcal{W}_u \subset H^{-1}(\Omega)$  be the image under F of an horizontal affine subspace  $u + W_1$ , passing by  $u \in H_0^1(\Omega)$ . Then the angle between a vector in the tangent space  $T_{F(u)}\mathcal{W}_u$  at a point  $F(u) \in \mathcal{W}_u$  and its orthogonal projection in  $W_{-1}$  is uniformly bounded above by a constant less then  $\pi/2$  for all  $u \in H_0^1(\Omega)$ .

*Proof.* Fibers are inverses under F of vertical affine subspaces in  $H^{-1}(\Omega)$ . Thus PF(u(t)) = const. and, taking derivatives,

$$(PF)'(u(t)) \ \partial_{t_j} u(t) = PF'(u(t)) \ \partial_{t_j} u(t) = 0.$$
(3-10)

Write u(t) = w(t) + v(t) and expand  $v(t) = \sum_{j \in J} t_j \varphi_j$ , so that  $\partial_{t_j} u(t) = \partial_{t_j} w(t) + \varphi_j$ . For  $h \in W_1$ , we have  $PF'(u(t))h = F'_{v(t)}(w(t))h$  and thus, setting  $h = \partial_{t_j} w(t)$ ,

$$F'_{v}(w(t))\partial_{t_{j}}w(t) = PF'(u(t))\partial_{t_{j}}w(t) = -PF'(u(t))\varphi_{j}.$$

Using first the lower bound (3-3) and then the boundedness of F',

$$C_1 \|\partial_{t_j} w(t)\|_1 \le \|F'_v(w(t))\partial_{t_j} w(t)\|_{-1} = \|PF'(u(t))\varphi_j\|_{-1} \le C_2 \|\varphi_j\|_1,$$

for some positive constant  $C_2$ . Thus  $\|\nabla_t w(t)\|_1 \leq C \sum_{j \in J} \|\varphi_j\|_1$ . A bound of the form  $\|w(t)\|_1 \leq A + B\|t\|$  is now immediate.

To see that the tangent space  $T_{F(u)}\mathcal{W}_u$  is bounded away from the vertical subspace, consider the sequence of simple estimates

$$C_1 \|h\|_1 \le \|PF'(u)h\|_{-1} \le \|F'(u)h\|_{-1} \le C_3 \|h\|_1$$

The cosine between a vector  $F'(u)h \in T_{F(u)}\mathcal{W}_u$  and the horizontal subspace  $W_{-1}$  is given by the quotient  $\|PF'(u)h\|_{-1}/\|F'(u)h\|_{-1}$ , which is bounded from below by  $C_1/C_3$ .

The result may be interpreted as a source of stability for the numerics described in the next sections. We indicate a first application immediately. From Theorem 1, the function  $F: V_1 \oplus W_1 \to V_{-1} \oplus W_{-1}$  admits a global

Lyapunov-Schmidt decomposition, where  $V_1$  is generated by the eigenvectors  $\varphi_i, j \in J.$ 

When performing numerics, however, we do not work with  $\varphi_j$  — indeed, a general domain  $\Omega$  does not allow for a formula for the eigenvectors. Even when this happens, as for rectangles, we must still consider the fact that the computations are performed on a finite dimensional subspace. In our case (see Section 4.2), we are using finite elements of the standard type  $\mathcal{P}_1$ , generating an approximation  $X_h$  to the domain  $H_0^1(\Omega)$  and counter-domain  $H^{-1}(\Omega)$ . Since  $\varphi_j \notin X_h$ , we have to consider approximations  $\varphi_j^h \in X_h$ .

An  $\epsilon$ -tilted Lyapunov-Schmidt decomposition of F is a pair of splittings  $F: \tilde{V}_X \oplus \tilde{W}_X \to \tilde{V}_Y \oplus \tilde{W}_Y$ , for which F admits a global Lyapunov-Schmidt decomposition and the four subspaces  $\tilde{V}_X$ ,  $\tilde{W}_X$ ,  $\tilde{V}_Y$  and  $\tilde{W}_Y$  are  $\epsilon$ -close to their untilted counterparts. Here, one may take the distance between two subspaces as the maximal angle between them.

**Corollary 2.** For  $\epsilon$  sufficiently small and subspaces  $\tilde{V}_X$ ,  $\tilde{W}_X$ ,  $\tilde{V}_Y$  and  $\tilde{W}_Y$  $\epsilon$ -close to their untilted counterparts, the splittings  $F: \tilde{V}_X \oplus \tilde{W}_X \to \tilde{V}_Y \oplus \tilde{W}_Y$ induce a tilted Lyapunov-Schmidt decomposition of F.

*Proof.* This is an immediate consequence of the above proposition.

The results in this section considered the nonlinear operator F as acting between  $H_0^1(\Omega)$  and  $H^{-1}(\Omega)$ . Analogous results (stable global Lyapunov-Schmidt decomposition, boundedness and coercivity estimates, uniform flatness and steepness) also hold for  $F: H_0^2 \to L^2$ .