

ME 6402 – Lecture 3¹

PHASE POTRAITS OF NONLINEAR SYSTEMS NEAR HYPERBOLIC EQUILIBRIA

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Overview:

- Hartman-Grobman Theorem
- Bendixson's Theorem
- Invariant Sets

Additional Reading:

- Khalil, Chapter 2

Review: Phase Portraits of Linear Systems: $\dot{x} = Ax$

Depending on the eigenvalues of A , there are two main forms for $J = T^{-1}AT$:

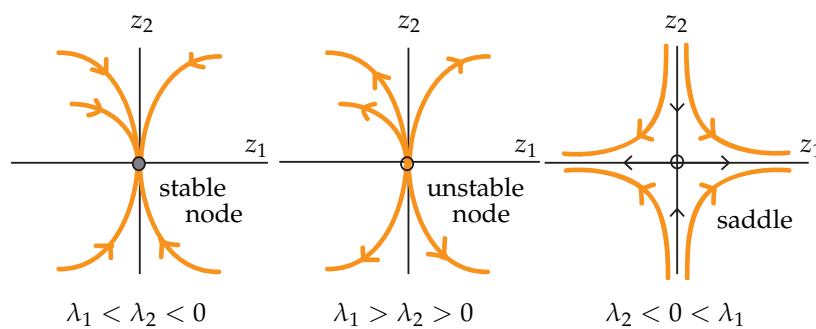
1. Distinct real eigenvalues

$$T^{-1}AT = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

In $z = T^{-1}x$ coordinates:

$$\dot{z}_1 = \lambda_1 z_1, \quad \dot{z}_2 = \lambda_2 z_2.$$

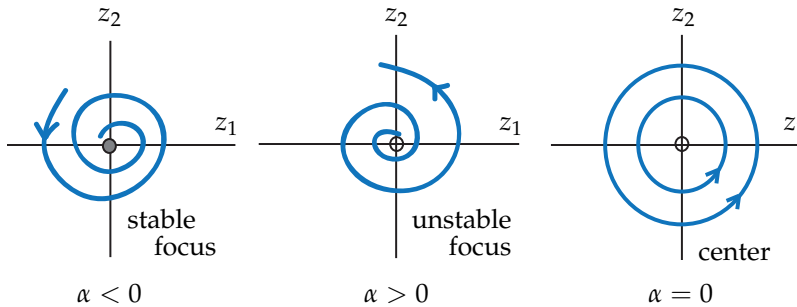
The equilibrium is called a *node* when λ_1 and λ_2 have the same sign (*stable node* when negative and *unstable node* when positive). It is called a *saddle point* when λ_1 and λ_2 have opposite signs.



2. Complex eigenvalues: $\lambda_{1,2} = \alpha \mp j\beta$

$$T^{-1}AT = \begin{bmatrix} \alpha & -\beta \\ \beta & \alpha \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{z}_1 &= \alpha z_1 - \beta z_2 \\ \dot{z}_2 &= \alpha z_2 + \beta z_1 \end{aligned} \rightarrow \text{polar coordinates} \rightarrow \begin{aligned} \dot{r} &= \alpha r \\ \dot{\theta} &= \beta \end{aligned}$$

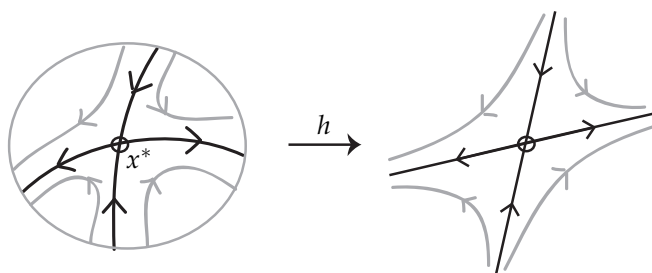


The phase portraits above assume $\beta > 0$ so that the direction of rotation is counter-clockwise: $\dot{\theta} = \beta > 0$.

Phase Portraits of Nonlinear Systems Near Hyperbolic Equilibria

Definition: Hyperbolic Equilibrium. Linearization has no eigenvalues on the imaginary axis

Phase portraits of nonlinear systems near hyperbolic equilibria are qualitatively similar to the phase portraits of their linearization. According to the Hartman-Grobman Theorem (below) a “continuous deformation” maps one phase portrait to the other.



Theorem: Hartman-Grobman Theorem.

If x^* is a hyperbolic equilibrium of $\dot{x} = f(x), x \in \mathbb{R}^n$, then there exists a homeomorphism² $z = h(x)$ defined in a neighborhood of x^* that maps trajectories of $\dot{x} = f(x)$ to those of $\dot{z} = Az$ where $A \triangleq \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \Big|_{x=x^*}$.

² a continuous map with a continuous inverse

The hyperbolicity condition can't be removed:

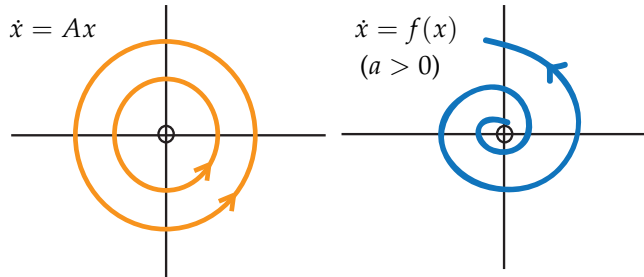
Example:

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{x}_1 &= -x_2 + ax_1(x_1^2 + x_2^2) & \implies & \dot{r} = ar^3 \\ \dot{x}_2 &= x_1 + ax_2(x_1^2 + x_2^2) & & \dot{\theta} = 1 \\ x^* &= (0,0) & A = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \Big|_{x=x^*} &= \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

This can be equivalently written in vector form as

$$\dot{x} = \begin{bmatrix} -x_2 + ax_1(x_1^2 + x_2^2) \\ x_1 + ax_2(x_1^2 + x_2^2) \end{bmatrix}$$

There is no continuous deformation that maps the phase portrait of the linearization to that of the original nonlinear model:



Periodic Orbits in the Plane

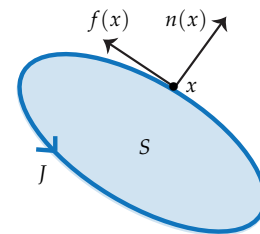
Theorem: Bendixson's Theorem. For a time-invariant planar system

$$\dot{x}_1 = f_1(x_1, x_2) \quad \dot{x}_2 = f_2(x_1, x_2),$$

if $\nabla \cdot f(x) = \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_1} + \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial x_2}$ is not identically zero and does not change sign in a simply connected region D , then there are no periodic orbits lying entirely in D .

Proof: By contradiction. Suppose a periodic orbit J lies in D . Let S denote the region enclosed by J and $n(x)$ the normal vector to J at x . Then $f(x) \cdot n(x) = 0$ for all $x \in J$. By the Divergence Theorem:

$$\underbrace{\int_J f(x) \cdot n(x) dl}_{= 0} = \underbrace{\iint_S \nabla \cdot f(x) dx}_{\neq 0}$$

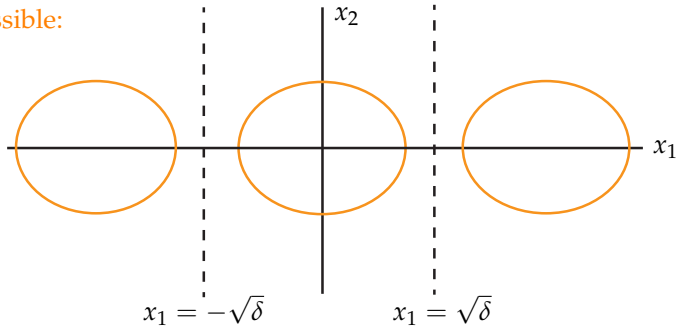


Example:

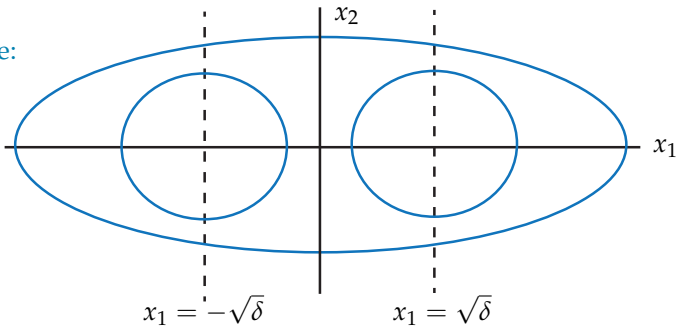
$$\begin{aligned} \dot{x}_1 &= x_2 \\ \dot{x}_2 &= -\delta x_2 + x_1 - x_1^3 + x_1^2 x_2 \quad \delta > 0 \\ \nabla \cdot f(x) &= \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_1} + \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial x_2} = x_1^2 - \delta \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, no periodic orbit can lie entirely in the region $x_1 \leq -\sqrt{\delta}$ where $\nabla \cdot f(x) \geq 0$, or $-\sqrt{\delta} \leq x_1 \leq \sqrt{\delta}$ where $\nabla \cdot f(x) \leq 0$, or $x_1 \geq \sqrt{\delta}$ where $\nabla \cdot f(x) \geq 0$.

not possible:



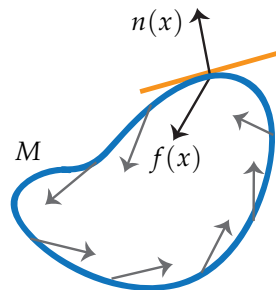
possible:



Invariant Sets

Notation: $\varphi(t, x_0)$ denotes a trajectory of $\dot{x} = f(x)$ with initial condition $x(0) = x_0$.

Definition: A set $M \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ is **positively (negatively)** invariant if, for each $x_0 \in M$, $\varphi(t, x_0) \in M$ for all $t \geq 0$ ($t \leq 0$).



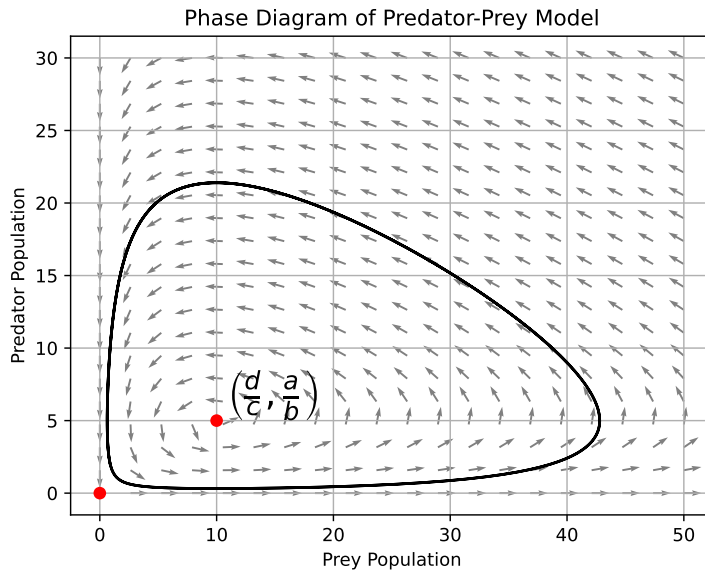
If $f(x) \cdot n(x) \leq 0$ on the boundary then M is positively invariant.

Example 1: A predator-prey model (Lotka-Volterra equations)

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{x} &= (a - by)x && \text{Prey (exponential growth when } y = 0) \\ \dot{y} &= (cx - d)y && \text{Predator (exponential decay when } x = 0) \\ a, b, c, d, &> 0 \end{aligned}$$

The nonnegative quadrant is invariant:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{(x-axis:)} \quad & \begin{bmatrix} ax \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} = 0 \\ \text{(y-axis:)} \quad & \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -dy \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = 0 \end{aligned}$$



Example 2: (Similar to Example 2.8 in Khalil)

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{x}_1 &= x_1 + x_2 - x_1(x_1^2 + x_2^2) \\ \dot{x}_2 &= -2x_1 + x_2 - x_2(x_1^2 + x_2^2) \end{aligned}$$

Show that $B_r \triangleq \{x \mid x_1^2 + x_2^2 \leq r^2\}$ is positively invariant for sufficiently large r .

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) \cdot n(x) &= \begin{bmatrix} x_1 + x_2 - x_1(x_1^2 + x_2^2) \\ -2x_1 + x_2 - x_2(x_1^2 + x_2^2) \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= x_1^2 + x_1x_2 - x_1^2(x_1^2 + x_2^2) - 2x_1x_2 + x_2^2 - x_2^2(x_1^2 + x_2^2) \\ &= -x_1x_2 + (x_1^2 + x_2^2) - (x_1^2 + x_2^2)^2 \end{aligned}$$

Next, we can use the inequality

$$|2x_1x_2| \leq x_1^2 + x_2^2,$$

This is a special case of the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality: $|\langle a, b \rangle| \leq \|a\| \|b\|$ with $a = (x_1, x_2)$ and $b = (x_2, x_1)$:

$$\begin{aligned} |x_1x_2 + x_2x_1| &\leq \sqrt{(x_1^2 + x_2^2)(x_1^2 + x_2^2)} \\ |2x_1x_2| &\leq x_1^2 + x_2^2 \end{aligned}$$

to arrive at the final condition:

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) \cdot n(x) &\leq \frac{1}{2}(x_1^2 + x_2^2) + (x_1^2 + x_2^2) - (x_1^2 + x_2^2)^2 \\ &= \frac{3}{2}r^2 - r^4 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, $f(x) \cdot n(x) \leq \frac{3}{2}r^2 - r^4 \leq 0$ if $r^2 \geq \frac{3}{2}$.

