

8. Nonlinear systems of differential equations

Motivation: "Most" ODEs & systems of ODEs that arise in practice are nonlinear. The most common technique of analysis is to "linearize" them first.

As before, most defining properties are determined by the eigenvalues & eigenvectors.

SIR model (Popular 3x3 system of ODEs)

This models an epidemic or disease in a population (e.g., flu)

Let $S(t)$ = # susceptible people at time t

$I(t)$ = # infected people at time t

$R(t)$ = # recovered people at time t

Initially, there are N susceptible (uninfected) people.

Transition: Ssceptible \rightarrow Infected \rightarrow Recovered.

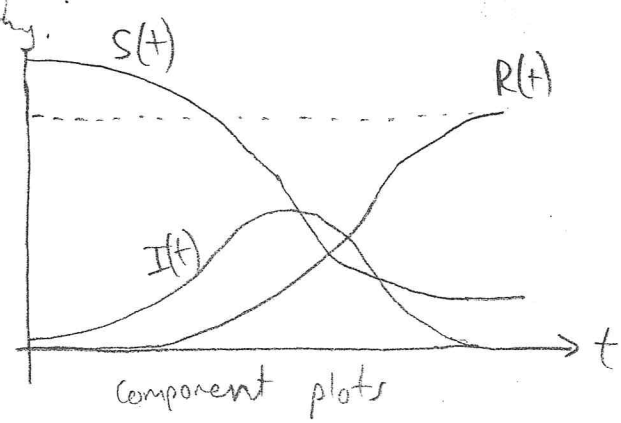
$$\frac{dS}{dt} = -\alpha SI \quad \text{"proportional to both } S(t) \text{ \& } I(t)\text{"}$$

$$\frac{dI}{dt} = \alpha SI - \gamma I \quad \text{"(rate people get sick) - (rate people get healthy)"}$$

$$\frac{dR}{dt} = \gamma I \quad \text{"rate people get healthy."}$$

We get a nonlinear, autonomous system

$$\begin{cases} S' = -\alpha SI & S(0) = N \\ I' = \alpha SI - \gamma I & I(0) = 1 \\ R' = \gamma I & R(0) = 0 \end{cases}$$



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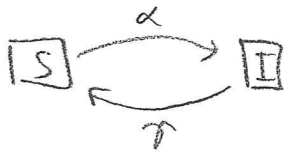
Other epidemic models

- **SI model** (e.g., herpes, HIV)



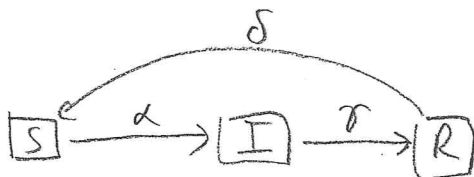
$$\begin{cases} S' = -\alpha SI \\ I' = \alpha SI \end{cases}$$

- **SIS model**. Disease w/o immunity (e.g., chlamydia)



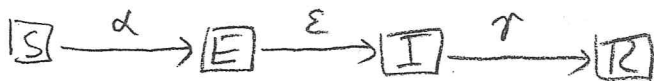
$$\begin{cases} S' = -\alpha SI - \gamma I \\ I' = \alpha SI - \gamma I \end{cases}$$

- **SIRS model**: Finite-time immunity (e.g., common cold)



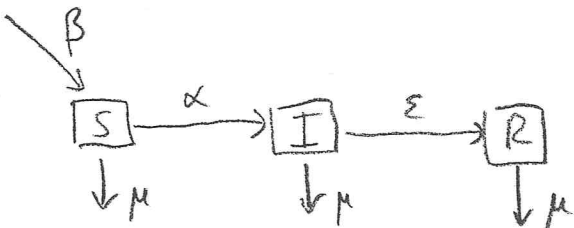
$$\begin{cases} S' = -\alpha SI + \delta R \\ I' = \alpha SI - \gamma I \\ R' = \gamma I + \delta R \end{cases}$$

- **SEIR model**: E = exposed (incubation period, no symptoms)



$$\begin{cases} S' = -\alpha SI \\ E' = \alpha SI - \epsilon E \\ I' = \epsilon E - \gamma I \\ R' = \gamma I \end{cases}$$

- **SIR model** (with birth & death rate)



$$\begin{cases} S' = -\beta SI + \mu(N-S) \\ I' = \beta SI - \gamma I - \mu I \\ R' = \gamma I - \mu R \end{cases}$$

Competing species

Consider 2 species competing for a limited food supply & habitat.
(e.g., 2 types of fish in a pond).

$X(t)$ = population of Species 1

$Y(t)$ = population of Species 2.

Suppose that each species, without the other, would grow logistically.

$$\begin{cases} X' = r_1 X \left(1 - \frac{X}{M_1}\right) - s_1 XY & = X(\epsilon_1 - \sigma_1 X - \alpha_1 Y) \\ Y' = r_2 Y \left(1 - \frac{Y}{M_2}\right) - s_2 XY & = Y(\epsilon_2 - \sigma_2 Y - \alpha_2 X) \end{cases}$$

$\alpha_1 Y$ = "decrease in growth rate of species 1 due to species 2"

So α_1 is the per capita decline.

Predator-Prey "Lotka-Volterra equations"

Consider 2 species, one of which depends on the other as a food source.

$X(t)$ = population of the prey

$Y(t)$ = population of the predator.

Assume that in the absence of the other species:

- the prey would grow exponentially: $X' = rX$
- the predator would decay exponentially. $Y' = -uY$.

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Then we have the model:
$$\begin{cases} X' = rX - sXY \\ Y' = -uY + vXY \end{cases}$$

This can be modified if the prey grows logistically:

$$\begin{cases} X' = rX(1 - X/M) - sXY \\ Y' = -uY + vXY \end{cases}$$

This can also model a host $X(t)$ & a parasite $Y(t)$.

Other population models:

• Immune system vs. infective agent:

$X(t)$ = pop. of immune cells

$Y(t)$ = level of infection

$$\begin{cases} X' = rY - sXY \\ Y' = uY - vXY \end{cases}$$

where:
 $-sXY$ = negative effect on immune system from fighting
 $-vXY$ = limited effect on immune system in fighting
 rY = immune response is proportional to infection level.

• Mutualism:

$X(t)$ = pop. of sharks

$Y(t)$ = pop. of feeder fish

$$\begin{cases} X' = rX(1 - X/M) + sXY \\ Y' = -uY + vXY \end{cases}$$

Other such relationships could include

- lichen & tree population
- leaf-cutter ants & fungi they cultivate
- fruit-trees & birds

Linearization & steady-state analysis

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Example 1:
$$\begin{cases} X' = X(1-X-Y) \\ Y' = Y(0.75-Y-0.5X) \end{cases}$$

First, find steady-state solutions (set $X' = Y' = 0$).

$$\begin{cases} 0 = X(1-X-Y) \\ 0 = Y(0.75-Y-0.5X) \end{cases} \quad \begin{array}{l} X=0 \Rightarrow Y=0 \text{ or } \overbrace{0.75-Y-0.5X=0}^{Y=0.75} \\ Y=0 \Rightarrow X=0 \text{ or } \underbrace{1-X-Y=0}_{X=1} \end{array}$$

$$\text{or } \begin{cases} 1-X-Y=0 \\ 0.75-Y-0.5X=0 \end{cases} \Rightarrow X=Y=0.5$$

We have 4 steady-state solutions, (X^*, Y^*) :

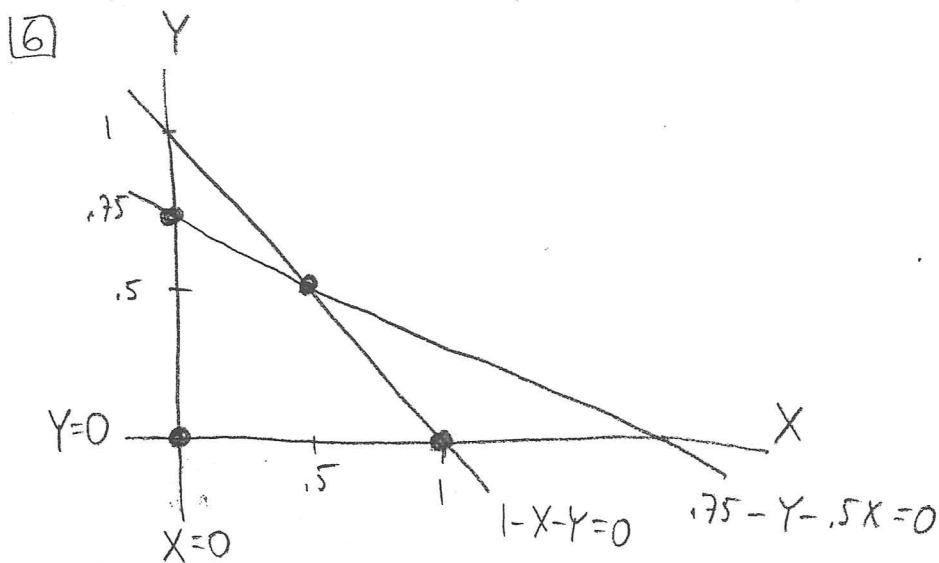
- $(0, 0)$: both species are extinct
- $(1, 0)$: species 2 is extinct $[K_1 = 1]$
- $(0, .75)$: species 1 is extinct $[K_2 = .75]$
- $(.5, .5)$: Both species co-exist.

Graphical Interpretation: Recall that an isocline is a curve or line where $X' = 0$ or $Y' = 0$. (Also called "nullcline").

$$\boxed{X' = 0}: X = 0 \text{ or } 1 - X - Y = 0$$

$$\boxed{Y' = 0}: Y = 0 \text{ or } 0.75 - Y - 0.5X = 0$$

The steady-state solutions are the intersections of X-isoclines with Y-isoclines.



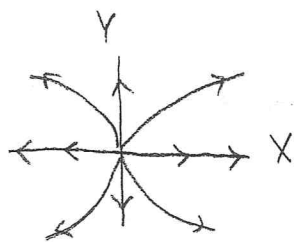
Next, we'll analyze the behavior of the phase portrait near each steady-state point using a technique called linearization.

$$\boxed{(X^*, Y^*) = (0, 0)} \quad \begin{cases} X' = X - X^2 - XY \approx X \\ Y' = .75Y - Y^2 - .5XY \approx .75Y \end{cases} \quad \text{if } X, Y \approx 0$$

The system linearized at $(0, 0)$ is $\begin{pmatrix} X' \\ Y' \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & .75 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} X \\ Y \end{pmatrix}$

$$\lambda_1 = 1 \quad v_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\lambda_2 = .75 \quad v_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$



To linearize at a non-zero critical point (X^*, Y^*) , we must change variables:

$$\text{let } \begin{cases} P = X - X^* \\ Q = Y - Y^* \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} X = P + X^* \\ Y = Q + Y^* \end{cases} \quad \begin{cases} P' = X' \\ Q' = Y' \end{cases}$$

Plug back into:

$$\boxed{\begin{aligned} X' &= X(1 - X - Y) \\ Y' &= Y(.75 - Y - .5X) \end{aligned}}$$

$$P' = (P + X^*)(1 - P - Q - X^* - Y^*)$$

$P = \text{dist. from } X^*$

$$Q' = (Q + Y^*)(.75 - Q - Y^* - .5P - .5X^*)$$

$Q = \text{dist. from } Y^*$

Simplifying...

$$P' = (1 - 2X^* - Y^*)P - X^*Q + (\text{non-linear terms})$$

$$Q' = .5U + (.75 - .5X^* - 2Y^*)V + (\text{non-linear terms})$$

assume ≈ 0 ,
since $P, Q \approx 0$.

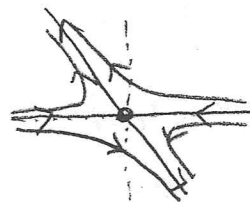
$$\begin{pmatrix} P' \\ Q' \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 - 2X^* - Y^* & -X^* \\ -.5Y^* & .75 - 2Y^* - .5X^* \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} P \\ Q \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} \text{non-linear} \\ \text{terms} \end{pmatrix}$$

Back to linearizing at the other 3 steady-states:

$$(X^*, Y^*) = (1, 0)$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} P' \\ Q' \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & -1 \\ 0 & .25 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} P \\ Q \end{pmatrix} \quad \lambda_1 = -1 \quad v_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

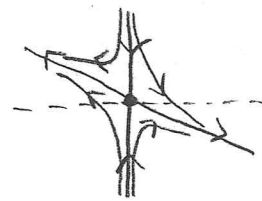
$$\lambda_2 = .25 \quad v_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ -5 \end{pmatrix}$$



$$(X^*, Y^*) = (0, .75)$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} P' \\ Q' \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} .25 & 0 \\ .375 & -.75 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} P \\ Q \end{pmatrix} \quad \lambda_1 = .25 \quad v_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 8 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix}$$

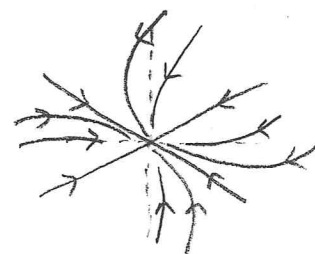
$$\lambda_2 = -.75 \quad v_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$



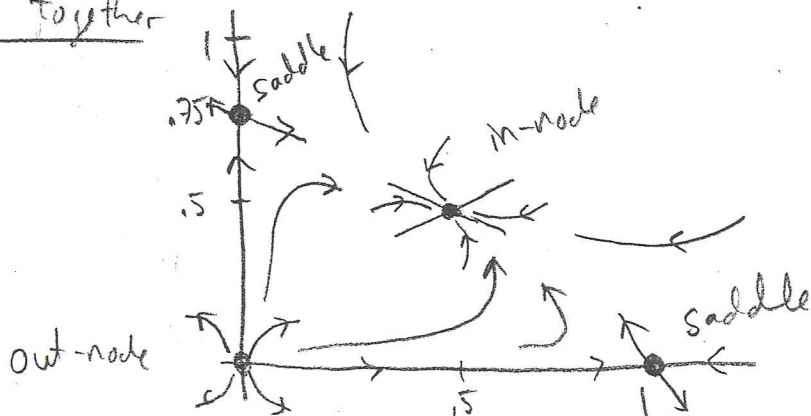
$$(X^*, Y^*) = (.5, .5)$$

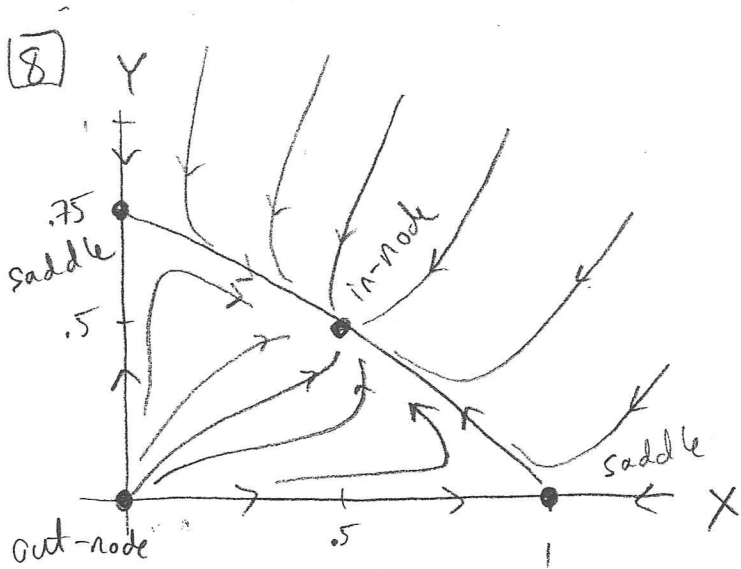
$$\begin{pmatrix} P' \\ Q' \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -.5 & -.5 \\ -.25 & -.5 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} P \\ Q \end{pmatrix} \quad \lambda_1 \approx -.146 \quad v_1 = \begin{pmatrix} \sqrt{2} \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\lambda_2 \approx -.854 \quad v_2 = \begin{pmatrix} \sqrt{2} \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$



Putting this together



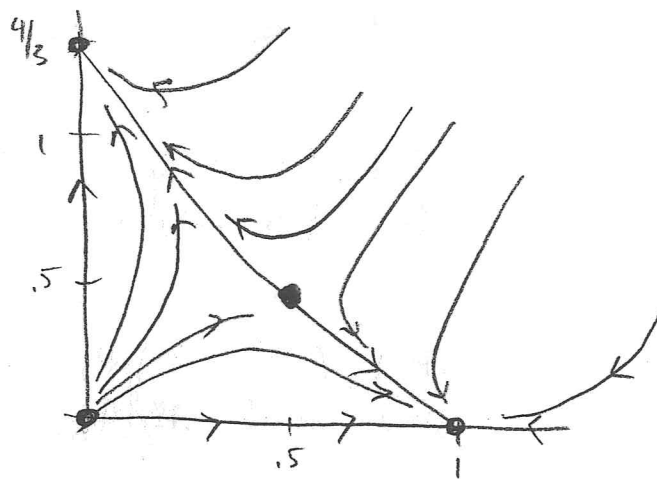


$(X^*, Y^*) = (0.5, 0.5)$ is a stable steady-state

Example 2: Consider the following:
$$\begin{cases} X' = X(1 - X - Y) \\ Y' = Y(0.8 - 0.6Y - X) \end{cases}$$

It is easy to check that there are 4 steady-states:

- $(0, 0)$ out-node
- $(1, 0)$ in-node
- $(0, 4/3)$ in-node
- $(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})$ saddle



(X^*, Y^*) is an unstable steady-state.

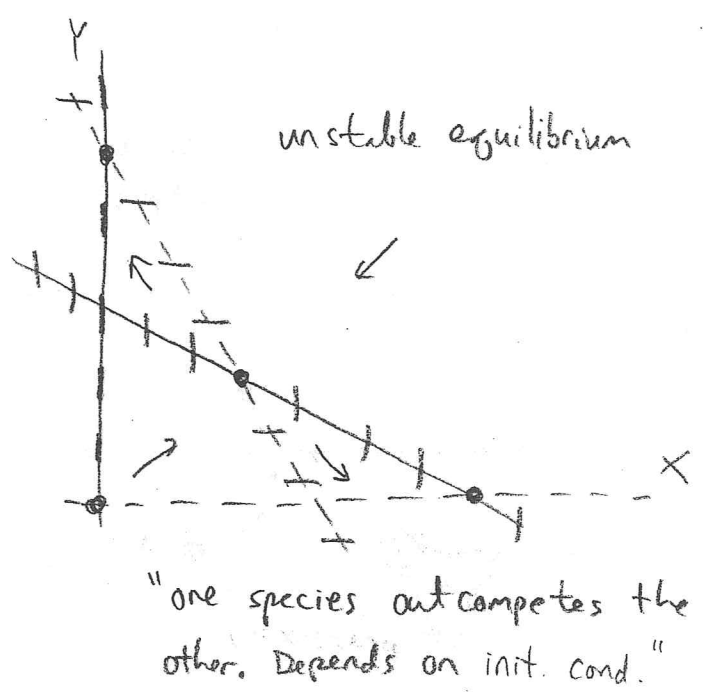
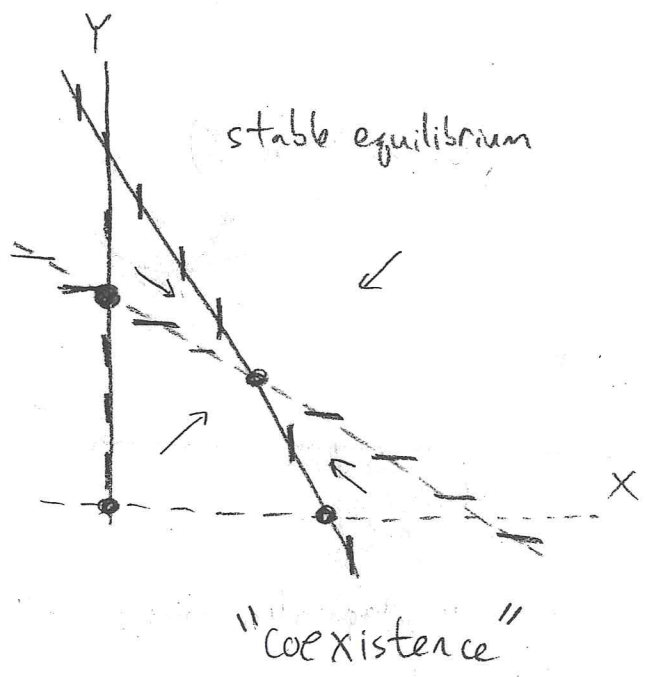
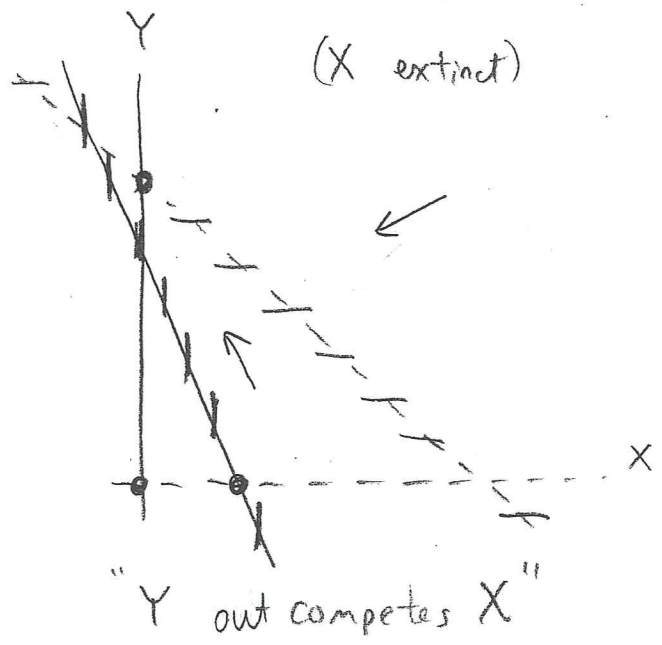
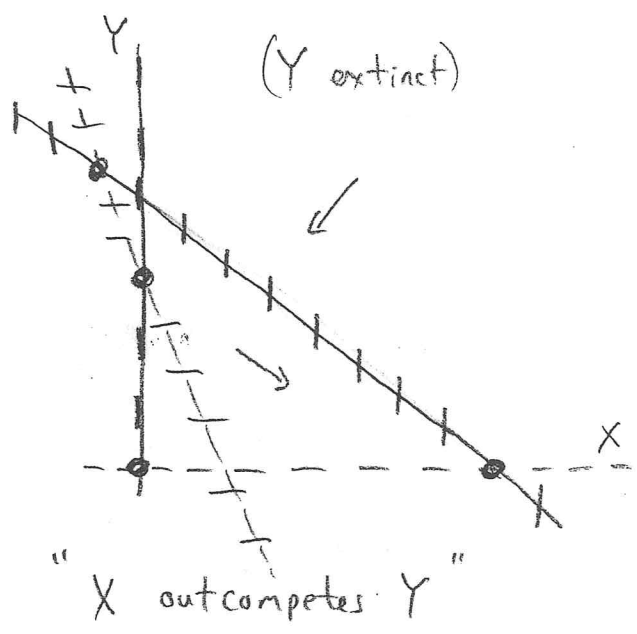
Question: What's going on? Are there other possibilities?

Answer: Consider the system
$$\begin{cases} X' = X(\epsilon_1 - \sigma_1 X - \alpha_1 Y) \\ Y' = Y(\epsilon_2 - \sigma_2 Y - \alpha_2 X) \end{cases}$$

X-isoclines: $X = 0$, $\epsilon_1 - \sigma_1 X - \alpha_1 Y = 0$ "solid"

Y-isoclines: $Y = 0$, $\epsilon_2 - \sigma_2 Y - \alpha_2 X = 0$ "dashed"

There are 4 types of dynamics



Note:

A small phase plane diagram showing a vertical line representing $X' = 0$. Arrows point towards the line from both sides, indicating that X increases towards the equilibrium point. The region to the left is labeled $X' > 0$ and the region to the right is labeled $X' < 0$.

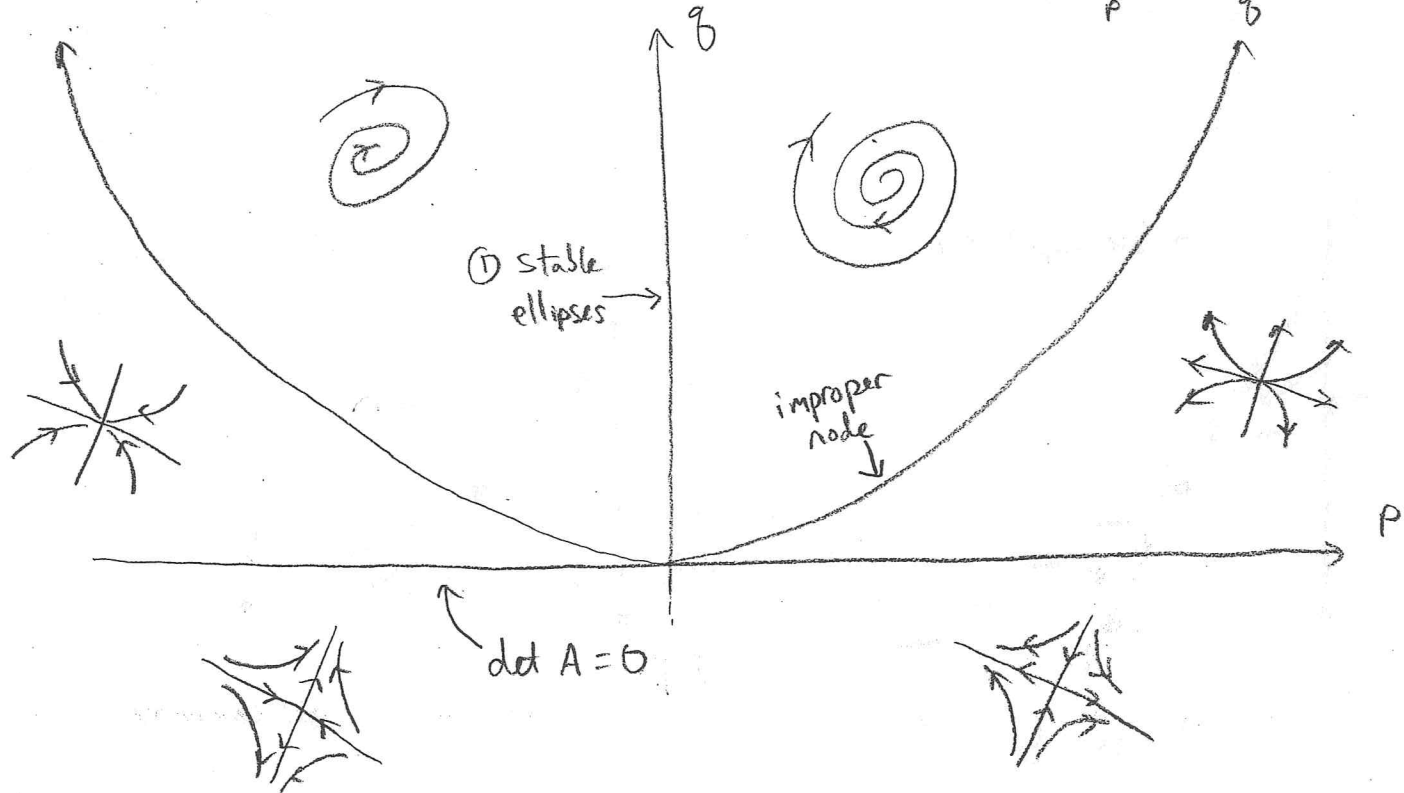
A small phase plane diagram showing a horizontal line representing $Y' = 0$. Arrows point away from the line, indicating that Y decreases away from the equilibrium point. The region above is labeled $Y' < 0$ and the region below is labeled $Y' > 0$.




10 When might linearization fail?

We linearize a system at a steady-state point expecting that the dynamics near it is approximated by the linearized system.

There are a few "special cases" when this fails, and they all correspond to "boundaries" between regions in the

following picture (recall Section 4): $\lambda^2 - \underbrace{\text{tr} A}_p + \underbrace{\det A}_q = 0$



- ① stable ellipses 
- ② improper nodes 
- ③ det A = 0 

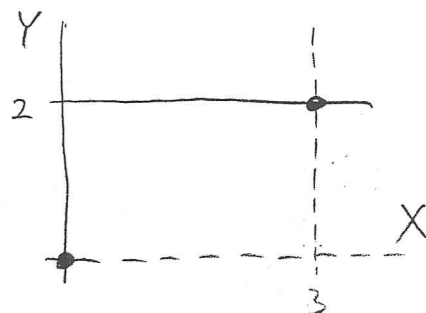
in all of these cases, the non-linear terms could cause the system to "fall" on either side of the boundary.

Predator-prey models

Example 3: Consider the following:
$$\begin{cases} X' = X - \frac{1}{2}XY = X(1 - \frac{1}{2}Y) \\ Y' = -\frac{3}{4}Y + \frac{1}{4}XY = Y(-\frac{3}{4} + \frac{1}{4}X) \end{cases}$$

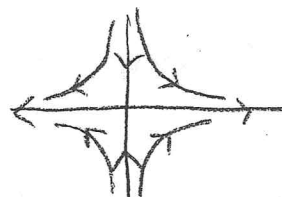
Steady-state solutions:
$$\begin{cases} 0 = X(1 - \frac{1}{2}Y) \\ 0 = Y(-\frac{3}{4} + \frac{1}{4}X) \end{cases} \quad (X^*, Y^*) = (0, 0) \text{ or } (3, 2)$$

- X-isoclines: $X=0, Y=2$
- Y-isoclines: $Y=0, X=3$



Linearize at $(X^*, Y^*) = (0, 0)$:

$$\begin{pmatrix} X' \\ Y' \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -\frac{3}{4} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} X \\ Y \end{pmatrix} \quad \begin{matrix} \lambda_1 = 1 & v_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \\ \lambda_2 = -\frac{3}{4} & v_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \end{matrix}$$



Linearize at $(X^*, Y^*) = (3, 2)$:

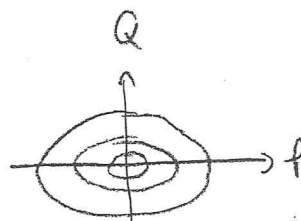
$$\text{let } \begin{cases} P = X - 3 \\ Q = Y - 2 \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} X = P + 3 \\ Y = Q + 2 \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} P' = (P+3)(1 - \frac{1}{2}(Q+2) - 1) = -\frac{3}{2}Q + (\text{nonlinear}) \\ Q' = (Q+2)(-\frac{3}{4} + \frac{1}{4}(P+3)) = \frac{1}{2}P + (\text{nonlinear}) \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} P' \\ Q' \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -3/2 \\ 1/2 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} P \\ Q \end{pmatrix} \quad \lambda_{1,2} = \pm \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} i ; \text{ this is the "problem case",}$$

we can't determine if the phase space will be inward or outward spirals, or stable.

$$\frac{dQ}{dP} = \frac{dQ/dt}{dP/dt} = \frac{\frac{1}{2}P}{-\frac{3}{2}Q} = \frac{-P}{3Q}$$

$$\Rightarrow P dP + 3Q dQ = 0 \xrightarrow{\text{integrate}} P^2 + 3Q^2 = k$$



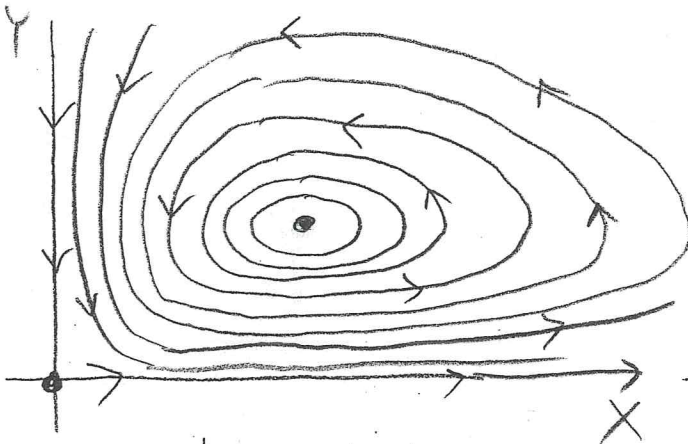
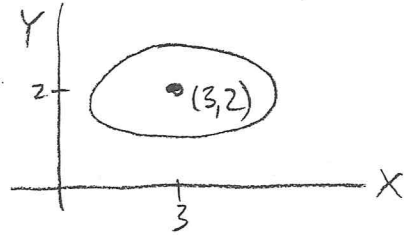
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Return to the nonlinear system:

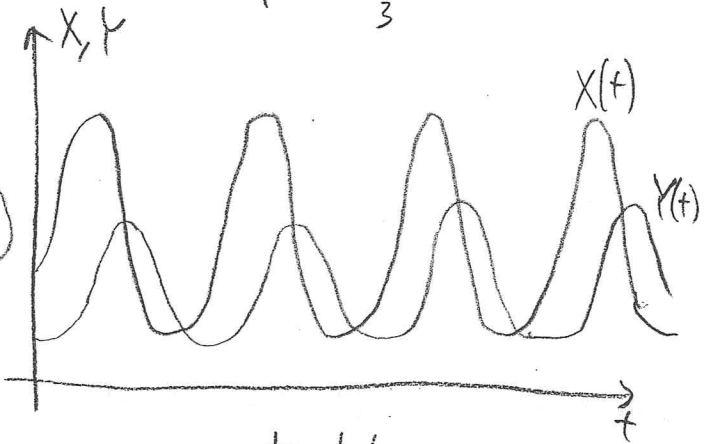
$$\frac{dY}{dX} = \frac{Y'}{X'} = \frac{Y(-\frac{3}{4} + \frac{1}{4}X)}{X(1 - \frac{1}{2}Y)} \Rightarrow \frac{1 - \frac{1}{2}Y}{Y} dY = \frac{-\frac{3}{4} + \frac{1}{4}X}{X} dX$$

Integrate

$$\frac{3}{4} \ln X + \ln Y - \frac{1}{2}Y - \frac{1}{4}X = C$$



phase portrait



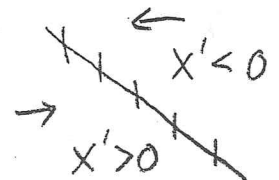
Component plots

Example 4: Prey grows logistically.

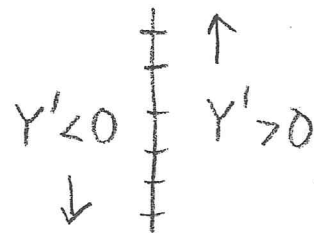
$$\begin{cases} X' = rX(1 - X/M) - sXY \\ Y' = -uY - vXY \end{cases} \quad (\text{let's "normalize" } \ddot{\text{and}} \text{ set } M=1)$$

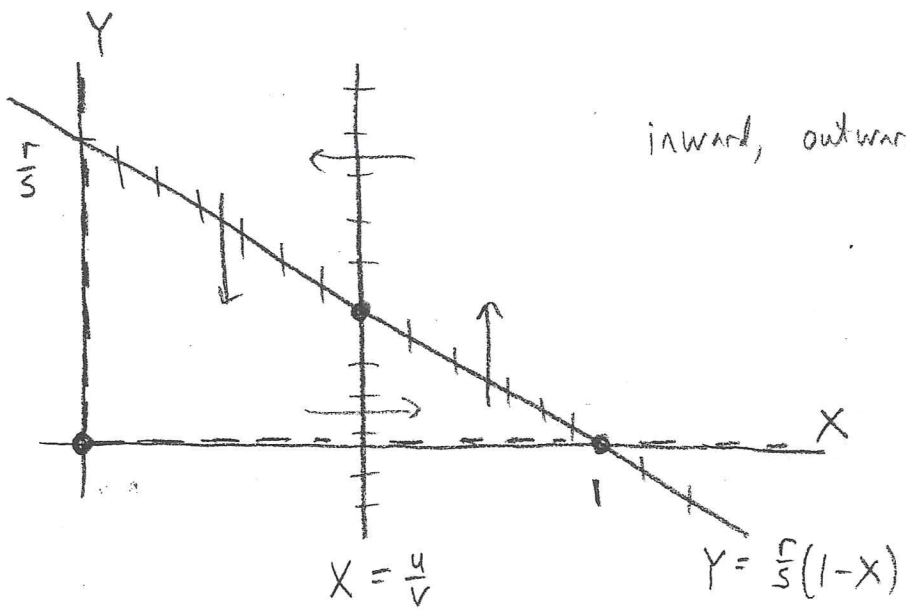
Steady-state: $\begin{cases} 0 = X(r(1-X) - sY) \\ 0 = Y(-u + vX) \end{cases} \quad (X^*, Y^*) = (0, 0), (1, 0), (\frac{u}{v}, \frac{r}{s}(1 - \frac{u}{v}))$

• X-isoclines: $X=0$ and $r(1-X) - sY=0$



• Y-isoclines: $Y=0$ and $-u + vX=0$





inward, outward, or stable???

Application: Suppose $X(t) = \text{crop}$
 $Y(t) = \text{pest or weed.}$

A Farmer might try to grow a "superior cultivar" with a higher growth rate r , to attempt to "outgrow" the pest.

But this will only increase Y^* , & leave X^* unchanged!

Linearization (to determine stability of the equilibrium point)

To make things easier, let's set $r=1.3$, $s=.5$, $u=.7$, $v=1.6$

$$\begin{cases} X' = 1.3X(1-X) - .5XY \\ Y' = -.7Y + 1.6XY \end{cases} \Rightarrow (X^*, Y^*) = (0,0), (1,0), (.4375, 1.4625).$$

Change vars: $\begin{cases} P = X - .4375 \\ Q = Y - 1.4625 \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} X = P + .4375 \\ Y = Q + 1.4625 \end{cases}$

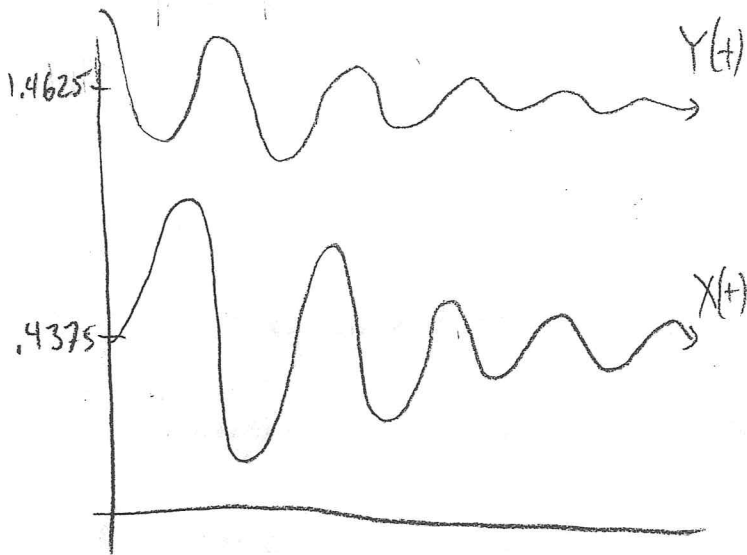
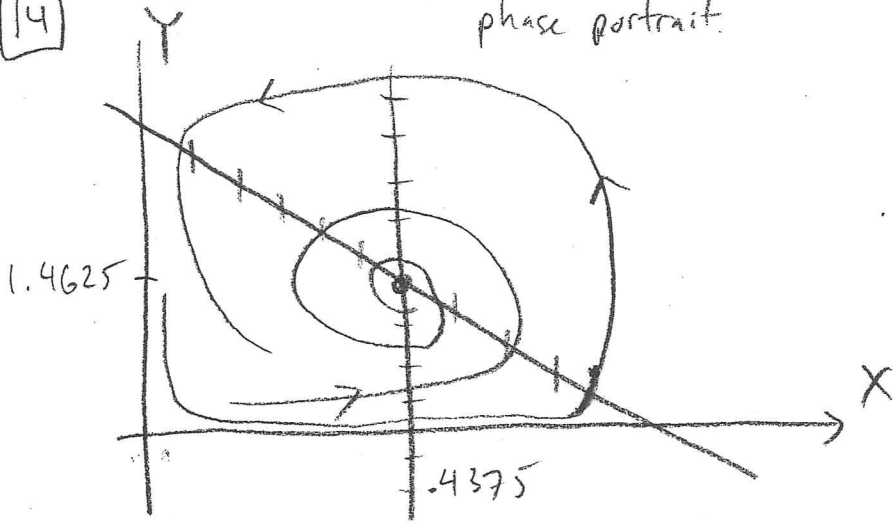
Plug in: $\begin{cases} P' = .56875P - .21875Q - 1.3P^2 - .5PQ \\ Q' = 2.34P + 1.6PQ \end{cases}$

$$\begin{pmatrix} P' \\ Q' \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} .56875 & -.21875 \\ 2.34 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} P \\ Q \end{pmatrix} \quad \lambda_{1,2} = -.2844 \pm .6565i$$

inward spirals!

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phase portrait



Component plots