

Kavish Senthilkumar

## Nonlinear oscillations: nondimensionalization

a

We have the below equations

$$\frac{d(\Delta m)}{dt} = -Q\theta/\sqrt{1+\theta^2}$$

$$\frac{d\theta}{dt} = (\Delta m)\gamma \cos \theta$$

We nondimensionalize with  $\bar{t} = \frac{\sqrt{Q\gamma}}{2\pi} t$  and  $\bar{\Delta m} = \alpha \Delta m$ , where  $\alpha$  is some quantity with units  $kg^{-1}$  we will use to rescale  $\Delta m$ .We choose  $\alpha = \frac{Q}{2\pi\sqrt{Q\gamma}} = \frac{1}{2\pi\sqrt{Q\gamma}}$ , seeing that since  $Q$  has units  $kg/s$  and  $\gamma$  has units  $(kg \cdot s)^{-1}$ ,  $\alpha$  now has units  $(\sqrt{kg \cdot s} \cdot kg \cdot s)^{-1} = kg^{-1}$  as desired. We add the  $2\pi$  to allow easy cancellation in the following step, noting  $2\pi$  is unitless.

Substituting with the chain rule,

$$\frac{d(\Delta m)}{dt} = \frac{\sqrt{Q\gamma}}{2\pi\alpha} \frac{d(\Delta \bar{m})}{d\bar{t}} = \frac{\sqrt{Q\gamma}2\pi\sqrt{Q\gamma}}{2\pi} \frac{d(\Delta \bar{m})}{d\bar{t}} = Q \frac{d(\Delta \bar{m})}{d\bar{t}}$$

$$Q \frac{d(\Delta \bar{m})}{d\bar{t}} = -Q\theta/\sqrt{1+\theta^2} \Rightarrow \frac{d(\Delta \bar{m})}{d\bar{t}} = -\theta/\sqrt{1+\theta^2}$$

We apply a similar process to  $\frac{d\theta}{dt}$ , replacing  $\bar{m}$  with  $\bar{\Delta m}$ . Using the chain rule,

$$\frac{d\theta}{dt} = \frac{\sqrt{Q\gamma}}{2\pi} \frac{d\theta}{d\bar{t}} = 2\pi\sqrt{Q\gamma}/\Delta \bar{m} \gamma \cos \theta$$

$$\frac{d\theta}{d\bar{t}} = \frac{\sqrt{Q\gamma}/\gamma}{\sqrt{Q\gamma}} \Delta \bar{m} \gamma \cos \theta$$

$$\frac{d\theta}{d\bar{t}} = (\frac{1}{\sqrt{\gamma}}/\gamma) \Delta \bar{m} \cos \theta$$

$$\frac{d\theta}{d\bar{t}} = \Delta \bar{m} \cos \theta$$

Below, we graph the phase portrait and some typical streamlines



We comment on these graphs below.

## Vector fields and nullclines for basic mechanical oscillator and relaxation oscillator

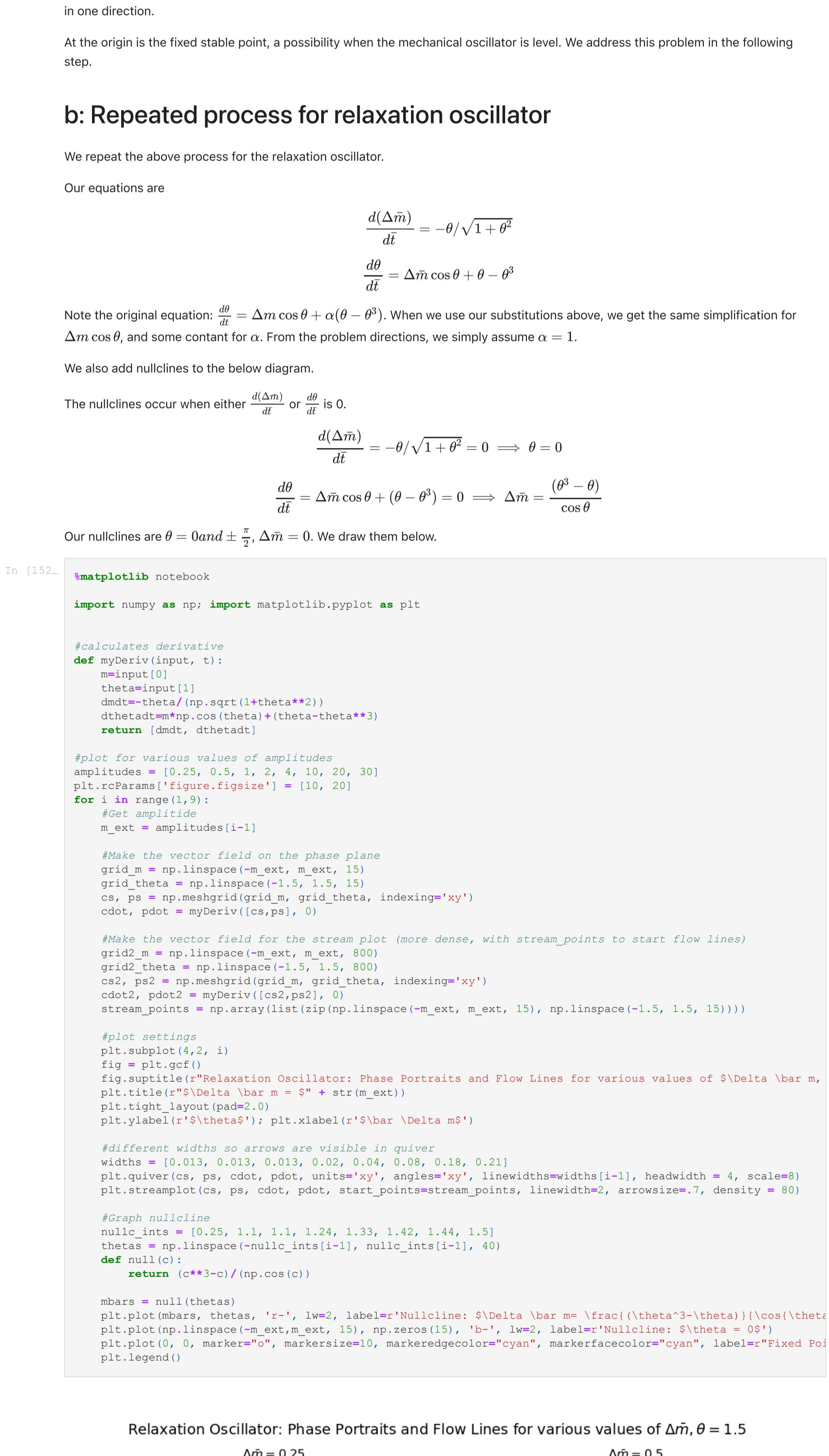
We first calculate the nullclines for our above equations. The nullclines occur when either  $\frac{d(\Delta m)}{dt} = 0$  or  $\frac{d\theta}{dt} = 0$ .

$$\frac{d(\Delta m)}{dt} = -\theta/\sqrt{1+\theta^2} = 0 \Rightarrow \theta = 0$$

$$\frac{d\theta}{dt} = \Delta \bar{m} \cos \theta = 0 \Rightarrow \Delta \bar{m} = 0 \text{ or } \theta = \pm \frac{\pi}{2}$$

Our nullclines are  $\theta = 0$  and  $\theta = \pm \frac{\pi}{2}$ ,  $\Delta \bar{m} = 0$ . We draw them below.

a

At very small amplitudes, the flow lines are ellipses longer along the  $\Delta m$  axis. Here, there is a slower, more gradual change of  $\theta$  (this makes sense, as there is a smaller difference in mass between the units). As the amplitude increases, the ellipse becomes elongated between buckets, with  $\theta$  changing more rapidly in the same unit. As the amplitude continues to large values, the changes in  $\theta$  get very large, and the elliptical flow line on one side falls and a path to higher or lower  $\Delta m$  values is not present; the flow lines only point in one direction.

At the origin is the fixed stable point, a possibility when the mechanical oscillator is at level. We address this problem in the following step.

## b: Repeated process for relaxation oscillator

We repeat the process for the relaxation oscillator.

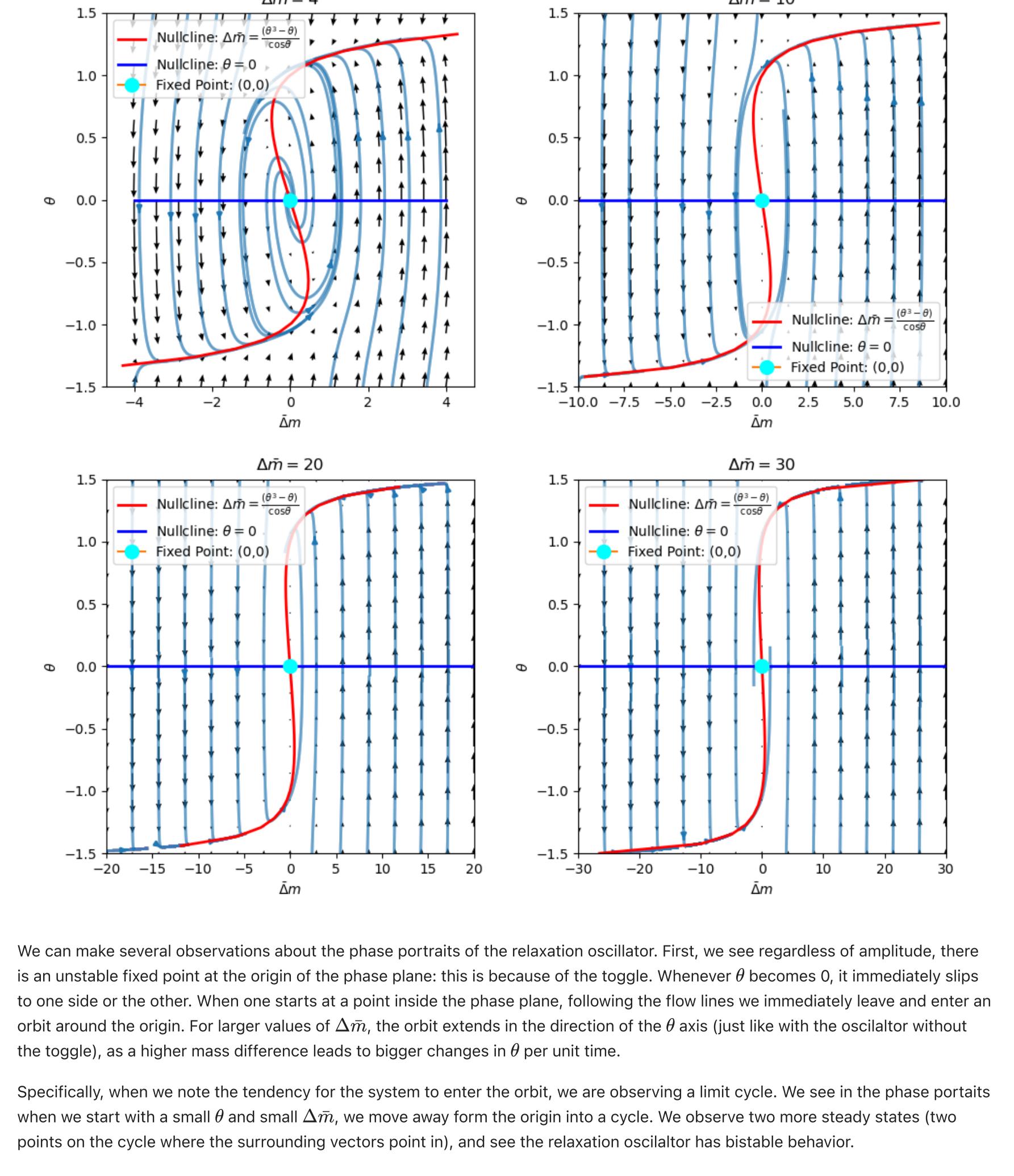
Our equations are

$$\frac{d(\Delta m)}{dt} = -\theta/\sqrt{1+\theta^2}$$

$$\frac{d\theta}{dt} = \Delta \bar{m} \cos \theta + \alpha(\theta - \theta^3)$$

Note the original equation:  $\frac{d\theta}{dt} = \Delta \bar{m} \cos \theta + \alpha(\theta - \theta^3)$ . When we use our substitutions above, we get the same simplification for  $\Delta m \cos \theta$ , and some constant for  $\alpha$ . From the problem directions, we simply assume  $\alpha = 1$ .

We also add nullclines to the below diagram.

We can make several observations about the phase portraits of the relaxation oscillator. First, we see regardless of a amplitude, there is an unstable fixed point. When the origin starts at a point inside this phase plane, or following the flow lines, we immediately leave and enter an orbit around the origin. For larger values of  $\Delta m$ , the orbit extends in the direction of the  $\theta$  axis (just like with the oscillator without the spring), as when we note the tendency for the system to enter the orbit, we are observing a limit cycle. We see in the phase portraits points on the cycle where the surrounding vectors point in, and see the relaxation oscillator has bistable behavior.

## Credit

Maria for nondimensionalization help, Andres for graph insight

