

1D-Bifurcations (Assignment Sheet 5)

Introduction To Chaos Applied To Systems, Processes And Products (ETSIDI, UPM)

Alfonso Allen-Perkins, Juan Carlos Bueno and Eduardo Faleiro

2025-03-20

Contents

Introduction	1
1. Supercritical bifurcation	2
1.1 Theoretical background	2
1.2 Phase portraits for different r	2
1.3 Bifurcation diagram	3
2. Subcritical bifurcation	5
2.1 Theoretical background	5
2.2 Bifurcation diagram	5
3. Saddle-Node bifurcation	6
3.1 Theoretical background	6
3.2 Phase portraits for different r	7
3.3 Bifurcation diagram	8
.	9
Exercise	9

Introduction

Bifurcation theory describes how the qualitative behavior of equilibria changes as a system parameter varies. Here we explore different types of bifurcations using R.

Required Libraries

```
library(ggplot2)
```

1. Supercritical bifurcation

1.1 Theoretical background

A **supercritical bifurcation** occurs when a stable equilibrium splits into two new stable equilibria as the control parameter r crosses a critical value. The system under study is:

$$\dot{x} = r \cdot x - x^3$$

The fixed points of this system are:

$$x^* = 0, \quad \pm\sqrt{r}$$

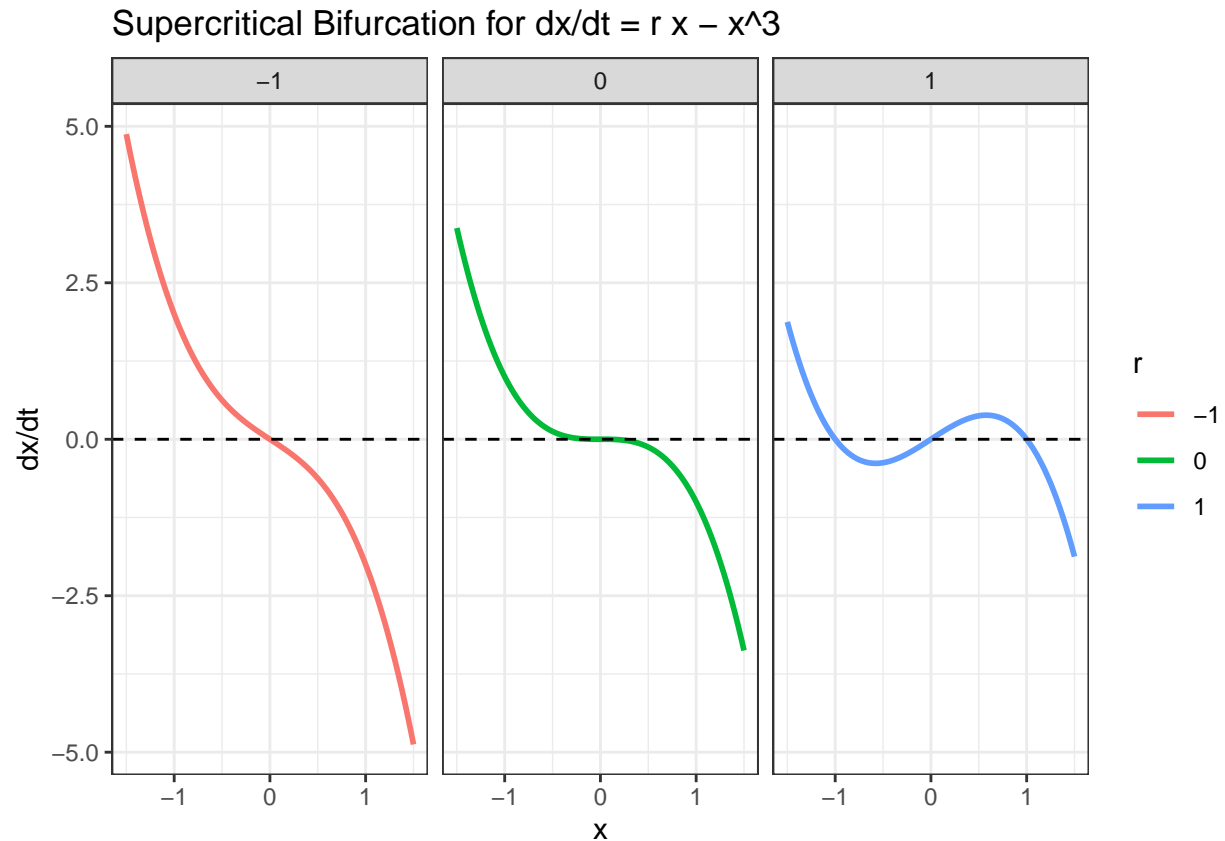
The number and stability of fixed points depend on the value of r :

- **Case A:** $r = -1 \rightarrow$ Only one stable fixed point at $x = 0$.
- **Case B:** $r = 0 \rightarrow$ Bifurcation point where stability changes.
- **Case C:** $r = 1 \rightarrow$ The origin becomes unstable, and two new stable fixed points appear.

1.2 Phase portraits for different r

By plotting \dot{x} versus x , we observe the change in stability of the origin $x^* = 0$. When $r = -1$, the origin is stable; when $r = 1$, it becomes unstable.

```
supercritical_map <- function(x, r) {  
  return(r * x - x^3)  
}  
  
r_values <- c(-1,0,1)  
x_vals <- seq(-1.5, 1.5, length.out = 100)  
dx_dt_df <- NULL # Initialize as empty data frame  
  
for (r in r_values) {  
  df_aux <- data.frame(  
    x = x_vals,  
    dx_dt = supercritical_map(x_vals, r),  
    r = r)  
  dx_dt_df <- rbind(dx_dt_df, df_aux) # Append new rows  
}  
  
ggplot(data = dx_dt_df,  
  aes(x = x, y = dx_dt, color = as.factor(r))) +  
  geom_line(linewidth = 1) +  
  geom_hline(yintercept = 0, linetype = "dashed") +  
  labs(title = "Supercritical Bifurcation for dx/dt = r x - x^3",  
    x = "x", y = "dx/dt", color = "r") +  
  facet_grid(~r)+  
  theme_bw()
```



1.3 Bifurcation diagram

To visualize how the nature of the roots depends on r , we plot the fixed points of the system against r , using colors to indicate stability:

- **Blue** = Stable equilibrium
- **Red** = Unstable equilibrium

```
supercritical_map <- function(x, r) {
  return(r * x - x^3)
}

fixed_points_supercritical <- function(r) {
  roots <- polyroot(c(0,r,0,-1))
  real_roots <- roots[round(Im(roots),10)==0]
  return(Re(real_roots))
}

stability <- function(x, r) {
  derivative <- r - 3 * x^2
  if (derivative < 0) "Stable" else "Unstable"
}

r_values <- seq(-2, 2, length.out = 500)
```

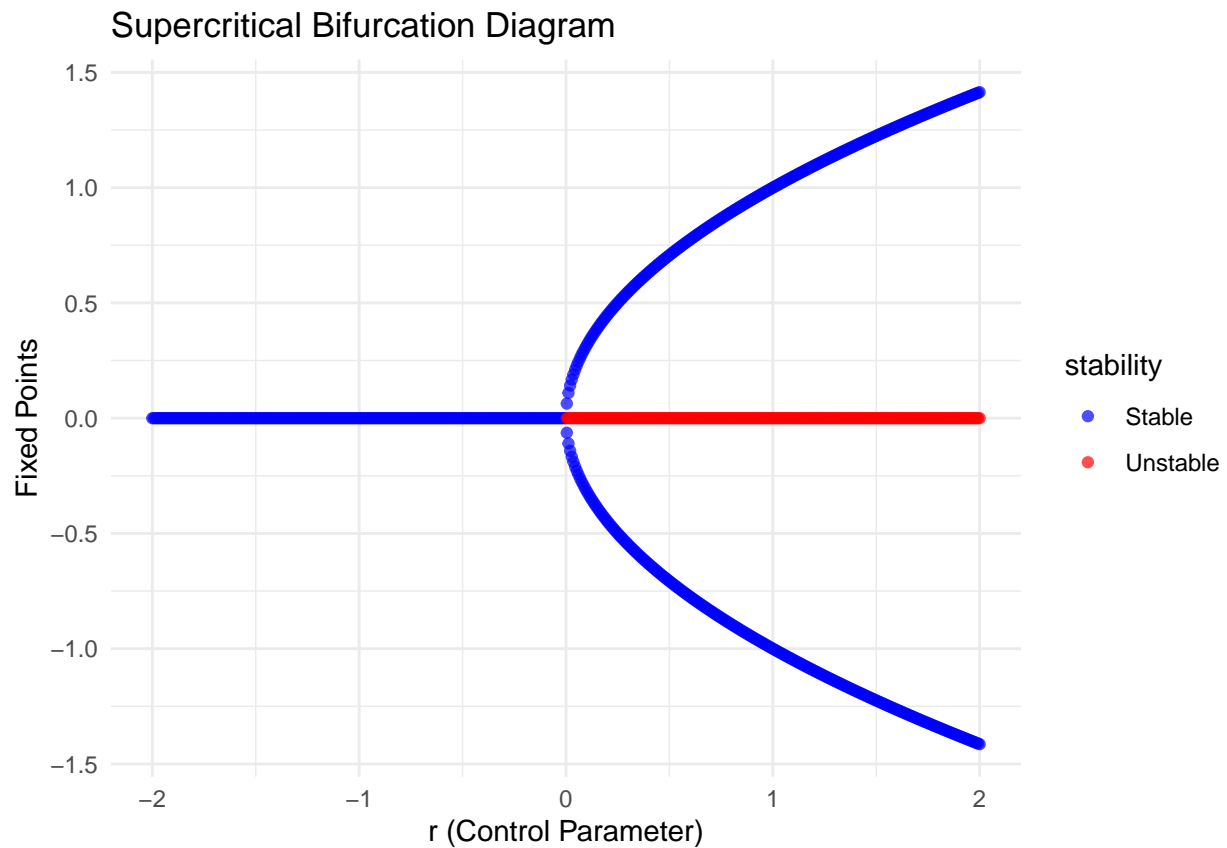
```

bifurcation_data <- NULL #Empty variable to store bifurcation data

for (r in r_values) {
  points_super <- fixed_points_supercritical(r)
  for (x in points_super) {
    bifurcation_data <- rbind(bifurcation_data,
                              data.frame(r = r, x = x,
                                          stability = stability(x, r)))
  }
}

ggplot(bifurcation_data, aes(x = r, y = x, color = stability)) +
  geom_point(size = 1.5, alpha = 0.7) +
  scale_color_manual(values = c("Stable" = "blue", "Unstable" = "red")) +
  labs(title = "Supercritical Bifurcation Diagram",
       x = "r (Control Parameter)", y = "Fixed Points") +
  theme_minimal()

```



2. Subcritical bifurcation

2.1 Theoretical background

A **subcritical bifurcation** is characterized by an unstable fixed point that merges with a stable one as the control parameter r changes. The system under study is:

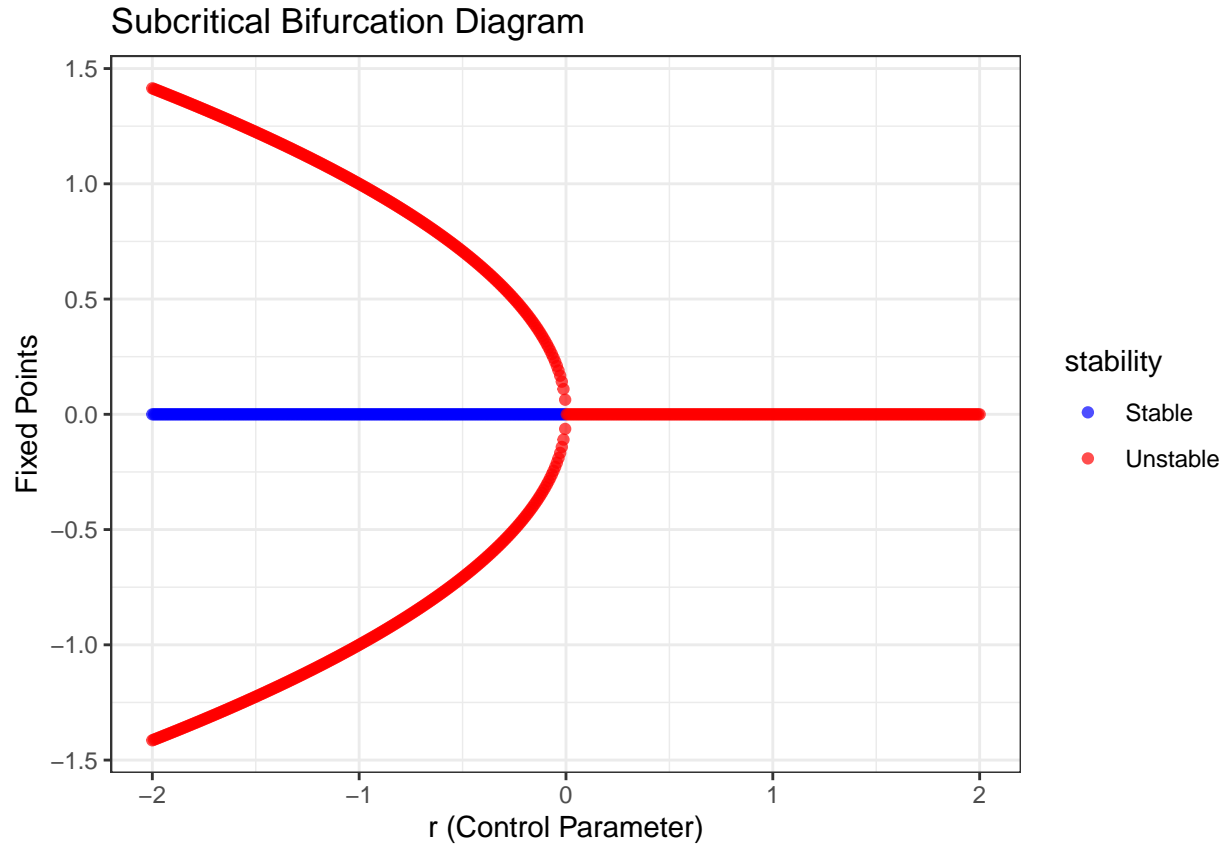
$$\dot{x} = r \cdot x + x^3$$

The fixed points of this system are:

$$x^* = 0, \quad \pm\sqrt{-r}$$

2.2 Bifurcation diagram

```
subcritical_map <- function(x, r) {  
  return(r * x + x^3)  
}  
  
fixed_points_subcritical <- function(r) {  
  roots <- polyroot(c(0,r,0,1))  
  real_roots <- roots[round(Im(roots),10)==0]  
  return(Re(real_roots))  
}  
  
stability <- function(x, r) {  
  derivative <- r + 3 * x^2  
  if (derivative < 0) "Stable" else "Unstable"  
}  
  
r_values <- seq(-2, 2, length.out = 500)  
bifurcation_data <- NULL #Empty variable to store bifurcation data  
  
for (r in r_values) {  
  points_sub <- fixed_points_subcritical(r)  
  for (x in points_sub) {  
    bifurcation_data <- rbind(bifurcation_data,  
                              data.frame(r = r, x = x,  
                                          stability = stability(x, r)))  
  }  
}  
  
ggplot(bifurcation_data, aes(x = r, y = x, color = stability)) +  
  geom_point(size = 1.5, alpha = 0.7) +  
  scale_color_manual(values = c("Stable" = "blue", "Unstable" = "red")) +  
  labs(title = "Subcritical Bifurcation Diagram",  
       x = "r (Control Parameter)", y = "Fixed Points") +  
  theme_bw()
```



3. Saddle-Node bifurcation

3.1 Theoretical background

A **saddle-Node bifurcation** occurs when two fixed points (one stable and one unstable) collide and annihilate each other as the control parameter r crosses a critical value. Consider the system:

$$\dot{x} = r - x^2$$

The fixed points of this system are:

$$x^* \pm \sqrt{r}$$

Depending on the value of r :

- **Case A:** $r < 0 \rightarrow$ No real fixed points, so the system does not have equilibrium solutions..
- **Case B:** $r = 0 \rightarrow$ A single real fixed point at $x^* = 0$. This is the point at which two fixed points collide.
- **Case C:** $r > 0 \rightarrow$ Two real fixed points appear: $x^* = +\sqrt{r}$ and $x^* = -\sqrt{r}$. One will be stable, and the other unstable, reflecting the “saddle” (unstable) and “node” (stable) nature.

The stability can be determined by evaluating the derivative of the right-hand side:

$$\frac{d}{dt}(r - x^2) = -2 \cdot x$$

- If $-2 \cdot x < 0$, the fixed point is **stable**.
- If $-2 \cdot x > 0$, the fixed point is **unstable**.

3.2 Phase portraits for different r

Similar to the supercritical case, we can plot $\dot{x} = r - x^2$ as a function of x for representative values of r . Note how the number of intersections with $\dot{x} = 0$ changes from no intersection (when $r < 0$) to one intersection at $(r = 0) 0$, and two intersections (one stable, one unstable) when $r > 0$.

By plotting \dot{x} versus x , we observe the change in stability of the origin $x^* = 0$. When $r = -1$, the origin is stable; when $r = 1$, it becomes unstable.

```
# Phase portrait function
saddle_node_map <- function(x, r) {
  return(r - x^2)
}

# Choose representative values of r
r_values <- c(-0.5, 0, 1)
x_vals <- seq(-2, 2, length.out = 200)

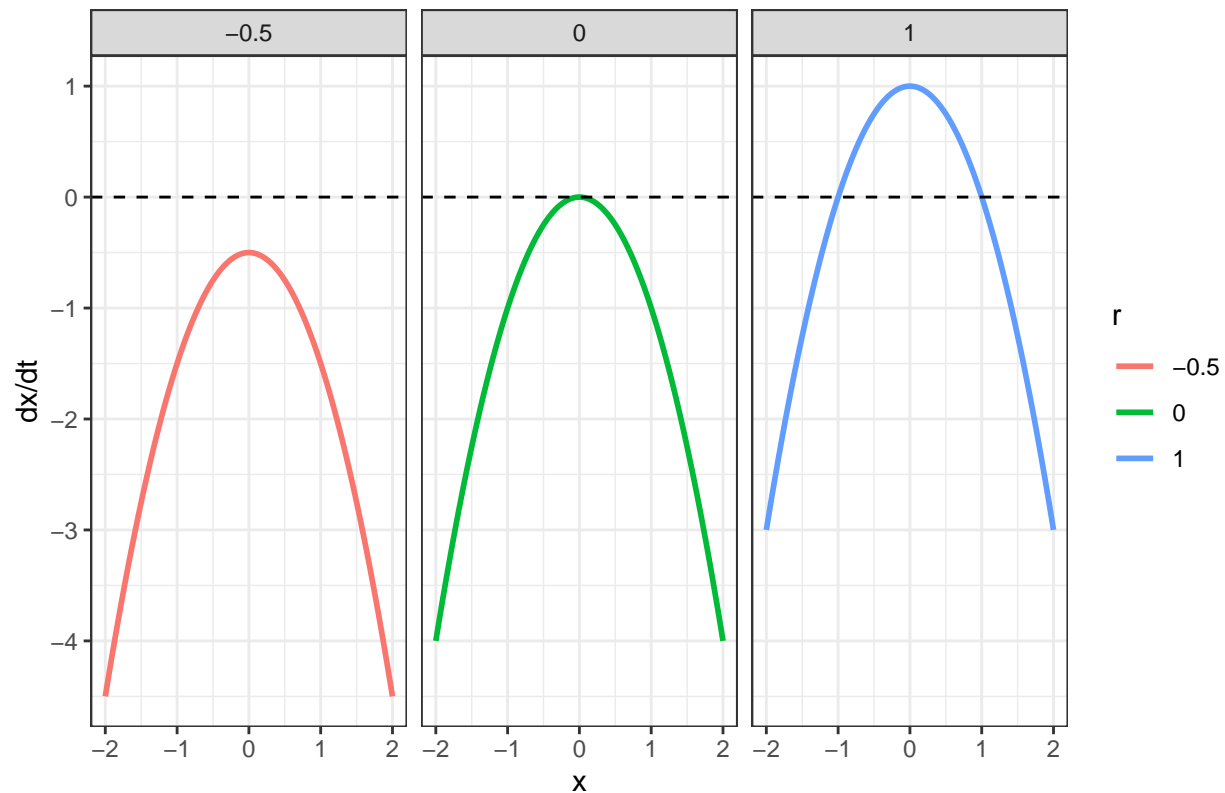
# Build data frame for plotting
df_phase <- data.frame()

for (r in r_values) {
  df_temp <- data.frame(
    x = x_vals,
    dx_dt = saddle_node_map(x_vals, r),
    r = as.factor(r)
  )
  df_phase <- rbind(df_phase, df_temp)
}

library(ggplot2)

ggplot(df_phase, aes(x = x, y = dx_dt, color = r)) +
  geom_line(linewidth = 1) +
  geom_hline(yintercept = 0, linetype = "dashed") +
  labs(title = "Saddle-Node Bifurcation: Phase Portraits",
       x = "x", y = "dx/dt", color = "r") +
  facet_grid(~r) +
  theme_bw()
```

Saddle–Node Bifurcation: Phase Portraits



- For $r = -0.5$, there are no real fixed points (the curve never crosses the horizontal line $\dot{x} = 0$).
- For $r = 0$, there is one real fixed point at $x = 0$ (the curve is tangent to the horizontal axis).
- For $r = 1$, there are two real fixed points, $x = \pm 1$. One is stable ($x < 0$ since $-2 \cdot x > 0$ there), and the other is unstable ($x > 0$ since $-2 \cdot x < 0$ there).

3.3 Bifurcation diagram

Finally, we construct the bifurcation diagram by identifying the fixed points across a range of r values and coloring them according to their stability. Notice how, for $r > 0$, two branches appear (stable and unstable), and for $r < 0$, there is no real fixed point.

```
map_function <- function(x, r) {
  return(r - x^2)
}

fixed_points <- function(r) {
  roots <- polyroot(c(r,0,-1))
  real_roots <- roots[round(Im(roots),10)==0]
  return(Re(real_roots))
}

stability <- function(x, r) {
  derivative <- -2 * x
  if (derivative < 0) "Stable" else "Unstable"
}
```



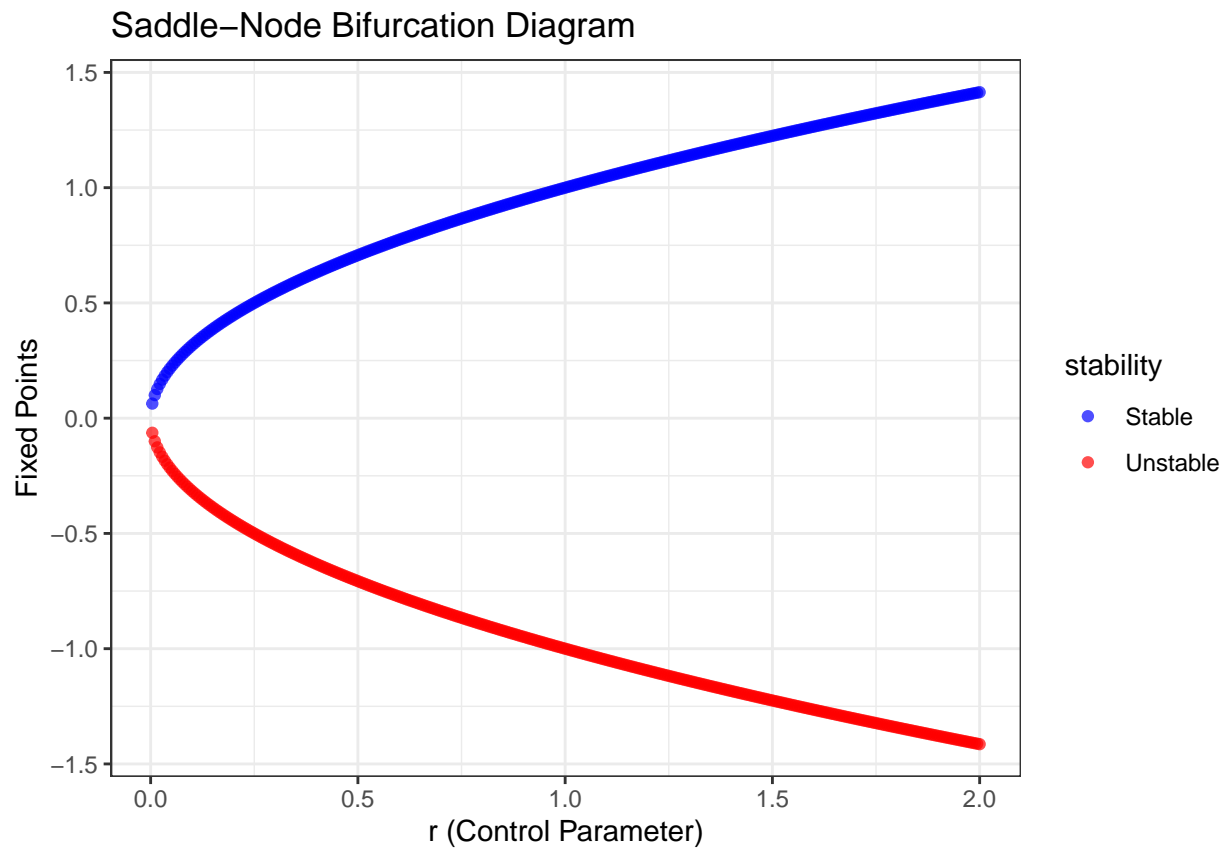
```

r_values <- seq(-1, 2, length.out = 500)
bifurcation_data <- NULL #Empty variable to store bifurcation data

for (r in r_values) {
  points <- fixed_points(r)
  for (x in points) {
    bifurcation_data <- rbind(bifurcation_data, data.frame(r = r, x = x, stability = stability(x, r)))
  }
}

ggplot(bifurcation_data, aes(x = r, y = x, color = stability)) +
  geom_point(size = 1.5, alpha = 0.7) +
  scale_color_manual(values = c("Stable" = "blue", "Unstable" = "red")) +
  labs(title = "Saddle-Node Bifurcation Diagram",
       x = "r (Control Parameter)", y = "Fixed Points") +
  theme_bw()

```



Exercise

This practice exercise is focused on characterizing the **subcritical bifurcation** of the system:

$$\dot{x} = rx + x^3 - x^5.$$

1. Find the Equilibrium Points

- Write down the equilibrium equation $\dot{x} = 0$.
- Factorize the polynomial to identify the solutions for x and see how they depend on r .

2. Stability Analysis

- For each equilibrium x^* , compute the derivative $\frac{d}{dx}(rx + x^3 - x^5) = r + 3x^2 - 5x^4$.
- Conclude whether the equilibrium is **stable** (derivative < 0) or **unstable** (derivative > 0).

3. Sketch Phase Portraits

- Choose representative values of r (negative, zero, positive).
- Plot \dot{x} vs. x by hand or in R, identify where $\dot{x} = 0$, and mark equilibria as stable or unstable.

4. Numerical Bifurcation Diagram

- Adapt or run the R script below, which uses polynomial root-finding (`polyroot`) to locate equilibria.
- Color them by stability and plot them against r .

5. Interpret the Results

- Identify the critical parameter value(s) of r that cause a subcritical bifurcation.
 - Compare to the simpler subcritical system $\dot{x} = rx + x^3$ to see how the additional $-x^5$ term changes the bifurcation structure.
-