

DOING PHYSICS WITH PYTHON

DYNAMICAL SYSTEMS [1D]

Transcritical Bifurcations

Ian Cooper

matlabvisualphysics@gmail.com

DOWNLOAD DIRECTORIES FOR PYTHON CODE

[Google drive](#)

[GitHub](#)

cs101.py cs101A.py

Jason Bramburger

Transcritical Bifurcations - Dynamical Systems | Lecture 7

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m5vmc_HxMFs&t=3s

INTRODUCTION

This lecture focuses on transcritical bifurcations. These bifurcations are characterized by two fixed points colliding and exchanging stability. Unlike saddle-node bifurcations, no fixed points are created or destroyed over the course of the bifurcation.

The [1D] nonlinear system's ODE can be expressed as

$$\dot{x}(t) = f(x(t), r)$$

and the fixed points of the system are

$$f(x_e(t), r) = 0$$

where r is the bifurcation parameter. So, the fixed points x_e and their stability depends upon the bifurcation parameter.

A transcritical bifurcation occurs when there is an exchange of stabilities between two fixed points. The **normal form** for a **transcritical bifurcation** is given by

$$\dot{x}(t) = r x(t) - x(t)^2 \quad r \text{ is an adjustable constant}$$

$$f(x) = r x - x^2 \quad f'(x) = r - 2x$$

$$r = 0$$

$$\dot{x} = -x^2 \Rightarrow x_e = 0 \quad f(x) = -x^2 \quad f'(x_e) = -2x_e = 0 \Rightarrow$$

System has only **one** equilibrium point at $\mathbf{x}_e = 0$ and its stability is inconclusive from $f'(x_e) = 0$.

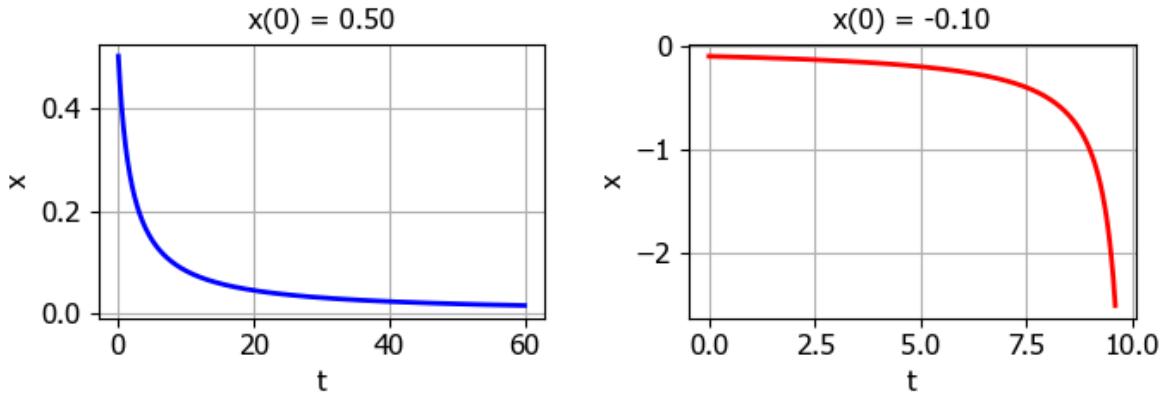
The flow is always in a negative sense (towards the left)

$$x < 0 \Rightarrow \dot{x} < 0 \Rightarrow t \rightarrow \infty \quad x \rightarrow -\infty$$

$$x > 0 \Rightarrow \dot{x} < 0 \Rightarrow t \rightarrow \infty \quad x \rightarrow x_e = 0$$

The equilibrium points $x_e = 0$ is an **unstable saddle point**.

$$r = 0 \quad x_e = 0$$



$$x < 0 \Rightarrow \dot{x} < 0 \Rightarrow t \rightarrow \infty \ x \rightarrow -\infty$$

$$x > 0 \Rightarrow \dot{x} < 0 \Rightarrow t \rightarrow \infty \ x \rightarrow x_e = 0$$

For $r \neq 0$, there are two distinct equilibrium, $x_e = 0$ and $x_e = r$.

$r < 0$

$$\dot{x}|_{x_e} = r x_e - x_e^2 = 0 \quad f'(x_e) = r - 2x_e$$

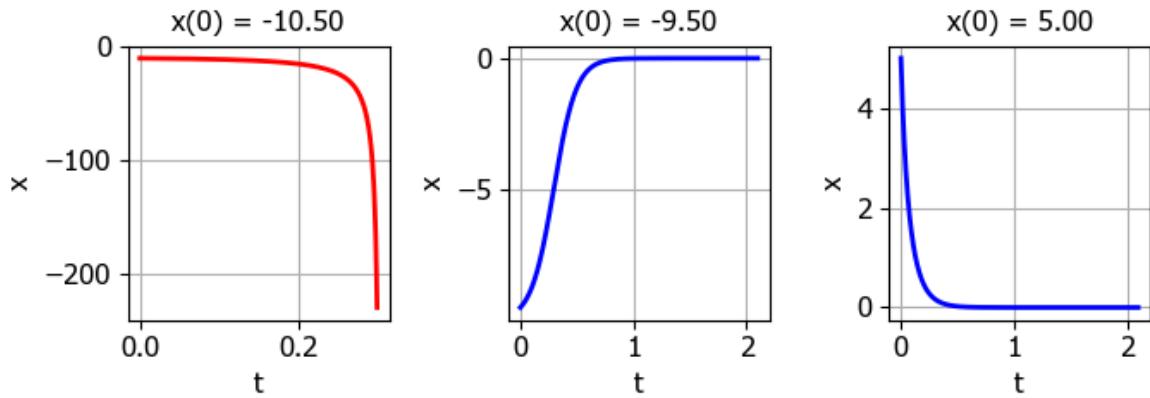
$$x_e = 0 \quad f'(x_e) = f'(0) = r < 0 \Rightarrow$$

equilibrium point at the Origin $x_e = 0$ is **stable (sink)**.

$$x_e = r \quad f'(x_e) = f'(r) = -r > 0 \Rightarrow$$

equilibrium point $x_e = r$ is **unstable (source)**.

$$r = -10 \quad x_e = -10 \quad x_e = 0$$



equilibrium point $x_e = 0$ is **stable (sink)**

equilibrium point $x_e = r$ is **unstable (source)**.

$$r > 0$$

$$\dot{x}|_{x_e} = r x_e - x_e^2 = 0 \quad f'(x_e) = r - 2x_e$$

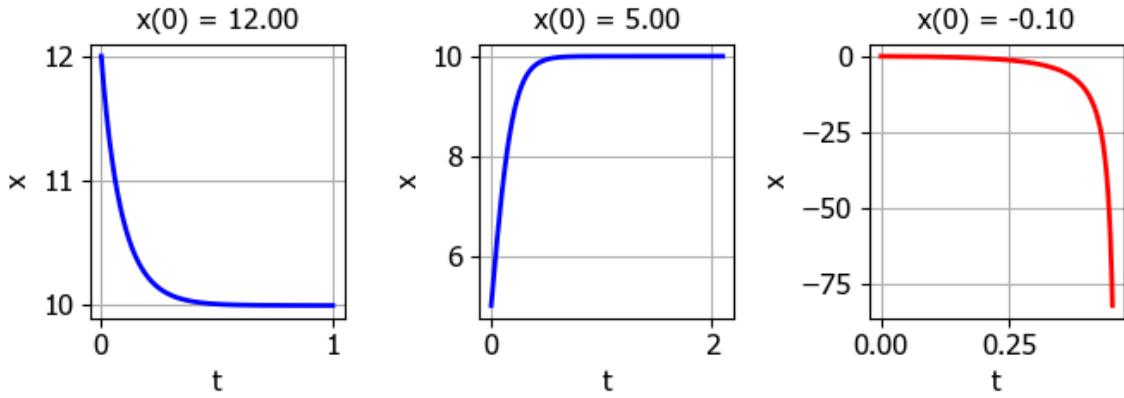
$$x_e = 0 \quad f'(x_e) = f'(0) = r > 0 \Rightarrow$$

equilibrium point at the Origin $x_e = 0$ is **unstable (source)**.

$$x_e = r \quad f'(x_e) = f'(r) = -r < 0 \Rightarrow$$

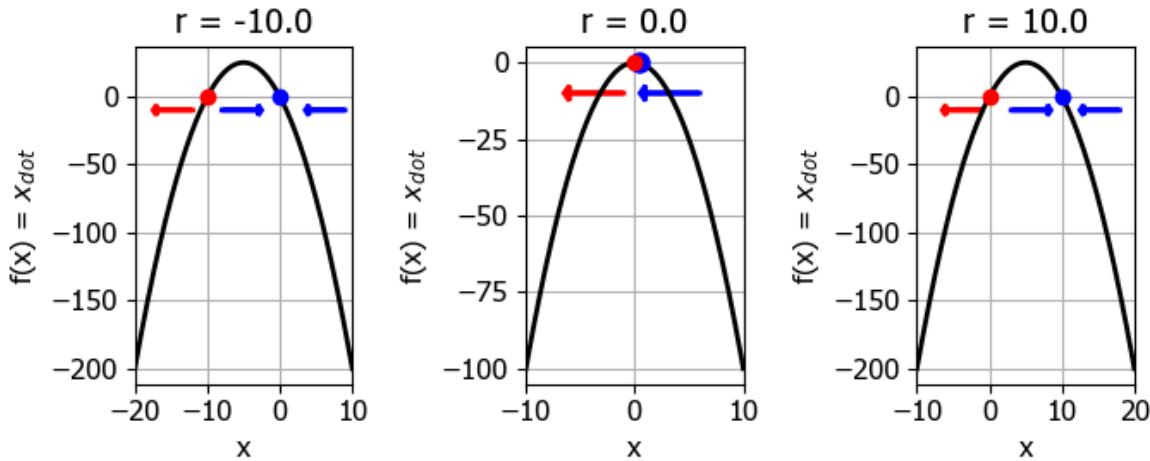
equilibrium point $x_e = -10$ is **stable (sink)**.

$$r = 10 \quad x_e = 10 \quad x_e = 0$$

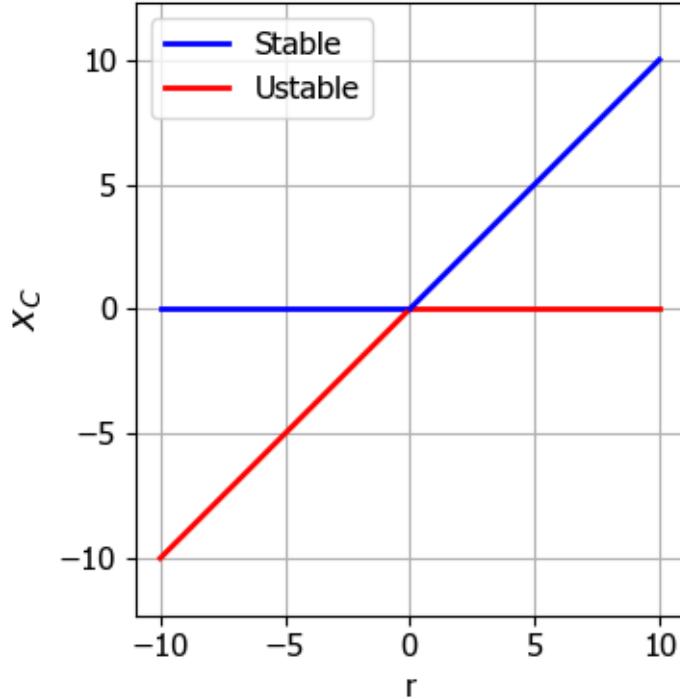


equilibrium point $x_e = 10$ is **stable (sink)**

equilibrium point $x_e = 0$ is **unstable (source)**.



As r increases from -10 to 0 to 10 , the two fixed points move towards each other, at $r = 0$, they merge and then for $r > 0$ they separate again with exchanged stabilities. The transcritical bifurcation point is $r = 0$.



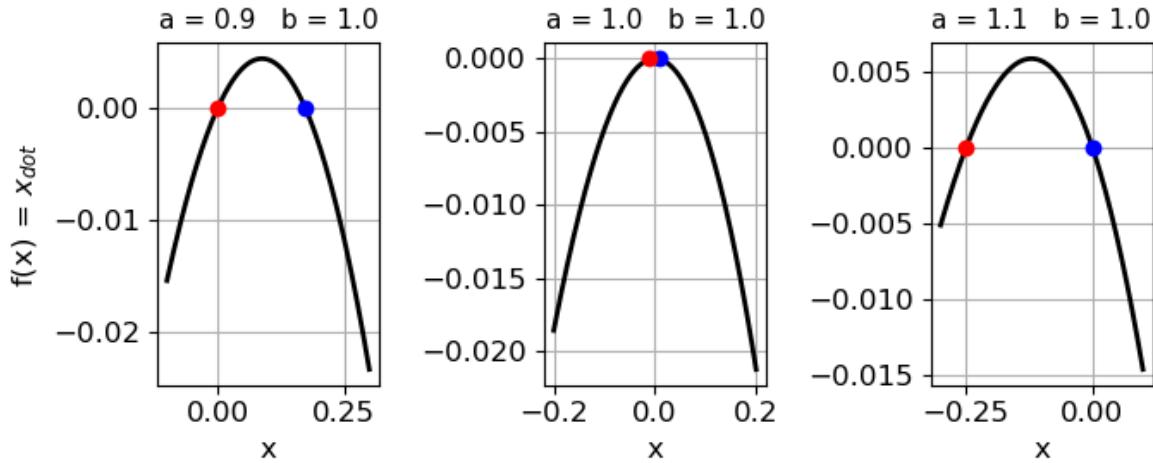
This type of bifurcation diagram is known as a transcritical bifurcation. In this bifurcation, an exchange of stabilities has taken place between the two fixed points of the system.

Other ODEs can be reduced to the normal form of a transcritical bifurcation in a local region. As an example, consider the ODE

$$\dot{x} = (1-x)x - a(1-e^{-bx})$$

Then in the locality of $a b = 1$, this ODE approximates the normal form of the transcritical bifurcation $\dot{x} = r x - x^2$.

A plot of \dot{x} vs x tells us all we need to know about the trajectories of the flow when $a b \sim 1$. Let $b = 1$ and a be the bifurcation parameter with values 0.9 ($ab = 0.9$), 1.0 ($ab = 1.0$), and $a = 1.1$ ($ab = 1.1$) as shown in the following plots.



When the slope at a fixed point is positive, the flow is to the right →, and when negative, the flow is to the left ←. So, near a **stable fixed point**, the flow is always towards it, and always away from an **unstable fixed point**.

cs101A.py

Reference

[https://math.libretexts.org/Bookshelves/Scientific Computing Simulations and Modeling/Scientific Computing \(Chasnov\)/II%3A Dynamical Systems and Chaos/12%3A Concepts and Tools](https://math.libretexts.org/Bookshelves/Scientific_Computing_Simulations_and_Modeling/Scientific_Computing_(Chasnov)/II%3A_Dynamical_Systems_and_Chaos/12%3A_Concepts_and_Tools)