

Homework 3: Qualitative theory of ODEs

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• Exercise 1:

① $y' = 2.1y(1-y)$

The roots of $f(y)$ are equilibrium points. Thus $y=0$ and $y=1$ are equilibrium points.

To use the linearization criterion, we must find $f'(y)$. It follows that $f'(y) = 2.1 - 4.2y$.

Since $f'(0) = 2.1 > 0$, $y=0$ is unstable.

Since $f'(1) = -2.1 < 0$, $y=1$ is asymptotically stable.

② $y' = 1 + y^2$

The roots of $f(y) = 1 + y^2$ are equilibrium points. However, $f(y)$ has no real roots. Thus there are no equilibrium points.

③ $y' = 1 - y^2$

The roots of $f(y) = 1 - y^2$ are equilibrium points. Thus $y=-1$ and $y=1$ are equilibrium points.

To use the linearization criterion, we must find $f'(y)$. It follows that $f'(y) = -2y$.

Since $f'(-1) = 2 > 0$, $y=-1$ is unstable.

Since $f'(1) = -2 < 0$, $y=1$ is asymptotically stable.

④ $y' = 2y^2 - y^3$

The roots of $f(y) = 2y^2 - y^3 = y^2(2-y)$ are equilibrium points. Thus $y=0$ and $y=2$ are equilibrium points.

To use the linearization criterion, we must find $f'(y)$. It follows that $f'(y) = 4y - 3y^2$.

Since $f'(0) = 0$, it follows from the linearization criterion that the stability of $y=0$ is inconclusive.

Since $f'(2) = -4 < 0$, $y=2$ is asymptotically stable.

• Exercise 2:

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = \sin(y)$$

The roots of $f(y) = \sin(y)$ are equilibrium points. Thus $y = K\pi$ where $K \in \mathbb{Z}$ (the integers) are all equilibrium points.

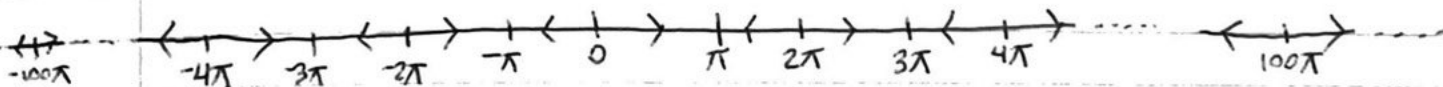
To use the linearization criterion, we must find $f'(y)$. It follows that $f'(y) = \cos(y)$.

If we let \mathbb{O} represent the odd integers $\{\dots, -3, -1, 1, 3, \dots\}$, and let \mathbb{E} represent the even integers $\{\dots, -2, 0, 2, \dots\}$. Then using the fact that $\cos(x) = \cos(-x)$ then we can see that:

If $K \in \mathbb{O}$, then $f'(K\pi) = -1 < 0$, thus all of these points are asymptotically stable.

If $K \in \mathbb{E}$, then $f'(K\pi) = 1 > 0$, thus all of these points are unstable.

The following phase-line plot shows this trend:



• Exercise 3:

① $y' = 3y(1-y)$

The roots of $f(y) = 3y(1-y)$ are equilibrium points. Thus $y=0$ and $y=1$ are equilibrium points. To assess the stability of these points, we will use the linearization criterion.

To use the linearization criterion, we must find $f'(y)$. It follows that $f'(y) = 3 - 6y$.

Since $f'(0) = 3 > 0$, $y=0$ is unstable.

Since $f'(1) = -3 < 0$, $y=1$ is asymptotically stable.

phase-line plot:



② $y' = y^2 - 6y - 16$

The roots of $f(y) = y^2 - 6y - 16 = (y+2)(y-8)$ are equilibrium points. Thus $y=-2$ and $y=8$ are equilibrium points. To assess the stability of these points, we will first use the linearization criterion.

To use the linearization criterion, we must find $f'(y)$. It follows that $f'(y) = 2y - 6$.

Since $f'(-2) = -10 < 0$, $y=-2$ is asymptotically stable.

Since $f'(8) = 10 > 0$, $y=8$ is unstable.

Phase-line plot:



• Exercise 4:

$$y' = y(y^2 - \mu) \text{ where } \mu \in \mathbb{R}$$

We will consider three cases: $\mu = 0$, $\mu > 0$, $\mu < 0$.

In all three cases, we will find all of the equilibrium points, assess their stability, and draw the phase-line plot.

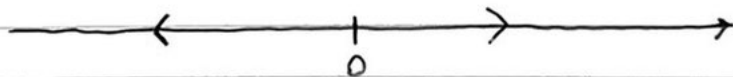
• Case 1: $\mu = 0$

If $\mu = 0$, then $y' = y(y^2 - \mu)$ becomes $y' = y^3$.

The roots of $f(y) = y^3$ are the equilibrium points. Thus the one equilibrium point is $y = 0$.

Since $f'(y) = 3y^2$, and $f'(0) = 0$, it follows that the linearization criterion is inconclusive. However, for $y > 0$, $f(y)$ is negative, thus $\frac{dy}{dt}$ will be negative and any solution in this region will be decreasing. For all values of $y < 0$, $f(y)$ is positive, thus $\frac{dy}{dt}$ will be positive and any solution in this region will be increasing.

Hence, $y = 0$ is unstable and the phase-line plot looks like



• Case 2: $\mu > 0$

If $\mu > 0$, then $y' = y(y^2 - \mu)$ stays as it is.

The roots of $f(y) = y(y^2 - \mu)$ are equilibrium points. Thus $y = -\sqrt{\mu}$, $y = 0$, and $y = \sqrt{\mu}$ are equilibrium points.

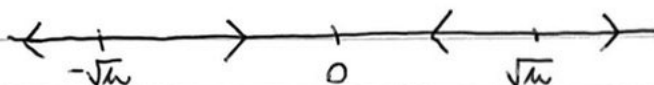
To use linearization, we must find $f'(y)$. It follows that $f'(y) = 3y^2 - \mu$

since $f'(-\sqrt{w}) = 3(-\sqrt{w})^2 - w = 3w - w = 2w > 0$, $y = -\sqrt{w}$ is unstable.

since $f'(0) = -w < 0$, $y = 0$ is asymptotically stable.

since $f'(\sqrt{w}) = 3(\sqrt{w})^2 - w = 3w - w = 2w > 0$, $y = \sqrt{w}$ is unstable.

Phase-line plot:



Case 3: $w < 0$.

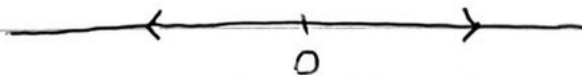
If $w < 0$, then $y' = y(y^2 + w)$ becomes $y(y^2 - |w|)$.

The roots of $f(y) = y(y^2 + w)$ are equilibrium points. Thus the one equilibrium point is $y = 0$.

To use linearization we must find $f'(y)$. It follows that $f'(y) = 3y^2 + w$.

since $f'(0) = w < 0$, $y = 0$ is unstable.

Phase-line plot:



• Exercise 5:

Consider the system of ODEs that models the spread of various bacterial infections in a population:

$$\frac{dS(t)}{dt} = -\frac{\lambda}{N} S(t) I(t) + \gamma I(t),$$

$$\frac{dI(t)}{dt} = \frac{\lambda}{N} S(t) I(t) - \gamma I(t).$$

Where:

N is the total population.

$S(t) > 0$ is the number of susceptible individuals at time t .

$I(t) > 0$ is the number of infected individuals at time t .

$\lambda > 0$ is the infectivity rate.

$\gamma > 0$ is the curing rate.

Under the assumption that the population stays constant, it follows that $S(t) + I(t) = N$ for all t .

The system of ODEs is expressed equivalently as one ODE

$$\frac{dx(t)}{dt} = \lambda(1-x(t))x(t) - \gamma x(t) \quad (1)$$

Where:

$x(t) = \frac{I(t)}{N}$ is the infected population fraction at time t .

Our goal is to find the equilibrium points of ODE (1) and assess/interpret in context their stability for different values of the basic reproduction number $R_0 = \frac{\lambda}{\gamma}$.

We will start by rewriting the equation for $\frac{dx}{dt}$ in terms of R_0 :

$$x' = \lambda(1-x)x - \gamma x$$

$$= \lambda x - \lambda x^2 - \gamma x$$

$$= \gamma x \left(\frac{\lambda}{\gamma} - \frac{\lambda}{\gamma} x - 1 \right)$$

$$= \gamma x (R_0 - R_0 x - 1)$$

With this new equation for x' , if we let $f(x) = \gamma x (R_0 - R_0 x - 1)$, then the roots of $f(x)$ are the equilibrium solutions/points.

Thus the equilibrium points are $x=0$ and $-R_0x + R_0 - 1 = 0 \Rightarrow R_0x = R_0 - 1 \Rightarrow x = 1 - \frac{1}{R_0}$. We can divide by R_0 since it will never equal zero, in fact, $R_0 > 0$.

Now we will use linearization to get a general expression to assess stability. Since $f(x) = \lambda x (R_0 - R_0x - 1)$ it follows that $f'(x) = \lambda - 2\lambda x - \gamma$.

Thus $f'(0) = \lambda - \gamma = \lambda - \frac{\lambda}{R_0} = \lambda(1 - \frac{1}{R_0})$ and $f'(1 - \frac{1}{R_0}) = \lambda - \gamma - 2\lambda(1 - \frac{1}{R_0}) = \lambda - 2\lambda + \frac{2\lambda}{R_0} = \frac{\lambda}{R_0} - \lambda = \lambda(\frac{1}{R_0} - 1)$.

We will now analyze stability for three cases: $R_0 > 1$, $R_0 = 1$, and $0 < R_0 < 1$.

• Case 1: $R_0 > 1$

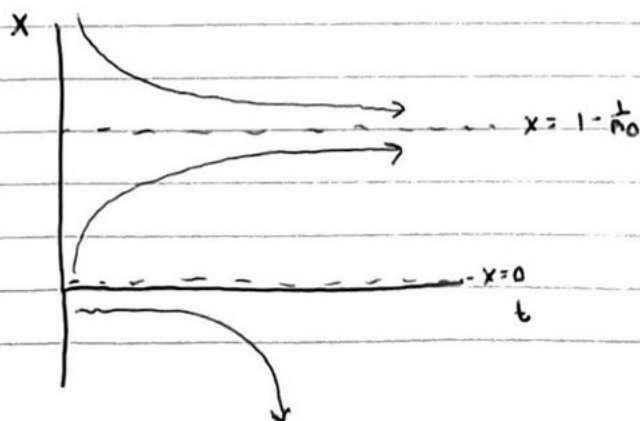
When $R_0 > 1$, it follows that $\lambda > \gamma$.

Going back to the linearization expressions we see:

$f'(0) = \lambda(1 - \frac{1}{R_0})$. Since $\lambda > 0$, and $R_0 > 1$, it follows that $1 - \frac{1}{R_0} > 0$. Thus $f'(0) > 0$, $x=0$ is unstable.

$f'(1 - \frac{1}{R_0}) = \lambda(\frac{1}{R_0} - 1)$, since $\lambda > 0$, and $R_0 > 1$, it follows that $\frac{1}{R_0} - 1 < 0$. Thus $f'(1 - \frac{1}{R_0}) < 0$, $x = 1 - \frac{1}{R_0}$ is stable. In this case $x > 0$.

Here is a theoretical plot of solutions for X :



Thus in the case where $\lambda > \gamma$, the fraction of individuals infected will reach a steady-state proportion of $1 - \frac{1}{R_0}$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$.

Case 2: $0 < R_0 < 1$.

When $0 < R_0 < 1$, it follows that $\gamma > \lambda$.

Going back to the linearization expressions we see that:

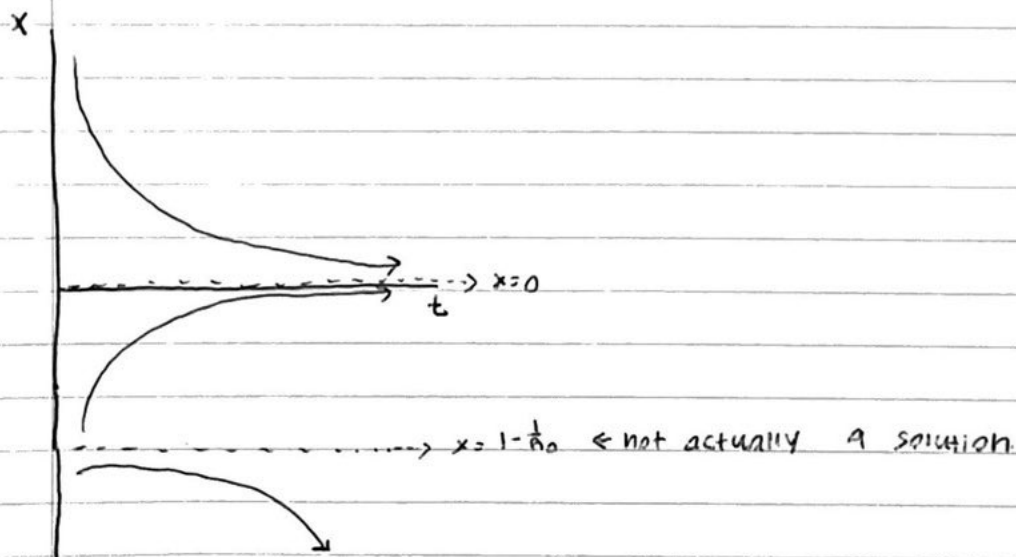
$f'(0) = \lambda(1 - \frac{1}{R_0})$. Since $\lambda > 0$, and $0 < R_0 < 1$, it follows that $1 - \frac{1}{R_0} < 0$.

Thus $f'(0) < 0$, $x=0$ is asymptotically stable.

Also, $f'(1 - \frac{1}{R_0}) = \lambda(\frac{1}{R_0} - 1)$. Since $\lambda > 0$, and $0 < R_0 < 1$, it follows that $\frac{1}{R_0} - 1 > 0$.

Thus $f'(1 - \frac{1}{R_0}) > 0$, $x = 1 - \frac{1}{R_0}$ is unstable. In this case $x < 0$. However $x \in [0, 1]$, thus $1 - \frac{1}{R_0}$ is not a solution in this case.

Here is a theoretical plot of solutions for x :



Thus in the case where $\gamma > \lambda$, the fraction of individuals infected will go to 0 as $t \rightarrow \infty$. Thus in the population the disease will go extinct.

case 3) $R_0 = 1$

When $R_0 = 1$, it follows that $\lambda = \gamma$

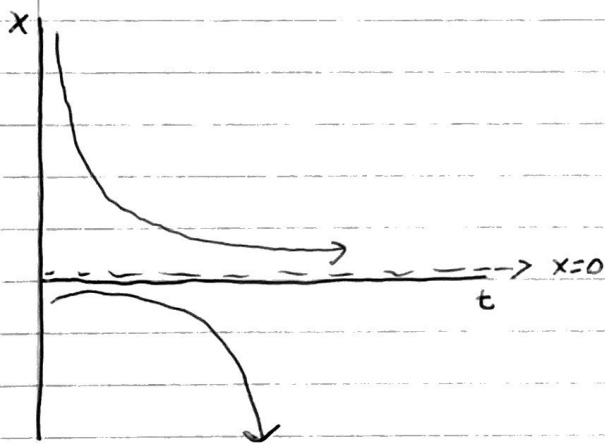
Hence the equilibrium solution $x = 1 - \frac{1}{R_0}$ becomes $x = 0$. Thus we now only have one equilibrium solution.

Going back to the linearization we see:

$P'(0) = \lambda(1 - \frac{1}{R_0}) = 0$. Thus the criterion is inconclusive.

However, for $x > 0$, $f(x)$ is negative, thus $\frac{dx}{dt}$ will be negative so any solution in this region will be decreasing. Also, for $x < 0$, $f(x)$ is negative, thus the same logic holds. $x = 0$ is therefore semistable.

Here is a theoretical plot of solutions for x :



Thus in the case where $\lambda = \gamma$, the fraction of individuals infected will go to 0 as $t \rightarrow \infty$. Thus in the population the disease will go extinct.

NOTE: In the above plots for the solution of x , negative solutions can be disregarded since it is a population fraction and thus positive.