

A zebra finch is perched on a dark, textured branch that runs vertically through the left side of the frame. The bird is facing right, with its head slightly turned. It has a grey body with fine white stripes, a bright red beak, and a distinctive yellow patch on its cheek. The background is a dark, out-of-focus field of numerous colorful bokeh lights in shades of red, green, yellow, and blue, creating a vibrant, abstract pattern.

# Dynamical systems and AI to model complex systems

Gabriel Mindlin

## The rationale for the course:

One of the crucial intellectual decisions facing young scientists today is determining the balance between **interpretable** and **data-driven** approaches when addressing a scientific problem.

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### **Interpretable science**

Variables have meaning

The relationship between the  
Variables are interpretable mechanisms

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### Interpretable science

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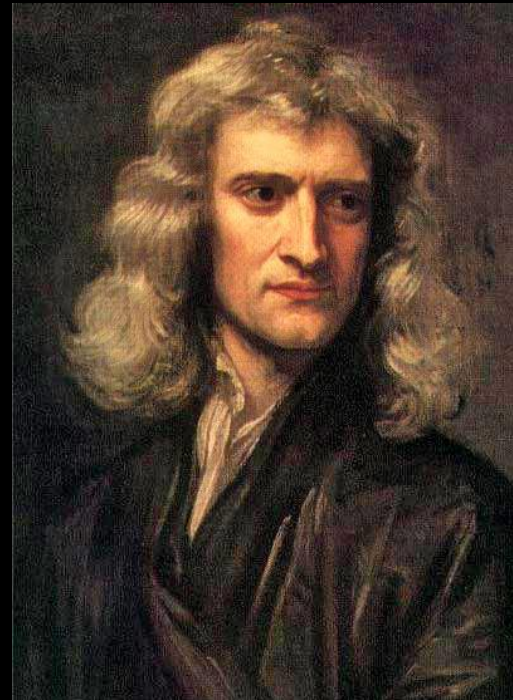
### Data driven science

A complex "non interpretable" model  
(as a neural network) is trained with  
examples, and the model does not  
share with us the rationale behind its success

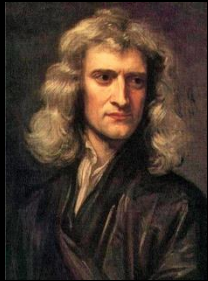
## Counterpoint with history



Kepler (1571-1630)



Newton (1643-1727)



Laplace (1749-1827): this is the “world’s system”  
All we have to do is to compute “ $f$ ”, and the initial conditions

Why should we try to describe a problem with differential equations?  
Should we? Can we? **After all...**

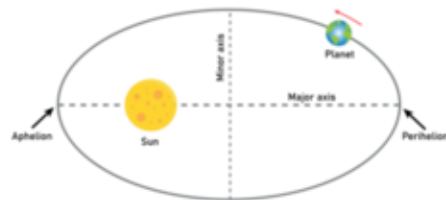
Why should we try to describe a problem with differential equations?  
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One of the biggest revolutions in science was data driven.  
And the “conversation” between Kepler and Newton is  
the first battle between data science and interpretable science

## Kepler's Laws

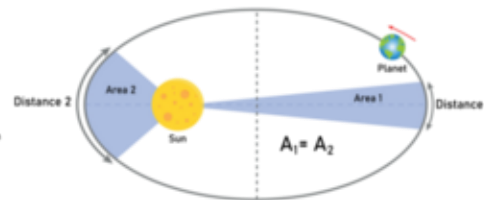
### First Law

All planets move around the sun in elliptical orbits with the sun at one of the foci



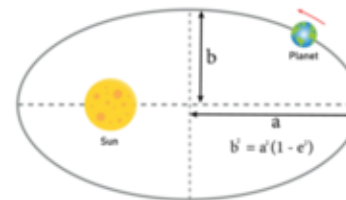
### Second Law

A planet sweeps out equal areas in equal intervals of time



### Third Law

The square of the orbital period of a planet is proportional to the cube of the orbit's semi-major axis



$$T^2 \propto a^3$$

T = Time to complete orbit  
a = Length of semi-major axis

The variables in Kepler's laws are interpretable, but we have no interpretable mechanism relating them.



## Newton's approach gave us more

We define the velocity.  $\frac{dx}{dt} = v$

$$\frac{dv}{dt} = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{In the absence of interactions with the universe (Galileo)} \\ \frac{1}{m} & \text{Multiplied by a functional form describing the interaction} \end{cases}$$

Some functions, fundamental ones

$$\mathbf{F} = \frac{-G m M}{r_{12}^2} \mathbf{e}_{12}$$

Others, phenomenological

$$F = -kx$$

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**To perform a prediction,  
we have to have a model relating  
the variables**

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \frac{dx}{dt} = y \\ \frac{dy}{dt} = f(x, y) \end{array} \right.$$

## More than a law, it is a program of how to do science

1. I measure a finite set of initial conditions.
2. I elucidate the law that prescribes the rate of variation of these variables  
(assuming that the law involves the values of the variables **at that moment**).
3. I integrate an ODE

It does NOT describe

1. Systems of equations with delays
2. Partial differential equations (although...)

$$\frac{dx(t)}{dt} = x(t) - \sigma x(t - \tau)^2$$

Even electromagnetism is excluded...

Dynamical systems  
(in the framework of this course)

$$\frac{d\mathbf{x}}{dt} = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}) \quad \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$$

$$\mathbf{x}(t = 0) = \mathbf{x}_0$$

Under smoothness conditions for  $\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x})$  and  $d\mathbf{f}/d\mathbf{x}$  in a neighborhood of  $\mathbf{x}_0$ , the solution of the system exists and is unique. This means that each point (state) has a unique future (in geometrical terms, no auto-intersection of trajectories).

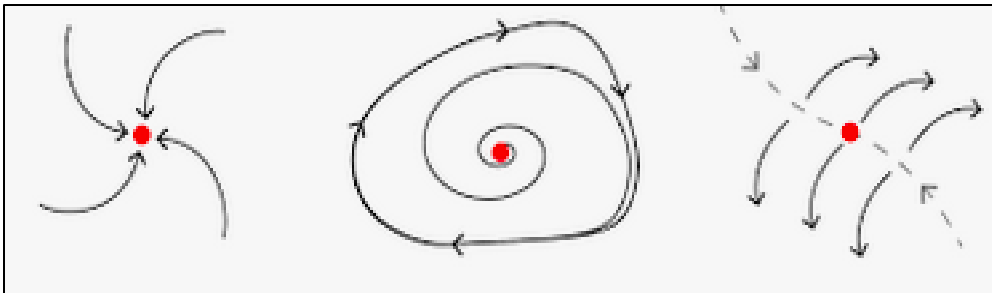
## Dynamical systems (in the framework of this course)

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = f(x) \quad x \in R^n$$

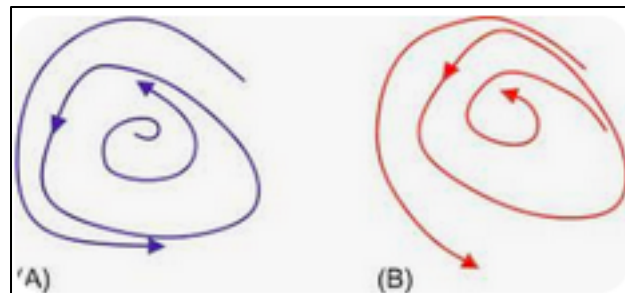
$$x(t = 0) = x_0$$

solving analytically these is  
usually impossible, therefore...

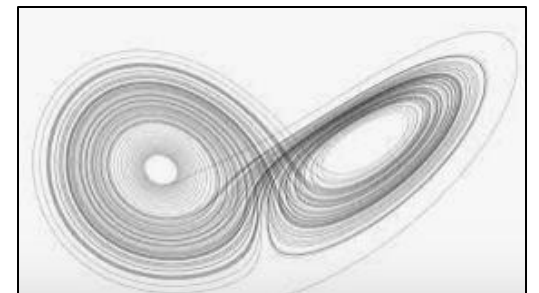
**Fixed points**



**Limit cycles**



**Chaotic attractors**



## Example: the relaxation oscillator

$$\frac{d^2x}{dt^2} + \mu + (x^2 - 1) \frac{dx}{dt} + kx = 0$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left( \underbrace{\frac{dx}{dt} + \frac{x^3}{3} - x}_w \right) = -kx$$

$w$

$$\tilde{w} \equiv w/\mu$$

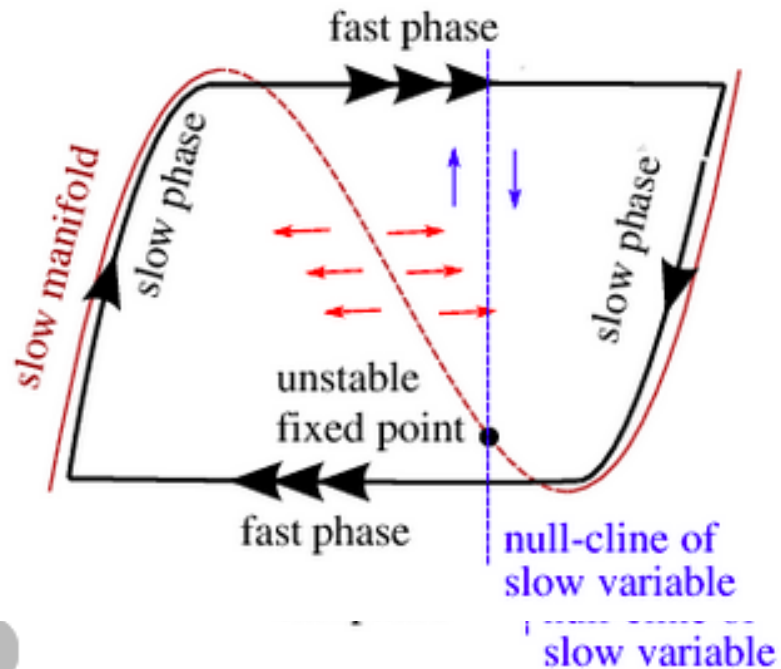
$$\frac{dx}{dt} = \mu \left( \tilde{w} - \frac{1}{3} x^3 + u \right)$$

$$\frac{d\tilde{w}}{dt} = -\frac{k}{\mu}(u)$$

## Example: the relaxation oscillator

$$\frac{d^2x}{dt^2} + \mu + (x^2 - 1) \frac{dx}{dt} + kx = 0$$

If  $\mu \gg 1$



$$\frac{dx}{dt} = \mu \left( \tilde{w} - \frac{1}{3} x^3 + u \right)$$

$$\frac{d\tilde{w}}{dt} = -\frac{k}{\mu} (u)$$



The “splash” affected  
all science, just as  
Laplace predicted

A “Newtonian” approximation  
to neuroscience

$$C \frac{dV}{dt} = I - g_K n^4 (V - E_K) - g_{Na} m^3 h (V - E_{Na}) - a_i (V - E_i)$$

$$\frac{dn}{dt} = \alpha_n(V)(1 - n) - \beta_n(V)n$$

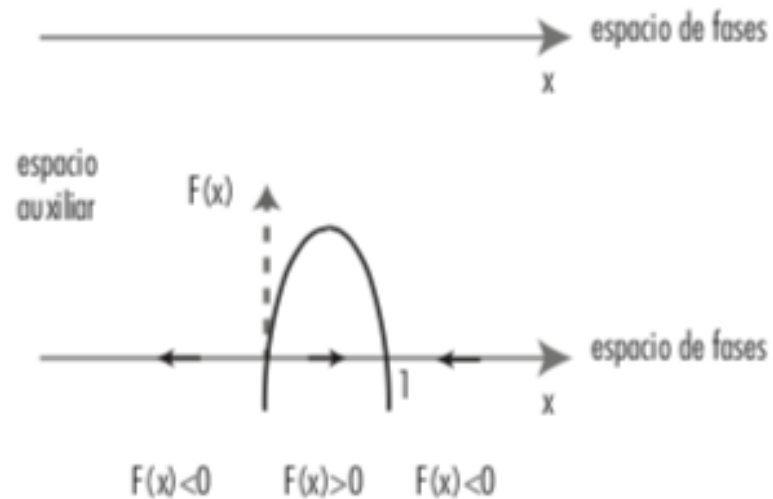
$$\frac{dm}{dt} = \alpha_m(V)(1 - m) - \beta_m(V)m$$

$$\frac{dh}{dt} = \alpha_h(V)(1 - h) - \beta_h(V)h$$



En que afecta al flujo el que el campo vector sea no lineal?

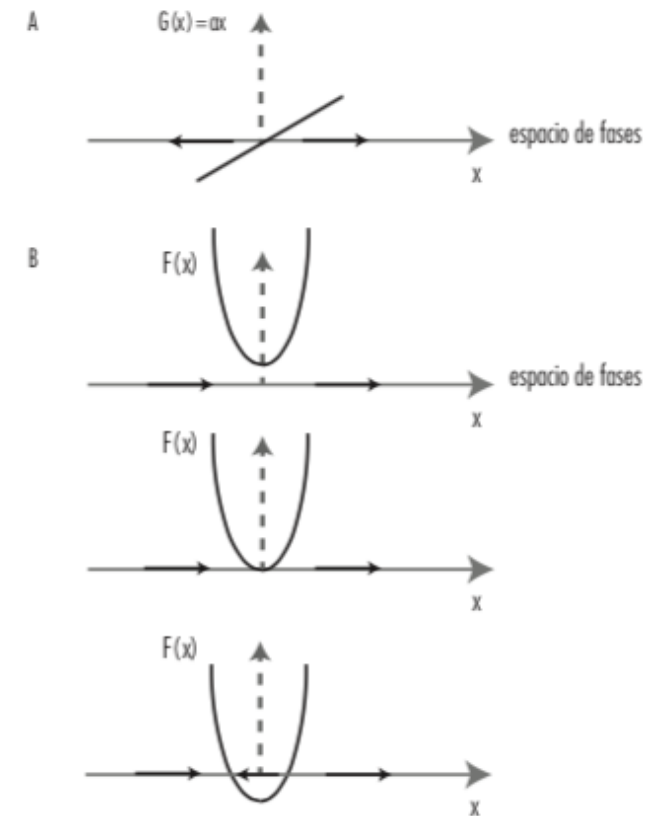
$$\frac{dx}{dt} = ax \left(1 - \frac{x}{N}\right).$$



La primera signatura de que un sistema es no lineal es la coexistencia de puntos estacionarios aislados

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = r + x^2$$

$r \in \mathbb{R}$

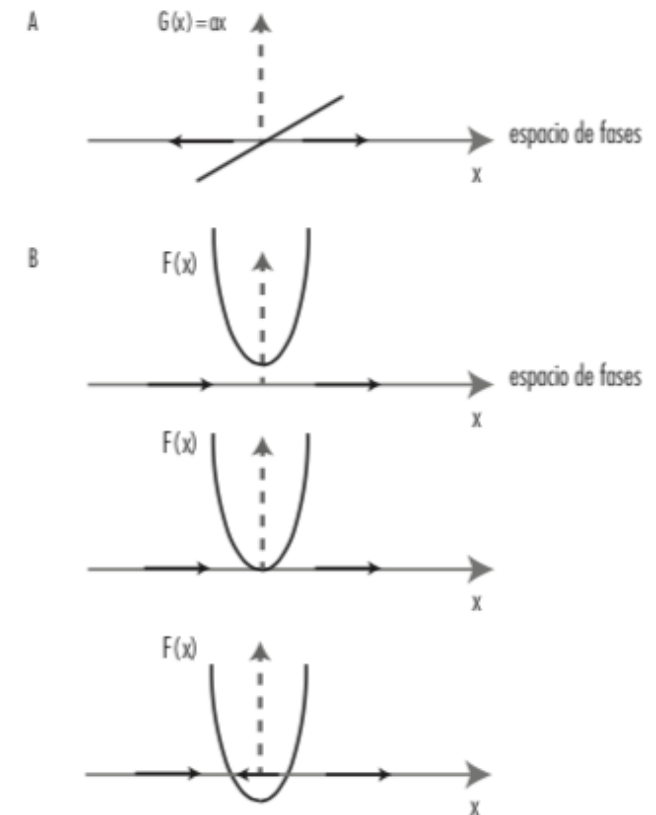


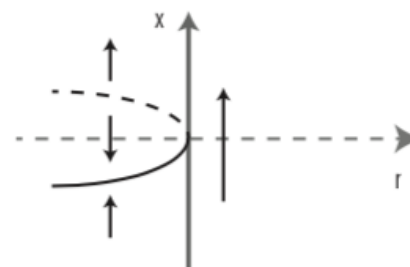
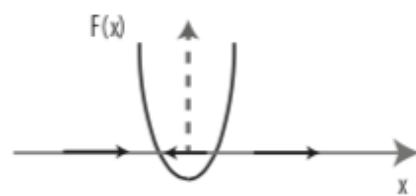
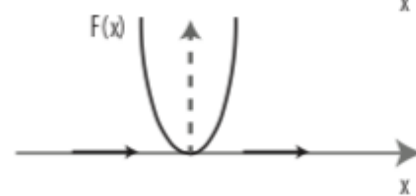
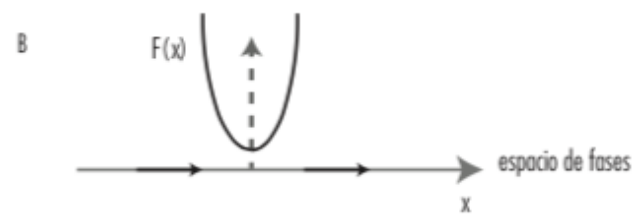
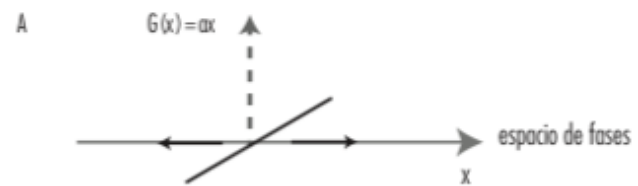
La primera signatura de que un sistema es no lineal es la coexistencia de puntos estacionarios aislados

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = r + x^2$$

$r \in \mathbb{R}$

Dependiendo del parámetro, existe un numero diferente de puntos fijos. A tal cambio cualitativo se lo conoce como **bifurcación**. Notemos que un **sistema no lineal puede tener un numero mayor que uno de puntos fijos aislados**.



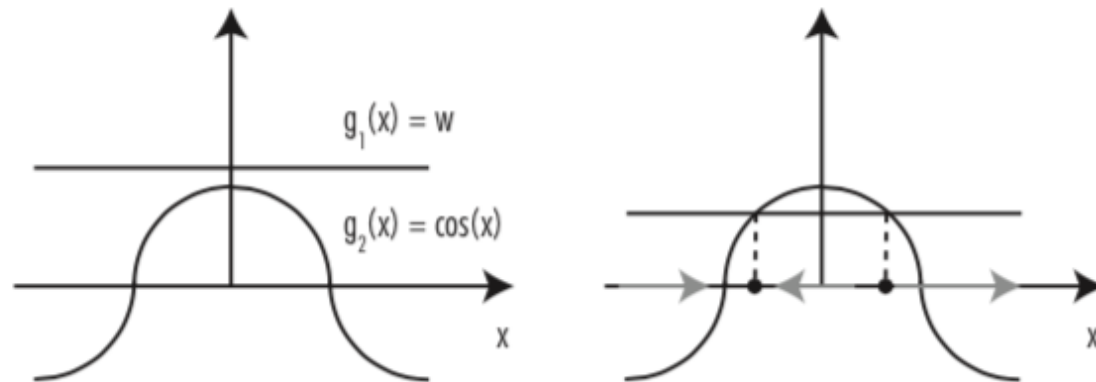


### Nodo silla en ciclo limite

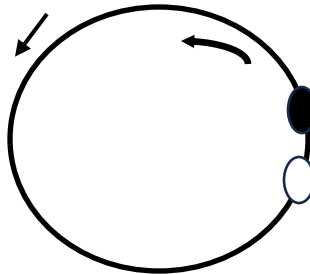
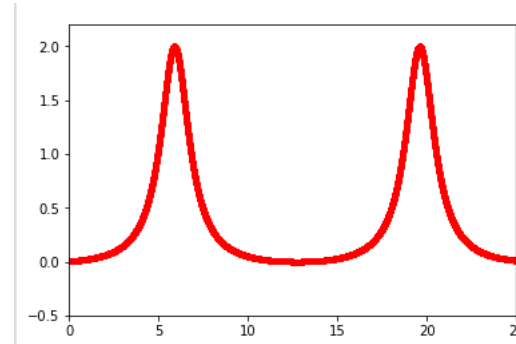
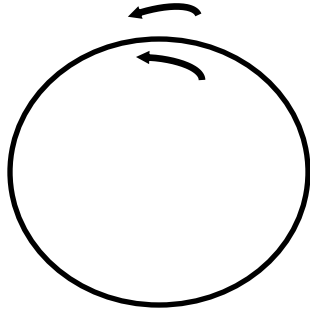
$$\frac{dr}{dt} = r(1 - r)$$

$$\frac{d\theta}{dt} = \omega - \cos\theta$$

Notemos que para la parte angular,



O sea, cuando  $\omega > 1$ , el sistema oscila. Las oscilaciones nacen con periodo infinito.



# Formas normales

$$\frac{dA_1}{dt} = A_2$$

$$\frac{dA_2}{dt} = (2\epsilon - A_1^2)A_2 - A_1$$



El primer termino de la segunda ecuación es una disipación (negativa si  $A_1$  es pequeña, y positiva si  $A_1$  es grande). El segundo termino, una restitución.

Este sistema de ecuaciones, entonces, da lugar a una oscilación de relajación, como hemos visto en la segunda clase.

Miremos el problema cerca de donde ocurrirán las bifurcaciones, esto es, cerca de  $\epsilon \approx 0$ . Para simplificar, definamos

$$X = A_1 + iA_2$$

Lo que da lugar a la ecuación en variable compleja:

$$\frac{dX}{dt} = -iX - \frac{1}{8}(X^3 + X^2\bar{X} - X\bar{X}^2 - \bar{X}^3)$$

**Y la pregunta que nos vamos a hacer es si es posible encontrar un cambio de variables que elimine alguno de estos términos.**

Proponemos un cambio de variables implícito, con todos los términos cúbicos posibles, o sea:

$$X = Z + \alpha Z^3 + \beta Z^2 \bar{Z} + \gamma Z \bar{Z}^2 + \delta \bar{Z}^3$$

$$\begin{aligned} & (1 + 3\alpha Z^2 + 2\beta Z \bar{Z} + \gamma \bar{Z}^2) \frac{dZ}{dt} + (\beta Z^2 + 2\gamma Z \bar{Z} + 3\delta \bar{Z}^2) \frac{d\bar{Z}}{dt} = \\ & = -i(Z + \alpha Z^3 + \beta Z^2 \bar{Z} + \gamma Z \bar{Z}^2 + \delta \bar{Z}^3) - \frac{1}{8}(Z^3 + Z^2 \bar{Z} - Z \bar{Z}^2 - \bar{Z}^3) \end{aligned}$$

Y reemplazando  $\frac{d\bar{Z}}{dt}$  por  $i\bar{Z}$  (ya que va a entrar vía términos cúbicos, basta considerar la aproximación lineal), la ecuación queda:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dZ}{dt} = & -iZ + \left(2\alpha - \frac{1}{8}\right)Z^3 + \left(-\frac{1}{8}\right)Z^2\bar{Z} \\ & + \left(-2\gamma + \frac{1}{8}\right)Z\bar{Z}^2 + \left(-2\delta + \frac{1}{8}\right)\bar{Z}^3\end{aligned}$$

Notamos entonces, que podemos elegir  $\alpha, \gamma, \delta$  de modo que los términos con  $Z^3, Z\bar{Z}^2, \bar{Z}^3$  se vayan, quedando

$$\frac{dZ}{dt} = -iZ - \frac{1}{8}Z^2\bar{Z}$$

Esta es una expresión minimal. No hay cambio de coordenada posible que elimine a este termino. Notemos que es un termino tal que, si pensamos que linealmente

$$Z \sim e^{-it}$$

$$Z^2 \bar{Z} \sim e^{-2it} e^{it} = e^{-it}$$

Mientras que los términos eliminados van como

$$Z^3 \sim e^{-3it}, Z\bar{Z}^2 \sim e^{it}, \bar{Z}^3 \sim e^{3it}$$

Por eso decimos que el cambio no lineal de coordenadas dejo solo al termino **resonante**.

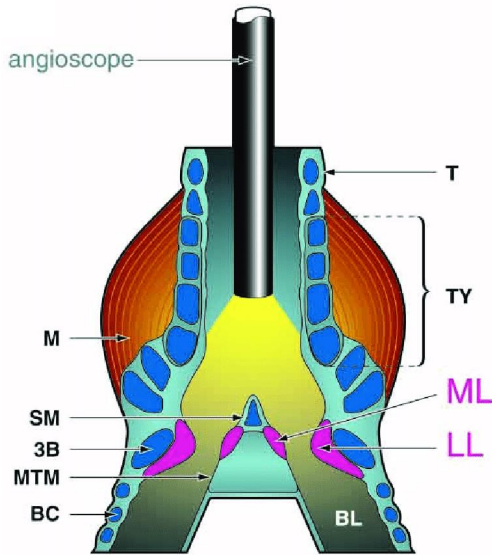
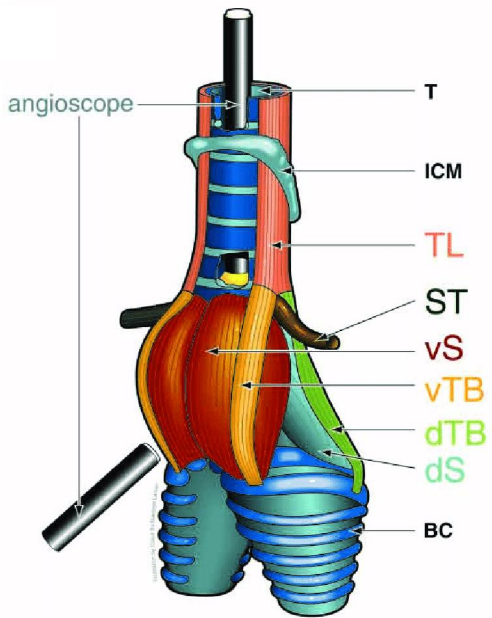
Esta estrategia ya la habíamos esbozado, cuando presentamos, para bifurcaciones en las primeras dos clases, ecuaciones sencillas, paradigmáticas, que representaran las propiedades cualitativas de un flujo, y sus cambios ante cambios de los parámetros. Por ejemplo:

Example

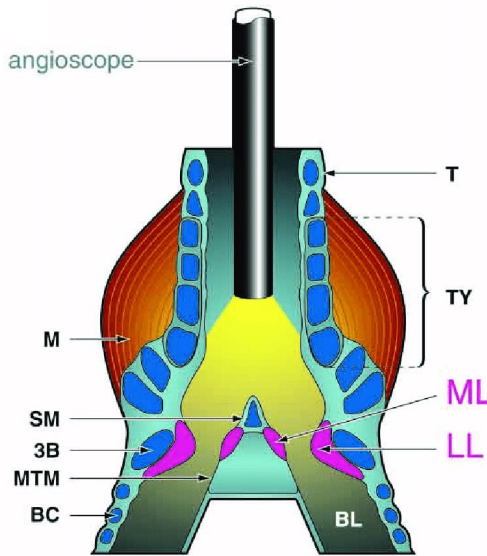
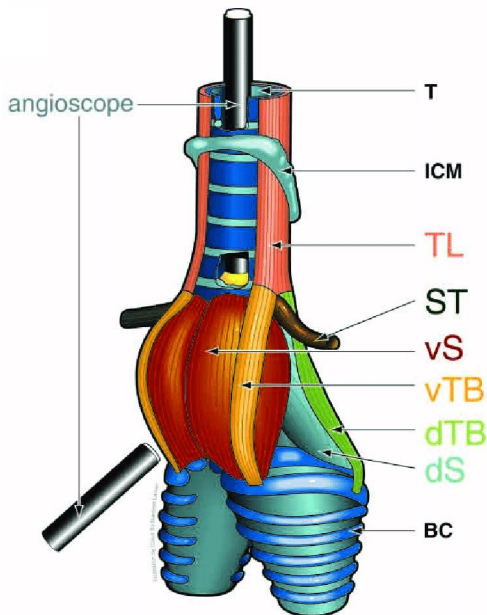
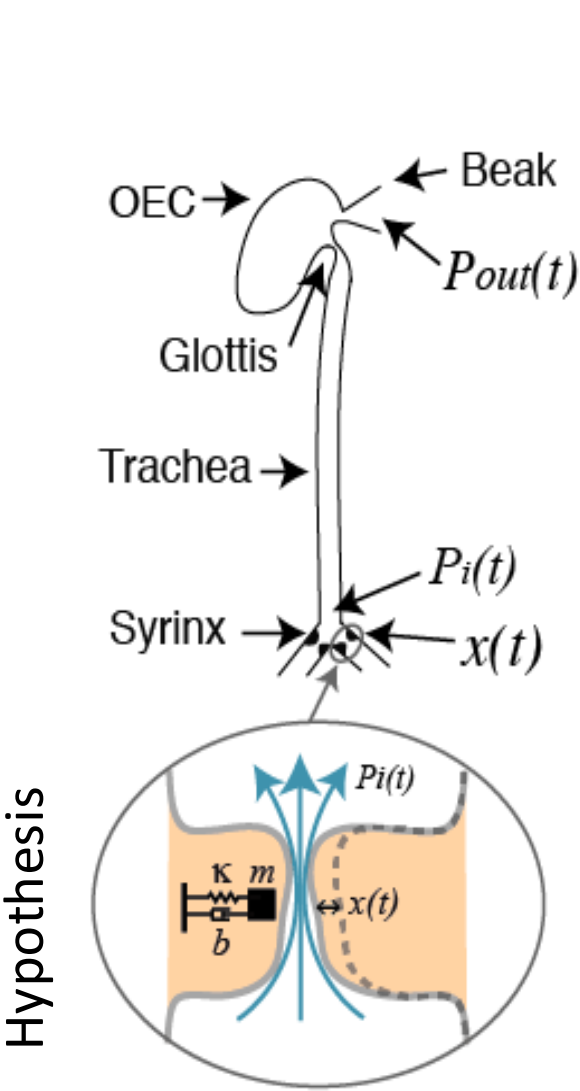
¿How do birds  
generate their  
songs?



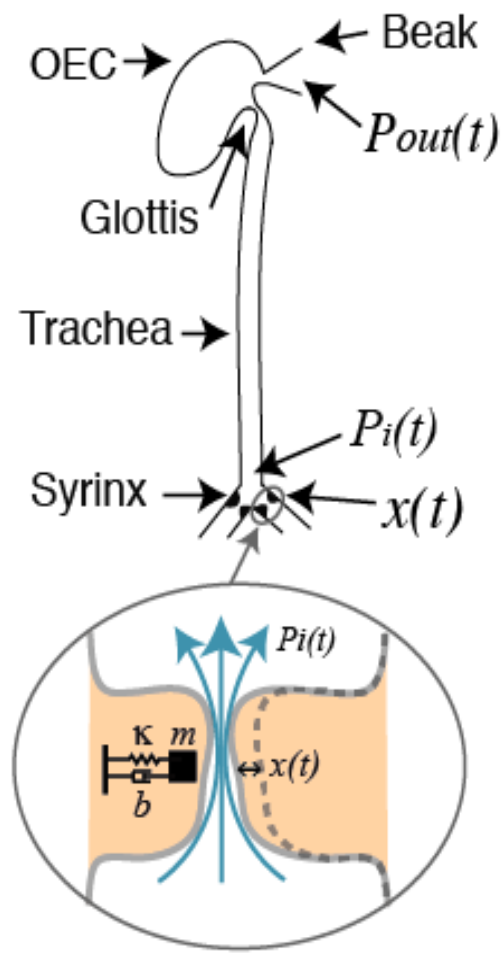
# Example



# Example



# The program of physics (or interpretable science)



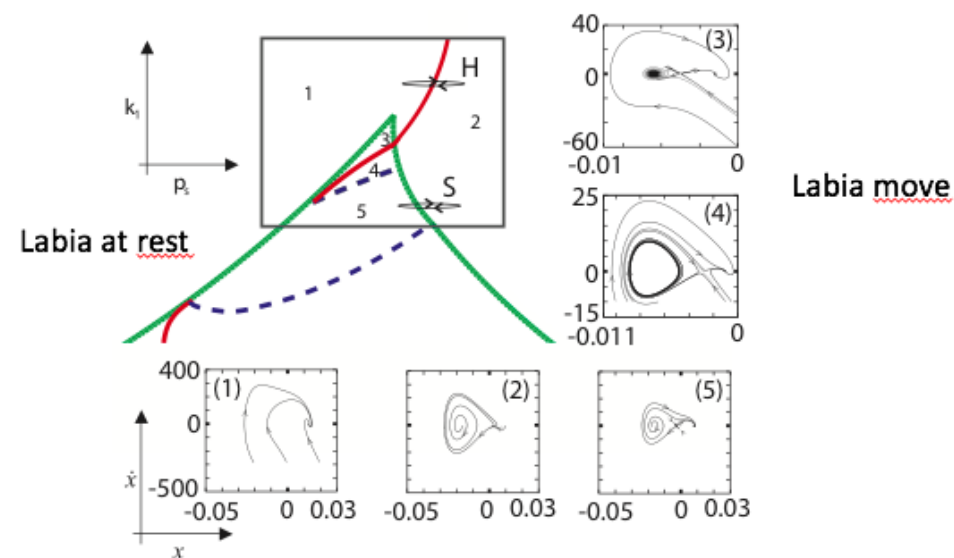
1. To identify the pertinent variables  
And how to relate them through a model

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = y,$$

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = (1/m) \left[ -k(x)x - b(y)y - cx^2y + a_{lab} p_s \left( \frac{\Delta a + 2\tau\tau}{a_{01} + x + \tau y} \right) \right].$$

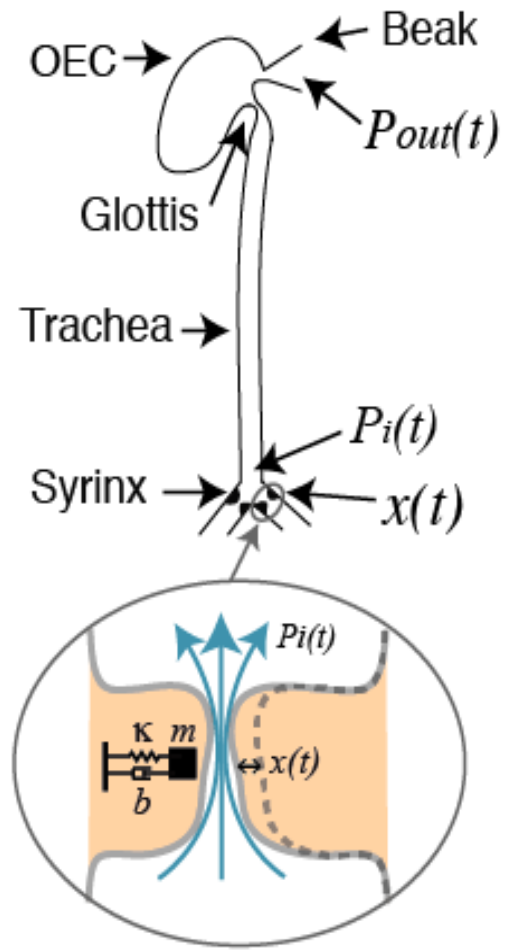
2. To study the solutions for different parameters

**Bifurcation diagram**





# The program of physics (or interpretable science)

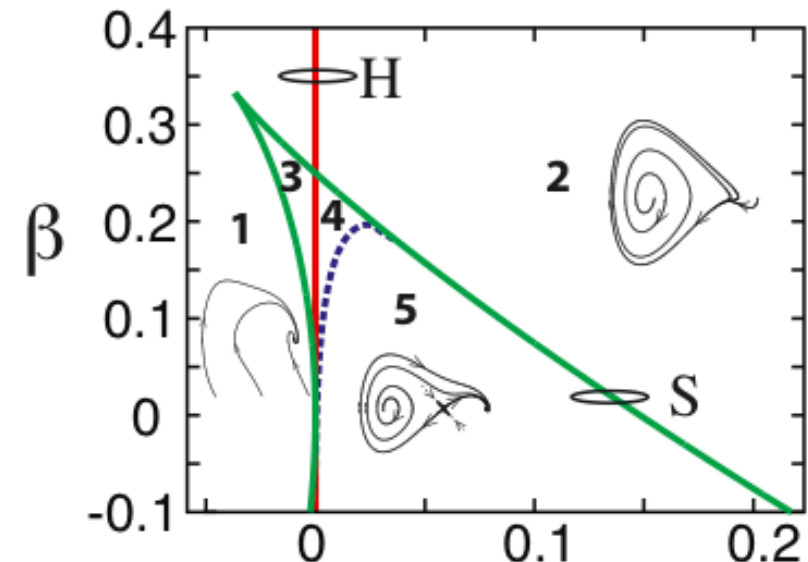


Normal form


$$\frac{dx}{dt} = y$$

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = -a(t)g^2 - b(t)g^2x - g^2x^3 - gx^2y + g^2x^2 - gxy$$

2. To study the solutions of this simplified model



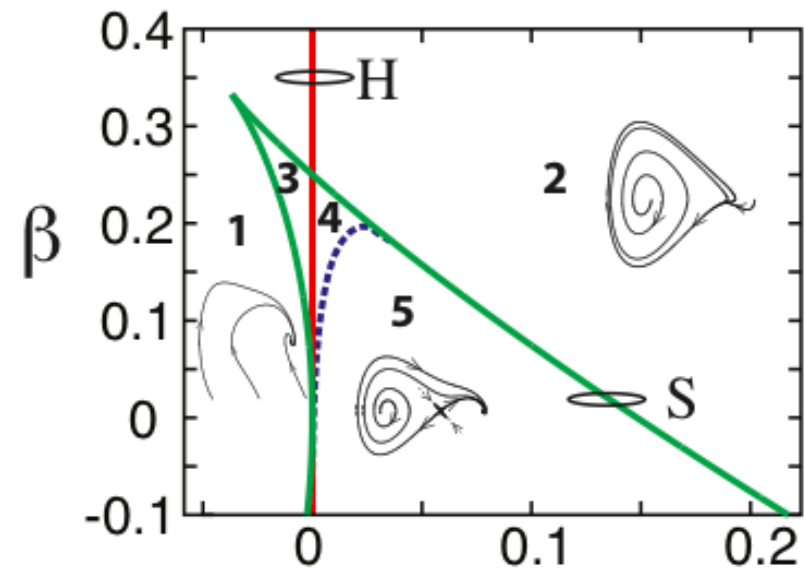
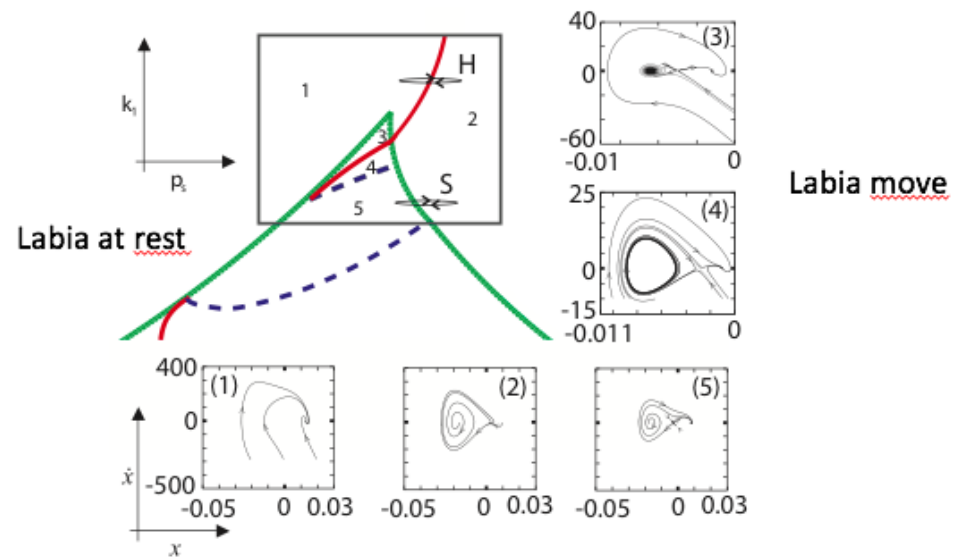
## Normal form reduction

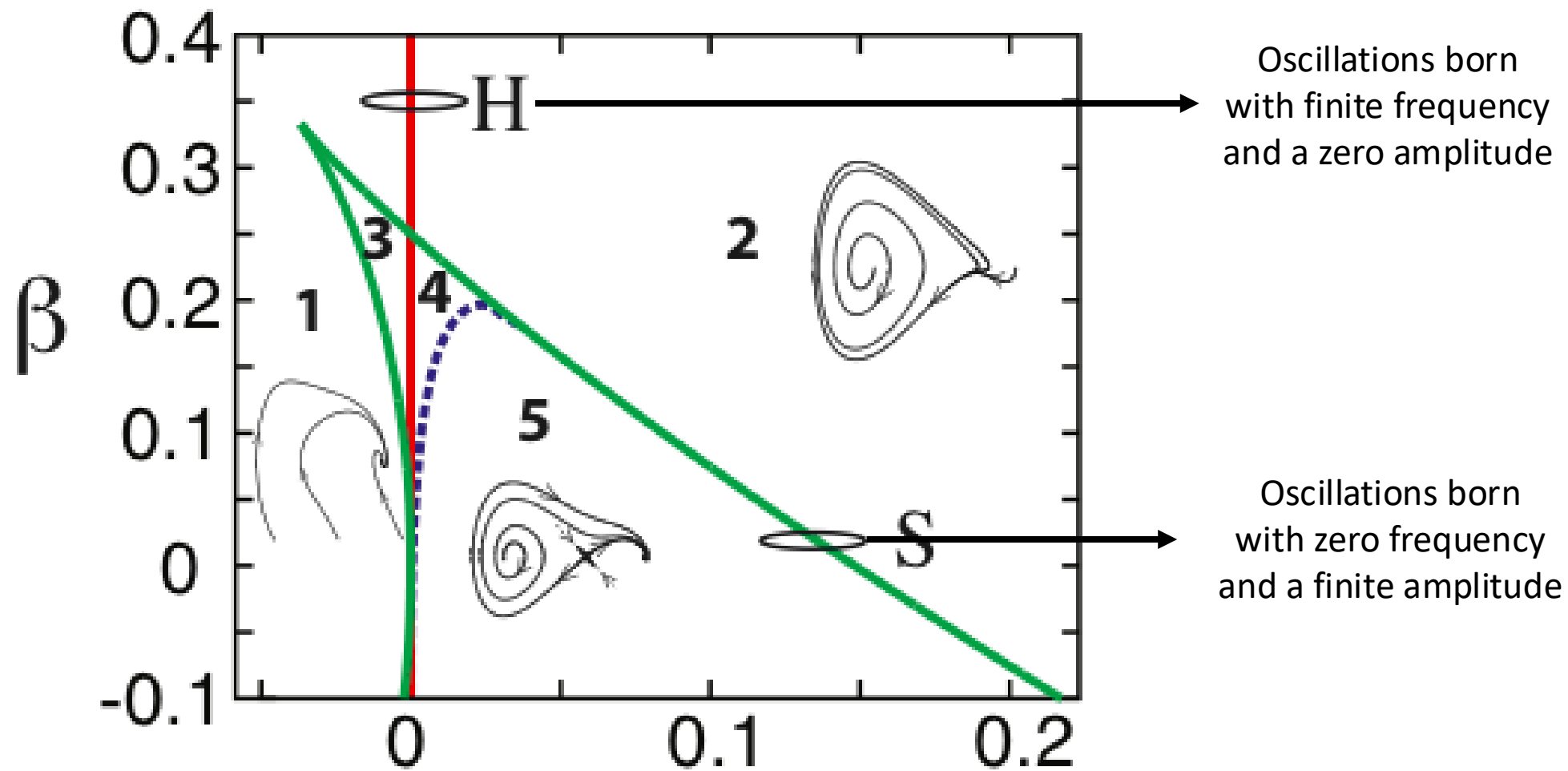


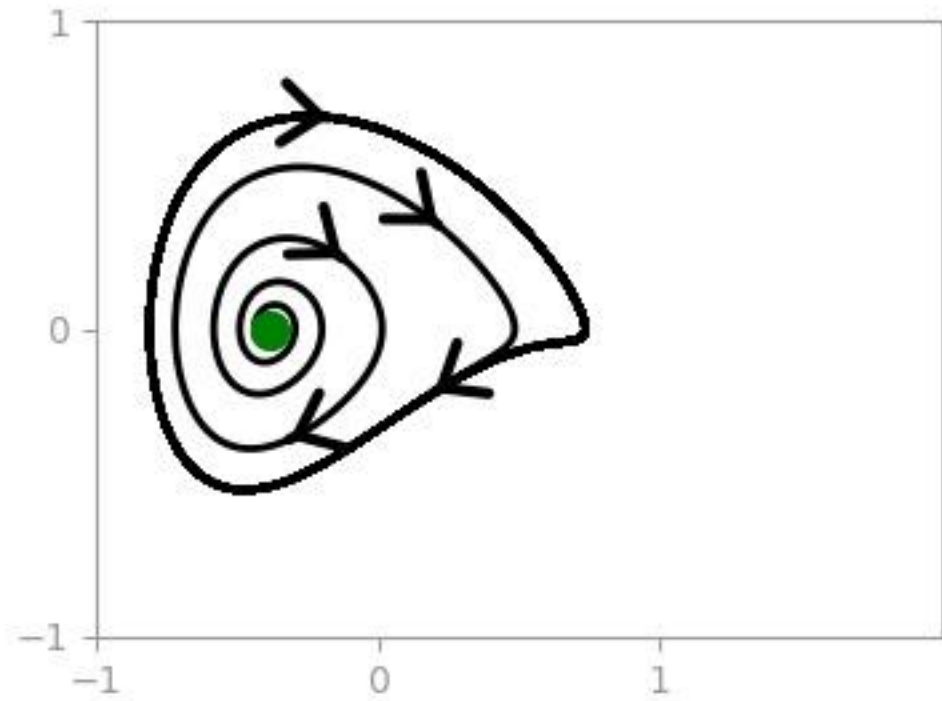
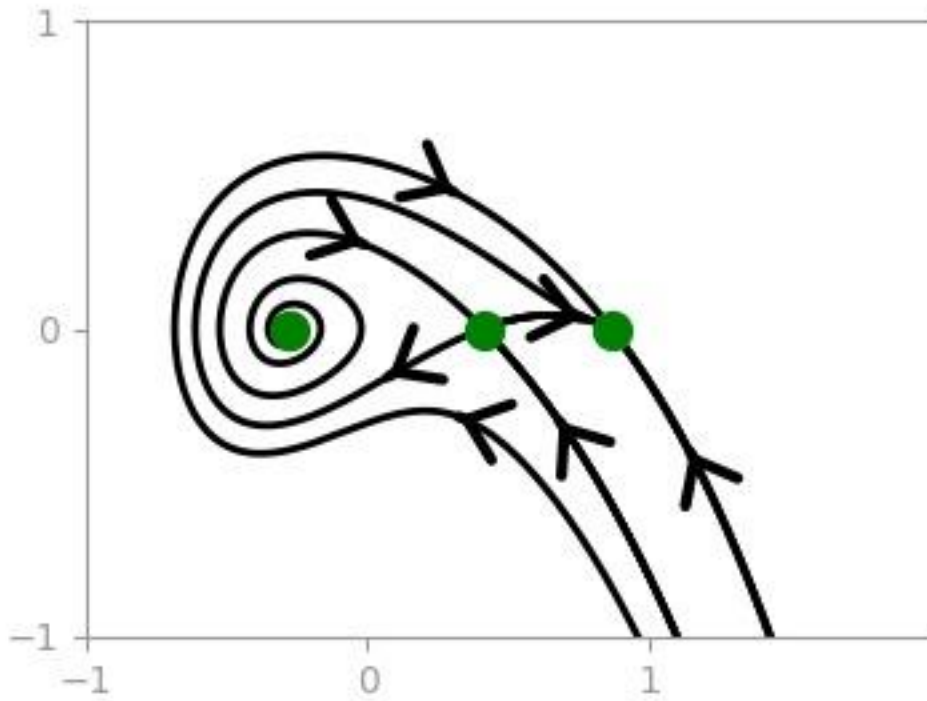
$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \frac{dx}{dt} = y, \\ \frac{dy}{dt} = (1/m) \left[ -k(x)x - b(y)y - cx^2y + a_{\text{lab}} p_s \left( \frac{\Delta a + 2\tau\tau}{a_{01} + x + \tau y} \right) \right]. \end{array} \right. \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \frac{dx}{dt} = y \\ \frac{dy}{dt} = -\alpha(t)\gamma^2 - \beta(t)\gamma^2x - \gamma^2x^3 - \gamma x^2y + \gamma^2x^2 - \gamma xy \end{array} \right.$$

Algorithmic procedure that allows you to reduce your nonlinear problem to a simpler one, close to a linear singularity. This simpler model will have less parameters, and **has been probably studied**

# Normal form reduction

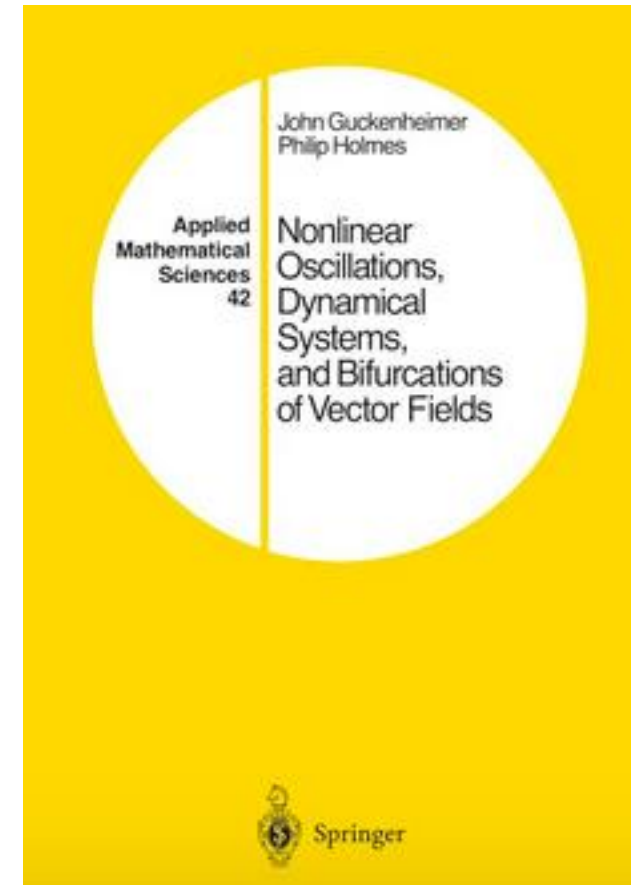
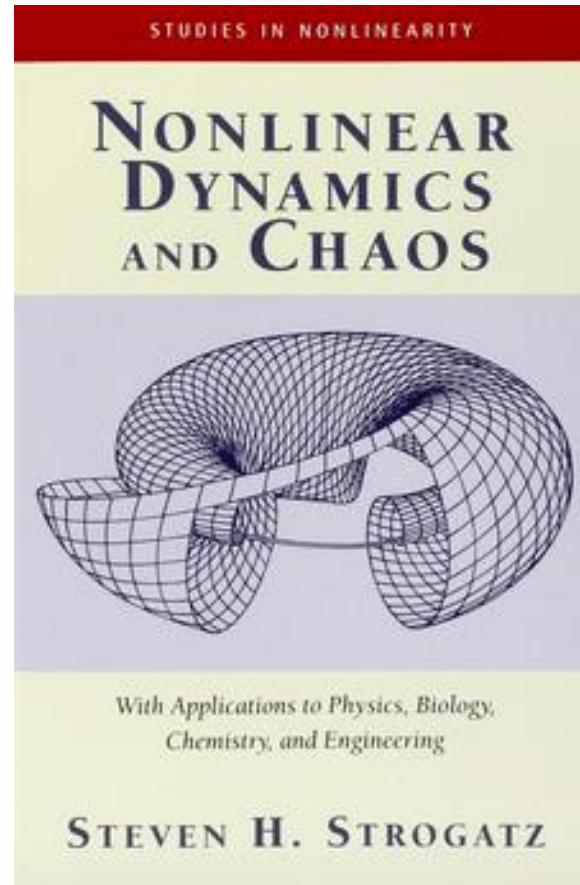






**SNILC:** one of the ways oscillations arise in 2d systems

**How many?** The good news... not that many



## Newton's "mandate"

1. First, **understand** the **mechanisms**
2. Plug them into the machinery of **dynamical systems**
3. **Predict**

"Novelty" of the XX century:  
qualitative theory of dynamical systems and  
numerical integration as exploratory tool

But what if what we want to understand is extraordinarily complex?