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# MATH 537, Fall 2020

## Ordinary Differential Equations

Lecture #4  
Chapter 2 Systems of ODEs

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# Chapter 2: Systems of ODEs

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In this chapter we begin the study of *systems of differential equations*. A system of differential equations is a collection of  $n$  interrelated differential equations of the form

$$x'_1 = f_1(t, x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$$

$$x'_2 = f_2(t, x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$$

⋮

$$x'_n = f_n(t, x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n).$$

Here the functions  $f_j$  are real-valued functions of the  $n+1$  variables  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$ , and  $t$ . Unless otherwise specified, we will always assume that the  $f_j$  are  $C^\infty$  functions. This means that the partial derivatives of all orders of the  $f_j$  exist and are continuous.

- There are  $n$  dependent variables and one independent variable ( $t$ ).
- The above consists of  $n$  ODEs with  $n$  functions,  $f_j, j = 1, 2, \dots, n$ .
- $f_j$  are  $C^\infty$ .

## Terminology: $C^\infty$ and $C^k$

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A  $C^\infty$  function is a function that is differentiable for all degrees of differentiation. For instance,  $f(x) = e^{2x}$  is  $C^\infty$  because its  $n^{\text{th}}$  derivative  $f^n(x) = 2^n e^{2x}$  exists and is continuous. All polynomials are  $C^\infty$ . The reason for the notation is that  $C^k$  have  $k$  continuous derivatives.

A function with  $k$  continuous derivatives is called a  $C^k$  function. In order to specify a  $C^k$  function on a domain  $X$ , the notation  $C^k(X)$  is used. The most common  $C^k$  space is  $C^0$ , the space of **continuous** functions, whereas  $C^1$  is the space of **continuously differentiable** functions.

<http://mathworld.wolfram.com/C-InfinityFunction.html>

## Chapter 2. Systems of ODEs in Matrix Form

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To simplify notation, we will use vector notation:

$$X = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{pmatrix}. \quad \text{column vector}$$

We often write the vector  $X$  as  $(x_1, \dots, x_n)$  to save space. **row vector**

Our system may then be written more concisely as

$$X' = F(t, X),$$

where

$$F(t, X) = \begin{pmatrix} f_1(t, x_1, \dots, x_n) \\ \vdots \\ f_n(t, x_1, \dots, x_n) \end{pmatrix}.$$

## Chapter 2. Systems of ODEs in Matrix Form

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Our system may then be written more concisely as

$$X' = F(t, X),$$

- The system of equations is called **autonomous** if none of the  $f_j$  depends on  $t$ , so the system becomes  $X' = F(X)$ .
  - In analogy with first-order differential equations, a vector  $X_c$  for which  $F(X_c)$  is called an equilibrium point for the system. An equilibrium point corresponds to a time-independent solution  $X(t) = X_c$  of the system as before.
- 
- For most of the rest of this book we will be concerned with autonomous systems.
  - We will reserve **capital letters** for vectors or for vector-valued functions.
  - We will always denote real variables or real-valued functions by **lowercase letters**.

## 2.1 Second-Order Differential Equations

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Many of the most important differential equations encountered in science and engineering are second-order differential equations. These are differential equations of the form

$$x'' = f(t, x, x').$$

we note that these equations are a special subclass of two-dimensional systems of differential equations that are defined by simply introducing a second variable  $y = x'$ .

## 2.1 Second-Order Differential Equations

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For example, consider a second-order constant coefficient equation of the form

$$x'' + ax' + bx = 0.$$

If we let  $y = x'$ , then we may rewrite this equation as a system of first-order equations:

$$\begin{aligned}x' &= y \\y' &= -bx - ay.\end{aligned}$$

$$y' = x'' = -ax' - bx = -ay - bx = \color{red}{-bx - ay}$$

## Section 2.2: Planar Systems

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In this chapter we will deal with autonomous systems in  $\mathbb{R}^2$ , which we will write in the form

$$\begin{aligned}x' &= f(x, y) \\y' &= g(x, y),\end{aligned}$$

thus eliminating the annoying subscripts on the functions and variables. As before, we often use the abbreviated notation  $X' = F(X)$ , where  $X = (x, y)$  and  $F(X) = F(x, y) = (f(x, y), g(x, y))$ .

$$X' = F(X), \quad X = \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}, \quad F(X) = \begin{pmatrix} f(x, y) \\ g(x, y) \end{pmatrix}$$

## 2.2 Planar Systems: Vector vs. Directional Field

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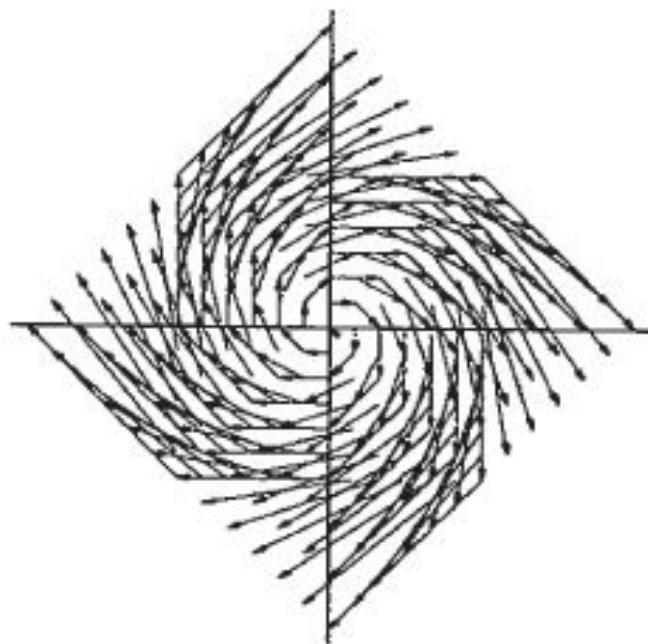
In analogy with the slope fields of Chapter 1, we regard the right side of this equation as defining a *vector field* on  $\mathbb{R}^2$ . That is, we think of  $F(x, y)$  as representing a vector with  $x$ - and  $y$ -components that are  $f(x, y)$  and  $g(x, y)$ , respectively. We visualize this vector as being based at the point  $(x, y)$ . For

$$x' = y$$

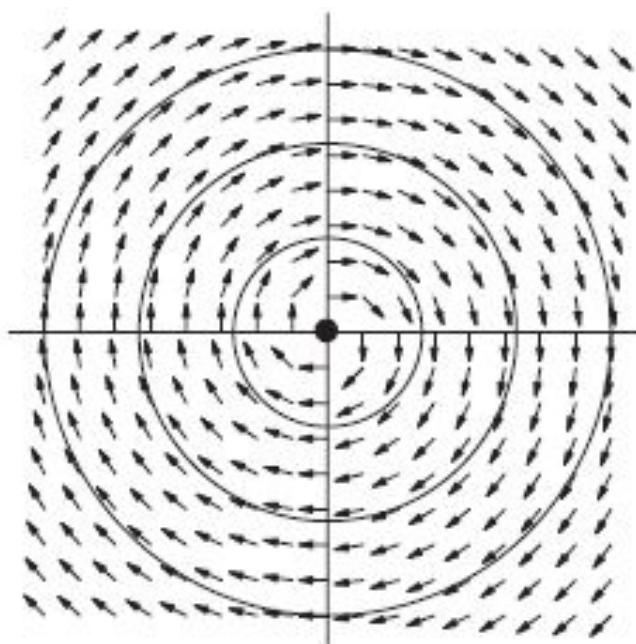
$$y' = -x,$$

$$F(X) = \begin{pmatrix} y \\ -x \end{pmatrix}$$

vector  
field



directional  
field

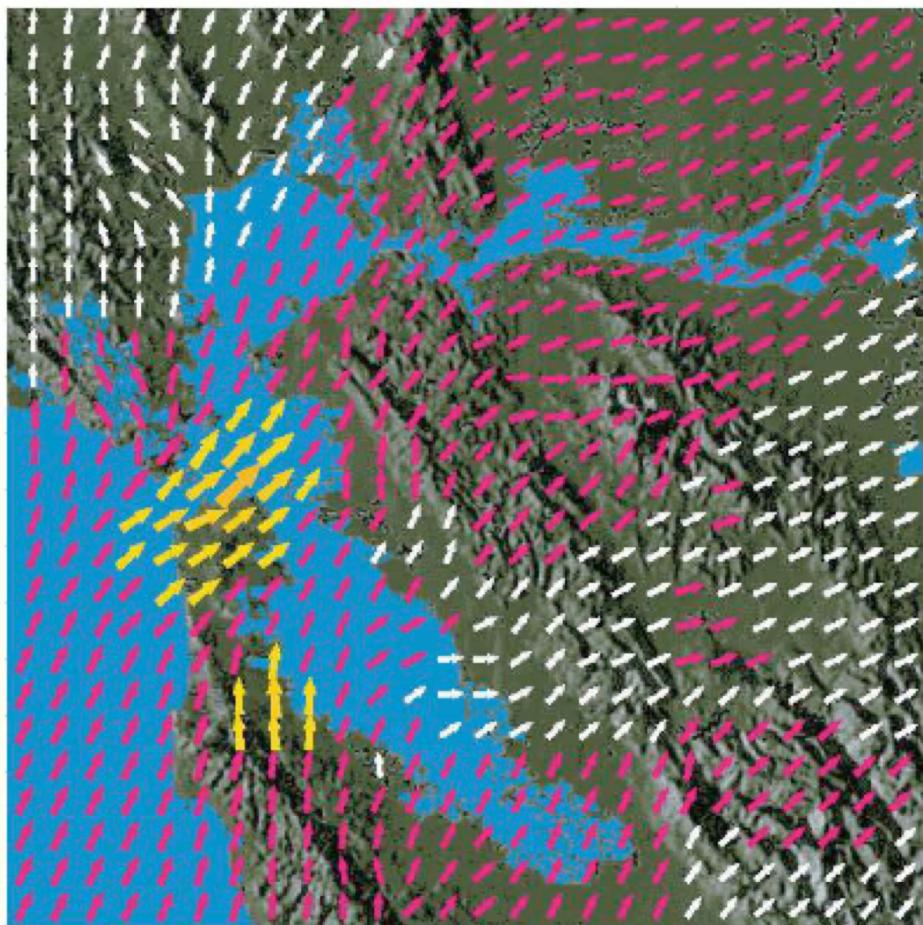


# Review of 16.1 Vector Fields (M252)

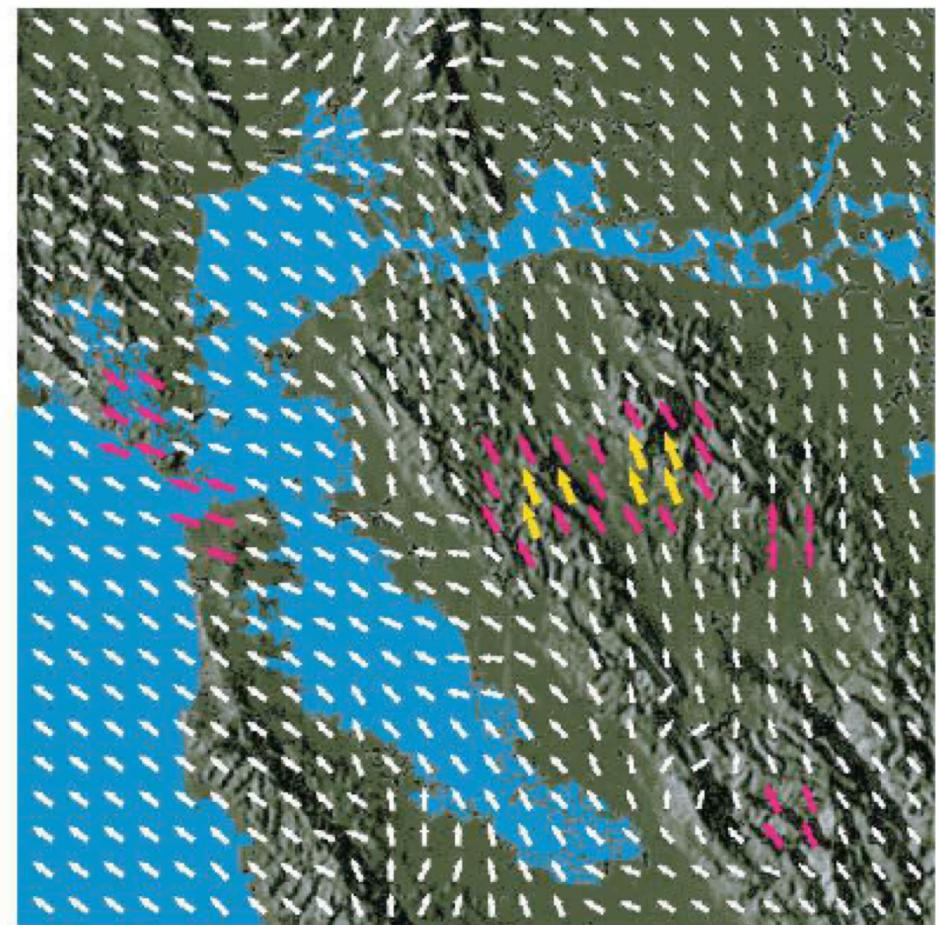
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Assign a vector to each point. A vector includes a direction and magnitude.

$$\vec{V} = (u, v) = (u(x, y), v(x, y))$$



(a) 6:00 PM, March 1, 2010



(b) 6:00 AM, March 1, 2010

# Review of 16.1 Vector Fields (M252)

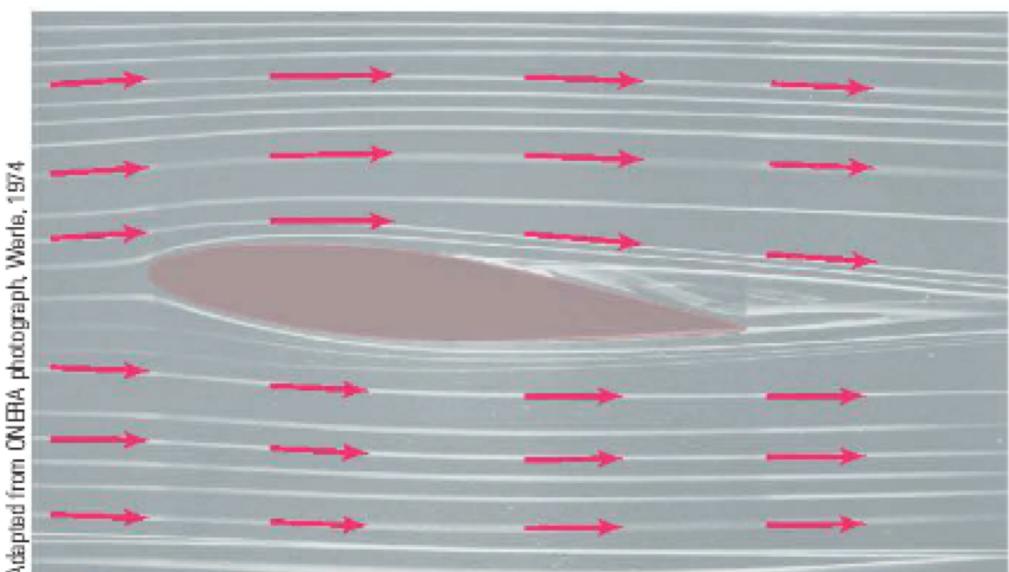
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$$\vec{V} = (u, v) = (u(x, y), v(x, y))$$

$$\vec{F} = (P, Q) = (P(x, y), Q(x, y))$$



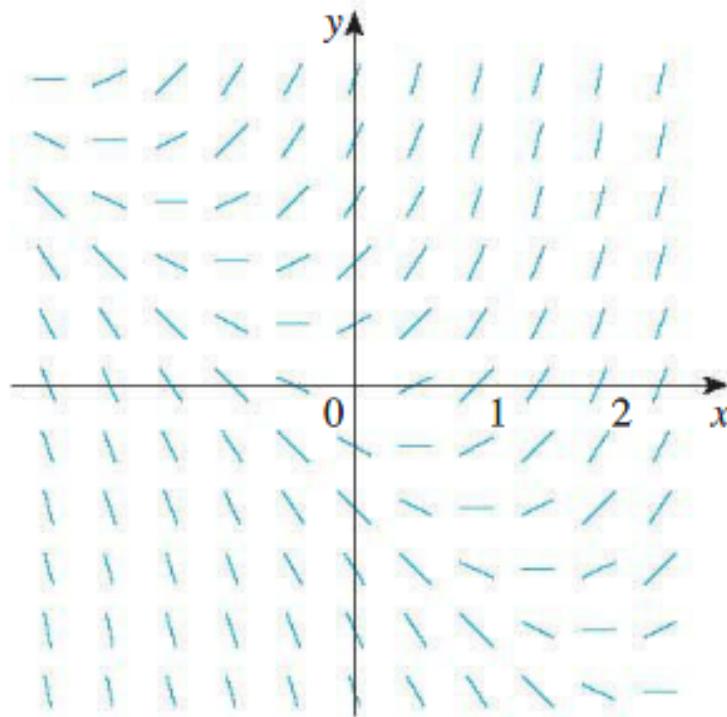
(a) Ocean currents off the coast of Nova Scotia



(b) Airflow past an inclined airfoil

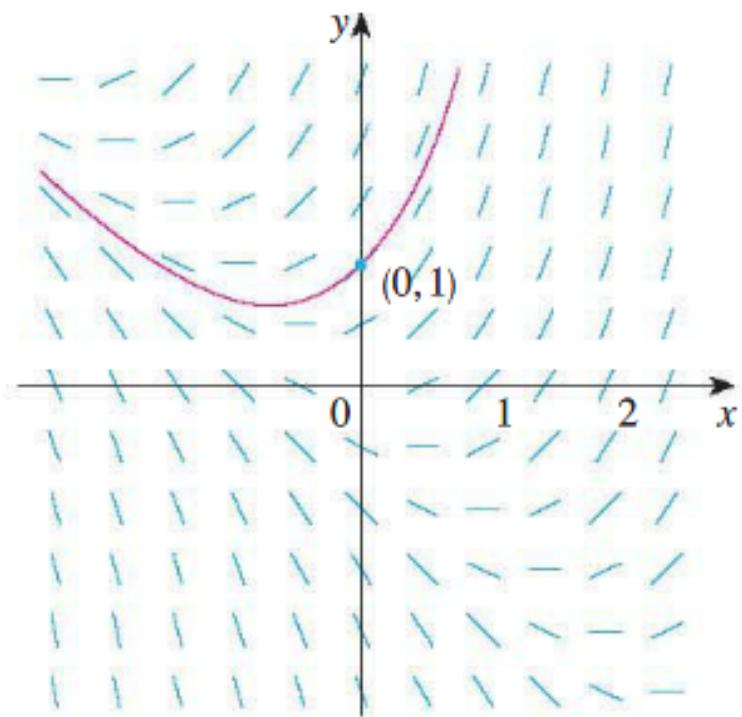
# Review of Direction Fields (Math151)

slope only,  $dy/dx$  (direction)



**FIGURE 3**

Direction field for  $y' = x + y$



**FIGURE 4**

The solution curve through  $(0, 1)$

# Review of 16.1 2D Vector Fields

**1 Definition** Let  $D$  be a set in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  (a plane region). A **vector field on  $\mathbb{R}^2$**  is a function  $\mathbf{F}$  that assigns to each point  $(x, y)$  in  $D$  a two-dimensional vector  $\mathbf{F}(x, y)$ .

component functions  $P$  and  $Q$  as follows:

$$\mathbf{F}(x, y) = P(x, y) \mathbf{i} + Q(x, y) \mathbf{j} = \langle P(x, y), Q(x, y) \rangle$$

or, for short,

$$\mathbf{F} = P \mathbf{i} + Q \mathbf{j}$$

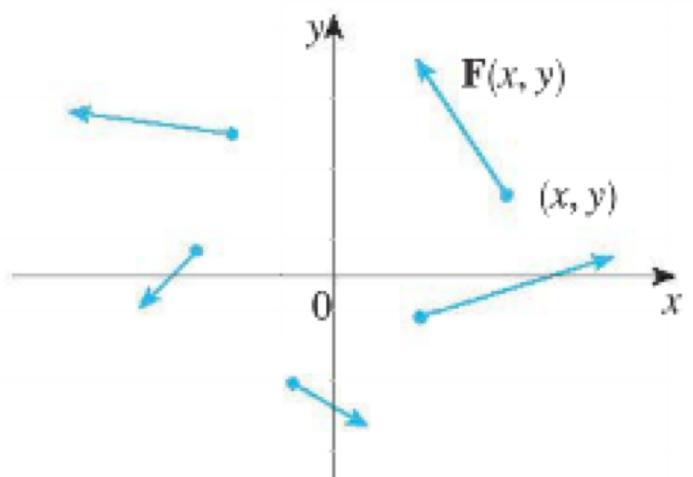
Notice that  $P$  and  $Q$  are scalar functions of two variables and are sometimes called **scalar fields** to distinguish them from vector fields.

## Vector

- direction
- length/magnitude

## Vector fields

- Vectors + locations



## Review: Plots with Vector Fields: How?

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Given a vector function,  $\vec{F} = (P(x, y), Q(x, y))$ , a plot for vector fields can be completed by performing the following:

- 1) Construct a grid system;
- 2) Choose sample points,  $(x_i^*, y_i^*)$ ;
- 3) Use each of the sample points as a starting point;
- 4) Compute the ending point using:

$$\text{ending point} = \text{starting point} + \vec{F}(x_i^*, y_i^*);$$

- 5) Draw a vector from the starting point to the ending point.

Method (I)

- Alternatively, we view each of the sample points as a new origin (to be discussed below).

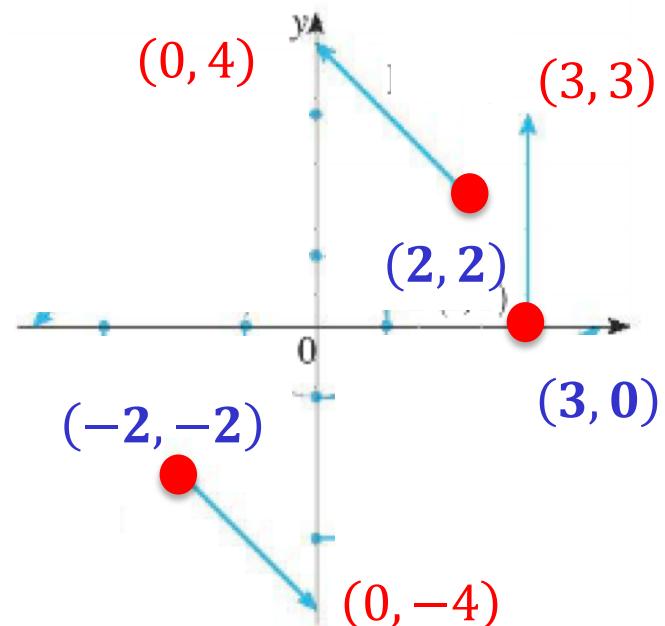
Method (II)

# Review for the Plot of a Vector Fields: (I)



**EXAMPLE 1** A vector field on  $\mathbb{R}^2$  is defined by  $\mathbf{F}(x, y) = -y \mathbf{i} + x \mathbf{j}$ . Describe  $\mathbf{F}$  by sketching some of the vectors  $\mathbf{F}(x, y)$  as in Figure 3.

1	2	3	4	5
	$(x_i^*, y_i^*)$	$\vec{F} = (-y, x)$	starting	ending ( $c_3+c_4$ )
A	$(3, 0)$	$(0, 3)$	$(3, 0)$	$(3, 3)$
B	$(2, 2)$	$(-2, 2)$	$(2, 2)$	$(0, 4)$
C	$(-2, -2)$	$(2, -2)$	$(-2, -2)$	$(0, -4)$



## Review for the Plot of a Vector Field: (II)

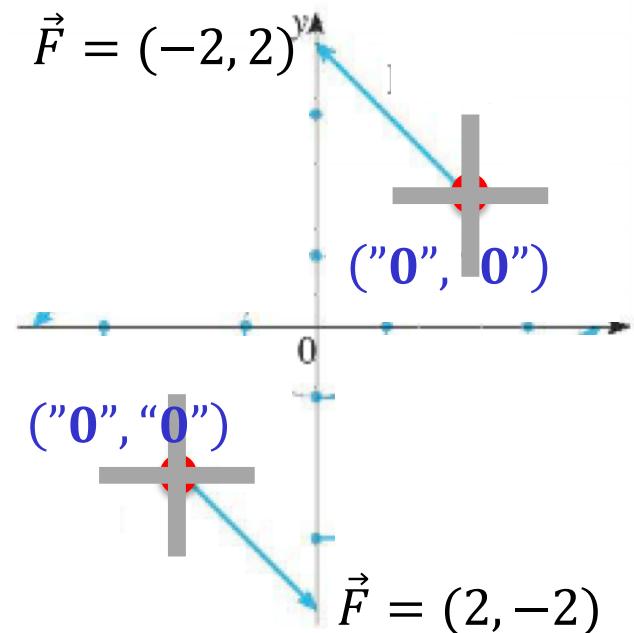


**EXAMPLE 1** A vector field on  $\mathbb{R}^2$  is defined by  $\mathbf{F}(x, y) = -y \mathbf{i} + x \mathbf{j}$ . Describe  $\mathbf{F}$  by sketching some of the vectors  $\mathbf{F}(x, y)$  as in Figure 3.

1	2	3	4	5
	$(x_i^*, y_i^*)$	$\vec{F} = (-y, x)$	starting	ending ( $c_3+c_4$ )
B	$(2, 2)$	$(-2, 2)$	$(2, 2)$	$(0, 4)$

- Alternatively, we view each of the sample points as a new origin.

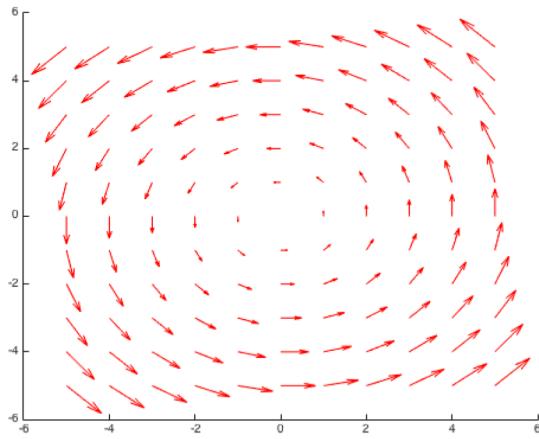
$$\text{magnitude} = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2} = r$$



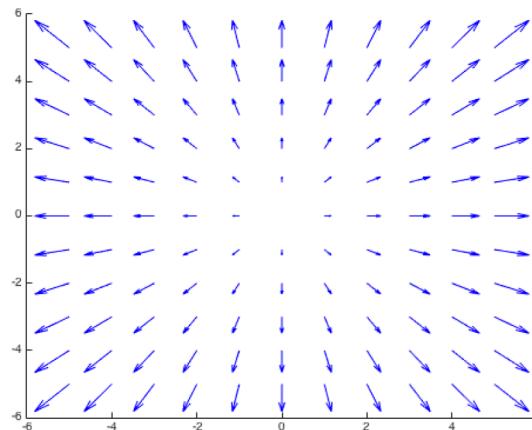
# Review of Four Vector Fields



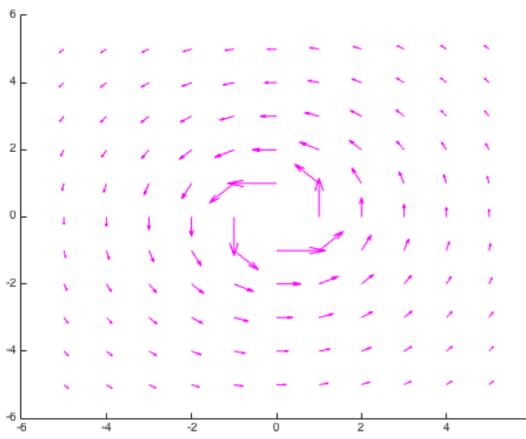
1. Uniform Rotation Field



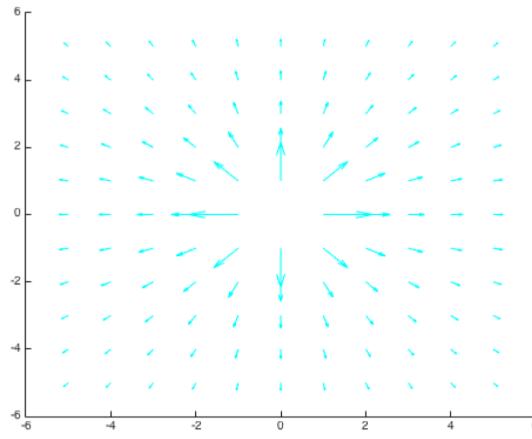
2. Uniform Expansion Field



3. Whirlpool Field



4. 2D Electrical Field



$$1: \vec{F} = \left( \frac{-y}{2}, \frac{x}{2} \right)$$

(example 1 of section 16.1 )

$$2: \vec{F} = \left( \frac{x}{2}, \frac{y}{2} \right)$$

$$3: \vec{F} = \left( \frac{-y}{x^2 + y^2}, \frac{x}{x^2 + y^2} \right)$$

(example 3 of section 16.4)

$$4: \vec{F} = \left( \frac{x}{x^2 + y^2}, \frac{y}{x^2 + y^2} \right)$$

(example 1 of section 16.3)

(example 3 of section 16.9)

## 2.2 Planar Systems: Vector Field

$$F(X) = (y, -x) = (P, Q)$$

	$(x_i^*, y_i^*)$	$\vec{F}$
A	$(0.5, 0)$	$(0, -0.5)$
B	$(0, 0.5)$	$(0.5, 0)$
C	$(-0.5, 0)$	$(0, 0.5)$
D	$(0, -0.5)$	$(-0.5, 0)$

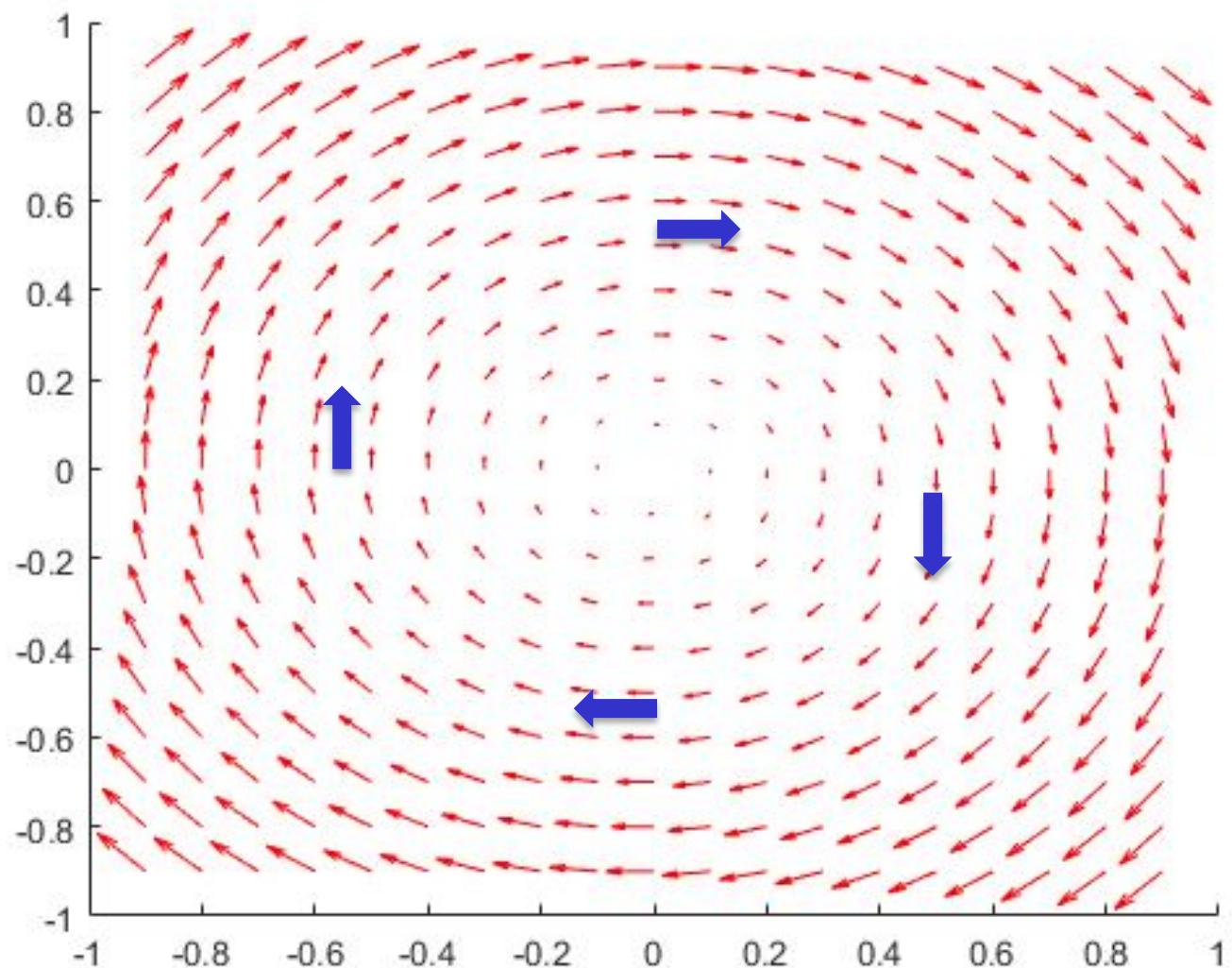
$$\nabla \times F = -2, \text{ clockwise}$$

$$\frac{\partial Q}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial P}{\partial y}$$

$$\nabla \cdot F = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial P}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial Q}{\partial y}$$

MATLAB Plot (Direction Field) for Figure 2.1



## Review: A “Meta” Vector: $\nabla = \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \right)$

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- Consider a “meta” vector  $\nabla = \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \right)$ , a function  $f = f(x, y)$  and a vector  $\vec{F} = (P(x, y), Q(x, y))$

We can define the following:

$\nabla$ : *nabla*

- Gradient:

$$\nabla f = \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \right) f = \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \right) = (f_x, f_y)$$

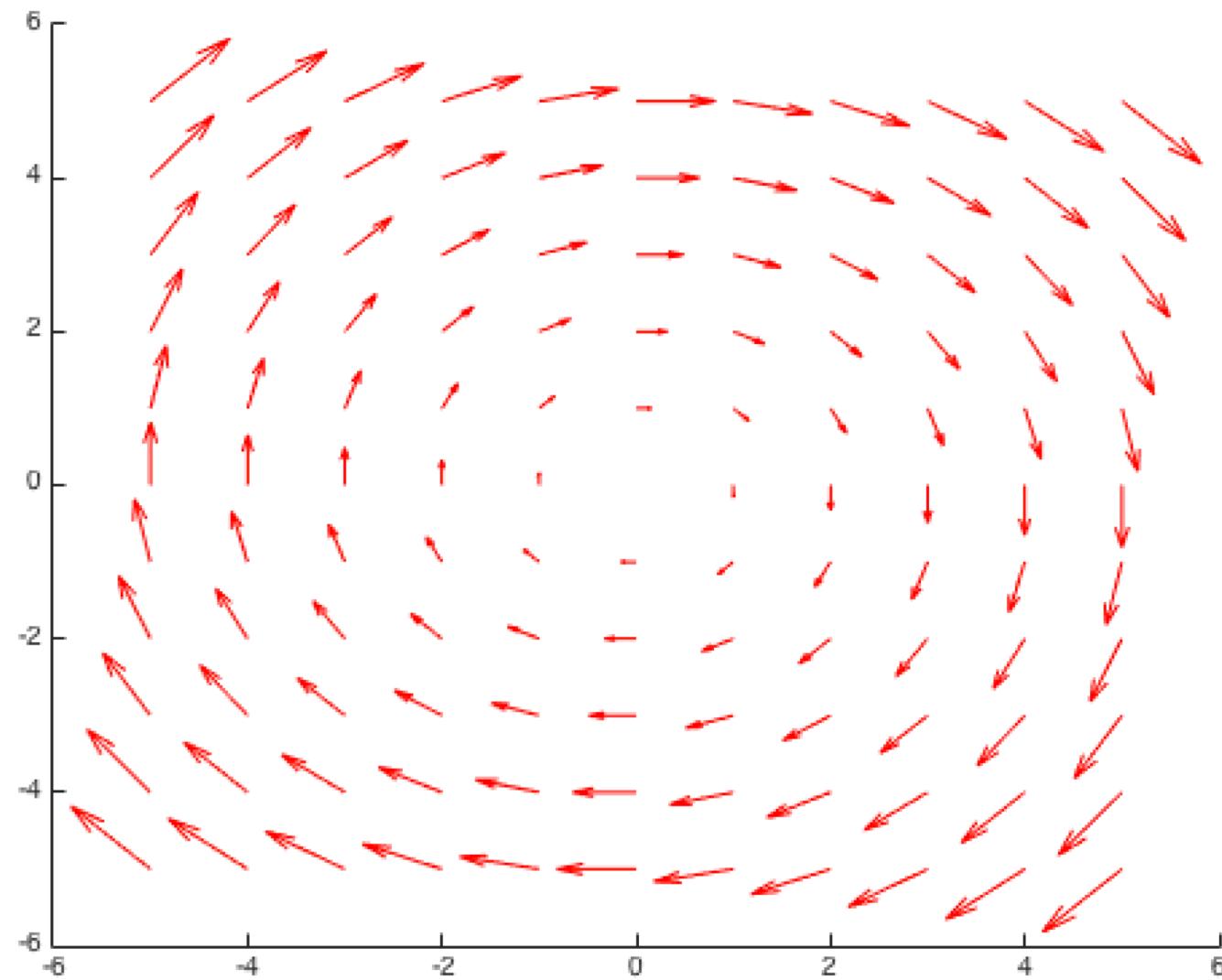
- Curl (a Cross product of  $\nabla$  and  $\vec{F}$ ):

$$\nabla \times \vec{F} = \begin{vmatrix} i & j & k \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial}{\partial y} & \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \\ P(x, y) & Q(x, y) & 0 \end{vmatrix} = k(Q_x - P_y)$$

- Divergence (a Dot product of  $\nabla$  and  $\vec{F}$ ):

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{F} = \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \right) \cdot (P, Q) = P_x + Q_y$$

# A Vector Plot



# Vector Plots

```
clear all; clc; close all;

% Set scale and start/final points of axes
dx = 1.0;
dy = 1.0;
xStart = -5.0;
xFinal = 5.0;
yStart = -5.0;
yFinal = 5.0;

x = xStart : dx : xFinal;
y = yStart : dx : yFinal;

% Create 2-D array (graph)
[X, Y] = meshgrid(x,y);

% Set to the length of axes
xLen = length(x);
yLen = length(y);

% Fill with 0's
z = zeros(xLen,yLen);
P = zeros(xLen,yLen);
Q = zeros(xLen,yLen);
```

```
% Nested for loop to display vectors
for i = 1 : xLen
    xi = xStart + (i-1) * dx;
    for j = 1 : yLen
        yj = yStart + (j-1) * dy;
        display ('xi yj ');
        display ([xi, yj]);
        P(j,i) = yj;
        Q(j,i) = -xi;
    end
end

% White background with phase diagram in red
figure('Color','w');
hold on;
quiver(X, Y, P, Q,'r');
hold off
```

## 2.2 A System of 1<sup>st</sup> Order ODEs

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$$\begin{aligned}x' &= y \\y' &= -x\end{aligned}$$

How to solve?

For now, let's transform the above system into a single ODE

$$x'' = y' = -x$$

Assume

$$x = ke^{\lambda t}$$

$$\lambda = \pm i$$

$$x = c_1 \cos(t)$$

$$x = c_2 \sin(t)$$

How to obtain  $y$ ?

$$x' = y$$

$$y = -c_1 \sin(t)$$

$$y = c_2 \cos(t)$$

## 2.2 A System of 1<sup>st</sup> Order ODEs:

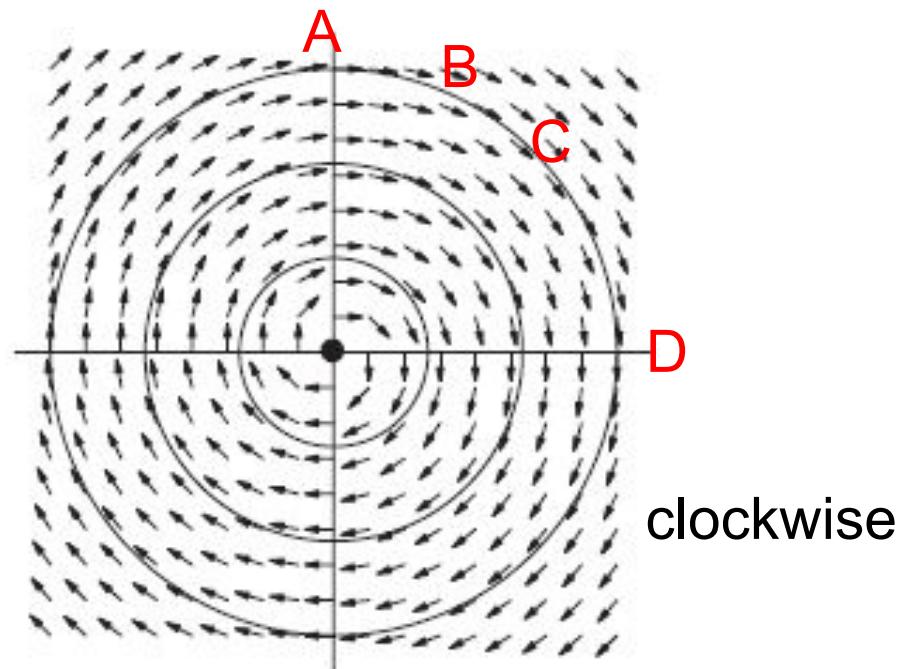
$$\begin{aligned}x' &= y \\y' &= -x\end{aligned}$$

Verify whether the following are the solutions to the above system

$$x = a \sin(t)$$

$$y = a \cos(t)$$

	$t$	$(\sin(t), \cos(t))$
A	0	$(0, 1)$
B	$\pi/6$	$(1/2, \sqrt{3}/2)$
C	$\pi/4$	$(\sqrt{2}/2, \sqrt{2}/2)$
D	$\pi/2$	$(1, 0)$



## 2.2: Alternative Method

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$$\begin{aligned}x' &= y \\y' &= -x\end{aligned}$$

ODEs

How to solve?

Previously, we assume

$$x = ke^{\lambda t}$$

Now, we assume

$$\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} x_0 \\ y_0 \end{pmatrix} e^{\lambda t}$$

$$\begin{aligned}x &= x_0 e^{\lambda t} \\y &= y_0 e^{\lambda t}\end{aligned}$$

Plug into the above Eq.

$$\begin{aligned}\lambda x_0 &= y_0 & (1) \\ \lambda y_0 &= -x_0 & (2)\end{aligned}$$

Algebraic Eq.

$$\lambda \times (1) + (2)$$

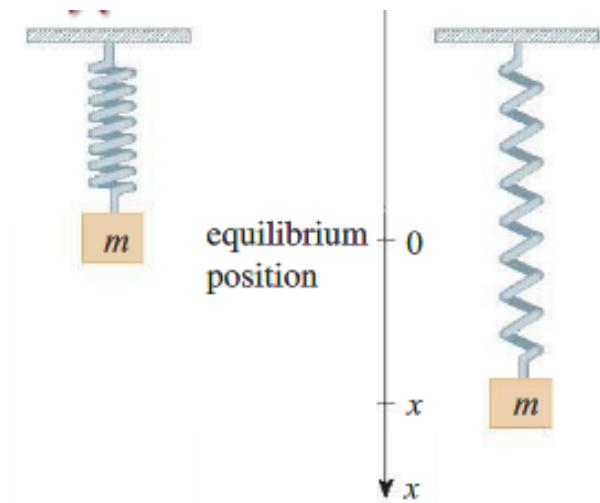
$$\lambda^2 x_0 = -x_0$$

$$\lambda = \pm i$$

# A Model for an Oscillatory Motion

- Hooke's Law: if the spring is stretched (or compressed)  $x$  units from its natural length, then it exerts a forcing that is proportional to  $x$ :
- A **second-order** differential equation

$$m \frac{d^2x}{dt^2} = -kx$$



$$F = ma = m \frac{d^2x}{dt^2}$$

$$\frac{d^2x}{dt^2} = \frac{-k}{m} x = -l^2 x$$

- The second derivative of  $x$  is proportional to  $x$  but has the opposite sign.
- Its solutions are trigonometric functions.

## With a Damping Term

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There are three parameters for this system:  $m$  denotes the **mass** of the oscillator,  $b \geq 0$  is the **damping constant**, and  $k > 0$  is the **spring constant**. Newton's law states that the force acting on the oscillator is equal to mass times acceleration. Therefore the differential equation for the damped harmonic oscillator is

$$mx'' + bx' + kx = 0.$$

If  $b = 0$ , the oscillator is said to be *undamped*; otherwise, we have a *damped* harmonic oscillator. This is an example of a second-order, linear, constant coefficient, homogeneous differential equation. As a system, the harmonic oscillator equation becomes

$$x' = y$$

$$y' = -\frac{k}{m}x - \frac{b}{m}y.$$

# With a Damping Term

---

$$mx'' + bx' + kx = 0$$

$m, b, k > 0$

Divide by m

$$x'' + \frac{b}{m}x' + \frac{k}{m}x = 0$$

Assume

$$x = x_0 e^{\lambda t}$$

Obtain the characteristic equation

$$\lambda^2 + \frac{b}{m}\lambda + \frac{k}{m} = 0$$

$$\lambda = \frac{-\frac{b}{m} \pm \sqrt{\left(\frac{b}{m}\right)^2 - \frac{4k}{m}}}{2}$$

Represent the solution:  $x = x_0 e^{\lambda t} \propto e^{\frac{-b}{m}t}$

$x \downarrow$  as  $t \uparrow$

b is a damping constant!

$b > 0$  Positive damping

$b < 0$  Negative damping

## With an External Force

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More generally, the motion of the mass-spring system can be subjected to an **external force** (such as moving the vertical wall back and forth periodically). Such an external force usually depends only on time, not position, so we have a more general forced harmonic oscillator system,

$$mx'' + bx' + kx = f(t),$$

where  $f(t)$  represents the external force. This is now a **nonautonomous**, second-order, linear equation. ■

$$f'(x_c) \rightarrow \lambda \text{ (eigenvalue)}$$

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$$x' = ax$$

$$x = ke^{\lambda t}$$

$$\lambda = a = f'(x_c)$$

the solution is **stable (unstable)** if  $\lambda < 0$  ( $\lambda > 0$ )

consider a **general case**

linearize  $f(x)$   
wrt a critical pt

$$x' = f(x)$$

$$x' = f(x) = f(x_c) + f'(x_c)(x - x_c) + \dots$$

the critical point is **stable** if  $f'(x_c) < 0$

the critical point is **unstable** if  $f'(x_c) > 0$

$$x - x_c = ke^{\lambda t}$$

$$\lambda = f'(x_c)$$

$\lambda$  : eigenvalue

the critical point is **stable (unstable)** if  $\lambda < 0$  ( $\lambda > 0$ )