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# **MATH 537, Fall 2020**

## **Ordinary Differential Equations**

Lecture #25

**Limit Cycles, Closed Orbits and Poincare-Bendixson  
Theorem in 2D Systems**

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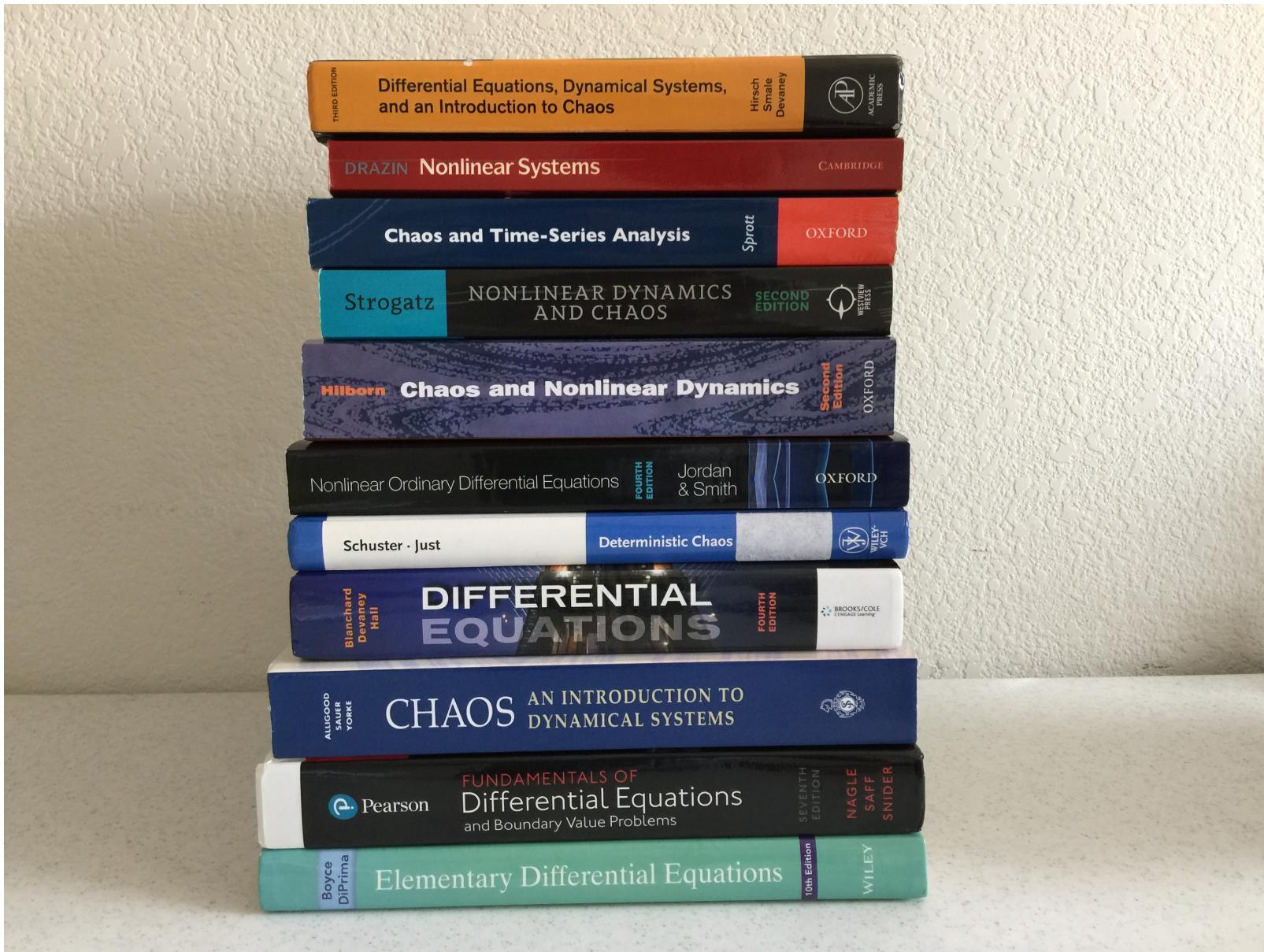
# Outline

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- Introduction
  - Limit cycle
  - A mini review of vector calculus
  - Gradient system ( $\vec{v} = \nabla\phi$ ) for irrotational flow ( $\nabla \times \vec{v} = 0$ )
  - Hamiltonian system for incompressible flow ( $\nabla \cdot \vec{v} = 0$ )
- Energy methods for stability analysis near a critical point
  - The limit cycle of van der Pol Equation
- Methods for ruling out closed orbits
  - I. Existence of a Lyapunov function
  - II. Zero curl ( $\nabla \times \vec{v} = 0$ )
  - III. Positive ( $\nabla \cdot \vec{v} > 0$ ) or negative ( $\nabla \cdot \vec{v} < 0$ ) divergence
- Poincare-Bendixson Theorem
- Summary
  - Eigenvalue analysis for gradient and Hamiltonian Systems
  - Poincare-Bendixson Theorem

# References

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# Poincare-Bendixson Theorem

TBD

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The Poincare–Bendixson Theorem essentially determines all of the possible limiting behaviors of a planar flow (HSD).

Consider a particular trajectory starting in  $R$ . The Poincare-Bendixson Theorem states that there are only two (three) possibilities for that trajectory (Hilborn, p101) ( $R$  is a closed bounded subset of the plane):

1. The trajectory approaches a fixed point of the system as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ .
2. The trajectory approaches a limit cycle as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ .
3. The trajectory is a limit cycle.

Hilborn

- The theorem works only in two dimensions because only in two dimensions does **a closed curve separate the space into a region "inside" the curve and a region "outside."**
- Thus a trajectory starting **inside the limit cycle** can never get out and a trajectory starting outside can never get in.
- from the Poincare-Bendixson Theorem we arrive at an important result: **Chaotic trajectories (in a bounded system) cannot occur in a state space of two dimensions.**
- For systems described by **differential equations**, we need **at least three state-space dimensions** for chaos.

Hilborn

# Terminology

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- Limit cycle: an isolated closed path

Consider  $X' = F(X)$ , here  $X' = (x', y') = \vec{v}$ .

- Gradient system ( $\vec{v} = \nabla\phi$ ) for irrotational flow ( $\nabla \times \vec{v} = 0$ )

$$\phi : \text{velocity potential}; \left( \frac{dx}{dt}, \frac{dy}{dt} \right) = \left( \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} \right)$$

- Hamiltonian system for incompressible flow ( $\nabla \cdot \vec{v} = 0$ )

$$\psi: \text{streamfunction}; \left( \frac{dx}{dt}, \frac{dy}{dt} \right) = \left( \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial y}, -\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} \right)$$

# Limit Cycles

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- An isolated closed path is called a limit cycle: “Isolated” in the sense that there is no other closed path in its immediate neighborhood (Jordan and Smith).

Nagle et al.

## Limit Cycle

**Definition 5.** A nontrivial<sup>†</sup> closed trajectory with at least one other trajectory spiraling into it (as time approaches plus or minus infinity) is called a **limit cycle**.

A new edition

## Limit Cycle

**Definition 5.** A nontrivial<sup>†</sup> closed trajectory that is isolated is called a **limit cycle**.

An old edition

## $\omega$ -limit set and $\alpha$ -limit set

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- A point  $z$  in  $R^n$  is in the  **$\omega$ -limit set**  $\omega(v_0)$  of the solution curve  $F(t, v_0)$  if there is a sequence of points increasingly far out along the orbit (that is,  $t \rightarrow \infty$ ) which converges to  $z$ .
- Specifically,  $z$  is in  $\omega(v_0)$  if there exists an unbounded **increasing** sequence  $\{t_n\}$  of real numbers with  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} F(t_n, v_0) = z$ .
- A point  $z$  in  $R^n$  is in the  **$\alpha$ -limit set**  $\alpha(v_0)$  if there exists an unbounded **decreasing** sequence  $\{t_n\}$  of real numbers ( $t_n \rightarrow \infty$ ) with  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} F(t_n, v_0) = z$ .

Alligood et al.

# $\omega$ -Limit Cycle: Definition

- If  $\gamma$  is an  $\omega$ -limit cycle, there exists  $X \notin \gamma$  such that

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} d(\phi_t(X), \gamma) = 0.$$

- Geometrically this means that some solution  $(\phi_t(X))$  spirals toward  $\gamma$  as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ .

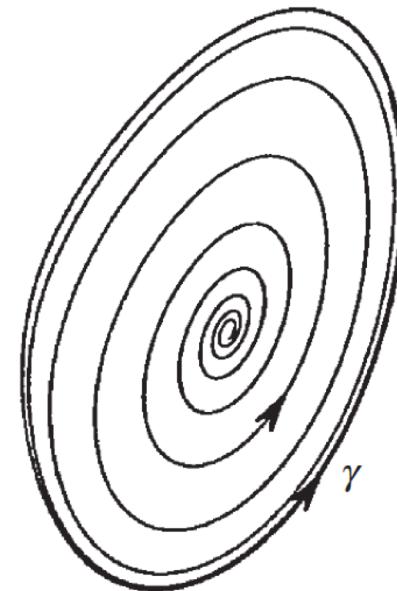


Figure 10.10 A solution spiraling toward a limit cycle.

HSD

## Limit Sets: Ex 1

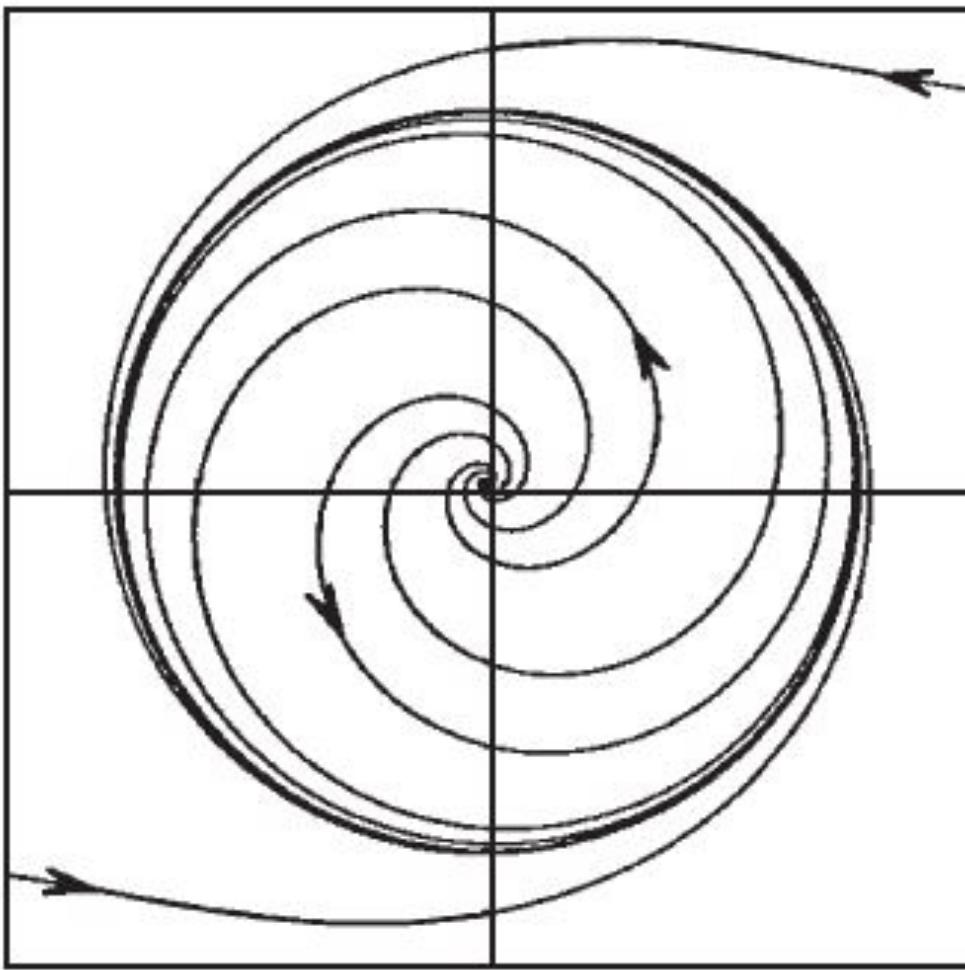


Figure 10.1 The phase plane  
for  $r' = (r - r^3)$ ,  $\theta' = 1$ .

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = ax - y - x(x^2 + y^2),$$

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = x + ay - y(x^2 + y^2),$$

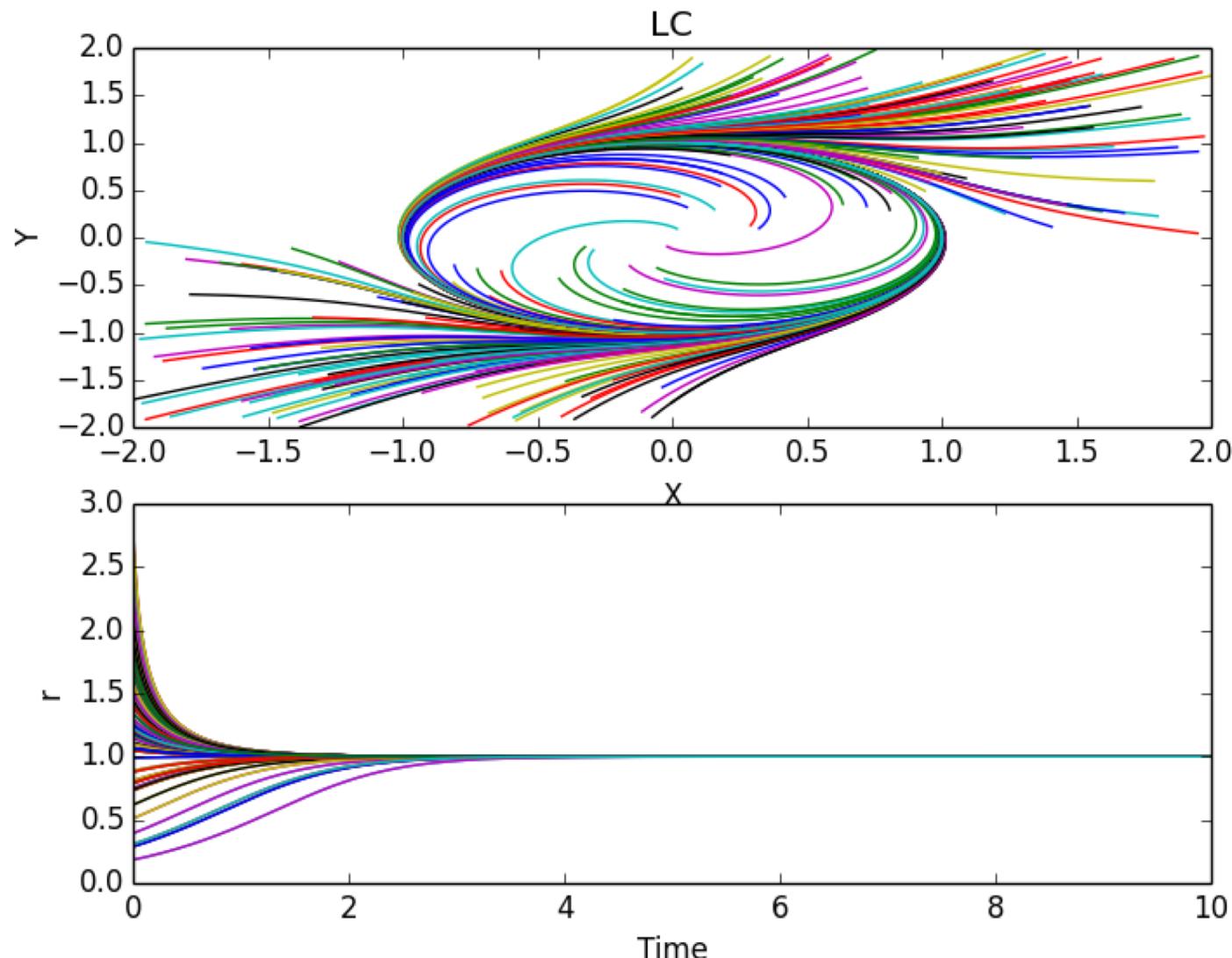
where  $a = 1.0$  and  $t \in [0, 10]$ .

$r' < 0$  when  $r > 1$

$r' > 0$  when  $r < 1$

# Limit Cycle: Ex 1 (cont.)

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# HW (Math537)

2: [35 points]  $dx/dt = -(ax + x^3)$  for  $x \geq 0$  and  $x(t=0) = x_o$ . [Hint: set  $r = x^2$ , solve for  $r$  and discuss the results when  $a < 0$ ,  $a = 0$  or  $0 < a$ . ]

$$dx / dt = x - x^3 \text{ when } a=-1$$

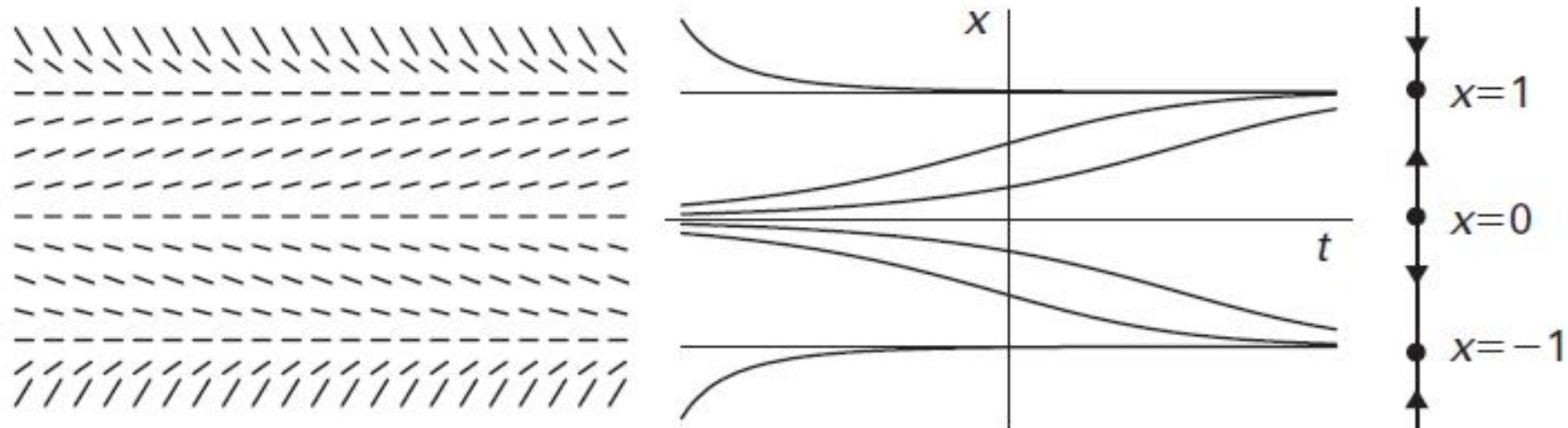


Figure 1.5 The slope field, solution graphs, and phase line for  $x' = x - x^3$ .

# Limit Sets: An Alternative “Ex1”

**Exercise 4-32** Consider the system

$$\dot{x} = y + x(1 - x^2 - y^2) \quad \dot{y} = -x + y(1 - x^2 - y^2) \quad (4-72)$$

Using the polar coordinates

$$\begin{aligned} r^2 &= x^2 + y^2 & \theta &= \arctan \frac{y}{x} \\ r\dot{r} &= x\dot{x} + y\dot{y} & r^2\dot{\theta} &= x\dot{y} - y\dot{x} \end{aligned}$$

reduce the system to

$$\dot{r} = r(1 - r^2) \quad \dot{\theta} = -1$$

and verify that the general solution is given by

$$r = \frac{1}{(1 + ce^{-2t})^{1/2}} \quad \theta = -(t - t_0)$$

With  $t_0 = 0$ , we have

$$x = \frac{\cos t}{(1 + ce^{-2t})^{1/2}} \quad y = -\frac{\sin t}{(1 + ce^{-2t})^{1/2}}$$

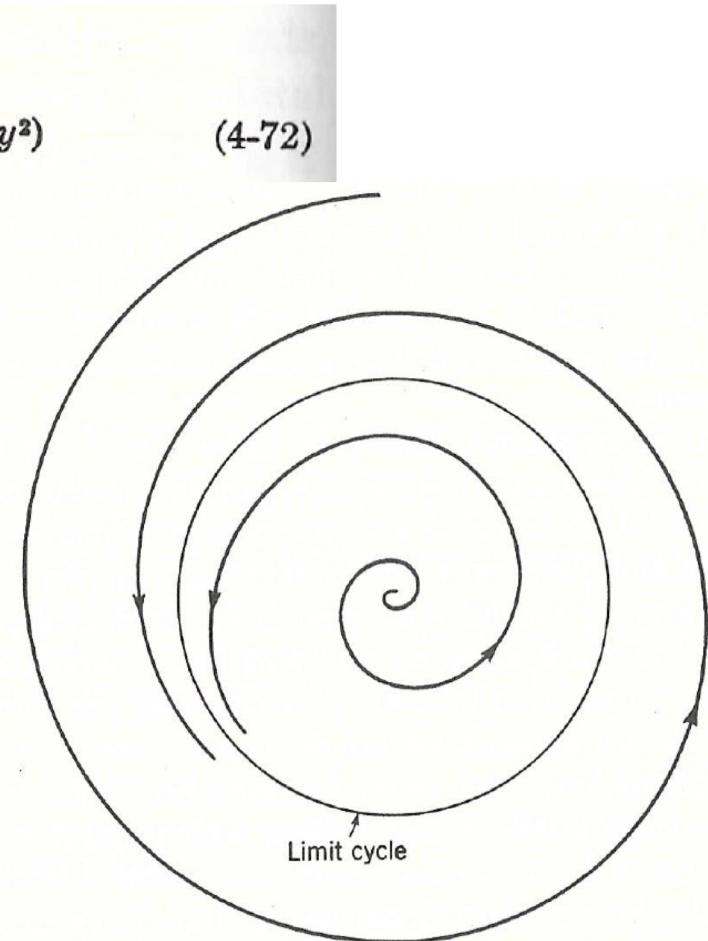


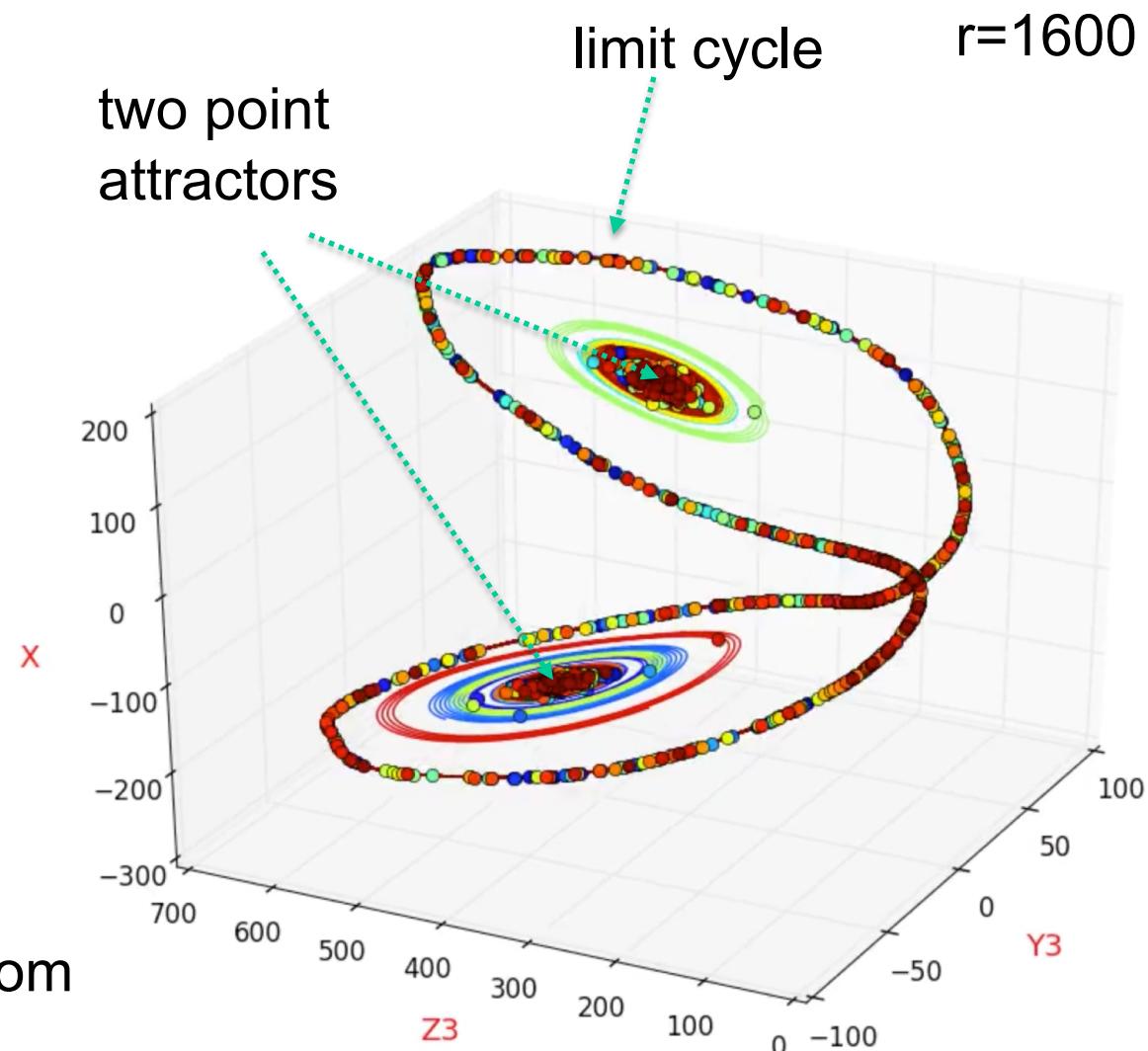
Fig. 4-5

Boyce and DiPrima

# The Second Kind of Attractor Coexistence

- For the 2<sup>nd</sup> kind of attractor coexistence, a limit cycle (LC) that is **an isolated closed orbit** coexists with point attractors.

- Time evolution of **2,048 orbits** in the X-Y<sub>3</sub>-Z<sub>3</sub> space using the 9DLM.
- The total simulation time is  $\tau = 3.5$ .
- Transient orbits are only kept for the last 0.25 time units, i.e. for the time interval of  $[\max(0, T-0.25), T]$  at a given time T.
- The animation is available from <https://goo.gl/sMhoUb>.



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# A Brief Review on Calc III

# Learning Outcomes



Formulas for Grad, Div, Curl, and the Laplacian

	<b>Cartesian (<math>x, y, z</math>)</b> $\mathbf{i}, \mathbf{j}$ , and $\mathbf{k}$ are unit vectors in the directions of increasing $x, y$ , and $z$ . $\mathbf{P}, \mathbf{Q}$ , and $\mathbf{R}$ are the scalar components of $\mathbf{F}(x, y, z)$ in these directions.
<b>Gradient</b>	$\nabla f = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \mathbf{i} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \mathbf{j} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \mathbf{k}$
<b>Divergence</b>	$\nabla \cdot \vec{F} = \frac{\partial P}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial Q}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial R}{\partial z}$
<b>Curl</b>	$\nabla \times \mathbf{F} = \begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{i} & \mathbf{j} & \mathbf{k} \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial}{\partial y} & \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \\ \mathbf{P} & \mathbf{Q} & \mathbf{R} \end{vmatrix}$
<b>Laplacian</b>	$\nabla^2 f = \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial z^2}$

## The Fundamental Theorem of Line Integrals

- Let  $\vec{F} = P\vec{i} + Q\vec{j} + R\vec{k}$  be a vector field whose components are continuous throughout an open connected region  $D$  in space. Then there exists a differentiable function  $f$  such that

$$\mathbf{F} = \nabla f = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \mathbf{i} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \mathbf{j} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \mathbf{k}$$

if and only if for all points  $A$  and  $B$  in  $D$  the value of  $\int_A^B \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{r}$  is independent of the path joining  $A$  to  $B$  in  $D$ .

- If the integral is independent of the path from  $A$  to  $B$ , its value is

$$\int_A^B \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{r} = f(B) - f(A).$$

## Green's Theorem (Tangential Form)

$$\iint_R \nabla \times \vec{F} \cdot \vec{k} dx dy = \oint \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r}$$

## Stokes' Theorem

$$\iint_S \text{curl } \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{S} = \int_C \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{r}$$

## Green's Theorem (Normal Form)

$$\iint_R \nabla \cdot \vec{F} dx dy = \oint \vec{F} \cdot \vec{n} ds$$

## Divergence Theorem

$$\iiint_E \text{div } \mathbf{F} dV = \iint \vec{F} \cdot \vec{n} dS$$

# Curl and Divergence

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- $\nabla = \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \right)$ , a “meta” vector:  $F = (P, Q, R)$
- Gradient:  $\nabla f = \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \right) = (f_x, f_y, f_z)$

- **Curl** (“a Cross product of  $\nabla$  and  $F$ ”):

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

- **Divergence** (“a Dot product of  $\nabla$  and  $F$ ”):

$$\nabla \bullet F = (P_x + Q_y + R_z)$$

# Curl and Divergence (2D)

- $\nabla = \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \right)$ , a “meta” vector:  $F = (P, Q)$
- Gradient:  $\nabla f = (f_x, f_y)$

- **Curl** (“a Cross product of  $\nabla$  and  $F$ ”):

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

$$\nabla \times \vec{F} \cdot \vec{k} = \left( \frac{\partial Q}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial P}{\partial y} \right)$$

- **Divergence** (“a Dot product of  $\nabla$  and  $F$ ”):

$$\nabla \cdot F = P_x + Q_y$$

# Vector Calculus Identities (2D)

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- $\text{curl}(\text{gradient } f) = 0$

$$f = \phi$$

$$\nabla \times (\nabla \phi) = 0$$

$$\vec{v} = \nabla \phi$$

$$(u, v) = \left( \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} \right)$$

$\phi$ : velocity potential

$$\nabla \times \vec{v} = 0$$

irrotational flow

- $\text{div}(\text{curl } F) = 0$

$$F = (P, Q, R)$$
$$\nabla \times F = (R_y - Q_z, P_z - R_x, Q_x - P_y)$$

$$F = (0, 0, \psi); \quad \nabla \times F = (\psi_y, -\psi_x, 0)$$

$$\vec{v} = \nabla \times F$$

$$(u, v) = \left( \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial y}, -\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} \right)$$

$\psi$ : streamfunction

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{v} = 0$$

incompressible flow

# Path Independence

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$$\nabla \times \vec{v} = 0$$

*irrotational flow*

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{v} = 0$$

*incompressible flow*

Green's Theorem (Tangential Form)

$$\oint \vec{V} \cdot d\vec{r} = \iint \nabla \times \vec{V} \cdot \vec{k} dx dy$$

$$\oint \vec{V} \cdot d\vec{r} = 0$$

$$\oint P dx + Q dy = 0$$

Green's Theorem (Normal Form)

$$\oint \vec{V} \cdot \vec{n} ds = \iint \nabla \cdot \vec{V} dx dy$$

$$\oint \vec{V} \cdot \vec{n} ds = 0$$

$$\oint P dy - Q dx = 0$$

# Review: Path Independence

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$$\vec{F} = (P, Q) \quad \vec{T} \text{ tangent vector}$$

$$\int_C \vec{F} \cdot \vec{T} ds = \int_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r} \quad (\text{circulation})$$

$$= \int_a^b \left( P \frac{dx}{dt} + Q \frac{dy}{dt} \right) dt$$

$$\textcolor{red}{?} \quad \int_a^b \nabla f \cdot d\vec{r} = \int_a^b \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} dx + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} dy$$

$$\underline{\nabla \times \vec{F} = 0} \quad \text{irrotational (e.g., A2)}$$

$$\nabla \times \vec{F} \cdot \vec{k} = 0 = \left( \frac{\partial Q}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial P}{\partial y} \right)$$

$$= \int_a^b df = f(b) - f(a) \quad \text{potential function}$$

$$\vec{n} \text{ normal vector}$$

$$\int \vec{F} \cdot \vec{n} ds = \int P dy - Q dx \quad (\text{flux})$$

$$= \int_a^b \left( P \frac{dy}{dt} - Q \frac{dx}{dt} \right) dt$$

$$\textcolor{red}{?} \quad \int_a^b \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} dx + \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial y} dy$$

$$\underline{\nabla \cdot \vec{F} = 0} \quad \text{incompressible (e.g., A1)}$$

$$\vec{F} = (P, Q) = \left( \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial y}, \frac{-\partial \psi}{\partial x} \right)$$

$$= \int_a^b d\psi = \psi(b) - \psi(a) \quad \text{stream function}$$

# Review: Complex Potential

$$\Phi = \phi + i\psi$$

$$\frac{d\Phi}{dz} = \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} + i \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} = \phi_x - i\phi_y$$

$$\frac{d\Phi}{dz} dz = (\phi_x - i\phi_y)(dx + idy)$$

$$= (\phi_x dx + \phi_y dy) + i(\phi_x dy - \phi_y dx)$$

$$= (Pdx + Qdy) + i(Pdy - Qdx)$$

$$= \vec{F} \cdot \vec{T} + i\vec{F} \cdot \vec{n}$$

Circulation + i Flux

Cauchy Riemann Equations

$$\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial y} \quad \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} = -\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x}$$

$$\vec{F} = (P, Q) = (\phi_x, \phi_y)$$

$$\phi = \ln \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$$

(A4)

$$\psi = \tan^{-1} \left( \frac{y}{x} \right)$$

(A3)

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# Energy Methods for Stability Analysis

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$$\frac{d^2x}{dt^2} + h\left(x, \frac{dx}{dt}\right) + g(x) = 0 \quad (\text{nonlinear})$$

multiply both sides by  $\frac{dx}{dt}$

$$x' \frac{d^2x}{dt^2} + x'h + x'g(x) = 0$$

$$\boxed{\frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} (x')^2} + x'h + \boxed{\frac{d}{dt} \int g(x) dx} = 0$$

$d(KE)/dt$        $d(PE)/dt$

$$\frac{d}{dt} (KE + PE) = -x'h$$

Nagle et al.

# Energy Methods for Stability Analysis

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$$\frac{d^2x}{dt^2} + h\left(x, \frac{dx}{dt}\right) + g(x) = 0 \quad (\text{nonlinear}) \qquad F = -\nabla G$$

$G(x) = \int g(x) dx$ , potential energy

$$E(x, v) = \frac{1}{2}v^2 + G(x), \text{total energy} \qquad v = \frac{dx}{dt}$$

$$\frac{dE}{dt} = -\frac{dx}{dt}h = -vh;$$

- $\frac{dE}{dt} = 0$  when  $h = 0$ ; *conservative*
- $\frac{dE}{dt} > 0$  when  $vh < 0$
- $\frac{dE}{dt} < 0$  when  $vh > 0$

Nagle et al.



# Energy Methods for Stability Analysis

Consider  $h = a(x) \frac{dx}{dt}$        $\frac{d^2x}{dt^2} + a(x) \frac{dx}{dt} + g(x) = 0$

$G(x) = \int g(x) dx$ , potential energy

$E(x, v) = \frac{1}{2}v^2 + G(x)$ , total energy

$$\frac{dE}{dt} = -\frac{dx}{dt} h = -a \left( \frac{dx}{dt} \right)^2 = -av^2; \quad v = \frac{dx}{dt}$$

- $\frac{dE}{dt} = 0$  when  $a = 0$ ;      e.g., conservative when  $a \equiv 0$
- $\frac{dE}{dt} < 0$  when  $a > 0$ ;      positive damping
- $\frac{dE}{dt} > 0$  when  $a < 0$ ;      negative damping

Nagle et al.

## The Limit Cycle of van dan Pol Equation: Ex 2

3: [30 points] Consider the following differential equation:

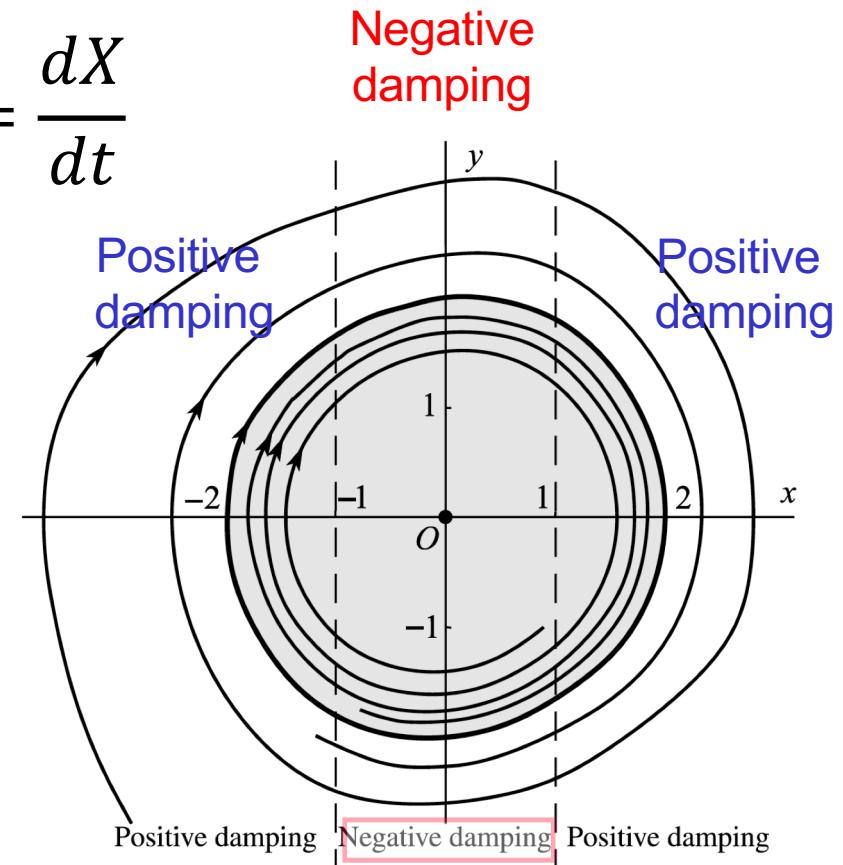
$$\frac{d^2X}{dt^2} + b(X^2 - 1)\frac{dX}{dt} + X = 0.$$

$$\frac{dE}{dt} = -hX' = -b(X^2 - 1)v^2; \quad v = \frac{dX}{dt}$$

Assume  $b$  ( $b = 0.1$ ) is positive.

- $\frac{dE}{dt} = 0$  when  $x = 1$ ;
- $\frac{dE}{dt} < 0$  when  $|X| > 1$ ; “sink”
- $\frac{dE}{dt} > 0$  when  $|X| < 1$ ; “source”

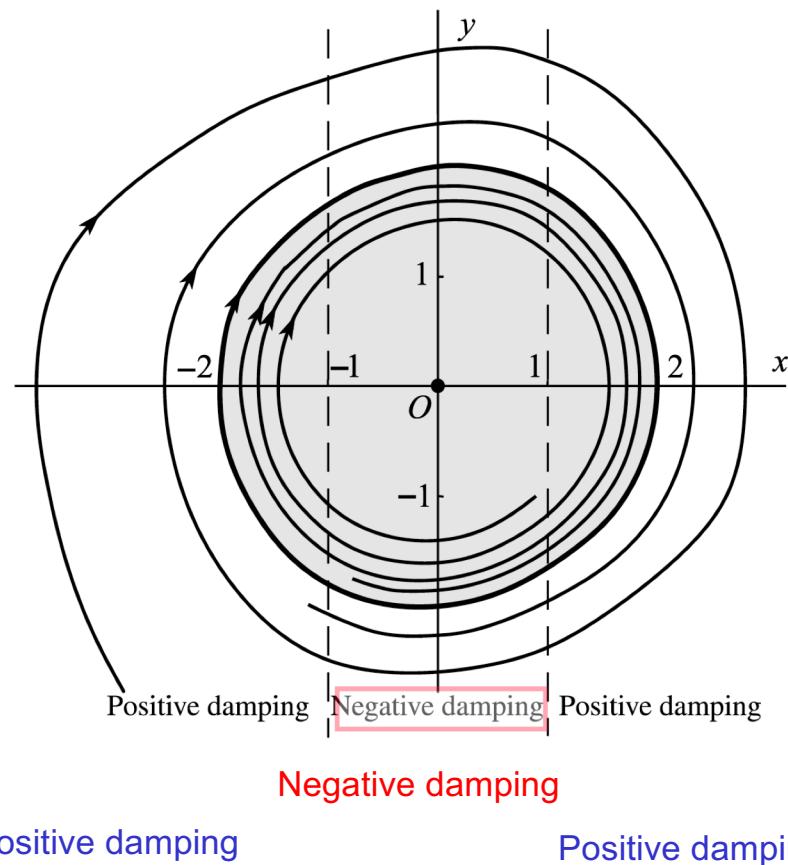
Jordan and Smith (p126)



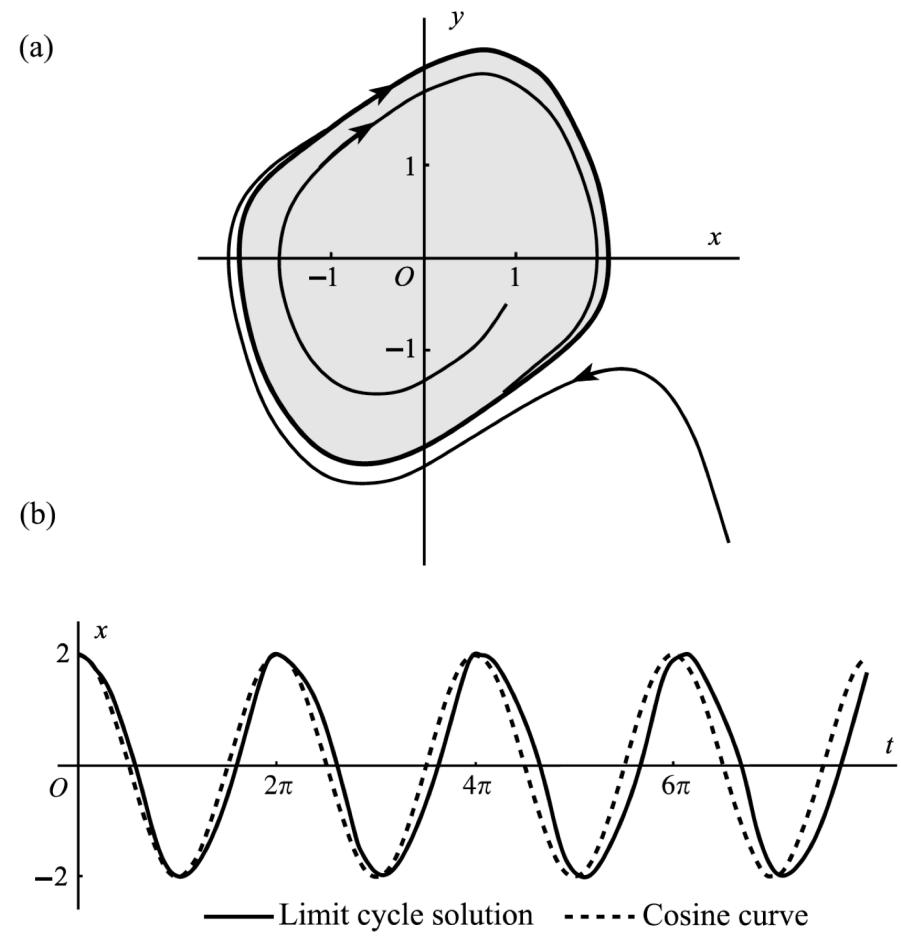
# The Limit Cycle of van dan Pol Equation (cont.)



$$b = 0.1$$



$$b = 0.5$$



Jordan and Smith

(Spectral Analysis?)

# An Estimate of the Amplitude for a LC

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When  $b$  is small,  $b = \epsilon$ , we have  $x'' + \epsilon(x^2 - 1)x' + x = 0$

By ignoring the dissipative term, we have

$$x(t) \approx a \cos t, \quad y(t) \approx -a \sin t \quad y = \frac{dx}{dt}, T \approx 2\pi$$

$$h = \epsilon(x^2 - 1)x'; \quad \frac{dE}{dt} = -hx' = -\epsilon(x^2 - 1)(x')^2;$$

$$\int_0^{2\pi} \frac{dE}{dt} dt = E(2\pi) - E(0) = 0 \Rightarrow \int_0^{2\pi} (x^2 - 1)(x')^2 dt = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \int_0^{2\pi} (a^2 \cos^2(t) - 1)a^2 \sin^2(t) dt = 0$$

$$\int_0^{2\pi} \left(a^2 \frac{1 + \cos(2t)}{2} - 1\right) \frac{1 - \cos(2t)}{2} dt = 0$$

$$\int_0^{2\pi} \left(a^2 \frac{1 - \cos^2(2t)}{4} - \frac{1}{2}\right) dt = 0$$

$$\cos^2(t) = \frac{1 + \cos(2t)}{2}$$

$$\sin^2(t) = \frac{1 - \cos(2t)}{2}$$

# An Estimate of the Amplitude for a LC

---

When  $b$  is small,  $b = \epsilon$ , we have  $x'' + \epsilon(x^2 - 1)x' + x = 0$

By ignoring the dissipative term, we have

$$x(t) \approx a \cos t, \quad y(t) \approx -a \sin t \quad y = \frac{dx}{dt}, T \approx 2\pi$$

$$h = \epsilon(x^2 - 1)x'; \quad \frac{dE}{dt} = -hx' = -\epsilon(x^2 - 1)(x')^2;$$

$$\int_0^{2\pi} \frac{dE}{dt} dt = E(2\pi) - E(0) = 0 \Rightarrow \int_0^{2\pi} (\cancel{x^2 - 1})(x')^2 dt = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \int_0^{2\pi} (\cancel{a^2 \cos^2(t) - 1}) a^2 \sin^2(t) dt = 0 \quad \int_0^{2\pi} \left( a^2 \frac{1 - \cos^2(2t)}{4} - \frac{1}{2} \right) dt = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \int_0^{2\pi} \left( a^2 \frac{2 - (1 + \cos(4t))}{8} - \frac{1}{2} \right) dt = 0$$

$$\boxed{\frac{1}{4}a^2 - 1 = 0}$$

# A Perturbative Analysis of the Solution

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Consider the following Van der Pol equation

$$\frac{d^2X}{dt^2} + b(X^2 - 1)\frac{dX}{dt} + X = 0, \quad (1)$$

which can be written as follows:

$$\frac{d^2X}{dt^2} + X = \epsilon\frac{dX}{dt} - \epsilon X^2 \frac{dX}{dt}, \quad (2)$$

where  $\epsilon$  is introduced to replace  $b$  in order to perform a perturbative analysis.

We seek a first-order expansion for the solution in the form

$$X = X_o + \epsilon X_1 + \dots \quad (3)$$

Plugging the above into Eq. (2), we have

$$(X_o'' + \epsilon X_1'') + (X_o + \epsilon X_1) = \epsilon \left( \frac{dX_o}{dt} + \epsilon \frac{dX_1}{dt} \right) - \epsilon (X_o + \epsilon X_1)^2 \left( \frac{dX_o}{dt} + \epsilon \frac{dX_1}{dt} \right). \quad (4)$$

# A Perturbative Analysis of the Solution

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$$\left( X_o'' + \epsilon X_1'' \right) + \left( X_o + \epsilon X_1 \right) = \epsilon \left( \frac{dX_o}{dt} + \epsilon \frac{dX_1}{dt} \right) - \epsilon (X_o + \epsilon X_1)^2 \left( \frac{dX_o}{dt} + \epsilon \frac{dX_1}{dt} \right). \quad (4)$$

Considering terms with  $\epsilon^0$ , we have

$$X_o'' + X_o = 0. \quad (5)$$

# A Perturbative Analysis of the Solution

---

$$(X_o'' + \epsilon X_1'') + (X_o + \epsilon X_1) = \epsilon \left( \frac{dX_o}{dt} + \epsilon \frac{dX_1}{dt} \right) - \epsilon (X_o + \epsilon X_1)^2 \left( \frac{dX_o}{dt} + \epsilon \frac{dX_1}{dt} \right). \quad (4)$$

Considering terms with  $\epsilon^0$ , we have

$$X_o'' + X_o = 0. \quad (5)$$

Considering terms with  $\epsilon^1$ , we have

$$X_1'' + X_1 = X_o' - X_o^2 X_o'. \quad (6)$$

From Eq. (5), we have the solution of  $X_o$  as follows:

$$X_o = a \cos(t + \beta), \quad (7)$$

# A Perturbative Analysis of the Solution

---

$$X_1'' + X_1 = \left( -a + \frac{1}{4} a^3 \right) \sin(t + \beta) + \frac{1}{4} a^3 \sin(3(t + \beta)). \quad (12)$$

Consider  $X_1 = u + v$ , which satisfy the following:

$$u'' + u = \left( -a + \frac{1}{4} a^3 \right) \sin(t + \beta), \quad (13)$$

$$v'' + v = \frac{a^3}{4} \sin(3(t + \beta)). \quad (14)$$

A particular solution of Eq. (13) is:

$$u_p = \frac{at}{2} \left( 1 - \frac{1}{4} a^2 \right) \cos(t + \beta), \quad (15)$$

A particular solution of Eq. (14) is:

$$v_p = \frac{1}{32} a^3 \sin(3(t + \beta)). \quad (16)$$

A red circle indicates a nonlinear term.

---

# A Perturbative Analysis of the Solution

---

From Eqs. (3), (7), (15-16), we have

$$X = a \cos(t + \beta) + \epsilon \left[ \frac{at}{2} \left( 1 - \frac{1}{4} a^2 \right) \cos(t + \beta) + \frac{1}{32} a^3 \sin(3(t + \beta)) \right] + \dots \quad (17)$$

As a result of the presence of the mixed-secular term, the above expansion is non-uniform for  $t \geq O(\epsilon^{-1})$  because the correction term is the order or larger than the first term. The mixed-secular term in Eq. (17) disappears if

$$a \left( 1 - \frac{1}{4} a^2 \right) = 0, \quad \boxed{\frac{1}{4} a^2 - 1 = 0} \quad (18)$$

leading to  $a = 0$ ,  $a = \pm 2$ , the latter of which provides an estimate on the amplitude ( $a$ ). Therefore, the solution becomes

$$X = 2 \cos(t + \beta) + \frac{1}{4} \epsilon \sin(3(t + \beta)) + \dots \quad (19)$$

# The Limit Cycle of van der Pol Equation: A Proof

---

We conclude this section with a statement of a theorem on **Lienard equations** due to N. Levinson and O. K. Smith,<sup>†</sup> which can be used to show that van der Pol's equation has a unique nonconstant periodic solution (see Problem 24).

## Levinson and Smith's Theorem

**Theorem 8.** Let  $f(x)$  and  $g(x)$  be continuous functions and let

$$F(x) := \int_0^x f(s) ds , \quad G(x) := \int_0^x g(s) ds .$$

The Lienard equation

$$\frac{d^2x}{dt^2} + f(x) \frac{dx}{dt} + g(x) = 0$$

has a unique **nonconstant periodic solution** whenever all of the following conditions hold:

- (a)  $f(x)$  is even.
- (b)  $F(x) < 0$ , for  $0 < x < a$ ;  
 $F(x) > 0$ , for  $x > a$ , for some  $a$ .
- (c)  $F(x) \rightarrow +\infty$  as  $x \rightarrow +\infty$ , monotonically for  $x > a$ .
- (d)  $g(x)$  is an odd function with  $g(x) > 0$  for  $x > 0$ .
- (e)  $G(x) \rightarrow +\infty$  as  $x \rightarrow +\infty$ .

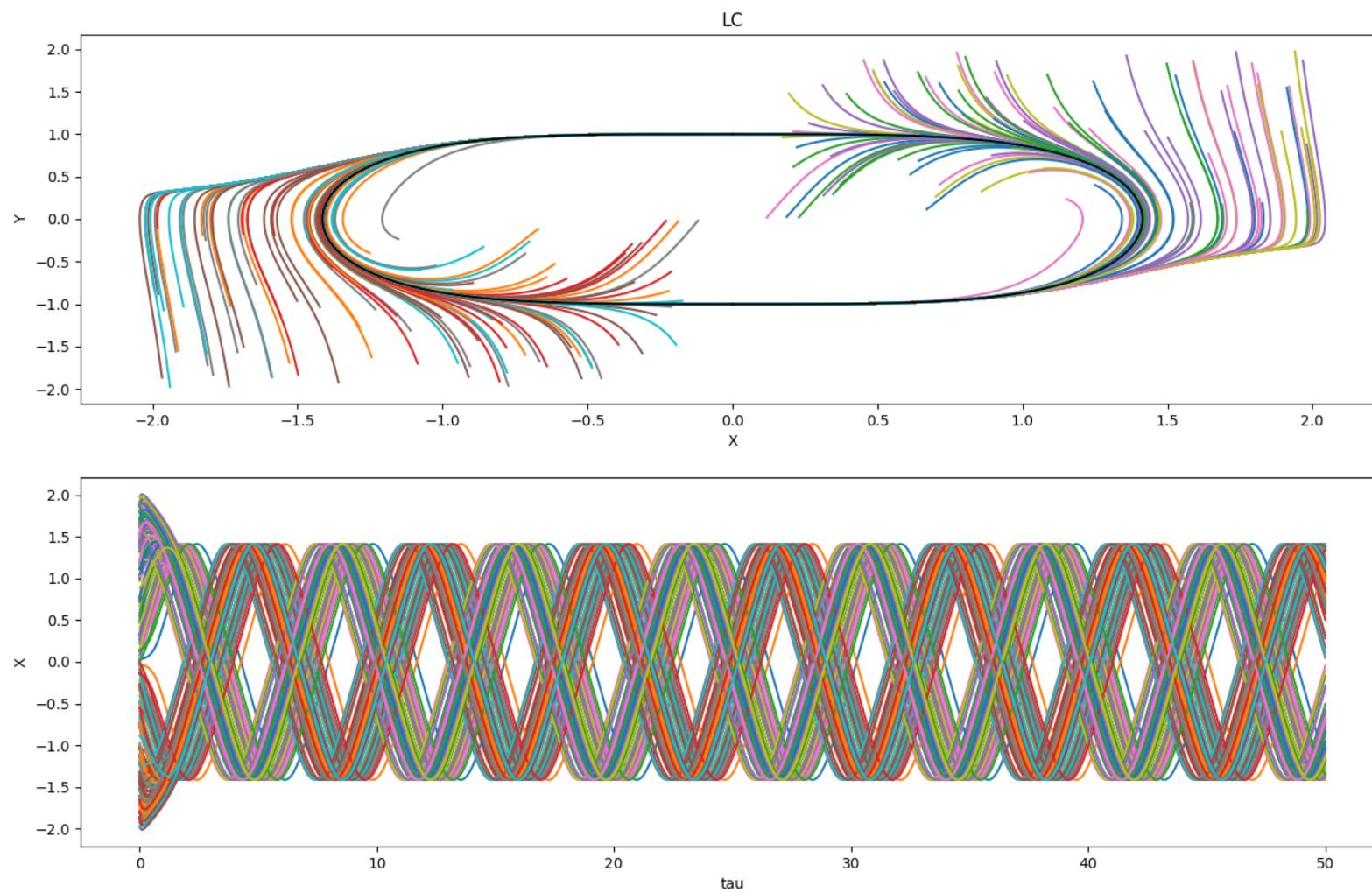
Nagle et al.

# Limit Cycle: Ex 5

Shen

$$\ddot{X} + [X^4 + 4\dot{X}^2 - 4] \dot{X} + \frac{X^3}{2} = 0$$

$$\dot{X} = Y$$



# Outline

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- Introduction
  - Limit cycle
  - A mini review of vector calculus
  - Gradient system ( $\vec{v} = \nabla\phi$ ) for irrotational flow ( $\nabla \times \vec{v} = 0$ )
  - Hamiltonian system for incompressible flow ( $\nabla \cdot \vec{v} = 0$ )
- Energy methods for stability analysis near a critical point
  - The limit cycle of van der Pol Equation
- Methods for ruling out closed orbits
  - I. Existence of a Lyapunov function
  - II. Zero curl ( $\nabla \times \vec{v} = 0$ )
  - III. Positive ( $\nabla \cdot \vec{v} > 0$ ) or negative ( $\nabla \cdot \vec{v} < 0$ ) divergence
- Poincare-Bendixson Theorem
- Summary
  - Eigenvalue analysis for gradient and Hamiltonian Systems
  - Poincare-Bendixson Theorem

# Methods for Ruling Out Closed Orbits

---



- I. Existence of a Lyapunov function
- II. Zero curl ( $\nabla \times \vec{v} = 0$ )
- III. Positive ( $\nabla \cdot \vec{v} > 0$ ) or negative ( $\nabla \cdot \vec{v} < 0$ ) divergence

Strogatz

# Lyapunov Functions

- The Lyapunov function is constructed as **an energy-like function** in order to analyze local stability near a critical point.
- Let  $E(\vec{X})$  and  $\vec{X}_c$  be a Lyapunov function and a critical point.
- **The Lyapunov function  $E: R^n \rightarrow R$**  for  $\vec{X}_c$  in some neighborhood D of  $\vec{X}_c$  has the following properties:
  - (1)  $E(\vec{X}_c) = 0$  and  $E(\vec{X}) > 0$  for all  $X \neq X_c$  in D, and
  - (2)  $\dot{E}(\vec{X}) \leq 0$  for all  $X$  in D,

here,  $\dot{E}(\vec{X})$  represents the rate of change of E along a solution trajectory. Therefore, the above properties suggest that the Lyapunov function is positive and decreases along the trajectory. Mathematically,  $\dot{E}(\vec{X})$  can be written as follows:

$$\dot{E}(\vec{X}) = \frac{\partial E}{\partial X} \frac{dX}{dt} + \frac{\partial E}{\partial Y} \frac{dY}{dt} + \frac{\partial E}{\partial Z} \frac{dZ}{dt} + \dots \quad \text{when } \vec{X} = (X, Y, Z, \dots), \text{ or} \quad (E1)$$

$$\frac{dE}{dt} = \nabla E \cdot \left( \frac{dX}{dt}, \frac{dY}{dt}, \frac{dZ}{dt} \right) < 0$$

An obtuse angle between  $\nabla E$  and the direction of a flow.

# No Closed Orbits When a Lyapunov Function Exist

## Liapunov Functions

Even for systems that have nothing to do with mechanics, it is occasionally possible to construct an energy-like function that decreases along trajectories. Such a function is called a Liapunov function. If a Liapunov function exists, then closed orbits are forbidden, by the same reasoning as in Example 7.2.2.

To be more precise, consider a system  $\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x})$  with a fixed point at  $\mathbf{x}^*$ . Suppose that we can find a **Liapunov function**, i.e., a continuously differentiable, real-valued function  $V(\mathbf{x})$  with the following properties:

1.  $V(\mathbf{x}) > 0$  for all  $\mathbf{x} \neq \mathbf{x}^*$ , and  $V(\mathbf{x}^*) = 0$ . (We say that  $V$  is *positive definite*.)
2.  $\dot{V} < 0$  for all  $\mathbf{x} \neq \mathbf{x}^*$ . (All trajectories flow “downhill” toward  $\mathbf{x}^*$ .)

Then  $\mathbf{x}^*$  is globally asymptotically stable: for all initial conditions,  $\mathbf{x}(t) \rightarrow \mathbf{x}^*$  as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ . In particular the system has **no closed orbits**. (For a proof, see Jordan and Smith 1987.)

The intuition is that all trajectories move monotonically down the graph of  $V(\mathbf{x})$  toward  $\mathbf{x}^*$  (Figure 7.2.1).

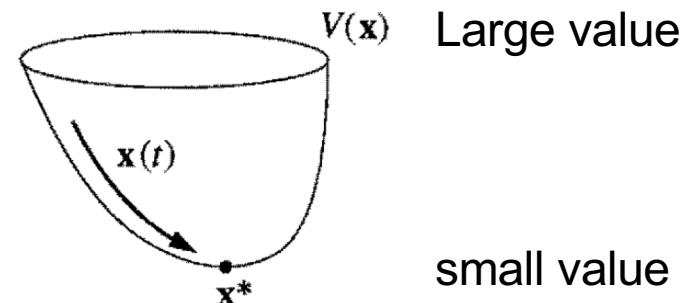


Figure 7.2.1

- $\nabla V$  points in the direction of greatest increase of a function
- $\frac{dV}{dt} = \nabla V \cdot \left( \frac{dx}{dt}, \frac{dy}{dt} \right)$
- $\frac{dV}{dt} < 0$ , the trajectory moves in the decrease of the function

Strogatz

# Strict Lyapunov Functions

---

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**Corollary 6.** *If  $L$  is a strict Liapunov function for a planar system, then there are no limit cycles.*



- Liapunov functions not only detect stable equilibria; they can also be used to estimate the size of the basin of attraction of an asymptotically stable equilibrium, as the preceding example shows. (HSD, p199).

HSD

# Review: Green's Theorem

Formulas for Grad, Div, Curl, and the Laplacian

	<b>Cartesian</b> $(x, y, z)$ $\mathbf{i}, \mathbf{j}$ , and $\mathbf{k}$ are unit vectors in the directions of increasing $x, y$ , and $z$ . $P, Q$ , and $R$ are the scalar components of $\mathbf{F}(x, y, z)$ in these directions.
<b>Gradient</b>	$\nabla f = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \mathbf{i} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \mathbf{j} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \mathbf{k}$
<b>Divergence</b>	$\nabla \cdot \vec{F} = \frac{\partial P}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial Q}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial R}{\partial z}$
<b>Curl</b>	$\nabla \times \mathbf{F} = \begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{i} & \mathbf{j} & \mathbf{k} \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial}{\partial y} & \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \\ P & Q & R \end{vmatrix}$
<b>Laplacian</b>	$\nabla^2 f = \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial z^2}$

## The Fundamental Theorem of Line Integrals

- Let  $\vec{F} = P\vec{i} + Q\vec{j} + R\vec{k}$  be a vector field whose components are continuous throughout an open connected region  $D$  in space. Then there exists a differentiable function  $f$  such that

$$\mathbf{F} = \nabla f = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \mathbf{i} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \mathbf{j} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \mathbf{k}$$

if and only if for all points  $A$  and  $B$  in  $D$  the value of  $\int_A^B \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{r}$  is independent of the path joining  $A$  to  $B$  in  $D$ .

- If the integral is independent of the path from  $A$  to  $B$ , its value is

$$\int_A^B \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{r} = f(B) - f(A).$$

Green's Theorem (Tangential Form)

$$\iint_R \nabla \times \vec{F} \cdot \vec{k} dx dy = \oint \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{r}$$

Stokes' Theorem

$$\iint_S \text{curl } \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{S} = \int_C \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{r}$$

Green's Theorem (Normal Form)

$$\iint_R \nabla \cdot \vec{F} dx dy = \oint \vec{F} \cdot \vec{n} ds$$

Divergence Theorem

$$\iiint_E \text{div } \mathbf{F} dV = \iint \vec{F} \cdot \vec{n} dS$$

# Terminology

---

- Limit cycle: an isolated closed path

Consider  $X' = F(X)$ , here  $X' = (x', y') = \vec{v}$ .

- Gradient system ( $\vec{v} = \nabla\phi$ ) for irrotational flow ( $\nabla \times \vec{v} = 0$ )

$$\phi : \text{velocity potential}; \left( \frac{dx}{dt}, \frac{dy}{dt} \right) = \left( \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} \right)$$

- Hamiltonian system for incompressible flow ( $\nabla \cdot \vec{v} = 0$ )

$$\psi: \text{streamfunction}; \left( \frac{dx}{dt}, \frac{dy}{dt} \right) = \left( \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial y}, -\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} \right)$$

# Gradient System $\left( \nabla \times \left( \frac{dx}{dt}, \frac{dy}{dt} \right) = 0 \right)$

---

- Gradient system  $\leftrightarrow \left( \frac{dx}{dt}, \frac{dy}{dt} \right) = \nabla \phi$
- Gradient system  $\rightarrow$  potential function ( $\phi$ )
- The gradient of the potential function is parallel to the direction of flow.
- (therefore, the flow is across contour lines).
- (Note that the contour line does not represent a streamfunction)

HSD

# No Closed Orbits when Curl is Zero

## Gradient Systems

Suppose the system can be written in the form  $\dot{\mathbf{x}} = -\nabla V$ , for some continuously differentiable, single-valued scalar function  $V(\mathbf{x})$ . Such a system is called a *gradient system* with *potential function*  $V$ .

**Theorem 7.2.1:** Closed orbits are impossible in gradient systems.

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta V &= \int_0^T \frac{dV}{dt} dt & \dot{\mathbf{x}} &= -\nabla V \\ &= \int_0^T (\nabla V \cdot \dot{\mathbf{x}}) dt & \text{potential function } V. \\ &= - \int_0^T \|\dot{\mathbf{x}}\|^2 dt \\ &< 0\end{aligned}$$

(unless  $\dot{\mathbf{x}} \equiv \mathbf{0}$ , in which case the trajectory is a fixed point, not a closed orbit). This contradiction shows that closed orbits can't exist in gradient systems. ■

Strogatz

# Gradient System $\left( \nabla \times \left( \frac{dx}{dt}, \frac{dy}{dt} \right) = 0 \right)$



$\nabla \times \vec{V} = 0 \rightarrow$  curl vs. circulation

Green's Theorem (Tangential Form)  $\oint \vec{V} \cdot d\vec{r} = \iint \nabla \times \vec{V} \cdot \vec{k} dx dy$

$X' = \vec{V}$ ; Since  $\vec{V} = \nabla \phi$ , we have  $X' = \nabla \phi$  and  $\nabla \times \vec{V} = 0$ .

$$RHS = \iint \nabla \times \vec{V} \, dA = 0.$$

$$\begin{aligned} LHS &= \int \vec{V} \cdot d\vec{r} = \int \nabla \phi \cdot d\vec{r} \\ &= \int \left( \frac{dx}{dt}, \frac{dy}{dt} \right) \cdot \left( \frac{dx}{dt}, \frac{dy}{dt} \right) dt \\ &= \int \left( \left( \frac{dx}{dt} \right)^2 + \left( \frac{dy}{dt} \right)^2 \right) dt \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

Contradiction  $\rightarrow$  no closed orbit

- Gradient flow,
- Velocity is parallel to the gradient
- Gradient, pointing in the direction of greatest increase of a function
- (across the contour lines of the potential function)

# Gradient System: Eigenvalue Analysis



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

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = G_y$$

$$J(G_x, G_y) = \frac{\partial(G_x, G_y)}{\partial(x, y)} = \begin{bmatrix} G_{xx} & G_{xy} \\ G_{yx} & G_{yy} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} G_{xx} & G_{xy} \\ G_{yx} & G_{yy} \end{bmatrix}$$

Matrix A is symmetric  
→ eigenvalues are real  
→ no closed orbit (or spiral source/sink)

Blandchart et al.

# Gradient System $\left( \nabla \times \left( \frac{dx}{dt}, \frac{dy}{dt} \right) = 0 \right)$



**Theorem.** (Properties of Gradient Systems) For the system  $X' = -\text{grad } V(X)$ :

1. If  $c$  is a regular value of  $V$ , then the vector field is perpendicular to the level set  $V^{-1}(c)$ .
2. The critical points of  $V$  are the equilibrium points of the system.
3. If a critical point is an isolated minimum of  $V$ , then this point is an asymptotically stable equilibrium point. □

Vector field is perpendicular to the tangent line of the contour line

**Proposition.** For a gradient system  $X' = -\text{grad } V(X)$ , the linearized system at any equilibrium point has only real eigenvalues. □

The Jacobian matrix is symmetric  $\rightarrow$  real eigenvalues

$\rightarrow$  no closed orbits

HSD

# No Closed Orbits when Divergence Is of One Sign

---

## Bendixson Negative Criterion

**Theorem 6.** Let  $f(x, y)$  and  $g(x, y)$  have continuous first partial derivatives in the simply connected domain<sup>††</sup>  $D$  and assume that

$$f_x(x, y) + g_y(x, y)$$

is of one sign in  $D$ . Then there are no (nonconstant) periodic solutions to

$$(4) \quad \frac{dx}{dt} = f(x, y) ,$$

$$(5) \quad \frac{dy}{dt} = g(x, y)$$

that lie entirely in  $D$ .

$$\nabla \cdot (f, g) > 0 \text{ or } < 0$$

Green's Theorem (Normal Form)  $\oint \vec{V} \cdot \vec{n} ds = \iint \nabla \cdot \vec{V} dx dy$

Nagle et al.

# No Closed Orbits when Divergence Is of One Sign



## Theorem 9.7.2

Let the functions  $F$  and  $G$  have continuous first partial derivatives in a simply connected domain  $D$  of the  $xy$ -plane. If  $F_x + G_y$  has the same sign throughout  $D$ , then there is no closed trajectory of the system (15) lying entirely in  $D$ .

Green's Theorem (Normal Form)  $\oint \vec{V} \cdot \vec{n} ds = \iint \nabla \cdot \vec{V} dxdy$

$$RHS = \iint \nabla \cdot \vec{V} dA \neq 0.$$

$$LHS = \int \vec{V} \cdot d\vec{n} = \int \left( \frac{dx}{dt}, \frac{dy}{dt} \right) \cdot (dy, -dx) = 0.$$

Contradiction  
→ no closed orbit

assume that a flow is on a circle

Boyce\_n\_DiPrima



---

---

## 2D Hamiltonian System:

$$\left( \nabla \cdot \left( \frac{dx}{dt}, \frac{dy}{dt} \right) = \mathbf{0} \right)$$

(zero divergence)

# 2D Hamiltonian System

---

By analogy with the form of Hamilton's canonical equations in mechanics, a system

$$\dot{x} = X(x, y), \quad \dot{y} = Y(x, y) \quad (2.69)$$

is called a **Hamiltonian system** if there exists a function  $H(x, y)$  such that

$$X = \frac{\partial H}{\partial y} \quad \text{and} \quad Y = \frac{\partial H}{\partial x}. \quad (2.70)$$

Then  $H$  is called the **Hamiltonian function** for the system. A necessary and sufficient condition for (2.69) to be Hamiltonian is that

$$\frac{\partial X}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial Y}{\partial y} = 0. \quad (2.71)$$

$$\left( \nabla \cdot \left( \frac{dx}{dt}, \frac{dy}{dt} \right) = 0 \right)$$

# Hamiltonian System: Conservative $\left( \nabla \cdot \left( \frac{dx}{dt}, \frac{dy}{dt} \right) = 0 \right)$



**Proposition.** For a Hamiltonian system in  $\mathbb{R}^2$ ,  $H$  is constant along every solution curve.  $\square$

**Proposition.** Suppose  $(x_0, y_0)$  is an equilibrium point for a planar Hamiltonian system. Then the eigenvalues of the linearized system are either  $\pm\lambda$  or  $\pm i\lambda$  where  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ .  $\square$

$$\begin{aligned} x' &= \frac{\partial H}{\partial y}(x, y) & \dot{H} &= \frac{\partial H}{\partial x}x' + \frac{\partial H}{\partial y}y' & J &= \begin{bmatrix} H_{yx} & H_{yy} \\ -H_{xx} & -H_{xy} \end{bmatrix} \\ y' &= -\frac{\partial H}{\partial x}(x, y) & &= \frac{\partial H}{\partial x}\frac{\partial H}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial H}{\partial y}\left(-\frac{\partial H}{\partial x}\right) & &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

- The direction of the flow  $(dx/dt, dy/dt)$  and the gradient of  $H$  are orthogonal.
- The tangent vector of the contour line of  $H$  represents the direction of the flow.
- $H$  is called the **Hamiltonian function**, and is a **streamfunction**.
- $a_{11} + a_{22} = 0 \Rightarrow \lambda_1 + \lambda_2 = 0 \Rightarrow$  saddle point (with no closed orbit) or center

# Hamiltonian System: An Example

---

A Hamiltonian function is

$$H(x, y) = \frac{x^4}{4} - \frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{y^2}{2} + \frac{1}{4}.$$

The constant value  $1/4$  is irrelevant here; we choose it so that  $H$  has minimum value 0, which occurs at  $(\pm 1, 0)$ , as is easily checked. The only other equilibrium point lies at the origin. The linearized system is

One Saddle  
Two Centers

$$X' = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 - 3x^2 & 0 \end{pmatrix} X.$$

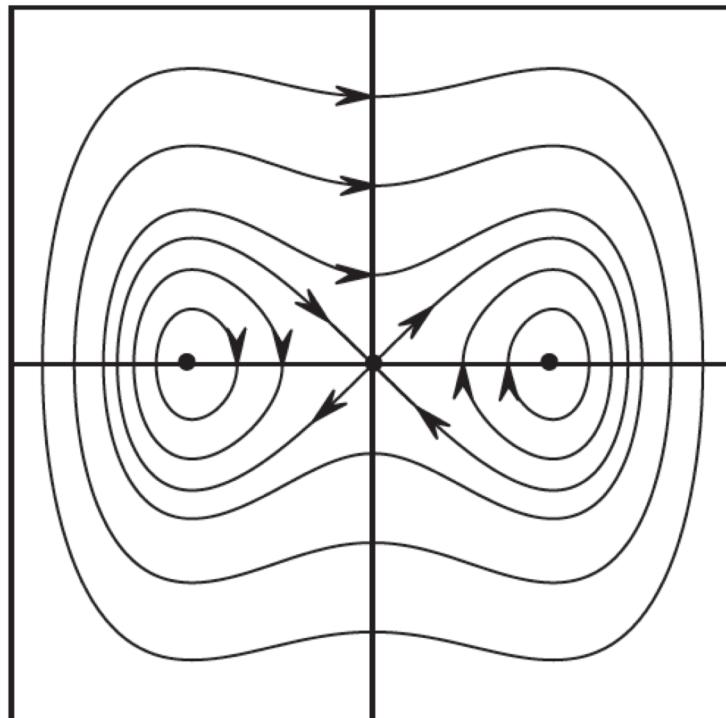
At  $(0, 0)$ , this system has eigenvalues  $\pm 1$ , so we have a saddle. At  $(\pm 1, 0)$ , the eigenvalues are  $\pm \sqrt{2}i$ , so we have a center, at least for the linearized system.

Plotting the level curves of  $H$  and adding the directions at nonequilibrium points yields the phase portrait shown in Figure 9.11. Note that the equilibrium points at  $(\pm 1, 0)$  remain centers for the nonlinear system. Also note that the stable and unstable curves at the origin match up exactly. That is, we have solutions that tend to  $(0, 0)$  in both forward and backward time. Such solutions are known as *homoclinic solutions* or *homoclinic orbits*. ■

HSD

# Hamiltonian System: An Example (cont.)

---



Center --- Saddle --- Center

Figure 9.11 Phase portrait for  
 $x' = y, y' = -x^3 + x$ .

- H is called the **Hamiltonian function**, and is a **streamfunction**.
- The tangent vector of the contour line of H represents the direction of the flow.

HSD

## MT Part A

---

2: [25 points] A nonlinear, non-dissipative Lorenz model is written as follows:

$$\frac{d^2 X}{dt^2} - (\sigma r + C) X + \frac{X^3}{2} = 0. \quad (2)$$

Here, we assume that both  $\sigma$  and  $r$  are positive, and choose  $C = 0$  for convenience. Complete the following problems.

- (a) [3 points] Transform the 2nd order ODE in Eq. (2) into a system of the first order ODEs, (i.e.,  $Y = X'$ ).
- (b) [3 points] Find critical points in the above 2D system in problem (2a).
- (c) [6 points] Compute the Jacobian matrix of the above 2D system.
- (d) [13 points] Perform a linear stability analysis for all of the critical points.

MEDIAN

**76.5**

MAXIMUM

**100.0**

MEAN

**71.88**

# Outline

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- Introduction
  - Limit cycle
  - A mini review of vector calculus
  - Gradient system ( $\vec{v} = \nabla\phi$ ) for irrotational flow ( $\nabla \times \vec{v} = 0$ )
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- Poincare-Bendixson Theorem
- Summary
  - Eigenvalue analysis for gradient and Hamiltonian Systems
  - Poincare-Bendixson Theorem



# Poincare-Bendixson Theorem

## Poincaré–Bendixson Theorem

**Theorem 7.** Let  $f$  and  $g$  have continuous first partial derivatives on the closed bounded region  $R$  and assume the system

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = f(x, y) , \quad \frac{dy}{dt} = g(x, y)$$

has no critical points in  $R$ . If a solution  $x = \phi(t), y = \psi(t)$  to the system exists for all  $t \geq t_0$  and its trajectory  $\Gamma(t) := (\phi(t), \psi(t))$  remains inside  $R$  for  $t \geq t_0$ , then either  $\Gamma$  is a limit cycle or it spirals toward a limit cycle in  $R$ . In either case, the system has a nonconstant periodic solution.

- $R$  has a hole in it (Nagle et al., p765)
- $R$  cannot be simply connected; it must have a hole (Boyce-DiPrima, p569)
- [In the example by Strogatz (p204), a ring-shaped region is used.]

Nagle et al.

**Theorem.** (Poincaré–Bendixson) Suppose that  $\Omega$  is a nonempty, closed, and bounded limit set of a planar system of differential equations that contains no equilibrium point. Then  $\Omega$  is a closed orbit.

- If  $\gamma$  is an  **$\omega$ -limit** cycle, there exists  $X \notin \gamma$  such that

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} d(\phi_t(X), \gamma) = 0.$$

- Geometrically this means that some solution spirals toward  $\gamma$  as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ .

The same as that in Nagle et al.

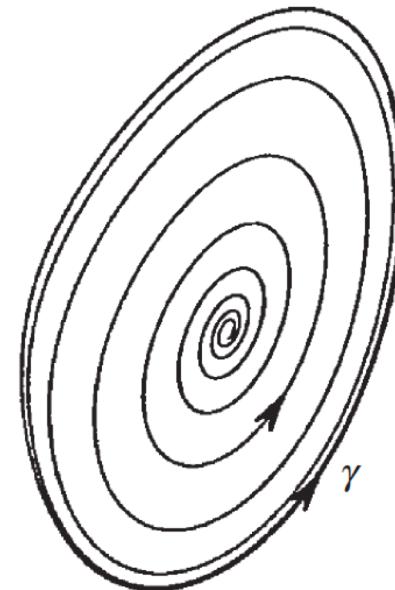
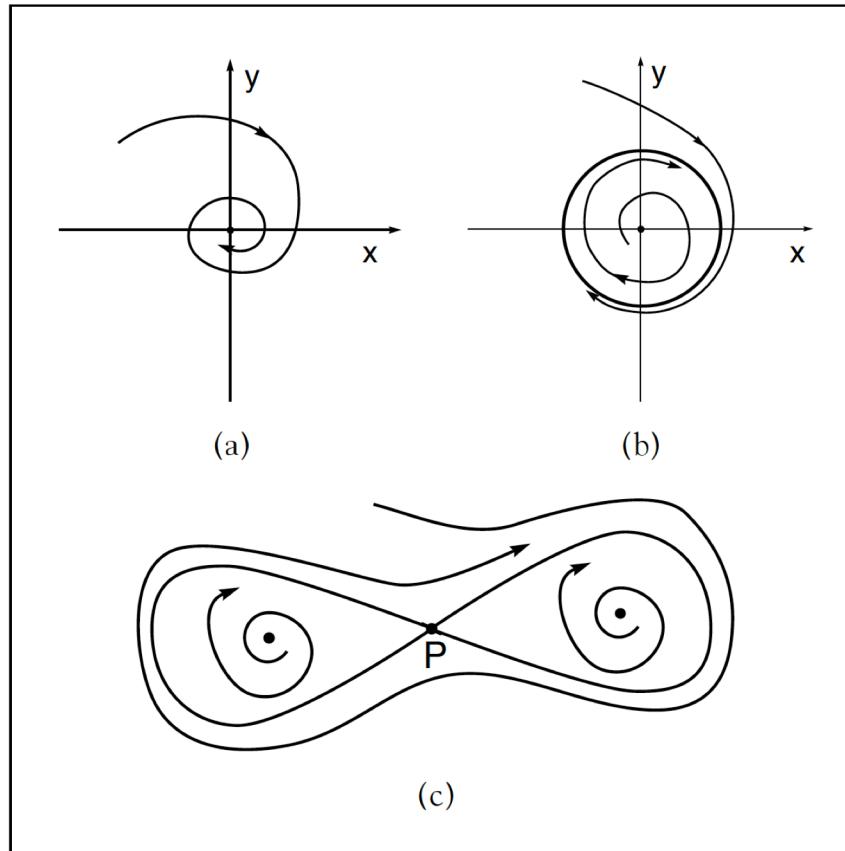


Figure 10.10 A solution spiraling toward a limit cycle.

Steady state  
(a point)

2D!



Limit Cycle

Limit Cycle, enclosing  
three critical points (BWS)

**Figure 8.4** Planar limit sets.

The three pictures illustrate the three cases of the Poincaré-Bendixson Theorem. (a) The limit set is one point, the origin. (b) The limit set of each spiraling trajectory is a circle, which is a periodic orbit. (c) The limit set of the outermost trajectory is a figure eight. This limit set must have an equilibrium point  $P$  at the vertex of the “eight”. It consists of two connecting arcs plus the equilibrium. Trajectories on the connecting arcs tend to  $P$  as  $t \rightarrow \infty$  and as  $t \rightarrow -\infty$ .



## 2D Chaotic System: Dixon System

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The systems in this chapter were inspired by the work of Dixon *et al.* (1993) in which they transformed a set of three ODEs introduced by Cummings *et al.* (1992) to model the dynamical behavior of the magnetic field of a neutron star. The transformation reduced the system to a two-dimensional flow that nevertheless preserves the chaotic behavior in apparent violation of the Poincaré–Bendixson theorem (Hirsch *et al.*, 2004), which states that the attractor for any smooth two-dimensional bounded continuous-time autonomous system is either a stable equilibrium or a limit cycle.

The system derived by Dixon *et al.* (1993) is given by

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{x} &= \frac{xy}{x^2 + y^2} - \alpha x \\ \dot{y} &= \frac{y^2}{x^2 + y^2} - \beta y + \beta - 1\end{aligned}\tag{5.1}$$

and is singular at the origin ( $x = y = 0$ ) and thus does not satisfy the smoothness condition required for the Poincaré–Bendixson theorem to apply. All orbits are attracted to the singularity in finite time, and as a result

Sprott, 2010, Elegant Chaos

# 2D Chaotic System: Dixon System

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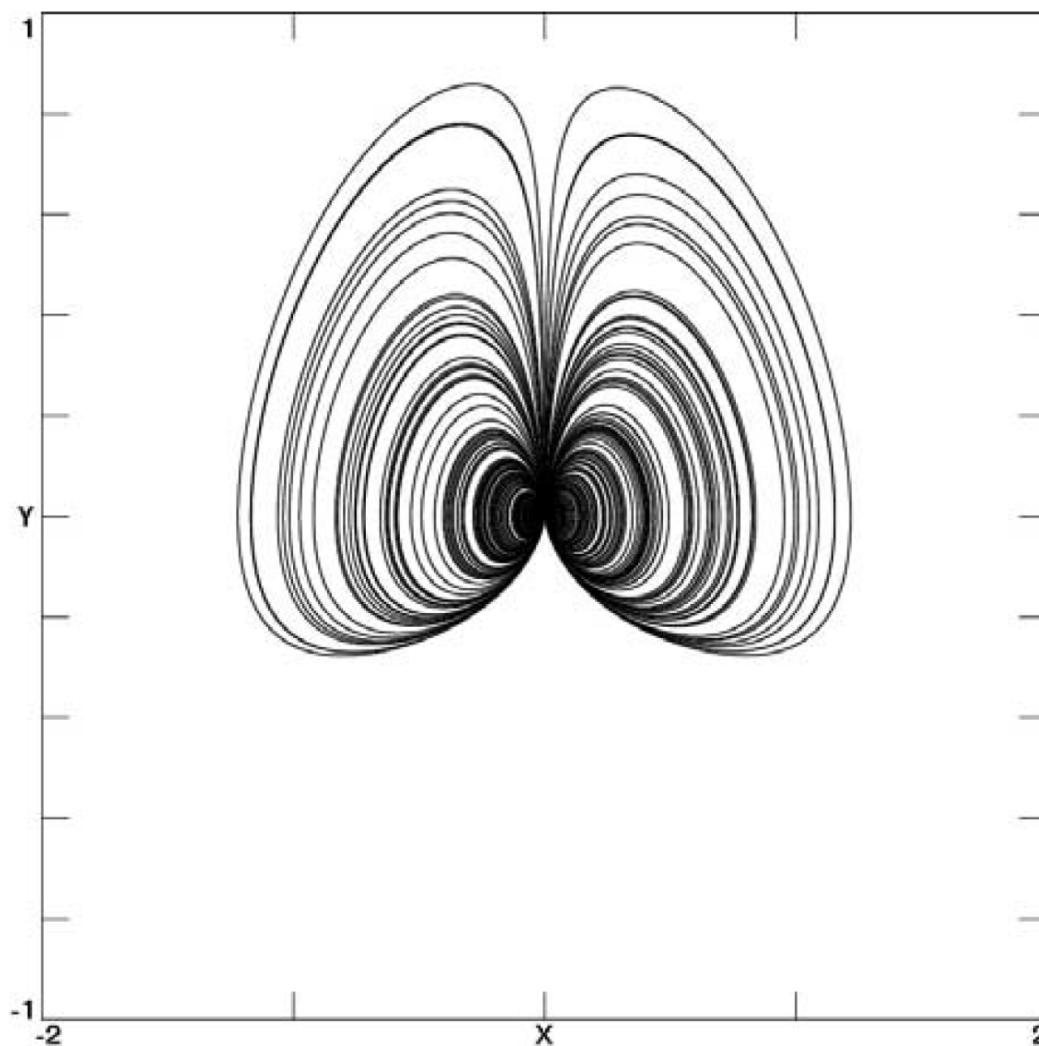


Fig. 5.1 State space plot for the Dixon system in Eq. (5.1) with  $(\alpha, \beta) = (0, 0.7)$  for  $(x_0, y_0) = (1, 0)$ .

## 2D Chaotic System: Dixon System

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they are sensitive to even the smallest nonzero perturbation, including one arising from the numerical method. The system displays what Dixon *et al.* (1993) call ‘S-chaos’ (singularity-chaos) for a range of parameters including  $\alpha = 0$  and  $\beta = 0.7$ . The state space plot for this case is shown in Fig. 5.1. A longer calculation of the trajectory would show that it densely fills a region of the  $xy$ -plane, and hence it is two-dimensional. Since the resulting plot does not have fractal structure, it is not a proper strange attractor, and the dynamics perhaps should not be considered truly chaotic as pointed out by Alvarez-Ramirez, *et al.* (2005). For the same reason, Lyapunov exponents are not quoted in this chapter because they are not well-defined, and their calculation in the vicinity of the singularity is problematic.

# Summary: Eigenvalue Analysis (2D Systems)



- $\text{curl}(\text{gradient } \phi) = 0$

*Gradient System*

*irrotational flow*

$\phi$ : *velocity potential*

$$\vec{v} = \nabla\phi = (\phi_x, \phi_y)$$

$$J(\phi_x, \phi_y) = \begin{bmatrix} \phi_{xx} & \phi_{xy} \\ \phi_{yx} & \phi_{yy} \end{bmatrix}$$

- $\text{div}(\text{curl } F) = 0$

*Hamiltonian System*

*incompressible flow*

$\psi$ : *streamfunction*

$$F_o = (0, 0, \psi)$$

$$\vec{v} = \nabla \times F_o = (\psi_y, -\psi_x)$$

$$J(\psi_y, -\psi_x) = \begin{bmatrix} \psi_{yx} & \psi_{yy} \\ -\psi_{xx} & -\psi_{xy} \end{bmatrix}$$

- $J$  is a symmetric matrix.
- **Its eigenvalues are real.**
- There are no center or spiral source/sink

- $\text{Trace} = \lambda_1 + \lambda_2 = 0$ .
- $\text{Det} = \lambda_1 \lambda_2$
- $\lambda_{1,2} = \pm \alpha$  (**saddle**) when  $\text{Det} < 0$ .
- $\lambda_{1,2} = \pm i\beta$  (**center**) when  $\text{Det} > 0$ .

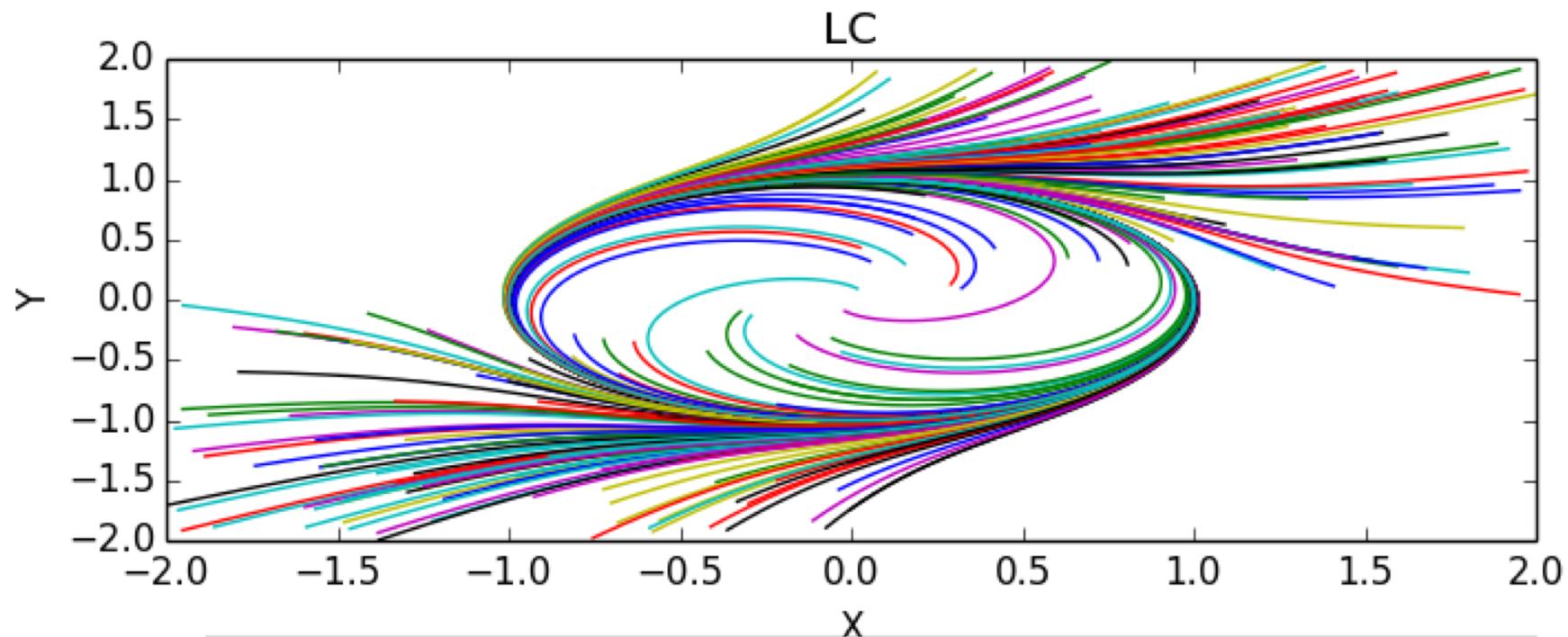
# Limit Cycle



- An isolated closed path is called a limit cycle

## Limit Cycle

**Definition 5.** A nontrivial<sup>†</sup> closed trajectory with at least one other trajectory spiraling into it (as time approaches plus or minus infinity) is called a **limit cycle**.





# Summary

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- Limit cycle: An isolated closed path is called a limit cycle
- Gradient system ( $\vec{v} = \nabla\phi$ ) for irrotational flow ( $\nabla \times \vec{v} = 0$ )
- Hamiltonian system for incompressible flow ( $\nabla \cdot \vec{v} = 0$ )
- No closed orbits when the system meets one of the following conditions:
  - I. existence of a Lyapunov function;
  - II. zero curl ( $\nabla \times \vec{v} = 0$ )
  - III. positive ( $\nabla \cdot \vec{v} > 0$ ) or negative ( $\nabla \cdot \vec{v} < 0$ ) divergence
- Poincare-Bendixson Theorem (2D, bounded, autonomous)
  - There are only two possibilities for that trajectory
  - The trajectory approaches a fixed point of the system as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ .
  - The trajectory approaches a limit cycle as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ .
  - Chaotic trajectories (in a bounded system) cannot occur in a state space of two dimensions (within differential equations).