

edX Robo4 Mini MS – Locomotion Engineering
Block 1 – Week 2 – Unit 3
Linearization and Lyapunov Functions
Video 5.1

Segment 1.2.3.1.a

Dynamical Systems Theory

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with

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July, 2017

Agenda for this Segment

- Analytic VF
 - have “simple” Taylor approximations
 - yield “simple” closed form flow expressions
- Hope
 - “simple” closed form flow of the approximate VF
 - may approximate the “complicated” flow of the VF
- Actuality
 - for “typical” situations the hope is borne out
 - in those situations, get more than “approximation”
 - turns out that “behavior” is indistinguishable
 - up to change of coordinates (in general, nonlinear)
- Crucial issue: recognize & deal with “atypical” cases

Multivariable Taylor Series

- Taylor's Theorem
 - an “**analytic**” function
 - has a global Taylor expansion
(around a specified point)

analytic $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$

$$\begin{aligned}\Rightarrow f(x) &= f(x^*) \\ &\quad + F(x^*)(x - x^*) \\ &\quad + O(\|x - x^*\|^2)\end{aligned}$$

$$F(x^*) := D_x f |_{x^*} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$$

- whose first order term
- is called its **linearization**

Taylor Series Approximation

- Constant term $f(x) \approx f(x^*)$
 - exact at specified point
 - “close” approximation
 - in “very small”
 - neighborhood of point
- Linearization $f(x) \approx f(x^*) + F(x^*)(x - x^*)$
 - approximates in a “small” neighborhood of the point
 - no general criterion for “small”
- ... higher order terms ... better ...
- References
 - Taylor’s Theorem

Richard Courant. Differential and integral calculus, volume 2. John Wiley & Sons, 2011.
 - Calculus via “long polynomials”

R. Ghrist. Funny Little Calculus Text.
R. W. Ghrist, 2012.

0th Taylor Approximation of Flow

- Example: damped falling unit mass $f_{\text{DG}}(v) := -g - bv$

$$\Rightarrow f_{\text{DG}}^t(v_0) = e^{-tb} v_0 - \frac{g}{b} (1 - e^{-tb})$$

- Constant approximation of VF around $v_0 = 0$

$$\hat{f}_{\text{DG}}(\delta) := -g$$

- Flow of constant approximation (proposed 0th order approx. of Flow)

$$\Rightarrow \hat{f}_{\text{DG}}^t(\delta) = -gt + \delta$$

- Constant approximation of Flow around $v_0 = 0$

$$\widehat{f_{\text{DG}}^t}(\delta) = -\frac{g}{b} (1 - e^{-tb}) = -gt \left(\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (-tb)^k / (k+1)! \right)$$

- Conclude: not too bad for very small t and δ

0th Taylor Approximation Failure

- In general, for “typical” v_0
 - flow of the constant approximation VF
$$\hat{f}_{\text{DG}}^t(v_0 + \delta) = -gt + v_0 + \delta$$
 - is “close” to
 - constant approximation of the flow of the actual
 - for very small t and δ
- What about “atypical” v_0 ?
 - major exception: fails badly at FP $v_0 = v_e := b/g$
 - since $f_{\text{DG}}^t(v_e) \equiv v_e \Rightarrow \widehat{f_{\text{DG}}^t}(v_e + \delta) = v_e$
- We’ll need 1st Taylor Approximation for “typical” FP
- First show that “behavior is same” in typical case

Expand CC Notion

- Change of Coordinates (CC)

$$y = h(x)$$

$$x = h^{-1}(y)$$

- continuous
 - continuously invertible
(one-to-one & onto)
- Examples
 - Smooth (CC_D): differentiable both ways
 - Linear (CC_L): similarity (with matrix rep)

General Change of Coordinates Formulae

$$x(t) = f^t(x_0) \text{ & CC } y = h(x)$$

- maps (e.g., flows) $\Rightarrow y(t) = h \circ x(t) = h \circ f^t(x_0)$ (1)
 $= h \circ f^t \circ h^{-1}(x_0)$
 $=: \tilde{f}^t(y_0)$

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{x} &= f(x) \text{ & CC}_D y = h(x) \\ \Rightarrow \dot{y} &= D_x h \cdot \dot{x} = D_x h \cdot f(x) \\ &= D_x h \cdot f \circ h^{-1}(y) \\ &=: \tilde{f}(y) \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

Scalar Nonlinear Change of Coordinates

- return to damped falling unit mass

$$f_{\text{DG}}(v) := -(g + bv)$$

- introduce proposed CC

$$u = h_{\text{DG}}(v) := \frac{g}{b} \ln(g + bv)$$

- to assure good CC_D
- assume IC “far” from FP, $v_e := b/g$

- get conjugacy $\dot{u} = D_v h_{\text{DG}} \cdot f_{\text{DG}}(v)$

- so behavior
- away from FP $= \frac{bg}{b(g + bv)} \cdot (-g - bv)$
- is “identical”
- up to CC $= -g =: f_G(u)$

Normal Form

- Previous result
 - conjugacy between VF & 0th order VF approximant
 - on neighborhoods away from FP
- Leads to notion of “normal form”
 - the lowest degree polynomial approximant
 - that still admits local conjugacy to the VF
- Generalizes to analytic VF in arbitrary dimensions
 - Flowbox Theorem:
 - the normal form for a VF in the neighborhood of a nonFP
 - is the constant VF, e.g., $f_{\text{cons}}(x) := [1, 0, \dots, 0]^T$
 - [V. I. Arnold. Ordinary Differential Equations. MIT Press, 1973]

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Agenda for this Segment

- Normal Form (introduced in segment just previous)
 - Flowbox theorem tells us
 - away from FP
 - VF is conjugate to constant velocity
 - now seek normal form in the neighborhood of a FP
- Taylor approximation near FP
$$f(x) = f(\overset{\nearrow}{x_e})^0 + F(x_e)(x - x_e) + O(\|x - x^*\|^2)$$
 - seems dominated by $F(x_e) := D_x f(x_e)$
 - good news when truly a normal form
 - since we understand LTI systems very well
- Now explore when this intuition holds

Conditions for FP Normal Form: Scalars

- For VF to have LTI normal form at scalar FP x_e

- must have $F(x_e) := D_x f(x_e) \neq 0$
- else

$$f(x) = f(\cancel{x_e})^0 + F(\cancel{x_e})^0 (x - x_e) + [D^2 f] (x - x_e)^2 + O(\|x - x^*\|^3)$$

- in which case linearized VF cannot be conjugate

$$\hat{f}_L(x) := F(x_e)(x - x_e) = 0 \not\sim \hat{f}_Q(x) := [D^2 f] (x - x_e)^2$$

- because, e.g., $[D^2 f] > 0$ & $\eta(x) := |x - x_e|^2 / 2 \Rightarrow$
 $\dot{\eta}(x) = D_x \eta \cdot \hat{f}_Q(x) = [D^2 f] (x - x_e)^3 = [D^2 f] \eta(x)^{3/2}$
 - so η grows without bound along flow of quadratic field
 - whereas it is constant along flow of the linear field
- no CC can conjugate an unbounded to a bounded fnc.

Conditions for FP Normal Form: Vectors

- But for VF to have LTI normal form at vector FP x_e
- need more than simply $F(x_e) := D_x f(x_e) \neq 0$
- e.g. $\dot{\mathbf{y}} = f_{\text{NLRC}}(\mathbf{y}) := \begin{bmatrix} \|\mathbf{y}\|^2 & -1 \\ 1 & \|\mathbf{y}\|^2 \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{y}; \quad \mathbf{y}_e := 0$
 $F_{\text{NLRC}}(\mathbf{y}_e) := D_{\mathbf{y}} f_{\text{NLRC}}(\mathbf{y}_e) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} =: J \neq 0$
 - hence linearized VF cannot be conjugate
 - $\hat{f}_{\text{L}}(\mathbf{y}) := F_{\text{NLRC}}(\mathbf{y}_e)\mathbf{y} \not\simeq f_{\text{NLRC}}(\mathbf{y})$
 - because, e.g., $\eta(\mathbf{y}) := \|\mathbf{y}\|^2/2 \Rightarrow$
 $\dot{\eta}_{\text{L}}(\mathbf{y}) = D_{\mathbf{y}}\eta \cdot f_{\text{L}}(\mathbf{y}) = \mathbf{y}^T J \mathbf{y} \equiv 0$
vs $\dot{\eta}(\mathbf{y}) = D_{\mathbf{y}}\eta \cdot f_{\text{NLRC}}(\mathbf{y}) = 8\eta(\mathbf{y})^{3/2}$
 - so η grows without bound along flow of f_{NLRC}
 - whereas it is constant along flow of f_{L}

Hyperbolicity of FP

- Say that a VF is **hyperbolic** at a FP
- If its linearization has no purely imaginary eigenvalues
- Examples
 - scalar damped mass: $f_D(v) = -bv \Rightarrow F_D(0) = -b \neq 0$
 - damped pendulum:
 - FP with zero velocity
 - at $\theta_e = n\pi$
 - again, need nonzero b
$$f_{DP}(\mathbf{q}) := \begin{bmatrix} \dot{\theta} \\ -\frac{1}{m\ell^2} b\dot{\theta} - \frac{g}{\ell} \sin \theta \end{bmatrix}$$
$$F_{DP}(\mathbf{q}_e) := \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -\frac{g}{\ell} \cos \theta_e & -\frac{b}{m\ell^2} \end{bmatrix}$$

Normal Form Near a FP

- If a FP of a VF $\dot{x} = f_{\text{gen}}(x); \quad f_{\text{gen}}(x_e) = 0$
- is hyperbolic
 $\Re \circ \text{evals} \circ F_{\text{gen}}(x_e) \neq 0; \quad F_{\text{gen}}(x_e) := D_x f_{\text{gen}}(x_e)$

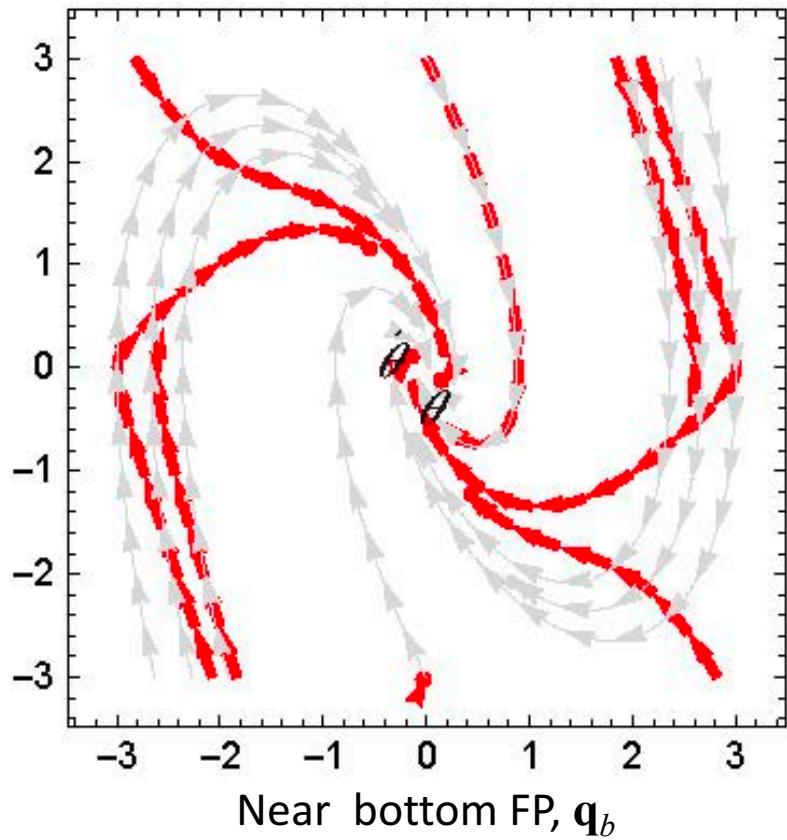
- then the linearized dynamics

$$\dot{u} = \hat{f}_{\text{gen}}(u); \quad \hat{f}_{\text{gen}}(u) := F_{\text{gen}}(x_e)u$$

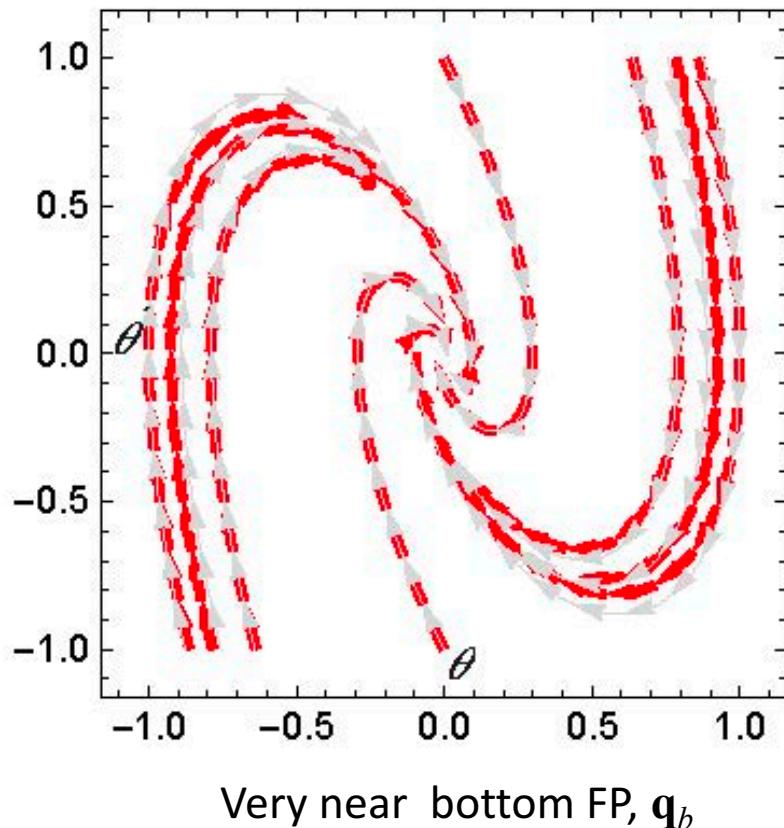
- is locally conjugate $\hat{f}_{\text{gen}} \stackrel{h_{\text{loc}}}{\sim} f_{\text{gen}}$
- via some CC defined in a neighborhood of the FP
- Reference:

J. Guckenheimer and P. Holmes. Nonlinear Oscillations, Dynamical Systems, and Bifurcations of Vector Fields. Springer, 1983.

Pendulum (red) and Linearized (gray) Orbits



Near bottom FP, q_b



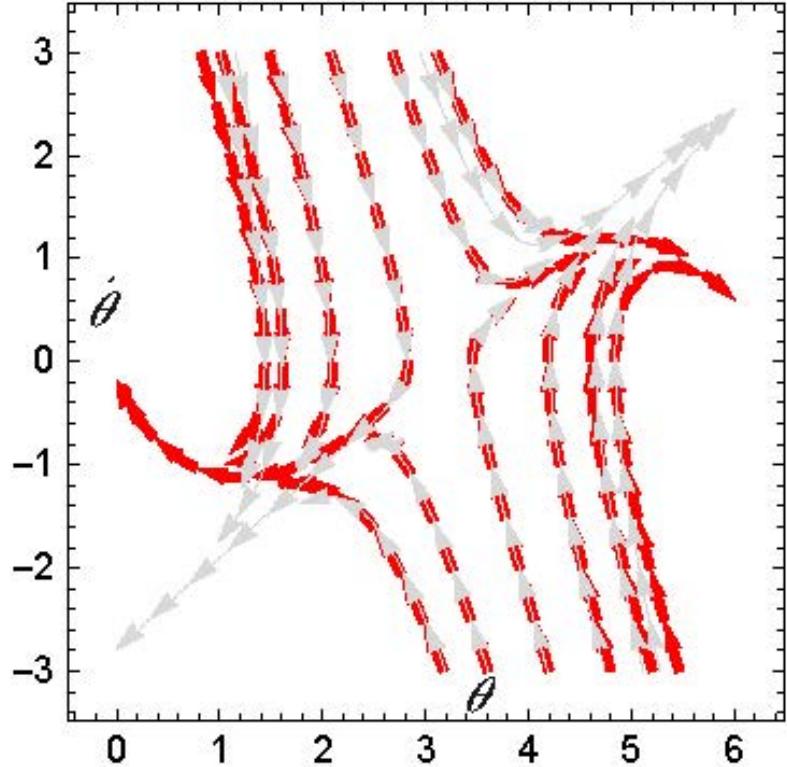
Very near bottom FP, q_b

red: $\dot{\mathbf{q}} = f_{\text{DP}}(\mathbf{q}) := \begin{bmatrix} \dot{\theta} \\ -\frac{1}{m\ell^2} b\dot{\theta} - \frac{g}{\ell} \sin \theta \end{bmatrix}$

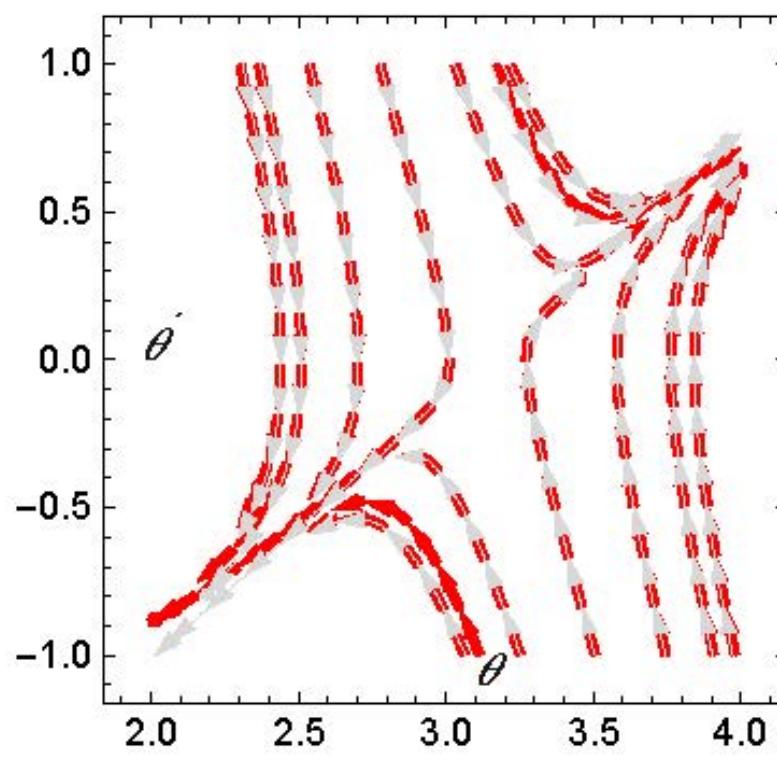
gray: $\dot{\mathbf{u}} = F_{\text{DP}}(\mathbf{q}_b)\mathbf{u}; \quad \mathbf{q}_b := \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$

$$F_{\text{DP}}(\mathbf{q}_b) := \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -\frac{g}{\ell} \cos \theta_b & -\frac{b}{m\ell^2} \end{bmatrix}$$

Pendulum (red) and Linearized (gray) Orbits



Near top FP, q_t



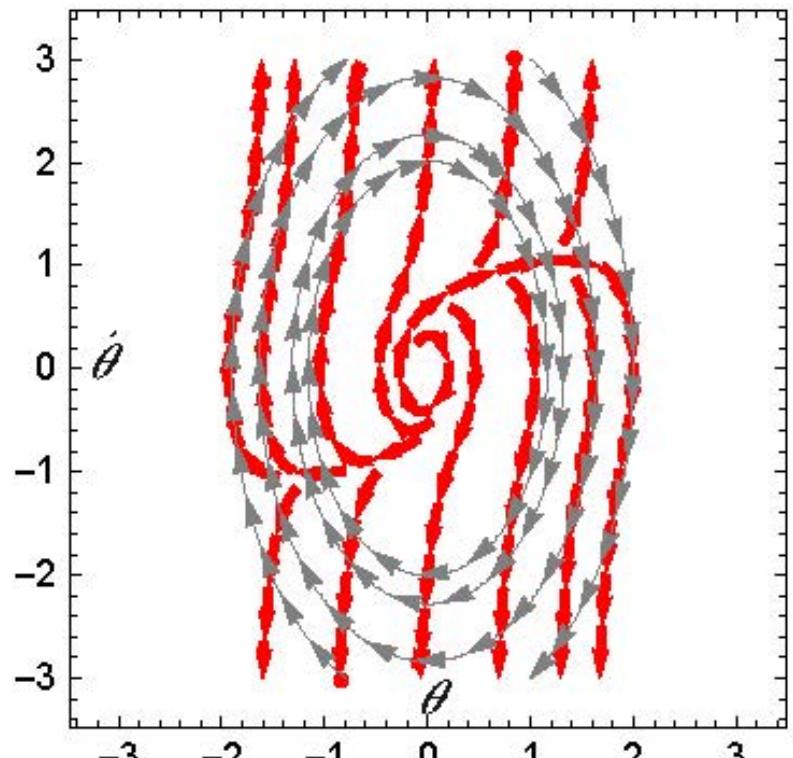
Very near top FP, q_t

red: $\dot{\mathbf{q}} = f_{\text{DP}}(\mathbf{q}) := \begin{bmatrix} \dot{\theta} \\ -\frac{1}{m\ell^2} b\dot{\theta} - \frac{g}{\ell} \sin \theta \end{bmatrix}$

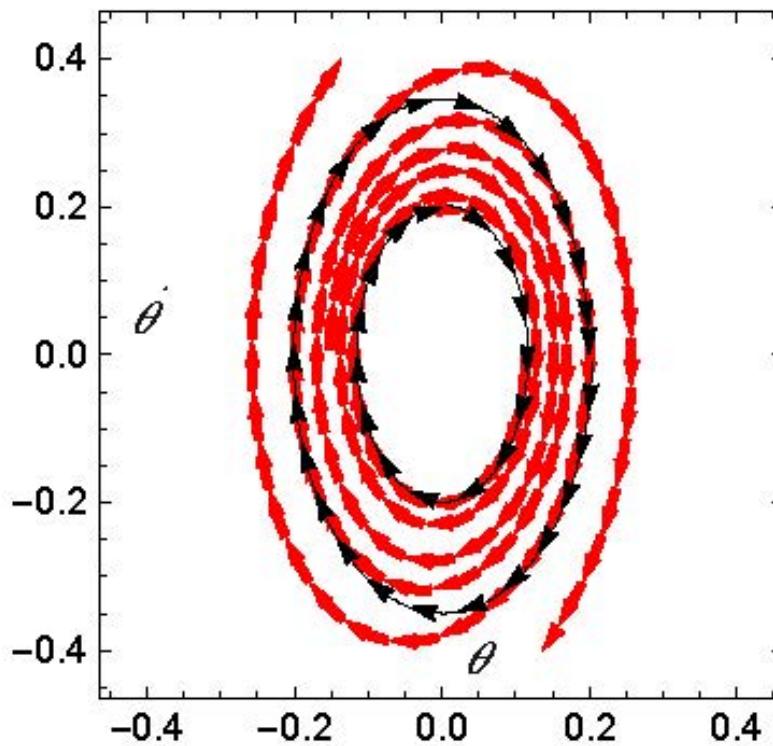
gray: $\dot{\mathbf{u}} = F_{\text{DP}}(\mathbf{q}_t)\mathbf{u}; \quad \mathbf{q}_t := \begin{bmatrix} \pi \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$

$$F_{\text{DP}}(\mathbf{q}_t) := \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -\frac{g}{\ell} \cos \theta_t & -\frac{b}{m\ell^2} \end{bmatrix}$$

Unstable Pend. (red) and Lnrzd. (gray) Orbs.



Near bottom FP, \mathbf{q}_b



Very near bottom FP, \mathbf{q}_b

red: $\dot{\mathbf{q}} = f_{\text{UDP}}(\mathbf{q}) := \begin{bmatrix} \dot{\theta} \\ \frac{1}{m\ell^2} b\dot{\theta} - \frac{g}{\ell} \sin \theta \end{bmatrix}$

gray: $\dot{\mathbf{u}} = F_{\text{UDP}}(\mathbf{q}_b)\mathbf{u}; \quad \mathbf{q}_b := \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$

$$F_{\text{UDP}}(\mathbf{q}_b) := \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -\frac{g}{\ell} \cos \theta_b & \frac{b}{m\ell^2} \end{bmatrix}$$

Implications of FP Hyperbolicity

- Linearization of Hyperbolic FP predicts local nonlinear behavior
 - numerically: because linear term dominates Taylor expansion
 - formally: because CC preserves qualitative properties
- Most important qualitative property: stability

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Segment 1.2.3.2.a Lyapunov Functions

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Agenda for this Segment

- Lyapunov functions: generalize physical energy
 - Fundamental Theorem of Dynamical Systems
 - all systems have such a generalized “energy”
 - defines “basins of attraction” around “attractors”
(generalized steady state conditions – perhaps **very** complicated)
 - Our use in this course
 - infer them from hyperbolic attractors
 - find them when hyperbolicity fails
 - use them to find (conservative approximations of) basins
- Long term aim: programming work
 - attractor basins as symbols
 - energy landscapes as programs
 - seek compositional methods for designing landscapes

Positive Definite Functions

- Pin down notion of “norm-like”
 - crucial : level surfaces enclose neighborhoods
 - guaranteed at local minimum of continuous functions
 - prefer differentiability as well (want to compute power)
- A continuous, scalar valued function, V , is **Positive Definite (PD)** at x_e
 - if it is nonnegative on a neighborhood and vanishes only at x_e

$$V \geq 0 \quad \& \quad V(x) = 0 \Leftrightarrow x = x_e$$

- often written (sloppily) as “ $V > 0$ ”
- Say **Positive Semi-Definite (PSD)** when there might be other zero values
- Say **Negative Definite (ND)** or **Negative Semi-Definite (NSD)** when the sign reverses
- e.g. NSD property: $V \leq 0 \quad \& \quad V(x) = 0 \Leftarrow x = x_e$

Positive Definite Matrices

- A **quadratic form** is a scalar-valued polynomial of degree 2

- e.g., norm-squared $\|x\|^2 = x^T x = x_1^2 + \dots + x_n^2$
- e.g., total energy, $\eta_{HO} = \kappa + \phi_S$, for a Hooke's law spring potential, ϕ_S
- more generally, can represent any quadratic form with a matrix,

$$V(x) = x^T Q x; \quad Q \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$$

- A quadratic form, $V = x^T P x$, represented by the matrix P , is PD at 0
 - if and only if there is a CC_L, $y = P^{-1/2}x$, such that

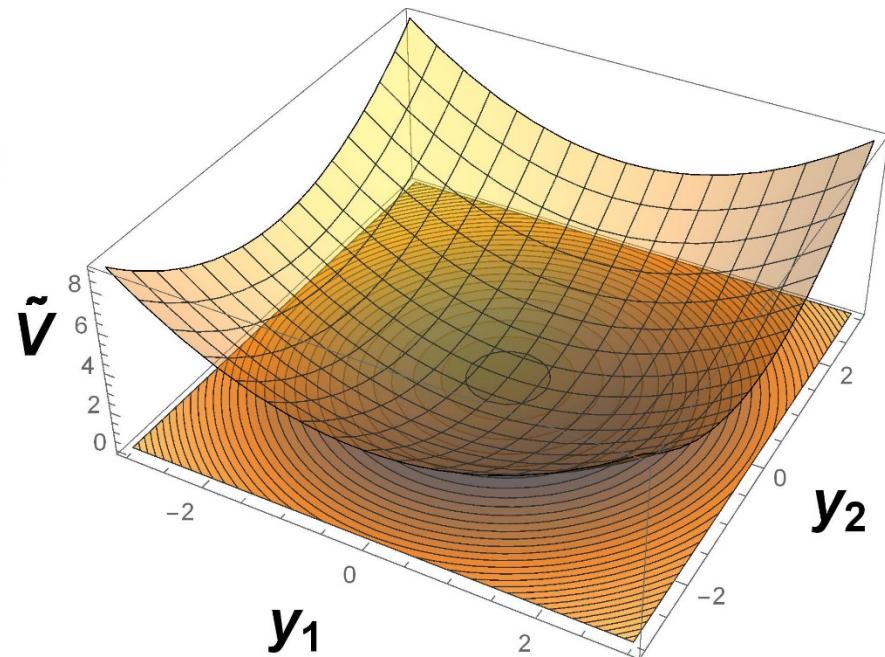
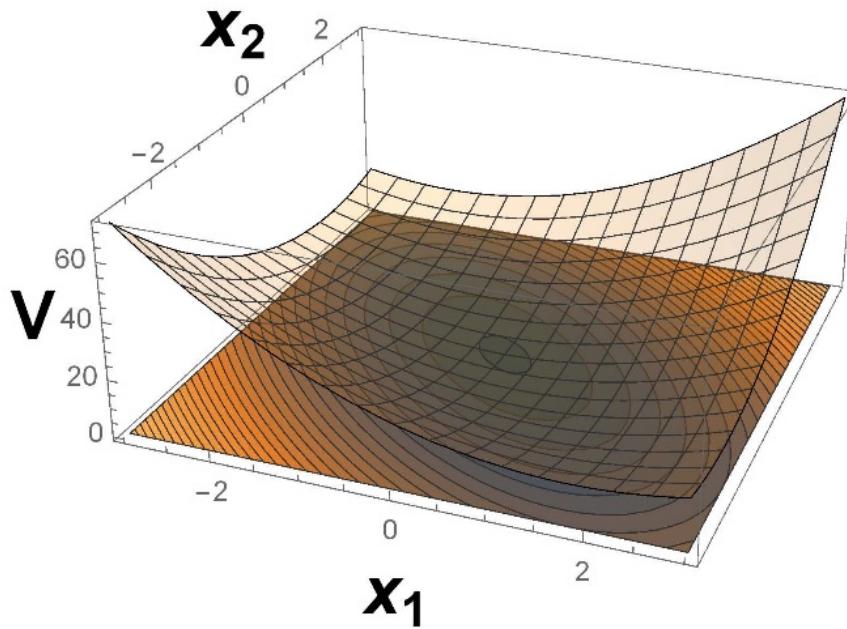
$$\tilde{V}(y) := V(P^{-\frac{1}{2}}y) = \|y\|^2$$

$$P^{-\frac{1}{2}} = \left[P^{\frac{1}{2}} \right]^{-1}$$

$$P^{\frac{1}{2}}{}^T P^{\frac{1}{2}} = P \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$$

- in which case P is called a PD matrix written (sloppily) as " $P > 0$ "

PD Quadratic Form Under CC_L



$$V(x) := x^T P x; \quad P = R^T \Pi R$$

$$\Pi := \begin{bmatrix} \pi_1^2 & 0 \\ 0 & \pi_2^2 \end{bmatrix}; \quad R^T = R^{-1}$$

$$P^{\frac{1}{2}} := \begin{bmatrix} \pi_1 & 0 \\ 0 & \pi_2 \end{bmatrix} R$$

$$\tilde{V}(y) := V(P^{-\frac{1}{2}} y) = \|y\|^2$$

$$P^{-\frac{1}{2}} = \left[P^{\frac{1}{2}} \right]^{-1}$$

$${P^{\frac{1}{2}}}^T P^{\frac{1}{2}} = P$$

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Segment 1.2.3.2.b Lyapunov Functions

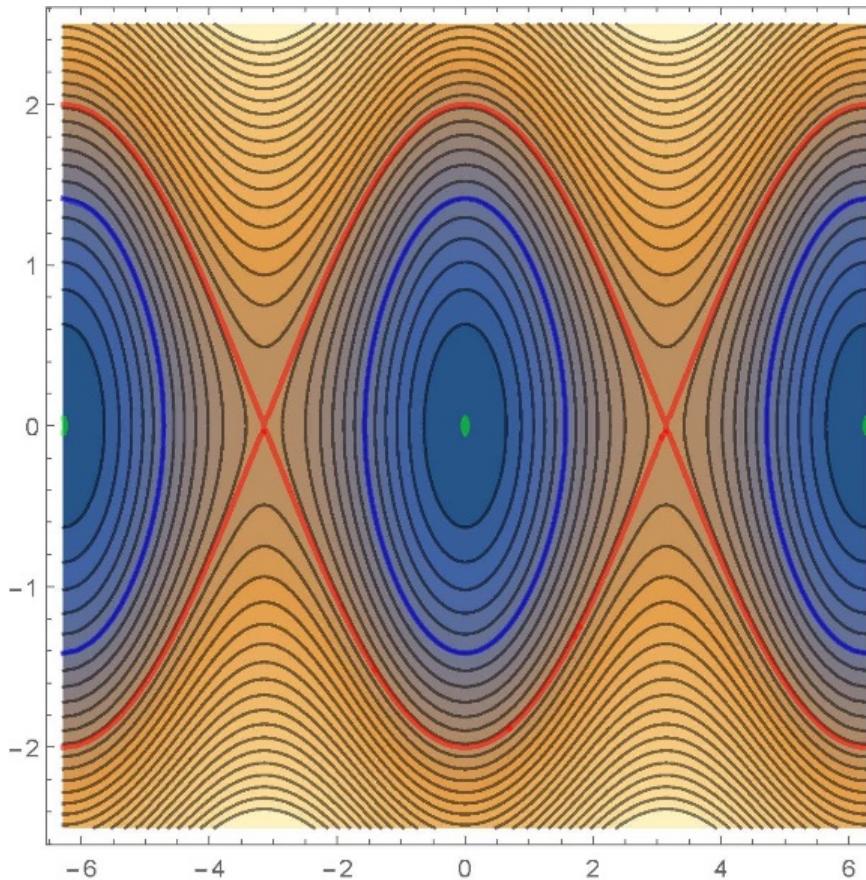
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Stability

- A set is **invariant**
 - if the orbit through any element
 - remains within it for all time
 - it is **positive invariant**
 - if trajectories through its elements
 - remain within it for all future time
- A FP is **stable** under the flow of a VF
 - if sufficiently small neighborhoods
 - are **positive invariant**

Undamped Pendulum near “bottom” FP



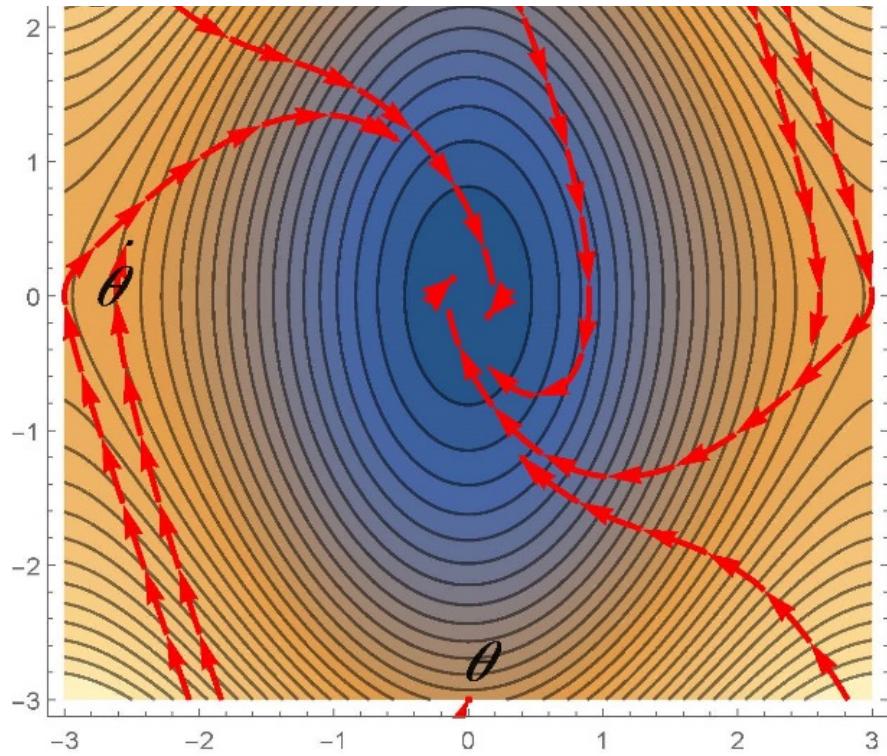
$$\dot{\boldsymbol{q}} = f_R(\boldsymbol{q}) := \begin{bmatrix} \dot{\theta} \\ -\frac{g}{\ell} \cos \theta \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\boldsymbol{q}_e = \boldsymbol{q}_b := \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Asymptotic Stability

- A FP is **asymptotically stable** under the flow of a VF
 - if it is stable and
 - sufficiently small neighborhoods
 - approach the FP asymptotically
 - in future time
- in which case it is an **attractor**
- whose **basin**
 - is the set of ICs
 - which asymptotically approach the FP

Damped Pendulum near “bottom” FP



$$\dot{\mathbf{q}} = f_{DP}(\mathbf{q}) :=$$

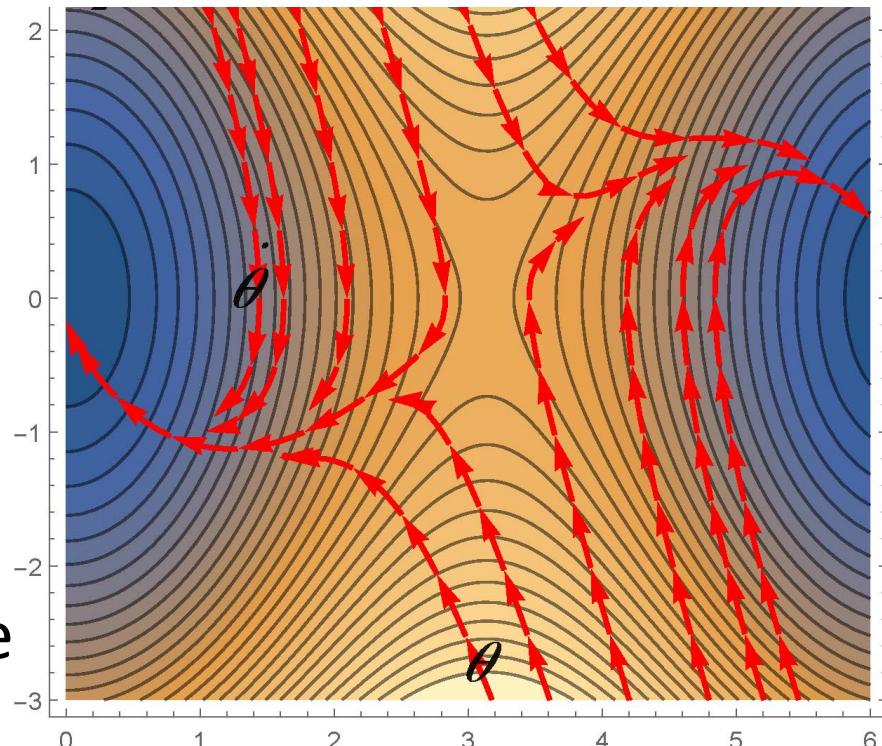
$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{\theta} \\ -\frac{g}{\ell} \cos \theta - \frac{b}{m\ell^2} \dot{\theta} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{q}_e = \mathbf{q}_t := \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Instability

- A FP is **unstable** under the flow of a VF
 - if it fails to be stable
 - i.e., every neighborhood
 - has ICs whose trajectories leave at some future time
- and it is a **repeller**
 - if it is asymptotically stable in reverse time
 - i.e., every IC in small enough neighborhoods
 - has trajectories that leave in future time

Damped Pendulum near “top” FP



$$\dot{q} = f_{DP}(q) :=$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{\theta} \\ -\frac{g}{\ell} \cos \theta - \frac{b}{m\ell^2} \dot{\theta} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$q_e = q_t := \begin{bmatrix} \pi \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Lyapunov Theory

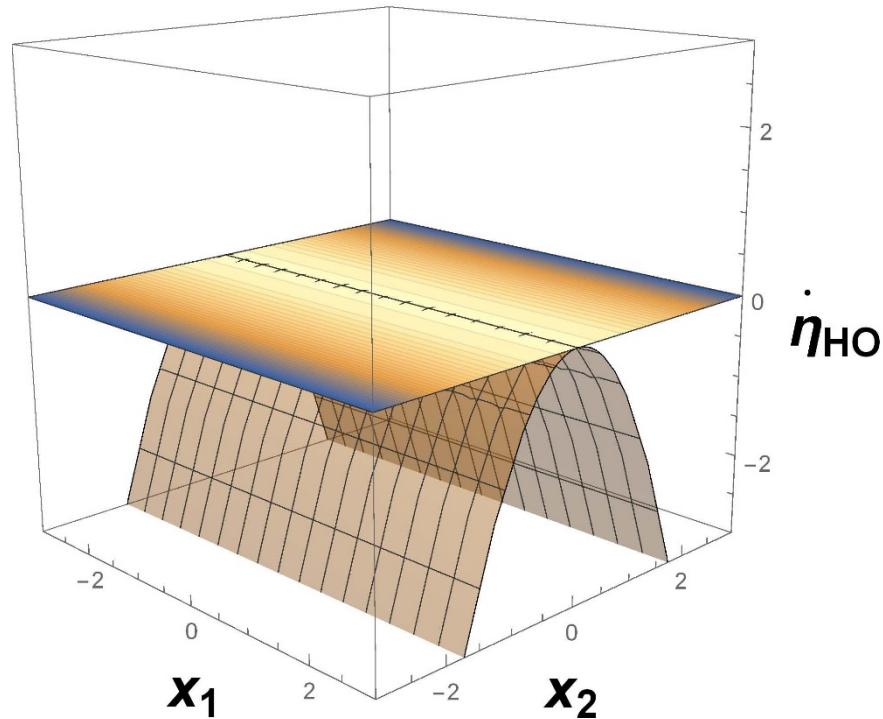
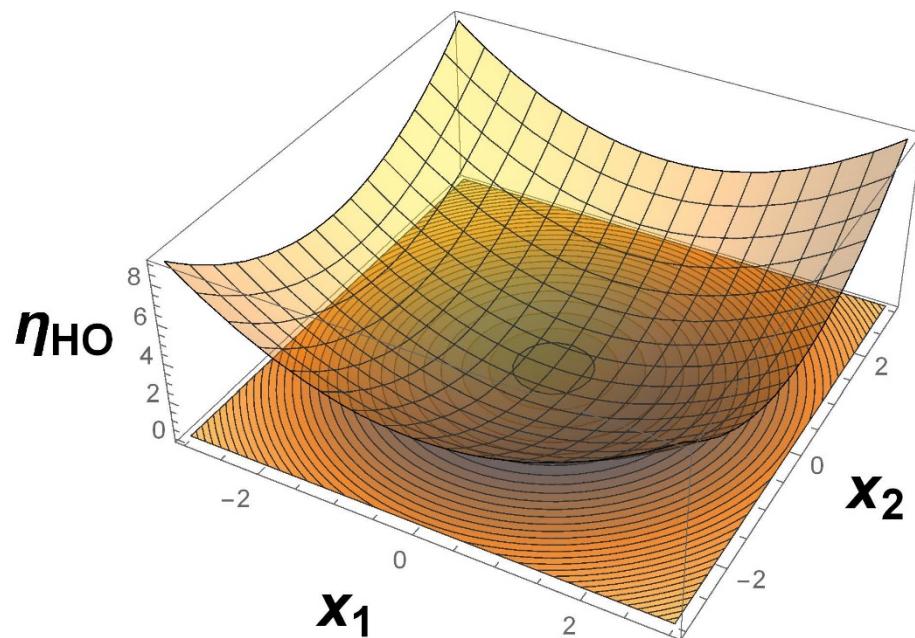
- PD V , is a Lyapunov function (LF) for a VF at a FP

$$\dot{x} = f_{\text{gen}}(x); \quad f_{\text{gen}}(x_e) = 0$$

- if its power function is NSD: $\dot{V} = D_x V \cdot f_{\text{gen}} \leq 0$
- it is strict if the power function is ND: $\dot{V} < 0$
- Lyapunov's Theorem:
 - LF for VF at FP implies stability of FP
 - strict LF for VF at FP implies asymptotic stability of FP
- Converse Theorem:
 - if FP of VF is stable then it has a LF
 - if asymptotically stable then it has a strict LF
- Reference:

V. I. Arnold. Ordinary Differential Equations. MIT Press, 1973.

PD and NSD Quadratic Forms (Seg.1.2.1.3)



$$\begin{aligned}V(x) &= \eta_{\text{HO}}(x) \\&= \frac{1}{2}mx_2^2 + \frac{1}{2}kx_1^2 \\&= \frac{1}{2}\left\| \begin{bmatrix} \sqrt{k}x_1 \\ \sqrt{m}x_2 \end{bmatrix} \right\|^2\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{V}(x) &= \dot{\eta}_{\text{HO}}(x) \\&= -bx_2^2 \\&= -\left\| \begin{bmatrix} \sqrt{0}x_1 \\ \sqrt{b}x_2 \end{bmatrix} \right\|^2\end{aligned}$$

Moving Ahead

- Local Lyapunov Theory
 - necessary and sufficient conditions for steady state stability
 - not constructive (but typically “energy-like”)
- Linearized Dynamics
 - numerically close and behaviorally exact account
 - of flow in the neighborhood of FP
 - algorithmic construction of LF
 - conservative estimate of basin; of robustness
- Global Lyapunov Theory
 - not developed in this course
 - fundamental theorem of dynamical systems
 - idea: generalized energy landscapes for programming work