

# Math 207A Ordinary Differential Equations:

## Ch.4 Stability Properties

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### Chapter 4: Stability of Linear and Almost Linear Systems

#### Chapter 4.2 Definitions of Stability

**Definition 1** (See Figure 4.2) The equilibrium solution  $y_0$  of (4.1) is said to be stable if for each number  $\epsilon > 0$  we can find a number  $\delta > 0$  (depending on  $\epsilon$ ) such that if  $\Psi(t)$  is any solution of (4.1) having  $\|\Psi(t_0) - y_0\| < \delta$ , then the solution  $\Psi(t)$  exists for all  $t \geq t_0$  and  $\|\Psi(t) - y_0\| < \epsilon$  for  $t \geq t_0$  (where for convenience the norm is the Euclidean distance that makes neighborhoods spherical).

**Definition 2** (See Figure 4.3) The equilibrium solution  $y_0$  is said to be asymptotically stable if it is stable and if there exists a number  $\delta_0 > 0$  such that if  $\Psi(t)$  is any solution of (4.1) having  $\|\Psi(t_0) - y_0\| < \delta_0$ , then  $\lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \Psi(t) = y_0$ .

**Definition 3** A solution  $\Phi(t)$  of (4.2) is said to be stable for every  $\epsilon > 0$  and every  $t_0 \geq 0$  there exists a  $\delta > 0$  ( $\delta$  now depends on both  $\epsilon$  and possibly  $t_0$ ) such that whenever  $|\Phi(t_0) - y_0| < \delta$  the solution  $\Psi(t, t_0, y_0)$  exists for  $t > t_0$  and satisfies  $|\Phi(t) - \Psi(t, t_0, y_0)| < \epsilon$  for  $t \geq t_0$ .

**Definition 4** The solution  $\Phi(t)$  of (4.2) is said to be asymptotically stable if it is stable and if there exists  $\delta_0 > 0$  such that whenever  $|\Phi(t_0) - y_0| < \delta_0$  the solution  $\Psi(t, t_0, y_0)$  approaches the solution  $\Phi(t)$  as  $t \rightarrow \infty$  (that is,  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} |\Psi(t, t_0, y_0) - \Phi(t)| = 0$ ).

#### Chapter 4.3 Linear Systems

**Theorem 4.1** If all eigenvalues of  $A$  have nonpositive real parts and all those eigenvalues with zero real parts are simple, then the solution  $y = 0$  of (4.3) is stable. If (and only if) all eigenvalues of  $A$  have negative real parts, the zero solution of (4.3) is asymptotically stable. In fact in this case,  $\Psi(t, t_0)$  denotes the fundamental matrix of (4.3) which is the identity at  $t = t_0$   $\Psi(t, t_0) = \exp((t - t_0)A)$  and there exist constants  $K > 0$   $\sigma > 0$  such that

$$|\Psi(t, t_0)| \leq K \exp(-\sigma(t - t_0)) \quad (t_0 \leq t < \infty)$$

with  $\sigma > 0$  in the case that all eigenvalues of  $A$  have negative real parts and  $\sigma = 0$  if there are simple eigenvalues with zero real part. If one or more eigenvalues of  $A$  have a positive real part, the zero solution of (4.3) is unstable.

**Theorem 4.2** Let all the eigenvalues of  $A$  have real parts negative and let  $B(t)$  be continuous for  $0 \leq t < \infty$  with  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} B(t) = 0$ . Then the zero solution of (4.5) is globally asymptotically stable

**Chapter 4.4 Almost linear system**

**Theorem 4.3** Suppose all eigenvalues of  $A$  have negative real parts,  $f(t, y)$  and  $(\partial f / \partial y_j)(t, y)$  ( $j=1, \dots, n$ ) are continuous in  $(t, y)$  for  $0 \leq t < \infty, |y| < k$  where  $k > 0$  is a constant, and  $f$  is small in the sense that

$$\lim_{|y| \rightarrow 0} \frac{|f(t, y)|}{|y|} = 0$$

uniformly with respect to  $t$  on  $0 \leq t < \infty$ . Then the solution  $y = 0$  of (4.16) is asymptotically stable.

**Theorem 4.4** If  $A$  and  $f$  satisfy the hypothesis of Theorem 4.3 and if  $B(t)$  is continuous for  $0 \leq t < \infty$  with  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} B(t) = 0$ , then the zero solution of (4.22) is asymptotically stable.

**Theorem 4.5** In equation (4.23) assume

- (i) the eigenvalues of  $A$  all have negative real part;
- (ii)  $\lim_{|y| \rightarrow 0} |f(t, y)|/|y| = 0$  uniformly in  $t$  on  $0 \leq t < \infty$ ;
- (iii)  $|h(t, y)| \leq \lambda(t)$  for  $0 \leq t < \infty, |y| < k$  for some  $k > 0$ , where  $\lambda$  is a continuous nonnegative function on  $0 \leq t < \infty$  such that
$$\Lambda(t) = \int_t^{t+1} \lambda(s) ds \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } t \rightarrow \infty$$

Then there exists  $T_0 > 0$  such that every solution  $\phi$  of (4.23) with  $|\phi(T)|$  small enough for any  $T \geq T_0$  remains small for  $t \geq T$ , and  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \phi(t) = 0$ .

**Lemma 4.1** If  $\lambda$  satisfies (iii) and if  $\omega > 0$ , then there exists  $T_0$  such that

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \int_T^t e^{-\omega(t-s)} \lambda(s) ds = 0$$

for all  $T \geq T_0$

**Chapter 4.5 Conditional Stability**

**Theorem 4.6** Let  $g, \partial g / \partial y_j$  ( $j = 1, 2$ ) be continuous for  $|y| < k$  for some constant  $k > 0$  ( $k$  can be small), and let  $g(0) = 0$  and  $\lim_{|y| \rightarrow 0} |\partial g / \partial y_j| = 0$  ( $j=1, 2$ ). If the eigenvalues of  $A$  are  $\lambda, -\mu$ , with  $\lambda, \mu > 0$ , then there exists in  $y$  space a real curve  $C$  passing through the origin such that if  $\phi$  is any solution of (4.30) with  $\phi(0)$  (or  $\phi(t_0)$ ) on  $C$  and  $|\phi(0)|$  small enough, then  $\phi(t) \rightarrow 0$  as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ . Moreover, no solution  $\phi(t)$  with  $|\phi(0)|$  small enough, but not on  $C$ , can remain small for  $t \geq 0$ ; in particular, the zero solution of (4.30) is unstable.

**Chapter 4.6 Asymptotic Equivalence**

**Definition** We say that the systems (4.44) and (4.45) are asymptotically equivalent if to each solution  $x(t)$  of (4.44) with  $|x(t_0)|$  sufficiently small there corresponds a solution  $y(t)$  of (4.45) such that

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} |y(t) - x(t)| = 0$$

and if to each solution  $\hat{y}(t)$  of (4.45) with  $|\hat{y}(t_0)|$  sufficiently small there corresponds a solution  $\hat{x}(t)$  of (4.44) such that

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} |\hat{y}(t) - \hat{x}(t)| = 0$$

**Theorem 4.7** Let  $A$  be a constant matrix such that all solutions of

$$x' = Ax$$

are bounded on  $0 \leq t < \infty$ . Let  $B(t)$  be a continuous matrix such that

$$\int_0^\infty |B(s)| ds < \infty$$

Then (4.48) and the system

$$y' = (A + B(t))y$$

are asymptotically equivalent.

**Theorem 4.8** Let  $A$  be a real constant matrix satisfying the hypotheses of Theorem 4.7. Let  $g, \partial g / \partial y_j$  ( $j = 1, \dots, n$ ) be continuous for  $0 \leq t < \infty, |y| < \infty$  for some  $k > 0$  suppose

$$|g(t, y)| \leq \lambda(t)|y|$$

for  $0 \leq t < \infty, |y| < k$  where  $\int_0^\infty \lambda(t) dt < \infty$ . Then (4.48) and (4.54) are asymptotically equivalent.

#### Chapter 4.7 Stability of Periodic Solutions

**Theorem 4.9** Let  $g$  and  $\partial g / \partial z_j$  ( $j = 1, \dots, n$ ) be periodic in  $t$  of period  $\omega$  and continuous in  $(t, z)$  for  $|z| < k_1$  ( $k_1 > 0$  a constant). Let (4.58) be satisfied. Let  $A(t)$  be a continuous  $n$ -by- $n$  periodic matrix of period  $\omega$  in  $t$ . Let the multipliers  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_n$  (counting multiplicities) of the linear system  $x' = A(t)x$  have magnitude  $|\lambda_k| < 1$  ( $k = 1, \dots, n$ ). Then the zero solution of (4.59) is asymptotically stable.