

Methods of Applied Mathematics - Part 1

Exercise Sheet 2: Question 5

Classification of Equilibria in 3D

Complete Solution with XYZ Methodology

Problem Statement

Classify all hyperbolic equilibria of a linear vector field in three dimensions, i.e., draw phase portraits for all topologically different cases when the origin is a hyperbolic equilibrium of the vector field.

Hint: Start from the 2D cases (e.g., attracting node, attracting spiral, saddle, etc.), and bear in mind that a 3D system has 3 eigenvalues; where in the complex plane can they be?

1 Step 1: Foundation - Definition and Constraints

Define the System and Hyperbolicity

Solution 1. • **STAGE X (What we have):** A linear 3D vector field near the origin:

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}} = A\mathbf{x}, \quad \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^3 \quad (1)$$

where A is a 3×3 real matrix with equilibrium at $\mathbf{x}^* = \mathbf{0}$.

- **STAGE Y (Why hyperbolicity matters):** From Lecture Notes (Section 11, page 38), an equilibrium is **hyperbolic** if none of its eigenvalues lie on the imaginary axis, i.e., $\text{Re}(\lambda_i) \neq 0$ for all i .

Significance: Hyperbolic equilibria are structurally stable - small perturbations don't change their topological type. The Hartman-Grobman Theorem (page 38) guarantees that the nonlinear system near a hyperbolic equilibrium is topologically equivalent to its linearization.

- **STAGE Z (Our approach):** We'll systematically enumerate all possible eigenvalue configurations for a 3×3 real matrix, excluding non-hyperbolic cases (eigenvalues on imaginary axis).

Fundamental Constraints on Eigenvalues

Explanation 1 (Eigenvalue Structure for Real Matrices). *For a real matrix $A \in \mathbb{R}^{3 \times 3}$:*
Complex Conjugate Pairs:

- Complex eigenvalues must occur in conjugate pairs: if $\lambda = a + bi$ is an eigenvalue, then $\bar{\lambda} = a - bi$ is also an eigenvalue
- This is because the characteristic polynomial has real coefficients

Parity Constraint:

- A 3×3 matrix has exactly 3 eigenvalues (counting multiplicity)
- Complex eigenvalues come in pairs (even count)
- Therefore: Either **3 real** eigenvalues OR **1 real + 2 complex conjugate** eigenvalues
- Cannot have 3 complex eigenvalues (would need 4 or 6 with conjugate pairing)

Eigenvalue Location in Complex Plane

From Lecture Notes (Section 8, pages 29-31):

- Eigenvalues with $\text{Re}(\lambda) < 0$: contribute **stable** directions (attraction)
 - Eigenvalues with $\text{Re}(\lambda) > 0$: contribute **unstable** directions (repulsion)
 - Real eigenvalues: exponential approach/departure without rotation
 - Complex eigenvalues: spiral approach/departure with frequency $|\text{Im}(\lambda)|$
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2 Step 2: Enumeration Strategy

Classification Tree

Solution 2. • **STAGE X (Systematic approach):** We classify by eigenvalue structure:

1. **Case A:** Three real eigenvalues $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3 \in \mathbb{R}$
 2. **Case B:** One real + two complex conjugate $\lambda_1 \in \mathbb{R}, \lambda_{2,3} = a \pm bi$ with $b \neq 0$
- **STAGE Y (Why this suffices):** These two cases exhaust all possibilities for a 3×3 real matrix. Within each case, we further classify by the signs of the real parts, which determine stability.
 - **STAGE Z (Counting hyperbolic types):**
 - Case A: $2^3 = 8$ sign combinations, but exclude all-zero (non-hyperbolic) \Rightarrow actually we have 4 distinct topological types
 - Case B: $2 \times 2 = 4$ sign combinations for (real eigenvalue sign) \times (complex real part sign)
 - **Total:** 8 topologically distinct hyperbolic equilibria in 3D
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3 Step 3: Case A - Three Real Eigenvalues

Solution 3. For three real eigenvalues $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3$, hyperbolicity requires all $\lambda_i \neq 0$.

Subcase A1: All Three Negative ($\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3 < 0$)

- **STAGE X (Eigenvalue configuration):**

$$\lambda_1 < 0, \quad \lambda_2 < 0, \quad \lambda_3 < 0 \quad (2)$$

Example: $\lambda_1 = -3, \lambda_2 = -2, \lambda_3 = -1$

- **STAGE Y (Why this gives stability):** All three eigendirections attract. The general solution is:

$$\mathbf{x}(t) = c_1 e^{\lambda_1 t} \mathbf{v}_1 + c_2 e^{\lambda_2 t} \mathbf{v}_2 + c_3 e^{\lambda_3 t} \mathbf{v}_3 \quad (3)$$

Since $\lambda_i < 0$ for all i , we have $e^{\lambda_i t} \rightarrow 0$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$, so $\mathbf{x}(t) \rightarrow \mathbf{0}$.

- **STAGE Z (Classification):** STABLE NODE (or attracting node)

Stability Manifolds:

- Stable manifold: $W^s = \mathbb{R}^3$ (entire space)
- Unstable manifold: $W^u = \{\mathbf{0}\}$ (just the origin)
- Dimensions: $\dim(W^s) = 3, \dim(W^u) = 0$

Phase Portrait Description:

- All trajectories approach the origin
- Fastest approach along eigenvector with most negative λ (largest $|\lambda|$)
- Slowest approach along eigenvector with least negative λ (smallest $|\lambda|$)
- No rotation - purely exponential decay

[Phase portrait: 3D stable node - all arrows point toward origin from all directions]

Subcase A2: All Three Positive ($\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3 > 0$)

- **STAGE X (Eigenvalue configuration):**

$$\lambda_1 > 0, \quad \lambda_2 > 0, \quad \lambda_3 > 0 \quad (4)$$

Example: $\lambda_1 = 1, \lambda_2 = 2, \lambda_3 = 3$

- **STAGE Y (Why this gives instability):** All three eigendirections repel. The solution:

$$\mathbf{x}(t) = c_1 e^{\lambda_1 t} \mathbf{v}_1 + c_2 e^{\lambda_2 t} \mathbf{v}_2 + c_3 e^{\lambda_3 t} \mathbf{v}_3 \quad (5)$$

Since $\lambda_i > 0$ for all i , we have $e^{\lambda_i t} \rightarrow \infty$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$, so $\mathbf{x}(t) \rightarrow \infty$.

- **STAGE Z (Classification): UNSTABLE NODE** (or repelling node)

Stability Manifolds:

- Stable manifold: $W^s = \{\mathbf{0}\}$ (just the origin)
- Unstable manifold: $W^u = \mathbb{R}^3$ (entire space)
- Dimensions: $\dim(W^s) = 0, \dim(W^u) = 3$

Phase Portrait Description:

- All trajectories repel from the origin (except $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$)
- Fastest escape along eigenvector with most positive λ
- Slowest escape along eigenvector with least positive λ
- Time-reversal of stable node

[Phase portrait: 3D unstable node - all arrows point away from origin in all directions]

Subcase A3: Two Negative, One Positive

- **STAGE X (Eigenvalue configuration):**

$$\lambda_1 < 0, \quad \lambda_2 < 0, \quad \lambda_3 > 0 \quad (6)$$

Example: $\lambda_1 = -2, \lambda_2 = -1, \lambda_3 = 3$

- **STAGE Y (Why this gives saddle):** Two directions attract, one repels. The solution:

$$\mathbf{x}(t) = c_1 e^{\lambda_1 t} \mathbf{v}_1 + c_2 e^{\lambda_2 t} \mathbf{v}_2 + c_3 e^{\lambda_3 t} \mathbf{v}_3 \quad (7)$$

- If $c_3 = 0$: trajectory stays in $\text{span}\{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2\}$ and decays to origin (2D stable)
- If $c_3 \neq 0$: $e^{\lambda_3 t}$ term dominates for large t , trajectory escapes along \mathbf{v}_3
- **STAGE Z (Classification): SADDLE** with 2D stable manifold, 1D unstable manifold

Stability Manifolds:

- Stable manifold: $W^s = \text{span}\{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2\}$ (2D plane)
- Unstable manifold: $W^u = \text{span}\{\mathbf{v}_3\}$ (1D line)
- Dimensions: $\dim(W^s) = 2, \dim(W^u) = 1$

Phase Portrait Description:

- Trajectories starting in W^s approach origin
- Trajectories starting on W^u (except origin) escape along the line

- Generic trajectories: approach the 2D stable manifold, then follow it toward origin, but get deflected and escape along unstable direction
- Creates characteristic "saddle surface"

[Phase portrait: 3D saddle - 2D stable plane, 1D unstable line perpendicular]

Notation: Sometimes denoted as (2, 1)-saddle (2 stable dimensions, 1 unstable dimension).

Subcase A4: One Negative, Two Positive

- **STAGE X (Eigenvalue configuration):**

$$\lambda_1 < 0, \quad \lambda_2 > 0, \quad \lambda_3 > 0 \quad (8)$$

Example: $\lambda_1 = -3, \lambda_2 = 1, \lambda_3 = 2$

- **STAGE Y (Why this gives saddle):** One direction attracts, two repel. The solution:

$$\mathbf{x}(t) = c_1 e^{\lambda_1 t} \mathbf{v}_1 + c_2 e^{\lambda_2 t} \mathbf{v}_2 + c_3 e^{\lambda_3 t} \mathbf{v}_3 \quad (9)$$

- If $c_2 = c_3 = 0$: trajectory stays on \mathbf{v}_1 line and approaches origin
- Otherwise: $e^{\lambda_2 t}$ and $e^{\lambda_3 t}$ terms dominate, trajectory escapes in 2D plane

- **STAGE Z (Classification):** SADDLE with 1D stable manifold, 2D unstable manifold

Stability Manifolds:

- Stable manifold: $W^s = \text{span}\{\mathbf{v}_1\}$ (1D line)
- Unstable manifold: $W^u = \text{span}\{\mathbf{v}_2, \mathbf{v}_3\}$ (2D plane)
- Dimensions: $\dim(W^s) = 1, \dim(W^u) = 2$

Phase Portrait Description:

- Trajectories starting on W^s approach origin along the line
- Trajectories in W^u escape (except origin)
- Generic trajectories: initially move toward the stable line, but get deflected and escape in the 2D unstable plane
- Time-reversal of (2, 1)-saddle

[Phase portrait: 3D saddle - 1D stable line, 2D unstable plane perpendicular]

Notation: Sometimes denoted as (1, 2)-saddle (1 stable dimension, 2 unstable dimensions).

4 Step 4: Case B - One Real + Complex Conjugate Pair

Solution 4. For eigenvalues $\lambda_1 \in \mathbb{R}$ and $\lambda_{2,3} = a \pm bi$ with $b \neq 0$:

Key Concepts for Complex Eigenvalues

Explanation 2 (Complex Eigenvalues and Spiraling). *From Lecture Notes (Section 7, pages 26-27):*

When eigenvalues are complex, $\lambda = a \pm bi$:

- The real part $a = \text{Re}(\lambda)$ controls stability: $a < 0$ attracts, $a > 0$ repels
- The imaginary part $b = \text{Im}(\lambda)$ controls rotation frequency: $\omega = |b|$
- Solutions in the complex eigenspace spiral: $e^{(a+bi)t} = e^{at}(\cos(bt) + i \sin(bt))$
- This corresponds to spiraling in a 2D real plane (the real and imaginary parts of the eigenvector)

The general solution in the 2D invariant plane is:

$$\mathbf{x}_{\text{plane}}(t) = e^{at} \begin{pmatrix} \cos(bt) & -\sin(bt) \\ \sin(bt) & \cos(bt) \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x}_0 \quad (10)$$

This describes spiraling motion with exponential growth/decay.

Subcase B1: Real Negative, Complex with Negative Real Part

- **STAGE X (Eigenvalue configuration):**

$$\lambda_1 < 0 \in \mathbb{R}, \quad \lambda_{2,3} = a \pm bi \text{ with } a < 0, b \neq 0 \quad (11)$$

Example: $\lambda_1 = -2$, $\lambda_{2,3} = -1 \pm 3i$

- **STAGE Y (Why this gives stable spiral node):**

- Real eigenvalue $\lambda_1 < 0$: exponential decay along 1D line (direction \mathbf{v}_1)
- Complex pair with $a < 0$: spiral decay in 2D plane (spanned by $\text{Re}(\mathbf{v}_2)$, $\text{Im}(\mathbf{v}_2)$)
- Both components attract to origin

General solution:

$$\mathbf{x}(t) = c_1 e^{\lambda_1 t} \mathbf{v}_1 + e^{at} [c_2 \cos(bt) + c_3 \sin(bt)] \mathbf{u} + e^{at} [c_2 \sin(bt) - c_3 \cos(bt)] \mathbf{w} \quad (12)$$

where \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{w} span the 2D complex eigenspace.

- **STAGE Z (Classification): STABLE SPIRAL NODE** (or stable focus-node)

Stability Manifolds:

- Stable manifold: $W^s = \mathbb{R}^3$ (entire space)

- Unstable manifold: $W^u = \{\mathbf{0}\}$ (just the origin)
- Dimensions: $\dim(W^s) = 3$, $\dim(W^u) = 0$

Phase Portrait Description:

- All trajectories spiral into the origin
- In 2D plane: inward spiral (focus behavior)
- Along 3rd direction: exponential decay (node behavior)
- Combined: 3D spiral converging to origin
- Frequency of rotation: $\omega = |b|$

[Phase portrait: 3D stable spiral - trajectories spiral inward like a corkscrew toward origin]

Subcase B2: Real Positive, Complex with Positive Real Part

• **STAGE X (Eigenvalue configuration):**

$$\lambda_1 > 0 \in \mathbb{R}, \quad \lambda_{2,3} = a \pm bi \text{ with } a > 0, b \neq 0 \quad (13)$$

Example: $\lambda_1 = 2$, $\lambda_{2,3} = 1 \pm 3i$

• **STAGE Y (Why this gives unstable spiral node):**

- Real eigenvalue $\lambda_1 > 0$: exponential growth along 1D line
- Complex pair with $a > 0$: spiral growth in 2D plane
- Both components repel from origin

• **STAGE Z (Classification): UNSTABLE SPIRAL NODE** (or unstable focus-node)

Stability Manifolds:

- Stable manifold: $W^s = \{\mathbf{0}\}$ (just the origin)
- Unstable manifold: $W^u = \mathbb{R}^3$ (entire space)
- Dimensions: $\dim(W^s) = 0$, $\dim(W^u) = 3$

Phase Portrait Description:

- All trajectories spiral away from the origin
- In 2D plane: outward spiral
- Along 3rd direction: exponential growth
- Combined: 3D spiral diverging from origin
- Time-reversal of stable spiral node

[Phase portrait: 3D unstable spiral - trajectories spiral outward like expanding corkscrew]

Subcase B3: Real Negative, Complex with Positive Real Part

- STAGE X (Eigenvalue configuration):

$$\lambda_1 < 0 \in \mathbb{R}, \quad \lambda_{2,3} = a \pm bi \text{ with } a > 0, b \neq 0 \quad (14)$$

Example: $\lambda_1 = -2, \lambda_{2,3} = 1 \pm 3i$

- STAGE Y (Why this gives saddle-focus):

- Real eigenvalue $\lambda_1 < 0$: attracts along 1D line
- Complex pair with $a > 0$: spirals outward in 2D plane
- Mixed behavior: attraction in one direction, spiraling repulsion in plane

- STAGE Z (Classification): SADDLE-FOCUS with 1D stable, 2D unstable spiral

Stability Manifolds:

- Stable manifold: $W^s = \text{span}\{\mathbf{v}_1\}$ (1D line)
- Unstable manifold: $W^u = \text{span}\{\text{Re}(\mathbf{v}_2), \text{Im}(\mathbf{v}_2)\}$ (2D plane, spiral structure)
- Dimensions: $\dim(W^s) = 1, \dim(W^u) = 2$

Phase Portrait Description:

- Trajectories on W^s approach origin along the line
- Trajectories in W^u spiral away from origin
- Generic trajectories: initially attracted toward stable line, but deflected by spiraling unstable plane, eventually escape while spiraling
- Creates characteristic "spiral saddle" or "saddle-focus"

[Phase portrait: Saddle-focus - 1D stable line with 2D unstable spiral plane perpendicular]

Notation: (1, 2)-saddle-focus or saddle-focus with 1D stable manifold.

Explanation 3 (Homoclinic Connections and Chaos). *From Lecture Notes (Section 10, page 36): The Shilnikov bifurcation involves a saddle-focus equilibrium where a 1D unstable manifold connects back to the 2D stable manifold (homoclinic connection). This configuration is associated with chaotic dynamics in certain parameter regimes.*

Subcase B4: Real Positive, Complex with Negative Real Part

- STAGE X (Eigenvalue configuration):

$$\lambda_1 > 0 \in \mathbb{R}, \quad \lambda_{2,3} = a \pm bi \text{ with } a < 0, b \neq 0 \quad (15)$$

Example: $\lambda_1 = 2, \lambda_{2,3} = -1 \pm 3i$

- STAGE Y (Why this gives saddle-focus):

- Real eigenvalue $\lambda_1 > 0$: repels along 1D line
- Complex pair with $a < 0$: spirals inward in 2D plane
- Mixed behavior: repulsion in one direction, spiraling attraction in plane

- STAGE Z (Classification): SADDLE-FOCUS with 2D stable spiral, 1D unstable

Stability Manifolds:

- Stable manifold: $W^s = \text{span}\{\text{Re}(\mathbf{v}_2), \text{Im}(\mathbf{v}_2)\}$ (2D plane, spiral structure)
- Unstable manifold: $W^u = \text{span}\{\mathbf{v}_1\}$ (1D line)
- Dimensions: $\dim(W^s) = 2, \dim(W^u) = 1$

Phase Portrait Description:

- Trajectories on W^u escape from origin along the line
- Trajectories in W^s spiral into origin
- Generic trajectories: initially repelled along unstable line, but attracted by spiraling stable plane, eventually spiral into origin
- Time-reversal of (1, 2)-saddle-focus

[Phase portrait: Saddle-focus - 2D stable spiral plane with 1D unstable line perpendicular]

Notation: (2, 1)-saddle-focus or saddle-focus with 2D stable manifold.

5 Step 5: Complete Classification Summary

All Eight Hyperbolic Equilibrium Types in 3D

Solution 5.

Type	Eigenvalue Configuration	$\dim(W^s)$	$\dim(W^u)$	Name
Case A: Three Real Eigenvalues				
A1	$\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3 < 0$	3	0	Stable Node
A2	$\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3 > 0$	0	3	Unstable Node
A3	$\lambda_1, \lambda_2 < 0, \lambda_3 > 0$	2	1	(2, 1)-Saddle
A4	$\lambda_1 < 0, \lambda_2, \lambda_3 > 0$	1	2	(1, 2)-Saddle
Case B: One Real + Complex Conjugate Pair				
B1	$\lambda_1 < 0, \lambda_{2,3} = a \pm bi, a < 0$	3	0	Stable Spiral Node
B2	$\lambda_1 > 0, \lambda_{2,3} = a \pm bi, a > 0$	0	3	Unstable Spiral Node
B3	$\lambda_1 < 0, \lambda_{2,3} = a \pm bi, a > 0$	1	2	Saddle-Focus (1, 2)
B4	$\lambda_1 > 0, \lambda_{2,3} = a \pm bi, a < 0$	2	1	Saddle-Focus (2, 1)

Dimensional Analysis Verification

Explanation 4 (Verification via Stable/Unstable Manifold Dimensions). *For each equilibrium, verify that dimensions sum correctly:*

$$\dim(W^s) + \dim(W^u) = \text{dimension of phase space} = 3 \quad (16)$$

Checking each case:

- A1: $3 + 0 = 3 \checkmark$
- A2: $0 + 3 = 3 \checkmark$
- A3: $2 + 1 = 3 \checkmark$
- A4: $1 + 2 = 3 \checkmark$
- B1: $3 + 0 = 3 \checkmark$
- B2: $0 + 3 = 3 \checkmark$
- B3: $1 + 2 = 3 \checkmark$
- B4: $2 + 1 = 3 \checkmark$

All cases satisfy the dimension requirement.

Topological Equivalence Classes

Explanation 5 (When Are Two Equilibria Topologically Equivalent?). *From Lecture Notes (Section 11, page 38), two linear systems $\dot{\mathbf{x}} = A\mathbf{x}$ and $\dot{\mathbf{y}} = B\mathbf{y}$ are topologically equivalent if and only if:*

$$n_+(A) = n_+(B) \quad \text{and} \quad n_-(A) = n_-(B) \quad (17)$$

where n_+ = number of eigenvalues with positive real part, n_- = number with negative real part.

This means: Only the count of positive/negative eigenvalues matters for topological equivalence, not:

- The specific values of eigenvalues
- Whether eigenvalues are real or complex

However, we distinguish real vs. complex for qualitative behavior (spiraling vs. not).

Relationship to 2D Classification

From the hint in the problem and Lecture Notes (Section 8):

2D Equilibrium Types:

- Stable/Unstable Node: 2 real eigenvalues, same sign
- Saddle: 2 real eigenvalues, opposite signs
- Stable/Unstable Focus: 2 complex conjugate eigenvalues
- Center: 2 purely imaginary eigenvalues (not hyperbolic)

3D as Extension of 2D:

- Types A1, A2: "Node" extended to 3D (all eigenvalues same sign)
- Types A3, A4: "Saddle" extended to 3D (mixed eigenvalue signs)
- Types B1, B2: "Focus/Spiral" extended to 3D (complex pair + real with same sign)
- Types B3, B4: "Saddle-Focus" - unique to 3D+ (complex pair + real with opposite sign)

The saddle-focus types (B3, B4) **cannot occur in 2D** - they require at least 3 dimensions.

6 Step 6: Geometric Visualization Guide

How to Sketch Phase Portraits

For each equilibrium type, follow this procedure: **Step 1: Identify Eigenspaces**

Solution 6. • Real eigenvalues: draw eigenvector lines/planes

- Complex eigenvalues: identify 2D invariant plane

Step 2: Draw Stable/Unstable Manifolds

- W^s : manifold where trajectories approach origin as $t \rightarrow +\infty$
- W^u : manifold where trajectories approach origin as $t \rightarrow -\infty$ (equivalently, leave origin as $t \rightarrow +\infty$)

Step 3: Add Trajectory Arrows

- On W^s : arrows point toward origin
- On W^u : arrows point away from origin
- Off manifolds: show typical trajectory behavior

Step 4: Indicate Spiraling (if complex eigenvalues present)

- Draw spiral curves in the 2D invariant plane
- Indicate frequency with spiral tightness (higher $|b|$ means more rotations)

Key Features to Highlight

- **Stable Node (A1)**: All arrows inward, no preferred direction except rate differences
- **Unstable Node (A2)**: All arrows outward, time-reversal of A1
- **(2, 1)-Saddle (A3)**: 2D attracting plane, 1D repelling line - classic saddle
- **(1, 2)-Saddle (A4)**: 1D attracting line, 2D repelling plane - inverted saddle
- **Stable Spiral Node (B1)**: Inward spiraling corkscrew, all trajectories converge with rotation
- **Unstable Spiral Node (B2)**: Outward spiraling corkscrew, all trajectories diverge with rotation
- **Saddle-Focus (1, 2) (B3)**: 1D stable line, 2D unstable spiral - trajectories escape while spiraling
- **Saddle-Focus (2, 1) (B4)**: 2D stable spiral, 1D unstable line - trajectories approach while spiraling around unstable line

Final Summary and Key Insights

Complete Answer to Question 5

1. **Total Count:** There are **exactly 8 topologically distinct types** of hyperbolic equilibria for 3D linear systems
2. **Eigenvalue Constraints:**
 - 3D real matrix \Rightarrow either 3 real eigenvalues OR 1 real + 2 complex conjugate
 - Hyperbolic \Rightarrow all eigenvalues off imaginary axis ($\text{Re}(\lambda) \neq 0$)
3. **Classification Principle:** Determined by:
 - Number of eigenvalues with $\text{Re}(\lambda) > 0$ vs. $\text{Re}(\lambda) < 0$
 - Whether eigenvalues are real or complex
4. **Stability Manifold Dimensions:** Always $\dim(W^s) + \dim(W^u) = 3$
5. **New Phenomena in 3D:** The saddle-focus types (B3, B4) are unique to dimensions ≥ 3 and cannot occur in 2D systems

Connection to Lecture Material

- **Section 7-8 (pages 24-31):** Eigenvalue analysis, stable/unstable manifolds, node/saddle/focus classification
- **Section 10 (page 34):** Stable/unstable manifolds in higher dimensions
- **Section 11 (pages 37-38):** Topological equivalence and hyperbolicity
- **Hartman-Grobman Theorem (page 38):** Guarantees local topological equivalence to linearization for hyperbolic equilibria

Practical Importance

Understanding 3D equilibrium classification is essential for:

- Analyzing dynamical systems in mechanics, electronics, population dynamics
- Predicting long-term behavior from eigenvalue calculations
- Identifying bifurcations (transitions between equilibrium types)
- Understanding chaos (saddle-focus homoclinic connections)