

# Exam 1

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**Problem 1.** You pay into an annuity a sum of  $\$P$  dollars. This annuity pays you  $\$ \alpha$  per month. The annual interest is  $r\%$  and is calculated as simple interest on the remaining balance at the end of each year. If  $A(n)$  is the amount remaining at the end of the  $n$ -th month, with  $A(0) = P$ , write down  $A(n+1)$  in terms of  $A(n)$  and deduce a closed form solution for  $A(n)$ .

If  $P = \$100,000$ ,  $\alpha = \$500$ , and the interest rate is  $4\%$  per year, how long will the annuity last?

*Solution.* Let  $A(n)$  be the amount remaining in the annuity at the end of month  $n$ . If the amount initially paid into the annuity is  $\$P$ , then  $A(0) = P$ . If the annual interest rate is  $r\%$ , then the monthly interest rate is  $r/12\%$ . Assuming each month a payment of  $\$ \alpha$  is taken from the annuity, a difference equation representing the amount remaining in the annuity at the end of month  $n$  is given by

$$\begin{aligned} A(n+1) &= A(n) + A(n) \left[ \frac{r}{12(100)} \right] - \alpha \\ &= \left[ 1 + \frac{r}{12(100)} \right] A(n) - \alpha \end{aligned}$$

for  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

Using the closed form solution for difference equations in the form of affine maps, the solution to the difference equation is given by

$$\begin{aligned} A(n) &= \left( A(0) + \frac{\alpha}{1 - \left( 1 + \frac{r}{12(100)} \right)} \right) \left( 1 + \frac{r}{12(100)} \right)^n - \frac{\alpha}{1 - \left( 1 + \frac{r}{12(100)} \right)} \\ &= \left( P - \frac{1200\alpha}{r} \right) \left( 1 + \frac{r}{1200} \right)^n + \frac{1200\alpha}{r}. \end{aligned}$$

The annuity will run out after  $k \in \mathbb{R}$  months when  $A(k) = 0$  from which we can gather that the annuity will run out after  $n = \lceil k \rceil$  full months. Solving

$$A(k) = \left( 100000 - \frac{1200(500)}{4} \right) \left( 1 + \frac{4}{1200} \right)^k + \frac{1200(500)}{4} = 0$$

shows that  $k = 330.133$ . Therefore, the annuity will last for 331 months.

□

**Problem 2.** Let  $g_\mu(x) = \mu x \frac{(1-x)}{(1+x)}$ , for  $\mu > 0$ .

- a) Show that  $g_\mu$  has a maximum at  $x = \sqrt{2} - 1$  and the maximum value is  $\mu(3 - 2\sqrt{2})$ .
- b) Deduce that  $g_\mu$  is a dynamical system on  $[0, 1]$  for  $0 \leq \mu \leq 3 + 2\sqrt{2}$ , i.e.  $g_\mu([0, 1]) \subseteq [0, 1]$ .
- c) Find the fixed points of  $g_\mu$  for  $\mu \geq 1$ .
- d) Find  $g'_\mu$  and determine whether the fixed points are attracting or repelling.
- e) Use a graphing utility to graph  $g_\mu^2$  and  $g_\mu^3$  and estimate when a period 2 point is created.

*Solution.* a) If  $g_\mu(x) = \mu x \frac{(1-x)}{(1+x)}$ , then we see that

$$\begin{aligned} g'_\mu(x) &= \mu \left[ \frac{(1-x)}{(1+x)} - \frac{2x}{(1+x)^2} \right] \\ &= \mu \left[ \frac{-x^2 - 2x + 1}{(1+x)^2} \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

Thus,  $g'_\mu(x) = 0$  if  $x = \pm\sqrt{2} - 1$ . Since  $g'_\mu(0) = \mu > 0$  with  $0 < \sqrt{2} - 1$  and  $g'_\mu(1) = -\mu/2 < 0$  for  $\sqrt{2} - 1 < 1$ , we see that  $x = \sqrt{2} - 1$  is a local maximum of  $g_\mu(x)$ . The maximum value is thus given by

$$g_\mu(\sqrt{2} - 1) = \mu(\sqrt{2} - 1) \frac{(1 - (\sqrt{2} - 1))}{(1 + (\sqrt{2} - 1))} = \mu(3 - 2\sqrt{2}).$$

- b) The function  $g_\mu : [0, 1] \rightarrow [0, 1]$  will be a dynamical system for  $0 \leq \mu \leq 3 + 2\sqrt{2}$  if  $g_\mu([0, 1]) \subseteq [0, 1]$ . Note that on  $[0, 1]$ , we have that the global minimum of  $g_\mu$  is 0 and can easily see using the previous result that the global maximum of  $g_\mu$  is  $\mu(3 - 2\sqrt{2})$ . Thus, since  $g_\mu$  is continuous, we must have that  $g_\mu([0, 1]) = [0, \mu(3 - 2\sqrt{2})]$ . If  $0 \leq \mu \leq 3 + 2\sqrt{2}$ , we see that

$$0 \leq \mu(3 - 2\sqrt{2}) \leq (3 + 2\sqrt{2})(3 - 2\sqrt{2}) = 1.$$

Therefore,  $g_\mu([0, 1]) = [0, \mu(3 - 2\sqrt{2})] \subseteq [0, 1]$  and  $g_\mu$  is a dynamical system on  $[0, 1]$ .

- c) Suppose that  $\mu \geq 1$ . The fixed points of  $g_\mu$  are the roots of the function

$$f(x) = g_\mu(x) - x = -\frac{x[x(\mu + 1) - (\mu - 1)]}{(x + 1)}.$$

Thus, the fixed points of  $g_\mu$  are given by

$$x_0 = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad x_1 = \frac{\mu - 1}{\mu + 1}. \quad (2)$$

- d) Recall that a fixed point  $c$  of a function  $f$  that is hyperbolic is attracting if  $|f'(c)| < 1$  and repelling if  $|f'(c)| > 1$ . The derivative of  $g_\mu$  is provided by (1). Thus, we readily see that for the fixed points provided by (2) that

$$|g'_\mu(x_0)| = |g'_\mu(0)| = |\mu|$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} |g'_\mu(x_1)| &= \left| g'_\mu \left( \frac{\mu-1}{\mu+1} \right) \right| \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \left| \left( -\mu + \frac{1}{\mu} + 2 \right) \right|. \end{aligned}$$

Consider  $\mu \geq 1$ . We see that if  $\mu > 1$  then the fixed point  $x_0$  will be a hyperbolic fixed point and will be repelling. If, however,  $\mu = 1$ , we see that  $g'_\mu(x_0) = 1$  and  $x_0$  is a non-hyperbolic fixed point. We rely on a previous theorem that states that we can use the second and third derivative of  $g_\mu$  in order to classify the non-hyperbolic fixed point. Note that

$$g''_\mu(x) = -\frac{4\mu}{(1+x)^3} \quad \text{and} \quad g'''_\mu(x) = \frac{12\mu}{(1+x)^4}. \quad (3)$$

Since  $g''_\mu(x_0) = -4\mu = -4 < 0$  for  $\mu = 1$ , the fixed point  $x_0 = 0$  is one-sided asymptotically stable to the right of 0.

For the fixed point  $x_1$ , we see that if  $1 < \mu < 2 + \sqrt{5}$ , then  $|g'_\mu(x_1)| < 1$  so that  $x_1$  is a hyperbolic, attracting fixed point. On the other hand, if  $2 + \sqrt{5} < \mu$ , then  $|g'_\mu(x_1)| > 1$  so that  $x_1$  is a hyperbolic, repelling fixed point. In the case that  $\mu = 1$  or  $\mu = 2 + \sqrt{5}$ , the fixed point  $x_1$  is non-hyperbolic.

If  $\mu = 1$ , we see that  $x_1 = 0 = x_0$  and so it must have the same classification as  $x_0$  when  $\mu = 1$ , i.e. it is a non-hyperbolic fixed point that is one-sided asymptotically stable to the right of 0. If  $\mu = 2 + \sqrt{5}$ , then we see that  $g'_\mu(x_1) = -1$ . Note that we can use the Schwarzian derivative of  $g_\mu$  to classify this non-hyperbolic fixed point. The Schwarzian derivative of  $g_\mu$  evaluated at  $x_1$  is given by

$$\begin{aligned} Sg_\mu(x_1) &= -g'''_\mu(x_1) - \frac{3g''_\mu(x_1)^2}{2} \\ &= 6 - 6\sqrt{5} - \frac{3(-4)^2}{2} \\ &= -18 - 6\sqrt{5}. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $Sg_\mu(x_1) < 0$ , the fixed point  $x_1$  is asymptotically stable when  $\mu = 2 + \sqrt{5}$ .

- e) Using the Mathematica `Manipulate` command, we can plot the parametric families  $g_\mu^2$  and  $g_\mu^3$  for  $0 \leq \mu \leq 3+2\sqrt{2}$ . After plotting these families we see that a bifurcation point for the system occurs approximately when  $\mu \approx 4.23607$ . For values of  $\mu > 4.23607$  a 2-cycle is born for the dynamical system.

□

**Problem 3.** Consider the family of functions  $f_\lambda(x) = x^3 - \lambda x$  for some parameter  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ .

- Find all fixed points and determine their nature and where they are created as  $\lambda$  varies.
- Find where a 2-cycle is created and give the graph of where this happens. Determine the stability of the hyperbolic 2-cycles.
- Use a graphing utility to find an approximate value of  $\lambda$  where the 3-cycle is created. Give the graph of this situation.

*Solution.* a) The fixed points of  $f_\lambda$  are the roots of the function

$$\begin{aligned} g_\lambda(x) &= f_\lambda(x) - x \\ &= x(x^2 - \lambda - 1). \end{aligned}$$

Thus, the fixed points of  $f_\lambda$  are  $x_0 = 0$ ,  $x_1 = \sqrt{\lambda + 1}$ , and  $x_2 = -\sqrt{\lambda + 1}$ . Note that the points  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  are real only if  $\lambda \geq -1$ , i.e. the points are only fixed points of the dynamical system if  $\lambda \geq -1$ .

Using the first derivative of  $f_\lambda$ , we can classify the above fixed points when they are hyperbolic. If the fixed point is non-hyperbolic, we can use the second and third derivatives when the fixed point is non-hyperbolic of the type  $f'_\lambda(x) = 1$ , and the Schwarzian derivative when the fixed point is non-hyperbolic of the type  $f'_\lambda(x) = -1$ . Note that

$$\begin{aligned} f'_\lambda(x) &= 3x^2 - \lambda \\ f''_\lambda(x) &= 6x \\ f'''_\lambda(x) &= 6. \end{aligned}$$

If  $f'_\lambda(x) = -1$ , we see that the Schwarzian derivative of  $f_\lambda$  is given by

$$\begin{aligned} Sf_\lambda(x) &= -f'''_\lambda(x) - \frac{3}{2} [f''_\lambda(x)]^2 \\ &= -6 - 54x^2. \end{aligned}$$

For the fixed point  $x_0 = 0$ , we see that  $|f'_\lambda(x_0)| = |\lambda|$ . Thus, the fixed point  $x_0$  is a hyperbolic fixed point if  $\lambda \neq -1$  or  $\lambda \neq 1$ . If  $|\lambda| < 1$ , then  $x_0$  is asymptotically stable and if  $|\lambda| > 1$ , then  $x_0$  is an unstable fixed point. If  $\lambda = -1$ , then  $f'_\lambda(x_0) = 1$ . Since  $f''_\lambda(x_0) = 0$  and  $f'''_\lambda(x_0) = 6 > 0$ , the fixed point  $x_0$  is unstable. If  $\lambda = 1$ , then  $f'_\lambda(x_0) = -1$ . The Schwarzian derivative of  $f_\lambda$  at  $x_0$  is then  $Sf_\lambda(x_0) = -6 < 0$ . Therefore, the fixed point  $x_0$  is an asymptotically stable fixed point.

Consider now the fixed point  $x_1 = \sqrt{\lambda + 1}$  for  $\lambda \geq -1$ . We readily see that  $|f'_\lambda(x_1)| = |3 + 2\lambda|$ . If  $\lambda > -1$ , then  $|f'_\lambda(x_1)| > 1$  and  $x_1$  is hyperbolic and unstable. If  $\lambda = -1$ , then  $x_1 = 0 = x_0$  and from the previous classification of the fixed point  $x_0$ , we know that  $x_1$  is unstable.

Lastly, consider the fixed point  $x_2 = -\sqrt{\lambda + 1}$  for  $\lambda \geq -1$ . We thus have that  $|f'_\lambda(x_2)| = |3 + 2\lambda|$  and the same classification for  $x_1$  holds for  $x_2$ , i.e. the fixed point  $x_2$  is hyperbolic and unstable if  $\lambda > -1$  and non-hyperbolic and unstable if  $\lambda = -1$ .

- b) Recall that a point  $x$  is a period 2 point of  $f_\lambda$  if  $f_\lambda^2(x) = x$  and  $f_\lambda(x) \neq x$ . The 2-cycle associated to the period 2 point is then  $\{x, f_\lambda(x)\}$ . We thus look for solutions to the equation

$$\begin{aligned} f_\lambda^2(x) - x &= (x^3 - \lambda x)^3 - \lambda(x^3 - \lambda x) - x \\ &= x^9 - 3\lambda x^7 + 3\lambda^2 x^5 - \lambda^3 x^3 - \lambda x^3 + \lambda^2 x - x \\ &= x(x^4 - \lambda x^2 + 1)(x^2 - \lambda - 1)(x^2 - \lambda + 1) = 0. \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

Suppose first that  $\lambda < -1$ . Then the only fixed point of the function  $f_\lambda$  is  $x_0 = 0$  so that  $x = 0$  can be factored out of (4) since the solutions we seek satisfy  $f_\lambda(x) \neq x$ . After factoring  $x$  out from the above polynomial we have that

$$(x^4 - \lambda x^2 + 1)(x^2 - \lambda - 1)(x^2 - \lambda + 1) = 0.$$

However, if  $\lambda < -1$ , then  $(x^4 - \lambda x^2 + 1) = 0$ ,  $(x^2 - \lambda - 1) = 0$ , and  $(x^2 - \lambda + 1) = 0$ , all have no real solutions. Therefore, if  $\lambda < -1$ , then  $f_\lambda$  has no period 2 points.

Now consider  $\lambda \geq -1$ . Then for similar reasons we can factor  $(x - x_0)(x - x_1)(x - x_2)$ , where  $x_i$  for  $i = 0, 1, 2$  are fixed points, out of (4) and thus see that

$$(x^4 - \lambda x^2 + 1)(x^2 - \lambda + 1) = 0$$

To continue, we note that the first polynomial, say  $g(x) = x^4 - \lambda x^2 + 1$ , only has real solutions if  $\lambda \geq 2$  and the second polynomial, say  $h(x) = (x^2 - \lambda + 1)$ , only has real solutions if  $\lambda \geq 1$ . Thus, for  $-1 \leq \lambda < 1$  there are no period 2 points.

If  $1 \leq \lambda < 2$ , then  $h(x) = 0$  if  $x = \pm\sqrt{\lambda - 1}$ . Thus,  $\{\sqrt{\lambda - 1}, -\sqrt{\lambda - 1}\}$  is a 2-cycle of  $f_\lambda$ .

If on the other hand  $\lambda \geq 2$ , then  $h(x) = 0$  has real solutions and the previous 2-cycle is still a 2-cycle of  $f_\lambda$ . However,  $g(x) = 0$  also has real solutions. These are given by

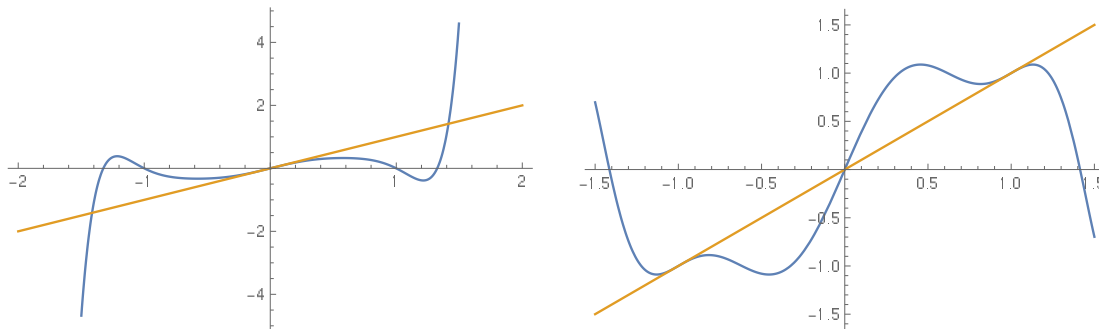
$$\begin{aligned} y_0 &= -\frac{\sqrt{\lambda - \sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4}}}{\sqrt{2}}, & y_1 &= \frac{\sqrt{\lambda - \sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4}}}{\sqrt{2}} \\ y_2 &= -\frac{\sqrt{\lambda + \sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4}}}{\sqrt{2}}, & y_3 &= \frac{\sqrt{\lambda + \sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4}}}{\sqrt{2}}. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $f_\lambda^2(y_0) = y_0$  and  $f_\lambda(y_0) = y_3 \neq y_0$ , we have that  $\{y_0, y_3\}$  is an additional 2-cycle. Similarly, since  $f_\lambda^2(y_1) = y_1$  and  $f_\lambda(y_1) = y_2 \neq y_1$ , we have that  $\{y_1, y_2\}$  is the last 2-cycle.

We now present the graphs of the bifurcation points  $\lambda = 1$  and  $\lambda = 2$  that indicate the birth of new 2-cycles in figure 1.

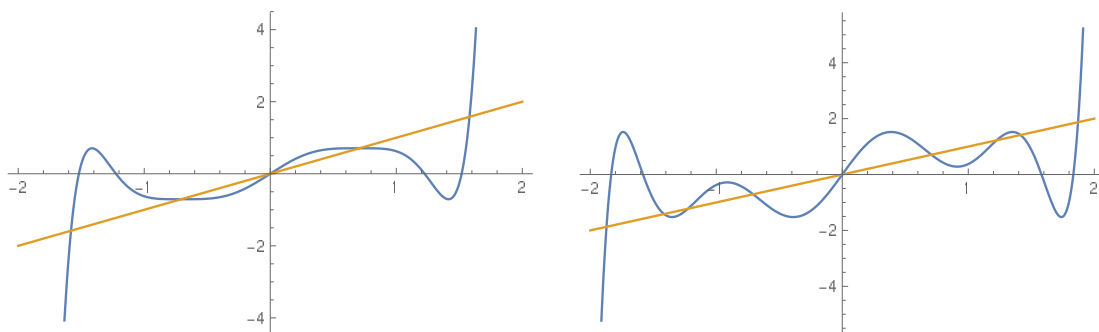
In figure 2, we can see where the two cycles actually arise for values of  $\lambda$  that occur between the bifurcation points  $\lambda = 1$  and  $\lambda = 2$ .

We will now determine the stability of the hyperbolic two cycle  $\{z_0, z_1\} = \{\sqrt{\lambda - 1}, -\sqrt{\lambda - 1}\}$  when  $1 \leq \lambda < 2$  and the stability of the hyperbolic two cycles  $\{z_0, z_1\}$ ,  $\{y_0, y_3\}$ , and  $\{y_1, y_2\}$  when  $\lambda \geq 2$ .



(a) The graphs of  $f_\lambda^2(x)$  (blue) and  $y = x$  (orange) for  $\lambda = 1$ . (b) The graphs of  $f_\lambda^2(x)$  (blue) and  $y = x$  (orange) for  $\lambda = 2$ .

Figure 1: The graphs of  $f_\lambda^2$  at the bifurcation points  $\lambda = 1$  and  $\lambda = 2$  for the birth of 2-cycles.



(a) The graphs of  $f_\lambda^2(x)$  (blue) and  $y = x$  (orange) for  $\lambda = 3/2$ . (b) The graphs of  $f_\lambda^2(x)$  (blue) and  $y = x$  (orange) for  $\lambda = 5/2$ .

Figure 2: The graphs of  $f_\lambda^2$  for values of  $\lambda$  different from the bifurcation points  $\lambda = 1$  and  $\lambda = 2$ .

Recall that for a function  $g$  that a 2-cycle  $\{z_0, z_1\}$  is hyperbolic and stable if  $z_0$  is a stable fixed point of  $g^2$ , i.e. if

$$|(g^2(z_0))'| = |g'(g(z_0))g'(z_0)| = |g'(z_0)g'(z_1)| < 1.$$

Note that  $f'_\lambda(x) = 3x^2 - \lambda$ . Thus, we see for the period 2 point  $z_0$  that

$$\begin{aligned} |(g^2(z_0))'| &= \left| g'(\sqrt{\lambda-1}) g'(-\sqrt{\lambda-1}) \right| \\ &= \left| \left( 3(\sqrt{\lambda-1})^2 - \lambda \right) \left( 3(-\sqrt{\lambda-1})^2 - \lambda \right) \right| \\ &= |(2\lambda - 3)^2|. \end{aligned}$$

Similarly for the period 2 point  $y_0$  we have that

$$\begin{aligned} |(g^2(y_0))'| &= \left| g' \left( -\frac{\sqrt{\lambda - \sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4}}}{\sqrt{2}} \right) g' \left( \frac{\sqrt{\lambda + \sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4}}}{\sqrt{2}} \right) \right| \\ &= \left| \left( \frac{3(-\sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4} + \lambda)}{2} - \lambda \right) \left( \frac{3(\sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4} + \lambda)}{2} - \lambda \right) \right| \\ &= |-2\lambda^2 + 9| \end{aligned}$$

and for the period 2 point  $y_1$  we have that

$$\begin{aligned} |(g^2(y_1))'| &= \left| g' \left( \frac{\sqrt{\lambda - \sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4}}}{\sqrt{2}} \right) g' \left( -\frac{\sqrt{\lambda + \sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4}}}{\sqrt{2}} \right) \right| \\ &= \left| \left( \frac{3(-\sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4} + \lambda)}{2} - \lambda \right) \left( \frac{3(\sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4} + \lambda)}{2} - \lambda \right) \right| \\ &= |-2\lambda^2 + 9|. \end{aligned}$$

For the 2-cycle  $\{z_0, z_1\}$  of  $f_\lambda$ , we see that  $|(g^2(z_0))'| = |(2\lambda - 3)^2| < 1$  only if  $1 < \lambda < 2$ . Therefore,  $\{z_0, z_1\}$  is a hyperbolic, stable 2-cycle if  $1 < \lambda < 2$ .

For the other 2-cycles  $\{y_0, y_3\}$  and  $\{y_1, y_2\}$ , we see that  $|(g^2(y_0))'| = |(g^2(y_1))'| = |-2\lambda^2 + 9| < 1$  only if  $2 < \lambda < \sqrt{5}$ . Therefore, it is for these values of  $\lambda$  that the 2-cycles  $\{y_0, y_3\}$  and  $\{y_1, y_2\}$  are hyperbolic and stable.

- c) The plot in figure 3 shows that when  $\lambda \approx 2.6995$ , the graph of  $f_\lambda^3$  touches the line  $y = x$  at 6 points that differ from the fixed points of  $f_\lambda$ . Therefore, it is around this value of  $\lambda$  that two 3-cycles occur for  $f_\lambda$ .

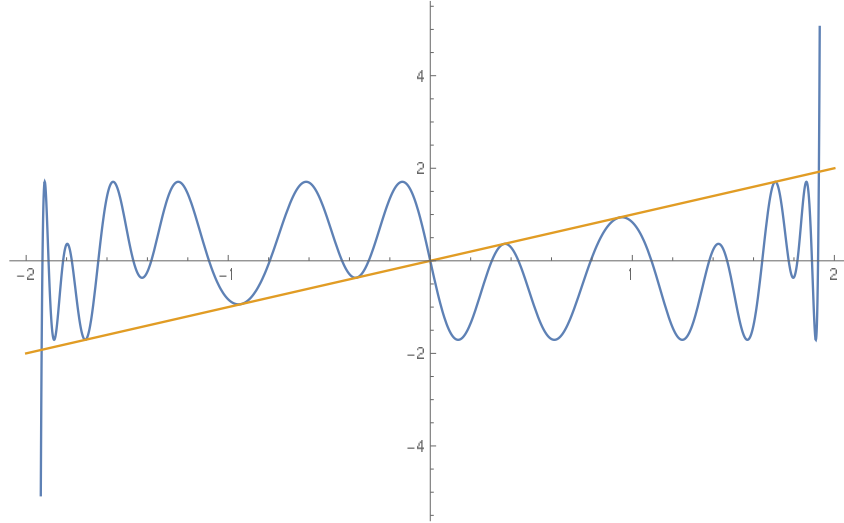


Figure 3: The graphs of  $f_\lambda^3$  and  $y = x$  for  $\lambda = 2.6995$ .

□

**Problem 4.** Let  $f$  be a 4-times continuously differentiable function. Its Newton function is  $N_f(x) = x - f(x)/f'(x)$ . Suppose that  $c$  is a zero of  $f$ . If  $Sf(x)$  is the Schwarzian derivative of  $f$ , show that

$$N_f'''(c) = 2Sf(c)$$

*Solution.* If  $N_f(x) = x - f(x)/f'(x)$ , then we see that since  $f \in C^4(-\infty, \infty)$ ,  $N_f'(x)$  exists and

$$\begin{aligned} N_f'(x) &= 1 - \left[ \frac{f(x)}{f'(x)} \right]' \\ &= 1 - \frac{f'(x)^2 - f(x)f''(x)}{f'(x)^2} \\ &= \frac{f(x)f''(x)}{f'(x)^2}. \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, we see that

$$\begin{aligned} N_f''(x) &= \left[ \frac{f(x)f''(x)}{f'(x)^2} \right]' \\ &= \frac{f''(x)}{f'(x)} - \frac{2f(x)f''(x)^2}{f'(x)^3} + \frac{f(x)f'''(x)}{f'(x)^2} \end{aligned}$$

and that

$$\begin{aligned} N_f'''(x) &= \left[ \frac{f''(x)}{f'(x)} - \frac{2f(x)f''(x)^2}{f'(x)^3} + \frac{f(x)f'''(x)}{f'(x)^2} \right]' \\ &= -\frac{3f''(x)^2}{f'(x)^2} + \frac{6f(x)f''(x)^3}{f'(x)^4} + \frac{2f'''(x)}{f'(x)} - \frac{6f(x)f''(x)f'''(x)}{f'(x)^3} + \frac{f(x)f''''(x)}{f'(x)^2}. \end{aligned}$$

Recall that  $Sf(c)$  is given by

$$Sf(x) = \frac{f'''(x)}{f'(x)} - \frac{3}{2} \left( \frac{f''(x)}{f'(x)} \right)^2.$$

Using the fact that if  $f(c) = 0$ , we see that

$$N_f'''(c) = 2 \left( \frac{f'''(c)}{f'(c)} \right) - 3 \left( \frac{f''(c)}{f'(c)} \right)^2.$$

Therefore, we have that

$$\begin{aligned} N_f'''(c) &= 2 \left( \frac{f'''(c)}{f'(c)} \right) - 3 \left( \frac{f''(c)}{f'(c)} \right)^2 \\ &= 2 \left[ \frac{f'''(x)}{f'(x)} - \frac{3}{2} \left( \frac{f''(x)}{f'(x)} \right)^2 \right] = 2Sf(c). \end{aligned}$$

□



**Problem 5.** Let  $f : [0, 1] \rightarrow [0, 1]$  be continuous on  $[0, 1]$  and differentiable on  $(0, 1)$  with  $|f'(x)| < 1$  for all  $x \in (0, 1)$ .

- a) Prove that  $f$  has a unique fixed point  $p$  in  $[0, 1]$ .
- b) Prove that  $f$  cannot have a point of period 2 in  $[a, b]$ .
- c) Prove that  $f^n(x) \rightarrow p$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$  for all  $x \in (0, 1)$ .

*Solution.*

□

**Problem 6.** Let  $f(x) = ax^3 + bx + c$  where  $a$  and  $b$  satisfy  $a/b > 0$ . Denote by  $N_f$  the corresponding Newton function.

- a) Show that  $N_f$  has a unique fixed point.
- b) Show that  $N_f$  cannot have any period 2 points.
- c) Why does it follow that  $N_f$  has no points of period  $n$  for  $n > 2$ ?

*Solution.*

□

- Problem 7.** a) Show that the function  $f(x) = -1/(x+1)$  has the property that  $f^3(x) = x$  for all  $x \neq -1, 0$ .
- b) Let  $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a function defined on a set  $I$ , with  $f^3(x) = x$  for all  $x \in I$ . Set  $g(x) = f^2(x)$ . Show that  $g^3(x) = x$  for all  $x \in I$ . Deduce a function different from that in a) that has this property.
- c) In general, show that such a function cannot have a 2-cycle.
- d) Deduce that a function  $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  with the property  $f^3(x) = x$  cannot be continuous.
- e) Show that the inverse of  $f$  must exist.
- f) If  $f'(x)$  exists for all  $x \in I$ , show that the 3-cycles are non-hyperbolic where  $f$  is not the identity map.
- g) Suppose that  $f(x) = \frac{ax+b}{cx+d}$  satisfies  $f^3(x) = x$ . Show that if  $f$  is not the identity map and  $a \neq d$ , then  $a^2 + bc + ad + d^2 = 0$ .
- i) Use this to find other functions with the property  $f^3(x) = x$ .
- ii) Deduce that if  $ad - bc > 0$ , then such a function cannot have any fixed points.

*Solution.*

□