Exam 1

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Problem 1. You pay into an annuity a sum of $\$P$ dollars. This annuity pays you $\$\alpha$ per year, compounded monthly. The interest is $r\%$ and is calculated as simple interest on the remaining balance at the end of each month. 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 month, how long will the annuity last?

Solution. □

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

a) Show that g_μ has a maximum at $x = \sqrt{2} - 1$ and the maximum value is $\mu(3 - 2\sqrt{2})$.

b) Deduce that g_μ 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_μ for $\mu \geq 1$.

d) Find g'_μ and determine whether the fixed points are attracting or repelling.

e) Use a graphing utility to graph g^2_μ and g^3_μ and estimate when a period 2 point is created.

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

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

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 $g_\mu : [0, 1] \to [0, 1]$ 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_μ is 0 and can easily see using the previous result that the global maximum of g_μ is $\mu(3 - 2\sqrt{2})$. Thus, since g_μ 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_μ is a dynamical system on $[0, 1]$.

c) Suppose that $\mu \geq 1$. The fixed points of g_μ 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_μ are given by

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

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_μ 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

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

Since $\mu \geq 1$, 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_μ in order to classify the non-hyperbolic fixed point. Note that

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

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

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_μ to classify this non-hyperbolic fixed point. The Schwarzian derivative of g_μ 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)

$\square$

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

a) Find all fixed points and determine their nature and where they are created as λ varies.

b) Find where a 2-cycle is created and give the graph of where this happens. Determine the stability of the hyperbolic 2-cycles.

c) Use a graphing utility to find an approximate value of λ where the 3-cycle is created. Give the graph of this situation.

Solution. $\square$

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. □

Problem 5. Let $f : [0,1] \to [0,1]$ 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 $f^n(x) \to p$ as $n \to \infty$ 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 $f : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$ 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 $f : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$ 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 $f(x) = \dfrac{ax+b}{cx+d}$ 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. □