

Problem 5.1 (HW09-2019). Show that the following system does not have any closed orbits in the region $x, y > 0$:

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{x} &= x(2 - x - y) \\ \dot{y} &= y(4x - x^2 - 3)\end{aligned}$$

Since $\{x, y > 0\}$ is simply connected, we can use Bendixon's criterion to show the nonexistence of closed orbits.

Let $f(x, y) = x(2 - x - y)$ and $g(x, y) = y(4x - x^2 - 3)$. We want to show $\text{div}([f \ g]^T)$ is nonzero & does not change sign. So:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial g}{\partial y} &= 2 - 2x - y + 4x - x^2 - 3 \\ &= -x^2 + 2x - y - 1 \\ &= -(x-1)^2 - y \\ &< 0 \quad \forall x, y > 0\end{aligned}$$

By the Bendixon criterion we have no periodic orbits.