



Math for the people, by the people.

nullcline

Canonical name	Nullcline
Date of creation	2013-03-22 14:27:14
Last modified on	2013-03-22 14:27:14
Owner	Daume (40)
Last modified by	Daume (40)
Numerical id	5
Author	Daume (40)
Entry type	Definition
Classification	msc 34C99

Let

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{x}_1 &= f_1(x_1, \dots, x_n) \\ &\vdots \\ \dot{x}_n &= f_n(x_1, \dots, x_n)\end{aligned}$$

be a system of first order ordinary differential equation. The x_j *nullcline* is the set of points which satisfy $f_j(x_1, \dots, x_n) = 0$. Note that at an intersection point of all the nullclines implies that

$$\begin{aligned}0 &= f_1(x_1, \dots, x_n) \\ &\vdots \\ 0 &= f_n(x_1, \dots, x_n).\end{aligned}$$

Hence the intersection point of all the nullclines is an equilibrium point of the system.

example:

- see some qualitative analysis of FitzHugh-Nagumo equation using nullclines