

1. The system $\dot{x} = y - 16x^3, \dot{y} = -4x + 2y - 2y^3$ has a single fixed-point at the origin. Prove the existence of a limit cycle by considering the flow across the boundary of the rectangle $\{|x| \leq 1, |y| \leq 2\}$ and applying the *Poincare-Bendixson* theorem.

$$J(x, y) = \begin{pmatrix} -32x^2 & 1 \\ -4 & 2 - 6y^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$J(0,0) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -4 & 2 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \tau = 2, \quad \delta = 4 \therefore \text{Spiral Source}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{y} \rightarrow y(+) = 2 &\rightarrow -4x + 2(2) - 2(2)^3 = -4x - 16 \rightarrow \\ x = -1: &-4(-1) - 16 = -12, \\ x = 1: &-4(1) - 16 = -8 \\ \therefore &-12 < \dot{y} < -8 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{y} \rightarrow y(-) = -2 &\rightarrow -4x + 2(-2) - 2(-2)^3 = -4x + 12 \rightarrow \\ x = -1: &-4(-1) + 12 = 16, \\ x = 1: &-4(1) + 12 = 8 \\ \therefore &8 < \dot{y} < 16 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{x} \rightarrow x(+) = 1 &\rightarrow y - 16(1)^3 = y - 16 \rightarrow \\ y = -2: &-2 - 16 = -18, \\ y = 2: &2 - 16 = -14 \\ \therefore &-16 < \dot{x} < -14 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{x} \rightarrow x(-) = -1 &\rightarrow y - 16(-1)^3 = y + 16 \rightarrow \\ y = -2: &-2 + 16 = 14, \\ y = 2: &2 + 16 = 18 \\ \therefore &14 < \dot{x} < 18 \end{aligned}$$

\dot{y} is negative along $y=2$ and it is positive along $y=-2$

\dot{x} is negative along $x=1$ and it is positive along $x=-1$

This means outside of the boundaries flows towards the inside, and since there is a fixed point at the origin that is a spiral source there is a limit cycle.

2. This exercise uses a *Liapunov* function to prove the existence of a stable limit cycle. Consider the 2D system

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{x} &= x(r^4 - a^4x^4 - y^4) - by^3 \\ \dot{y} &= y(r^4 - a^4x^4 - y^4) + a^4bx^3 \end{aligned}$$

Where r , a , and b are positive constants.

- a. Classify the fixed-point at the origin

$$J(0,0) = \begin{pmatrix} r^4 & 0 \\ 0 & r^4 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \tau = 2r^4, \quad \delta = r^8 \therefore \text{Source (star node)}$$

b. Let $V(x, y) = (r^4 - a^4x^4 - y^4)^2$ and show $\dot{V} = c(x, y) * V \leq 0$

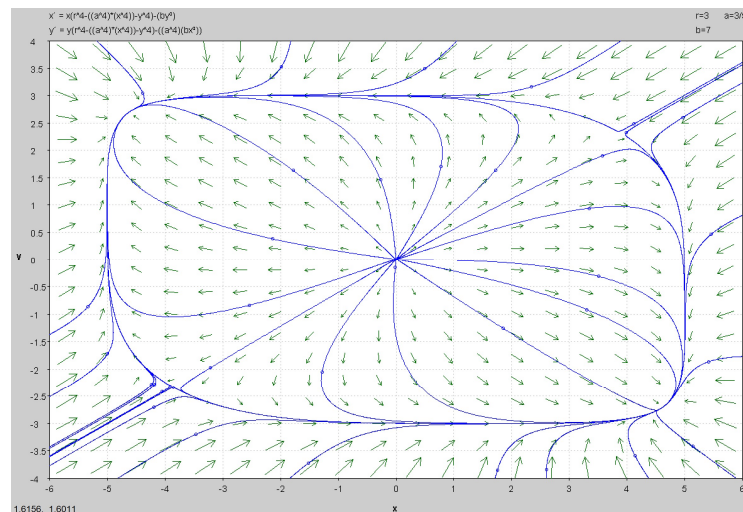
$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dV}{dt} &= 2(r^4 - a^4x^4 - y^4)(-4a^4x^3\dot{x} - 4y^3\dot{y}) \rightarrow \\ &= 2(r^4 - a^4x^4 - y^4) * (-4(a^4x^3(x(r^4 - a^4x^4 - y^4) - by^3) - y^3(y(r^4 - a^4x^4 - y^4) + a^4bx^3))) \\ &= 2(r^4 - a^4x^4 - y^4) * (-4a^4x^4(r^4 - a^4x^4 - y^4) + 4a^4x^3by^3 - 4a^4x^3by^3 - 4y^4(r^4 - a^4x^4 - y^4)) \\ &= -4(a^4x^4 + y^4) * 2(r^4 - a^4x^4 - y^4)^2 \\ &= -8(a^4x^4 + y^4)V \leq 0 \end{aligned}$$

c. Find where $\dot{V} = 0$ and give an argument for the existence of a stable limit cycle

$$\dot{V} = -8(a^4x^4 + y^4) * V$$

Since there is a -8 in front of \dot{V} , V is always decreasing until it stops. Where $\dot{V} = 0$ and $V(x, y) = 0$, but the origin is a source.

d. Use a computer to generate a phase portrait with $r = 3$, $a = \frac{3}{5}$, and $b = 7$



3. Balthasar van der Pol was a Dutch physicist and electrical engineer who was a pioneer in the experimental study of nonlinear phenomena related to radio communications. The triode vacuum tube, which was able to produce stable self-excited oscillations, is described by the *van der Pol Oscillator* differential equations:

$$\ddot{x} + \mu(x^2 - 1)\dot{x} + x = 0$$

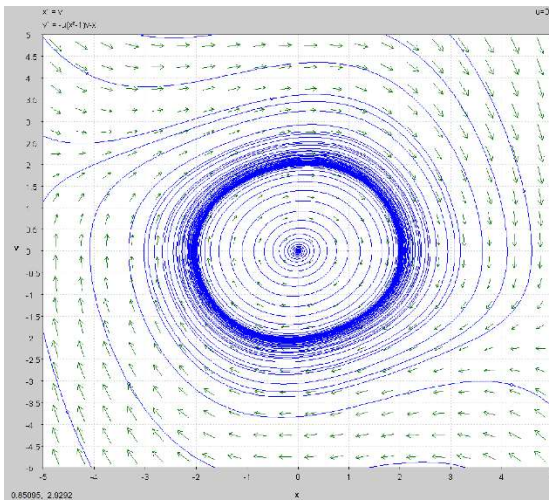
a. Rewrite the second-order system as two first-order differential equations

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{x} &= v \\ \dot{v} &= -\mu(x^2 - 1)v - x \end{aligned}$$

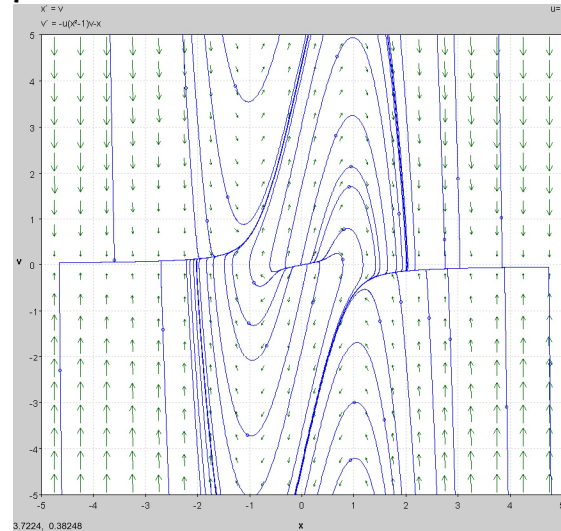
$$\begin{pmatrix} \dot{x} \\ \dot{v} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & -\mu(x^2 - 1) \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ v \end{pmatrix}$$

b. Use a computer to generate a phase portrait with $\mu = 0.1$ and $\mu = 5$

$\mu = 0.1$:



$\mu = 5$:

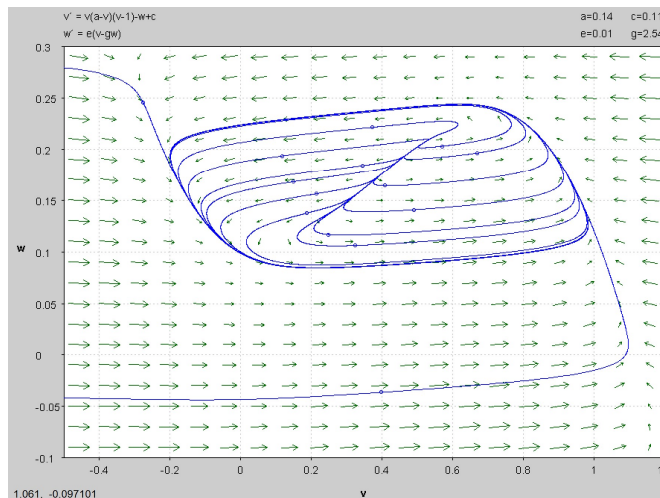


4. The *FitzHugh-Nagumo* oscillator is used to model the action-potential of a neuron. It is a two-variable simplification of the four-dimensional *Hodgkin-Huxley* model (1952) for which Hodgkin and Huxley received the 1963 Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine. The *FitzHugh-Nagumo* oscillator equations are

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{v} &= v(a - v)(v - 1) - w + v_c \\ \dot{w} &= \epsilon(v - \gamma w)\end{aligned}$$

where v is a voltage, w is the recovery of voltage, a is a threshold, γ is a shunting variable, and v_c is a constant voltage. The parameter ϵ influences the rate of approach to equilibrium but does not affect the equilibrium value. For certain parameter values the solution exhibits *relaxation oscillations*.

Use a computer to generate a phase portrait which shows a limit cycle for $a = 0.14$, $v_c = 0.112$, $\epsilon = 0.01$ and $\gamma = 2.54$.



5. Strogatz 7.1.8: Consider $\ddot{x} + a\dot{x}(x^2 + y^2 - 1) + x = 0$, where $a > 0$

a. Find and classify all the fixed points

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{x} &= y \\ \dot{y} &= -ay(x^2 + y^2 - 1) - x\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}(x^*, y^*) &= (0, 0) \\ J(0, 0) &= \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & a \end{pmatrix}, \quad \tau = a, \quad \delta = 1 \\ \therefore a > 2 &\rightarrow \text{unstable node}, \quad 0 < a < 2 \rightarrow \text{unstable spiral}\end{aligned}$$

b. Show the system has a circular limit cycle, and find its amplitude and period

$$\begin{aligned}r\dot{r} &= x\dot{x} + y\dot{y} = xy - ay^2(x^2 + y^2 - 1) - xy = -ay^2(r^2 - 1) \rightarrow \\ \dot{r} &= -ar \sin^2 \theta (r^2 - 1) \\ r^2\dot{\theta} &= x\dot{y} - y\dot{x} = -axy(x^2 + y^2 - 1) + x^2 - y^2 = -axy(r^2 - 1) - r^2 \rightarrow \\ \dot{\theta} &= -a \cos \theta \sin \theta (r^2 - 1) - 1\end{aligned}$$

$$\dot{r} = 0 \rightarrow r = 1 \text{ or } r = 0$$

$$\dot{\theta}: r = 0 \rightarrow \dot{\theta} = -a \cos \theta \sin \theta - 1, r = 1 \rightarrow \dot{\theta} = -1$$

When $\dot{r} = 0, r = 1$ and $\dot{\theta} = -1$ so this is a clockwise cycle, **amplitude = 1, period = 2π**

c. Determine the stability of the limit cycle

When $r = 1, \dot{\theta} = -1$ so the cycle goes clockwise

When $r > 1, \dot{r} < 0$, toward the cycle

When $r < 1, \dot{r} > 0$, toward the cycle

Therefore, the limit cycle is **stable**

d. Give an argument which shows that the limit cycle is unique, i.e., there are no other periodic trajectories

When r is 0 it is the fixed point, but the only other place $\dot{r} = 0$ is when $r = 1$

For every value of $r > 1, \dot{r}$ is positive, and for every value of $r < 1, \dot{r}$ is negative.

Therefore, every value of r goes towards the limit cycle except for the fixed point when $r = 0$.

6. Show that the system $\dot{x} = x - y - x^3, \dot{y} = x + y - y^3$ has a periodic solution. It may be helpful to apply the *Poincare-Bendixson* theorem to the region $1 \leq r \leq \sqrt{2}$ and make use of the trigonometric identities

$$\begin{aligned}4 \cos^4 \theta + 4 \sin^4 \theta &= 3 + \cos 4\theta \\ 4 \cos^3 \theta \sin \theta - 4 \cos \theta \sin^3 \theta &= \sin 4\theta\end{aligned}$$

Fixed points: $(x^*, y^*) = (0, 0)$

$$\begin{aligned}J(x, y) &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 - 3x^2 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 - 3y^2 \end{pmatrix} \\ J(0, 0) &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \tau = 2, \quad \delta = 2, \quad \therefore \text{spiral source}\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}r\dot{r} &= x\dot{x} + y\dot{y} \rightarrow r\dot{r} = x(x - y - x^3) + y(x + y - y^3) \\ r\dot{r} &= x^2 - xy - x^4 + xy + y^2 - y^4 = r^2 - x^4 - y^4 \\ r\dot{r} &= r^2 - r^4 \cos^4 \theta - r^4 \sin^4 \theta = r - r^3(\cos^4 \theta + \sin^4 \theta)\end{aligned}$$

$$4\dot{r} = 4r - r^3(4\cos^4\theta - 4\sin^4\theta) = 4r - r^3(3 + \cos 4\theta)$$

$$\dot{r} = r - \frac{r^3(3 + \cos 4\theta)}{4}$$

$$r^2\dot{\theta} = x\dot{y} - y\dot{x} = x(x + y - y^3) - y(x - y - x^3) = x^2 + xy - xy^3 - xy + y^2 + yx^3$$

$$r^2\dot{\theta} = r^2 - xy^3 + yx^3 = r^2 - r^4\cos\theta\sin^3\theta + r^4\sin\theta\cos^3\theta$$

$$\dot{\theta} = 1 - r^2(\cos\theta\sin^3\theta - \cos^3\theta\sin\theta) \rightarrow 4\dot{\theta} = 4 + r^2(-4\cos\theta\sin^3\theta + 4\cos^3\theta\sin\theta)$$

$$\dot{\theta} = 1 - \frac{r^2\sin 4\theta}{4}$$

$$\text{When } r < 1 \rightarrow \dot{r} = 1 - \frac{3 + \cos 4\theta}{4} \rightarrow$$

$$\dot{r} > 0 \rightarrow 1 < \frac{3 + \cos 4\theta}{4} \rightarrow 1 < \cos 4\theta$$

Since $\cos 4\theta$ is always less than 1, \dot{r} is always greater than 0 when $r = 1$

$$\text{When } r > \sqrt{2} \rightarrow \dot{r} = \sqrt{2} - 2\sqrt{2}\left(\frac{3 + \cos 4\theta}{4}\right) \rightarrow \dot{r} = \sqrt{2}\left(1 - \frac{3}{2} - \frac{\cos 4\theta}{2}\right)$$

$$\dot{r} = -\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} * (1 + \cos 4\theta)$$

$$\dot{r} < 0 \rightarrow 1 + \cos 4\theta > 0 \rightarrow \cos 4\theta > -1$$

Since $\cos 4\theta$ is always greater than -1, \dot{r} is always less than 0 when $r = \sqrt{2}$

$$\therefore \dot{r} > 0 \text{ when } r < 1, \dot{r} < 0 \text{ when } r > \sqrt{2}$$

7. **Strogatz 7.3.11: (Cycle graphs)** Suppose $\dot{x} = f(x)$ is a smooth vector on field \mathbb{R}^2 . An improved version of the Poincare-Bendixson theorem states that if a trajectory is trapped in a compact region, then it must approach a fixed point, a closed orbit, or something exotic called a *cycle graph* (an invariant set containing a finite number of fixed points connected by a finite number of trajectories, all oriented either clockwise or counterclockwise). Cycle graphs are rare in practice; here's a contrived by simple example.

a. Plot the phase portrait for the system

$$\dot{r} = r(1 - r^2) \left[r^2 \sin^2\theta + (r^2 \cos^2\theta - 1)^2 \right]$$

$$\dot{\theta} = r^2 \sin^2\theta + (r^2 \cos^2\theta - 1)^2$$

Where r, θ are polar coordinates. (Hint: Note the common factor in the two equations; examine where it vanishes.)

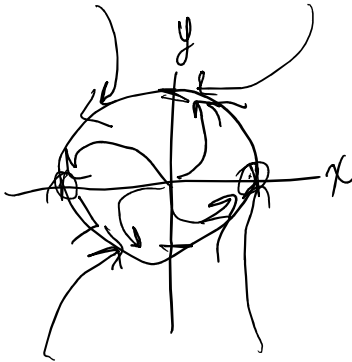
$\dot{r} = r(1 - r^2)\dot{\theta}$, and $\dot{\theta}$ is always positive or 0 which means it is either stopped or it is moving counter clockwise

$$\dot{r} = 0 \rightarrow r = 1, \dot{\theta} = 0 \rightarrow r = 1, \theta = c * \pi$$

$$\dot{r} = r(1 - r^2)\dot{\theta} > 0 \rightarrow 1 - r^2 > 0 \rightarrow r < 1$$

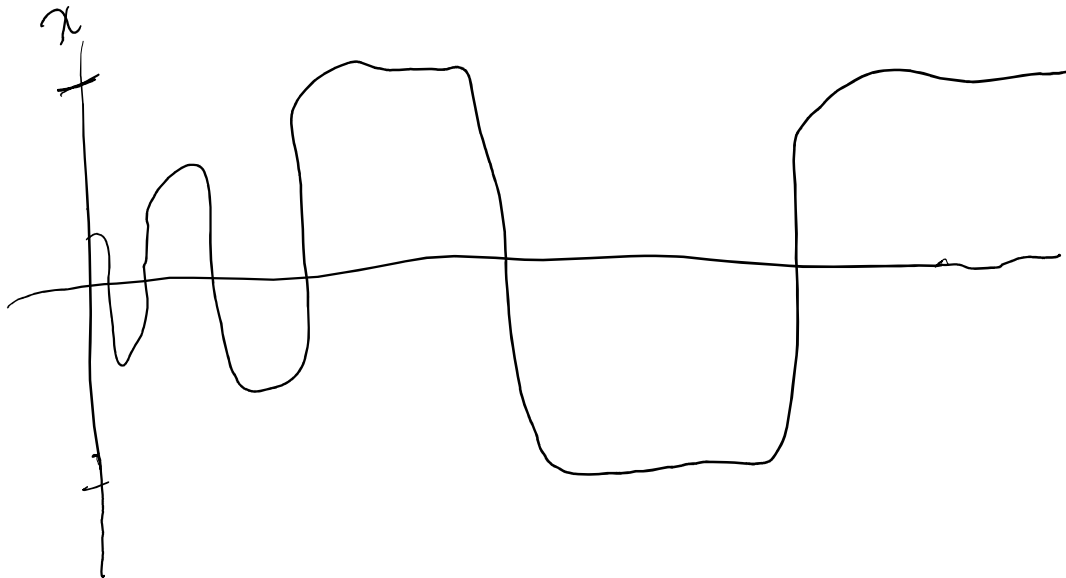
$$\dot{r} = r(1 - r^2)\dot{\theta} < 0 \rightarrow 1 - r^2 < 0 \rightarrow r > 1$$

$$\therefore \dot{r} < 0 \text{ when } r > 1, \quad \dot{r} > 0 \text{ when } r < 1$$



- b. Sketch x vs. t for a trajectory starting away from the unit circle. What happens as $t \rightarrow \infty$?

When x is at the fixed points the slope is 0. The fixed point occurs at $r = 1$, and $x = r \cos \theta$, so as r goes towards 1 the fixed point is reached.



8. Strogatz 8.2.1: Consider the biased van der Pol oscillator $\ddot{x} + \mu(x^2 - 1)\dot{x} + x = a$. Find the curves in (μ, a) space at which Hopf bifurcations occur.

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{x} &= y \\ \dot{y} &= -\mu(x^2 - 1)y - x + a \\ J(x, y) &= \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -2\mu xy - 1 & -\mu(x^2 - 1) \end{pmatrix} \\ J(a, 0) &= \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & -\mu(a^2 - 1) \end{pmatrix}, \quad \tau = -\mu(a^2 - 1), \quad \delta = 1 \\ \tau > 0 &\rightarrow \mu > 0, |a| < 1 \text{ or } \mu < 0, |a| > 1 \\ \tau < 0 &\rightarrow \mu > 0, |a| > 1 \text{ or } \mu < 0, |a| < 1 \\ \therefore \mu &= 0, a = 1, a = -1 \end{aligned}$$