MAT292—ODE

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Contents

1 Newton's Law of Cooling

- Newtons law of cooling states that
$$\frac{\mathrm{d}u}{\mathrm{d}t} = -k(u - T_0) \tag{1.1}$$
- Note that there is one trivial solution, the equilibrium solution is $u(t) = T_0$. The meaning of this solution is the temperature of an object doesn't change when it is already at the equilibrium temperature.
-
$$\frac{\frac{\mathrm{d}u}{\mathrm{d}t}}{u - T_0} = -k \tag{1.2}$$
$$\frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}t}\log(u - T_0) = -k \tag{1.3}$$
$$\log(u - T_0) = -kt + c_1 \tag{1.4}$$
$$u = T_0 + \exp(c_1)\exp(-kt) = T_0 + c_2\exp(-kt) \tag{1.5}$$
Note that $c_2 = \exp(c_1) > 0$. However, this is not a complete solution as it cannot describe the solutions with $u < T_0$.
- **Warning:** note that the integral of $\frac{1}{x}$ is $\log|x|$, **NOT** $\log(x)$. This is what caused the solution to be incomplete.
- Hence, $c_2 = \pm\exp(c_1)$. Note that $c_1 = \pm\infty$ is allowed thus so c_2 can take any value.
- Below are the integral curves.

2 Classifications

Definition: A differential equation is an equation containing one or more unknown functions of one or more independent variables.

- The order of a differential equation is the order of the highest derivative
- The most general n-th order ODE:

$$F[t, y, y', y'', \ldots, y^{(n)}] = 0 \tag{2.1}$$

- Linear ODE.
- Autonomous ODE is an ODE which does not explicitly depend on the independent variable, like $y' = y$. $y' = ty$ is not autonomous.
- Seperable first order ODE is a first order ODE that can be written as $y' = p(t)q(y)$.
- Newton's Law of cooling is first order, linear, autonomous, and seperable.

3 Systems of Differential Equations

- Think of a zombie apocalypse. You need to find a good time to find food.
- Let x be the number of people, and y be the number of zombles. This can be modelled by the *Lotka–Volterra* or Predator–Prey equations.

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}x}{\mathrm{d}t} = \alpha x - \beta xy \tag{3.1}$$

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}y}{\mathrm{d}t} = -\gamma y + \delta xy \tag{3.2}$$

- The term αx is inspired by short term population growth.
- The term $-\beta xy$ is inspired by the fact that zombies are eating people.
- The term $-\gamma y$ is inspired by the fact zombie die.
- The δxy term is inspired by the fact that people can be converted to zombies.
- Note that this is **not** a linear equation. The term xy is nonlinear. Let the dependent variable be $z = \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}$. Then $xy = z^T \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{1}{2} & 0 \end{pmatrix}$
- The most general quadratic form for vector (system of) equations is

$$z^T Az + b^T z + c \tag{3.3}$$

- Now take two twitter accounts, with each account telling its followers to unfollow the other account, with rates $m > 0, n > 0$ respectively. The accounts will naturally grow by word of mouth, with rates $k > 0, l > 0$ respectively. Note these constraints are important.

$$p' = kp - mo \tag{3.4}$$

$$o' = lo - np \tag{3.5}$$

- There are oversimplification for this model. It ignores the fact that when somebody unfollows they cannot unfollow again.

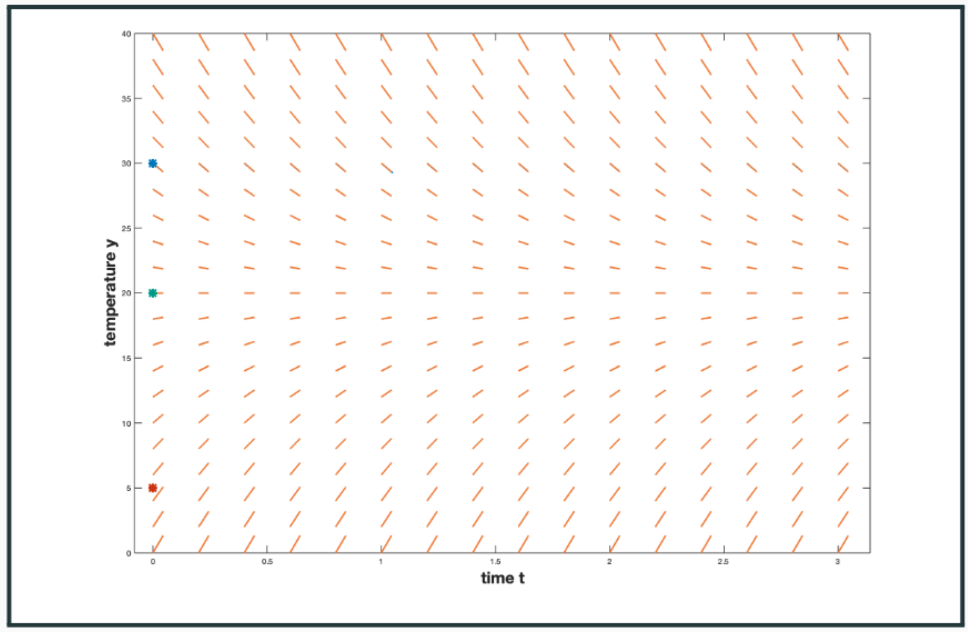
4 Qualitative Methods: Direction Fields and Phase Lines

Definition: Consider the ODE $y' = f(t, y)$. We can draw a **direction field** as follows:

- Draw a $t - y-$coordinate system.
- Evaluate $f(t, y)$ over a rectangular grid of points.
- Draw a line at each point (t, y) of the grid with slope $f(t, y)$

- Let's look again at Newton's law of cooling:

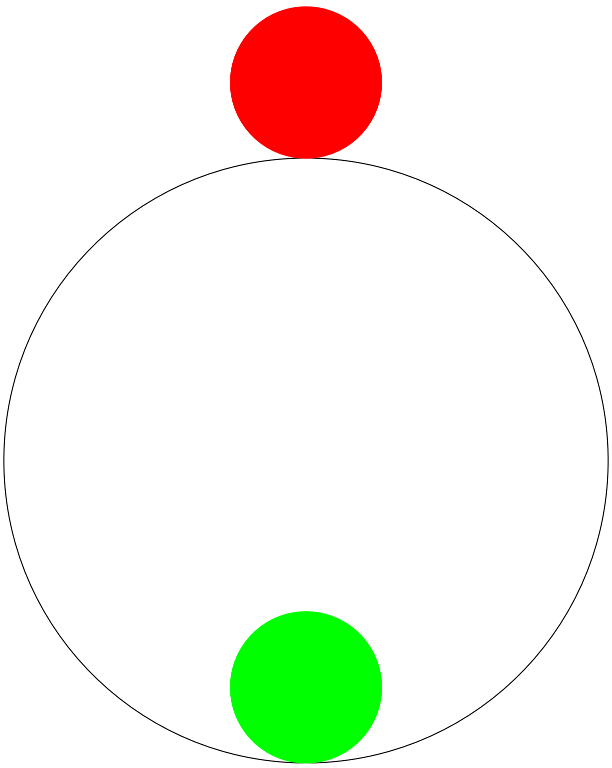
$$y' = -1.5(y - 20) \tag{4.1}$$



- Based on the initial conditions, we can draw the approximate solution by following direction field.
- A lot of the behavior of the differential equation are visible from the slope field.

Definition: Consider an autonomous first-order ODE $y' = f(y)$.
If $f(c) = 0$ for a specific value c, we call c an **equilibrium** of the ODE.
We say it is

1. a **stable equilibrium**, if a solution starting at a value close to c approaches $y = c$ as $t \to \infty$.
2. an **unstable equilibrium**, if a solution starting at a value close to c moves away from $y = c$ as $t \to \infty$.
3. a **semistable equilibrium**, if we observe either behavior, depending on if the solution starts just above or below c.

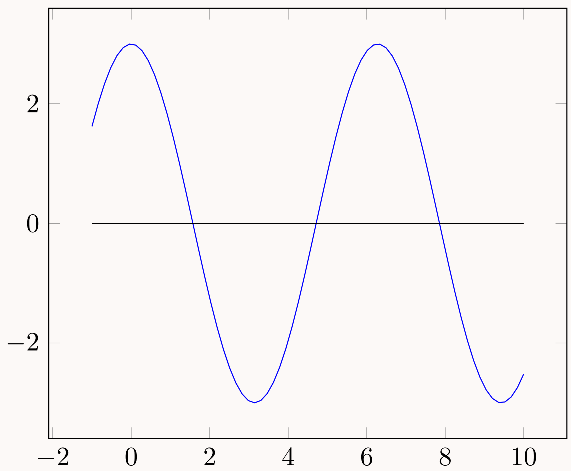


- The red circle is in unstable equilibrium. The green circle is in stable equilibrium.
- Something resting on the saddle point of $y = x^3$ will be in semistable equilibrium.

Example 1 ()

Find and classify the equilibria of the ODE $y' = 3\cos y$

Phase Plot



Solution 1 (): To find equilibrium, set $y' = 0$.

$$y' = 3\cos y = 0 \tag{4.2}$$

$$y = \frac{\pi}{2} + n\pi, n \in \mathbb{Z} \tag{4.3}$$

At the equilibrium at $y = \frac{\pi}{2}$, In the phase diagram, anything below or above it s