

MECH 6313 - Term Exam

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1 Problem 1

Consider the system:

$$\begin{aligned}\tau \dot{x} &= x - \frac{1}{3}x^3 - y \\ \dot{y} &= x + \mu\end{aligned}\tag{1.1}$$

where $\tau > 0$ and $\mu \geq 0$ are constants.

1.1 Part a

Problem: Determine the equilibrium points and classify their stability properties depending on the values of parameter μ .

Solution:

1.1.1 Equilibrium Point Identification

The equilibrium points exist whenever $\dot{x} = \dot{y} = 0$ and can be identified as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}\tau(0) &= x - \frac{1}{3}x^3 - y \\ (0) &= x + \mu\end{aligned}\tag{1.2}$$

which becomes:

$$\begin{aligned}y &= x - \frac{1}{3}x^3 \\ x &= -\mu\end{aligned}\tag{1.3}$$

and can then substituted in as:

$$\begin{aligned}x_{eq} &= -\mu \\ y_{eq} &= -\mu - \frac{1}{3}(-\mu)^3\end{aligned}\tag{1.4}$$

This results in the equilibrium points being defined in terms of μ as:

$$\boxed{\begin{aligned}x_{eq} &= -\mu \\ y_{eq} &= \frac{1}{3}\mu^3 - \mu\end{aligned}}\tag{1.5}$$

1.1.2 System Linearization

The stability around an equilibrium point can be evaluated by looking at the linearized model, which can be found as follows:

Let the state-variables be defined as:

$$X = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix}$$

The nonlinear state equation would then be defined as:

$$\dot{X} = f(x) = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{x_1 - \frac{1}{3}x_1^3 - x_2}{\tau} \\ x_1 + \mu \end{bmatrix} \quad (1.6)$$

Then the equilibrium point is described as

$$X_{eq} = \begin{bmatrix} -\mu \\ \frac{1}{3}\mu^3 - \mu \end{bmatrix}$$

and the jacobian can be computed as:

$$J_x = \frac{df}{dX} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{df_1}{dx_1} & \frac{df_1}{dx_2} \\ \frac{df_2}{dx_1} & \frac{df_2}{dx_2} \end{bmatrix} \quad (1.7)$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1 - x_1^2}{\tau} & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad (1.8)$$

The state dynamics around the equilibrium are described by this Jacobian evaluated at $X = X_{eq}$:

$$A = J_x \Big|_{X=X_{eq}} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1 - x_1^2}{\tau} & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \Big|_{x_1 = -\mu, x_2 = \frac{1}{3}\mu^3 - \mu} \quad (1.9)$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1 - (-\mu)^2}{\tau} & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad (1.10)$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{\tau} - \frac{\mu^2}{\tau} & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad (1.11)$$

The dynamics of this linearized system are described by the characteristic polynomial calculated as:

$$\Delta(s) = \det(sI - A) = \det \begin{bmatrix} s - \left(\frac{1}{\tau} - \frac{\mu^2}{\tau}\right) & 1 \\ -1 & s \end{bmatrix} \quad (1.12)$$

$$= s \left(s - \left(\frac{1}{\tau} - \frac{\mu^2}{\tau} \right) \right) - (1)(-1) \quad (1.13)$$

$$\boxed{\Delta(s) = s^2 - \left(\frac{1}{\tau} - \frac{\mu^2}{\tau} \right) s + 1} \quad (1.14)$$

1.1.3 Linearized Model Stability

The roots of $\Delta(s)$ are the eigenvalues of the linearization and are dependent on μ and τ calculated as:

$$\Lambda(A) = \lambda_{1,2} = \frac{\left(\frac{1}{\tau} - \frac{\mu^2}{\tau}\right) \pm \sqrt{\left(\frac{1}{\tau} - \frac{\mu^2}{\tau}\right)^2 - 4(1)(1)}}{2(1)} \quad (1.15)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{\tau} - \frac{\mu^2}{\tau} \right) \pm \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{\left(\frac{1}{\tau} - \frac{\mu^2}{\tau} \right)^2 - 4} \quad (1.16)$$

or in a factored form:

$$= \frac{1}{2\tau} (1 - \mu^2) \pm \frac{1}{2\tau} \sqrt{(1 - \mu^2)^2 - 4\tau^2} \quad (1.17)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2\tau} \left((1 - \mu^2) \pm \sqrt{\mu^4 - 2\mu^2 + 1 - 4\tau^2} \right) \quad (1.18)$$

or in a fully factored form:

$$= \frac{1 - \mu^2}{2\tau} \left(1 \pm \sqrt{1 - \frac{4\tau^2}{(1 - \mu^2)^2}} \right) \quad (1.19)$$

or in condensed form:

$$= \left(\frac{1}{2\tau} - \frac{\mu^2}{2\tau} \right) \pm \sqrt{\left(\frac{1}{2\tau} - \frac{\mu^2}{2\tau} \right)^2 - 1} \quad (1.20)$$

The roots are entirely **real** when:

$$(1 - \mu^2)^2 - 4\tau^2 > 0 \quad (1.21)$$

$$(1 - \mu^2)^2 > 4\tau^2 \quad (1.22)$$

$$1 - \mu^2 > 2\tau \quad (1.23)$$

$$\mu^2 + 2\tau > 1 \quad (1.24)$$

in which case, the linearized system is **stable** only when:

$$0 > \Re(\lambda_1) = \frac{1}{2\tau} \left((1 - \mu^2) + \sqrt{(1 - \mu^2)^2 - 4\tau^2} \right) \quad (1.25)$$

$$\boxed{\Re(\lambda_1) = 1 - \mu^2 + \sqrt{(1 - \mu^2)^2 - 4\tau^2} < 0} \quad (1.26)$$

The system has **complex roots** when :

$$(1 - \mu^2)^2 - 4\tau^2 < 0 \quad (1.27)$$

$$(1 - \mu^2)^2 < 4\tau^2 \quad (1.28)$$

$$1 - \mu^2 < 2\tau \quad (1.29)$$

$$\mu^2 + 2\tau < 1 \quad (1.30)$$

in which case, the linearized system is only **stable** when

$$0 > \Re(\lambda_{1,2}) = \frac{1}{2\tau} (1 - \mu^2) \quad (1.31)$$

$$= 1 - \mu^2 \quad (1.32)$$

$$\boxed{\mu^2 > 1} \quad (1.33)$$

1.2 Part b

Problem: At which value of μ does a bifurcation occur and what type of bifurcation is it?

Solution: The stability properties of the linearized system indicate that a hopf bifurcation occur when

$$\mu = 1$$

and the system condenses the system into a single equilibrium point at the (parameter dependent) equilibrium point of

$$X_{eq} = \begin{bmatrix} -\mu \\ \frac{1}{3}\mu^3 - \mu \end{bmatrix}$$

1.3 Part c

Problem: Assume $\tau \ll 1$ and sketch the phase portrait for two values of μ , one just below and one just above the bifurcation value.

Solution:

2 Problem 2:

Consider the system:

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{x}_1 &= -\frac{1}{2} \tan\left(\frac{\pi x_1}{2}\right) + x_2 \\ \dot{x}_2 &= x_1 - \frac{1}{2} \tan\left(\frac{\pi x_2}{2}\right)\end{aligned}\tag{2.1}$$

A MATLAB Code:

All code I write in this course can be found on my GitHub repository:

<https://github.com/jonaswagner2826/MECH6313>