

MECH 6313 - Term Exam

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1 Problem 1

Consider the system:

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

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:

$$\begin{aligned}\tau(0) &= x - \frac{1}{3}x^3 - y \\ (0) &= x + \mu\end{aligned}\tag{2}$$

which becomes:

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

and can then substituted in as:

$$\begin{aligned}x_{eq} &= -\mu \\ y_{eq} &= -\mu - \frac{1}{3}(-\mu)^3\end{aligned}\tag{4}$$

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

$$\boxed{\begin{aligned}x_{eq} &= -\mu \\ y_{eq} &= \frac{1}{3}\mu^3 - \mu\end{aligned}}\tag{5}$$

1.1.2 Stability of Equilibrium Points

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:

$$\dot{X} = f(x) = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 - \frac{1}{3}x_1^3 - x_2 \\ \tau \\ x_1 + \mu \end{bmatrix} \quad (6)$$

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:

$$A = \frac{df}{dX} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{df_1}{dx_1} & \frac{df_1}{dx_2} \\ \frac{df_2}{dx_1} & \frac{df_2}{dx_2} \end{bmatrix} \quad (7)$$

$$jj \quad (8)$$

1.2 Part b

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

Solution:

A MATLAB Code:

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

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