

# ECE 6552 – Lecture 6 <sup>1</sup>

## CENTER MANIFOLD THEORY AND CHAOS IN DISCRETE-TIME

January 23 2025

<sup>1</sup> Based on notes created by Murat Arcak and licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License.

Overview:

- Center Manifold Theory
- Discrete-time Systems
- Chaos in Discrete-time

Additional Reading:

- Khalil, Chapter 8.1
- Sastry, Chapter 7.6.1

### Motivation for Center Manifold Theory

Remark: Center manifold theory is used to study stability of equilibrium points when linearization fails.

Khalil (Section 8.1), Sastry (Section 7.6.1)

**Theorem:** (4.7 from Khalil). Let  $x = 0$  be an equilibrium point for the nonlinear system

$$\dot{x} = f(x)$$

where  $f : D \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  is continuously differentiable and  $D$  is a neighborhood of the origin. Let

$$A = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(x) |_{x=0}$$

Then,

1.  $x^* = 0$  is asymptotically stable if  $\Re(\lambda_i) < 0$  for all eigenvalues of  $A$ .
2.  $x^* = 0$  is unstable if  $\Re(\lambda_i) > 0$  for some eigenvalue of  $A$ .

Note: If  $A$  has some eigenvalues with zero real parts and the rest have negative real parts, then the linearization fails.

Let's assume that  $A$  has  $k$  eigenvalues with zero real parts and  $m = n - k$  eigenvalues with negative real parts:

- One option: analyze a  $n$ -th order nonlinear system
- Second option: analyze a lower order nonlinear system (center manifold theory will dictate that this order is the number of eigenvalues such that  $\Re(\lambda_i) = 0$ )

### Mathematical Preliminaries

A  **$k$ -dimensional manifold** in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  ( $1 \leq k < n$ ) is informally the solution to

$$\eta(x) = 0$$

with  $\eta : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n-k}$  sufficiently smooth.

Example:

The unit circle:

$$\{x \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid x_1^2 + x_2^2 = 1\}$$

is a one-dimensional manifold in  $\mathbb{R}^2$ .

The unit sphere:

$$\{x \in \mathbb{R}^n \text{ s.t. } \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2 = 1\}$$

is a  $n - 1$  dimensional manifold in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

A manifold is an **invariant manifold** if:

$$\eta(x(0)) = 0 \implies \eta(x(t)) \equiv 0 \quad \forall t \in [0, t_1] \subset \mathbb{R}$$

where  $[0, t_1]$  is any time interval over which  $x(t)$  is defined.

### Center Manifold Theory

$$\dot{x} = f(x) \quad f(0) = 0 \tag{1}$$

Suppose  $A \triangleq \left. \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \right|_{x=0}$  has  $k$  eigenvalues with zero real parts, and  $m = n - k$  eigenvalues with negative real parts.

Define  $\begin{bmatrix} y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = Tx$  such that

$$TAT^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} A_1 & 0 \\ 0 & A_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

where the eigenvalues of  $A_1$  have zero real parts and the eigenvalues of  $A_2$  have negative real parts.

Rewrite  $\dot{x} = f(x)$  in the new coordinates:

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{y} &= A_1 y + g_1(y, z) \\ \dot{z} &= A_2 z + g_2(y, z) \end{aligned} \tag{2}$$

$$g_i(0, 0) = 0, \frac{\partial g_i}{\partial y}(0, 0) = 0, \frac{\partial g_i}{\partial z}(0, 0) = 0, i = 1, 2.$$

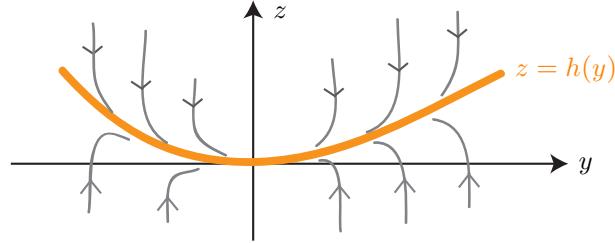
Theorem 1: There exists an invariant manifold  $z = h(y)$  defined in a neighborhood of the origin such that

$$h(0) = 0 \quad \frac{\partial h}{\partial y}(0) = 0.$$

$g_1$  and  $g_2$  inherit the properties of  $\tilde{f}$  in the equation:

$$\dot{x} = f(x) = Ax + \tilde{f}(x)$$

with  $\tilde{f}(x) = f(x) - \left. \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(x) \right|_{x=0}$ , which has the properties  $\tilde{f}(0) = 0$  and  $\frac{\partial \tilde{f}}{\partial x}(0) = 0$



$z = h(y)$  is called a *center manifold* in this case.

$$\text{Reduced System: } \dot{y} = A_1 y + g_1(y, h(y)) \quad y \in \mathbb{R}^k$$

**Theorem 2:** If  $y = 0$  is asymptotically stable (resp., unstable) for the reduced system, then  $x = 0$  is asymptotically stable (resp., unstable) for the full system  $\dot{x} = f(x)$ .

### Characterizing the Center Manifold

Define  $w \triangleq z - h(y)$  and note that it satisfies

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{w} &= \dot{z} - \frac{\partial h}{\partial y} \dot{y} \\ &= A_2 z + g_2(y, z) - \frac{\partial h}{\partial y} (A_1 y + g_1(y, z)). \end{aligned}$$

The invariance of  $z = h(y)$  means that  $w = 0$  implies  $\dot{w} = 0$ . Thus, the expression above must vanish when we substitute  $z = h(y)$ :

$$A_2 h(y) + g_2(y, h(y)) - \frac{\partial h}{\partial y} (A_1 y + g_1(y, h(y))) = 0.$$

To find  $h(y)$  solve this partial differential equation for  $h$  as a function on  $y$ .

If the exact solution is unavailable, an approximation might be sufficient.

For scalar  $y$ , expand  $h(y)$  as

$$h(y) = h_2 y^2 + \dots + h_p y^p + O(y^{p+1})$$

where  $h_1 = h_0 = 0$  because  $h(0) = \frac{\partial h}{\partial y}(0) = 0$ . The notation  $O(y^{p+1})$  refers to the higher order terms of power  $p + 1$  and above.

Example (8.2 from Khalil):

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{y} &= yz \\ \dot{z} &= -z + ay^2 \quad a \neq 0 \end{aligned}$$

This is of the form (2) with  $g_1(y, z) = yz$ ,  $g_2(y, z) = ay^2$ ,  $A_2 = -1$ . Thus  $h(y)$  must satisfy

$$-h(y) + ay^2 - \frac{\partial h}{\partial y}yh(y) = 0.$$

Try  $h(y) = h_2y^2 + O(y^3)$ :

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= -h_2y^2 + O(y^3) + ay^2 - (2h_2y + O(y^2))y(h_2y^2 + O(y^3)) \\ &= (a - h_2)y^2 + O(y^3) \\ \implies h_2 &= a \end{aligned}$$

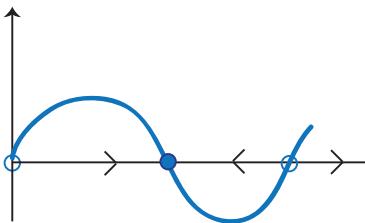
Reduced System:  $\dot{y} = y(ay^2 + O(y^3)) = ay^3 + O(y^4)$ .

If  $a < 0$ , the full system is asymptotically stable. If  $a > 0$  unstable.

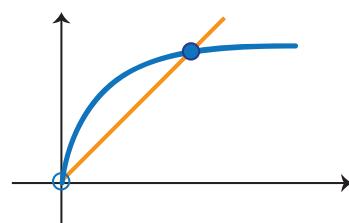
### Discrete-Time Models and a Chaos Example

CT:  $\dot{x}(t) = f(x(t))$   
 $f(x^*) = 0$

DT:  $x_{n+1} = f(x_n)$   $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$   
 $f(x^*) = x^*$  ("fixed point")



**Asymptotic stability criterion:**  
 $\Re \lambda_i(A) < 0$  where  $A \triangleq \left. \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \right|_{x=x^*}$   
 $f'(x^*) < 0$  for first order system

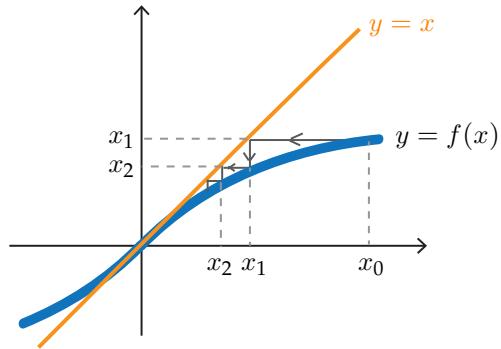


**Asymptotic stability criterion:**  
 $|\lambda_i(A)| < 1$  where  $A \triangleq \left. \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \right|_{x=x^*}$   
 $|f'(x^*)| < 1$  for first order system

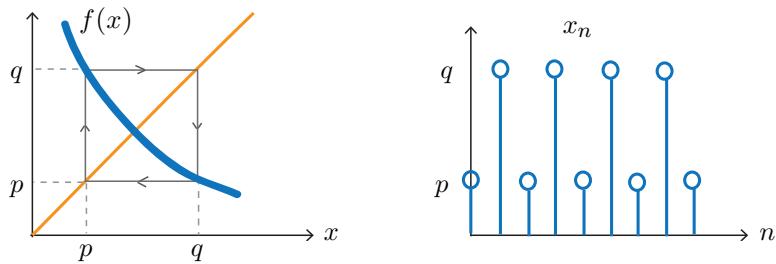
These criteria are inconclusive if the respective inequality is not strict, but for first order systems we can determine stability graphically:

### Cobweb Diagrams for First Order Discrete-Time Systems

Example:  $x_{n+1} = \sin(x_n)$  has unique fixed point at 0. Stability test above inconclusive since  $f'(0) = 1$ . However, the "cobweb" diagram below illustrates the convergence of iterations to 0:



In discrete time, even first order systems can exhibit oscillations:



### Detecting Cycles Analytically

$$f(p) = q \quad f(q) = p \quad \Rightarrow \quad f(f(p)) = p \quad f(f(q)) = q$$

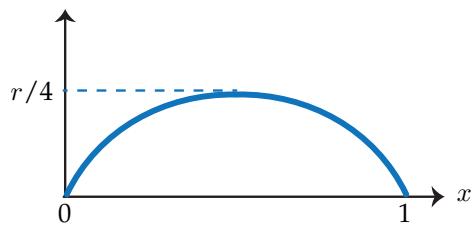
For the existence of a period-2 cycle, the map  $f(f(\cdot))$  must have two fixed points in addition to the fixed points of  $f(\cdot)$ .

Period-3 cycles: fixed points of  $f(f(f(\cdot)))$ .

### Chaos in a Discrete Time Logistic Growth Model

$$x_{n+1} = r(1 - x_n)x_n \quad (3)$$

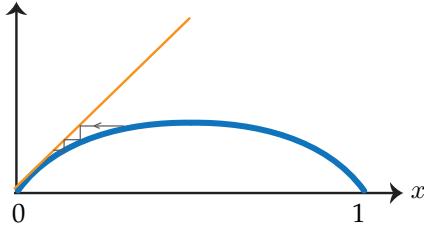
Range of interest:  $0 \leq x \leq 1$  ( $x_n > 1 \Rightarrow x_{n+1} < 0$ )



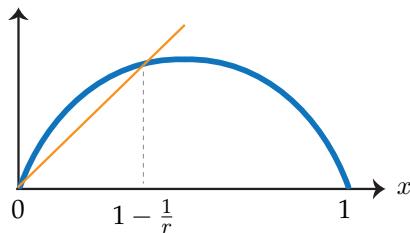
We will study the range  $0 \leq r \leq 4$  so that  $f(x) = r(1 - x)x$  maps  $[0, 1]$  onto itself.

Fixed points:  $x = r(1 - x)x \Rightarrow \begin{cases} x^* = 0 & \text{and} \\ x^* = 1 - \frac{1}{r} & \text{if } r > 1. \end{cases}$

$r \leq 1$ :  $x^* = 0$  unique and stable fixed point



$r > 1$ :  $x = 0$  unstable because  $f'(0) = r > 1$



Note that a transcritical bifurcation occurred at  $r = 1$ , creating the new equilibrium

$$x^* = 1 - \frac{1}{r}.$$

Evaluate its stability using  $f'(x^*) = r(1 - 2x^*) = 2 - r$ .

$$\begin{aligned} r < 3 &\Rightarrow |f'(x^*)| < 1 \text{ (stable)} \\ r > 3 &\Rightarrow |f'(x^*)| > 1 \text{ (unstable)}. \end{aligned}$$

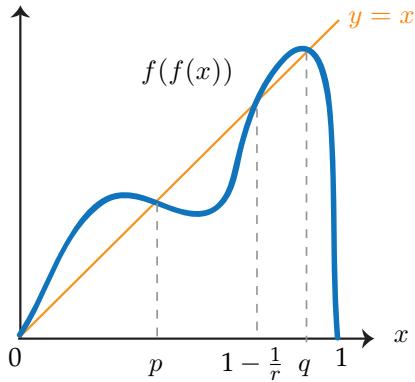
At  $r = 3$ , a period-2 cycle is born:

$$\begin{aligned} x &= f(f(x)) \\ &= r(1 - f(x))f(x) \\ &= r(1 - r(1 - x)x)r(1 - x)x \\ &= r^2x(1 - x)(1 - r + rx - rx^2) \end{aligned}$$

$$0 = r^2x(1 - x)(1 - r + rx - rx^2) - x$$

Factor out  $x$  and  $(x - 1 + \frac{1}{r})$ , find the roots of the quotient:

$$p, q = \frac{r + 1 \mp \sqrt{(r - 3)(r + 1)}}{2r}$$

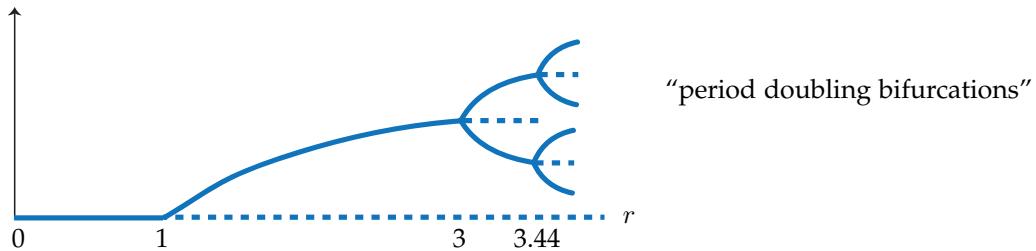


This period-2 cycle is stable when  $r < 1 + \sqrt{6} = 3.4494$ :

$$\left. \frac{d}{dx} f(f(x)) \right|_{x=p} = f'(f(p))f'(p) = f'(p)f'(q) = 4 + 2r - r^2$$

$$|4 + 2r - r^2| < 1 \Rightarrow 3 < r < 1 + \sqrt{6} = 3.4494$$

At  $r = 3.4494$ , a period-4 cycle is born!



$$r_1 = 3 \quad \text{period-2 cycle born}$$

$$r_2 = 3.4494 \quad \text{period-4 cycle born}$$

$$r_3 = 3.544 \quad \text{period-8 cycle born}$$

$$r_4 = 3.564 \quad \text{period-16 cycle born}$$

$\vdots$

$$r_\infty = 3.5699$$

After  $r > r_\infty$ , chaotic behavior for a window of  $r$ , followed by windows of periodic behavior (e.g., period-3 cycle around  $r = 3.83$ ).

Below is the cobweb diagram for  $r = 3.9$  which is in the chaotic regime:

