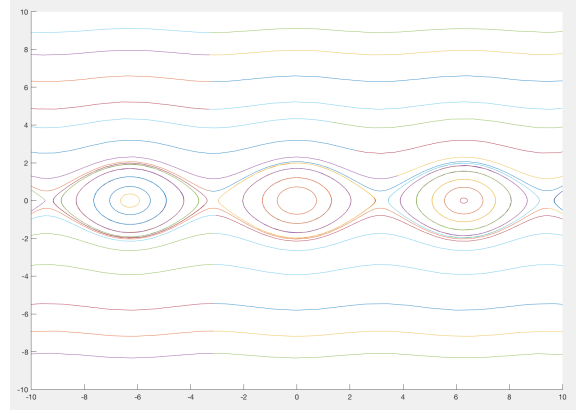


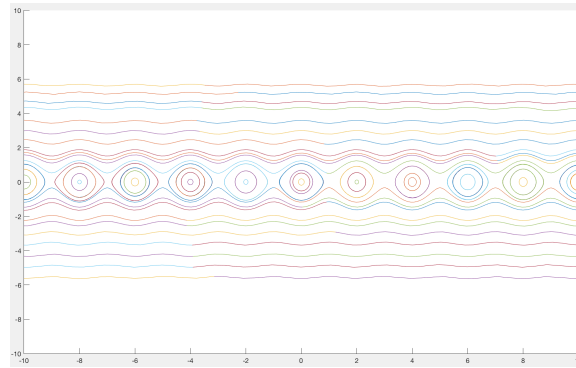
Application to Cherry's Problem (355) states that  $\dot{x}_1 = x_2$ ,  $\dot{x}_2 = -\Phi(x)$ , which is equivalent to  $\ddot{x} + \Phi(x) = 0$ .

First, we let  $\Phi(x) = \sin(x)$  and we obtain the phase portrait below:



From the phase portrait, we can observe that every  $(k\pi, 0)$ ,  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ , is a critical point. More over, every  $(2k\pi, 0)$  is a center and  $((2k+1)\pi, 0)$  is a saddle point. This is consistent with Theorem 4.1 (355) which states that the equation has an orbit  $(\phi(x), \phi'(x))$  connecting saddle points  $(u_1^-, 0)$  and  $(u_1^+, 0)$ .

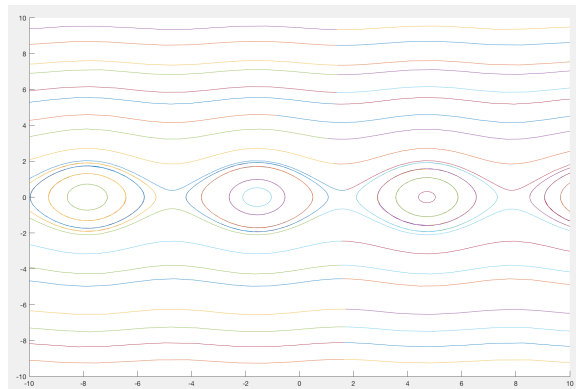
Next, we let  $\phi(x) = \sin(2\pi x/T)$  where  $T$  is the period of the function to analyze the change in the critical points with the period of  $\phi(x)$  changing. Letting  $T = 2$ , we get  $\phi(x) = \sin(\pi x)$  and it produces:



From this diagram, we can see that the critical points change depending on the period of the function. It seems that the center points lie at  $(kT, 0)$ ,  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ , and the saddle points at  $((2k+1)T/2, 0)$ .

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We now let  $\phi(x) = \cos(x)$ . We then obtain:

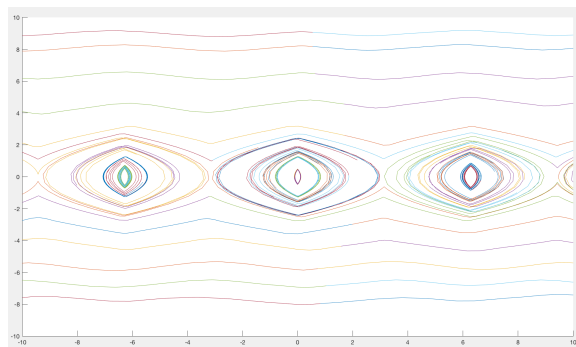


Comparing it to  $\phi(x) = \sin(x)$ , we can see that the the phase portrait shifted  $\pi/2$  in the negative direction. Since  $\cos(x) = \sin(x - \pi/2)$ , this makes sense.

We now choose a different  $T$ -periodic function, and see if it acts as we would expect it. We let  $\phi(x)$  be defined piecewise as

$$\phi(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & x \in (0, \pi) \\ -1 & x \in (\pi, 2\pi) \\ 0 & x = 0 \end{cases}$$

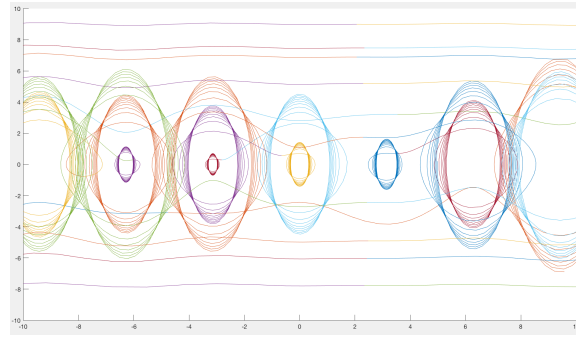
and  $\phi(x + T) = \phi(x)$ , with  $T = 2\pi$  in this case.



Although this function is not continuous, it can still be transformed as a Fourier series. We see that the key characteristics of its critical points remain the same as when  $\phi(x) = \sin(x)$

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We now look at system of equations  $\dot{x}_1 = x_2$ ,  $\dot{x}_2 = -\lambda p(t)\Phi(x)$ , which is equivalent to  $\ddot{x} + \lambda p(t)\Phi(x) = 0$ . We let  $\lambda p(t) = t$  and  $\phi(x) = \sin(x)$  and it produces the phase portrait below:



From this portrait, I'm not completely sure if the portrait I produced is correct, or if I made a mistake when adding a new function of  $t$ . It almost seems as though the graph should be visualized with 3 dimensions.