

A decorative graphic consisting of overlapping colored squares (blue, red, yellow) and a black crosshair.

# Lyapunov Stability

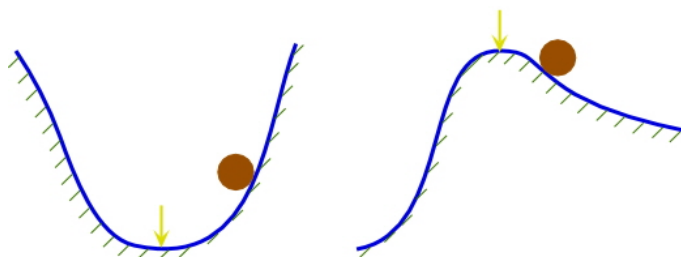
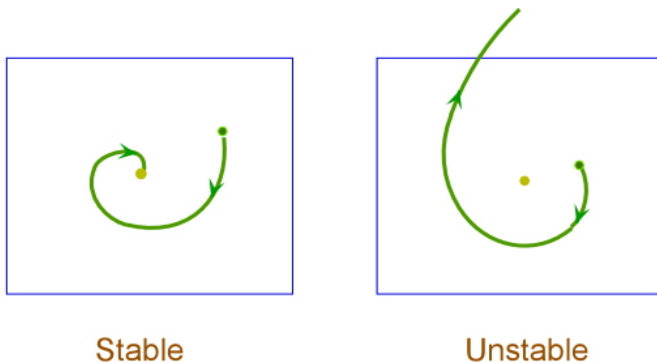
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# Lyapunov Stability

- If a system is initially in an equilibrium, it remains in the same state thereafter.
- Lyapunov stability is concerned with the behavior of the trajectories of a system when its initial state is near an equilibrium.



- We talk about the stability of an equilibrium.
- There are several notions of stability. We only focus on
  - Stability
  - Instability (i.e. absence of stability)
  - Asymptotic stability
  - Exponential stability

# Object of Study (I)

- Object of study is the differential equation

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{\mathbf{x}}(t) &= f[t, \mathbf{x}(t)] & t \geq 0 \\ \mathbf{x}(t) &\in \mathbf{R}^n. \\ f : \mathbf{R}_+ \times \mathbf{R}^n &\rightarrow \mathbf{R}^n \text{ is continuous} \end{aligned} \quad (\Sigma)$$

- Assume  $\Sigma$  has a unique solution corresponding to each i.c., (true for example when  $f$  is globally Lipschitz) **Check first!!**

- Let  $s(t, t_0, \mathbf{x}_0) \longleftrightarrow$  solution of  $\Sigma$   

evaluated at  $t$       initial time      Initial conditions  
 corresponding to  $\mathbf{x}(t_0) = \mathbf{x}_0$   
 evaluated at  $t$ .

- $s$  satisfies 
$$\frac{d}{dt} s(t, t_0, \mathbf{x}_0) = f[t, s(t, t_0, \mathbf{x}_0)] \quad \forall t \geq t_0$$

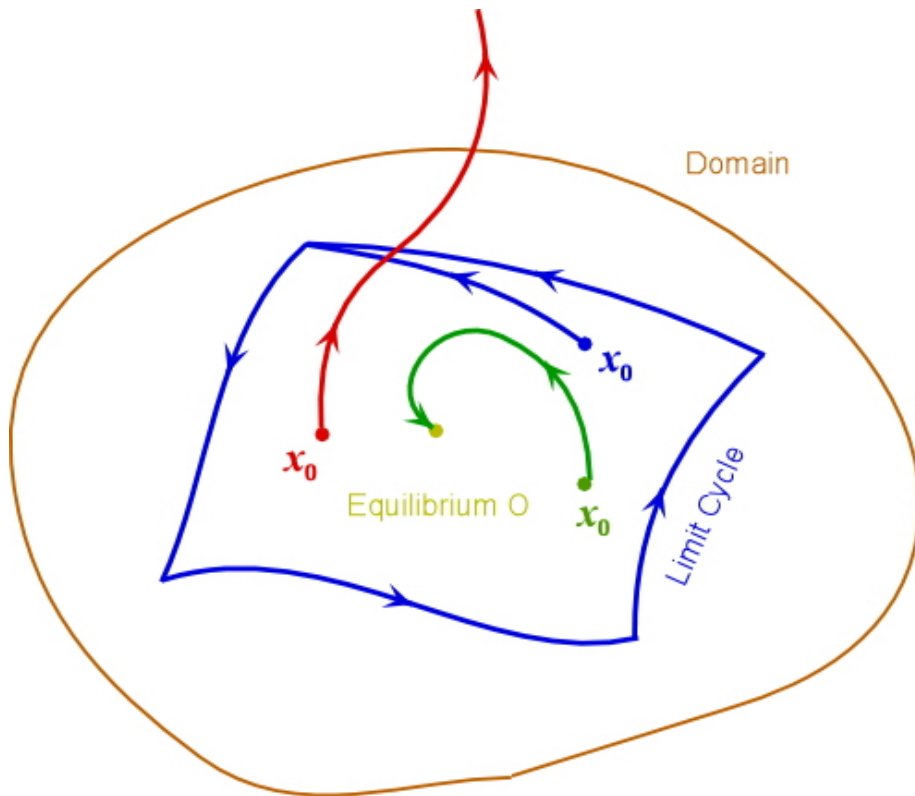
$$s(t_0, t_0, \mathbf{x}_0) = \mathbf{x}_0, \quad \forall \mathbf{x}_0 \in \mathbf{R}^n$$

## Object of Study (II)

- Recall: a vector  $\mathbf{x}_0 \in \mathbf{R}^n$  is an equilibrium of  $\Sigma$  if
$$f(t, \mathbf{x}_0) = 0 \quad \forall t \geq 0 \Rightarrow s(t, t_0, \mathbf{x}_0) = \mathbf{x}_0 \quad \forall t \geq t_0 \geq 0$$
- WLG, assume that  $\mathbf{x}_0 = 0$  is an equilibrium of  $\Sigma$ . Hence ,
$$f(t, 0) = 0 \quad \forall t \geq 0 \Rightarrow s(t, t_0, 0) = 0 \quad \forall t \geq t_0$$
- If  $\mathbf{x}_0 \neq 0$  is an equilibrium of  $\Sigma$ , define

$$\begin{aligned} z &\equiv x - x_0 \\ \Rightarrow \dot{z}(t) &= \dot{x} = f(t, x) \\ &= f(t, z + x_0) \\ &\equiv f_1(t, z) \end{aligned}$$

## Object of Study (III)



- Lyapunov theory is concerned with the behavior of the solution  $s(t, t_0, \mathbf{x}_0) = \mathbf{x}_0$  when  $\mathbf{x}_0 \neq 0$  but  $\mathbf{x}_0$  is "close" to 0: local behavior  
 $\mathbf{x}_0$  is "far" from 0: global behavior
- We talk of local stability  
global stability

# Stability Definitions (I)

- **Definition:** The equilibrium 0 is

- Stable if

For each  $\varepsilon > 0$  and each  $t_0 \in \mathbf{R}_+$

$\exists$  a  $\delta = \delta(\varepsilon, t_0)$  s.t.

$$\| \mathbf{x}_0 \| < \delta(\varepsilon, t_0) \Rightarrow \| s(t, t_0, x_0) \| < \varepsilon \quad \forall t \geq t_0$$

- Uniformly Stable if

For each  $\varepsilon > 0$

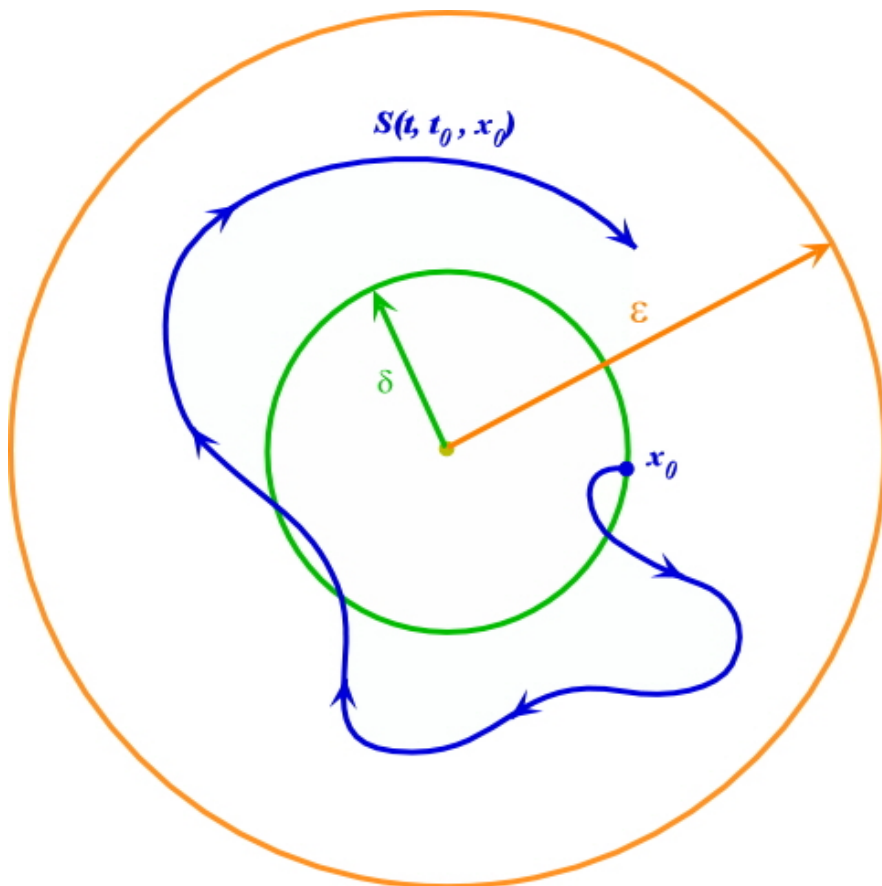
$\exists$  a  $\delta = \delta(\varepsilon)$  s.t.

$$\| \mathbf{x}_0 \| < \delta(\varepsilon), \quad t_0 \geq 0 \Rightarrow \| s(t, t_0, x_0) \| < \varepsilon \quad \forall t \geq t_0$$

- Unstable if it is NOT stable.

## Stability Definitions (II)

- The  $\epsilon$ - $\delta$  requirement for stability is a challenge-answer problem.
  - To show that the equilibrium is stable, then,



for every  $\epsilon$  that a challenger may care to designate, we must produce a value  $\delta$  (possibly  $\delta(\epsilon)$ ) s.t. a trajectory starting from a  $\delta$ -neighborhood of the equilibrium will never leave the  $\epsilon$ -neighborhood.

## Remarks

1.  $\|\cdot\|$  is any norm on  $\mathbf{R}^n$ .

All norms on  $\mathbf{R}^n$  are topologically equivalent.

2. If system  $\Sigma$  is autonomous

(i.e.  $f$  doesn't depend explicitly on  $t$ ,  $\dot{\mathbf{x}} = f(\mathbf{x})$ ),

then there is no distinction between stability and uniform stability, though in general, there is a difference between the two notions of stability (see example 18 in V. book).



## Example: Motion of a Pendulum (I)

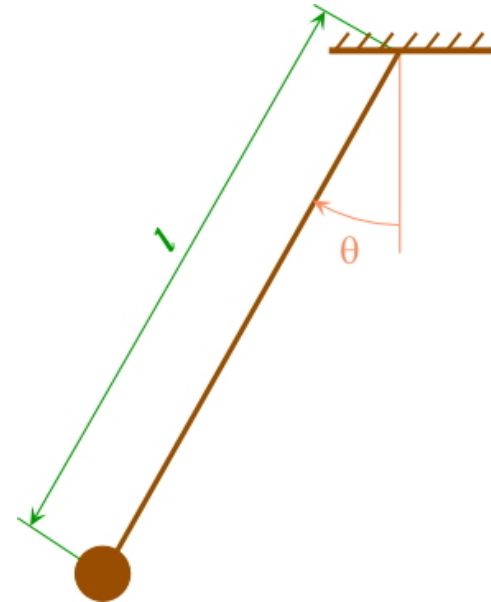
$$\ddot{\theta} + \frac{g}{l} \sin \theta = 0$$

$l$  : length of pendulum

$\theta$  : angle of pendulum measured from a vertical line

$g$  : gravitational acceleration

$$\text{Let } x_1 \equiv \theta, \quad x_2 \equiv \dot{\theta} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \begin{cases} \dot{x}_1 = x_2 \\ \dot{x}_2 = -\frac{g}{l} \sin x_1 \end{cases}$$

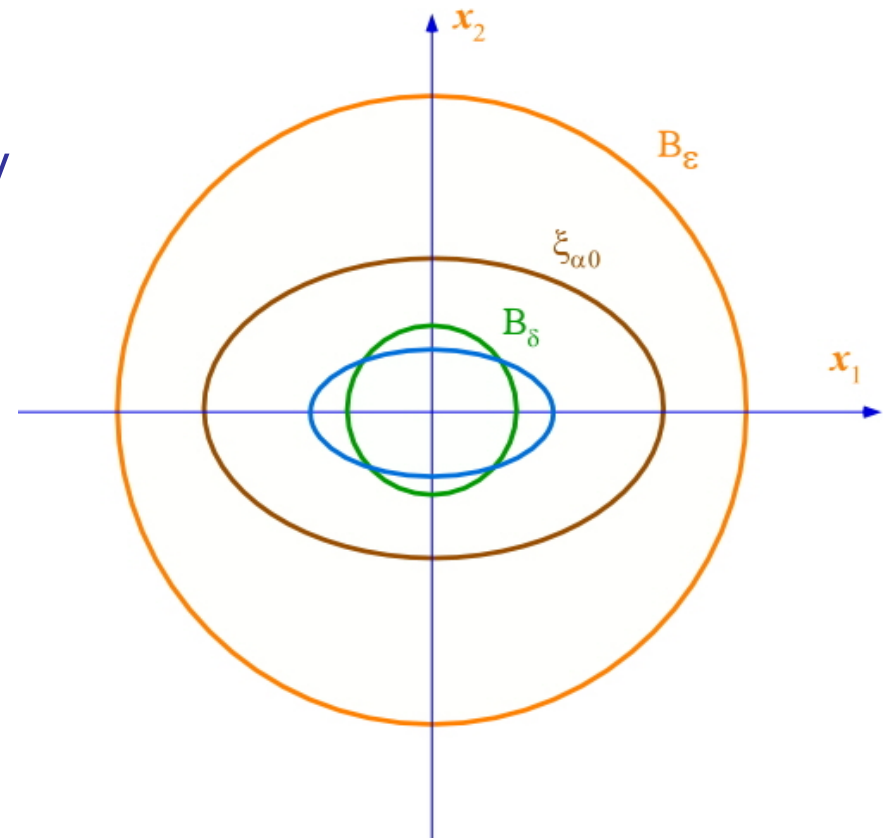


Trajectories of this system are described by:

$$\frac{x_2^2}{2} - \frac{g}{l} \cos x_1 = \frac{x_{20}^2}{2} - \frac{g}{l} \cos x_{10} \equiv a_0 \quad (*)$$

## Example: Motion of a Pendulum (II)

- $\epsilon > 0$  given.
- Possible to choose a number  $a_0 > 0$  s.t. the curve (\*) lies entirely within the ball  $B_\epsilon$ .
- Now choose a  $\delta > 0$  s.t. the ball  $B_\delta$  lies entirely within the curve.
- $\Rightarrow$  definition of stability satisfied
- Since this procedure can be carried out for any  $\epsilon > 0$
- $\Rightarrow$  0 is a stable equilibrium.



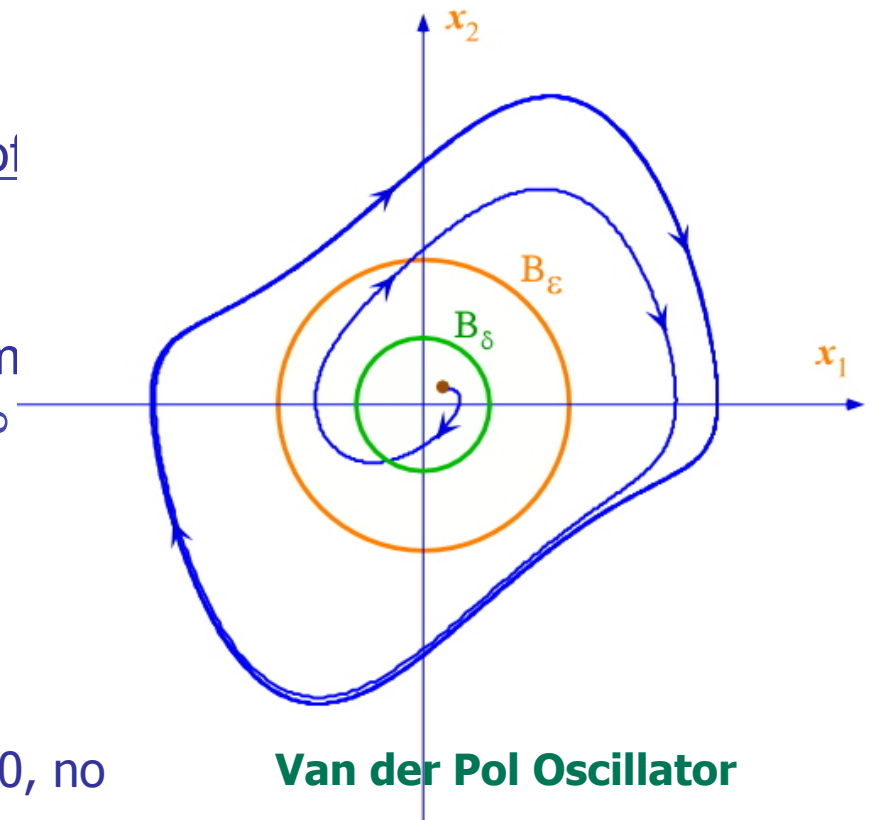
## Further Remarks

- **Instability** is basically the absence of stability.  
→ not necessarily a situation where some trajectory of the system “blows up” in the sense that  $\|x\| \rightarrow \infty$  as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ , although this is one way instability can occur.

### Definition of instability

O is an unstable equilibrium if for some  $\varepsilon > 0$ , no  $\delta$  can be found s.t. (definition) holds.

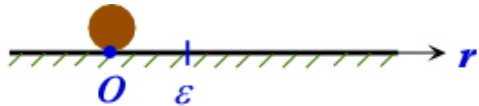
$\Leftrightarrow$  There is a ball  $B_\varepsilon$  s.t. for every  $\delta > 0$ , no matter how small, there is a nonzero initial state  $x(t_0)$  in  $B_\delta$  s.t. the corresponding trajectory eventually leaves  $B_\varepsilon$ .



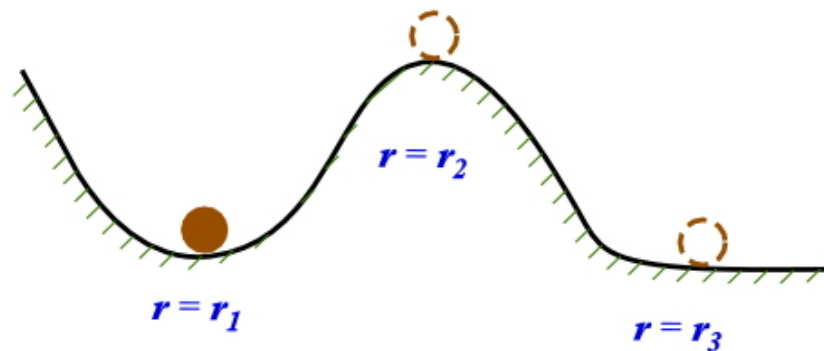
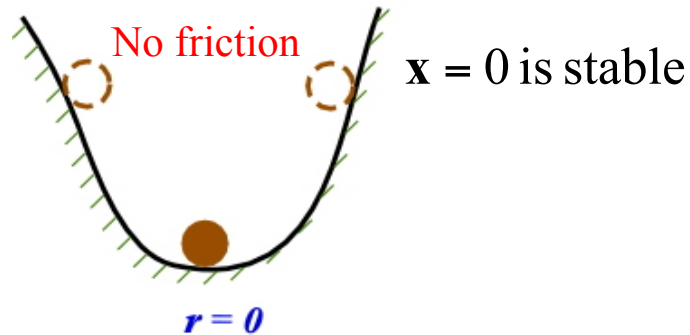
**Van der Pol Oscillator**

$$\begin{cases} \dot{x}_1 = x_2 \\ \dot{x}_2 = -x_1 + (1 - x_1^2)x_2 \end{cases}$$

# Examples



$$\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} r = 0 \\ \dot{r} = 0 \end{bmatrix} \text{ is stable; } \quad \mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} r_0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \text{ is stable.}$$



$$\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} r_1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \text{ is asymptotically stable;}$$

$$\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} r_2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \text{ is unstable;}$$

$$\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} r_3 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \text{ is stable.}$$

There is frictional force proportional to  $\dot{r}$

# More Definitions - Attractivity (I)

## Definition:

The equilibrium 0 is:

- Attractive if :

for each  $t_0 \in \mathbf{R}^+$ , there is an  $\eta(t_0) > 0$  s.t.

$$\|\mathbf{x}_0\| < \eta(t_0) \Rightarrow s(t_0 + t, t_0, \mathbf{x}_0) \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } t \rightarrow \infty$$

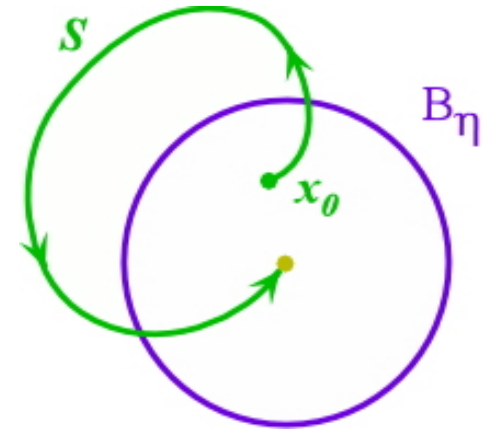
- Uniformly attractive if :

there is a number  $\eta > 0$  s.t.



$$\|\mathbf{x}_0\| < \eta \Rightarrow s(t_0 + t, t_0, \mathbf{x}_0) \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } t \rightarrow \infty \text{ uniformly in } \mathbf{x}_0, t_0$$

• Attractivity means:

at each initial time  $t_0 \in \mathbf{R}^+$ , every solution trajectory starting sufficiently close to 0 actually approaches 0 as  $t_0 + t \rightarrow \infty$ .



## More Definitions - Attractivity (II)

- Attractivity:  
no uniformity 
  - Size of “ball of attraction”  $B_\eta$  is dependent on  $t_0$ .
  - fix  $t_0$ , vary  $\mathbf{x}_0$ , approach 0 at different rates.
- Uniform attractivity:  
uniformity 
  - Size of “ball of attraction”  $B_\eta$  is independent of  $t_0$ .
  - Solution trajectories starting inside  $B_\eta$ , all approach 0 at a uniform rate.

### Note:

- Definition of uniform attractivity

$$\|\mathbf{x}_0\| < \eta, t_0 \geq 0 \Rightarrow s(t_0 + t, t_0, \mathbf{x}_0) \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } t \rightarrow \infty \text{ uniformly in } \mathbf{x}_0, t_0$$

$\Leftrightarrow$

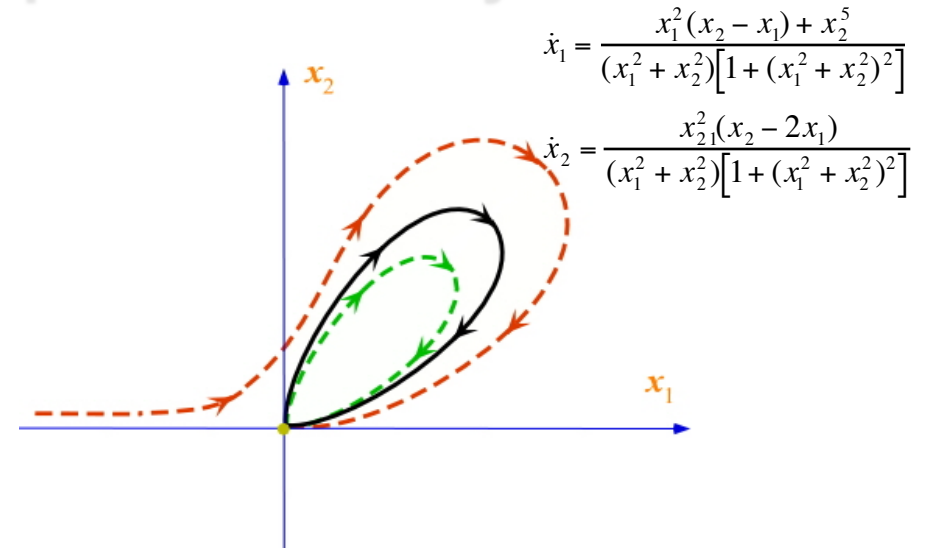
- for each  $\varepsilon > 0, \exists$  a  $T = T(\varepsilon)$  s.t.  
 $\|\mathbf{x}_0\| < \eta, t_0 \geq 0 \Rightarrow \|s(t_0 + t, t_0, \mathbf{x}_0)\| < \varepsilon, \forall t \geq T(\varepsilon)$

# More Definitions - Asymptotical Stability and Exponential Stability

## Definition:

The equilibrium 0 is:

- Asymptotically stable if :  
it is stable and attractive.
- Uniformly asymptotically stable (u.a.s.) if:  
it is uniformly stable and uniformly attractive.



An equilibrium can be attractive without being stable.

## Definition:

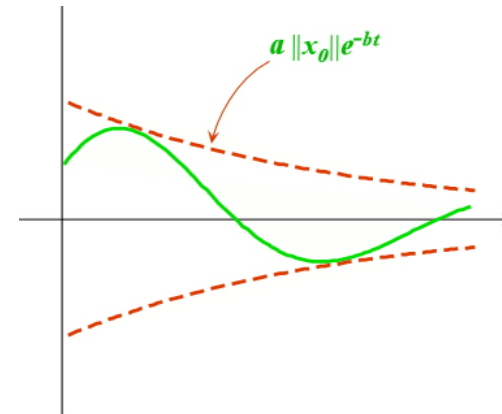
The equilibrium 0 is

Exponentially stable if :

$\exists$  constants  $r, a, b > 0$  s.t.

$$\|s(t_0 + t, t_0, \mathbf{x}_0)\| < a \|\mathbf{x}_0\| e^{-bt},$$

$$\forall t, t_0 \geq 0, \forall \mathbf{x}_0 \in B_r$$



→ **Exponential stability is a stronger property than uniform asymptotic stability.**

# Remarks and Definition of Global Stability

## Remarks:

All concepts of stability introduced thus far are local in nature. Following definition pertains to the global behavior of solution trajectories.

## Definition:

The equilibrium  $O$  is

– Globally uniformly asymptotically stable (g.u.a.s) if

(i) it is uniformly stable, and

(ii) for each pair of positive numbers  $M, \varepsilon$  with  $M$  arbitrarily large and  $\varepsilon$  arbitrarily small, a finite number  $T=T(M,\varepsilon)$  s.t.

$$\| \mathbf{x}_0 \| < M, \quad t \geq 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \| s(t_0 + t, t_0, \mathbf{x}_0) \| < \varepsilon, \quad \forall t \geq T(M, \varepsilon)$$

– Globally exponentially stable (g.e.s) if

$\exists$  constants  $a, b > 0$  s.t.

$$\| s(t_0 + t, t_0, \mathbf{x}_0) \| < a \| \mathbf{x}_0 \| e^{-bt}, \quad \forall t, t_0 \geq 0, \forall \mathbf{x}_0 \in \mathbf{R}^n$$



# Periodic & Autonomous Systems

- System  $\Sigma$  is periodic with period  $T$  if

$$f(t + T, \mathbf{x}) = f(t, \mathbf{x}), \quad \forall t \geq 0, \quad \forall \mathbf{x} \in \mathbf{R}^n$$

- If system  $\Sigma$  is autonomous, i.e., if  $f$  does not depend explicitly on  $t$ , then we can think of it as periodic with arbitrary period.

## Theorem:

Suppose system  $\Sigma$  is periodic. Then the equilibrium  $O$  is uniformly stable iff it is stable (obvious for autonomous system).

## Theorem:

Suppose system  $\Sigma$  is periodic. Then the equilibrium  $O$  is uniformly asymptotically stable iff it is asymptotically stable.

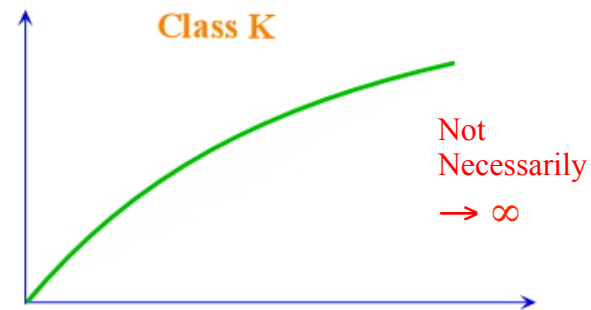
# Class K & Class L Functions

To simplify considerably the statement and proofs of subsequent stability theorems, we recast the various stability definitions in terms of so-called functions of class K & class L.

**Definition:** A function

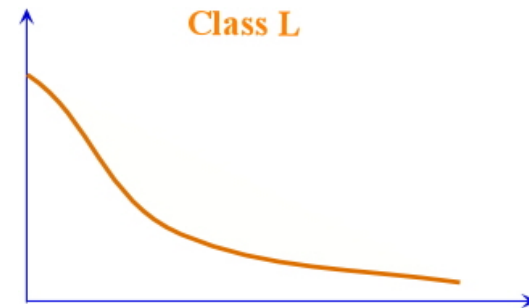
$\Phi : \mathbf{R}^+ \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^+$  is of class K if it is

- continuous
- strictly increasing
- $\Phi(0)=0$ .



It is of class L if it is

- continuous
- strictly decreasing
- $\Phi(0) < \infty$
- $\Phi(r) \rightarrow 0$  as  $r \rightarrow \infty$



**Lemma:** let  $\alpha_1(\bullet)$  and  $\alpha_2(\bullet)$  be of class K  $\Rightarrow$

- $\alpha_1^{-1}$  is of class K;
- $\alpha_1 \bullet \alpha_2$  is of class K.

# Theorem

## Theorem:

The equilibrium  $O$  of  $\Sigma$  is

— Stable iff

for each  $t_0 \in \mathbf{R}^+$ ,  $\exists$  a number  $d(t_0) > 0$

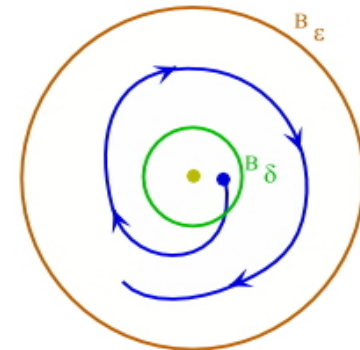
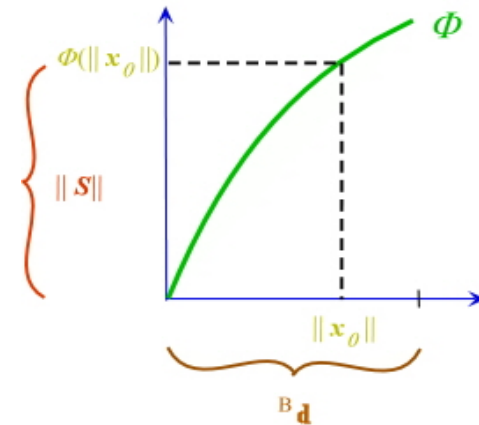
and a function  $\Phi_{t_0}$  of class  $K$  s.t.

$$\|s(t, t_0, \mathbf{x}_0)\| \leq \Phi_{t_0}(\|\mathbf{x}_0\|), \forall t \geq t_0, \forall \mathbf{x}_0 \in B_{d(t_0)}$$

— Uniformly Stable iff

$\exists$  a number  $d > 0$  and a function  $\Phi$  of class  $K$  s.t.

$$\|s(t, t_0, \mathbf{x}_0)\| \leq \Phi(\|\mathbf{x}_0\|), \forall t \geq t_0 \geq 0, \forall \mathbf{x}_0 \in B_d$$



# Proof (Stability)



→ Suppose there is a class K function  $\Phi_{t_0}$  s.t.

$$\|s(t, t_0, \mathbf{x}_0)\| \leq \Phi_{t_0}(\|\mathbf{x}_0\|)$$

$$\forall t \geq t_0 \geq 0,$$

$$\forall \mathbf{x}_0 \in B_{d(t_0)} \text{ (i.e. } \|\mathbf{x}_0\| \leq d(t_0) \text{)}$$

Given  $\varepsilon > 0$ , let  $\delta = \min\{d(t_0), \Phi_{t_0}^{-1}(\varepsilon)\}$ .

Then for

$$\|\mathbf{x}_0\| < \delta(\varepsilon, t_0) (\Rightarrow \|\mathbf{x}_0\| \in B_{d(t_0)}),$$

we have

$$\|s(t, t_0, \mathbf{x}_0)\| \leq \Phi_{t_0}(\|\mathbf{x}_0\|) \leq \Phi_{t_0}(\delta(\varepsilon, t_0))$$

$$\leq \Phi_{t_0}(\Phi_{t_0}^{-1}(\varepsilon)) = \varepsilon$$



See book

