

Exercise 1 Laser Model

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1 The equations

$$\dot{n} = GnN - kn. \quad (1)$$

$$\dot{N} = -GnN - fN + p. \quad (2)$$

2 First Order Analysis

Assume that the number of excited atoms remains quasi-static.

$$\dot{N} \approx 0. \quad (3)$$

$$\Rightarrow \dot{n} = Gn \cdot \frac{p}{Gn + f} - kn. \quad (4)$$

$$(5)$$

2.1 Linear Stability analysis

In the two dimensional case fixed points are at the intersections of the first derivative with the real axis. Thus they can be found by solving $\dot{n} = 0$. Leading to the problem:

$$0 = n \left(\frac{Gp}{Gn + f} - k \right) \quad (6)$$

Which has the zeros 0 and $\frac{p}{k} - \frac{f}{G}$. To learn more about the nature of the fixed points one has to set the derivative of 4 to zero. Using the Quotient rule the expression:

$$\ddot{n} = \frac{Gfp}{(Gn + f)^2} - k \quad (7)$$

is obtained. A fixed point is stable if the second derivative is negative. Likewise it is unstable if the second derivative is positive¹. Evaluating the second derivative for the fixed point a zero leads to $\ddot{n}(0) = \frac{Gp}{f} - k$ which leads to a value of $p_c = \frac{fk}{G}$. Thus the fixed point becomes unstable if $p > p_c$.

Figure 1 indicates a trans-critical bifurcation.

¹Strogatz, p.25

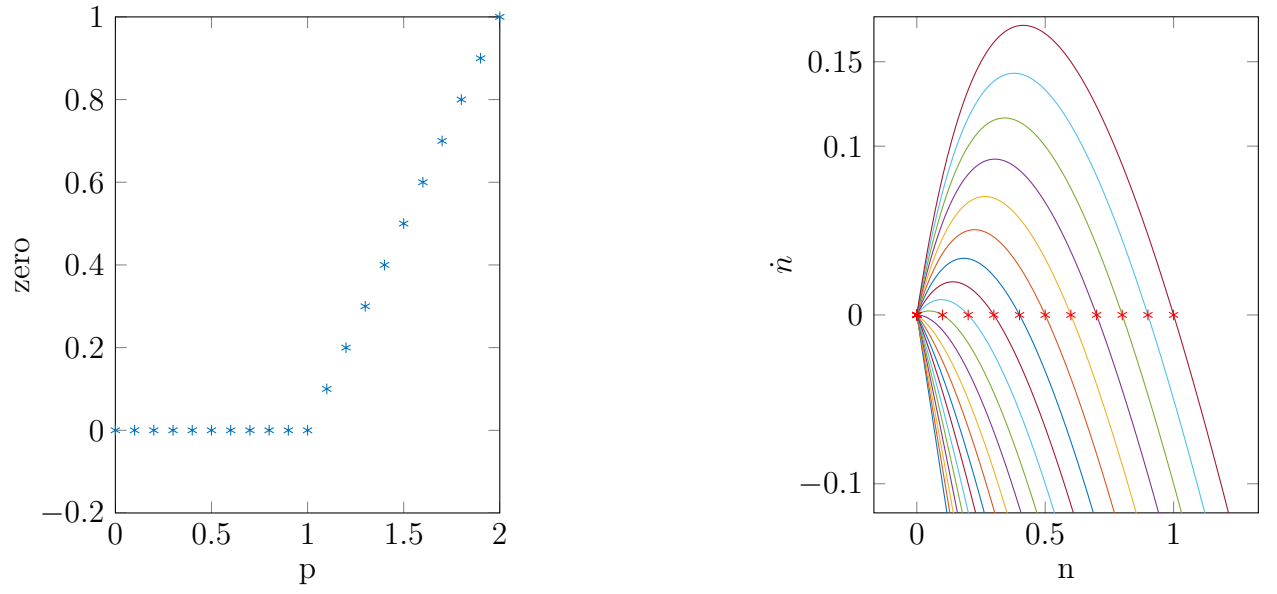


Figure 1: Plot of the position of the right zero and the parameter p (left). Plot of \dot{n} for different p values with the zeros marked with red stars. $G = f = k = 1$ is assumed, leading to $p_c = 1$.