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## FRNT05 Nonlinear Control Systems and Servo Systems

# Lecture 3: Linearization around a trajectory, Limit cycles and Stability definitions

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# Outline

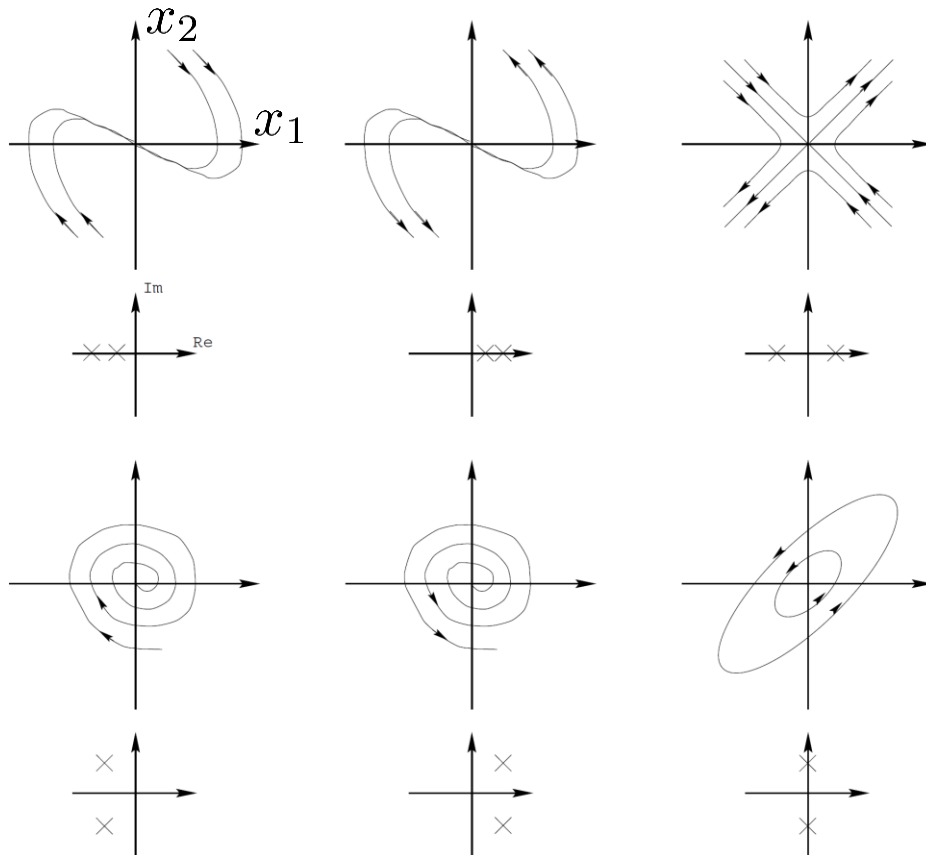
- Linearization around trajectory (general case)
- Limit Cycles
- Definitions of Stability

## Material

- Glad& Ljung Ch. 11, 12.1,  
( Khalil Ch 2.3, part of 4.1, and 4.3 )
- Lecture slides

# Summary of phase portraits and their equilibria

$\text{Im}\lambda_i = 0 :$	stable node <u><math>\lambda_1, \lambda_2 &lt; 0</math></u>	unstable node $\lambda_1, \lambda_2 > 0$	saddle point <u><math>\lambda_1 &lt; 0 &lt; \lambda_2</math></u>
$\text{Im}\lambda_i \neq 0 :$	$\text{Re}\lambda_i < 0$ stable focus	$\text{Re}\lambda_i > 0$ unstable focus	$\text{Re}\lambda_i = 0$ center point



$$\dot{x} = Ax$$

# Effect of perturbations

Perturbations in  $A + \Delta$

- Structurally stable: the qualitative behavior remains the same under arbitrarily small perturbations in  $A$

**Examples:** a node (with distinct eigenvalues), a saddle or a focus

- A stable node with multiple eigenvalues could become a stable node or a stable focus under arbitrarily small perturbations in  $A$
- A center is not structurally stable

$$\dot{z} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -\omega \\ \omega & 0 \end{bmatrix} z \quad \xrightarrow{\Delta = \delta I} \quad \dot{z} = \begin{bmatrix} \delta & -\omega \\ \omega & \delta \end{bmatrix} z \quad \boxed{\delta \pm j\omega}$$

# Linearization around an equilibrium point

- Linear approximation of nonlinear systems (Taylor expansion)

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



$$f(x) = f(x^*) + \underbrace{J_f(x^*)}_{\text{Jacobian}} \tilde{x} + \frac{1}{2} \tilde{x}^T \underbrace{H_f(x^*)}_{\text{Hessian}} \tilde{x} + \dots$$

$$\dot{\tilde{x}} = f(x^*) + \left. \frac{\partial f(\tilde{x} + x^*)}{\partial \tilde{x}} \right|_{\tilde{x}=0} \tilde{x} + \text{H.O.T.}$$



$$\tilde{x} = x - x^*$$

$$\dot{\tilde{x}} = f(x^*) + \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(x^*) \tilde{x} + \text{H.O.T.}$$

$$f(x^*) = 0$$



$$\dot{\tilde{x}} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(x^*) \tilde{x} + \text{H.O.T.}$$



$$\dot{\tilde{x}} \approx \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(x^*) \tilde{x}$$

$$\underline{\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}} = J_f(x) = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_1} & \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_2} & \dots & \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_n} \\ \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial x_1} & \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial x_2} & \dots & \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial x_n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \frac{\partial f_n}{\partial x_1} & \frac{\partial f_n}{\partial x_2} & \dots & \frac{\partial f_n}{\partial x_n} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$f = \begin{bmatrix} f_1 \\ f_2 \\ \vdots \\ f_n \end{bmatrix}$$

# Predicting behaviors close to equilibrium

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

Linear approximation

$$\dot{\tilde{x}} = A\tilde{x} + g(x),$$

$\tilde{x} = x - x^*$   
 $\dot{\tilde{x}} \simeq A\tilde{x}$  where  $A = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \Big|_{x=x^*}$   
 Valid when  $\det(A) \neq 0$   
 $\lambda_1, \lambda_2 \neq 0$

where  $A = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(x^*)$

and  $g = f(x) - \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(x^*)\tilde{x} \in C^1$  and  $\frac{\|g(x)\|}{\|\tilde{x}\|} \rightarrow 0$  as  $\|\tilde{x}\| \rightarrow 0$ .

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

$$\dot{\tilde{x}} \simeq A\tilde{x}$$

???	Center
<u>node</u>	<u>node</u>
saddle	saddle
focus	focus
<u>unstable</u>	$\lambda_1, \lambda_2 > 0$
stable	$\lambda_1, \lambda_2 < 0$
???	$\lambda_i = 0$

$\rightarrow$  unstable.

# Linearization around a trajectory

Idea: Make Taylor-expansion around a known solution  $\{\underline{x}^*(t), \underline{u}^*(t)\}$  satisfying the differential equation:

$$\frac{dx^*}{dt} = f(x^*(t), u^*(t))$$

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

Equilibrium points,  
 $\frac{dx^*}{dt} = 0$

$$\tilde{x} = x - x^*$$

$$\dot{x}(t) = f(x^*(t) + \tilde{x}(t), u^*(t) + \tilde{u}(t))$$

$$= \underbrace{f(x^*(t), u^*(t))}_{\dot{x}^*} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(x^*(t), u^*(t))\tilde{x}(t) + \frac{\partial f}{\partial u}(x^*(t), u^*(t))\tilde{u}(t) + \mathcal{O}(\|\tilde{x}, \tilde{u}\|^2)$$

H.O.T

$$\dot{\tilde{x}}(t) = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(x^*(t), u^*(t))\tilde{x}(t) + \frac{\partial f}{\partial u}(x^*(t), u^*(t))\tilde{u}(t) + \mathcal{O}(\|\tilde{x}, \tilde{u}\|^2)$$



# Linearization around a trajectory

Hence, for small  $(\tilde{x}, \tilde{u})$ , approximately

$$\dot{\tilde{x}}(t) = A(t)\tilde{x}(t) + B(t)\tilde{u}(t)$$

**Example:** if  $\dim x = 2$ ,  $\dim u = 1$

$2 \times 2$

$$A(t) = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(x^*(t), u^*(t)) = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_1} & \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_2} \\ \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial x_1} & \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial x_2} \end{bmatrix} (x^*(t), u^*(t))$$

$$B(t) = \frac{\partial f}{\partial u}(x^*(t), u^*(t)) = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial u_1} \\ \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial u_1} \end{bmatrix} (x^*(t), u^*(t))$$

$2 \times 1$



# Linearization around a trajectory

Linearization of the output equation  $y(t) = h(x(t), u(t))$  around the nominal output  $y^*(t) = h(x^*(t), u^*(t))$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{\tilde{x}} &= f(x, u) \\ y &= h(x, u) \end{aligned} \quad \tilde{y}(t) = \underbrace{C(t)} \tilde{x}(t) + \underbrace{D(t)} \tilde{u}(t)$$

Second order system i.e.  $\dim y = \dim x = 2$ ,  $\dim u = 1$

$$C(t) = \frac{\partial h}{\partial x}(x^*(t), u^*(t)) = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial h_1}{\partial x_1} & \frac{\partial h_1}{\partial x_2} \\ \frac{\partial h_2}{\partial x_1} & \frac{\partial h_2}{\partial x_2} \end{bmatrix} (x^*(t), u^*(t))$$

$$D(t) = \frac{\partial h}{\partial u}(x^*(t), u^*(t)) = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial h_1}{\partial u_1} \\ \frac{\partial h_2}{\partial u_1} \end{bmatrix} (x^*(t), u^*(t))$$

# Time-varying Linear Systems

**Example:**

*Time-varying.*

$$\dot{\tilde{x}} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & e^{2t} \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \tilde{x}$$

$$\lambda_{1,2} = -1$$

By just checking the eigenvalues someone would think that the origin is stable.

However, we can solve first for  $\tilde{x}_2$  and then substitute it in  $\dot{\tilde{x}}_1$  and realize the  $\tilde{x}_1$  grows unbounded.

$$\dot{\tilde{x}}_2 = -\tilde{x}_2 \Rightarrow \tilde{x}_2(t) = \tilde{x}_2(0) e^{-t}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{\tilde{x}}_1 &= -\tilde{x}_1 + e^{2t} e^{-t} \tilde{x}_2(0) \\ &= -\tilde{x}_1 + e^t \tilde{x}_2(0) \end{aligned}$$

$\dot{\tilde{x}}_1$  will grow unbounded

# Time-varying Linear Systems

$$\dot{\tilde{x}}(t) = A(t)\tilde{x}(t)$$

$$\lambda_i[A(t) + A^T(t)] < 0 \quad \forall t \rightarrow \text{Stable}$$

$$\lambda_i[A(t) + A^T(t)] > 0 \quad \forall t \rightarrow \text{Unstable}$$

$$\lambda_i[A(t) + A^T(t)] = 0 \quad \forall t \rightarrow \text{No conclusion}$$

for all  $\forall t$

exists  $\exists t$

# Periodic solutions and Limit Cycles

- A system oscillates when it has a nontrivial periodic solution:

Example:  $\dot{z} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -\omega \\ \omega & 0 \end{bmatrix} z$

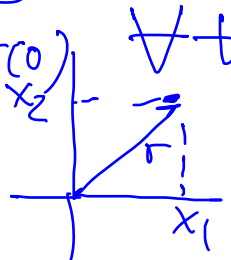
$x(t+T) = x(t), \quad \forall t \geq 0 \quad \text{for some } T > 0$

polar coordinates  $\begin{aligned} \dot{r} &= 0 & r(t) &= r(0) \\ \dot{\theta} &= \omega & \theta &= \theta_0 + \omega t \end{aligned}$

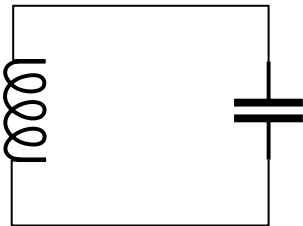
$\forall t \geq 0$

$r(0) = \sqrt{x_1^2(0) + x_2^2(0)}$

The system has a sustained oscillation of amplitude  $r(0)$



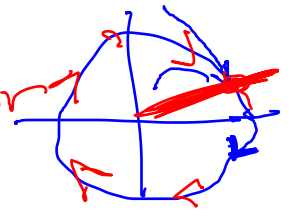
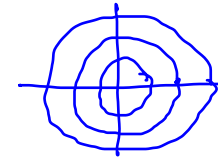
- Harmonic oscillator LC circuit



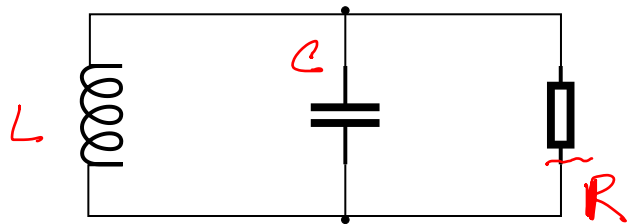
- Small perturbation will destroy the oscillation (e.g. resistance)
- The amplitude depends on the initial conditions

# Periodic solutions and Limit Cycles

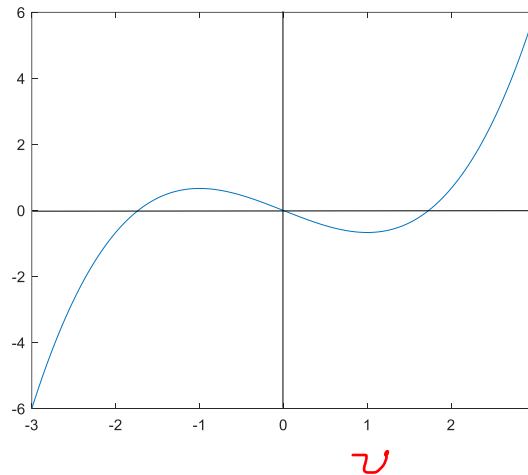
- An **isolated closed** curve in the phase plane
- Closed: periodic solution
- Isolated: limiting nature of the limit cycle, nearby trajectories either converge to or diverge from the limit cycle



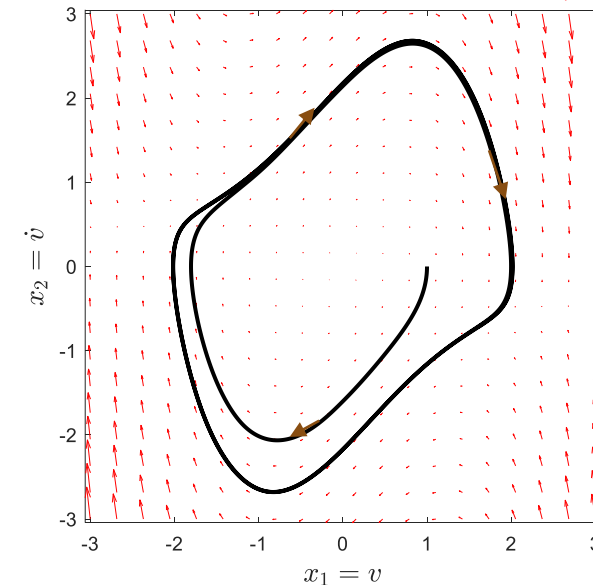
Van der Pol oscillator



$h(v)$



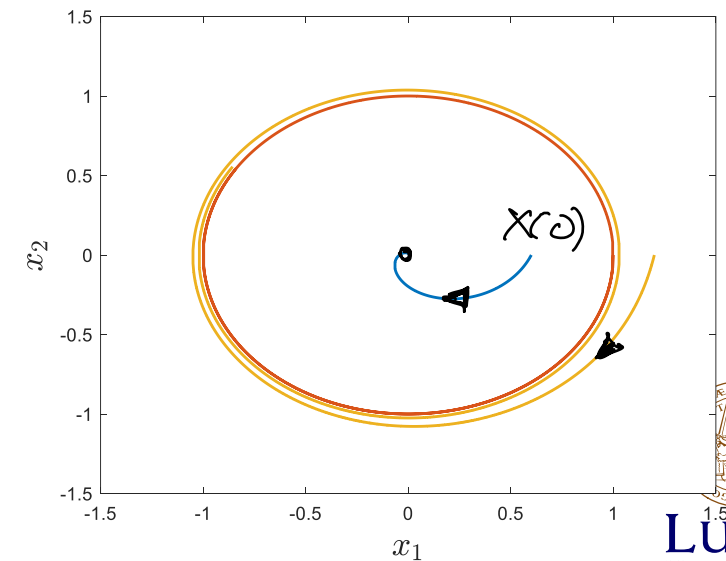
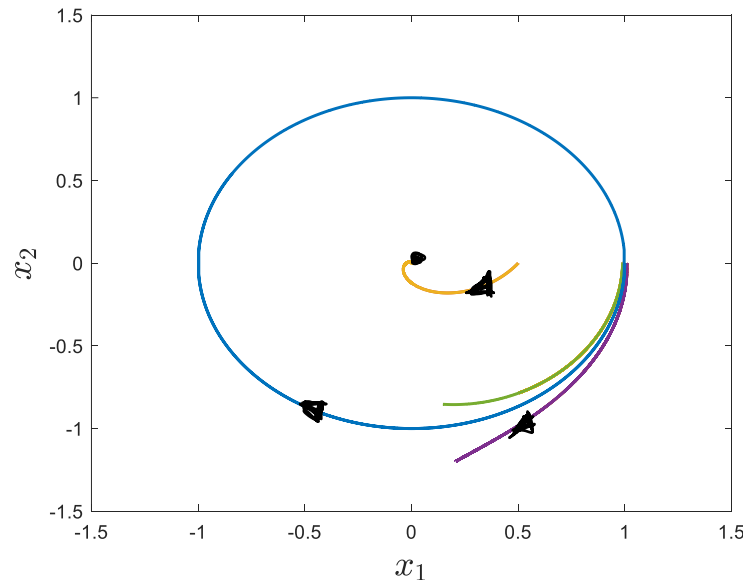
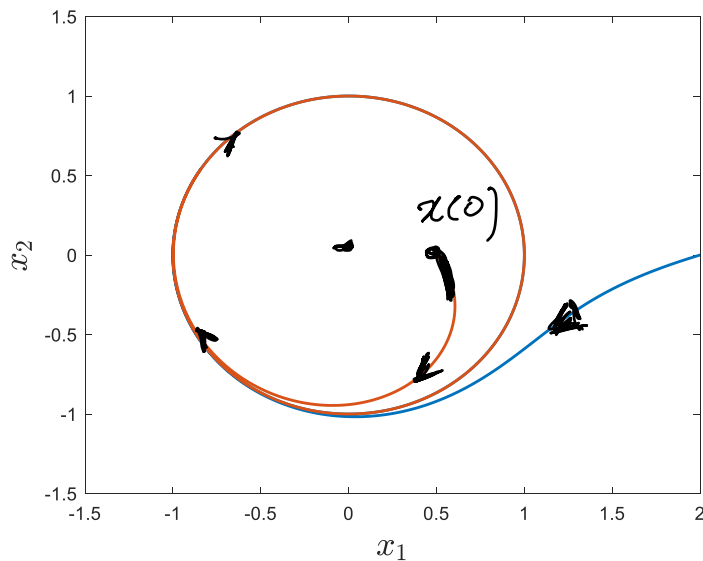
$$\ddot{v} - \varepsilon(1 - v^2)\dot{v} + v = 0$$



# Stability of limit cycles

$t \rightarrow \infty$

- **Stable limit cycle:** all trajectories in the vicinity of the limit cycle converge to it
- **Unstable limit cycle:** all trajectories in the vicinity of the limit cycle diverge from it
- **Semi-Stable Limit Cycles:** some of the trajectories in the vicinity converge to it, while the others diverge from it



# Stability of limit cycles – matching quiz

check first the stability of the eq.  $(0,0)$ . If it is unstable the system phase portrait corresponds to Fig 1.

$$(A) \begin{cases} \dot{x}_1 = x_2 - x_1(x_1^2 + x_2^2 - 1)^2 \\ \dot{x}_2 = -x_1 - x_2(x_1^2 + x_2^2 - 1)^2 \end{cases} \sim \dot{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ -1 & -1 \end{bmatrix} x \quad \begin{aligned} (\lambda+1)^2 - 1 &= 0 \\ \Rightarrow \lambda &= -1 \pm j \end{aligned}$$

$$(B) \begin{cases} \dot{x}_1 = x_2 + x_1(x_1^2 + x_2^2 - 1) \\ \dot{x}_2 = -x_1 + x_2(x_1^2 + x_2^2 - 1) \end{cases} \sim \dot{x} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 \\ -1 & -1 \end{bmatrix} x \quad \lambda = -1 \pm j$$

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

only the linearization of the "green" system gives unstable eigenvalues ( $\text{Re} \lambda > 0$ )  $(\lambda-1)^2 + 1 = 0 \Rightarrow \lambda = 1 \pm j$

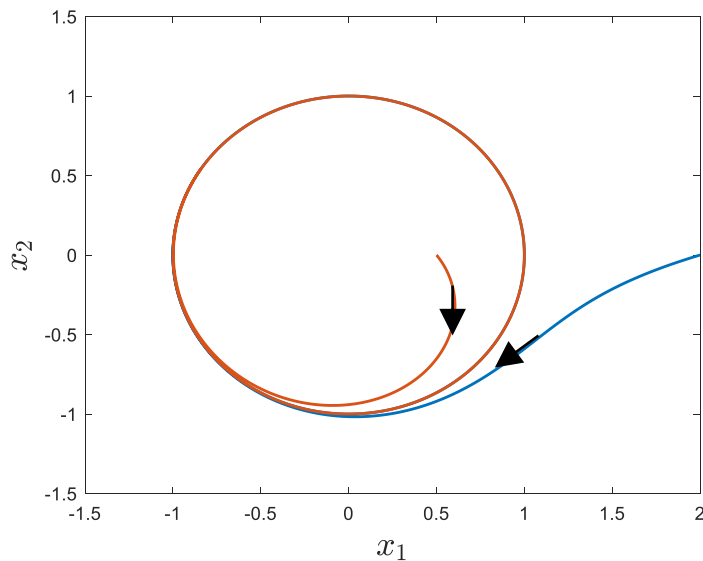


Fig 1. (C)

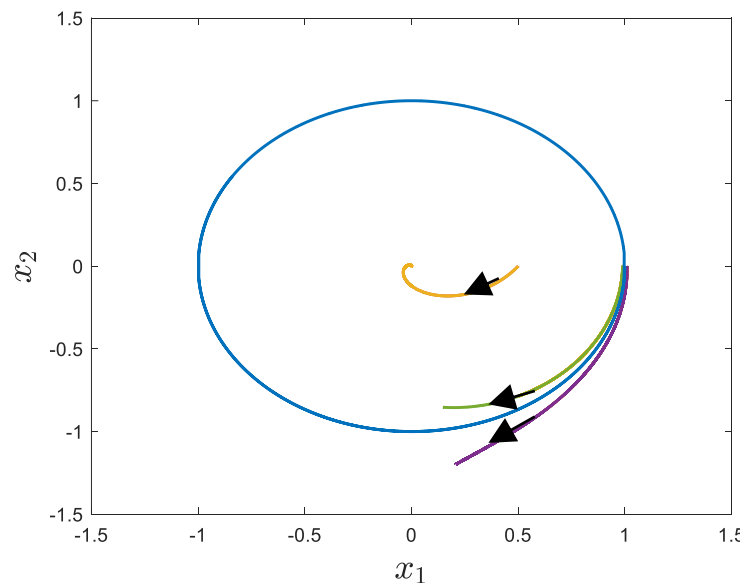


Fig. 2

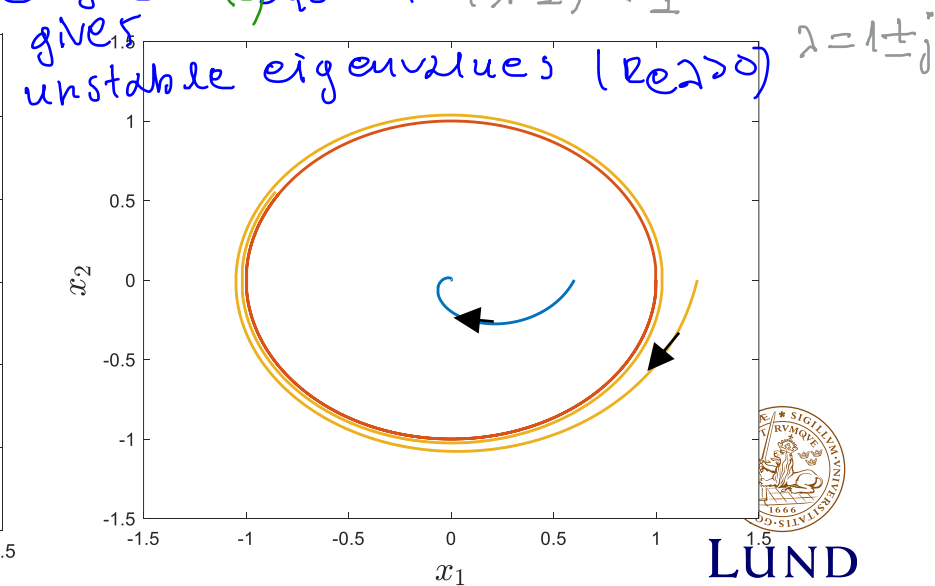


Fig. 3



# Stability of limit cycles (linearization around a trajectory)

- Study the stability of the trajectory  $(\sin t, \cos t)$

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

Plug in the trajectory ~~and verify~~  $\dot{x}^* = f(x^*)$

$$x_1 = \sin t$$

$$x_2 = \cos t$$

$$\dot{x}_1 = \cos t + 0$$

$$\frac{d}{dt}(\sin t) = \cos t$$

calculate the Jacobian

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(x_1, x_2) = \begin{bmatrix} (x_1^2 + x_2^2 - 1) + 2x_1^2 & 1 + 2x_1x_2 \\ 2x_1x_2 - 1 & (x_1^2 + x_2^2 - 1) + 2x_2^2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(\sin t, \cos t) =$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2\sin^2 t & 1 + 2\sin t \cos t \\ -1 + 2\sin t \cos t & 2\cos^2 t \end{bmatrix}$$

$$A + A^T = \begin{bmatrix} 4\sin^2 t & 4\sin t \cos t \\ 4\sin t \cos t & 4\cos^2 t \end{bmatrix}$$

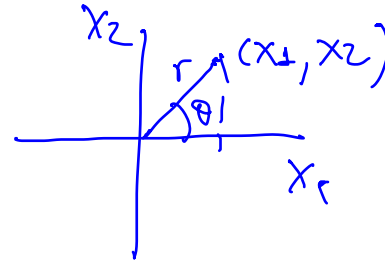
$$\lambda = 0, \lambda = 1$$

Since  $A + A^T$  is time-dependent we cannot conclude by checking the eigenvalues of  $A + A^T$



• Change variables  $r = \sqrt{x_1^2 + x_2^2}$   $\theta = \arctan x_2/x_1$

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



$$\frac{d}{dt}(x_1^2 + x_2^2) = 2x_1\dot{x}_1 + 2x_2\dot{x}_2$$

$$\dot{r} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{x_1^2 + x_2^2}}(x_1\dot{x}_1 + x_2\dot{x}_2)$$

$$\dot{r} = -\frac{1}{r} \cdot r^2 (r^2 - 1)^2 = -r(r^2 - 1)^2$$

$$\dot{\theta} = \frac{1}{x_1^2 + x_2^2}(\dot{x}_2 x_1 - x_2 \dot{x}_1)$$

Intuition

Otherwise

calculate @

$r(t)$  in

closed form

if  $r(0) > 1$   $\dot{r}(0) < 0$   
 $r$  is decreasing but will hit  
 $r=1$  and stay there

if  $r(0) < 1$   $\dot{r}(0) < 0$   
 $r$  is decreasing until  $r=0$

$$\frac{d}{dx}(\sqrt{x}) = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x}}$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}(\arctan x) = \frac{1}{1+x^2}$$

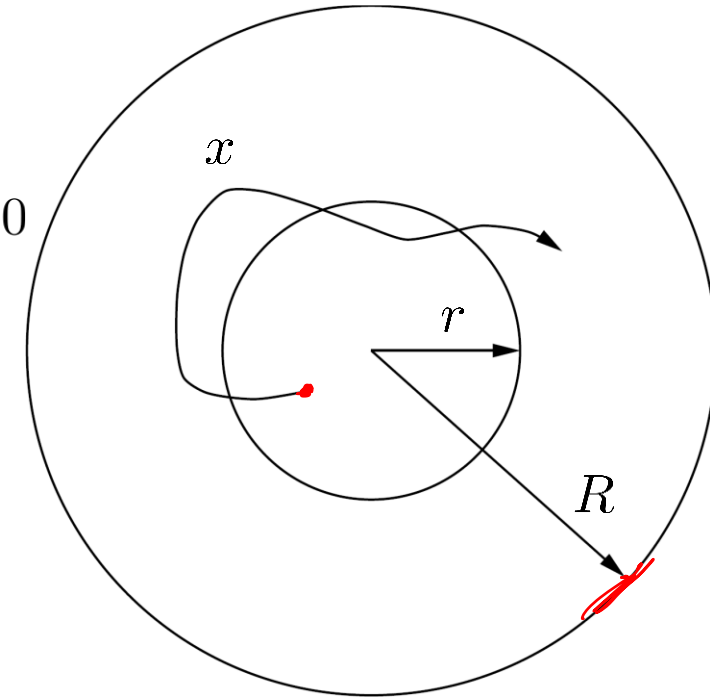
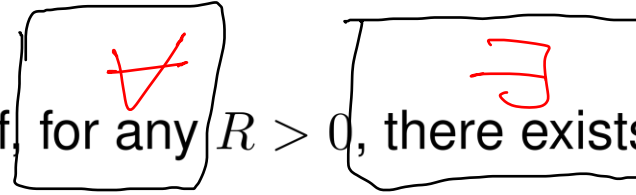
# Stability of an equilibrium point

Consider  $\dot{x} = f(x)$  where  $f(x^*) = 0$

**Definition** The equilibrium  $x^*$  is **stable** if, for any  $R > 0$ , there exists  $r > 0$  such that

$$\|x(0) - x^*\| < r \implies \|x(t) - x^*\| < R, \quad \text{for all } t \geq 0$$

Otherwise the equilibrium point  $x^*$  is **unstable**.



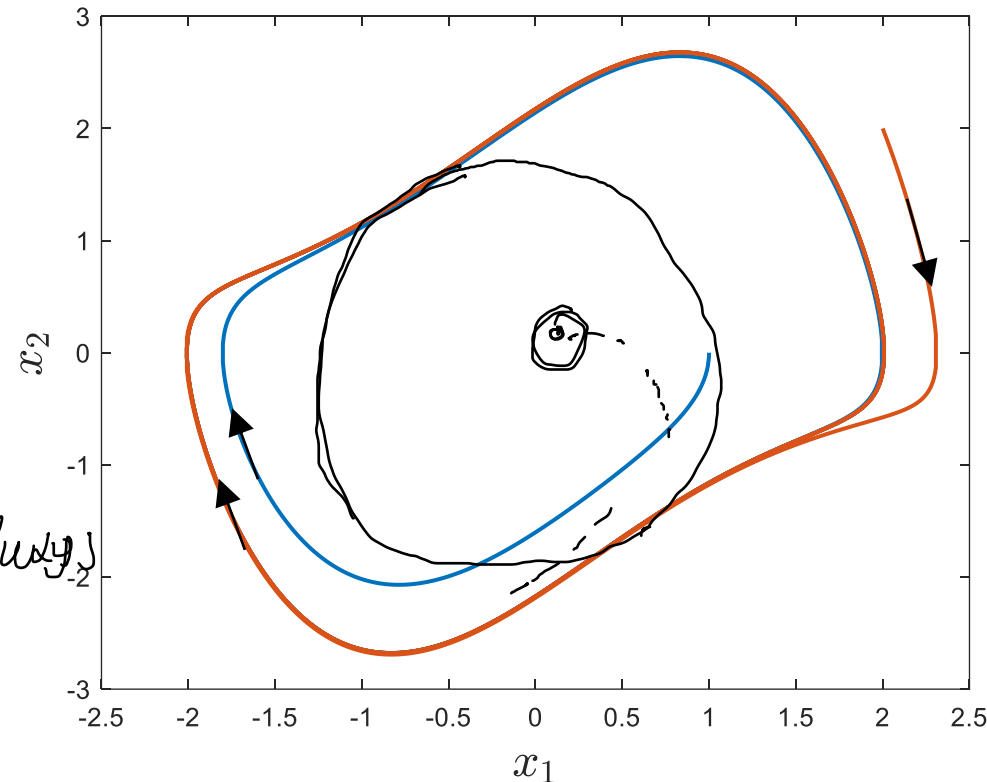
- Use the term “stable (unstable) system” only for linear systems
- A nonlinear system have more than one equilibrium points that each one can be either stable or unstable
- Unstable equilibrium does not mean unbounded trajectories

# Unstable equilibrium does not mean unbounded trajectories

$$\dot{x}_1 = x_2$$

$$\dot{x}_2 = (1 - x_1^2)x_2 - x_1$$

For  $R$  defining cycles  
in the limit cycle  
the trajectory will always  
escape  $R$  even if  
it starts very close to  
equilibrium.



# Local vs Global Stability of Equilibrium

**Definition** The equilibrium  $x^*$  is **locally asymptotically stable (LAS)** if it

1) is stable



2) there exists  $r > 0$  so that if  $\|x(0) - x^*\| < r$  then

$$x(t) \longrightarrow x^* \quad \text{as} \quad t \longrightarrow \infty.$$

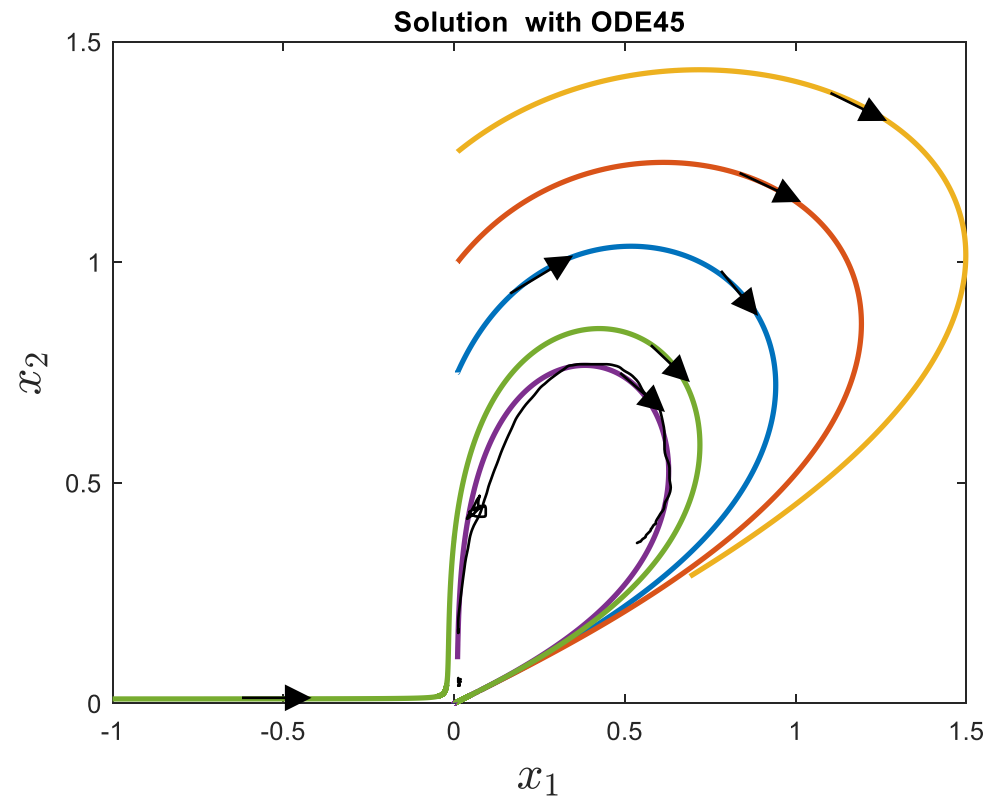
**Definition** The equilibrium is said to be **globally asymptotically stable (GAS)** if it is LAS and for all  $x(0)$  one has

$$x(t) \rightarrow x^* \text{ as } t \rightarrow \infty.$$



# Convergent but not stable

$$\dot{x}_1 = \frac{x_1^2(x_2 - x_1) + x_2^5}{(x_1^2 + x_2^2)[1 + (x_1^2 + x_2^2)^2]}$$
$$\dot{x}_2 = \frac{x_2^2(x_2 - 2x_1)}{(x_1^2 + x_2^2)[1 + (x_1^2 + x_2^2)^2]}$$



# Exponential stability

**Definition** The equilibrium is said to be **exponentially stable (ES)** if there exists two positive constants  $\underline{a}$  and  $\underline{\lambda}$  such that:

$$\|x(t) - x^*\| \leq a \|x(0) - x^*\| e^{-\lambda t}, \quad \text{for all } t \geq 0$$

**Global:** For all  $x(0)$

**Local:** For  $\|x(0) - x^*\| < r$

