

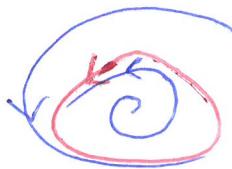
# Limit cycles

①

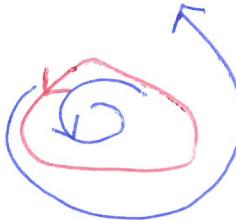
- an isolated closed trajectory.

↑ mean that neighboring trajectories cannot also be closed, so spiral towards/away from the limit cycle. Non-isolated closed trajectories are linear/nonlinear centers, for example

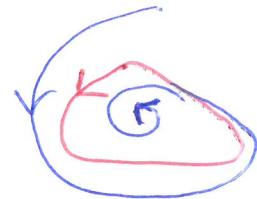
Stable limit cycle



Unstable limit cycle



half-stable limit cycle  
(rare!)



- appear in systems with self-sustained oscillations [nonlinear phenomena]

e.g. - beating of a heart, self-excitations of bridges/airplane wings,

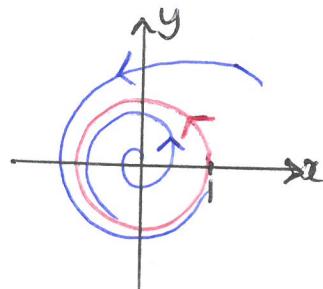
↳ oscillation has preferred period, waveform and amplitude. [a property of the system, not the initial conditions]

## Example:

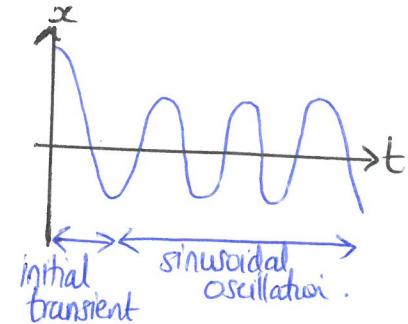
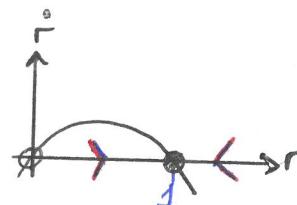
$$\dot{r} = r(1-r^2), \dot{\theta} = 1, , r \geq 0.$$

- stable limit cycle at  $r_* = 1$ ,

-  $r_* = 0$  unstable fixed point.



[at  $\dot{\theta} = 1 > 0$ ]



## Example (van der Pol oscillator), [appears in circuits/seismology]

$$\ddot{x} + \mu(x^2 - 1)\dot{x} + x = 0, \text{ parameter } \mu \geq 0.$$

nonlinear

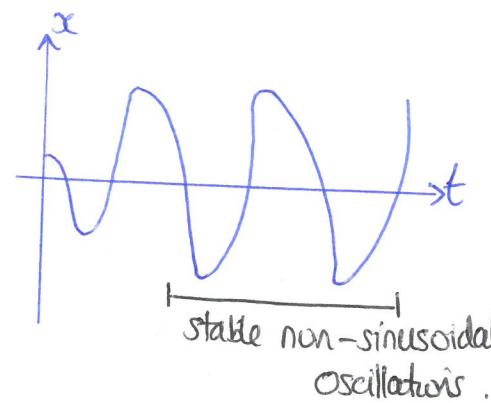
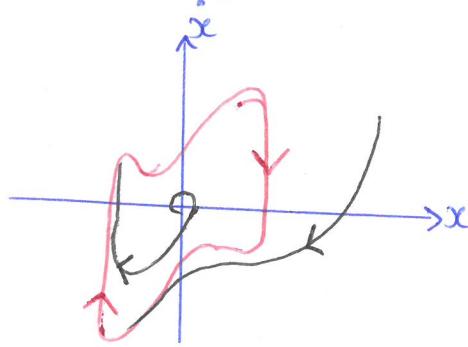
damping

coefficient

→ large-amplitude oscillations decay (i.e. for  $|x| > 1$ )

→ pumps up small-amplitude oscillations (i.e. for  $|x| < 1$ ).

Numerical simulation gives the limit cycle (stable)



### Ruling out closed orbits.

- already used Index Theory to rule out the existence of closed orbits in given systems.  
There are three more common methods.

### (a) Gradient Systems.

Find a potential function  $V(\underline{x})$  so that  $\dot{\underline{x}} = -\nabla V(\underline{x})$ .

↑ need  $V$  continuously differentiable, single-valued, scalar.

- Closed orbits are impossible in gradient systems. Why?

Suppose there is a closed orbit with period  $T > 0$ .

Then  $\Delta V$  over one period is zero as  $V$  is single-valued.  $[\Delta V = 0]$  } contradiction !!

Alternatively,  $\Delta V = \int_0^T \frac{dV}{dt} dt = \int_0^T \dot{\underline{x}} \cdot \nabla V(\underline{x}(t)) dt = - \int_0^T |\dot{\underline{x}}|^2 dt \leq 0$

- ⊕ Problem: need to construct  $V(\underline{x})$ , which may not always exist ⊕

Example:  $\begin{cases} \dot{x} = \sin y \\ \dot{y} = x \cos y \end{cases} \Leftrightarrow V(x,y) = -x \sin y \text{ (+ constant),}$

### Ib

### Energy-like function

Like with the potential function, we aim to consider the change in energy to derive a contradiction.

#### Example.

Show that  $\ddot{x} + \dot{x}^3 + x = 0$  has no periodic solutions.

- Choose the energy function  $E(x, \dot{x}) = \frac{1}{2}(x^2 + \dot{x}^2)$  [not necessarily related to the ODE]
- Note that  $\Delta E = 0$  on a closed orbit
- But  $\frac{dE}{dt} = \dot{x}(x + \dot{x}) = -\dot{x}^4 \leq 0$  [using ODE] So  $\Delta E = \int_0^T \frac{dE}{dt} dt = - \int_0^T \dot{x}^4 dt \leq 0$

the period ↑

equality iff  $\dot{x} = 0$  [not an orbit] ↓

Hence,  $\Delta E < 0$ , leading to a contradiction  $\times$ .

## ② Lyapunov functions.

- Aim: construct an energy-like function that decreases along trajectories.

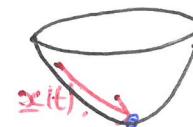
⊕ If a Lyapunov function exists then closed orbits are forbidden (like in previous example). ⊕

Consider  $\dot{\underline{x}} = \underline{f}(\underline{x})$  with a fixed point  $\underline{x}_*$ .

A Lyapunov function  $V(\underline{x})$  is continuously differentiable and real, satisfying

$$\begin{cases} 1. \quad V(\underline{x}) > 0 \quad \forall \underline{x} \neq \underline{x}_* \text{ and } V(\underline{x}_*) = 0 \quad ["\text{positive definite}"] \\ 2. \quad \frac{dV}{dt} < 0 \quad \forall \underline{x} \neq \underline{x}_* \quad [\text{all trajectories flow downhill to } \underline{x}_*] \end{cases}$$

In such cases,  $\underline{x}_*$  is globally asymptotically stable.



- sum of squares is a good way of constructing Lyapunov functions.  $\star$

Example.  $\begin{cases} \dot{x} = -x + 4y \\ \dot{y} = -x - y^3 \end{cases}$  ← show that this system has no closed orbits.  
← only fixed point at  $(x_*, y_*) = (0, 0)$ .

Consider  $V(x, y) = x^2 + ay^2$ , where  $a$  is to be chosen.

$$\Rightarrow \frac{dV}{dt} = 2x\dot{x} + 2ay\dot{y} = 2x[-x + 4y] + 2ay[-x - y^3] = -2x^2 + (8-2a)xy - 2ay^4.$$

Want to set this term to zero  $\Rightarrow a = 4$ .

$$\begin{cases} V = x^2 + 4y^2 \Rightarrow V > 0 \quad \text{not at fixed point} \\ \dot{V} = -2(x^2 + 4y^4) \Rightarrow \dot{V} < 0 \quad \text{not at fixed point.} \end{cases}$$

Hence,  $V$  is a Lyapunov function, so no closed orbits exist.

## ③ Dulac's Criterion.

Let  $\dot{\underline{x}} = \underline{f}(\underline{x})$  be a continuously differentiable vector field on a simply-connected subset  $R$  of  $\mathbb{R}^2$ .

If there exists a continuously differentiable, real-valued function  $g(\underline{x})$  such that

$\nabla \cdot (g \dot{\underline{x}})$  has one sign throughout  $R$ ,

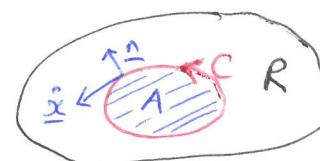
then there are no closed orbits lying entirely in  $R$ .

Proof: Suppose a closed orbit  $C$  lies entirely within  $R$ .

Let  $A$  be the region bounded by  $C$ .

$$\text{Green's Theorem} \Rightarrow \iint_A \nabla \cdot (g \dot{\underline{x}}) dA = \oint_C g \dot{\underline{x}} \cdot \underline{n} ds$$

≠ 0 by assumption      = 0 as  $\dot{\underline{x}} \cdot \underline{n} = 0$  along  $C$ .



$\times \square$

↳ candidate functions:  $g = 1$ ,  $g = x^a y^b$ ,  $e^{ax}$ ,  $e^{by}$ .

Example.

Show that  $\begin{cases} \dot{x} = x(2-x-y) \\ \dot{y} = y(4x-x^2-3) \end{cases}$  has no closed orbits in the quadrant  $x,y > 0$ .

$$\hookrightarrow \text{Pick } g(x,y) = \frac{1}{xy} \Rightarrow \nabla \cdot (g\dot{\underline{x}}) = \frac{\partial}{\partial x}(g\dot{x}) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y}(g\dot{y}) \\ = \frac{\partial}{\partial x}\left[\frac{2-x-y}{y}\right] + \frac{\partial}{\partial y}\left[\frac{4x-x^2-3}{x}\right] \\ = -\frac{1}{y} + 0 < 0 \quad \forall y > 0.$$

As the quadrant  $x,y > 0$  is simply connected, and  $f$  and  $g$  satisfy the smoothness conditions, Dulac's condition implies that no closed orbits exist in the positive quadrant.

Poincaré-Bendixson Theorem - proving that closed orbits exist!

Suppose that

- (i)  $R$  is a closed, bounded subset of  $\mathbb{R}^2$
- (ii)  $\dot{\underline{x}} = f(\underline{x})$  is a continuously differentiable vector field on an open set contained in  $R$
- (iii)  $R$  does not contain any fixed points
- (iv) There is a trajectory  $C$  that is "confined" in  $R \quad \forall t > 0$

Then either  $C$  is a closed orbit or it approaches a closed orbit as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ .

Either case,  $R$  contains a closed orbit!

$\oplus$  cannot have chaos in the phase plane  $\oplus$ .

- Application: need to construct a trapping region  $R$  to satisfy (iv)

$\hookrightarrow$  all vectors point into  $R$  along the boundary of  $R$ .



- $P$  fixed point [a closed orbit contains one!]
- $R$  is a subset of  $\mathbb{R}^2$
- $C$  is a trajectory
- — limit cycle.

Example.

$$\begin{cases} \dot{r} = r(1-r^2) + \mu r \cos \theta \\ \dot{\theta} = 1 \end{cases} \rightarrow | > \mu > 0 \text{ is a parameter}$$

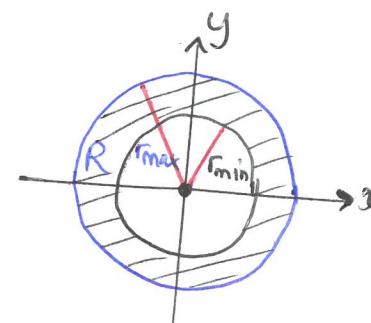
(Note:  $r=0$  is a fixed point!)

Technique: find  $r_{\min}$  s.t.  $\dot{r} > 0$  for  $r = r_{\min} \quad \forall \theta$   
 $r_{\max}$  s.t.  $\dot{r} < 0$  for  $r = r_{\max}, \quad \forall \theta$

Note: No fixed points for  $r_{\min} < r < r_{\max}$  as  $\dot{\theta} = 1 \neq 0$ .

•  $r_{\min}$ : Want  $r(1-r^2) + \mu r \cos \theta > 0 \quad \forall \theta \Leftarrow 1-r^2-\mu > 0$   
Hence, choose  $0 < r_{\min} < \sqrt{1-\mu}$

•  $r_{\max}$ : Want  $r(1-r^2) + \mu r \cos \theta < 0 \quad \forall \theta \Leftarrow 1-r^2+\mu < 0 \quad \therefore$  want  $r_{\max} > \sqrt{1+\mu}$ .



Hence, a closed orbit exists and lies in the annulus  $r_{\min} < r < r_{\max}$ .

(5)

Example:  $\begin{cases} \dot{x} = -x + ay + x^2y \\ \dot{y} = b - ay - x^2y \end{cases}$  parameters  $a, b > 0$ . Variables  $x, y \geq 0$

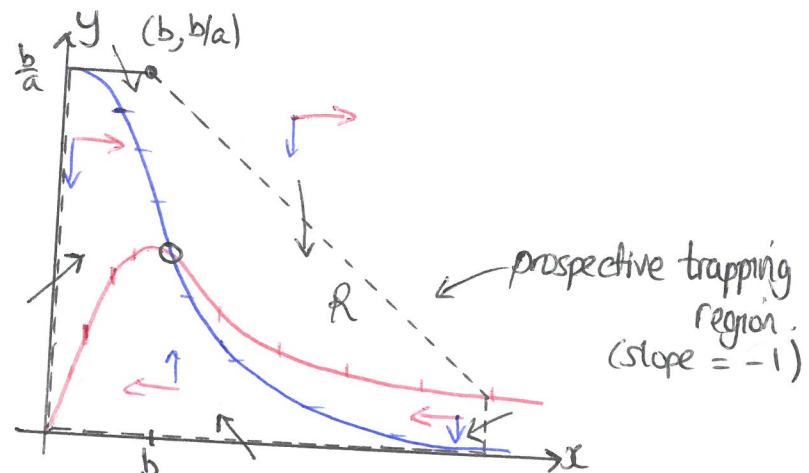
### Nullclines

$$\dot{x} = 0 \Leftrightarrow y = \frac{x}{a+x^2}$$

$$\dot{y} = 0 \Leftrightarrow y = \frac{b}{a+x^2}$$

We want to show that our trajectories passing the trapping region are inward.

- The diagonal line is hardest to justify!



Note: If  $x \gg 1$  and  $y \gg 1$ , then  $\dot{x} \approx x^2y$  and  $\dot{y} \approx -x^2y$   $\therefore \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{\dot{y}}{\dot{x}} \approx -1$  along trajectories diagonal

We want  $\frac{dy}{dx} < -1$  on boundary, ie.  $\dot{y} < -\dot{x} \Leftrightarrow \dot{x} < -\dot{y} \Leftrightarrow x < y$ . parallel to diagonal line

But  $\dot{x} + \dot{y} = b - x < 0 \Leftrightarrow x > b$ .  $\leftarrow$  So trajectories are inward pointing on diagonal line  
 $\Rightarrow$  We have a trapping region!

$\rightarrow$  We need to do more work to show that we have a limit cycle, as the region contains a fixed point!  
If the fixed point is a repeller then we can remove a small region of  $R$  about the fixed point and the Poincaré-Bendixson Theorem applies.

When is the fixed point a repeller?

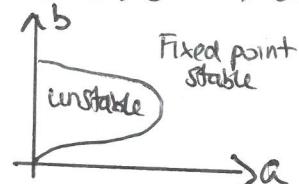
$$\text{Jacobian } J(x, y) = \begin{pmatrix} -1 + 2xy & a + x^2 \\ -2xy & -a - x^2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

$$\text{Fixed point } \begin{cases} 0 = -x + ay + x^2y \\ 0 = b - ay - x^2y \end{cases} \Rightarrow (x_*, y_*) = \left( b, \frac{b}{a+b^2} \right)$$

$$\text{So } J(x_*, y_*) \text{ satisfies } \dots \quad \det = a + b^2 > 0$$

$$\text{Trace} = -\frac{1}{a+b^2} [b^4 + (2a-1)b^2 + (a+a^2)].$$

For instability, we want Trace  $> 0 \rightarrow$  dividing curve is  $b^2 = \frac{1}{2} [1 - 2a \pm \sqrt{1 - 8a}]$ .



$\rightarrow$  When the fixed point is unstable, a (stable) limit cycle exists in  $R$ .  
 $\uparrow$  from numerical solutions.

## Liénard Systems.

Many oscillating circuits may be modelled as  $\ddot{x} + f(x)\dot{x} + g(x) = 0$  [Liénard's equation]

nonlinear damping  
restoring force

e.g., van der Pol:  $f(x) = \mu(x^2 - 1)$ ,  $g(x) = 2x$

$$\begin{cases} \dot{x} = y \\ \dot{y} = -g(x) - f(x)y \end{cases}$$

### Liénard's Theorem.

Suppose that  $f(x)$  and  $g(x)$  satisfy the following properties:

- (1)  $f(x)$  and  $g(x)$  are continuously differentiable for all  $x$
- (2)  $g(-x) = -g(x) \quad \forall x$  [i.e.  $g$  is an odd function]
- (3)  $g(x) > 0 \quad \forall x > 0$
- (4)  $f(-x) = f(x) \quad \forall x$  [i.e.  $f$  is an even function]
- (5) The odd function  $F(x) = \int_0^x f(u)du$  has
  - (i) exactly one positive zero at  $x=a$
  - (ii) is negative for  $0 < x < a$
  - (iii) is positive and non-decreasing for  $x > a$
  - (iv)  $F(x) \rightarrow \infty$  as  $x \rightarrow \infty$ .

Then the system has a unique, stable limit cycle surrounding the origin in the phase plane.

Interpretation:

- $g(x)$  acts like a spring, reducing any displacement
- $f(x)$  means that small oscillations are pumped up and large oscillations are damped down.

→ self-sustained oscillations!

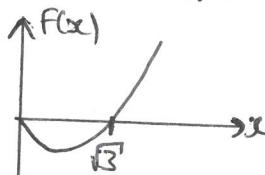
### Example: van der Pol equation

$$f(x) = \mu(x^2 - 1), \quad g(x) = x \quad (\mu > 0)$$

→ conditions (1)-(4) of Liénard's Theorem are satisfied

$$\rightarrow F(x) = \int_0^x f(u)du = \frac{1}{3}\mu x(x^2 - 3)$$

↳ satisfies 5(i)-(iv) with  $a = \sqrt{3}$ .



∴ Theorem conditions are satisfied and the van der Pol equation has a unique, stable limit cycle.

## Relaxation Oscillators

- given a closed orbit exists, what can we say about its shape and period?

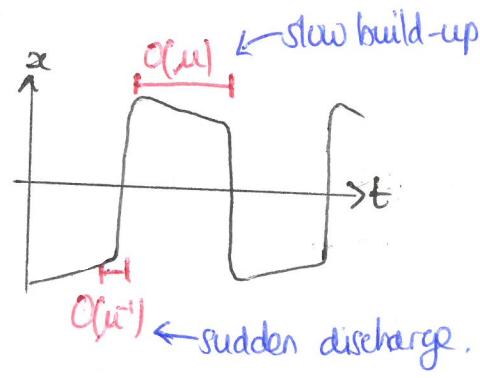
Example: van der Pol in the strongly nonlinear limit.

$$\ddot{x} + \mu(x^2 - 1)\dot{x} + x = 0, \quad \mu \gg 1.$$

It's convenient to consider the phase portrait in a new pair of variables

- note:  $\frac{d}{dt} \left[ \dot{x} + \mu \left[ \frac{1}{3}x^3 - x \right] \right] = \ddot{x} + \mu \dot{x}(x^2 - 1)$

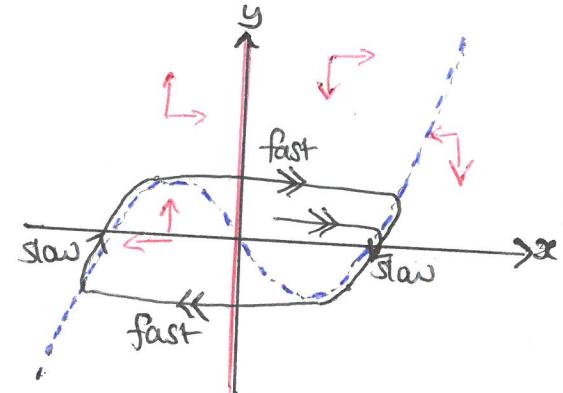
$$\underbrace{\omega}_{\dot{w}} = -x$$



So  $\begin{cases} \dot{x} = \omega - \mu F(x) \\ \dot{w} = -x \end{cases}$ , where  $F(x) = \frac{1}{3}x^3 - x$ .

Then we define  $y = \frac{w}{\mu}$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} \dot{x} = \mu[y - F(x)] \\ \dot{y} = -\frac{1}{\mu}x \end{cases} \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{--- nullcline } y = F(x) \\ \text{--- nullcline } \dot{y} = 0 \end{array}$$



- Suppose that the initial condition is ~~not~~ s.t.  $y - F(x) = O(1) \Rightarrow \begin{cases} \dot{x} = O(\mu) \gg 1 \\ \dot{y} = O(\frac{1}{\mu}) \ll 1 \end{cases}$
- ∴ trajectory moves nearly horizontally in the phase plane

- If  $y - F(x) \sim O(\mu^{-2})$  then  $\dot{x}$  and  $\dot{y}$  become comparable [size  $O(\mu^{-1})$ ]
- ∴ trajectory moves slowly near the nullcline until it reaches the knee and can jump sideways again.

⇒ Two timescales:  $\begin{cases} \text{Fast } O(\mu^{-1}) \\ \text{Slow } O(\mu) \end{cases}$

What is the period of the oscillations for  $\mu \gg 1$ ?

- As the slow branches dominate the period, the period

$T \approx 2 \times \text{time spent on slow branches}$ ,

- on the slow branches,  $y \approx F(x) \Rightarrow \frac{dy}{dt} \approx F'(x)dx = (x^2 - 1)dx$ .

But  $\dot{y} = -\frac{x}{\mu} \Rightarrow \dot{x} \approx \frac{-x}{\mu(x^2 - 1)}$  ④

At what values of  $x$  does the slow stage start/end? (8)

Note:  $\frac{dF}{dx} = x^2 - 1 \therefore F(x)$  has minima at  $x = \pm x_B$ , where  $\cancel{x_B = 1}$ .

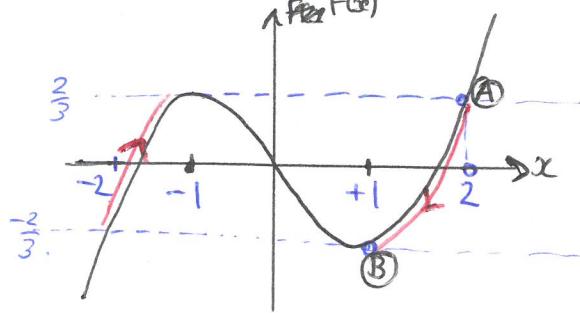
$$F(-1) = -\frac{1}{3} + 1 = \frac{2}{3}$$

$$F(x) = \frac{2}{3} \Rightarrow \frac{1}{3}x^3 - x - \frac{2}{3} = 0 \Rightarrow x^3 - 3x - 2 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow (x+1)(x^2 - x - 2) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow (x+1)(x-2)(x+1) = 0$$

$$\therefore \underline{\underline{x_A = +2}}$$



$$\text{So } T \approx 2 \int_{t_A}^{t_B} dt \approx 2 \int_{x_A}^{x_B} \frac{dt}{dx} dx \underset{\text{use } \star}{\approx} 2 \int_2^1 -\frac{\mu(x^2-1)}{x} dx = 2 \int_1^2 x - \frac{1}{x} dx \\ = 2\mu \left[ \frac{1}{2}x^2 - \log x \right]_1^2 \\ \Rightarrow T \approx \mu [3 - 2 \log 2] \quad \text{for } \mu \gg 1.$$

### Weakly nonlinear oscillators

We consider equations of the form:  $\ddot{x} + x + \varepsilon h(x, \dot{x}) = 0$ ,  $0 < \varepsilon \ll 1$ ,  $h$  smooth.

e.g. van der Pol:  $\ddot{x} + x + \varepsilon(x^2 - 1)\dot{x} = 0$

Duffing:  $\ddot{x} + x + \varepsilon x^3 = 0$

small perturbation to the harmonic oscillator.

- from simulations, we find the emergence of a stable limit cycle - what is the shape/radius/period?

Asymptotic analysis - the failure of regular perturbation theory.

Power series in  $\varepsilon$ :  $x(t, \varepsilon) = \underline{x_0(t)} + \varepsilon \underline{x_1(t)} + \varepsilon^2 \underline{x_2(t)} + \dots \quad \star$   
to be determined.

Aim: find an asymptotic expansion to the solution of  $\ddot{x} + 2\varepsilon \dot{x} + x = 0$ .  $\begin{cases} x(0) = 0 \\ \dot{x}(0) = 1 \end{cases}$

Substitute in  $\star \Rightarrow [\ddot{x}_0 + x_0] + \varepsilon [\ddot{x}_1 + 2\dot{x}_0 + x_1] + O(\varepsilon^2) = 0 \quad \forall \varepsilon > 0$ .

means that we consider each power of  $\varepsilon$  separately.

ODE  $\Rightarrow \begin{cases} O(1): \ddot{x}_0 + x_0 = 0 \\ O(\varepsilon): \ddot{x}_1 + x_1 = -2\dot{x}_0 \end{cases}$

$O(\varepsilon^2)$   $\leftarrow$  small correction that we hope to ignore.

Initial conditions

$O(1): x_0(0) = 0, \dot{x}_0(0) = 1$

$O(\varepsilon): x_1(0) = 0, \dot{x}_1(0) = 0$ .

$$O(1) \Rightarrow x_0(t) = \sin t$$

Substitute into  $O(\varepsilon) \Rightarrow \begin{cases} \ddot{x}_1 + x_1 = -2\cos t \\ x_1(0) = 0, \dot{x}_1(0) = 0 \end{cases} \leftarrow \text{resonant forcing!}$

$$\Rightarrow x_1(t) = -ts \sin t.$$

$\uparrow$  secular term  $\leftarrow$  grows without bound as  $t \rightarrow \infty$

$$\text{So } x(t, \varepsilon) = \sin t - ts \sin t + O(\varepsilon^2)$$

we need  $\varepsilon t \ll 1$  for the correction term to be small

compared to the  $O(1)$  solution

$\therefore$  expansion quickly breaks down as soon as  $t = O(\varepsilon^{-1})$ .

How do we get an approximate solution valid for all  $t$ ?

Note:  $\ddot{x} + 2\varepsilon \dot{x} + x = 0$  has two timescales  $\begin{cases} (i) \quad O(1) \text{ oscillations} \\ (ii) \quad O(1/\varepsilon) \text{ decay.} \end{cases}$  ] Two Timescales!!

Method of Multiple Scales (Two-Timing)

- let  $\tau = t$  be the fast timescale
  - $T = \varepsilon t$  be the slow timescale
- } we treat  $\tau$  and  $T$  as independent variables!!!

$$\text{Expand } x(t, \varepsilon) = x_0(\tau, T) + \varepsilon x_1(\tau, T) + O(\varepsilon^2), \quad \textcircled{*}$$

Note:  $\frac{dx}{dt} = \frac{\partial x}{\partial \tau} \frac{\partial \tau}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial x}{\partial T} \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} = \partial_T x + \varepsilon \partial_\tau x.$

Substitute in  $\textcircled{*} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} \dot{x} = \partial_T x_0 + \varepsilon (\partial_T x_0 + \partial_T x_1) + O(\varepsilon^2) \\ \ddot{x} = \partial_{TT} x_0 + \varepsilon (\partial_{TT} x_1 + 2\partial_{T\tau} x_0) + O(\varepsilon^2), \end{cases}$

Consider  $\ddot{x} + 2\varepsilon \dot{x} + x = 0, \quad x(0) = 0, \dot{x}(0) = 1$

Substitute in  $\textcircled{*} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} \partial_{TT} x_0 + \varepsilon (\partial_{TT} x_1 + 2\partial_{T\tau} x_0) + 2\varepsilon \partial_T x_0 + x_0 + \varepsilon x_1 = O(\varepsilon^2), \end{cases}$

Holds  $\forall \varepsilon > 0 \quad \begin{cases} 0 = x_0(0, 0) + \varepsilon x_1(0, 0) + O(\varepsilon^2) \\ 1 = \partial_T x_0(0, 0) + \varepsilon [\partial_{T\tau} x_0(0, 0) + \partial_T x_1(0, 0)] + O(\varepsilon^2), \end{cases}$

Powers of  $\varepsilon \Rightarrow O(1): \begin{cases} \partial_{TT} x_0 + x_0 = 0 \\ x_0(0, 0) = 0 \\ \partial_T x_0(0, 0) = 1 \end{cases}$

$$O(\varepsilon): \begin{cases} \partial_T x_1 + x_1 = -2[\partial_T x_0 + \partial_T x_0] \\ x_1(0,0) = 0 \\ \partial_T x_1(0,0) = \partial_T x_0(0,0). \end{cases}$$

Solve for  $O(1)$  first: Note, we have a PDE, not an ODE!!

$$\Rightarrow x_0(t, T) = A(T) \sin t + B(T) \cos t.$$

$$\text{ICs} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} 0 = B(0) \\ 1 = A(0). \end{cases} \quad \textcircled{*} \text{ Need to find functions } A \text{ and } B \textcircled{*}$$

$$\text{Solve for } O(\varepsilon): \partial_T x_1 + x_1 = -2(A'(T) + A(T))\underline{\cos t} + 2(B'(T) + B(T))\underline{\sin t}. \quad \text{secular terms! } \textcircled{!}$$

This is where the flexibility of two time-scales helps!

We can choose  $A(T)$  and  $B(T)$  so that the coefficients of the secular terms vanish, ie.

$$\begin{cases} A'(T) + A(T) = 0 \\ B'(T) + B(T) = 0. \end{cases}$$

We now solve for  $A$  and  $B$   $\textcircled{!}$

$$\text{So } \begin{cases} A(T) = e^{-T} A(0) \\ B(T) = e^{-T} B(0) \end{cases} \rightarrow \text{but } \begin{cases} A(0) = 1 \\ B(0) = 0 \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} A(T) = e^{-T} \\ B(T) = 0 \quad \forall T. \end{cases}$$

$$\text{Hence } \underline{x_0(t, T)} = e^{-T} \sin t.$$

The approximate solution to the full problem is:  $\underline{x(t)} \approx e^{-t} \sin(t) + O(\varepsilon).$

Note: • We could also solve for  $x_1$ , which would give an improved approximation.

• This equation remains valid for large  $t$ .

Example: radius and period of the van der Pol oscillator.

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

Expansion:  $x(t) = x_0(\tau, \tau) + \varepsilon x_1(\tau, \tau)$

Chain rule for derivatives  $\Rightarrow \begin{cases} O(1): \partial_{\tau\tau}x_0 + x_0 = 0 \\ O(\varepsilon): \partial_{\tau\tau}x_1 + x_1 = -2\partial_{\tau\tau}x_0 - (x_0^2 - 1)\partial_{\tau}x_0 \end{cases}$

$$O(1) \Rightarrow x_0(\tau, \tau) = A(\tau)e^{i\tau} + \text{c.c.}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{want } x_0 \text{ real} \uparrow \\ &= Ae^{i\tau} + \bar{A}e^{-i\tau} \end{aligned}$$

$$O(\varepsilon) \Rightarrow \partial_{\tau\tau}x_1 + x_1 = -2[iA'(\tau)e^{i\tau} + \text{c.c.}]$$

Write  $A(\tau) = r(\tau)e^{i\phi(\tau)}$

$$\Rightarrow x_0 = r(\tau)[e^{i(\tau+\phi(\tau))} + \text{c.c.}] = 2r(\tau)\cos(\tau+\phi(\tau))$$

$$- [A^2 e^{2i\tau} + \bar{A}^2 e^{-2i\tau} + 2|A|^2 - 1]$$

$$\times [iAe^{i\tau} - i\bar{A}e^{-i\tau}]$$

$$= \underbrace{\text{secular terms}}_{\{-2iA'(\tau) - iA(2|A|^2 - 1)} + \text{non-secular terms.}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &+ iA^2 \bar{A}\} e^{i\tau} \\ &+ \text{c.c.} \end{aligned}$$

$\leftarrow$  We want the coefficient of  $e^{i\tau}$  to be zero!!

Hence, we want  $|A(\tau)|$  to satisfy:  $-2iA'(\tau) - iA(2|A|^2 - 1) + iA^2 \bar{A} = 0$

$$\Rightarrow 2A'(\tau) = A - 2A|A|^2 + A|A|^2$$

$$\boxed{\Rightarrow 2A'(\tau) = A - A|A|^2}.$$

Write  $A(\tau) = r(\tau)e^{i\phi(\tau)}$

$$\Rightarrow 2[r'(\tau) + ir(\tau)\phi'(\tau)]e^{i\phi(\tau)} = r(\tau)e^{i\phi(\tau)} - r^3 e^{i\phi(\tau)}$$

Real part  $\Rightarrow 2r'(\tau) = r(\tau) - r^3(\tau)$

Imag. part  $\Rightarrow r(\tau)\phi'(\tau) = 0$

Hence, steady state  $r = 1, \phi = \text{constant}$

So  $x_0 \rightarrow 2\cos(\tau + \phi_0)$  as  $\tau \rightarrow \infty$   $\leftarrow \begin{cases} \text{Frequency} = 1 + O(\varepsilon^2), \\ \text{Amplitude} = 2 + O(\varepsilon) \end{cases}$

What about the initial value problem:  $x(0)=1, \dot{x}(0)=0$  ?

(12)

$$\Rightarrow x_0(0)=1, \dot{x}_0(0)=0$$

But  $x_0(\tau, T) = Ae^{i\tau} + \bar{A}e^{-i\tau}$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} 1 = A(0) + \bar{A}(0) \\ 0 = iA(0) - i\bar{A}(0) \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{aligned} 1 &= 2A(0) \Rightarrow A(0) = \frac{1}{2} \\ A(0) &\text{ real} \end{aligned}$$

But  $A(T) = r(T) e^{i\phi(T)}$   $\Rightarrow r(0) = \frac{1}{2}, \phi(0) = 0.$

But  $r'(T) = \frac{1}{2} r(T) [1 - r^2(T)]$   
 $\phi'(T) = 0 \Rightarrow \phi = 0 \quad \forall T$

Also  $r(T) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1+3e^{-T}}}$

So  $x_0(\tau, T) = \frac{2}{\sqrt{1+3e^{-T}}} \cos \tau \Rightarrow x(t) = \underline{\frac{2}{\sqrt{1+3e^{-2t}}} \cos t + O(\varepsilon)},$