

Example: Hopf bifurcation in the plane 1 using complex notation.

Consider a system $\dot{x} = f_p(x, y)$, $\dot{y} = g_p(x, y)$ depending on a parameter δ . Assume now that the origin is an isolated critical point that switches between stable and unstable spiral as δ crosses $\delta = 0$. We also assume that f_p and g_p are smooth functions of (x, y, δ) .

Let \underline{A}_0 be the matrix for the linearized system near the origin for $\delta = 0$. (1)

Then A_0 has the eigenvalues $\lambda = \pm i\omega$, where $\omega > 0$.

Let $\vec{v} = \vec{v}_1 - i\vec{v}_2$ be an eigenvector

corresponding to $i\omega$, so that $A_0 \vec{v} = i\omega \vec{v}$ (2)

Thus $A_0 \vec{v}_1 = \omega \vec{v}_2$ and $A_0 \vec{v}_2 = -\omega \vec{v}_1$

Note 1: Neither \vec{V}_1 nor \vec{V}_2 can vanish, because ²
if one does, both do (use the eqns. in (2))
and $\vec{V} \neq 0$ is an eigenvector.

Note 2: \vec{V}_1 and \vec{V}_2 are not co-linear, as
this contradicts the equations in (2).

We now change coordinates, and write vectors
in terms of \vec{V}_1 and \vec{V}_2 : $\vec{Y} = u\vec{V}_1 + v\vec{V}_2$,
where $\vec{Y} = \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}$. (3)

Note then $A_0 \vec{Y} = -\omega v \vec{V}_1 + \omega u \vec{V}_2$. (4)

Thus, in terms of the complex variable
 $Z = u + iv$, A_0 becomes multiplication
by $i\omega$ \longleftarrow (5)

Clearly we can write the original system
in terms of Z , so it takes the form

$$\dot{Z} = f_c(u, v, \delta) \quad (6)$$

for some complex valued, smooth, f_c .

We now expand f_1 for z and δ small.

Using the fact that we can write u and v in terms of z and \bar{z} , the equation takes the form (we also use (5))

$$\dot{z} = i\omega z + \delta(a z + b \bar{z}) + (c z^3 + d z^2 \bar{z} + e z \bar{z}^2 + f \bar{z}^3) + O(\delta^2, \delta z^2, z^4) \tag{7}$$

where a, b, \dots, f are (complex) constants, independent of z, \bar{z} and δ .

Simplifying Assumption: Note that there are no quadratic terms in z . This makes the algebra simpler, but is not fundamental. On your own: add the missing terms and carry the algebra.

Expansion: let $\epsilon = \sqrt{|\delta|}$, $0 < \epsilon \ll 1$,
and write

$$Z = \epsilon Z_0(t, \tau) + \epsilon^3 Z_2(t, \tau) + \dots \quad (8)$$

where $\tau = \epsilon^2 t$ and the dependence on t is periodic

Note: if there are quadratic terms you must add $\epsilon^2 Z_1(t, \tau)$ above!

$O(\epsilon)$ equation $Z_0 t = i\omega Z_0, \quad (9)$

with solution $Z_0 = A(\tau) e^{i\omega t}$

$O(\epsilon^3)$ equation

$$Z_2 t - i\omega Z_2 = -Z_0 \tau + \sigma a Z_0 + \epsilon |Z_0|^2 Z_0 \quad (10)$$

+ Non Resonant Terms (NRT)

↑ This should be d!

where $\sigma = \text{sign } \delta$ and the NRT are terms which depend on t via $e^{-i\omega t}$ and $e^{\pm 3i\omega t}$ (and yield corresponding dependences in Z_2). The resonant terms, on the

hand, have the form 5

$$(-A_{\sigma} + \sigma a A + e |A|^2 A) e^{i\omega t}$$

and produce terms $\propto t e^{i\omega t}$ in Z_2 . Thus we eliminate them

$$\Rightarrow \frac{d}{d\tau} A = \sigma a A + e |A|^2 A \quad (11)$$

~~Canonical~~ Canonical Form Hopf

Write $A = \rho e^{i\varphi}$ (polar) then

$$\frac{d}{d\tau} \rho = \sigma \operatorname{Re}(a) \rho + \operatorname{Re}(e) \rho^3 \quad (12)$$

$$\frac{d}{d\tau} \varphi = \sigma \operatorname{Im}(a) + \operatorname{Im}(e) \rho^2 \quad (13)$$

Because the origin is a spiral for $\delta \neq 0$,

we must have $\operatorname{Re}(a) \neq 0$. Also,

generically $\operatorname{Re}(e) \neq 0$.

Then (12) shows that a Hopf bifurcation occurs as δ crosses 0.

Specifically:

If $\text{Re}(e) < 0$ a supercritical or soft bifurcation occurs, with a stable limit cycle for $\sigma \text{Re}(a) > 0$, corresponding

$$\text{to } \rho = \sqrt{-\sigma \text{Re}(a) / \text{Re}(e)}$$

If $\text{Re}(e) > 0$ a subcritical or hard bifurcation occurs, with an unstable limit cycle for $\sigma \text{Re}(a) < 0$ — same formula for ρ .

Note When quadratic terms are included, the same equation in (11) results. However the coefficient of $|A|^2 A$ is not just e , but an expression that involves several coeff. in the expansion.