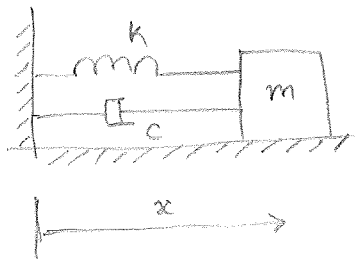


FIRST ORDER ODES IN ONE VARIABLE



LINEAR SPRING, MASS DAMPER.

$$m\ddot{x} + c\dot{x} + kx = 0. \quad - (1)$$

NONLINEAR SPRING, + LINEAR DAMPER.

$$m\ddot{x} + c\dot{x} + f(x) = 0 \quad - (2)$$

Now say that mass m is very small ($m \approx 0$)
and damping c is large. In this limit,
Eqn (2) can be approximated by setting the first term to zero.

$$m\ddot{x} + c\dot{x} + f(x) = 0$$

$$c\dot{x} + f(x) = 0$$

$$\dot{x} = -\frac{f(x)}{c}$$

More generally $\dot{x} = h(x)$ (3)

Note 1: What is large damping? Imagine swimming through honey / molasses (for example).

The above approximation is very good in the limit of low Reynold's numbers: "Stokes flow".

Eg. Edward Purcell, Life at low Reynold's numbers.
(classic paper) "ARISTOTELIAN DYNAMICS"
(NO INERTIA)

Note 2: APPARENT paradox. Eqn (2) requires 2 initial conditions $x(0), \dot{x}(0)$ and is a second order system.

Eqn (3) is a first order system and needs only 1 initial condition $x(0)$. We will resolve this paradox later, and show in what sense (3) is an approximation of (2).

For now, let us simply study the properties of the differential equations $\dot{x} = h(x)$ where x is a scalar.

Note 3. Note that (3) is an approximation of (2). It is different from reducing (2) to 2 first order ODEs by introducing new variables.

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

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = h(x) \quad \text{Initial condition } x(0) = x_0.$$

CLOSED FORM SOLUTIONS

by "separating the variables"

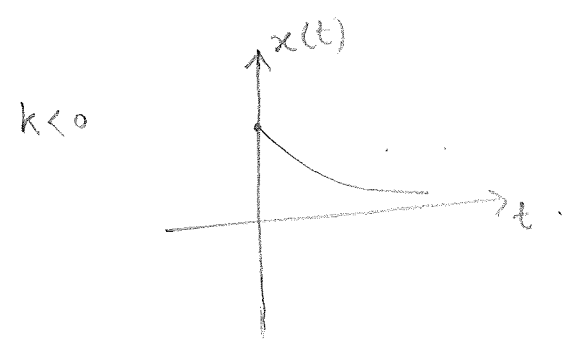
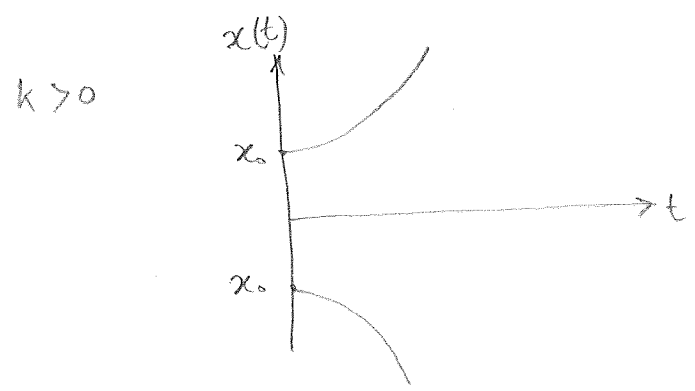
$$\int \frac{dx}{h(x)} = \int dt$$

USEFUL but does not give immediate insight always.

Eq. $\dot{x} = kx \Rightarrow h(x) = kx \Rightarrow \int_{x_0}^x \frac{dx_1}{kx_1} = \int_0^t dt$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{k} \ln\left(\frac{x}{x_0}\right) = t$$

$$\Rightarrow x = x_0 e^{kt}$$



QUALITATIVE / GEOMETRIC ANALYSIS

Say. $\dot{x} = kx$ with $k > 0$.

when $x > 0$, $\dot{x} = kx > 0$ x increases.

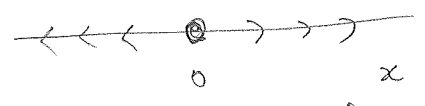
So if $x(0) = x_0 > 0$, x keeps increasing

when $x < 0$, $\dot{x} = kx < 0$ x decreases.

if $x(0) = x_0 < 0$, x keeps decreasing

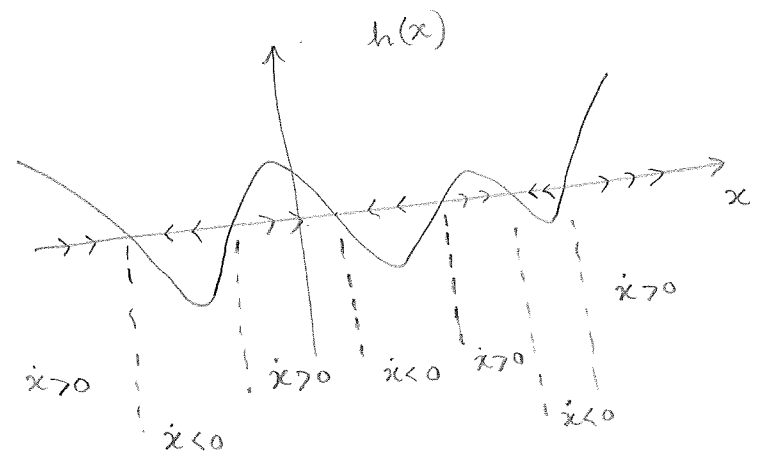
when $x = 0$, $\dot{x} = kx = 0$

if $x(0) = 0$, $x(t) \equiv 0 \forall t$.



arrows indicate whether x increases or decreases.

Say. $\dot{x} = h(x)$

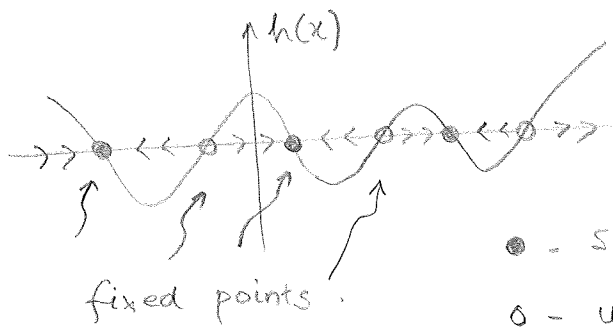


FIXED POINTS / EQUILIBRIA

Points x^* at which $\dot{x} = 0$, so that $x(t) = x^*$ for all time if

$x(0) = x^*$.

They are found by setting $\dot{x} = h(x^*) = 0$ (where $h(x)$ intersects the x -axis)



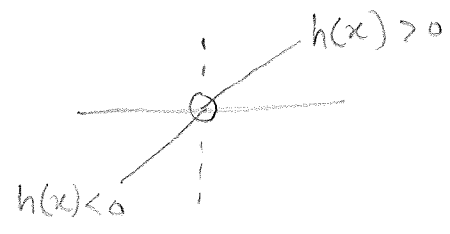
● - STABLE FIXED POINT
○ - UNSTABLE FIXED POINT. } NOTATION.

$x = x^*$ is UNSTABLE ^{FIXED POINT} if $h(x^*) = 0$ and in the neighborhood of x^* the dynamics ("flow") is away from x^* .



"LINEAR STABILITY" TEST.

So locally, $h(x)$ should look like



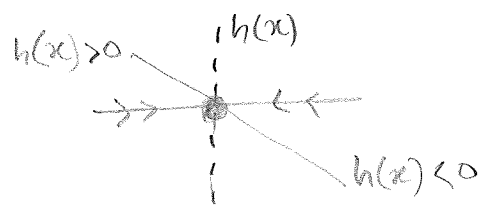
That is, UNSTABLE if $h'(x^*) = \frac{dh(x^*)}{dx} > 0$

$x = x^*$ is STABLE FIXED POINT if $h(x^*) = 0$ and in the neighborhood of x^* , the dynamics is toward x^* .



"LINEAR STABILITY" TEST.

Locally $h(x)$ should look like



That is, STABLE if $h'(x) = \frac{dh(x^*)}{dx} < 0$.

EQUIVALENT TERMS

FIXED POINTS \equiv EQUILIBRIUM \equiv SINGULAR POINTS

LINEARIZATION NEAR A FIXED POINT

$$\dot{x} = h(x). \quad - \quad (A)$$

Say x^* is a fixed point.

$$\text{So } h(x^*) = 0.$$

Expanding $h(x)$ in Taylor series about $x = x^*$,

$$h(x) = \cancel{h(x^*)} + (x-x^*)h'(x^*) + (x-x^*)^2 h''(x^*) + O((x-x^*)^2).$$

So to first order $h(x) \approx (x-x^*)h'(x^*)$. when $h'(x) \neq 0$

Using this in the original ODE, we have

$$\dot{x} = (x-x^*)h'(x^*) \quad - \quad (B)$$

Define $\eta = x - x^*$ - DISTANCE FROM x^* .

$$\dot{\eta} = \dot{x}$$

$$\text{So } \boxed{\dot{\eta} = h'(x^*)\eta} \quad - \quad (C) \quad (\text{from (B)}) \quad \leftarrow \quad \boxed{\text{LINEARIZATION OF (A)}}$$

This is of the form $\dot{\eta} = k\eta$ where $k = h'(x^*)$

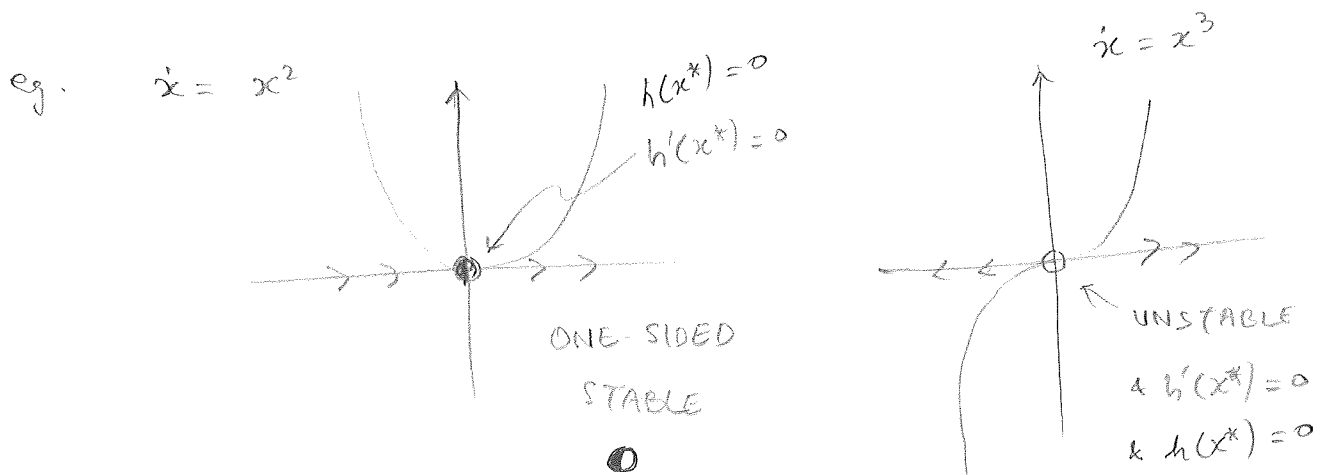
STABLE if $k < 0$ i.e., $h'(x^*) < 0$
 UNSTABLE if $k > 0$ i.e., $h'(x^*) > 0$

LINEAR STABILITY ANALYSIS

Note 1 Of course, (C) is a good approximation to (A) only when close to x^* .

Note 2 Linear stability analysis only says whether small deviations from x^* (namely $\eta = x - x^*$) grow or decay. It does not say whether large deviations will converge to x^* .

Note 3 If $h'(x^*) = 0$, there is not enough information in the linearization to decide stability.



Impossibility of oscillations for $\dot{x} = h(x)$, x - scalar

Proof: An oscillation requires x to increase and decrease. That is, at some x , \dot{x} should be first positive, then negative.

But this is impossible because at any given x $\dot{x} = h(x)$ is fixed and its sign is uniquely determined.

\Rightarrow NO OSCILLATIONS.

The absence of oscillations agrees with how we derived $\dot{x} = h(x)$ as an "OVERDAMPED" system with no inertia.

The ONLY BEHAVIOR POSSIBLE is monotonic increase (or) decrease (or) fixed points!

Example

Consider the 2nd order ODE

$$m\ddot{x} + c\dot{x} - \mu x + \lambda x + x^3 = 0 \quad - (1)$$

NONLINEAR
SPRING-LIKE
TERM.

Say $m \approx 0$, so that we have the
simpler first order scalar ODE

$$c\dot{x} - \mu x + \lambda x + x^3 = 0 \quad - (2)$$

For simplicity, set $c = 1$.

$$\text{So } \dot{x} = (\mu - \lambda)x - x^3 \quad - (3)$$

$= h(x)$ say

FIXED POINTS

Set RHS of (3) to zero.

$$(\mu - \lambda)x - x^3 = 0$$

$$x [\mu - \lambda - x^2] = 0$$

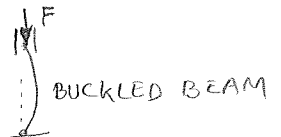
So Fixed points are $\begin{cases} x^* = 0 \\ x^* = \pm \sqrt{\mu - \lambda} \end{cases}$

← these solutions are
real only when
 $\mu - \lambda > 0$

So when $\mu - \lambda < 0$, 1 FIXED POINT, $x^* = 0$

when $\mu - \lambda > 0$, 3 FIXED POINTS, $x^* = 0$
 $x^* = \pm \sqrt{\mu - \lambda}$

ASIDE



This ODE is an approximation
of the transverse vibration
dynamics of a column buckling

See for instance

"Stability problems in
applied mechanics"

by A.K. Mallik &

J.K. Bhattacharjee (2005)

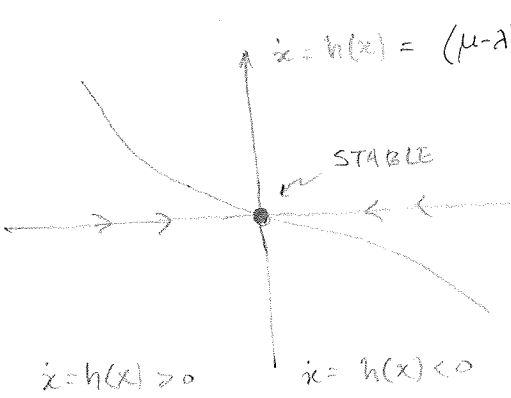
The ODE (1) is obtained by first
writing a nonlinear PDE and
then "projecting" onto the "first"
linear mode.

STABILITY USING PICTURES

Case 1

$$\mu - \lambda < 0$$

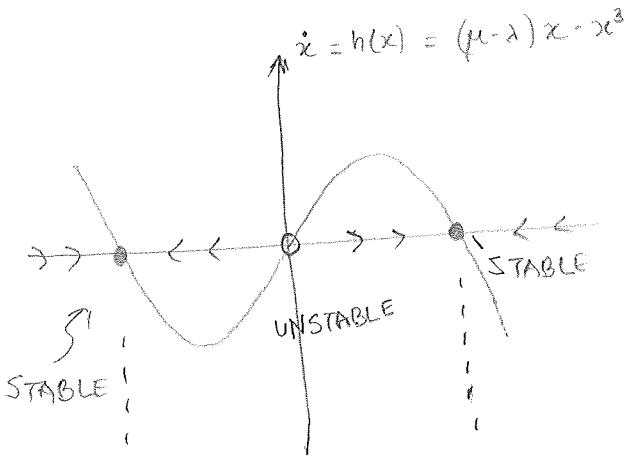
(For simplicity consider, $\mu - \lambda = -1$)



← negative $\forall x > 0$
 positive $\forall x < 0$ } and magnitude increases with x

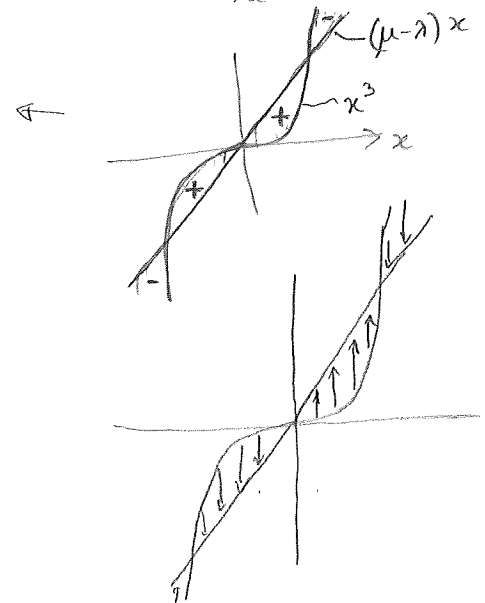
Case 2

$$\mu - \lambda > 0$$



How to plot $(\mu - \lambda)x - x^3$?

- Plot $(\mu - \lambda)x$
- Plot x^3
- $(\mu - \lambda)x - x^3$ is the difference between the 2 curves



COMPUTING STABILITY BY LINEARIZATION

$$\frac{dh}{dx} = \mu - \lambda - 2x^2$$

Case 1 $\mu - \lambda < 0$

$$x^* = 0$$

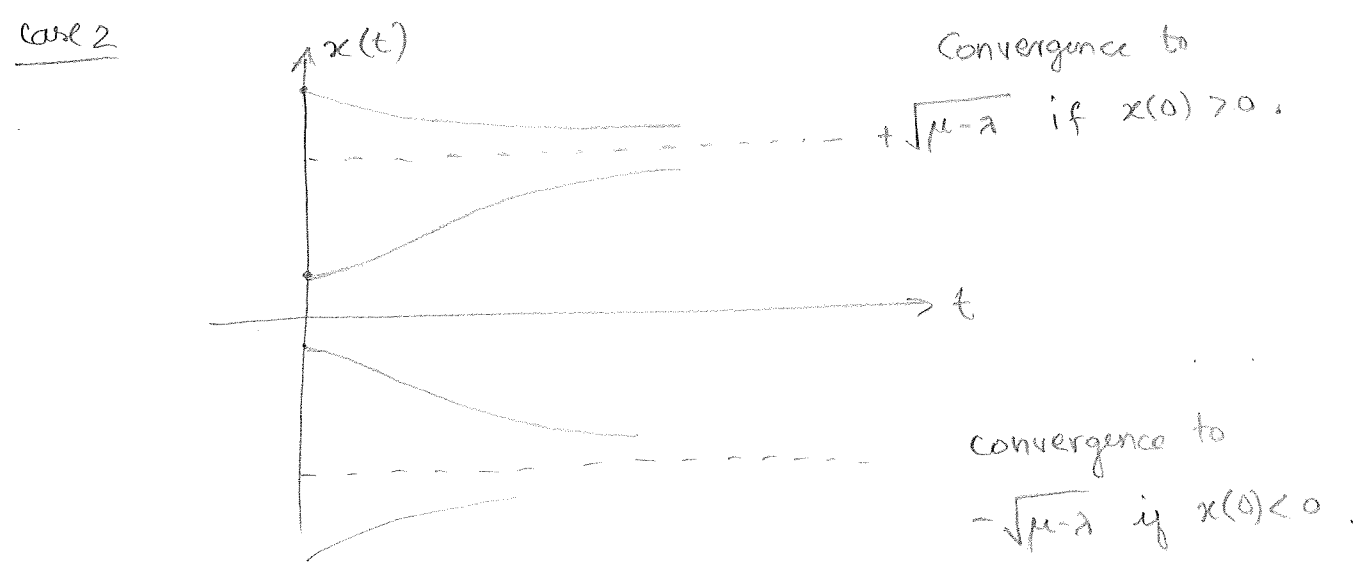
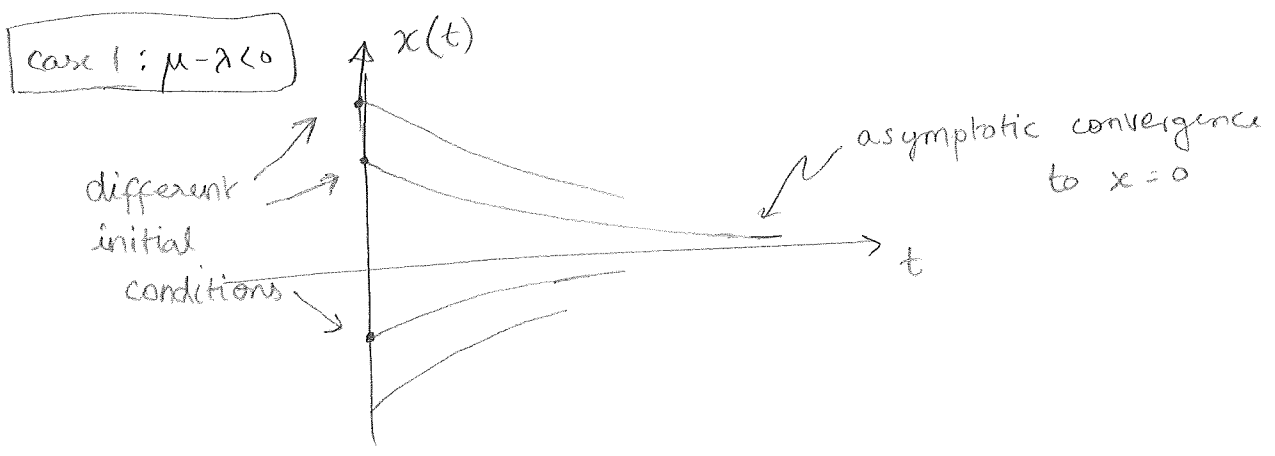
$$\frac{dh}{dx}(x^* = 0) = \mu - \lambda < 0 \Rightarrow \text{STABLE}$$

Case 2 $\mu - \lambda > 0$

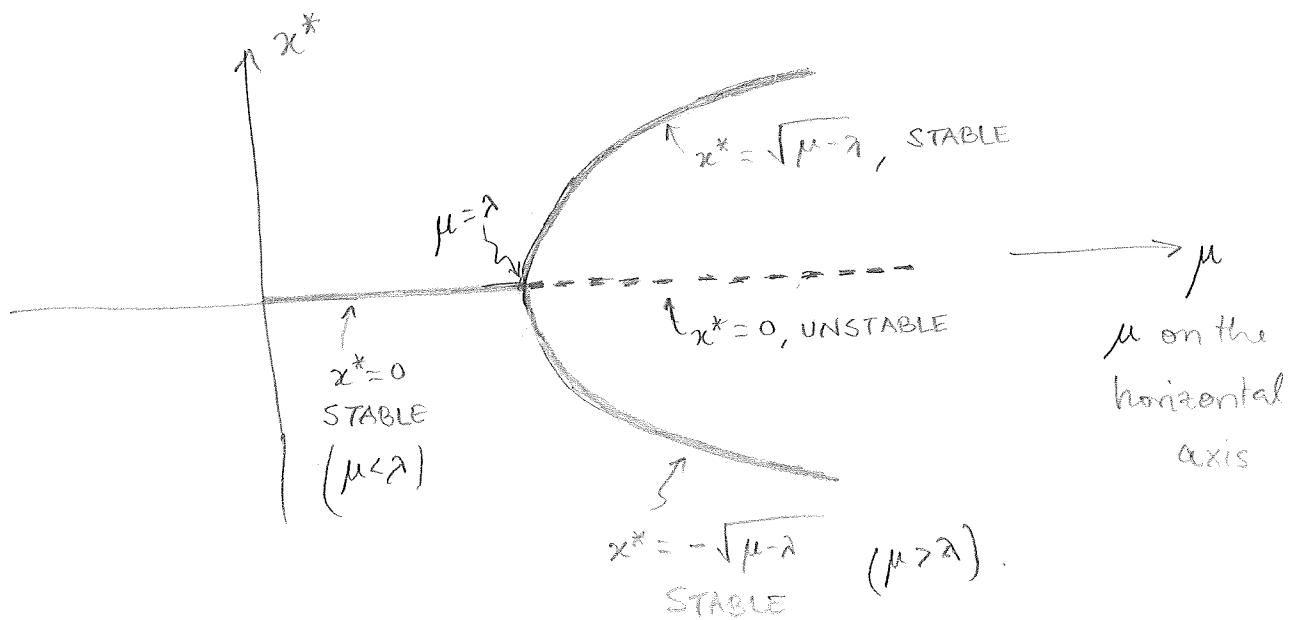
$x^* = 0$ $\frac{dh}{dx}(x^* = 0) = \mu - \lambda > 0 \Rightarrow$ UNSTABLE

$x^* = \pm \sqrt{\mu - \lambda}$ $\frac{dh}{dx} = \mu - \lambda - 2x^2$
 $= \mu - \lambda - 2(\mu - \lambda)$
 $= -(\mu - \lambda) < 0 \Rightarrow$ STABLE

WHAT DO SOLUTIONS $x(t)$ LOOK LIKE?



PLOTTING ALL FIXED POINTS x^* AS A FUNCTION OF μ

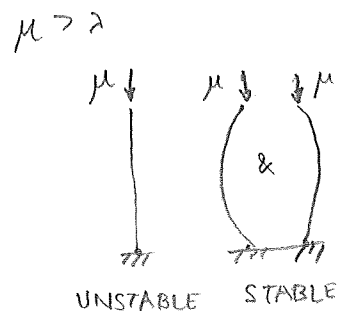


Such a plot is called a

BIFURCATION DIAGRAM

The change in qualitative behavior as you change μ across λ is called a bifurcation. $\mu = \lambda$ is a bifurcation point.

[Going back to the buckling analogy, μ is like the "vertical" force on the column, $x^* = 0$ is the unbuckled state which is stable for $\mu < \lambda$, $x^* = \pm \sqrt{\mu - \lambda}$ are the buckled equilibria which exist only for $\mu \geq \lambda$.



Bifurcations (Intro/Rough outline)

Colloquially, a bifurcation is a qualitative change in the dynamics of a system when some system parameter is changed. More formally, a bifurcation is said to have occurred when the phase portrait's "topological structure" changes when a parameter is varied.

Example: change in the number and stability of fixed points.

Bifurcations in 1D

$\dot{x} = f(x, r)$
 ↪ parameter being changed.

Saddle-node bifurcation

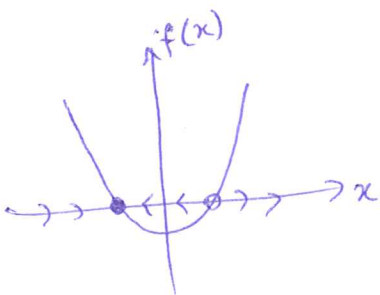
As the parameter r is changed, an unstable fixed point and a stable fixed point come together and "vanish".

Eg..

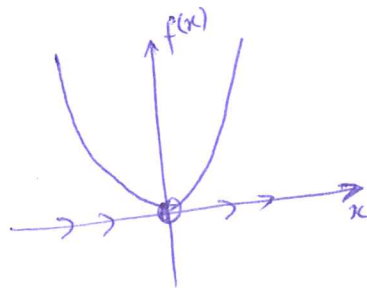
$\dot{x} = r + x^2$ ← canonical example.

Fixed points: $r + x^2 = 0$ $x^2 = -r$

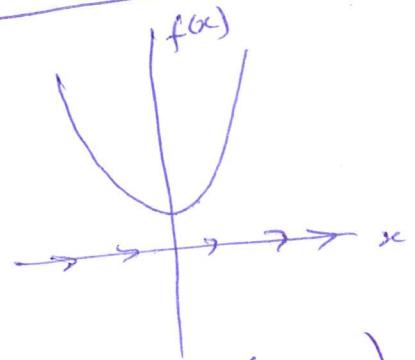
when $r < 0$, 2 FPs. $x^* = \pm \sqrt{|r|}$
 when $r = 0$, 1 FP $x^* = 0$
 when $r > 0$, 0 FPs



$r < 0$ (2 FPs)

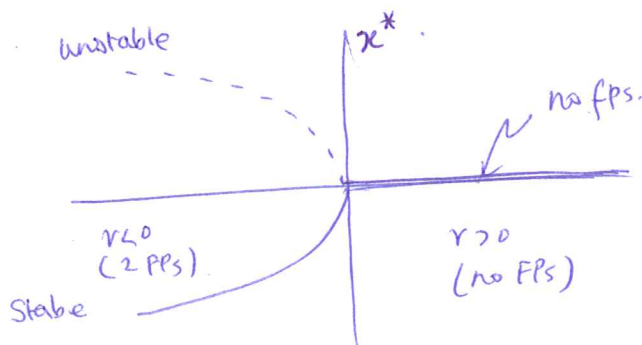


$r = 0$ (1 FP)



$r > 0$ (No FP)

Bifurcation diagram



called a "saddle-node" because in 2D, the unstable FP is a saddle and the stable FP is a node.

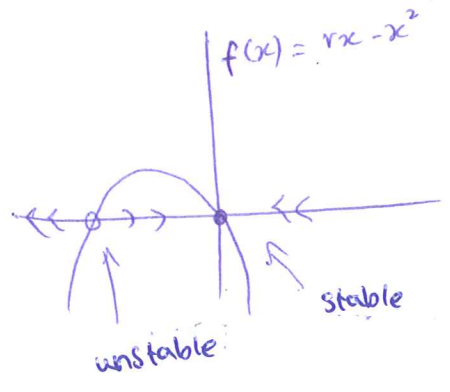
also called fold-bifurcation (or) turning point bifurcation

TRANSITICAL BIFURCATION

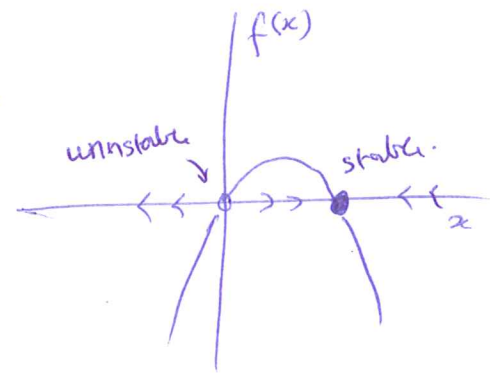
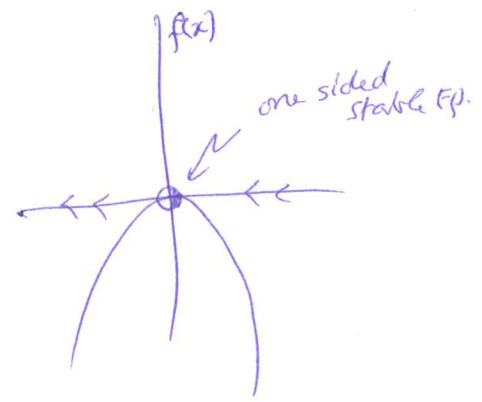
Eg. $\dot{x} = rx - x^2 = x(r-x)$ ← canonical example.

Fixed points: $x^* = 0$ and $x^* = r$.

When $r < 0$ ($x^* = 0$ & $x^* < 0$)

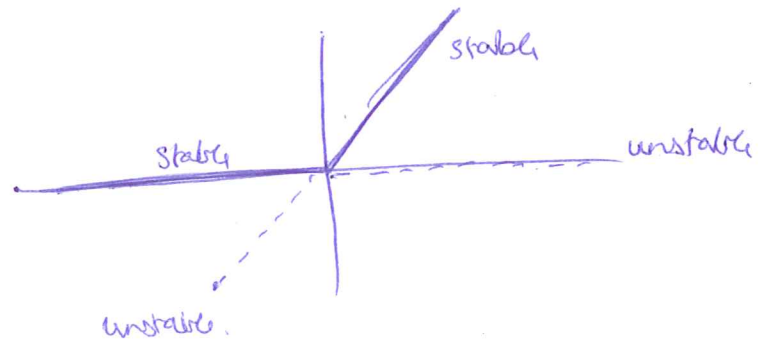


When $r = 0$ (both FPs coincide)



as the parameter r is varied, two fixed points, collide and exchange stability

Bifurcation diagram.

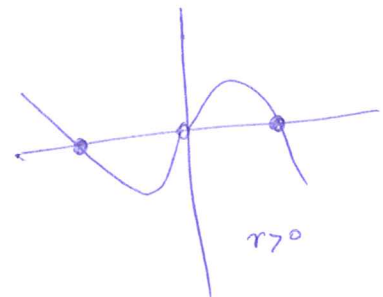
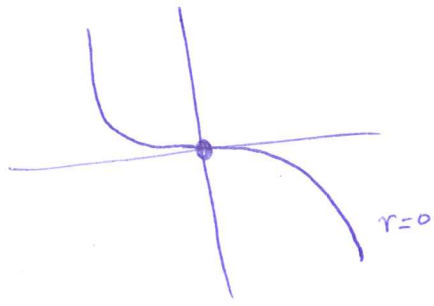
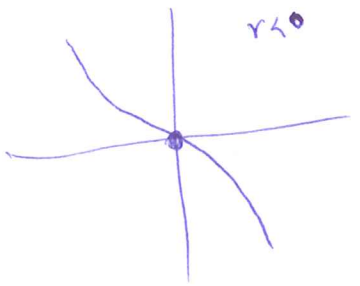


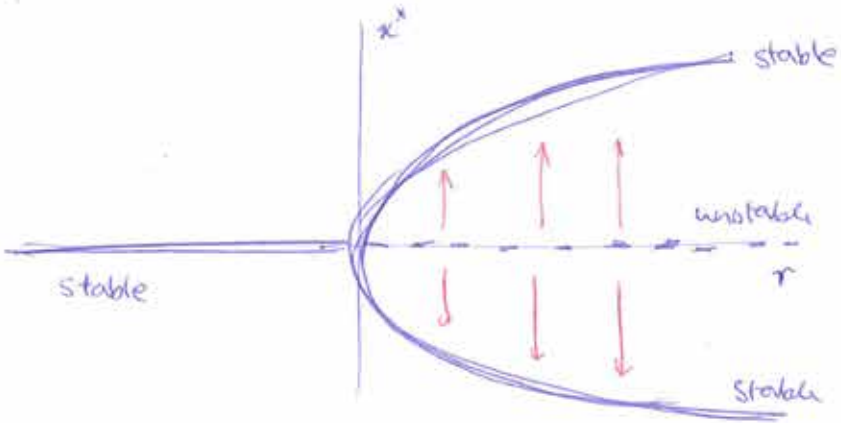
PITCHFORK BIFURCATION

Supercritical Pitchfork:

$\dot{x} = rx - x^3 = x(r-x^2)$

FPs: $x^* = 0$ if $r < 0$
 $x^* = 0$ if $r > 0$
 $x^* = \pm\sqrt{r}$ if $r > 0$

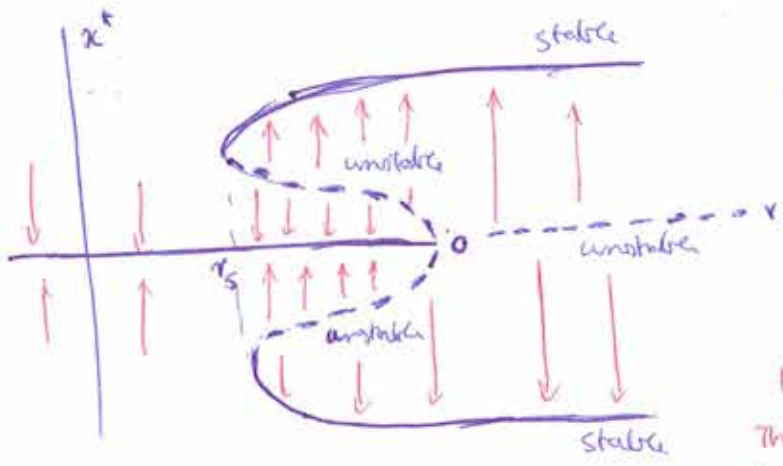




As r is changed across 0, $x^* = 0$ goes unstable. The system is at $x^* = 0$ for $r < 0$ and then tracks $x^* = \pm \sqrt{r}$ as r is changed to greater than zero. The change in x^* is gradual and continuous.

Subcritical pitchfork bifurcation

eg., $\dot{x} = rx + x^3 - x^5$



- $r < r_s$. 1 stable FP
- $r_s < r < 0$. 5 FPs .
2 unstable
3 stable
- $0 < r < \infty$ 3 FPs .
2 stable
1 unstable ($x^* = 0$)

Say $r < 0$ and your system is at $x^* = 0$.

Now r is increased to $r > 0$. The system will now go to one of

the new stable fixed points. These fixed points are a finite distance away from $x^* = 0$ - and this can be catastrophic sometimes.