


**Math 5490**  
**Topics in Applied Mathematics**  
**Introduction to the Mathematics of Climate**


Fall 2023  
 1:25 - 3:20 Tuesdays and Thursdays  
 Amundson Hall 162

Richard McGehee, Instructor  
 458 Vincent Hall  
 mcgehee@umn.edu  
 www-users.cse.umn.edu/~mcgehee/

course website  
 www-users.cse.umn.edu/~mcgehee/teaching/Math5490/




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**Math 5490**  
**Dynamical Systems**

**Bifurcation Theory**



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**Math 5490**  
**Bifurcation Theory**


**Setup**

$\dot{x} = f(x, \mu), \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^n, \quad \mu \in \mathbb{R}^m$


state variables  $\nearrow$   $\mu \in \mathbb{R}^m$   $\nwarrow$  parameters

rest point at  $x = 0$  when  $\mu = 0$ :  $f(0, 0) = 0$

*What happens when we change the parameters?*



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**Math 5490**  
**Bifurcation Theory**

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**No Bifurcation (Poincaré Continuation)**

The Jacobian matrix  $D_x f(0, 0)$  is nonsingular, i.e., has no zero eigenvalues.


**Conclusion**

For small values of  $\mu$ , there is a rest point  $p(\mu)$  satisfying  
 $p(0) = 0, \quad f(p(\mu), \mu) = 0.$

*The rest point "continues" for small parameter values.*



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**Bifurcation Theory**

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**Bifurcation Theory**

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*The rest point "continues" for small parameter values.*

$D_x f(0, 0)$  is the Jacobian with respect to the first variable, holding the second variable constant.



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**Math 5490**  
**Bifurcation Theory**

$\dot{x} = f(x, \mu), \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^n, \quad \mu \in \mathbb{R}^m$   
rest point at  $x = 0$  when  $\mu = 0: f(0,0) = 0$

**Poincaré Continuation**  
If Jacobian matrix  $D_x f(0,0)$  is nonsingular, then, for small values of  $\mu$ , there is a rest point  $p(\mu)$  satisfying  $p(0) = 0, f(p(\mu), \mu) = 0$ .

**Idea of Proof**  
We can write  $f(x, \mu) = Ax + B\mu + O^2(x, \mu) = 0$ , where  $A = D_x f(0,0)$  and  $B$  is an  $n \times m$  matrix, and solve for  $x: x = p(\mu) = A^{-1}B\mu + O^2(\mu)$ .

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**Bifurcation Theory**

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**Poincaré Continuation**  
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*higher order terms*

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**Bifurcation Theory**

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rest point at  $x = 0$  when  $\mu = 0: f(0,0) = 0$

**Poincaré Continuation**  
If Jacobian matrix  $D_x f(0,0)$  is nonsingular, then, for small values of  $\mu$ , there is a rest point  $p(\mu)$  satisfying  $p(0) = 0, f(p(\mu), \mu) = 0$ .

**There's more!**  
If  $f$  is continuously differentiable ( $C^1$ ), then the Jacobian matrix  $D_x f(p(\mu), \mu)$  varies continuously with  $\mu$ , as do the eigenvalues and eigenvectors.

If the rest point at  $\mu = 0$  is hyperbolic (a saddle, or a stable node, or an unstable node, or a stable spiral, or an unstable spiral), then the rest point  $p(\mu)$  inherits the property for small values of  $\mu$ .

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**Math 5490**  
**Bifurcation Theory**

**Classification**

*Poincaré continuation fails when determinant = 0.*

Kaper & Engler, 2013

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**Bifurcation Theory**

**Example**  
 $\dot{x} = f(x, \mu) = \mu - 2x - x^2$   
 $D_x f(x, \mu) = -2 - 2x$ , so  $D_x f(0,0) = -2 \neq 0$ ,  
so there is a rest point  $x = p(\mu)$  satisfying  $p(0) = 0$ .  
 $x = p(\mu) = \frac{\mu}{2} + O^2(\mu)$ .

For each value of  $\mu$  close to 0, there is a unique rest point near  $x = 0$ .

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**Example**  
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For each value of  $\mu$  close to 0, there is a unique rest point near  $x = 0$ .

In this example, we can solve explicitly:  
 $x^2 + 2x - \mu = 0$   
 $x = \frac{-2 \pm \sqrt{4 + 4\mu}}{2} = -1 \pm \sqrt{1 + \mu}$ .  
Since  $p(0) = 0$ , we take the "+" sign:  
 $x = p(\mu) = -1 + \sqrt{1 + \mu}$ .

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### Math 5490 Bifurcation Theory

**Example**

$$\dot{x} = f(x, \mu) = \mu - 2x - x^2$$

$D_x f(x, \mu) = -2 - 2x$ , so  $D_x f(0, 0) = -2$ ,  
so the rest point  $x = p(\mu)$  has an eigenvalue near  $-2$  for small  $\mu$   
and hence is asymptotically stable.

Note that there is another rest point at  $x = -2$  for  $\mu = 0$ .  
Its eigenvalue is  $D_x f(-2, 0) = -2 - 2(-2) = 2$ , so it is unstable.  
Furthermore, for small values of  $\mu$ , there is a unique rest point  $\tilde{p}(\mu)$   
near  $x = -2$ , and that rest point is unstable.

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### Math 5490 Bifurcation Theory

**Classification**

Kaper & Engler, 2013  
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### Math 5490 Bifurcation Theory

**Example**

$$\dot{x} = f(x, \mu) = \mu - 2x - x^2$$

Two rest points for  $\mu > -1$ :  $\mu - 2x - x^2 = 0$ ,  $x = -1 \pm \sqrt{1 + \mu}$

$D_x f(x, \mu) = -2 - 2x$  rest point:  $p_1 = -1 - \sqrt{1 + \mu}$  eigenvalue:  $2\sqrt{1 + \mu}$   
rest point:  $p_2 = -1 + \sqrt{1 + \mu}$  eigenvalue:  $-2\sqrt{1 + \mu}$

When  $\mu = -1$ , the rest points merge, and the eigenvalue becomes 0.  
The rest point becomes a "saddle-node".

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### Math 5490 Bifurcation Theory

**Example**

$$\dot{x} = f(x, \mu) = \mu - 2x - x^2$$

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### Math 5490 Bifurcation Theory

**Example**

$$\dot{x} = f(x, \mu) = \mu - 2x - x^2$$

**Bifurcation Diagram**

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### Math 5490 Dynamical Systems

**Discussion**

Sketch the bifurcation diagram for

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = f(x, \mu) = x^2 - \mu$$

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### Math 5490 Dynamical Systems

Discussion

Sketch the bifurcation diagram for

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = f(x, \mu) = x^2 - \mu$$

$$D_x f(x, \mu) = 2x$$

restpoint:  $x = \sqrt{\mu}$   
 $D_x f(x, \mu) = 2\sqrt{\mu} > 0$  unstable

restpoint:  $x = -\sqrt{\mu}$   
 $D_x f(x, \mu) = -2\sqrt{\mu} < 0$  stable

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### Math 5490 Bifurcation Theory

Two Variable Example

Rest Points:

$\mu > 0$ : two rest points:  $(x, y) = (\pm\sqrt{\mu}, 0)$

$\mu = 0$ : one rest point:  $(x, y) = (0, 0)$

$\mu < 0$ : no rest point

vector field  $\dot{x} = -\mu + x^2$   
 $\dot{y} = -2y$

Jacobian  $D_x f((x, y), \mu) = \begin{bmatrix} 2x & 0 \\ 0 & -2 \end{bmatrix}$

$\mu > 0$

$D_x f((+\sqrt{\mu}, 0), \mu) = \begin{bmatrix} 2\sqrt{\mu} & 0 \\ 0 & -2 \end{bmatrix}$  saddle

$D_x f((-\sqrt{\mu}, 0), \mu) = \begin{bmatrix} -2\sqrt{\mu} & 0 \\ 0 & -2 \end{bmatrix}$  stable node

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### Math 5490 Bifurcation Theory

Two Variable Example

Rest Points:

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$\mu < 0$ : no rest point

vector field  $\dot{x} = -\mu + x^2$   
 $\dot{y} = -2y$

Jacobian  $D_x f((x, y), \mu) = \begin{bmatrix} 2x & 0 \\ 0 & -2 \end{bmatrix}$

$\mu = 0$

$D_x f((0, 0), \mu) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -2 \end{bmatrix}$  determinant = 0  
 trace < 0

The local structure is not determined by the linearized equations.

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### Math 5490 Bifurcation Theory

Two Variable Example

Rest Points:

$\mu > 0$ : two rest points:  $(x, y) = (\pm\sqrt{\mu}, 0)$

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### Math 5490 Bifurcation Theory

Two Variable Example

$\dot{x} = -\mu + x^2$   
 $\dot{y} = -2y$

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### Math 5490 Dynamical Systems

Discussion

Sketch the bifurcation diagram for

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

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = -y$$

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**Math 5490**  
**Dynamical Systems**

**Discussion**

Sketch the bifurcation diagram for

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

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = -y$$

$$D_1 f(x, \mu) = \begin{bmatrix} -2x & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

restpoint:  $x = (\sqrt{\mu}, 0)$

$$D_1 f(x, \mu) = \begin{bmatrix} -2\sqrt{\mu} & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$
 stable

restpoint:  $x = (-\sqrt{\mu}, 0)$

$$D_1 f(x, \mu) = \begin{bmatrix} 2\sqrt{\mu} & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$
 saddle

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**Bifurcation Theory**

**Example**

$$\dot{x} = 3x - x^3 - \mu$$

Rest Points

$$3x - x^3 - \mu = 0, \quad \mu = 3x - x^3$$

$$D_1 f(x, \mu) = 3 - 3x^2$$

stable:  $D_1 f(x, \mu) < 0$ , if  $|x| > 1$

unstable:  $D_1 f(x, \mu) > 0$ , if  $|x| < 1$

saddle-node  $D_1 f(x, \mu) = 0$ , if  $x = \pm 1$

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**Example**

$$\dot{x} = 3x - x^3 - \mu$$

Rest Points

$$3x - x^3 - \mu = 0, \quad \mu = 3x - x^3$$

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**Example**

$$\dot{x} = 3x - x^3 - \mu$$

**Hysteresis**

The system has a memory of where it has been. Returning parameters to the previous state might not return the system to the previous state

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**Example**

$$\dot{x} = 3x - x^3 - \mu$$

**Hysteresis**

Decrease the parameter to -2 (the tipping point).

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**Example**

$$\dot{x} = 3x - x^3 - \mu$$

**Hysteresis**

Decrease to below the tipping point. The system flips to the other stable state.

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**Example**  
 $\dot{x} = 3x - x^3 - \mu$

**Hysteresis**  
We now increase the parameter back to its starting value, but the system stays in the new state.

undesirable  
desirable

back to starting parameter, but still flipped!

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**Example**  
 $\dot{x} = 3x - x^3 - \mu$

**Hysteresis**  
We must increase the parameter back to the other tipping point ( $\mu = 2$ ) before we can return to the previous state.

undesirable  
desirable

far back from starting parameter, but still flipped!

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**Bifurcation Theory**

**Example**  
 $\dot{x} = 3x - x^3 - \mu$

**Hysteresis**  
We must increase the parameter back to the other tipping point ( $\mu = 2$ ) (and beyond) before we can return to the previous state.

undesirable  
desirable

far back from starting parameter, but finally in desirable state.

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**Example**  
 $\dot{x} = 3x - x^3 - \mu$

**Hysteresis**  
Now we can decrease the parameter back to its original value, returning the system to its original state.

undesirable  
desirable

Finally back to original state, but it was a long trek!

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**Bifurcation Theory**

**Remember Cessi's Model?**

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = f(y, p) = -(1 + \mu^2)(y - 1)^2 y + p$$

Recall that  $\mu^2$  is related to the diffusive and advective time scales, and we hold it at a constant  $6.2$ . We treat the influx  $p$  of fresh water as a parameter.

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**Bifurcation Theory**

**Cessi's Model**

two stable rest points, with an unstable rest point in between

"saddle-node"

one stable rest point

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = -(1 + \mu^2)(y - 1)^2 y + p$$

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