

Guillermo Goldsztein

people.math.gatech.edu/~ggold

Differential Equations

Def: Unknown is a function. The function and some of its derivatives appear in the equations. If the unknown is a function of one variable, the equation is called an ordinary differential equation (ode)

Example: $y'' + 3x y = \cos x$ (1)

Goal; Find $y = y(x)$ that satisfies

Def: The order of an ode is the order of the highest derivative in the equation

Example: The ode (1) is of order 2.

Def: An ode is said to be linear if it is of the form

$$a_n(x) y^{(n)} + a_{n-1}(x) y^{(n-1)} + \dots + a_1(x) y' + a_0(x) y = g(x)$$

$g, a_0, a_1, \dots, a_n$ are known functions of x

Notation $y^{(n)} = \frac{d^n y}{dx^n}$

Examples: a) $3x y'' + \cos x y = e^x$ is linear

b) $(y')^2 + x^2 = 7 \cos y$ is non-linear

Obs: $y' = y$ (2)

$y = e^x$ and $y = 7e^x$ are both solutions of equation (2). Most odes have many solutions.

Example $\begin{cases} x' = 50 \\ X = x(t) \end{cases}$

$\textcircled{*} \begin{cases} x(0) = 5 \end{cases}$

then $x(t) = 5 + 50t$. There is only one solution to

⊗ (both equations simultaneous).

IVP, Initial-value problem.

$$y^{(n)} = F(x, y, y', \dots, y^{(n-1)}) \quad \text{ode, } n^{\text{th}} \text{ order}$$

$$y(x_0) = y_0$$

$$y'(x_0) = y_1$$

$$\vdots$$

$$y^{(n-1)}(x_0) = y_{n-1}$$

} initial values (n of them)

$y_0, \dots, y_{n-1}$ are known numbers.

Fact: In general, there will be only one solution to these IVPs

Examples: 1) First order IVP: $\frac{dy}{dx} = f(x, y)$ & $y(x_0) = y_0$

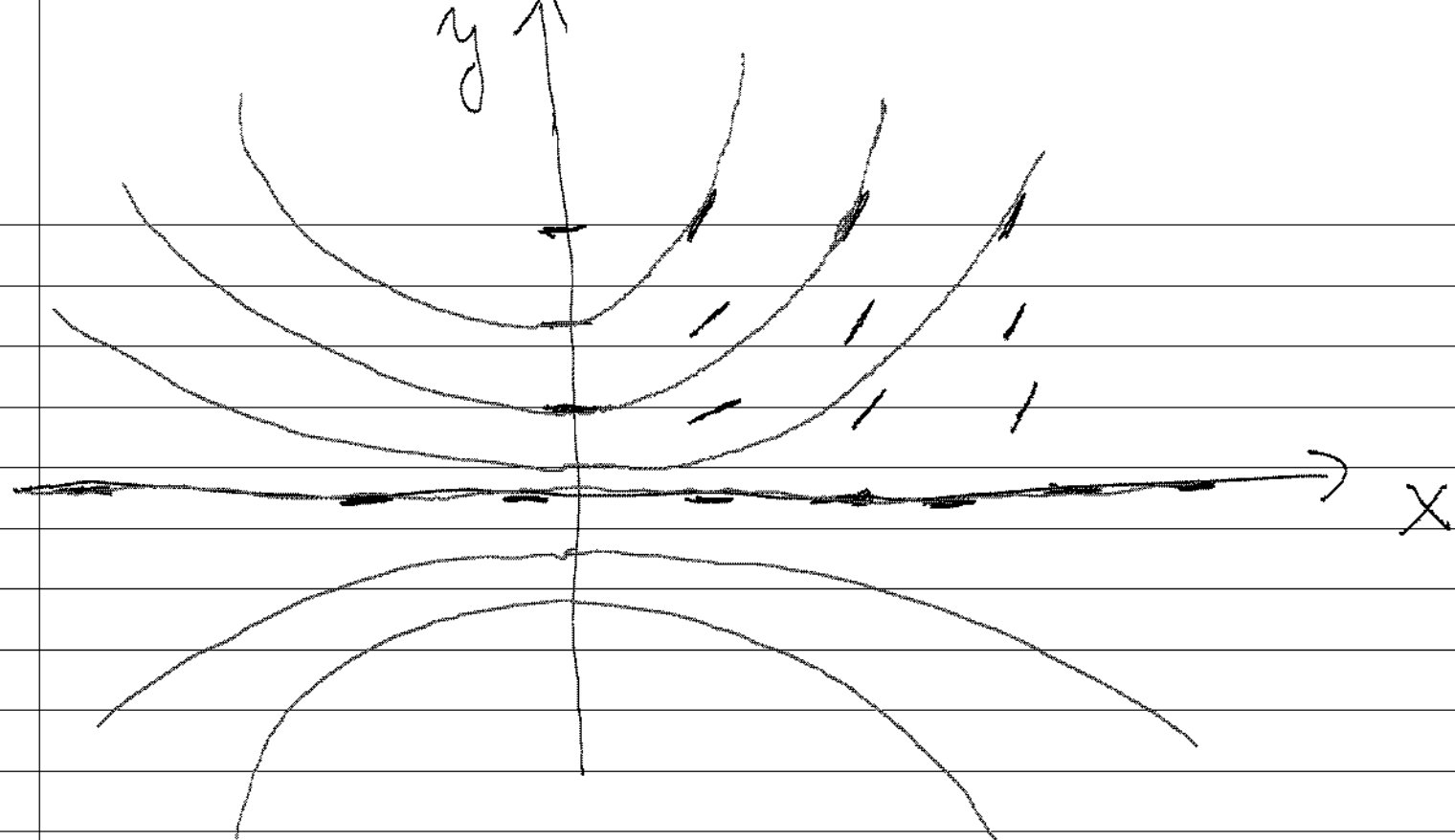
2) Second order IVP: $y'' = f(x, y, y')$ & $y(x_0) = y_0$
 $y'(x_0) = y_1$

Understanding the behavior of the solutions without solving the ODEs

Direction fields: This is for first order equations

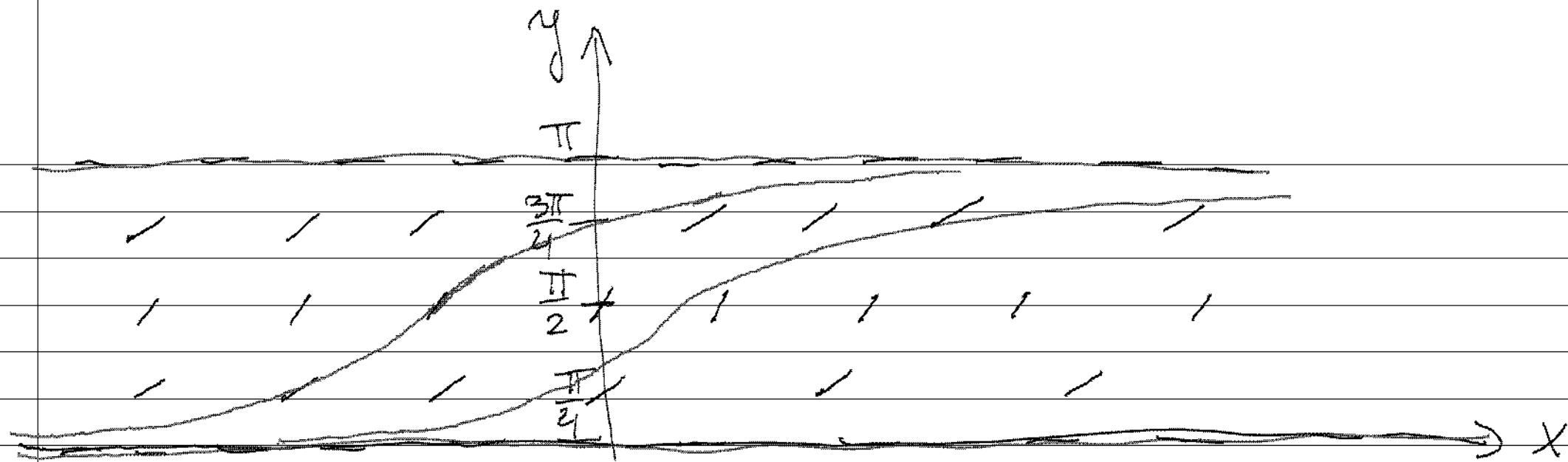
Example 1) $y' = \frac{1}{2}xy$

Draw little segments in the x - y plane with slope $\frac{1}{2}xy$



$$y' = \frac{1}{2} x y$$

Example $y' = \sin y$



Autonomous odes: These are odes where the independent variable does not appear explicitly in the ode.

$$y^{(n)} = F(y^{(n-1)}, \dots, y', y)$$

Example: 1) $y' = 1 + y^2$ is 1st order autonomous

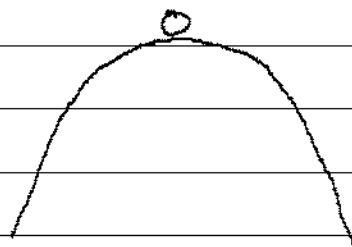
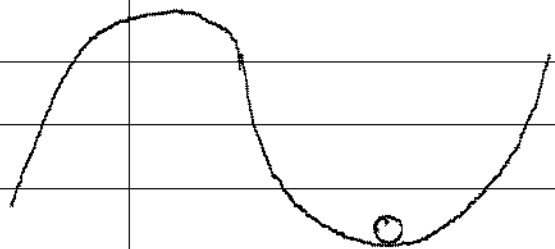
2) $y' = xy$ is not autonomous

Notation: $\dot{x} = f(x)$ $\dot{x} = x' = \frac{dx}{dt}$ $t =$ independent variable

Def: We say x_0 is a fixed point or a critical point of $\dot{x} = f(x)$ if $f(x_0) = 0$

Obs: Let x_0 be a fixed point of $\dot{x} = f(x)$. Then $x(t) = x_0$ for all t is a solution of $\dot{x} = f(x)$ because $\dot{x} = 0$ and

Def: Fixed points are also called equilibrium points. $f(x) = 0$



stable equilibrium

unstable equilibrium

Def: Let x_0 be a fixed point of $\dot{x} = f(x)$. We say x_0 is stable if $x(t)$ remains close to x_0 as long as $x(0)$ was close to x_0 . Otherwise, we say x_0 is unstable.

Solving first order autonomous odes

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = f(x) \quad \longrightarrow \quad \frac{dx}{f(x)} = dt \quad \longrightarrow \quad \int \frac{dx}{f(x)} = \int dt$$

then try to solve for x .

Examples: 1) $\dot{x} = kx$ k constant

$$\int \frac{dx}{x} = \int k dt \rightarrow \ln |x| = kt + C \rightarrow |x| = e^C e^{kt}$$

$$\boxed{\begin{array}{l} A = e^C \text{ if } x > 0 \\ A = -e^C \text{ if } x \leq 0 \end{array}} \quad x = A e^{kt} \leftarrow \text{these are all the solutions}$$

$$A \in \mathbb{R}$$

(*)

$$2) \dot{x} = x(1-x) \rightarrow \int \frac{dx}{x(1-x)} = \int dt \rightarrow$$

$$\frac{1}{x(1-x)} = \frac{a}{x} + \frac{b}{(x-1)} = \frac{a(x-1) + bx}{x(x-1)} = \frac{(a+b)x - a}{x(x-1)}$$

$$a+b=0$$

$$-a = -1$$

$$a=1 \quad = -1$$

$$\int \frac{dx}{x(1-x)} = \int \frac{dx}{x} - \int \frac{dx}{x-1} = \ln|x| - \ln|x-1| \stackrel{\text{from } \textcircled{*}}{=} t + C$$

$$\ln \left| \frac{x}{x-1} \right| = t + C \quad \rightarrow \quad \left| \frac{x}{x-1} \right| = e^C e^t$$

$$\frac{x}{x-1} = A e^t \quad A \in \mathbb{R}$$

$$x = x A e^t - A e^t$$

$$x(1 - A e^t) = -A e^t$$

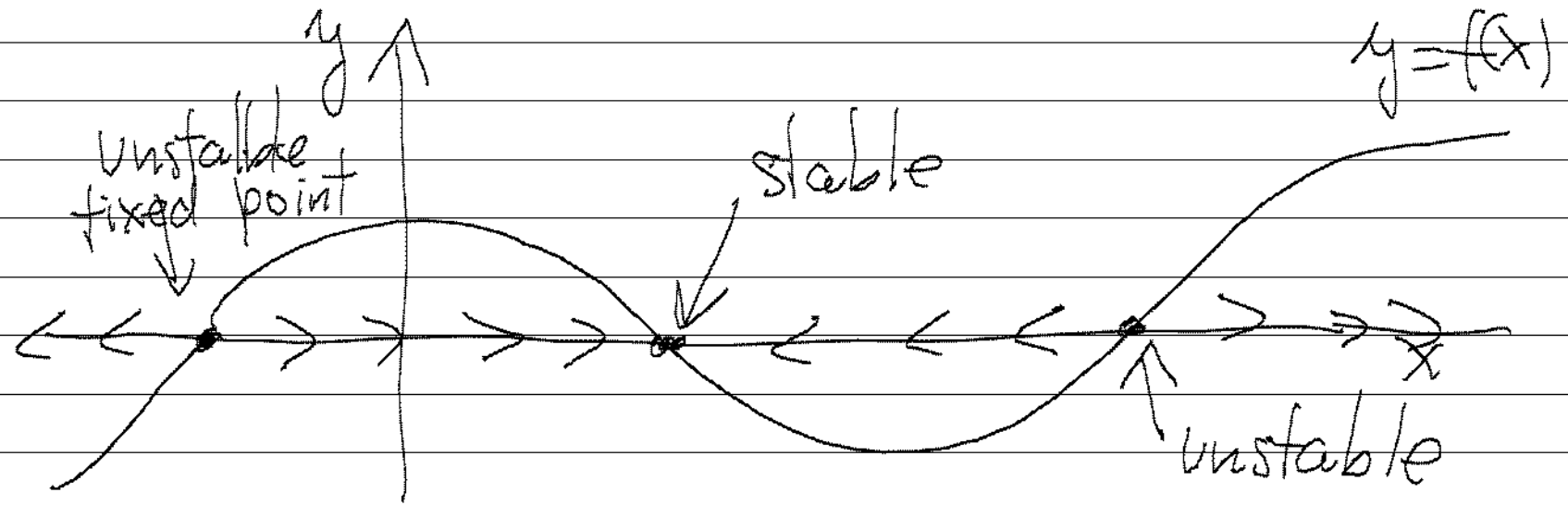
$$x = - \frac{A}{(1 - A e^t)} e^t \quad \text{or}$$

$$x = \frac{1}{1 - \frac{1}{A} e^{-t}}$$

Phase line: 1st order autonomous odes

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

Plot $y = f(x)$

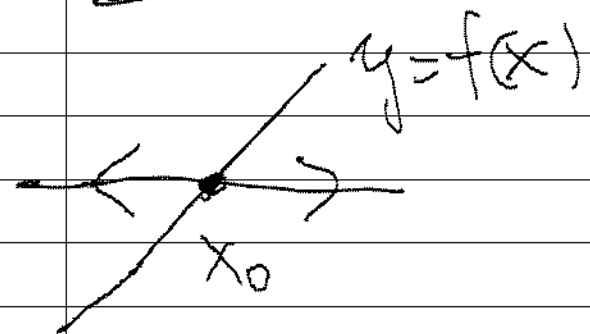


the zeros of $f(x)$ are the fixed points

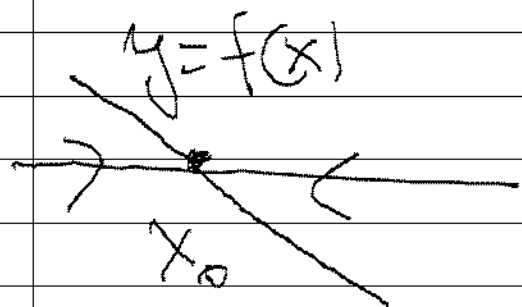
draw arrows in the x -axis, to the right if $f(x) > 0$, to the left if $f(x) < 0$

The arrows indicate the direction of motion

Obs: let x_0 be a fixed point of $\dot{x} = f(x)$



If $f'(x_0) > 0$ then x_0 is unstable



If $f'(x_0) < 0$ then x_0 is stable

If $f'(x_0) = 0$, we do not know

Separable equations

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = g(x) h(y)$$

Separation of variables

$$\int \frac{dy}{h(y)} = \int g(x) dx \quad \text{then try to solve for } y$$

Example: $\frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{x}{y}$ $y(4) = 3$

$$\int y dy = -\int x dx \quad \frac{y^2}{2} = -\frac{x^2}{2} + C$$

$$y = \pm \sqrt{2C - x^2} \quad y(4) = 3 \Rightarrow$$

$$3 = \sqrt{2C - 16}$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{y = \sqrt{25 - x^2}}$$

Linear first order differential equations

$$(1) \quad y' + P(x) y = f(x)$$

$$I(x) = e^{\int P(x) dx}$$

$$\text{then } I'(x) = P(x) e^{\int P(x) dx}$$

$$I'(x) = P(x) I(x)$$

Multiply eq(1) by $I(x)$

$$I y' + \underbrace{I P}_{I'} y = I f$$

$$I y' + I' y = I f$$

$$\int (I y)' = \int I f$$

$$I y = \int I f$$

$$y = \frac{1}{I(x)} \int I(x) f(x) dx$$

Example 1) $y' - 3y = 6$

$$P = -3 \quad I = e^{\int P}$$

$$I = e^{-3x}$$

$$e^{-3x} y' - 3e^{-3x} y = 6e^{-3x}$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}(e^{-3x} y) = 6e^{-3x}$$

$$y' + Py = f$$

$$e^{-3x} y = \int 6e^{-3x}$$

$$e^{-3x} y = -2e^{-3x} + C$$

$$y = -2 + Ce^{3x}$$