

There is a much better way to characterize this:

Proposition A system $\vec{x}' = \vec{F}(\vec{x}) = \begin{bmatrix} F(x,y) \\ G(x,y) \end{bmatrix}$ is almost linear at an isolated critical pt $\vec{x} = \vec{x}^0$ if both F, G have continuous partials up to order 2, and $D\vec{F}(\vec{x}) = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial F}{\partial x}|_{\vec{x}^0} & \frac{\partial F}{\partial y}|_{\vec{x}^0} \\ \frac{\partial G}{\partial x}|_{\vec{x}^0} & \frac{\partial G}{\partial y}|_{\vec{x}^0} \end{bmatrix}$ is non-degenerate.

Notes ① Here, $D\vec{F}(\vec{x})$ is the derivative of $\vec{F}$ as a vector-valued function on a domain in $\mathbb{R}^2$, called the Jacobian of $\vec{F}$ at $\vec{x}^0$. It becomes the matrix of the associated linearized system.

② Indeed, change variables to "move" $\vec{x}^0$ to the origin: let $\vec{u} = \vec{x} - \vec{x}^0 = \begin{bmatrix} x - x_0 \\ y - y_0 \end{bmatrix}$, $\vec{u}' = \vec{x}'$

So let $\vec{x}' = \vec{F}(\vec{x})$ have a critical pt at $\vec{x}^0 = \begin{bmatrix} x_0 \\ y_0 \end{bmatrix}$.

Then for $u_1 = x - x_0$, $u_2 = y - y_0$, we have $u_1' = x'$, $u_2' = y'$, and

Then

$$\begin{aligned}
 \vec{u}' &= \begin{bmatrix} u_1' \\ u_2' \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} F(x-x_0, y-y_0) \\ G(x-x_0, y-y_0) \end{bmatrix} \\
 &= \begin{bmatrix} \cancel{F(x_0, y_0)} + F_x(x_0, y_0)(x-x_0) + F_y(x_0, y_0)(y-y_0) + \underbrace{\eta_1(x, y)}_{\text{higher order stuff}} \\ \cancel{G(x_0, y_0)} + G_x(x_0, y_0)(x-x_0) + G_y(x_0, y_0)(y-y_0) + \underbrace{\eta_2(x, y)}_{\text{higher order stuff}} \end{bmatrix} \\
 &\quad \underbrace{\hspace{10em}}_{\text{1st Taylor Polynomial of } F \text{ at } \vec{x}^0}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} F_x(x_0, y_0) & F_y(x_0, y_0) \\ G_x(x_0, y_0) & G_y(x_0, y_0) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x-x_0 \\ y-y_0 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \eta_1(x, y) \\ \eta_2(x, y) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\vec{u}' = A \vec{u} + \vec{g}(\vec{u})$$

and $\vec{g}(\vec{u})$ will satisfy the smallness property since 2nd derivatives also exist.

ex. Back to example $\dot{x} = 4 - 2y$
 $\dot{y} = 12 - 3x^2$. Here $(2, 2)$

is a fixed pt at $(2, 2)$. Transform $u = x - 2$
 $v = y - 2$.

Here $\dot{u} = \dot{x}$, $\dot{v} = \dot{y}$, and $\dot{u} = -4 - 2(v+2) = -2v$
 $\dot{v} = 12 - 3(u+2)^2 = -12u - 3u^2$

$$\text{Then } \vec{u}' = A \vec{u} + \vec{g}(\vec{u}) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -2 \\ -12 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \vec{u} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -3u^2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{So } A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -2 \\ -12 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \vec{g}(\vec{u}) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -3u^2 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Since $\|\vec{g}(\vec{u})\| = \sqrt{0^2 + (-3u^2)^2} = 3u^2$, and

$\|\vec{u}\| = \sqrt{u^2 + v^2} = r$, where $u = r \cos \theta$, $v = r \sin \theta$, we have

$$\lim_{\vec{u} \rightarrow \vec{0}} \frac{\|\vec{g}(\vec{u})\|}{\|\vec{u}\|} = \lim_{r \rightarrow 0} \frac{3r^2 \cos^2 \theta}{r} = \lim_{r \rightarrow 0} 3r \cos^2 \theta = 0$$

Hence system is almost linear at $(2, 2)$.

Thm Let r_1, r_2 be the eigenvalues of the linear system $\vec{x}' = A\vec{x}$ corresponding to the almost linear $\vec{x}' = A\vec{x} + \vec{g}(\vec{x})$. Then

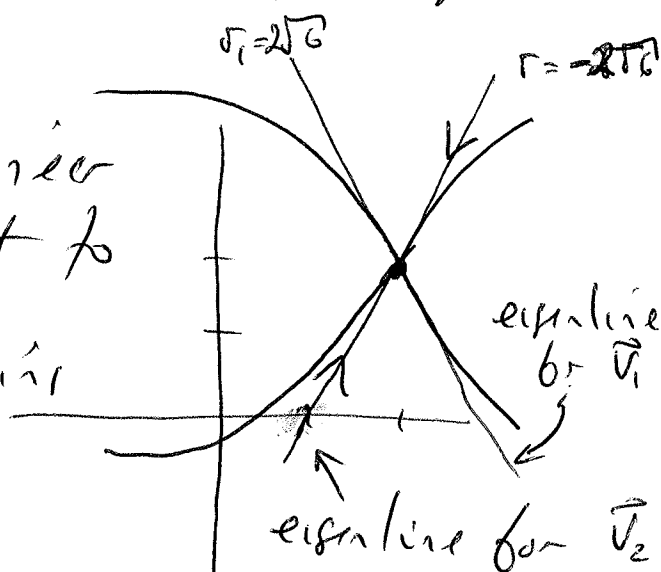
- ① If $r_1 \neq r_2$ not purely imaginary, the stability and type of the fixed pts are the same.
- ② If $r_1 = r_2$, the fixed pt of the nonlinear system has the same stability as that of the linear system but not necessarily the type.
- ③ If $r = \pm i\omega$, then neither the stability nor the type of the nonlinear critical pt can be determined by the linear system.

In the example, $A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -2 \\ -12 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ has eigenvalues $\lambda = \pm 2\sqrt{6}$.

Hence the linear system has a saddle at the origin. By the Thm, then, so does the original nonlinear system at $(2, 2)$.

Furthermore, for $\lambda_1 = 2\sqrt{6}$, $\lambda_2 = -2\sqrt{6}$, $\vec{v}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ \sqrt{6} \end{bmatrix}$, $\vec{v}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -\sqrt{6} \end{bmatrix}$

To linear approximation, even the phase portraits are the same. The eigenlines of the linear system are tangent to the level set passing through $(2, 2)$.



exercise: Do this for the fixed pt at $(-2, 2)$. The linear system has a center at the origin. But by the Thm we cannot tell if the original is a center or not.

Note: As long as F, G are "nice" (have cont. derivatives up to and including order 2) at a critical pt, the system is almost linear.

One calculator $A = \begin{bmatrix} F_x|_{\vec{x}^0} & F_y|_{\vec{x}^0} \\ G_x|_{\vec{x}^0} & G_y|_{\vec{x}^0} \end{bmatrix}$ and there is no need to worry about the $\vec{g}(\vec{x})$.

ex. Determine the stability of $\vec{x}^0 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ \pi \end{bmatrix}$ of $\begin{cases} \dot{x} = (1+x)\sin y \\ \dot{y} = 1-x-\cos y \end{cases}$

Soln: Both $F(x,y) = (1+x)\sin y$
 $G(x,y) = 1-x-\cos y$ are C^∞ , so system is almost linear everywhere.

Here $\vec{x}^0 = F(2,\pi) = 0 = G(2,\pi)$, and

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} F_x(2,\pi) & F_y(2,\pi) \\ G_x(2,\pi) & G_y(2,\pi) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \sin \pi & (1+2)\cos \pi \\ -1 & \sin \pi \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -3 \\ -1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Eigenvalues of A satisfy $r^2 - 0r + 3 = 0$ or $r = \pm \sqrt{3}$

Hence $\vec{x}^0 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ \pi \end{bmatrix}$ is a saddle and unstable.