Analyzing Equilibriums of 1st-Order ODEs

Objectives:

1. Stability of equilibriums
2. Linearization
3. Equilibrium analysis

Recall: Equilibrium solutions

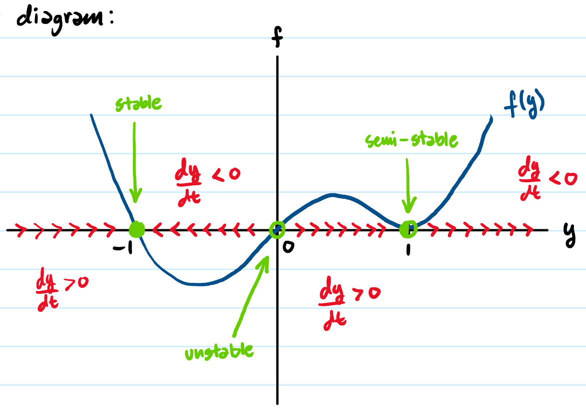
* Definition: Let $\frac{dy}{dt} = f(y)$ be an autonomous ODE of some continuous function $y(t)$ and $f(y)$ is a function that describes the change.
  Suppose y^* is a critical point. Then,
  1. $f(y^*) = 0$ and
  2. $y(t) = y^*$ is an equilibrium solution.

Motivating Example

Given the ODE $\frac{dy}{dt} = y^4 - y^3 - y^2 + y$, $\longrightarrow$ 1st-order, homogeneous, autonomous, non-linear

determine the equilibriums and identify their stability.

* Let $f(y) = y^4 - y^3 - y^2 + y$. Note that $\frac{dy}{dt} = f(y)$.
* Factorize $f(y)$, which is $f(y) = y(y+1)(y-1)^2$.
* Find critical points: $0 = y(y+1)(y-1)^2 \longrightarrow y_1^* = -1,\ y_2^* = 0,\ y_3^* = 1$
* Write down equilibrium solutions:
  $y(t) = y_1^* \longrightarrow y(t) = -1$
  $y(t) = y_2^* \longrightarrow y(t) = 0$
  $y(t) = y_3^* \longrightarrow y(t) = 1$
* Phase diagram:



Linearization

* A way to identify equilibrium stability analytically.
* From the example: $\frac{dy}{dt} = y(y+1)(y-1)^2$

$\downarrow$

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$$\downarrow$$

$$f(y) = y(y+1)(y-1)^2$$

Equilibrium solutions: $y(t) = -1$, $y(t) = 0$, $y(t) = 1$

Linearization on the equilibriums: $\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = 4y^3 - 3y^2 - 2y + 1$

- $y^* = -1$; $\left.\frac{\partial f}{\partial y}\right|_{y=-1} = 4(-1)^3 - 3(-1)^2 - 2(-1) + 1 = -4 < 0$

  $\downarrow$

  $y(t) = -1$ is stable

- $y^* = 0$; $\left.\frac{\partial f}{\partial y}\right|_{y=0} = 4(0)^2 - 3(0) - 2(0) + 1 = 1 > 0$

  $\downarrow$

  $y(t) = 0$ is unstable

- $y^* = 1$; $\left.\frac{\partial f}{\partial y}\right|_{y=1} = 4(1) - 3(1) - 2(1) + 1 = 0$

  $\downarrow$

  $y(t) = 1$ might be semi-stable

To make sure: $\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2} = 12y^2 - 6y - 2$

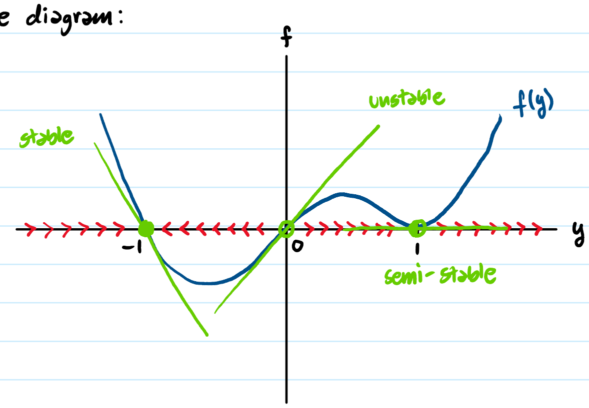
Then, $\left.\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2}\right|_{y=1} = 12(1)^2 - 6(1) - 2 = 4 > 0$

$\downarrow$

concave up

meaning $f(t) = 1$ is semi-stable with surrounding solutions increasing.

* Phase diagram:



<u>Stability of Equilibriums</u>

Let $\frac{dy}{dt} = f(y)$ and $y(t) = y^*$ be an equilibrium solution.

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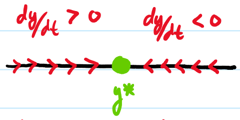
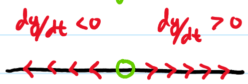
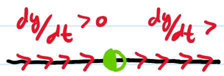
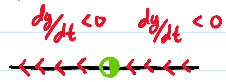
- $y(t) = y^*$ is <u>stable</u> if  and $\left.\dfrac{\partial f}{\partial y}\right|_{y=y^*} < 0$

- $y(t) = y^*$ is <u>unstable</u> if  and $\left.\dfrac{\partial f}{\partial y}\right|_{y=y^*} > 0$

- $y(t) = y^*$ is <u>semi-stable</u> if  or  and $\left.\dfrac{\partial f}{\partial y}\right|_{y=y^*} = 0$

  $\downarrow$ $\left.\dfrac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2}\right|_{y=y^*} > 0$ $\qquad$ $\downarrow$ $\left.\dfrac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y}\right|_{y=y^*} < 0$