

# Periodic orbits, limit cycles.

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

Def. A cycle is any closed solution curve  $\Gamma$  which is not an equilibrium

→ stable if  $\forall \epsilon > 0 \exists U_\epsilon(\Gamma)$  s.t.

$$\forall x \in U \quad d(\Gamma_x^+, \Gamma) < \epsilon$$

$$\forall x \in U \quad t \geq 0 \quad d(\varphi(t, x), \Gamma) < \epsilon$$

→ unstable if it's not stable

→ asympt. stable if it is stable and

$$\forall x \in U \quad \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} d(\varphi(t, x), \Gamma) = 0.$$

Periodic orbit:  $\varphi(t+T, x) = \varphi(t, x)$

Center for linear system:

In general,  $T \rightarrow$  as you

go away from equilibrium.



$$\Gamma: x = \gamma(t), \quad 0 \leq t \leq T$$

$$\text{asympt. stable} \leftarrow \int_0^T \nabla \cdot f(\gamma(t)) dt < 0$$

$$\text{In 2D, asympt. stable} \Leftrightarrow \int_0^T \nabla \cdot f(\gamma(t)) dt < 0$$

$\omega$ -limit cycle: asympt. stable cycle.  
is an attractor

Local invariant manifolds:

stable  $S = \{x \in N \mid d(\varphi_t(x), \Gamma) \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } t \rightarrow \infty, \varphi_t(x) \in N, t \geq 0\}$

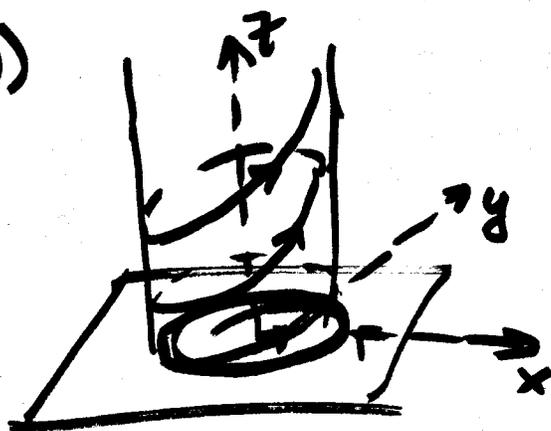
unstable  $U = \{x \in N \mid d(\varphi_t(x), \Gamma) \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } t \rightarrow -\infty, \varphi_t(x) \in N, t \leq 0\}$

Global manifolds:

$$W^s(\Gamma) = \bigcup_{t \in \mathbb{R}} \varphi_t(S(\Gamma))$$

$$W^u(\Gamma) = \bigcup_{t \geq 0} \varphi_t(U(\Gamma))$$

Ex. 
$$\begin{cases} \dot{x} = -y + x(1-x^2-y^2) \\ \dot{y} = x + y(1-x^2-y^2) \\ \dot{z} = z \end{cases}$$



Invariant sets:  $\{z\text{-axis}\} \cup \{x^2 + y^2 = 1\} \cup \{xy\text{-plane}\}$

$$\Gamma: x(t) = (\cos t, \sin t, 0)$$

$W^s(\Gamma)$

$$W^u(\Gamma) = \{x^2 + y^2 = 1\}$$

cylinder  $\{x^2 + y^2 = 1\}$  - attracting set  
periodic orbit  
of saddle type



In 2D (Planar system):

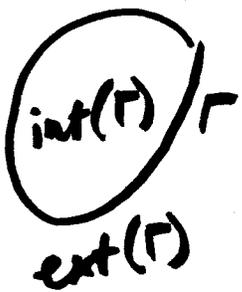
Def. Limit cycle in 2D is a cycle that is either an  $\omega$ -limit set or  $\alpha$ -limit set for some trajectory other than  $\Gamma$ .

$\omega$ -limit cycle is stable (unstable) if it is an  $\omega$ -limit for all traj. in some  $N_\delta(\Gamma)$ , semi-stable if it's an  $\omega$ -limit for some traj. and an  $\alpha$ -limit for some others.

Ex. 
$$\begin{cases} \dot{x} = -y + x(x^2+y^2) \sin \frac{1}{\sqrt{x^2+y^2}} \\ \dot{y} = x + y(x^2+y^2) \sin \frac{1}{\sqrt{x^2+y^2}} \end{cases} \text{ for } x^2+y^2 > 0$$
  
 $\dot{x} = \dot{y} = 0, x^2+y^2 = 0.$

$$\begin{cases} \dot{r} = r^3 \sin \frac{1}{r} \\ \dot{\theta} = 1 \end{cases} \quad \Gamma_n: r = \frac{1}{\pi n}, n \in \mathbb{Z}$$
  
 accumulating at  $(0,0)$ .  
 $\Gamma_{2n}$  - stable  
 $\Gamma_{2n+1}$  - unstable

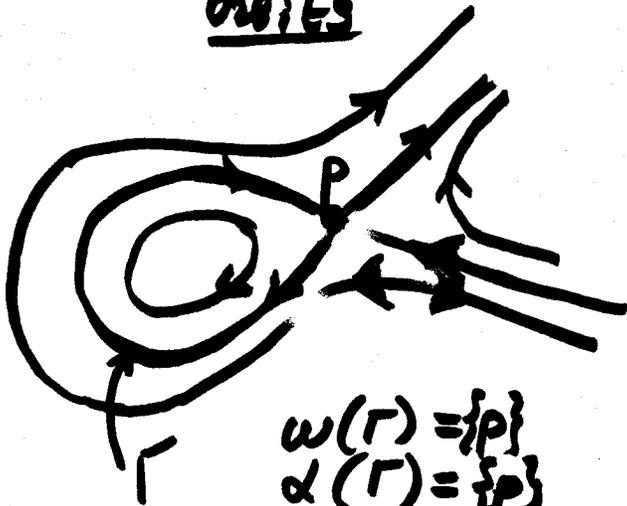
Thm. If a traj. in  $\text{ext}(\Gamma)$  has  $\Gamma$  as a  $\omega$ -limit cycle, then all traj. in  $N_\delta(\Gamma) \subset \text{ext}(\Gamma)$  have  $\Gamma$  as a  $\omega$ -limit.



If  $\varphi(t,x) \in \text{ext}(\Gamma)$  spirals toward  $\Gamma$ , all of them spiral toward  $\Gamma$ , and i.e. intersect a straight line  $\perp \Gamma$  thr. inf. many times at  $t = t_n, t_n \rightarrow \infty$ .

Thm. (Dulac). For any bdd region in  $\mathbb{R}^2$ , any analytic system has a fin. number of limit cycles.

# Homoclinic orbits



$$\omega(\Gamma) = \{p\}$$

$$\alpha(\Gamma) = \{p\}$$

$$p = q$$

$$\begin{cases} \dot{x} = y \\ \dot{y} = x + x^2 \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

Hamiltonian

$$H = \frac{y^2}{2} - \frac{x^2}{2} - \frac{x^3}{3}$$

$$y^2 - x^2 - \frac{2}{3}x^3 = C$$

$$\Gamma : \{C = 0\} \subset W^s(0) \cup W^u(0)$$

Homoclinic orbit : contained in both  $W^s(p), W^u(q)$   
 $p, q$ -saddles,  $p = q$

Heteroclinic orbit : same but  $p \neq q$ .

# Heteroclinic orbits



$p, q$ -saddles

$$\omega(\Gamma_1) = q \quad \omega(\Gamma_2) = p$$

$$\alpha(\Gamma_1) = p \quad \alpha(\Gamma_2) = q$$

$$p \neq q$$

undamped pendulum

$$\ddot{x} + \sin x = 0 \quad (2)$$

Newtonian

Flow on  $\Gamma \cup \{0\}$  is separatrix cycle in (1)

Flow on  $\Gamma_1 \cup \Gamma_2 \cup \{p\} \cup \{q\}$  - separatrix cycle in (2)  
 finite

Compound separatrix cycles : union of  
 compatibly oriented separatrix cycles.

