

2.8a stability in first-order systems

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Recall: $x_{t+1} = f(x_t)$ is ^{locally asymptotically} stable at an equilibrium \bar{x} if $|f'(\bar{x})| < 1$
unstable at an equilibrium \bar{x} if $|f'(\bar{x})| > 1$.

What is the equivalent for first-order systems?

Thm: Let $X(t+1) = F(X(t))$ be a system of n first-order equations,
 $X(t) = (x_1(t), \dots, x_n(t))^T$, $F = (f_1, \dots, f_n)^T$, and $f_i = f_i(x_1, \dots, x_n)$.
Let \bar{X} be an equilibrium of the system. Then linearization of
the system about \bar{X} and letting $U(t) = X(t) - \bar{X}$ gives a system

$$U(t+1) = J U(t),$$

where J is the Jacobian matrix of F at \bar{X} ,

$$J(\bar{X}) = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_1}(\bar{X}) & \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_2}(\bar{X}) & \dots & \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_n}(\bar{X}) \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \frac{\partial f_n}{\partial x_1}(\bar{X}) & \dots & \dots & \frac{\partial f_n}{\partial x_n}(\bar{X}) \end{pmatrix}$$

Then \bar{X} is locally asymptotically stable if $|\lambda_i| < 1 \quad \forall$ eigenvalues λ_i
and unstable if some $|\lambda_i| > 1$.

proof sketch: For $X(0)$ s.t. $|\bar{X} - X(0)| < \epsilon$, with ϵ sufficiently small,

can approximate $X(t+1) = F(X(t))$ by the Taylor series of F

$$X(t+1) \approx F(\bar{X}) + \underbrace{J(\bar{X})}_{\text{Jacobian}} (X(t) - \bar{X}) + \frac{1}{2} (X(t) - \bar{X})^T \underbrace{H(\bar{X})}_{\text{Hessian}} (X(t) - \bar{X}) + \dots$$

$\Rightarrow X(t+1) - \bar{X} \approx J(\bar{X})(X(t) - \bar{X})$ for $X(t)$ sufficiently close to \bar{X} .

$$U(t+1) \approx J(\bar{X})U(t)$$


$$\Rightarrow U(t) = [J(\bar{X})]^t U(0).$$

If all eigenvalues $|\lambda_i| < 1$, then $\rho(J(\bar{X})) < 1$.

If $\rho(J(\bar{X})) < 1$, then $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} [J(\bar{X})]^t \rightarrow 0$, so $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} X(t) = \bar{X}$.

If $|\lambda_i| > 1$ for some i , then so long as $[X(0) - \bar{X}] \cdot V_i \neq 0$, where

V_i is the eigenvector associated with $|\lambda_i| > 1$, then $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} |U(t)| = \infty$.

Of course, the linearization may break down as $|X(t) - \bar{X}|$ grows, but $X(t)$ will still leave a sufficiently small ball around \bar{X} ,
so \bar{X} is unstable. 

Thm 2.10 Let $J \in \mathbb{R}^{2 \times 2}$. Then $|\lambda_i| < 1 \forall$ eigenvalues λ_i iff
 $|Tr(J)| < 1 + \det(J) < 2$.

And $|\lambda_i| > 1$ for some eigenvalue λ_i if at least one of the following is true:

$$Tr(J) > 1 + \det(J), \quad Tr(J) < -1 - \det(J), \quad \det(J) > 1.$$

Thm 2.11 (Jury conditions, Schur-Cohn criterion, $n=3$)

Suppose $p(\lambda) = \lambda^3 + a_1 \lambda^2 + a_2 \lambda + a_3$, $a_1, a_2, a_3 \in \mathbb{R}$ is a polynomial

Then the solutions $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3$ of $p(\lambda) = 0$ satisfy $|\lambda_i| < 1$ iff

$$(1) \quad p(1) = 1 + a_1 + a_2 + a_3 > 0$$

$$(2) \quad (-1)^3 p(-1) = 1 - a_1 + a_2 - a_3 > 0,$$

$$(3) \quad 1 - (a_3)^2 > |a_2 - a_3 a_1|$$

(Necessary + sufficient conditions for $n=3$)

Thm 2.12 If the solutions $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n$ of $p(\lambda) = 0$, where

$$p(\lambda) = \lambda^n + a_1 \lambda^{n-1} + \dots + a_{n-1} \lambda + a_n \text{ satisfy } |\lambda_i| < 1, \text{ then}$$

$$(1) p(1) = 1 + a_1 + a_2 + \dots + a_n > 0$$

$$(2) (-1)^n p(-1) = 1 - a_1 + a_2 - \dots + (-1)^n a_n > 0$$

$$(3) |a_n| < 1.$$

(Necessary but not sufficient)

Def. 2.9 Let \bar{x} be an equilibrium of $x(t+1) = f(x(t))$

and let $J(\bar{x})$ be the Jacobian matrix at \bar{x} , \bar{x} is

hyperbolic if $|\lambda_i| \neq 1 \forall$ eigenvalues λ_i of $J(\bar{x})$.

Otherwise, it is non hyperbolic.