

Homework Assignments

Dynamical Systems II

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The following four exercises comprise a step-by-step analysis of the Takens-Bogdanov bifurcation. Although stated individually (the statement of each problem provides enough information to solve it regardless of whether the previous exercise was solved correctly), they compose a (almost!) complete bifurcation diagram when put together.

References:

J. Guckenheimer and P. Holmes: Nonlinear Oscillations, Dynamical Systems, and Bifurcations of Vector Fields, Springer, 2003, Sec. 7.3.

V.I. Arnold: Geometrical Methods in the Theory of Ordinary Differential Equations, Springer, 1988.

Problem 45: [Normal form]

Consider a vector field in the normal form

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{x}_1 &= x_2 + a_1 x_1^2 \\ \dot{x}_2 &= a_2 x_1^2 + a_1 x_1 x_2\end{aligned} + \mathcal{O}(\|(x_1, x_2)\|^3), \quad (1)$$

where $a_i \in \mathbb{R}$. Prove that under a suitable change of coordinates equation (1) takes the form of a second order “pendulum equation”

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{y}_1 &= y_2 \\ \dot{y}_2 &= b_1 y_1^2 + b_2 y_1 y_2\end{aligned} + \mathcal{O}(\|(y_1, y_2)\|^3). \text{ Here } b_i \in \mathbb{R}. \quad (2)$$

Problem 46: [Local bifurcations]

Consider the unfolding of equation (2) with respect to the real parameters $\lambda_1, \lambda_2 \in \mathbb{R}$ given by

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{y}_1 &= y_2 \\ \dot{y}_2 &= \lambda_1 + \lambda_2 y_2 + b_1 y_1^2 + b_2 y_1 y_2 + \mathcal{O}(\|(y_1, y_2)\|^3).\end{aligned}\tag{3}$$

Rescale the parameters λ_1, λ_2 , coordinates y_1, y_2 and time t , possibly also reversing the time direction to convert (3) to the form (4), after truncation to second order.

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{z}_1 &= z_2 \\ \dot{z}_2 &= \mu_1 + \mu_2 z_2 + z_1^2 + z_1 z_2.\end{aligned}\tag{4}$$

Determine the number of equilibria and their curves of saddle-node and Hopf bifurcations in the parameter plane (μ_1, μ_2) .

Problem 47: [Hamiltonian approximation]

Apply the following spatio-temporal change of coordinates to the equation (4):

$$z_1(t) = \varepsilon^2 \tilde{z}_1(\varepsilon t), \quad z_2(t) = \varepsilon^3 \tilde{z}_2(\varepsilon t), \quad \mu_1 = \varepsilon^4 \nu_1, \quad \mu_2 = \varepsilon^2 \nu_2, \quad \varepsilon \geq 0.\tag{5}$$

Study in detail the phase plane dynamics of the resulting pendulum equation with parameter ν_1 for $\varepsilon = 0$.

Problem 48: [Homoclinic loop bifurcation]

- (a) Use center manifold theory to prove that, locally $\mu_2 \neq 0$ and negative μ_1 near zero, the equation (4) possesses a heteroclinic orbit connecting its two equilibria e_1 and e_2 .
- (b) The bifurcation diagram below summarizes the results obtained so far. The periodic orbit in phase diagram ① disappears somewhere during the passage from ① to ②, in the left half plane $\mu_1 < 0$. How can that happen? Draw a more complete bifurcation diagram, and sketch the conjectured flow in each section.

