

Elements of dynamical systems for bifurcation analysis applied to biology

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The classical mathematical framework

ODE system :

$$\frac{dx_1}{dt} = f_1(x_1, x_2) \qquad \frac{dx_2}{dt} = f_2(x_1, x_2) \qquad (1)$$

Definition

We say (\bar{x}_1, \bar{x}_2) is an equilibrium point if $f_1(\bar{x}_1, \bar{x}_2) = 0$ and $f_2(\bar{x}_1, \bar{x}_2) = 0$.

Definition

The Jacobian matrix at $\bar{x} = (\bar{x}_1, \bar{x}_2)$ associated with the system (1) is the

following matrix : $Jac(f, \bar{x}) = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_1}(\bar{x}_1, \bar{x}_2) & \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_2}(\bar{x}_1, \bar{x}_2) \\ \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial x_1}(\bar{x}_1, \bar{x}_2) & \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial x_2}(\bar{x}_1, \bar{x}_2) \end{pmatrix}$

Rmk : looking at the Jacobian matrix is equivalent to look at the linearized problem.

Definition

We call eigenvalues of the matrix $Jac(f, \bar{x})$, the solutions of the equation

$$\begin{vmatrix} \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_1}(\bar{x}_1, \bar{x}_2) - \lambda & \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_2}(\bar{x}_1, \bar{x}_2) \\ \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial x_1}(\bar{x}_1, \bar{x}_2) & \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial x_2}(\bar{x}_1, \bar{x}_2) - \lambda \end{vmatrix} = \lambda^2 - B\lambda + C = 0 \text{ with :}$$

$$B = \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_1}(\bar{x}_1, \bar{x}_2) + \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial x_2}(\bar{x}_1, \bar{x}_2)$$

$$C = \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_1}(\bar{x}_1, \bar{x}_2) \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial x_2}(\bar{x}_1, \bar{x}_2) - \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial x_1}(\bar{x}_1, \bar{x}_2) \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_2}(\bar{x}_1, \bar{x}_2)$$

Theorem

- 1 if $Re(\lambda_1) < 0$, $Re(\lambda_2) < 0$, then the linearized system is stable and the \bar{x} is said to be asymptotically locally stable.
- 2 if $Re(\lambda_1) > 0$ or $Re(\lambda_2) > 0$, then the linearized system is unstable and the \bar{x} is said to be asymptotically locally unstable.
- 3 if $Re(\lambda_1) = 0$ or $Re(\lambda_2) = 0$, other techniques have to be used to determine the stability.

An example from Schmeiser [2020]

ODE system :

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dc_M}{dt} &= f(c_P) - \gamma_M c_M \\ \frac{dc_P}{dt} &= \alpha_M c_M - \gamma_P c_P\end{aligned}\tag{2}$$

The equilibrium point is $\bar{c} = (\bar{c}_M, \bar{c}_P)$ with $\bar{c}_M = \frac{\gamma_P \bar{c}_P}{\alpha_M} = \frac{f(\bar{c}_P)}{\gamma_M}$

The Jacobian matrix is $Jac(f, \bar{c}) = \begin{pmatrix} -\gamma_M & f'(\bar{c}_P) \\ \alpha_M & -\gamma_P \end{pmatrix}$

The eigenvalues are solutions of :

$$\begin{aligned}\lambda^2 + (\gamma_M + \gamma_P)\lambda - f'(\bar{c}_P)\alpha_M + \gamma_M\gamma_P &= 0 \\ \Delta = (\gamma_M + \gamma_P)^2 + 4f'(\bar{c}_P)\alpha_M - 4\gamma_M\gamma_P &< (\gamma_M + \gamma_P)^2\end{aligned}$$

which are :

$$\lambda_{1,2} = \frac{-(\gamma_M + \gamma_P) \pm \sqrt{\Delta}}{2} \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \text{Re}(\lambda_{1,2}) < 0$$

Hence, \bar{c} is locally asymptotically stable.

Another example : Hopf bifurcation from Schmeiser [2020]

ODE system

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dc_1}{dt} &= f_2(c_2(t - \tau_1)) - \gamma_1 c_1(t) & \frac{du}{dt} &= f_2(v) - \gamma_1 u \\ \frac{dc_2}{dt} &= f_1(c_1(t - \tau_2)) - \gamma_2 c_2(t) & \frac{dv}{dt} &= f_1(u(t - \tau)) - \gamma_2 v\end{aligned}$$

Equilibrium point $\bar{x} = (\bar{u}, \bar{v})$ s.t. $\bar{u} = \frac{f_2(\bar{v})}{\gamma_1}$ and $\bar{v} = \frac{f_1(\bar{u})}{\gamma_2}$

We cannot look at the Jacobian matrix. We have to linearize the problem.

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{du}{dt} &= f_2'(\bar{v})v - \gamma_1 \bar{u} \\ \frac{dv}{dt} &= f_1'(\bar{u})u(t - \tau) - \gamma_2 \bar{v}\end{aligned}$$

We have only information about $f_2'(\bar{v})$ and $f_1'(\bar{u})$

We make the Ansatz $u(t) = u_0 e^{\lambda t}$ and $v(t) = v_0 e^{\lambda t}$, so that we obtain :

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{du}{dt} &= f'_2(\bar{v})v - \gamma_1 \bar{u} \\ \frac{dv}{dt} &= f'_1(\bar{u})ue^{-\lambda\tau} - \gamma_2 \bar{v}\end{aligned}\tag{3}$$

We can compute the Jacobian matrix of (3) :

$$Jac(f, \bar{x}) = \begin{pmatrix} -\gamma_1 & f'_2(\bar{v}) \\ f'_1(\bar{u})e^{-\lambda\tau} & -\gamma_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Eigenvalues are solutions of :

$$\lambda^2 + \lambda(\gamma_1 + \gamma_2) + \gamma_1\gamma_2 - f'_2(\bar{v})f'_1(\bar{u})e^{-\lambda\tau} = 0$$

$$\lambda^2 + \lambda(\gamma_1 + \gamma_2) + \gamma_1\gamma_2 - f_2'(\bar{v})f_1'(\bar{u})e^{-\lambda\tau} = 0$$

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta &= (\gamma_1 + \gamma_2)^2 - 4(\gamma_1\gamma_2 - f_2'(\bar{v})f_1'(\bar{u})e^{-\lambda\tau}) \\ &= \gamma_1^2 + \gamma_2^2 + 4f_2'(\bar{v})f_1'(\bar{u})e^{-\lambda\tau}\end{aligned}$$

$$\lambda_{1,2} = \frac{-(\gamma_1 + \gamma_2) \pm \sqrt{\Delta}}{2}$$

When $\tau = 0$, $\lambda_{1,2} < 0$, but when τ varies the sign of $\text{Re}(\lambda_{1,2})$ changes.

Other examples

- Widder et al. [2007]
- Tsumoto et al. [2006]

Christian Schmeiser. Mathematical cell biology, 2020. URL

<https://homepage.univie.ac.at/christian.schmeiser/MCB-skriptum.pdf>.

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