

Phase-Plane

S.L. ROSS  
for better discussion

[Follow Bej-Mukherjee for definition of non-linear D.E]

Equilibrium points and

phase plane

(part of non-linear D.E)

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + \gamma \frac{dy}{dx} + 5y = 6$$

Derivative or  $\gamma$  dependent variable or  $\gamma$  dependent - this is called non-linear Differential equation.

The second order non-linear ODE is of the form

$$\frac{d^2x}{dt^2} = F(x, \frac{dx}{dt}) \quad (1)$$

For example:

$$\frac{d^2x}{dt^2} + \mu(x^2-1)\frac{dx}{dt} + x = 0 \quad (\text{Van der Pol equation})$$

where  $\mu$  is positive constant.

We shall consider this equation at a larger stage of the value of  $t$ .

Let us suppose equation (1) describes a certain dynamical system. The state of this system at time  $t$  is determined by the value of  $x$  (position) - (physical meaning) and  $\frac{dx}{dt}$  (velocity) - (physical meaning).

The plane of the variables  $x$  and  $\frac{dx}{dt}$  is called a phase plane.

Let us assume  $y = \frac{dx}{dt}$ , then equation (1) reduces to

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \frac{dx}{dt} &= y \\ \frac{dy}{dt} &= F(x, y) \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (2)$$

Here  $t$  is a parameter such that the curves will appear in  $xy$ -plane.

Generally we shall consider system of equation of the form

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \frac{dx}{dt} &= P(x, y) \\ \frac{dy}{dt} &= Q(x, y) \end{aligned} \right\} \text{--- (3)}$$

where  $P$  and  $Q$  have continuous partial derivative for  $x, y$ . This system is known as autonomous system.

↳ 't' missing in the R.H.S

$$\left\{ \begin{aligned} \frac{dx}{dt} &= P(x, y) \\ \frac{dy}{dt} &= Q(x, y) \end{aligned} \right.$$

Equilibrium point

Definition: Given the autonomous system

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = P(x, y)$$

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = Q(x, y)$$

a point  $(x_0, y_0)$  at which both  $P(x_0, y_0) = 0$  and  $Q(x_0, y_0) = 0$ , is called a critical point or equilibrium point or singular point of the equation.

Note

From the above equation eliminating  $t$  we get

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{Q(x, y)}{P(x, y)}$$

at a point  $(x_0, y_0)$  both  $P$  and  $Q$  are zero i.e. the slope of the tangent to the path is indeterminate. Such a ~~point~~ point is known as critical point or equilibrium point or singular point.

For example:

consider the linear autonomous system:

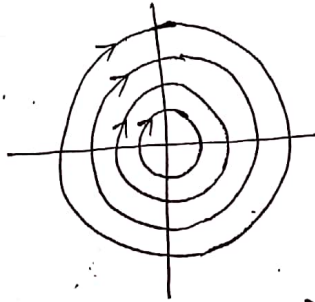
$$\left. \begin{aligned} \frac{dx}{dt} &= y \\ \frac{dy}{dt} &= -x \end{aligned} \right\} \text{--- (a)}$$

Eliminating 't' we get

$$\boxed{\frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{x}{y}} \text{--- (b)}$$

solving, we get

$x^2 + y^2 = c^2$  --- which give one parameter family of curve. ( $c \rightarrow$  parameter)  
Equation (b), gives the one parameter family of paths in the  $xy$ -phase plane.



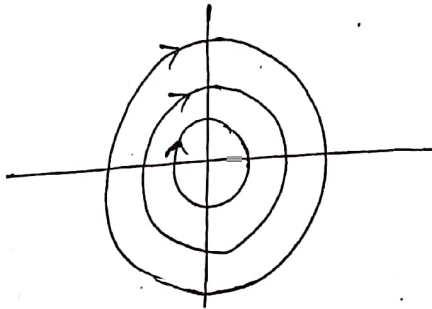
Definition: A critical point  $(x_0, y_0)$  is called isolated if  $(x_0, y_0)$  is the only critical point within the circle

$$(x - x_0)^2 + (y - y_0)^2 = r^2$$

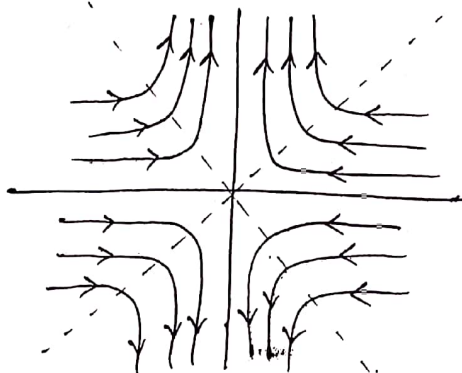
so, in the above example the point  $(0,0)$  is the **isolated critical point**.

# Types of critical point

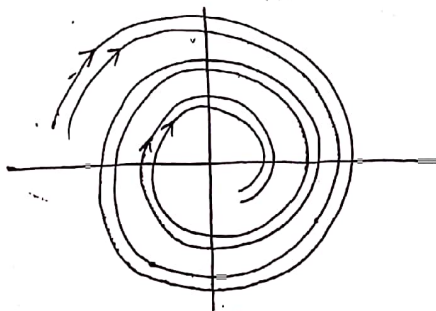
(i) **Centre:**



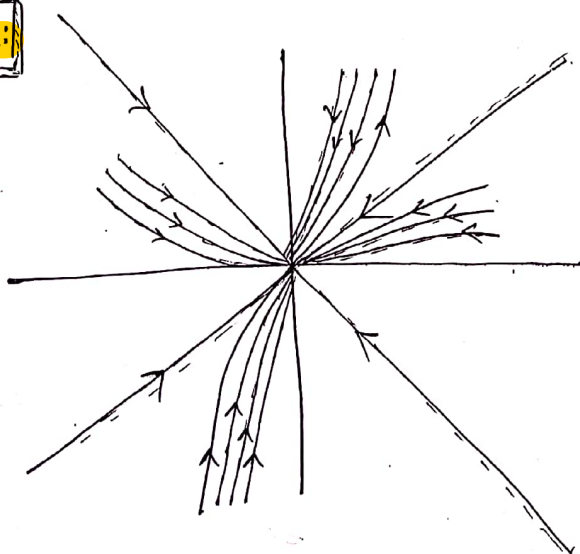
(ii) **Saddle point:**



(iii) **Spiral point:**



(iv) **Node:**



S/p  
 $P \rightarrow 0$  as  
 $t \rightarrow \pm \infty$

Dr. Anisam Chaitanya