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# 2.5 Autonomous Equations and Population Dynamics

\* A 1<sup>st</sup> order equations whose independent variable does not appear explicitly are called autonomous and have the form

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = f(y)$$

\* The idea here is to learn geometric methods can be used to obtain qualitative information directly from differential equation without solving it.

Example "Exponential Growth or decline:  $\frac{dy}{dt} = ry$ ,  $y(0) = y_0$

→  $y$  is the population of a given species at time  $t$ .

→  $r$  is the rate of growth "when it is positive" or the rate of decline "when it is negative"

r is constant

Solution  $\Rightarrow y = y_0 e^{rt}$  assuming  $r > 0$



Example "logistic Growth"

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = (r - ay)y, \quad r, a > 0: \text{Verhulst or logistic equation}$$

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = r \left(1 - \frac{y}{K}\right)y, \quad K = \frac{r}{a} \text{ which is the carrying capacity of the population}$$

$\Rightarrow$  The eq. solutions are  $y_1 = 0$  and  $y_2 = K$

They are the roots of  $f(y) = 0$ .

The roots are called critical points.

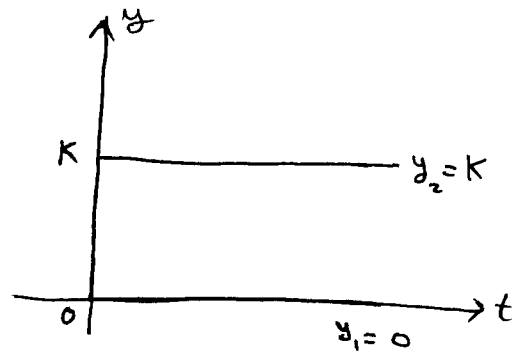
$\Rightarrow$  In the Figure, how the direction fields look like?

we start graphing  $f(y)$  vs.  $y$

$$f(y) = r \left(1 - \frac{y}{K}\right)y$$

The intercepts are  $(0, 0)$  and  $(K, 0)$

The graph is parabola.



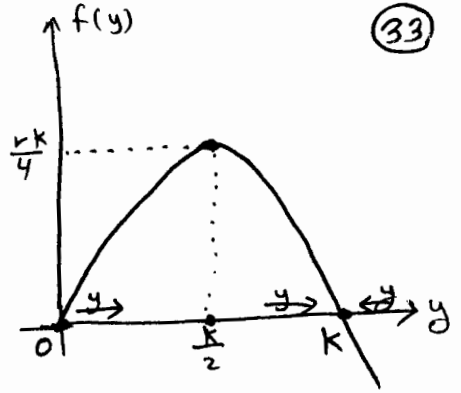
The vertex of the parabola is  $(\frac{K}{2}, \frac{rK}{4})$

Because  $f(y) = r \left[ y \left( \frac{-1}{K} \right) + \left( 1 - \frac{y}{K} \right) \right]$

$$f(y) = \frac{-r}{K} (2y - K)$$

$$f(y) = 0 \Rightarrow y = \frac{K}{2}$$

$$f\left(\frac{K}{2}\right) = r \left( 1 - \frac{K}{2K} \right) \left( \frac{K}{2} \right) = \frac{rK}{4}$$



$\Rightarrow f(y) > 0$  (i.e.  $\frac{dy}{dt} > 0$ ) for  $0 < y < K$

$\Rightarrow y$  is an increasing function of  $t$  ( $\rightarrow$ )

$\Rightarrow f(y) < 0$  (i.e.  $\frac{dy}{dt} < 0$ ) for  $y > K$

$\Rightarrow y$  is a decreasing function of  $t$  ( $\leftarrow$ )

$\Rightarrow$  Concavity/Convexity

For that we need  $\ddot{y}$

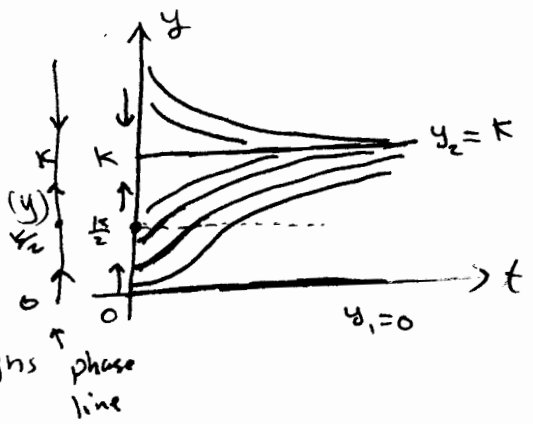
$$\frac{dy}{dt} = f(y) \Rightarrow \frac{d^2y}{dt^2} = f'(y) \frac{dy}{dt} = f'(y) f(y)$$

$\Rightarrow y$  is concave if  $\ddot{y} < 0$

i.e.  $f$  and  $f'$  have opposite signs

$\Rightarrow y$  is convex if  $\ddot{y} > 0$

i.e.  $f$  and  $f'$  have same signs.



$\Rightarrow$  The inflection points <sup>may</sup> occur when  $f'(y) = 0$  i.e.  $y = \frac{K}{2}$

$\Rightarrow$  The solution is convex  $\forall y \in (0, \frac{K}{2})$  where  $f$  is increasing  $\uparrow$

The solution is concave  $\forall y \in (\frac{K}{2}, K)$  where  $f$  is increasing  $\uparrow$

$\Rightarrow$  The solution is convex  $\forall y \in (K, \infty)$  where  $f$  is decreasing  $\downarrow$

\*The slope (when  $y=0$  or  $y=K$ ) is zero

$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} y = K \Rightarrow K$  is asymptotically stable

$0$  is unstable

\* $K$  is called saturation level or carrying capacity (it's like an upper bound).

\* If we wish to know the value of the population at some (34) particular time, then we need to solve the problem, i.e.

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = r \left(1 - \frac{y}{K}\right) u \quad y(0) = y_0 \quad y > 0 \text{ and } y < K$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{dy}{\left(1 - \frac{y}{K}\right)y} = r dt \quad \text{using partial fraction expansion} \Rightarrow$$

$$\frac{1}{\left(1 - \frac{y}{K}\right)y} = \frac{A}{1 - \frac{y}{K}} + \frac{B}{y} \Rightarrow 1 = Ay + B\left(1 - \frac{y}{K}\right) \Rightarrow B=1 \text{ and } A = \frac{1}{K}$$

$\Rightarrow$  The logistic equation can be written as

$$\left[ \frac{1}{y} + \frac{\frac{1}{K}}{1 - \frac{y}{K}} \right] dy = r dt \Rightarrow \ln|y| - \ln\left|1 - \frac{y}{K}\right| = rt + c$$

$$\ln y_0 - \ln\left|1 - \frac{y_0}{K}\right| = 0 + c$$

$\Rightarrow$  if  $y_0 \in (0, K)$  then  $y \in (0, K)$ , so we remove the absolute value

$$\ln\left(\frac{y}{1 - \frac{y}{K}}\right) = rt + c \Rightarrow \frac{y}{1 - \frac{y}{K}} = e^{rt+c} \quad \ln \frac{y_0}{1 - \frac{y_0}{K}} = c$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{y = \frac{y_0 K}{y_0 + (K - y_0)e^{-rt}}, \quad y_0 = y(0) \in (0, K)} \quad *$$

$e^c = \frac{y_0}{1 - \frac{y_0}{K}}$

$\Rightarrow$  if  $y_0 > K$ , then \* still valid.

$\Rightarrow$  from \*, we can see that  $y_1 = 0$  and  $y_2 = K$  are solutions.

$\Rightarrow \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} * = K$  (asymptotically stable)

$\Rightarrow$  The only way to guarantee solution remains near zero is to make  $y_0 = 0$

Example: (Halibut in the Pacific Ocean) Let  $y$  be the biomass in kg of halibut population at time  $t$ , with  $r = 0.71$  for every year and  $K = 80.5 \times 10^6$  kg. If  $y_0 = 0.25K$ , then find:

(a) biomass 2 years later

(b) the time  $\tau$  such that  $y(\tau) = 0.75K$ .

(a) From  $x$ , we have

$$\frac{y}{K} = \frac{\frac{y_0}{K}}{\frac{y_0}{K} + (1 - \frac{y_0}{K}) e^{-rt}} \quad (1) \quad (35)$$

$$\frac{y(2)}{K} = \frac{0.25}{0.25 + 0.75 e^{-0.71(2)}}$$

$$\Rightarrow y(2) = 0.5797 K \approx 46.7 \times 10^6 \text{ kg}$$

(b) From (1), we have

$$\frac{y(\tau)}{K} = \frac{0.25}{0.25 + 0.75 e^{-0.71\tau}}$$

$$0.75 = \frac{0.25}{0.25 + 0.75 e^{-0.71\tau}} \Rightarrow$$

$$0.75 (0.25 + 0.75 e^{-0.71\tau}) = 0.25 \Rightarrow \frac{1}{3} = \frac{1}{4} + \frac{3}{4} e^{-0.71\tau}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{3} - 1 = 3 e^{-0.71\tau} \Rightarrow \frac{1}{9} = e^{-0.71\tau}$$

$$\Rightarrow -0.71\tau = -\ln 9 \Rightarrow \tau = 3.095 \text{ years}$$

Critical Threshold Equation

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = -r \left(1 - \frac{y}{T}\right) y, \quad r > 0 \quad \text{----- (3)}$$

\* Two modifications were made in the logistic ODE:

1) minus sign

2)  $K$  replaced by  $T$  "Threshold value for  $y_0$ "

\* Note that the solution of (3) is very different from the logistic equation.

\* The critical points are  $y=0$  and  $y=T \Rightarrow$

The equilibrium solutions are  $y_1=0$  and  $y_2=T$

\* If  $y_0 > T$ , then the population grows unbounded

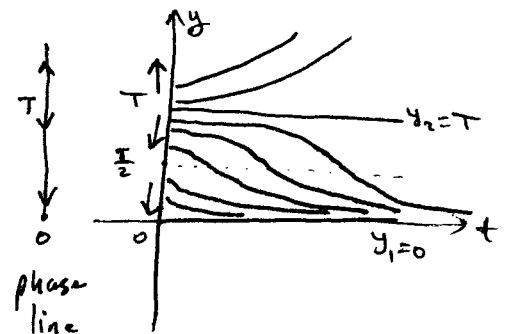
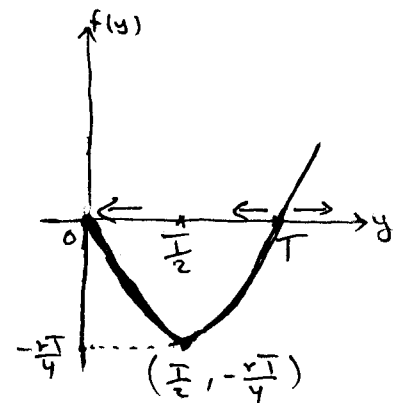
If  $y_0 < T$ , then " " = dies.

\*  $y_1(t)=0$  is an asymptotically stable eq. solution.

$y_2(t)=T$  is unstable one.

\* Solving (3), we get  $y = \frac{y_0 T}{y_0 + (T - y_0) e^{rt}}$

clearly  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} y = 0$



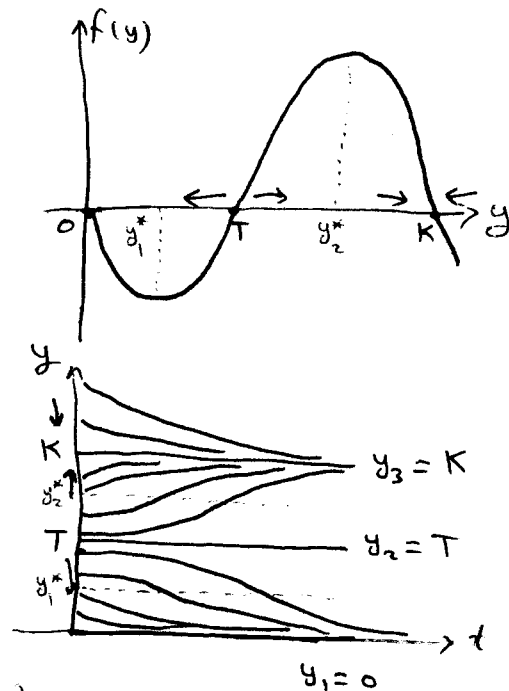
# Logistic Growth with a Threshold

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To avoid unbounded growth when  $y > T$ , we consider the following modification to the logistic equation

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = -r \left(1 - \frac{y}{T}\right) \left(1 - \frac{y}{K}\right) y, \quad r > 0 \text{ and } 0 < T < K$$

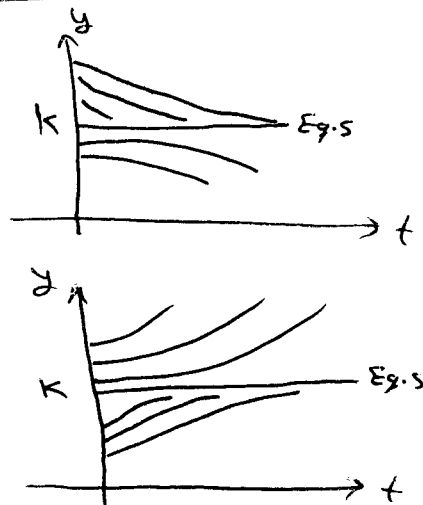
- $K$  is the carrying capacity level
- $T$  is the threshold value for  $y_0$
- $y_1(t) = 0$  and  $y_3(t) = K$  are stable equilibrium solutions and  $y_2(t) = T$  is an unstable eq. solution.



- The critical points are the roots of  $f(y) = -r \left(1 - \frac{y}{T}\right) \left(1 - \frac{y}{K}\right) y$  i.e.  $y = 0, T, K$

- The inflection points are  $y_1^*$  and  $y_2^*$   
 $f(y) = 0 \Rightarrow y_{1,2}^* = \frac{(K+T) \pm \sqrt{K^2 - KT + T^2}}{3}$

Note: Semistable Equilibrium Solutions: is a solution that has the property that solutions lying on one side of the eq. solution tend to approach it, whereas solutions lying on the other side depart from it.



If  $\frac{dy}{dt} = f(y)$  and  $y_1$  is a critical point ( $f(y_1) = 0$ ), then  $y_1$  is asymptotically stable if  $f'(y_1) < 0$  and  $y_1$  is unstable if  $f'(y_1) > 0$ .