

On the equilibrium points of an analytic differentiable system in the plane. The center–focus problem and the divergence.

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In this talk we are interested in studying the **phase portrait in a neighborhood of an equilibrium point** of an analytic differential system in the plane.

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- either a **center**,
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- or **finite union of elliptic, hyperbolic and parabolic sectors**.

In this talk we deal with the analytic differential systems of the form

$$\dot{x} = P(x, y), \quad \dot{y} = Q(x, y), \quad (1)$$

where the dot denotes derivative with respect to an independent real variable  $t$ . We assume that this system always is defined in a neighborhood of the origin and that the origin is a singular point.

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The **center problem** consists in distinguishing when a monodromic singular point is either a center or a focus.

From now on in this talk we assume that the origin of system (1) is **monodromic**.

The **divergence** of system (1), denoted by  $\text{div}(x, y)$ , is the function

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**Our aim is to show other results relating the divergence of system (1) with the solution of the center problem.**

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**M. GRAU AND J. LLIBRE**, [Divergence and Poincaré–Liapunov constants for analytic differential systems](#), *J. Differential Equations* **258** (2015), 4348–4367.

Given an analytic function  $f : \mathcal{U} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , where  $\mathcal{U}$  is a neighborhood of the origin, we consider its Taylor expansion at the origin:

$$f(x, y) = f_d(x, y) + \mathcal{O}_{d+1}(x, y),$$

where  $d \geq 0$  is an integer and  $f_d(x, y)$  is a non-zero homogeneous polynomial of degree  $d$ .

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We say that  $f$  is of **sign definite** if  $f_d(x, y) \geq 0$  or  $f_d(x, y) \leq 0$  for all  $(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2$ , and  $f_d(x, y)$  is not identically zero.

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When  $f_d(x, y) \geq 0$  (resp.  $f_d(x, y) \leq 0$ ) for all  $(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2$  we say that  $f$  is **positive definite** (resp. **negative definite**).



Given an analytic function  $f : U \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , where  $U$  is a neighborhood of the origin, we consider its Taylor expansion at the origin:

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It is clear that a necessary condition for  $f(x, y)$  to be of sign definite is that  $d$  is **even**.

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We remark that in the case that the origin of system (1) is a strong focus (i.e. with eigenvalues  $\alpha \pm \beta i$  and  $\alpha \neq 0$ ), then the divergence  $\operatorname{div}_d(x, y) = \operatorname{div}(0, 0) = 2\alpha \neq 0$  and the focus is **unstable** if  $\operatorname{div}(0, 0) > 0$ , and **stable** if  $\operatorname{div}(0, 0) < 0$ .

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PROPOSITION 1 is a **generalization of this result for the strong focus to any monodromic singular point**.

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It is well-known that, after a linear change of variables and a constant scaling of the time variable (if necessary), the system can be written in one of the following three forms:

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{x} &= -y + F_1(x, y), & \dot{y} &= x + F_2(x, y), \\ \dot{x} &= y + F_1(x, y), & \dot{y} &= F_2(x, y), \\ \dot{x} &= F_1(x, y), & \dot{y} &= F_2(x, y),\end{aligned}$$

where  $F_1(x, y)$  and  $F_2(x, y)$  are real analytic functions without constant and linear terms defined in a neighborhood of the origin.

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where  $F_1(x, y)$  and  $F_2(x, y)$  are real analytic functions without constant and linear terms defined in a neighborhood of the origin.

These three kind of monodromic singular points are called **linear type**, **nilpotent** or **degenerate**, respectively.



The **linear type** monodromic singular points which after changes of variables can be written as

$$\dot{x} = -y + F_1(x, y), \quad \dot{y} = x + F_2(x, y),$$

are characterized by having **a pair of imaginary eigenvalues**.

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The **nilpotent** monodromic singular points which after changes of variables can be written as

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The **degenerate** monodromic singular points which after changes of variables can be written as

$$\dot{x} = F_1(x, y), \quad \dot{y} = F_2(x, y),$$

can be characterized **using blow-ups**.

**Assume** that we have the system

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{x} &= P(x, y) = P_n(x, y) + O_{n+1}(x, y), \\ \dot{y} &= Q(x, y) = P_m(x, y) + O_{m+1}(x, y),\end{aligned}\tag{2}$$

where  $n \geq 1$  and  $m \geq 1$  are integers and  $P_n(x, y)$  and  $Q_m(x, y)$  are non-zero homogeneous polynomials of degrees  $n$  and  $m$  respectively, formed by the lowest order terms of  $P(x, y)$  and  $Q(x, y)$ , respectively.

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**Define** the real polynomial

$$\Delta(x, y) = \begin{cases} yP_n(x, y) - xQ_m(x, y) & \text{if } n = m, \\ yP_n(x, y) & \text{if } n < m, \\ -xQ_m(x, y) & \text{if } n > m. \end{cases}$$

A sufficient condition in order that system (2) has a monodromic singular point at the origin is that  $\Delta(x, y) = 0$  only if  $(x, y) = (0, 0)$ .

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A necessary condition in order that system (2) has a monodromic singular point at the origin is that  $\Delta(x, y)$  is of sign definite.



Suppose that the origin is a **monodromic singular point**. Then we have the **Poincaré map**  $\mathcal{P} : [0, x^*) \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ , being  $\mathcal{P}(x)$  the point in  $[0, \infty)$  corresponding to the first cut with  $[0, \infty)$  of the orbit through the point  $(x, 0)$  in positive time.

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It is clear that the origin of system (1) is a **center** if and only if this Poincaré map is the **identity**.

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For **linear type singular points** always the Poincaré map is analytic at  $x = 0$  and writes as

$$\mathcal{P}(x) = x + \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \alpha_i x^i,$$

where  $\alpha_j$  are algebraic expressions in the coefficients of  $P$  and  $Q$ .

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Also for **degenerate monodromic singular points** having no characteristic directions the Poincaré map is analytic at  $x = 0$ .

Knowing the Poincaré map, the origin is **stable** if the first non-zero  $\alpha_j$  is negative, and **unstable** if  $\alpha_j > 0$ .

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We define the  $2k + 1$  **Poincaré–Liapunov constant** as the expression  $\alpha_{2k+1}$  modulus the vanishing of all the previous ones.



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**COROLLARY** Consider the system

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where  $P_s(x, y)$  and  $Q_s(x, y)$  are homogeneous polynomials of **odd degree  $s$** . Then the first **Poincaré–Liapunov constants** of system (1) are  $\alpha_i = 0$  for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, s-1$  and

$$\alpha_s = \frac{1}{s+1} \int_0^{2\pi} \text{div}(\cos t, \sin t) dt.$$

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$$V_{d+1}(\varepsilon) = \int_0^{2\pi/\sqrt{\varepsilon}} \operatorname{div}_d(\cos(\sqrt{\varepsilon} t), -\sqrt{\varepsilon} \sin(\sqrt{\varepsilon} t)) dt,$$

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where  $\varepsilon > 0$ , and define the constant  $v_{d+1}$  through the series expansion  $V_{d+1}(\varepsilon) = \frac{v_{d+1}}{\sqrt{\varepsilon}} + O(\varepsilon)$ .

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- (a) If the origin is a **center**, then  $v_{d+1} = 0$  for all  $\varepsilon > 0$ .
- (b) If  $v_{d+1} > 0$  (resp.  $v_{d+1} < 0$ ), then the origin is an **unstable** (resp. **stable**) **focus**.

Assume that there is a monodromic singular point at the origin of system (1) without characteristic directions.

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In this case the degree of the lowest order terms of  $P(x, y)$  and  $Q(x, y)$  must coincide, that is,

$$\begin{aligned}P(x, y) &= P_n(x, y) + \mathcal{O}_{n+1}(x, y), \\Q(x, y) &= Q_n(x, y) + \mathcal{O}_{n+1}(x, y).\end{aligned}$$

Assume that there is **a monodromic singular point at the origin of system (1) without characteristic directions**. Then the polynomial  $\Delta(x, y)$  defined previously satisfies that  $\Delta(x, y) = 0$  only if  $(x, y) = (0, 0)$ .

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We **define**

$$v(\theta) = \exp \left[ \int_0^\theta \frac{\cos \sigma P_n(\cos \sigma, \sin \sigma) + \sin \sigma Q_n(\cos \sigma, \sin \sigma)}{\cos \sigma Q_n(\cos \sigma, \sin \sigma) - \sin \sigma P_n(\cos \sigma, \sin \sigma)} d\sigma \right].$$



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$$\alpha = \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{\text{div}_d(\cos \theta, \sin \theta) v(\theta)^{d-n+1}}{\cos \theta Q_n(\cos \theta, \sin \theta) - \sin \theta P_n(\cos \theta, \sin \theta)} d\theta \neq 0.$$

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Then the origin is a **focus** which is **stable** (resp. **unstable**) if  $\alpha < 0$  (resp.  $\alpha > 0$ ).

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We **remark** that from PROPOSITION 1, if  $v(2\pi) > 1$  then the origin is an **unstable focus**, and if  $v(2\pi) < 1$  then the origin is a **stable focus**.

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We **remark** that from PROPOSITION 1, if  $v(2\pi) > 1$  then the origin is an **unstable focus**, and if  $v(2\pi) < 1$  then the origin is a **stable focus**. So this theorem is useful to establish the stability of the origin when  $v(2\pi) = 1$ .

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**PROPOSITION 1** Assume that the origin of an analytic differential system (1) is a monodromic singular point, and that the divergence  $\operatorname{div}(x, y)$  of system (1) is of **sign definite**.

Then the origin of system (1) is a **focus**; either **unstable** if the divergence is positive definite or **stable** if it is negative definite.

## Proof of PROPOSITION 1.

**The Bendixson criterium:** If the divergence of a system (1) is not identically zero and does not change sign in a simply connected region in  $\mathbb{R}^2$ , then there is no closed orbit lying entirely in this simply connected region.



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If the divergence of system (1) is of sign definite, then there is a neighborhood  $\mathcal{U}_0$  of the origin in which  $\operatorname{div}(x, y) \geq 0$  or  $\operatorname{div}(x, y) \leq 0$  for all  $(x, y) \in \mathcal{U}_0$ .

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If the origin is a center, then there is a continuum of periodic orbits completely contained in  $\mathcal{U}_0$  which contradicts the Bendixson criterium.

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Now it remains to study the kind of stability this focus.

We are going to prove that if  $\operatorname{div}(x, y)$  is positive definite, then the origin of (1) is an unstable focus.

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We consider a transversal section  $\Sigma$  whose boundary contains the origin  $O$  and a neighborhood  $\mathcal{U}_O$  of the origin such that  $\operatorname{div}(x, y) \geq 0$  for all  $(x, y) \in \mathcal{U}_O$ . We only consider the part of  $\Sigma$  contained in  $\mathcal{U}_O$ .



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We fix a point  $\rho$  in  $\Sigma$  and we consider the point in  $\Sigma$  corresponding to its image by the **Poincaré map**  $\mathcal{P}(\rho)$  (when this is defined).

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We fix a point  $\rho$  in  $\Sigma$  and we consider the point in  $\Sigma$  corresponding to its image by the **Poincaré map**  $\mathcal{P}(\rho)$  (when this is defined). If  $\rho$  is close enough to the origin, we can ensure that  $\mathcal{P}(\rho)$  is contained in  $\mathcal{U}_O$ .

We define the closed curve  $C$  formed by the arc of the orbit from  $\rho$  to  $\mathcal{P}(\rho)$  together with the arc of  $\Sigma$  between these two points.

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Since  $\Sigma$  is a transversal section, we have that all the orbits of (1) cross  $\ell$  in the same direction, either inside or outside the region  $D$  limited by the curve  $C$  and the segment  $\ell$ .

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Since  $\Sigma$  is a transversal section, we have that all the orbits of (1) cross  $\ell$  in the same direction, either inside or outside the region  $D$  limited by the curve  $C$  and the segment  $\ell$ .

The origin is **stable** if the orbits cross  $\ell$  in the inside direction and **unstable** otherwise.

We consider

$$\oint_C Pdy - Qdx = \int_{C \setminus \ell} Pdy - Qdx + \int_{\ell} Pdy - Qdx.$$

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On the other hand, since  $\operatorname{div}(x, y) \geq 0$  for all  $(x, y) \in D$ , we have by the Green's formula

$$\oint_C Pdy - Qdx = \iint_D \operatorname{div}(x, y) dx dy > 0.$$

So

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This implies that all the orbits of (1) cross  $\ell$  in the outside direction and, thus, the origin of (1) is **unstable**.

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This implies that all the orbits of (1) cross  $\ell$  in the outside direction and, thus, the origin of (1) is **unstable**. This completes the proof of PROPOSITION 1.

**THEOREM 2** Consider an analytic differential system (1) whose origin is a **linear type monodromic singular point**. Denote by  $\text{div}_d(x, y)$  the lowest order terms of the divergence  $\text{div}(x, y)$  of the system. Define

$$\alpha_{d+1} = \frac{1}{d+2} \int_0^{2\pi} \text{div}_d(\cos t, \sin t) dt.$$

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If  $\alpha_{d+1} \neq 0$  it is the non-zero **first Poincaré–Liapunov constant**, and consequently the origin is a **focus**.

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If  $\alpha_{d+1} \neq 0$  it is the non-zero **first Poincaré–Liapunov constant**, and consequently the origin is a **focus**.

Its proof uses the **Birkhoff normal form** of a center provided in

**G. BELITSKIĬ**, Smooth equivalence of germs of vector fields with one zero or a pair of purely imaginary eigenvalues, *Funct. Anal. Appl.* **20** (1986), 253–259.

**THEOREM 3** Consider an analytic differential system (1) whose origin is a **nilpotent monodromic singular point**. Denote by  $\operatorname{div}_d(x, y)$  the lowest order terms of the divergence  $\operatorname{div}(x, y)$  of the system. Define

$$V_{d+1}(\varepsilon) = \int_0^{2\pi/\sqrt{\varepsilon}} \operatorname{div}_d(\cos(\sqrt{\varepsilon} t), -\sqrt{\varepsilon} \sin(\sqrt{\varepsilon} t)) dt,$$

where  $\varepsilon > 0$ , and define the constant  $v_{d+1}$  through the series expansion  $V_{d+1}(\varepsilon) = \frac{v_{d+1}}{\sqrt{\varepsilon}} + O(\varepsilon)$ .

- (a) If the origin is a **center**, then  $v_{d+1} = 0$  for all  $\varepsilon > 0$ .
- (b) If  $v_{d+1} > 0$  (resp.  $v_{d+1} < 0$ ), then the origin is an **unstable** (resp. **stable**) **focus**.

The proof of Theorem 3 uses results from

J. GINÉ AND J. LLIBRE, [A method for characterizing nilpotent centers](#), J. Math. Anal. Appl. **413** (2014), 537–545.

I.A. GARCÍA, H. GIACOMINI, J. GINÉ AND J. LLIBRE, [Analytic nilpotent centers as limits of nondegenerated centers revisited](#), Preprint.



**THEOREM 4** Consider an analytic differential system (1) whose origin is monodromic and has no characteristic directions.

Denote by  $\text{div}_d(x, y)$  the lowest order terms of degree  $d$  of the divergence  $\text{div}(x, y)$  of the system. Assume that  $v(2\pi) = 1$  and

$$\alpha = \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{\text{div}_d(\cos \theta, \sin \theta) v(\theta)^{d-n+1}}{\cos \theta Q_n(\cos \theta, \sin \theta) - \sin \theta P_n(\cos \theta, \sin \theta)} d\theta \neq 0.$$

Then the origin is a focus which is stable (resp. unstable) if  $\alpha < 0$  (resp.  $\alpha > 0$ ).

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Then the origin is a focus which is stable (resp. unstable) if  $\alpha < 0$  (resp.  $\alpha > 0$ ).

The proof follows by direct computations.

For more details on the proofs of THEOREMS 2, 3 and 4 see the paper:

**M. GRAU AND J. LLIBRE**, [Divergence and Poincaré–Liapunov constants for analytic differential systems](#), *J. Differential Equations* **258** (2015), 4348–4367.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR ATTENTION