

## An elementary explicit example of unbounded limit behaviour on the plane

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**Abstract.** An academic new example of two-dimensional planar dynamical system is constructed to describe a very well-known fact. Namely, that unbounded semiorbits could generate nonconnected  $\omega$ -limit sets (see [Hl], page 48).

**1. Introduction.** The concept of  $\omega$ -limit set was introduced by D. Birkhoff (cf. [Bi]). For a differential equation in  $\mathbf{R}^n$

$$x' = f(x) \tag{1}$$

the  $\omega$ -limit set of a certain solution or semiorbit "summarizes", roughly speaking, the asymptotic behaviour of such a solution. If  $x = x(t)$  is a solution to (1) defined in  $t \geq t_0$ , a  $z \in \mathbf{R}^n$  is said to be an  $\omega$ -limit point of  $x(t)$  (see [Bi], [Hl]) if there exists  $\{t_n\}$ ,  $t_n \rightarrow \infty$ , such that  $x(t_n) \rightarrow z$ . For a fixed solution  $x = x(t)$ , or better, for the semiorbit  $\gamma = \{x(t)/t \geq t_0\}$  attached to  $x = x(t)$ ,  $\Lambda^+(\gamma)$  usually designates the set of  $\omega$ -limit points of  $\gamma$ . As a possible reliable picture of a physical phenomenon it is clear that a major emphasis must be put in the study of  $\Lambda^+(\gamma)$  when  $\gamma$  is a *bounded* semiorbit to (1). In bounded regions of  $\mathbf{R}^2$  with finitely many critical singularities of (1), the structure of  $\Lambda^+(\gamma)$  for semiorbits  $\gamma$  lying in such regions, is given by the celebrated Poincaré-Bendixon Theorem (see [Ha],[Hl]). In  $\mathbf{R}^n$  the more general information about  $\Lambda^+(\gamma)$ , for  $\gamma$  bounded, is that contained in the next result (see for instance [Hl] page 47)

**THEOREM.**

*If  $\gamma = \{x(t)/t \geq t_0\} \subset \mathbf{R}^n$  is a bounded semiorbit to (1) then  $\Lambda^+(\gamma)$  is a nonempty, invariant, compact and connected set.*

Even in  $\mathbf{R}^3$  it is sometimes hardly possible to add a bit more to the general asserts given above about  $\Lambda^+(\gamma)$  (see for instance the Lorenz's system in [GH]).

It is also well-known that the connectedness of  $\Lambda^+(\gamma)$  is a consequence of the boundedness of  $\gamma$ . Here we will focus our attention in this precise fact. When  $\Lambda^+(\gamma)$  contains two points  $z_1, z_2$ , the semiorbit  $\gamma$  will meet infinitely many times every pair of arbitrarily small neighbourhoods  $U_1, U_2$  of  $z_1$  and  $z_2$  (respectively). Boundedness of  $\gamma$  will imply that  $z_1$  and  $z_2$  will be "connected" into  $\Lambda^+(\gamma)$ . The objective of this note is giving an *explicit* example in  $\mathbf{R}^2$  that such connectedness is lost when  $\gamma$  is unbounded. Obviously, this fact is well-known since long (see for instance [Hl] page 48). Moreover, after thinking on it for a while, it is not difficult to arrive to the conclusion that a picture of such an orbit  $\gamma$  should be more or less as shown in figure 1.

What is presented in this work is a class of equations that make precise in an explicit and analytic way this kind of behaviour.

## 2. The results.

Let  $\varphi_0 = \varphi_0(y) \in C^1([0, +\infty))$  such that  $\varphi_0(0) = 0$ ,  $\varphi_0(y) > 0$  in  $y > 0$ , and also that  $\lim_{y \rightarrow +\infty} \varphi_0(y) = 0$ . Suppose, without loss of generality, that  $\max_{y \geq 0} |\varphi_0(y)| < 1$ . Designate by  $\varphi = \varphi(y)$  the odd extension of  $\varphi_0$  and call  $\alpha = \max_{y \geq 0} |\varphi_0(y)|$ . A simple example of such a function is

$$\varphi(y) = \frac{y}{1+y^2}.$$

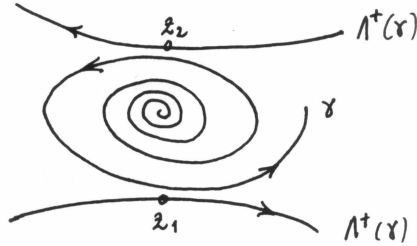


figure 1

Consider now the following class of equations

$$\begin{cases} x' = y(1-x^2) \\ y' = \varphi(y) - x. \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

It will be shown that the  $\omega$ -limit set of every semiorbit  $\gamma$  starting at  $(x_0, y_0) \neq (0, 0)$ ,  $x_0^2 < 1$ , exactly consists of the lines  $\{x = 1\} \cup \{x = -1\}$ . Let us first introduce the following regions,

$$I = \{(x, y)/y > 0, \varphi(y) > x\},$$

$$II = \{(x, y)/y > 0, \varphi(y) < x\},$$

$$III = \{(x, y)/y < 0, \varphi(y) < x\},$$

$$IV = \{(x, y)/y < 0, \varphi(y) > x\}.$$

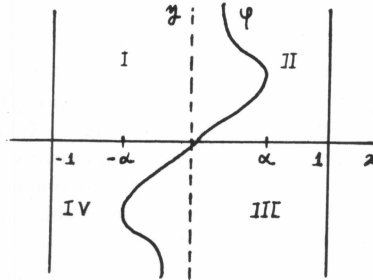


figure 2

The first fact to be proven below is the rotation around  $(0,0)$  of the solutions to (2) lying in the strip  $(-1,1) \times \mathbf{R}$ .

LEMMA 2.1.

Let  $(x(t), y(t))$  be a noncontinuable solution to (2) with initial position  $(x_o, y_o) \in (-1,1) \times \mathbf{R}$  and maximal existence interval  $(\alpha, \omega)$ . Then  $\omega = +\infty$  and  $(x(t), y(t))$  pass through the regions I, II, III and IV –following this ordered sequence– arriving again in finite time to I and repeating this sequence infinitely many times.

Remarks.

a) In Lemma 2.1 the initial data  $(x_o, y_o)$  could be taken in either of the regions II, III or IV. Then, the orbit starting at  $(x_o, y_o)$  will cross through the remaining regions in a cyclic and ordered way.

b) For  $v = (v_1, v_2)$ ,  $v_1 \neq 0$ ,  $v_1^2 + v_2^2 = 1$  let us define

$$\Gamma_v = \{(sv_1, sv_2)/s > 0\} \cap A$$

where  $A$  designates any of the regions introduced above.  $\Gamma_v$  can be ordered in the natural way regarding  $s$ . Lemma 2.1 allows us defining the *Poincaré* map  $\pi$  (see [Ha], [Hl]) over  $\Gamma_v$ . In fact, call  $(x(t, t_o, x_o, y_o), y(t, t_o, x_o, y_o))$  the (unique) solution to (2) satisfying  $(x(0), y(0)) = (x_o, y_o)$ . If  $(x_o, y_o) \in \Gamma_v$  then there exists  $\tau(x_o, y_o) = \min\{t > 0 / (x(t, t_o, x_o, y_o), y(t, t_o, x_o, y_o)) \in \Gamma_v\}$ . From Lemma 2.1 it follows that  $\tau(x_o, y_o)$  is defined and positive whatever the choice of  $(x_o, y_o) \in \Gamma_v$  be. For  $(x_o, y_o) \in \Gamma_v$  define  $s$  by the equality  $(x_o, y_o) = sv \in \Gamma_v$ , write  $\tau(s) = \tau(x_o, y_o)$  and define  $\sigma = \sigma(s)$  by means of  $\sigma v = (x(\tau(s), x_o, y_o), y(\tau(s), x_o, y_o))$ . It is well-known that

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi : \quad \Gamma_v &\rightarrow \Gamma_v \\ sv &\rightarrow \sigma(s)v \end{aligned}$$

(the *Poincaré's* mapping) is an increasing  $C^1$  mapping whose (possible) fixed points give rise periodic solutions to (2). In this case it also possible to show that  $\Pi$  is also a  $C^1$  diffeomorphism. Notice that  $s$  belongs to the interval  $(0, \frac{1}{|v_1|})$  provided  $\frac{v_2}{v_1} < 0$ , meanwhile  $\Gamma_v$  could consist on several connected pieces if  $\frac{v_2}{v_1} > 0$ . Designate by  $(a(v), \frac{1}{|v_1|})$  that one the most separated from  $(0,0)$ . For simplicity let us also set  $a(v) = 0$  when  $\frac{v_2}{v_1}$  is negative. We can state the following result,

LEMMA 2.2.

For each  $v \in \mathbf{R}^2$ ,  $|v| = 1$ ,  $v_1 \neq 0$ , define the interval  $I_v = (a(v), \frac{1}{|v_1|})$  and the  $C^1$  diffeomorfism  $\sigma : \begin{matrix} I_v \rightarrow I_v \\ s \rightarrow \sigma(s) \end{matrix}$ . Then, for each  $s \in I_v$ ,  $s < \sigma(s)$ . Moreover,

- a) Equation (2) does not exhibit limit cycles into  $(-1,1) \times \mathbf{R}$ .
- b) For each  $s \in I_v$ ,  $\lim \sigma^n(s) = \frac{1}{|v_1|}$

The next result is the objective of this note and is a straightforward consequence of Lemma 2.2.

**THEOREM 2.3.**

For each  $(x_o, y_o)$  lying in the strip  $(-1, 1) \times \mathbf{R}$  the unique semiorbit  $\gamma$  passing through  $(x_o, y_o)$ ,

$$\gamma = \{(x(t, x_o, y_o), y(t, x_o, y_o)) / t \geq 0\}$$

goes off the origin  $(0, 0)$  turning around this point infinitely many times and satisfying

$$\Lambda^+(\gamma) = \{(x, y) / x = 1 \text{ or } x = -1\}.$$

**3. The proofs.**

**3.1. The proof of Lemma 2.1.**

First notice that the strip  $(-1, 1) \times \mathbf{R}$  is invariant. Indeed,  $x = 1$  and  $x = -1$  are orbits of (2). Assume that  $(x_o, y_o) \in I$  and let  $(x(t), y(t))$  the solution starting at that point, with maximal existence interval  $(\alpha, \omega)$ , then  $(x(t), y(t))$  leaves  $I$  at finite time. Otherwise,  $(x(t), y(t)) \in I$  and  $x'(t) > 0, y'(t) > 0$  for each  $t \in (\alpha, \omega)$ . However, since  $x(t) < \alpha$  for each  $t$  then  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \omega} y(t) = +\infty$ . Indeed,  $y(t)$  can not be bounded. Otherwise,  $\omega = +\infty$ , which implies  $\lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} x'(t) = \lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} y'(t) = 0$  what contradicts  $x(t) \geq x_o, y(t) \geq y_o$  for each  $t$ . Therefore,  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \omega} y(t) = +\infty$ . But  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \omega} y(t) = +\infty$  entails  $\omega = +\infty$  since,

$$\begin{aligned} y' &= \varphi(y) - x(t) \\ &\leq \varphi(y) - x_o \\ &\leq \varphi(y) - 1. \end{aligned}$$

and the solutions to  $z' = \varphi(z) - 1$  do not blow up since  $\int_{y_o}^{+\infty} \frac{dy}{\varphi(y)-1} = +\infty$ . Therefore we must conclude that  $\lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} y(t) = +\infty$ . However  $\omega = +\infty$  and the fact  $x(t) < \alpha$  for  $t > t_o$  imply  $\lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} x'(t) = 0$ . On the other hand

$$x'(t) = y(t)(1 - x^2) \geq y(t)(1 - \alpha^2)$$

for  $t > t_o$ ; and  $\lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} y(t)(1 - \alpha^2) = +\infty$ . Thus  $(x(t), y(t))$  must leave  $I$  at finite time. In other words, there exists  $t_1 \in [0, \omega)$  such that  $x(t_1) = \varphi(y(t_1))$  which implies  $(x(t), y(t)) \in II$  for  $t = t_1 + \epsilon$ , and certain positive small enough  $\epsilon$ . In fact,  $x'(t_1) = y(t_1)(1 - x^2(t_1)) = y(t_1)(1 - \varphi(y(t_1))^2)$  is positive and the function  $h(t) = x(t) - \varphi(y(t))$  vanishes at  $t = t_1$  with  $h'(t_1) = x'(t_1) - \frac{d\varphi}{dy}(y(t_1))y'(t_1) = x'(t_1) > 0$ . Thus, the existence of  $\epsilon$  is proven.

Next, designate by  $(x_1, y_1) = (x(t_1 + \epsilon), y(t_1 + \epsilon))$ . We are going to show the existence of  $t_2 > t_1 + \epsilon$  such that  $0 < x(t_2) < 1, y(t_2) = y_2 = 0$  and so that  $(x(t), y(t)) \in II$  for each  $t_1 \leq t < t_2$ . To see this, set  $K = \{y \leq y_1\} \cap II$ . Then, if necessary taking a smaller  $\epsilon$ ,  $(x(t), y(t)) \in K$  for  $t_1 \leq t \leq t_1 + \epsilon$ . We claim that a  $t_2 > t_1$  exist so that  $(x(t_2), y(t_2)) \in \partial K$ . Otherwise  $\omega = +\infty$  and we would have  $\lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} (x(t), y(t)) = (x_2, y_2)$  with  $x_2 > x_1$ . However, monotonicity of both  $x(t)$  and  $y(t)$  would imply  $\lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} (x'(t), y'(t)) = (0, 0)$ , what is not possible. On the other hand, if  $t_2 = \min\{t / t > t_1, (x(t), y(t)) \in \partial K\}$  then  $(x(t_2), y(t_2)) = (x_2, 0)$  with  $0 < x_2 < 1$ . In fact, observe that a part of  $\partial K$  consist of  $y = y_1$ , other one consist of a piece of the graph  $x = \varphi(y)$  meanwhile a third part consist

of a piece of the orbit  $x = 1$ . Because of the direction field of (2) the only piece of  $\partial K$  where the limit points of  $(x(t), y(t))$  can be located is just  $y = 0$ , as claimed (see figure 3).

Finally, since  $y'(t_2) = -x_2 < 0$  there exist  $t_2 < t_3 < \omega$  such that  $(x(t_3), y(t_3)) \in III$ . Thus, it can be asserted that every solution to (2) starting in an arbitrary  $(x_0, y_0) \in I$  reaches the region  $III$  in a finite period of time  $t$ , after passing through the regions  $I, II$ . Therefore, it is straightforward to show that every semiorbit  $\gamma$  to (2) starting in  $(x_3, y_3) \in III$  also reaches the region  $I$ —after passing through  $III$  and  $IV$ —in a finite period of time. In fact,  $\varphi = \varphi(y)$  was chosen in order to (2) were symmetric with respect to  $(0, 0)$ . Specifically, the orbit  $\bar{\gamma}$  starting at  $(x_0, y_0) = (-x_3, -y_3) \in I$  is the symmetric of  $\gamma$  with respect to  $(0, 0)$ . This is due to the following fact “ $(x(t), y(t)), t \in (\alpha, \omega)$ , is a noncontinuable solution to (2) if and only if  $(x_1(t), y_1(t)) = (-x(t), -y(t)), t \in (\alpha, \omega)$  is a noncontinuable solution to (2)”. So, by the uniqueness of solutions,

$$\begin{aligned} x(t, -x_0, -y_0) &= -x(t, x_0, y_0) \\ y(t, -x_0, -y_0) &= -y(t, x_0, y_0), \quad t \in (\alpha, \omega). \end{aligned}$$

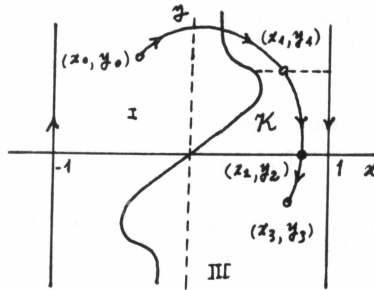


figure 3

Thus, every semiorbit  $\gamma$  starting in  $(x_0, y_0) \in I$  finally arrive again in  $I$  after crossing  $I, II, III, IV$  in finite time, as was claimed.

### 3.2. The proof of Lemma 2.2.

Firstly, it should be remarked that, in the cases where  $\frac{v_2}{v_1} < 0$  the orbits to (2) reach in finite time the connected piece of  $\Gamma_v$  most separated from  $(0, 0)$ . To see this, it suffices with employing the argument to be developed below, and concerning the Lyapunov function  $V(x, y) = y^2 - \log(1 - x^2)$ .

Now observe that for each  $v \in \mathbf{R}^2, v_1 \neq 0, |v| = 1$ , there exists  $s_0 \in (a(v), \frac{1}{|v_1|})$  such that  $s_0 < \sigma(s_0)$ . To see this let us observe that by replacing the solution to (2)  $(x(t), y(t))$  instead of  $(x, y)$  in the (Lyapunov) function

$$V(x, y) = y^2 - \log(1 - x^2) \tag{3}$$

we get, after derivation with regard  $t$ ,

$$\frac{d}{dt} (V(x(t), y(t))) = 2y\varphi(y).$$

On the other hand, observe that  $V \geq 0$  and is convex in the strip  $(-1, 1) \times \mathbf{R}$ ,  $V = 0$  if and only if  $y = 0$ . In addition, the restriction of  $V$  to every segment  $\Gamma_v$  is an increasing function of  $s$ , provided  $v_2 \neq 0$ . Therefore, the existence of a  $s_o \in (a(v), \frac{1}{|v_1|})$  such that  $s_o < \sigma(s_o)$  follows, in the case  $v_2 \neq 0$ . By continuity, and using again the behaviour of  $V$  the same holds true for the segments  $\Gamma_v$ ,  $v_2 = 0$ . Own existence of  $V$  also entails that  $\sigma(s) \neq s$  for each  $s \in (a(v), \frac{1}{|v_1|})$  and for each  $v \in \mathbf{R}^2$ ,  $|v_1| \neq 0$ ,  $|v| = 1$ . This fact avoids the possible existence of infinitely many closed orbits to (2),  $\gamma_n$ , whose intersection points with the open segment  $(0, 1) \times \{0\}$ , say  $(x_n, 0)$ , could converge towards the point  $(x, y) = (1, 0)$ . We should observe that (2) is a perturbation of the equation (4) below (see remark a)), which exhibits a continuum of periodic orbits "filling" the strip  $(-1, 1) \times \mathbf{R}$ . Therefore, we need to rule out the existence of such a family of closed orbits converging to the "sides"  $x = \pm 1$  of the strip. On the other hand, since the existence of a  $s_1 \in (a(v), \frac{1}{|v_1|})$  such that  $s_1 < \sigma(s_1)$  would entail –together with the own existence of  $s_o$ – the existence of an "intermediate"  $s_2$  so that  $\sigma(s_2) = s_2$ , such kind of  $s_1$  can not exist. Thus,  $s < \sigma(s)$  for each  $s$  and so, the sequence  $\{\sigma^n(s)\}$  is always increasing whatever the values of  $s \in (a(v), \frac{1}{|v_1|})$  and  $v$  be. As the limit  $\hat{s} = \lim \sigma^n(s)$  exists it must necessarily be  $\hat{s} = \frac{1}{|v_1|}$ , otherwise  $\sigma(\hat{s}) = \hat{s}$ , what is not possible.

**Remarks**

a) Equation (2) is a perturbation of the equation

$$\begin{cases} x' = y(1 - x^2) \\ y' = -x. \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

Equation (4) exhibits a continuum of closed orbits filling the strip  $(-1, 1) \times \mathbf{R}$  and surrounding  $(0, 0)$ . This can be easily checked by using the first integral  $V(x, y) = y^2 - \log(1 - x^2)$ .

b) If we call  $U(x, y)$  the right hand side of (3) –what is usually coined as the derivative of  $V$  with regard to equation (2)– it is checked that the single point  $\{(0, 0)\}$  is the invariant maximal set contained into  $\{U(x, y) = 0\}$ . Therefore, by reserving the time  $t$  in (2) and using the La Salle's invariance principle (see [Hl], Theorem 1.3 page 316) we can complete the picture of the phase portrait of (2) by asserting that

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow -\infty} (x(t, x_o, y_o), y(t, x_o, y_o)) = (0, 0),$$

for each  $(x_o, y_o) \in (-1, 1) \times \mathbf{R}$ .

c) The assertion concerning  $\Lambda^+(\gamma)$  in Theorem 2.3 is an immediate consequence of the fact  $\lim \sigma^n(s) = \frac{1}{|v_1|}$  on every segment  $\Gamma_v$ .

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## TAMAÑO MUESTRAL MÍNIMO Y CONTRASTE DE DOS PROPORCIONES BINOMIALES.

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**PALABRAS CLAVE:** Sample Size, Binomial Model,  
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### RESUMEN

En este trabajo diseñamos un algoritmo para calcular el mínimo tamaño muestral para el test de dos parámetros binomiales.

Se contrasta  $H_0 \equiv p_1 = p_2 = p_0$  frente  $H_a \equiv p_1 = p_0 - \Delta$  y  $p_2 = p_0 + \Delta$ ,  $0 < \Delta < p_0 \leq 1/2$  con nivel de significación (Error del primer tipo) menor que  $\alpha$  y función de potencia mayor que  $1 - \beta$  (Error del segundo tipo menor que  $\beta$ ). Se proporcionan unas tablas que definen la función de decisión entre las dos hipótesis.

### ABSTRACT

In this paper, we design an algorithm to calculate the minimum sample size for the two parameters binomial test.

We test  $H_0 \equiv p_1 = p_2 = p_0$  against  $H_a \equiv p_1 = p_0 - \Delta$  and  $p_2 = p_0 + \Delta$ ,  $0 < \Delta < p_0 \leq 1/2$  with level of significance (Type I error) below  $\alpha$  and power function above  $1 - \beta$  (Type II error below  $\beta$ ). We supply tables that define the decision function between the two hypotheses.