

Homework for Lecture 17 of Dr. Z.'s Dynamical Models in Biology class

Email the answers (as a .pdf file) to

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by 8:00pm Monday, Nov. 3, 2025.

Subject: hw17

with an attachment hw17FirstLast.pdf

1. Find all the equilibrium points and stable equilibrium points of the following one-dimensional dynamical system

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = -(x-1)(x-4)(x-7)(x-8) .$$

2. (You can use Maple for the eigenvalues, but not for the Jacobian)

Find all stable equilibria of the 3-dimensinal dynamical system:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dx}{dt} &= 1 - \frac{3x}{1+y+z} , \\ \frac{dy}{dt} &= 1 - \frac{3y}{1+x+z} , \\ \frac{dz}{dt} &= 1 - \frac{3z}{1+x+y} .\end{aligned}$$

3. Find all the the equilibria and stable equilibria of the 3-dimensinal dynamical system:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dx}{dt} &= 1 - \frac{x}{1+y+z} , \\ \frac{dy}{dt} &= 1 - \frac{y}{1+x+z} , \\ \frac{dz}{dt} &= 1 - \frac{z}{1+x+y} .\end{aligned}$$

4. What are the equilibria, and stable equilibria of the Chemostat model with parameters $a_1 = 2$ and $a_2 = 5$?

1. $\frac{dx}{dt} = -(x-1)(x-4)(x-7)(x-8)$ clear zeroes at $x=1, 4, 7, 8$: these are equilibria
 using the generalized product rule: $\frac{df}{dx} = -1 \left[(x-1)(x-4)(x-7) + (x-1)(x-4)(x-8) + (x-1)(x-7)(x-8) + (x-4)(x-7)(x-8) \right]$

Using negative or positive: $x=1$: positive, unstable. $x=4$: negative, stable. $x=7$: positive, unstable. $x=8$: negative, stable

2. $\frac{dx}{dt} = 1 - \frac{3x}{1+y+z}$ $\frac{dy}{dt} = 1 - \frac{3y}{1+x+z}$ $\frac{dz}{dt} = 1 - \frac{3z}{1+x+y}$

the only eq. point is when $\frac{3x}{1+y+z} = \frac{3y}{1+x+z} = \frac{3z}{1+x+y} = 1$, which happens for $x=y=z=1$.

$$J \Rightarrow \frac{df_1}{dx} = \frac{3}{1+y+z} \quad \frac{df_1}{dy} = \frac{3x}{(1+y+z)^2} \quad \frac{df_1}{dz} = \frac{3x}{(1+y+z)^2}$$

same process for others:

$$J = \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{3}{1+y+z} & \frac{3x}{(1+y+z)^2} & \frac{3x}{(1+y+z)^2} \\ \frac{3y}{(1+x+z)^2} & -\frac{3}{1+x+z} & \frac{3y}{(1+x+z)^2} \\ \frac{3z}{(1+x+y)^2} & \frac{3z}{(1+x+y)^2} & -\frac{3}{1+x+y} \end{bmatrix} \quad J(1,1,1) = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & \frac{1}{3} & \frac{1}{3} \\ \frac{1}{3} & -1 & \frac{1}{3} \\ \frac{1}{3} & \frac{1}{3} & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$\lambda = -\frac{1}{3}, -\frac{4}{3}$: all negative.
 $(1,1,1)$ is stable

3. $\frac{dx}{dt} = 1 - \frac{x}{1+y+z}$ $\frac{dy}{dt} = 1 - \frac{y}{1+x+z}$ $\frac{dz}{dt} = \frac{z}{1+x+y}$

We need all fractions = 1, as before. We are forced to have $x=y=z="a"$. Let $\frac{a}{1+2a} = 1$.
 $a = 1+2a \rightarrow a = -1$. Test: $1 - \frac{(-1)}{1-2} = 0$ ✓ so $(-1, -1, -1)$ is the only eq. point

$$J \Rightarrow \frac{df_1}{dx} = \frac{1}{1+y+z} \quad \frac{df_1}{dy} = \frac{x}{(1+y+z)^2} \quad \frac{df_1}{dz} = \frac{x}{(1+y+z)^2}$$

same process for the rest

$$J = \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{1}{1+y+z} & \frac{x}{(1+y+z)^2} & \frac{x}{(1+y+z)^2} \\ \frac{y}{(1+x+z)^2} & -\frac{1}{1+x+z} & \frac{y}{(1+x+z)^2} \\ \frac{z}{(1+x+y)^2} & \frac{z}{(1+x+y)^2} & -\frac{1}{1+x+y} \end{bmatrix} \quad J(-1, -1, -1) : \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & -1 \\ -1 & 1 & -1 \\ -1 & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \lambda = -1, 2, \text{ so } (-1, -1, -1) \text{ is not stable.}$$

4. chemostat where $q_1 = 2$, $q_2 = 5$:

$$\frac{dN}{dt} = 2 \frac{CN}{C+1} - N \quad \frac{dC}{dt} = -\frac{CN}{C+1} - C + 5 \quad \text{has eq points } (0, 5) \text{ and}$$

$(0, 5)$ is not stable according to the notes.

$$\left(\frac{2(10-5-1)}{2-1}, \frac{1}{2-1} \right) = (8, 1)$$

$$J = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{2C}{C+1} - 1 & \frac{2N}{(C+1)^2} \\ -\frac{C}{C+1} & -\frac{N}{(C+1)^2} \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow J(8, 1) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 4 \\ -\frac{1}{2} & -3 \end{bmatrix} \quad \lambda = -1, -2 \quad \text{stable at } (8, 1)$$