



Research Article

PHASE PLANE METHODS TO FIND LIMIT CYCLE FOR NON - LINEAR DYNAMICAL SYSTEMS

***Omni Swarna Latha and Farah Mohammed Fadul Mohammed**

Department of Music & Dance, Andhra University, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, India

Received 13th May 2026; Accepted 18th June 2026; Published online 17th July 2026

Abstract

The phase plane method to find limit cycle for non - linear dynamical systems is considered one of the important studies specifically in the domain of physics, engineering, economics, acquainted whether population of growth, administration and many of natural phenomenon so light is shed and this study aims to discuss a number of results concerning phase plane methods to find limit cycle in linear and non – linear dynamical systems, and to find fundamental review in phase plane methods, we followed the analytical induction mathematical methods , we found some the following results: The phase plane methods are graphical methods for non – linear systems , and they are the most general useful methods. and can find the limit cycle by graphical drawing.

Keywords: Linear dynamical systems, Graphical.

INTRODUCTION

Where is non - linear systems has an importance in physics, engineering, economics, acquainted whether population of growth, administration and many of natural phenomenon so light is shed an this study. A set of two scalar different equations of the form:

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{X}^1(t) &= F^1(x(t), y(t)) \\ \dot{Y}^1(t) &= G^1(x(t), y(t)) \end{aligned}$$

as called a planar autonomous systems, such a planar of curve is called a trajectory of the system and its parameter interval is some maximal interval of existence $T_1 < t < T_2$ where T_1 and T_2 might be infinite.

The graphic of a trajectory drawn as a parametric curve . In the x y graph is called the phase plane.

Linear system has closed orbit, but they won't be isolated ($x(t)$) Limit cycle is isolated closed trajectory (stable, unstable). Centre/Vertex Point:

Stability of non-Linear Systems

- I. For Free System: A system is stable with zero input and arbitrary initial conditions if the resulting trajectory tends to the equilibrium state.
- II. Force System: A system is stable if with bounded input, the system output is bounded.

There are types of stability condition in literature. Basically we concentrated on the following:

i. Stability, Asymptotic and Asymptotic in the large.

$x = (x)$ Asymptotic in the large Because $x(t_0) = 0$

(t) remain near the origin for all 't'

ii. A system is said to be locally stable (stable in the small) if the region $\delta(t)$ is small.

- ☐ It is stable
- ☐ Every initial state (t_0) results in $X(t) \rightarrow 0$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$
- ☐ Asymptotically Stability in the large guarantees that every motion will approach the origin.

Phase Plane Methods

Unforced linear spring mass damp system whose dynamics is described by

$$\mu \frac{d^2x}{dt^2} = 2\delta\omega_n \frac{dx}{dt} + \omega_n^2 x = 0$$

δ is the damping factor and ω_n = undamped natural frequency. Let the state of the system is described by two variables, displacement (x) and the velocity ($\frac{dx}{dt}$) in the state variable notation $x_1 = x$, $x_2 = \frac{dx}{dt}$,

$\Rightarrow$ state variables = phase variables

$$\frac{dx_1}{dt} = x_2$$

$$\frac{dx_2}{dt} = \omega_n^2 x_1 - 2\delta\omega_n x_2$$

$$\frac{dx_1}{dt} = x_2$$

$$\frac{dx_2}{dt} = -\frac{f}{\mu}x_2 - \frac{k_1k_2}{\mu} - \frac{k_2k_1^3}{\mu}$$

μ (if the spring force is NL then $k_1x + k_2x^3$)

- ☐ The coordinate plane with axes that corresponds to the dependent variables $x_1 = x$ and its first derivative $x_2 = \dot{x}$ is called phase-plane.
- ☐ The curve described by the state point (x_1, x_2) in the phase plane with time running parameter is called phase-trajectory.
- ☐ A plane trajectory can be easily constructed by graphical or analytical technique.
- ☐ Family of trajectories is called phase-portrait.

***Corresponding Author: Omni Swarna Latha**

Department of Music & Dance, Andhra University, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, India

The phase plane method uses state model of the system which is obtained from the differentialequation governing the system dynamics.

□ This method is powerful generally restricted to systems described by 2nd order

Differential equation.

The phase plane and trajectories: We are studying systems of differential equations of the following form. Here, x, y both denote functions of a variable t (so really they are shorthand for $x(t), y(t)$)

$$\begin{aligned}x' &= f(x, y) \\y' &= g(x, y)\end{aligned}$$

One way to understand a system like this is by trying to determine what the trajectories of the solutions look like in the phase plane. Recall that the phase plane is a plane with coordinates x and y , and a trajectory is obtained by plotting all the points $(x(t), y(t))$ of some solution to the system.

There are two critical facts about trajectories in the phase plane.

- Through any point in the phase plane, there is a unique solution trajectory.
- No two solution trajectories can intersect.

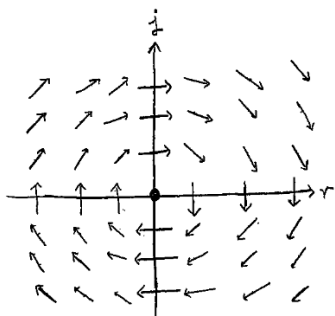
Also recall that there are equilibrium solutions, whose entire trajectories consist of a single point. These points can be identified as the values of x, y such that $f(x, y) = 0$ and $g(x, y) = 0$, so that the trajectory does not move at all.

For example, recall the toy example of Romeo and Juliet from last time.

$$\begin{aligned}r'(t) &= j(t) \\j'(t) &= -r(t)\end{aligned}$$

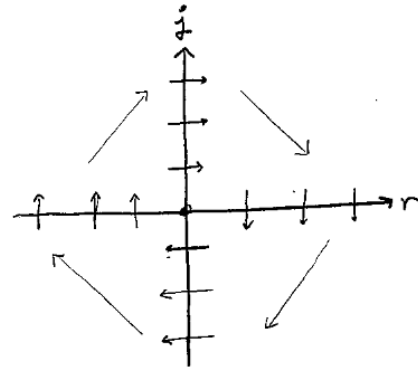
Then the trajectories in the phase plane consist of counterclockwise circles, plus the single point at the origin (which is an equilibrium solution).

If we do not yet know what the trajectories look like, one technique, which is entirely analogous to drawingslope fields¹, is to observe that at any point (x, y) , the values $f(x, y), g(x, y)$ identify the direction in which the solution trajectory through (x, y) must be traveling. Indeed, the trajectory will have slope $g(x, y)/f(x, y)$ (rise over run), unless $f(x, y) = 0$ and $g(x, y) \neq 0$, in which case the trajectory will be perfectly vertical. For example, here is what happens if we draw arrows in various places in the phase plane for the Romeo and Juliet example, indicating which way trajectories must be traveling.



From this picture (especially if it were drawn more carefully), you could conjecture that the trajectories will move in counterclockwise circles.

Another, more readable way to encode some of this information is to simply draw the following picture.



Here, I have indicated the places where the trajectories must be perfectly horizontal (and whether they are moving left or right) and the places where they must be perfectly vertical. This partitions the plane into four regions. In each of these regions, I have drawn a single arrow to indicate which of the four general directions the trajectories must be traveling (up-right, up-left, down-left, or down-right). I can determine this information just by looking at the signs of $f(x, y)$ and $g(x, y)$ in these regions.

While this second picture does convey less information (I know nothing about how steep the trajectories are), it turns out to still contain some useful information. More importantly, it is much easier to draw these sorts of figures than the full direction field picture in more complicated situations. The following sections describe the general process for doing this.

Limit Cycles

System Stability has been defined in terms of distributed steady-state coming back to its equilibrium position or at least staying within tolerable limits from it. Distributed NL system while staying within tolerable limits may exhibit a special behavior of closed trajectory/limit cycle.

The limit cycles describe the oscillations of non-linear system. The existence of a limit cycle corresponds to an oscillation of fixed amplitude and period.

Example (5.1):

Let us consider the well-known Vander Pol's differential equation

$$\frac{d^2x}{dy^2} - \mu(1 - x^2)\frac{dx}{dy} + x = 0$$

It describes the many non-linearities by comparing with the following linear differentialequation:

$$\frac{d^2x}{dy^2} + 2\delta\frac{dx}{dy} + x = 0$$

$$2\delta = -\mu(1 - x^2) \rightarrow \delta = \left(\frac{\mu}{2}\right)(1 - x^2) \{\text{Damping Factor}\}$$

a. $|x| \gg 1$, then damping factor has large positive means system behaves overdamped system with decrease of the

amplitude of x_1 . In this process the damping factor also decreases and system state finally reaches the limit cycle.

b. $|x| \ll 1$, then damping factor is negative, hence the amplitude of x increases till the system state again enters the limit cycle.

□ On the other hand, if the paths in the neighborhood of a limit cycle diverge away from it, it indicates that the limit cycle is unstable.

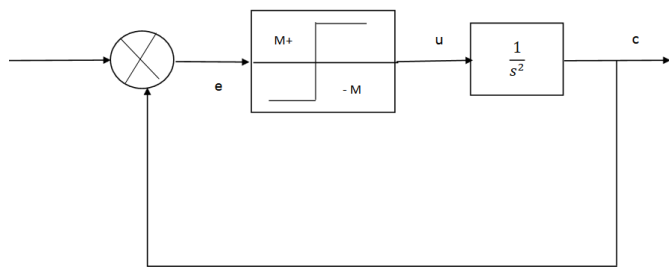
Example (5.2):

Vander Pol Equation

$$\frac{d^2x}{dy^2} + \mu(1 - x^2)\frac{dx}{dy} + x = 0$$

□ It is important to note that a limit cycle in general is an undesirable characteristic of a control system. It may be tolerated only if its amplitude is within specified limits.

□ Limit cycles of fixed amplitude and period can be sustained over a finite range of system parameter.



The differential equation describes the dynamics of the system which is given by

$$\begin{aligned} c &= u \\ r - c &= e \\ -\dot{c} = \dot{e} &\Rightarrow -\dot{c} = \dot{e} \text{ (as } r \text{ constant)} \end{aligned}$$

Therefore $e = -u$

Choosing the state vector $[x_1 x_2] = [e \dot{e}]^T$, then we have

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{x}_1 &= x_2 \\ \dot{x}_2 &= \dot{e} = -u \end{aligned}$$

The output of on/off controller is

$$u = \mu \text{sig}(e) = \mu \text{sign}(x_1)$$

The state equation is described as

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{x}_1 &= x_2 \\ \dot{x}_2 &= -\mu \text{sgn}(x_1) \end{aligned}$$

The slope of the equation is given by

$$\frac{dx_2}{dx_1} = \frac{\mu \text{sign}(x_1)}{x_2}$$

Separating the variables and integrating, we get

$$\int_{x_2(0)}^{x_2} x_2 dx_2 = -\mu \int_{x_1(0)}^{x_1} \text{sign}(x_1) dx_1$$

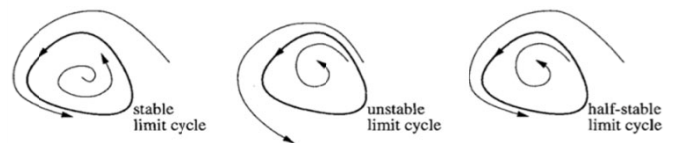
Carrying out integration and rearranging we get $x_2^2 = 2\mu x_1(0) + x_2^2(0); x_1 < 0$

Region ($x_1 = \text{epositive, relay output} + \mu$)
 $x_2^2 = 2\mu x_1 - 2\mu x_1(0) + x_2^2(0); x_1 > 0$

Region II ($x_1 = \text{eneagative, relay output} - \mu$).

A limit cycle is an isolated closed trajectory: neighboring trajectories either spiral away from it or towards it.

If neighbouring trajectories tend towards the limit cycle, the latter is called stable or attracting, otherwise unstable, in exceptional cases it may be half-stable.

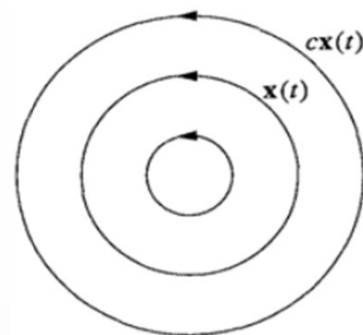


Stable limit cycles model systems/phenomena that exhibit self-sustained oscillations, like:

1. The beating of a heart
2. The periodic firing of a pacemaker neuron
3. Daily rhythms in human body temperature and hormone secretion
4. Chemical reactions that oscillate spontaneously
5. Dangerous self-excited vibrations in bridges and airplane wings.

A slight perturbation makes the system return to the cycle. Limit cycles are typical features of nonlinear systems: in linear systems there are periodic orbits, but they are not isolated!

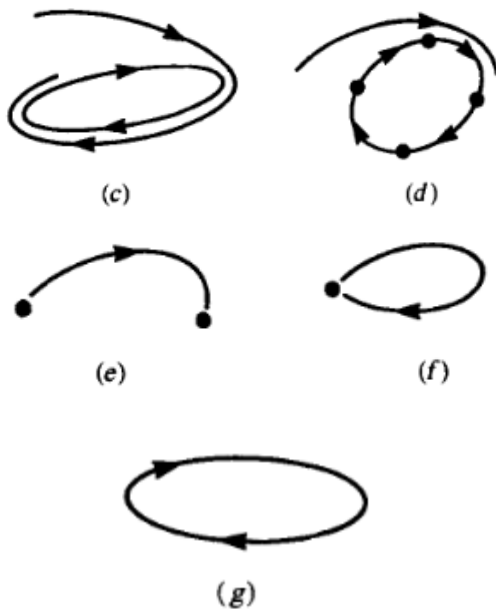
If $x(t)$ is a periodic solution of a linear system, $cx(t)$ is also a solution, for any value of c .



The amplitude of a linear oscillation is set by its initial condition: any perturbation will persist forever. Limit cycles are determined by the structure of the system itself. **6. Limit sets described in text:**

(a) steady-state point, (b) infinity, (c) closed-loop trajectory, (d) cycle graph, (e) heteroclinic trajectory, (f) monoclinal trajectory, and (g) limit cycle.





RESULTS

After we showed the phase plane method to find limit cycle for linear and non-linear dynamical systems we found the following results:

The phase plane method is graphical methods for linear and non-linear systems, and it is most general useful methods. We find the phase plane methods and limit cycle by graphical drawing.

REFERENCES

1. Nathan pflueger. Lecture 33, phase plane analysis1, 28 november (2011).
2. Hamentadt, U. Regularity at infinity of compact negatively curved manifolds, Ergodic Theory Dynamical system14 – (1994).
3. Dr. Kanhu Charan Bhuyan, Instrumentation and Electronics Engineering, Non – linear Systems .Subject Code : EIPE 204.
4. Henny, D. The trajectories of particles in deep water stoke waves, in math. Res.not. (2006).
5. Sabatini M., G.Villari, On the uniqueness of limit cycles for lienard equation: the legacy of G. sansone, Le Matematiche, vol. LXV (2010).
6. Feres, R. Geodesic flows on manifolds of negative curvature with smooth horospheric, Ergodic Theory δ Dynamical systems11- (1991), 653-686.
