

# Nonlinear Dynamics: Mathematical and Computational Approaches (Spring 2023)

## 4.6 Flows II: Unit test » Take unit 4 test

---

### Instructions 1

You may use any course materials, websites, books, computer programs, calculators, etc. for this test. Just don't ask another person answers or share your answers with other people. Be aware that simply typing the question text into google is unlikely to get you the right answer; you're going to have to read what you find there in order to extract that answer, and the course videos are probably a far better way to do that.

"Experts" notes clarify situations that haven't been covered in this course, but that may introduce subtleties into the exam answers. Be aware of them unless you understand the terms and issues in those notes.

**If you have questions about this test, please email us at [nonlinear@complexityexplorer.org](mailto:nonlinear@complexityexplorer.org) rather than posting on the forum.**

---

### Question 2

How many fixed points does the damped pendulum have?

- A. One and it's stable.
  - B. Two: one stable and one unstable.
  - C. An infinite number of both stable and unstable ones.
  - D. One stable one and an infinite number of unstable ones.
  - E. None
- 

### Question 3

What is the definition of an unstable fixed point of a dissipative dynamical system?

- A. A point in state space to which a trajectory converges.
  - B. A point in state space where the dynamics are stationary (i.e., if you put it there, it'll stay there).
  - C. A point in state space where the dynamics are stationary and around which any perturbation will shrink.
  - D. A point in state space where the dynamics are stationary and around which any perturbation will grow.
  - E. None of the above.
- 

### Question 4

What are possible sign configurations of the eigenvalues of an unstable fixed point in a 2D system (disregarding complex ones, which we'll discuss later)?

- A. Both positive
  - B. Both negative
  - C. One positive, one negative
  - D. Either A or C above
  - E. Either B or C above
  - F. Either A or B above
- 

### Question 5

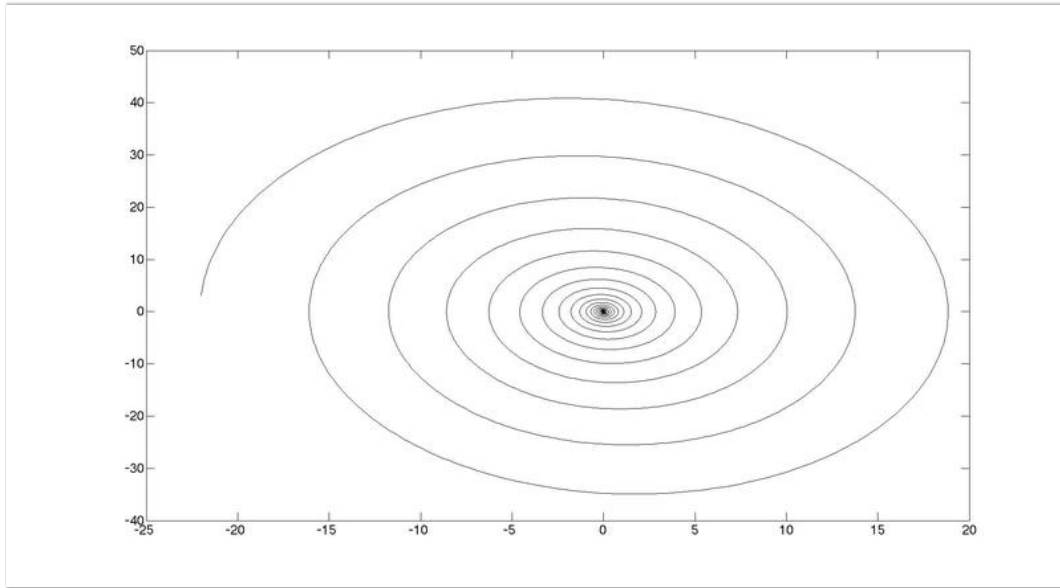
Only dissipative dynamical systems have attractors.

- True
- False

---

**Question 6**

What dynamical system is this state-space trajectory from? Note the axis scales here: the initial condition here is at  $(-22, 2)$ .

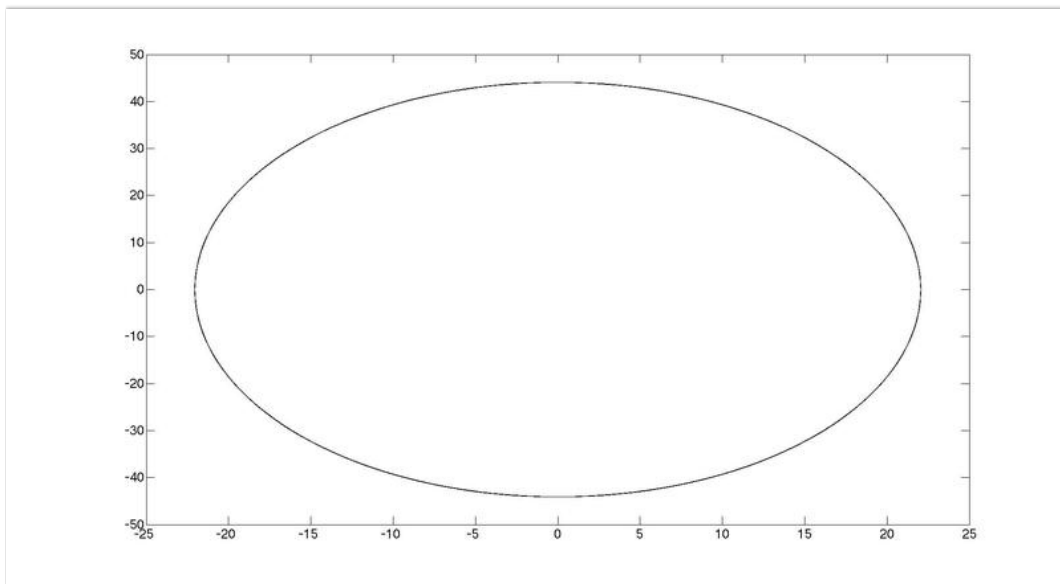


- A. The simple harmonic oscillator (SHO)
- B. The pendulum
- C. The damped SHO
- D. The damped pendulum

---

**Question 7**

What dynamical system is this state-space trajectory from?



- A. The SHO
- B. The damped SHO
- C. The damped pendulum

---

**Question 8**

What dynamical system is this state-space trajectory from? Again, note the axis scales: the initial condition is at  $[-22, 3.2]$ .



- A. The SHO
- B. The pendulum
- C. The damped SHO
- D. The damped pendulum

---

**Question 9**

What are possible sign configurations of the eigenvalues of a saddle point in a 2D system? (*Experts: disregard complex ones.*)

- A. Both positive
- B. Both negative
- C. One positive and one negative
- D. A and B above
- E. B and C above
- F. A and C above

---

**Question 10**

What is the shape of this matrix?  $[1 \ 2 \ 3 \ 4 \ 5]$

- A.  $5 \times 1$
- B.  $1 \times 5$
- C. undefined
- D. It isn't a matrix

---

**Question 11**

How many eigenvalues does a 3x3 matrix have? (*Experts*: count all complex and repeated ones individually.)

- A. 1
  - B. 2
  - C. 3
  - D. 4
  - E. 6
  - Undefined
- 

**Question 12**

What are the eigenvalues of:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 4 \\ 2 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

Compute these by hand — i.e, do not use an eigenvalue calculator.

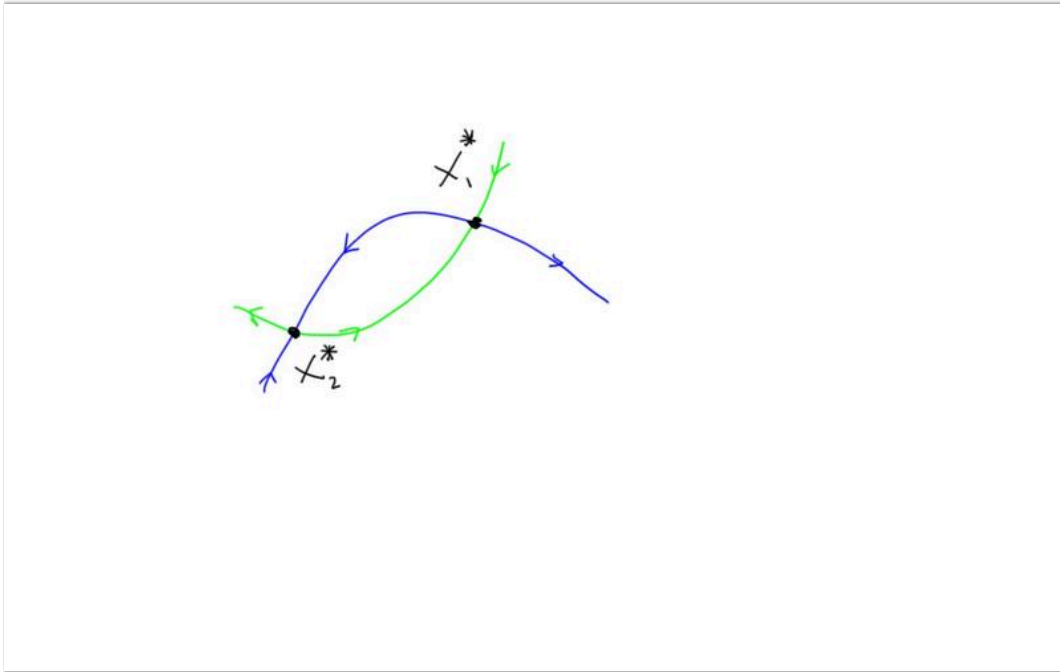
- $s_1 = -1, s_2 = 5$
  - $s_1 = 1, s_2 = -5$
  - $s_1 = 2, s_2 = 5$
- 

**Question 13**

Why is it a bad idea to use linear mathematics on a nonlinear system?

- You may get the wrong answer.
- Linearization is a good approximation of a nonlinear system, but only locally.
- Linearization makes the math easy, but you shouldn't use it where it's not valid.
- All of the above.

Question 14



In the picture above,  $x_1^*$  and  $x_2^*$  are fixed points. Are there any heteroclinic orbits in that picture?

- Yes
- No

Question 15

In the picture in question 13, the stable manifold of  $x_1^*$  includes...

- A. The blue curve (to the right of  $x_2^*$ )
- B. The green curve (to the right of  $x_2^*$ )
- C. Neither A nor B.
- D. Both A and B.

Question 16

In the picture in question 13, the unstable manifold of  $x_2^*$  includes...

- A. The blue curve (to the right of  $x_2^*$ )
- B. The green curve (to the right of  $x_2^*$ )
- C. Neither A nor B.
- D. Both A and B.

Question 17

Stable and unstable manifolds are locally tangent to the stable and unstable eigenvectors near the fixed point.

- True
- False

---

**Question 18**

If a dynamical system has a periodic orbit, there is no stable manifold transverse to that periodic orbit.

- True
  - False
- 

**Question 19**

Why was the title of Lorenz's 1963 paper ("Deterministic Nonperiodic Flow") provocative?

- At that time, people didn't think that flows could be deterministic.
  - At that time, people didn't think that flows could have periodic dynamics.
  - At that time, people thought that nonperiodic dynamics didn't exist.
  - At that time, people thought that deterministic flows could only have periodic behavior.
- 

**Question 20**

What system do the Lorenz equations model?

- A chunk of fluid heated from below.
  - A mass on a nonlinear spring.
  - The orbit of Pluto's moon, Charon.
  - The turbulence patterns in an eddy in a stream.
- 

**Question 21**

What is the dimension of the Lorenz equations?

- 1
  - 2
  - 3
  - 4
  - Undefined
- 

**Question 22**

Changing the  $r$  parameter in the Lorenz equations does not cause bifurcations in the dynamics.

- True
- False