

Taking to a higher dimension: phase-plane analysis

Lecture 4
Mazzag

Differential equations of two variables

- Are systems of two variables big enough?
- Introduction to pplane
- How to draw and interpret trajectories
- Stability in 2D

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = -x$$

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = y$$

Limit-cycle oscillations: a new type of stability

- Examine behavior for $a=0$

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = -y + a x (x^2 + y^2)$$

- What happens if $a>0$

(limit cycle oscillations)

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = x + a y (x^2 + y^2)$$

- Limit cycles and natural phenomena