

1. A geometric way of thinking about dynamics. For each of the following dynamical systems of dimension $n = 1$,
 - (a) Draw a phase portrait similar to the one drawn in class for $\dot{x} = \sin x$.
 - (b) Identify the fixed points, and decide whether each is an ‘attractor’ or a ‘repeller’.
 - (c) List the qualitatively different things that can happen to x over time depending on where on \mathbb{R} the flow is initialized (i.e., depending on the initial condition).

Answer (a) through (c) for:

$$\dot{x} = x - x^3 \quad (1)$$

$$\dot{x} = e^x - \cos x \quad (2)$$

Your answers should be in the form of a neatly drawn sketch or plot, and complete sentences. For example, you could write

“System (2) has two fixed points: an attractor at A and a repeller at B as shown in the diagram. If x is initialized between 0 and 3, it will increase until it reaches B.”

2. For the logistic equation

$$\dot{N} = rN \left(1 - \frac{N}{K} \right), \quad (3)$$

- (a) determine the value of N at which N increases the fastest, in terms of parameters r and K .
 - (b) Numerically solve (3) for a reasonable value of r and of K with three different initial conditions of your choosing. A computer-generated plot is sufficient to answer this part. Turn in your code also.
3. The growth of certain tumors can be modeled using the equation

$$\dot{N} = -aN \log(bN), \quad (4)$$

where \log stands for the natural logarithm. $N(t)$ is proportional to the number of cells in the tumor.

- (a) What could the parameters a and b represent in real-world terms?
 - (b) For $a = 1.2$ and $b = 1.0$, draw a phase portrait and sketch the graph of $N(t)$ for three initial values: $N(0) = \{0.1, 0.6, 1.6\}$. You should produce these plots with a computer program of your choice.
 - (c) Explain (in complete sentences) what happens to the number of tumor cells as time passes for each of the initial values from 3b.
4. Consider the dynamical system

$$\dot{x} = (x - 1)(x - 2). \quad (5)$$

Which of the following, if any, are possible trajectories $x(t)$ arising from this dynamical system? For those that are possible, indicate on a phase portrait of system (5) where they are initialized. For those that are not possible, explain how you arrived at this conclusion.

