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On a certain case of asymptotic stability of the solution $Y = 0$
 of a system of ordinary differential equations $Y' = F(x, Y)$

In this paper we shall give sufficient conditions for the solution $Y = 0$
 of the system of ordinary differential equations

$$(1) \quad Y' = F(x, Y),$$

where $Y = [y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n]$, $F(x, Y) = [f_1(x, Y), \dots, f_n(x, Y)]$, to be asymptotically and uniformly stable with respect to the initial conditions. The theorems which are given in this paper are generalizations of theorems of paper [2], where the asymptotic stability of the solution $y = y_0$ of the differential equation

$$y' = f(x, y)$$

was investigated.

We shall use the definition of uniform stability given in paper [1].

We start with two lemmas:

LEMMA 1. *Assume that*

1° *functions $f_i(x, Y)$ ($i = 1, 2, \dots, n$) appearing on the right-hand side system (1) are defined and continuous in the set*

$$D = \Delta_a \times D_a,$$

where $\Delta_a = \langle a, +\infty \rangle$,

$$D_a = \{Y = [y_1, \dots, y_n]: \|Y\| < a\}$$

($D_a \subset \mathbf{R}^n, \|Y\| =: (\sum_{i=1}^n y_i^2)^{1/2}$), $a > 0$, in particular $a = +\infty$ is possible,

$$2^\circ \quad Y \cdot F(x, Y) = \sum_{i=1}^n y_i f_i(x, Y) \leq 0 \text{ for each } (x, Y) \in D,$$

$$3^\circ \quad F(x, 0) = 0 \text{ for } x \in \Delta_a.$$

Under these assumptions the solution $Y(x) = 0, x \in \Delta_a$, of system (1) is Liapunov stable.

Proof. Let (\bar{x}, \bar{Y}) be an arbitrary point of D . It follows from Assumption 2° that each solution of system (1) issuing from the point (\bar{x}, \bar{Y}) is defined in $\langle \bar{x}, +\infty \rangle$. We shall demonstrate that for each $\varepsilon > 0$ and $x_0 \in \Delta_a$ there exists a $\delta > 0$ such that each solution $Y = \Phi(x)$ of system (1) satisfying the condition $\|\Phi(x_0)\| < \delta$ satisfies also the inequality $\|\Phi(x)\| \leq \varepsilon$ for $x \in \langle x_0, +\infty \rangle$.

It follows from Assumption 2° that the function $\varrho(x) = \|\Phi(x)\|$ is non-increasing. For a fixed $\varepsilon > 0$ and $x_0 \in \Delta_a$ we take $0 < \delta \leq \varepsilon$ and we obtain from the initial inequality $\|\Phi(x_0)\| < \delta$ the inequality $\|\Phi(x)\| < \delta$ for $x \in \langle x_0, +\infty \rangle$ and hence also $\|\Phi(x)\| < \varepsilon$ for $x \in \langle x_0, +\infty \rangle$ what completes the proof of Lemma 1.

LEMMA 2. *If*

1° *the function $u(x)$ is defined in Δ_{x_0} and there exists $u'(x)$ for $x \in \Delta_{x_0}$,*

2° $\limsup_{x \rightarrow \infty} u'(x) = \delta, \delta < 0,$

then

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} u'(x) = -\infty.$$

Proof. It follows from Assumption 2° that for each fixed k satisfying the condition $0 < k < |\delta|$ there exists an $A > 0$ such that

$$(2) \quad u'(x) < -k < 0 \quad \text{for } x > x_0 + A.$$

Let $\{\alpha_n\}$ be a sequence such that $\alpha_n > x_0 + A$ and $\alpha_n - \alpha_{n-1} = 1$ for $n = 1, 2, \dots$. Then $u(\alpha_n) - u(\alpha_{n-1}) = u'(\lambda_n)$, where $\alpha_{n-1} < \lambda_n < \alpha_n$. From (2) we obtain $u(\alpha_n) < u(\alpha_0) - nk$ for $n = 1, 2, \dots$ what completes the proof of Lemma 2.

Basing on these two lemmas, we come to the proof of the following theorem:

THEOREM 1. *Assume that*

1° *the functions $f_i(x, Y)$ ($i = 1, 2, \dots, n$) are defined and continuous in the set D defined in Lemma 1,*

2° *exactly one solution of system (1) passes through every point $(x, Y) \in D,$*

3° $Y \cdot F(x, Y) \leq 0$ *for any $(x, Y) \in D,$*

4° $F(x, 0) = 0$ *for $x \in \Delta_a,$*

5° $\limsup_{\substack{x \rightarrow \infty \\ Y \rightarrow \bar{Y}}} Y \cdot F(x, Y) = \delta, \delta < 0$ *for any $\bar{Y} \in D_a, \|\bar{Y}\| > 0.$*

Under these assumptions the solution $Y = 0$ of system (1) is asymptotically stable in Δ_a uniformly with respect to the initial conditions given on the set

$$K_{x_0\beta} = \{(x, Y): x = x_0, \|Y\| < \beta, 0 < \beta < \alpha\}$$

for fixed x_0, β what means that

1) the integral $Y = 0$ is stable in Δ_a and that

2) for any $\varepsilon > 0$ and for any $x_0, x_0 \geq a$ there exists an $A > 0$ dependent on ε and on x_0 such that for an arbitrary solution $Y = \Phi(x)$ of (1) issuing from an arbitrary point of the set $K_{x_0, \beta}$, the inequality $\|\Phi(x)\| < \varepsilon$ holds if only $x > x_0 + A$

Proof. It follows from Assumptions 1°, 3°, 4° and Lemma 1 that the solution $Y = 0$ is Liapunov stable. Now we shall show that for any $x_0 \in \Delta_a$ the solution $Y = \Phi(x)$ ($\Phi(x) = [\varphi_1(x), \dots, \varphi_n(x)]$) of system (1), satisfying the condition $\|\Phi(x_0)\| \leq \beta$ satisfies also the condition

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \|\Phi(x)\| = 0.$$

For this purpose denote by u the function

$$(3) \quad u(x) = \|\Phi(x)\|^2 = \sum_{i=1}^n \varphi_i^2(x).$$

Then

$$(4) \quad \begin{aligned} u'(x) &= 2 \sum_{i=1}^n \varphi_i(x) \varphi_i'(x) = 2 \sum_{i=1}^n \varphi_i(x) f_i(x, \Phi(x)) \\ &= 2\Phi(x) \cdot F(x, \Phi(x)) \leq 0. \end{aligned}$$

We shall demonstrate that $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} u(x) = 0$.

Assume that the last condition does not hold. Then $u(x) > 0$ and $u'(x) \leq 0$ for any $x \in \Delta_a$ implies that

$$(5) \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} u(x) = \gamma, \quad \gamma > 0.$$

From (3), (4) and (5) we infer that there exists the limit

$$\limsup_{x \rightarrow \infty} \Phi(x) = Y_1 \neq 0$$

and therefrom and from Assumption 5° we infer that

$$\limsup_{x \rightarrow \infty} u'(x) = \limsup_{x \rightarrow \infty} 2\Phi(x) \cdot F(x, \Phi(x)) = 2\delta < 0.$$

It would follow from the above given conditions and from Lemma 2 that

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} u(x) = -\infty$$

what contradicts (5). Therefore the stability is indeed asymptotic.

To complete the proof we must show that this asymptotic stability is uniform with respect to the initial conditions given on a fixed set $K_{x_0, \beta}$.

Assume on the contrary that for some $\varepsilon_0 > 0$ no such $A > 0$ can be chosen that if

$$\|\Phi(x_0)\| \leq \beta,$$

then

$$\|\Phi(x)\| < \varepsilon_0 \quad \text{for } x > x_0 + A$$

and for all solutions $Y = \Phi(x)$ of system (1) issuing from $K_{x_0\beta}$ with fixed x_0 and β .

This would mean that for each positive integer n there exists a point $(x_0, Y_n) \in K_{x_0\beta}$ such that the solution $Y = \Phi_n(x)$ issuing from this point satisfies the condition

$$(6) \quad \|\Phi_n(x_0 + n)\| > \varepsilon_0.$$

As $\bar{K}_{x_0\beta}$ is a compact set, therefore the sequence $\{(x_0, Y_n)\}$ contains the subsequence $\{(x_0, Y_{n_k})\}$ convergent to some point $(x_0, \hat{Y}) \in \bar{K}_{x_0\beta}$.

Denote by $Y = \hat{Y}(x)$ the solution of system (1) satisfying the initial condition

$$\hat{Y}(x_0) = \hat{Y}.$$

As the solution $Y = 0$ of system (1) is asymptotically stable,

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \|\hat{Y}(x)\| = 0.$$

and hence there exists an $A_0 > 0$ such that

$$\|\hat{Y}(x_0 + A_0)\| < \varepsilon_0.$$

As the solution of (1) depends continuously on the initial conditions, there exists a neighbourhood $U(x_0, \hat{Y})$ of the point (x_0, \hat{Y}) such that all solutions of system (1) issuing from this neighbourhood satisfy the inequality

$$\|Y(x_0 + A_0)\| < \varepsilon_0.$$

As for a sufficiently large n_k the points (x_0, Y_{n_k}) belong to the neighbourhood $U(x_0, \hat{Y})$ therefore

$$\|\Phi_{n_k}(x_0 + A_0)\| < \varepsilon_0$$

for the sufficiently large n_k , what contradicts inequality (6).

Thus the stability is uniform with respect to the initial conditions given on a fixed set $\bar{K}_{x_0\beta}$.

Remark 1. In the case where $\delta = 0$ the stable solution $Y = 0$ of system (1) may not be asymptotically stable as the following example shows:

Consider the following system of differential equations

$$(7) \quad \frac{dy_1}{dx} = -\frac{y_1}{x}, \quad \frac{dy_2}{dx} = -\frac{y_1^2 y_2}{x}$$

in the set

$$D = \{(x, y_1, y_2) : x \in \langle 1, +\infty \rangle, y_1^2 + y_2^2 < +\infty\}.$$

Functions occurring on the right-hand side of (7) satisfy assumptions 1°-4° of Theorem 1, but

$$\limsup_{\substack{x \rightarrow \infty \\ (y_1, y_2) \rightarrow (\bar{y}_1, \bar{y}_2) \\ \bar{y}_1^2 + \bar{y}_2^2 > 0}} [y_1, y_2] \cdot \text{colon} [f_1(x, y_1, y_2), f_2(x, y_1, y_2)] = 0.$$

The general solution of (7) has the form

$$(8) \quad y_1 = \frac{c_1}{x}, \quad y_2 = c_2 e^{c_1^2/2x^2}.$$

It follows from (8) that the solution $y_1 = 0, y_2 = 0$ of system (7) is stable, although not asymptotically.

Remark 2. If

$$\limsup_{\substack{x \rightarrow \infty \\ Y \rightarrow \bar{Y} \\ \|\bar{Y}\| > 0}} Y \cdot F(x, Y) = 0$$

for some $\bar{Y} \neq 0$, then the zero solution of system (1) may be asymptotically stable as the following example shows:

The system of equations

$$(9) \quad \frac{dy_1}{dx} = -\frac{y_1}{x}, \quad \frac{dy_2}{dx} = -y_2$$

considered in the same set D has the solution $y_1 = 0, y_2 = 0$ which is asymptotically stable, although

$$\limsup_{\substack{x \rightarrow \infty \\ Y \rightarrow \bar{Y} \\ \|\bar{Y}\| > 0}} Y \cdot F(x, Y) = -\bar{y}_2^2$$

(the limit is equal to zero for $\bar{y}_2 = 0$).

The asymptotic stability follows from the form of the general solution of system (9)

$$y_1 = \frac{c_1}{x}, \quad y_2 = c_2 e^{-x}.$$

We shall prove a theorem on the asymptotic stability uniform with respect to any initial conditions. We shall apply in the theorem Lemma 2 from [3], p. 314, which we quote here in an appropriate form as the following

LEMMA 3. Assume that

- 1° the functions $f_i(x, Y)$ ($i = 1, 2, \dots, n$) are continuous in D ,
- 2° exactly one solution of system (1) passes through each point of D ,

3° $Y \cdot F(x, Y) \leq 0$ for $(x, Y) \in D$.

If we denote by C the part of integral curves of system (1) issuing from $\bar{K}_{x_0\beta}$ for $x_0 \leq x \leq x_0 + A$, then under these conditions the curves C issuing from $\bar{K}_{x_0\beta}$ and defined for $x \in (x_0, x_0 + A)$ form in D a closed domain. The bound of this domain consists of the set $\bar{K}_{x_0\beta}$, the surface Γ formed of the curves C issuing from the set

$$\{(x, Y): x = x_0, \|Y\| = \beta\}$$

$x_0 \in \Delta_a$, $0 < \beta < a$ and of the set Z consisting of points of curves C corresponding to the coordinate $x = x_0 + A$.

THEOREM 2. Assume that

1° the functions $f_i(x, Y)$ ($i = 1, 2, \dots, n$) are defined and continuous in the set D ,

2° exactly one solution of system (1) passes through each point of D ,

3° $F(x, 0) = 0$ for $x \in \Delta_a$ and $Y \cdot F(x, Y) \leq 0$ for each $(x, Y) \in D$,

4° there exists the limit

$$\limsup_{\substack{x \rightarrow \infty \\ Y \rightarrow \bar{Y} \\ \|\bar{Y}\| > 0}} Y \cdot F(x, Y) = \delta, \quad \delta < 0,$$

5° $Y \cdot F(x + h, Y) < Y \cdot F(x, Y)$ for $(x, Y) \in D$ such that $(x + h, Y) \in D$ and for any $h > 0$.

Under these assumptions the solution $Y = 0$ of system (1) is asymptotically stable uniformly with respect to any arbitrary initial conditions, which means that

1) $Y = 0$ is a stable solution of (1) in Δ_a and that

2) for each $\varepsilon > 0$ there exists a number $A > 0$ depending exclusively on ε that for $x > x_0 + A$ the inequality

$$\|\Phi(x)\| < \varepsilon$$

holds for all solutions $Y = \Phi(x)$ of system (1) issuing from any arbitrary point of the set

$$\bar{K}_{x_0\beta} = \{(x, Y): x = x_0, \|Y\| \leq \beta\}$$

for any $x_0 \geq a$ and for fixed value $\beta \in (0, a)$.

Proof. It follows from assumptions 1°–4° and from Theorem 1 that the solution $Y = 0$ of system (1) is asymptotically stable uniformly with respect to the initial conditions given on the set $\bar{K}_{x_0\beta}$ for a fixed x_0 . It follows hencefrom that for any $\varepsilon > 0$ and $x_0 = a$ there exists a number $A > 0$ such that the inequality

$$\|Y(x)\| < \varepsilon$$

holds for $x > a + A$ and for any solution $Y = Y(x)$ satisfying the initial inequality

$$\|Y(a)\| \leq \beta.$$

We shall demonstrate that for the same values of ε and A and for any $x_1 \in (a, +\infty)$ the inequality

$$\|\Psi(x)\| < \varepsilon$$

holds for $x > x_1 + A$ and for any solution $Y = \Psi(x)$ satisfying the initial inequality

$$\|\Psi(x_1)\| \leq \beta.$$

It follows from Lemma 3 that integral curves of system (1) for $a \leq x \leq a + A$ issuing from the initial set

$$\{(x, Y): x = a, \|Y\| \leq \beta\}$$

form a closed and bounded domain Ω .

Let $Y = \Psi(x)$ be an arbitrary solution of system (1) satisfying the initial condition

$$(10) \quad \Psi(x_1) = \bar{Y}, \quad \text{where } x_1 \in \Delta_a, \quad \bar{Y} = [\bar{y}_1, \dots, \bar{y}_n], \quad \|\bar{Y}\| = \beta.$$

We shall show now that the curve C defined by the equation

$$Y = \bar{\Psi}(x), \quad a \leq x \leq a + A,$$

where

$$(11) \quad \bar{\Psi}(x) = \Psi(x + h), \quad h = x_1 - a$$

is contained in Ω for $a \leq x \leq a + A$.

Denote by $v(x)$ the function

$$(12) \quad v(x) = \sum_{i=1}^n \bar{\psi}_i^2(x), \quad a \leq x \leq a + A.$$

Then

$$v'(x) = 2 \sum_{i=1}^n \bar{\psi}_i(x) \frac{d\bar{\psi}_i(x)}{dx} = 2 \sum_{i=1}^n \bar{\psi}_i(x) \cdot f_i(x + h, \bar{\Psi}(x)).$$

For $x = a$ we have by (10) and (11)

$$v'(a) = 2 \sum_{i=1}^n \bar{y}_i f_i(a + h, \bar{Y}).$$

It follows from Assumption 5° that the function

$$(13) \quad \sum_{i=1}^n \bar{y}_i f_i(a + h, \bar{Y}) - \sum_{i=1}^n y_i f_i(x, Y)$$

takes a negative value for $(x, Y) = (a, \bar{Y})$. As the function is continuous (with respect to (x, Y)), there exists a set U defined in the following way

$$U = \{(x, Y): \|Y - \bar{Y}\| \leq \delta, \|Y\| = \beta, a \leq x \leq \delta_1\}$$

such that the function defined by formula (13) is negative for $(x, Y) \in U$.

Assume that $Y = Y(x)$ is the solution of system (1) satisfying the initial condition

$$Y(a) = \tilde{Y}, \quad (a, \tilde{Y}) \in U.$$

Then the function

$$u(x) = \sum_{i=1}^n y_i^2(x)$$

has a derivative given by the formula

$$u'(x) = 2 \sum_{i=1}^n y_i(x) f_i(x, Y(x)).$$

As $(a, \tilde{Y}) \in U$, then

$$v'(a) < u'(a).$$

We obtain from the above inequality and from the fact that $u(a) = v(a) = \beta$ the following condition

$$v(x) < u(x)$$

for values of x belonging to some interval (a, \bar{a}) , where $\bar{a} > a$. This inequality means that the curve $Y = \bar{Y}(x)$ lies nearer the x -axis for $x \in (a, \bar{a})$ than the curve $Y = Y(x)$.

As any arbitrary solution $Y = Y(x)$ issuing from a sufficiently small neighbourhood of the point (a, \bar{Y}) and lying on the bound of Ω has the above mentioned property therefore the curve $Y = \bar{Y}(x)$ lies inside Ω for $x \in (a, \bar{a})$.

We shall show in the further part of the proof that this curve lies entirely in Ω for $x \in \langle a, a + A \rangle$.

Assume on the contrary that there exist on C points not belonging to Ω . Then there exists a point (x^*, Y^*) such that $a < x^* < a + A$ and

- 1) $\bar{Y}(x^*) = Y^*$,
- 2) the curve $Y = \bar{Y}(x)$ lies in Ω for $a \leq x \leq x^*$,
- 3) the curve $Y = \bar{Y}(x)$ lies outside Ω for $x \in (x^*, \alpha^*)$ $\alpha^* > x^*$.

Then the point (x^*, Y^*) is the point of intersection of C and the surface Γ being a bound part of Ω and formed of integral curves of system (1) issuing from the set

$$\{(x, Y): x = a, \|Y\| = \beta\}.$$

The derivative of $v(x)$ defined by formula (12) has in the point $x = x^*$ the value

$$v'(x^*) = 2 \sum_{i=1}^n \psi_i(x^*) \cdot f_i(x^* + h, \bar{Y}(x^*)).$$

The function

$$\sum_{i=1}^n y_i^* f_i(x^* + h, Y^*) - \sum_{i=1}^n y_i f_i(x, Y)$$

takes a negative value for $x = x^*$, $Y = Y^*$. As it is continuous function of the variables (x, Y) hence there exists a set

$$U^* = \{(x, Y): \|Y - Y^*\| \leq \delta^*, Y \in I, x^* \leq x \leq \delta_1^*\}$$

such that the above mentioned function is negative for $(x, Y) \in U^*$. We can state by means of a method similar to that applied in the first part of the proof that there exists an interval $(x^*, \tilde{\alpha})$, $\tilde{\alpha} > x^*$ such that for $x \in (x^*, \tilde{\alpha})$ the points $(x, \bar{Y}(x))$ lie inside the set Ω .

Hence we obtained a contradiction with the assumption that there exists an interval (x^*, α^*) such that $(x, \bar{Y}(x)) \notin \Omega$ for $x \in (x^*, \alpha^*)$. Therefore the curve $Y = \bar{Y}(x)$ lies in Ω . It follows therefrom and from the uniform stability of the solution $Y = 0$ with respect to the initial conditions given on the set $\bar{K}_{x_0, \beta}$ for a fixed x_0 , that

$$\|\bar{Y}(x)\| < \varepsilon \quad \text{for } x > a + A$$

and hence and from (11) it follows that

$$\|\Psi(x)\| < \varepsilon \quad \text{for } x > x_1 + A$$

which means that the stability is uniform with respect to arbitrary initial conditions. The proof of the theorem is complete.

Assumption 5° in Theorem 2 is essential, as the following example shows:

EXAMPLE. Consider the following system of differential equations

$$(14) \quad \frac{dy_1}{dx} = -y_1 - \frac{y_2}{\sqrt{x}}, \quad \frac{dy_2}{dx} = -y_2 - \frac{y_2}{\sqrt{x}}.$$

Let us investigate the position of its solutions in the set

$$D = \{(x, y_1, y_2): x \in (1, +\infty), y_1^2 + y_2^2 < +\infty\}.$$

Functions appearing on the right-hand side of system (14) satisfy assumptions 1°–4° of Theorem 2. Indeed,

- 1° the functions $f_i(x, y_1, y_2)$ ($i = 1, 2$) are continuous in D ,
- 2° exactly one solution of (14) passes through each point of D ,

$$3^\circ \quad Y \cdot F(x, Y) = -y_1^2 - y_2^2 - \frac{y_2^2}{\sqrt{x}} - \frac{y_1 y_2}{\sqrt{x}} \leq 0 \text{ for each } (x, y_1, y_2) \in D \text{ and}$$

$$F(x, 0) = 0 \quad \text{for } x \in \langle 1, +\infty \rangle,$$

$$4^\circ \quad \limsup_{\substack{x \rightarrow \infty \\ Y \rightarrow \bar{Y} \\ \|\bar{Y}\| > 0}} Y \cdot F(x, Y) = -\bar{y}_1^2 - \bar{y}_2^2 < 0.$$

The function $Y \cdot F(x, Y)$ of the variable x is not decreasing for any fixed Y .

The general solution of system (14) has the form

$$y_1 = (c_1 + c_2 e^{-2\sqrt{x}}) e^{-x}, \quad y_2 = c_2 e^{-2\sqrt{x}-x}.$$

The integral curve $Y = \Phi(x)$ passing through the point $P_0(1, y_1^0, y_2^0)$ satisfies the equations

$$y_1 = (y_1^0 - y_2^0) e^{1-x} + y_2^0 e^{3-2\sqrt{x}-x}, \quad y_2 = y_2^0 e^{3-2\sqrt{x}-x}.$$

Consider an arbitrary solution $Y = \Psi(x)$ satisfying the initial condition

$$\Psi(x_1) = \bar{Y}, \quad \text{where } x_1 > 1, \quad \bar{Y} = [y_1^0, y_2^0].$$

This solution has the form

$$y_1 = (y_1^0 - y_2^0) e^{x_1-x} + y_2^0 e^{2\sqrt{x_1}+x_1-2\sqrt{x}-x}, \quad y_2 = y_2^0 e^{2\sqrt{x_1}+x_1-2\sqrt{x}-x}.$$

The integral curve $Y = \Psi(x)$ when translated to the point P_0 has the form

$$Y = \Psi(x + x_1 - 1) = \bar{\Psi}(x),$$

where

$$y_1 = (y_1^0 - y_2^0) e^{1-x} + y_2^0 e^{2\sqrt{x_1}-2\sqrt{x+x_1-1}+1-x}, \quad y_2 = y_2^0 e^{2\sqrt{x_1}-2\sqrt{x+x_1-1}+1-x}.$$

As can be easily seen that the inequality

$$\|\bar{\Psi}(x)\|^2 > \|\Phi(x)\|^2$$

holds, and therefore the solution $y_1 = 0, y_2 = 0$ is not uniformly stable with respect to the arbitrary initial conditions.

References

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- [3] — *Remarques sur des inégalités mixtes entre les intégrales des équation aux dérivées partielles du premier ordre*, Ann. Polon. Math. 13 (1963), p. 309-326.