

Qualitative theory  
for

2/11/02  
①

$$y' = F(y)$$

called an autonomous  
DE

If  $F(y_s) = 0$ , then  
we say  $y_s$  is a steady  
state.

Ex

$$y' = k(3 - y)$$

steady states satisfy

$$k(3 - y) = 0 \text{ or } y = 3$$

steady states are  $\textcircled{2}$   
solutions of the DE!

Suppose  $F(y_s) = 0$

let  $y(t) = y_s$

$y'(t) = 0$  and  $F(y(t)) = F(y_s) = 0$

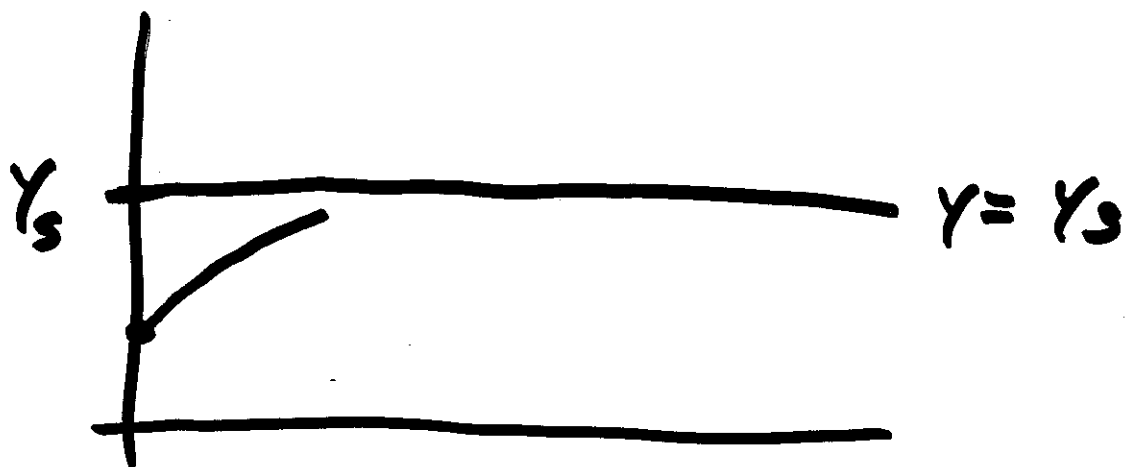
so it satisfies the DE.

Ex Newton's law of cooling

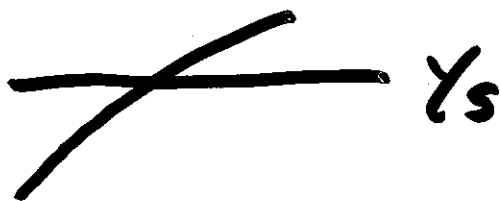
$$\frac{dT}{dt} = -k(T - T_0)$$

steady state:  $T = T_0$

3



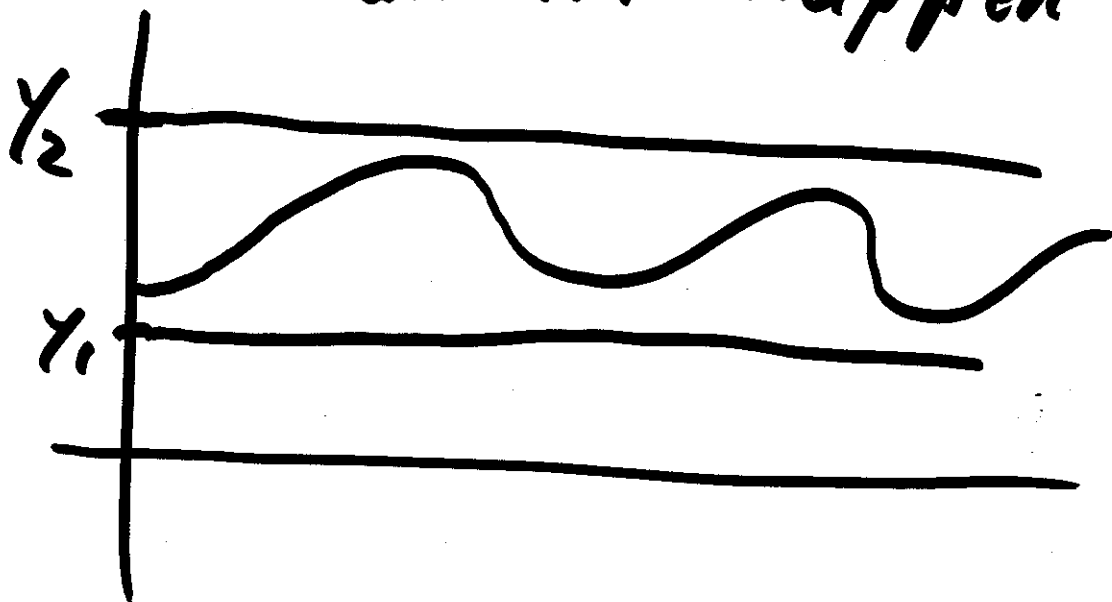
solution  $\epsilon$  curves of  
 $y' = F(y)$  can never  
cross, so can't have



Possible that  
 $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} y(t) = y_s$

Can this happen?

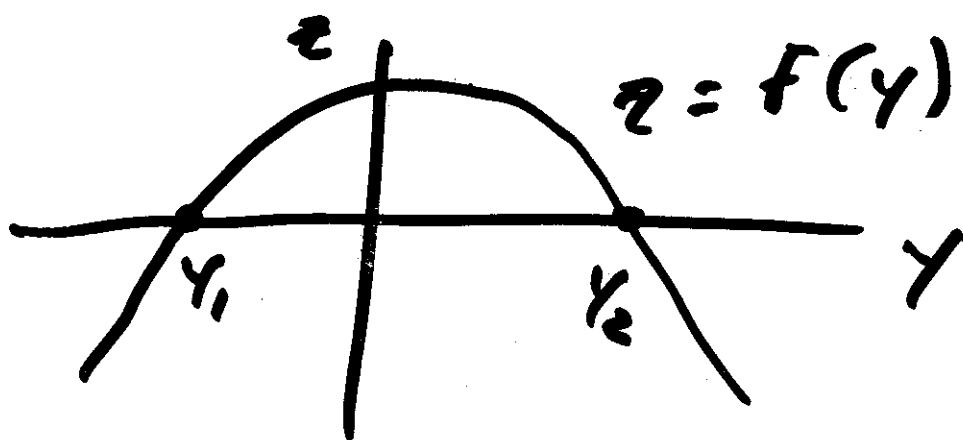
(4)



$y_1, y_2$  are steady states

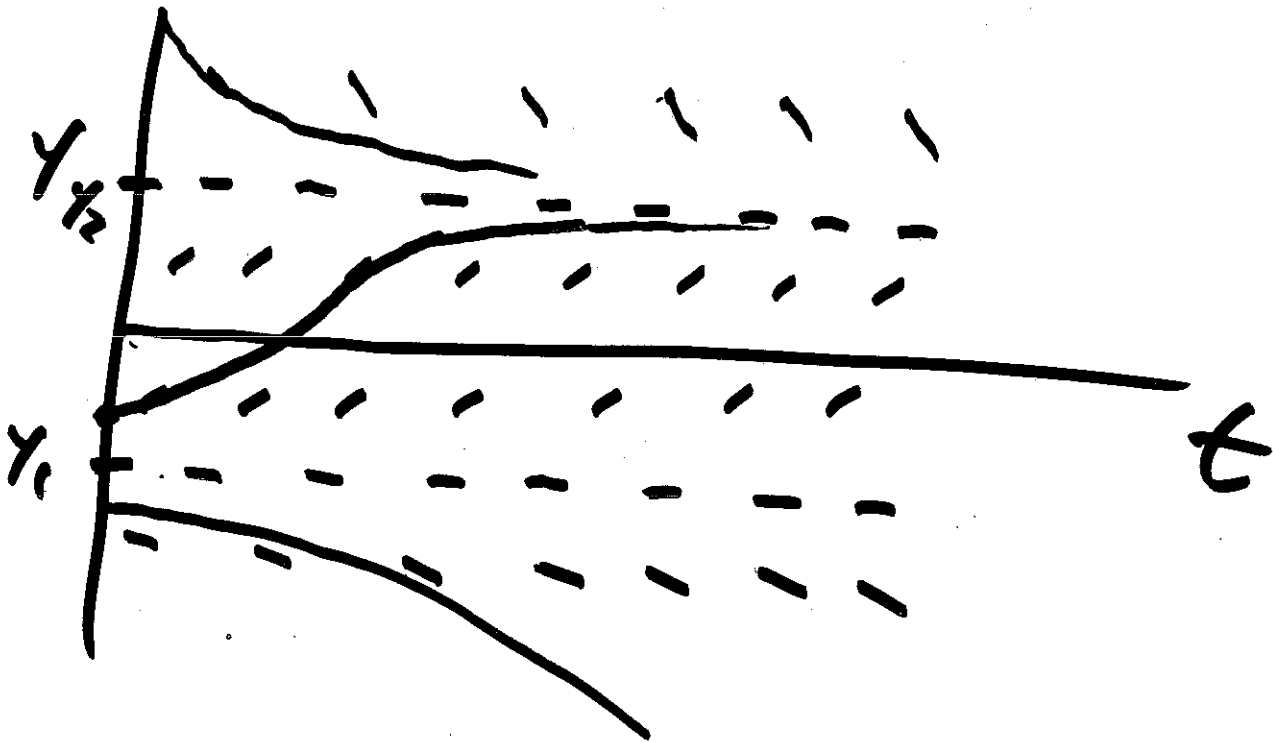
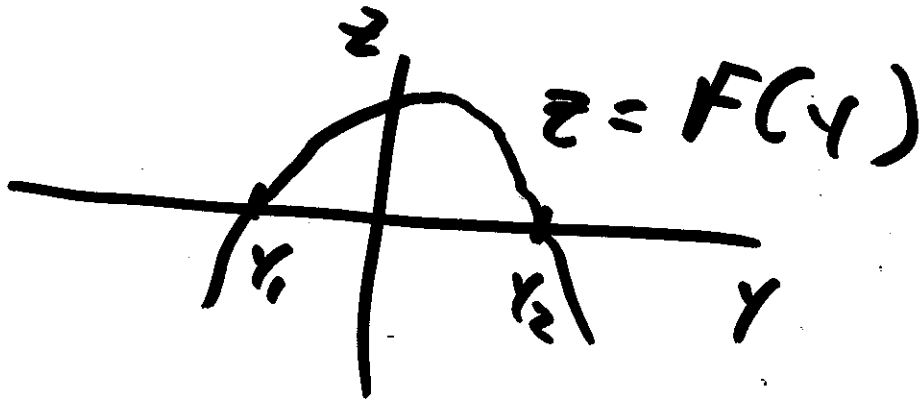
recall the DE

$$y' = F(y)$$



$$y' = F(y)$$

5

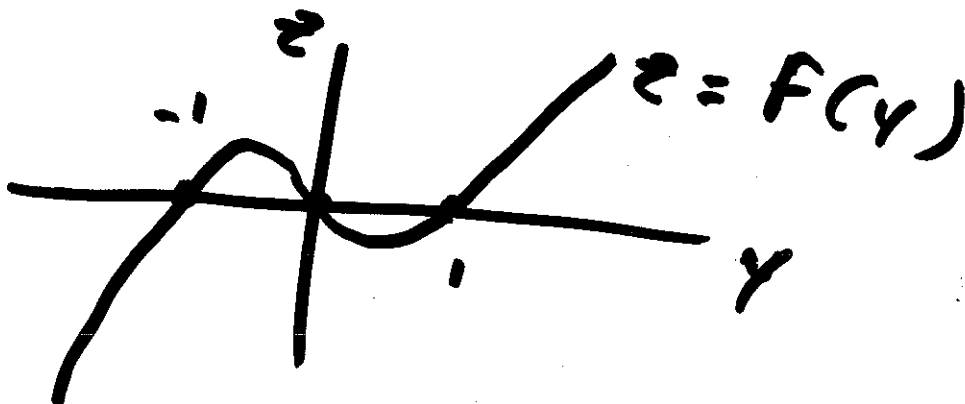


Ex

⑥

$$y' = y(y^2 - 1)$$

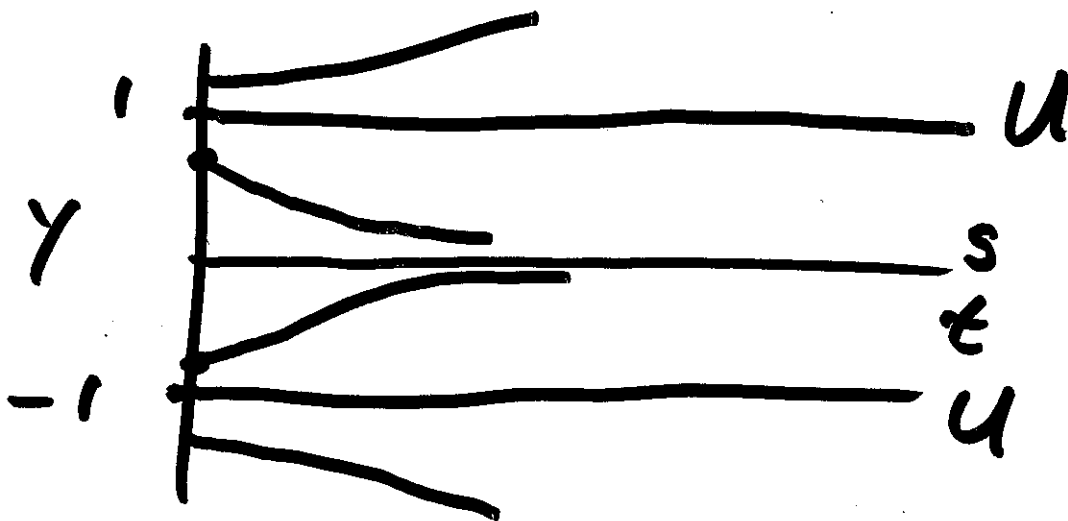
$$F(y) = y^3 - y$$



steady states: roots

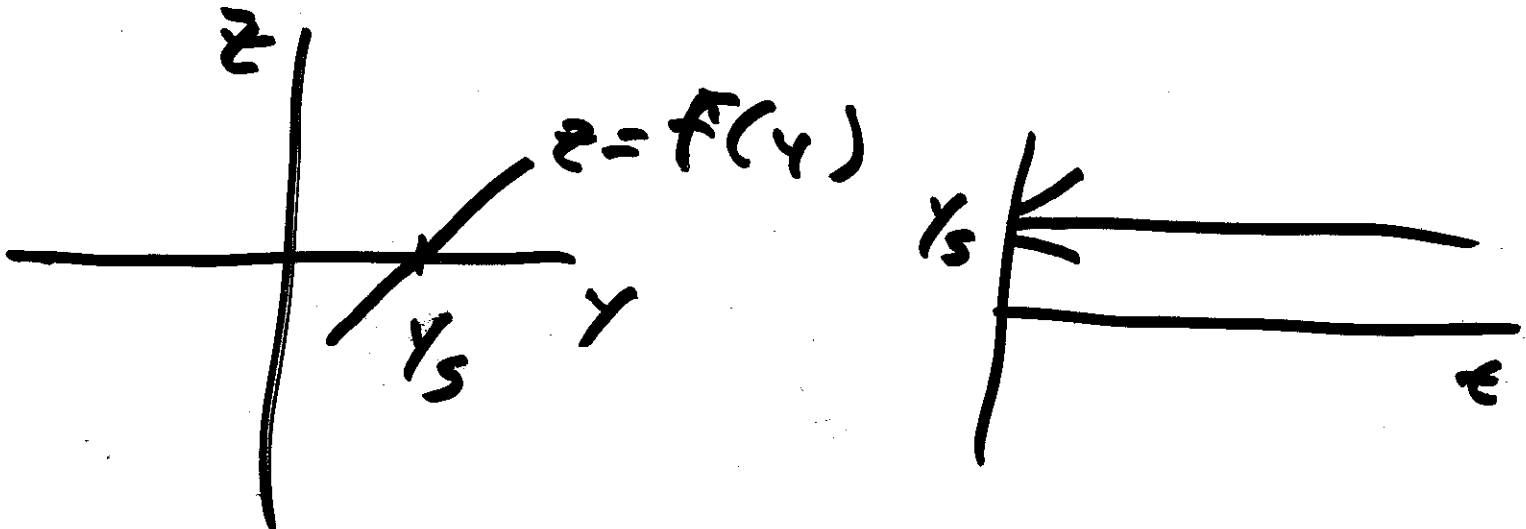
$$F(y) = 0 \text{ or } y(y^2 - 1) = 0$$

$$y = 0, y = \pm 1$$



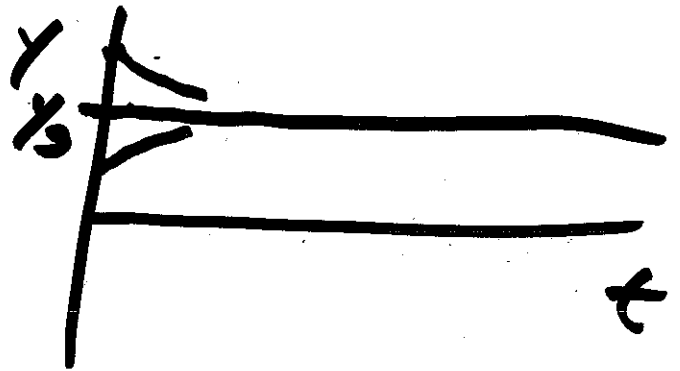
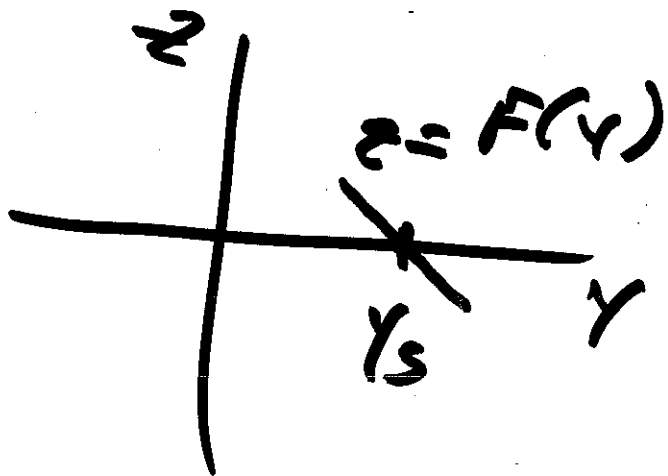
⑦

A steady state solution  $y_s$  of  $y' = F(y)$  is asymptotically stable if all solutions with initial conditions near  $y_s$  satisfy  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} y(t) = y_s$ . If  $y_s$  is not asymptotically stable we say it is unstable.



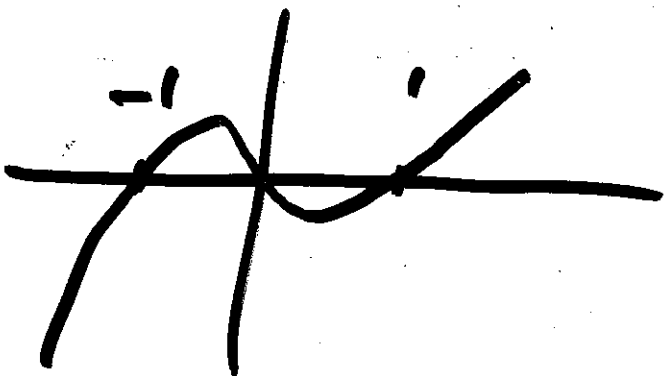
If  $F(y) < 0$  for  $y < y_s$  and  $F(y) > 0$  for  $y > y_s$ ,  $y_s$  is UNSTABLE.

If  $F(y) > 0$  for  $y < y_s$   
and  $F(y) < 0$  for  $y > y_s$ ,  $y_s$   
is asymptotically stable. ⑧



Ex

$$y' = y^3 - y$$

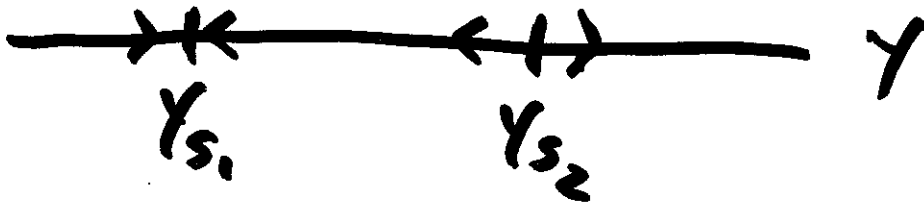


$y = -1$  U  
 $y = 0$  S  
 $y = 1$  U



Summarizing behavior  
with the phase line.

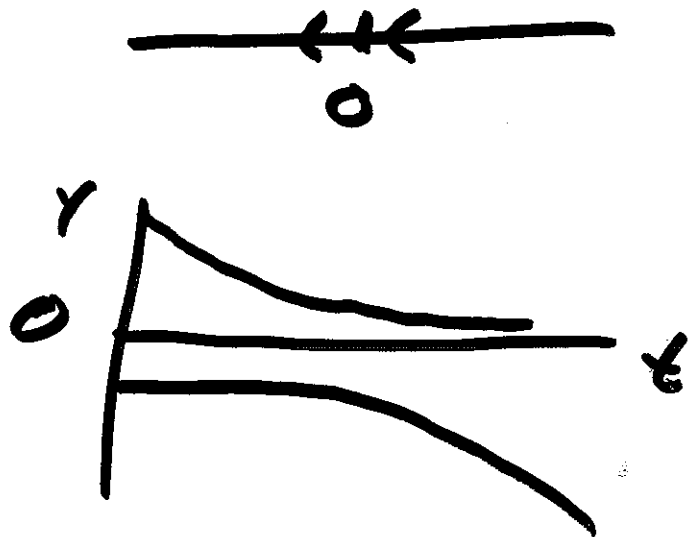
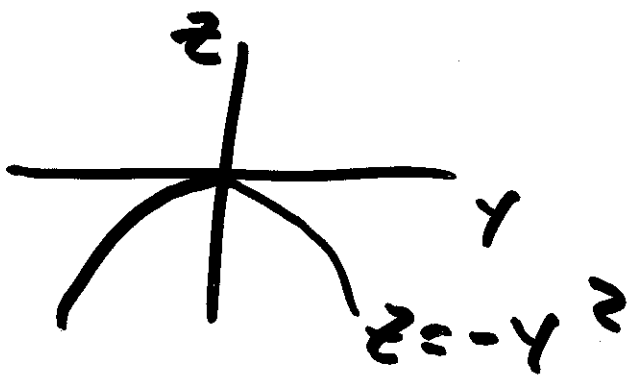
⑨



$F\lambda$

$$y' = -y^2$$

ss:  $-y^2 = 0, \quad y = 0$

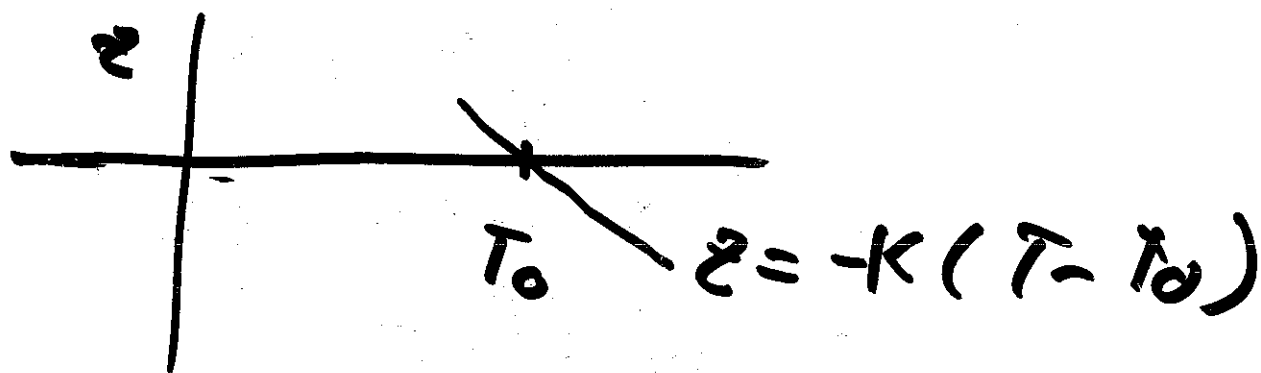


is  $y=0$   
asy. stable  
or unstable?

Ex Newton's law  
of cooling

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$$\frac{dT}{dt} = -K(T - T_0)$$



is  $T_0$  asy. stable?