

# Dynamical systems tutorial: I. Basic concepts

Gregor Schöner, INI, RUB

# Dynamical systems: Tutorial

- the word “dynamics”

- time-varying measures

- range of a quantity

- forces causing/accounting for movement => dynamical systems

- dynamical systems are the universal language of science

- physics, engineering, chemistry, theoretical biology, economics, quantitative sociology, ...

# time-variation and rate of change

- variable  $x(t)$ ;
- rate of change  $dx/dt$

# time-variation and rate of change

## ■ example:

■ variable  $x(t)$  = position

■ rate of change  $dx/dt$  = velocity

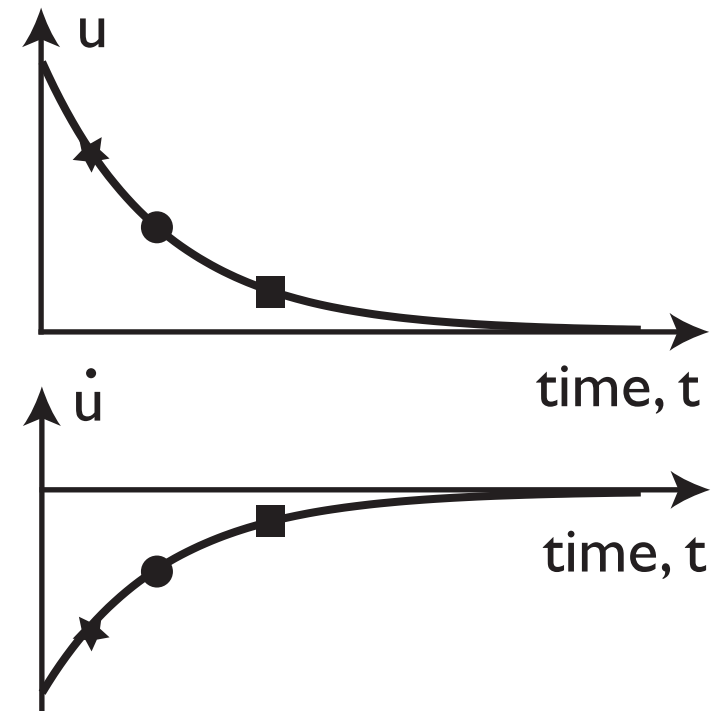
## ■ example

■ variable  $v(t)$  = velocity

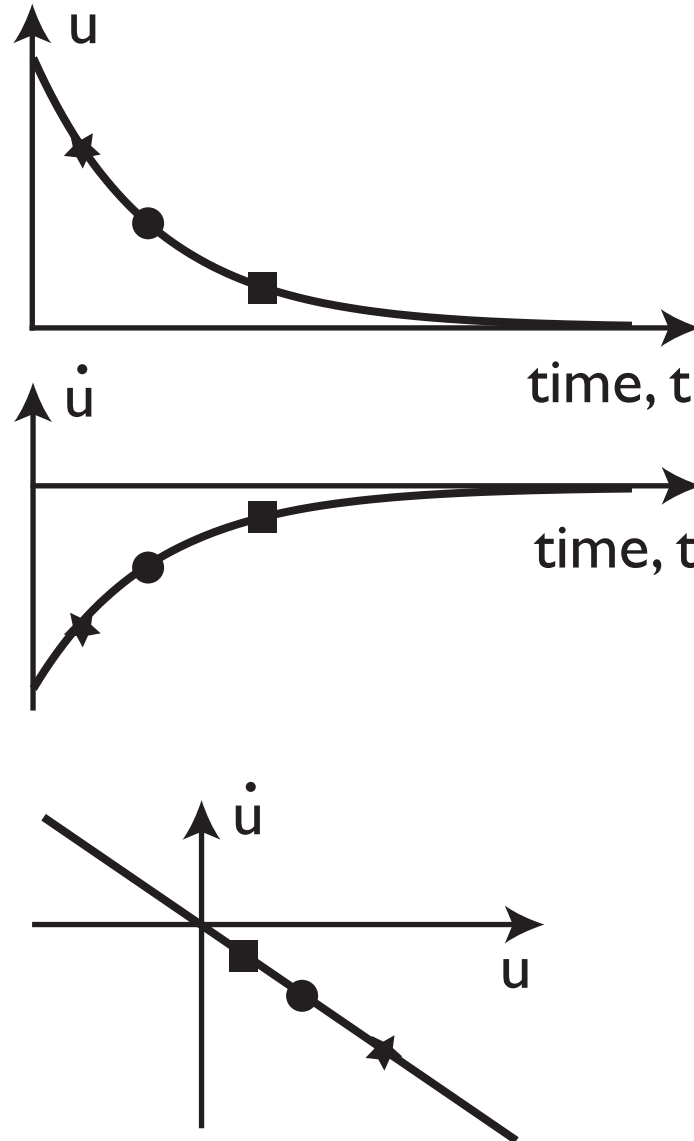
■ rate of change ?

# time-variation and rate of change

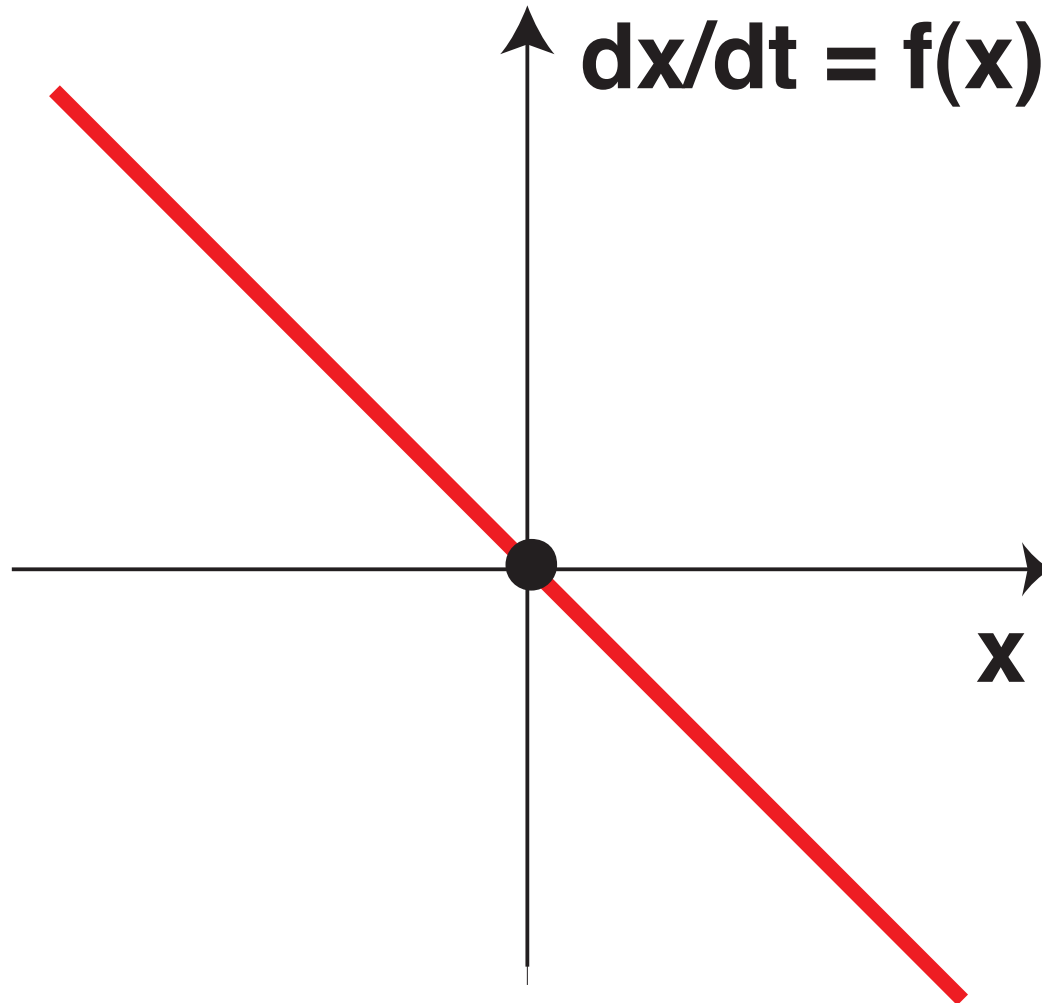
- trajectory: time course of a dynamical variable
- rate of change: slope of the trajectory



# dynamical system: relationship between a variable and its rate of change

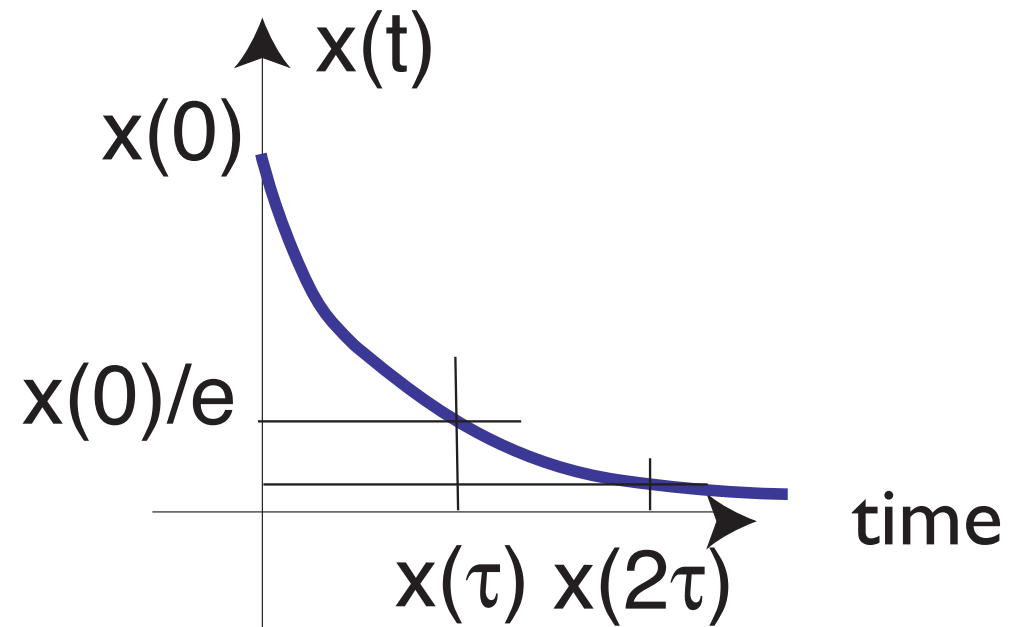
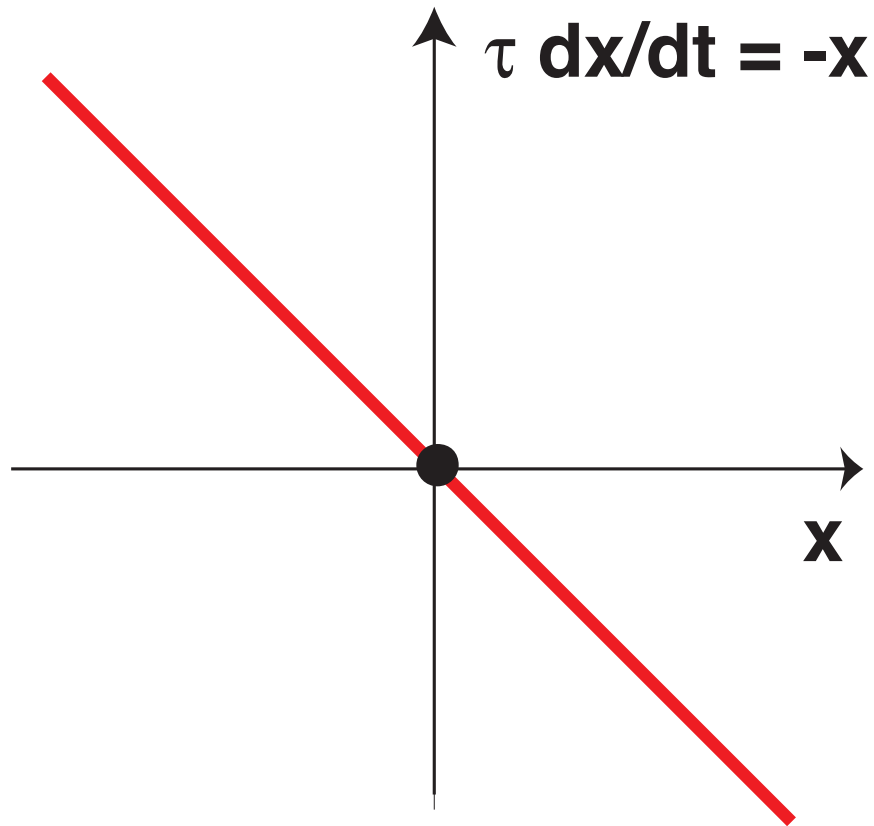


# linear dynamical system



# solution of linear dynamical systems

$$x(t) = x(0)\exp[-t/\tau]$$





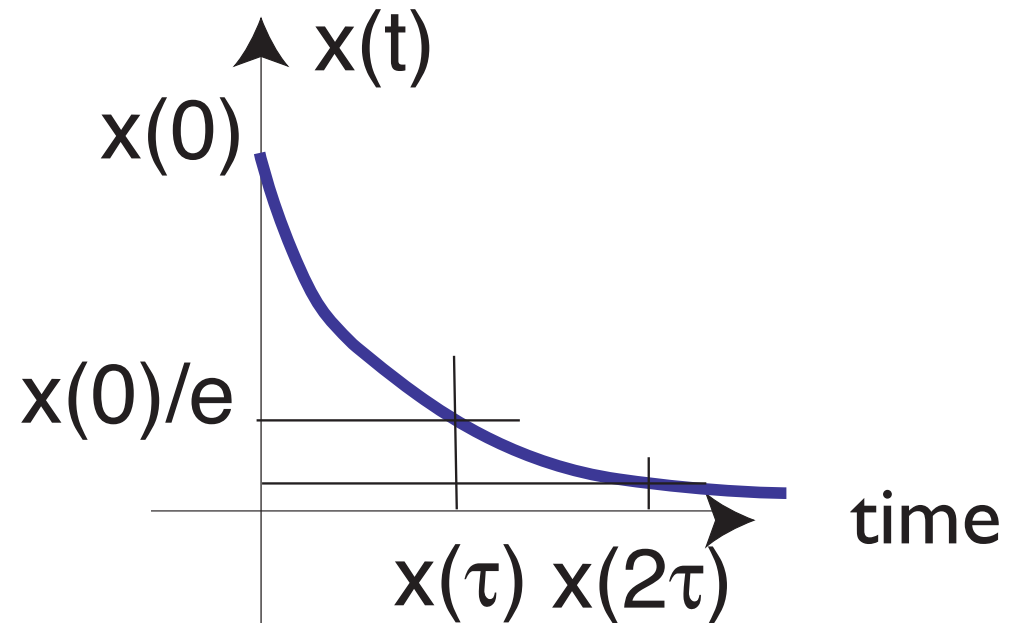
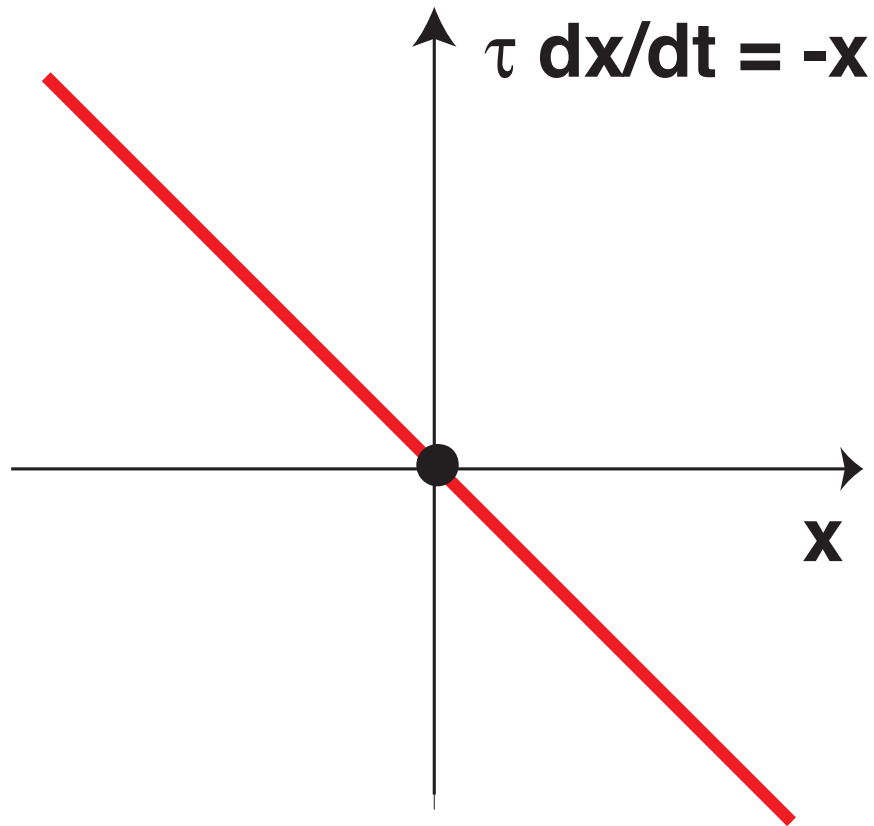
# exponential relaxation to attractors

$$x(t) = x(0)\exp[-t/\tau]$$

$$\dot{x}(t) = x(0)\exp[-t/\tau](-1/\tau)$$

$$\tau\dot{x}(t) = -x(0)\exp[-t/\tau]$$

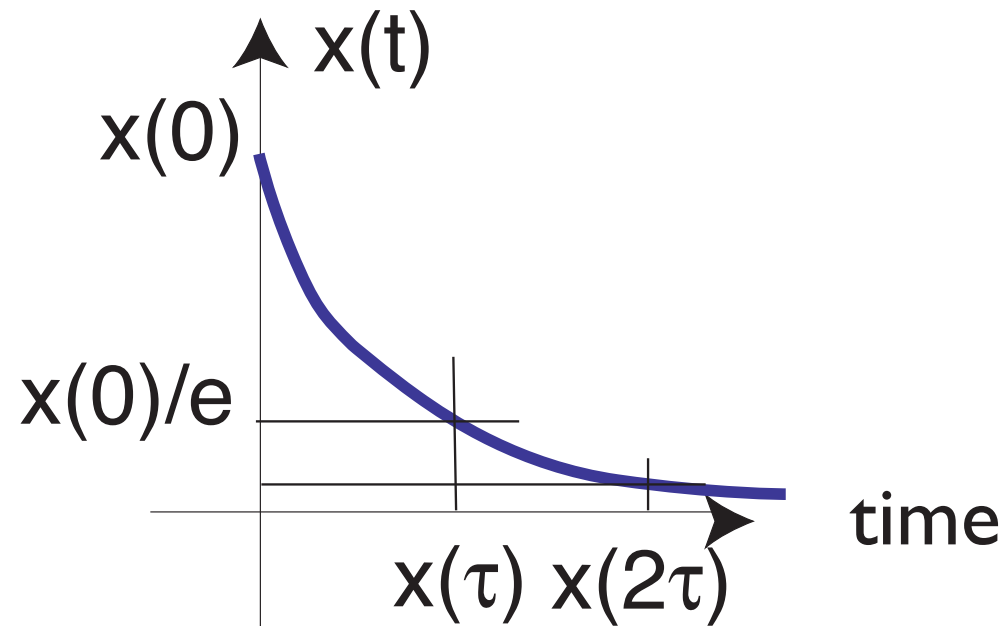
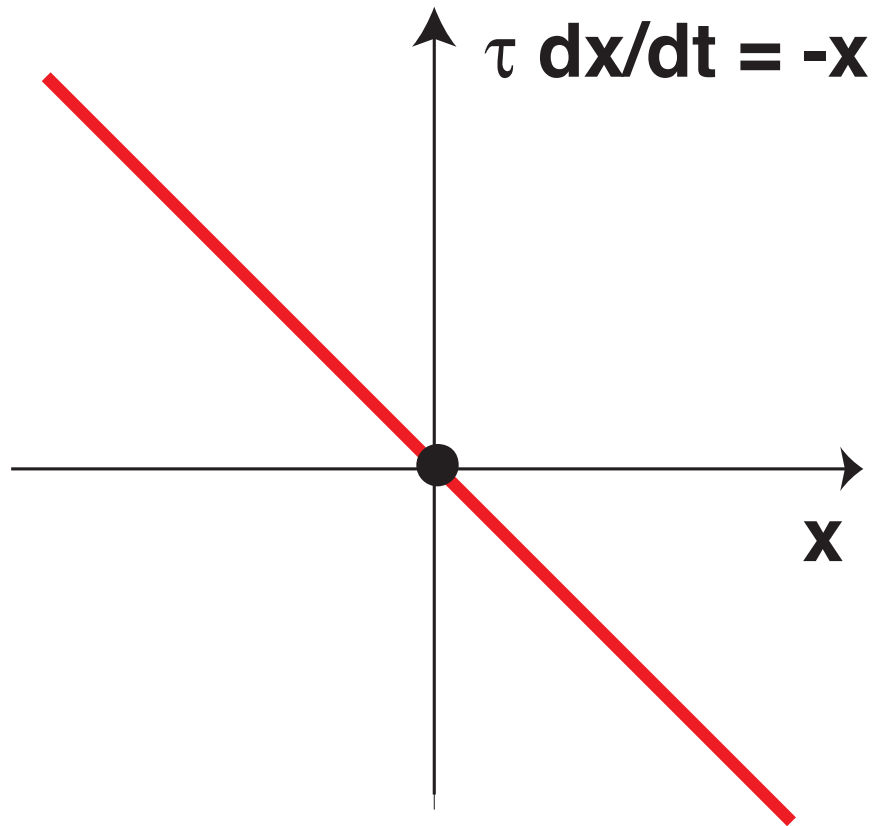
$$\tau\dot{x}(t) = -x(t)$$



# exponential relaxation to attractors

■ => time scale

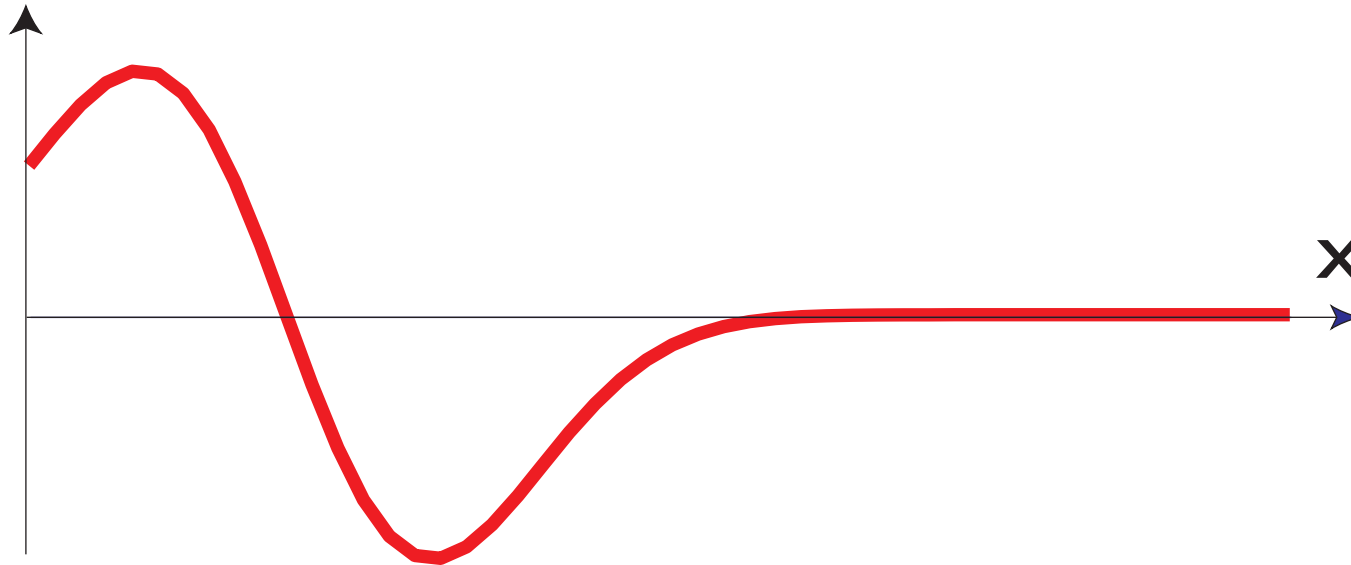
$$x(t) = x(0)\exp[-t/\tau]$$



# Dynamical system

$$\dot{x} = \frac{dx}{dt} = f(x)$$

$dx/dt=f(x)$

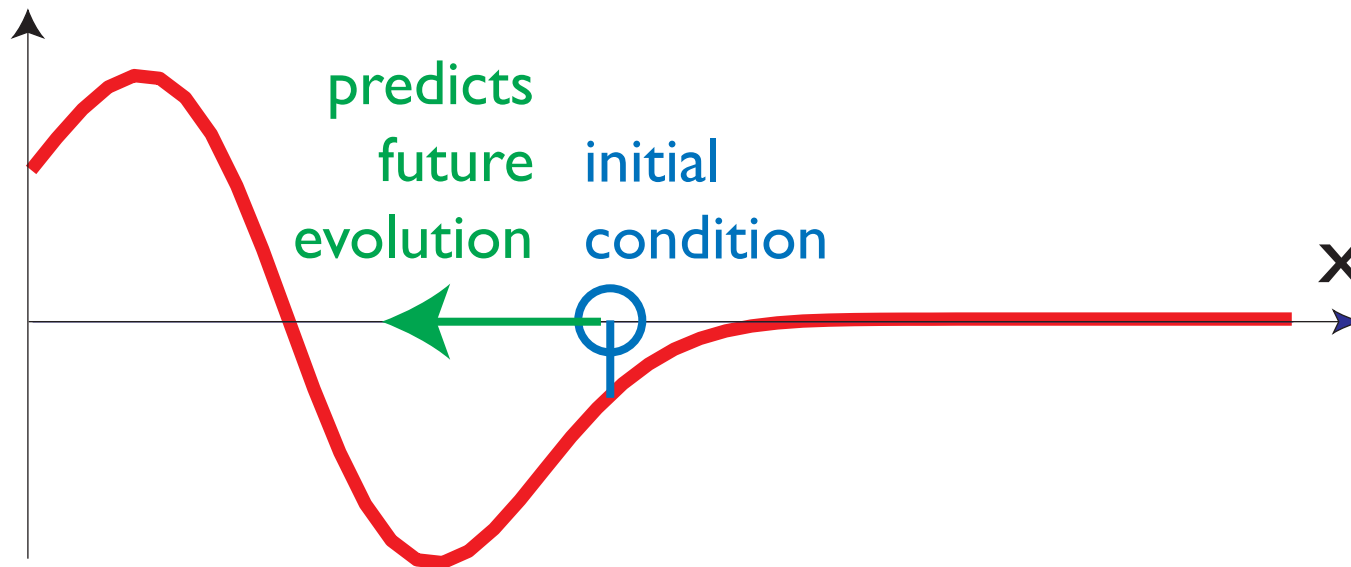


# Dynamical system

$$\dot{x} = \frac{dx}{dt} = f(x)$$

- the present determines the future

$$dx/dt=f(x)$$



# Dynamical system

$$\dot{x} = \frac{dx}{dt} = f(x)$$

- $x$  spans the **state** space (can be vector-valued or even function valued)
- $f(x)$  is the “**dynamics**” of  $x$  (or vector-field)
- $x(t)$  is a **solution** of the dynamical systems with initial condition  $x_0 \iff$  the rate of change of  $x(t)$  obeys  $\dot{x}(t) = f(x)$  and  $x(0) = x_0$

# Different forms of dynamical systems

- one-dimensional differential equation: initial value determines the future  $\dot{x} = f(x)$

# Different forms of dynamical systems

- vector-valued differential equation
- a vector of initial states determines the future:  
systems of differential equations:

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}) \quad \text{where} \quad \mathbf{x} = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$$

# Different forms of dynamical systems

■ continuously many variables  
 $x(y)$  determine the future =  
an initial function  $x(y)$   
determines the future

■ partial differential equations

■ integro-differential equations

$$\dot{x}(y, t) = f \left( x(y, t), \frac{\partial x(y, t)}{\partial y}, \dots \right)$$

$$\dot{x}(y, t) = \int dy' g(x(y, t), x(y', t))$$



# Different forms of dynamical systems

■ a piece of past trajectory determines the future

■ delay differential equations

■ functional differential equations

$$\dot{x}(t) = f(x(t - \tau))$$

$$\dot{x}(t) = \int^t dt' f(x(t'))$$

# Numerical solutions

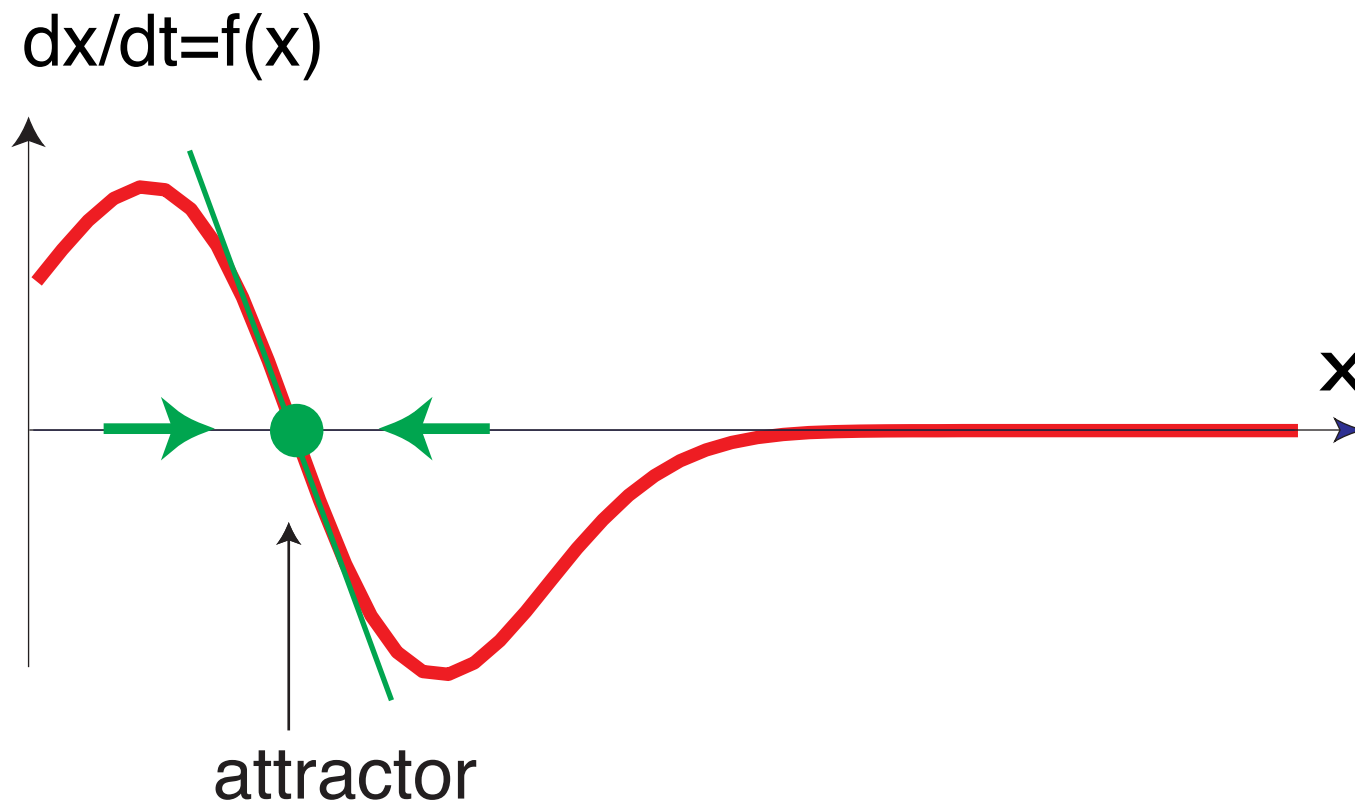
- sample time discretely,  $t_i$ , with  $i \in \{0, 1, \dots, N\}$ ,
- for example:  $t_i = i \Delta t$
- compute solution,  $x(t_i) = x_i$ , by iterating through time,
- for example:  $x_{i+1} = x_i + \Delta t f(x_i)$  (forward Euler)

$$\left[ \frac{x_{i+1} - x_i}{\Delta t} \approx \frac{dx}{dt} = f(x) \approx f(x_i) \right]$$

 => code / simulation

# attractor

- **fixed point**, to which neighboring initial conditions converge = **attractor**



# fixed point

■ is a constant solution of the dynamical system

■ 
$$\dot{x} = f(x)$$

$$\dot{x} = 0 \Rightarrow f(x_0) = 0$$

# stability

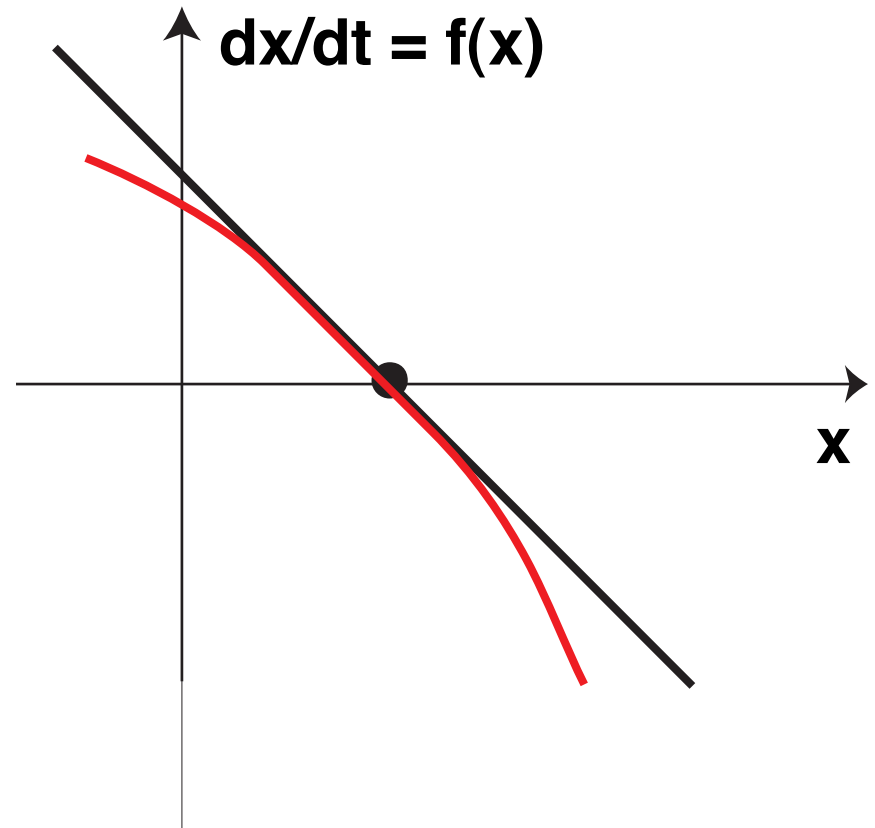
- mathematically really: **asymptotic stability**
- defined: a fixed point is asymptotically stable, when solutions of the dynamical system that start nearby converge in time to the fixed point

# stability

- the mathematical concept of stability (which we do not use) requires only that nearby solutions stay nearby
- Definition: a fixed point is **unstable** if it is not stable in that more general sense,
  - that is: if nearby solutions do not necessarily stay nearby (may diverge)

# linear approximation near attractor

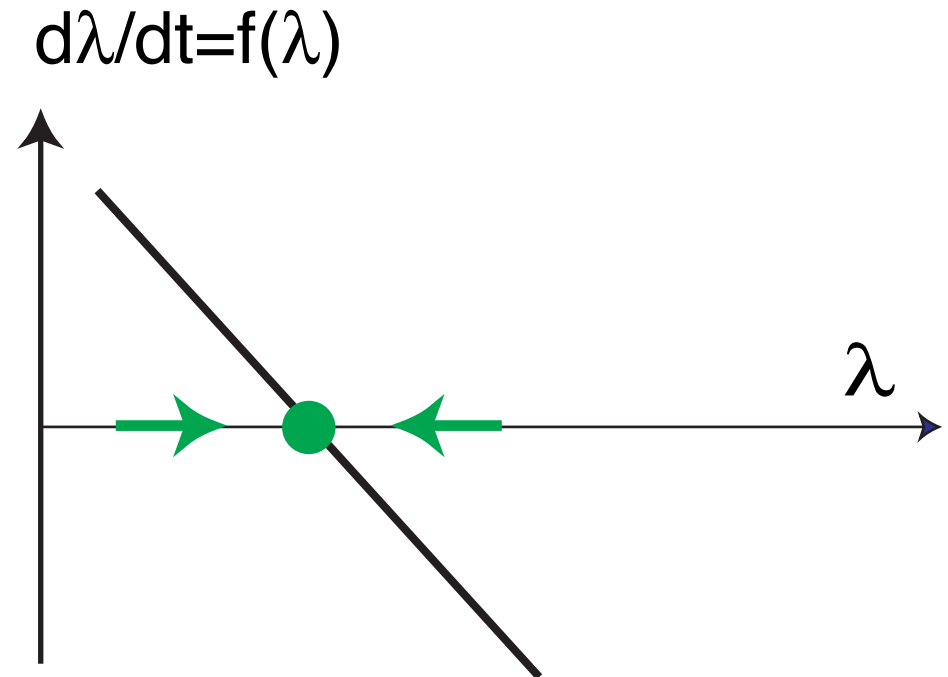
- non-linearity as a small perturbation/  
deformation of linear system
- $\Rightarrow$  non-essential non-linearity





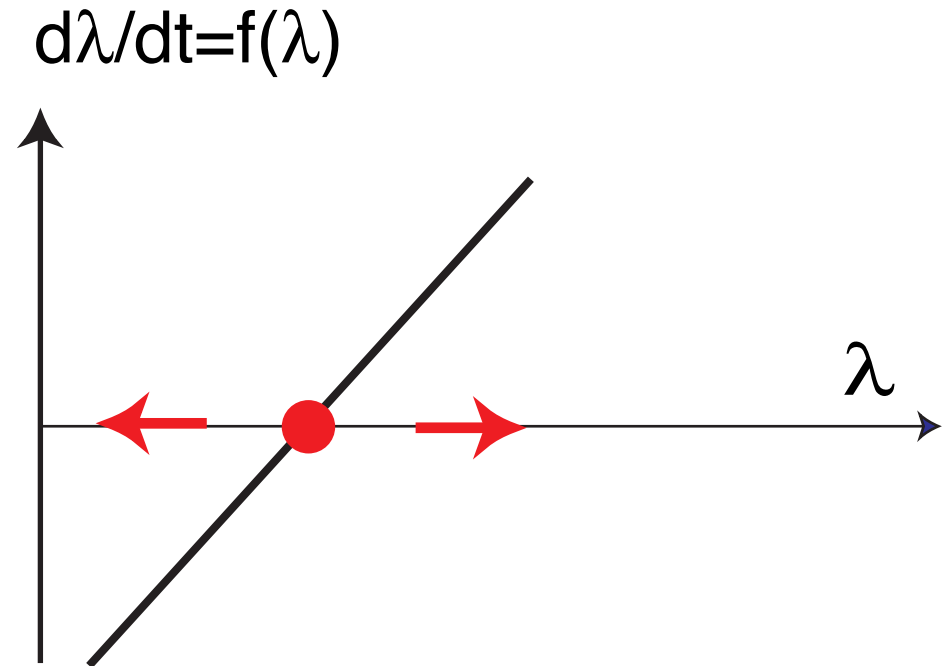
# stability in a linear system

- if the slope of the linear system is negative, the fixed point is (asymptotically stable)



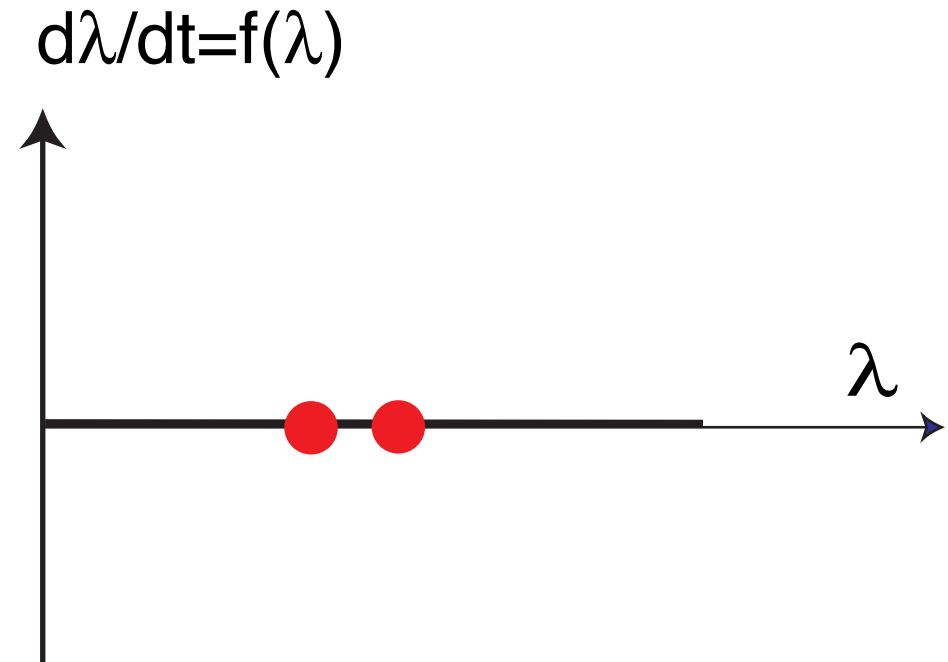
# stability in a linear system

- if the slope of the linear system is positive, then the fixed point is unstable



# stability in a linear system

- if the slope of the linear system is zero, then the system is indifferent (marginally stable: stable but not asymptotically stable)



# stability in linear systems

## ■ generalization to multiple dimensions

- if the real-parts of all Eigenvalues are negative: stable
- if the real-part of any Eigenvalue is positive: unstable
- if the real-part of any Eigenvalue is zero: marginally stable in that direction (stability depends on other eigenvalues)

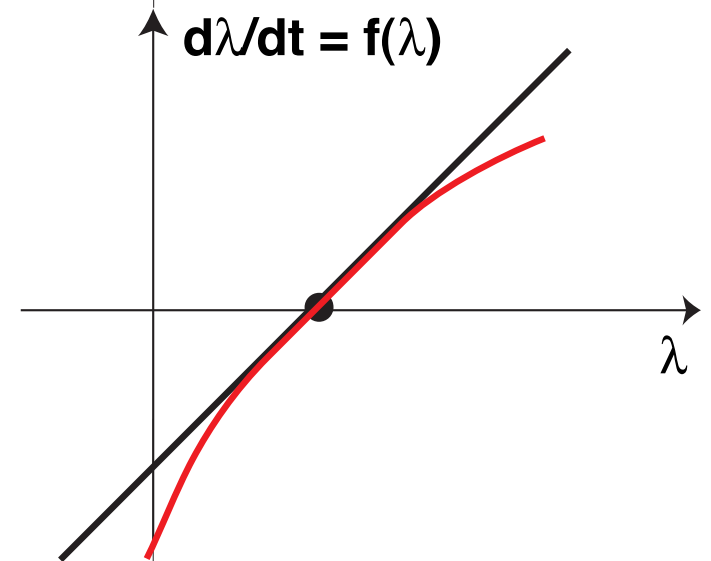
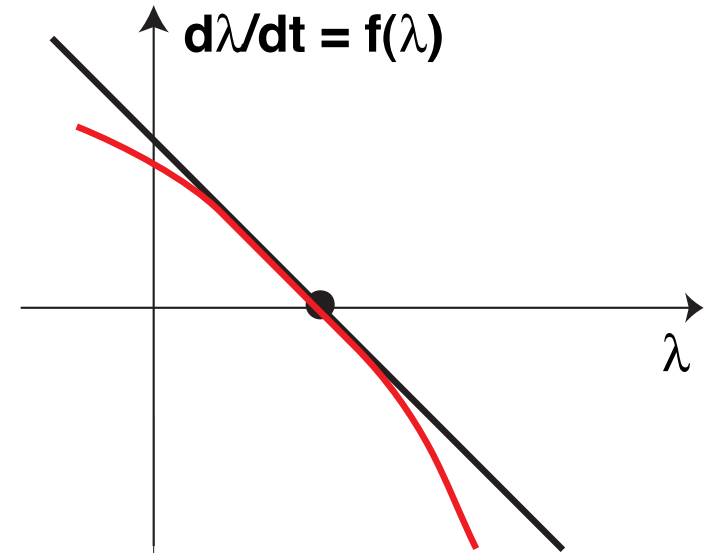
# stability in nonlinear systems

- stability is a local property of the fixed point
- $\Rightarrow$  linear stability theory
  - the eigenvalues of the linearization around the fixed point determine stability
  - all real-parts negative: stable
  - any real-part positive: unstable
  - any real-part zero: undecided: now nonlinearity decides (non-hyperbolic fixed point)

# stability in nonlinear systems

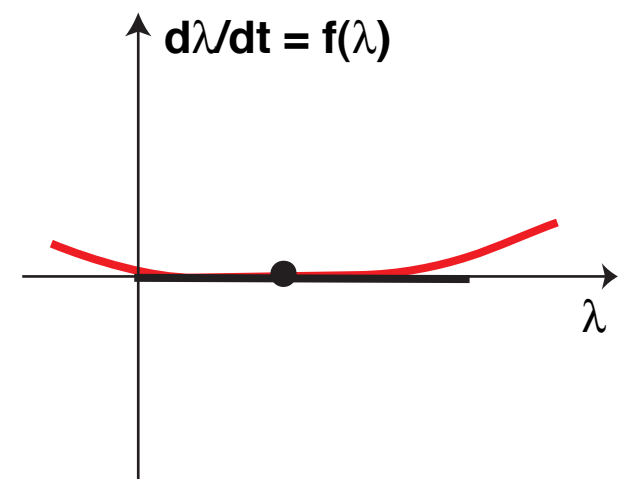
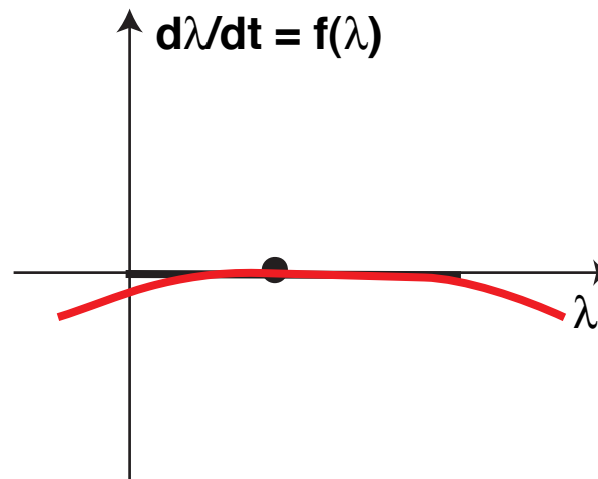
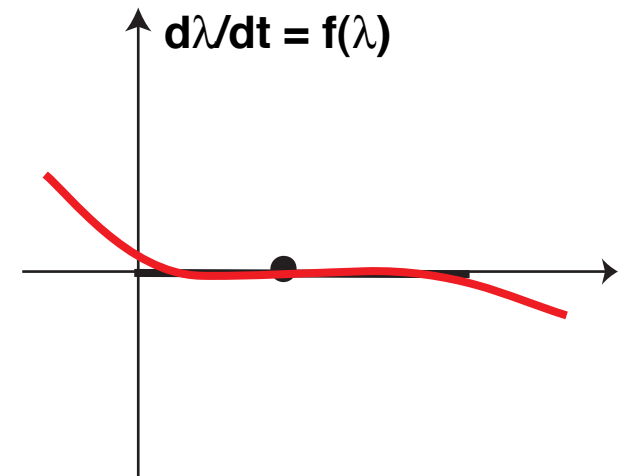
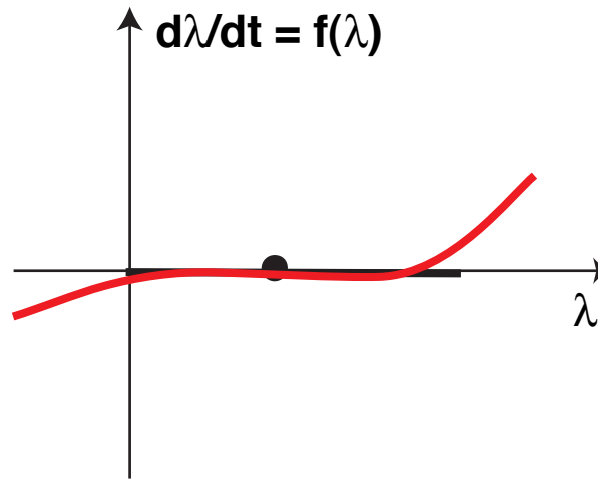
■ all real-parts negative: stable

■ any real-part positive: unstable



# stability in nonlinear systems

any real-part zero:  
undecided: now  
nonlinearity decides  
(non-hyperbolic fixed  
point)

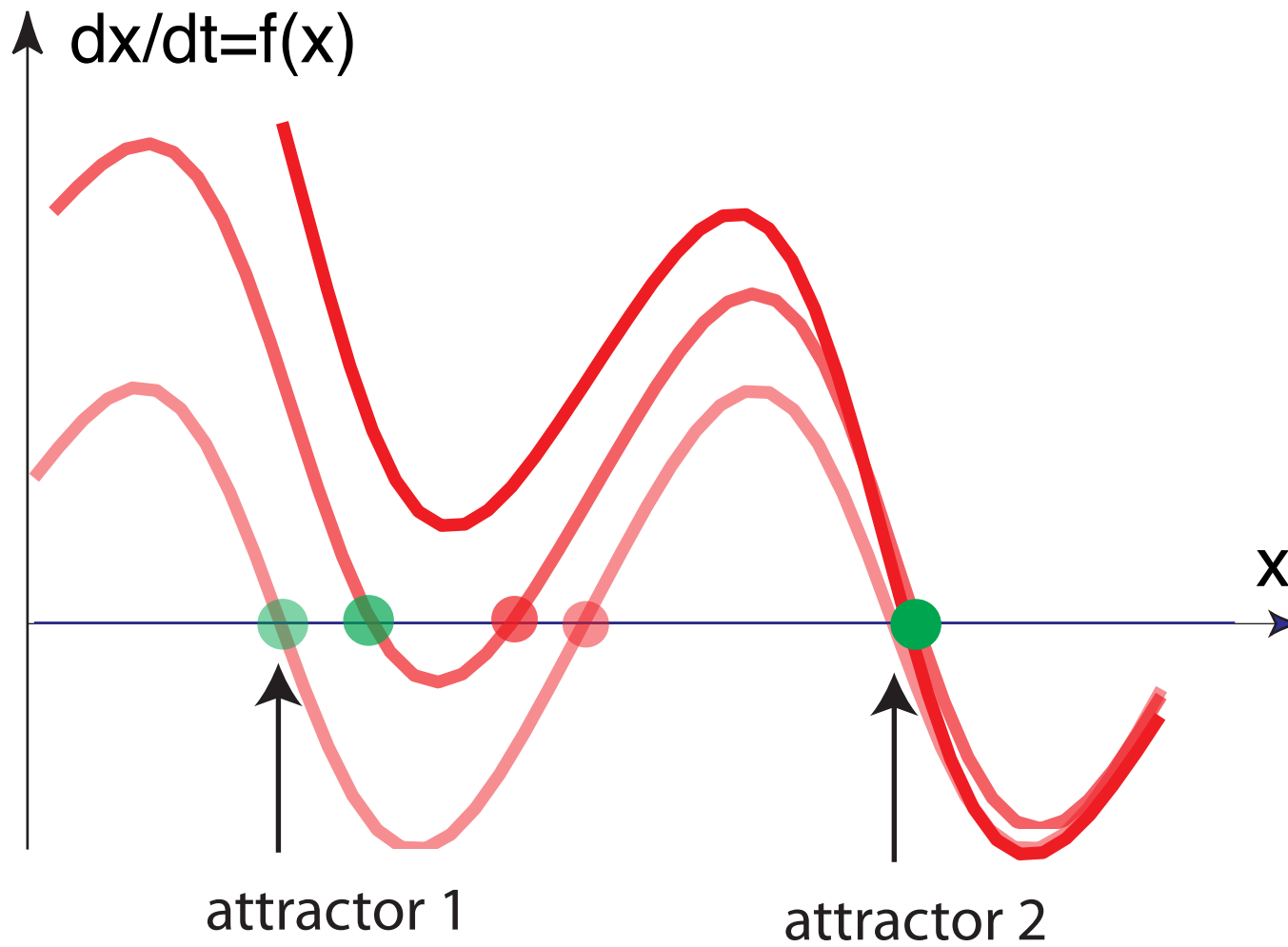


# bifurcations

- look now at families of dynamical systems, which depend (smoothly) on parameters
- ask: as the parameters change (smoothly), how do the solutions change (smoothly?)
  - smoothly: topological equivalence of the dynamical systems at neighboring parameter values
  - bifurcation: dynamical systems NOT topological equivalent as parameter changes infinitesimally

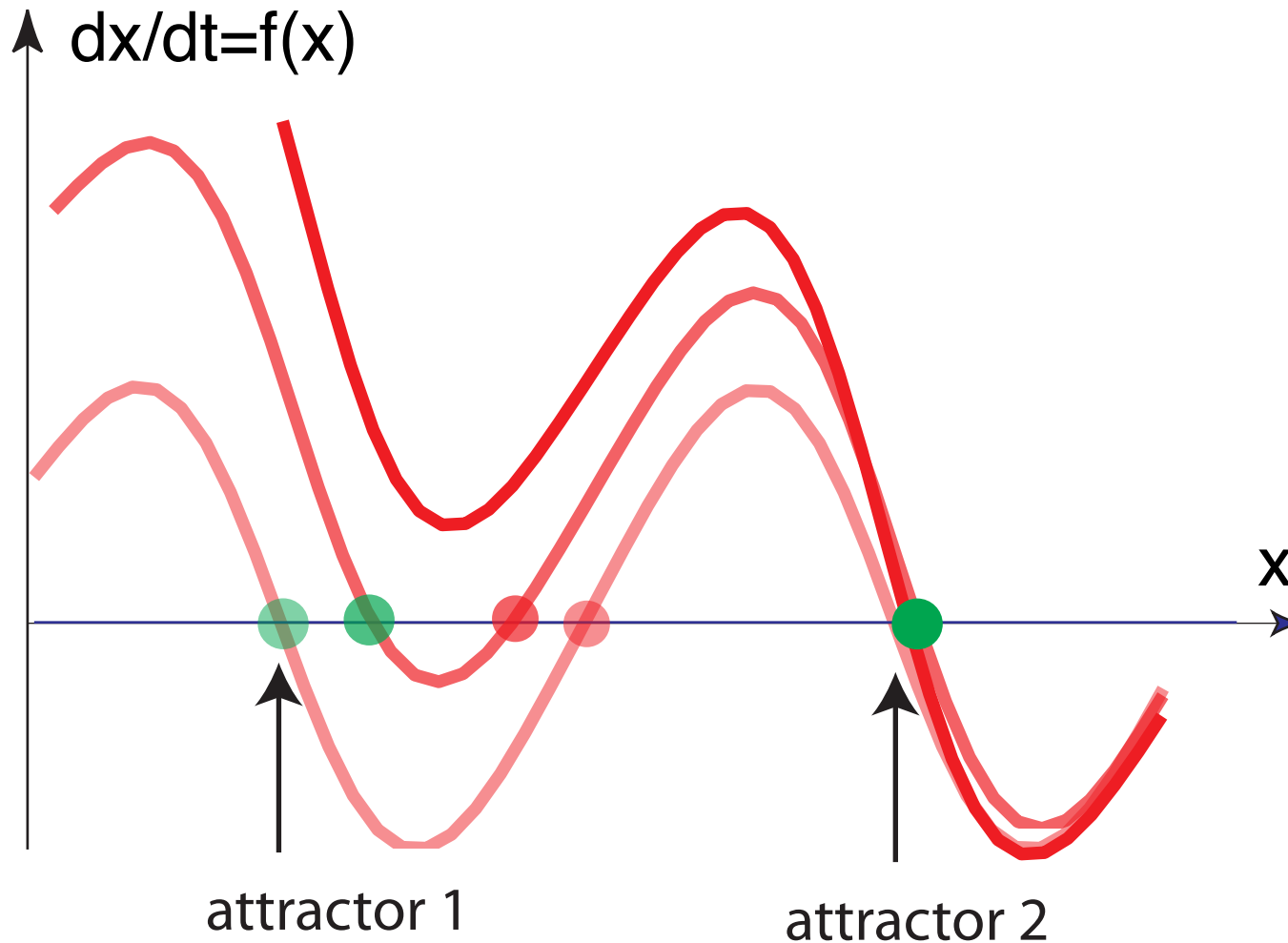


# bifurcation



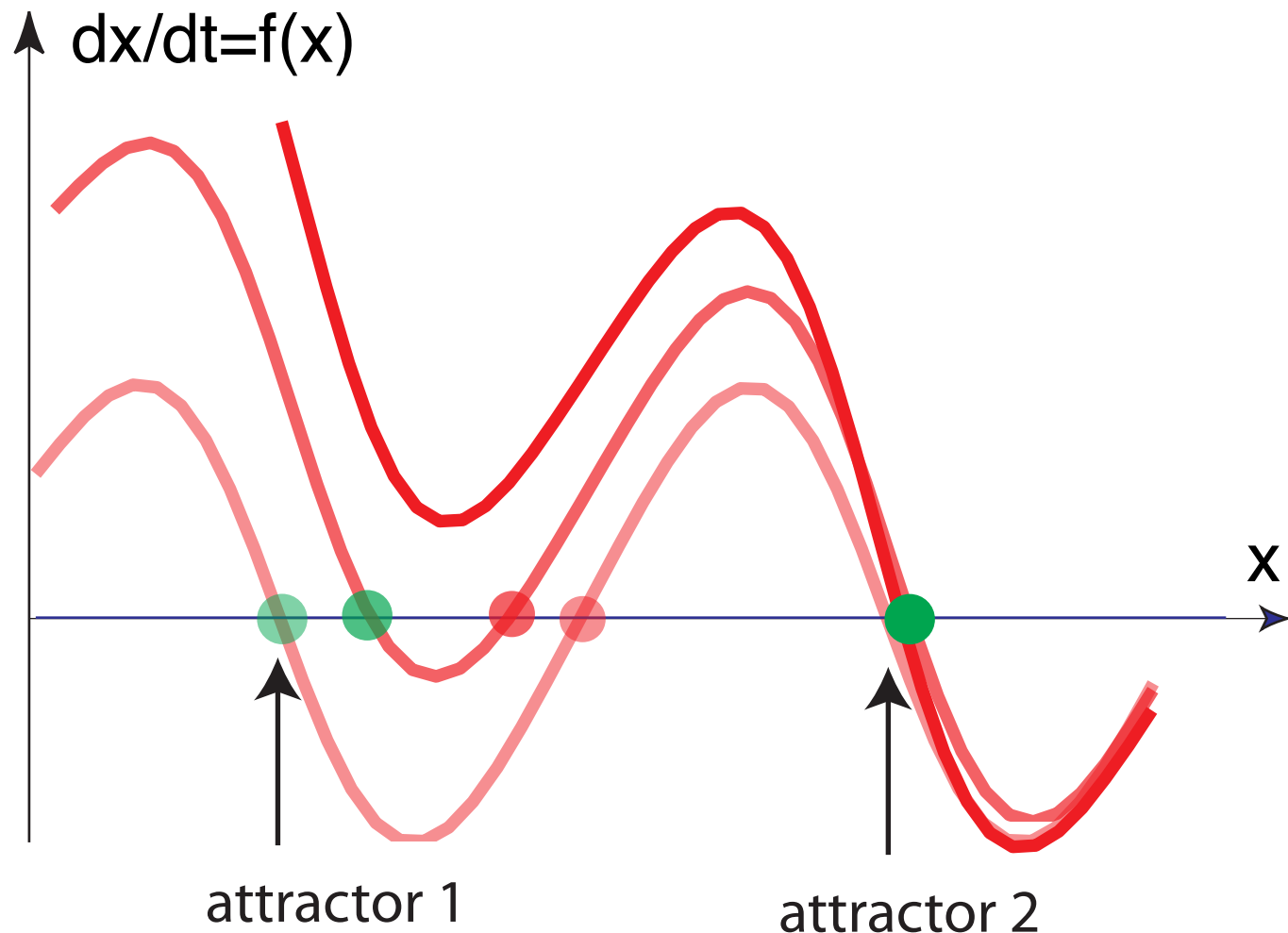
# bifurcation

- bifurcation=qualitative change of dynamics (change in number, nature, or stability of fixed points) as the dynamics changes smoothly

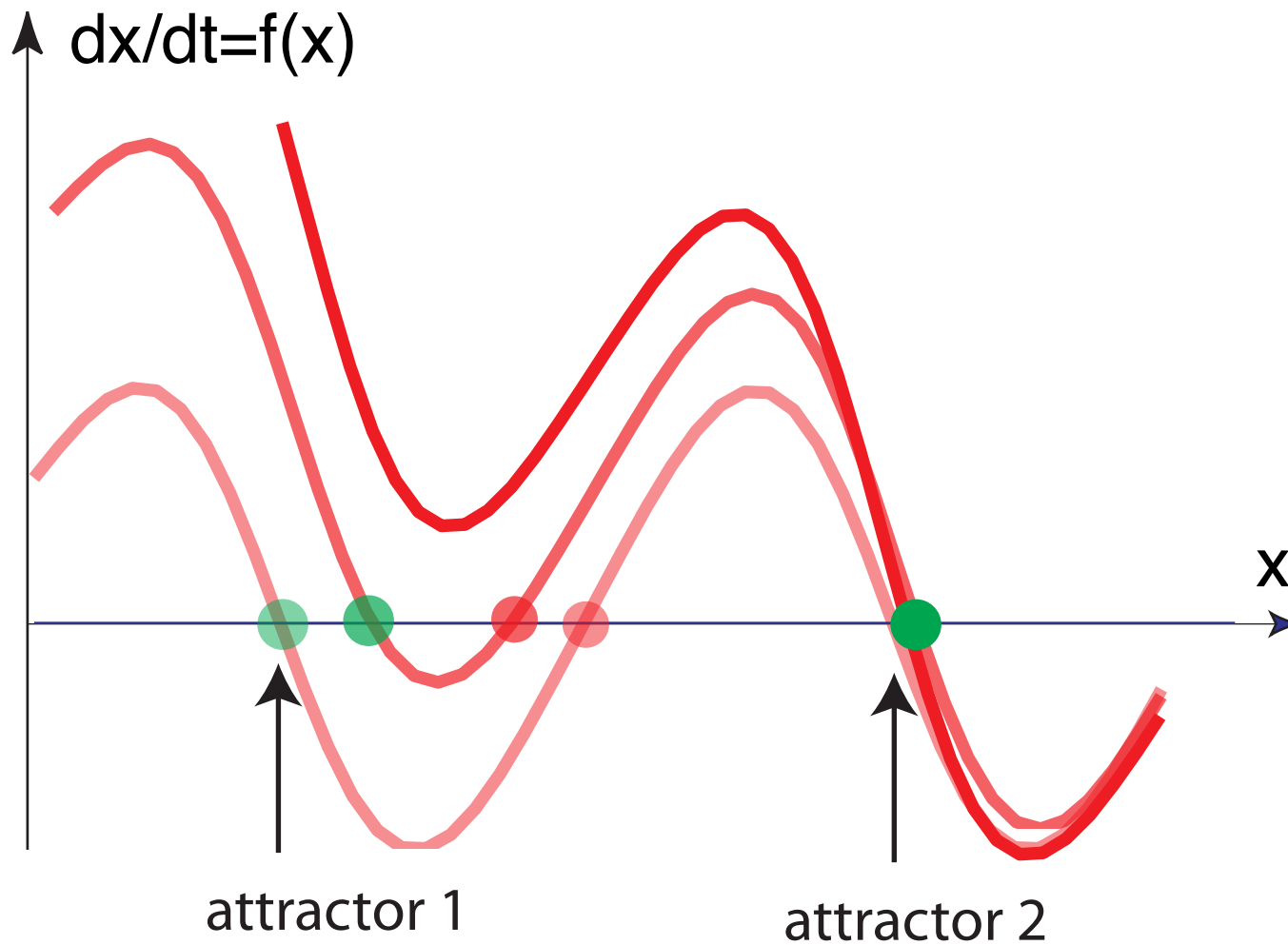


# tangent bifurcation

- the simplest bifurcation (co-dimension 0): an attractor collides with a repeller and the two annihilate

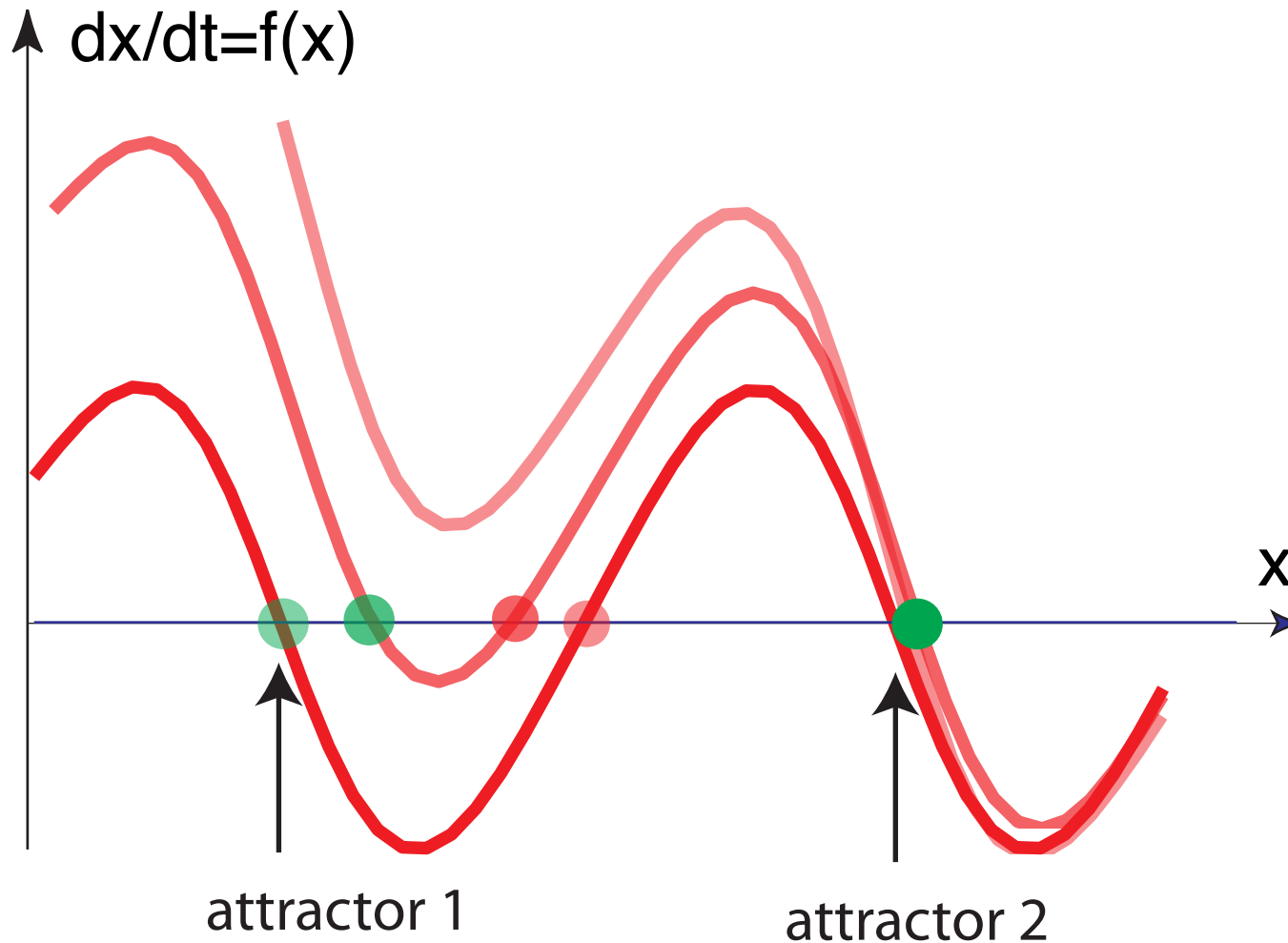


# local bifurcation



# reverse bifurcation

■ changing the dynamics in the opposite direction



# bifurcations are instabilities

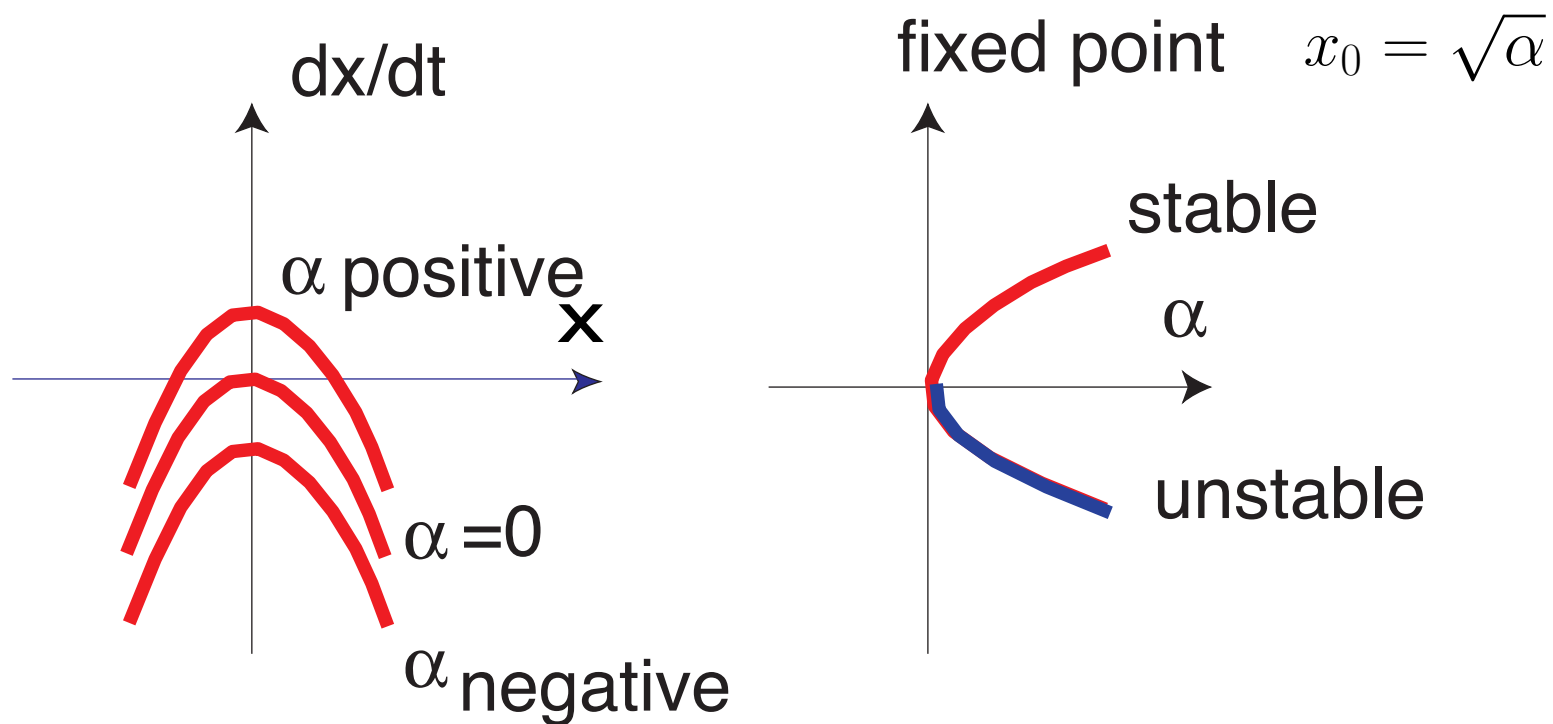
- that is, an attractor becomes unstable before disappearing
- (or the attractor appears with reduced stability)
- formally: a zero-real part is a necessary condition for a bifurcation to occur

# tangent bifurcation

- normal form of tangent bifurcation

$$\dot{x} = \alpha - x^2$$

- (=simplest polynomial equation whose flow is topologically equivalent to the bifurcation)



# Hopf theorem

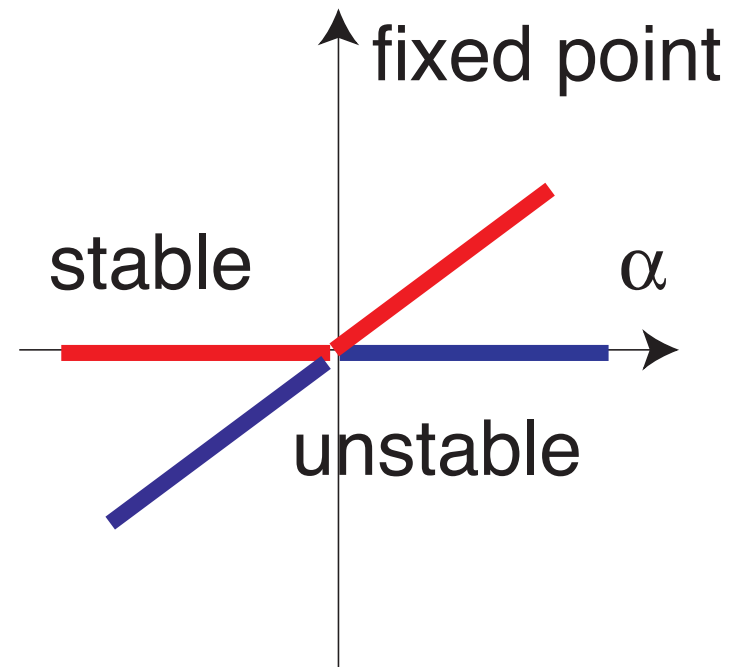
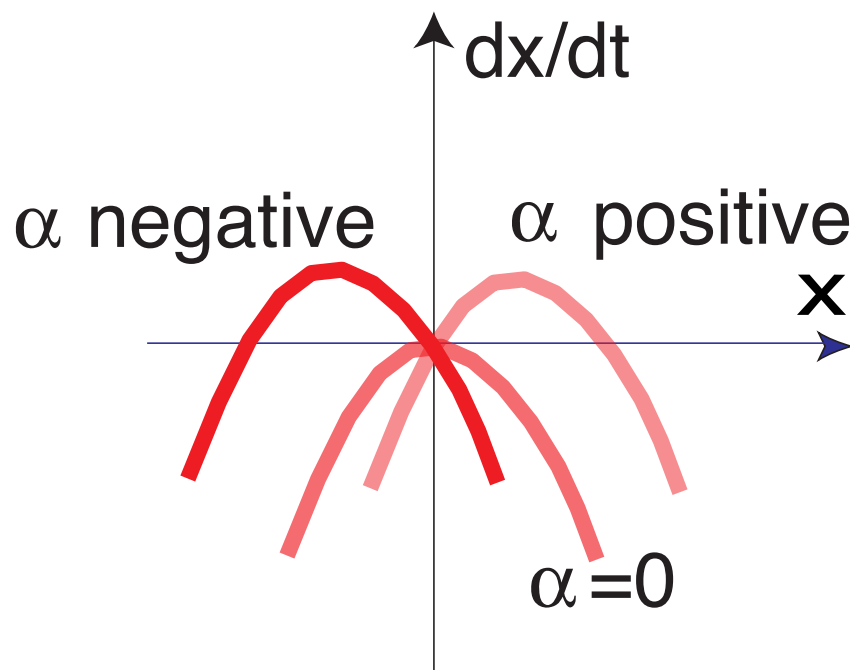
- when a single (or pair of complex conjugate) eigenvalue crosses the imaginary axis, one of four bifurcations occur
  - tangent bifurcation
  - transcritical bifurcation
  - pitchfork bifurcation
  - Hopf bifurcation



# transcritical bifurcation

■ normal form

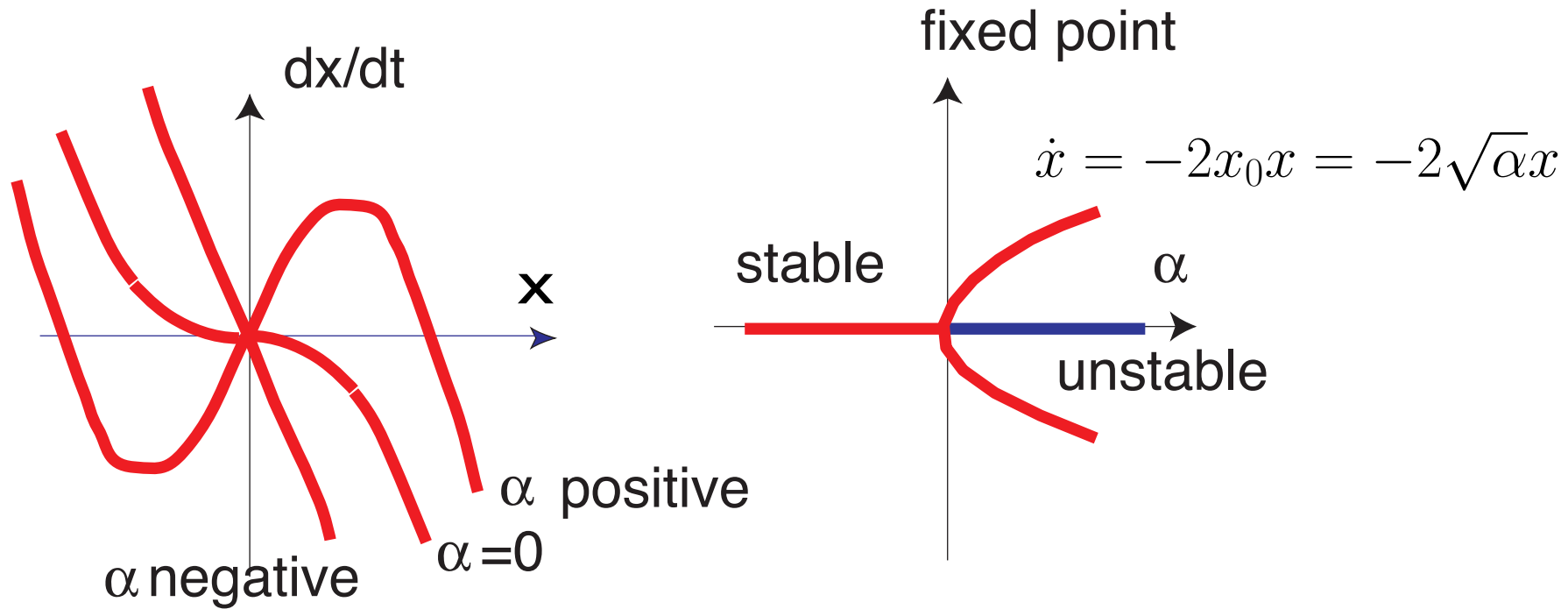
$$\dot{x} = \alpha x - x^2$$



# pitchfork bifurcation

■ normal form

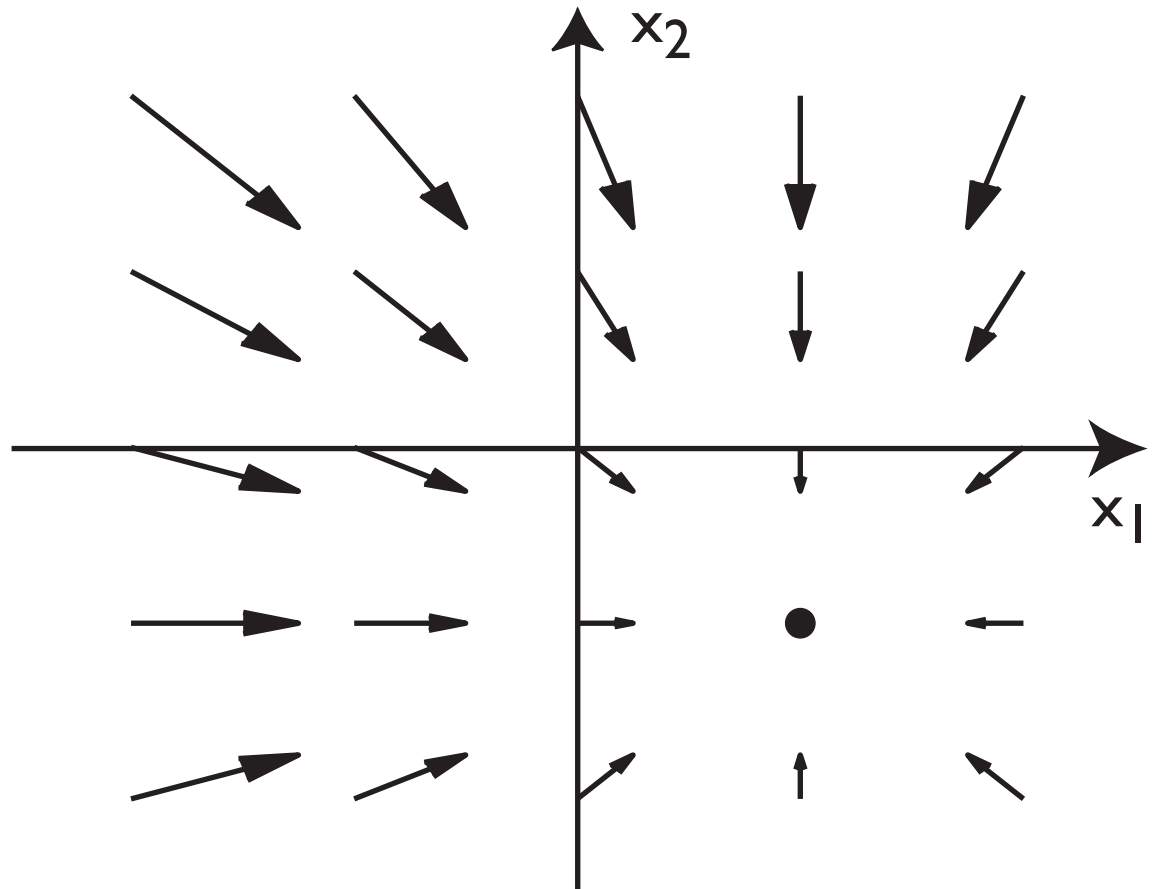
$$\dot{x} = \alpha x - x^3$$



Hopf: need higher dimensions

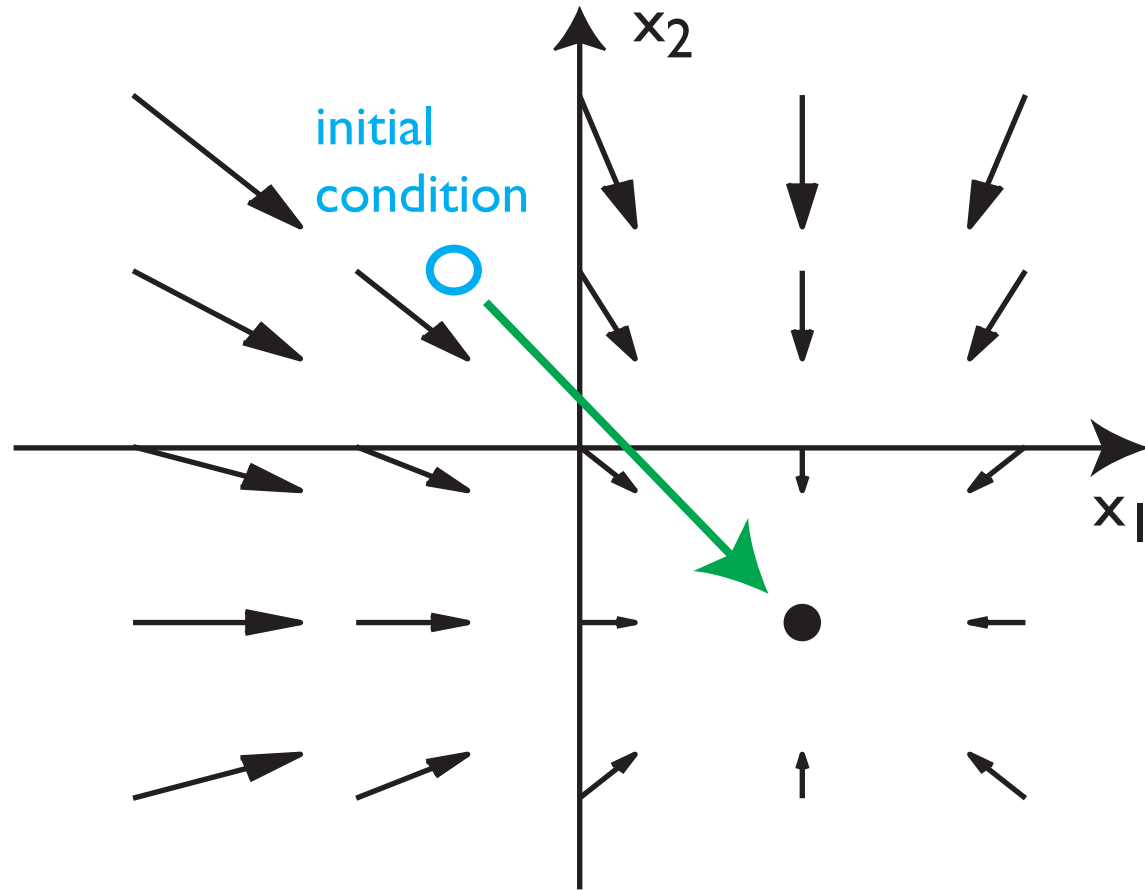
# 2D dynamical system: vector-field

$$\dot{x}_1 = f_1(x_1, x_2)$$
$$\dot{x}_2 = f_2(x_1, x_2)$$



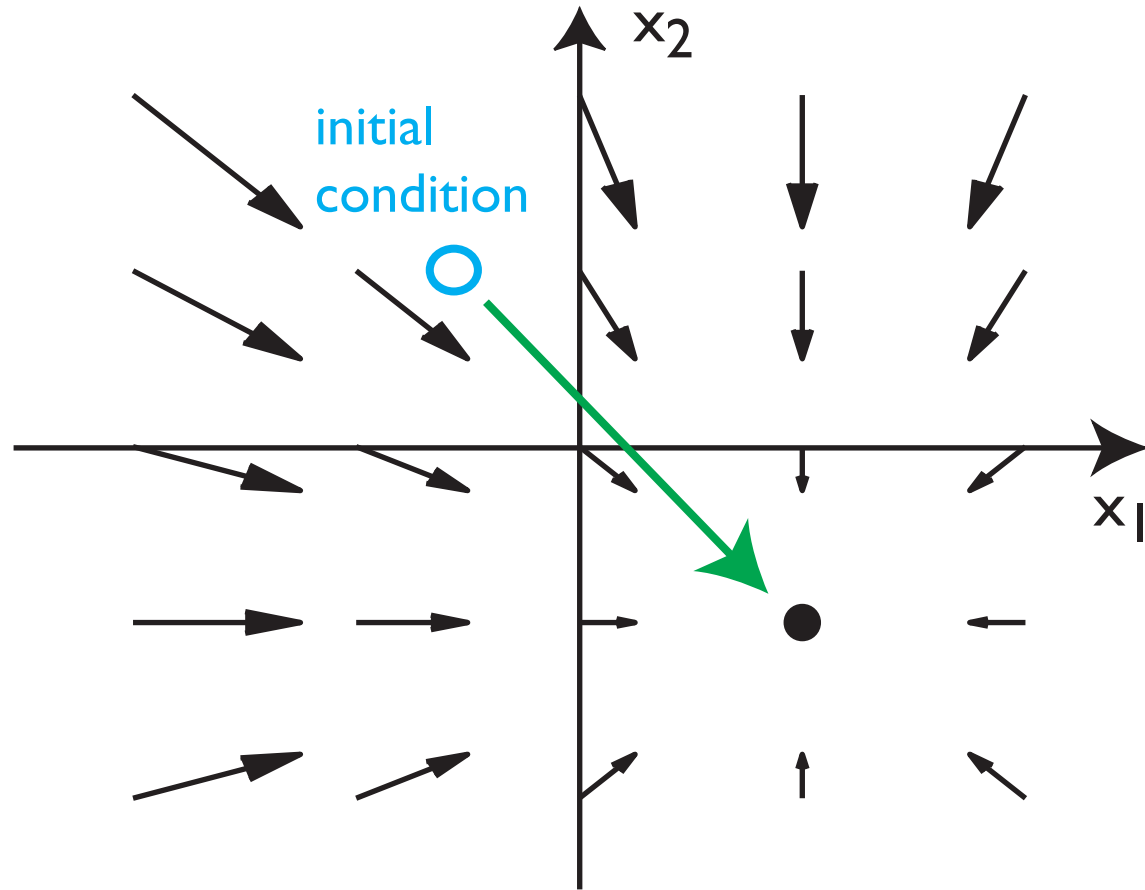
# vector-field

$$\dot{x}_1 = f_1(x_1, x_2)$$
$$\dot{x}_2 = f_2(x_1, x_2)$$



# fixed point, stability, attractor

$$\dot{x}_1 = f_1(x_1, x_2)$$
$$\dot{x}_2 = f_2(x_1, x_2)$$

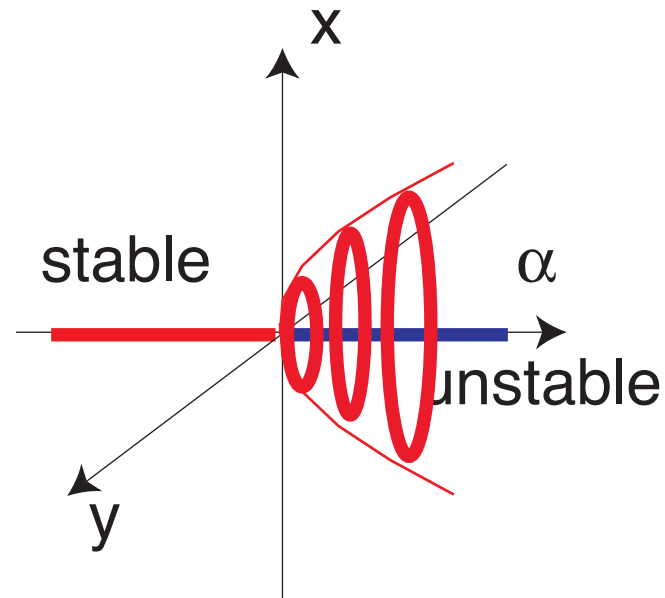
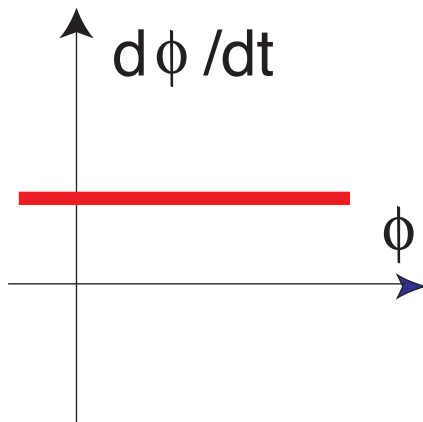
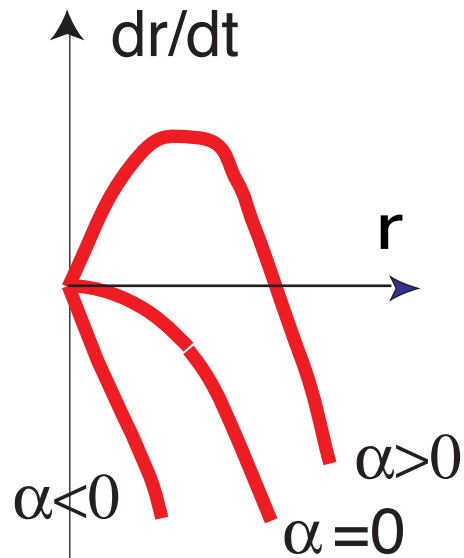


# Hopf bifurcation

$$\dot{r} = \alpha r - r^3$$

$$\dot{\phi} = \omega$$

■ normal form



# forward dynamics

- given known equation, determined fixed points / limit cycles and their stability
- more generally: determine invariant solutions (stable, unstable and center manifolds)



# inverse dynamics

- given solution, find the equation...
- this is the problem faced in design of behavioral dynamics...

# inverse dynamics: design

- in the design of behavioral dynamics... you may be given:
- attractor solutions/stable states
- and how they change as a function of parameters/conditions
- => identify the class of dynamical systems using the 4 elementary bifurcations
- and use normal form to provide an exemplary representative of the equivalence class of dynamics