

Exam - Mathematical Methods in Neuroscience

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Let us consider a probability space $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P})$ and a filtration $\mathbb{F} \equiv (\mathcal{F}_t)_{t \geq 0}$. It is assumed that the filtration satisfies the so-called usual conditions: for every t in \mathbb{R}^+ , $\mathcal{F}_t = \mathcal{F}_{t+} = \bigcap_{\theta > t} \mathcal{F}_\theta$ and \mathcal{F}_0 contains all the \mathbb{P} -negligible sets in \mathcal{F} .

1 Questions de cours

1.1 Poisson Processes

We consider a counting process $(N_t)_{t \geq 0}$, adapted to the filtration \mathbb{F} . We assume that for all $s < t$, $N_t - N_s$ is independent of \mathcal{F}_s and that the law of $N_t - N_s$ only depends on $t - s$ (we say that N is a counting process with independent increments and stationary increments).

1. Prove that N is a Poisson process.

Reminder

$$\text{(Stirling)} \quad n! \approx \sqrt{2\pi n} \left(\frac{n}{e}\right)^n, \quad \lim_n \left(1 + \frac{u}{n}\right)^n = \exp(u).$$

Proof. **Step 1**

For any $n \geq 1$, we write $p_n = \mathbb{P}(N((k+1)/n) - N(k/n) \geq 1)$.

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}(N(1) = 0) &= (1 - p_n)^n \\ \lambda &= -\log(\mathbb{P}(N(1) = 0)) \\ &= -n \log(1 - p_n) \\ &= \lim_n np_n. \end{aligned} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathbb{P}(N(1) = 0) = \exp(-\lambda)$$

Step 2 Let denote $q_n = \mathbb{P}(N(1/n) \geq 2)$. Denote Γ_n the number of intervals $[k/n, (k+1)/n]$ containing at least 2 arrivals.

- $\Gamma_n(\omega) \rightarrow 0$ for almost all ω (the time arrival are different).
- $\Gamma_n \leq N(1)$
- We have $\mathbb{E}(N(1)) < \infty$ (admitted)
- So, we conclude $\mathbb{E}(\Gamma_n) \rightarrow_n 0$ (Fubini), that is nq_n tends to 0.

Step 3

We deduce that $\lim_n n\mathbb{P}(N(1/n) = 1) = \lim_n n\mathbb{P}(N(1/n) \geq 1) = \lambda$. So, asymptotically, the process $N(s)$ To finish the proof, we consider the random walk S_n :

$$S_0 = 0, \quad S_{k+1} = S_k + X_{k+1},$$

where X_1, \dots, X_k, \dots are *i.i.d.* random variables

$$\mathbb{P}(X_k = 1) = \frac{\lambda}{n} = 1 - \mathbb{P}(X_k = 0).$$

Let $\lambda > 0$ and $t_1 < t_2 < \dots < t_\ell$ and consider sequences, $n_1(n), \dots, n_\ell(n)$ such that

$$\forall i \in 1, \dots, \ell, \quad \lim_n \frac{n_i(n)}{n} = t_i,$$

We have

$$(S_{n_i(n)} - S_{n_{i-1}(n)}, 1 \leq i \leq \ell) \xrightarrow[n \rightarrow \infty]{\mathcal{L}} (Y_1, Y_2, \dots, Y_\ell)$$

where Y_i are independent r.v. with Poisson laws of parameters $\lambda(t_i - t_{i-1})$.

$$\mathbb{P}(S_{n_1(n)} = k) = \frac{(t_1 n)!}{k!(t_1 n - k)!} \left(\frac{\lambda}{n}\right)^k \left(1 - \frac{\lambda}{n}\right)^{t_1 n - k}$$

$$\text{(Stirling)} \quad n! \approx \sqrt{2\pi n} \left(\frac{n}{e}\right)^n, \quad \lim_n \left(1 + \frac{u}{n}\right)^n = \exp(u).$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}(S_{n_1(n)} = k) &\approx \frac{\sqrt{2\pi t_1 n}}{\sqrt{2\pi(t_1 n - k)}} \left(\frac{t_1 n}{e}\right)^{t_1 n} \left(\frac{e}{t_1 n - k}\right)^{t_1 n - k} \frac{1}{n^k} \frac{\lambda^k}{k!} \exp(-\lambda t_1) \\ &\approx \exp(-\lambda t_1) \frac{(\lambda t_1)^k}{k!} e^{-k} \left(1 + \frac{k}{t_1 n - k}\right)^{t_1 n} \approx \exp(-\lambda t_1) \frac{(\lambda t_1)^k}{k!}. \end{aligned}$$

□

1.2 Deterministic systems

We consider the scalar system

$$\dot{u}(t) = f(u(t), \mu).$$

We assume that f is C^k with $k \geq 3$ in a neighborhood of $(0, 0)$ and that $f(0, 0) = 0$, $\frac{\partial f}{\partial u}(0, 0) = 0$.

We further assume that f is odd in u : $f(u, \mu) = -f(-u, \mu)$ and that

$$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial \mu \partial u}(0, 0) := 1, \quad \frac{\partial^3 f}{\partial u^3}(0, 0) := -6$$

2. Analyse the system when f is truncated at order $o(u|\mu| + u^3)$. Draw the bifurcation diagram as function of μ . What is the name of this bifurcation?

Proof. The normal form reads $\dot{x} = x(\mu - x^2)$. This is the Pitchfork bifurcation. $x = 0$ is stable (resp. unstable) for $\mu < 0$ (resp. for $\mu > 0$). When $\mu > 0$, there are two nontrivial (stable) equilibria $x_{\pm} = \pm\sqrt{\mu}$. \square

3a. We admit that f can be written $f(u, \mu) = uh(u^2, \mu)$ with h $C^{(k-1)/2}$ in a neighbourhood of $(0, 0)$. Show that there is a unique equilibrium point for $\mu < 0$, discuss its stability.

3b. For $\mu > 0$, the system possesses the trivial equilibrium $u = 0$ and two nontrivial equilibria $u_{\pm}(\epsilon)$, $\epsilon = |\mu|^{1/2}$, which are symmetric, $u_i(\epsilon) = -u_+(\epsilon)$. The map $\epsilon \rightarrow u_{\pm}(\epsilon)$ is of class C^{k-3} in a neighbourhood of 0, and $u_{\pm}(\epsilon) = O(\epsilon)$. Give their stability.

Proof. 3a-b) We apply the implicit function theorem to the equation $h(u^2, \mu) = 0$ which shows that it has a unique solution $\mu = g(u^2)$ with $g(0) = 0$ and g of class $C^{(k-1)/2}$ in a neighborhood of 0. The Taylor expansion of g is given by $\mu = -u^2 + O(u^4)$. We then conclude that there is a curve of nontrivial equilibria in the (μ, u) -plane that has a second order tangency at $(0, 0)$ to the parabola $\mu = -u^2$ found for the truncated equation, and which is symmetric with respect to the μ -axis. Again, this shows that the truncated equation and the full equation have the number of equilibria in a neighborhood of the origin, which are $o(\sqrt{|\mu|})$ - close to each other. As for the dynamics, it is here again easy to study by looking at the sign of $f(u, \mu)$. \square

2 Invariant measures

We consider the process $(X, Y) \in \mathbb{R}^2$, solution of the SDE

$$\begin{aligned} X_t &= x + \int_0^t \alpha X_s ds + \int_0^t \sigma X_s dW_s \\ Y_t &= \int_0^t X_s ds. \end{aligned}$$

4. (course) Give an explicit expression for X .

Proof.

$$X_t = x \exp\left(\left(\alpha - \frac{\sigma^2}{2}\right)t + \sigma W_t\right)$$

\square

5. Study the deterministic system when $\sigma = 0$. Plot the bifurcation diagram.

We recall the Ito's formula:

$$\begin{aligned} F(X_t, Y_t) &= F(X_0, Y_0) + \int_0^t \frac{\partial}{\partial x} F(X_s, Y_s) dX_s + \int_0^t \frac{\partial}{\partial y} F(X_s, Y_s) dY_s \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2} \int_0^t \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} F(X_s, Y_s) d\langle X \rangle_s + \frac{1}{2} \int_0^t \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2} F(X_s, Y_s) d\langle Y \rangle_s \\ &\quad + \int_0^t \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x \partial y} F(X_s, Y_s) d\langle X, Y \rangle_s \end{aligned}$$

Let us denote:

$$Z_t = \frac{X_t}{1 + Y_t}.$$

6. Prove that Z satisfies

$$dZ_t = (\alpha Z_t - Z_t^2)dt + \sigma Z_t dW_t. \quad (1)$$

Proof. We first remark that $d\langle X, Y \rangle_s \equiv 0$ and $d\langle Y \rangle_s \equiv 0$ and $\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} F \equiv 0$. We have

$$\begin{aligned} Z_t &= Z_0 + \int_0^t \frac{1}{1 + Y_t} (\alpha X_t dt + \sigma X_t dW_t) + \int_0^t -\frac{X_t}{(1 + Y_t)^2} dY_t \\ &= Z_0 + \int_0^t (\alpha Z_t - Z_t^2) dt + \int_0^t \sigma Z_t dW_t. \end{aligned}$$

□

We denote by $p(t, z)$ the density of the solution (1).

7. Give the Fokker-Planck equation satisfied by p .

Proof. The pdf solves

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} p(t, z) &= L^* p \\ &= -((\alpha z - z^2)p(t, z))' + \frac{\sigma^2}{2} (z^2 p(t, z))'' \end{aligned}$$

□

We now assume that $\alpha > \frac{\sigma^2}{2}$.

8. Give the invariant measures.

Proof. A simple computation gives

$$\frac{p'}{p} = \frac{\frac{2\alpha}{\sigma^2} - 2}{z} - \frac{2}{\sigma^2}.$$

So, we obtain

$$p_\alpha(z) = \begin{cases} N_\alpha z^{\frac{2\alpha}{\sigma^2} - 2} \exp\left(-\frac{2z}{\sigma^2}\right), & z > 0 \\ 0, & z \leq 0. \end{cases}$$

where N_α is a normalization.

□

3 Feed-forward networks

This part concerns the study of feed-forward chains that are used to model synchronization in neural networks. We consider the system in $\mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^m$ given by

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{x}_2 &= f(x_2, 0) \\ \dot{x}_3 &= f(x_3, x_2)\end{aligned}\tag{2}$$

where $f(0, 0) = 0$. We further assume that the linearisation at the origin is $J = \begin{bmatrix} a & 0 \\ b & a \end{bmatrix}$.

9. Show that the flow can be written $\Phi^t(x_2, x_3) = (\phi^t(x_2, 0), \phi^t(x_3, x_2))$

Proof. The flow can be written $\Phi^t(x_2, x_3) = (\psi^t(x_2), \phi^t(x_3, x_2))$ with $\frac{d\psi^t}{dt}(x_2)|_{t=0} = f(x_2, 0)$ and $\frac{d\phi^t}{dt}(x_3, x_2)|_{t=0} = f(x_3, x_2)$. Therefore $\frac{d\psi^t}{dt}(x_3)|_{t=0} = \frac{d\phi^t}{dt}(x_3, 0)|_{t=0}$. Since this holds for all x_3 , it follows that $\frac{d\psi^t}{dt}(x_3) = \frac{d\phi^t}{dt}(x_3, 0)$. Thus $\psi^t(x_3) = \phi^t(x_3, 0)$. \square

10. We assume that the center subspace \mathbf{E}_c of a is of dimension n . Show that (2)-a has a locally invariant manifold \mathcal{V}_c . Show that (2) has a locally invariant manifold. Show that $\mathcal{V}_c \times \{0\}$ (resp. $\{0\} \times \mathcal{V}_c$) is flow invariant.

Proof. Take \mathcal{V}_c as a local center manifold for (2)-a. Idem but this time for (2), we call it \mathcal{W}_c . If we consider $\mathcal{V}_c \times \{0\}$, it is invariant for (2). \square

11.a. Let us define the projection $\pi_2(x_2, x_3) = (x_2, 0)$. Show that $\pi_2^{-1}(\mathcal{V}_c \times \{0\})$ is flow invariant.

Proof. We have $\pi_2^{-1}(\mathcal{V}_c \times \{0\}) = \mathcal{V}_c \times \mathbb{R}^m$. It follows from the first question that it is flow invariant. \square

11.b. Show that one can choose a $2n$ -dimensional center manifold \mathcal{W}_c for (2) so that $\pi_2(\mathcal{W}_c) = \mathcal{V}_c \times \{0\}$. (One can reduce \mathcal{V}_c .)

12.a. We admit that there is a invertible mapping $P : \mathcal{V}_c \times \mathcal{V}_c \rightarrow \mathcal{W}_c$ such that $P : (z_2, z_3) = (z_2, \rho(z_2, z_3))$, $P(z_2, 0) = (z_2, 0)$ and $P(0, z_3) = (0, z_3)$. Compute the flow of (2) on $\mathcal{V}_c \times \mathcal{V}_c$ as function of ϕ_t and the inverse of P .

Proof. We write $P^{-1}(z_2, z_3) = (z_2, \sigma(z_2, z_3))$. Let us look at $\Psi^t(z_2, z_3) = P^{-1}\Phi^t P(z_2, z_3)$. One finds

$$\begin{aligned}\Psi^t(z_2, z_3) &= P^{-1}\Phi^t(z_2, \rho(z_2, z_3)) = P^{-1}(\phi^t(z_2, 0), \phi^t(\rho(z_2, z_3), z_2)) \\ &= (\phi^t(z_2, 0), \sigma(\phi^t(z_2, 0), \phi^t(\rho(z_2, z_3), z_2))).\end{aligned}\tag{3}$$

\square

12.b. Deduce that the dynamics on the center manifold \mathcal{W}_c of (2) can be written on $\mathcal{V}_c \times \mathcal{V}_c$ as

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{z}_2 &= g(z_2, 0) \\ \dot{z}_3 &= g(z_3, z_2)\end{aligned}\tag{4}$$

for some function g and coordinates $z_2, z_3 \in \mathcal{V}_c$. (One could use question 3.1)

Proof. We write $\psi^t(z_2, z_3) := \sigma(\phi^t(z_2, 0), \phi^t(\rho(z_2, z_3), z_2))$. We find

$$\psi^t(z_3, 0) = \sigma(\phi^t(0, 0), \phi^t(\rho(0, z_3), 0)) = \sigma(0, \phi^t(z_3, 0)) = \phi^t(z_3, 0)\tag{5}$$

which implies, by question 1, that the differential equations can be written as stated. \square

We want to look at the normal form.

13.a Assume that the center subspace \mathbf{E}_c is two-dimensional, and the linearization of the internal dynamics a has a pair of purely imaginary eigenvalues. We rescale time so these are equal to $\pm i$. Does the normal form has the same structure as (6)?

Proof. Not necessarily. Applying the normal form theorem does not respect the structure of these equations. \square

13.b Show that any change of variable $(z_2, z_3) \rightarrow (Q(z_2), Q(z_3))$ which leaves $(0, 0)$ invariant does change the structure of (4). Deduce that we can assume $g(z_2, 0)$ being in normal form. What is the expression of this normal form?

Proof. First part is simple. We recognize a Hopf bifurcation. The normal form is like $\dot{z}_2 = z_2 P(|z_2|^2) + h.o.t.$ \square

13.c We assume that for any value of k , there exists a polynomial change of coordinates which can transform (4) into the system in $\mathbb{C} \times \mathbb{C}$

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{z}_2 &= p_k(z_2, \bar{z}_2) + h.o.t. \\ \dot{z}_3 &= p_k(z_3, \bar{z}_3) + q_k(z_3, \bar{z}_3, z_2, \bar{z}_2) + h.o.t.\end{aligned}\tag{6}$$

where p_k and q_k are polynomials of order k , $q_k(z_3, \bar{z}_3, 0, 0) = 0$, $h.o.t.$ indicates terms of degree at least $k + 1$ and the truncated system is equivariant under the action of \mathbf{S}^1 , $\theta \cdot (z_2, z_3) = (e^{i\theta} z_2, e^{i\theta} z_3)$. What is the general expression for p_k, q_k ?

Proof. p_k satisfies the same relation as in the case of the Hopf bifurcation. Hence $p_k(z) = z \cdot \tilde{p}_k(|z|^2)$. We have $q_k(e^{i\theta} z_2, e^{i\theta} z_3) = e^{i\theta} q_k(z_2, z_3)$. Looking at monomials $z_2^a \bar{z}_2^b z_3^c \bar{z}_3^d$ one finds the expression $a - b + c - d = 1$. We write $a - b - 1 = l \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $c - d = -l$. One finds, for $l \geq 0$, the terms $z_2^{1+l} |z_2|^{2b} \bar{z}_2^{-l} |z_3|^{2c} \bar{z}_3^l$. If $l = -1 - \tilde{l} < 0$, we find $a + \tilde{l} = b, c = d + 1 + \tilde{l}$: it gives terms like $\bar{z}_2^{\tilde{l}} |z_2|^{2a} \bar{z}_2^{-l} |z_3|^{2d} z_3^{\tilde{l}+1}$. Hence, we find that $q_k = z_2 A(|z_2|^2, |z_3|^2, z_2 \bar{z}_3) + z_3 B(|z_2|^2, |z_3|^2, \bar{z}_2 z_3)$ where A, B are polynomials. \square