

The following notes are useful for this discussion: [Note 18](#).

1. Jacobians and Linear Approximation

Recall that for a scalar-valued function $f(\vec{x}, \vec{y}) : \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^k \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ with vector-valued arguments, we can linearize the function at (\vec{x}_*, \vec{y}_*) :

$$\hat{f}(\vec{x}, \vec{y}) = f(\vec{x}_*, \vec{y}_*) + \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\partial f(\vec{x}_*, \vec{y}_*)}{\partial x_i} (x_i - x_{i,*}) + \sum_{j=1}^k \frac{\partial f(\vec{x}_*, \vec{y}_*)}{\partial y_j} (y_j - y_{j,*}). \quad (1)$$

In order to simplify this equation, we can define the following two vector quantities:

$$J_{\vec{x}}f = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_1} & \cdots & \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_n} \end{bmatrix} \quad (2)$$

$$J_{\vec{y}}f = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial f}{\partial y_1} & \cdots & \frac{\partial f}{\partial y_k} \end{bmatrix} \quad (3)$$

- (a) When the function $\vec{f}(\vec{x}, \vec{y}) : \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^k \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ takes in vectors and outputs a *vector* (rather than a scalar), we can view each dimension in \vec{f} independently as a separate function f_i , and linearize each of them as above:

$$\hat{\vec{f}}(\vec{x}, \vec{y}) = \begin{bmatrix} \hat{f}_1(\vec{x}, \vec{y}) \\ \hat{f}_2(\vec{x}, \vec{y}) \\ \vdots \\ \hat{f}_m(\vec{x}, \vec{y}) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} f_1(\vec{x}_*, \vec{y}_*) + J_{\vec{x}}f_1 \cdot (\vec{x} - \vec{x}_*) + J_{\vec{y}}f_1 \cdot (\vec{y} - \vec{y}_*) \\ f_2(\vec{x}_*, \vec{y}_*) + J_{\vec{x}}f_2 \cdot (\vec{x} - \vec{x}_*) + J_{\vec{y}}f_2 \cdot (\vec{y} - \vec{y}_*) \\ \vdots \\ f_m(\vec{x}_*, \vec{y}_*) + J_{\vec{x}}f_m \cdot (\vec{x} - \vec{x}_*) + J_{\vec{y}}f_m \cdot (\vec{y} - \vec{y}_*) \end{bmatrix} \quad (4)$$

We can rewrite this in a clean way with the *Jacobian* of a vector-valued function:

$$J_{\vec{x}}\vec{f} = \begin{bmatrix} J_{\vec{x}}f_1 \\ J_{\vec{x}}f_2 \\ \vdots \\ J_{\vec{x}}f_m \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_1} & \cdots & \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_n} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \frac{\partial f_m}{\partial x_1} & \cdots & \frac{\partial f_m}{\partial x_n} \end{bmatrix}, \quad (5)$$

and similarly

$$J_{\vec{y}}\vec{f} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial y_1} & \cdots & \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial y_k} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \frac{\partial f_m}{\partial y_1} & \cdots & \frac{\partial f_m}{\partial y_k} \end{bmatrix}. \quad (6)$$

Then, the linearization becomes

$$\hat{\vec{f}}(\vec{x}, \vec{y}) = \vec{f}(\vec{x}_*, \vec{y}_*) + J_{\vec{x}}\vec{f}(\vec{x}_*, \vec{y}_*) \cdot (\vec{x} - \vec{x}_*) + J_{\vec{y}}\vec{f}(\vec{x}_*, \vec{y}_*) \cdot (\vec{y} - \vec{y}_*). \quad (7)$$

Let $\vec{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix}$ and $\vec{f}(\vec{x}) = \begin{bmatrix} x_1^2 x_2 \\ x_1 x_2^2 \end{bmatrix}$. Find $J_{\vec{x}}\vec{f}$, applying the definition above.

(b) Evaluate the approximation of \vec{f} using $\vec{x}_* = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$ at the point $\begin{bmatrix} 2.01 \\ 3.01 \end{bmatrix}$, and compare with $\vec{f}\left(\begin{bmatrix} 2.01 \\ 3.01 \end{bmatrix}\right)$. Recall the definition that $\vec{f}(\vec{x}) = \begin{bmatrix} x_1^2 x_2 \\ x_1 x_2^2 \end{bmatrix}$.

(c) Let \vec{x} and \vec{y} be vectors with 2 rows, and let \vec{w} be another vector with 2 rows. Let $\vec{f}(\vec{x}, \vec{y}) = \vec{x}\vec{y}^\top \vec{w}$.
Find $J_{\vec{x}}\vec{f}$ and $J_{\vec{y}}\vec{f}$.

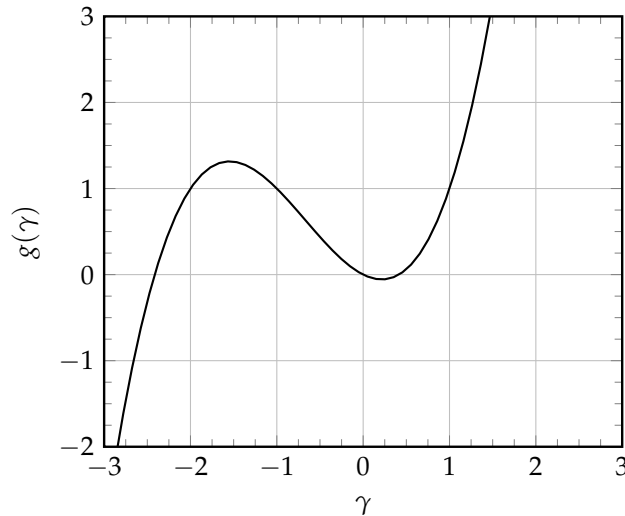
(d) **(PRACTICE)** Continuing the above part, find the linear approximation of \vec{f} near $\vec{x} = \vec{y} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$
 and with $\vec{w} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$.

2. Linearizing a Two-state System

We have a two-state nonlinear system defined by the following differential equation:

$$\frac{d}{dt} \begin{bmatrix} \beta(t) \\ \gamma(t) \end{bmatrix} = \frac{d}{dt} \vec{x}(t) = \begin{bmatrix} -2\beta(t) + \gamma(t) \\ g(\gamma(t)) + u(t) \end{bmatrix} = \vec{f}(\vec{x}(t), u(t)) \quad (8)$$

where $\vec{x}(t) = \begin{bmatrix} \beta(t) \\ \gamma(t) \end{bmatrix}$ and $g(\cdot)$ is a nonlinear function with the following graph:



The $g(\cdot)$ is the only nonlinearity in this system. We want to linearize this entire system around a operating point/equilibrium. Any point \vec{x}_* is an operating point if $\vec{f}(\vec{x}_*(t), u_*(t)) = \vec{0}$.

(a) If we have fixed $u_*(t) = -1$, what values of γ and β will ensure $\frac{d}{dt} \vec{x}(t) = \vec{f}(\vec{x}(t), u(t)) = \vec{0}$?

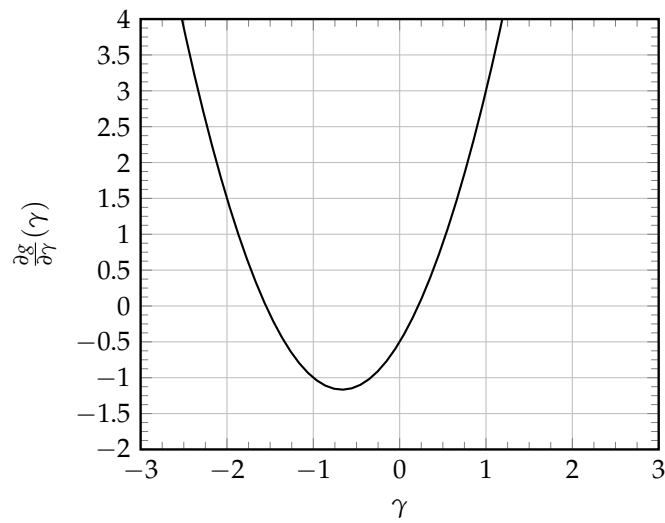
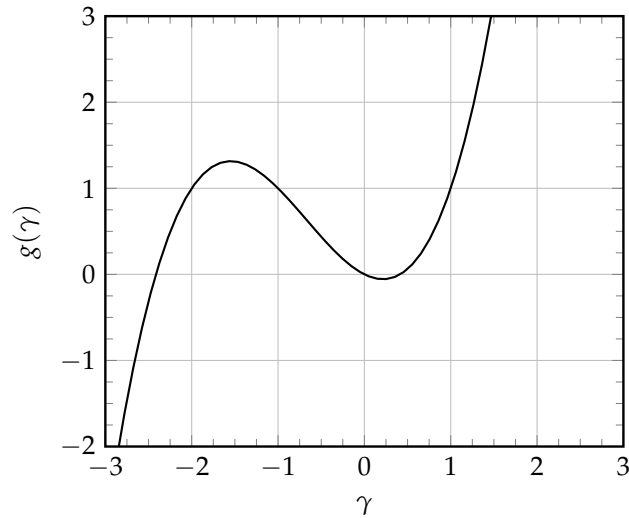
(b) Now that you have the three operating points, **linearize the system about the operating point** (\vec{x}_3^*, u_*) (that which has the largest value for γ). Specifically, what we want is as follows. Let $\delta \vec{x}_i(t) = \vec{x}(t) - \vec{x}_i^*$ for $i = 1, 2, 3$, and $\delta u(t) = u(t) - u_*$. We can in principle write the linearized system for each operating point in the following form:

$$\text{(linearization about } (\vec{x}_i^*, u_*)) \quad \frac{d}{dt} \delta \vec{x}_i(t) = A_i \delta \vec{x}_i(t) + B_i \delta u(t) + \vec{w}_i(t) \quad (9)$$

where $\vec{w}_i(t)$ is a disturbance that also includes the approximation error due to linearization.

For this part, **find** A_3 **and** B_3 .

We have provided below the function $g(\gamma)$ and its derivative $\frac{\partial g}{\partial \gamma}$.



(c) Which of the operating points are stable? Which are unstable?

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