

30. (expires 5/3) Consider the differential equation  $\dot{\mathbf{z}}(t) = \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{z}(t))$ , where the vector  $\mathbf{z}(t) = (x(t), y(t))$  and the field  $\mathbf{F}(x, y) = (-y, x - y)$ . Plot a few solutions. What happens to them when  $t \rightarrow +\infty$ ? Give a “Maple-proof” that this is a general fact for *every* solution. [A “Maple-proof” is an argument that is rigorous once we accept Maple results as incontrovertibly true.]

31. (expires 5/3) For the equation  $\dot{\mathbf{z}} = \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{z})$ ,  $\mathbf{z} = (x, y)$ , with the vector field

$$\mathbf{F}(x, y) = \langle -x(x^4 + y^4) - y, x - y(x^4 + y^4) \rangle,$$

prove that the origin is an attractor in the future, i.e., every solution verifies

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \mathbf{z}(t) = 0.$$

Note that in this case, while you can (and probably should) use Maple to get an understanding and do calculations, you should format your answer as a regular mathematical proof.

32. (expires 5/3) We will study the Lotke-Volterra predator-prey equations: In a very simple ecosystem, at the time  $t$  (which is expressed, say, in years), there is a population of  $f(t)$  foxes and  $r(t)$  rabbits. The evolution of these quantities obeys the system

$$\begin{cases} \dot{f}(t) = G_f f(t) + E f(t) r(t), \\ \dot{r}(t) = G_r r(t) - E f(t) r(t); \end{cases}$$

where  $G_f$  and  $G_r$  are the growth rates for the foxes and the rabbits, respectively, in the absence of each other.  $E$  is the probability of a fatal encounter between a fox and a rabbit (normalized per number of foxes and rabbits).

First, write some words to explain why these equations make sense. Then, fix  $G_f = 0.4$ ,  $G_r = 2.4$  (it’s well-known that rabbits have the tendency to reproduce quickly) and  $E = 0.01$ . For a few initial conditions of your choice, plot the trajectories in the  $(f, r)$ -plane (say, with  $0 \leq f \leq 1000$  and  $0 \leq r \leq 1000$ ). For the same initial conditions, plot the actual solutions too (i.e,  $f(t)$  against  $t$ , and  $r(t)$  against  $t$ ). Write some comments interpreting how the behaviour of the solutions relates to what happens to the two species.

Finally, repeat the same procedure with  $G_f = -1.1$ . Things change substantially. Again, what is the “physical” interpretation of this?