

#### CS-5630 Scientific Visualization

# Basics of Vector Field Topology

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## Examples







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## Motivation

- Abstract representation of flow field
- Characterization of global flow structures
- Basic idea (steady case):
  - Interpret flow in terms of streamlines
  - Classify them w.r.t. their limit sets
  - Determine regions of homogenous behavior
- Graph depiction
- Fast computation



- Limit sets of a point  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ 
  - $\omega(\mathbf{x})$  : omega limit set of  $\mathbf{x} = point$ (or curve) reached after forward integration by streamline seeded at  $\mathbf{x}$
  - $-\alpha(\mathbf{x})$  : alpha limit set of  $\mathbf{x} =$  point (or curve) reached after **backward** integration by streamline seeded at  $\mathbf{x}$
- Sources ( $\alpha$ ) and sinks ( $\omega$ ) of the flow
- Basin: region of influence of a limit set



#### • Phase portrait





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#### • Limit sets





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#### • Flow direction





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#### • $\omega$ -basin of sink





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#### • $\alpha$ -basin of source





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- Equilibrium
  - $-\vec{v}(\mathbf{x}_0) = \vec{0}$
  - Streamline reduced to a single point
- Remarks
  - Asymptotic flow convergence / divergence
  - Streamlines "intersect" at critical points
- Type of critical point determines local flow pattern around it



- Jacobian has full rank
   *No zero eigenvalue*
- Major cases



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 Type determined by Jacobian's eigenvalues:

- Positive real part: repelling (source)





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## **Critical Point Extraction**

#### Cell-wise analysis

- Solve linear / quadratic equation to determine position of critical point in cell
- Compute Jacobian at that position
- Compute eigenvalues
- If type is saddle, compute eigenvectors



## **Closed Orbits**

- Curve-type limit set
- Sink / source behavior
- Poincaré map:



- Defined over cross section
- Map each position to next intersection with cross section along flow
- Discrete map
- Cycle intersects at fixed point
- Hyperbolic / non-hyperbolic





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## **Closed Orbit Extraction**

- Poincaré-Bendixson theorem:
  - If a region contains a limit set and no critical point, it contains a closed orbit





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## **Closed Orbit Extraction**

- Detect closed cell cycle
- Check for flow exit along boundary
- Find exact position with Poincaré map







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#### **Closed Orbit Extraction**

#### Results





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# **Topological Graph**

#### • Graph

- Nodes: critical points
- Edges: separatrices and closed orbits
- Remark
  - All streamlines in a given region have same  $\alpha$  and  $\omega$  -limit set

#### Problem

 Definition does not account for bounded domain



# **Topological Graph**





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# Local Topology

- Classification w.r.t. asymptotic convergence
- On bounded domain: streamlines leave domain in finite time
- Extend definition of topology
  - Inflow boundaries = sources
  - Outflow boundaries = sinks
  - Bounded by half-saddles
  - Additional separatrices





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# Local Topology





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## **Applications**

- Can be combined with
  - Texture-based flow visualization
  - Color-coding of associated quantity
  - Topology-based streamline seeding





## **Applications**

- Can be applied to the gradient of a related scalar field (cf. Morse theory)
- Jacobian matrix is symmetric!
  - Eigenvalues are real: rotation free
  - Linear critical points are saddle and nodes
  - Interpretation as height field



## What about transient flows?

- Parameter dependent topology:
  - -Critical points move, appear, vanish, transform

-Graph connectivity changes

 Structural stability (Peixoto): topology is stable w.r.t. small but arbitrary changes of parameter(s) if and only if

1) Number of critical points and closed orbits is finite and all are

hyperbolic2) No saddle-saddle connection



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#### **Bifurcations**

- Transition from one stable structure to another through unstable state
- Bifurcation value: parameter value inducing the transition
- Local vs. global bifurcations



#### **Local Bifurcations**

- Transformation affects local region
- Fold bifurcation: saddle + sink/source





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#### **Local Bifurcations**

- Transformation affects local region
- Hopf bifurcation: sink/source + closed orbit





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## **Global Bifurcations**

- Affects overall topological connectivity
- Basin bifurcation





## **Global Bifurcations**

- Modifies overall topological connectivity
- Homoclinic bifurcation



#### Saddle-saddle connection



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## **Global Bifurcations**

- Modifies overall topological connectivity
- Periodic blue sky





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Cell-wise Tracking

prism cell

- Time-wise interpolation
- Cell-wise tracking over 2+1D grid
- Detect local bifurcations





#### Cell-wise Tracking





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#### Cell-wise Tracking





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#### Cell-wise Tracking





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#### Feature Flow Field

#### • Feature Flow Field

 Track path of critical points by streamline integration in vector field defined over (n+1)D space-time domain

$$\vec{f}(x, y, t) = \begin{pmatrix} u(x, y, t) \\ v(x, y, t) \end{pmatrix} \vec{g}(x, y, t) = \nabla u \times \nabla v$$
  
- The value of  $\vec{f}$  (e.g.  $\vec{0}$ ) is constant along streamlines of  $\vec{g}$ 



#### Feature Flow Field







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# **3D Flow Topology**

#### Critical points



Both line and surface separatrices exist



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# **3D Cycles**

- Similar principle as in 2D
  - Isolate closed cell chain in which streamline integration appears captured
  - Start stream surface integration along boundary of cell-wise region
  - Use flow continuity to exclude reentry cases



# **3D Cycles**





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# **3D Topology Extraction**

- Cell-wise critical point extraction:
  - Compute root of linear / trilinear expression
  - Compute Jacobian at found position
  - If type is saddle compute eigenvectors
- Extract closed streamlines
- Integrate line-type separatrices
- Integrate surface separatrices as stream surfaces



## **3D** Topology Extraction





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