

2<sup>nd</sup> order Differential Equations

- this is a special case of systems!

$$x'' = f(x, x', t)$$

↪ system

introduce a new variable  $y$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} x' = y \\ y' (= x'') = f(x, y, t) \end{array} \right\} \text{system with} \\ \text{variables } x \text{ and } y$$

Example van der Pol Equation

$$x'' - (1 - x^2)x' + x = 0$$

(autonomous example)

$$x'' = (1 - x^2)x' - x$$

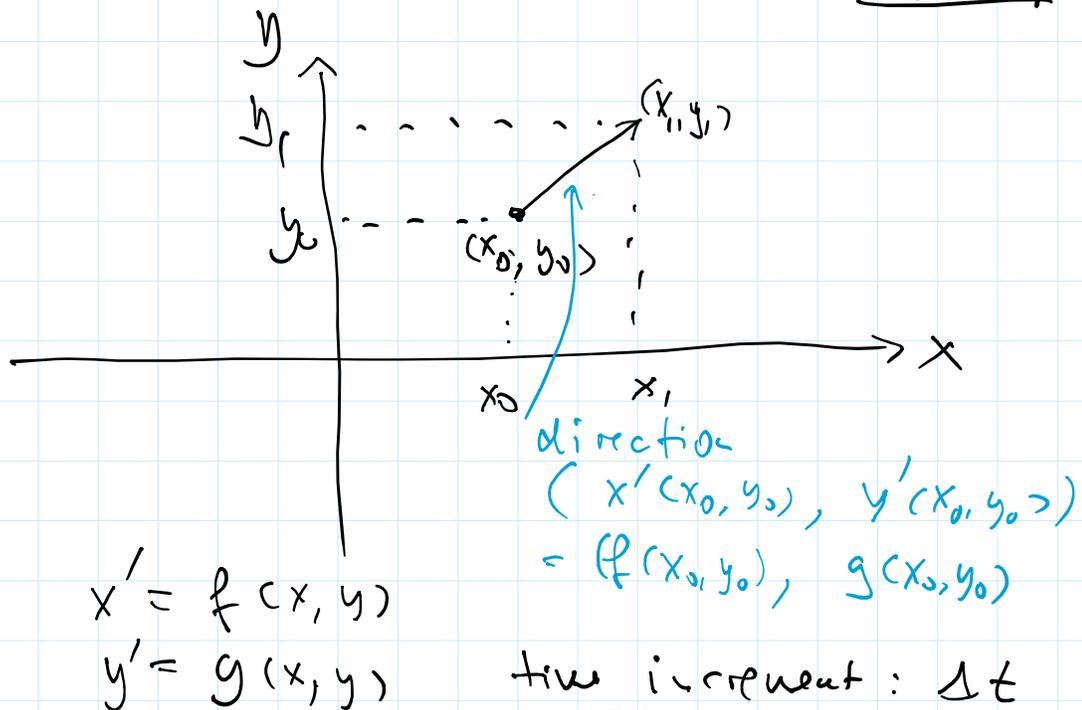
$$\left. \begin{array}{l} x' = y \\ y' = (1 - x^2)y - x \end{array} \right\} \text{system}$$

Convert a non-autonomous 1<sup>st</sup> order DEd into an autonomous system:

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} x' = f(x, t) \\ t' = 1 \\ x' = f(x, t) \end{array} \right\} \text{autonomous system}$$

The van-der-Pol equation  
exhibits an attractive limit  
cycle!

Euler Approximations - in the phase plane



$$x' = f(x, y)$$

$$y' = g(x, y)$$

$$x_1 = x_0 + f(x_0, y_0) \Delta t$$

$$y_1 = y_0 + g(x_0, y_0) \Delta t$$

Example

$$x' = 2y$$

$$y' = -x$$

$$x_0 = 2$$

$$y_0 = 3$$

initial value  
problem

$$\Delta t = 1$$

$$x_0 = 2$$

$$y_0 = 3$$

$$x_0 = 2$$

$$y_0 = 3$$

$$x_1 = x_0 + f(x_0, y_0) \Delta t$$

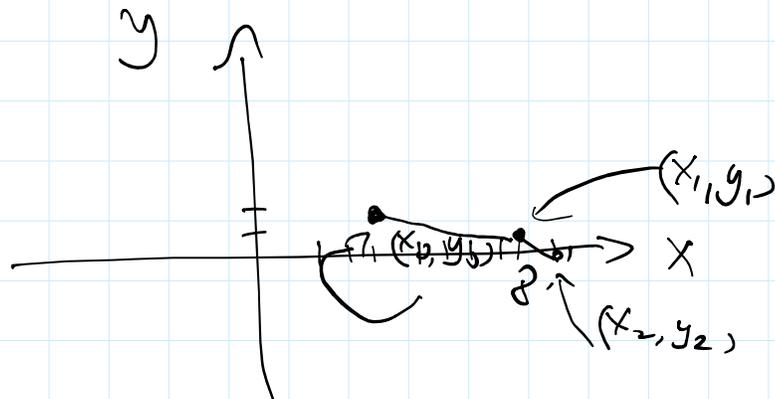
$$= 2 + 2y_0 \cdot 1$$

$$= 2 + 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 1 = 8$$

$$y_1 = y_0 + g(x_0, y_0) \cdot \Delta t$$

$$= 3 + (-x_0) \cdot \Delta t$$

$$= 3 - 2 = 1$$



$$x_2 = x_1 + f(x_1, y_1) \Delta t$$

$$= 8 + 2y_1$$

$$= 8 + 2 = 10$$

$$y_2 = y_1 + g(x_1, y_1) \cdot \Delta t$$

$$= 1 + (-x_1) \cdot 1$$

$$= 1 - 8 = -7$$

$$(x_2, y_2) = (10, 0)$$

Ex & Uniqueness theorem

— for autonomous systems

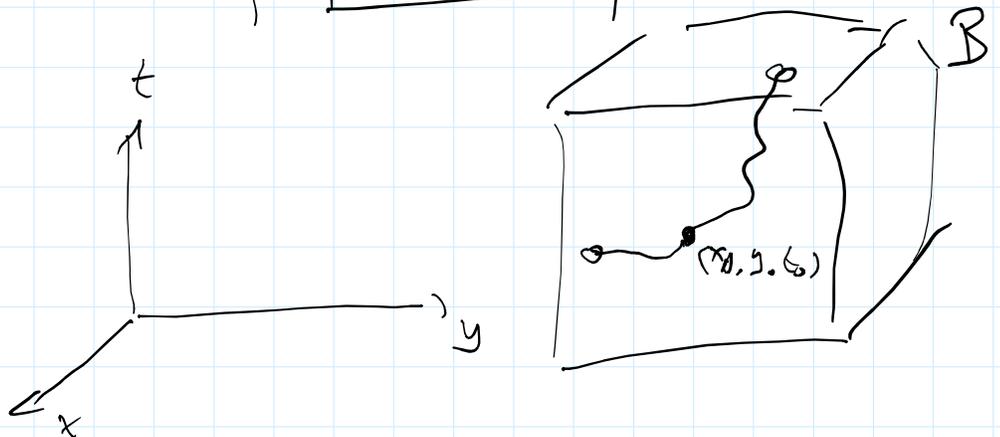
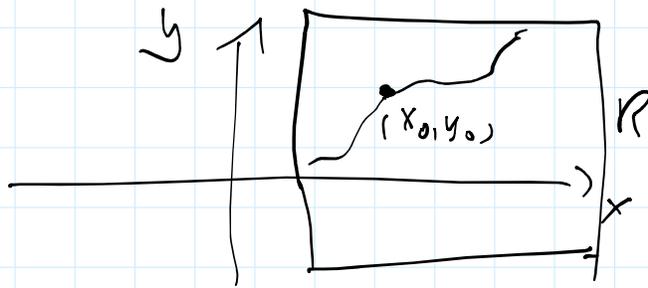
— for autonomous systems

$$x' = f(x, y) \quad x(0) = x_0$$

$$y' = g(x, y) \quad y(0) = y_0$$

If  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial g}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial g}{\partial y}$  are continuous

in a rectangle  $R$  containing  $(x_0, y_0)$ ,  
there will be a unique solution to  
the IVP as long as it stays in  
the rectangle



Phase portraits cannot intersect  
for autonomous systems!

→ follows from time-shift  
invariance of solutions  
to an autonomous system:

If  $(x(t), y(t))$  is a solution

If  $(x(t_0), y(t_0))$  is a solution  
then  $(x(t-t_0), y(t-t_0))$   
will also be a solution  
for all  $t_0!$

glider example: Worksheet 2

