EECE 571M
Nonlinear Systems and Control
Problem Set #1

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1. Consider a mechanical model of a mass M and a spring with spring constant k, on a conveyor belt moving with constant velocity b. The force due to friction, $F_b(\dot{x})$, models "sticky" friction, or "stiction".

$$M\ddot{x} + F_b(\dot{x}) + kx = 0, \quad F_b(\dot{x}) = \begin{cases} ((\dot{x} - b) - c)^2 + d & \text{for } \dot{x} \geq b \\ -((\dot{x} - b) + c)^2 - d & \text{for } \dot{x} < b \end{cases} \tag{1}$$

Assume that $c = 2, d = 3, M = 3, k = 3$ and the conveyer belt speed is $b > 0$.

   (a) Calculate all equilibrium points.

   (b) Determine the stability and type of the equilibrium point.

   (c) Make two phase plane plots of x vs. $\dot{x}$, using Matlab or PPLANE, for $b = 1$ and $b = 2.1$, for a few initial conditions. Describe the resultant phase plane plot in terms of the sticking and slipping behavior discussed in class. How do the two phase plane plots differ?

2. Consider the planar system

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{x}_1 &= (x_1 - x_2)(1 - x_1^2 - x_2^2) \\ \dot{x}_2 &= (x_1 + x_2)(1 - x_1^2 - x_2^2) \end{aligned} \tag{2}$$

   (a) Determine the stability of (0,0), the only *isolated* equilibrium point of the system.

   (b) For the linear system that approximates dynamics around the origin, find the coordinate transformation into real Jordan form.

   (c) Sketch the phase portrait and discuss the qualitative behavior of the system. Does the behavior of the linear approximation match the behavior of the nonlinear system near the origin? Why or why not?

   (d) Does this system have a periodic orbit? Why or why not?