

Lienard Dynamical systems

A linear oscillator with damping is described by the differential equation $\ddot{x} + b\dot{x} + kx = 0$ where b, k are positive constants. Lienard generalized this system in the form

$$\ddot{x} + f(x)\dot{x} + g(x) = 0 \quad \text{or} \quad \begin{cases} \dot{x} = y \\ \dot{y} = -g(x) - f(x)y \end{cases} \quad (\text{Lienard system})$$

The following theorem holds

Lienard Theorem: The Lienard system possesses a unique periodic solution (limit cycle) if

- i) $f(x)$ is an even function with $f(0) < 0$ and $f(x) > 0$ for $x > a$ (where a is a positive constant)
- ii) $g(x)$ is an odd function and $g(x) > 0$ for $x > 0$.

Exercise in Mathematica:

Choose two particular functions $f(x)$ and $g(x)$ that satisfy the criteria of the Lienard theorem and

α) Plot the functions $f(x)$ and $g(x)$ as well as the potential function $V = \int g(x) dx$

β) Plot the phase space portrait of the system

γ) Plot the time evolution of $x=x(t)$ by choosing some initial conditions

δ) The system must possess a limit cycle. Determine the amplitude and the period of the oscillations of the limit cycle solution

Avoid to use the Lienard systems given in the book of Stephen Lynch (choose different functions $f(x)$ and $g(x)$).