

Rest point and asymptotic limit

Theorem Let $\mathbf{x}(t)$ be a solution of

$$\mathbf{x}'(t) = \phi(\mathbf{x}(t)),$$

and

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \mathbf{x}(t) = \mathbf{x}_0 \text{ (asymptotic limit),}$$

then

$$\phi(\mathbf{x}_0) = 0 \text{ (rest point).}$$

Proof If $\phi(\mathbf{x}_0) \neq 0$, then the flow $\mathbf{x}(t)$ take a small neighborhood U of \mathbf{x}_0 into V such that $V \cap U = \emptyset$.

This means precisely that

$$\exists U, \text{ s.t. } \forall t, \exists s > t, \mathbf{x}(s) \notin U.$$

A contradiction to

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \mathbf{x}(t) = \mathbf{x}_0.$$