MIDTERM TOPIC LIST
Dynamical Systems
Math 5260
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October 7, 2015
For midterm on Monday, Oct. 12, 2015.

In general, the midterm will cover any topics we covered in Chapters 1-12. The focus will be on "basic" material. Homework type questions from previous assignments will be emphasized. I will attempt to make the problems noncomputationally intensive. The following list of topics should give you a more specific idea of what kinds of questions will be asked.

1. Definitions to know:

   - Fixed point, periodic point, orbit, cycle, period, prime or least period

   - Attracting, superattracting, repelling, (linearly) neutral periodic point (orbit, cycle), weakly attracting, weakly repelling; use of chain rule in determining these adjectives

   - Phase portrait

   - Graphical analysis

   - Discrete dynamical system vs. continuous dynamical system

   - Bifurcation, incl. esp. saddle-node and period doubling (nondegeneracy conditions not necessary to memorize)

   - The sequence space $\Sigma$, the "usual" metric on $\Sigma$, the shift map $\sigma$.

   - Three properties of a chaotic system and all terminology used in the def. of the properties.

   - *A dense* in $B$ for $A \subset B$.

   - Homeomorphism, topological conjugacy, topological semiconjugacy

2. Results to know:

   - Relationship between the shift map on the symbol sequence space and the quadratic map on the invariant Cantor set (for $c < -2$).

   - Sarkovkii's theorem, including Sarkovskii's ordering

   - "Negative Schwarzian Derivative Property" (which is true for any quadratic): Any attracting periodic orbit must attract a critical point.

3. Techniques to know:

- Locating fixed and periodic pts/orbits analytically (for individual maps and for families of maps)

- Locating period-$n$ pts/orbits of $f$ from graphs of $f$ and $f^n$.

- Interpreting orbit diagrams (identifying, for example, parameter values corresponding to maps with attracting orbits of a certain period, or saddle-node bifurcations or period-doubling bifurcations)

- Determining stability of periodic orbits either analytically or from graphs.

- Constructing a graph of $f$ so that $f$ has a point $p$ that is, for example, a period-$n$ point, and the derivative $(f^n)'(p)$ has a specificed value. (Hint: use the chain rule!)

- Constructing the graph of iterates of $f$ given the graph of $f$.

- The construction of the invariant Cantor set $\Lambda$ for $x^2 + c$ with $c < -2$.

- The construction of an itinerary map.

- Given a map and a change of variables, find the equation for the map in the new variables.

- Recognizing a saddle-node and/or period doubling bifurcation from a sequence of graphs of a family of maps as a parameter changes

- Determining the number of prime periodic orbits of each period for $x^2 - 2$ (equivalently $2x \pmod 1$, $4x(1 - x)$, $\sigma$)

- Determining the number of period-$n$ windows for each $n$ in the orbit diagram for the family $x^2 + c$.

- Locating each period-$n$ window in the orbit diagram for the family $x^2 + c$.

4. Proofs to know:

- Prove that if $f$ is continuous, $f$ has a periodic point implies $f$ has a fixed point.

- Prove either direction of the Proximity Theorem.

- Prove $\sigma : \Sigma \to \Sigma$ is chaotic. (Prove any or all 3 properties.)

5. Anything else we've covered that I think is easy.