

Stability of Closed set in Flow

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In [1], the following Theorem shows the connection between stability and Lyapunov function.

Theorem 1. *A closed set M is stable if and only if there exists a function $\varphi(x)$ defined on X with the following properties:*

$\varphi(x) = 0$ if and only if $x \in M$,

For every $\epsilon > 0$, there is a $\delta > 0$ such that $\varphi(x) \geq \delta$ whenever $\rho(x, M) \geq \epsilon$; also for y sequence (x_n) , $\varphi(x_n) \rightarrow 0$ whenever $x_n \rightarrow x \in M$,

$\varphi(xt) \leq \varphi(x)$ for all $x \in X$, $t \geq 0$.

Here, in general, a function $\varphi(x)$ need not be continuous. Such an example is given in [1]. However, in this paper, even though a function $\varphi(x)$ is continuous, we will prove that a closed set M is stable if and only if there exists a continuous function $\varphi: X \rightarrow R^+$ such that (1) for any $x \in X$, $\varphi(x) = 0$ if and only if $x \in M$, (2) for any $x \in X$ and $t \in R^+$, $\varphi(xt) \leq \varphi(x)$.

Here, X and R^+ mean an arbitrary metric space and the set of non-negative reals, respectively. A closed set M of X is stable if for each $\epsilon > 0$ and $x \in M$, there is a $\delta = \delta(x, \epsilon) > 0$ such that $S(x, \delta) \cap R^+ \subset S(M, \epsilon)$. A point $x \in X$ is *positively Lyapunov stable* if for each $\epsilon > 0$, there is a $\delta > 0$ such that $\rho(x, y) < \delta$ implies $\rho(xt, yt) < \epsilon$ for $t \in R^+$. If every point of X is positively Lyapunov stable, X is called positively Lyapunov stable.

Theorem 2. *Let X be positively Lyapunov stable. Then a subset M of X is closed and positively invariant if and only if there exists a continuous function $\varphi: X \rightarrow R^+$ such that (1) for each $x \in X$, $\varphi(x) = 0$ if and only if $x \in M$*

(2) for each $x \in X$ and $t \in R^+$, $\varphi(xt) \leq \varphi(x)$.

Proof. (1) Sufficiency. Let $x \in M$. Then there exists a sequence (x_n) in M such that $x_n \rightarrow x$. Since a function φ is continuous, $\varphi(x_n) \rightarrow \varphi(x)$. By the assumption, $\varphi(x_n) = 0$. So, $\varphi(x) = 0$. Also, $x \in M$. Hence M is closed.

To see that M is positively invariant, let $x \in M$ and $t \in R^+$. Then $\varphi(x) = 0$. Since $0 \leq \varphi(xt) \leq \varphi(x)$, $\varphi(xt) = 0$. Thus $xt \in M$. As $t \in R^+$ was arbitrary, M is positively invariant.

(2) Necessity. Let M be positively invariant. We define the function $\varphi: X \rightarrow R^+$ by

taking $\varphi(x) = \sup_{t \in R^+} \frac{\rho(xt, M)}{1 + \rho(xt, M)}$. Then $\varphi(x)$ is defined on X .

Let $x \in M$. For any $t \in R^+$, $xt \in M$. Thus $\rho(xt, M) = 0$. Consequently, $\frac{\rho(xt, M)}{1 + \rho(xt, M)} = 0$.

This shows that $\varphi(x) = \sup_{t \in R^+} \frac{\rho(xt, M)}{1 + \rho(xt, M)} = 0$. Assume that $\varphi(x) = 0$, for any $x \in X$.

Let $x \notin M$. Then $\rho(x, M) > 0$. Here, $\varphi(x) = \sup_{t \in R^+} \frac{\rho(xt, M)}{1 + \rho(xt, M)} \geq \frac{\rho(x, M)}{1 + \rho(x, M)} > 0$.

This contradicts to the fact that $\varphi(x) = 0$. Therefore, $x \in M$.

We claim that $\varphi(xt) \leq \varphi(x)$, for any $x \in X$ and $t \in R^+$. Now,

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi(xt) &= \sup_{s \in R^+} \frac{\rho(xt(s), M)}{1 + \rho(xt(s), M)} = \sup_{s \in R^+} \frac{\rho(x(t+s), M)}{1 + \rho(x(t+s), M)} = \sup_{s \in (t, +\infty)} \frac{\rho(xs, M)}{1 + \rho(xs, M)} \\ &\leq \sup_{s \in R^+} \frac{\rho(xs, M)}{1 + \rho(xs, M)} = \varphi(x). \end{aligned}$$

Hence $\varphi(xt) \leq \varphi(x)$.

In order to prove the continuity of $\varphi: X \rightarrow R^+$, let $x \in X$. Since X is positively Lyapunov stable, for any $\epsilon > 0$, there exists $\alpha\delta > 0$ such that $\rho(x, y) < \delta$ implies $\rho(xt, yt) < \epsilon$, for all $t \in R^+$. For any $z \in M$, $\rho(xt, M) \leq \rho(xt, z) \leq \rho(xt, yt) + \rho(yt, z)$.

Then $\rho(xt, M) - \rho(xt, yt) \leq \rho(yt, z)$. Also, $\rho(xt, M) - \rho(xt, yt) \leq \rho(yt, M)$. Thus

$$\begin{aligned} \rho(xt, M) &\leq \rho(yt, M) + \rho(xt, yt) < \rho(yt, M) + \epsilon. \text{ Here, } \varphi(x) = \frac{\rho(xt, M)}{1 + \rho(xt, M)} < \frac{\rho(yt, M) + \epsilon}{1 + \rho(yt, M) + \epsilon} \\ &< \frac{\rho(yt, M) + \epsilon}{1 + \rho(yt, M)} < \frac{\rho(yt, M)}{1 + \rho(yt, M)} + \epsilon \leq \varphi(y) + \epsilon. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, $\varphi(x) \leq \varphi(y) + \epsilon$. Similarly, $\varphi(y) \leq \varphi(x) + \epsilon$. This implies that $|\varphi(y) - \varphi(x)| \leq \epsilon$. Hence the function $\varphi: X \rightarrow R^+$ is continuous.

Theorem 3. *Let X be positively Lyapunov stable and let M be a closed subset of X . Then M is positively invariant if and only if M is stable.*

Proof. Let M be positively invariant. Let $x \in M$. Then $xt \in M$. In view of positively Lyapunov stability of X , for any $\epsilon > 0$, there exists $\alpha\delta > 0$ such that $\rho(x, y) < \delta$ implies $\rho(xt, yt) < \epsilon$, for any $x \in M$ and $t \in R^+$. Now, $\rho(yt, M) \leq \varphi(yt, xt) < \epsilon$. Clearly, $yt \in S(M, \epsilon)$. Thus $S(x, \delta) \cap R^+ \subset S(M, \epsilon)$. This means that M is stable.

Conversely, let M be stable. Let $x \in M$ and $t \in R^+$. If $xt \notin M$, $\rho(xt, M) = \epsilon > 0$. Since M is stable, $xt \in S(M, \epsilon)$. Then $\rho(xt, M) < \epsilon$. This is a contradiction. Hence $xt \in M$. Consequently, M is positively invariant. This completes the proof.

Remark. *From Theorem 2 and Theorem 3, a closed set M of X is stable if and only if there exists a continuous function $\varphi: X \rightarrow R^+$ such that (1) for any $x \in X$, $\varphi(x) = 0$ if and only if $x \in M$, (2) for any $x \in X$ and $t \in R^+$, $\varphi(xt) \leq \varphi(x)$.*

References

- [1] N. P. Bhatia and G. P. Szego, *Stability Theory of Dynamical Systems*, Springer-Verlag, New York Heidelberg Berlin, 1970.
- [2] K. S. Sibirsky, *Introduction to Topological Dynamics*, Noordorff, Leyden, Netherlands, 1975.