

This is discussed in the chapter on “One Dimensional Maps,” [Strogatz 1994, pp. 348–365]. To demonstrate the idea of a dynamical system, we consider the dynamics given by a continuously differentiable map

$$f : I \rightarrow I$$

where $I = [0, 1]$ is the closed unit interval. For us today, we consider the *logistic* map

$$f(x) = rx(1 - x)$$

where r is a real parameter. To make sure $f(I) \subset I$ we require that $0 \leq r \leq 4$. the map defines the motions on I . Starting from an initial point $x_1 \in I$ we define recursively

$$x_{k+1} = f(x_k)$$

The sequence $\{x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots\}$ is called the *orbit* of the point x_1 .

If $r \leq 1$ then $f(x) < x$ for $0 < x \leq 1$ so that $x_{n+1} = f(x_n) < x_n$ (unless all $x_i = 0$.) Hence x_n is a decreasing sequence $x_n \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$. The convergence is to the unique fixed point of the map, the point $x^* \in I$ such that

$$x^* = f(x^*).$$

If $r > 1$ then there are more fixed points. Indeed, solving $x^* = f(x^*)$ yields

$$0 = x^*(r - 1 - rx^*)$$

or

$$x^* = 0 \quad \text{or} \quad x^* = \frac{r-1}{r}$$

which is in I since $r > 1$.

Note that x^* is an attractive fixed point for $1 < r < 3$. We show that if x_k is close to x^* then x_{k+1} is even closer. Writing $x_k = x^* + \eta_k$ we see using Taylor’s formula that

$$x^* + \eta_{k+1} = x_{k+1} = f(x_k) = f(x^* + \eta_k) = f(x^*) + f'(x^*)\eta_k + \mathbf{O}(\eta_k^2)$$

as $\eta_k \rightarrow 0$. As long as $|f'(x^*)| < 1$ then $|\eta_{k+1}| < |\eta_k|$ (for $|\eta_k|$ small enough) so x_{k+1} is closer to x^* than x_k so x^* is an *attractive* fixed point.

For the logistic map, $f' = r - 2rx$ so that

$$f'(x^*) = r - 2r \left(\frac{r-1}{r} \right) = 2 - r$$

so that $|f'(x^*)| < 1$ for $1 < r < 3$. If $r > 3$ then x^* is unstable and the orbit will not limit to x^* unless $x_1 = x^*$. Instead the map $f(f(x))$ has two new stable fixed points $p, q \in I$ and so these become limit points of orbits of period two. The dynamical system undergoes a period doubling bifurcation at $r = 3$.

$$f(f(x)) = rf(x)(1 - f(x)) = r^2x(1 - x)(1 - rx + rx^2)$$

The fixed points of $f \circ f$ are roots of $x = f(f(x))$. Factoring, we find

$$0 = x - f(f(x)) = x - r^2x(1 - x)(1 - rx + rx^2) = x(1 - r + rx)(1 + r - rx - r^2x + r^2x^2)$$

so

$$x^* = 0 \quad \text{or} \quad x^* = \frac{r-1}{r} \quad \text{or} \quad p, q = \frac{1+r \pm \sqrt{(r-3)(r+1)}}{2r}$$

This example is done in **©R**. First we plot $y = x$, $y = f(x)$ for $r = 2.9$ and $y = x$, $y = f(f(x))$ for $r = 3.2$.

Second we compute the sequence x_n for the starting values $x_1 = 1/\pi$ and for various r . The zig-zag line from $(1, x_1)$ to $(2, x_2)$ to $(3, x_3)$ and so on shows the dynamics. We consider several cases: when there is an attractive fixed point, after the first few period doubling bifurcations, and in the chaos region $r > r_\infty = 3.569946 \dots$. For $r = 3.83$, the orbit has period three. For $r = 3.828$ near there, there is intermittent behavior: the orbit has period three or so for a long time and then there is a spurt of chaotic activity until it settles down again.

R Session:

```
R version 3.2.1 (2015-06-18) -- "World-Famous Astronaut"
Copyright (C) 2015 The R Foundation for Statistical Computing
Platform: x86_64-apple-darwin14.5.0 (64-bit)
```

```
R is free software and comes with ABSOLUTELY NO WARRANTY.
You are welcome to redistribute it under certain conditions.
Type 'license()' or 'licence()' for distribution details.
```

```
Natural language support but running in an English locale
```

```
R is a collaborative project with many contributors.
Type 'contributors()' for more information and
'citation()' on how to cite R or R packages in publications.
```

```
Type 'demo()' for some demos, 'help()' for on-line help, or
'help.start()' for an HTML browser interface to help.
Type 'q()' to quit R.
```

```
[Workspace loaded from /home/1004/ma/treibergs/.RData]
```

```
> # Plot y=f(x)
> x=0:299/299
> r=2.9; f = function(x){r*x*(1-x)}
> plot(x,f(x),ylim=0:1,type="l"); abline(0,1,lty=4)
>
># Plot y=f(f(x))
> r=3.2; f = function(x){r*x*(1-x)}
> plot(x,f(f(x)),ylim=0:1,type="l"); abline(0,1,lty=4)
>
> # Iterate the map. print the first 21 c[n]'s
> r=2.9; c[1]=1/pi; for(k in 1:20){c[k+1]=r*c[k]*(1-c[k])};c;
[1] 0.3183099 0.6292672 0.6765409 0.6346166 0.6724473 0.6387596 0.6691628 0.6420135
[9] 0.6665133 0.6445926 0.6643696 0.6466496 0.6626323 0.6482972 0.6612231 0.6496207
[17] 0.6600796 0.6506861 0.6591517 0.6515451 0.6583988
```

```

> # Iterate with different r values. Plot points (n,c[n]) connected by lines.
>
> r=2.9; c[1]=1/pi; for(k in 1:99){c[k+1]=r*c[k]*(1-c[k])};plot(c,type="l",xlab="r = 2.9")
>
> r=3.2; c[1]=1/pi; for(k in 1:99){c[k+1]=r*c[k]*(1-c[k])};plot(c,type="l",xlab="r = 3.2")
>
> r=3.5; c[1]=1/pi; for(k in 1:99){c[k+1]=r*c[k]*(1-c[k])};plot(c,type="l",xlab="r = 3.5")
>
> r=3.55; c[1]=1/pi; for(k in 1:99){c[k+1]=r*c[k]*(1-c[k])};plot(c,type="l",xlab="r=3.55")
> r=3.83; c[1]=1/pi; for(k in 1:99){c[k+1]=r*c[k]*(1-c[k])};plot(c,type="l",xlab="r=3.83")
>
> r=3.828; c[1]=1/pi; for(k in 1:99){c[k+1]=r*c[k]*(1-c[k])};plot(c,type="l",xlab="r = 3.828")

```















