

MONOTONICITY AND EXISTENCE OF PERIODIC ORBITS FOR PROJECTED DYNAMICAL SYSTEMS ON HILBERT SPACES

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ABSTRACT. We present here results about the existence of periodic orbits for projected dynamical systems (PDS) under Minty-Browder monotonicity conditions. The results are formulated in the general context of a Hilbert space of arbitrary (finite or infinite) dimension. The existence of periodic orbits for such PDS is deduced by means of nonlinear analysis, using a fixed point approach. It is also shown how occurrence of periodic orbits is intimately related to that of critical points (equilibria) of a PDS in certain cases.

1. INTRODUCTION

The theoretical study of projected differential equations (PrDE) and projected dynamical systems (PDS) started in the early 90's, in Euclidean space, with the papers [D-I] and [D-N], although similar concepts existed in the literature in [He], [Co] and [A-C]. Further papers and books continued the finite-dimensional study of this topic and explored its applicative potential (see [N-Z3], [N-S], [N-Z1], [N-D-Z], [N-T-Z1], [Z-N2], [Z-N1], [D-Z-N], [C-D-N] and the references therein).

The notion of PrDE was extended to infinite-dimensional spaces in [A-C], [Is-C3], [Is-C2],[Coj1], [C-J]. In [Coj1], [C-J], solutions were shown to exist for any PrDE on a Hilbert space and an infinite-dimensional PDS was defined and studied.

The original motivation for the theoretical study of a projected dynamics is found in finite dimensional equilibrium problems (spatial price, oligopoly or traffic networks and financial equilibrium problems, just to name a few; see [N-S], [N-Z3], [N-D-Z], [N-T-Z1], [C-D-N]), although now infinite-dimensional models of PDS are coming to the forefront as in [C-D-N], [Coj2]. A study of existence for critical points (equilibria) of PDS and their stability properties was conducted in order to describe the behaviour of systems around steady states. In particular, the study used conditions of Minty-Browder monotonicity (see [N-Z1], [N-Z3], [Is-C3], [Is-C2], [Coj1]).

In our pursuit to conduct a thorough theoretical study of projected dynamics, we ask here for the first time the question of existence of periodic orbits. The presence, or absence, of periodicity constitutes important information in the overall study of these dynamical systems and their applications. When periodicity is present, the underlying problem displays repetitive cycles, in which case a stability analysis of these cycles would be of interest. When there is no periodicity, the problem may evolve towards an equilibrium (if one exists) without being "trapped" in repetitive behaviour.

Under monotonicity conditions, we obtain the first results regarding periodicity for PDS. The paper is organized as follows: Section 2 gives a brief overview of the notions of PrDE and PDS. Sections 3 and 4 present the existence results for periodic cycles of a PDS and the relation between these and its critical points. We close with a few conclusions and acknowledgements.

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2. PRELIMINARIES

We assume the reader is familiar with the concepts of *convex cone*, *polar cone* and *set-valued mapping*. Let X be a Hilbert space of arbitrary (finite or infinite) dimension. We do not assume separability of X . Let $K \subset X$ be a non-empty, closed and convex subset. Recall that for each $x \in K$ the set $T_K(x) = \bigcup_{h>0} \frac{1}{h}(K - x)$ is the **tangent cone** to K at x . The **normal cone** to K at x is the polar cone of $T_K(x)$, given by $N_K(x) := \{p \in X \mid \langle p, x - x' \rangle \geq 0, \forall x' \in K\}$.

Also recall that for any $z \in X$, there exists a unique element in K , denoted by $P_K(z)$, such that $\|P_K(z) - z\| = \inf_{x \in K} \|x - z\|$. This defines a mapping $P_K : X \rightarrow K$ given by $z \mapsto P_K(z)$, called **the projection operator** of the space X onto the subset K . The properties of the projection operator on Hilbert spaces are well-known (see [Za]). Evidently, $P_K(x) = x$, for any $x \in K$. The Gateaux directional derivative of P_K is defined as follows (for a proof see [Za], Lemma 4.6 or [Sh], Section 3).

PROPOSITION 2.1. *For any $x \in K$ and any element $v \in X$ the limit*

$$\Pi_K(x, v) := \lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{P_K(x + \delta v) - x}{\delta} \text{ exists and } \Pi_K(x, v) = P_{T_K(x)}(v).$$

Let $\Pi_K : K \times X \rightarrow X$ be the operator given by $(x, v) \mapsto \Pi_K(x, v)$. Note that, for each $x \in K$ and $v \in X$, there exists $n \in N_K(x)$ so that $\Pi_K(x, v) = v - n$, whenever $v \notin T_K(x)$, in other words, Π_K is discontinuous on the boundary of the set K . In fact, $n := P_{N_K(x)}(v)$, which can be easily seen from the classical Moreau's Theorem (see [C-J] Theorem 2.1 for the statement of this result), since $T_K(x)$ and $N_K(x)$ are non-empty, closed, convex cones polar to each other. Moreover n as above is unique (from the general definition of the projection operator on a Hilbert space, given that $N_K(x) \subset X$ is non-empty, closed and convex). In this paper we frequently use the fact that for each $x \in K$, $v \in X$, there is an element $n \in N_K(x)$ as above, so that $\Pi_K(x, v) = v - n$.

DEFINITION 2.1. *Let X be a Hilbert space of arbitrary dimension and $K \subset X$ be a non-empty, closed and convex subset. Let $F : K \rightarrow X$ be a vector field. The discontinuous ordinary differential equation*

$$(1) \quad \frac{dx(t)}{dt} = \Pi_K(x(t), -F(x(t)))$$

*is called the **projected differential equation** associated with $-F$ and K .*

A PrDE is a special case of the differential inclusions in [He], [Co] and [A-C], Chapter 5, Section 6, where Π_K is replaced by the set-valued mapping $x \mapsto -F(x) - N_K(x)$ from K to the subsets of X . The first formulation of equation (1), in the form given above, appeared in [D-I] with $X := \mathbb{R}^n$ and K a convex polyhedral set. It has been used, in the same finite dimensional context, in [N-Z1], [N-Z3], [N-S], [N-T-Z1], [N-D-Z], [Z-N2] and more. It was extended to infinite dimensional Hilbert spaces in [Is-C3], [Is-C2], [Coj1], [C-J].

Let $AC([0, \infty), K)$ denote the class of absolutely continuous functions defined on $[0, \infty)$ with values in K , which satisfy (1) for almost all $t \in [0, \infty)$. In [C-J] Theorem 3.1 and then in [Coj1], Chapter 6, Theorem 6.1 it is shown that a PrDE has solutions in this class. For completeness, we give the statement of the result.

THEOREM 2.1. *Let X be a Hilbert space of arbitrary dimension and $K \subset X$ be a non-empty, closed and convex subset. Let $F : K \rightarrow X$ be a Lipschitz continuous vector field on K , and $x_0 \in K$. Then the initial value problem*

$$(2) \quad \frac{dx(t)}{dt} = \Pi_K(x(t), -F(x(t))), \quad x(0) = x_0 \in K$$

has a unique solution in $AC([0, \infty), K)$.

DEFINITION 2.2. A **projected dynamical system** is given by a mapping $\Phi : R_+ \times K \rightarrow K$ which solves the initial value problem:

$$\dot{\Phi}(t, x) = \Pi_K(\Phi(t, x), -F(\Phi(t, x))), \quad \Phi(0, x) = x \in K.$$

For the rest of the paper we denote by $x(t) := \Phi(t, x)$ the solution of (2) starting at the initial point $x \in K$. With this convention we define the following mapping: $K \rightarrow AC([0, \infty), K)$, given by $x \mapsto x(t)$. Suppose now that $T \in (0, \infty)$ is given. We then define the mapping

$$Q^T : K \rightarrow K, \text{ given by } x \mapsto Q^T(x) = x(T) = x + \int_0^T \Pi_K(x(s), -F(x(s)))ds.$$

Our stated goal, that of finding periodic orbits of a PDS, is the same as solving the problem

$$(3) \quad \frac{dx(t)}{dt} = \Pi_K(x(t), -F(x(t))), \quad x(0) = x(T) \in K.$$

However, this problem is equivalent to showing that the mapping Q^T constructed above has a fixed point, which in turn is equivalent to showing that the functional equation $(id_K - Q^T)(x) = 0$ has at least one solution in K , where id_K is the identity map of K .

3. MONOTONICITY AND EXISTENCE OF PERIODIC ORBITS

In this section we concentrate on showing that the functional equation $(id_K - Q^T)(x) = 0$ has at least one solution in K . We start by recalling the notions of Minty-Browder monotonicity and strict monotonicity, which are widely used in the theory of variational inequalities, discontinuous differential equations and functional equations (see [St], [Mi], [K-S], [K-Z], [B-C], [A-C], [Ka], [Hk], [Is-C1]).

DEFINITION 3.1. Let E be a Banach space, E^* its dual and $S \subset X$ a nonempty subset. The mapping $f : S \rightarrow E^*$ is called **monotone** in the sense of Minty-Browder if, for any $x, y \in S$, we have $\langle f(x) - f(y), x - y \rangle \geq 0$, where $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ is the pairing on E . The mapping f is called **strictly monotone** if, for any $x \neq y \in S$, we have $\langle f(x) - f(y), x - y \rangle > 0$.

Monotonicity can also be defined for set-valued mappings ([A-C], Chapter 3, Section 1, Definition 1): a set-valued map $A : S \rightarrow 2^X$, where $S \subseteq X$ is the domain of A and 2^X is the power set of X , is called **monotone** if for any $x, y \in S$ and any $u \in A(x)$, $v \in A(y)$, we have that $\langle u - v, x - y \rangle \geq 0$. In particular, we have the following result ([C-J], Lemma 2.1).

LEMMA 3.1. The set-valued mapping $x \mapsto N_K(x)$ is monotone.

The next two theorems are very important preliminary results.

THEOREM 3.1. Let X be a Hilbert space, $K \subset X$ be a nonempty, closed and convex subset, $F : K \rightarrow X$ a Lipschitz continuous vector field on K , and $T > 0$ arbitrarily fixed. Then the mappings $Q^T : K \rightarrow K$ and $id_K - Q^T : K \rightarrow X$ are continuous.

Proof. Let $\{x_k\}_{k \geq 0} \in K$ such that $x_k \rightarrow z$ as $k \rightarrow \infty$. As K is closed, then $z \in K$. Let $x_k(t)$ and $z(t)$ be the solutions of (2) starting at x_k and z respectively. To complete the proof, it is enough to show that $Q^T : K \rightarrow K$ is continuous. We evaluate

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} \left[\frac{1}{2} \|x_k(t) - z(t)\|^2 \right] &= \left\langle \frac{d}{dt} [x_k(t) - z(t)], x_k(t) - z(t) \right\rangle \\ &= \langle \Pi_K(x_k(t), -F(x_k(t))) - \Pi_K(z(t), -F(z(t))), x_k(t) - z(t) \rangle \end{aligned}$$

$$= \langle -F(x_k(t)) - n_{x_k(t)} + F(z(t)) + n_{z(t)}, x_k(t) - z(t) \rangle.$$

Using Lemma 3.1, we obtain

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left[\frac{1}{2} \|x_k(t) - z(t)\|^2 \right] \leq \langle -F(x_k(t)) + F(z(t)), x_k(t) - z(t) \rangle.$$

Suppose b is the Lipschitz constant of F . Then:

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left[\frac{1}{2} \|x_k(t) - z(t)\|^2 \right] \leq b \|x_k(t) - z(t)\|^2.$$

Let $\phi^k(t) := \|x_k(t) - z(t)\|$. The above relation can be written as

$$\phi^k(t) \frac{d\phi^k(t)}{dt} \leq b(\phi^k(t))^2, \text{ or equivalently } \phi^k(t) \frac{d\phi^k(t)}{dt} - b(\phi^k(t))^2 \leq 0.$$

We multiply the last inequality with the positive number e^{-2bt} and, keeping in mind that

$$\frac{d}{dt} [(\phi^k(t))^2 e^{-2bt}] = 2e^{-2bt} \left[\phi^k(t) \frac{d\phi^k(t)}{dt} - b(\phi^k(t))^2 \right], \text{ we obtain}$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} [\phi^k(t)^2 e^{-2bt}] \leq 0.$$

Integrating between 0 and T , we have

$$(\phi^k(T))^2 \leq 2e^{2bT} \|x_k - z\|^2.$$

As $x_k \rightarrow z$, then $\phi^k(T) \rightarrow 0$ as $k \rightarrow \infty$ and the proof is complete. Evidently, the mapping $id_K - Q^T$ is also continuous. \square

Suppose now that the vector field F in (2) is monotone in the sense of Definition 3.1. The following result holds.

THEOREM 3.2. *Let X be a Hilbert space and $K \subset X$ a nonempty, closed and convex subset. Let $F : K \rightarrow X$ be a monotone, Lipschitz continuous vector field on K , and $T > 0$ arbitrarily fixed. Then the mapping $id_K - Q^T : K \rightarrow X$ is monotone.*

Moreover, if F is strictly monotone, then $id_K - Q^T$ is also strictly monotone.

Proof. Let $x, y \in K$ be arbitrarily fixed and let $x(t), y(t)$ be the solutions of (2) starting at x and y respectively. We evaluate

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} [\langle -x(t) + y(t), x - y \rangle] &= \langle -\dot{x}(t) + \dot{y}(t), x - y \rangle \\ &= \langle -\dot{x}(t) + \dot{y}(t), x(t) - y(t) \rangle + \langle -\dot{x}(t) + \dot{y}(t), x - x(t) - y + y(t) \rangle. \end{aligned}$$

We evaluate further the last two terms of the above relation.

$$\begin{aligned} \langle -\dot{x}(t) + \dot{y}(t), x(t) - y(t) \rangle &= \langle -\Pi_K(x(t), -F(x(t))) + \Pi_K(y(t), -F(y(t))), x(t) - y(t) \rangle \\ &= \langle F(x(t)) - F(y(t)), x(t) - y(t) \rangle + \langle n_{x(t)} - n_{y(t)}, x(t) - y(t) \rangle. \end{aligned}$$

Keeping in mind Lemma 3.1 and the fact that F is monotone we obtain:

$$(4) \quad \langle -\dot{x}(t) + \dot{y}(t), x(t) - y(t) \rangle \geq 0.$$

On the other hand

$$\langle -\dot{x}(t) + \dot{y}(t), x - x(t) - y + y(t) \rangle = \frac{d}{dt} \left[\frac{1}{2} \|x - x(t) - y + y(t)\|^2 \right].$$

Going back to our initial computation we thus have

$$(5) \quad \frac{d}{dt} [\langle -x(t) + y(t), x - y \rangle] \geq \frac{d}{dt} \left[\frac{1}{2} \|x - x(t) + y(t) - y\|^2 \right].$$

But

$$\int_0^T \frac{d}{dt} \left[\frac{1}{2} \|x - x(t) + y(t) - y\|^2 \right] dt = \frac{1}{2} \|x - x(T) + y(T) - y\|^2$$

and integrating the last inequality from 0 to T we have

$$(6) \quad \langle (id_K - Q^T)(x) - (id_K - Q^T)(y), x - y \rangle \geq 0.$$

Evidently, if F is strictly monotone, then inequality (4) is strict. This further implies that inequality (6) is strict and the proof is complete. \square

Theorem 3.3 below is based on [K-Z], Chapter 5, Section 42, Theorem 42.6, which we give here for completeness: *Let E be a reflexive Banach space with dual E^* , and let $f : E \rightarrow E^*$ be a monotone mapping that maps each strongly convergent sequence in E into a weakly convergent sequence in E^* . If for some $r > 0$, we have $\langle f(x), x \rangle \geq 0$, for each $\|x\| = r$, then the equation $f(x) = 0$ has at least one solution in the ball $\{x \mid \|x\| \leq r\}$.*

We prove that a similar result holds on a subset of a Hilbert space X .

THEOREM 3.3. *Let X be a Hilbert space and $K \subset X$ a nonempty, closed, convex subset with $0 \in \text{int}(K)$. Let $f : K \rightarrow X$ be a monotone mapping which maps strongly convergent sequences in K into weakly convergent sequences in X . If there exists $r > 0$ such that $\overline{B(0, r)} \subseteq K$ with the property that $\langle f(x), x \rangle \geq 0$, for each $\|x\| = r$, then the equation $f(x) = 0$ has at least one solution in the set $\overline{B(0, r)} \subseteq K$.*

Moreover, if f is strictly monotone, then the solution is unique.

Proof. Let $x \in K$ be arbitrarily fixed. We define $U(x) := \{y \in \overline{B(0, r)} \mid \langle f(x), x - y \rangle \geq 0\}$. This set is weakly compact. We want to show that any finite collection of such sets intersect. If this is true then the collection of weakly closed sets $U(x)$ has the finite intersection property and hence there exists a common element, say $y^* \in \bigcap_{x \in K} U(x)$.

Let us prove the finite intersection property of the sets $U(x)$. Consider $\{x_1, \dots, x_m\} \in K$ and their corresponding sets $U(x_i)$, $i \in \{1, \dots, m\}$. Let E_0 be the linear space spanned by $\{x_1, \dots, x_m\}$, let $\{z_1, \dots, z_n\}$ be a basis of E_0 and consider the set $E_0 \cap K$. This intersection set is not empty. We define the mapping $G : E_0 \cap K \rightarrow X$, $G(x) = \sum_{j=1}^n \langle f(x), z_j \rangle z_j$. This mapping is continuous as f maps strongly convergent sequences into weakly convergent ones.

Following an argument similar to that in the proof of [K-Z], Chapter 5, Section 42, Theorem 42.6, we can conclude that the equation $G(x) = 0$ has a solution on the ball $\{x \in E_0 \cap K \mid \|x\| \leq r\}$.

Let x_0 be such a solution; then $\sum_{j=1}^n \langle f(x_0), z_j \rangle z_j = 0$ implies $\langle f(x_0), z_j \rangle = 0$, since $\{z_1, \dots, z_n\}$ is a

basis of E_0 , thus $\langle f(x_0), p \rangle = 0$ for any $p \in E_0$. In particular, if $p := x_i - x_0$, for an arbitrarily fixed $i \in \{1, \dots, m\}$, we obtain $\langle f(x_0), x_i - x_0 \rangle = 0$. From here $\langle f(x_i), x_i - x_0 \rangle = \langle f(x_i) - f(x_0), x_i - x_0 \rangle \geq 0$,

based on the monotonicity of f and therefore $x_0 \in \bigcap_{i=1}^m U(x_i)$. Thus the collection $U(x)$ has the finite

intersection property.

Let us denote by y^* the common point of the sets $U(x)$. It follows that $\langle f(x), x - y^* \rangle \geq 0$ for all $x \in K$. As $y^* \in \overline{B(0, r)} \subseteq K$, then two cases arise: $y^* \in \overline{B(0, r)} \cap \text{int}(K)$ or $y^* \in \overline{B(0, r)} \cap \partial K$. Consider $\{t_k\}_{k \geq 0}$ a sequence of positive reals, such that $t_k \rightarrow 0$ as $k \rightarrow \infty$.

Case 1. For any $h \in X$, there exists $k_0 > 0$ such that for any $k \geq k_0$, $x := y^* + t_k h \in K$. Then $\langle f(y^* + t_k h), h \rangle \geq 0$, and as $t_k \rightarrow 0$, $\langle f(y^*), h \rangle \geq 0$, for any $h \in X$; thus $f(y^*) = 0$ and the proof is complete in this case.

Case 2. For any $\delta \in (0, 1)$ arbitrarily fixed, the point $\delta y^* \in \overline{B(0, r)} \cap \text{int}(K)$. From **Case 1** we have $\langle f(\delta y^*), h \rangle \geq 0$, for any $h \in X$. Choose $\{\delta_k\}_{k \geq 0} \in (0, 1)$ such that $\delta_k \rightarrow 1$. Then $\langle f(\delta_k y^*), h \rangle \geq 0$. As f is strongly to weakly continuous, we obtain $\langle f(y^*), h \rangle \geq 0$, for any $h \in X$. This again implies $f(y^*) = 0$ and the existence part of the proof is complete.

Now assume that there are $y_1^* \neq y_2^*$, solutions of $f(x) = 0$. From here and the strict monotonicity of f we have that $0 = \langle f(y_1^*) - f(y_2^*), y_1^* - y_2^* \rangle > 0$, which is a contradiction. Thus if f is strictly monotone, then there is a unique solution for $f(x) = 0$. \square

REMARK 3.1. The assumption $\overline{B(0, r)} \subseteq K$ cannot be replaced with $\overline{B(0, r)} \cap K$ in Theorem 3.3. Otherwise, suppose $K := [-0.5, \infty) \subset \mathbb{R}$ and $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is given by $f(x) = 1 + x$. This is a closed, convex set with $0 \in \text{int}(K)$ and f is a monotone, continuous mapping. If we let $r := 2$, then there exists $B(0, 2)$ such that $\overline{B(0, 2)} \cap K \neq \emptyset$ and $\langle f(x), x \rangle \geq 0$, for $x \in \{-2, 2\}$. However, the only solution of $f(x) = 0$ does not belong to K .

Putting together Theorems 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3, we obtain

THEOREM 3.4. *Let X be a Hilbert space, $K \subset X$ a nonempty, closed and convex subset with $0 \in \text{int}(K)$ and $F : K \rightarrow X$ a monotone, Lipschitz continuous vector field on K . If there exist $r > 0$ and $T > 0$ with the properties: $\overline{B(0, r)} \subseteq K$ and $\langle (id_K - Q^T)(x), x \rangle \geq 0$ for all $x \in \partial \overline{B(0, r)}$, then there exists a point $x^* \in \overline{B(0, r)} \subseteq K$ such that $x^*(T) = x^*$ (i.e., a fixed point of Q^T or equivalently, a solution of (3)).*

Moreover, if F is strictly monotone, for each $r, T > 0$ with the above property, there exists a unique fixed point of the corresponding mapping Q^T .

Proof. For $T > 0$ as in the hypothesis we can construct the mapping Q^T . Theorem 3.1 shows that the mapping $id_K - Q^T$ is continuous, whereas Theorem 3.2 shows that $id_K - Q^T$ is monotone. This means that $id_K - Q^T$ satisfies the assumptions of Theorem 3.3 and the conclusion follows. Finally, if F is strictly monotone, from Theorem 3.2, $id_K - Q^T$ is strictly monotone and again by Theorem 3.3 the conclusion follows. \square

In the introductory section we mentioned that the initial motivation behind the study of a PDS resided in equilibrium problems, hence the existence study of critical points (or equilibria) of PDS and their properties was extremely important, as they correspond to equilibrium states of the underlying applied problem.

In general, an equilibrium x of a PDS is characterized by the condition $\Pi_K(x, -F(x)) = 0$, or equivalently, $-F(x) \in N_K(x)$. The existence of such points was established via the theory of variational inequalities, in the sense that

(*) *the equilibria of a PDS coincide with the solutions to the **variational inequality (VI)**:*

find $x \in K$ such that $\langle F(x), y - x \rangle \geq 0$, for all $y \in K$

(see [D-N] for $X := \mathbb{R}^n$ and [Is-C3], Proposition 6, or [C-J], Theorem 2.2 for infinite dimensional Hilbert spaces). We note here that the relation between PDS and VI justifies the convention of using $-F$ in the definition of a PrDE/PDS, whereas F is used to define the associated VI.

However, it is obvious that any equilibrium of PDS has the property $Q^T(x) = x$, for any $T > 0$, thus it is a fixed point for the mapping Q^T , for any $T > 0$. In its present form, Theorem 3.4 does not distinguish between a fixed point of Q^T arising from an equilibrium of the PDS and a fixed point of Q^T arising from a periodic cycle. Therefore we need

COROLLARY 3.4.1. *Under the hypotheses of **THEOREM 3.4** the following statements hold:*
 1) a fixed point x^* of the mapping Q^T is an equilibrium of (2) if $-F(x^*) \in N_K(x^*)$;
 2) a fixed point of the mapping Q^T is a solution of (3) if $-F(x^*) \notin N_K(x^*)$.

4. STRICT MONOTONICITY, EQUILIBRIA AND PERIODIC ORBITS OF PDS

In this section we continue our discussion of equilibrium points and periodic orbits for a PDS given by

$$(7) \quad \frac{dx(t)}{dt} = \Pi_K(x(t), -F(x(t)))$$

where this time $F : K \rightarrow X$ is strictly monotone. In general, the following result holds (proved in [N-D-Z], Proposition 2, for Euclidean space).

LEMMA 4.1. *Let X be a Hilbert space, $K \subset X$ a nonempty, closed and convex subset and $F : K \rightarrow X$ strictly monotone. Then (7) has at most one equilibrium.*

Proof. Suppose there exist at least two equilibrium points of (7), $x_1 \neq x_2 \in K$, so that $-F(x_i) \in N_K(x_i)$, for $i \in \{1, 2\}$. From Lemma 3.1, the monotonicity of the mapping $x \mapsto N_K(x)$ implies that

$$\langle -F(x_1) + F(x_2), x_1 - x_2 \rangle \geq 0.$$

But the strict monotonicity of the mapping F implies that

$$\langle -F(x_1) + F(x_2), x_1 - x_2 \rangle < 0,$$

which is a contradiction. Therefore there exists at most one equilibrium of (7). \square

Let x^* be an equilibrium of (7). In [N-Z1], Theorem 4.2 (where $X := \mathbb{R}^n$ and K is a convex polyhedron) it is shown that F strictly monotone on K implies x^* is a **global strict monotone attractor**, i.e., is such that for any solution $x(t)$ of (7) starting at $x(0) = x \in K$, the function $t \mapsto \|x(t) - x^*\|$ is decreasing. We show that this stays true in our more general context.

LEMMA 4.2. *Let X be a Hilbert space, $K \subset X$ a nonempty closed, convex subset and $F : K \rightarrow X$ a strictly monotone Lipschitz continuous vector field on K . If x^* is an equilibrium of (7), then it is a global strict monotone attractor.*

Proof. We have that

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{1}{2} \|x(t) - x^*\|^2 \right) = \langle x(t) - x^*, \frac{dx(t)}{dt} \rangle = \langle x(t) - x^*, -F(x(t)) - n \rangle,$$

where $n \in N_K(x(t))$. Now $\langle x(t) - x^*, -n \rangle \leq 0$ from the definition of $N_K(x(t))$ and so

$$(8) \quad \frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{1}{2} \|x(t) - x^*\|^2 \right) \leq \langle x(t) - x^*, -F(x(t)) \rangle.$$

Since x^* is an equilibrium of (7), then $-F(x^*) \in N_K(x^*)$. From here we have $\langle x(t) - x^*, -F(x^*) \rangle \leq 0$. Since F is strictly monotone, $\langle x(t) - x^*, F(x^*) - F(x(t)) \rangle < 0 \implies \langle x(t) - x^*, -F(x(t)) \rangle < \langle x(t) - x^*, -F(x^*) \rangle \leq 0$. Based on (8), the conclusion follows. \square

We are now ready to prove the following result.

THEOREM 4.1. *Let X be a Hilbert space, $K \subset X$ a nonempty closed, convex subset and $F : K \rightarrow X$ a strictly monotone Lipschitz continuous vector field on K . Then the following hold:*

- 1) if there exists an equilibrium of (7), there are no periodic cycles for the underlying PDS.
- 2) if K is compact, there are no periodic cycles for the underlying PDS.

Proof. 1) Let us assume that there exists at least one periodic cycle of (7) of period $T > 0$, hence $x(t) = x(t + T)$, for any $t > 0$. Let x^* be the unique (by Lemma 4.1) strict monotone attracting (by Lemma 4.2) equilibrium of (7). Then as $T < t + T$ we have $\|x(t + T) - x^*\| < \|x(t) - x^*\|$, but this is a contradiction with $x(t) = x(t + T)$.

2) For convex, compact sets $K \subset X$, the VI problem of finding $x \in K$ so that $\langle F(x), y - x \rangle \geq 0$ for any $y \in K$, is always solvable ([Mi], Theorem 1). Hence, by the relation between VI and PDS described in Section 3 in (*), the PDS has at least one equilibrium. As F is strictly monotone, the equilibrium is unique and according to 1) above there are no periodic cycles. \square

REMARK 4.1. 1) For closed, convex sets $K \subset X$ with $0 \in \text{int}(K)$, Theorem 4.1 can be alternatively proved by noting that the unique equilibrium of (7) is also the unique fixed point of any mapping Q^T (Theorem 3.4), hence periodic cycles cannot form.

2) Theorem 4.1 is directly applicable to examples of PDS such as the ones in [Z-N1], Example 1, [Z-N2], Example 5.1, and [N-D-Z], Section 2, Example 2, where the constraint sets are usually \mathbb{R}_+^n , as well as to the ones in [C-D-N].

Theorem 3.4 and Theorem 4.1 lead to the following concluding remark.

REMARK 4.2. Let X be a Hilbert space, $K \subset X$ a nonempty, closed and convex subset with $0 \in \text{int}(K)$ and $F : K \rightarrow X$ a Lipschitz continuous vector field on K which is monotone, but not strictly monotone. If there exist $r, T > 0$ as in Theorem 3.4 such that the mapping Q^T has fixed points, then both equilibria and periodic orbits can occur and Corollary 3.4.1 is in effect.

Here is an example to illustrate the last remark.

EXAMPLE. Let $K := [-\infty, 1.2] \times [-0.5, \infty] \in \mathbb{R}^2$ and $F(x, y) = (y, -x + 0.5)$. The vector field F is Lipschitz continuous and monotone, but not strictly monotone, as $\langle F(x, y) - F(a, b), (x - a, y - b) \rangle = 0$ for any pair of points $(x, y), (a, b) \in \mathbb{R}^2$. The PrDE in this case has the form

$$(9) \quad \frac{d(x(t), y(t))}{dt} = \Pi_K((x(t), y(t)), (-y(t), x(t) - 0.5)),$$

and the point $(0.5, 0)$ is an equilibrium.

Let now $r := 0.2$ and consider the ball $\overline{B((0, 0), 0.2)} \subset K$. Let $T := 2\pi$. We claim that for each $(x, y) \in \overline{B((0, 0), 0.2)}$ we have $\langle (x, y) - (x(2\pi), y(2\pi)), (x, y) \rangle \geq 0$. Indeed, given the set K and the definition of Π_K as the projection of $-F$ on the tangent cone at any $(x, y) \in K$, we obtain

$$\Pi_K((x, y), (-y, x - 0.5)) := \begin{cases} (-y, x - 0.5) & \text{if } y \geq -0.5 \text{ and } 0 < x < 1.2; \\ (-y, -0.5) & \text{if } y \geq -0.5 \text{ and } x \leq 0. \end{cases}$$

Now we see that any solution of (9) starting in the region $\overline{B((0, 0), 0.2)} \cap \{y \geq -0.5 \text{ and } 0 < x < 1.2\}$ is the same as the solution of

$$\frac{d(x(t), y(t))}{dt} = (-y(t), x(t) - 0.5)$$

starting in the same region. Such a solution is given by $x(t) = C_2 \sin(t) + C_1 \cos(t) + 0.5$, $y(t) = -C_2 \cos(t) + C_1 \sin(t)$, and obviously $\langle (x, y) - (x(2\pi), y(2\pi)), (x, y) \rangle \geq 0$, where $(x, y) = (x(0), y(0))$. For a trajectory of (9) starting in the region $\overline{B((0, 0), 0.2)} \cap \{y \geq -0.5 \text{ and } x \leq 0\}$, and having a discontinuous velocity, we compute ³ approximates on the time interval $[0, 2\pi]$, following the constructive proof of Theorem 3.1 in [C-J]. We see that the condition $\langle (x, y) - (x(2\pi), y(2\pi)), (x, y) \rangle \geq 0$ holds for each of these approximates: Figure 1 (left) depicts such an approximate (with constant step

³All computations and figures are done with MAPLE 8.

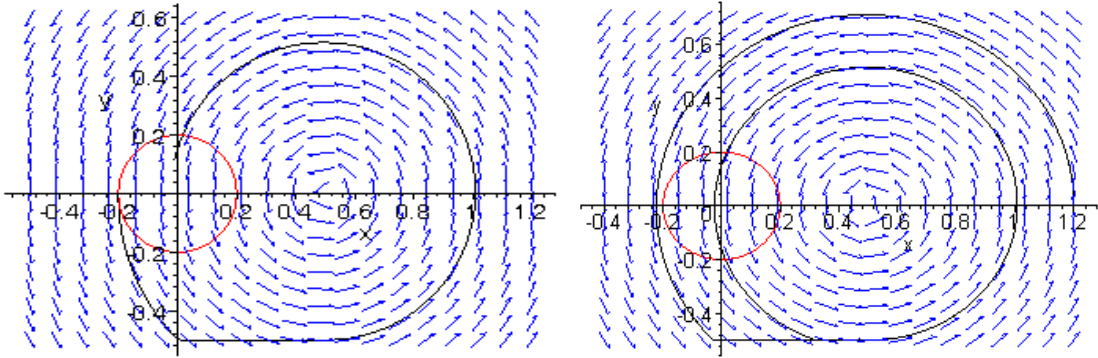


FIGURE 1

0.02) for the trajectory of (9) starting at the point $(-0.2, 0)$. Since the sequence of approximates converges to the sought trajectory, then our claim is true.

Therefore, following Theorem 3.4, there exists at least one fixed point of the mapping $Q^{2\pi}$ in the ball $B((0, 0), 0.2)$. In fact, see Figure 1 (right), all points of $B((0, 0), 0.2)$ within the disk of radius 0.5 centered at $(0.5, 0)$ are periodic with period 2π . All other points of $\overline{B((0, 0), 0.2)}$ are not periodic; the trajectories starting at these points (for example $(1.2, 0)$) are eventually trapped on the periodic cycle centered at $(0.5, 0)$ of radius 0.5.

5. CONCLUSIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The present work constitutes the beginning of the study of periodic behaviour for PDS. Theorem 3.4 relies on continuity and monotonicity, concepts used in the theory of PDS known to date. In particular, monotonicity conditions have been employed to show both existence and stability properties of equilibria. Theorem 4.1 shows that periodic behaviour for systems under strict monotonicity is not possible. However, there are systems where periodic behaviour takes place (as our example shows), therefore its study in relation to equilibrium states, or in relation to stability concepts, comes to the forefront. New results in this direction are obtained and constitute the topic of future work.

There are at least a few immediate open questions that arise from this work, of which we mention here two:

- (i) do periodic cycles for PDS exist in the absence of monotonicity conditions?
 - (ii) do periodic cycles for PDS exist over constraint sets that do not satisfy the condition $0 \in \text{int}(K)$?
- It is our belief that these questions can lead to new and exciting opportunities for theoretical results as well as interesting consequences for applications.

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