



# Control of a model of competition between two animal species

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- Italian student of automatic engineering
- Erasmus plus student
- Erasmus period: 3 months  
(November-January)
- Goal: Final Thesis work

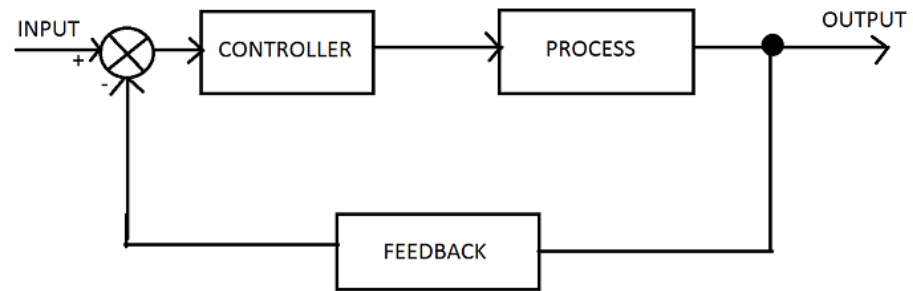




# Control Strategy

$$\begin{cases} \dot{x} = f(x, u) \\ y = h(x) \end{cases}$$

$x(t)$  = state variables  
 $u$  = control input  
 $y(x)$  = output



- Control of the system using feedback control:

**Aim:** regulate the system output at a fixed value



# The Model

$$\frac{dx_1}{dt} = x_1(a - x_1 - bx_2)$$
$$\frac{dx_2}{dt} = x_2(c - x_2 - x_1)$$

$$x, y \geq 0$$

$x_1(t)$  = population of species 1 (i.e. rabbits)

$x_2(t)$  = population of species 2 (i.e. Sheep)

- Competition for the same food supply and the amount available is limited.
- Each species would grow to its carrying capacity in the absence of the other.
- When both species coexist they start fighting for food.



# Equilibria

- $x_A = (0; 0)$
- $x_B = (0; 2)$
- $x_C = (3; 0)$
- $x_D = (1; 1)$

$$J = \begin{bmatrix} 3 - 2x_1 - 2x_2 & -2x_1 \\ -x_2 & 2 - x_1 - 2x_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$x_A$  is a repeller node.

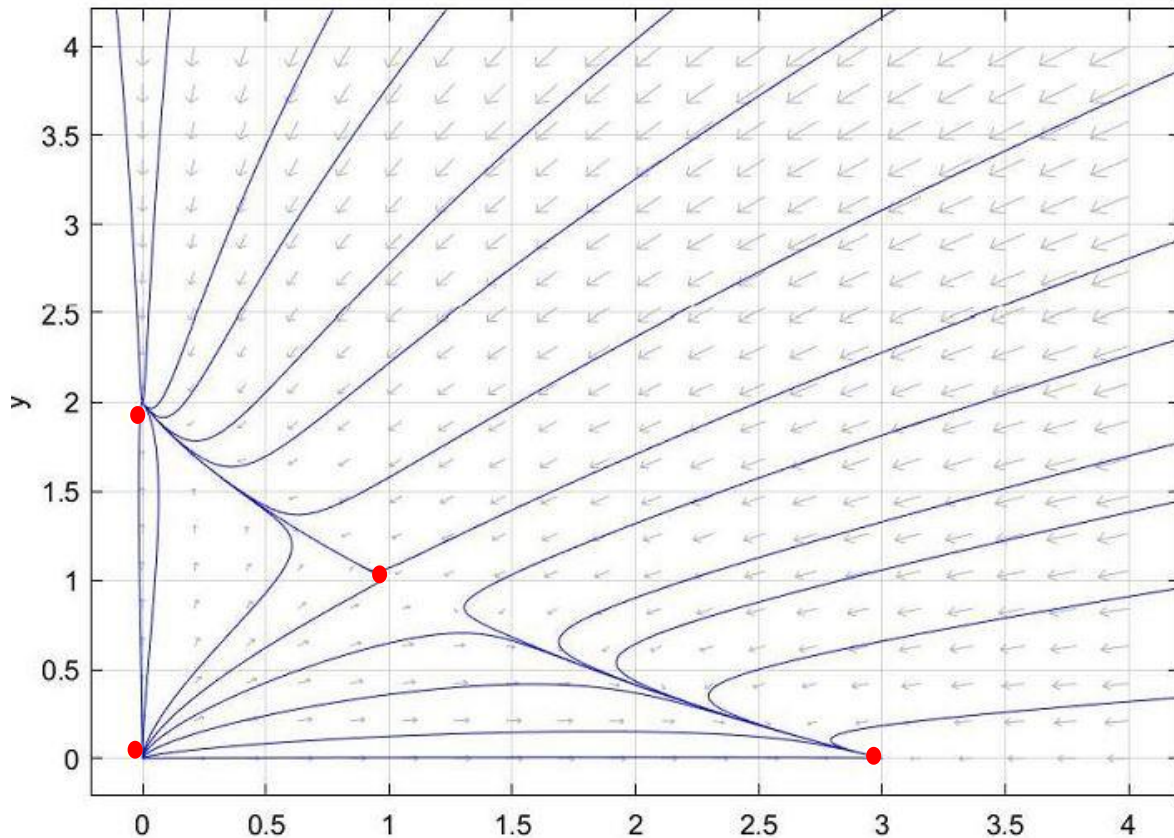
$x_B$  is a stable node.

$x_C$  is a stable node.

$x_D$  is a saddle.

\*  $a = 3$   $b = 2$   $c = 2$

# Phase portrait



- *Principle of competitive exclusion: two species competing for the same limited food typically cannot coexist*
- Basins and their boundaries partition the phase plane into regions of different long-term behavior



# How to control

Dependence on:

- Food availability
- Species rates



- Control on food
- Control on species rates
- culling and fertility control



# First results

Aim: to stabilize the saddle in (1;1)

- Proportional error controller:

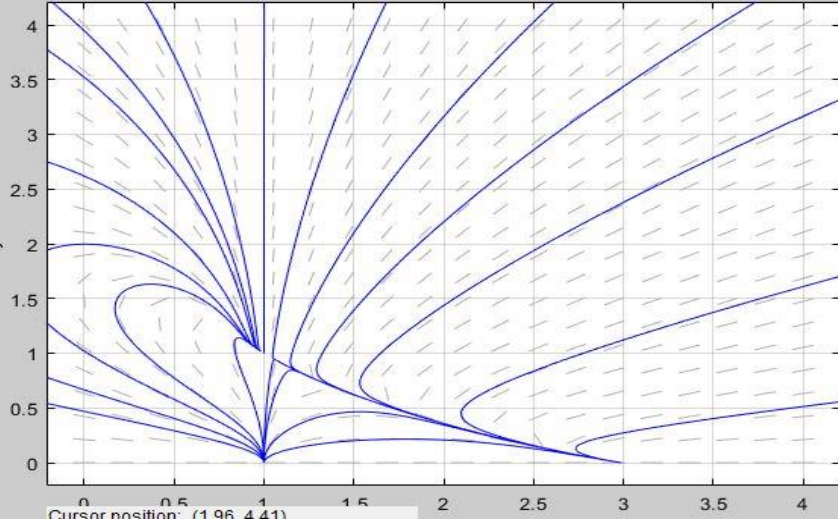
$$u = K_1(x_{1ref} - x_1) + K_2(x_{2ref} - x_2)$$

Varying  $K_1$  and  $K_2$ , the dynamics of the closed loop system change

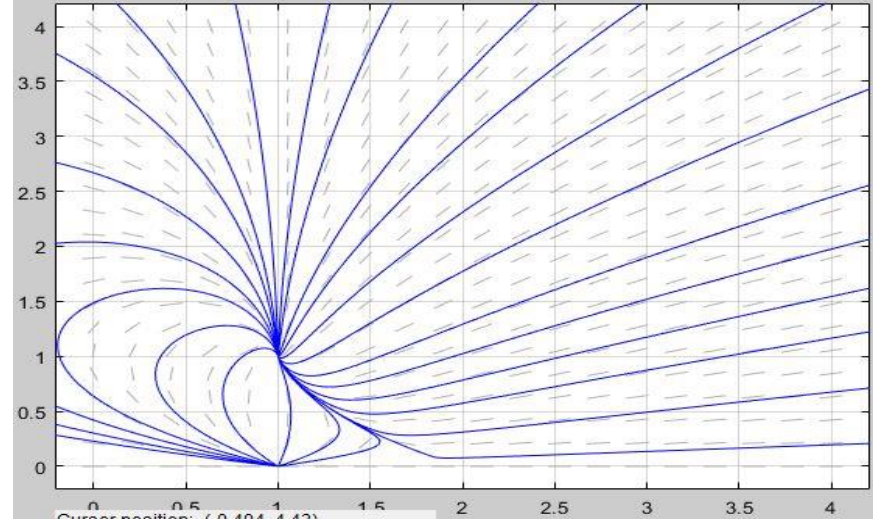




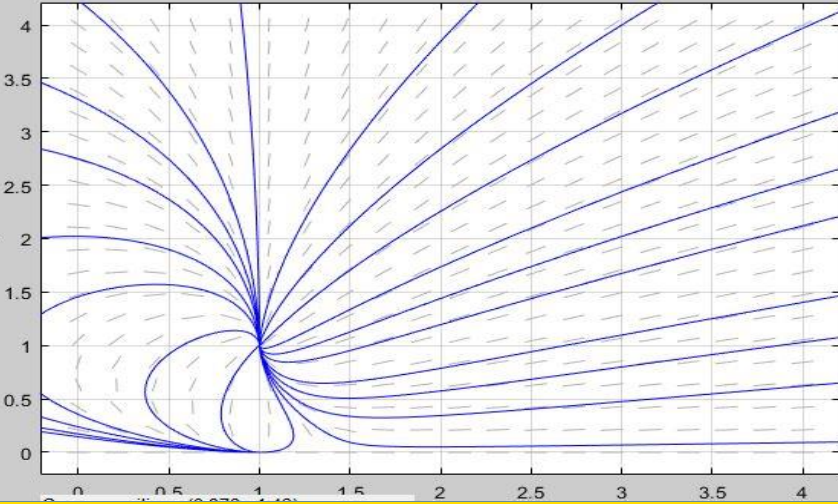
$$\begin{aligned}x' &= x(3 - x - 2y) - 0.99(1 - x) - 2(1 - y) \\y' &= y(2 - y - x)\end{aligned}$$



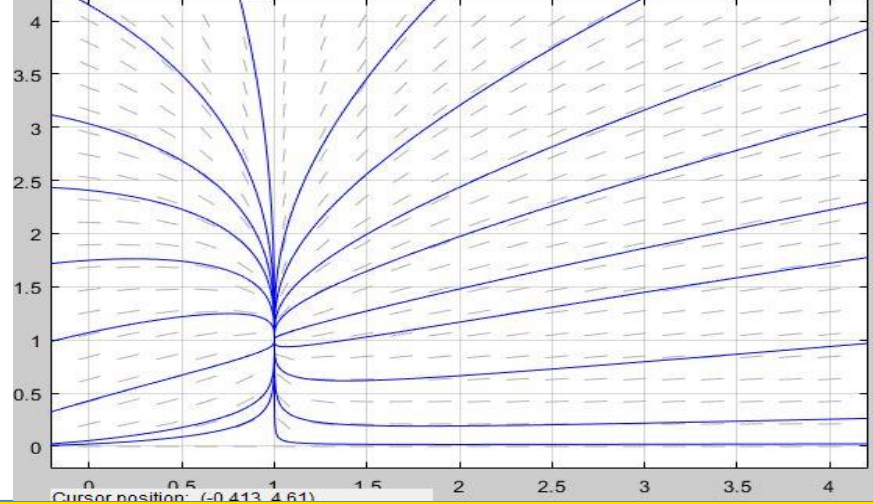
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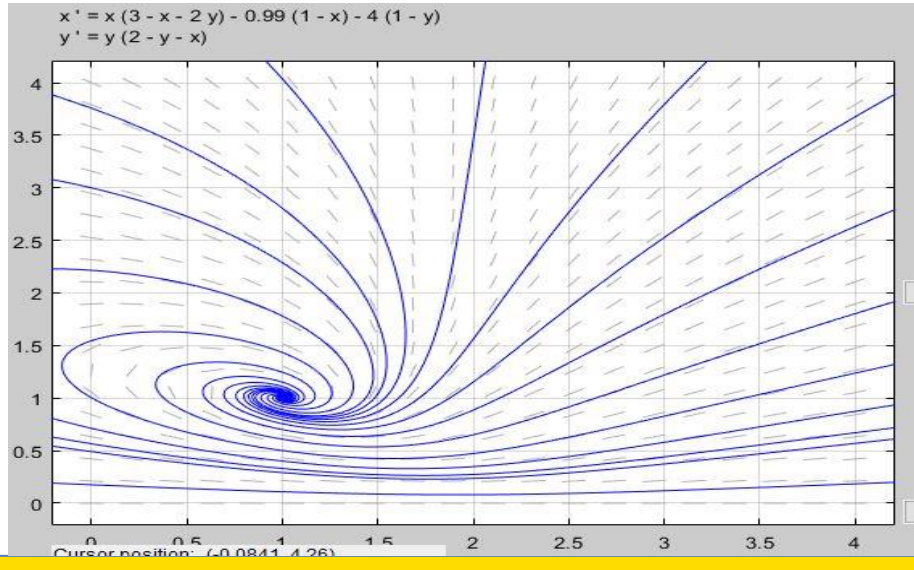
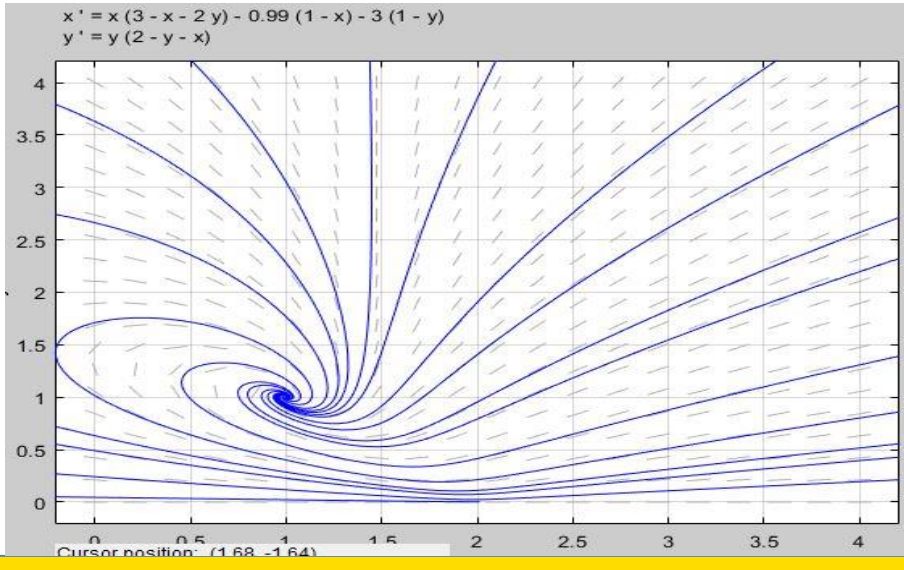
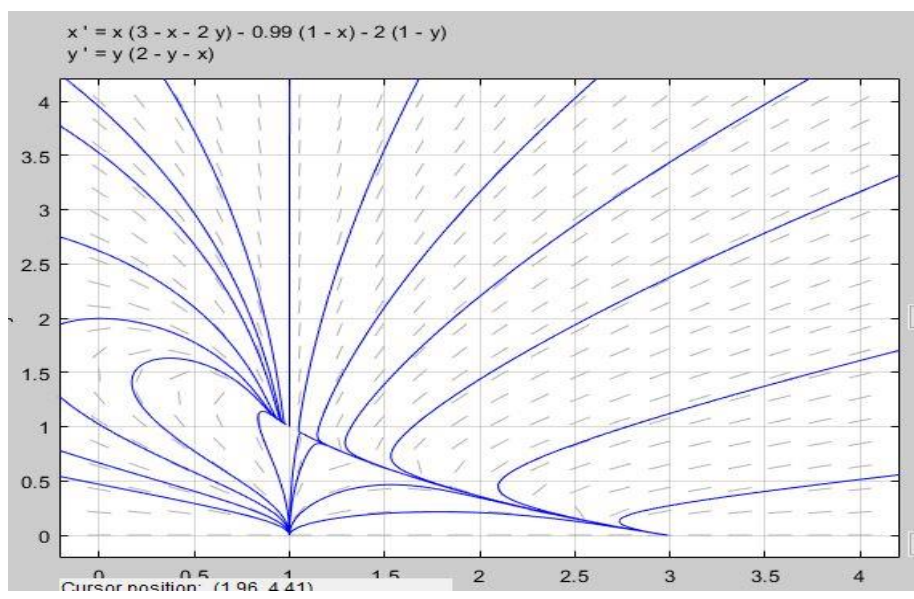
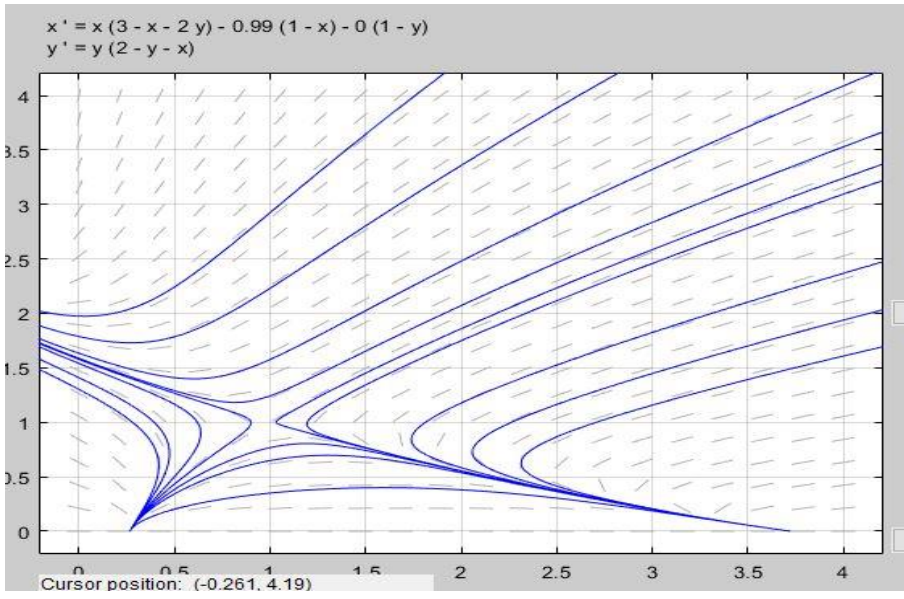


$$\begin{aligned}x' &= x(3 - x - 2y) + 0.5(1 - x) - 2(1 - y) \\y' &= y(2 - y - x)\end{aligned}$$



$$\begin{aligned}x' &= x(3 - x - 2y) + 2.5(1 - x) - 2(1 - y) \\y' &= y(2 - y - x)\end{aligned}$$







# Future steps

- Study the Jacobian Matrix and its eigenvalues depending on  $K$
- Try to get bigger or smaller the basins of attraction of the stable nodes
- Implement different kind of control and compare the results (i.e. Adding an integral part of error)