

QLSC 600

# Bootcamp on nonlinear dynamics

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Instructor: Thomas Bury

# Supplementary reading



McGill

McGill Library

<https://www.mcgill.ca/library/>

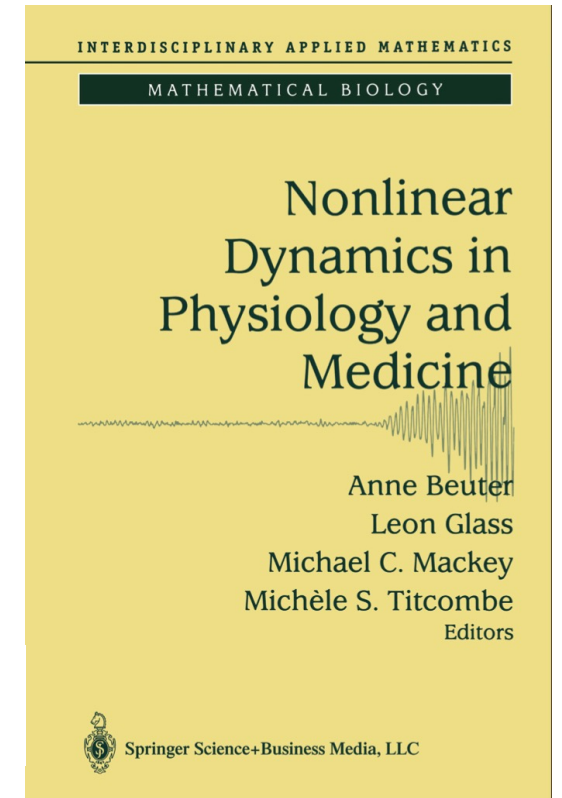
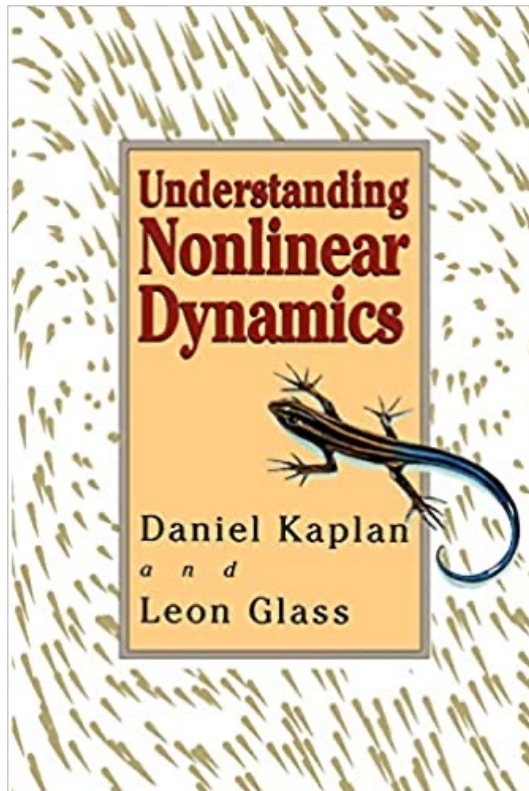
View eBook

## Chapters

- 1** FINITE-DIFFERENCE EQUATIONS
- 4** **ONE-DIMENSIONAL DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS**
- 5** TWO-DIMENSIONAL DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS

## Chapters

- 1** **Theoretical Approaches in Physiology**  
Michael C. Mackey and Anne Beuter
- 5** **Resetting and Entraining Biological Rhythms**  
Leon Glass



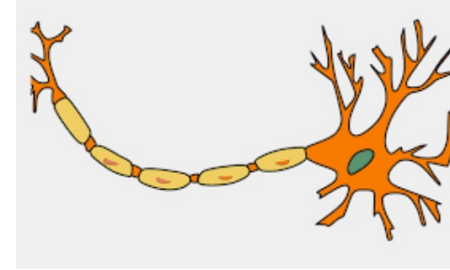
# A few biological applications...

## Infections disease modelling<sup>1</sup>



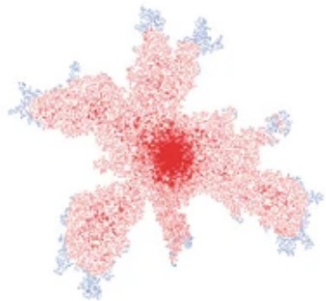
$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dS}{dt} &= -\frac{\beta IS}{N}, \\ \frac{dI}{dt} &= \frac{\beta IS}{N} - \gamma I, \\ \frac{dR}{dt} &= \gamma I.\end{aligned}$$

## Physiology and neuroscience<sup>3</sup>



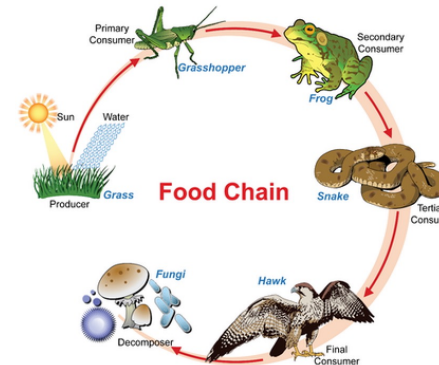
$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dV}{dt} &= V(V - a)(V - 1) - W - I_{app} \\ \frac{dW}{dt} &= \epsilon(V - \gamma W)\end{aligned}$$

## Oncology<sup>2</sup>



$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\delta m}{\delta t} &= D_m \nabla^2 m + \mu n_{ij} - \lambda m, \\ \frac{\delta f}{\delta t} &= -\delta m f, \\ \frac{\delta c}{\delta t} &= D_c \nabla^2 c + \beta f - \gamma n_{ij} c - \alpha c.\end{aligned}$$

## Ecology and evolution<sup>4</sup>



$$x_{n+1} = rx_n(1 - x_n)$$

<sup>1</sup>Anderson, Roy M., and Robert M. May. *Infectious diseases of humans: dynamics and control*. Oxford university press, 1992.

<sup>2</sup>Anderson, Alexander RA, and Vito Quaranta. "Integrative mathematical oncology." *Nature Reviews Cancer* 8.3 (2008): 227-234.

<sup>3</sup>Glass, Leon, and Michael C. Mackey. *From clocks to chaos*. Princeton University Press, 2020.

<sup>4</sup>Levin, Simon A., Thomas G. Hallam, and Louis J. Gross, eds. *Applied mathematical ecology*. Vol. 18. Springer Science & Business Media, 2012

# Agenda

## Part I: Difference equations

- Linear difference equations
  - Algebraic solutions
  - Cobweb diagrams
- Nonlinear difference equations
  - Logistic map
  - Bifurcations and chaos

$$x_{t+1} = f(x_t)$$

## Part II: Differential equations

- Comparison with difference equations
- Numerical analysis

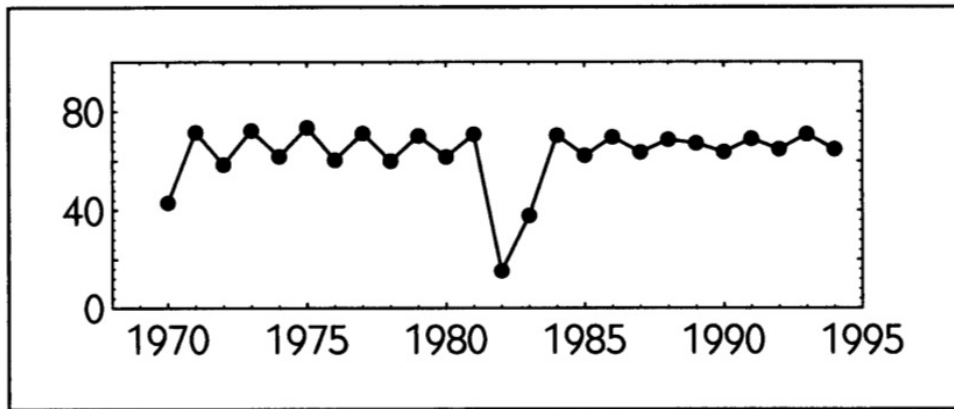
$$\frac{dx}{dt} = f(x)$$

## Difference equation

$$x_{t+1} = f(x_t)$$

$x_t$  Number of flies caught the summer of year  $t$   
(Depends mostly on number of eggs laid in the previous year)

(Kaplan & Glass)



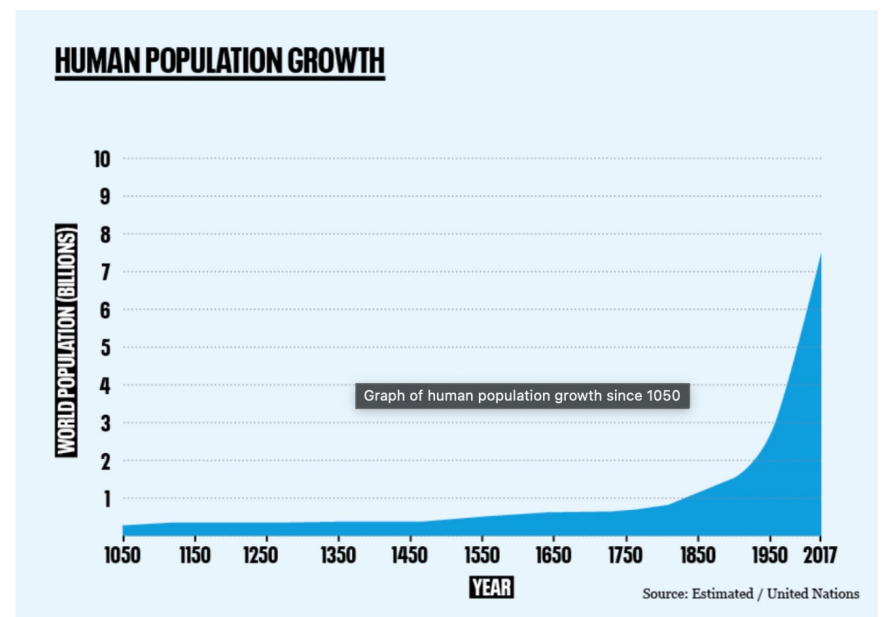
**Figure 1.1** The number of flies caught during the annual fly survey.

## Differential equation

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = f(x)$$

$x(t)$  World population at time  $t$   
(Depends on continuous birth and death rates)

VS.



$$x_{t+1} = f(x_t)$$

Part I

# Difference equations

# Linear difference equation

$$x_{t+1} = rx_t$$

How can we solve this?

Let's say we have 100 flies at  $t=0$

$$x_0 = 100$$

Then...

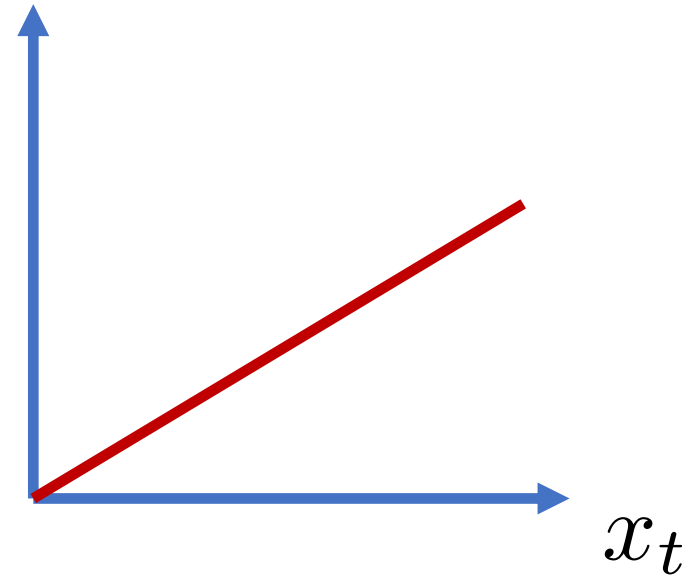
$$x_1 = rx_0 = 100r$$

$$x_2 = rx_1 = 100r^2$$

$$x_3 = rx_2 = 100r^3$$

⋮

$f(x_t)$



Solution:

$$x_t = r^t x_0$$

Case  $r > 1$

$$x_{t+1} = r x_t$$

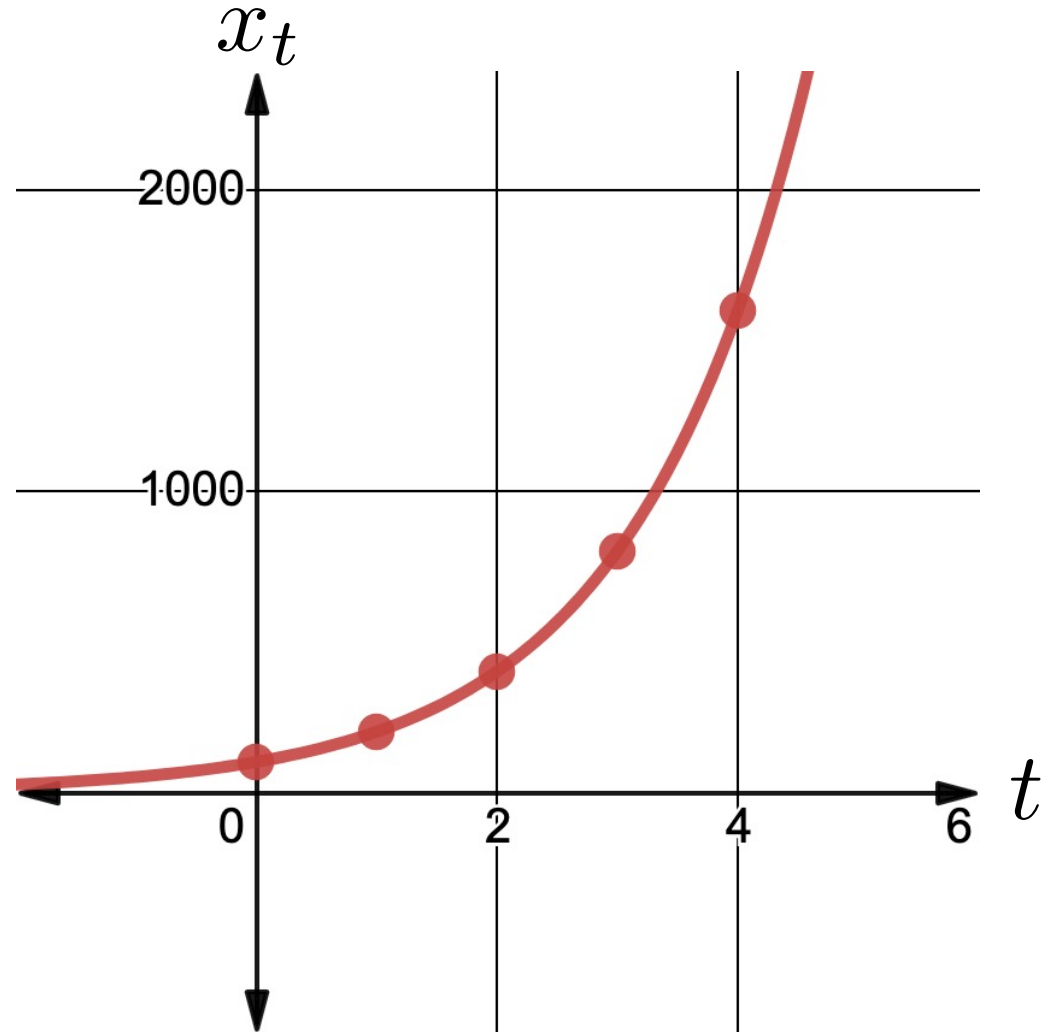
$$x_t = r^t x_0$$

Exponential growth

as  $t \rightarrow \infty$  ?

$$x_t \rightarrow \infty$$

$$x_t = 100.2^t$$





Case  $0 < r < 1$

$$x_{t+1} = r x_t$$

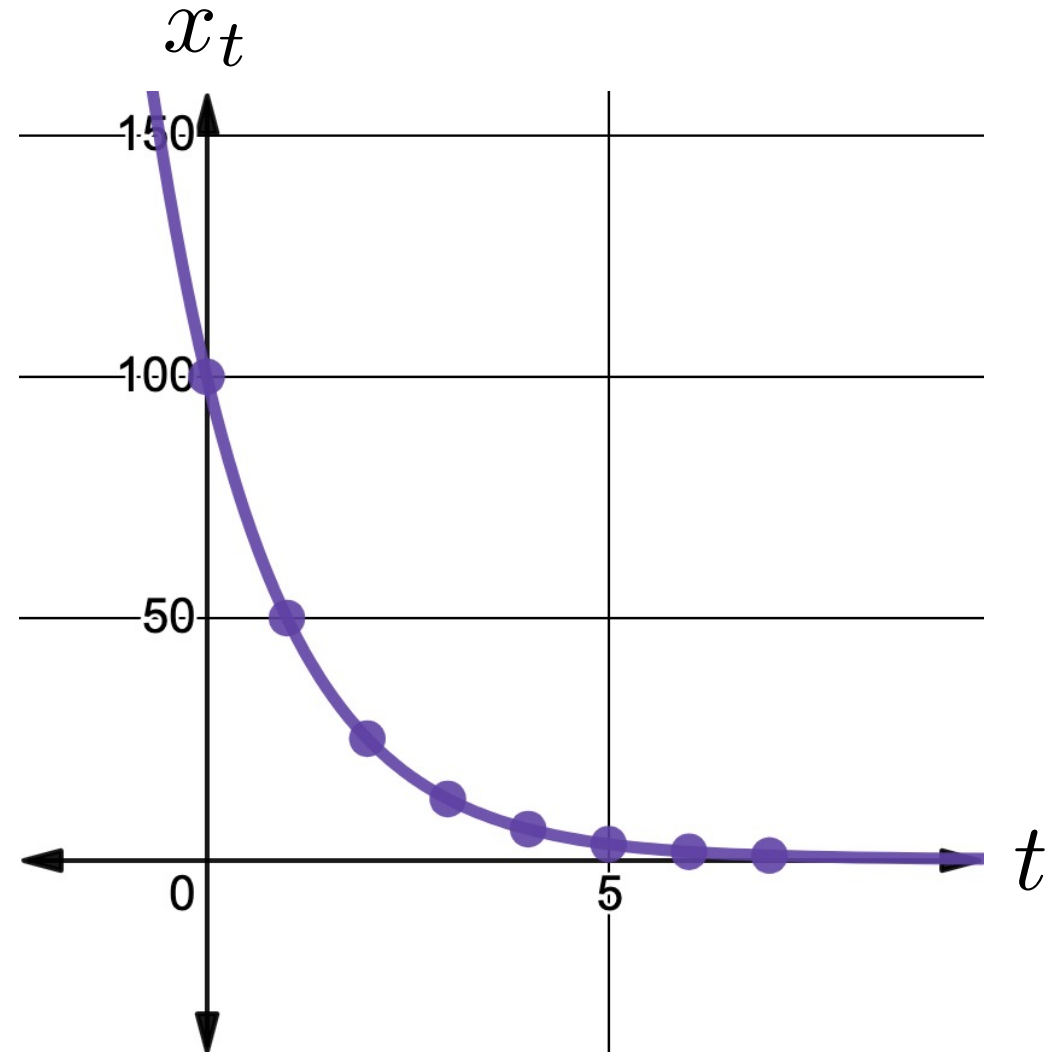
$$x_t = r^t x_0$$

$$x_t = 100 \cdot (0.5^t)$$

Exponential decay

as  $t \rightarrow \infty$  ?

$$x_t \rightarrow 0$$



Case  $r=1$

$$x_{t+1} = r x_t$$

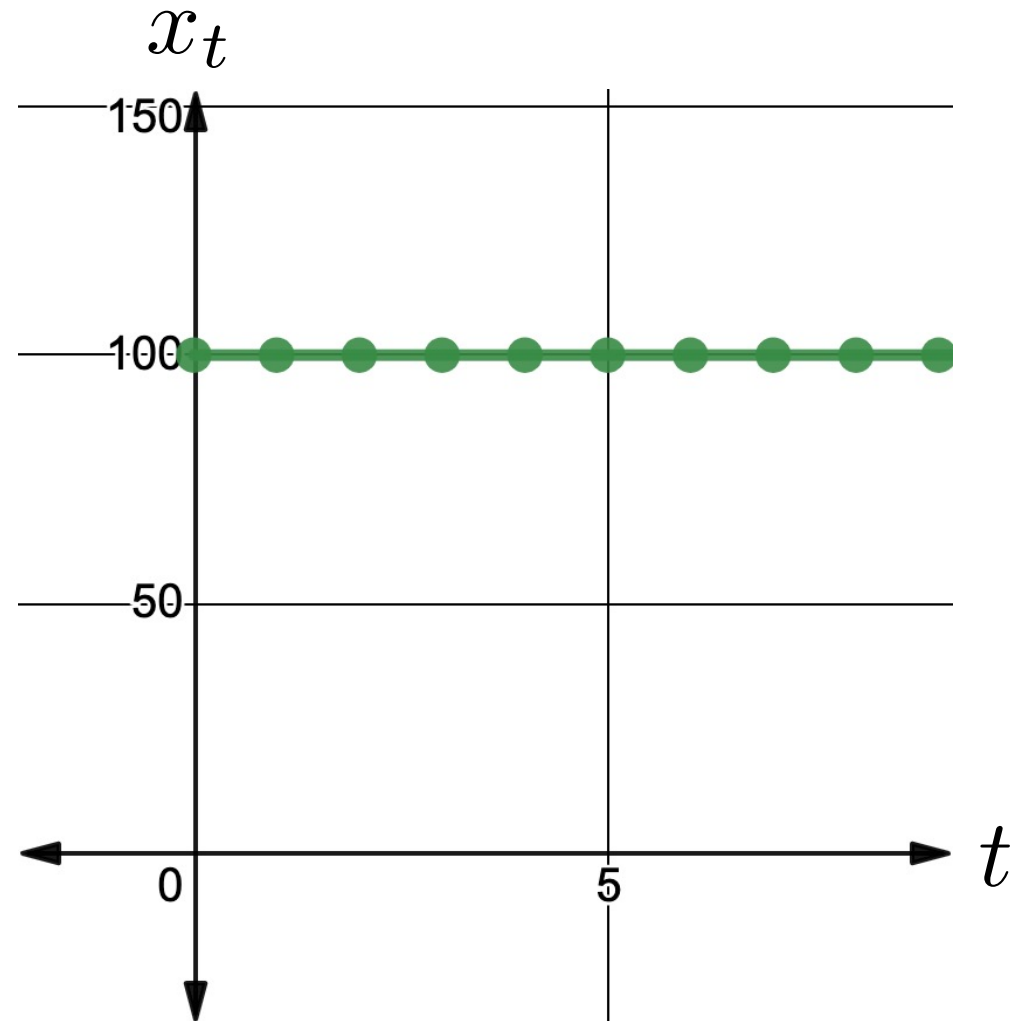
$$x_t = r^t x_0$$

Fixed point / Steady state

as  $t \rightarrow \infty$  ?

$$x_t \rightarrow x_0$$

$$x_t = 100 \cdot (1^t)$$



Case  $-1 < r < 0$

$$x_{t+1} = r x_t$$

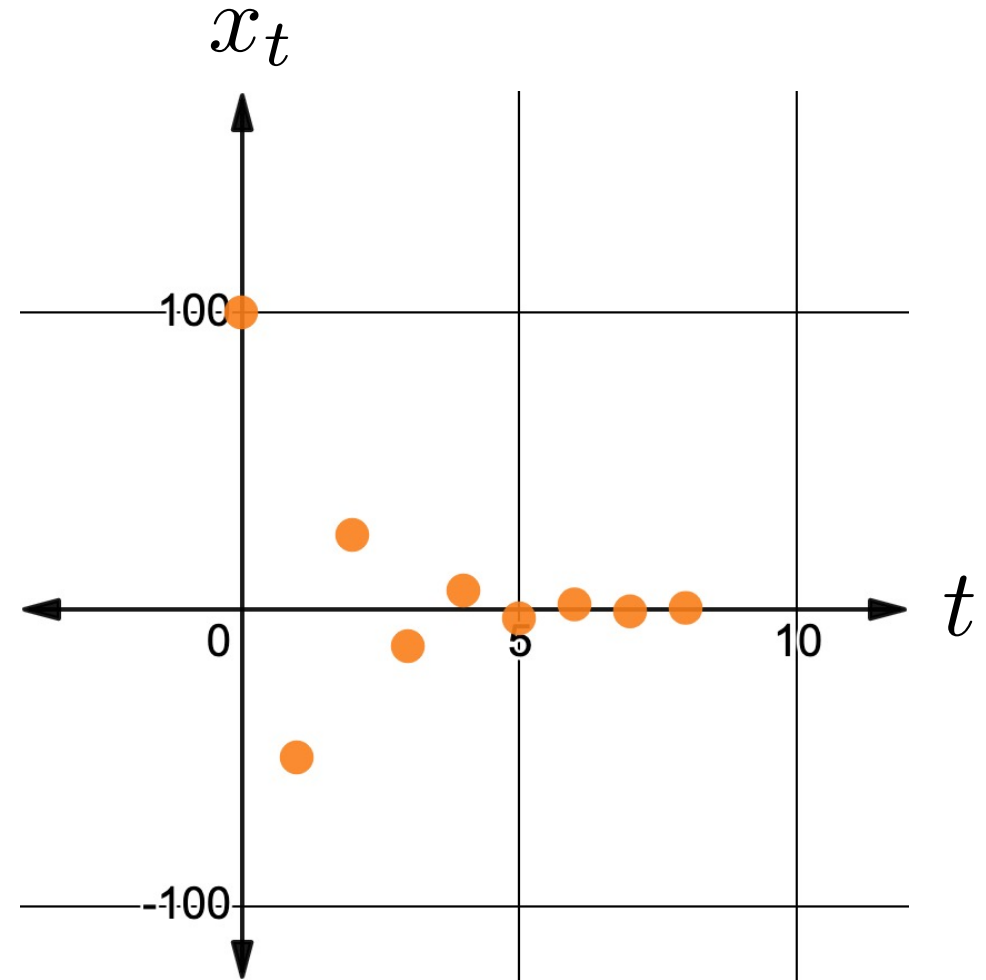
$$x_t = r^t x_0$$

Oscillatory decay

as  $t \rightarrow \infty$  ?

$$x_t \rightarrow 0$$

$$x_t = 100.(-0.5^t)$$



Case  $r < -1$

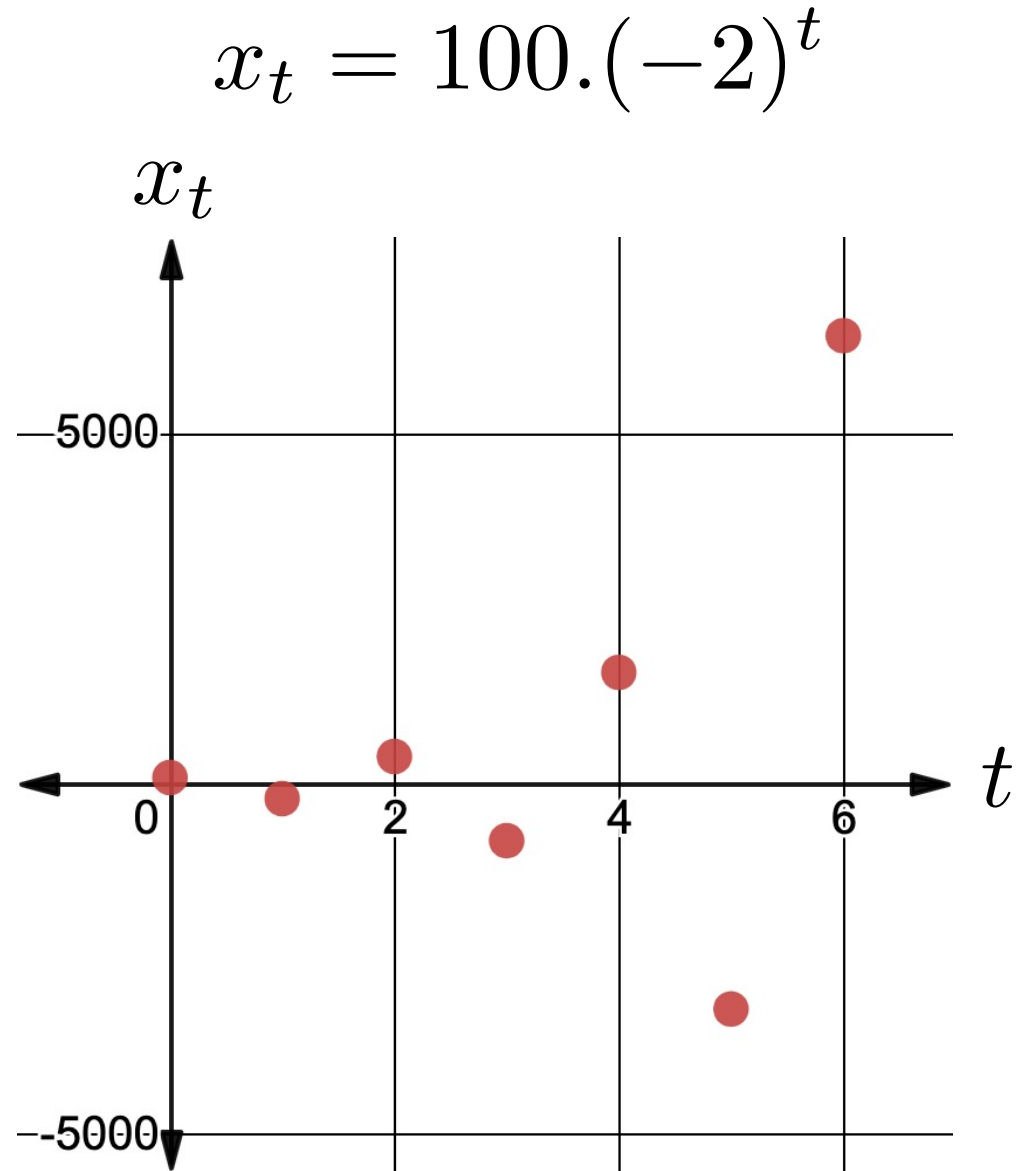
$$x_{t+1} = r x_t$$

$$x_t = r^t x_0$$

Oscillatory growth

as  $t \rightarrow \infty$  ?

$$x_t \rightarrow \pm \infty$$



Case  $r = -1$

$$x_{t+1} = r x_t$$

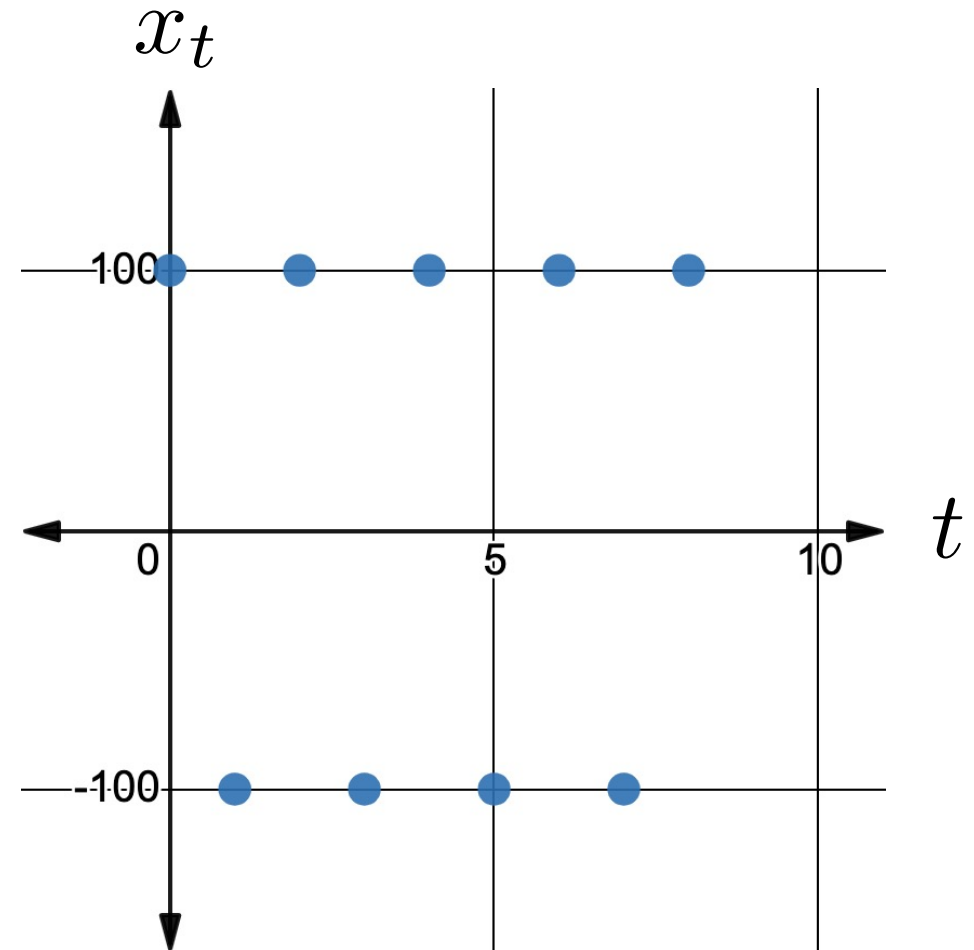
$$x_t = r^t x_0$$

Periodic cycle  
(period 2)

as  $t \rightarrow \infty$  ?

$$x_t \rightarrow \pm x_0$$

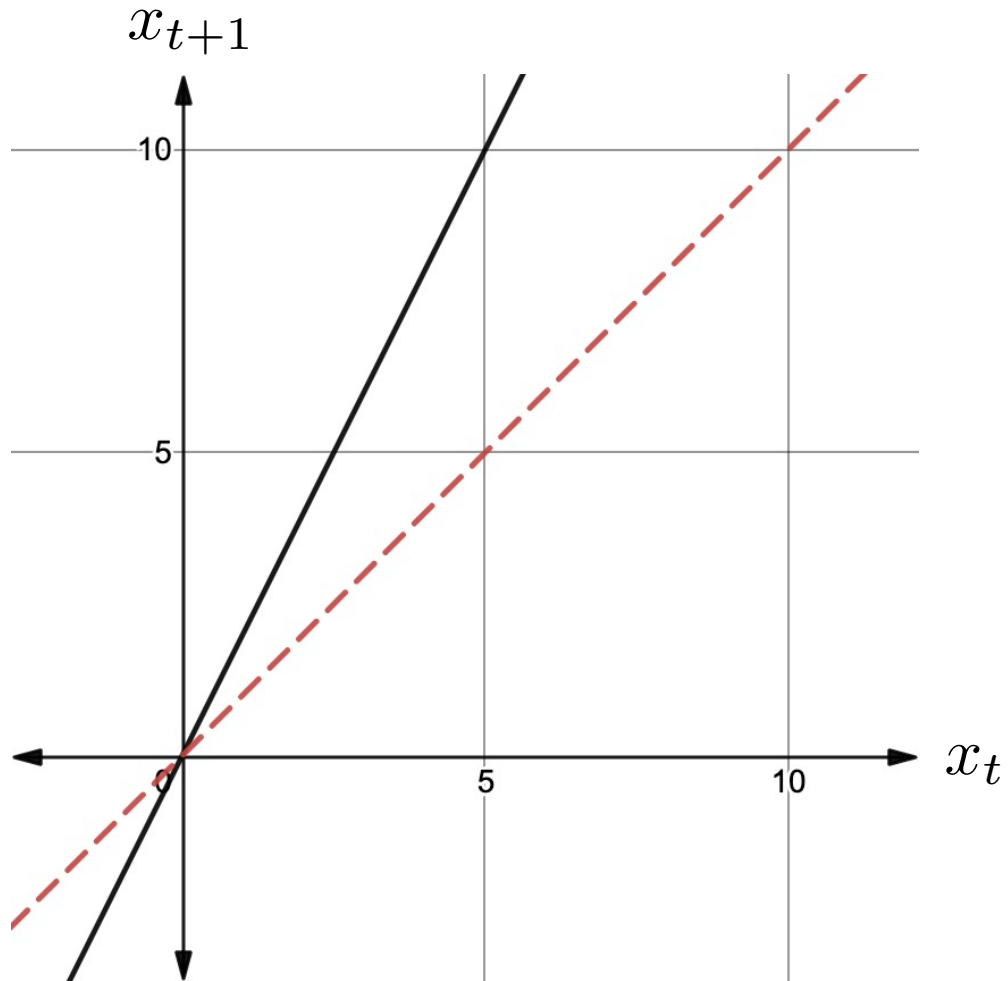
$$x_t = 100 \cdot (-1)^t$$



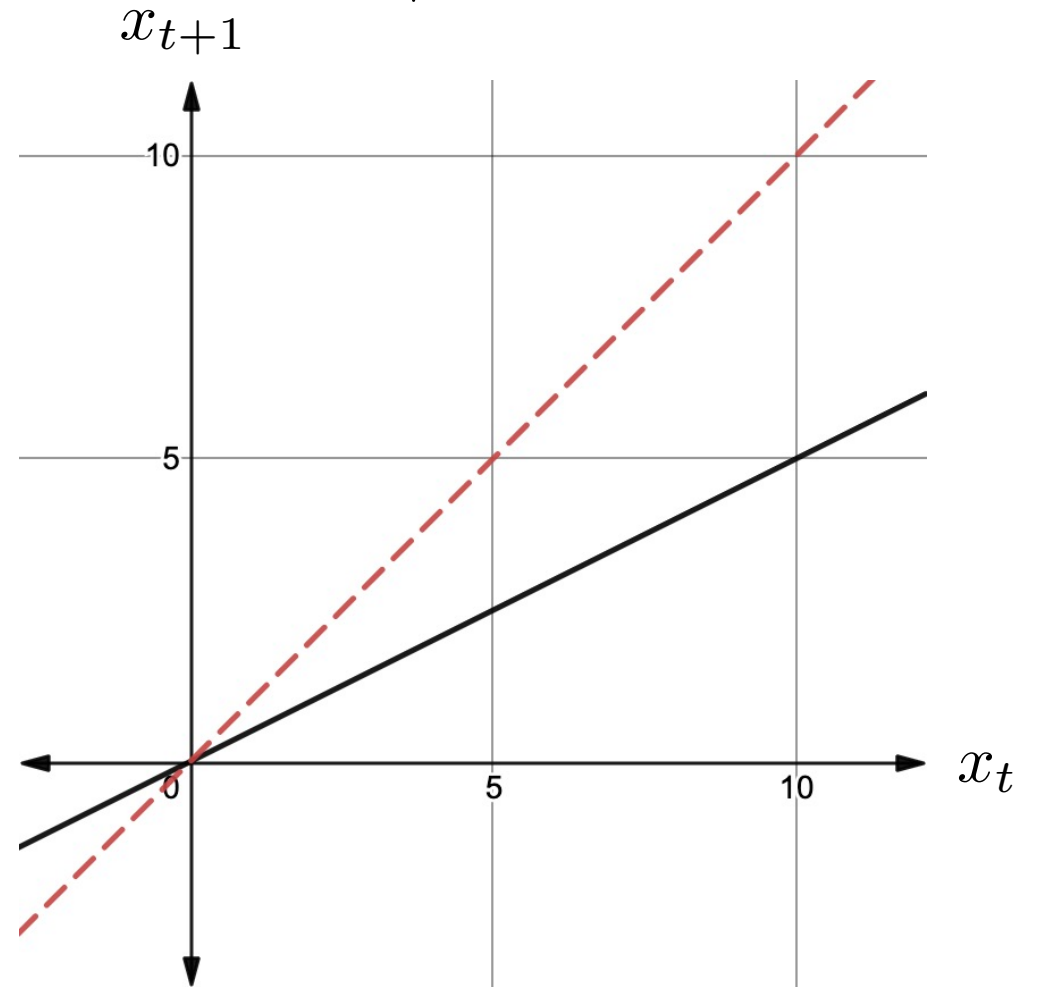
# Graphical iteration - cobweb plots

Analytic solution can be intractable - graphical iteration provides a quick qualitative description

$$x_{t+1} = 2x_t$$

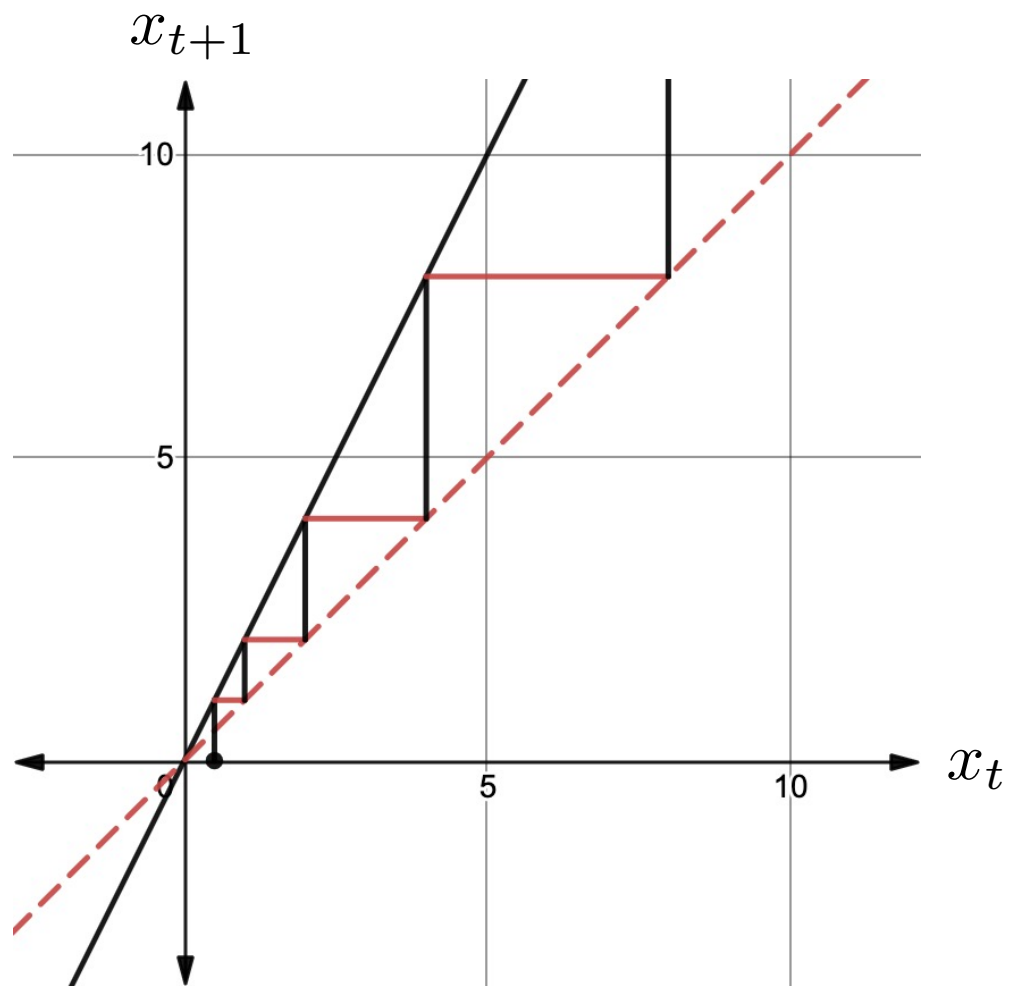


$$x_{t+1} = 0.5x_t$$

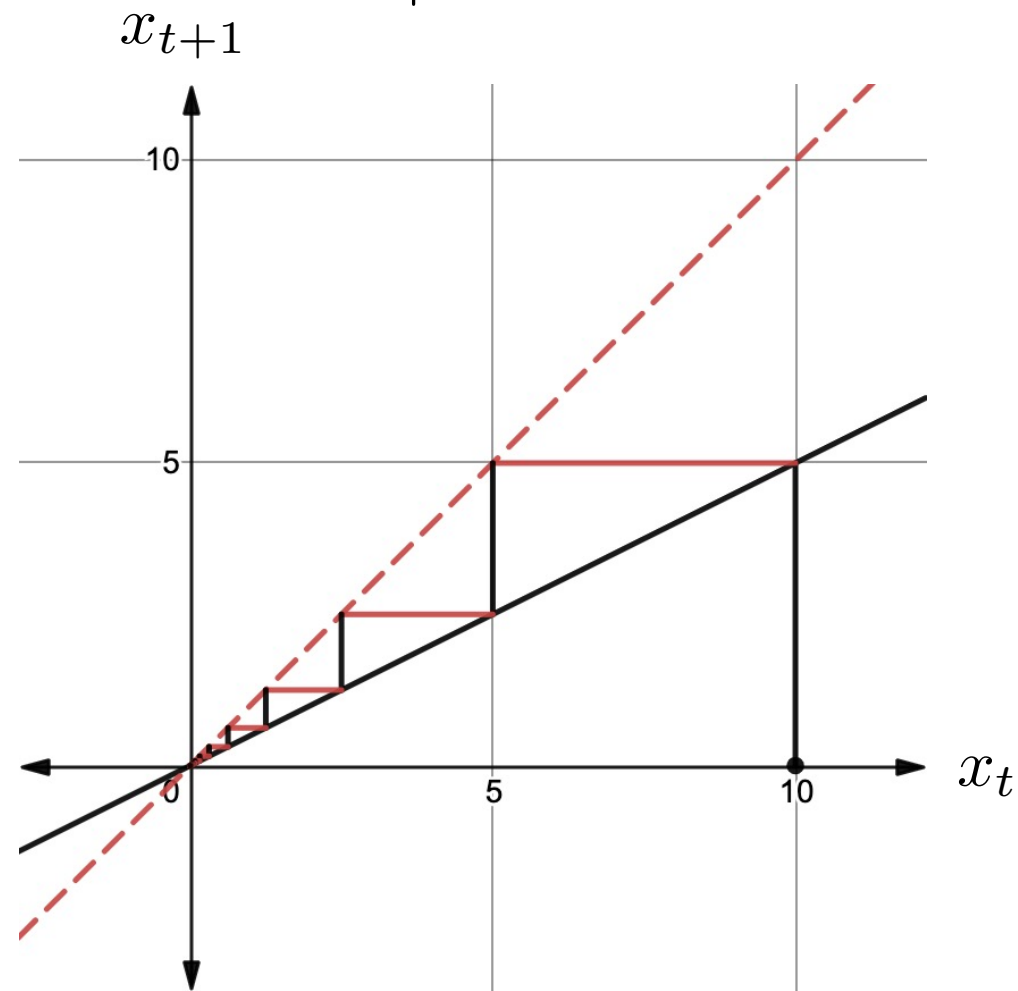


# Graphical iteration - cobweb plots

$$x_{t+1} = 2x_t$$

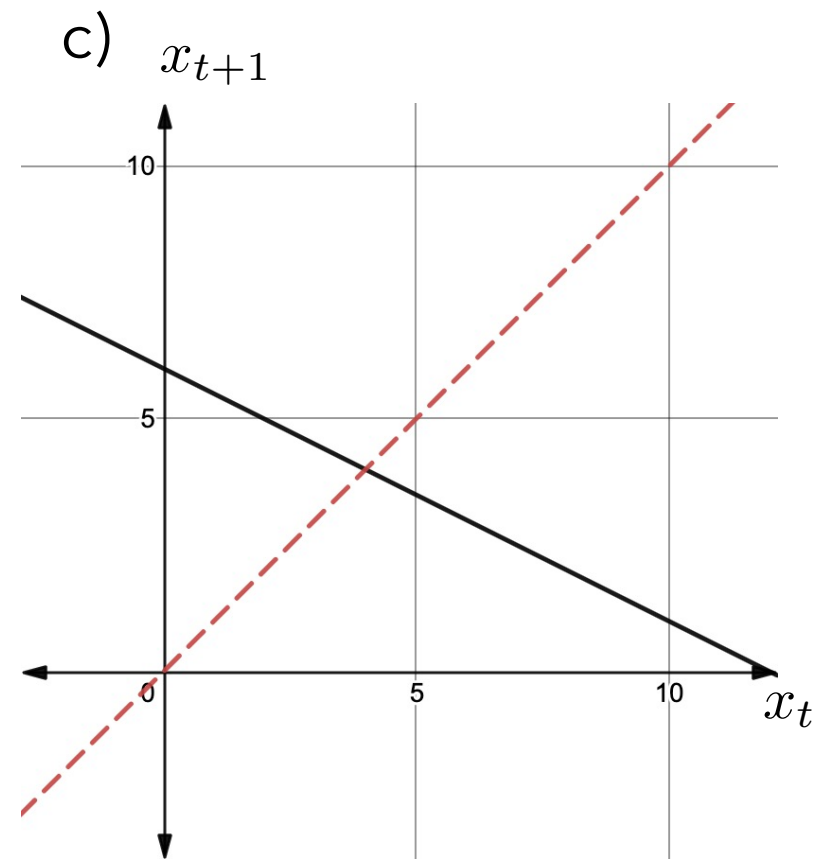
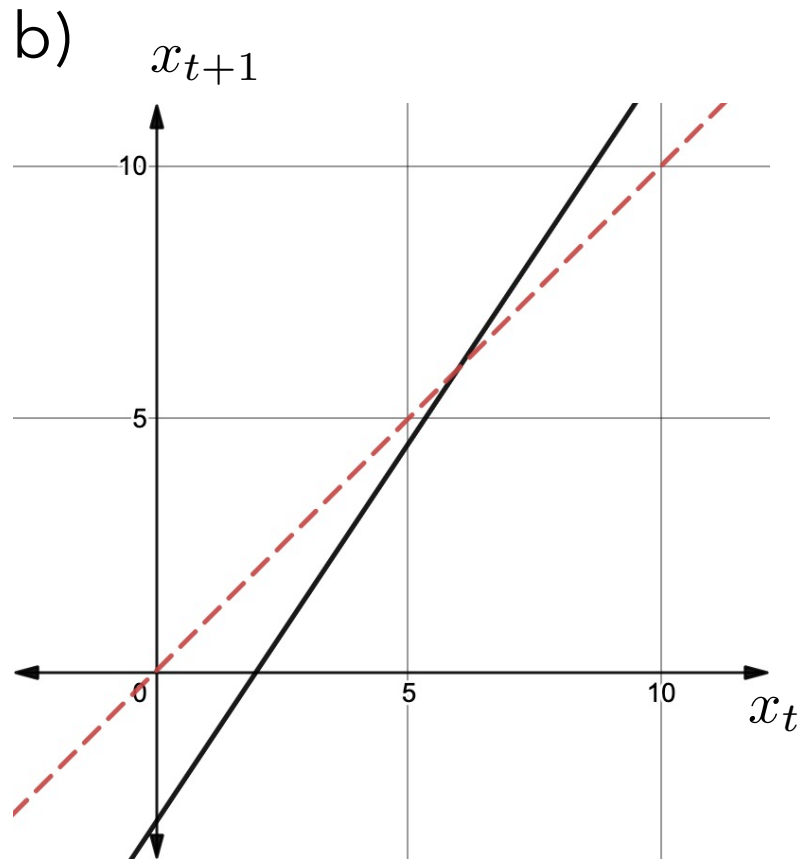
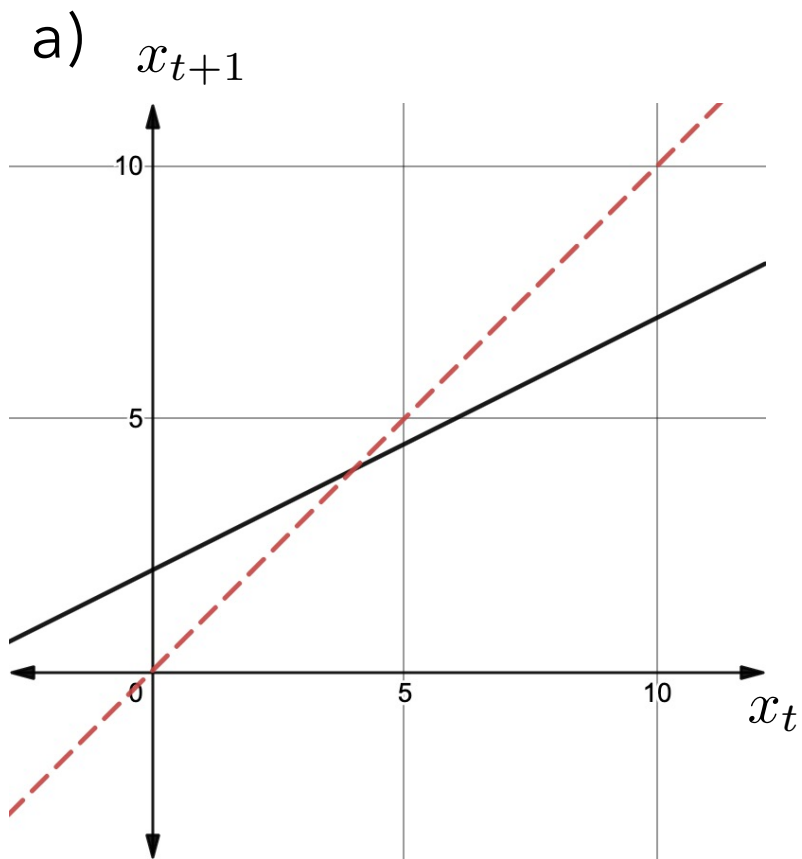


$$x_{t+1} = 0.5x_t$$



# Try these...

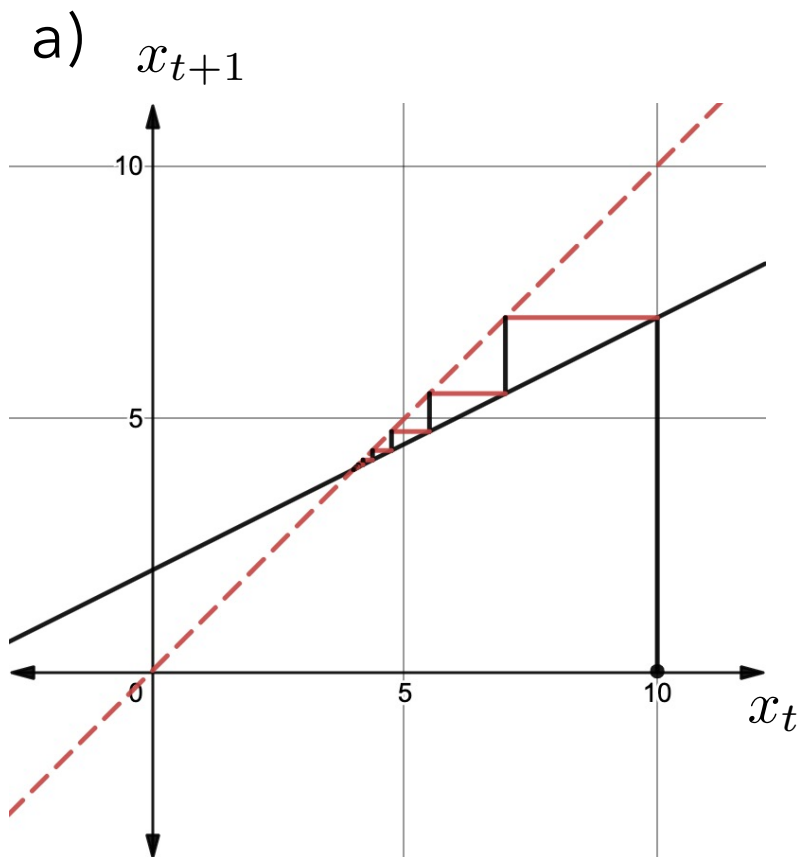
Describe the qualitative behaviour that you observe



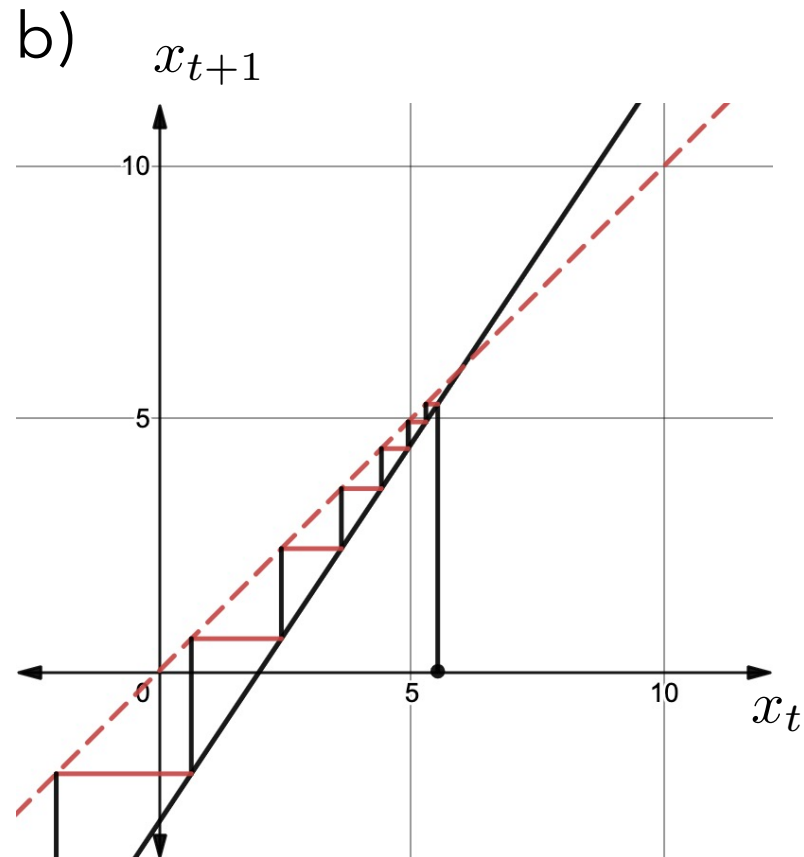


# Try these...

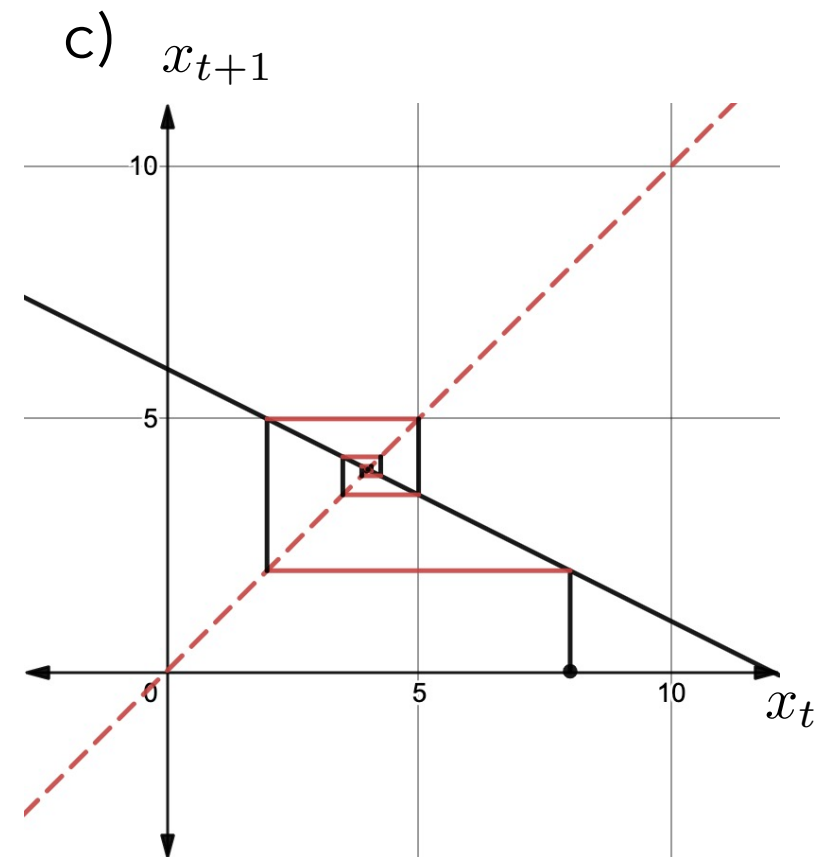
Describe the qualitative behaviour that you observe



Stable fixed point with  
monotonic decay



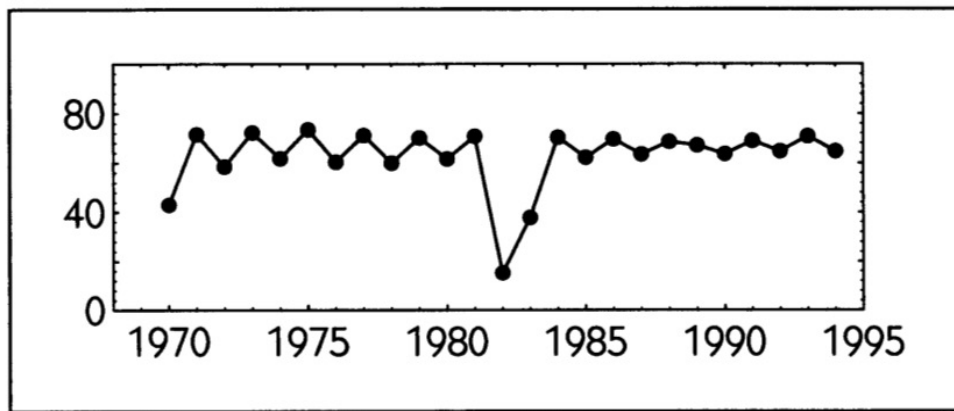
Unstable fixed point  
with monotonic growth



Stable fixed point with  
oscillatory decay

# Nonlinear difference equations

(Kaplan & Glass)



**Figure 1.1** The number of flies caught during the annual fly survey.

Simplify with substitution  $x_t = \frac{b}{R}N_t$

Gives  $x_{t+1} = r(1 - x_t)x_t$

Logistic map

Nonlinear

Is the linear difference equation

$$N_{t+1} = rN_t$$

a good model for population dynamics?

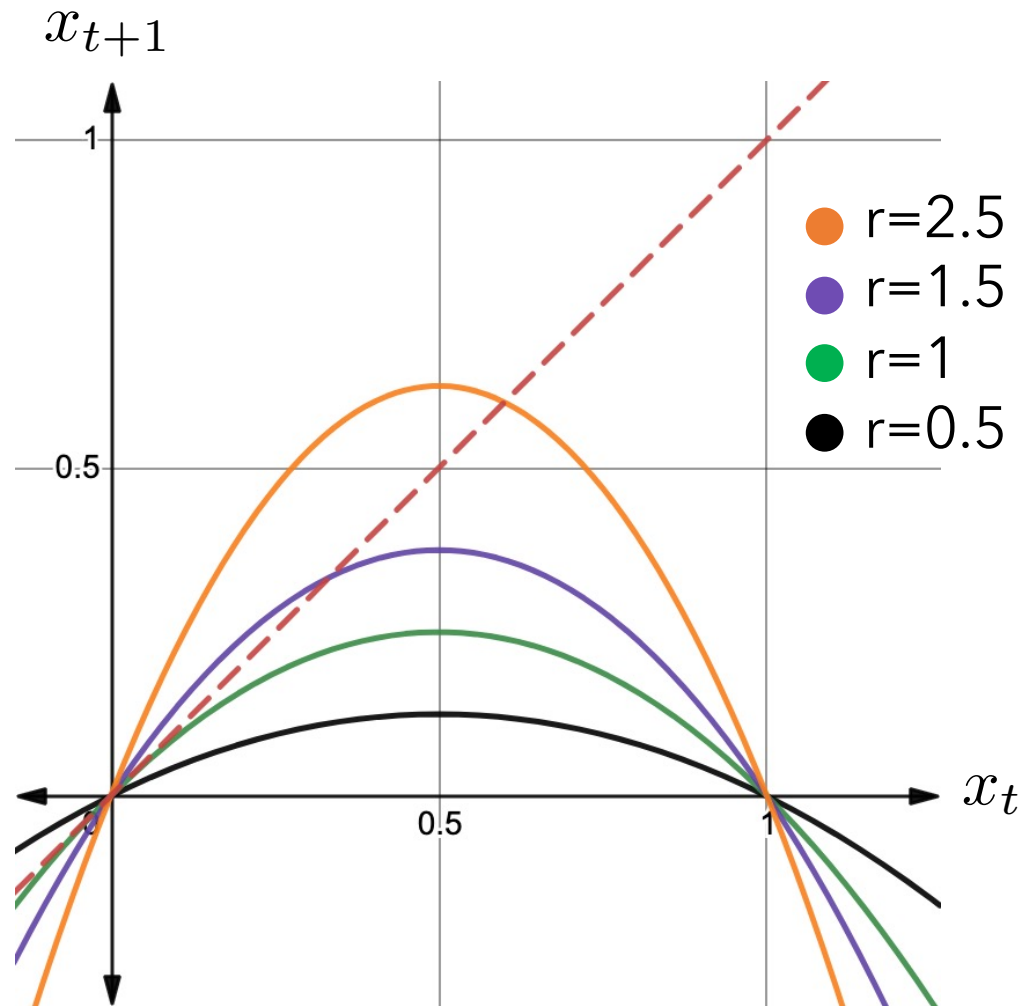
Assumes growth rate per capita is fixed

However, as  $N_t$  gets big, resources become limited...

$$N_{t+1} = (r - bN_t)N_t$$

# The logistic map

$$x_{t+1} = r(1 - x_t)x_t$$



Dynamics vary as a function of  $r$

At what values of  $r$  do the dynamics qualitatively change (bifurcations)?

Two important features of nonlinear dynamics:  
**equilibria and stability**

# Equilibria of a difference equation $x_{t+1} = f(x_t)$

$x^*$  is an equilibrium of the difference equation if and only if

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

E.g. logistic map:

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

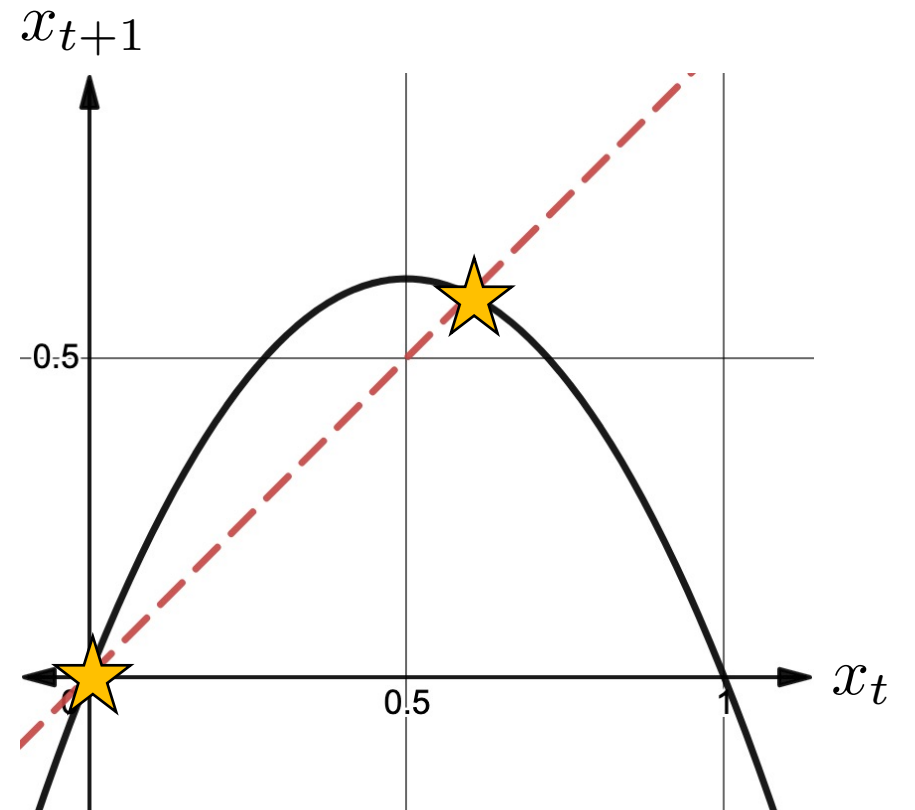
Quadratic equation with roots:

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

Latter is biologically plausible for

$$r > 1$$

(intersection of lines  $y=f(x)$  and  $y=x$ )



# Stability of equilibria

$x^*$  is a stable equilibrium if

$$|f'(x^*)| < 1$$

and unstable if

$$|f'(x^*)| > 1$$

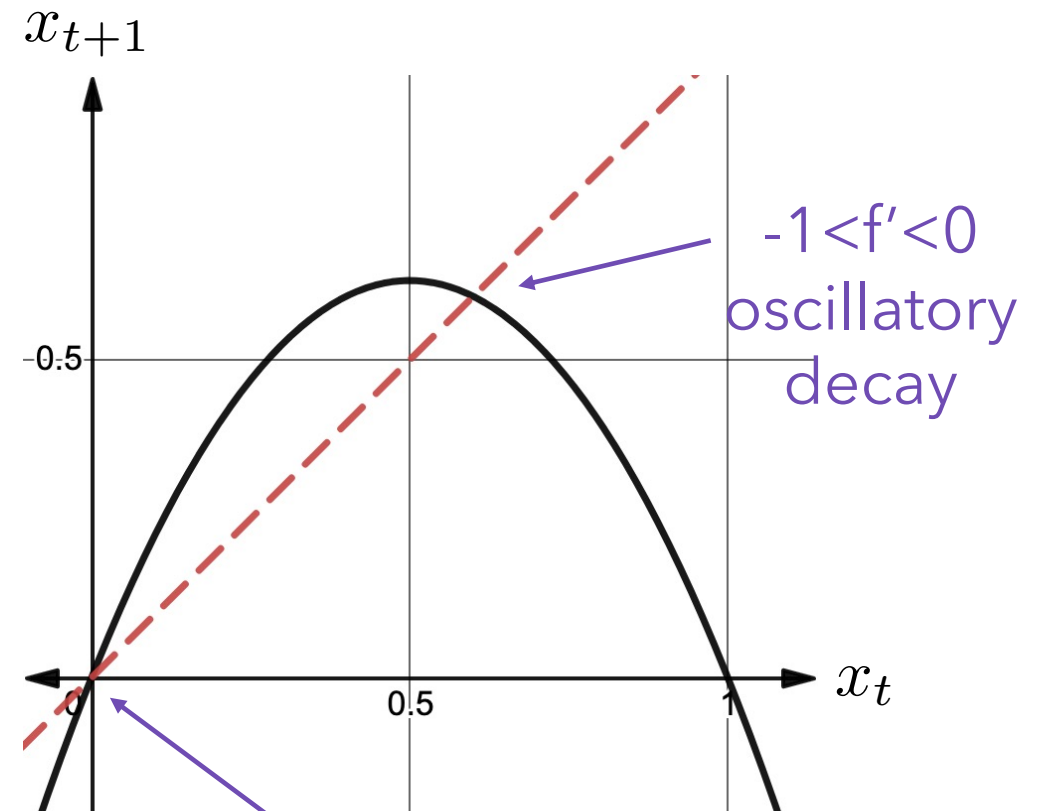
$|f'(x^*)| = 1$  is inconclusive

Linear difference equation

$$\epsilon_{t+1} = r\epsilon_t$$

describes the nearby dynamics

(gradient of  $y=f(x)$  at intersection with  $y=x$ )



$$r = f'(x^*)$$

monotonic growth

# MATLAB exercise

Investigate the dynamics of the logistic map  
at different values of  $r$

$$x_{t+1} = r(1 - x_t)x_t$$

Code: <https://cnd.mcgill.ca/ebook/index.html> or *myCourses*

`quadmap.m`

Iterate the logistic map  $N$  times

`fditer.m`

```
y=fditer('quadmap', x0, r, N)
```

`cobweb.m`

```
plot(y, '+')
```

`bifurc.m`

Make a cobweb plot for  $N$  iterations

```
cobweb('quadmap', x0, r, N)
```

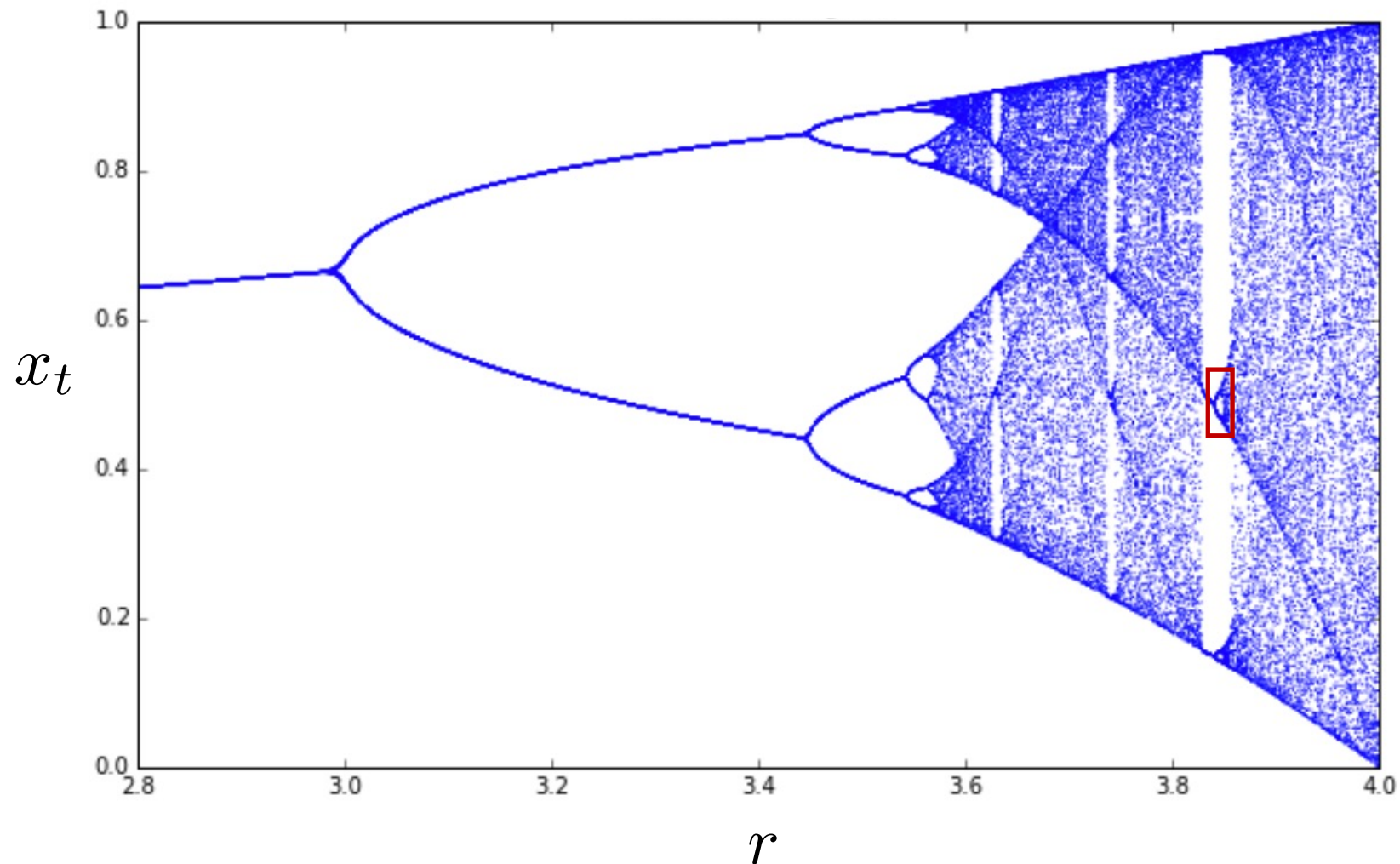
Plot long-term dynamics as a function of  $r$   
(bifurcation diagram)

```
bifurc('quadmap', rmin, rmax)
```

# Chaos

- Bounded
- Aperiodic
- Sensitive to initial conditions
- Deterministic

Bifurcation diagram



# Fractal structure (self-similar)

One-to-one map with  
Mandelbrot set:

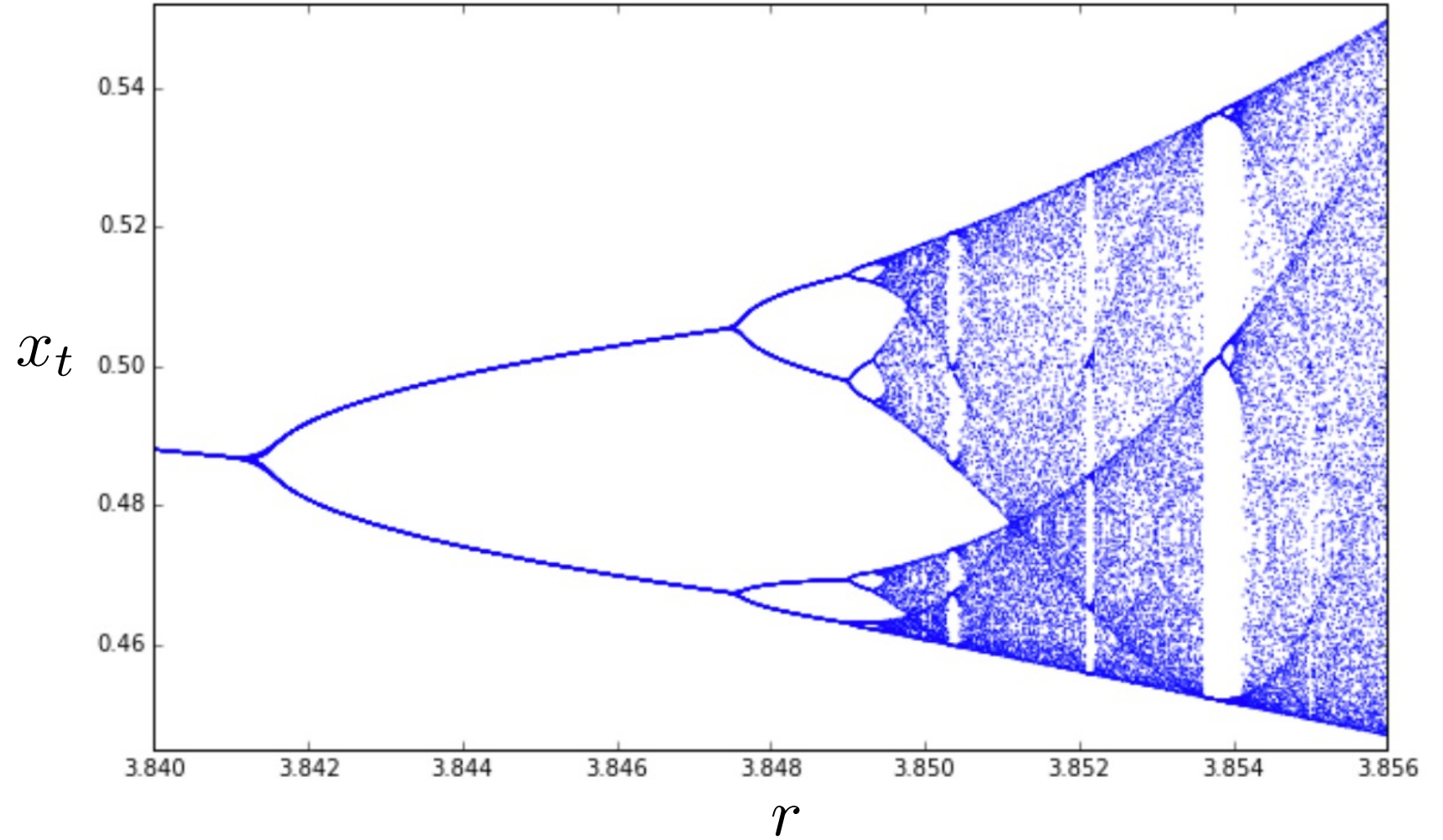
Set

$$z_t = r\left(\frac{1}{2} - x_t\right)$$

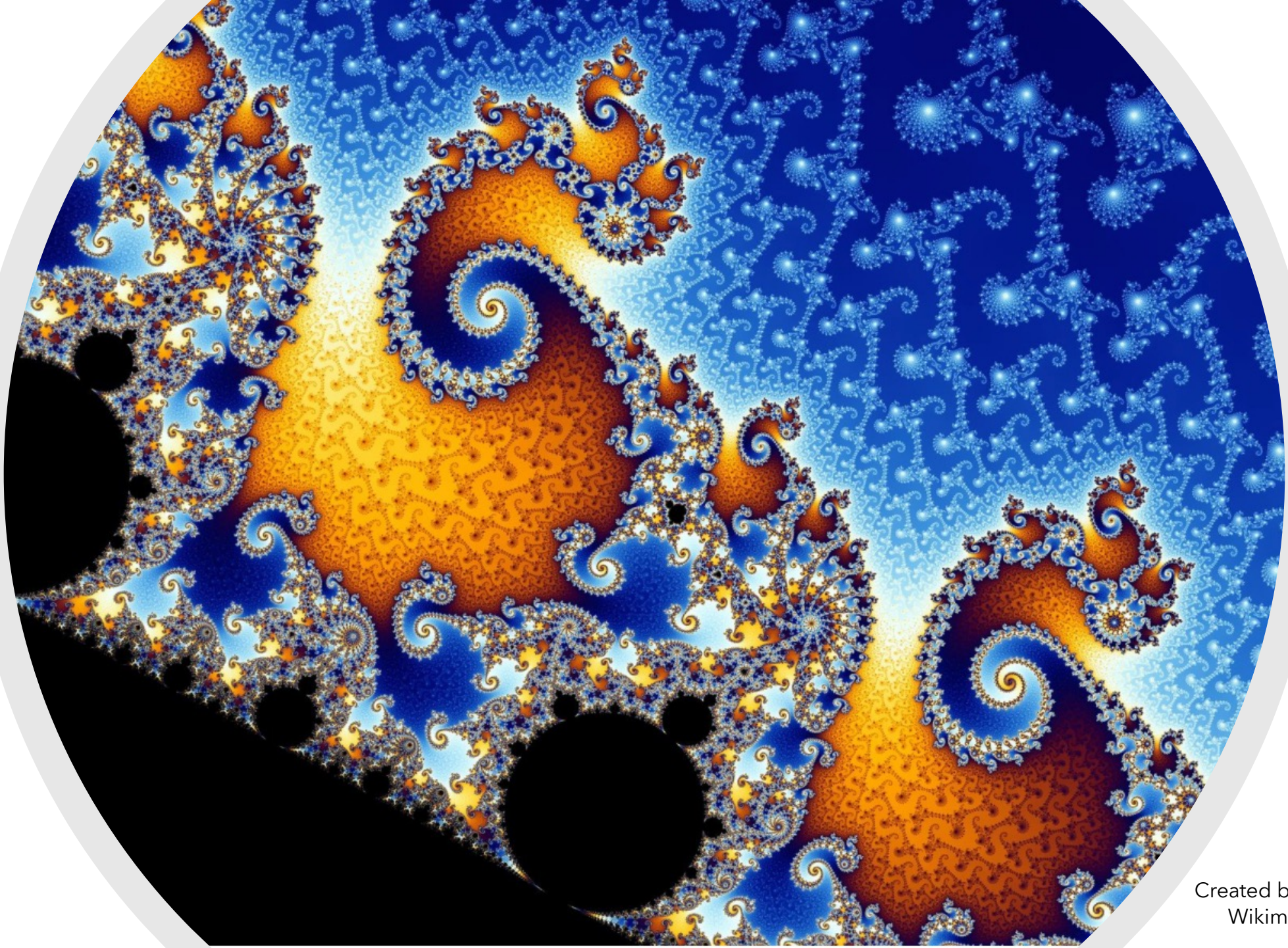
$\vdots$

$$z_{t+1} = z_t^2 + C$$

$$C = \frac{r}{2} \left(1 - \frac{r}{2}\right)$$







Created by Wolfgang Beyer,  
Wikimedia commons

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = f(x)$$

Part II

# Differential equations



# Linear differential equations

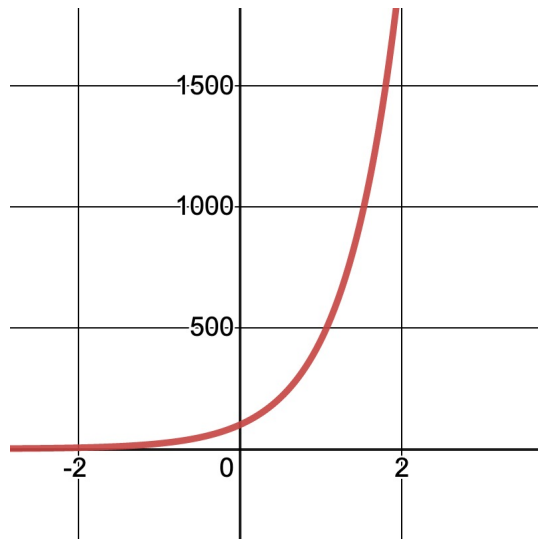
$$\frac{dx}{dt} = cx$$

$$x(t) = x_0 e^{ct}$$

$x(t)$  varies continuously with  $t$

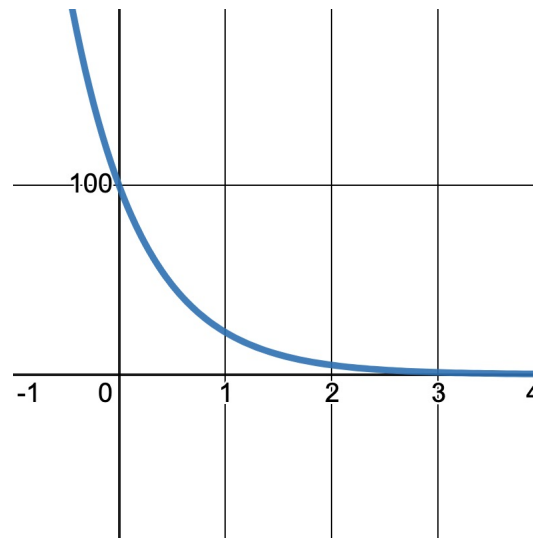
$$c > 0$$

Exponential growth



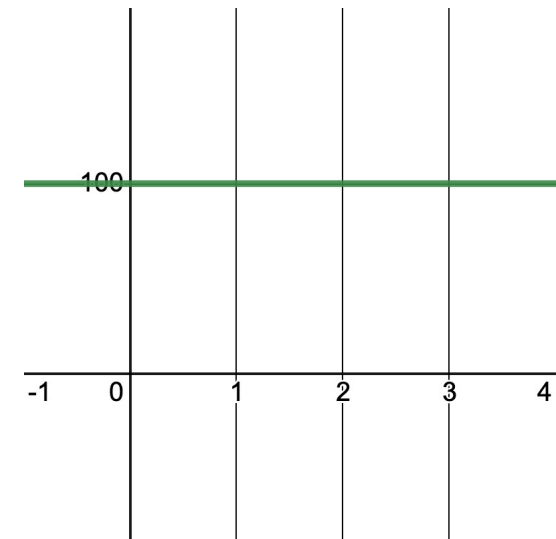
$$c < 0$$

Exponential decay



$$c = 0$$

Steady state / Fixed point

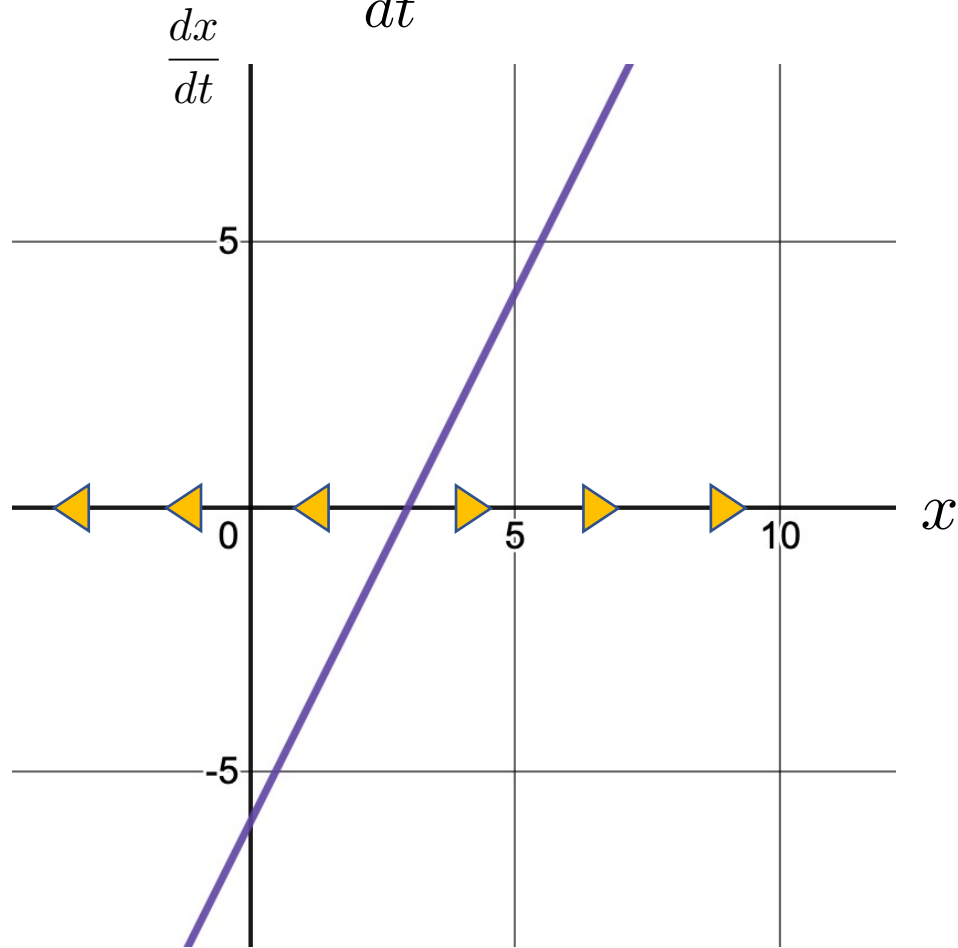


What about oscillatory dynamics? Not possible in 1D!

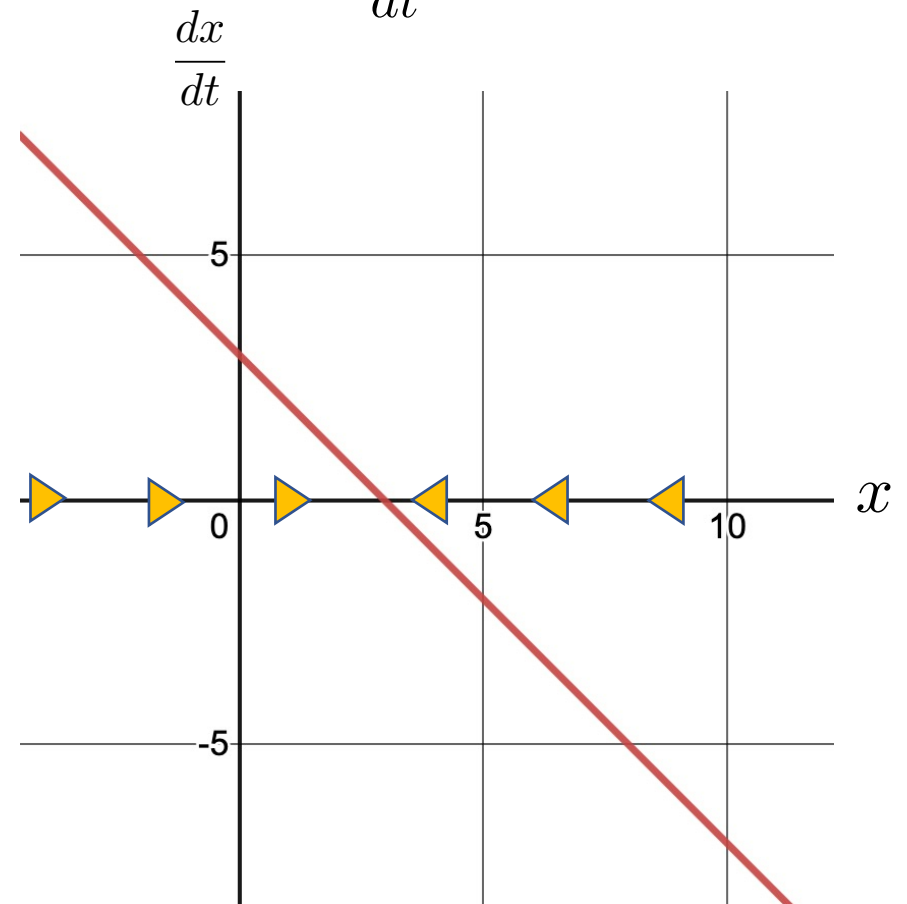
# Phase plane analysis

Analytic solution can intractable - phase plane provides a quick qualitative description

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = 2x - 6$$



$$\frac{dx}{dt} = 3 - x$$



Can you guess the requirements for equilibria and stability based on this?

# Equilibria and stability

$x^*$  is an equilibrium of the differential equation  $\frac{dx}{dt} = f(x)$  if and only if

$$f(x^*) = 0$$

$x^*$  is stable if

$$f'(x^*) < 0$$

$x^*$  is unstable if

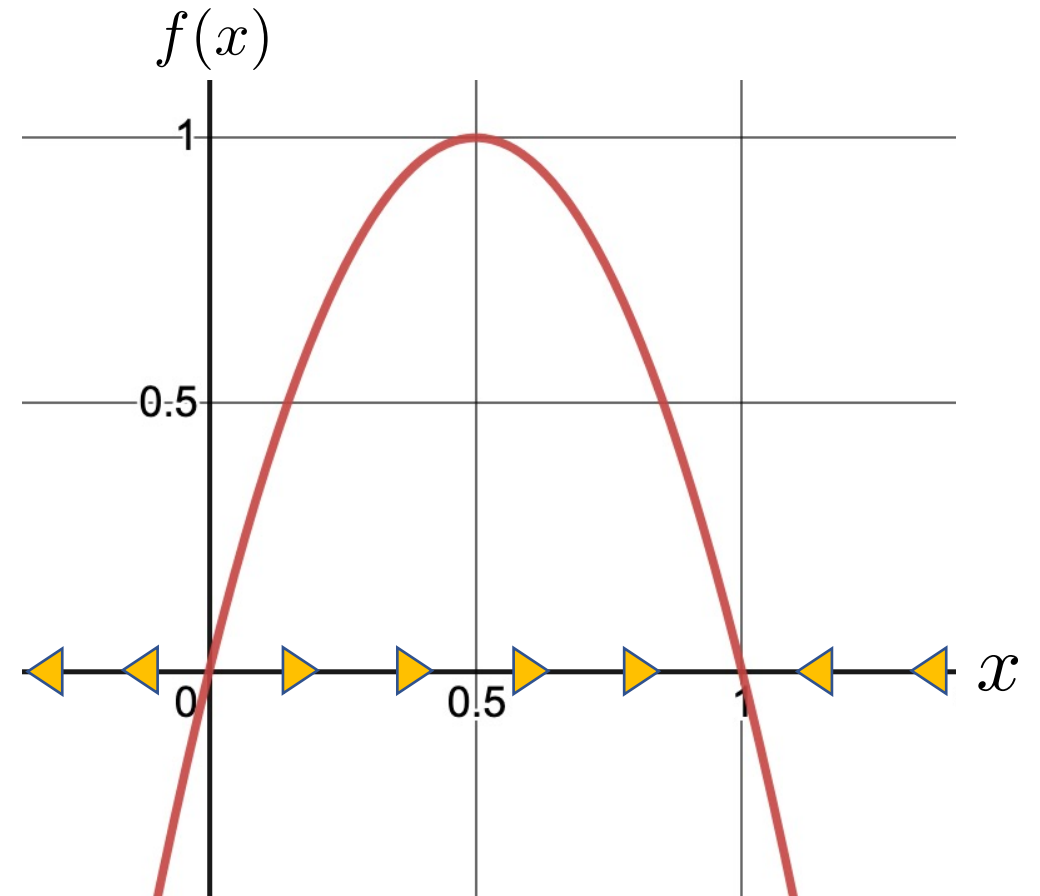
$$f'(x^*) > 0$$

E.g. continuous -  
time logistic  
equation

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = rx(1 - x)$$

No oscillations (requires 2D)

No chaos (requires 3D)



# Numerical solution

An approximation, unlike for discrete-time simulation which is exact.

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = f(x)$$

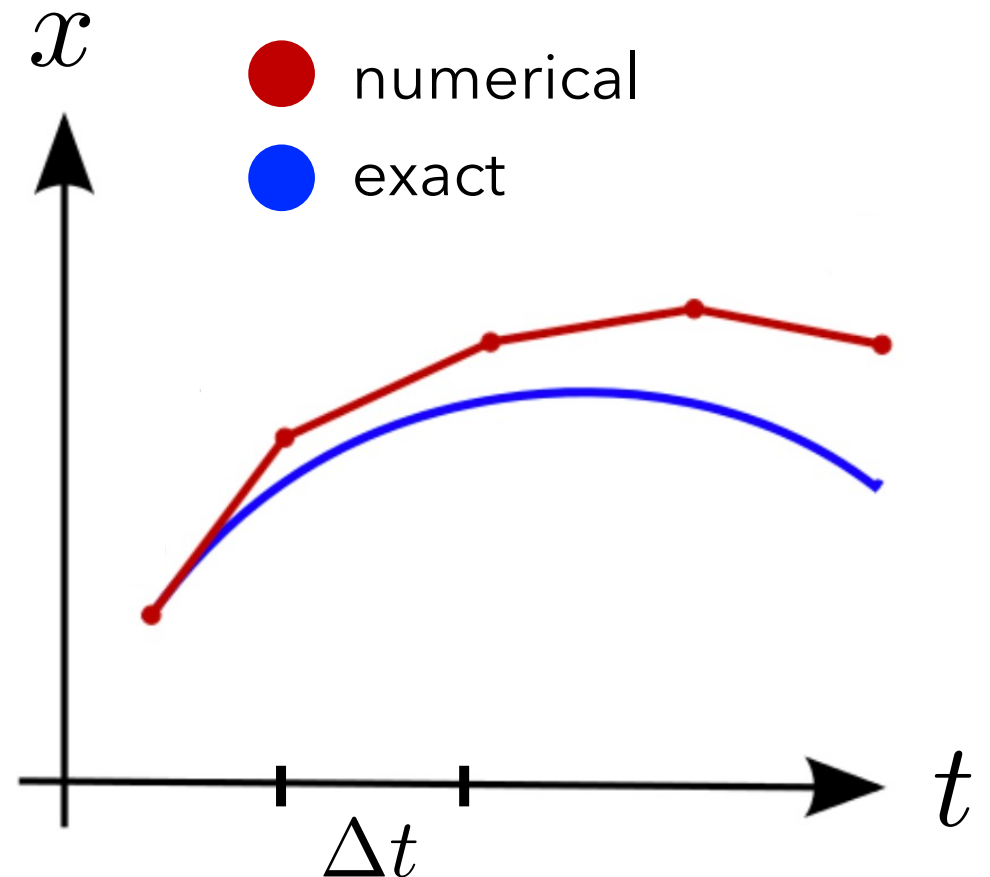
Take a small  $\Delta t$

Then  $\frac{\Delta x}{\Delta t} \approx f(x)$

$$\Delta x \approx f(x)\Delta t$$

Arrive at Euler's method

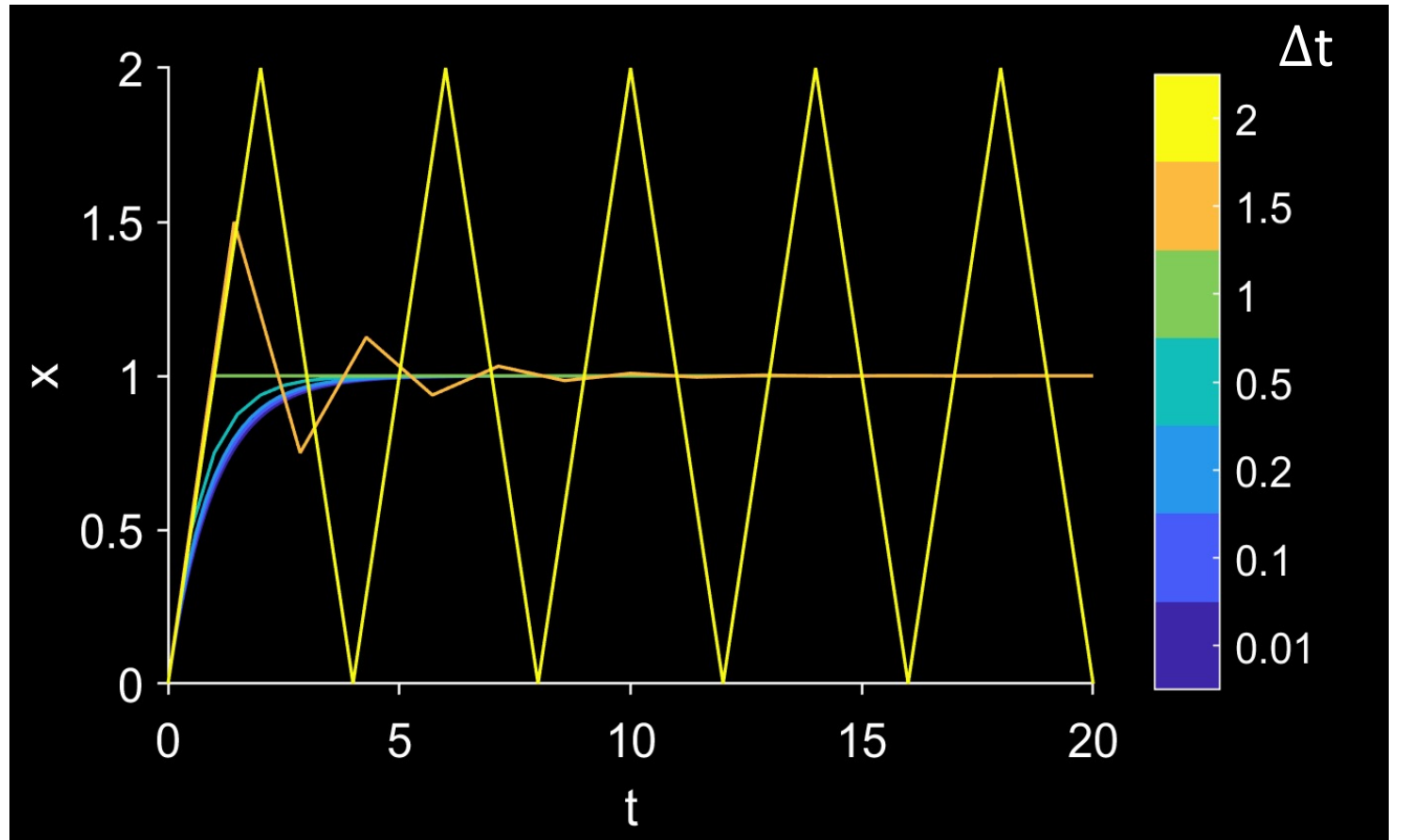
$$x_{t+\Delta t} = x_t + f(x_t)\Delta t$$



Example  $\frac{dx}{dt} = 1 - x$

Choose  $\Delta t$

- small enough such that dynamics stay close to true solution
- not so small that the simulation becomes too computationally costly



(courtesy of Niklas Brake)

# MATLAB exercise

Fitzhugh-Nagumo equations

$$\frac{dv}{dt} = -v(v - a)(v - 1) - w + I_{\text{app}}$$
$$\frac{dw}{dt} = \epsilon(bv + d - cw)$$

Describe the trajectory of  $v$  based on its initial condition

Describe the qualitative changes that occur upon increasing  $I_{\text{app}}$

Physiological interpretation?

