

Opinion Dynamics

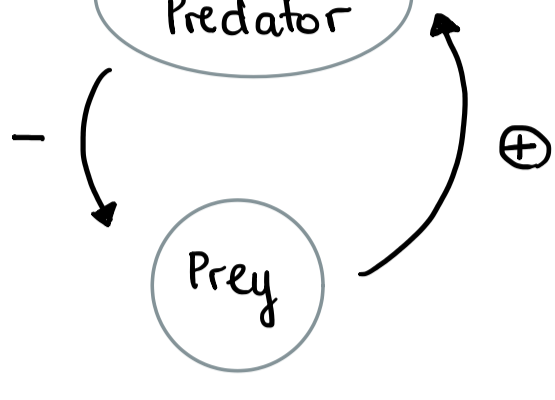
- mixing is important for consensus
- little mixing \Rightarrow polarization (esp. if amplification is present)

Global Behaviour from Local Solutions

- system of non-linear ODE can have multiple steady states
- close to the steady states, behaviour is approximated by the linearized system \Rightarrow general (good for $n \times n$)
- special attributes of 2×2 systems
 - \rightsquigarrow global behaviour can be inferred from local
 - solution curves can only intersect at steady state
 - if a solution curve is a closed loop, it must contain at least 1 steady state that is not a saddle (theory for later)



Predator - Prey Systems



Specialist Predator

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \text{prey} &= \frac{dN}{dt} = rN \left(1 - \frac{N}{K} \right) - \frac{cNP}{a+N} \\ \text{pred} &= \frac{dP}{dt} = \frac{bNP}{a+N} - mP \end{aligned} \right\} \dots (1)$$

Let $\mu = \frac{N}{a}$, $p = \frac{c}{ra} P$, $t = rT$

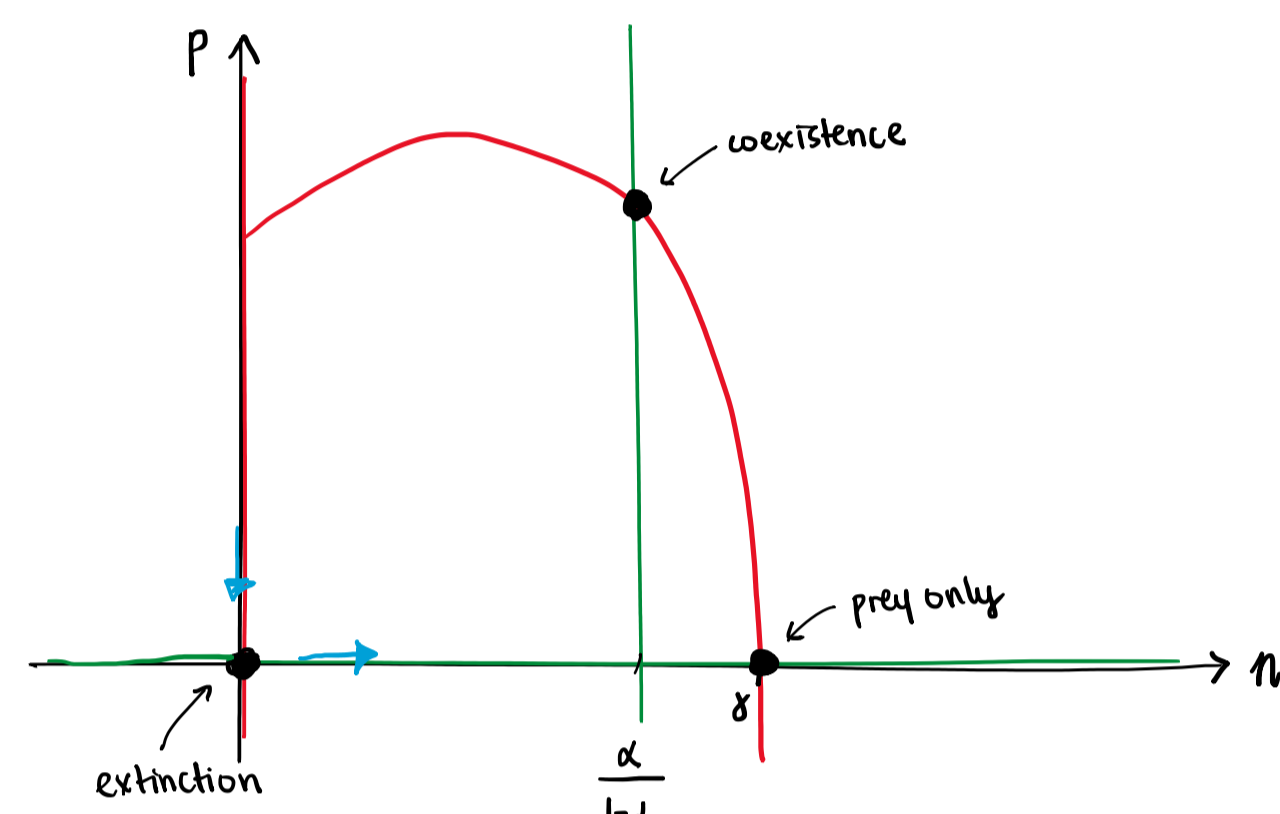
$$\alpha = \frac{m}{b}, \beta = \frac{b}{r}, \gamma = \frac{K}{a} > 0$$

Then (1) becomes

$$\dot{n} = n \left(1 - \frac{n}{\gamma} \right) - \frac{np}{1+n}$$

$$\dot{p} = \beta \left(\frac{n}{1+n} - \alpha \right) p$$

Nullclines



\therefore 3 steady states.

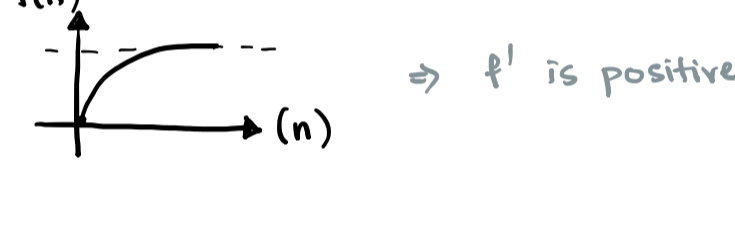
$$\begin{aligned} (0, 0) \\ (\delta, 0) \\ \left(\frac{\alpha}{1-\alpha}, \frac{\gamma}{1-\alpha} \right) \end{aligned}$$

Linearization

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \dot{n} &= f(n)(g(n) - p) \\ \dot{p} &= \beta(f(n) - \alpha)p \end{aligned} \right\} \dots (3)$$

where

$$\left. \begin{aligned} f(n) &= \frac{n}{1+n} \\ g(n) &= (1+n) \left(1 - \frac{n}{\gamma} \right) \end{aligned} \right\} \dots (4)$$



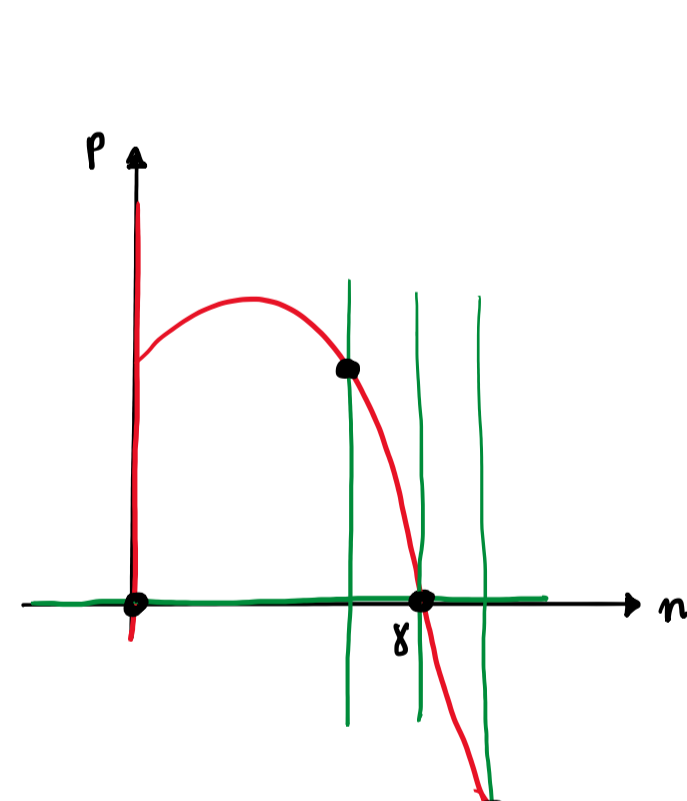
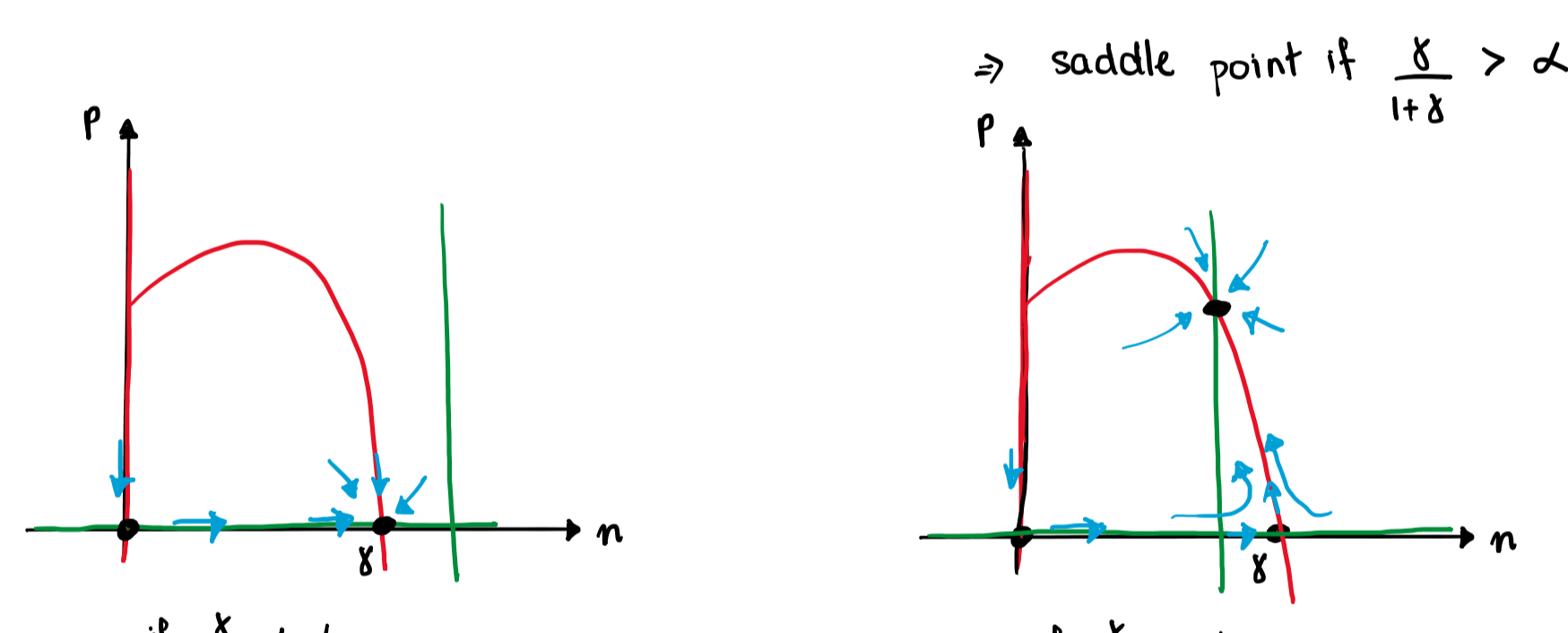
Then $A = J$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} f(n)g'(n) + f'(n)g(n) - pf'(n) & -f(n) \\ \beta f'(n)p & \beta(f(n) - \alpha) \end{bmatrix}$$

Plug in Steady States.

at $(0,0)$ $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -\alpha\beta \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow$ saddle point \therefore extinction is never an option

at $(\delta, 0)$ $A = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & -f(\delta) \\ 0 & \beta(f(\delta) - \alpha) \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow$ stable node if $\frac{\delta}{1+\delta} < \alpha$
 \Rightarrow prey nullcline lies to the right of $(\delta, 0)$



Bifurcation

change in stability of a steady state

In this case, one steady state goes through another one and there is an **exchange of stability** (explained below).

At $\frac{\alpha}{1-\alpha}, \frac{\gamma}{1-\alpha}$

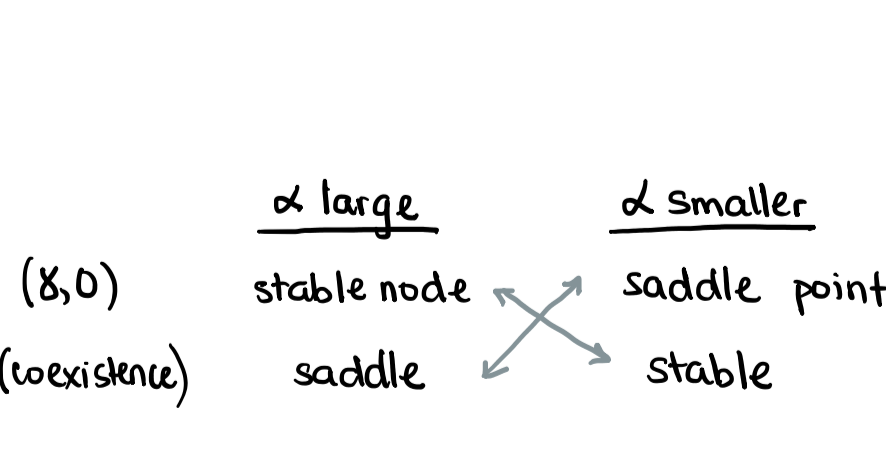
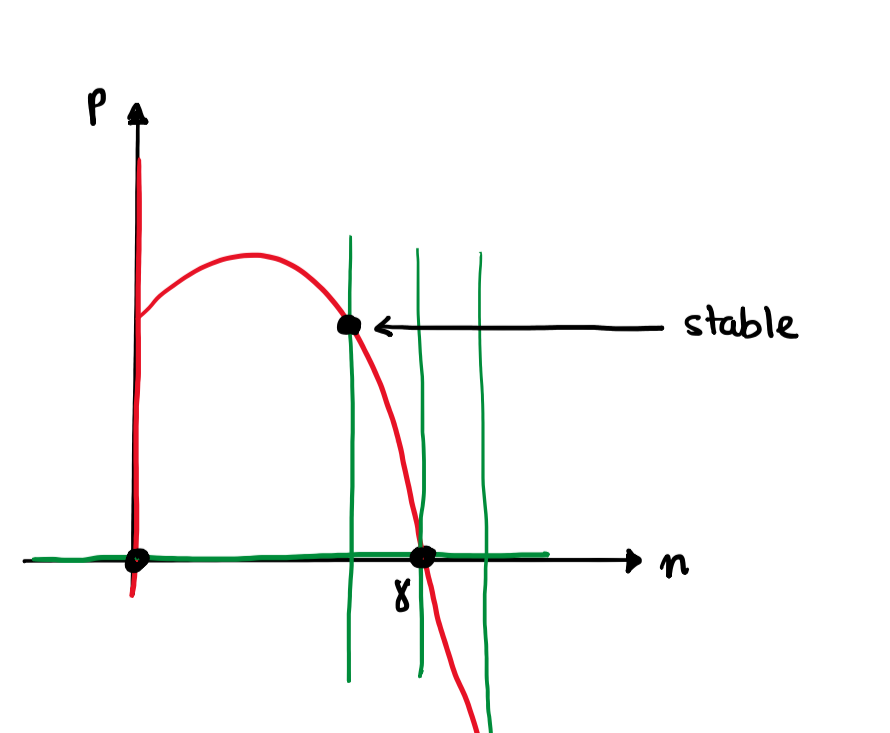
$$A = \begin{bmatrix} \alpha g' \left(\frac{\alpha}{1-\alpha} \right) & -\alpha \\ \beta f' \left(\frac{\alpha}{1-\alpha} \right) g \left(\frac{\alpha}{1-\alpha} \right) & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Character Eq.

$$\lambda^2 - \underbrace{\alpha g' \left(\frac{\alpha}{1-\alpha} \right)}_{\text{Tr}(A)} \lambda + \underbrace{\alpha \beta f' \left(\frac{\alpha}{1-\alpha} \right) g \left(\frac{\alpha}{1-\alpha} \right)}_{\text{det}(A)} = 0$$

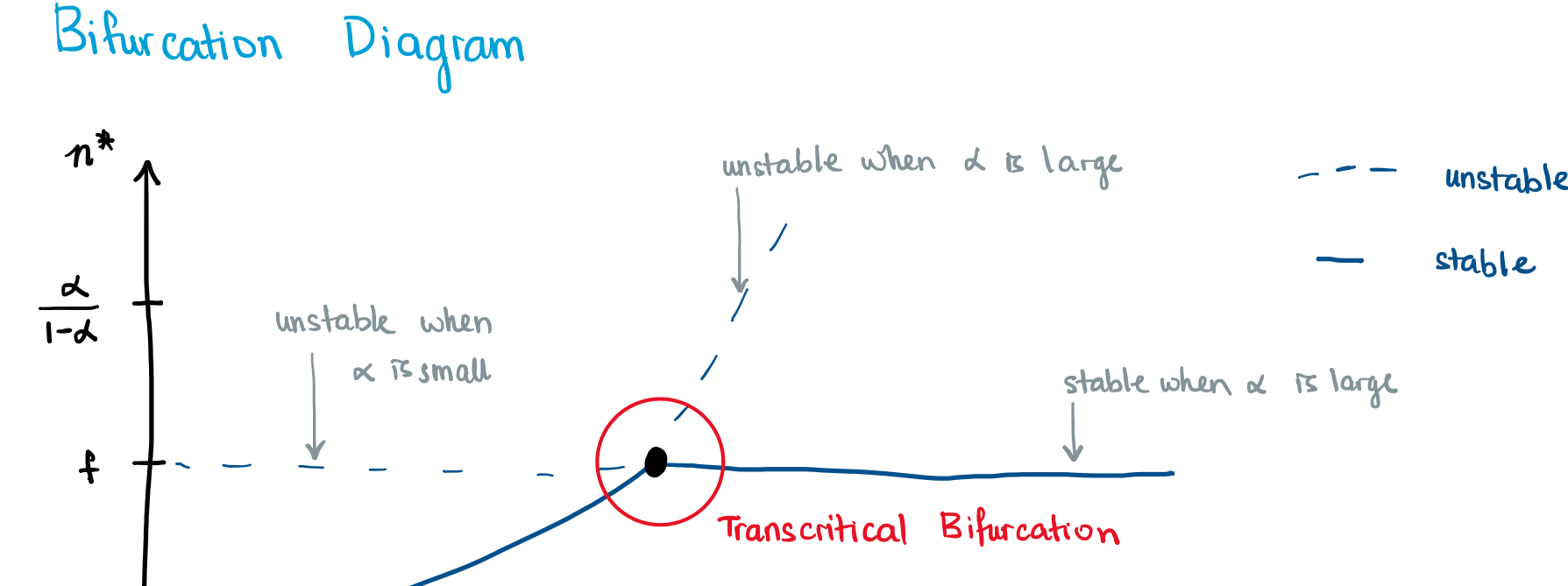


- $\text{Det}(A) > 0$ for $0 < n < \delta$
 - \hookrightarrow as soon as $\text{Det}(A) < 0 \Rightarrow$ saddle points.
- $g' \left(\frac{\alpha}{1-\alpha} \right)$ is positive for small n and negative for large n } sign depends on g'
 - \hookrightarrow when $g' \left(\frac{\alpha}{1-\alpha} \right) < 0 \Rightarrow \text{Tr}(A) < 0 \Rightarrow$ stable node / focus.
 - \hookrightarrow " $> 0 \Rightarrow \text{Tr}(A) > 0 \Rightarrow$ unstable node / focus
 - \hookrightarrow " $= 0 \Rightarrow \text{Tr}(A) = 0 \Rightarrow$ centre.



Exchange of stability

Bifurcation Diagram



always unstable