

ISOLATED INVARIANT SETS FOR FLOWS ON VECTOR BUNDLES

BY

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ABSTRACT. This paper studies isolated invariant sets for linear flows on the projective bundle associated to a vector bundle, e. g., the projective tangent flow to a smooth flow on a manifold. It is shown that such invariant sets meet each fiber, roughly in a disjoint union of linear subspaces. Isolated invariant sets which are intersections of attractors and repellers (Morse sets) are discussed. We show that, over a connected chain recurrent set in the base space, a Morse filtration gives a splitting of the projective bundle into a direct sum of invariant subbundles. To each factor in this splitting there corresponds an interval of real numbers (disjoint from those for other factors) which measures the exponential rate of growth of the orbits in that factor. We use these results to see that, over a connected chain recurrent set, the zero section of the vector bundle is isolated if and only if the flow is hyperbolic. From this, it follows that if no equation in the hull of a linear, almost periodic differential equation has a nontrivial bounded solution then the solution space of each equation has a hyperbolic splitting.

1. Introduction. In analyzing solutions to an autonomous system of differential equations, a useful technique is to study the linearized equations. The globalization of this approach is studying a flow f on a manifold by analyzing its tangent flow Tf on the tangent bundle to the manifold. (" T " denotes the tangent functor—here applied to the map f_t for each $t \in R$.) Our analysis concentrates on the isolated invariant sets of the flow which Tf induces on the projective bundle associated to the tangent bundle (each fiber is the projective space obtained from the tangent space). Certain isolated invariant sets are central to the study of f , for example, those corresponding to the tangent spaces to the stable and unstable manifolds of a hyperbolic critical point of f are a repeller and an attractor, respectively, of the projective tangent flow.

While our investigation has been motivated by the desire to study flows on smooth manifolds in terms of isolated invariant sets of the projective tangent flow,

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we have not proved any theorems specific to tangent flows. Our results do include several basic theorems relating the linear aspects of vector bundle flows to the notion of isolated invariant sets.

We consider a flow F on a vector bundle over a compact metric space which, for each $t \in \mathbb{R}$, is a vector bundle morphism (takes fibers to fibers, linearly). A flow on the base space lying under F is denoted by f ; and the pair (F, f) is called a linear flow. Because of linearity, F induces a flow PF on the projective bundle associated with the vector bundle. The compactness of the projective bundle allows the use of techniques not available for the vector bundle.

§§2, 3 and 4 develop the necessary background and introduce some concepts useful in proving the main result treated in §§5, 6 and 7. This result asserts that an isolated invariant set of PF intersects each fiber in a disjoint union of linear subspaces together with closed arcs of 1-dimensional linear subspaces (Theorem 7.1). Also, in each fiber, there are only a finite number of distinct subspaces which can be traces of isolated invariant sets on that fiber (Theorem 7.4).

§8 contains a brief summary of some recent work of Charles Conley on chain recurrence and Morse sets [6]. A Morse set means the intersection of an attractor and a repeller; so Morse sets are isolated. To each filtration of a flow there corresponds an ordered collection of Morse sets, and any collection arising in this way is called a Morse decomposition of the flow. The existence of filtrations of a flow depends on a weak recurrence relation defined in §8. A theorem in [6] states that a flow is "chain recurrent" if and only if there are no nontrivial filtrations.

In §9, we prove that a Morse set of PF meets each fiber in one linear subspace (without exception). Furthermore, if the base is connected and the flow f is chain recurrent on it, then each Morse decomposition of PF corresponds to a splitting of the projective bundle into a direct sum of invariant subbundles. (An example shows that chain recurrence in the base is necessary.) In §10, we use these results to see that, if f is chain recurrent on a connected base, then the zero section of the vector bundle is an isolated invariant set of F if and only if F is hyperbolic. Also, to each Morse set in a Morse decomposition over a chain recurrent, connected base, there corresponds an interval of real numbers which measures the exponential rate of growth of the orbits in that set. The intervals corresponding to different Morse sets are disjoint. This implies that there is a unique finest Morse decomposition and that PF restricted to each of the Morse sets in this decomposition is chain recurrent. If the base space is a rest point or a periodic orbit, the growth rate intervals corresponding to Morse sets in the finest decomposition are points. This is not generally the case.

As a corollary, we prove a strengthened version of a result due to Robert Sacker and George Sell [18] concerning almost periodic differential equations.

Their result states that if no equation in the hull of the almost periodic system, $\dot{x} = A(t)x$, has a nontrivial bounded solution, then the solution space of each equation in the hull splits into a direct sum of a subspace with exponential growth and a subspace with exponential decay. Our theorem on finest Morse decompositions over a chain recurrent base generalizes and refines this statement; in particular, the chain recurrence of PF restricted to each Morse set is a novel feature.

The results presented here are taken from the author's doctoral thesis written under the direction of Charles Conley. The author wishes to thank Professor Conley for his invaluable assistance.

2. Flows on vector bundles and projective bundles. Let (M, d) be a compact metric space. Let (E, M, π, \mathcal{M}) denote a vector bundle over M as defined in [1]. E is the total space, π is the projection from E onto M , and \mathcal{M} is the maximal atlas of charts. Charts, subbundles, quotient bundles, Whitney sums, and Riemannian metrics have their usual meaning [1], [13]. Unless otherwise stated, we will assume all vector bundle structures are continuous; and we will denote a bundle by its total space.

REMARK. Let E be an $n + 1$ -dimensional bundle over M . For $b \in M$, let R_b^{n+1} denote the fiber over b , i.e., $R_b^{n+1} \equiv \pi^{-1}(b)$. Then R_b^{n+1} has a unique vector space structure.

PROPOSITION 2.1. *If E' is a closed subset of E and E' intersects each fiber in a k -dimensional subspace ($1 \leq k \leq n + 1$), then E' is a k -dimensional subbundle of E .*

Consider the subspace $E - Z$ of E where Z is the zero section of the vector bundle E . On $E - Z$ perform the identification corresponding to the following equivalence relation: For $b \in M$ and $v_b, w_b \in R_b^{n+1} - 0$, $v_b \sim w_b$ if and only if there is an $\alpha \neq 0 \in R$ so that $v_b = \alpha w_b$. The equivalence class of v_b will be denoted $[v_b]$. Let PE denote the identification space with the quotient topology and $P\pi$, the induced projection from PE onto M . With this topology, $(PE, M, P\pi)$ becomes a fiber bundle with fiber P^n , real n -dimensional projective space, and is called the *projective bundle* associated with (E, M, π, \mathcal{M}) . Because of the linearity of the charts for E , they induce charts for PE which will be referred to as linear bundle charts for PE .

DEFINITION. For $b \in M$, let P_b^n denote the fiber of PE over b . For $0 \leq k \leq n$, a k -dimensional linear subspace of P_b^n is the image under identification of a $k + 1$ -dimensional subspace of R_b^{n+1} .

DEFINITION. A subset H of PE is a k -dimensional subbundle of PE if its pull-back to E by the identification map is a $k + 1$ -dimensional subbundle of E .

DEFINITION. PE is said to be the *direct sum* of its subbundles $\{PE_1, \dots, PE_k\}$ if E is the Whitney sum of $\{E_1, \dots, E_k\}$.

A flow on M will be denoted by $f: M \times R \rightarrow M$ and sometimes by $\{f_t\}$, $f_t: M \rightarrow M$ for each $t \in R$. A flow on the total space E will be denoted by F or $\{F_t\}$. If Y is a subset of M (or of E) and J is a subset of R , then $Y \cdot J \equiv f(Y \times J)$ (respectively, $Y \cdot J \equiv F(Y \times J)$). (F, f) is a *linear flow* on the bundle E if:

- (1) F and f are flows on E and M , respectively,
- (2) $f_t \circ \pi = \pi \circ F_t$ for all $t \in R$, and
- (3) $F_t: R_b^{n+1} \rightarrow R_{f_t(b)}^{n+1}$ is a linear isomorphism for each $b \in M$.

Because of the linearity, F induces a flow on the total space PE defined by $PF([v_b], t) \equiv [F((v_b, t))]$ for all $b \in M$, $[v_b] \in PE$, and $t \in R$. The advantage in studying PF instead of F is that PF is a flow on a compact metric space which lends itself to the study of isolated invariant sets [2], [7], [15], [26]. The canonical example of a linear flow on a vector bundle is a C^r -flow ($r \geq 1$) on a compact manifold and its tangent flow.

For each $b \in M$, we define a topological metric on P_b^n which depends on a given Riemannian metric g on E . We introduce this metric to facilitate the use of the "cross ratio" discussed in the next section.

Given two nonzero vectors, $x, y \in R_b^{n+1}$, let y^\perp denote the unique vector (up to sign) of the subspace determined by x and y such that $g(y, y^\perp) = 0$ and $g(y^\perp, y^\perp) = g(y, y)$. Define ρ_b on $P_b^n \times P_b^n$ by

$$\rho_b([x], [y]) = \frac{|g(x, y^\perp)|}{g(x, x)^{1/2} g(y, y)^{1/2}}$$

where $|\cdot|$ denotes the absolute value of a real number. ρ_b is a bounded metric (by 1) on P_b^n giving the same topology which P_b^n inherits as a subspace of PE .

PE is metrizable; let d denote a metric on PE giving its topology. Then d and ρ are related in the following way:

PROPOSITION 2.2. *For each $\epsilon > 0$, the number $\delta(d, \epsilon) \equiv \inf \{\rho_b(z, w) \mid b \in M \text{ and } z, w \in P_b^n \text{ and } d(z, w) \geq \epsilon\}$ is greater than zero. And, for each $\delta > 0$, the number $\epsilon(\rho, \delta) \equiv \inf \{d(z, w) \mid \exists b \in M \ni z, w \in P_b^n \text{ and } \rho_b(z, w) \geq \delta\}$ is greater than zero.*

PROOF. Use the compactness of M and PE and the fact that ρ is continuous as a function of its three arguments, b, z , and w .

COROLLARY 2.3. *Let $b \in M$ and $z, w \in P_b^n$. Then $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \rho_{b, t}(z \cdot t, w \cdot t) = 0$ if and only if $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} d(z \cdot t, w \cdot t) = 0$.*

A statement analogous to Corollary 2.3 for $t \rightarrow -\infty$ also holds. Corollary

2.3 asserts that if two orbits of the flow PF , starting in the same fiber, come together in the ρ metric as $t \rightarrow \infty$ then they come together in the d metric, and vice versa. Henceforth, the terminology “ z goes to w as $t \rightarrow \infty$ ” will mean the orbits of z and w come together as $t \rightarrow \infty$ as in Corollary 2.3.

3. Cross ratio on P^1 and PE . In order to exploit the linearity of PF , we will introduce a tool which, in local coordinates, is the cross ratio of four points in a projective line. First, consider the Euclidean plane R^2 and the associated projective line P^1 .

Take a basis for R^2 and let x denote the column vector representation of a point in R^2 with respect to this basis. Let $\{x, y\}$ denote the 2×2 matrix with columns the vectors x and y .

DEFINITION. Given $[x], [y], [v], [w]$ distinct points in P^1 , define the *cross ratio* of $[x], [y], [v], [w]$ by

$$C([x], [y], [v], [w]) \equiv \frac{\det \{x, y\}}{\det \{x, w\}} \frac{\det \{v, w\}}{\det \{v, y\}}.$$

REMARK. The cross ratio is independent of the basis used to define it, because if two vector representations by different bases differ by a nonsingular matrix A , then

$$\frac{\det \{x, y\}}{\det \{x, w\}} = \frac{\det A}{\det A} \cdot \frac{\det \{x, y\}}{\det \{x, w\}} = \frac{\det \{A \cdot \{x, y\}\}}{\det \{A \cdot \{x, w\}\}} = \frac{\det \{Ax, Ay\}}{\det \{Ax, Aw\}}.$$

PROPOSITION 3.1. Let T be a linear transformation on R^2 and PT be the induced map on P^1 . Then the cross ratio is invariant under PT , i.e., for distinct points $[x], [y], [v], [w] \in P^1$

$$C([x], [y], [v], [w]) = C([Tx], [Ty], [Tv], [Tw]).$$

PROOF. Use the preceding computation where A is the matrix of T .

Given an inner product $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ on R^2 and representing vectors in terms of an orthonormal basis, we see that the cross ratio can be written as (suppressing $[\cdot]$):

$$C(x, y, v, w) = \frac{\langle x, Jy \rangle}{\langle x, Jw \rangle} \frac{\langle v, Jw \rangle}{\langle v, Jy \rangle},$$

where J is the 2×2 matrix $\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$. For each positive definite, symmetric, bilinear map g on R^2 , there is a matrix G so that $g(x, y) = \langle x, Gy \rangle$ for all $x, y \in R^2$. The following two results say that we can express the cross ratio in terms of g .

LEMMA 3.2. Given a positive definite, symmetric, bilinear map g on R^2 and an orthonormal basis with respect to $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$, let G be the matrix for g in this basis. Then there are only two 2×2 matrices $J_G = \pm \sqrt{\det G} G^{-1}J$ so that

- (1) $\langle J_G x, G J_G y \rangle = \langle x, G y \rangle$ for all $x, y \in R^2$, and
 (2) $\langle x, G J_G x \rangle = 0$ for all $x \in R^2$.

PROOF. (1) implies $J_G^T G J_G = G$ and, after taking det of both sides, we see that $\det J_G = \pm 1$. (2) implies that $G J_G$ is antisymmetric. Since the dimension of 2×2 antisymmetric matrices is 1, $G J_G = \lambda J$ for some $\lambda \in R$. Since $\det G > 0$, it follows that $\det J_G > 0$. Thus $\lambda^2 = \det G$.

Henceforth, J_G will denote the matrix $\sqrt{\det G} G^{-1} J$. Let $x' \equiv J_G x$ for all $x \in R^2$. Lemma 3.2 implies that for all $x, y, w \in R^2$:

$$\frac{\langle x, J y \rangle}{\langle x, J w \rangle} = \frac{\langle x, G J_G y \rangle}{\langle x, G J_G w \rangle} = \frac{g(x, y')}{g(x, w')}.$$

PROPOSITION 3.3. Let g be any positive definite, symmetric, bilinear map on R^2 . Then for distinct points $[x], [y], [v], [w] \in P^1$,

$$C(x, y, v, w) = \frac{g(x, y') g(v, w')}{g(x, w') g(v, y')}.$$

REMARK. Since $x' = \pm x^\perp$ for all $x \in R$

$$|C(x, y, v, w)| = \frac{|g(x, y^\perp)|}{|g(x, w^\perp)|} \frac{|g(v, w^\perp)|}{|g(v, y^\perp)|}.$$

Define the subset ΔPE of $PE \times PE \times PE \times PE$ by

$$\Delta PE \equiv \{(x, y, v, w) \in PE^4 \mid \exists b \in M \ni x, y, v, w \text{ are distinct points in the same 1-dimensional subspace of } P_b^n\}.$$

DEFINITION. Let $(x, y, v, w) \in \Delta PE$ with $P\pi(x) = b \in M$ and let (ϕ, U) be a linear bundle chart for PE with $b \in U$. Then the cross ratio of (x, y, v, w) is defined by

$$C(x, y, v, w) \equiv C(\phi x, \phi y, \phi v, \phi w).$$

REMARK. C is independent of the chart because if (ψ, V) is another linear bundle chart with $b \in V$ then C defined in terms of ψ differs from C defined in terms of ϕ by a linear map on P^1 (Proposition 3.1).

PROPOSITION 3.4. Let T be a bundle morphism from E to E (T maps fibers to fibers, linearly) and PT be the induced map on PE . Then C is invariant under PT .

The following relates C to the ρ metric discussed in §2:

PROPOSITION 3.5. Let g be a Riemannian metric on E and let ρ_b be the induced metric on P_b^n for $b \in M$. Then for $(x, y, v, w) \in \Delta PE$ where $P\pi(x) = b$,

$$|C(x, y, v, w)| = \frac{\rho_b(x, y)}{\rho_b(x, w)} \frac{\rho_b(v, w)}{\rho_b(v, y)}.$$

PROOF. Use the remark after Proposition 3.3.

4. **Notation.** Unless stated otherwise, we will deal with one linear flow (F, f) and one vector bundle E over M and its projective bundle PE .

The symbol $A_1 \amalg A_2$ denotes the disjoint union of the disjoint sets A_1 and A_2 . For a set A , let $\text{Int } A$, $\text{Ext } A$, ∂A , $\text{Cl } A$, and $\text{Comp } A$ denote the topological interior, exterior, boundary, closure, and the complement of A , respectively. Let g be a fixed Riemannian metric on E with fiber distance ρ , and let d be the distance in the total space PE . If $x, y \in P^n$, then $\text{seg } [x, y]$ will denote a closed arc from x to y contained in the unique P^1 determined by x and y ; there are two such arcs. Open arcs will be denoted by $\text{seg } (x, y)$; and half-open arcs will be denoted as usual. For compact subsets A and C of E , let $d(A, C) \equiv \inf \{d(a, c) | a \in A \text{ and } c \in C\}$; for compact A contained in one fiber, let $\text{diam } A \equiv \sup \{\rho(a, c) | a, c \in A\}$.

An *isolated invariant set* S is a compact invariant set ($S \cdot R = S$) which is the maximal invariant set within a closed neighborhood of itself. Maximality implies that isolated invariant sets are closed. An *isolating block* B for S is a closed set containing S in its interior such that for each point $p \in \partial B$ there is an $\epsilon > 0$ so that either $p \cdot (0, \epsilon) \subset \text{Ext } B$ or $p \cdot (-\epsilon, 0) \subset \text{Ext } B$. This definition appears different from Churchill's [2] but it is essentially the same. Every neighborhood of S contains some isolating block for S [2], [7], [26]. The intersection of isolated invariant sets is said to be *quasi-isolated*.

Except in §§10, 11, and 12, all isolated invariant sets are those of the flow PF .

5. **How S meets a 1-dimensional subspace of the fiber.** Fix $b \in M$ and a 1-dimensional subspace P_b^1 contained in P_b^n . $\partial(S \cap P_b^1)$ denotes the boundary of $S \cap P_b^1$ relative to P_b^1 . For Lemma 5.1 through Corollary 5.5, S is a fixed isolated invariant set and B a block for S .

LEMMA 5.1. *Suppose Y is a connected subset of $\text{Int } B$ and $Y \cdot T \subset \text{Int } B$ for some $T > 0$. If $Y \cap S \neq \emptyset$, then $Y \cdot [0, T] \subset \text{Int } B$.*

PROOF. Let $A \equiv \{z \in Y | z \cdot [0, T] \subset \text{Int } B\}$. $A \neq \emptyset$ since $Y \cap S \neq \emptyset$; and A is open by the continuity of the flow. A is closed: Suppose $z_i \rightarrow z$ as $i \rightarrow \infty$ where $z_i \in A$ but $z \notin A$. There is a t , $0 < t < T$, so that $z \cdot t \notin \text{Int } B$. If $z \cdot t \in \text{Ext } B$ then continuity implies $z_i \cdot t \in \text{Ext } B$ for large i . This is a contradiction. If $z \cdot t \in \partial B$ then for some s , $0 < t + s < T$, $z \cdot (t + s) \in \text{Ext } B$. Thus $z_i \cdot (t + s) \in \text{Ext } B$ for large i .

Thus $A = Y$ since Y is connected.

DEFINITION. Let γ be an arc in P_b^1 and $z \in S \cap \gamma$. Then γ is *expanding positively (negatively) at z relative to B* if given any connected neighborhood γ' of z relative to γ , there is a T so that for all $t \geq T$ ($t \leq T$), $\gamma' \cdot t \not\subset \text{Int } B$.

LEMMA 5.2. Let $z \in \partial(S \cap P_b^1)$. Then there is an arc γ in P_b^1 so that z is a boundary point of $S \cap \gamma$ relative to γ . Furthermore, any such γ is either expanding positively or negatively at z relative to B .

PROOF. For the first assertion any open arc in P_b^1 containing z will do.

If the second assertion is false, there are two connected neighborhoods, γ_1 and γ_2 , of z and sequences $t_i \rightarrow \infty$ and $s_i \rightarrow -\infty$ so that $\gamma_1 \cdot t_i \subset \text{Int } B$ and $\gamma_2 \cdot s_i \subset \text{Int } B$ for all i . Applying Lemma 5.1, we see that $(\gamma_1 \cap \gamma_2) \cdot R \subset \text{Int } B$. So $\gamma_1 \cap \gamma_2$ is contained in S , which contradicts z being a boundary point of $S \cap \gamma$ relative to γ .

DEFINITION. $z \in P_b^1$ is a *positive (negative) expansion point* if for every compact subset K of $P_b^1 - z$, $\text{diam}(K \cdot t) \rightarrow 0$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$ ($-\infty$).

REMARK. Consequently, if $z \in P_b^1$ is a positive expansion point then x goes to y as $t \rightarrow \infty$ for all $x, y \in P_b^1$ and $x, y \neq z$.

LEMMA 5.3. P_b^1 contains at most one positive (negative) expansion point.

PROOF. Suppose P_b^1 contains two positive expansion points; then there is a cover of P_b^1 by two compact sets K_1 and K_2 so that $\text{diam}(K_i \cdot t) \rightarrow 0$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$, $i = 1, 2$. Thus $\text{diam}(P_b^1 \cdot t) \rightarrow 0$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$, which is a contradiction.

COROLLARY 5.4. In P_b^1 , there are five possible arrangements for expansion points. Either there is:

- (1) two distinct expansion points, one positive and the other negative, or
- (2) a point which is both a positive and a negative expansion point, or
- (3) a positive expansion point, or
- (4) a negative expansion point, or
- (5) no expansion points.

LEMMA 5.5. Let γ be an arc in P_b^1 and $z \in S \cap \gamma$. If γ is expanding positively (negatively) at z relative to B , then z is a positive (negative) expansion point.

PROOF. Take K to be a compact subset of $P_b^1 - z$. Define $2a \equiv \rho(K, z)$ and $c \equiv d(\partial B, S)$. Let $\delta \equiv \delta(d, c)$ as in Proposition 2.2; so, if $y \notin \text{Int } B$, then $\rho(x, y) \geq \delta$ for any x in S and in the fiber of y .

Given $\epsilon > 0$ we will show there is a $T > 0$ so that for all $t \geq T$, $\rho(z_1 \cdot t, z_2 \cdot t) < \epsilon$ for all $z_1, z_2 \in K$. Consider a connected neighborhood γ' of z relative to γ so that:

- (1) $\rho(z, y) < a^2 \delta \epsilon$ for all $y \in \gamma'$, and
- (2) $\rho(\text{Cl } \gamma', K) \geq a$.

Since γ is expanding at z , there is a $T > 0$ so that $\gamma' \cdot t \not\subset \text{Int } B$ for all $t \geq T$. Thus, for each $t \geq T$ there is some $x \in \gamma'$ so that $x \cdot t \notin \text{Int } B$, i.e., $\rho(z \cdot t, x \cdot t) \geq \delta$. For $z_1, z_2 \in K$, the invariance of the cross ratio gives $C(z_1 \cdot t, z_2 \cdot t, z \cdot t, x \cdot t) = C(z_1, z_2, z, x)$. So

$$\rho(z_1 \cdot t, z_2 \cdot t) = \frac{\rho(z_1, z_2)}{\rho(z_1, x)} \frac{\rho(z, x)}{\rho(z, z_2)} \frac{\rho(z \cdot t, z_2 \cdot t)}{\rho(z \cdot t, x \cdot t)} \rho(z_1 \cdot t, x \cdot t).$$

This gives $\rho(z_1 \cdot t, z_2 \cdot t) \leq \rho(z, x)/a^2 \delta < a^2 \delta \epsilon / a^2 \delta = \epsilon$. Thus $\text{diam } (K \cdot t) < \epsilon$ for all $t \geq T$.

COROLLARY 5.6. *There are two points $x, y \in P_b^1$ such that if S is an isolated invariant set then $\partial(S \cap P_b^1) \subset \{x, y\}$.*

PROOF. A point in $\partial(S \cap P_b^1)$ for some S is a positive or negative expansion point by Lemma 5.2 and Lemma 5.5. Lemma 5.3 implies that there are at most two such points.

DEFINITION. Let P_b^k be a k -dimensional subspace of P_b^n . $G(P_b^k)$ is the set of subsets of P_b^k defined as follows: $G \in G(P_b^k)$ if and only if G is a connected component of $S \cap P_b^k$ for some isolated invariant set S .

COROLLARY 5.7. *$G(P_b^1)$ contains at most six sets: two points, two closed arcs, P_b^1 , and \emptyset .*

PROOF. The sets in $G(P_b^1)$ depend on the possible arrangements of positive and negative expansion points of P_b^1 . If Corollary 5.4(1) applies, where x and y denote the distinct expansion points, then $G(P_b^1)$ is at most comprised of the sets: $\{x\}$, $\{y\}$, both $\text{seg}[x, y]$'s, P_b^1 , and \emptyset . Corollary 5.4(2), (3) and (4) imply that $G(P_b^1)$ contains at most a point, P_b^1 , and \emptyset . Corollary 5.4(5) implies that $G(P_b^1)$ contains at most P_b^1 and \emptyset .

The remaining results in this section are used in §6 but they pertain to a 1-dimensional subspace of the fiber.

COROLLARY 5.8. *Suppose a point x is a component of $S \cap P_b^1$ and, for some $y \neq x$, y goes to x for a sequence $t_m \rightarrow \infty$. Then x is a negative expansion point.*

PROOF. Since y goes to x as $t_m \rightarrow \infty$, Lemma 5.1 implies that there is a $T > 0$ so that for one arc from $x \cdot T$ to $y \cdot T$, call it $\text{seg}[x \cdot T, y \cdot T]$,

$\text{seg}[x \cdot T, y \cdot T] \cdot [T, \infty) \subset \text{Int } B$. So $\text{seg}[x \cdot T, y \cdot T]$ satisfies the hypothesis of Lemma 5.2 but is not expanding positively at $x \cdot T$. Thus $\text{seg}[x \cdot T, y \cdot T]$ must be expanding negatively at $x \cdot T$ relative to B and so $x \cdot T$ is a negative expansion point by Lemma 5.5.

COROLLARY 5.9. *Given $P_b^k \subset P_b^n$, suppose G_1 and G_2 are disjoint sets in $G(P_b^k)$. If $x \in G_1$ and $y \in G_2$, then the orbits of x and y are bounded apart for all $t \in \mathbb{R}$.*

PROOF. Suppose x goes to y for a sequence $t_m \rightarrow \infty$. Let P_b^1 be the 1-dimensional subspace determined by x and y . Since G_1 and G_2 are disjoint, $x = S_1 \cap P_b^1$ and $y = S_2 \cap P_b^1$ for isolated invariant sets S_1 and S_2 (Corollary 5.7). Corollary 5.8 implies that both x and y are negative expansion points, which is a contradiction. A similar argument shows that x cannot go to y for a sequence $t_m \rightarrow -\infty$.

COROLLARY 5.10. *Given S isolated, suppose there are two distinct points in $\partial(S \cap P_b^1)$. For the positive expansion point x , there is an open arc γ containing x so that $\gamma \cdot t \subset \text{Int } B$ for all $t \leq 0$; and for the negative expansion point y , there is an open arc σ containing y so that $\sigma \cdot t \subset \text{Int } B$ for all $t \geq 0$.*

PROOF. Since y is a negative expansion point, there is an open arc γ so that $x \in \gamma \subset \text{Int } B$ and $\text{diam}(\gamma \cdot t) \rightarrow 0$ as $t \rightarrow -\infty$. So Lemma 5.1 implies $\gamma \cdot (-\infty, 0] \subset \text{Int } B$. Do likewise for some σ containing y .

LEMMA 5.11. *Suppose $S \cap P_b^1$ contains more than one point. Let $x \in S \cap P_b^1$ and $y \in P_b^1$ with $y \cdot [0, \infty) \subset \text{Int } B$. If one of the arcs from x to y , call it $\text{seg}[x, y]$, is contained in $\text{Int } B$, then $\text{seg}[x, y] \cdot [0, \infty) \subset \text{Int } B$.*

PROOF. Assume $\text{seg}[x, y]$ contains a point in $\partial(S \cap P_b^1)$; otherwise $\text{seg}[x, y] \subset S$ and we are done. So, without loss of generality, assume x is the closest point in $\partial(S \cap P_b^1) \cap \text{seg}[x, y]$ to y and assume $\text{seg}(x, y) \cap S = \emptyset$.

Case 1. $y \notin \partial(S \cap P_b^1)$. So there is a $z \notin \text{seg}[x, y]$ so that $z \in \partial(S \cap P_b^1)$. If z is a positive expansion point then $\text{diam}(\text{seg}[x, y] \cdot t) \rightarrow 0$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$, and Lemma 5.1 implies our conclusion. But z cannot be a negative expansion point because then $y \cdot \mathbb{R} \subset \text{Int } B$ which contradicts $y \notin \partial(S \cap P_b^1)$.

Case 2. $y \in \partial(S \cap P_b^1)$. If y is a positive expansion point then, for each $w \in \text{seg}(x, y)$, $\text{seg}[x, w] \cdot [0, \infty) \subset \text{Int } B$ so we are done. If x is a positive expansion point then, for each $w \in \text{seg}(x, y)$, $\text{seg}[y, w] \cdot [0, \infty) \subset \text{Int } B$.

6. Preliminary lemmas for the fiber. Again fix $b \in M$ and P_b^k , a k -dimensional subspace of P_b^n where $k \leq n$. For all results in this section, S is a

fixed isolated invariant set. We begin with a lemma which depends only on the geometry of n -dimensional projective space.

LEMMA 6.1. Let $b \in M$ and $x \neq y \in P_b^n$. Given $\text{seg}[x, y]$ and a δ , $0 < \delta < \frac{1}{2}$, then there exists a neighborhood U of y in P_b^n so that for each $z \in U$ there is a unique $\text{seg}[x, z]$ within δ of $\text{seg}[x, y]$, i.e., $\rho(w, \text{seg}[x, y]) < \delta$ for all $w \in \text{seg}[x, z]$ and $\rho(w, \text{seg}[x, z]) < \delta$ for all $w \in \text{seg}[x, y]$. Furthermore, the union over $z \in U$ of $\text{seg}(x, z)$ is a neighborhood of $\text{seg}(x, y)$ in P_b^n .

REMARK. Such a neighborhood of $\text{seg}(x, y)$ is called a *cone-like neighborhood* of $\text{seg}(x, y)$ over U .

LEMMA 6.2. Given S , there exists some $\delta > 0$ so that if $x, y \in S \cap P_b^n$ and $\rho(x, y) < \delta$ then the $\text{seg}[x, y]$ of ρ -length $< \delta$ is contained in S . (The same δ works for all $b \in M$.)

PROOF. Take a block B for S . Let $c \equiv d(\partial B, S)$. Define $\delta \equiv \delta(d, c)$. If $\rho(x, y) < \delta$ for $x, y \in S \cap P_b^n$, then $\rho(z, x) < \delta$ for all $z \in \text{seg}[x, y]$. Thus $\text{seg}[x, y] \subset \text{Int } B$. Lemma 5.11 implies that $\text{seg}[x, y] \cdot R \subset \text{Int } B$ and so $\text{seg}[x, y] \subset S$.

COROLLARY 6.3. $S \cap P_b^n$ has at most a finite number of connected components.

PROOF. Each component must be separated by the δ in Lemma 6.2.

DEFINITION. A subset A of P_b^k is *arc connected* if for each pair $x \neq y \in A$ at least one $\text{seg}[x, y]$ is contained in A .

LEMMA 6.4. If $S \cap P_b^k$ is connected then $S \cap P_b^k$ is arc connected.

PROOF. Take a block B for S . Let $c \equiv d(\partial B, S)$ and $\delta \equiv \delta(d, c)$. Fix $x \in S \cap P_b^k$ and define $A \equiv \{y \in S \cap P_b^k \mid \text{at least one } \text{seg}[x, y] \subset S \cap P_b^k\}$. $A \neq \emptyset$ since $S \cap P_b^k$ is connected and Lemma 6.2 implies that points of $S \cap P_b^k$ close to x are connected to x by arcs in $S \cap P_b^k$.

A is open: Lemma 6.2 implies that $x \in \text{Int } A$. Take $y \neq x \in A$ and $\text{seg}[x, y] \subset S \cap P_b^k$. Use Lemma 6.1 to get a neighborhood U of y so that $\text{seg}[x, z]$ is within δ of $\text{seg}[x, y]$ for all $z \in U$. Let $W \equiv U \cap (S \cap P_b^k)$. For each $w \in W$, $\text{seg}[x, w] \subset \text{Int } B$; and this gives $\text{seg}[x, w] \cdot R \subset \text{Int } B$ by Lemma 5.11. Thus $w \in A$ and so $W \subset A$.

A is closed: Take $y_i \in A$ such that $y_i \rightarrow y$ as $i \rightarrow \infty$ where $y \in S \cap P_b^k$. Without loss of generality, assume $\text{seg}[x, y_i]$ converges to one $\text{seg}[x, y]$ as $i \rightarrow \infty$. Thus, for large i , $\text{seg}[x, y]$ is within δ of $\text{seg}[x, y_i] \subset S \cap P_b^k$. So $\text{seg}[x, y] \subset \text{Int } B$ and, as above, $y \in A$.

Therefore, $A = S \cap P_b^k$ since $S \cap P_b^k$ is connected.

DEFINITION. $[x_1], [x_2], \dots, [x_k] \in P_b^n$ are linearly independent if $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k \in R_b^{n+1}$ are linearly independent.

LEMMA 6.5. If $S \cap P_b^k$ is connected and contains $k+1$ linearly independent points, then $S \cap P_b^k$ has interior relative to P_b^k .

PROOF. Let x_1, x_2, \dots, x_{k+1} be $k+1$ linearly independent points in $S \cap P_b^k$.

Claim. For $r \leq k$, $\text{Int}(S \cap P_b^r)$ relative to P_b^r is nonempty, where P_b^r is the r -dimensional subspace of P_b^k spanned by $\{x_1, \dots, x_{r+1}\}$. We argue by induction on r . For $r=0$, the claim is obvious. Assume it is true for the P_b^{r-1} spanned by $\{x_1, \dots, x_r\}$ and consider the P_b^r spanned by $\{x_1, \dots, x_{r+1}\}$. Let $y \in \text{Int}(S \cap P_b^{r-1})$ relative to P_b^{r-1} . By Lemma 6.4 one $\text{seg}[x_{r+1}, y]$ is contained in $S \cap P_b^r$. Take a block B for S and let $\delta \equiv \delta(d, c)$ where $c = d(\partial B, S)$. Construct a cone-like neighborhood within δ of $\text{seg}[x_{r+1}, y]$ over a neighborhood of y in $\text{Int}(S \cap P_b^{r-1})$ relative to P_b^{r-1} . Applying Lemma 5.11, we see that this cone-like neighborhood of $\text{seg}(x_{r+1}, y]$ is contained in $\text{Int}(S \cap P_b^r)$ relative to P_b^r .

LEMMA 6.6. Suppose $S \cap P_b^k$ is connected and contains $k+1$ linearly independent points. If $k > 1$, then $\partial(S \cap P_b^k)$ relative to P_b^k is connected.

PROOF. Let $A \equiv S \cap P_b^k$. A being arc connected (Lemma 6.4) implies that $\text{Comp}(S \cap P_b^k)$ is arc connected. Let $A' \equiv \text{Cl}(\text{Comp}(S \cap P_b^k))$ relative to P_b^k .

In Čech homology every compact triad is proper [12], so (P_b^k, A, A') is proper. Appealing to the first four terms of the reduced Mayer-Vietoris sequence in Čech homology with real coefficients, we get the exact sequence:

$$H_1(A \cup A') \rightarrow H_0(A \cap A') \rightarrow H_0(A) \oplus H_0(A') \rightarrow H_0(A \cup A')$$

which is

$$H_1(P_b^k) \rightarrow H_0(\partial(S \cap P_b^k)) \rightarrow H_0(A) \oplus H_0(A') \rightarrow H_0(P_b^k).$$

Since A and A' are connected, $H_0(A) = H_0(A') = 0$; and, since $k > 1$, $H_1(P_b^k) = 0$. Thus $H_0(\partial(S \cap P_b^k)) = 0$ so $\partial(S \cap P_b^k)$ is connected.

LEMMA 6.7. Suppose $S \cap P_b^k$ is connected and contains $k+1$ linearly independent points. If $k > 1$, then $S \cap P_b^k = P_b^k$.

PROOF. If not, then $\partial(S \cap P_b^k)$ relative to P_b^k is not empty.

Take a block B for S with $\delta \equiv \delta(d, c)$ where $c = d(\partial B, S)$. Fix $x \in \partial(S \cap P_b^k)$ relative to P_b^k . For any $y \in \text{Int}(S \cap P_b^k)$ relative to P_b^k , one $\text{seg}[x, y]$ is contained in $S \cap P_b^k$ by Lemma 6.4. For the P_b^1 spanned by x

and y , it is true that $x \in \partial(S \cap P_b^1)$ relative to this P_b^1 . If not, we can extend $\text{seg}[x, y]$ to $\text{seg}[z, y] \subset S \cap P_b^k$ where $x \in \text{seg}(z, y)$. Constructing a cone-like neighborhood for $\text{seg}[z, y]$ within δ of $\text{seg}(z, y)$ forces $x \in \text{Int}(S \cap P_b^k)$, which is a contradiction.

By Lemma 5.5, x is either a positive expansion point or a negative expansion point with respect to y but not both because $\partial(S \cap P_b^1)$ contains two points. If x is a positive expansion point with respect to y , then x is a positive expansion point with respect to any other $y' \in \text{Int}(S \cap P_b^k)$: Lemma 5.10 implies there is an arc $\gamma_y \subset P_b^1$ so that $\gamma_y \cdot t \subset \text{Int } B$ for all $t \leq 0$. For $z \in \gamma_y \cap \text{Comp } S$ and close to x , take a cone-like neighborhood V of $\text{seg}(z, y]$ over a neighborhood U of y in $\text{Int}(S \cap P_b^k)$. Choose these neighborhoods so that, for all $w \in U$, the $\text{seg}[z, w]$ in V is within δ of $S \cap P_b^k$ and so is in $\text{Int } B$. Since $z \cdot (-\infty, 0] \subset \text{Int } B$, Lemma 5.11 implies $V \cdot (-\infty, 0] \subset \text{Int } B$. So for some other $y' \in \text{Int}(S \cap P_b^k)$, the P_b^1 determined by x and y' meets V in an open arc $\gamma_{y'}$ which must remain in $\text{Int } B$ for all $t \leq 0$. Thus $\gamma_{y'}$ is expanding positively at x by Lemma 5.2 and x is a positive expansion point with respect to y' by Lemma 5.5.

Define $A \equiv \{x \in \partial(S \cap P_b^k) | x \text{ is a positive expansion point}\}$, and $A' \equiv \{x \in \partial(S \cap P_b^k) | x \text{ is a negative expansion point}\}$. $A \neq \emptyset$ implies $A' \neq \emptyset$ since a P_b^1 spanned by a positive expansion point in $\partial(S \cap P_b^k)$ and a point of $\text{Int}(S \cap P_b^k)$ must contain a negative expansion point. So A and A' are non-empty, disjoint sets whose union is $\partial(S \cap P_b^k)$. A is open: The argument is the same as that showing the "positive expansion point" characterization is independent of $y \in \text{Int}(S \cap P_b^k)$. Observe that the cone-like neighborhood V meets $\partial(S \cap P_b^k)$ in a neighborhood of x , all of whose points must be positive expansion points.

Likewise A' is open. But this disconnects $\partial(S \cap P_b^k)$, and thus contradicts Lemma 6.6.

7. Main results on how S meets the fiber.

THEOREM 7.1. *Let S be an isolated invariant set. Let P_b^k denote some k -dimensional subspace of P_b^n , $0 \leq k \leq n$. Then $S \cap P_b^k = \coprod_{i=1}^s S \cap P_b^{k_i}$, $0 \leq k_i \leq k$, where the $P_b^{k_i}$ are disjoint k_i -dimensional subspaces of P_b^k and*

- (1) *if $k_i \neq 1$ then $S \cap P_b^{k_i} = P_b^{k_i}$;*
- (2) *if $k_i = 1$ then $S \cap P_b^1 = P_b^1$ or $S \cap P_b^1$ is a closed arc of P_b^1 (a half- P^1).*

PROOF. If a component of $S \cap P_b^k$ has more than two linearly independent points, take a maximal set of linearly independent points in the component and consider the $P_b^{k_i}$ they span. Lemma 6.7 implies the component is exactly this $P_b^{k_i}$. If a component of $S \cap P_b^k$ has two or less independent points, the result follows from Corollary 5.7.

The only possibility for an intersection of these $P_b^{k_i}$'s is if they are P_b^1 's containing half- P^1 components. But the point of intersection is forced to go to both components simultaneously, which is a contradiction (Lemma 6.2).

LEMMA 7.2. For $0 \leq k \leq n$, let P_b^k be a k -dimensional subspace of P_b^n and let $\{A_1, \dots, A_r\}$ be a collection of pairwise disjoint sets in $G(P_b^k)$. Then $\sum_{i=1}^r (\dim A_i + 1) \leq k + 1$, where the dimension of a half- P^1 is 1. Also, if $\sum_{i=1}^r (\dim A_i + 1) = k + 1$, then each $w \in P_b^k$ goes to a point of one of these A 's as $t \rightarrow \infty$ and to a point of one as $t \rightarrow -\infty$.

PROOF. Use induction on k . The case $k = 1$ follows from Corollary 5.7. Assume the result for $k - 1$. To prove the first assertion for k , assume there is a collection $\{A_1, \dots, A_r\}$ with $\sum_{i=1}^r (\dim A_i + 1) > k + 1$. By Theorem 7.1, $A_i = P_b^{k_i}$ except if A_i is a half- P^1 and then it is contained in a unique P_b^1 . For each i , choose $k_i + 1$ linearly independent points in A_i ($\dim A_i = k_i$). Let L denote the set of all such points. By induction, any $k + 1$ points of L are linearly independent.

Case 1. One A_i , say A_r , is either a half- P^1 or a point. Let $\{x_1, \dots, x_{k+2}\}$ be $k + 2$ points of L with either $x_{k+1}, x_{k+2} \in A_r$ or $x_{k+2} = A_r$. The intersection of the P_b^{k-1} spanned by $\{x_1, \dots, x_k\}$ and the P_b^1 spanned by x_{k+1} and x_{k+2} contains some point y . y goes to x_{k+2} as $t \rightarrow \infty$ or as $t \rightarrow -\infty$. Without loss of generality, assume y goes to x_{k+2} as $t \rightarrow \infty$. By induction, y goes to one of the first $r - 1$ A_i 's as $t \rightarrow \infty$. This contradicts Corollary 5.9.

Case 2. No A_i is a half- P^1 or a point. Let $\{x_1, \dots, x_{k+2}\}$ be $k + 2$ points of L where x_1 and x_2 belong to the same A_i , say A_1 . x_{k+2} is a linear combination of $\{x_1, \dots, x_{k+1}\}$. Since linear combinations of x_1 and x_2 belong to A_1 , x_{k+2} is a linear combination of k independent points $\{a_1x_1 + a_2x_2, x_3, \dots, x_{k+1}\}$ where $a_1, a_2 \in R$. This contradicts the induction hypothesis.

To prove the second assertion, let $\sum_{i=1}^r (\dim A_i + 1) = k + 1$ and take $L = \{x_1, \dots, x_{k+1}\}$ as above. $\{x_1, \dots, x_{k+1}\}$ are linearly independent. By induction, we may assume that w is a linear combination of all x_1, \dots, x_{k+1} . The P_b^1 spanned by w and x_{k+1} meets the P_b^{k-1} spanned by x_1, \dots, x_k in a point y_1 . By induction, y_1 goes to one of the first k A 's as $t \rightarrow \infty$ and to one as $t \rightarrow -\infty$. Without loss of generality, assume x_{k+1} is a negative expansion point (if $x_{k+1} \notin \partial(S \cap P_b^1)$ for some S isolated then P_b^1 contains two points in $\partial(S \cap P_b^1)$ and we are done). Thus w goes to y_1 as $t \rightarrow \infty$ and so to a point of one of the A 's as $t \rightarrow \infty$, say x_1 . Now take the P_b^1 spanned by w and x_1 . Again assume $x_1 = \partial(S \cap P_b^1)$ for some S .

P_b^1 meets the P_b^{k-1} spanned by x_2, x_3, \dots, x_{k+1} in a point y_2 . By induction, y_2 goes to the A 's as $t \rightarrow \infty$ and as $t \rightarrow -\infty$. Since w goes to x_1 as $t \rightarrow \infty$, w goes to y_2 as $t \rightarrow -\infty$ (Corollary 5.8). Thus w goes to a point in one of the A 's as $t \rightarrow -\infty$.

THEOREM 7.3. *Let S be an isolated invariant set and P_b^k be a k -dimensional subspace of P_b^n , $0 \leq k \leq n$. Suppose $S \cap P_b^k = \coprod_{i=1}^s P_b^{k_i}$, $0 \leq k_i \leq k$, where P_b^1 may denote a half- P^1 (Theorem 7.1). Then $\sum_{i=1}^s (k_i + 1) \leq k + 1$.*

PROOF. This is a consequence of Lemma 7.2.

THEOREM 7.4. *For any k -dimensional subspace P_b^k of P_b^n , let $\mathcal{V}(P_b^k)$ denote the set of subspaces of P_b^k such that $G \in \mathcal{V}(P_b^k)$ if G is a component of $S \cap P_b^k$ for some isolated invariant set S (\mathcal{V} is G minus half- P_b^1 's). Then $\mathcal{V}(P_b^k)$ is finite.*

PROOF. $\mathcal{V}(P_b^k) = \bigcup_{m=0}^k \mathcal{V}_m(P_b^k)$ where $\mathcal{V}_m(P_b^k)$ is the set of m -dimensional subspaces in $\mathcal{V}(P_b^k)$. We proceed by induction on k . For $k = 1$ and $m = 0, 1$, Corollary 5.7 applies. So we assume the assertion for $k - 1$. To prove it for k we use induction on m .

For $m = 0$, the result follows from Lemma 7.2. Assume $\mathcal{V}_{m-1}(P_b^k)$ is finite. Consider a $(k - 1)$ -dimensional subspace P_b^{k-1} of P_b^k . By induction, $\mathcal{V}_m(P_b^{k-1})$ is finite, so we will show the m -dimensional subspaces in $\mathcal{V}_m(P_b^k)$ which are not subsets of P_b^{k-1} are finite in number. By induction, $\mathcal{V}_{m-1}(P_b^{k-1}) = \{A_1, \dots, A_r\}$. All subspaces in $\mathcal{V}_m(P_b^k) - \mathcal{V}_m(P_b^{k-1})$ must meet P_b^{k-1} in one of these A 's. But for each A_i , $i = 1, \dots, r$, there are only a finite number of subspaces $G \in \mathcal{V}_m(P_b^k)$ so that $G = A_i \cap P_b^{k-1}$: Take $x \in A_i$ and a \tilde{P}_b^{k-1} complementary to x in P_b^k . Each such G must meet \tilde{P}_b^{k-1} in a different set in $\mathcal{V}_{m-1}(\tilde{P}_b^{k-1})$. And $\mathcal{V}_{m-1}(\tilde{P}_b^{k-1})$ is finite by induction.

Thus $\mathcal{V}_m(P_b^k) - \mathcal{V}_m(P_b^{k-1})$ is finite. So $\mathcal{V}_m(P_b^k)$ is finite.

8. Morse sets and chain recurrence. In this section and the next, we restrict our attention to a subset of the set of isolated invariant sets. These sets are called Morse sets because the generalized Morse inequalities apply [5]. The following discussion makes use of results in an I. B. M. research paper, *Gradient structure of a flow*. I (RC 3932, July 12, 1972), by C. Conley.

For a flow f on a compact metric space (M, d) , let f^* denote the backwards flow defined by $f_t^*(x) = f_{-t}(x)$. For $Y \subset M$, let $\omega(Y, f)$ denote $\bigcap_{t>0} \text{Cl} \{Y \cdot (t, \infty)\}$ and be called the ω -limit set of Y . The α -limit set of Y is $\omega(Y, f^*)$. A subset A is called an *attractor* for f if A has a closed neighborhood N so that $A = \omega(N, f)$. A *quasi-attractor* is the intersection of attractors. An attractor for f^* is called a *repeller* for f . Let $A^* \equiv \text{Comp} \{x | \omega(x, f) \subset A\}$.

LEMMA 8.1. *If $A \neq M$ and is an attractor for f , then A^* is nonempty and is a repeller for f .*

REMARK. A^* is called the repeller for f dual to A . The repeller for f^* dual to A^* is exactly A .

We may define a generalized limit set and recurrent set in terms of the attractors of f . For any subset Y , let $\Omega(Y, f)$ be the intersection of all attractors of f containing $\omega(Y, f)$, and define $R(f)$ to be the intersection, over all attractors A , of $A \cup A^*$. $R(f)$ is called the *chain recurrent set* of f . The rationale behind the terminology is that $R(f)$ can be characterized in terms of a recurrence relation.

Given $(x, y) \in M \times M$ and $\epsilon, t > 0$, an (ϵ, t, f) -chain from x to y is a collection $\{x_1 = x, x_2, \dots, x_{k+1} = y; t_1, t_2, \dots, t_k\}$ so that for $1 \leq i \leq k$ we have $t_i \geq t$ and $d(x_i \cdot t_i, x_{i+1}) < \epsilon$. Let $P(f) \equiv \{(x, y) \mid \text{for any } \epsilon, t > 0 \text{ there exists an } (\epsilon, t, f)\text{-chain from } x \text{ to } y\}$; $P(f)$ is closed in $M \times M$ and is a transitive relation.

PROPOSITION 8.2. *For $Y \subset M$, $\Omega(Y, f) = \{x \mid \text{there exists some } y \in Y \text{ so that } (y, x) \in P(f)\}$. (In particular, for $x \in M$, $\omega(x, f) \subset \Omega(x, f)$.)*

LEMMA 8.3. *For $x, y \in M$, if $y \in \Omega(x, f)$ then $x \in \Omega(y, f^*)$.*

PROPOSITION 8.4. $R(f) = \{x \mid (x, x) \in P(f)\}$. Equivalently, $R(f) = \{x \mid x \in \Omega(x, f)\}$.

The set $R(f)$ is a closed invariant set containing the nonwandering set and $R(f) = R(f^*)$. Roughly speaking, the connected components of $R(f)$ contain the nongradient-like behavior of f . In fact, if each component of $R(f)$ is identified with a point then the induced flow on the identification space is gradient-like, i.e., there are continuous functions which decrease on all nonconstant orbits of the induced flow and the set of rest points is totally disconnected. The constant orbits of the induced flow are precisely the images in the identification space of the components of $R(f)$.

Given $Y \subset M$, f is *chain recurrent on Y* if and only if $R(f|_Y) = Y$.

PROPOSITION 8.5. *If f is chain recurrent on a connected set Y and if $x, y \in Y$, then $(x, y) \in P(f)$ and $(y, x) \in P(f)$.*

PROPOSITION 8.6. *If $\bar{f} \equiv f|_{R(f)}$ then $R(\bar{f}) = R(f)$.*

From Proposition 8.6, it follows that f is chain recurrent on $R(f)$. Proposition 8.5 implies that the components of $R(f)$ are the maximal connected subsets of M on which f is chain recurrent. Also, f is chain recurrent on the α - and ω -limit sets of a point and on a minimal set (a closed, invariant set which is minimal with respect to these properties).

DEFINITION. A *Morse set* is the intersection of an attractor and a repeller. A *quasi-Morse set* is the intersection of Morse sets. (Morse sets are isolated invariant sets since attractors and repellers are isolated and finite intersections of isolated invariant sets are isolated.)

PROPOSITION 8.7. S is a Morse set if and only if $S = \Omega(S, f) \cap \Omega(S, f^*)$ and $S \cap R(f)$ is open and closed in $R(f)$.

A *Morse decomposition* of f is a finite ordered collection of Morse sets $\{S_1, S_2, \dots, S_k\}$ such that

- (a) $R(f) = \bigcup_{i=1}^k R(f) \cap S_i$;
- (b) for $i < j$, $\Omega(S_i, f) \cap S_j = \emptyset$ and $\Omega(S_j, f^*) \cap S_i = \emptyset$.

REMARK. If $\{S\}$ is a Morse decomposition of f , then $S = M$ because, if not, $S = A_1 \cap A_2^* \neq M$ where A_1 and A_2 are attractors. But then either A_1^* or A_2 contains points of $R(f)$ not in S .

A *filtration* of f is a finite increasing sequence $\{\emptyset = A_0, A_1, \dots, A_k = M\}$ of attractors for f .

PROPOSITION 8.8. There is a one-one correspondence between filtrations and Morse decompositions such that to the filtration $\{\emptyset = A_0, \dots, A_k\}$ there corresponds the Morse decomposition $\{S_1, \dots, S_k\}$ where $S_i = A_i \cap A_{i-1}^*$, $i = 1, \dots, k$. To the Morse decomposition $\{S_1, \dots, S_k\}$ there corresponds the filtration $A_i = \Omega(S_1 \cup \dots \cup S_i, f)$, $i = 1, \dots, k$; and $A_0 = \emptyset$.

LEMMA 8.9. If $S \neq M$ and is a Morse set, then there is a Morse decomposition of f having at least two Morse sets with S being one of these.

PROOF. By Lemma 8.1, $S = A_1 \cap A_2^*$ where A_1 and A_2 are attractors for f . Since $S \neq M$, either $A_1 \neq M$ or $A_2 \neq \emptyset$. If $A_1 = M$, then $S = A_2^*$ and $\{A_2, A_2^*\}$ is a Morse decomposition. If $A_2 = \emptyset$, then $S = A_1$ and $\{A_1, A_1^*\}$ works. And if $A_1 \neq M$ and $A_2 \neq \emptyset$, then $\{A_2, S, A_1^* \cap A_2^*\}$ works.

LEMMA 8.10. Let $\{S_1, \dots, S_k\}$ be a Morse decomposition of f . Suppose S is a closed invariant subset of M . Then $\{S_1 \cap S, \dots, S_k \cap S\}$ is a Morse decomposition of $f|_S$.

9. Morse sets in projective bundles. Let us return to the situation where E is an $n + 1$ -dimensional vector bundle over M and PE is its associated projective bundle. (F, f) and (PF, f) denote a linear flow on these bundles. The following lemma shows that a Morse set of PF meets the fiber in a simpler way than does an arbitrary isolated invariant set.

LEMMA 9.1. Let S be a Morse set in PE and $b \in M$. There is some

k -dimensional subspace, where k depends on b , so that $S \cap P_b^n = P_b^k$. (Thus $S \cap P_b^n$ has at most one component and the exceptional half- P^1 cannot occur.)

PROOF. Suppose $S \cap P_b^n$ has at least two components. Take a point x in one component and y in another component. Fix z in the P_b^1 spanned by x and y and assume $z \notin S$. Corollary 5.7 implies that $S \cap P_b^1 = \{x, y\}$. By Lemmas 5.2 and 5.5, either x or y is a positive expansion point and the other is a negative expansion point. Without loss of generality, assume y is the positive expansion point. Then $z \cdot t \rightarrow x \cdot t$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$. So, for some $w \in \omega(x, PF) \subset S$, there is a sequence $t_m \rightarrow \infty$ such that $z \cdot t_m \rightarrow w$. Thus $w \in \omega(z, PF)$ and so Lemma 8.3 implies that $z \in \Omega(w, PF^*)$. Thus $z \in \Omega(S, PF^*)$. Likewise, for some $u \in \omega(y, PF^*) \subset S$, there is a sequence $s_m \rightarrow -\infty$ so that $z \cdot s_m \rightarrow u$. So $z \in \Omega(u, PF) \subset \Omega(S, PF)$. But then $z \in \Omega(S, PF) \cap \Omega(S, PF^*) = S$, which is a contradiction. ($S = \Omega(S, PF) \cap \Omega(S, PF^*)$ because S is a Morse set.)

The same argument shows that $S \cap P_b^n$ cannot contain a half- P^1 since, if it does, a point in the other half is forced to be in $\Omega(S, PF) \cap \Omega(S, PF^*) = S$.

Now we shall state and prove the splitting theorem for a Morse decomposition of PF over a connected space Q on which f is chain recurrent. One might suspect this result by analyzing the case where Q is a rest point of a C^1 -flow f and $F_t = Tf_t$, i.e., the case of a linear autonomous differential equation. In this situation, the splitting of PE is determined by the Jordan canonical form of the matrix for the differential equation. A connected Morse set is an invariant subspace corresponding to Jordan blocks having eigenvalues with consecutive real parts (see Example 1 in §11).

THEOREM 9.2. *Let f be chain recurrent on a connected space Q . Suppose $\{S_1, \dots, S_k\}$ is a Morse decomposition of PF . Then there exist subbundles, $\{PE_1, \dots, PE_k\}$, of PE so that $S_i = PE_i$, $i = 1, \dots, k$; and PE is the direct sum of PE_1, \dots, PE_k .*

This theorem and the previous lemmas immediately give:

COROLLARY 9.3. *Let f be a flow on M and Q be a component of the chain recurrent set of f . Then each Morse decomposition of PF gives a splitting of $PE|_Q$ into a direct sum of invariant subbundles.*

THEOREM 9.4. *If S is an attractor (repeller) for PF and if $c \in \Omega(b, f)$ (respectively, f^*), then $\dim(S \cap P_c^n) \geq \dim(S \cap P_b^n)$.*

The lemma crucial to the proofs of Theorem 9.2 and Theorem 9.4 says that if b and c are points of M and if the Ω -limit set of b contains c , then the

Ω -limit set of an r -dimensional subspace in the fiber over b contains at least an r -dimensional subspace in the fiber over c .

LEMMA 9.5. Suppose $b, c \in M$ and $c \in \Omega(b, f)$. For each r -dimensional subspace P_b^r contained in P_b^n , there exists an r -dimensional subspace P_c^r such that $P_c^r \subset \Omega(P_b^r, PF) \cap P_c^n$.

PROOF. Define $\Omega'(P_b^r, \epsilon, t, PF) \equiv \{y \mid \text{there is an } (\epsilon, t, PF)\text{-chain from } x \text{ to } y \text{ for some } x \in P_b^n\}$. Proposition 8.2 implies

$$\Omega(P_b^r, PF) = \bigcap_{\epsilon, t > 0} \Omega'(P_b^r, \epsilon, t, PF).$$

For each $\epsilon, t > 0$ we will show $\Omega'(P_b^r, \epsilon, t, PF)$ meets P_c^n in at least an r -dimensional subspace. Given ϵ and a P_x^r in the fiber over some $x \in M$, there exists a δ (independent of x) so that for each y within δ of x there is a P_y^r within ϵ of P_x^r (in the Hausdorff metric). Obtain this δ as follows: Take a finite cover of M by bundle charts. Because of local triviality, a δ can be found for each set in the cover. The desired δ is the minimum of these and the Lebesgue number of the cover.

Since $c \in \Omega(b, f)$, there is a (δ, t, f) -chain from b to c . The preceding implies the existence of an (ϵ, t, PF) -chain from points of P_b^r to each point of some P_c^r , denoted $P_c^r(\epsilon, t)$.

Since $\text{Cl } \Omega'(P_b^r, \epsilon/2, t, PF) \subset \Omega'(P_b^r, \epsilon, t, PF)$, $\Omega(P_b^r, PF)$ can be expressed as the intersection of a nested family of closed sets. Let P_c^r be a limit point of the family $P_c^r(\epsilon, t)$ as $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$ and $t \rightarrow \infty$. Then $P_c^r \subset \Omega(P_b^r, PF)$.

PROOF OF THEOREM 9.2. We use induction on k . For $k = 1$, S_1 must equal PE by a previous remark. So we assume the theorem is true for $k - 1$ and prove it for k .

Let $\{S_1, \dots, S_k\}$ be a Morse decomposition of PF . If $S_i = \emptyset$ for any i , $1 \leq i \leq k$, delete it and then we are done by induction. Otherwise $S_1 \neq \emptyset$ and is an attractor. Let S_1^* denote its dual repeller. Since $S_i, i = 1, \dots, k$, are disjoint invariant sets, S_i is contained in S_1^* for $i > 1$. We will show the following:

- (1) The theorem is true for $\{S_1, S_1^*\}$.
- (2) $\{S_2, \dots, S_k\}$ is a Morse decomposition of $PF|_{S_1^*}$ where, in light of (1), S_1^* is a bundle over Q .

Then induction will apply to the S_1^* bundle to complete the proof.

(2) is a consequence of Lemma 8.10.

We prove (1) as follows: For ease of notation replace S_1 by S . Remember that $S = \Omega(S, PF)$. Take $b \in Q$ such that $S \cap P_b^n \neq \emptyset$; by Lemma 9.1, $S \cap P_b^n = P_b^r$ for some $r \geq 0$. For each $c \in Q$, Proposition 8.5 implies that

$c \in \Omega(b, f)$. Thus Lemma 9.5 implies that $S \cap P_c^n$ contains some P_c^r . Interchanging the roles of b and c , we see that S meets all fibers in precisely an r -dimensional subspace for some $r \geq 0$.

Likewise, S^* meets all fibers in a k -dimensional subspace for some k . We show that $r + k = n - 1$: Fix $b \in Q$ and consider a subspace of P_b^n complementary to $S^* \cap P_b^n = P_b^k$. Denote this subspace by P_b^{n-k-1} . By the definition of S^* , $\omega(P_b^{n-k-1}, PF)$ is a subset of S . Since S is an attractor, $\Omega(P_b^{n-k-1}, PF)$ is also a subset of S . But, for each $c \in Q$, Lemma 9.5 implies that $\Omega(P_b^{n-k-1}, PF)$ meets P_c^n in a subspace of dimension at least $n - k - 1$. Therefore, $r = n - k - 1$.

To complete the proof we need only show that S (likewise S^*) is a subbundle. If S' denotes the pull-back of S to E , then S' is a closed set of $r + 1$ -planes in E . But Proposition 1.1 applies to S' showing that S' is a subbundle of E .

DEFINITION. A *finest Morse decomposition* of PF is a Morse decomposition of PF , $\{S_1, \dots, S_k\}$ where $S_i \neq \emptyset$, $i = 1, \dots, k$, so that for each Morse decomposition of PF , $\{C_1, \dots, C_s\}$ where $C_j \neq \emptyset$, $j = 1, \dots, s$:

- (1) $s \leq k$, and
- (2) for each S_i , $i = 1, \dots, k$, there is a C_j , $1 \leq j \leq s$, so that $S_i \subset C_j$.

REMARK. A finest Morse decomposition of PF is unique up to a reordering of the Morse sets.

LEMMA 9.6. Let $\{S_1, \dots, S_k\}$ and $\{T_1, \dots, T_s\}$ be two Morse decompositions of PF . Define sets $C_{s(i-1)+j} \equiv S_i \cap T_j$ for $i = 1, \dots, k$ and $j = 1, \dots, s$. Then $\{C_1, \dots, C_{sk}\}$ is a Morse decomposition of PF .

REMARK. $\{C_1, \dots, C_{sk}\}$ is called the intersection of $\{S_1, \dots, S_k\}$ and $\{T_1, \dots, T_s\}$. $\{S_1, \dots, S_k\} \cap \{T_1, \dots, T_s\}$ is the same as $\{T_1, \dots, T_s\} \cap \{S_1, \dots, S_k\}$ after reordering.

THEOREM 9.7. Let f be a chain recurrent on a connected space Q . Then there is a finest Morse decomposition of PF over Q . (For uniqueness see Corollary 11.7.)

PROOF. Fix $b \in Q$. Since $\mathcal{D}(P_b^n)$ is finite (Theorem 7.4), there are only a finite number of sequences of subspaces of P_b^n , $\{K_1, \dots, K_m\}$, so that $K_i = T_i \cap P_b^n$ where $\{T_1, \dots, T_m\}$ is a Morse decomposition of PF . For each such sequence take a Morse decomposition which meets P_b^n in that sequence. Let $\{S_1, \dots, S_r\}$ be the intersection of all these Morse decompositions, after deleting any empty intersections. For each Morse decomposition $\{T_1, \dots, T_m\}$ where $T_j \neq \emptyset$, $j = 1, \dots, m$, this construction and Theorem 9.2 imply that $m \leq r$

and that for each S_i there is a T_j so that $S_i \cap P_b^n \subset T_j \cap P_b^n$. In fact, for each $c \in Q$ and S_i , there is a T_j where j depends on c so that $S_i \cap P_c^n \subset T_j \cap P_c^n$: If there is a Morse decomposition $\{T_1, \dots, T_m\}$ so that $S_i \cap P_c^n \not\subset T_j \cap P_c^n$ for any j , then $\{S_1, \dots, S_r\} \cap \{T_1, \dots, T_m\}$ is a Morse decomposition having more than r nonempty Morse sets. But this contradicts the maximality of r .

Given $\{T_1, \dots, T_m\}$, we associate to each $c \in Q$ a sequence of r integers, $j_i(c)$, $i = 1, \dots, r$, where $j_i(c)$ is the integer such that $S_i \cap P_c^n \subset T_{j_i(c)} \cap P_c^n$. To show $\{S_1, \dots, S_r\}$ is the finest Morse decomposition, it suffices to show $j_i(c)$ is constant as a function of c for $i = 1, \dots, r$. Let $H \equiv \{c \in Q \mid j_i(c) = j_i(b) \text{ for } i = 1, \dots, r\}$. $H \neq \emptyset$ and H is both open and closed because the S_i 's and T_j 's are subbundles so their intersections with the fiber are continuous functions of the base. Thus $H = Q$ since Q is connected.

As a consequence of Theorem 9.7, all Morse sets over a connected set on which f is chain recurrent are linear spans of the Morse sets in the finest Morse decomposition. Thus quasi-Morse sets are Morse sets. Since, in general, components of $R(PF)$ are quasi-Morse sets, the components of $R(PF)$ over a connected, chain recurrent set are precisely the finest Morse sets.

In the case of the linear autonomous differential equation, each Morse set in the finest Morse decomposition is the span of the Jordan blocks having eigenvalues with the same real part. And, as mentioned earlier, every connected Morse set is the span of all Jordan blocks having eigenvalues with consecutive real parts.

EXAMPLE. Strict inequality in Theorem 9.4 occurs often. In fact, for any Morse set S , the dimension of $S \cap P_b^n$ is only upper semicontinuous as a function of b (since S is closed and meets fibers in linear subspaces). Also, if Q is only a Morse set of f there may not be a splitting over Q as in Theorem 9.2. This example illustrates both these statements.

Consider a smooth flow f on the circle S^1 . Let $[b, c]$, an arc joining the rest points b and c , be a repeller and some other point in $S^1 - [b, c]$ be an attractor. The flow in $[b, c]$ goes from b to c (Figure 1). $[b, c]$ is a Morse set of f . Parameterize the arc (b, c) by R . Take an R^2 -bundle over S^1 with the flow F over $[b, c]$ being the solutions of the following differential equations: Over b , use the system $\dot{x} = -x$ and $\dot{y} = y$. Over c , use the system $\dot{x} = x$ and $\dot{y} = y$. Over (b, c) , use the system $\dot{x} = (2/\pi)(\arctan t)x$ and $\dot{y} = y$ for $t \in R$. F induces PF on a P^1 -bundle over $[b, c]$ given in Figure 2. Let x denote the repeller over b , and y the attractor. Let z be the ω -limit set of the orbit over (b, c) with α -limit set y . A Morse decomposition over $[b, c]$ has x as the repeller and the orbit from y to z plus the fiber over c as the attractor. So the attractor increases fiber dimension at

c and neither attractor nor repeller are subbundles over $[b, c]$.

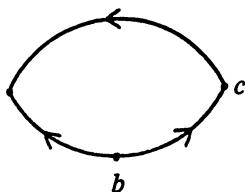


FIGURE 1

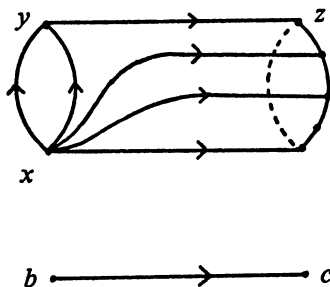


FIGURE 2

Theorem 9.4 is just the first step in tying the Morse structure of the flow in PE to that of the flow in M . In the preceding example, b and c are components of the chain recurrent set and Morse sets in a Morse decomposition, and $c \in \Omega(b, f)$. Notice that the attractor in the Morse decomposition of PF increases fiber dimension as the flow proceeds from b to c and the repeller loses fiber dimension. This is the force of Theorem 9.4, i. e., as the flow moves down through the filtration of f (down in terms of the indexing in a Morse filtration) the attractors in a Morse decomposition of PF cannot decrease fiber dimension but may increase fiber dimension and the repellers cannot increase but may decrease; and an attractor increase must be balanced by a repeller decrease. Theorem 9.4 guarantees this, provided the Morse sets of the decomposition of f are exactly components of $R(f)$.

To give a more complete picture of PF we need to study how the finest Morse decomposition changes from over one component of $R(f)$ to over the next component, i. e., how does the splitting over one component of $R(f)$ link up with the splitting over another component.

10. Hyperbolicity. As in previous sections, let (F, f) be a linear flow on a vector bundle (E, M, π, \mathbb{M}) . For $x \in E$, let $|x|$ denote $g(x, x)^{1/2}$ where g is a Riemannian metric on E .

DEFINITION. (F, f) is *hyperbolic* on E if

- (1) there exists a splitting of E into the direct sum of two invariant subbundles, E^s and E^u ; and
- (2) there are real numbers $\alpha > 0$ and $0 < \lambda < 1$ so that, for $t \geq 0$, $|F_t(x)| \leq \alpha \lambda^t |x|$ for $x \in E^s$ and $|F_t^*(x)| \leq \alpha \lambda^t |x|$ for $x \in E^u$.

REMARK. Suppose f is C^r on a compact C^r -manifold M and $F_t \equiv Tf_t$. Let $X: M \rightarrow TM$ be the vector field for f . If f is hyperbolic in the usual sense [20], then (F, f) is hyperbolic according to our definition on TM/X , the quotient bundle obtained from TM by factoring out the tangent direction to f .

In order to prove the equivalence between hyperbolicity and the zero section Z of E being an isolated invariant set, we need the following observations. Lemma 10.1 can be found in [2].

LEMMA 10.1. *Let I be an isolated invariant set and N a compact neighborhood of I . Suppose that for each $x \in N - I$, there exists $t < 0$ ($t > 0$) such that $x \cdot t \notin N$. Then I is an attractor (respectively, a repeller). (N will be called an attractor neighborhood for I .)*

REMARK. Also, because of the linearity of F , Z is isolated if and only if F has no nonzero bounded orbits (bounded in terms of g).

THEOREM 10.2. *Suppose f is chain recurrent on a connected space M . Then (F, f) is hyperbolic on E if and only if Z is an isolated invariant set.*

PROOF. If (F, f) is hyperbolic, then F has no nonzero bounded orbits. Thus Z is isolated.

An outline of the proof of sufficiency is: Use the two asymptotic sets to Z to define sets in the bundle PE . These sets are the attractor and repeller in a Morse decomposition of PF . Therefore, by Theorem 9.2, PE splits into the direct sum of two subbundles. We pull these subbundles back to E and show there is exponential growth in the attractor and decay in the repeller.

Define asymptotic sets as follows:

$A^+ \equiv \{x \in E \mid \text{there exists an } a \in R \text{ so that } |y| < a \text{ for all } y \in x \cdot R^+\}$
and

$A^- \equiv \{x \in E \mid \text{there exists an } a \in R \text{ so that } |y| < a \text{ for all } y \in x \cdot R^-\}.$

Given $x \in A^+$ and a neighborhood of Z , some scalar multiple of x is in this neighborhood for all $t \geq 0$ and, thus, goes to 0 as $t \rightarrow \infty$. By linearity, x goes to 0 as $t \rightarrow \infty$. Likewise for $x \in A^-$, x goes to 0 as $t \rightarrow -\infty$. A^- and A^+ meet each fiber of E in a linear subspace, possibly $\{0\}$. Since Z is isolated, $A^+ \cap A^- = Z$. We may assume neither A^- nor A^+ equals E . This implies, via Lemma 10.1, that neither equals Z . Upon identification, $(A^-) - Z$ and $(A^+) - Z$ give the disjoint, nonempty sets S_1 and S_2 in PE .

Take an isolating block B for Z . There is an $r > 0$ so that $\text{Int } B$ contains the disk bundle $D(r)$ of radius r , i.e., $D(r) \equiv \{x \in E \mid |x| \leq r\}$. If $x \in A^+ \cap D(r)$, then the line segment from 0 to x is in $\text{Int } B$, and, since x goes to 0 as $t \rightarrow \infty$, Lemma 5.1 implies that $x \cdot R^+ \subset \text{Int } B$. So points of $A^+ \cap D(r)$ stay in B for all $t \geq 0$ and, likewise, points of $A^- \cap D(r)$ stay in B for all $t \leq 0$. Let $S(r)$ denote the sphere bundle of radius r . Since A^+ and A^- are linear, $A^+ \cap S(r)$ and $A^- \cap S(r)$ give S_2 and S_1 after identification.

We claim that S_2 is a repeller: Because $A^\pm \cap S(r)$ are closed, there are disjoint open sets U and V in PE so that $S_2 \subset U$ and $S_1 \subset V$. Pull U and V back to disjoint neighborhoods, U' and V' , of A^+ and A^- . It is a general fact ([2], [7], [9]) that points of B near those which remain in B for all $t \geq 0$ leave B near points which remain in B for all $t \leq 0$. Because of this and the compactness of $A^+ \cap S(r)$, there is a closed neighborhood N' of $A^+ \cap S(r)$ in U' such that for each $x \in N' - (A^+ \cap S(r))$ there is a $t > 0$ so that $x \cdot t \in V'$. Thus N' , after identification, gives a repeller neighborhood for S_2 in PE . By Lemma 10.1, S_2 is a repeller.

Likewise, S_1 is an attractor.

So S_1 and S_2 are Morse sets and, by Lemma 8.9 and Theorem 9.2, each meets every fiber in a subspace of constant dimension. Clearly, $S_2 \subset S_1^*$. If $S_1^* - S_2 \neq \emptyset$, then choose x in a Morse set contained in $S_1^* - S_2$. The closure of the orbit of x and S_2 are separated by open sets U and V . Let $y \in S_1$ and be in the fiber containing x . Consider the P^1 spanned by x and y . Since S_1 is an attractor, y must be a negative expansion point so all points of this P^1 near y go to x as $t \rightarrow -\infty$, i.e., there is a $T < 0$ so that, for all $t \leq T$ and $z \neq y \in P^1$, $z \cdot t$ is in the open set U containing the orbit of x . But, as above, the points of B near points which remain in B for all $t \leq 0$ leave B , in large negative time, near points which remain in B for all $t \geq 0$. So there are points in P^1 near y which go into V , the neighborhood of S_2 , for arbitrarily large negative time. This is a contradiction. Thus $S_2 = S_1^*$ and $\{S_1, S_2\}$ is a Morse decomposition of PF . Theorem 9.2 implies that PE splits into the direct sum of subbundles S_1 and S_2 . So E splits into the direct sum of A^- and A^+ .

We claim that $\{F_t\}$ decays exponentially in A^+ . Consider the unit sphere bundle $S(1)$ in E . Take the sphere bundle of radius $\frac{1}{2}$, $S(\frac{1}{2})$, and a block B inside $S(\frac{1}{2})$, i.e., $B \subset \text{Int } D(\frac{1}{2})$. For some $r > 0$, $S(r)$ is contained in $\text{Int } B$. For each $x \in A^+ \cap S(1)$, there is $T_x > 0$ so that $x \cdot T_x$ is inside $S(r)$. By continuity, take a neighborhood U_x of x in $A^+ \cap S(1)$ so that $U_x \cdot T_x$ is inside $S(r)$. By Lemma 5.1, $U_x \cdot [T_x, \infty) \subset \text{Int } B$. Take a finite subcover of $A^+ \cap S(1)$ by these U_x 's and let T_1 be the maximum of the corresponding T_x 's. So for each $x \in A^+ \cap S(1)$, $|F_t(x)| \leq \frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{2}|x|$ for all $t \geq T_1$. By linearity, for each $x \in A^+$, $|F_t(x)| \leq \frac{1}{2}|x|$ for all $t \geq T_1$. Let $\lambda \equiv (\frac{1}{2})^{1/T_1}$. For each $x \in A^+$, $|F_t(x)| \leq 2\lambda^t|x|$ for all $t \geq T_1$: For $t \geq T_1$, there is a positive integer k and a real number s , $0 < s < T_1$, so that $t = kT_1 + s$. Then

$$|F_t(x)| = |F_{T_1}(F_{(k-1)T_1+s}(x))| \leq \frac{1}{2}|F_{(k-1)T_1+s}(x)| \leq \dots \leq (\frac{1}{2})^k|x| \leq 2\lambda^t|x|.$$

By compactness of $[0, T_1]$ and linearity, we choose $\alpha \in R^+$ so that $|F_t(x)| \leq \alpha\lambda^t|x|$ for all $x \in A^+$ and all $t \geq 0$.

Similarly, $\{F_t^*\}$ decays exponentially on A^- . So (F, f) is hyperbolic.

REMARK. The equivalence in Theorem 10.2 depends on the condition that f is chain recurrent on M . Consider the example of §9. The flow on the R^2 -bundle over $[b, c]$ is not hyperbolic but the zero section is isolated since orbits become unbounded as they approach the fiber over c .

11. Growth rates for orbits in a Morse decomposition. Now we will investigate the different exponential growth rates in the pull-backs of Morse sets of a Morse decomposition over a connected subset Q of M on which f is chain recurrent.

LEMMA 11.1. Suppose E' is an invariant subbundle of E over M . If for each $x \in E'$ there is $t_k \rightarrow \infty$ so that $|F_{t_k}(x)| \rightarrow \infty$, then Z over M is a repeller for $F|_{E'}$.

PROOF. Any disk bundle in E' is a repeller neighborhood for Z so Lemma 10.1 gives the result.

LEMMA 11.2. Suppose E' is an invariant subbundle of E . If for each $x \in E'$ there is a $t_k \rightarrow \infty$ so that $|F_{t_k}(x)| \rightarrow 0$, then Z is an attractor for $F|_{E'}$.

PROOF. We claim that the unit disk bundle $D(1)$ is an attractor neighborhood for Z :

There is a $T > 0$ so that, for each $x \in S(1)$, there is a $t \in [0, T]$ such that $|x \cdot t| \leq \frac{1}{2}|x|$. If not, for each $i > 0$ there is $x_i \in S(1)$ so that $|x_i \cdot t| > \frac{1}{2}$ for all $t \in [0, i]$. Without loss of generality, $x_i \rightarrow x \in S(1)$. Since $|x \cdot t_k| \rightarrow 0$ as $t_k \rightarrow \infty$, there is an N so that for all $t_k \geq N$, $|x \cdot t_k| < \frac{1}{2}$. Consider t_1 and $|x \cdot t_1| < \frac{1}{2}$. For i large, $|x_i \cdot t_1| < \frac{1}{2}$. So for some $i > t_1$, $|x_i \cdot t_1| < \frac{1}{2}$, which contradicts $|x_i \cdot t| > \frac{1}{2}$ for all $t \in [0, i]$. Also, by the linearity of F , for each $x \in D(1)$ we have $|x \cdot t| < \frac{1}{2}|x|$ for some $t \in [0, T]$.

Suppose there is $y \neq 0 \in D(1)$ such that $y \cdot (-\infty, 0] \subset D(1)$. Let $y \cdot s$, for $0 \leq s \leq T$, be such that $|y \cdot s| = \inf\{|y \cdot t| : t \in [0, T]\}$. Pick $i \in \mathbb{R}$ so that $2^i < |y \cdot s|$. Let $z \equiv y \cdot (-iT)$. Then $|z| \leq 1$, and there is a $t \in [0, T]$ so that $|z \cdot t| \leq \frac{1}{2}|z|$. Let $z' = z \cdot t$; then there is a $t' \in [0, T]$ so that $|z' \cdot t'| \leq \frac{1}{2}|z'| \leq \frac{1}{4}|z| \leq \frac{1}{4}$. Continue this process until we have $\tilde{z} \in y \cdot [0, T]$ and $|\tilde{z}| \leq 1/2^i < |y \cdot s|$. This is a contradiction. Thus $y \cdot (-\infty, 0] \not\subset D(1)$ and $D(1)$ is an attractor neighborhood.

LEMMA 11.3. Let $\{S_1, \dots, S_k\}$ be a Morse decomposition of PF over Q with $\{E_1, \dots, E_k\}$ being the corresponding pull-backs to E . Then at most one E_i contains two points $x, y \neq 0$ so that $|F_t(x)| \rightarrow 0$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$ and $|F_t(y)| \rightarrow \infty$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$.

PROOF. Suppose E_i and E_j both contain such points, $x_i, y_i \in E_i$ and $x_j, y_j \in E_j$. Without loss of generality assume S_i is an attractor and S_j is a repeller. Thus, points of a P^1 determined by a point of S_i and a point of S_j go to S_i as $t \rightarrow \infty$. There is a sequence $t_k \rightarrow \infty$ so that $|y_i \cdot t_k|$ is bounded. For each $z \in S_j$ and $w \neq z$ in the P^1 determined by z and y_i , $\rho(w \cdot t, y_i \cdot t) \rightarrow 0$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$. Thus $|z \cdot t_k| \rightarrow 0$ as $t_k \rightarrow \infty$. Lemma 11.2 implies that Z is an attractor for $F|_{E_j}$. Then Theorem 10.2 implies that $|z \cdot t| \rightarrow 0$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$ for all $z \in E_j$. This contradicts the fact that $|x_j \cdot t_m| \not\rightarrow 0$ for a sequence $t_m \rightarrow \infty$.

COROLLARY 11.4. Let $\{S_1, \dots, S_k\}$ be a Morse decomposition of PF over Q with $\{E_1, \dots, E_k\}$ being the corresponding pull-backs to E . Then there is at most one E_i so that Z is not an isolated invariant set of $F|_{E_i}$.

PROOF. If Z is not an isolated invariant set of $F|_{E_i}$, then there is some $x \in E_i$ ($\neq 0$) so that $|F_t(x)| \not\rightarrow 0$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$ by Lemma 11.2 and some $y \in E_i$ so that $|F_t(y)| \not\rightarrow \infty$ by Lemma 11.1. Lemma 11.3 gives the result.

LEMMA 11.5. Let E' be a subbundle of E over M . Then there exists $\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta \in R^+$ where $\gamma \leq 1$ and $\delta \geq 1$ so that $\beta\gamma^t|x| \leq |F_t(x)| \leq \alpha\delta^t|x|$ for all $x \in E'$ and $t \geq 0$.

PROOF. Let $S(1)$ denote the unit sphere bundle in E' . Let $\gamma \equiv \inf\{|x \cdot t| \mid x \in S(1) \text{ and } t \in [0, 1]\}$. So $0 < \gamma \leq 1$. By linearity, $\gamma|x| \leq |x \cdot t|$ for all $x \in E'$ and $t \in [0, 1]$. For each $t > 1$, $t = k + s$ where k is a positive integer and $0 < s < 1$. So, for $x \in E'$,

$$|x \cdot t| \geq \gamma^k |x \cdot s| \geq \gamma^{k+1} |x| \geq \gamma^{t+1} |x|.$$

Therefore, $|x \cdot t| \geq \beta\gamma^t|x|$ for all $x \in E'$ and $t \geq 0$.

Let $\delta \equiv \sup\{|x \cdot t| \mid x \in S(1) \text{ and } t \in [0, 1]\}$. Then $1 \leq \delta < \infty$. By linearity, $|x \cdot t| \leq \delta|x|$ for all $x \in E'$ and $t \in [0, 1]$. As above, for $t > 1$, $t = k + s$. And $|x \cdot t| \leq \delta^k |x \cdot s| \leq \delta^{t+1} |x|$ for $x \in E'$. Thus, $|x \cdot t| \leq \alpha\delta^t|x|$ for all $x \in E'$ and $t \geq 0$.

DEFINITION. Let E' be an invariant subbundle over M . Define $\lambda \equiv \sup\{\lambda \in R \mid |e^{-\lambda t} F_t(x)| \rightarrow \infty \text{ as } t \rightarrow \infty \text{ for all } x \neq 0 \in E'\}$, where $e^{-\lambda t} F_t(x)$ denotes the vector whose components are $e^{-\lambda t}$ times each component of $F_t(x)$. And define $\bar{\lambda} \equiv \inf\{\lambda \in R \mid |e^{-\lambda t} F_t(x)| \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } t \rightarrow \infty \text{ for all } x \neq 0 \in E'\}$.

REMARKS. Lemma 11.5 implies that λ and $\bar{\lambda}$ are finite. And, for $x \in E'$, if $|e^{-\lambda t} F_t(x)| \rightarrow r \neq 0$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$, then $\lambda \in [\lambda, \bar{\lambda}]$. The closed interval $[\lambda, \bar{\lambda}]$ is called the (positive) growth rate interval of F on E' . The growth rate interval of F^* is the negative growth rate interval of F .

LEMMA 11.6. *Let S be a Morse set over Q with pull-back E' and let $\lambda_i \rightarrow \lambda$ as $i \rightarrow \infty$. If $|e^{-\lambda t} F_t(x)| \rightarrow \infty$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$ for all $x \in E'$, then for large i , $|e^{-\lambda_i t} F_t(x)| \rightarrow \infty$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$ for all $x \in E'$. Also, if $|e^{-\lambda t} F_t(x)| \rightarrow 0$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$ for all $x \in E'$, then for large i , $|e^{-\lambda_i t} F_t(x)| \rightarrow 0$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$ for all $x \in E'$.*

PROOF. For the first assertion, let $G_t(x) \equiv e^{-\lambda t} F_t(x)$ for all $x \in E'$ and $t \in \mathbb{R}$. Then $\{G_t\}$ is a flow on E' and Lemma 11.1 implies that Z is a repeller for G . Theorem 10.2 implies that G grows exponentially for $t > 0$, so for some $T > 0$, G_T takes the sphere bundle $S(1)$ into $\text{Ext } D(1)$. For large i , $\{e^{-\lambda_i t} F_t\}$ is close to $\{G_t\}$ in the compact open topology so $e^{-\lambda_i T} F_T$ takes $S(1)$ into $\text{Ext } D(1)$. By linearity, $D(1)$ is a repeller neighborhood for $\{e^{-\lambda_i t} F_t\}$ for large i . Theorem 10.2 implies that $|e^{-\lambda_i t} F_t(x)| \rightarrow \infty$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$ for all $x \in E'$.

The second assertion follows from Lemma 11.2 and Theorem 10.2.

THEOREM 11.7. *Let $\{S_1, \dots, S_k\}$ be a Morse decomposition of PF over Q with pull-backs $\{E_1, \dots, E_k\}$. Let $[\underline{\lambda}_i, \bar{\lambda}_i]$ denote the growth rate interval for E_i , $i = 1, \dots, k$. Then $[\underline{\lambda}_i, \bar{\lambda}_i] \cap [\underline{\lambda}_j, \bar{\lambda}_j] = \emptyset$ for $i \neq j$.*

PROOF. Suppose $\lambda \in [\underline{\lambda}_i, \bar{\lambda}_i] \cap [\underline{\lambda}_j, \bar{\lambda}_j]$ for $i \neq j$. Lemma 11.6 implies that there are points $x_i, y_i \neq 0 \in E_i$ and $x_j, y_j \neq 0 \in E_j$ so that $|e^{-\lambda t} F_t(x_m)| \not\rightarrow 0$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$ and $|e^{-\lambda t} F_t(y_m)| \not\rightarrow \infty$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$, $m = i, j$. Define $G_t(z) = e^{-\lambda t} F_t(z)$ for all $z \in E$. G is a flow on E and $PG = PF$ on PE . Thus $\{S_1, \dots, S_k\}$ is a Morse decomposition for PG with pull-backs $\{E_1, \dots, E_k\}$. The existence of $x_i, y_i \in E_i$ and $x_j, y_j \in E_j$ contradicts Lemma 11.3.

COROLLARY 11.8. *Let S be a Morse set over Q with pull-back E' . If $[\underline{\lambda}, \bar{\lambda}]$ is the growth rate interval of F on E' , then $[-\bar{\lambda}, -\underline{\lambda}]$ is the growth rate interval of F^* on E' .*

PROOF. For each $\lambda > \bar{\lambda}$, consider the flow $G_t(x) \equiv e^{-\lambda t} F_t(x)$ for $x \in E'$. For $x \in E'$, $|G_t(x)| \rightarrow 0$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$, so Z is an attractor for G by Lemma 11.2. Theorem 10.2 implies that $|G_t(x)| \rightarrow \infty$ as $t \rightarrow -\infty$ for $x \neq 0 \in E'$. Let $[\underline{\alpha}, \bar{\alpha}]$ be the positive growth rate interval of F^* . But $|e^{(-\lambda)(-t)} F_{-t}(x)| \rightarrow \infty$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$, so $-\lambda \leq \underline{\alpha}$. Thus $-\bar{\lambda} \leq \underline{\alpha}$. Likewise, for $\lambda < \underline{\lambda}$, we see that $-\lambda \geq \bar{\alpha}$. Thus $-\bar{\lambda} \geq \bar{\alpha}$.

Applying the preceding argument to the flow F^* with growth interval $[\underline{\alpha}, \bar{\alpha}]$ gives $-\bar{\alpha} \leq \underline{\lambda}$ and $-\alpha \geq \bar{\lambda}$. Therefore $\bar{\alpha} = -\underline{\lambda}$ and $\underline{\alpha} = -\bar{\lambda}$, and so $[\underline{\alpha}, \bar{\alpha}] = [-\bar{\lambda}, -\underline{\lambda}]$.

COROLLARY 11.9. *Let $\{S_1, \dots, S_k\}$ be a finest Morse decomposition over*

Q with pull-backs $\{E_1, \dots, E_k\}$. Let $[\underline{\lambda}_i, \bar{\lambda}_i]$ denote the growth rate interval for E_i , $i = 1, \dots, k$. If F is not hyperbolic on E , then there is an r , $1 \leq r \leq k$, so that $\bar{\lambda}_i < 0$ for all $i > r$ and $\underline{\lambda}_i > 0$ for all $i < r$. Furthermore, $\underline{\lambda}_i < \underline{\lambda}_j$ if $i > j$.

PROOF. Theorem 10.2 implies that Z is not isolated in some E_i . Corollary 11.4 implies there is only one such E_i , say E_r , and $0 \in [\underline{\lambda}_r, \bar{\lambda}_r]$. Also, for $i \neq r$, orbits in E_i either all decay exponentially or grow exponentially as $t \rightarrow \infty$ because $\{S_1, \dots, S_k\}$ is a finest Morse decomposition.

For $i > r$, S_r is contained in an attractor and S_i is contained in its dual repeller. Thus, points of a P^1 determined by a point of S_r and a point of S_i go to S_r as $t \rightarrow \infty$. For some $y \in E_r$, there is a sequence $t_k \rightarrow \infty$ so that $|y \cdot t_k|$ is bounded. Thus, for $z \in E_i$, $|z \cdot t_k| \rightarrow 0$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$. So $\bar{\lambda}_i < 0$.

For $i < r$, a similar argument shows $\underline{\lambda}_i > 0$.

For $i > j$, S_j is contained in an attractor and S_i is contained in its dual repeller. Consider the flow $G_t \equiv e^{-\lambda_j t} F_t$. The preceding argument shows that $\underline{\lambda}_j \geq \underline{\lambda}_i$.

REMARKS. If F is hyperbolic, then the final inequality in Corollary 11.9 holds but no growth rate interval contains 0. Also, Corollary 11.9 implies that a finest Morse decomposition is unique, i.e., the Morse sets cannot be reordered to give another Morse decomposition.

THEOREM 11.10. Suppose E splits over Q into the direct sum of invariant subbundles $\{E_1, \dots, E_k\}$. Let $[\underline{\lambda}_i, \bar{\lambda}_i]$ denote the growth rate interval for E_i , $i = 1, \dots, k$. Let $\{S_1, \dots, S_k\}$ be the corresponding subbundles in PE . If the growth intervals are pairwise disjoint, then $\{S_1, \dots, S_k\}$ is a Morse decomposition of PF .

PROOF. Use induction on k . For $k = 1$, the result is trivial. Assume the results for a splitting into $k - 1$ subbundles and prove it for $\{E_1, \dots, E_k\}$. Without loss of generality, assume $\underline{\lambda}_i > \underline{\lambda}_j$ if $j > i$. Let λ be a real number such that $\bar{\lambda}_2 < \lambda < \underline{\lambda}_1$. Define the flow $G_t(x) = e^{-\lambda t} F_t(x)$ for all $x \in E$. Let E' be the direct sum of $\{E_2, \dots, E_k\}$. Then E is the direct sum of E_1 and E' both invariant under G . The growth rate interval for E_1 with respect to the flow G is to the right of 0 on the number line. And the growth rate interval for E' is to the left of 0. Thus Z is isolated for the flow G on E . According to Theorem 10.2, $E' = A^+$ and $E_1 = A^-$ so E_1 and E' give rise to a Morse decomposition $\{S_1, S\}$ of PG . But $PG = PF$. By induction, $\{S_2, \dots, S_k\}$ is a Morse decomposition of $PF|_{S_1}$. Therefore, $\{S_1, S_2, \dots, S_k\}$ is a Morse decomposition of PF .

EXAMPLE 1. Let Q be a rest point and so the bundle E over Q is an n -dimensional vector space. F over Q is given by $F_t(x) = e^{At}x$ for $x \in E$ where A is an $n \times n$ real matrix. Let $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_k$ denote the distinct real parts of the eigenvalues of A with $\lambda_i > \lambda_j$ if $i < j$. For each $i = 1, \dots, k$, define the subbundle E_i to be the span of the invariant subspaces corresponding to the Jordan blocks of A with eigenvalues having real part λ_i . Then E is the direct sum of $\{E_1, \dots, E_k\}$. The growth rate interval of E_i is λ_i , $i = 1, \dots, k$. So, by Theorem 11.10, the corresponding subbundles $\{S_1, \dots, S_k\}$ of $PE = P^{n-1}$ give a Morse decomposition of PF . Since these growth rate intervals are points, Theorem 11.7 implies that $\{S_1, \dots, S_k\}$ is the finest Morse decomposition of PF , and PF is a chain recurrent on each S_i .

If Q is a periodic orbit, then the situation is similar to the preceding case. The distinct real parts of the characteristic exponents are the growth rate intervals. The Morse sets in the finest Morse decomposition are the invariant subbundles corresponding to the different real parts.

EXAMPLE 2. We give an example where each λ in the growth rate interval of a subbundle over Q is the positive growth rate of a particular orbit. Let Q be the annulus in R^2 defined, in polar coordinates, by $Q = \{(r, \theta) | r \in [r_1, r_2] \text{ and } \theta \in [0, 2\pi]\}$. Let E' be a R^1 -bundle over Q . Define F on E' by $F_t((r, \theta), x) = ((r, \theta + t), e^{rt}x)$ for $(r, \theta) \in Q$ and $x \in R^1$, where $\theta + t$ is taken modulo 2π . The growth rate interval for E' is $[r_1, r_2]$. For $(r, \theta) \in Q$, each orbit over the orbit $(r, \theta + t), t \in R$, has growth rate r .

EXAMPLE 3. Let $Q = S^1$ and let f have two rest points on S^1 (Figure 3). Let E' be an R^1 -bundle over Q . Define F over Q (Figure 4) by the

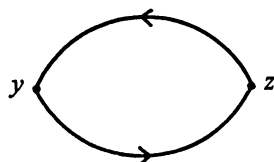


FIGURE 3

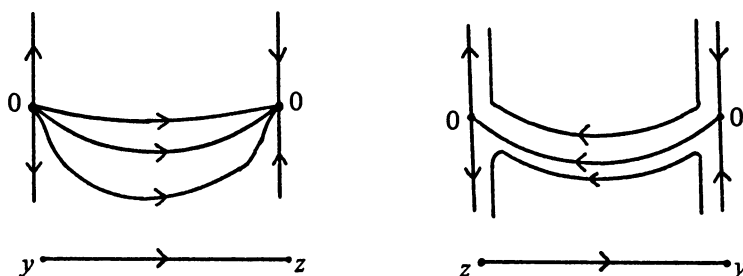


FIGURE 4

solutions to the following differential equations: Over y , use $\dot{x} = x$; over z , use $\dot{x} = -x$; over the orbit from y to z , use $\dot{x} = -(2/\pi)(\arctan t)x$; and over the orbit from z to y , use $\dot{x} = (2/\pi)(\arctan t)x$. The growth rate interval for E' is $[-1, 1]$. But the only positive growth rates for particular orbits are 1 and -1 .

12. An application to almost periodic differential equations.

DEFINITION. A set of real numbers is said to be *relatively dense* if there is an $L > 0$ so that every open interval in R of length L contains at least one point of this set. (L is called a span of this set.)

DEFINITION. A continuous function h from R into a metric space (X, d) is *almost periodic* if for each $\epsilon > 0$ there is an $L > 0$ and a relatively dense set $\{\tau_i\}$ having span L such that $d(h(t + \tau_i), h(t)) < \epsilon$ for all $t \in R$ and for all τ_i .

Let A be an almost periodic function from R into the $n \times n$ matrices, considered as R^{n^2} . Consider the linear, nonautonomous differential equation $\dot{x} = A(\tau)x$ where $x \in R^n$ and $\tau \in R$. Let C be the space of continuous functions from R to R^{n^2} with the topology of uniform convergence on compact subsets. Let f be the Bebutov dynamical system on C , i.e., for $B \in C$, $f_t(B) \equiv B^t$ where $B^t(\tau) = B(t + \tau)$ for all $\tau \in R$. The Bebutov system is a continuous flow on C [19]. If A is almost periodic, the hull of A (the closure of the orbit of A) is a compact subset of C since A is bounded and uniformly continuous. Since the orbit through A is almost periodic as a function from R into C , Birkhoff's recurrence theorem [16] implies that the hull of A is a compact minimal set. Let M denote the hull of A , a compact metric space. Let $E \equiv M \times R^n$. Define a linear flow (F, f) on E where f is the Bebutov system restricted to M and where F is defined as follows: For $(B, x) \in M \times R^n$, $F_t(B, x) = (f_t(B), y(t))$ where $y(t)$ is the unique solution to the differential equation $\dot{x} = B(\tau)x$ with initial value $y(0) = x$. F is a continuous flow as shown in a more general situation in [19].

Since the zero section of E being isolated is equivalent to each equation in the hull of A having no nontrivial bounded solutions, the following is an immediate consequence of Theorem 10.2:

COROLLARY 12.1. *If no equation in the hull of A has a nontrivial bounded solution, then the solution space of each equation in the hull has a hyperbolic splitting.*

REMARK. More explicitly, Theorem 10.2 asserts that

(1) for each $B \in M$, $R^n = E^s(B) \oplus E^u(B)$, i.e., there is a splitting for R^n varying continuously with B , and

(2) there are positive real numbers α and λ , $\lambda < 1$, so that each solution y of $\dot{x} = B(t)x$ with initial value $y(0)$ in $E^s(B)$ satisfies $|y(t)| \leq \alpha \lambda^t |y(0)|$ for all $t \geq 0$ and each solution z with initial value in $E^u(B)$ satisfies $|z(t)| \geq \alpha^{-1} \lambda^{-t} |z(0)|$ for all $t \geq 0$.

By Theorem 9.7, E^s and E^u split into the direct sum of the invariant subbundles corresponding to the finest Morse decomposition of PF , and PF is chain recurrent on each of these subbundles. In other words, for each equation in the hull, the stable and unstable solution spaces may split into subspaces with disjoint growth rate intervals, and the solutions in each subspace are chain recurrent when viewed as projective space (angular recurrence in dimension two). The growth rate intervals are the same for all equations in the hull, and we conjecture that the intervals are, in fact, points.

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