



# **Dynamical systems in a nutshell**

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### The Nobel Prize in Physics 2021





III. Niklas Elmehed © Nobel Prize Outreach Klaus Hasselmann Prize share: 1/4

III. Niklas Elmehed © Nobel Prize Outreach

Giorgio Parisi Prize share: 1/2

The Nobel Prize in Physics 2021 was awarded "for groundbreaking contributions to our understanding of complex systems" with one half jointly to Syukuro Manabe and Klaus Hasselmann "for the physical modelling of Earth's climate, quantifying variability and reliably predicting global warming" and the other half to Giorgio Parisi "for the discovery of the interplay of disorder and fluctuations in physical systems from atomic to planetary scales."

The ceremony took place on 10th December, 2021





Scientific Background on the Nobel Prize in Physics 2021

### "FOR GROUNDBREAKING CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR UNDERSTANDING OF COMPLEX PHYSICAL SYSTEMS"

The Nobel Committee for Physics

This year's Nobel Prize in Physics focuses upon the complexity of physical systems, from the largest scales experienced by humans, such as Earth's climate, down to the microscopic structure and dynamics of mysterious and yet commonplace materials, such as glass ...

A central emphasis is on the physical reality that the variability in the basic processes, from climate dynamics to frustrated materials, leads to the emergence of multiple length and time scales ...

### What is it a Complex System ?



Two different view of a complex system :

- A quite simple system that can give rise to a very complex behaviour : e.g. a pendulum/ a clock (Dynamical Point of View)
- A system made of a large number of interacting elements, so that the collective behaviour of those elements goes far beyond the simple sum of the individual behaviours. (Statistical Mechanics Point of View)
  - schools of fishes
  - swarm of birds **FILM**











Galileo Gailei was the first who had the idea to exploit the regularity of pendulum oscillations to realize a clock, however was the Dutch scientist Christian Huygens to realize it in 1656.

The first clock had an error less than 1 minute per day, an incredible good accuracy at the time.

Everyone will safely affirm that the oscillations of a pendulum are regular (predictable), but as we will see this is completely FALSE

From pendulum to chaos Deterministic (Newton's law)  $\neq$  Predictable

# The nonlinear pendulum



Planar Pendulum



А

0

(a)

h

attached to a Pivot O

via a massless and inextensibile wire of length L

- 2 forces acting on the mass :
  - **9** gravity  $\mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{g}} = M\mathbf{g}$
  - wire tension  $\mathbf{T} = Mg\cos heta$

By applying the Newton's second law (F=m a) it emerges that the system can be described simply by the angle  $\theta$  between the wire and the vertical axis and by the angular velocity  $\omega = d\theta/dt$ .

### More at the Blackboard

# The nonlinear pendulum



Along the inextensible wire – Equilibrium  $\left| \mathbf{T} = Mg \cos heta = Ma_p \right|$ 

**•** Tangent to the circle – Dynamics 
$$-Mg\sin\theta = ML\frac{d\theta^2}{dt^2} = Ma_t$$

Therefore the equation of motion turns out to be independent of the mass

$$\frac{d\theta^2}{dt^2} = -\frac{g}{L}\sin\theta$$

This is a **NONLINEAR** second order ordinary differential equation (**ODE**), difficult to solve. This can be rewritten as a system of two first order ODEs :

$$\dot{ heta} = \omega ~~;~~ \dot{\omega} = -rac{g}{L} \sin heta$$

Two first order ODEs ightarrow 2 Degrees of Freedom – 2 dimensional Phase Space

Trajectories' visualization

Approximate simplified equation for small angles



For small oscillations  $\sin\theta\simeq \theta$  ( $x\simeq L heta$ ) therefore

$$rac{d heta^2}{dt^2} = \ddot{ heta} = -rac{g}{L} heta = -\omega_0^2 heta$$

this a LINEAR ODE and it can be solved analytically, the angle oscillates periodically in time

$$\theta(t) = A\cos(\omega_0 t + \phi)$$
  $\dot{\theta}(t) = -A\omega_0\sin(\omega_0 t + \phi)$   $\omega_0 = \sqrt{\frac{g}{L}}$ 

The period T of the motion is

$$T = \frac{2\pi}{\omega_0} = 2\pi \sqrt{\frac{L}{g}}$$

T is independent of the amplitude A and of the phase  $\phi$ 

However how can we determine amplitude A and phase  $\phi$  ?

## **The linear pendulum**



### The total energy is conserved

$$lacksquare$$
 Kinetic Energy –  $K=rac{1}{2}Mv_t^2\simeq rac{1}{2}ML^2\left(rac{d heta}{dt}
ight)^2$ 

- Potential Energy
- Force = minus derivative of the potential

 $U = MgL\frac{\theta^2}{2}$ 



At time t = 0 the pendulum is at rest  $\dot{\theta} = 0$ :

$$\dot{\theta}(t=0) = -A\omega_0 \sin(\phi) \text{ therefore } \phi = 0$$

$$\theta(t=0) = A\cos(\phi) = A$$

The total energy at t = 0 is

 $E = U = MgL\frac{\theta^2(t=0)}{2} = MgL\frac{A^2}{2}$  and  $A = \sqrt{\frac{2E}{mgL}}$  is determined by the initial energy EThe linear approximation works only for small  $\theta$  angles, because for large  $\theta$  the potential energy

diverges to infinite

$$U = MgL\frac{\theta^2}{2} \to \infty \quad \text{for} \quad \theta \to \pm \infty$$



## **Trajectories' visualization**



Since the nonlinear ODE for large oscillations cannot be solved analytically

$$\frac{d\theta^2}{dt^2} = -\frac{g}{L}\sin\theta$$

but only numerically we plot the dynamics graphically in the Phase Space  $\left(\theta; \frac{d\theta}{dt}\right)$ 



Each curve in the Phase Space is called a trajectory

- **Oscillations** (closed orbits)
- Rotations (open orbits)
  - The separatrix corresponds to the pendulum starting with zero velocity from the unstable equilibrium position  $\theta = \pi$  and returning to it with zero velocity in an infinite time.

The motion continues for ever, the system is conservative,

- The motion repeats periodically
- Liouville's Theorem : Volumes in Phase Space are preserved





### **Potential Energy**

- $U(\theta) = MgL \int_{-\pi}^{\theta} d\theta \sin \theta = MgL(1 \cos \theta)$

The system is conservative, its total energy is constant

$$E = K + U = \frac{1}{2}ML^2 \left(\frac{d\theta}{dt}\right)^2 + MgL(1 - \cos\theta)$$

### **Separatrix**

The separatrix divides oscillations from rotations, its energy can be estimate by setting the pedulum at rest at the unstable fixed point, i.e.  $\theta = \pi$  and  $\dot{\theta} = 0$ , therefore it will need an infinite time to make one complete oscillation.

$$E_{sep} = 2MgL$$

# The damped nonlinear pendulum université

The previous picture is not realistic, the friction due to the air drag on the pendulum is always present. This force is proportional to the velocity  $d\theta/dt$  and it acts against the motion (Stokes' law):

 $\frac{d\theta^2}{dt^2} = -\gamma \frac{d\theta}{dt} - \frac{g}{L} \sin \theta \qquad \gamma \text{ is the damping constant}$ 



The energy is no more conserved, the friction dissipates energy, and the pendulum ends up always in the resting state  $\theta = 0$  In mathematical language:

### the system is dissipative

the rest state  $(\theta, d\theta/dt) = (0, 0)$  is an attractor for the dynamics : a stable fixed point





**The Liouville Theorem** 

### **GO TO THE BLACKBOARD !!!**

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## **Dissipative Systems**





### There are different ways to contract such area



Area contraction does not necessarily imply that all the directions in phase space will be contracted, someone can even expand

# The driven damped pendulum



O Botafumeiro - Santiago de Compostela



A giant censer of 53 kg (1.60 mt height) hanging from the vault of the Cathedral by a rope of 20 meter.

Due to dissipation the pendulum tends to stop, by varying periodically the length of the rope it is possible to maintain it in motion: parametric energy pumping !

FILM and Derivation of the Equation at the BlackBoard

# The driven damped pendulum



The equation of motion of the driven damped nonlinear pendulum where the pivot moves periodically in time as  $h(t) = h_0 \cos(\omega t)$  is

$$\frac{d\theta^2}{dt^2} = -\gamma \frac{d\theta}{dt} - \left(\frac{g}{L} - \frac{h_0 \omega^2}{L} \cos(\omega t)\right) \sin \theta$$

the period of the forcing is  $T_0=2\pi/\omega$ 



For a certain choice of parameters  $L, h_0, \omega$  one observes

- (a) After a transient the dynamics ends up on a periodic orbit
- (c) By observing the trajectory at stroboscopic times  $t_n = nT_0$  only 4 points remain : Periodic Motion of Period  $4T_0$  (Stroboscopic Map)

# The driven damped pendulum



### For a different choice of parameters $L, h_0, \omega$



- (d) The dynamics is always irregular
- (e) The Phase Plane is almost filled
- (f) The stroboscopic observation reveals a Chaotic Attractor



Two initial conditions differing less than 1 part/100,000 give rise to different trajectories : Sensitivity to Initial Conditions (SIC) Deterministic but NOT predictable : chaotic



The state of a generic system is characterized by the set of the variables describing the system

$$\mathbf{x}(t) = (x_1(t), x_2(t), \dots, x_d(t))$$

where d is the dimension of the Phase Space.

For the pendulum d=2 and  $x_1(t)=\theta(t)$  ,  $x_2(t)=d\theta(t)/dt$ 

The evolution in time of the variables is ruled by a set of ODE's - The Flow

$$\frac{dx_1}{dt} = f_1(x_1(t), x_2(t), \dots, x_d(t))$$
  
$$\frac{dx_d}{dt} = f_d(x_1(t), x_2(t), \dots, x_d(t))$$

### **Dissipative Systems**

- Phase Space volumes are contracted
- The set of points asymptotically reached by the trajectories lives in a space of dimension D < d D can be non integer: Fractal dimension
- Such set is called Attractor





### **Fixed Point**



Limit Cycle Periodic Motion characterized by 1 single period



### ${\rm Torus}\,T^2$

Quasi-periodic Motion characterized by 2 incommensurable periods

 ${\rm Torus}\,T^N$ 

## **Stability of a Fixed Point**





Let us consider a 1d system with a fixed point  $x = x^*$ :

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = f(x) \qquad f(x^*) = 0$$

Is the dynamics attracted or repelled by  $\boldsymbol{x}^*$  ?

To answer we perform a linear stability analysis, we perturb the fixed point by  $\delta x_0$  and look for its evolution:

$$x(0) = x^* + \delta x_0 \to x(t) = x^* + \delta x$$

therefore

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = f(x^* + \delta x) \to \frac{dx^*}{dt} + \frac{d\delta x}{dt} \sim f(x^*) + f'(x^*)\delta x \to \frac{d\delta x}{dt} = f'(x^*)\delta x$$

by setting  $\gamma = f'(x^*)$  we get  $\delta x(t) = \delta x_0 \mathrm{e}^{\gamma t}$ 

- If the Floquet exponent  $\gamma < 0 o$  Stable Fixed Point
- If the Floquet Exponent  $\gamma > 0 o$  Unstable Fixed Point
- If the Floquet Exponent  $\gamma=0
  ightarrow$  Marginally Stable

## **Fixed Points in 2D**





Table 2.1 Classification of fixed points (second column) in d = 2 for non-degenerate eigenvalues. For the case of ODEs see the second column and Fig. 2.5 for the corresponding illustration. The case of maps correspond to the third column.

Case	Eigenvalues (ODE)	Type of fixed point	Eigenvalues (maps)
(a)	$\lambda_1 < \lambda_2 < 0$	stable node	$ \rho_1 < \rho_2 < 1 \& \theta_1 = \theta_2 = k\pi $
(b)	$\lambda_1 > \lambda_2 > 0$	unstable node	$1<\rho_1<\rho_2\ \&\ \theta_1=\theta_2=k\pi$
(c)	$\lambda_1 < 0 < \lambda_2$	hyperbolic fixed point	$ \rho_1 < 1 < \rho_2 \& \theta_1 = \theta_2 = k\pi $
(d)	$\lambda_{1,2} = \mu \pm i\omega \ \& \ \mu < 0$	stable spiral point	$\theta_1=-\theta_2\neq\pm k\pi/2\ \&\ \rho_1=\rho_2<1$
(e)	$\lambda_{1,2}=\mu\pm i\omega\ \&\ \mu>0$	unstable spiral point	$\theta_1 = -\theta_2 \neq \pm k\pi/2 \& \rho_1 = \rho_2 > 1$
(f)	$\lambda_{1,2} = \pm i \omega$	elliptic fixed point	$\theta_1\!=\!-\theta_2\!=\!\pm(2k\!+\!1)\pi/2\ \&\ \rho_{1,2}\!=\!1$

### More at the blackboard !!!

## **Limit Cycles**



### A Limit Cycle is a Closed and Isolated Trajectory

- LCs are examples of naturally oscillating systems without being forced periodically (Autonomous ODE)
- LCs are characterized by a typical period, amplitude and wave form determined by the equation structure
- The LCs are nonlinear phenomena emerging in dissipative systems
- ${}$  LCs exist for autonomous ODEs in dimension  $d\geq 2$  (amplitude and phase)





# **Fluid Convection**





The fluid density depends on the temperature  $\rho=\rho(T)$ 

Forces : Buoyancy (Spinta di Archimede) vs Viscosity

### $\ \, {\rm If} \ T_U > T_B$

- Usual Heat Conduction
- **J** Linear Profile of Temperature  $T(z) = T_B + z \frac{T_U T_B}{H}$
- the state is stable
- $If T_U < T_B$ 
  - Interstation is unstable : fluid below is less dense than fluid above Expandible Fluid
  - Buoyancy Towards Upwards
  - Dissipative Effects act against the Buoyancy

The heat can be transfered from on plate to the other via 2 mechanisms :

**Fluid Motion with a time** 
$$au_m = rac{\eta}{
ho_0 g lpha H \Delta T}$$

Heat Diffusion with a time  $au_c \propto H^2/k$ 

## **Fluid Convection**





- The fluid density depends on the temperature
- Forces : Buoyancy (Spinta di Archimede) vs Viscosity
- The dynamics is controlled by the Rayleigh number

$$R_a = \frac{\rho_0 g \alpha H^3 \Delta T}{k\nu} = \frac{\tau_c}{\tau_m} \qquad \Delta T = T_B - T_U$$

- *g* is the gravity constant
- $\rho(\Delta T) = \rho_0(1 \alpha \Delta T), \alpha$  thermal dilatation coefficient
- ${oldsymbol{\wp}}$   ${oldsymbol{k}}$  thermal diffusivity Heat equation  $\dot{T}=K
  abla^2 T$
- **J**  $\nu$  fluid viscosity
- If  $Ra > Ra_c$  the heat conduction is replaced by the convective motions
- ${}$  The fluid motion is faster then the heat diffusion  $au_c > au_m$
- ${}$  If  $Ra>>Ra_{c}$  the steady convection state is replaced by erratic dynamics

Rayleigh-Bénard convection is fundamental for atmosphere, stars, earth magmatic mantile etc.



A three dimensional simplified model for the description of convective motions in a fluid



$$\frac{dX}{dt} = \sigma(Y - X)$$
$$\frac{dY}{dt} = -XZ + rX - Y$$
$$\frac{dZ}{dt} = XY - bZ$$

 $\mathbf{P} \quad X(t)$  is the amplitude of the convective motion

 $Imspace{1.5}$  Y(t) is the temperature difference between ascending and descending fluid

 ${}$  Z(t) is the deviation from the linear temperature profile

The parameters have physical meaning

$$r = \frac{Ra}{Ra_c} \qquad \sigma = \frac{\nu}{k}$$

b is a geometrical factors linked to the rolls wave lenght

Blackboard !!!

## **Lorenz Attractor 1960**



### **Distant initial points**



### **Nearby initial conditions**



# **Stroboscopic** Maps



Flux in 3 Dimensions

$$\dot{\vec{x}} = \vec{\mathbf{F}}_c(\vec{x}) \qquad \vec{x} \in \mathcal{R}^3 \qquad c \in \mathcal{R}$$

 $\boldsymbol{c}$  is the control parameter of the dynamics

### Stroboscobic Map

We measure the values of  $\vec{x}(t)$  at regular time intervals  $t = nT_0$ 

 ${oldsymbol{ heta}}$  by rescaling time as  $t'=t/T_0$ , one can always assume  $T_0=1$ 

$$\ \, {} \ \, {} \ \, \vec{x}(nT_0+T_0)=\vec{x}_{n+1} \text{ and } \vec{x}(nT_0)=\vec{x}_n$$

Finally we get the stroboscobic map

$$\vec{x}_{n+1} = \vec{\mathbf{F}}_c(\vec{x}_n) + \vec{x}_n = \vec{\mathbf{G}}_c(\vec{x}_n)$$

The dynamical evolution is obtained by applying n times the map  $G_c$  to the initial condition  $\vec{x}_0$ :  $\vec{x}_{n+1} = \vec{\mathbf{G}}_c(\vec{x}_n) = \vec{\mathbf{G}}_c^2(\vec{x}_{n-1}) = \ldots = \vec{\mathbf{G}}_c^n(\vec{x}_0)$ 

## **Poincaré Section**



For d > 3 the visualization of the trajectories is impossible !



Poincaré Section for a 3 dimensional flow  $d{f x}/dt$ 

- define a plane
- consider the successive points  $P_n$  in which the trajectory crosses the plane (from the same side)
- $P_2 = F(P_1), P_3 = F(P_2) = F^2(P_1)$  $P_N = F(P_{N-1}) = F^2(P_{N-2}) = \dots = F^N(P_1) t$
- ${f F}$  is the 2d Poincaré Map (discrete time) time intervals are NOT constant
  - Periodic Orbit  $\mathbf{F} 
    ightarrow$  1 or more isolated points
  - **9** Torus  $T^2 \mathbf{F} \rightarrow \mathbf{Closed}$  Curve
  - Strange Attractor  $\mathbf{F} 
    ightarrow A$  very reach and foliated structrure



## **Deterministic Chaos**





At time t = 0 consider two slightly different initial conditions for 2 orbits:

$$x(0)$$
  $x'(0) = x(0) + \delta x_0$ 

and follow their time evolution ruled by some ODE or Map

x(t)  $x'(t) = x(t) + \delta x(t)$ 

If their distance increases exponentially in time for any generic  $\boldsymbol{x}(0)$ 

$$\delta x(t) \sim \mathrm{e}^{\lambda t} \delta x_0 \qquad \lambda > 0$$

the system exibits SIC

### If the Maximal Lyapunov exponent $\lambda$ is positive the system is Chaotic

The chaotic behaviour is deterministic, ruled by a set of ODEs, no noise, no stochastic term in the system, despite this the information concerning the initial condition is lost within a short time

# **Strange Attractor**





### Attractors exhibiting SIC are Strange

- the volume should contract because the system is dissipative
- but at the same time the orbits should exponentially diverge
- the only possibility is that the attractor is folded , he has an extremely foliated structure

To have volume reduction it is not necessary that all the directions will contract, someone can expand, but the average expansion rate should be smaller than the average contraction rate

- the direction along which there is SIC are termed Unstable Manifolds and are characterized by positive Lyapunov exponents  $\lambda > 0$
- the direction along which the system is contracted are termed Stable Manifolds and are characterized by negative Lyapunov exponents  $\lambda < 0$

## **Smale's Horseshoe Map**





- The rectangle ABCD is stretched by a factor 2 along x direction
- **Solution** The rectangle ABCD is contracted by a factor  $2\eta$  ( $\eta > 1$ ) along y direction
- The stripe is then folded and reinserted in the original rectangle (without changing its area)
- The operation is repeated many times thus obtaining a very foliated structure typical of strange attractors

The operations correspond to properties of strange attractors

- **Contraction** The area of ABCd is reduced by a factor  $\eta 
  ightarrow$  **Dissipative System**
- **Folding** The orbit remains in a finite portion of the space ightarrow Attractor
- Stretching The orbit is stretched by a factor 2 along  $x \rightarrow$  Sensitivity to the Initial Conditions

## **Stable and Unstable Manifold**





Let us consider once more the Smale's Attractor:

along x the distance among 2 points is doubled at each iteration

$$\Delta X_{n+1} = 2\Delta X_n = e^{\ln 2} \Delta X_n$$

$$\Delta X_{n+1} = 2^n \Delta X_0 = e^{n \ln 2} \Delta X_0$$

 $\lambda_1 = \ln 2 > 0$ 

along y the distance among 2 points is contracted at each iteration

$$\Delta Y_{n+1} = \frac{1}{2\eta} \Delta Y_n = e^{-\ln 2\eta} \Delta Y_n \qquad \lambda_2 = -\ln 2\eta < 0$$

the volumes are contracted  

$$\Delta X_{n+1} \times \Delta Y_{n+1} = \frac{1}{\eta} \Delta X_n \Delta Y_n \qquad \frac{1}{\eta} = e^{\lambda_1} \times e^{\lambda_2} = e^{\lambda_1 + \lambda_2} < 1 \qquad \lambda_1 + \lambda_2 < 0$$

 $\boldsymbol{x}$  is the Unstable manifold and  $\boldsymbol{y}$  is the Stable manifold

## **Attractor Dimension**







The attractor dimension D, is the phase space dimension for which elements of initial conditions of dimension D on the attractor are neither expanded nor contracted

- Initial conditions over a surface are contracted  $\Delta X_n \times \Delta Y_n \sim e^{(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2)n} \Delta X_0 \times \Delta Y_0$ therefore D < 2
- igsquirin initial conditions along a line are expanded  $\Delta X_n \sim {
  m e}^{\lambda_1 n} \Delta X_0$  therefore D>1

The dimension can be implicitely expressed as

 $\sum_{i=1}^{D} \lambda_i = 0 \quad \text{usually D is not an integer Fractal Dimension}$ 

By performing a linear interpolation one gets

$$D = 1 + \frac{\lambda_1}{|\lambda_2|} = 1 + \frac{\ln 2}{|\ln 2\eta|}$$
 for  $\eta = 4 \to D = 1.5$ 



For N dimensional system one has N manifolds characterized by a Lyapunov spectrum

$$\lambda_i \quad i=1,\ldots,N$$

Dissipative Systems  $\sum_{i=1}^N \lambda_i < 0$ 



**Stable Limit Cycle**  $\lambda_1=0 \hspace{0.1in} ; 0>\lambda_2>\lambda_3>\dots$ 

**Chaos** at least  $\lambda_1 > 0$ 

#### **Autonomous Continuous Systems without Fixed points**

At least one Lyapunov exponent is zero, perturbation along the trajectory are neither contracted nor expanded

#### **Fractal Dimension**

$$D_{KY} = k + \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{k} \lambda_i}{|\lambda_{k+1}|} \qquad \lambda_k > 0 \quad \lambda_{k+1} < 0$$

upper limit for the attractor dimension





### Texts employed for the lectures

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