

# Synchronization

## Nonlinear Oscillators and Mobile Robots

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Mathias Hudoba de Badyn

Advanced Topics in Control  
May 9, 2022

**ETH** zürich

AUTOMATIC  
CONTROL  
LABORATORY **ifa**

## Announcements

1. Homework 3 is due Friday (May 13th at 23:59)

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2. Project ideas should start being finalized

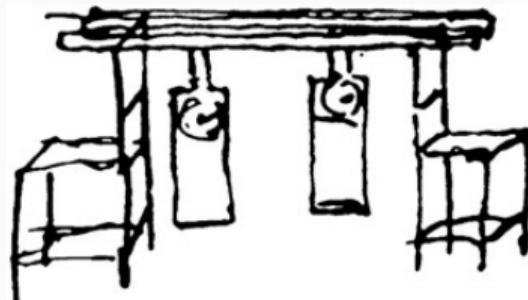
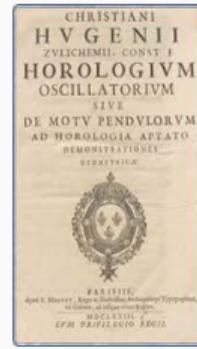
# A brief history of synchronization

Christiaan Huygens (1629 – 1695)

- physicist & mathematician
- engineer & horologist

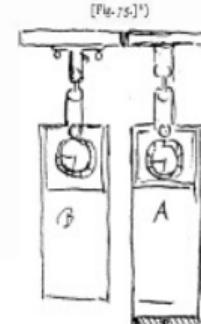
observed “*an odd kind of sympathy*” between coupled & heterogeneous clocks

[Letter to Royal Society of London, 1665]



Recent reviews, experiments, & analysis  
[M. Bennet et al. '02, M. Kapitaniak et al. '12]

huygens' V.<sup>o</sup>  
1665.



22 febr. 1665.

Diebus 4 aut 5 horologiorum duorum novorum in quibus catenulae [Fig. 75], mil-ram concordiam obseruavimus, ita ut se minimo quidem exœstu alterum ab altero superemere, sed conformati semper reciprocationes utrinque perpendiculari. unde cum parvo spacio inter se horologia dilabent, sympathia quendam <sup>2)</sup> quasi alterum ab altero afficeretur si pœciam coepit. ut experimentum caperem turbati aletus penduli redire ne simul incederent sed quadrante horæ post vel semihora rufias concordare invent.

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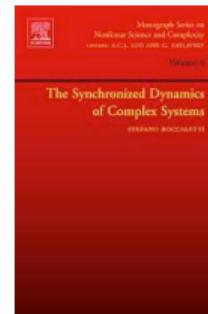
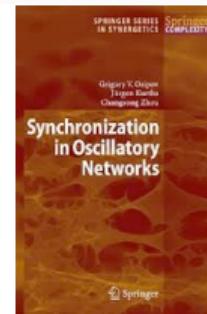
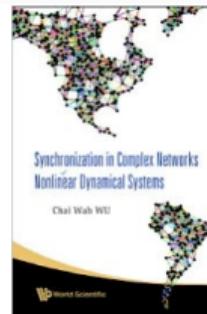
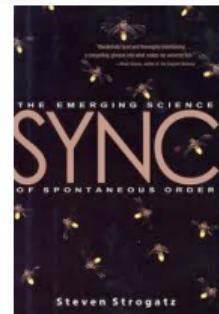
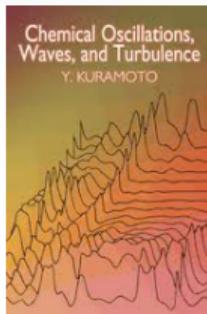
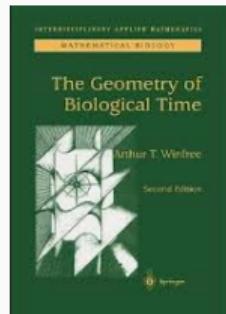
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Sync of 32 metronomes at Ikeguchi Laboratory, Saitama University, 2012

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5v5eBf2KwF8>

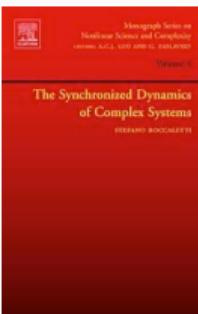
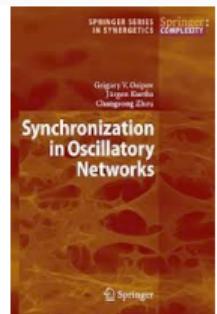
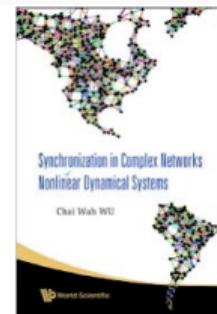
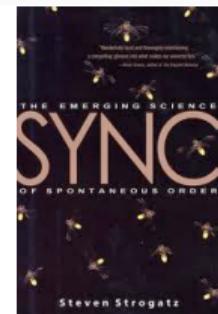
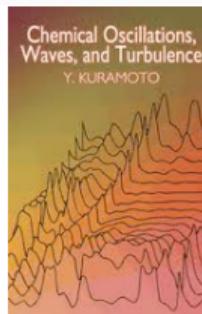
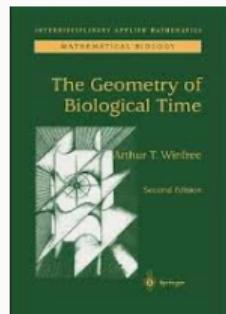
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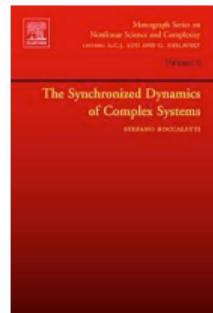
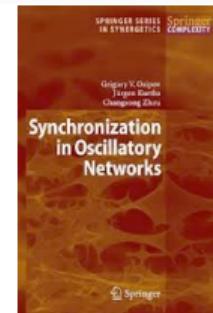
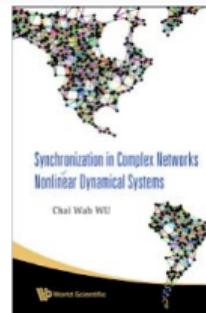
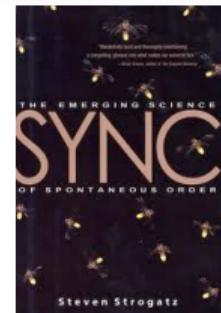
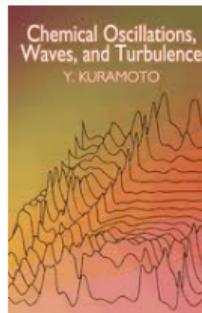
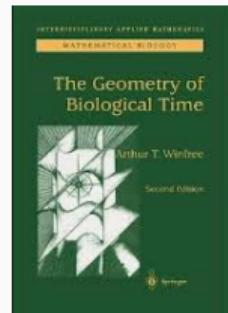
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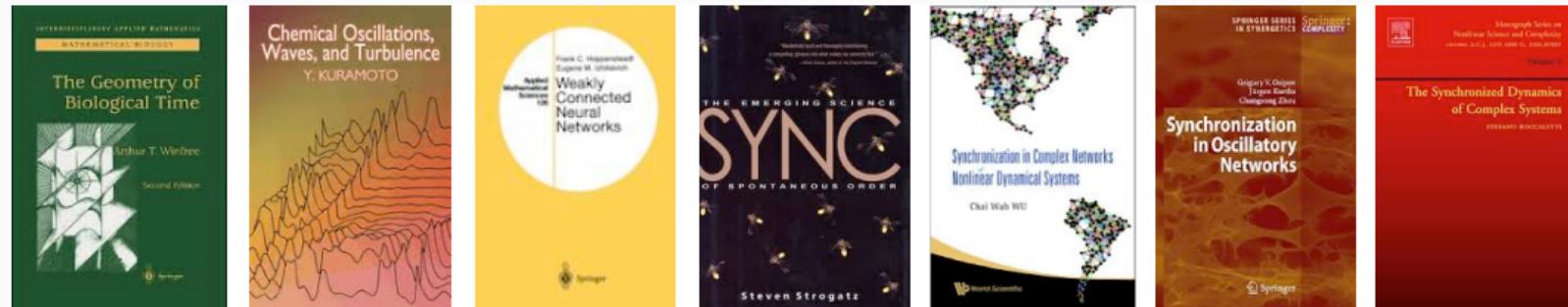
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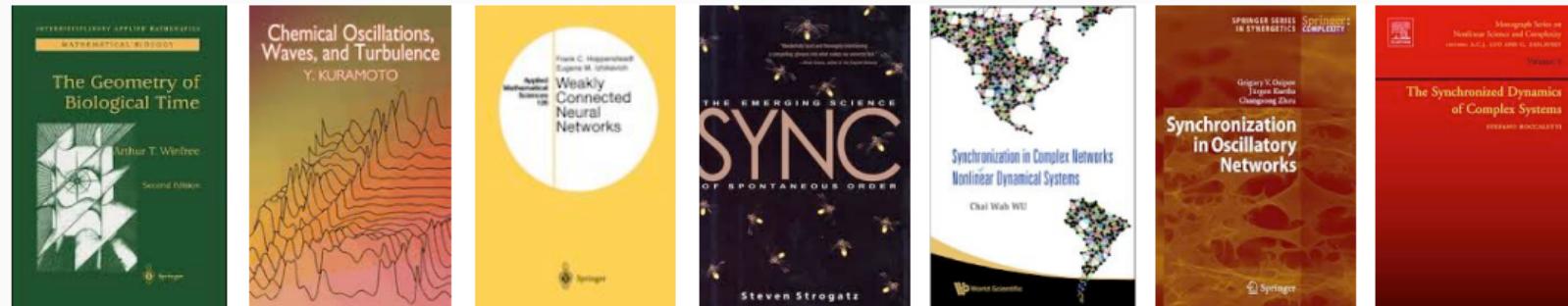
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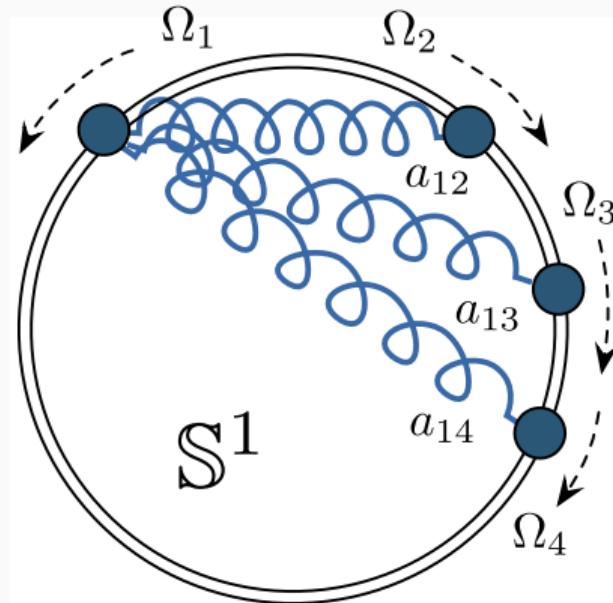
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- ...and countless technological applications (reviewed later)



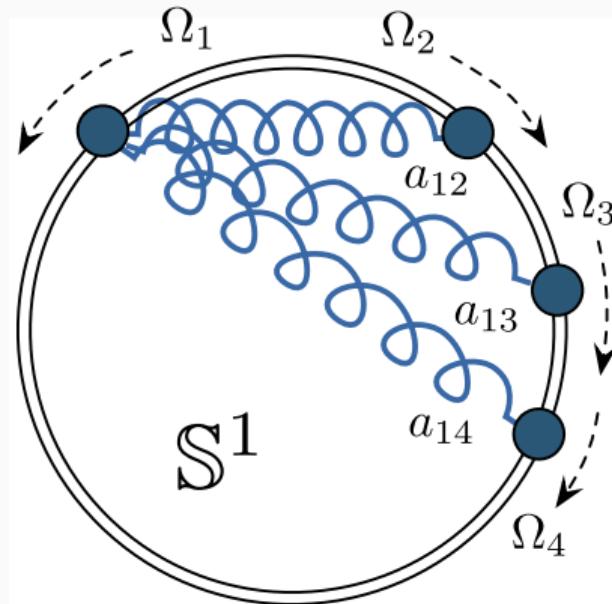
## Example 1: mechanical spring network

- phase angles  $\theta_i \in \mathbb{S}^1$



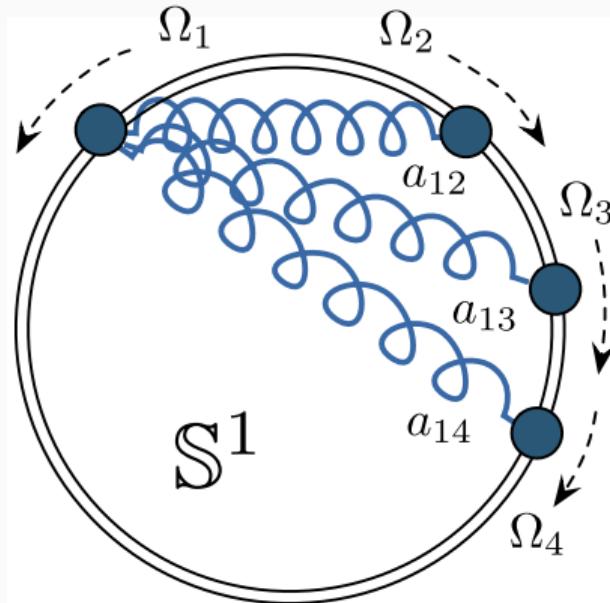
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- inertia constants  $M_i > 0$



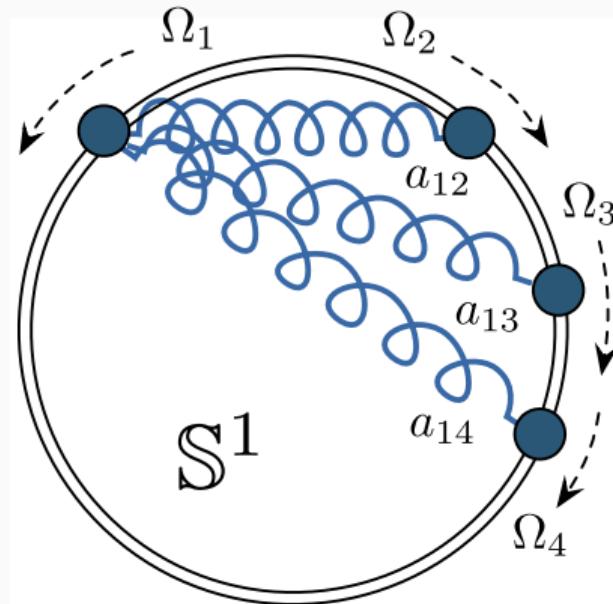
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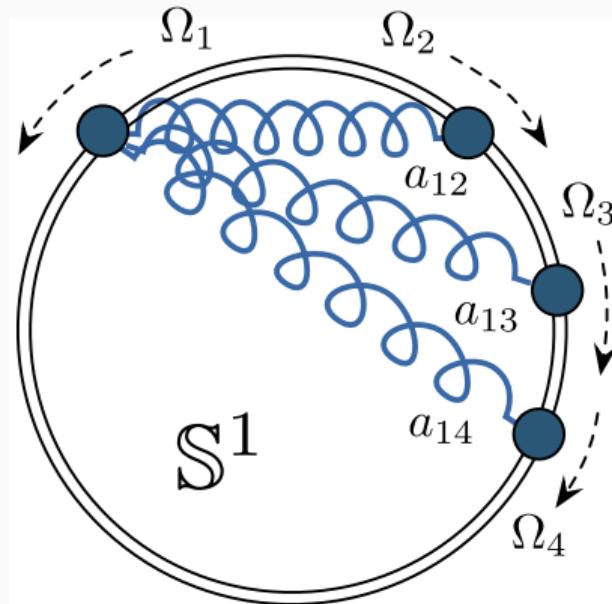
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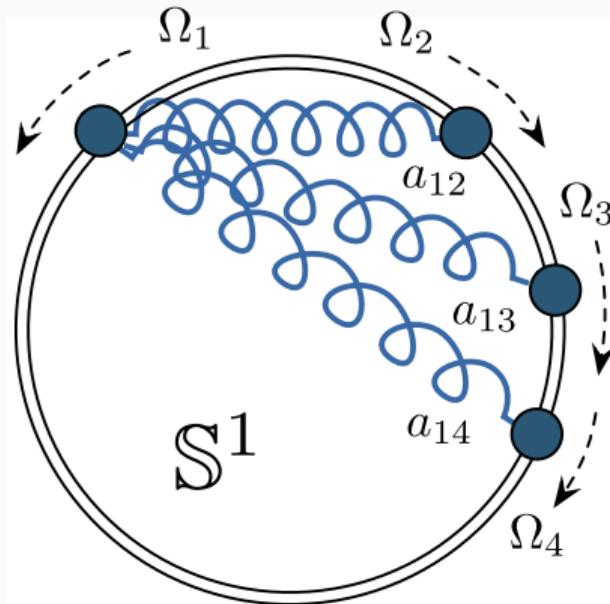
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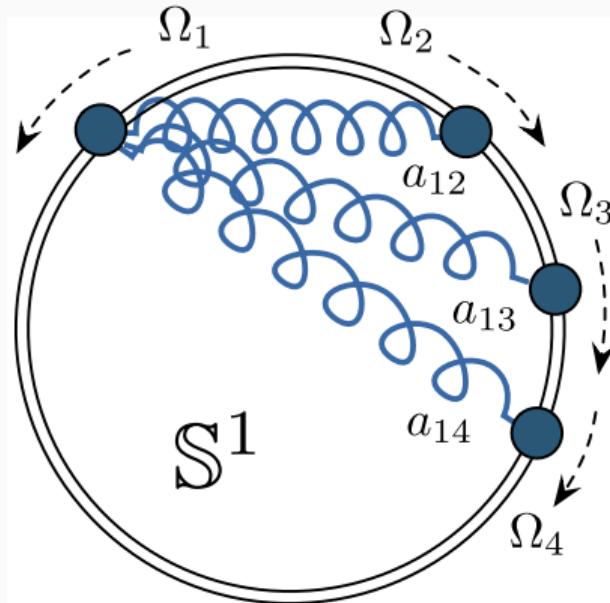
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- spring network potential energy  
$$U(\theta) = \sum_{\{i,j\} \in \mathcal{E}} a_{ij} (1 - \cos(\theta_i - \theta_j))$$



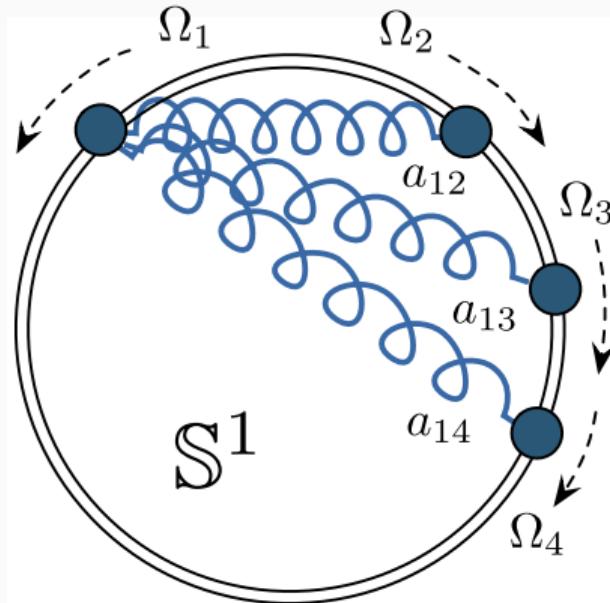
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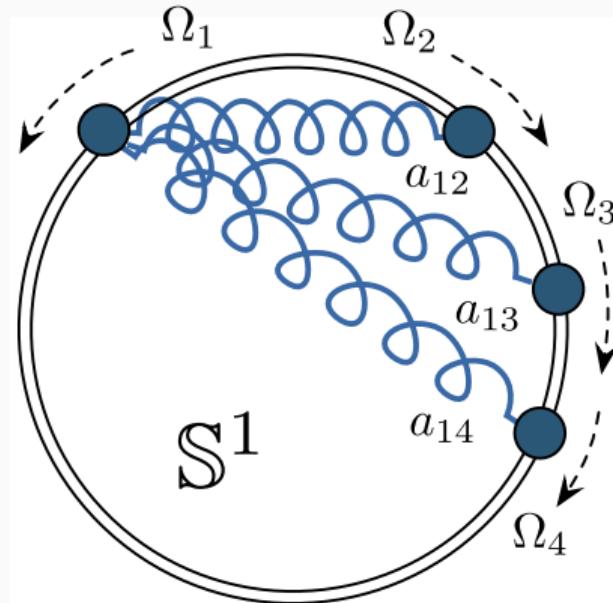
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Particle dynamics:

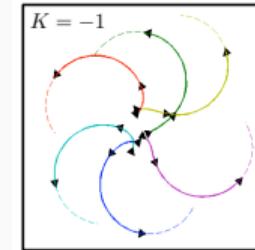
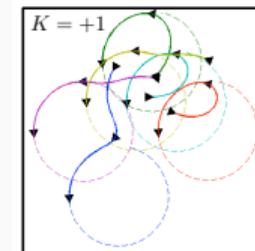
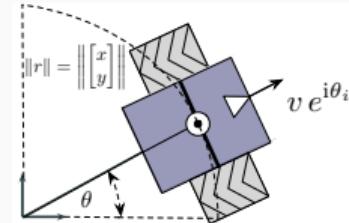
$$M_i \ddot{\theta}_i + D_i \dot{\theta}_i = \Omega_i - \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} \sin(\theta_i - \theta_j)$$

## Example 2: flocking, schooling, & vehicle coordination

- Network of Dubins' vehicles with speed  $v$  and steering control  $u_i(r, \theta)$

$$\dot{r}_i = v e^{i\theta_i}$$

$$\dot{\theta}_i = u_i(r, \theta)$$

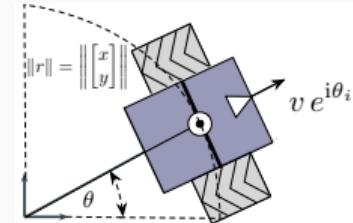


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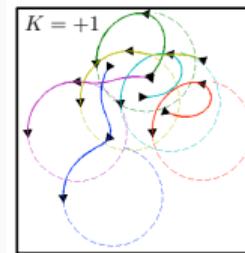
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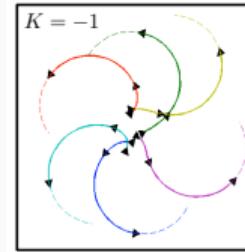
$$\dot{\theta}_i = u_i(r, \theta)$$



- sensing/comm. graph  $G = (\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{E}, A)$  for coordination of autonomous vehicles



"phase sync"



"phase balance"

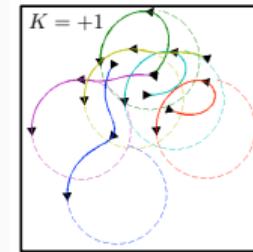
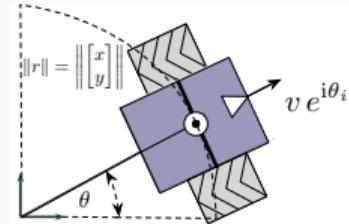
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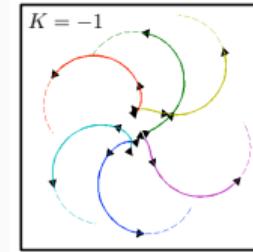
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- sensing/comm. graph  $G = (\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{E}, A)$  for coordination of autonomous vehicles
- relative sensing control*  $u_i = f_i(\theta_i - \theta_j)$  for neighbors  $\{i, j\} \in \mathcal{E}$  yields closed-loop



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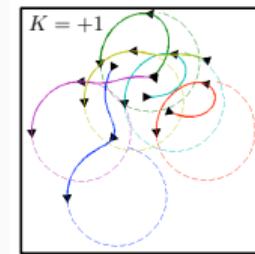
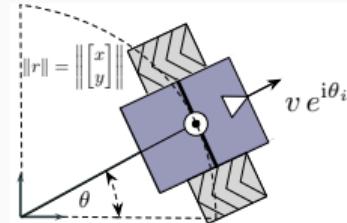
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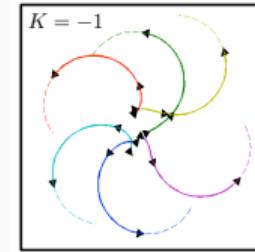
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$$\dot{\theta}_i = \omega_0(t) - K \cdot \sum_j a_{ij} \sin(\theta_i - \theta_j)$$

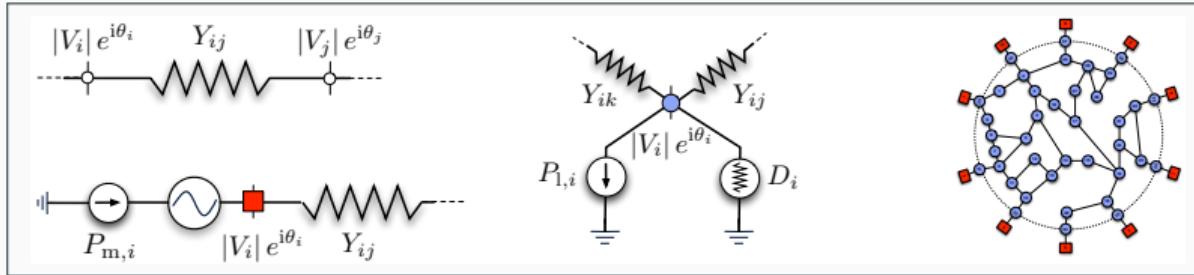


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## Example 3: AC power transmission network

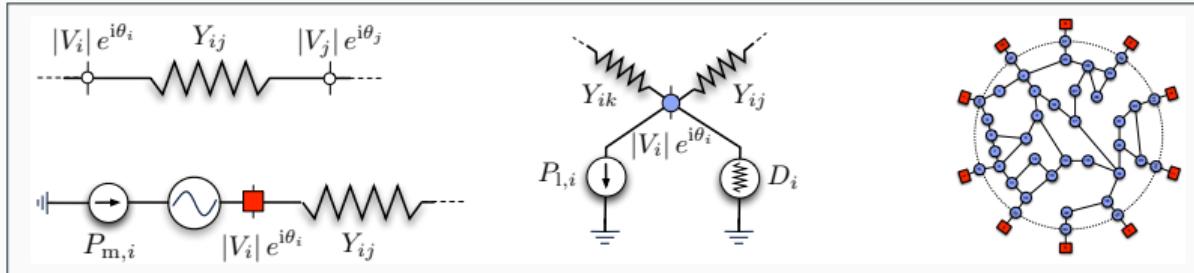


- power transfer on line  $i \rightsquigarrow j$ : 
$$\underbrace{|V_i||V_j||Y_{ij}|}_{a_{ij} = \text{max power transfer}} \cdot \sin(\theta_i - \theta_j)$$

■: swing eq with  $P_{m,i} > 0$        $M_i \ddot{\theta}_i + D_i \dot{\theta}_i = P_{m,i} - \sum_j a_{ij} \sin(\theta_i - \theta_j)$

●:  $P_{l,i} < 0$  and  $D_i \geq 0$        $D_i \dot{\theta}_i = P_{l,i} - \sum_j a_{ij} \sin(\theta_i - \theta_j)$

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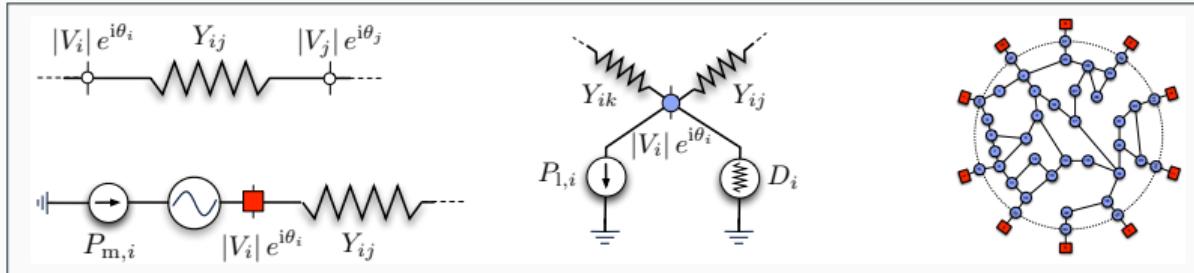
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- structure-preserving model [A. Bergen & D. Hill '81]:

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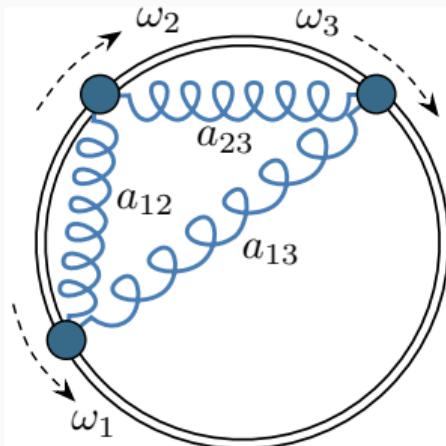
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coupled phase oscillators

# Canonical coupled phase oscillator model

Coupled oscillator model:

$$\dot{\theta}_i = \omega_i - \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} \sin(\theta_i - \theta_j)$$

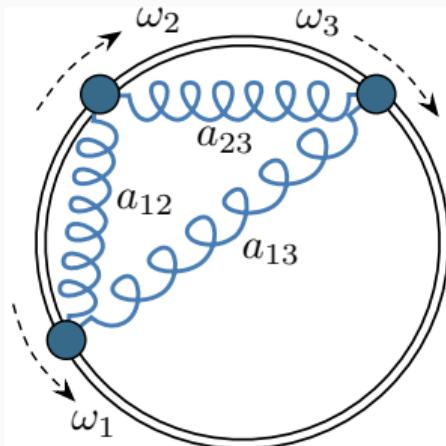


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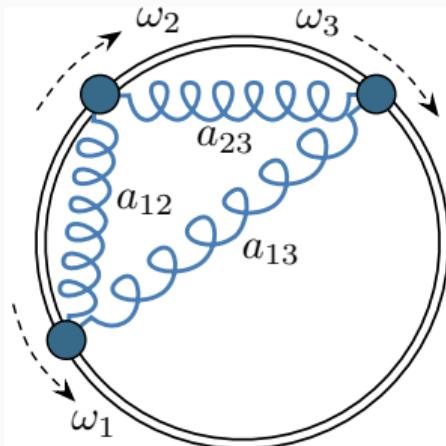


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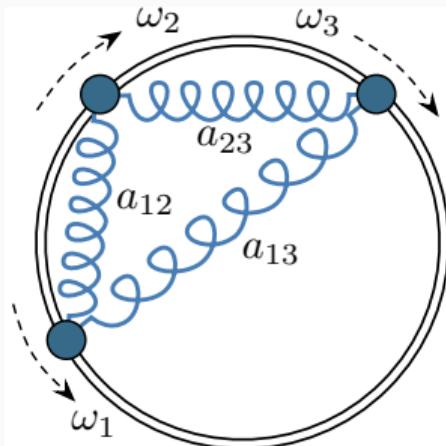


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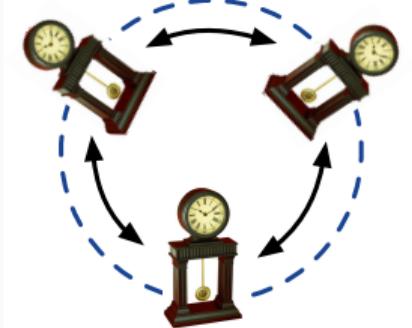


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- elastic coupling with strength  $a_{ij} = a_{ji}$
- undirected & connected graph  $G = (\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{E}, A)$

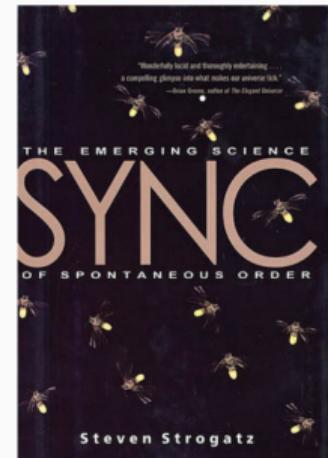
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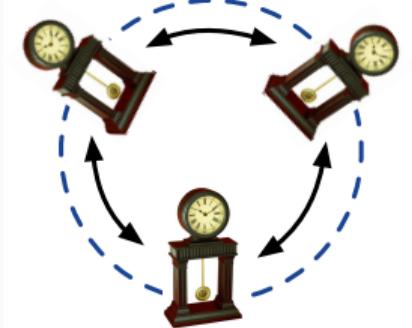
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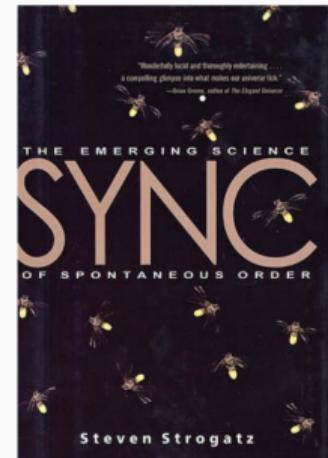
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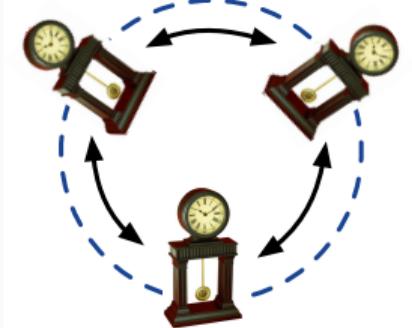
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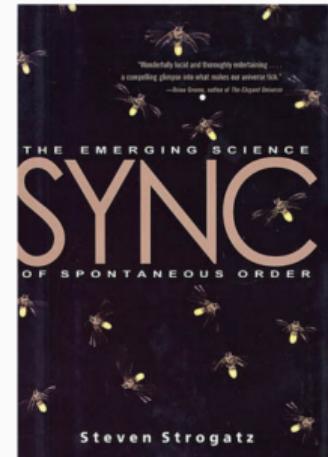
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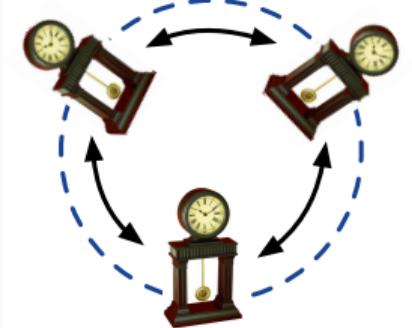
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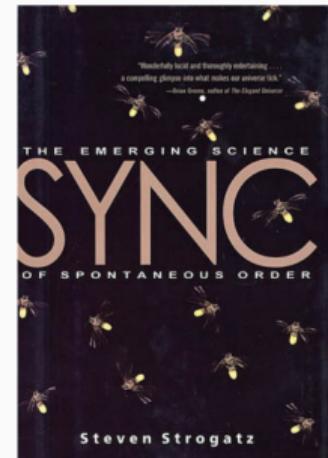
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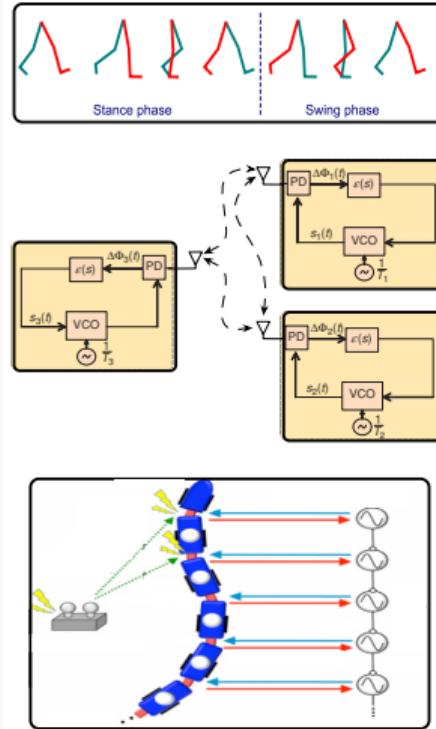


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- Countless other sync phenomena in physics, biology, chemistry, social networks etc.  
[A. Winfree '67, S.H. Strogatz '00, J. Acebrón '01, ...]



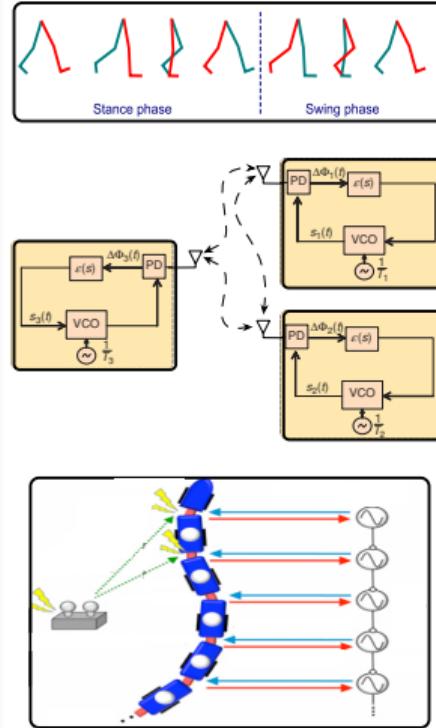
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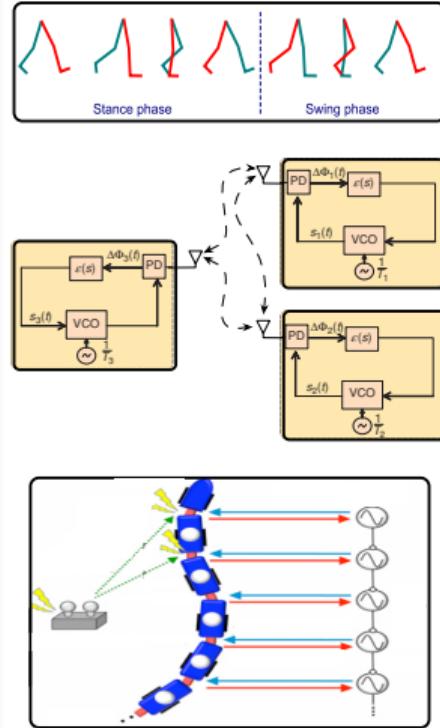
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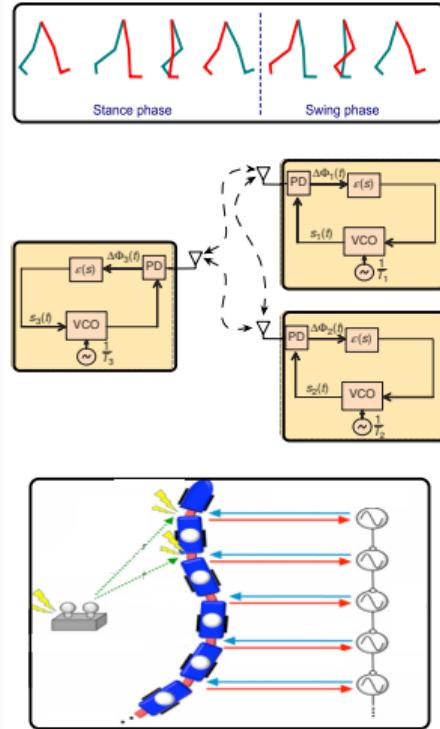
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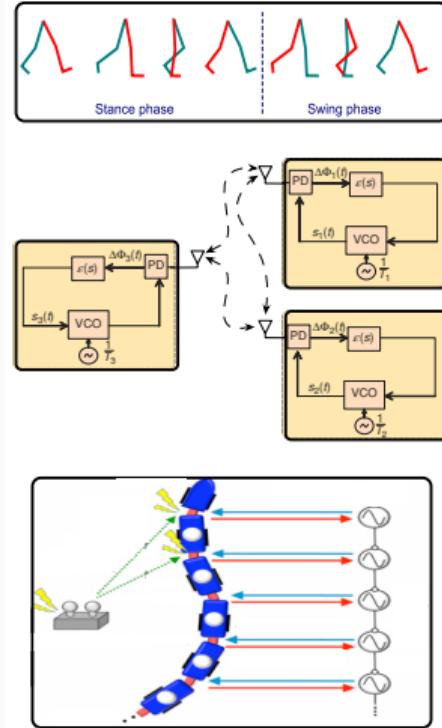
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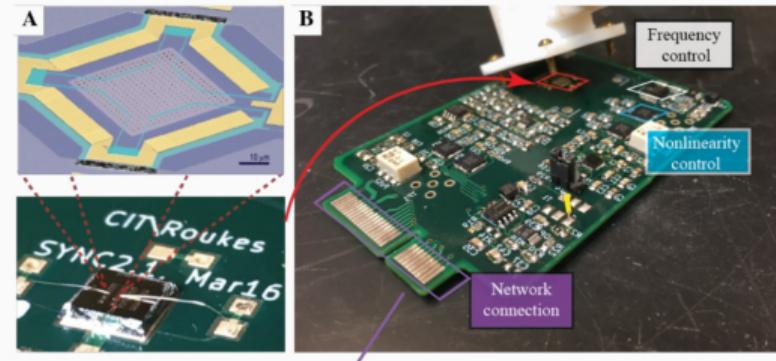
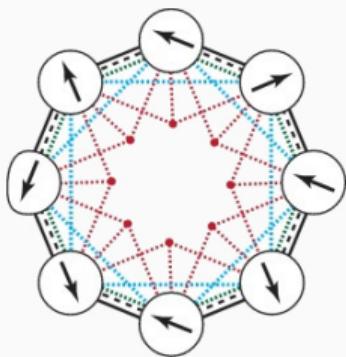
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## Science

### Exotic states in a simple network of nanoelectromechanical oscillators

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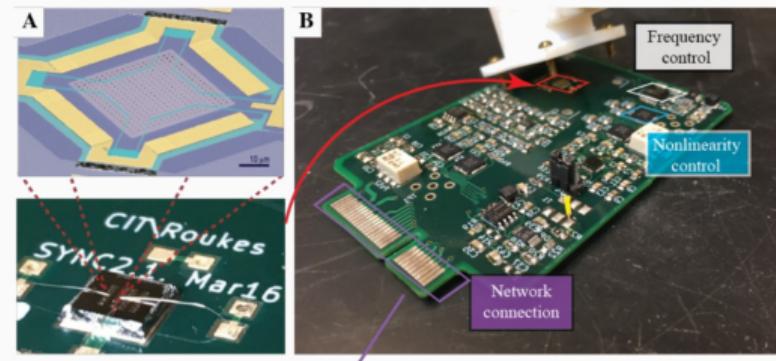
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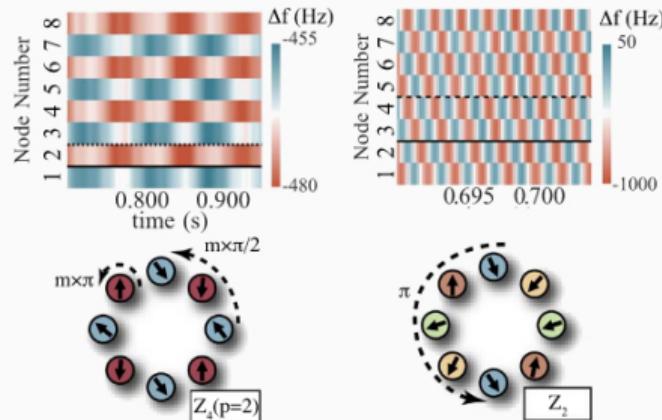
- Symmetries describe stable states



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Subgroup	Subspace dimension	Generators	Phase pattern
$D_8$	1	$\sigma, \kappa$	$\{a, a, a, a, a, a, a, a\}$
$D_8(+, -)$	1	$(\kappa, 1), (\kappa\sigma, -1)$	$\{a, -a, a, -a, a, -a, a, -a\}$
$Z_8(p), p \in 1, 2, 3$	1	$\sigma\omega^p$	$\{a, \omega^p a, \omega^{2p} a, \omega^{3p} a, \omega^{4p} a, \omega^{5p} a, \omega^{6p} a, \omega^{7p} a\}$
$D_4(+, -)$	1	$(\sigma\kappa, 1), (\kappa\sigma, -1)$	$\{a, a, -a, -a, a, a, -a, -a\}$
$D_4(\kappa)$	2	$\sigma^2 \kappa, \kappa$	$\{a, b, a, b, a, b, a, b\}$
$Z_4(p), p \in 1, 2$	2	$\sigma^2 \omega^{2p}$	$\{a, b, i^p a, i^{2p} a, i^{3p} a, i^{4p} b\}$
$D_2(\kappa)$	3	$\sigma^4 \kappa, \kappa$	$\{a, b, c, b, a, b, c, b\}$
$D_1(\kappa)$	5	$\kappa$	$\{a, b, c, d, e, d, c, b\}$
$D_2(\kappa\sigma)$	2	$\sigma^3 \kappa, \kappa\sigma$	$\{a, b, b, a, a, b, b, a\}$
$D_1(\kappa\sigma)$	4	$\sigma^3 \kappa, \kappa\sigma$	$\{a, b, c, d, d, c, b, a\}$
$D_2(-, -)$	2	$(\sigma^3 \kappa, -1), (\kappa\sigma, -1)$	$\{a, b, -b, -a, a, b, -b, -a\}$
$D_3(-, -)$	4	$(\sigma^7 \kappa, -1), (\kappa\sigma, -1)$	$\{a, b, c, d, -d, -c, -b, -a\}$
$D_2(+, -)$	2	$(\sigma^3 \kappa, 1), (\kappa\sigma, -1)$	$\{a, b, b, a, -a, -b, -b, -a\}$
$Z_2$	4	$\sigma^4$	$\{a, b, c, d, a, b, c, d\}$
$Z_2(p = 1)$	4	$\sigma^4 \omega^4$	$\{a, b, c, d, -a, -b, -c, -d\}$

# preliminaries

- **Parametrization:** we parametrize the *unit circle*  $\mathbb{S}^1$  by assuming
  - (i) angles are measured counterclockwise; and
  - (ii) angles take value in  $[-\pi, \pi]$ , and we associate  $+\pi$  and  $-\pi$ .

The  $n$ -torus is the cartesian product of  $n$  circles:  $\mathbb{T}^n = \mathbb{S}^1 \times \cdots \times \mathbb{S}^1$ .

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## Geometry of the circle $\mathbb{S}^1$ and the $n$ -torus $\mathbb{T}^n$

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- **Rigid rotation:** given the angle  $\alpha \in [-\pi, \pi]$ , the *rotation* of the  $n$ -tuple  $\theta = (\theta_1, \dots, \theta_n) \in \mathbb{T}^n$  by  $\alpha$ , denoted by  $\text{rot}_\alpha(\theta)$ , is the counterclockwise rotation of each entry  $(\theta_1, \dots, \theta_n)$  by  $\alpha$ .

## Order parameter (for homogenous coupling $a_{ij} = K/n$ )

Define the **order parameter** (centroid) by  $re^{i\psi} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n e^{i\theta_j}$

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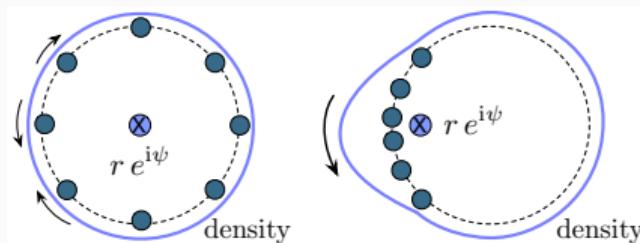
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**Intuition:** synchronization = entrainment by mean field  $re^{i\psi}$

$K$  small &  
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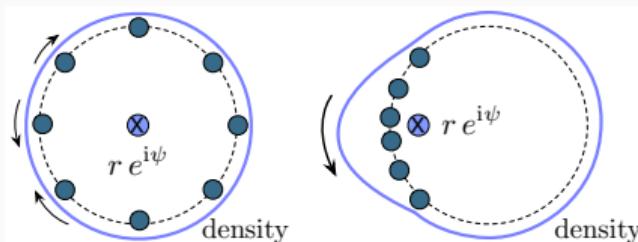
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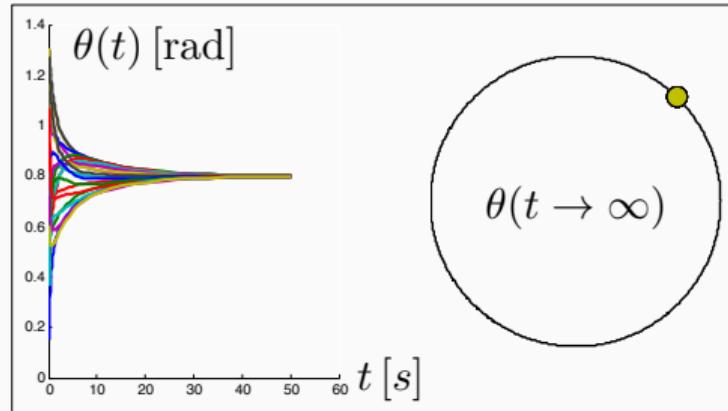


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**potential** formulation in terms of order-parameter:

$$U(\theta) = \frac{Kn}{2} (1 - r^2)$$

## Phase synchronization ( $r = 1$ )

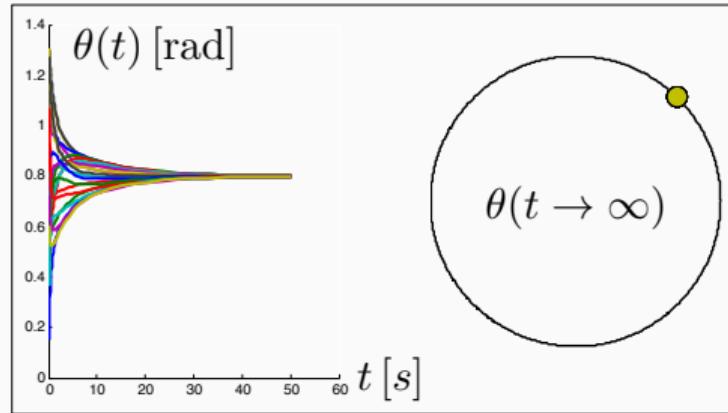


### Theorem

Consider the coupled oscillator model with identical natural frequencies and a connected, undirected, and weighted graph. Then

1. **global convergence:** the oscillators converge to the set of equilibria; &

## Phase synchronization ( $r = 1$ )

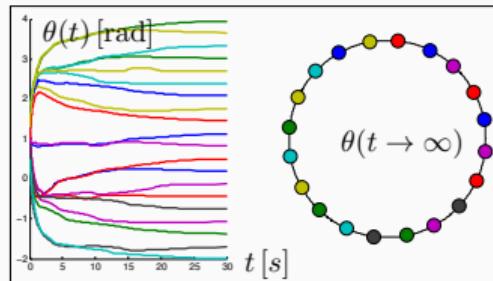
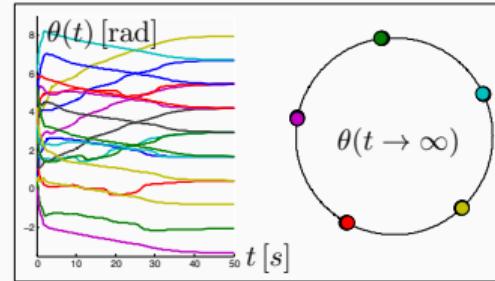
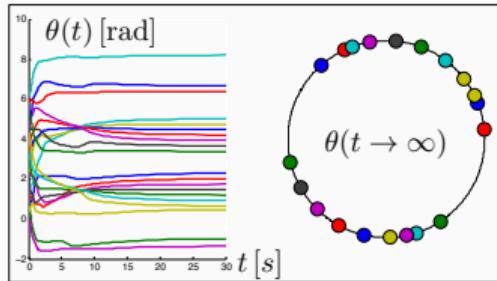


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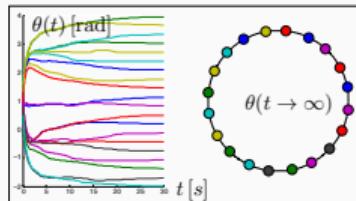
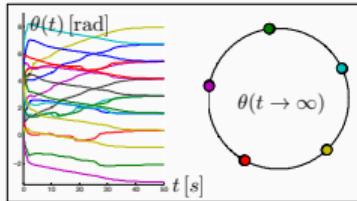
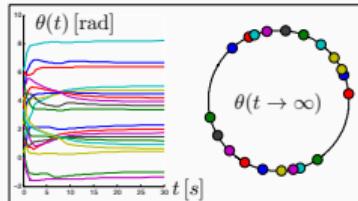
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1. **global convergence:** the oscillators converge to the set of equilibria; &
2. **local phase sync:** phase synchronization is a locally stable equilibrium.

# Phase balancing ( $r = 0$ )



# Phase balancing

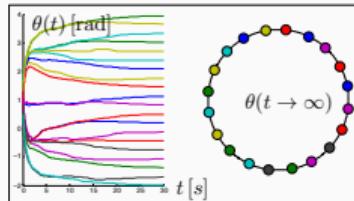
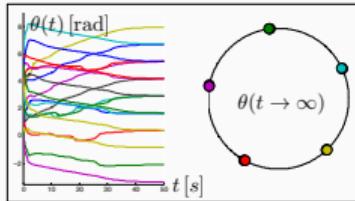
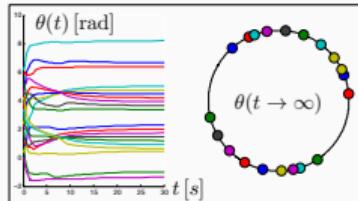


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# Phase balancing



## Theorem:

Consider the coupled oscillator model with identical natural frequencies and a connected, undirected, and weighted graph. Then

1. **global convergence:** the oscillators converge to the set of equilibria; &
2. **local phase balancing:** for a complete graph with homogeneous weights  $a_{ij} = K/n$ , phase balancing is locally asymptotically stable.

# formation control

part I: specifying formations

1. Today: Specifying formations & rigidity

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3. Next week: Control!

Princeton Series in APPLIED MATHEMATICS

# Graph Theoretic Methods in Multiagent Networks

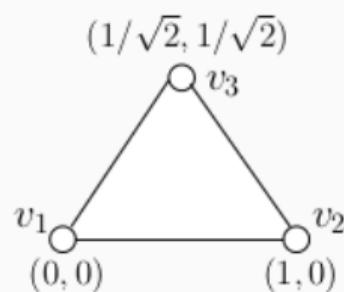


Mehran Mesbahi  
and Magnus Egerstedt

# Formation Specification: Shapes

## Desired Interagent distances

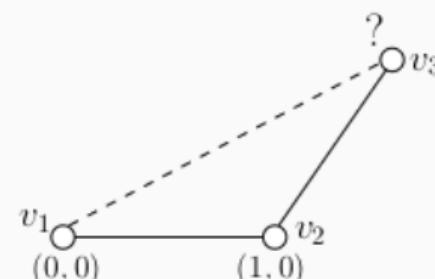
$$D = \{d_{ij} \in \mathbb{R} : d_{ij} > 0; i, j = 1, \dots, n, i \neq j\}$$



$$D = \{d_{12} = d_{13} = d_{23} = 1\}$$

(a) Feasible formation

$D$  must be **feasible**: there exist points  $\Xi := \{\xi_1, \dots, \xi_n \mid \xi_i \in \mathbb{R}^p\}$  such that  $\|\xi_i - \xi_j\| = d_{ij}$ ,



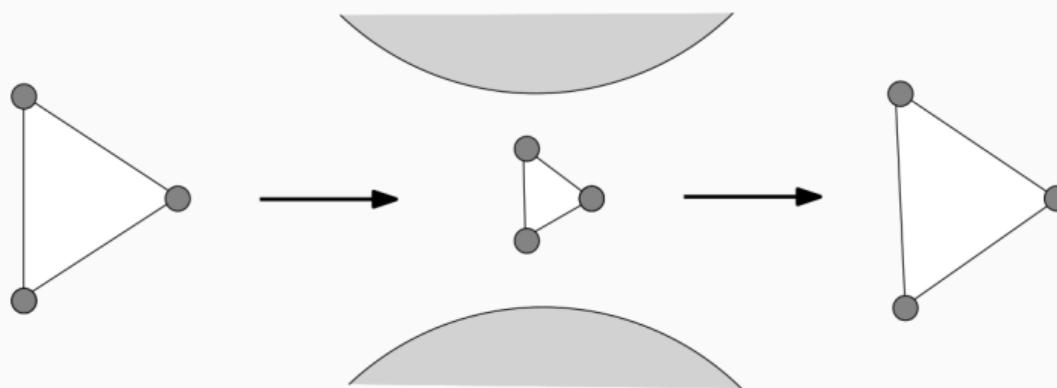
$$D = \{d_{12} = d_{23} = 1, d_{13} = 3\}$$

(b) Infeasible formation

## Formation Specification: Shapes

We refer to the **scale invariant** formation  $D$  as any set of distances  $D'$  such that  $D' = \alpha D$  for any  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}_+$ .

Used in 'cluttered' environments where strict interagent distances are not required.



## Formation Specification: Shapes

Interagent distances

$$D = \{d_{ij} = d_{ji} \geq 0, i, j = 1, \dots, n, i \neq j\}$$

<u>formation</u>	<u>specification</u>	<u>interpretation</u>
scale invariant	$D$	$\ x_i - x_j\  = \alpha d_{ij}$ for some $\alpha > 0$
rigid	$D$	$\ x_i - x_j\  = d_{ij}$
translational invariant	$\Xi$	$x_i = \xi_i + \tau$ for some $\tau \in \mathbf{R}^p$

# formation control

part II: rigidity

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where

- $\mathcal{V}$  is a set of vertices, denoting agents

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- is called **edge consistent** if  $\|x_i(t) - x_j(t)\|$  is constant for all  $ij \in \mathcal{E}, t \in \mathbb{R}_+$ , or

Define a **formation graph** as  $\mathcal{G}_f = (\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{E}, w)$ , where

- $\mathcal{V}$  is a set of vertices, denoting agents
- $\mathcal{E}$  is a set of edges, denoting interagent connections
- $w : \mathcal{E} \mapsto \mathbb{R}_+$  associates a **feasible** desired interagent distance to each edge

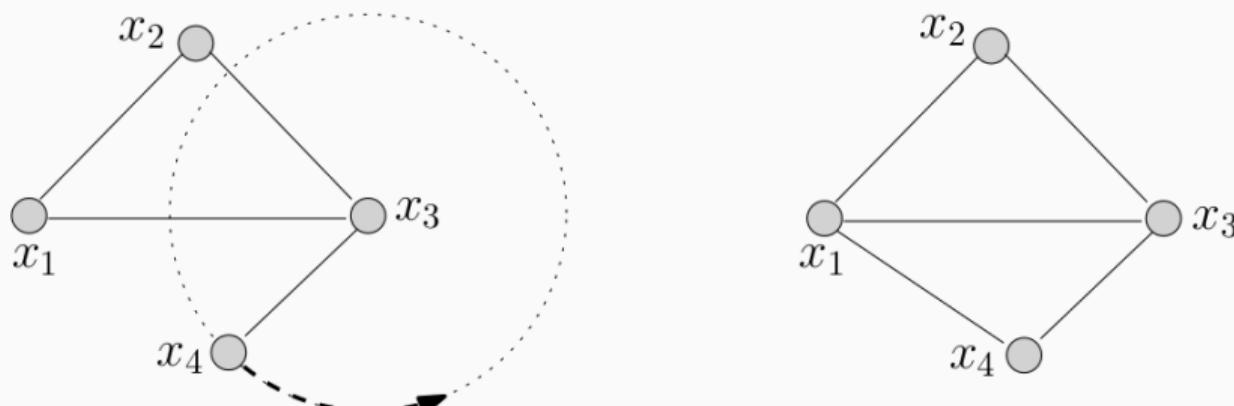
Given a feasible  $\Xi$ , define:

- A **framework**:  $(\Xi, \mathcal{G}_f)$
- A **framework trajectory** as a set of states  $x_1(t), \dots, x_n(t)$  such that  $x_i(0) = \xi_i$ , which...
- is called **edge consistent** if  $\|x_i(t) - x_j(t)\|$  is constant for all  $ij \in \mathcal{E}, t \in \mathbb{R}_+$ , or
- **rigid**, if  $\|x_i(t) - x_j(t)\|$  is constant for all  $i \neq j$ .

## Definition

A framework  $(\Xi, \mathcal{G}_f)$  is called **rigid** if and only if all edge-consistent trajectories of the framework are rigid trajectories.

Otherwise, the framework is called flexible.



**Left:** Flexible framework with edge-consistent trajectories.

**Right:** Rigid framework

# Rigidity

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$$(\dot{x}_i(t) - \dot{x}_j(t))^T (x_i(t) - x_j(t)) = 0 \text{ for all } ij \in \mathcal{E} \quad (1)$$

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- Denote the velocities  $\dot{x}_i =: u_i$  satisfying (1) as an **infinitesimal motion**

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Let

$$u = \begin{bmatrix} u_1 \\ \vdots \\ u_n \end{bmatrix}$$

be an infinitesimal motion applied at the points  $\Xi := \{\xi_1, \dots, \xi_n\}$ .

We can write (1) in matrix form as,

$$R(\mathcal{G}(\Xi))u = 0,$$

where  $R(\mathcal{G}(\Xi))$  is known as the **rigidity matrix**

## Definition

A framework  $\mathcal{G}(\Xi)$  is infinitesimally rigid if  
 $R(\mathcal{G}(\Xi))u = 0$

Some properties of  $R(\mathcal{G}(\Xi))$ :

- Has  $|\mathcal{E}|$  rows
- Has  $pn$  columns ( $p$  is the state dimension)
- Is an algebraic representation of a graph plus the points  $\Xi$

We want something that just depends on the graph

## Theorem – Planar Case

A framework with  $n \geq 2$  points in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  is infinitesimally rigid if and only if  $\text{rank}[R(\mathcal{G}(\Xi))] = 2n - 3$

## Theorem

Infinitesimal rigidity implies rigidity

We now have an algebraic characterization of rigidity

## Definition

A graph is **rigid** if there exists  $\Xi$  such that  $\mathcal{G}(\Xi)$  is infinitesimally rigid

## Theorem

If  $\mathcal{G}$  is rigid, then the set of all  $\Xi$  such that  $\mathcal{G}(\Xi)$  is infinitesimally rigid is a dense, open subset of  $\mathbb{R}^{pn}$ .

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## Theorem

If  $\mathcal{G}$  is rigid, then the set of all  $\Xi$  such that  $\mathcal{G}(\Xi)$  is infinitesimally rigid is a dense, open subset of  $\mathbb{R}^{pn}$ .

1. Rigid graphs have a lot of feasible configurations!
2. Feasible configurations can be approximated arbitrarily well (remember what dense + open means)

## 1. Synchronization and applications

1. Synchronization and applications
2. Rigidity of graphs

## Announcements

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1. Synchronization and applications
2. Rigidity of graphs
3. Next time: Formation specification via relative states & control