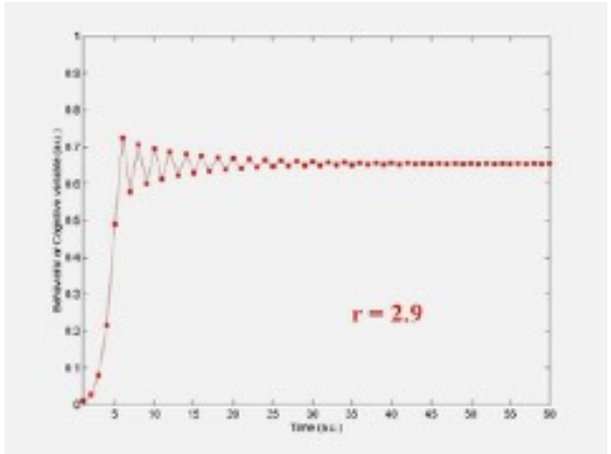
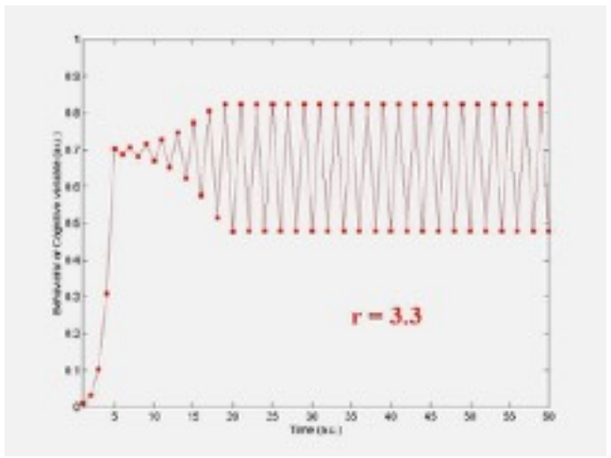
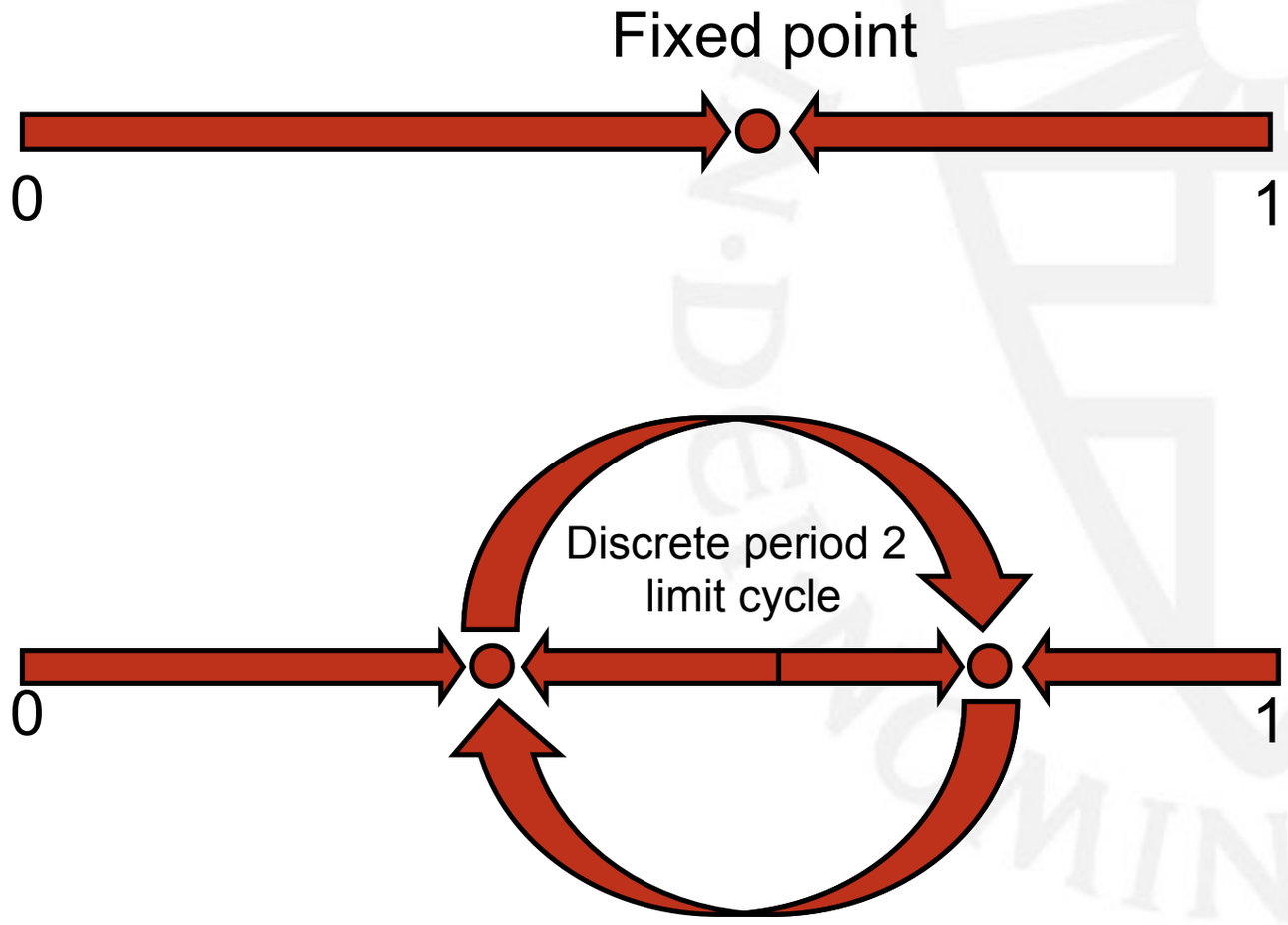
End states are attractors in state space: Attractor types

State Space is an abstract space used to represent the behaviour of a system. Its dimensions are the variables of the system. Thus a point in the phase space defines a potential state of the system. The points actually achieved by a system depend on its iterative function and initial condition (starting point).







State space, Attractor types

"Saturn" attractor

Strange attractors are quasi periodic and bounded

Bottom line:

An attractor means a limited region of state space is visited.
Not all DF actually available to the system are used.

http://www.da4ga.nl/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/PastedGraphic-2-1.jpg