Chemotactic Chiral Active Matter

Yichen Lu

March 6, 2025

Contents

1	Models	2
	1.1 Definitions	2
	1.1.1 Self-propelled dynamics	2
	1.1.2 Polar alignment dynamics	2
	1.1.3 Chemotactic dynamics	2
	1.1.4 Mixed phase dynamics	3
	1.1.5 General Chemotactic Model For Two Species	3
	1.1.6 Chemotactic Model with Lotka-Volterra Functions	3
2	Behaviors	3
3	Continuum model	5

1 Models

1.1 Definitions

1.1.1 Self-propelled dynamics

$$\dot{x}_i = v \cos \theta_i \,\,, \tag{1a}$$

$$\dot{y}_i = v \sin \theta_i \,, \tag{1b}$$

1.1.2 Polar alignment dynamics

• Additive coupling:

$$\dot{\theta}_i = \omega_i + K \sum_{j=1}^{N} f(r_{ij}) \sin(\theta_j - \theta_i + \alpha) , \qquad (2)$$

• Mean-field coupling by oscillator number:

$$\dot{\theta}_i = \omega_i + \frac{K}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} f(r_{ij}) \sin(\theta_j - \theta_i + \alpha) , \qquad (3)$$

which is similar to the swarmalator model.

Here, $f(r_{ij})$ is a function of $r = |\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_j|$, and K is the coupling strength. The function f(r) can be defined as

1.
$$f_H(r) = H(d_0 - r), r_0 > 0$$
;

2.
$$f_E(r) = e^{-\frac{r}{d_0}}, r_0 > 0.$$

The natural frequencies ω_i are distributed with following two cases:

- 1. Single-chiral swarmalators: The natural frequencies ω_i are distributed in $U(\omega_{\min}, \omega_{\max})$ for all swarmalators and $\omega_{\min}\omega_{\max} > 0$.
- 2. **Double-chiral swarmalators:** The frequencies are distributed in two symmetric uniform distributions, representing two types of chirality. Exactly half of the swarmalators have natural frequencies $\omega_i \sim U\left(\omega_{\min}, \omega_{\max}\right)$ and the other half have natural frequencies $\omega_i \sim U\left(-\omega_{\max}, -\omega_{\min}\right)$.

1.1.3 Chemotactic dynamics

Consider two chemical fields $u(\mathbf{r},t)$, $v(\mathbf{r},t)$ that are produced by the ensemble of two symmetrically chiral swarmalators. Swarmalators interact with the chemical field and move towards/against the regions with higher concentration, which can be described by the following equation $(i=1,2,\ldots,N)$:

$$\dot{\mathbf{r}}_{i}^{s} = v\mathbf{p}\left(\theta_{i}^{s}\right) \tag{4a}$$

$$\dot{\theta}_i^s = \omega_i^s + \alpha^s \mathbf{p}_i^s \times \nabla u + \beta^s \mathbf{p}_i^s \times \nabla v \tag{4b}$$

where α , β_i^s denote the 'chemotactic' coupling strength and $\mathbf{p}(\theta) = (\cos \theta, \sin \theta)$ is the unit vector pointing in the direction of the *i*-th swarmalator, $s \in \{p, n\}$ denotes the two chiral species. Here, we used the notation $\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b} = a_1b_2 - a_2b_1$.

These two fields evolve as

$$\dot{u} = k_0 \sum_{j=1}^{N} \delta\left(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_j^p\right) - k_d u + D_u \nabla^2 u , \qquad (5a)$$

$$\dot{v} = k_0 \sum_{j=1}^{N} \delta\left(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_j^n\right) - k_d v + D_v \nabla^2 v , \qquad (5b)$$

where S_+ and S_- are the sets of two chiral swarmalators, k_0 is the production rate, k_d is the decay rate, $D_{u,v}$ are the diffusion coefficients.

1.1.4 Mixed phase dynamics

$$\dot{\mathbf{r}}_i = v\mathbf{p}_i \tag{6a}$$

$$\dot{\theta}_{i} = \omega_{i} + \beta_{i}^{u} \mathbf{p}_{i} \times \nabla u + \beta_{i}^{v} \mathbf{p}_{i} \times \nabla v + \frac{K}{N} \sum_{j=1}^{N} f(|\mathbf{r}_{j} - \mathbf{r}_{i}|) \sin(\theta_{j} - \theta_{i}) , \qquad (6b)$$

1.1.5 General Chemotactic Model For Two Species

Type 1:

$$\dot{\mathbf{r}}_{i}^{1,2} = v\mathbf{p}\left(\theta_{i}^{1,2}\right) - \sum_{j \in A_{i}^{1,2}} \mathbf{I}_{ij}^{1,2} , \qquad (7a)$$

$$\dot{\theta}_{i}^{1,2} = |\nabla c_{1,2}| \sin\left(\varphi_{c_{1,2}} - \theta_{i}^{1,2}\right) + F(\theta, \mathbf{r}) , \qquad (7b)$$

$$\dot{c}_1 = D_1 \nabla^2 c_1 + F_1(c_1, c_2) \sum_{j=1}^N \delta(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_j^1) , \qquad (7c)$$

$$\dot{c}_2 = D_2 \nabla^2 c_2 + F_2(c_1, c_2) \sum_{j=1}^{N} \delta(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_j^2) , \qquad (7d)$$

where $\mathbf{I}_{ij}^{1,2} = \frac{\mathbf{r}_j - \mathbf{r}_i^{1,2}}{|\mathbf{r}_j - \mathbf{r}_i^{1,2}|^2}$, $\varphi_{c_{1,2}} = \arctan\left(\frac{\partial_y c_{1,2}}{\partial_x c_{1,2}}\right)$ and $A_i^{1,2} = \left\{j \mid r_c \geqslant |\mathbf{r}_j - \mathbf{r}_i^{1,2}|\right\}$. Type 2:

$$\dot{\mathbf{r}}_{i}^{1,2} = v\mathbf{p}\left(\theta_{i}^{1,2}\right) + \alpha_{1,2}\nabla c_{1,2} - \sum_{j \in A_{i}^{1,2}} \mathbf{I}_{ij}^{1,2} , \qquad (8a)$$

$$\dot{\theta}_i^{1,2} = F(\theta, \mathbf{r}) , \qquad (8b)$$

$$\dot{c}_1 = D_1 \nabla^2 c_1 + F_1 \left(c_1, c_2 \right) \sum_{j=1}^N \delta \left(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_j^1 \right) , \qquad (8c)$$

$$\dot{c}_2 = D_2 \nabla^2 c_2 + F_2 (c_1, c_2) \sum_{j=1}^N \delta \left(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_j^2 \right) , \qquad (8d)$$

1.1.6 Chemotactic Model with Lotka-Volterra Functions

Let $F_1(c_1, c_2) = c_1(k_1 - k_2c_2)$ and $F_2(c_1, c_2) = c_2(k_3c_1 - k_4)$, where k_1, k_2, k_3, k_4 are constants.

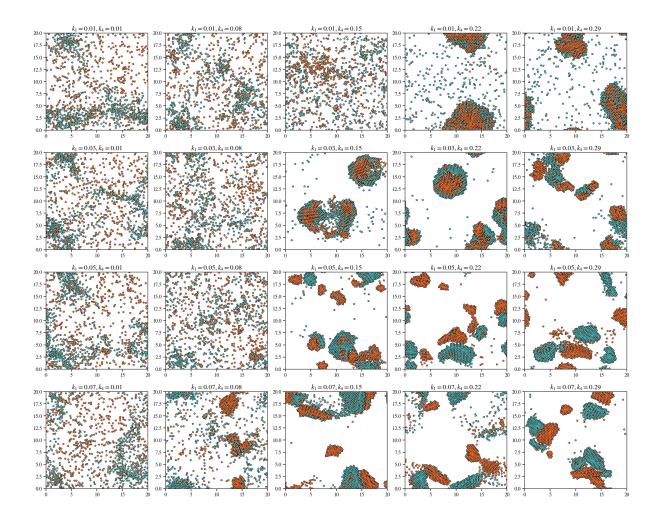
$$\dot{\mathbf{r}}_{i}^{1,2} = v\mathbf{p}\left(\theta_{i}^{1,2}\right) - \sum_{j \in A_{i}^{1,2}} \mathbf{I}_{ij}^{1,2} , \qquad (9a)$$

$$\dot{\theta}_i^{1,2} = |\nabla c_{1,2}| \sin\left(\varphi_{c_{1,2}} - \theta_i^{1,2}\right) + F\left(\theta, \mathbf{r}\right) , \qquad (9b)$$

$$\dot{c}_1 = D_1 \nabla^2 c_1 + c_1 \left(k_1 - k_2 c_2 \right) \sum_{j=1}^N \delta \left(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_j^1 \right) , \qquad (9c)$$

$$\dot{c}_2 = D_2 \nabla^2 c_2 + c_2 \left(k_3 c_1 - k_4 \right) \sum_{i=1}^N \delta \left(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_j^2 \right) , \qquad (9d)$$

2 Behaviors



3 Continuum model

The continuum model can be derived from a Boltzmann-like approach for the probability density $P(\mathbf{r}, \theta, t)$ of finding a particle at position \mathbf{r} with orientation θ at time t.