

# Modelling Complex Systems

## Self-propelled particles I

This lecture is adapted from Vicsek, T. & Zafeiris, A. (2012)  
Collective Motion. And slides of David Sumpter

See: arXiv:1010.5017v2





## **Why do animals move together?**

- Increased accuracy (many estimates)
- Increased awareness (many eyes)
- Confuse predators and reduce encounters

## **How do animals move together?**

- Group formation usually seems to be *spontaneous*.
- Based on local interactions
- Phenomenological models
- Can ignore 'first principles' physics!  
e.g. Conservation of momentum
- Use biological principles and limits instead.

# Random walk in one dimension

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \text{future position} \quad \text{current position} \quad \text{current velocity} \\
 x_i(t+1) &= x_i(t) + v_0 u_i(t) \\
 u_i(t+1) &= a u_i(t) + e_i(t)
 \end{aligned}$$

$e_i(t)$  is a random number selected uniformly at random from a range  $[-\eta/2, \eta/2]$

# Attraction in one dimension

- Run 'Aggregate1D'

$$x_i(t+1) = x_i(t) + v_0 u_i(t)$$
$$u_i(t+1) = a u_i(t) + (1-a) s_i(t) + e_i(t)$$

future position      current position      current velocity

future velocity      current velocity      stochastic effect

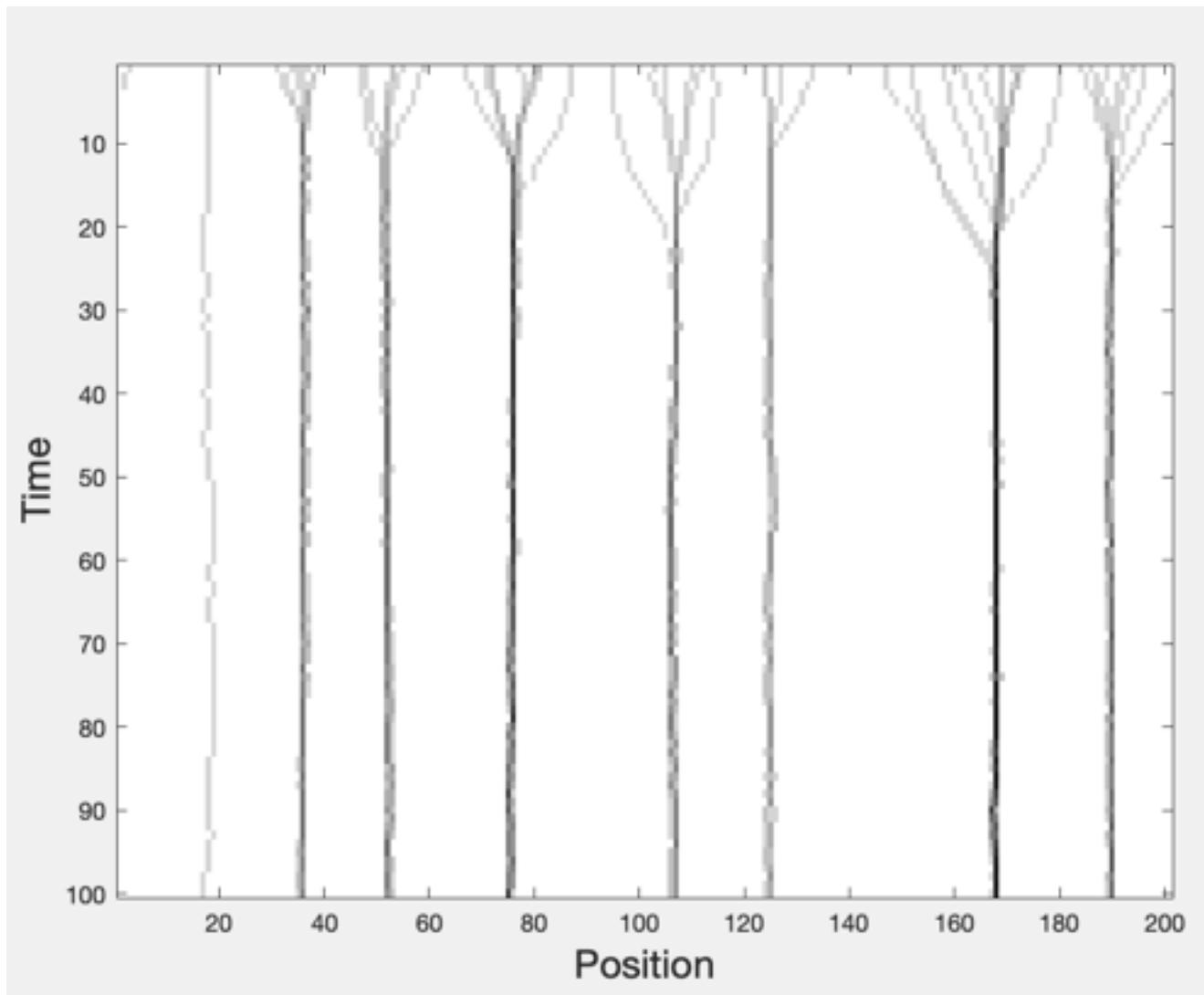
Direction to most neighbours

$$s_i(t) = \frac{1}{|R_i|} \sum_{j \in R_i} \text{sign}(x_i(t) - x_j(t))$$

$e_i(t)$  is a random number selected uniformly at random from a range  $[-\eta/2, \eta/2]$

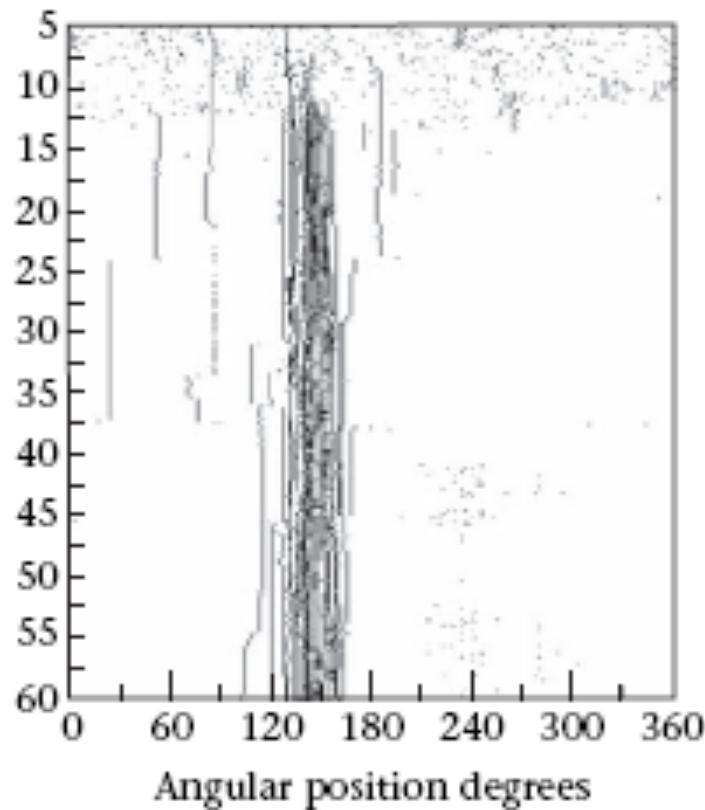
# Attraction in one dimension

- Run 'Aggregate1D'

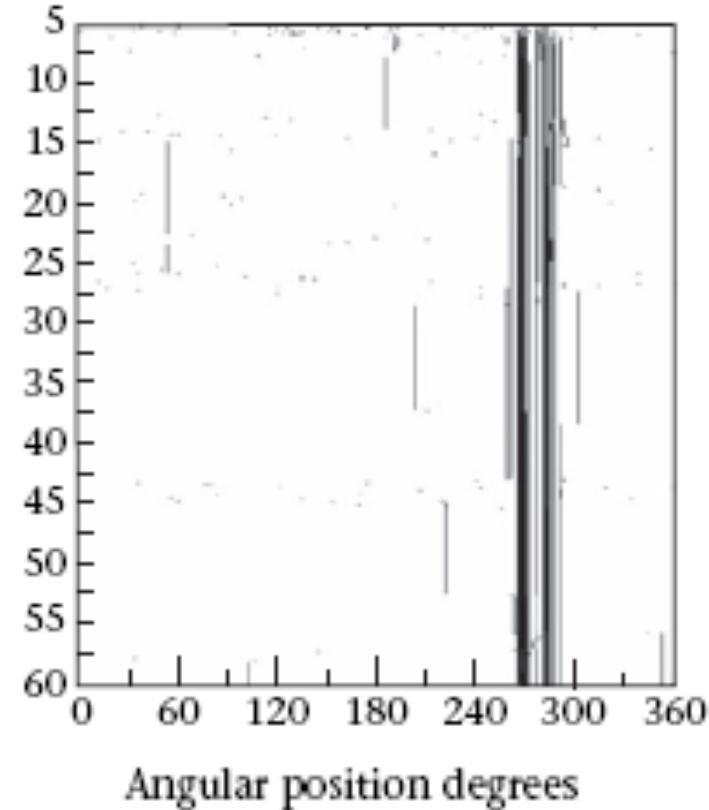


# Cockroach aggregation

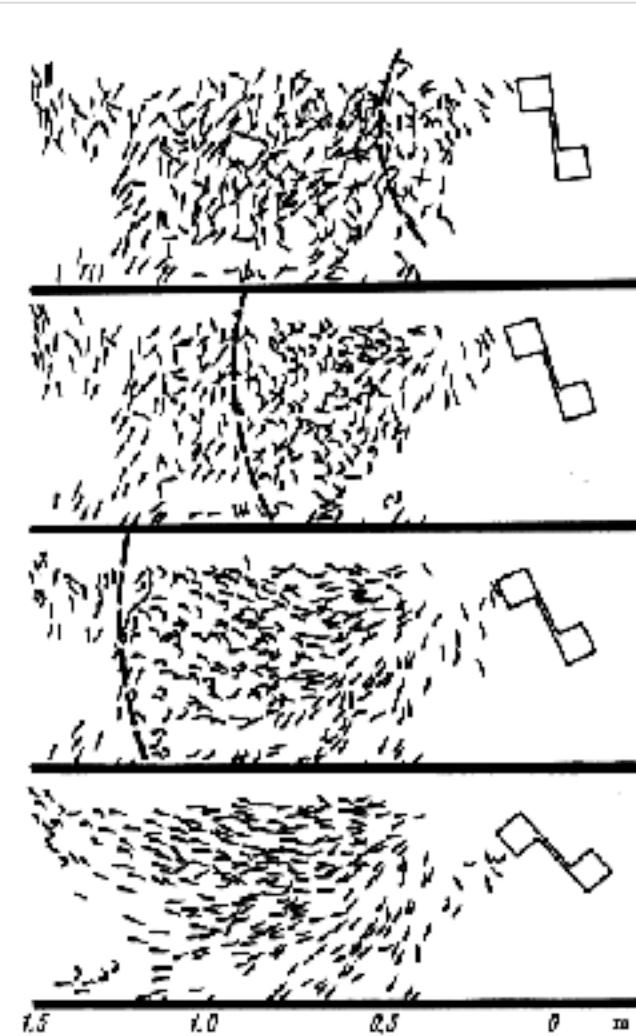
Cockroaches



Model



# Radakov's fish



# Alignment model in one dimension

- Run 'Align1D'

$$\begin{aligned} \text{future position} & \rightarrow x_i(t+1) = x_i(t) + v_0 u_i(t) \\ \text{future velocity} & \nearrow \\ u_i(t+1) &= au_i(t) + (1-a) s_i(t) + e_i(t) \\ \text{current position} & \downarrow \\ \text{current velocity} & \nearrow \\ \text{velocity of neighbours} & \nearrow \\ \text{stochastic effect} & \swarrow \end{aligned}$$

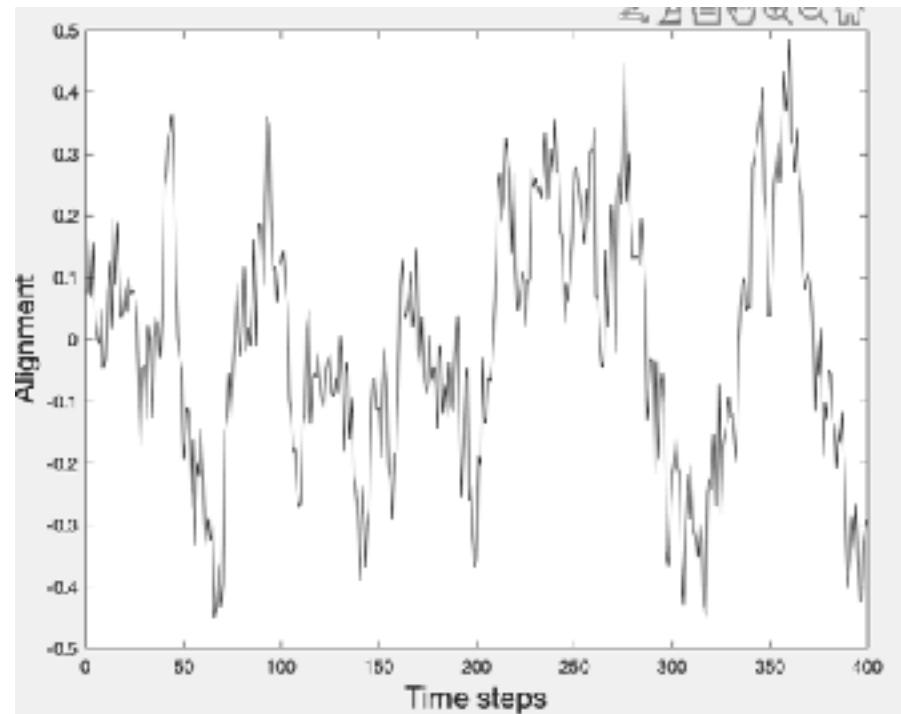
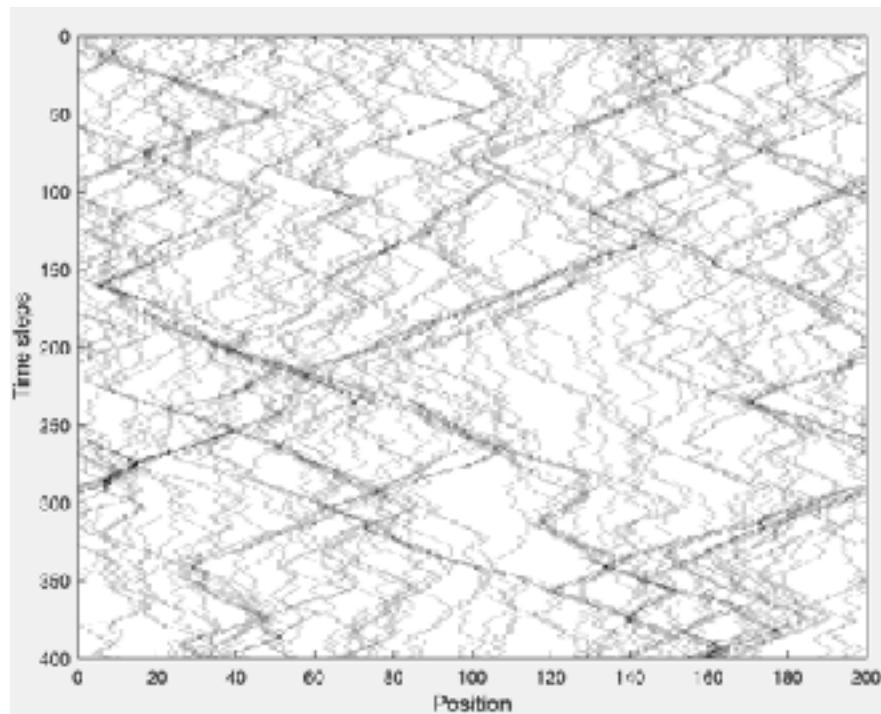
$$s_i = G\left(\frac{1}{|R_i|} \sum_{j \in R_i} u_j(t)\right)$$

$$G(u) = \begin{cases} (u+1)/2 & \text{for } u > 0 \\ (u-1)/2 & \text{for } u < 0 \end{cases}$$

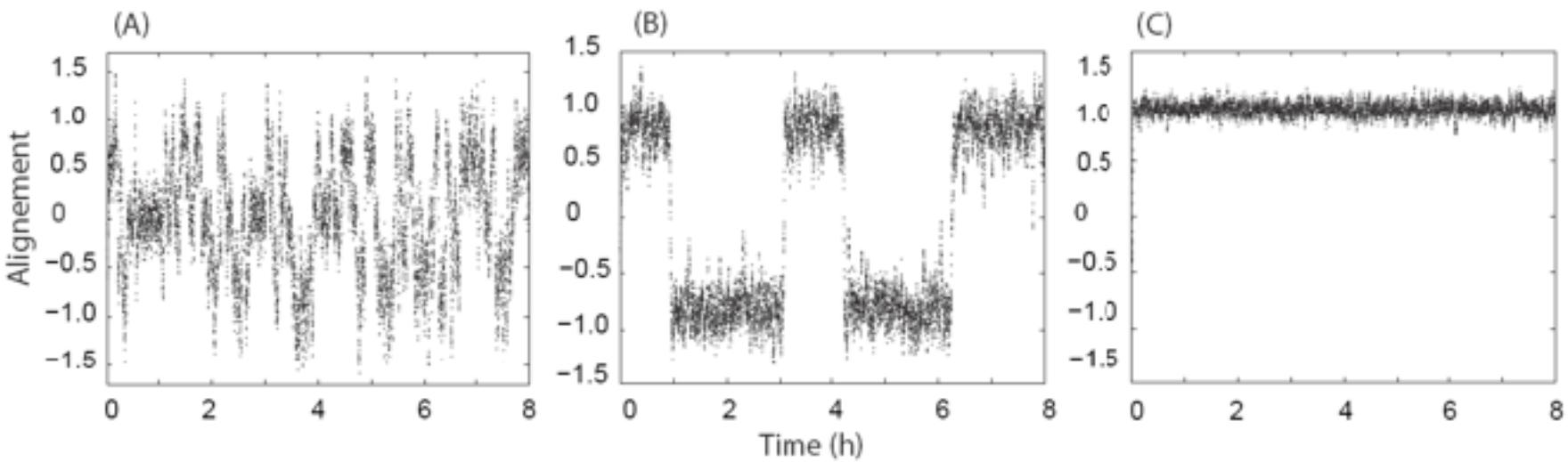
$e$  is a random number selected uniformly at random from a range  $[-\eta/2, \eta/2]$

# Alignment model in one dimension

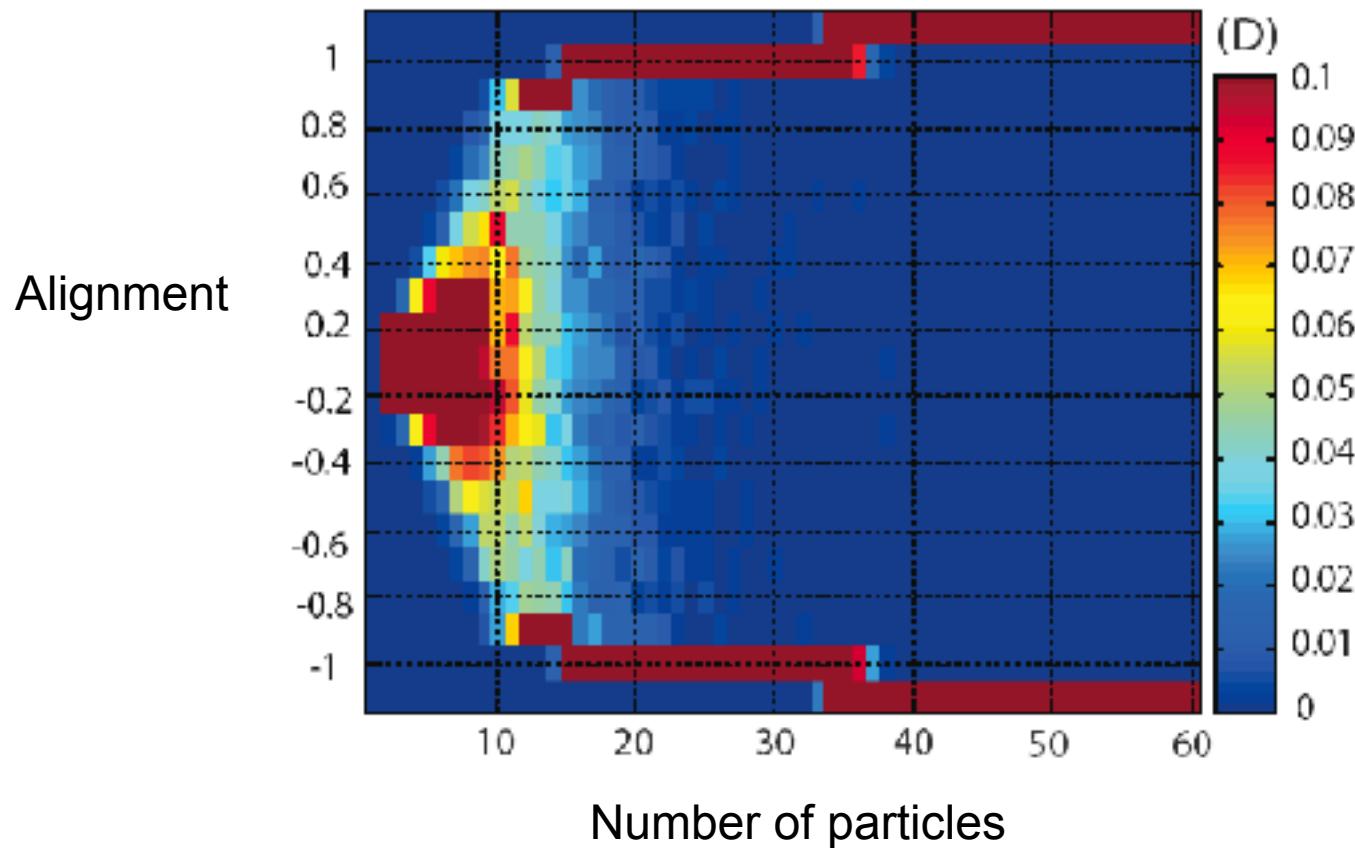
- Run ‘Align1D’



# Alignment


$$\phi = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \underline{u}_i(t)$$
 measures order in the system.

# 1D self-propelled particles



$\phi = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \underline{u}_i(t)$  measures order in the system (alignment).

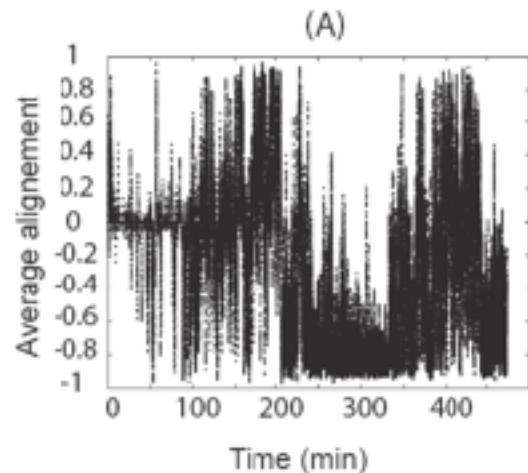




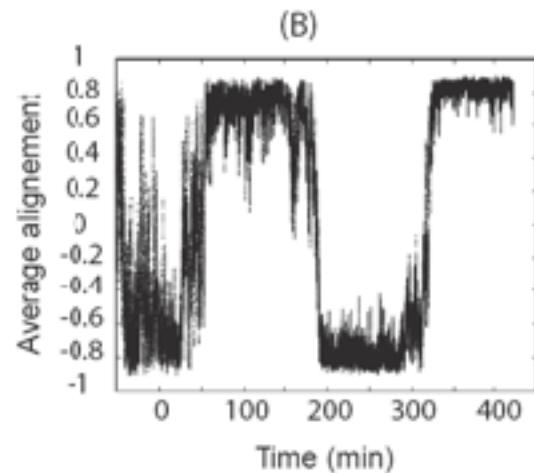
Buhl et al. (2006), *Science*  
Yates et al. (2009), *PNAS*

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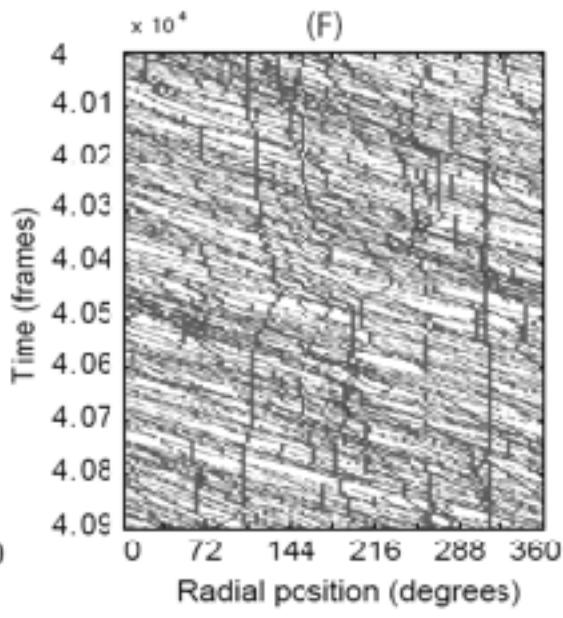
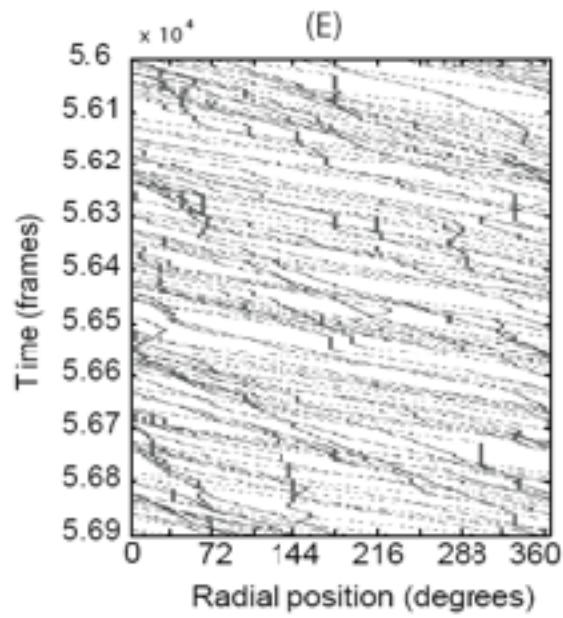
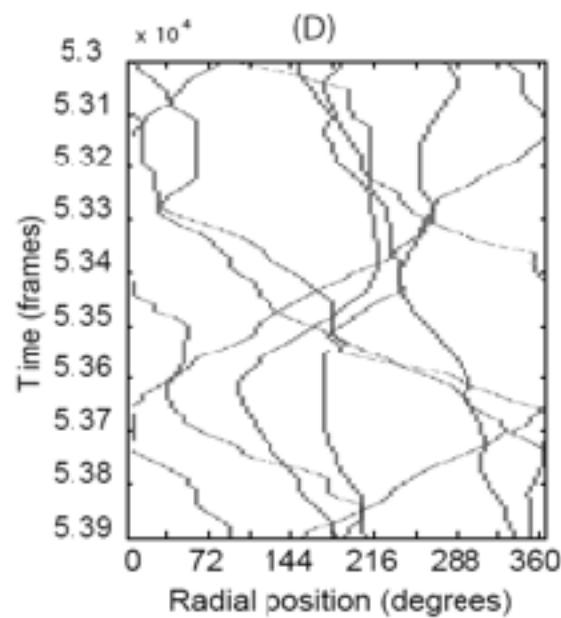
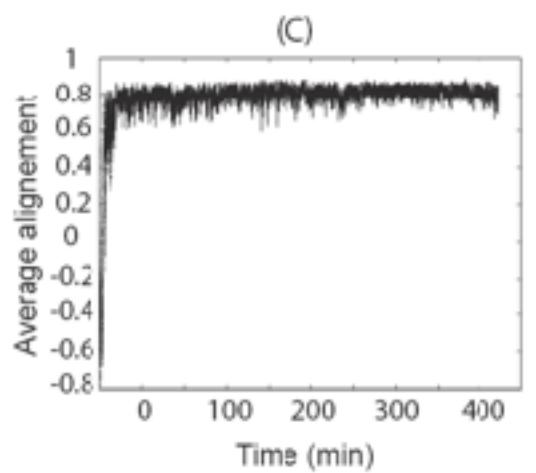
7 locusts

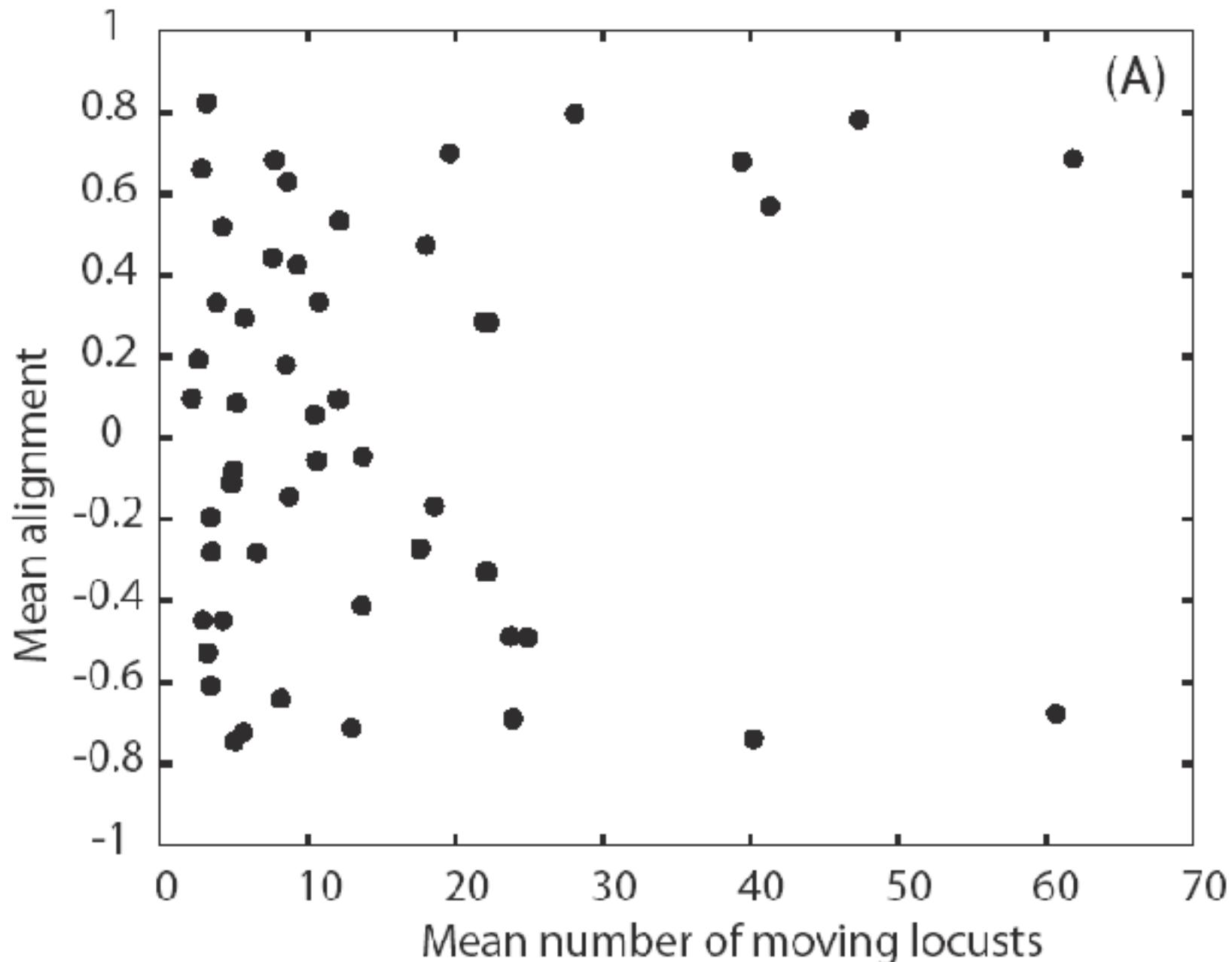


25 locusts



50 locusts

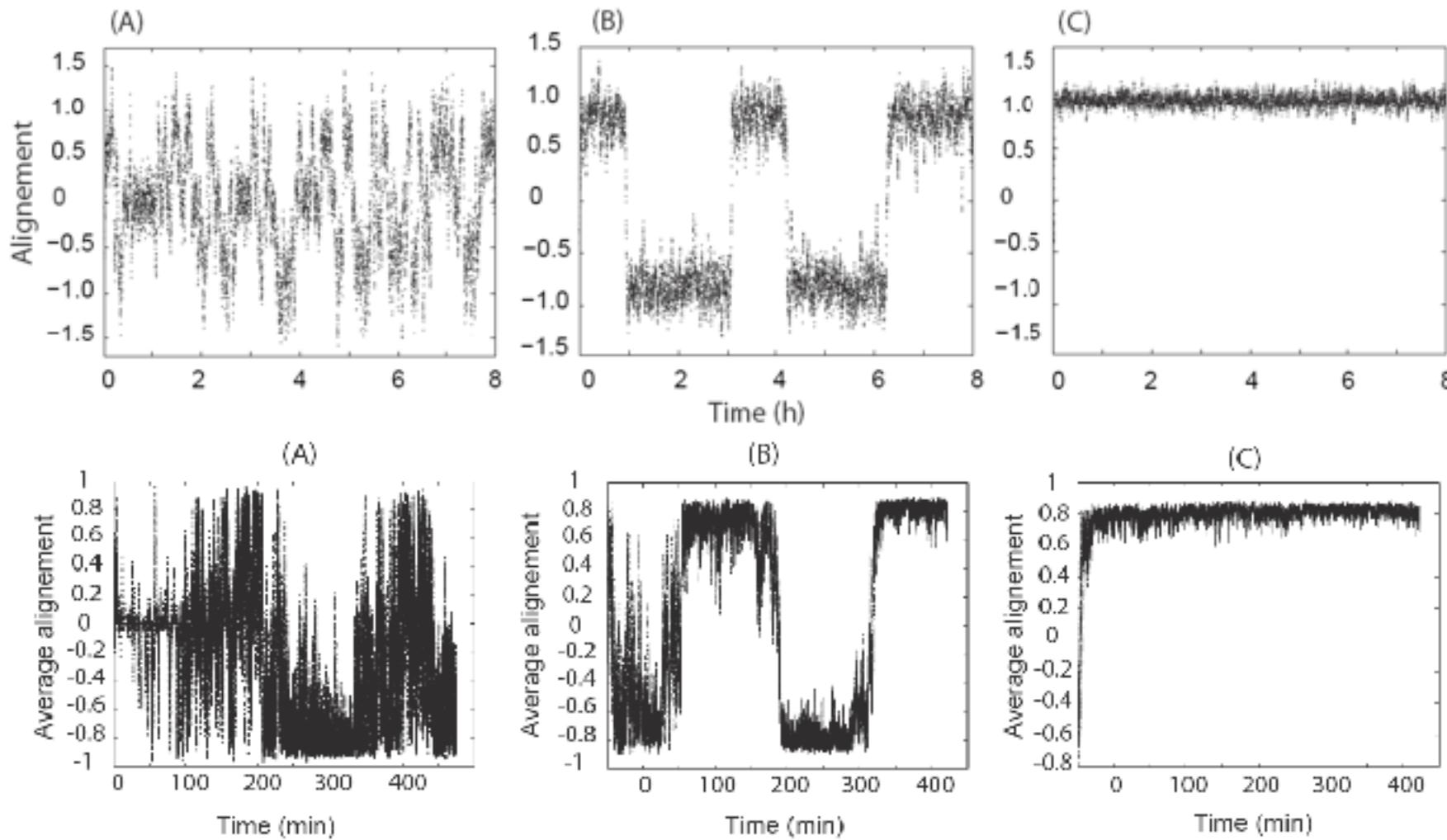




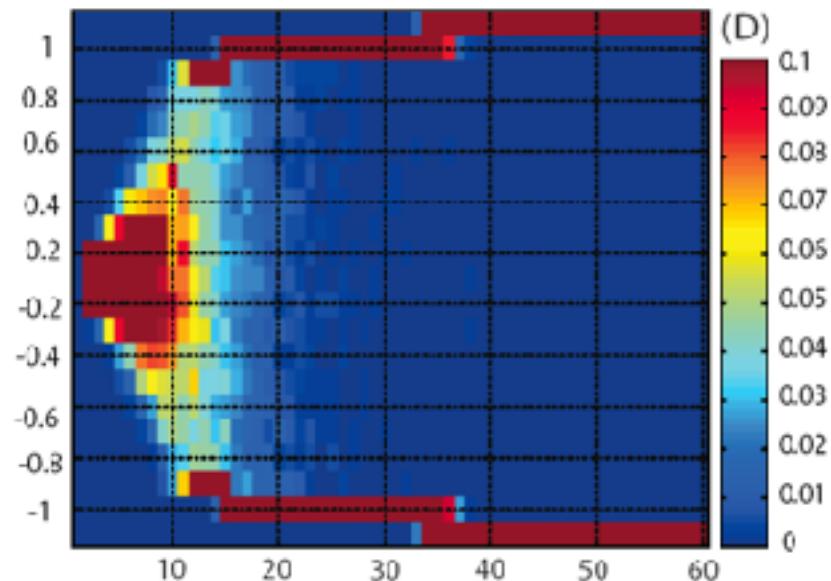
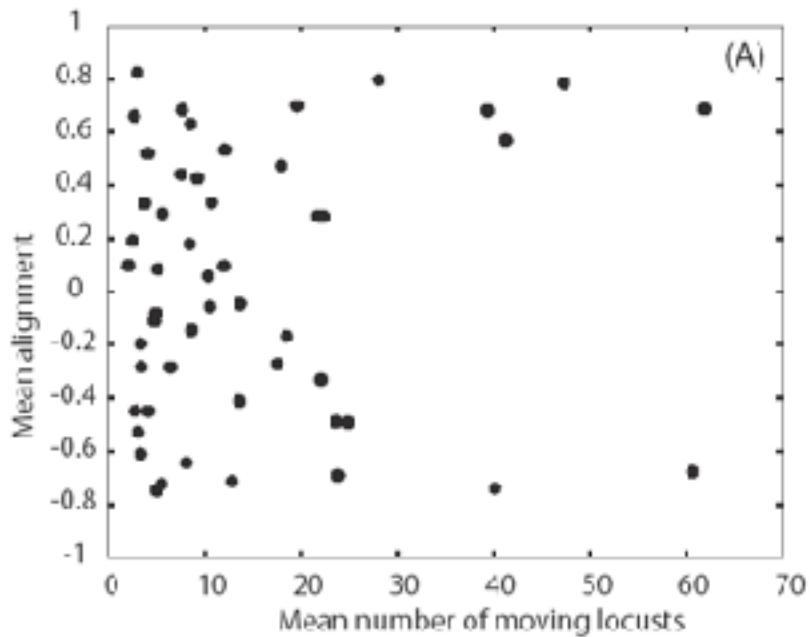
Mean alignment

Mean number of moving locusts

# Model vs Experiment



# Model vs Experiment



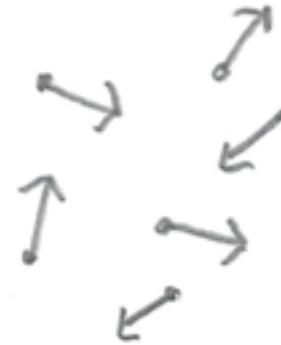
# Vicsek Model

- Introduced in Lab 5, we now discuss the theory.
- Code: ‘Align2D.m’ or the python implementation on the course webpage.

# Measure of Alignment: Polarisation



High polarisation

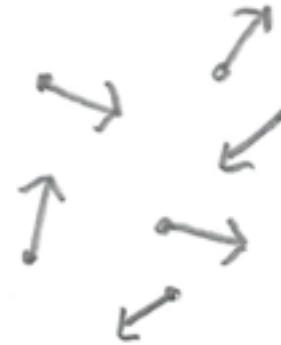


Low Polarisation

# Measure of Alignment: Polarisation



High polarisation



Low Polarisation



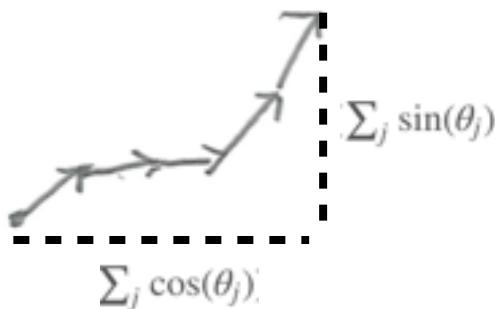
# Measure of Alignment: Polarisation



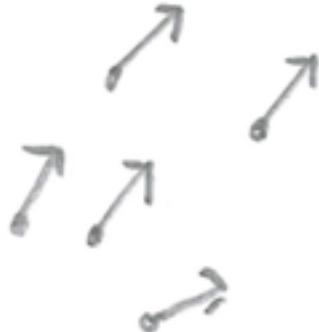
High polarisation



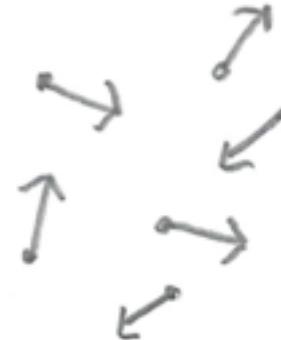
Low Polarisation



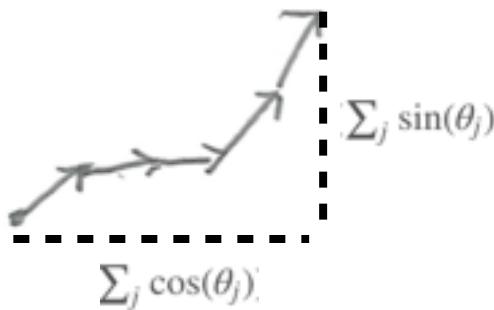
# Measure of Alignment: Polarisation



High polarisation



Low Polarisation



$$\text{Polarisation of: } \theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_N = \frac{1}{N} \sqrt{(\sum_j \sin(\theta_j))^2 + (\sum_j \cos(\theta_j))^2}$$

# Measure of Aggregation?

Definition -

a cluster of things that have come or been brought together

# Vicsek Model

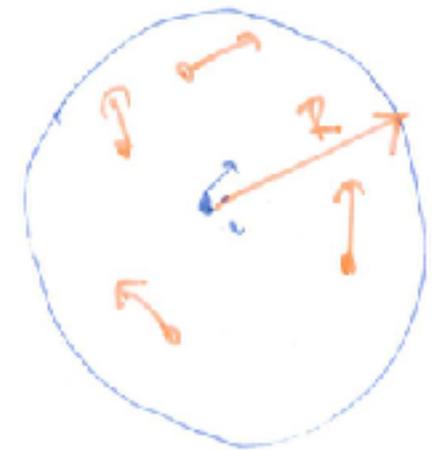
N: number of particles

$\eta$ : noise parameter

L: size of domain

$R$ : radius of interaction

v: speed

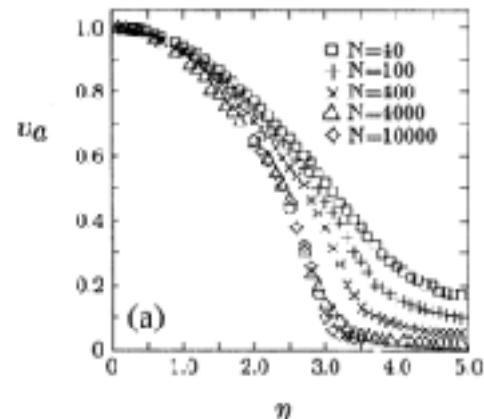


Angular update rule:

$$\theta_i(t+1) = \tan^{-1} \left( \frac{\sum_{j \in R_i} \sin(\theta_j(t))}{\sum_{j \in R_i} \cos(\theta_j(t))} \right) + e(t)$$

$e(t)$  is a random number selected uniformly at random from a range  $[-\eta/2, \eta/2]$

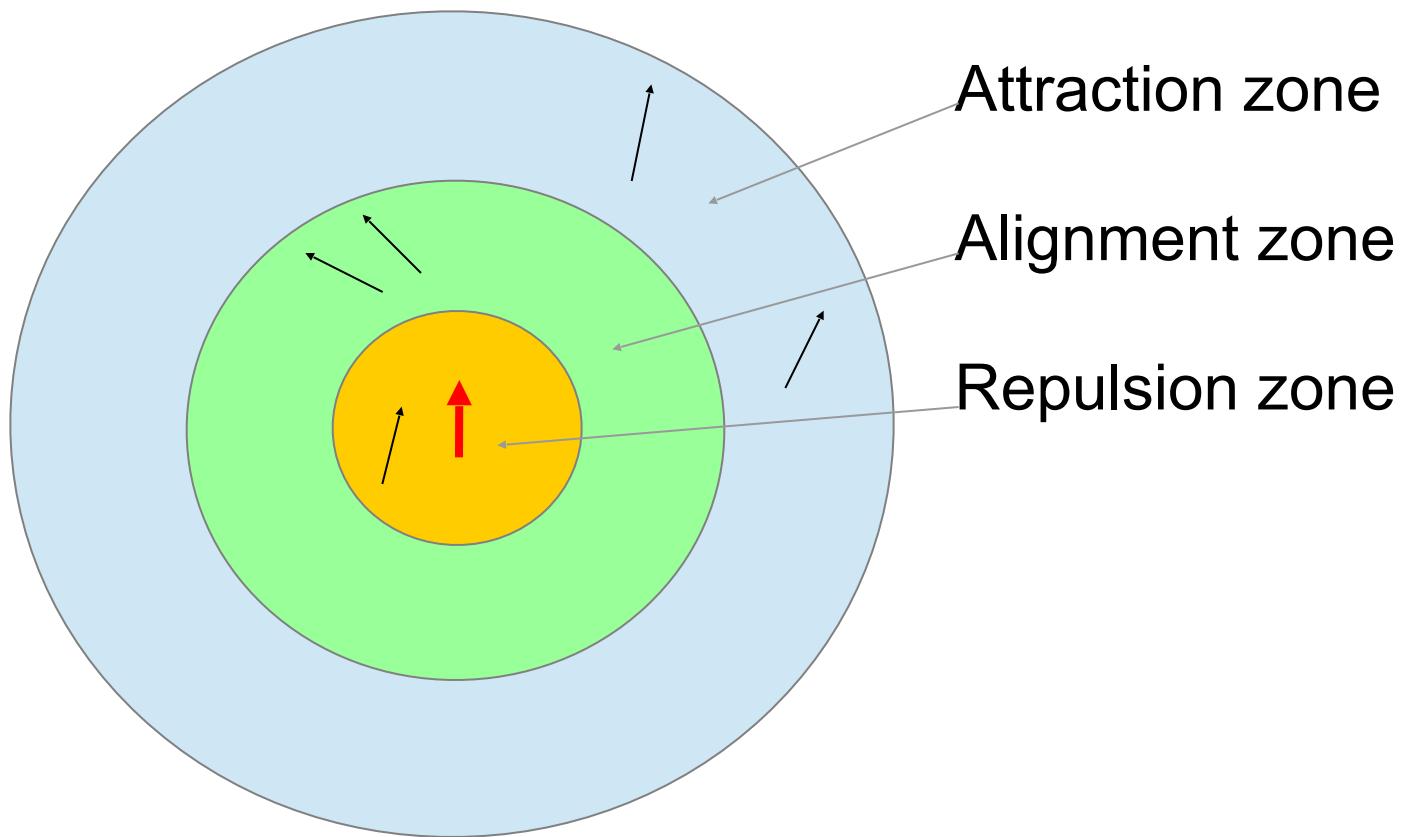
# Vicsek Model



Vicsek et al., PRL 75 (1995)

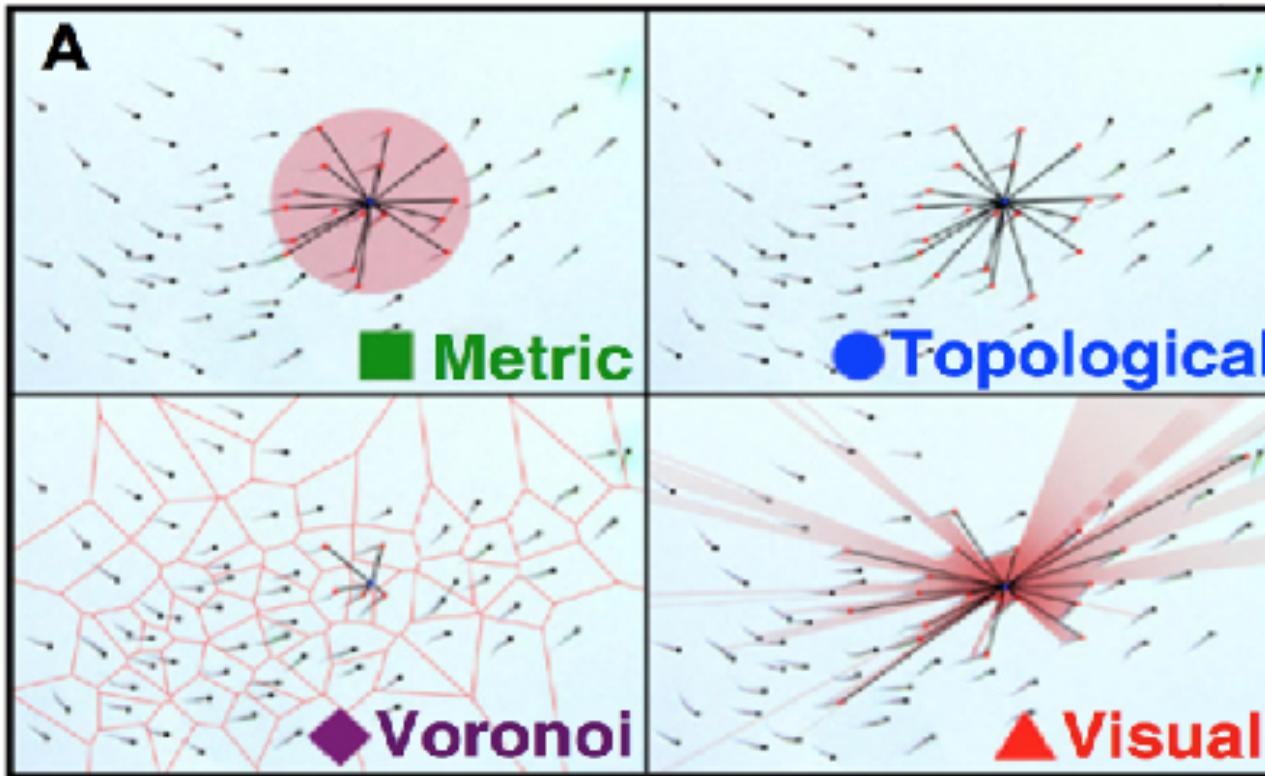
# Attraction/Repulsion

“Boids” model

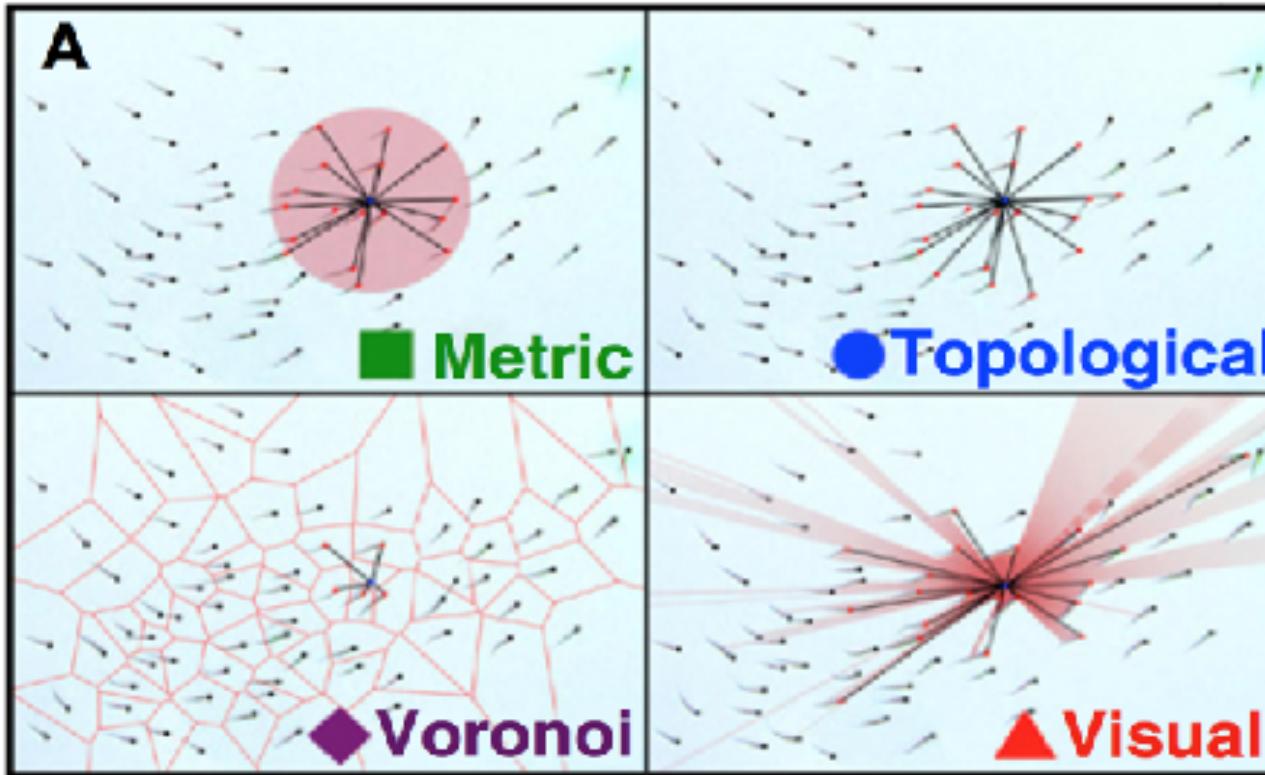


See: Couzin et al., J. Theor. Bio. (2002)

# Alternative distance measures



# Alternative distance measures



Metric: all individuals within a certain distance.

Topological: a fixed number of nearest neighbors.

Voronoi: those individuals sharing a boundary in a Voronoi tessellation of the group.

Visual: all individuals that occupy an angular area on the retina of the focal fish that is greater than a threshold value.

# Even more options

- Maximum turning angles
- Blind angles
- Attraction/repulsion potentials
- Reaction times
- Wall interactions
- Variable speed
- Variation in individuals
- Pheromone trails
- Etc....

# Can you tell the difference between real and simulated fish?

The image is a collage of screenshots from a computer application. At the top left is a grayscale video frame showing a school of fish with a 'Play' button overlaid. To its right is a circular interface with two options: one with green dots labeled 'Make your choice' and another larger gray circle. Below these is a success message: 'Congratulations! You have answered 5 out of 6 questions correctly.' with a cartoon fish icon. To the right of this message is a 'Next' button. At the bottom left is a close-up image of a fish's eye with a 'Skip' button. To the right of this is a large white box containing a 'Begin' button. A small explanatory text at the bottom right says: 'you will see two videos. Try to identify elements of real fish and not simulated ones.'

Play

Make your choice

Congratulations!  
You have answered 5 out of 6 questions correctly.

Next

Click refresh button to play again

Skip

Begin

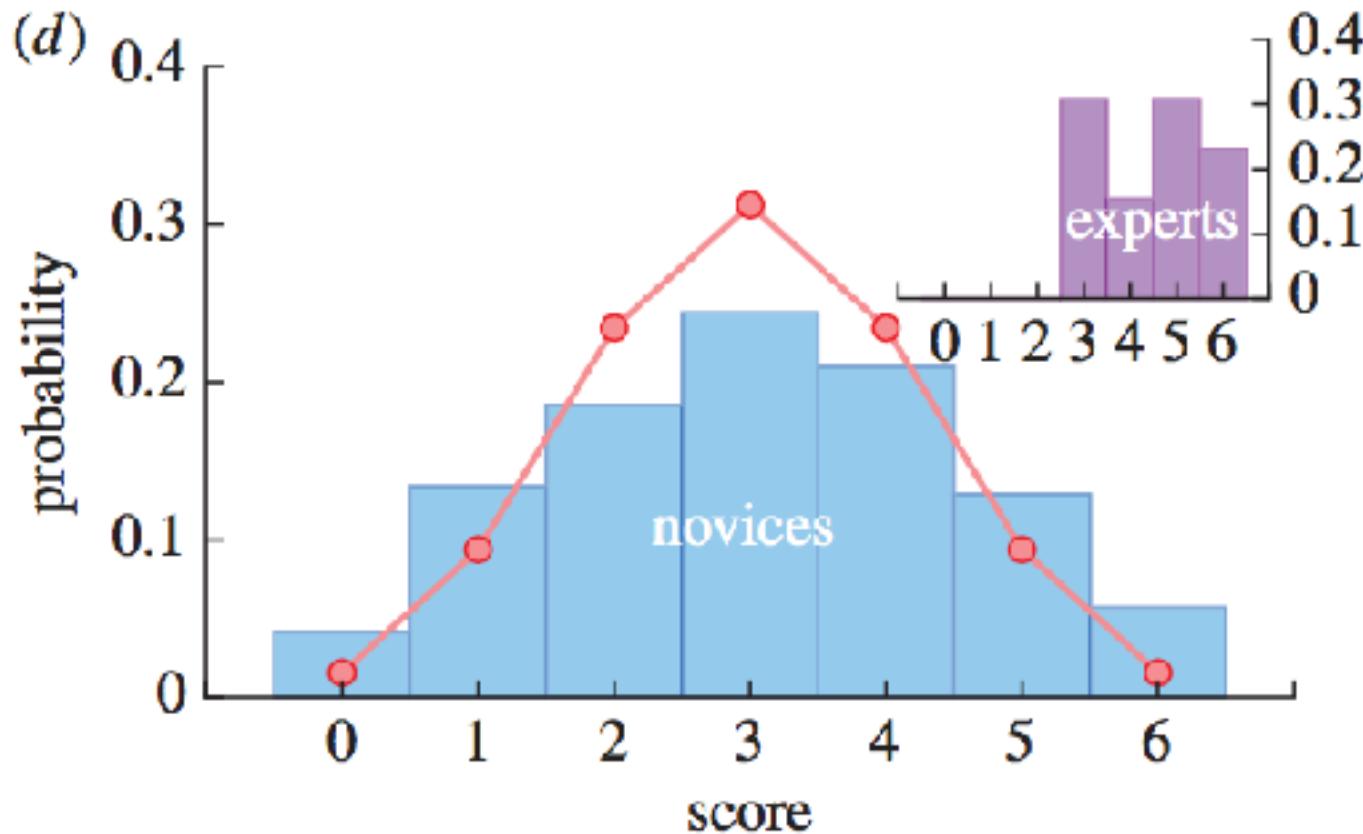
you will see two videos. Try to identify elements of real fish and not simulated ones.

Get playing!

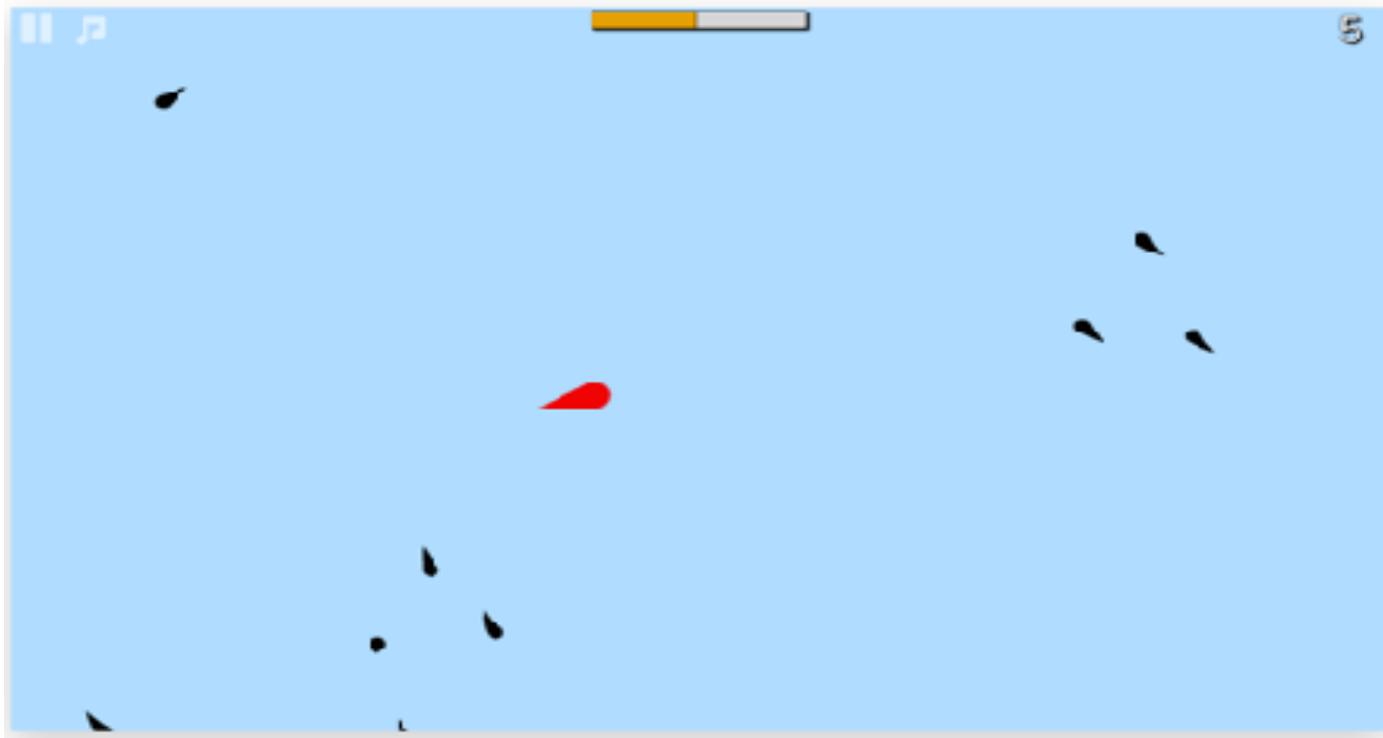
<http://www.collective-behavior.com/apps/>



# Can people tell the difference between real and simulated fish?



# Evolving prey

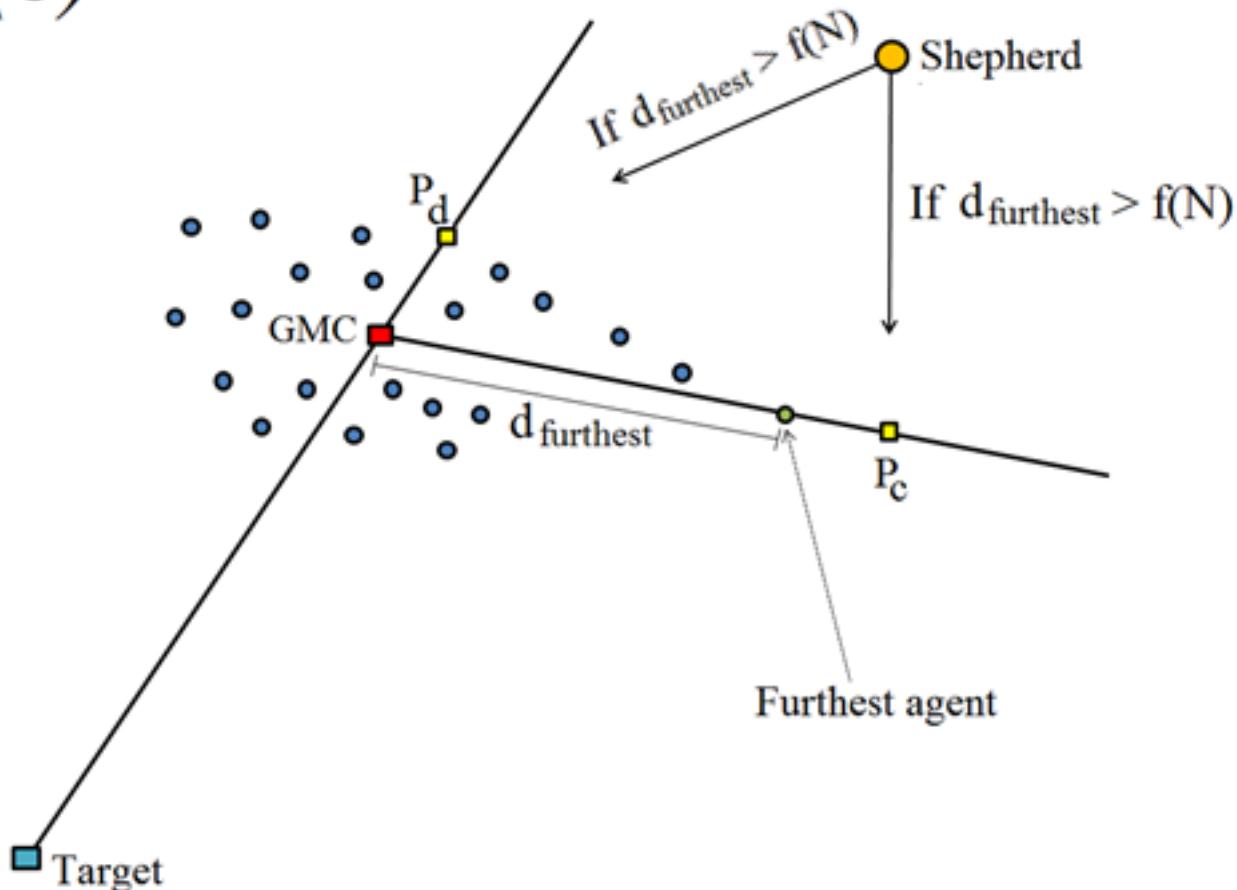


<http://collective-behavior.com/apps/fishindanger/webgl>

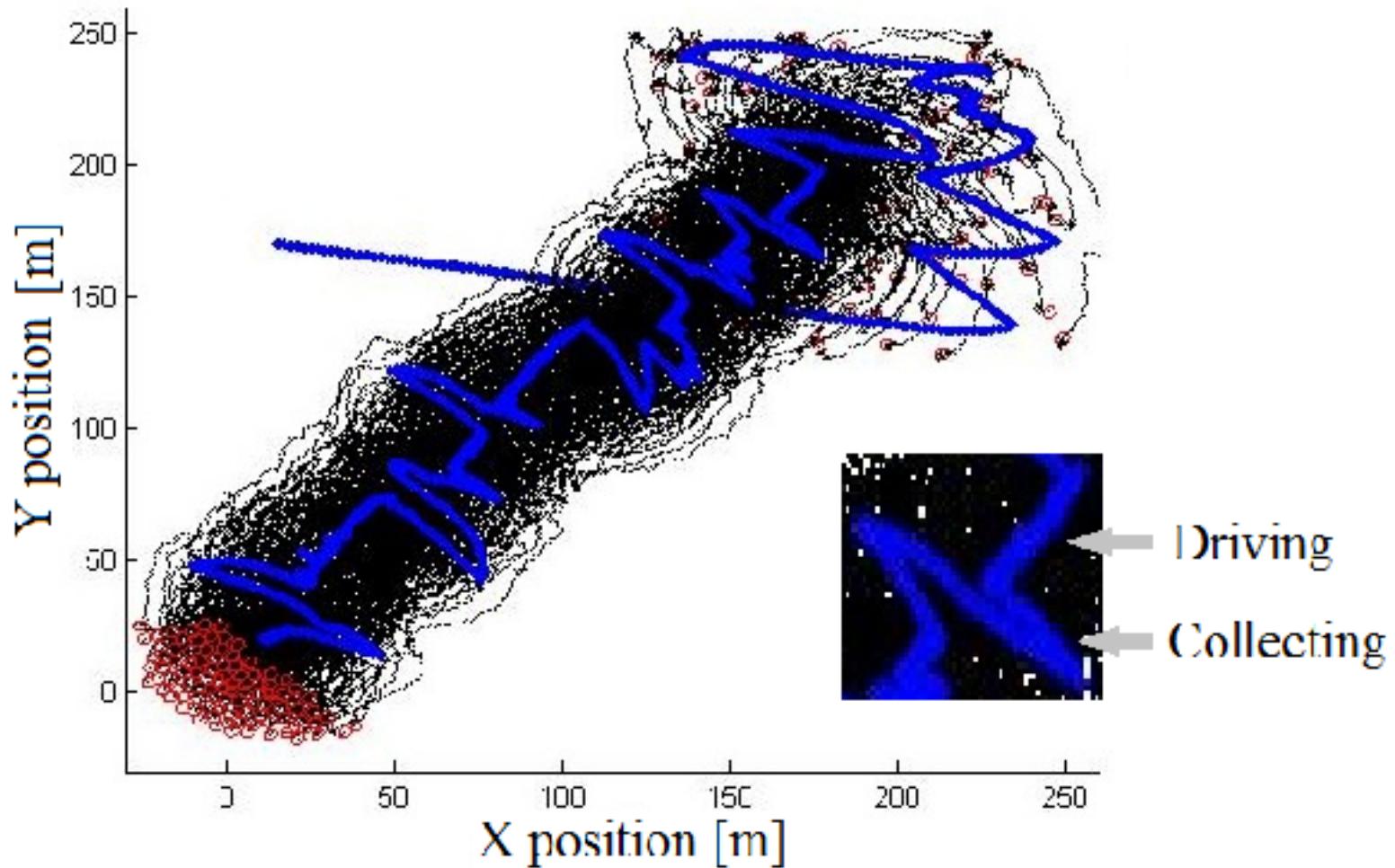


# Sheepdog model

(b)



# Drive and collect



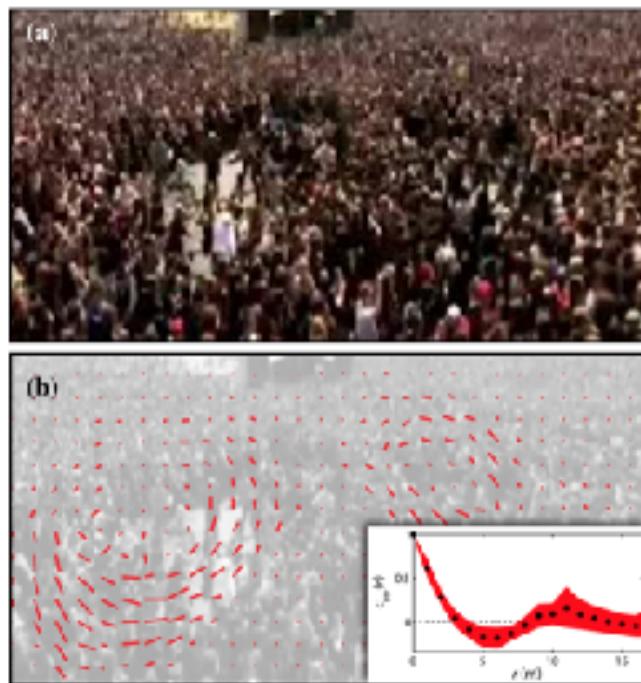


## Collective Motion of Humans in Mosh and Circle Pits at Heavy Metal Concerts

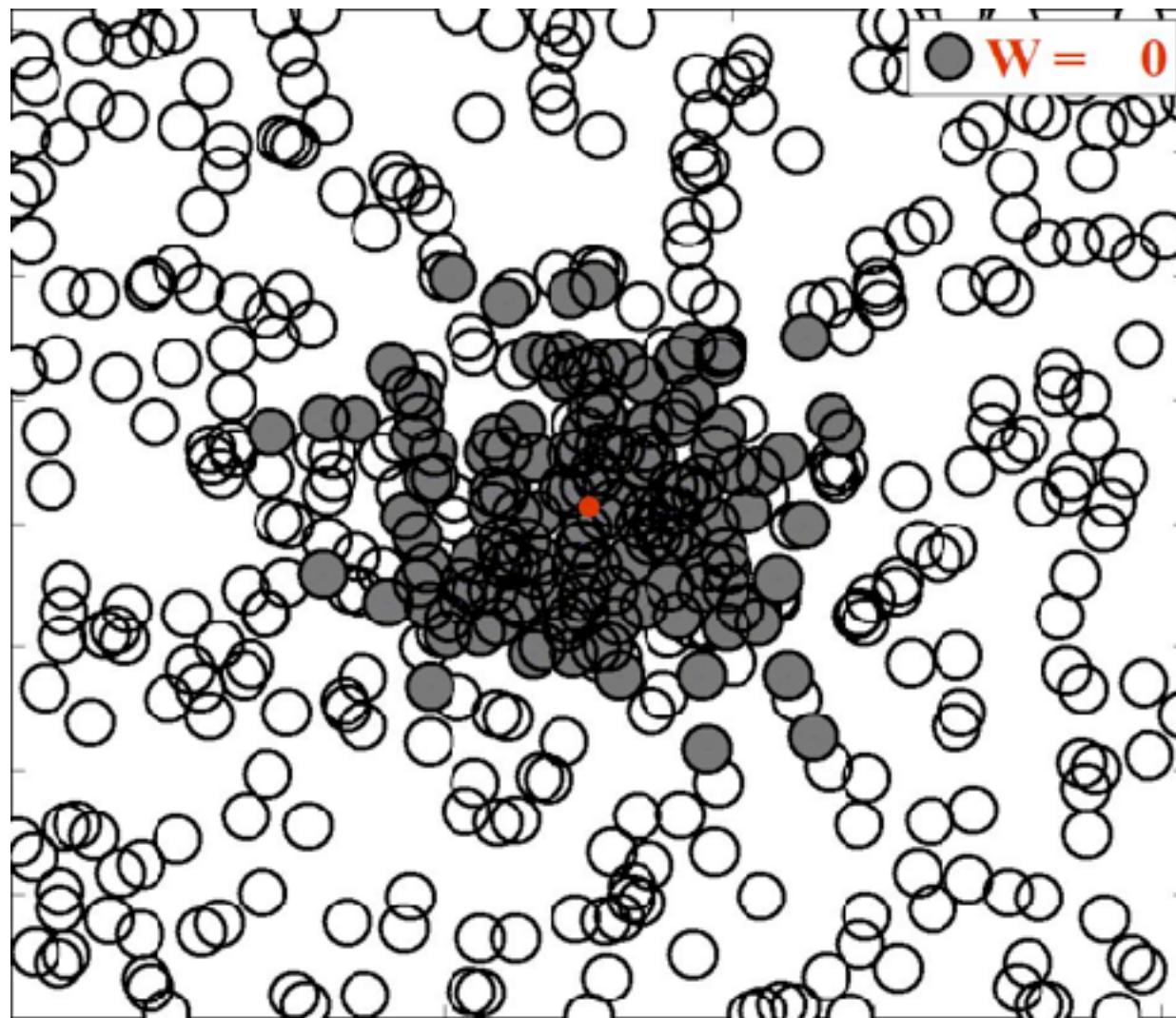
Jesse L. Silverberg,\* Matthew Bierbaum, James P. Sethna, and Itai Cohen

*Department of Physics and Laboratory of Atomic and Solid State Physics, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York 14853, USA*

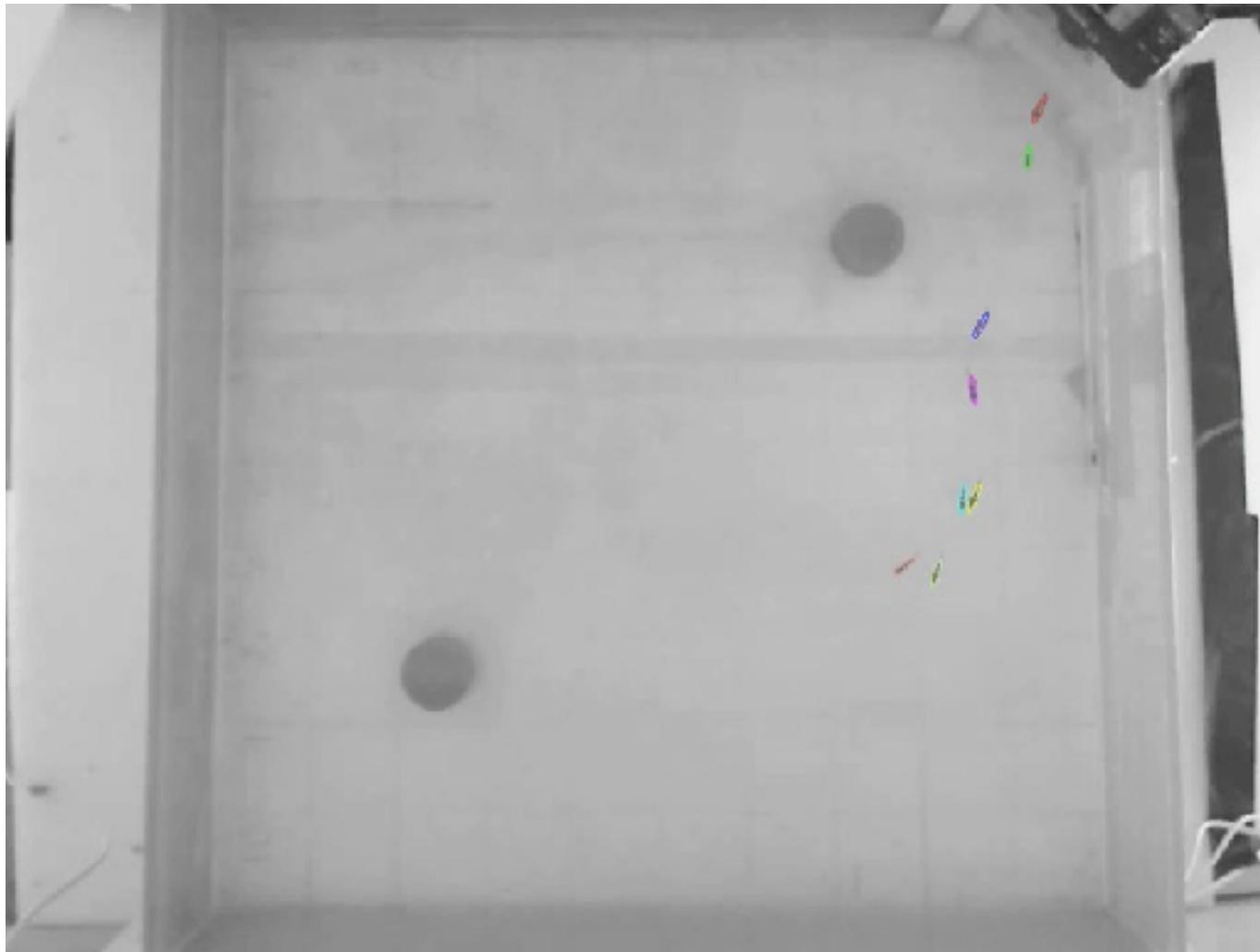
(Received 13 February 2013; published 29 May 2013)



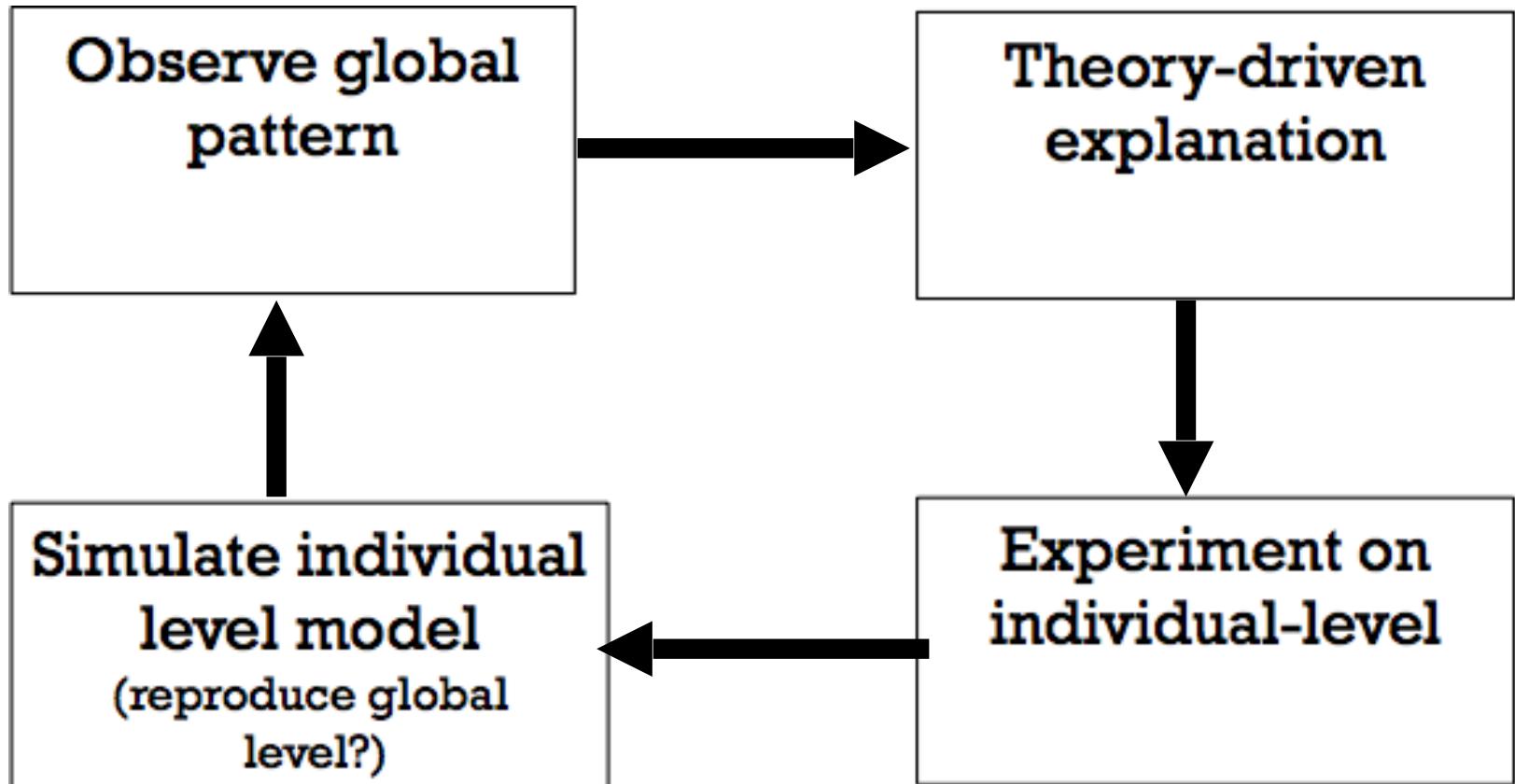
# Moshpit model

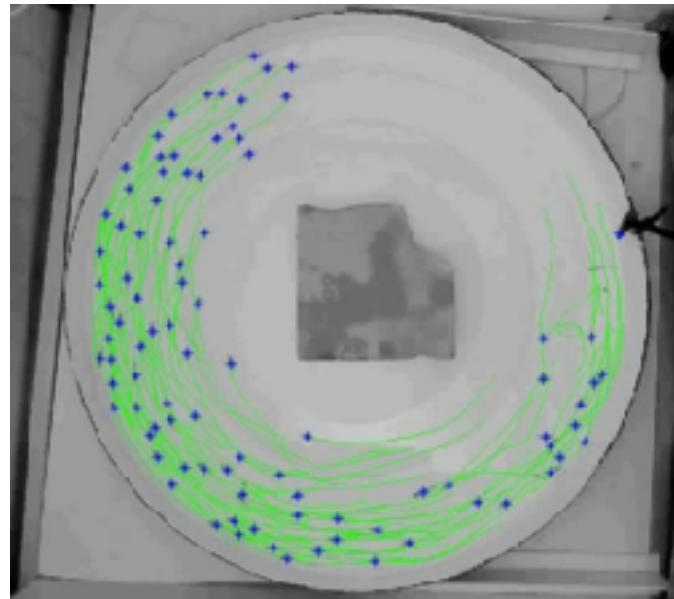


# Rules of motion



# The modelling cycle





COLLECTIVE BEHAVIOUR