# Transient Dynamical Indicators of Critical Transitions

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## January 6, 2022

#### Abstract

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 $\textbf{Keywords:} \ \ \textbf{tipping point}, \ \textbf{critical transition}, \ \textbf{critical slowing down}, \ \textbf{early warning signals}, \ \textbf{resilience}, \ \textbf{intensity of attraction}$ 

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#### 1 Introduction

A tipping point or critical transition occurs in a dynamical system when a small perturbation of conditions causes an abrupt qualitative shift in overall system behavior. This informal concept is often understood as a local bifurcation, but may also correspond to a variety of other dynamical behaviors such as global bifurcations, perturbations pushing a state variable across the boundary between two basins of attraction, or rate-induced tipping.

Critical transitions have been studied in empirical contexts ranging from Earth's climate [1] to ecological systems [2] to emerging infectious disease [3].

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In complex empirical systems, the conditions under which a critical transition occurs are generally extremely difficult to predict. In many cases, the underlying mechanisms driving such a system toward the brink may be impossible to fully understand or identify.

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