

# Controlling the stability of future power networks

How delays affect synchronization

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When machine learning meets complex systems  
Seminar @ LMU München

Freie Universität Berlin



**CoNDyNet**

STROMNETZE

Forschungsinitiative der Bundesregierung



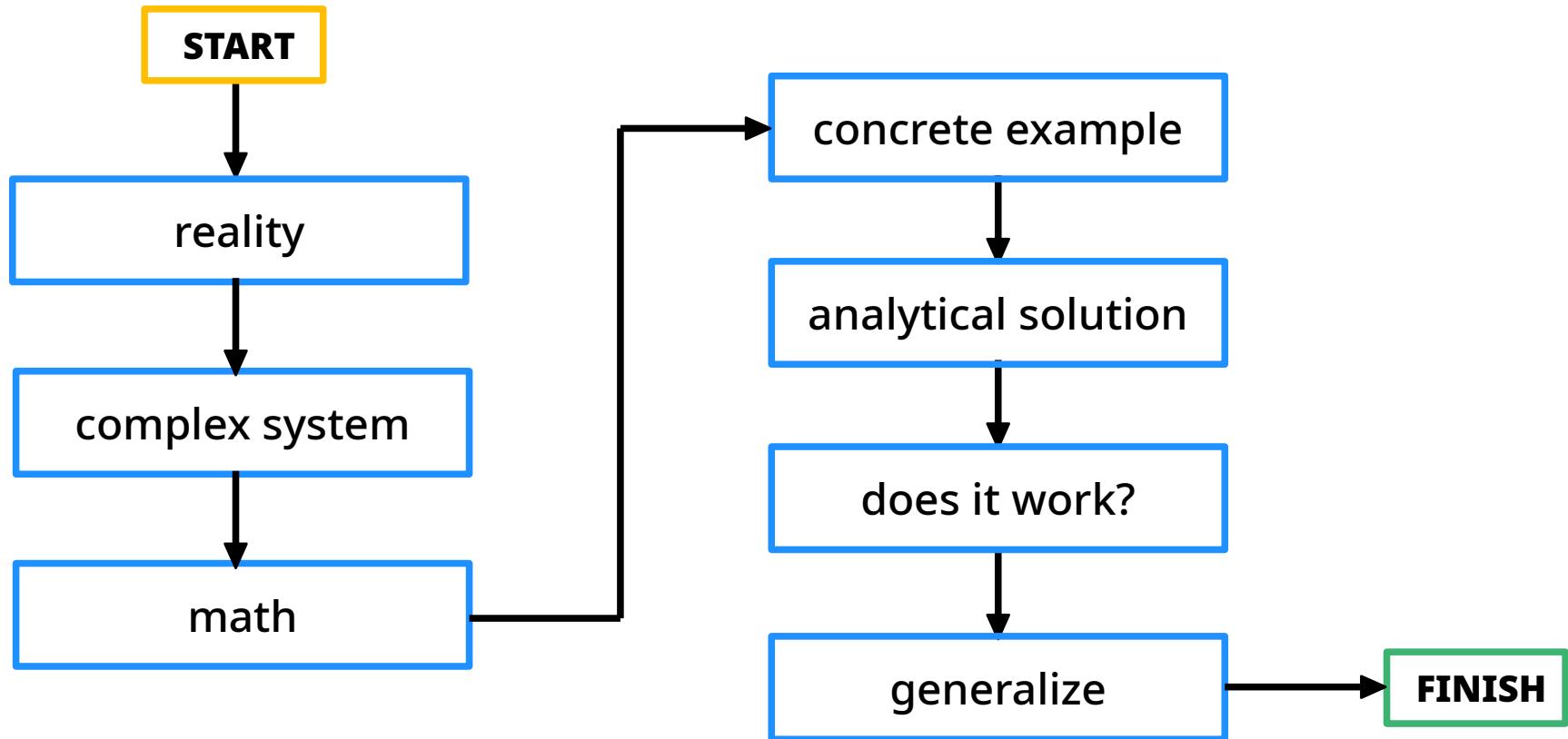
POTS DAM INSTITUTE FOR  
CLIMATE IMPACT RESEARCH



Copenhagen

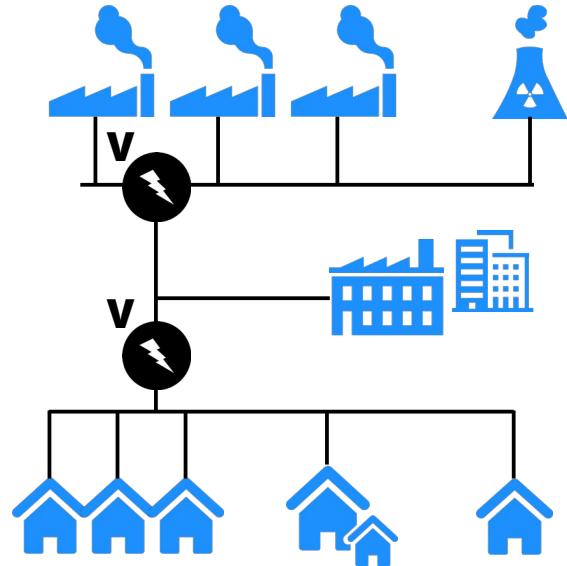
Munich

# Trajectory

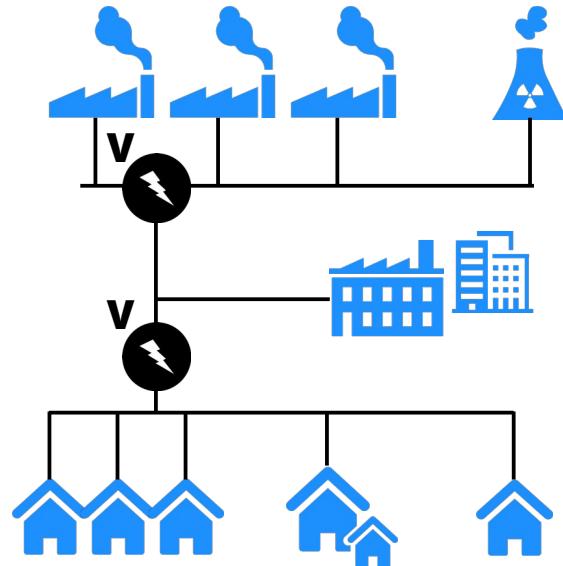


Yesterday

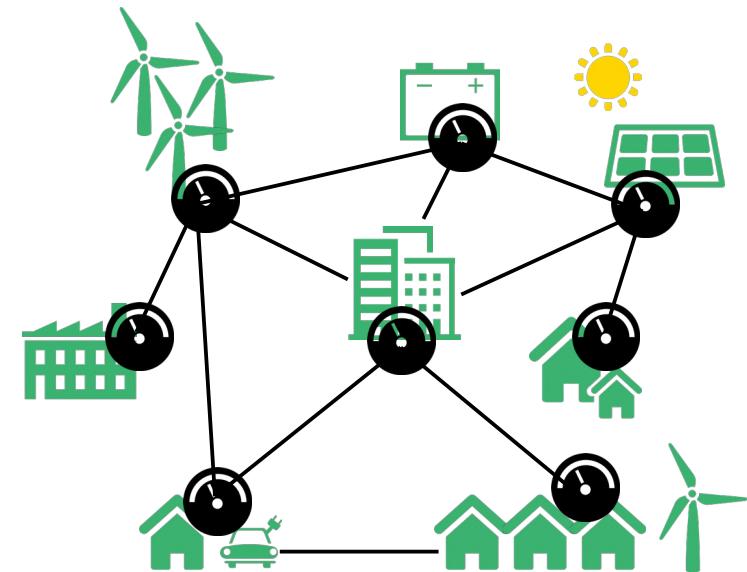
Power grid



Yesterday



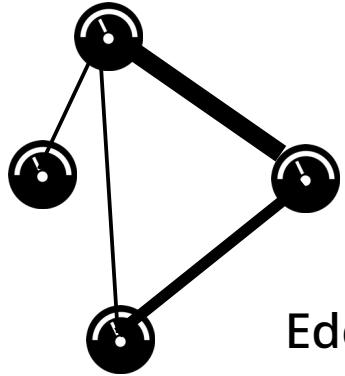
Power grid



Tomorrow

hierarchical ← **topology** → distributed  
self-stabilizing ← **dynamics** → volatile

# Power grids as oscillator networks



**Nodes = oscillators**

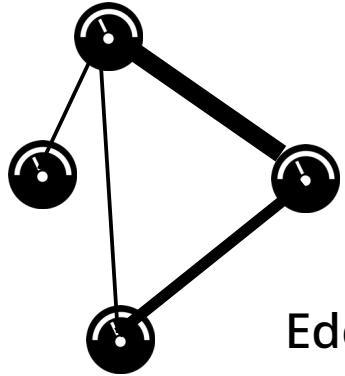
“prosumers”

inverters

**Edges**

transmission lines

# Power grids as oscillator networks

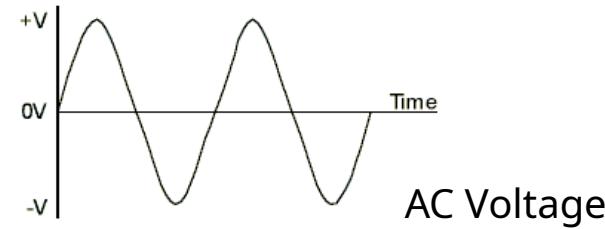


**Nodes = oscillators**

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**Edges**

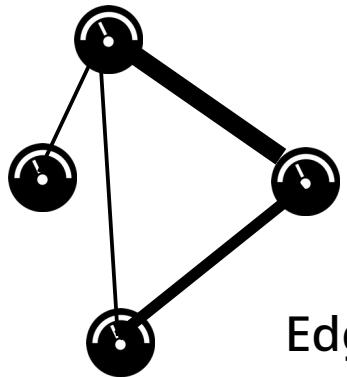
transmission lines



Power flow between node i and j

$$P_{i \rightarrow j} = K_{ij} \sin(\varphi_i - \varphi_j)$$

# Power grids as oscillator networks

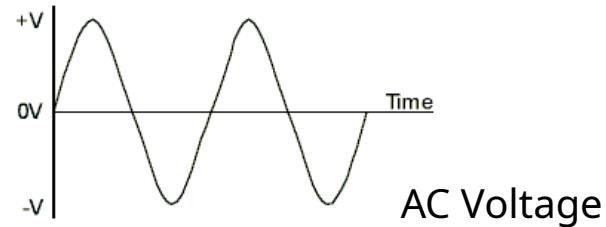


**Nodes = oscillators**

“prosumers”  
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**Edges**

transmission lines



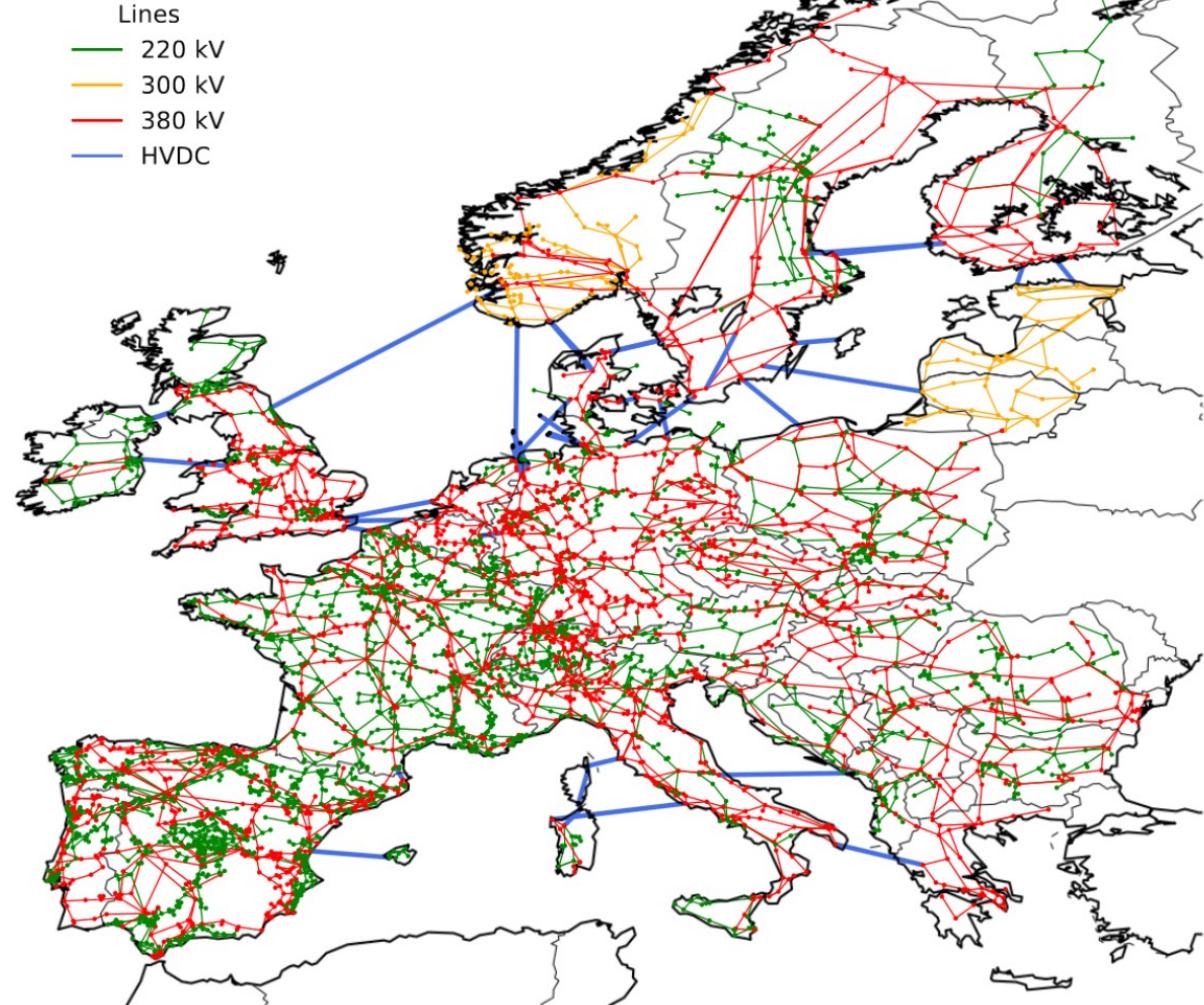
Power flow between node i and j

$$P_{i \rightarrow j} = K_{ij} \sin(\varphi_i - \varphi_j)$$

Weighted adjacency matrix

$$K_{ij} = \begin{cases} \ell_{ij} & i \text{ and } j \text{ connected} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

# European High Voltage Grid



Hörsch et al. (2018)  
Energy Strategy Review 22, 207

# Delays & Synchronization



elements.envato.com



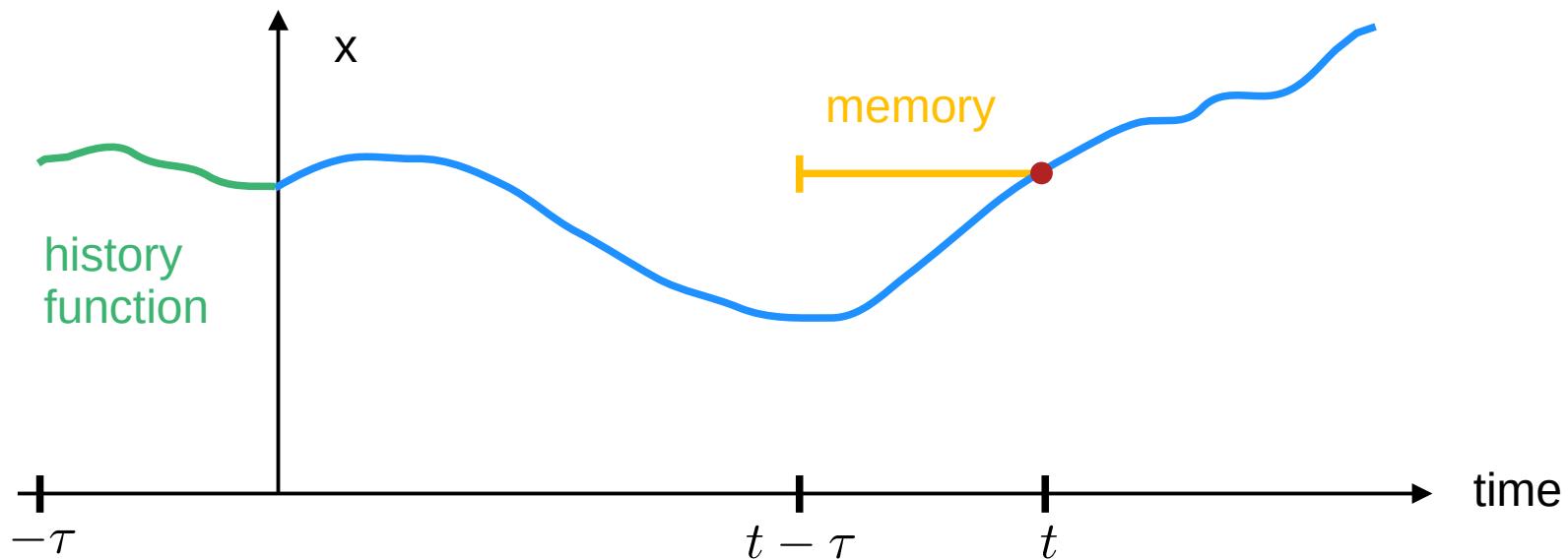
news.ucr.edu



osfoptics.com

# Delay differential equations

$$\dot{x}(t) = f(x(t), x(t - \tau)) \quad \text{delay } \tau$$



# Delay differential equations – Linear stability analysis

DDE       $\dot{x}(t) = f(x(t), \textcolor{blue}{x}(t - \tau))$

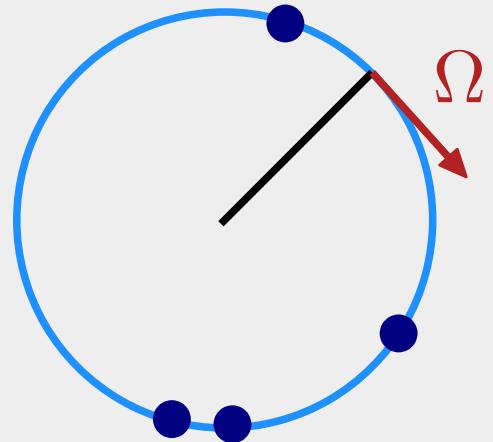
# Delay differential equations – Linear stability analysis

DDE       $\dot{x}(t) = f(x(t), \textcolor{blue}{x}(t - \tau))$

Fixed point       $f(x^*) = 0$

Limit cycle  
↓  
co-rotating  
frame

Fixed point

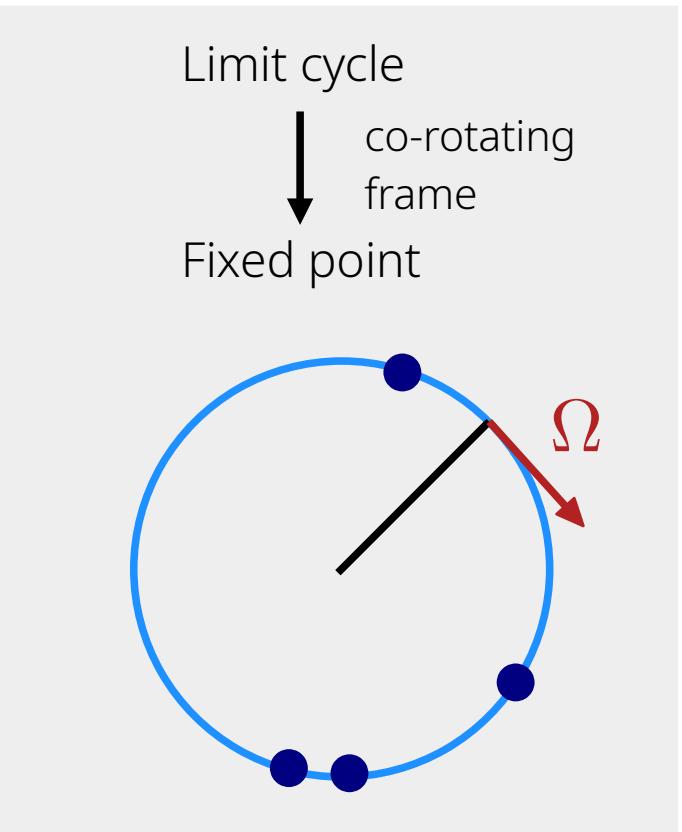


# Delay differential equations – Linear stability analysis

DDE       $\dot{x}(t) = f(x(t), \textcolor{blue}{x}(t - \tau))$

Fixed point       $f(x^*) = 0$

Small deviations  
around fixed point       $\eta(t) = x(t) - x^*$



# Delay differential equations – Linear stability analysis

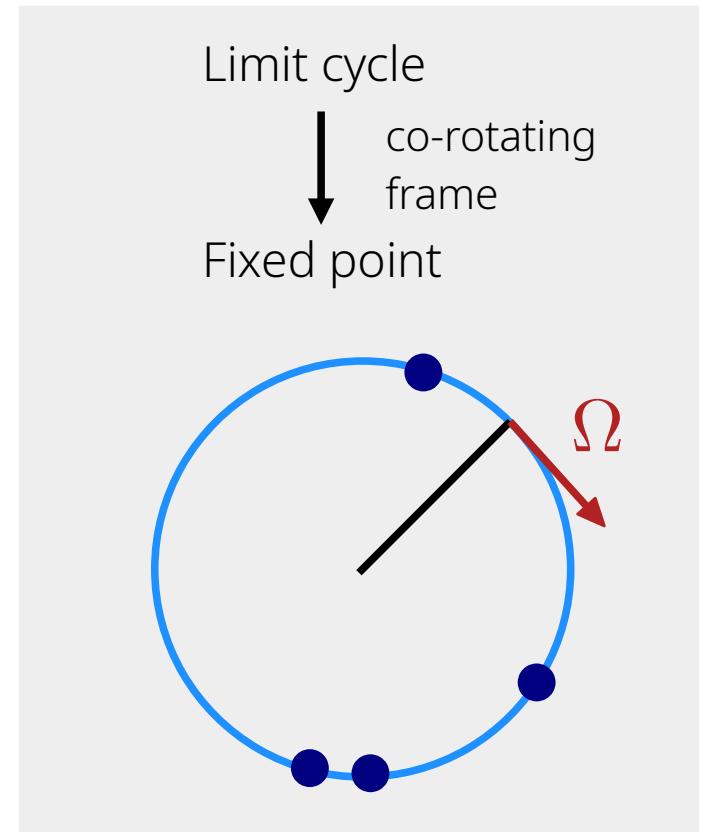
DDE       $\dot{x}(t) = f(x(t), \textcolor{blue}{x}(t - \tau))$

Fixed point       $f(x^*) = 0$

Small deviations  
around fixed point       $\eta(t) = x(t) - x^*$

Linearize DDE

$$\dot{\eta}(t) = f(x^*) + J_0(x^*) \eta(t) + J_\tau(x^*) \eta(t - \tau) + \dots$$



# Delay differential equations – Linear stability analysis

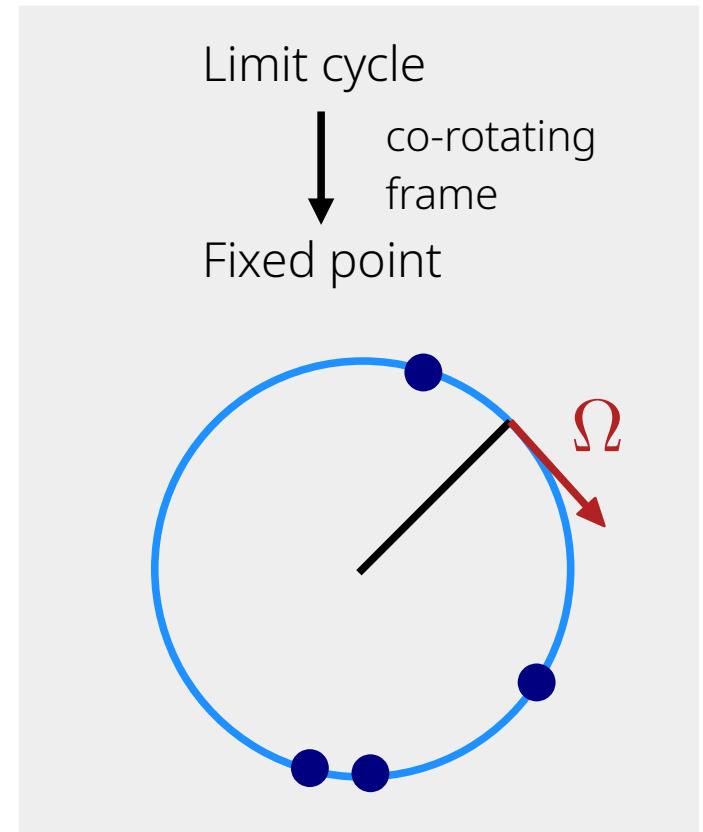
DDE       $\dot{x}(t) = f(x(t), \textcolor{blue}{x}(t - \tau))$

Fixed point       $f(x^*) = 0$

Small deviations  
around fixed point       $\eta(t) = x(t) - x^*$

Linearize DDE

$$\dot{\eta}(t) \approx J_0(x^*) \eta(t) + J_\tau(x^*) \eta(t - \tau)$$



# Delay differential equations – Linear stability analysis

Linear DDE       $\dot{\eta}(t) \approx J_0(x^*) \eta(t) + J_\tau(x^*) \eta(t - \tau)$

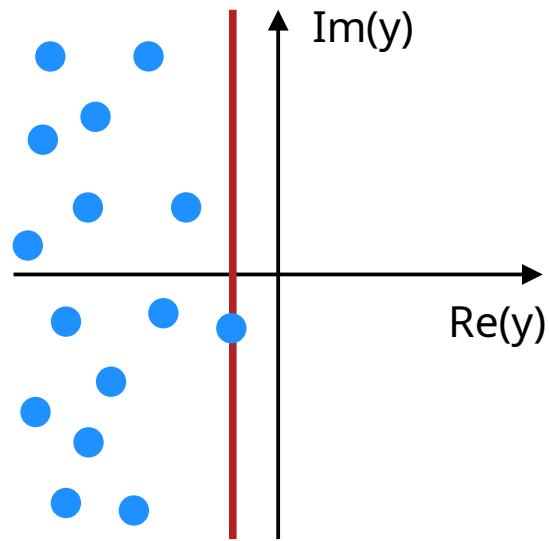
Ansatz       $\eta(t) = \eta(0) e^{\textcolor{blue}{y}t}$

Characteristic equation       $\det(-\textcolor{blue}{y}\mathbb{I}_n + J_0 + e^{-\textcolor{blue}{y}\tau} J_\tau) = 0$

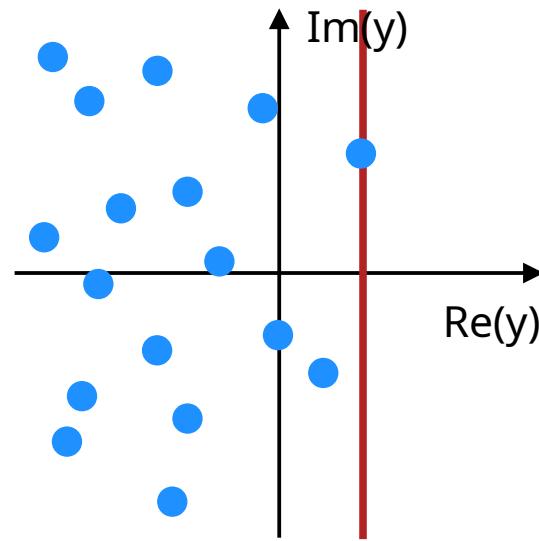
- Infinitely many roots!
- Fixed point is stable if and only if  $\operatorname{Re}(\textcolor{blue}{y}) < 0 \quad \forall \textcolor{blue}{y}$  in spectrum

# Delay differential equations – Characteristic spectrum

**stable**



**unstable**

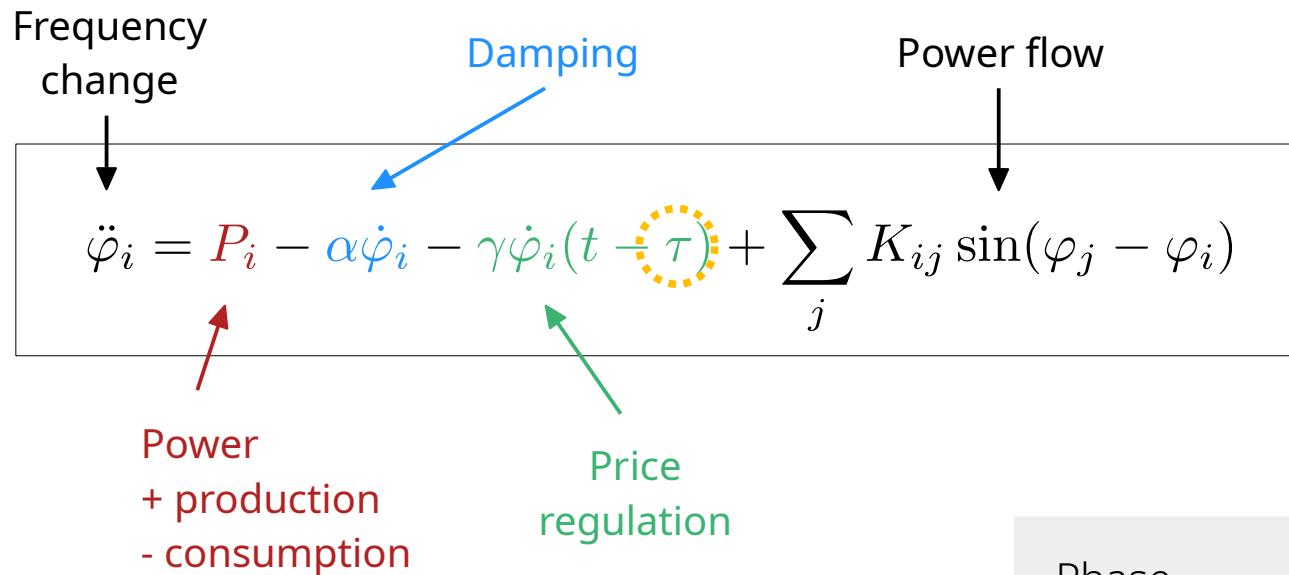


# Application: Decentral Smart Grid Control



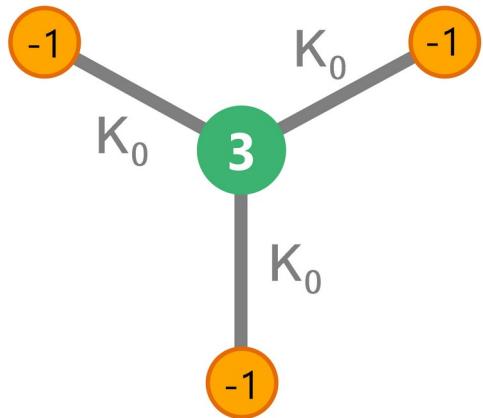
- Match **demand** to supply
- **Grid frequency** contains all information
- Frequency fluctuation → **price adaptation**

# Application: Decentral Smart Grid Control



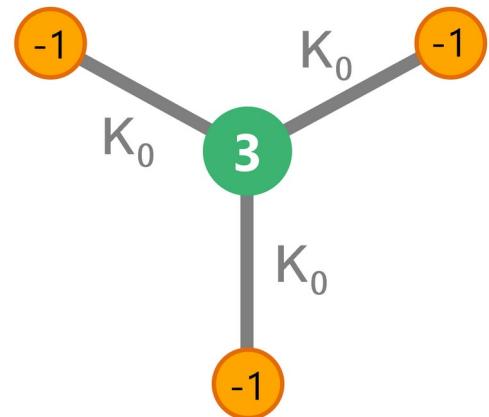
Phase	$\varphi_i(t)$
Frequency	$\omega_i(t) = \dot{\varphi}_i(t)$
	$i = 1, \dots, N$

## Application: Stability of 4-node network

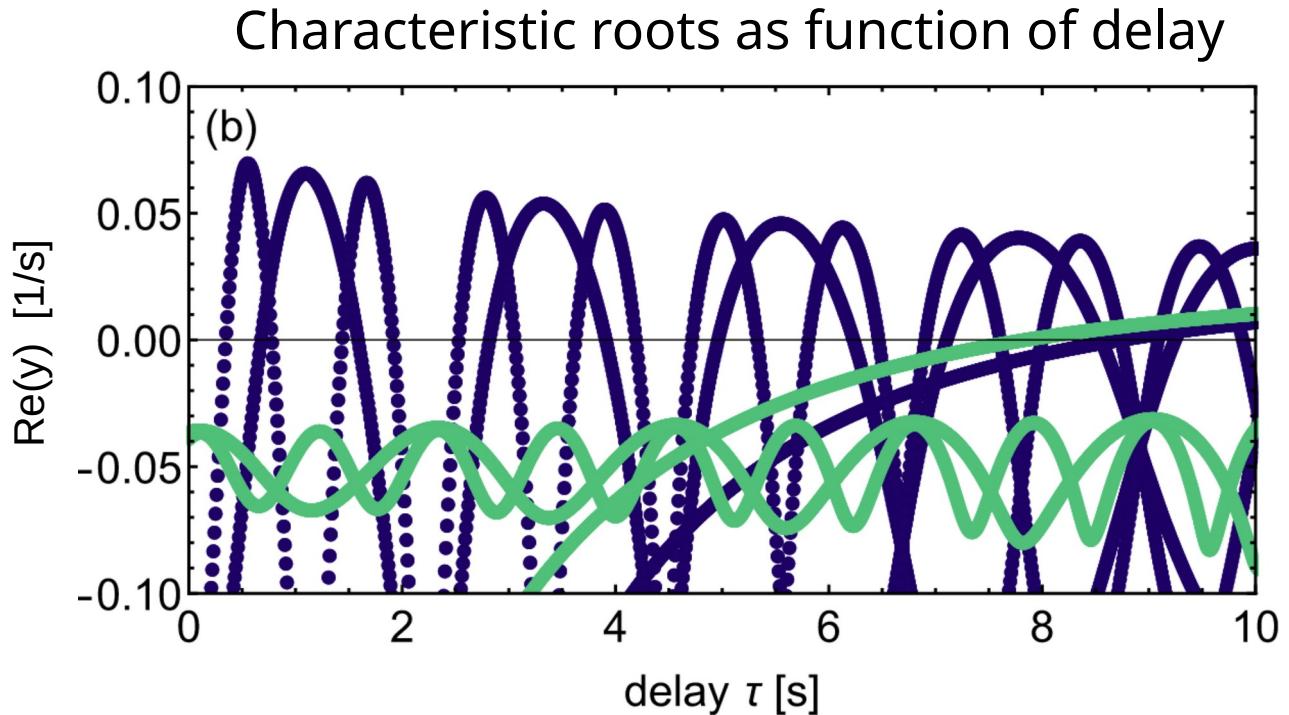


$$K = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & K_0 & K_0 & K_0 \\ K_0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ K_0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ K_0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Application: Stability of 4-node network



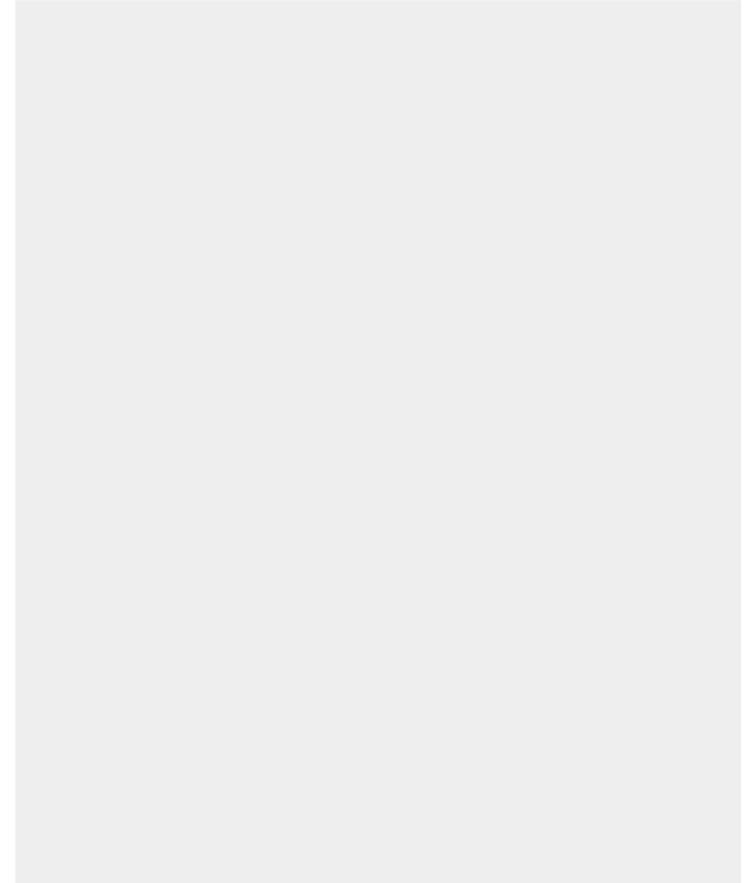
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Schäfer et al. (2016) Eur. Phys. J. Special Topics 225, 569-582

# Analytical approach

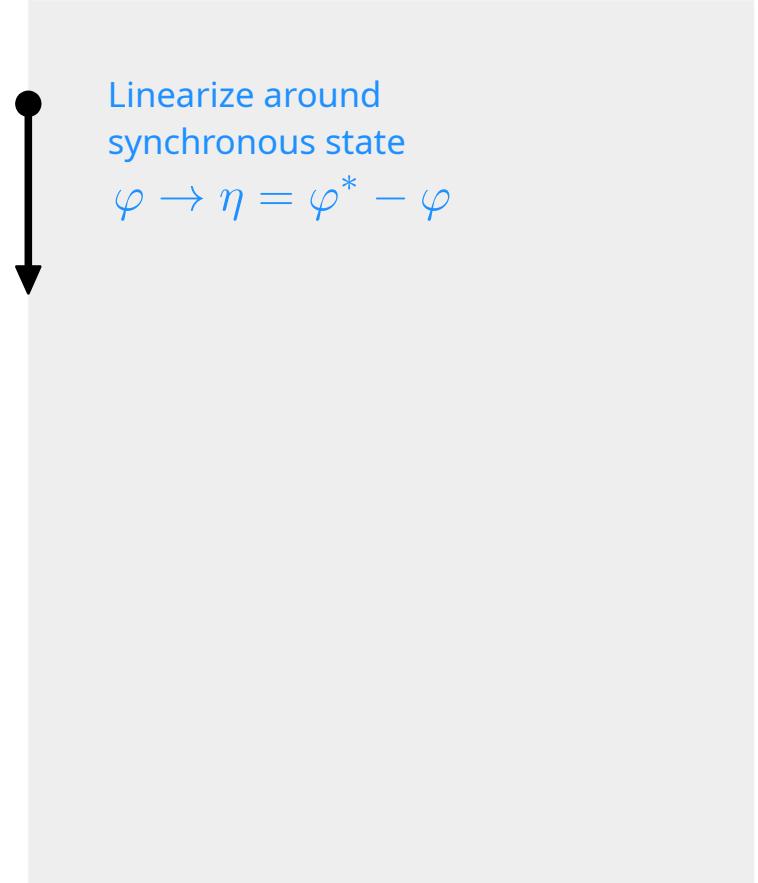
$$\ddot{\varphi}_i = P_i - \alpha \dot{\varphi}_i - \gamma \dot{\varphi}_i(t - \tau) + \sum_j K_{ij} \sin(\varphi_j - \varphi_i)$$



# Analytical approach

$$\ddot{\varphi}_i = P_i - \alpha \dot{\varphi}_i - \gamma \dot{\varphi}_i(t - \tau) + \sum_j K_{ij} \sin(\varphi_j - \varphi_i)$$

$$\ddot{\eta}_i = -\alpha \dot{\eta}_i - \gamma \dot{\eta}_i^\tau + \sum_{j=1}^N K_{ij} \cos(\varphi_j^* - \varphi_i^*) (\eta_i - \eta_j)$$

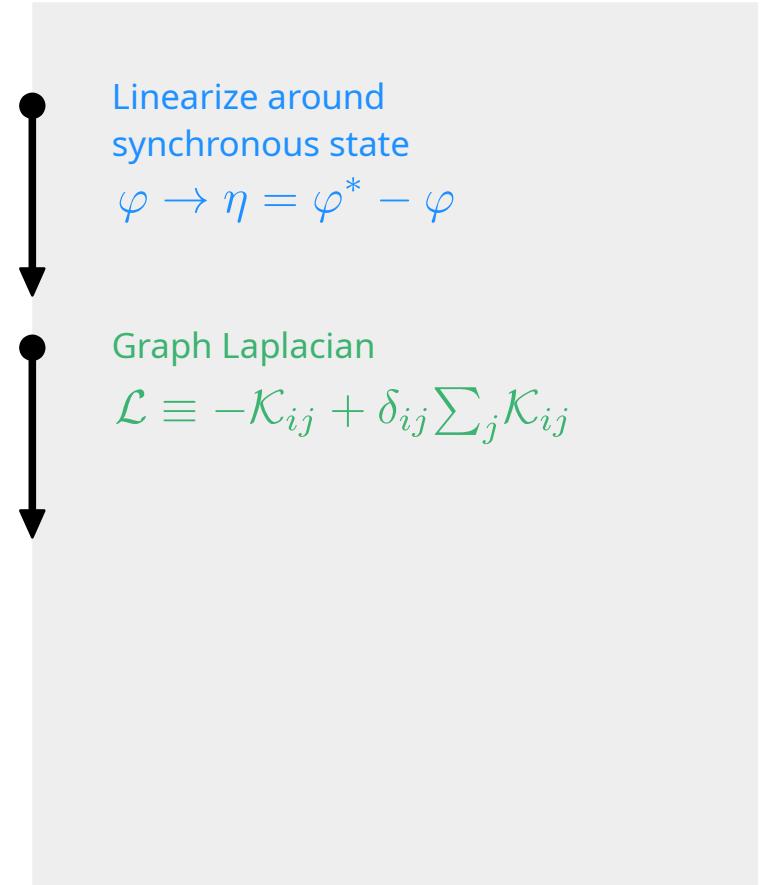


# Analytical approach

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$$\ddot{\eta}_i = -\alpha \dot{\eta}_i - \gamma \dot{\eta}_i^\tau + \sum_{j=1}^N \mathcal{L}_{ij} \eta_j$$



# Analytical approach

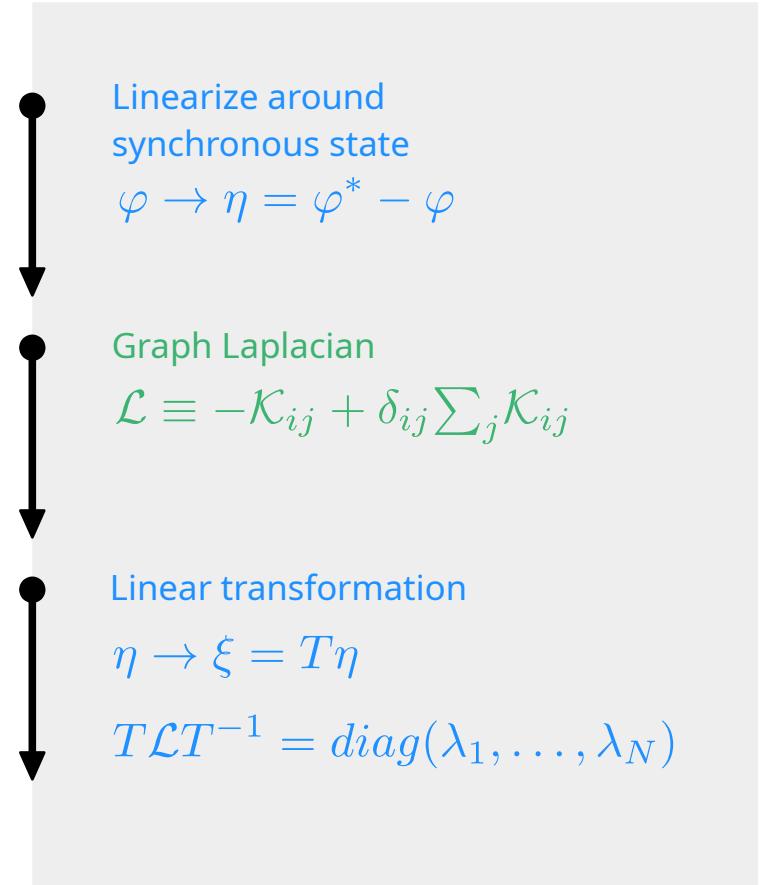
$$\ddot{\varphi}_i = P_i - \alpha \dot{\varphi}_i - \gamma \dot{\varphi}_i(t - \tau) + \sum_j K_{ij} \sin(\varphi_j - \varphi_i)$$

$$\ddot{\eta}_i = -\alpha \dot{\eta}_i - \gamma \dot{\eta}_i^\tau + \sum_{j=1}^N K_{ij} \cos(\varphi_j^* - \varphi_i^*) (\eta_i - \eta_j)$$

$$\ddot{\eta}_i = -\alpha \dot{\eta}_i - \gamma \dot{\eta}_i^\tau + \sum_{j=1}^N \mathcal{L}_{ij} \eta_j$$

$$\ddot{\xi}_k = -\alpha \dot{\xi}_k - \gamma \dot{\xi}_k^\tau - \lambda_k \xi_k$$

N equations!



# Analytical approach – Success!

## Stability condition

$$\gamma\tau < \frac{1}{y_k^*} \sqrt{(y_k^{*2} - \lambda_k\tau^2)^2 + (\alpha\tau y_k^*)^2}$$

# Analytical approach – Success!

## Stability condition

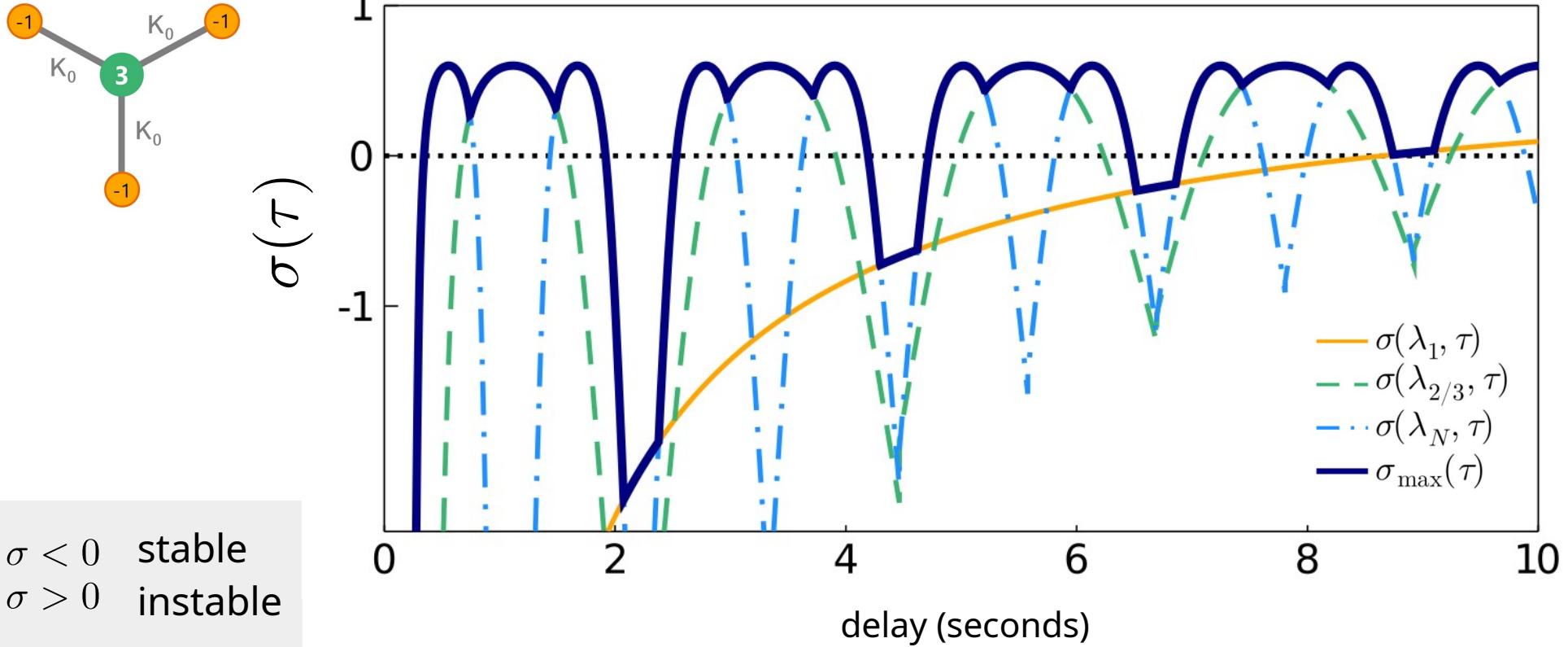
$$\gamma\tau < \frac{1}{y_k^*} \sqrt{(y_k^{*2} - \lambda_k\tau^2)^2 + (\alpha\tau y_k^*)^2}$$

## Delay master stability function (dMSF)

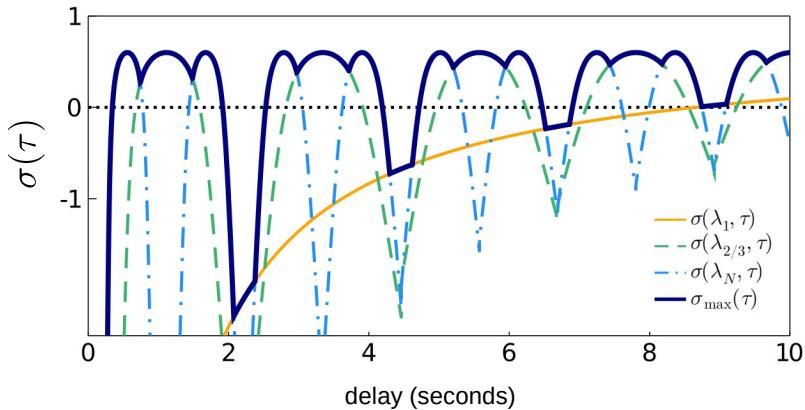
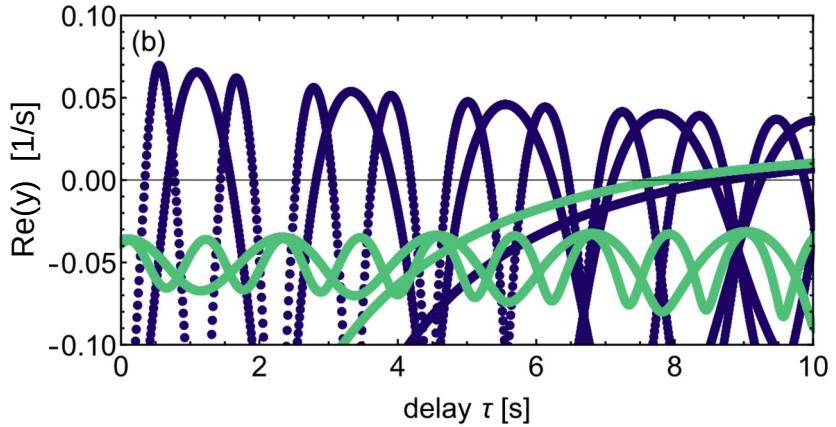
$$\sigma(\lambda, \tau) = 1 - \frac{1}{\gamma\tau y^*(\lambda, \tau)} \sqrt{(y^*(\lambda, \tau)^2 - \lambda\tau^2)^2 + (\alpha\tau y^*(\lambda, \tau))^2}$$

- Stable if and only if  $\sigma(\lambda_k, \tau) < 0 \quad \forall \lambda_k$

# Analytical approach – Delay master stability function



# Analytical vs. numerical



## Numerical

- Compute large number of roots (e.g.  $10^7$ )
- Possibly not all critical roots found

## Analytical

- Compute max.  $2N$  roots
- Necessary and sufficient stability conditions

## Example 2: Kuramoto model with delayed coupling

Second-order Kuramoto model

$$\ddot{\varphi}_i = -\alpha \dot{\varphi}_i + \beta \left( P_i^d - \sum_{j=1}^N K_{ij} \sin(\varphi_i^\tau - \varphi_j^\tau) \right)$$

## Example 2: Kuramoto model with delayed coupling

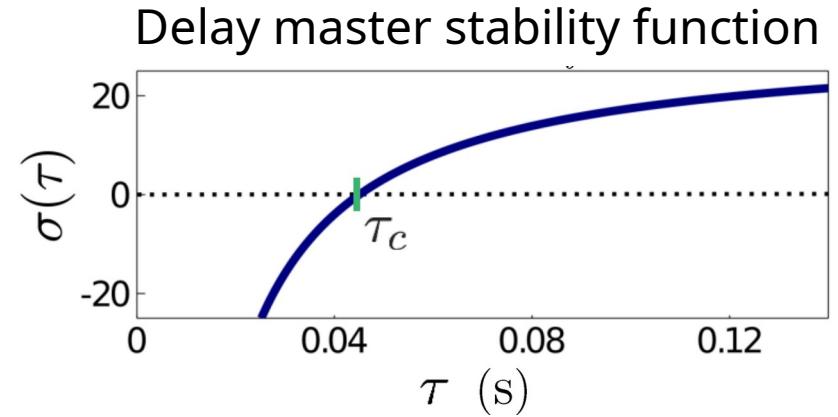
Second-order Kuramoto model

$$\ddot{\varphi}_i = -\alpha \dot{\varphi}_i + \beta \left( P_i^d - \sum_{j=1}^N K_{ij} \sin(\varphi_i^\tau - \varphi_j^\tau) \right)$$

Stability condition

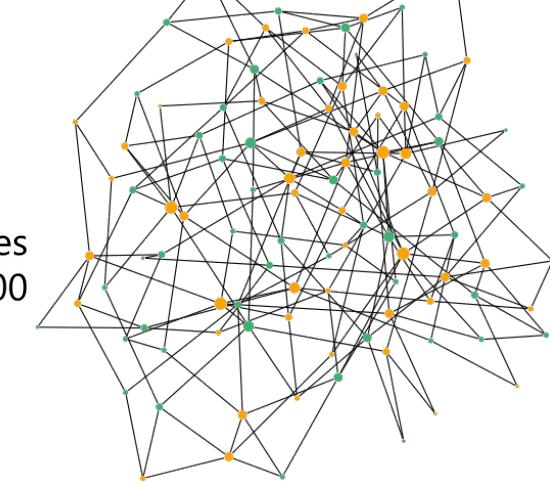
$$\lambda_N < \frac{1}{\beta} \sqrt{\left(\frac{y_1}{\tau}\right)^4 + \alpha^2 \left(\frac{y_1}{\tau}\right)^2}$$

$$y_1 = \alpha \tau \cot y_1$$

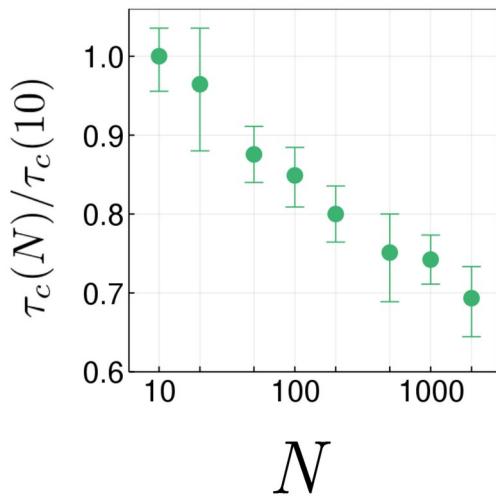
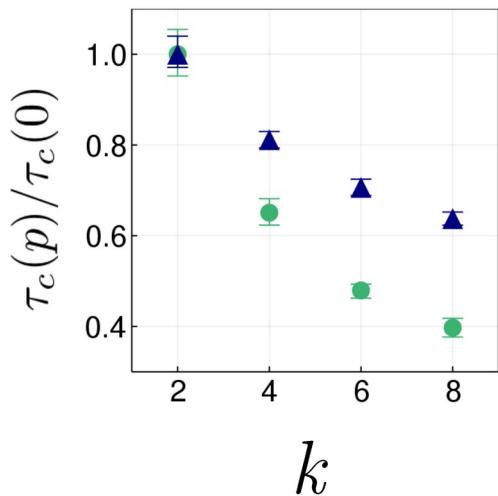
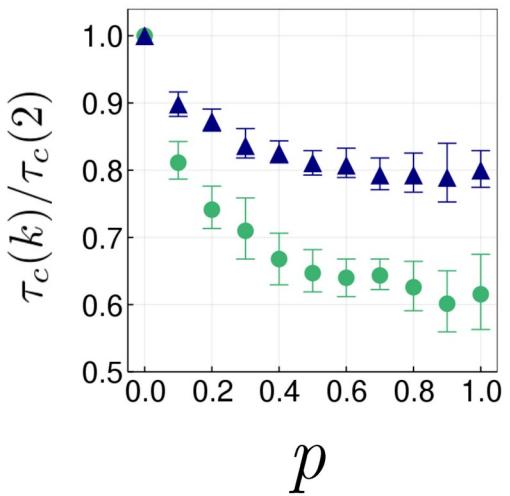


# Critical delay in small world networks

fixed values  
 $p = 0.5, k = 4, N = 100$



- Kuramoto-like model
- ▲ Smart grid control model





- **Energy transition:** challenge for design and control of stable power grids



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- **Complex oscillator networks:** powerful framework to study dynamics of real system



- **Energy transition:** challenge for design and control of stable power grids
- **Complex oscillator networks:** powerful framework to study dynamics of real system
- **Delay master stability approach:** necessary and sufficient stability conditions



- **Energy transition:** challenge for design and control of stable power grids
- **Complex oscillator networks:** powerful framework to study dynamics of real system
- **Delay master stability approach:** necessary and sufficient stability conditions
- **Old showers:** have patience



# Thank you!

## References

- Schäfer et al. (2015) New J. Physics 17, 015002
- Schäfer et al. (2016) Eur. Phys. J. Special Topics 225, 569-582
- Börner et al. (2020) Phys. Rev. Research 2, 023409
- more on [github.com/reykboerner/delay-networks](https://github.com/reykboerner/delay-networks)