

# Nonlinear Dynamics, Complex Networks, Information Theory and Machine Learning in Neuroscience

## ORGANIZERS

## LECTURERS



**Hilda Cerdeira**  
(ICTP-SAIFR, Brazil)



**Jesus Gomez-Gardeñes**  
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**Cristina Masoller**  
(Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, España)



**Ana Amador**  
(Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina)



**Osvaldo Rosso**  
(Universidade Federal de Alagoas, Brazil)



**Jordi Soriano**  
(Universitat de Barcelona, España)



International Centre  
for Theoretical Physics  
South American Institute  
for Fundamental Research

**Support: Humberto, Thiago and Jandira**

Time	Monday, day 22	Tuesday, day 23	Wednesday, day 24	Thursday, day 25	Friday, day 26
8 :30 - 9 :30	Registration				
9 :30 - 10 :30	Course 1.1. Cristina Masoller: Introduction to time-series analysis	Course 2.2. Ana Amador: Introduction to nonlinear dynamics and excitable systems	Course 4.2. Jordi Soriano: Introduction to neuronal cultures: experimental and data analysis techniques	Course 1.3. Cristina Masoller: Introduction to time-series analysis	Course 4.2. Jordi Soriano: Introduction to neuronal cultures: experimental and data analysis techniques
10 :30 - 11 :00	BREAK	BREAK	BREAK	BREAK	BREAK
11 :00 - 12 :00	Course 2.1. Ana Amador: Introduction to nonlinear dynamics and excitable systems	Course 1.2. Cristina Masoller: Introduction to time-series analysis	Course 3.3. Jesús Gomez-Gardenes: Introduction to synchronization phenomena and the Kuramoto model	Course 5.2. Osvaldo Rosso: Introduction to information theory and complexity measures	Course 5.3. Osvaldo Rosso: Introduction to information theory and complexity measures
12 :00 - 13 :00	Course 3.1. Jesús Gomez-Gardenes: Introduction to synchronization phenomena and the Kuramoto model	Course 3.2. Jesús Gomez-Gardenes: Introduction to synchronization phenomena and the Kuramoto model	Course 5.1. Osvaldo Rosso: Introduction to information theory and complexity measures	Course 2.3. Ana Amador: Introduction to nonlinear dynamics and excitable systems	Hands on
13 :00 - 14 :30	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH
14 :30 - 15 :30	Course 4.1. Jordi Soriano: Introduction to neuronal cultures: experimental and data analysis techniques	Hands on	IFT-COLLOQUIUM. Jesús Gomez-Gardenes (at 14:00)	Hands on	Hands on
15 :30 - 17 :00	STUDENTS' PRESENTATION	Hands on	Hands on	Hands on	PRESENTATION PROJECTS

## Colloquium

Network epidemiology: A complex systems' approach towards epidemic control

School on Nonlinear Dynamics, Complex Networks, Information Theory and Machine Learning in Neuroscience, 22-26 May 2023

# Nonlinear time series analysis

Cristina Masoller

Departamento de Física  
Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya

Class 1: From dynamical systems to complex systems

Class 2: Univariate time series analysis

Class 3: Bivariate and multivariate analysis



UNIVERSITAT POLITÈCNICA  
DE CATALUNYA  
BARCELONATECH

*Campus d'Excel·lència Internacional*



[cristina.masoller@upc.edu](mailto:cristina.masoller@upc.edu)



[@cristinamasoll1](https://twitter.com/cristinamasoll1)



International Centre  
for Theoretical Physics  
South American Institute  
for Fundamental Research

# Presentation

- Originally from Montevideo, Uruguay.
- Bachelor and Master degrees from Facultad de Ciencias, Universidad de la Republica, Uruguay.
- PhD in physics (Bryn Mawr College, USA).
- Professor of Physics, Universitat Politecnica de Catalunya.
- Research group: Dynamics, Nonlinear Optics and Lasers



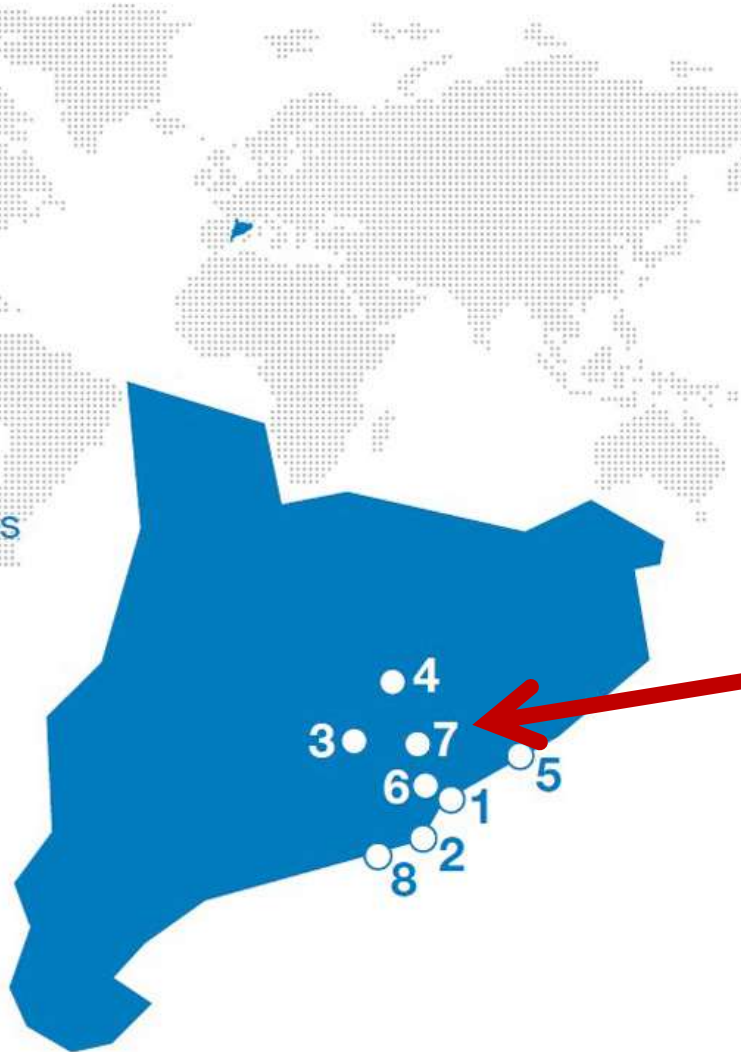
UNIVERSIDAD DE LA REPÚBLICA  
URUGUAY

BRYN MAWR  
COLLEGE

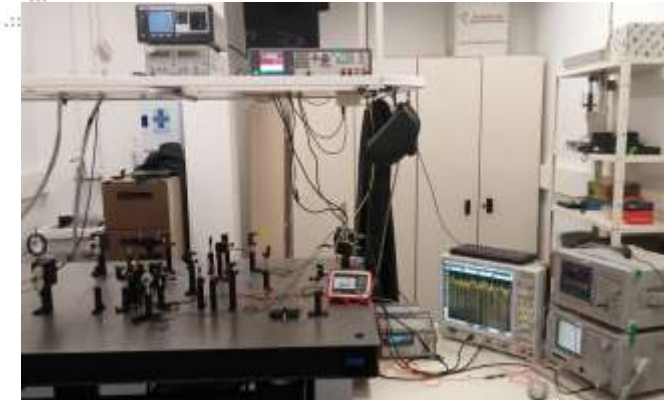


# Where are we? UPC Campus Terrassa

1. Barcelona
2. Castelldefels
3. Igualada
4. Manresa
5. Mataró
6. Sant Cugat del Vallès
7. Terrassa
8. Vilanova i la Geltrú

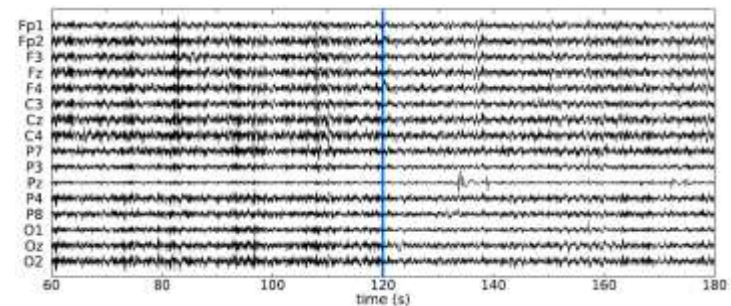
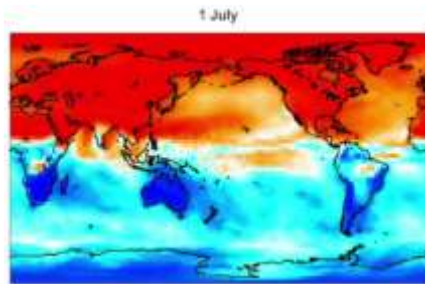
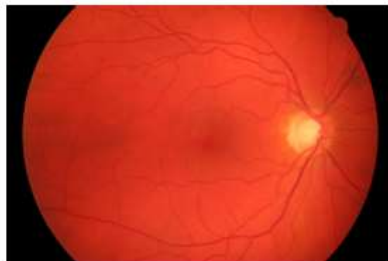
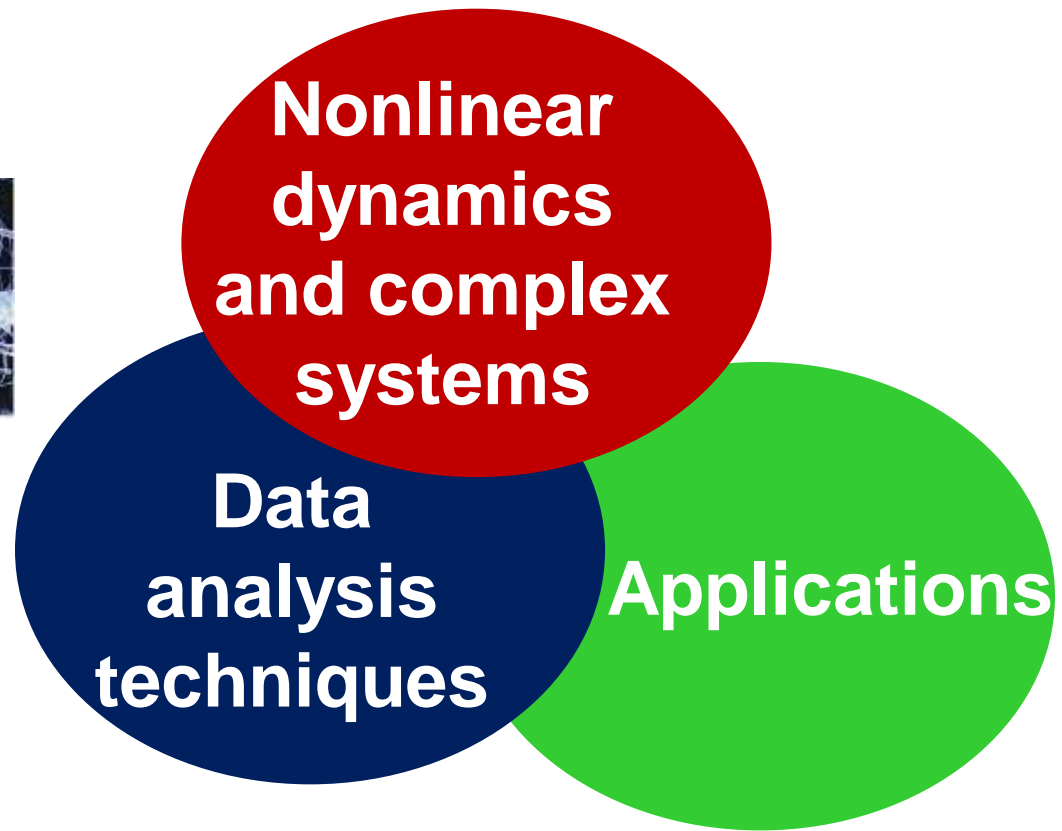


El edificio Gaia centraliza grupos científicos consolidados y emergentes.



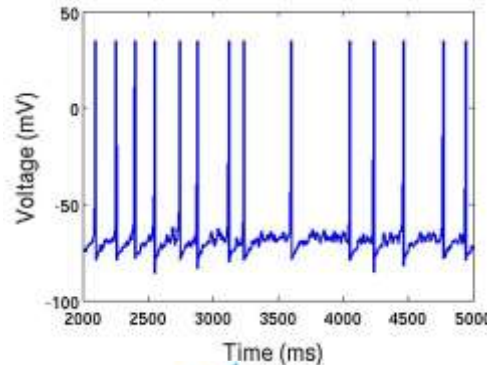
Laser lab in Gaia Building,  
UPC Campus Terrassa

# Research lines

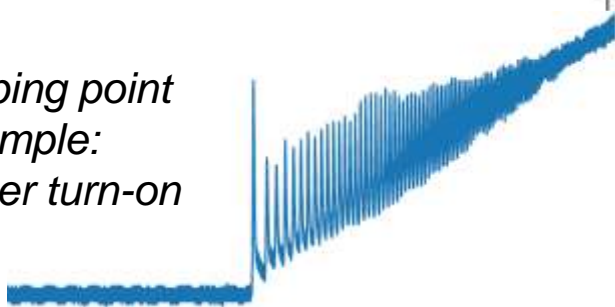


# Lasers, neurons, climate, complex systems?

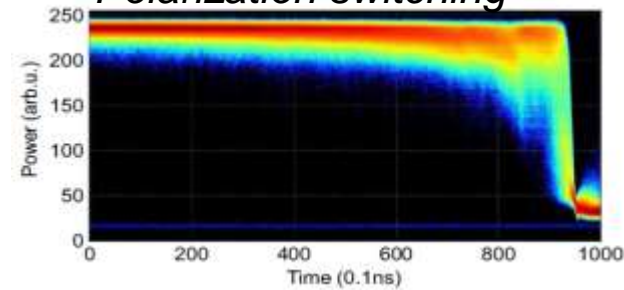
## Laser & neuronal spikes



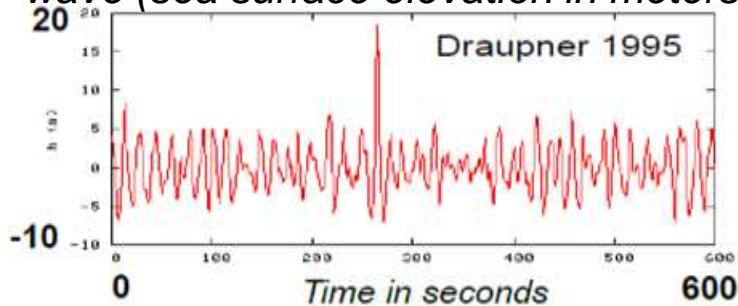
Tipping point  
example:  
Laser turn-on



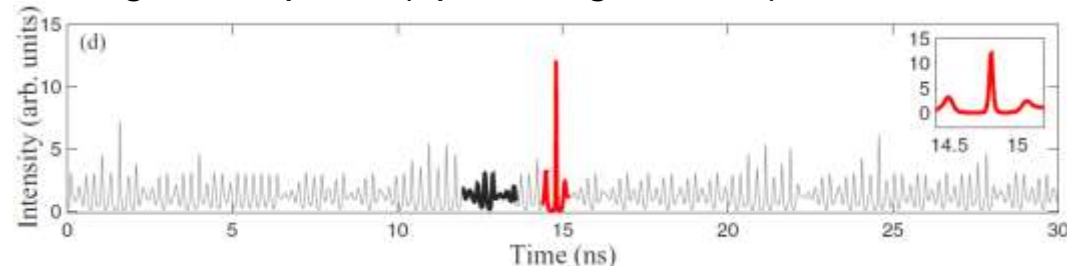
## Polarization switching



Extreme event example: ocean rogue  
wave (sea surface elevation in meters)



High laser pulse (optical rogue wave)



# Outline

## Class 1: From dynamical systems to complex systems

- Dynamical systems
- The Logistic map
- Chaotic attractors
- Synchronization
- The Kuramoto model
- Complex networks
- Machine learning and data science

## Class 2: Univariate time series analysis

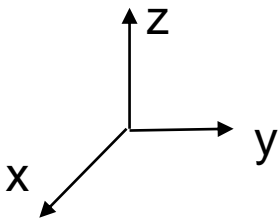
## Class 3: Bivariate and Multivariate analysis



# The start of dynamical systems: Newton & Poincare



- Mid-1600s: Newtonian mechanics
- Analytic planetary orbits (the “two-body” problem).
- No analytic solution of the “three-body” problem.
- Late 1800s: Poincare’s phase space and recurrence theorem

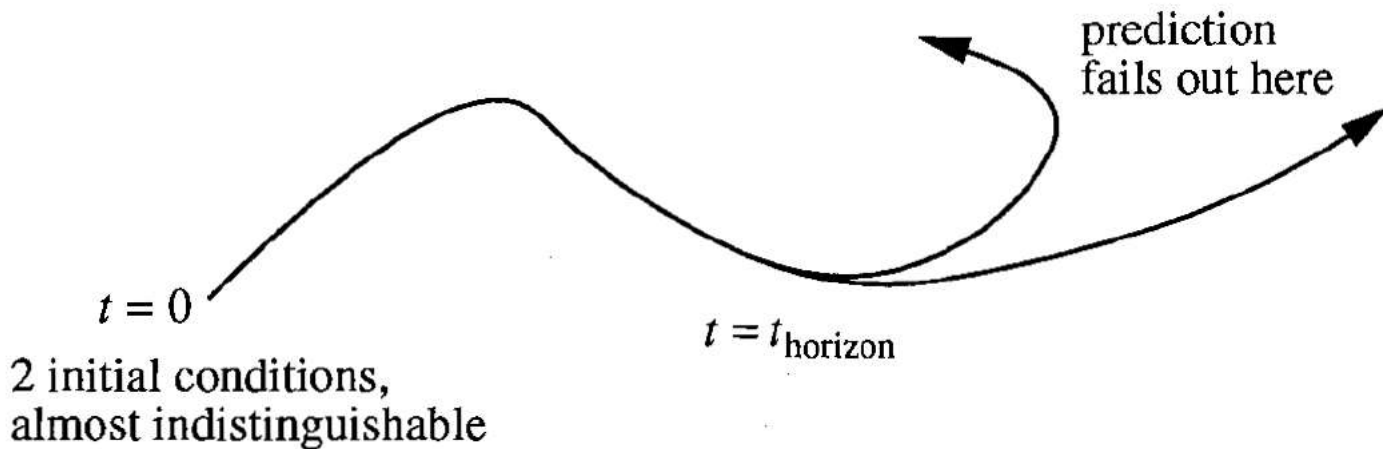


*Certain systems will, after a sufficiently long but finite time, return to a state very close to the initial state.*



# Poincare also had the intuition of the possibility of chaos

*“The evolution of a **deterministic** system can be aperiodic, unpredictable, and strongly depends on the initial conditions”.*



*How to determine the prediction horizon?  
How to estimate the uncertainty?*

# 1950-60s: computer simulations

- Huge advance in the field of “*Dynamical Systems*”.
- 1960s: **Eduard Lorenz**: simple model of convection rolls in the atmosphere.



$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dx}{dt} &= -\sigma x + \sigma y, \\ \frac{dy}{dt} &= -xz + rx - y, \\ \frac{dz}{dt} &= xy - bz.\end{aligned}$$

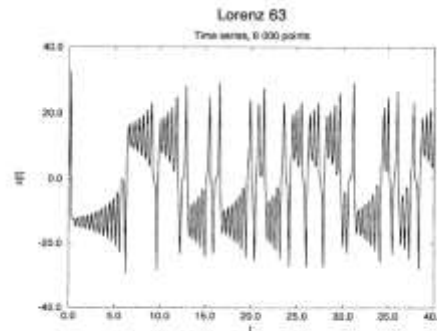
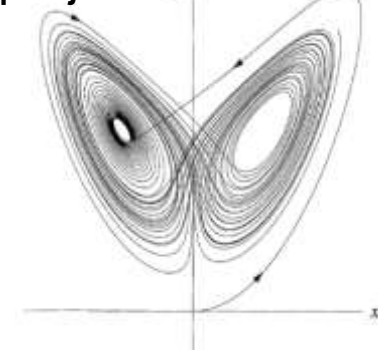


FIG. 1. Chaotic time series  $x(t)$  produced by Lorenz (1963) equations (11) with parameter values  $r=45.92$ ,  $b=4.0$ ,  $\sigma=16.0$ .

2D projection of 3D attractor



- Most famous **chaotic** attractor.

# Can we observe chaos experimentally?

VOLUME 57, NUMBER 22

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

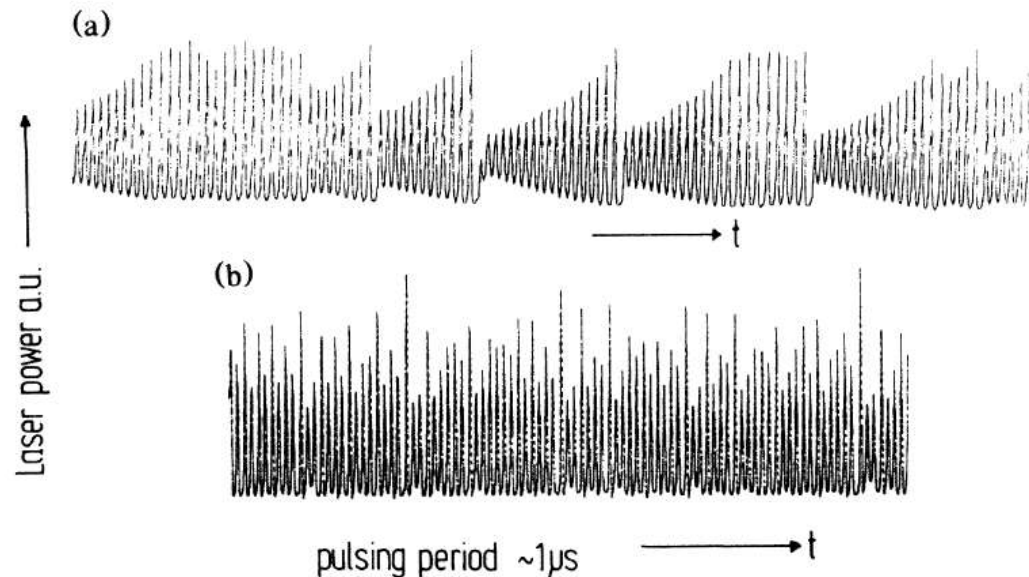
1 DECEMBER 1986

## Evidence for Lorenz-Type Chaos in a Laser

C. O. Weiss and J. Brock<sup>(a)</sup>

*Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt, D-3300 Braunschweig, Federal Republic of Germany*

(Received 18 April 1986)



optically pumped  $\text{NH}_3$  laser

## The 1970s

- **Robert May** : "Simple mathematical models with very complicated dynamics", *Nature* (1976).



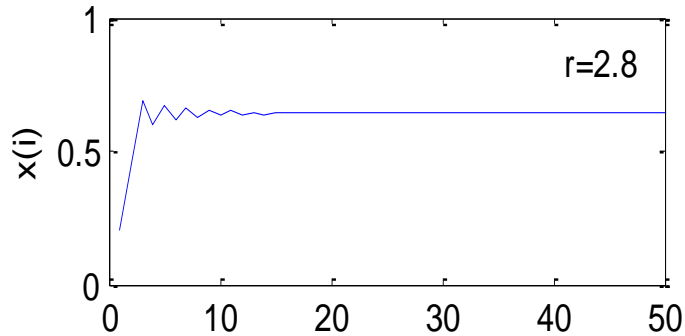
$$x_{t+1} = f(x_t)$$

A classical example: **The Logistic map**  $f(x) = r x(1 - x)$   
 $x \in (0, 1)$ ,  $r \in (0, 4)$

- Difference equations (“iterated maps”), in spite of being simple and deterministic, can exhibit: **stable points**, **stable cycles**, and **apparently random fluctuations**.

# The logistic map:

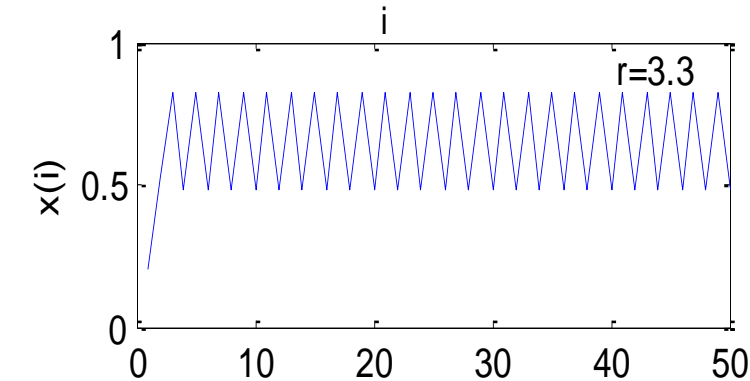
$$x(i+1) = r x(i)[1 - x(i)] \quad x \in (0,1), r \in (0,4)$$



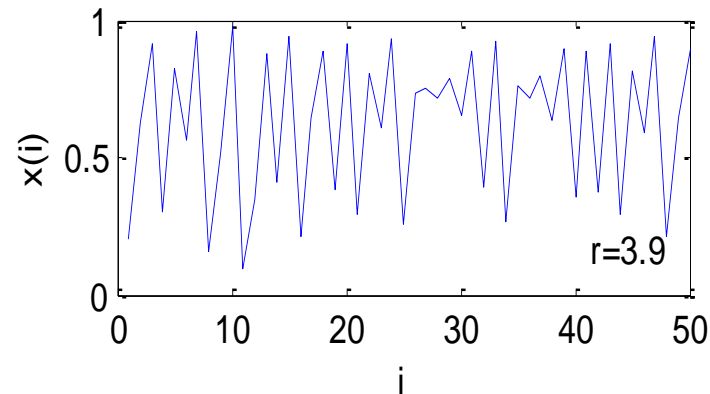
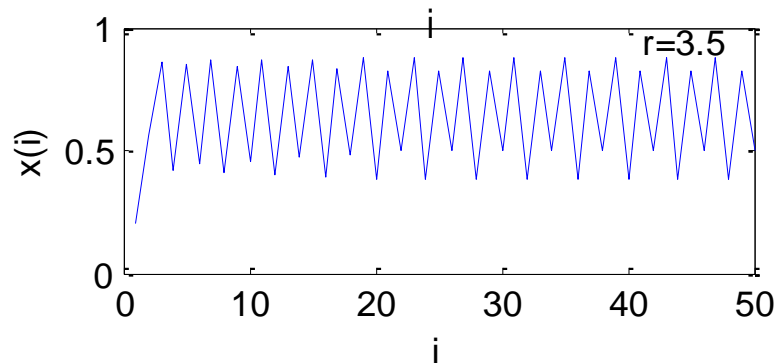
$r=2.8$ , Initial condition:  $x(1) = 0.2$

**Transient** relaxation  $\rightarrow$  long-term stability

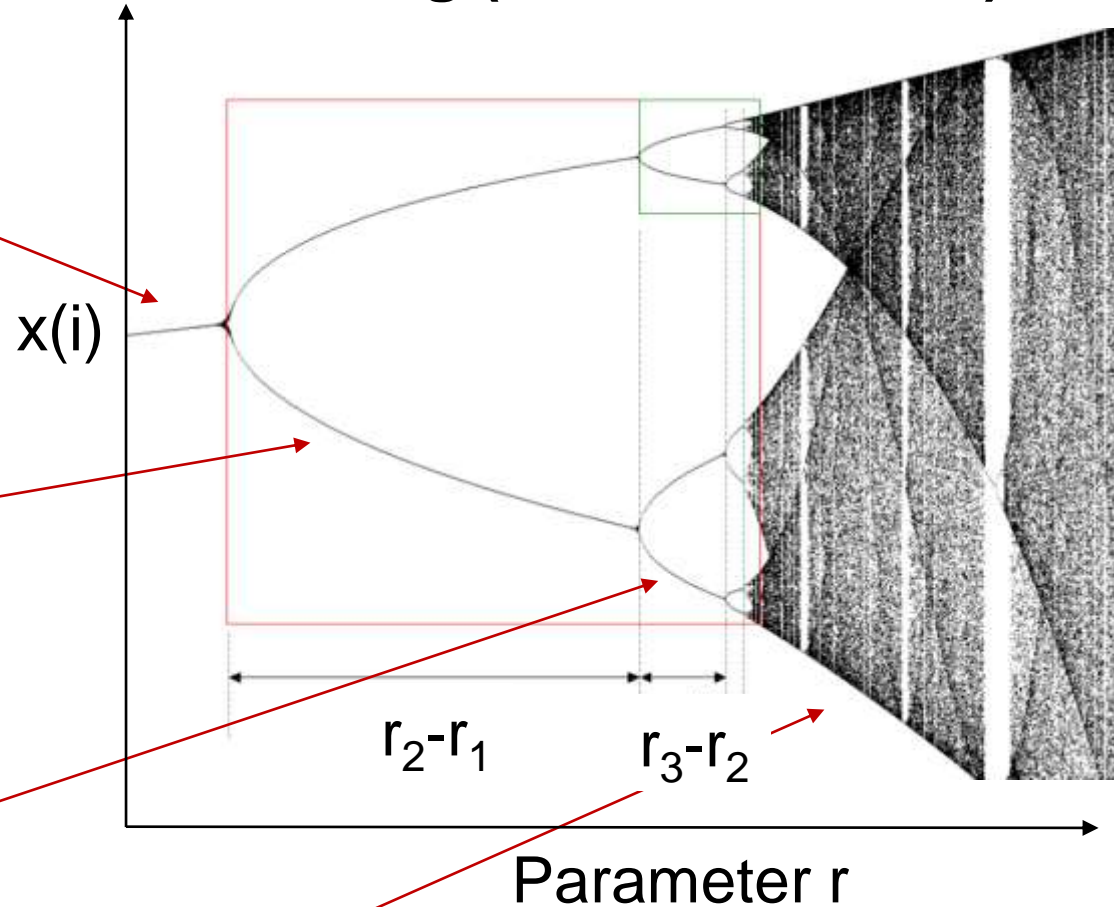
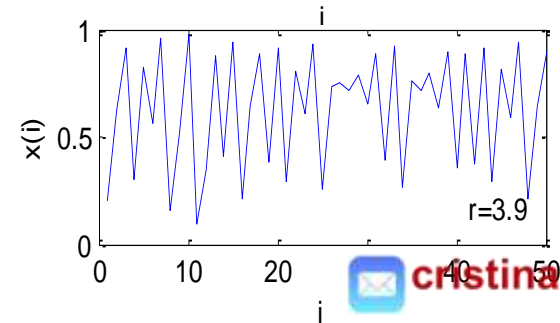
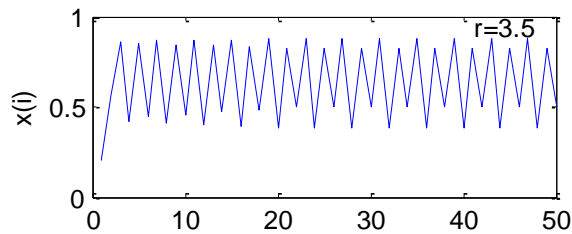
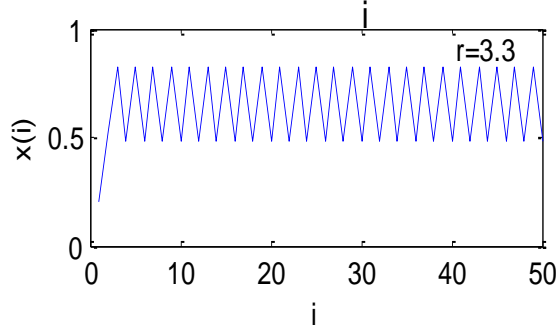
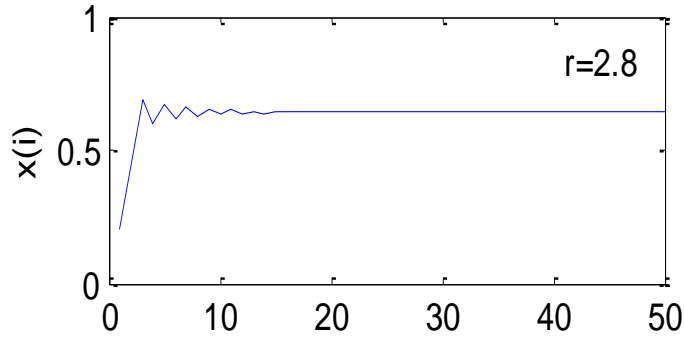
The fixed point is the solution of:  
 $x = r x (1-x) \Rightarrow x = 1 - 1/r$



**Transient** dynamics  $\rightarrow$  oscillations  
(regular or irregular)

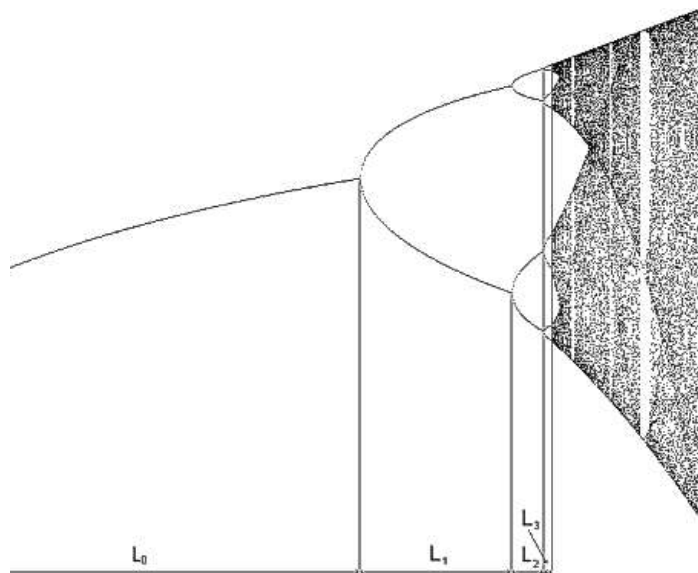


# Bifurcation diagram: period-doubling (or subharmonic) route to chaos



# Order within chaos (1975)

**M. Feigenbaum**, using a small HP-65 programmable calculator, discovered “hidden” order in the route to chaos: the scaling of the bifurcation points of the Logistic map.



$$\delta = \lim \frac{L_i}{L_{i+1}} = 4.669201\dots$$



HP-65 calculator:  
the first magnetic  
card-programmable  
handheld calculator



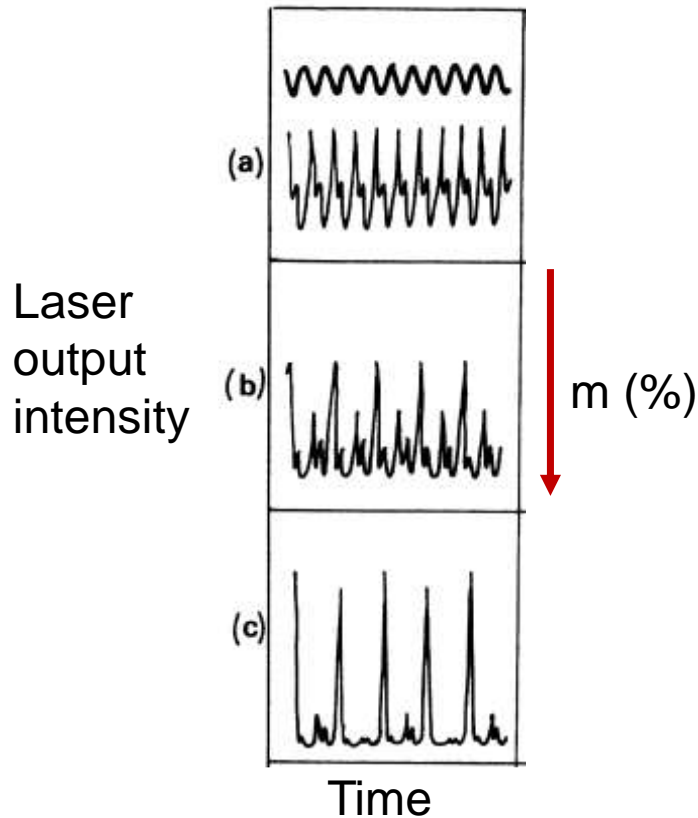
## A universal law

Feigenbaum demonstrated that the same behavior, with the same mathematical constant ( $\delta=4.6692\dots$ ), occurs for a wide class of functions.  $x_{t+1} = f(x_t)$

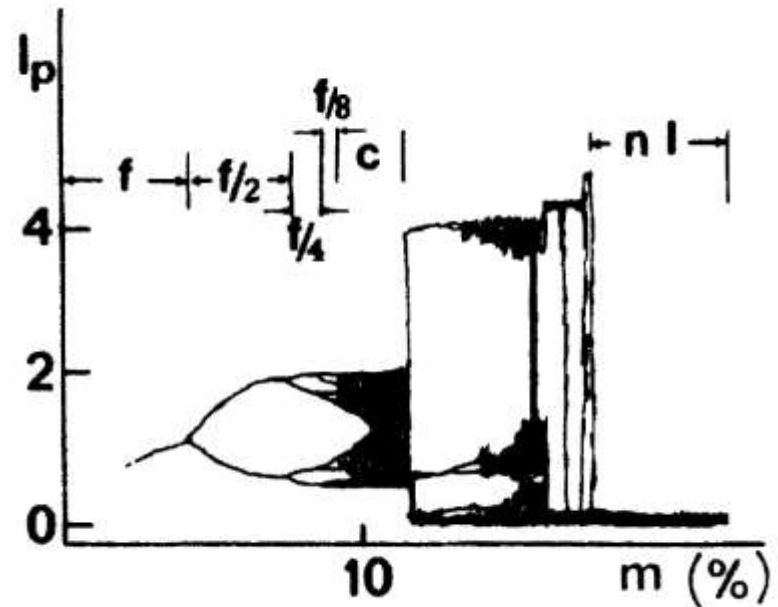
$\Rightarrow$  Very different systems (in chemistry, biology, physics, etc.) go to chaos in the same way, quantitatively.

# Can we observe the period doubling route experimentally?

(about 10 years later) With a modulated laser, keeping constant the modulation frequency and increasing modulation amplitude.



*J. R. Tredicce et al,*  
*Phys. Rev. A 34, 2073 (1986).*

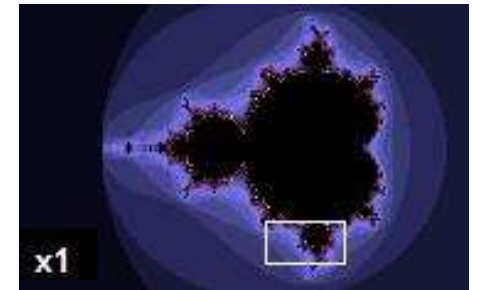


*Problems:*

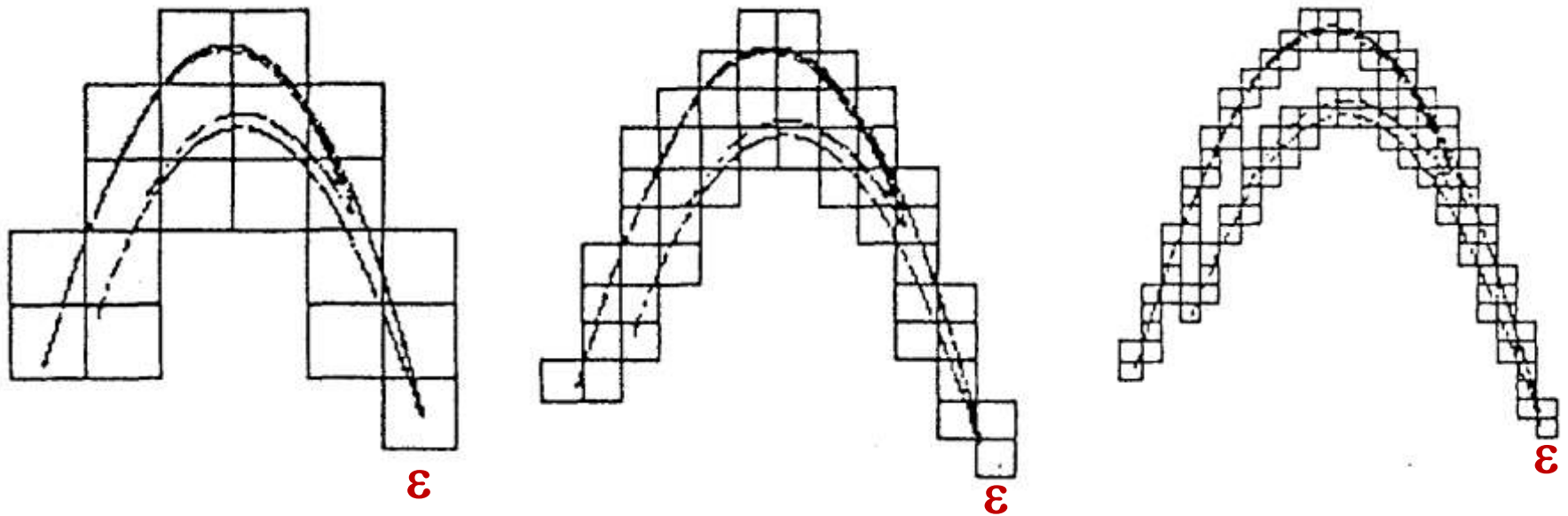
- *How to identify an approaching bifurcation point (tipping point)?*
- *How to distinguish transient from non-transient behavior?*

# The late 1970s

- **Benoit B. Mandelbrot** (Polish-born, French and American mathematician 1924-2010): “self-similarity” and **fractal objects**:  
each part of the object is like the whole object but smaller.
- Because of his access to IBM's computers, Mandelbrot was one of the first to use **computer graphics** to create and display fractal geometric images.



# How to estimate the dimension of a fractal?



Box counting: number of occupied boxes scales as  $(1/\epsilon)^D$

Abarbanel et al, Reviews of Modern Physics 65, 1331 (1993).

# Examples of fractal objects in nature



Broccoli  $D=2.66$



Human lung  $D=2.97$



Coastline of Ireland  $D=1.22$

# Patterns in nature: how “self-organization” emerges?



- **Ilya Prigogine** (Belgium, born in Moscow, Nobel Prize in Chemistry 1977).
- Studied chemical systems far from equilibrium.
- Discovered that the interplay of (external) **input of energy** and **dissipation** can lead to “self-organized” patterns.



# The 1990s: can two chaotic systems synchronize?

VOLUME 64, NUMBER 8

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

19 FEBRUARY 1990

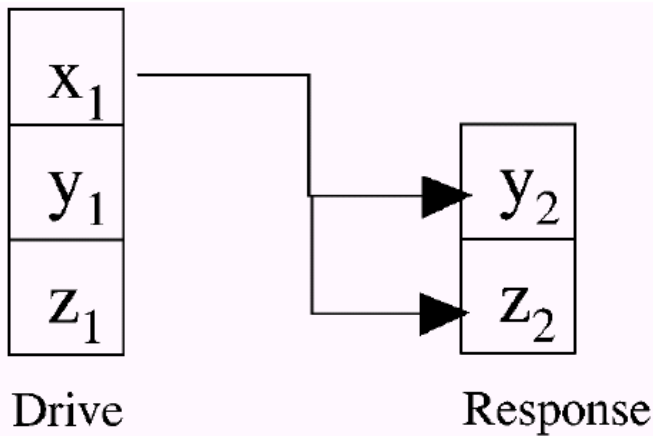
## Synchronization in Chaotic Systems

Louis M. Pecora and Thomas L. Carroll

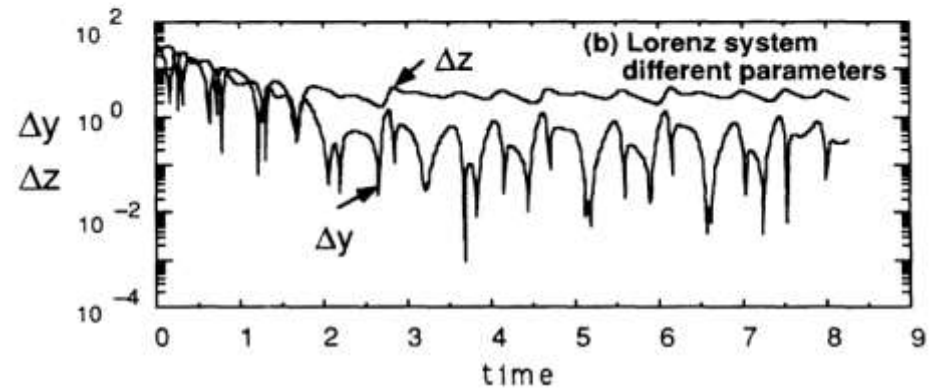
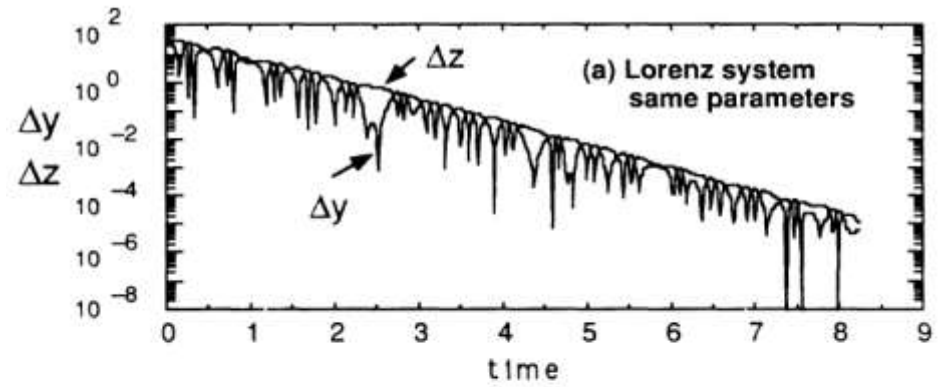
Code 6341, Naval Research Laboratory, Washington, D.C. 20375

(Received 20 December 1989)

### Coupled Lorenz systems



$$t \rightarrow \infty \quad |y_2 - y_1| \rightarrow 0, \quad |z_2 - z_1| \rightarrow 0$$



# Can we observe the synchronization of two chaotic systems?

VOLUME 72, NUMBER 13

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

28 MARCH 1994

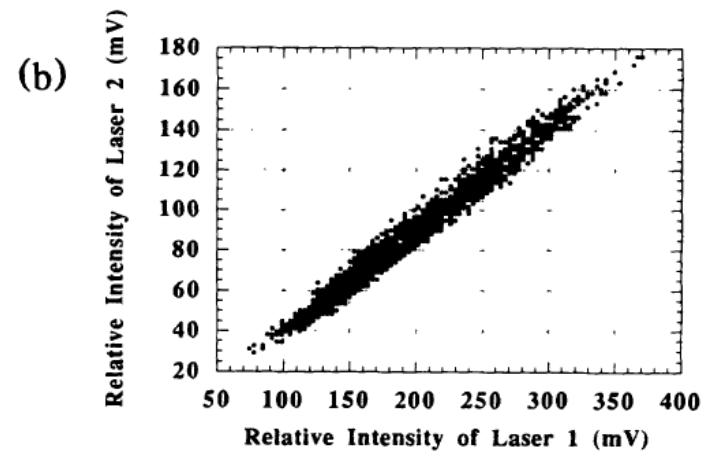
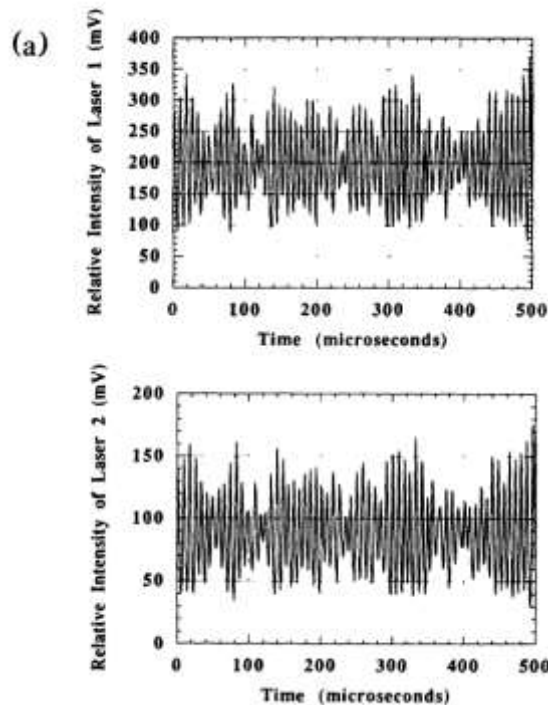
## Experimental Synchronization of Chaotic Lasers

Rajarshi Roy and K. Scott Thornburg, Jr.

*School of Physics, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, Georgia 30332*

(Received 30 August 1993)

We report the observation of synchronization of the chaotic intensity fluctuations of two Nd:YAG lasers when one or both the lasers are driven chaotic by periodic modulation of their pump beams.



*A problem of time series analysis:  
How to quantify synchronization?*



In fact, the first observation of synchronization was done much earlier: mutual *entrainment* of two pendulum clocks

Mid-1600s **Christiaan Huygens**: two pendulum clocks mounted on a common board synchronized and oscillated in opposite directions (in-phase also possible).

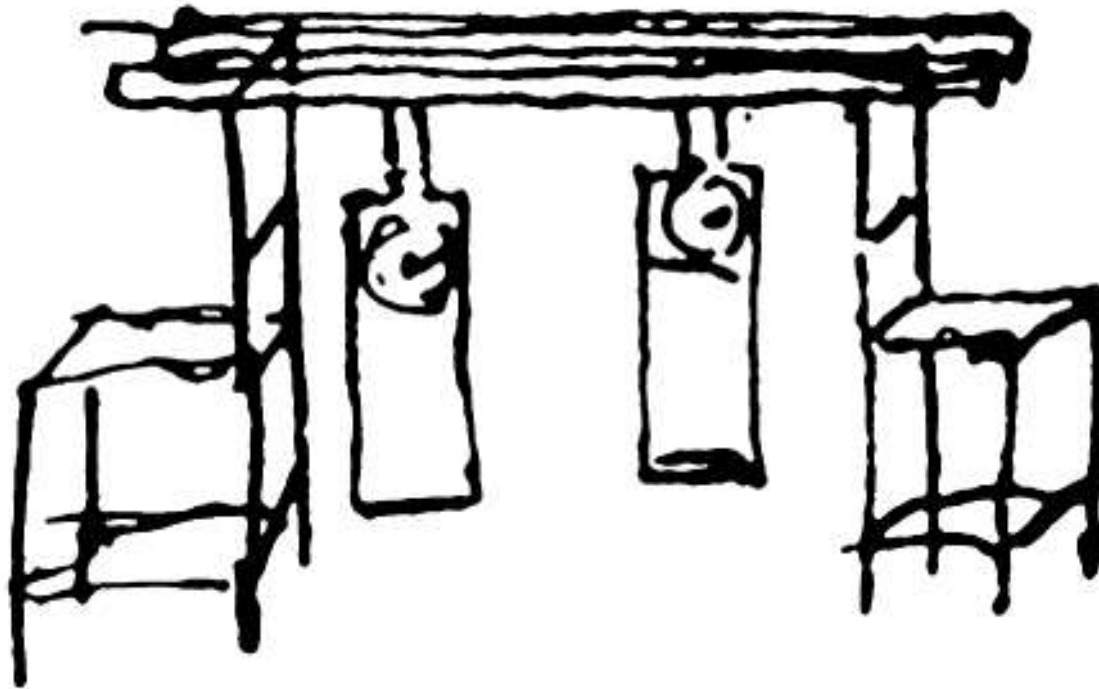


Figure 1.2. Original drawing of Christiaan Huygens illustrating his experiments with two pendulum clocks placed on a common support.

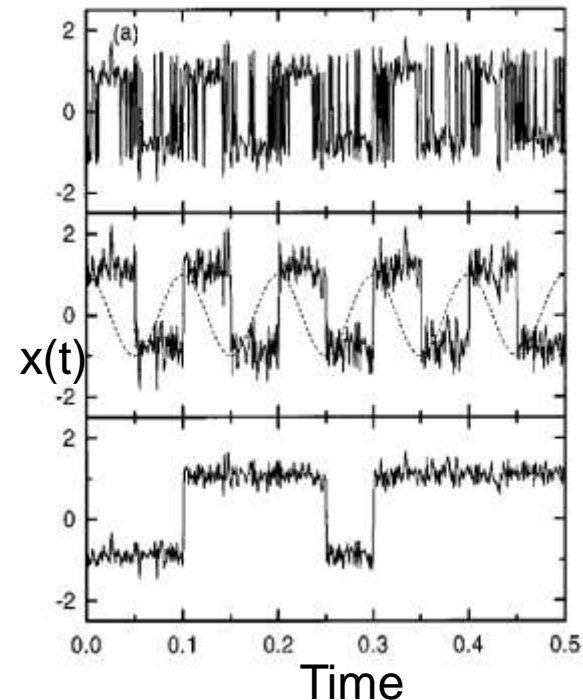
# Effect of noise in nonlinear systems? (late 80' and 90')

**Stochastic resonance**: an optimal level of noise can, in some **bistable** systems, enhance the detection of a weak signal, improving the performance of the system.

Bistable system      Periodic signal      Noise

$$\dot{x}(t) = -V'(x) + A_0 \cos(\Omega t + \varphi) + \xi(t)$$

$$V(x) = -\frac{a}{2} x^2 + \frac{b}{4} x^4$$



Gammaitoni, Hanggi et al,  
Rev. Mod. Phys. 70, 223 (1998).

# Can we observe the stochastic resonance phenomenon?

VOLUME 85, NUMBER 22

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

27 NOVEMBER 2000

## Experimental Evidence of Binary Aperiodic Stochastic Resonance

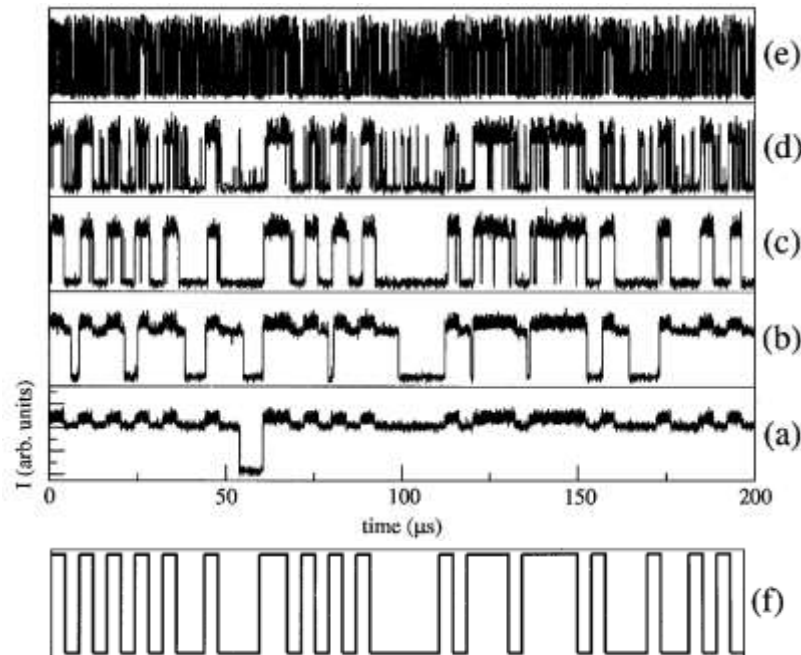
Sylvain Barbay,<sup>1</sup> Giovanni Giacomelli,<sup>1,3,\*</sup> and Francesco Marin<sup>2,3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Istituto Nazionale di Ottica Applicata, Largo E. Fermi 6, 50125 Firenze, Italy*

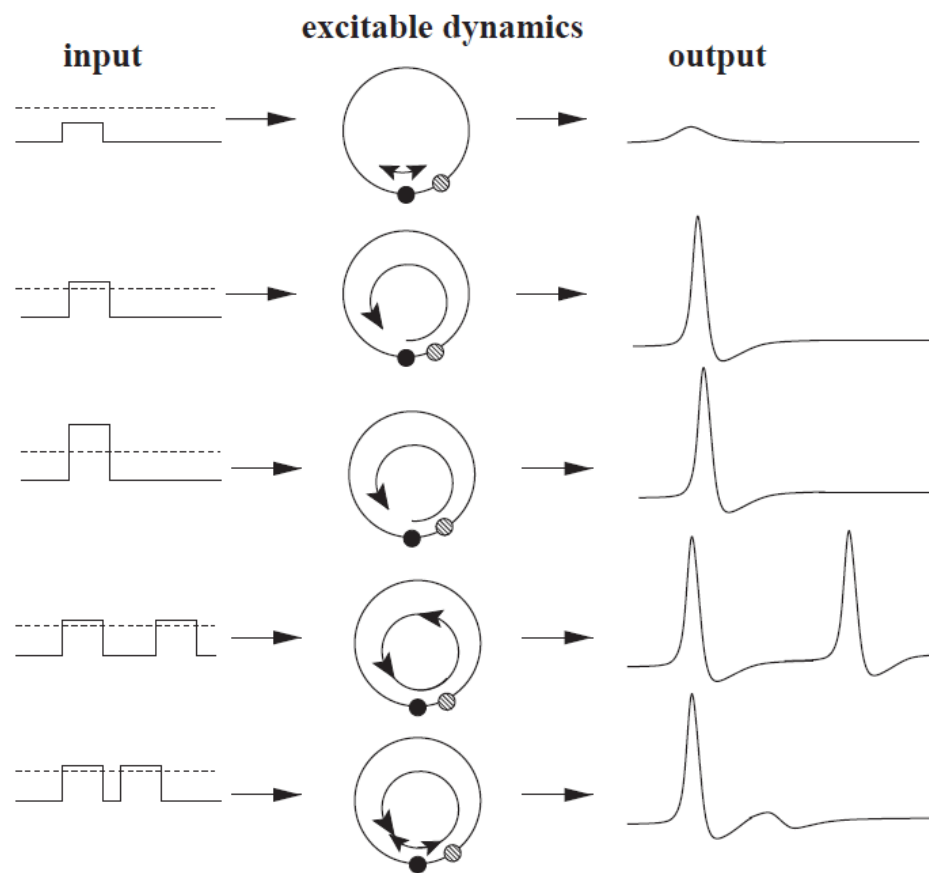
<sup>2</sup>*Dipartimento di Fisica, Università di Firenze, and Laboratorio Europeo di Spettroscopia Nonlineare,  
Largo E. Fermi 2, 50125 Firenze, Italy*

<sup>3</sup>*Istituto Nazionale di Fisica della Materia, unità di Firenze, Italy*  
(Received 14 March 2000)

(using a bistable laser that emits in two orthogonal polarizations)



# Effect of noise in excitable systems?



*B. Lindner et al., Phys. Rep. 392, 321 (2004).*

**Coherence Resonance** in a Noise-Driven Excitable System

Arkady S. Pikovsky\* and Jürgen Kurths\*

Max-Planck-Arbeitsgruppe "Nichtlineare Dynamik" an der Universität Potsdam Am Neuen Palais 19, PF 601553, D-14415, Potsdam, Germany

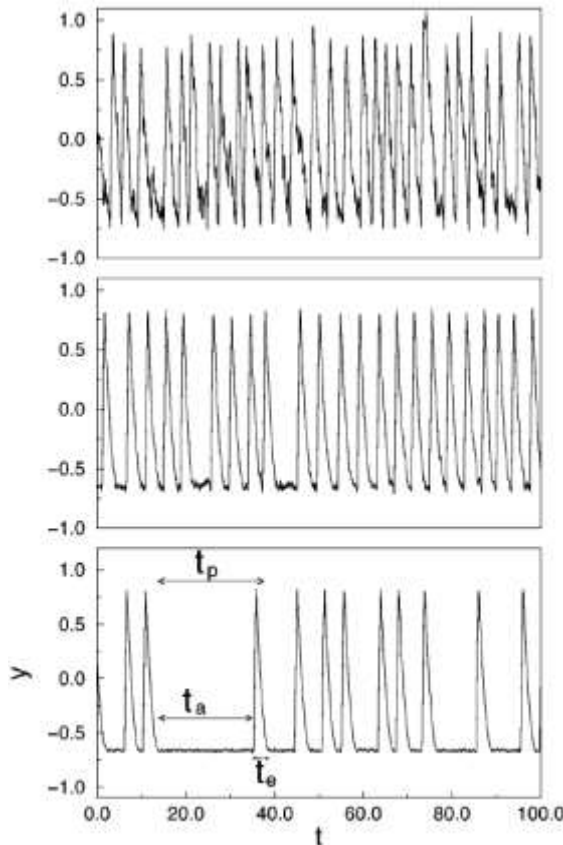
(Received 9 August 1996)

Fitz Hugh–  
Nagumo model

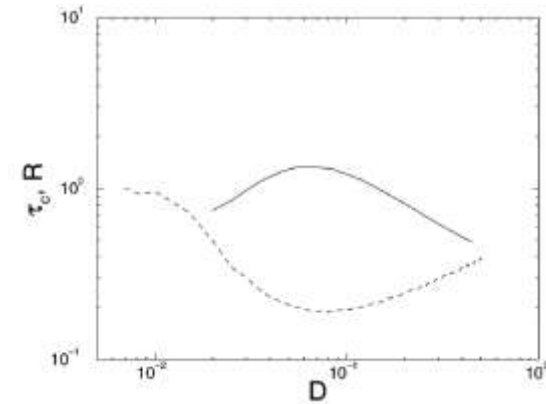
$$\varepsilon \frac{dx}{dt} = x - \frac{x^3}{3} - y,$$

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = x + a + D\xi(t)$$

D=0: stable behavior



↑  
D



# Observation of coherence and stochastic resonance in excitable lasers

## Experimental Evidence of Coherence Resonance in an Optical System

Giovanni Giacomelli

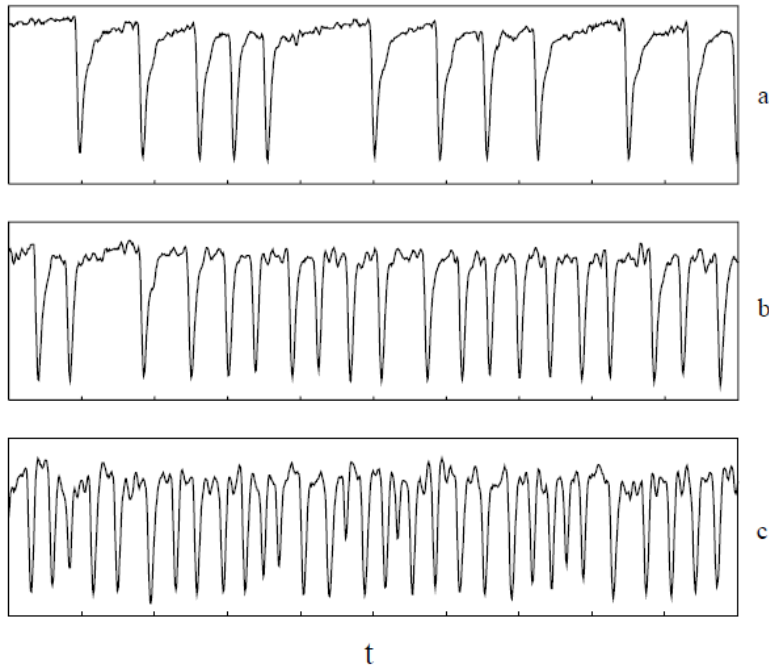
*Istituto Nazionale di Ottica, Largo E. Fermi 6, 50125 Firenze, Italy*

Massimo Giudici and Salvador Balle

*Departamento de Física Interdisciplinar, Instituto Mediterráneo de Estudios Avanzados (CSIC-UIB), 07071 Palma de Mallorca, Spain*

Jorge R. Tredicce

*Institut Non-Linéaire de Nice, UMR 6618 Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique-Université de Nice Sophia-Antipolis, 06560 Valbonne, France*



(varying the level of noise)

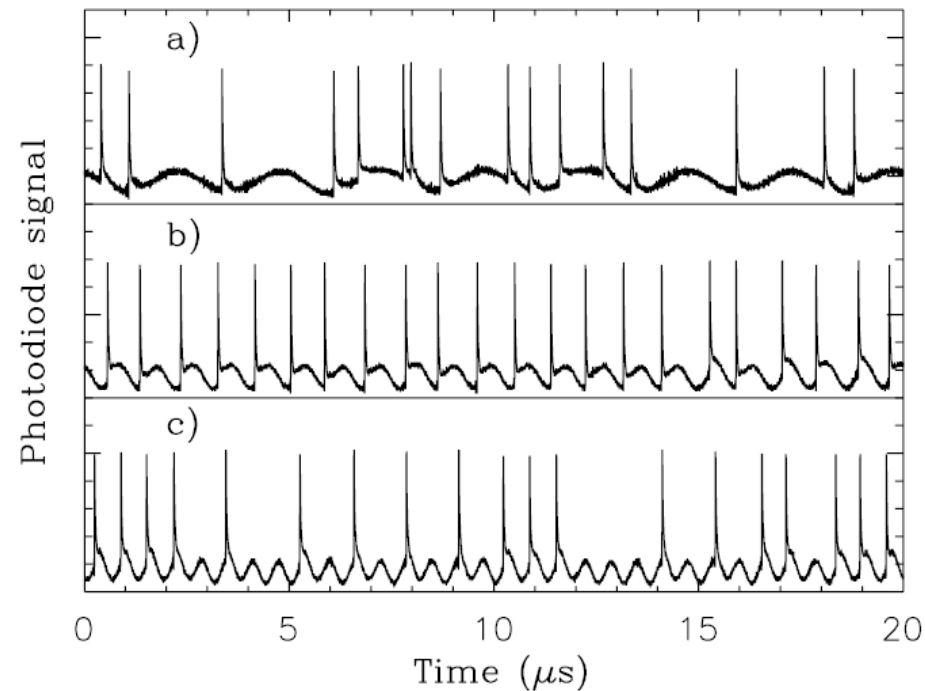
## Experimental Evidence of Stochastic Resonance in an Excitable Optical System

Francesco Marino, Massimo Giudici,<sup>\*</sup> Stéphane Barland,<sup>†</sup> and Salvador Balle

*Departamento de Física Interdisciplinar, Instituto Mediterráneo de Estudios Avanzados (CSIC-UIB),*

*C/ Miquel Marqués 21, E-07190 Esporles, Spain*

(Received 1 August 2001; published 10 January 2002)



(varying the frequency of the signal)

## And in neural systems?

- Douglass et al., “*Noise enhancement of information-transfer in crayfish mechanoreceptors by stochastic resonance*”, Nature 365, 337 (1993).
- Levin and Miller, “*Broadband neural encoding in the cricket cercal sensory system enhanced by stochastic resonance*”, Nature 380, 165 (1996).
- Moss et al., “*Stochastic resonance and sensory information processing: a tutorial and review of application*”, Clinical Neurophysiology 115, 267 (2004).
- McDonnell and Lawrence, “*The benefits of noise in neural systems: Bridging theory and experiment*”, Nat. Rev. Neurosci. 12, 415 (2011).

# However, what is “noise”? “neural noise”?

***Someone's noise is another one's signal***

(example: for a climatologist “weather” is noise).

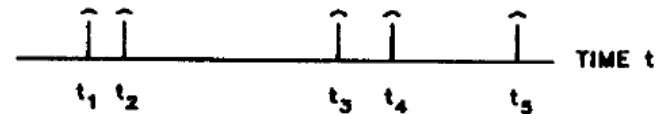


2D **random walk** or drunkard's walk  
(The Viking Press, New York, 1955)

*A main problem in time series analysis: How to “find the signal”?*

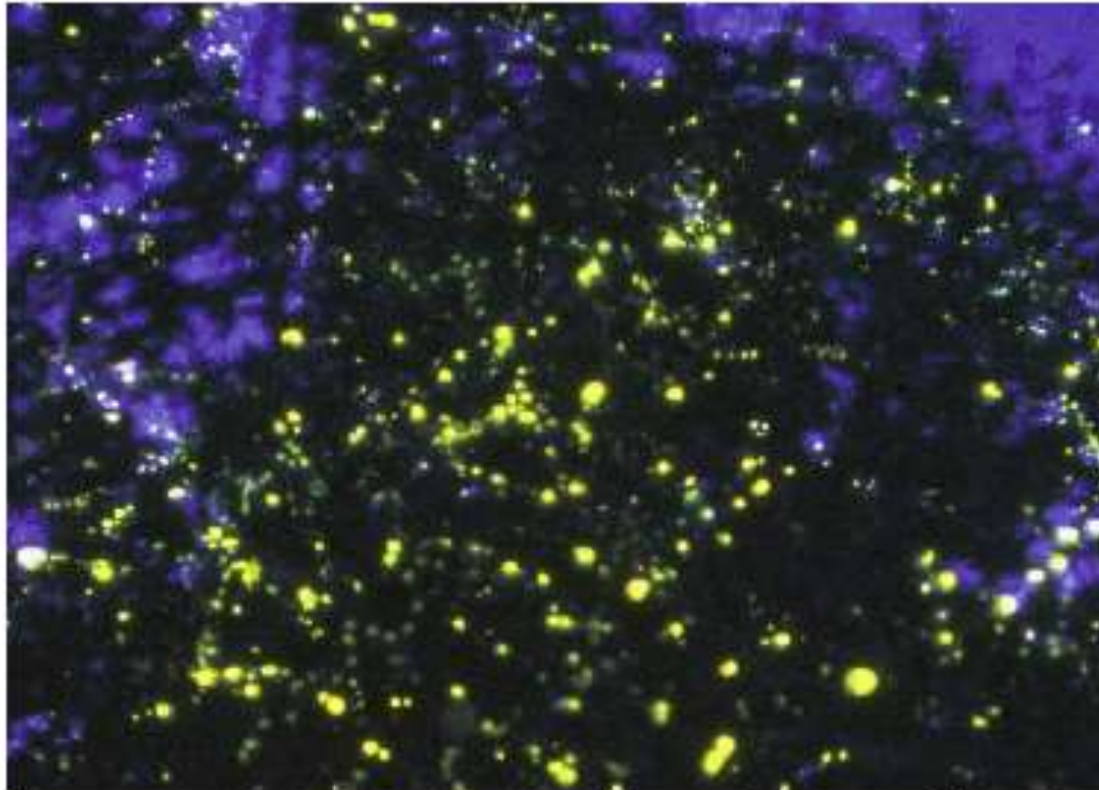
*How to filter out noise?*

*How to define a “point process”?*





# Late 90s, early 2000s: synchronization of a large number of dynamical systems



**Figure 1 | Fireflies, fireflies burning bright.** In the forests of the night, certain species of firefly flash in perfect synchrony — here *Pteroptyx malacca* in a mangrove apple tree in Malaysia. Kaka *et al.*<sup>2</sup> and Mancoff *et al.*<sup>3</sup> show that the same principle can be applied to oscillators at the nanoscale.

# Another example of synchronization: the opening of the London Millennium Bridge, June 10, 2000



Source: BBC

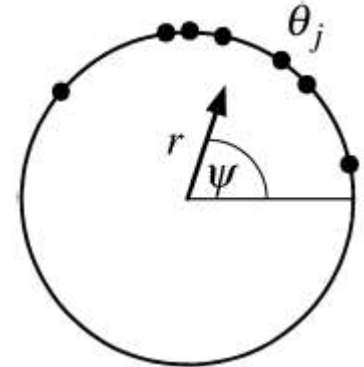


Crowd synchrony on the Millennium Bridge,  
Strogatz et al, Nature 438, 43 (2005)

# The Kuramoto model (Japanese physicist, 1975)

Model of **all-to-all** coupled **phase oscillators**.

$$\frac{d\theta_i}{dt} = \omega_i + \frac{K}{N} \sum_{j=1}^N \sin(\theta_j - \theta_i) + \xi_i, \quad i = 1 \dots N$$



$K$  = coupling strength,  $\xi_i$  = stochastic term (noise)

Describes the emergence of collective behavior

How to quantify?

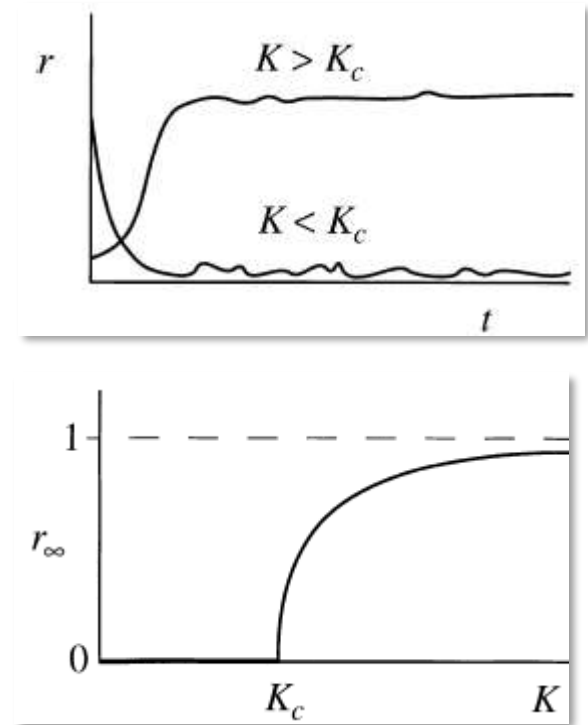
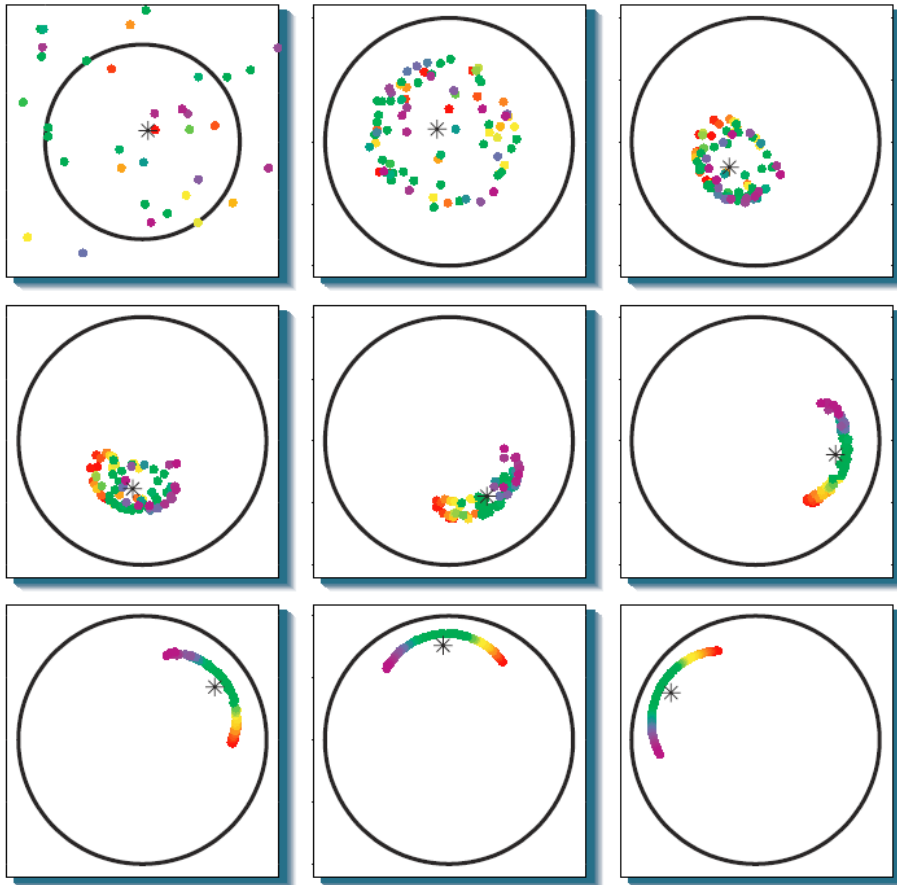
With the **order parameter**:

$$r e^{i\psi} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^N e^{i\theta_j}$$

$r = 0$  incoherent state (oscillators scattered in the unit circle)

$r = 1$  all oscillators are in phase ( $\theta_i = \theta_j \forall i, j$ )

# Synchronization transition as the coupling strength increases



Strogatz, Nature 2001

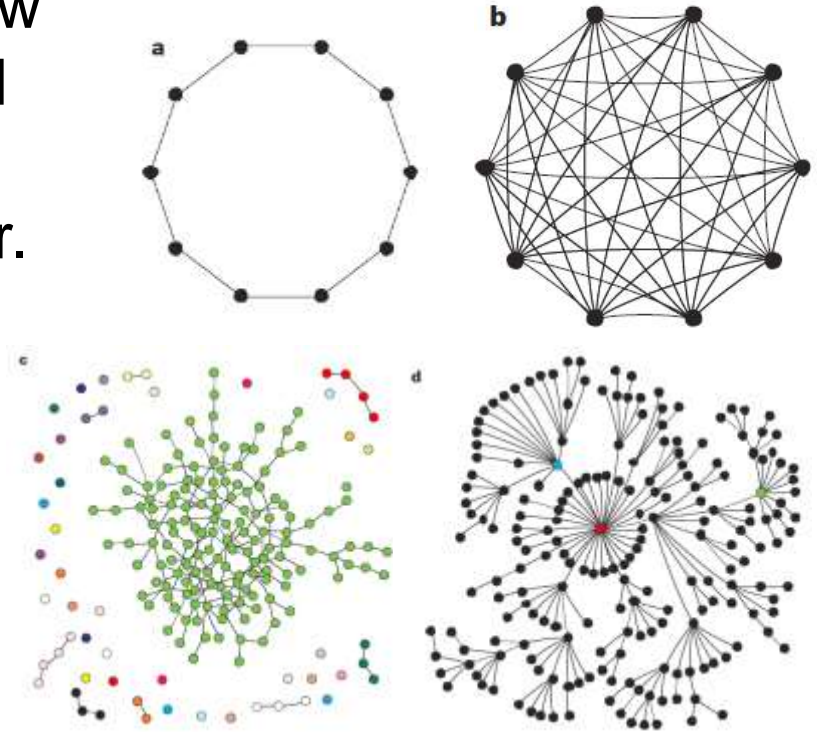
Video: [https://www.ted.com/talks/steven\\_strogatz\\_on\\_sync](https://www.ted.com/talks/steven_strogatz_on_sync)

# 2000s to present: from chaotic systems to complex systems

- Large number of interacting elements
- The elements and/or their interactions are **nonlinear**.
- Main difference with linear systems: a “reductionist” approach does not work.
- The behavior of complex system can not be predicted from the behavior of the individual units.

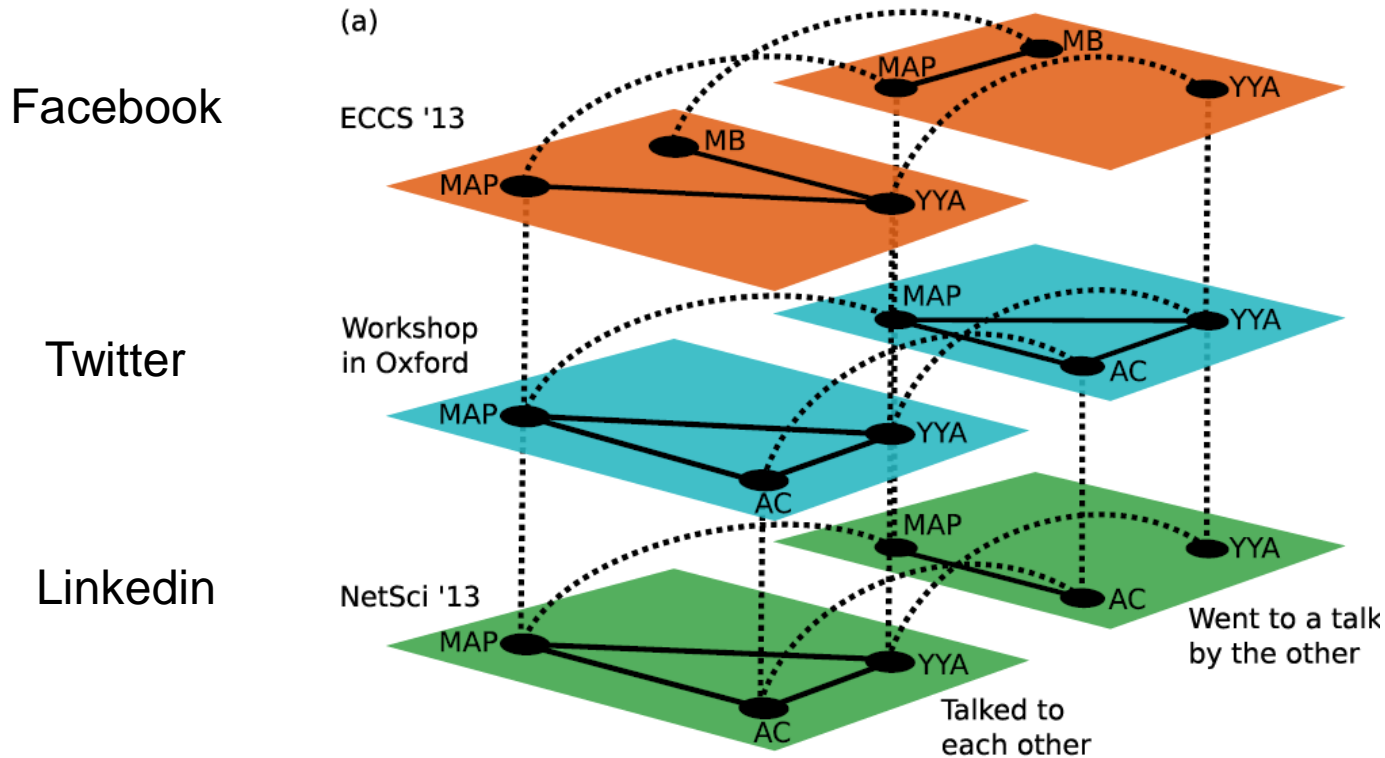
# Complexity science

- **Networks** (or **graphs**) are used for mathematical modelling of complex systems.
- Emergent properties, not present in the individual elements.
- The challenge: to understand how the **structure** of the network and the **dynamics** of individual units determine the collective behavior.
- Applications
  - Communication networks
  - Transport networks
  - Epidemic and rumor spreading
  - Neuroscience
  - Physiology
  - Etc.



*S. Strogatz, Nature 2001*

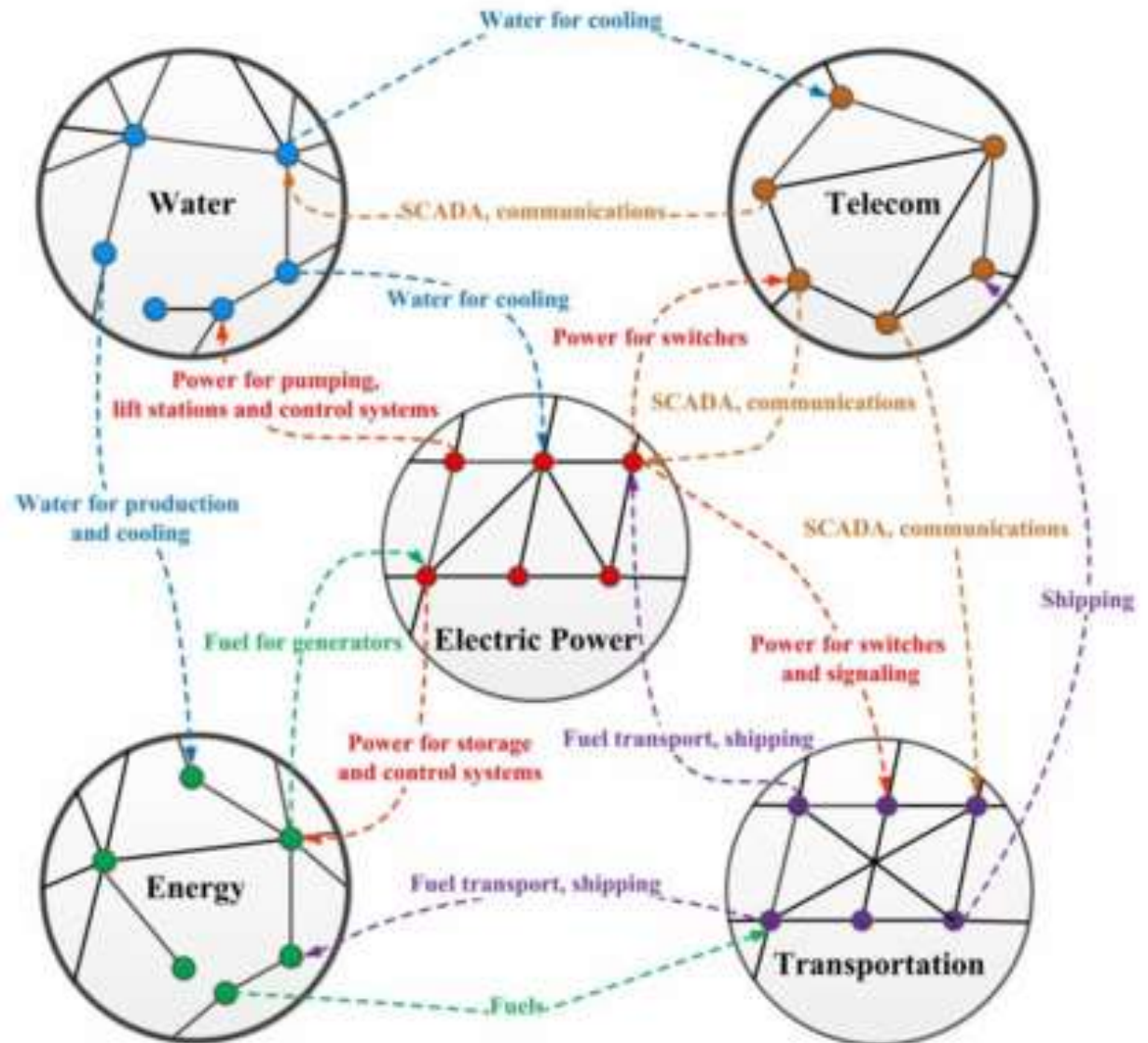
# Multilayer networks



*Kivela et al, J. Complex Netw. 2, 203 (2014).*

# Networks of networks

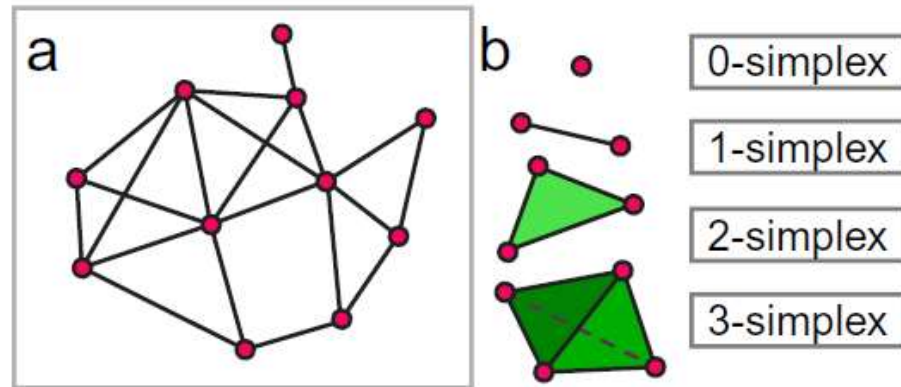
*Can we predict the effect of a critical (or extreme) event in one network?  
Cascade of failures?*



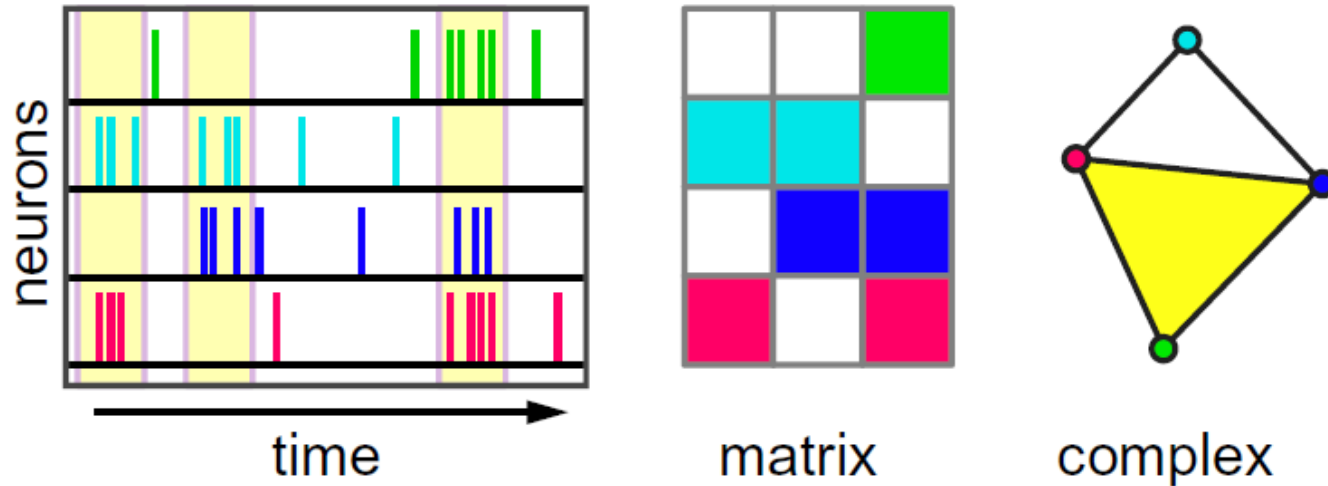
Source: Wikipedia



# Interactions among several elements: simplicial complexes



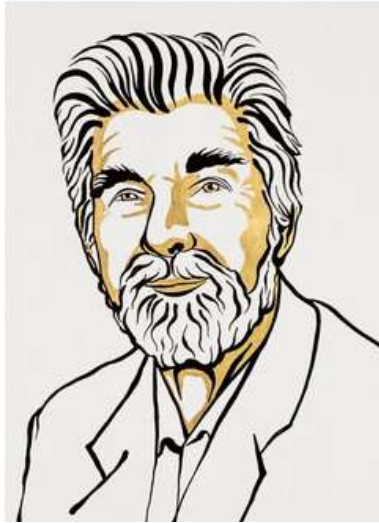
Example:



Giusti et al., *J Comput Neurosci* 41, 1 (2016).

Battiston et al., *Phys. Rep.* 874, 1–92 (2020).

# The Nobel Prize in Physics 2021



for groundbreaking contributions to our understanding of **complex systems**

½ Syukuro Manabe and Klaus Hasselmann  
*"for the physical modelling of Earth's climate,  
quantifying variability and reliably predicting  
global warming"*

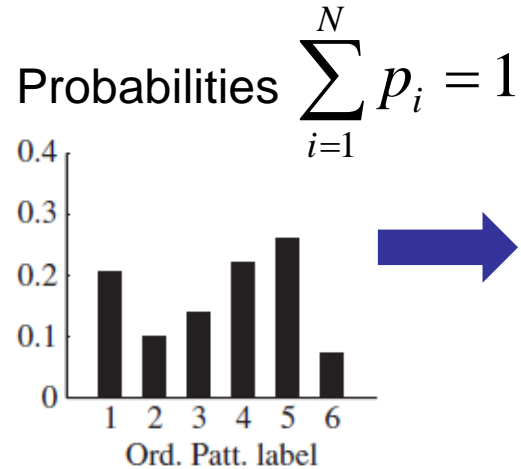
½ Giorgio Parisi *"for the  
discovery of the interplay of  
disorder and fluctuations in  
physical systems from atomic  
to planetary scales."*

# Which systems are “complex”?

- Systems formed by a large number of elements / subsystems that have nonlinear behavior.
- The elements / subsystems interact with each other in a non-linear way (multiple spatial and/or temporal scales).
- The structure of the system is heterogeneous (neither regular nor completely random).
- The response of the system to a change or to a perturbation is often unexpected, contra intuitive (adaptation).
- **A large linear system is complicated but not complex.**

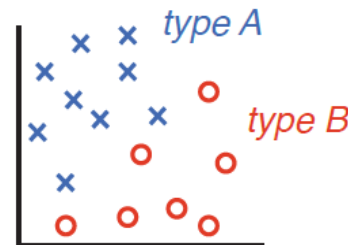
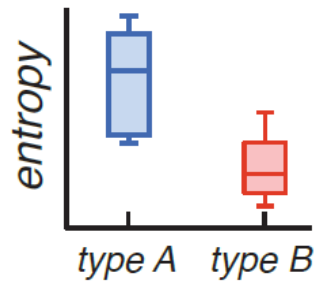
# Time series analysis: extracts “features” from the output signals of complex systems

Time series



Entropy

$$H = -\sum_{i=1}^N p_i \ln p_i$$



# Algorithms allow massive feature extraction from data

system → time-series dataset → massive feature extraction using *hctsa* → statistical learning

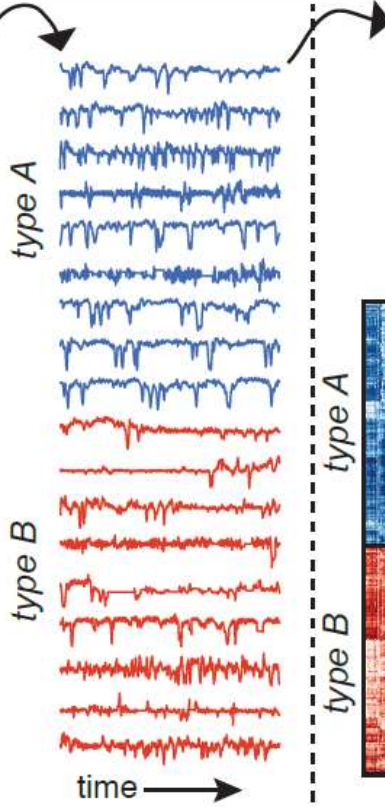
Systems producing time-series phenotype data

What analysis should I use to find differences between phenotypes A and B?

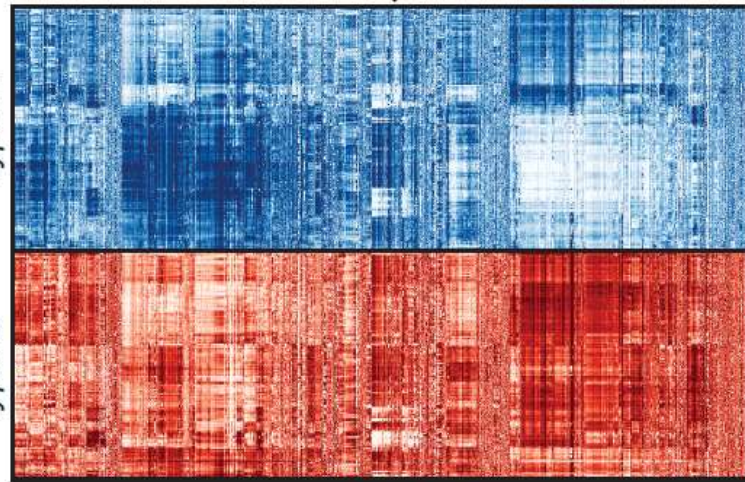
Use *hctsa* to compare over 7700 time-series features

Extract **interpretable insights** to diagnose disease, deduce gene function, etc.

- model organism movement data
  - genotype A
  - genotype B
- electrophysiological measurements
  - schizophrenia
  - healthy control
- speech recordings
  - Parkinson's Disease
  - healthy control

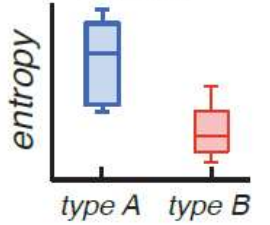


<p><b>data distribution</b></p> <p>median skewness outliers data values</p>	<p><b>correlation properties</b></p> <p>autocorrelation automutual information power spectral properties time-series entropy fluctuation analysis</p>
<p><b>model fitting</b></p> <p>linear autoregressive &amp; nonlinear models model parameters goodness of fit</p>	<p><b>others</b></p> <p>stationarity embedding dimension network properties</p>

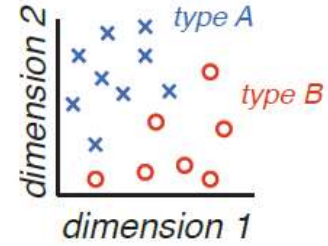


> 7700 features

discriminative features?

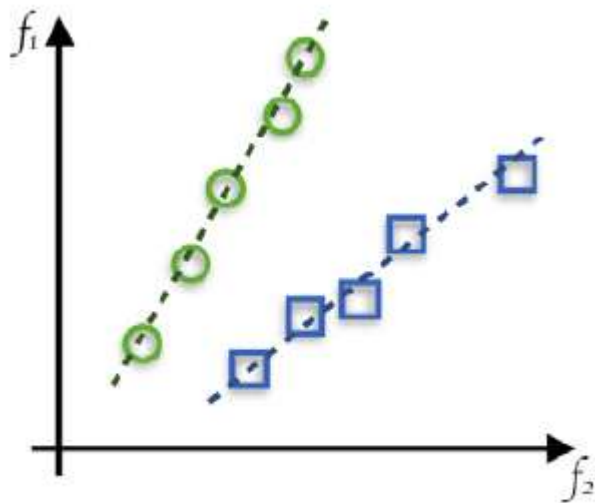


low dimensional structure?

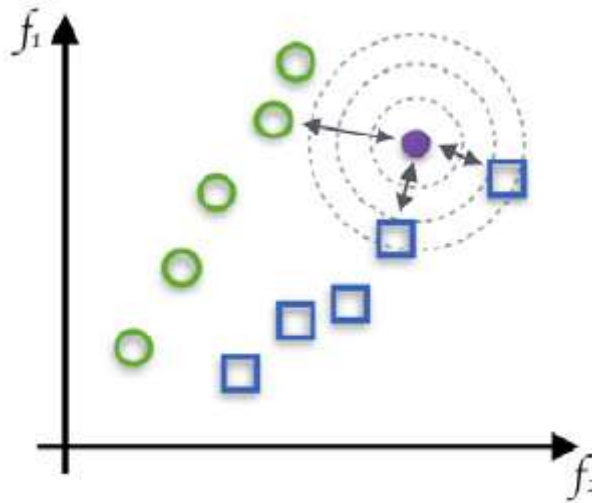


Fulcher & Jones, *hctsa: A Computational Framework for Automated Time-Series Phenotyping Using Massive Feature Extraction*. *Cell Systems*, **5**, 527–531 (2017).

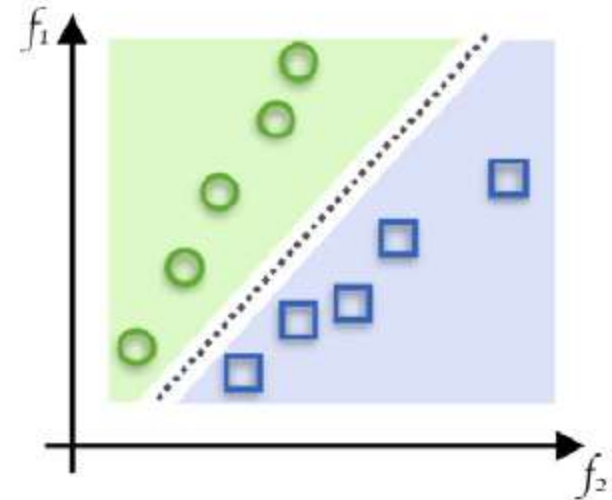
# Machine learning classification algorithms



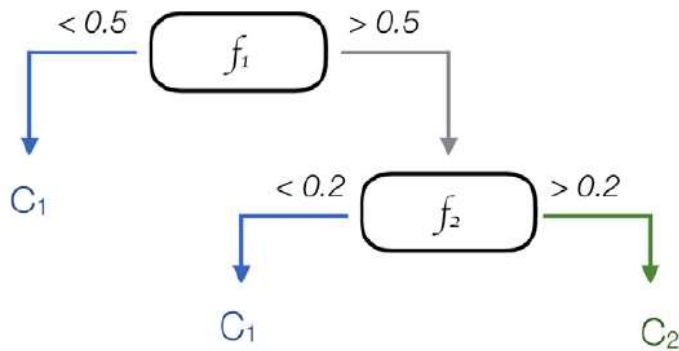
Regression



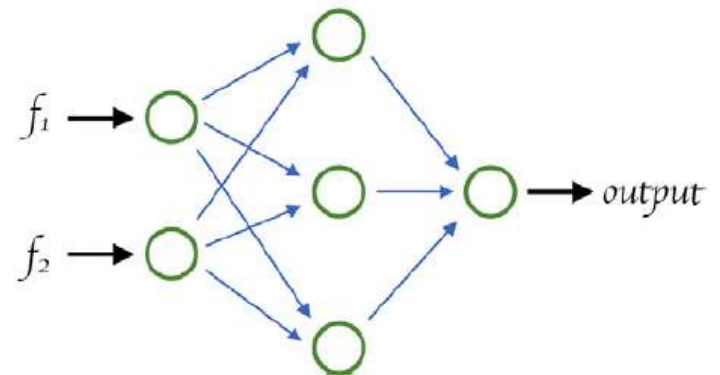
kNN



Support Vector Machine



Decision Tree



ANN

*M. Zanin et al, Physics Reports 635, 1 (2016).*

# From dynamical systems to complex systems & data science

- Dynamical systems theory (bifurcations, low-dimensional attractors) allows to
  - uncover “order within chaos”,
  - uncover universal characteristics
- Synchronization emerges in interacting systems
- Complexity science: study “emergent” phenomena in large sets of nonlinear interacting units (tipping points, critical transitions).
- Time series analysis allows to characterize signals and to “obtain features” that encapsulate properties of the signals.
- Data science: feature selection, classification, forecasting.

