

# Some dynamical systems without ergodicity

Peter Ashwin, Mathematics Research Institute,  
University of Exeter

- When dynamics persistently fails to be ergodic
- Robust heteroclinic cycles and networks (with M Field)
- An example from convection (with O Podvigina)
- Product dynamics for heteroclinic attractors (with M Field)

July 2006

## Convergence of averages

Flow  $\phi_t(x)$  with initial condition  $x_0$ :

$$\mu_T(x_0) = \frac{1}{T} \int_{t=0}^T \delta_{\phi_t(x_0)} dt$$

determines long term statistical properties of  $\phi_t$ .

**Best possible case:** for typical flows there is a finite set  $M$  of ergodic measures such that for almost all  $x_0$

$$\mu_T(x_0) \rightarrow \tilde{\mu}$$

for some ergodic (natural) measure  $\tilde{\mu} \in M$  that has nice properties.

However there are systems of physical interest where this is not the case; in particular

- Dynamics on phase spaces with invariant subspaces or other constraints
- Dynamics with symmetries

**Nightmare:** can get open sets of flows such that

$$\mu_T(x_0)$$

does not converge for an *open dense* set of  $x_0$ ; those with robust heteroclinic-type attractors.

## Robust heteroclinic attractors

**heteroclinic connection**  $q(t)$  from equilibrium  $p_-$  to  $p_+$  is a solution of the ODE with

$$q(t) \rightarrow p_{\pm}$$

as  $t \rightarrow \pm\infty$ .

**heteroclinic cycle** is a sequence of heteroclinic connections between equilibria such that one can return to any equilibrium via a sequence of connections.

Can find robust cycles where equilibria replaced by other transitive sets.

## Robust heteroclinic cycles to equilibria

Simplest robust attracting cycle on  $\mathbf{R}^3$  with symmetry  $\Gamma$  generated by reflections in coordinate planes and cycling the axes  $(x, y, z)$ .

$$\dot{x} = (\lambda + ax^2 + by^2 + cz^2)x$$

$$\dot{y} = (\lambda + ay^2 + bz^2 + cx^2)y$$

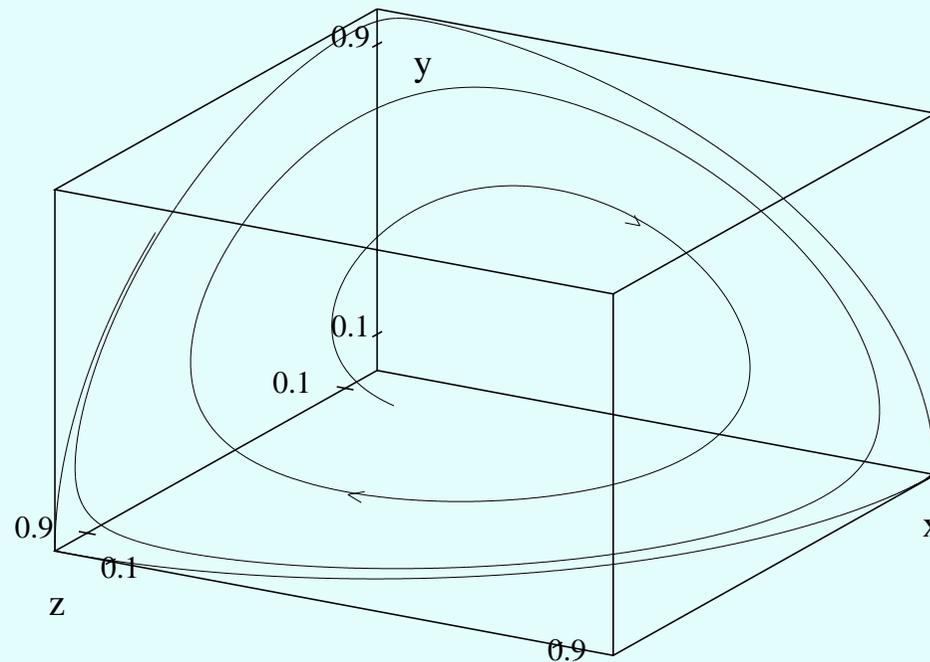
$$\dot{z} = (\lambda + az^2 + bx^2 + cy^2)z$$

For open set of  $a, b, c, \lambda$  this has a heteroclinic cycle

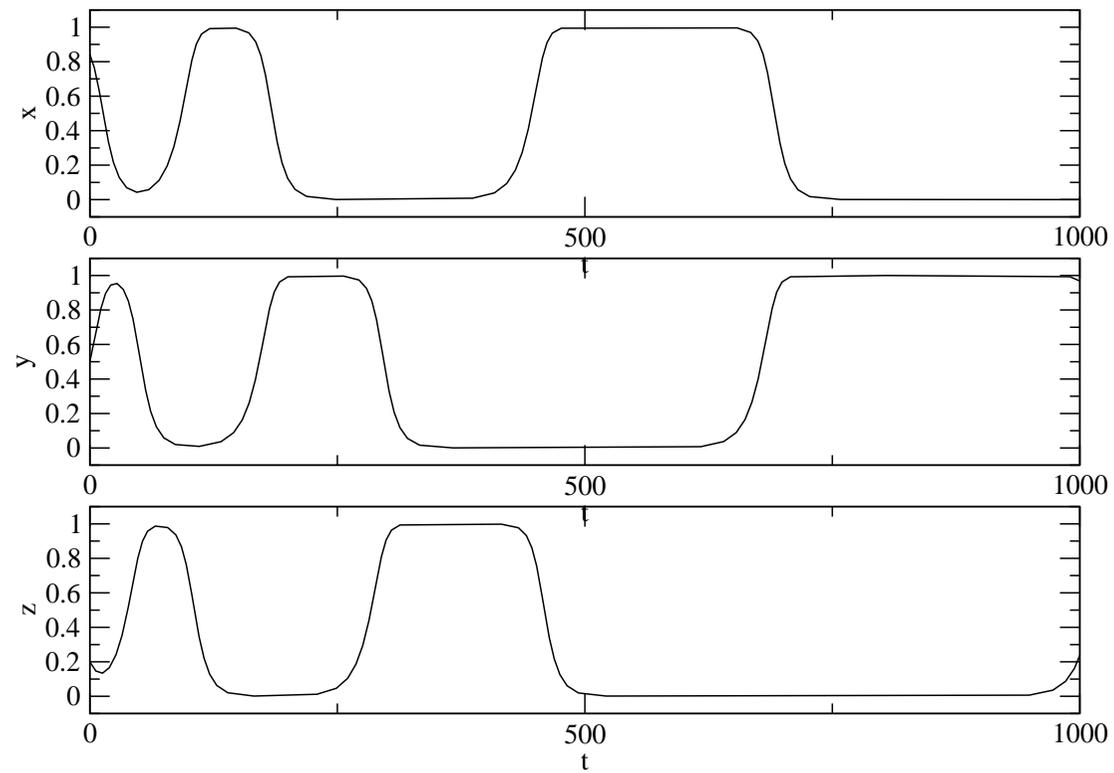
- attracts an open dense set of initial conditions
- persists under any small enough perturbation in  $C_\Gamma$ .

In first octant  $x \geq 0, y \geq 0, z \geq 0$  get equilibria that are attractors within the axes but have one-dimensional unstable manifolds.

$(a = -1, b = -0.98, c = -1.05)$



(Leonard, May, Busse, Guckenheimer, Holmes)



Timeseries of typical initial condition.

## Example 1

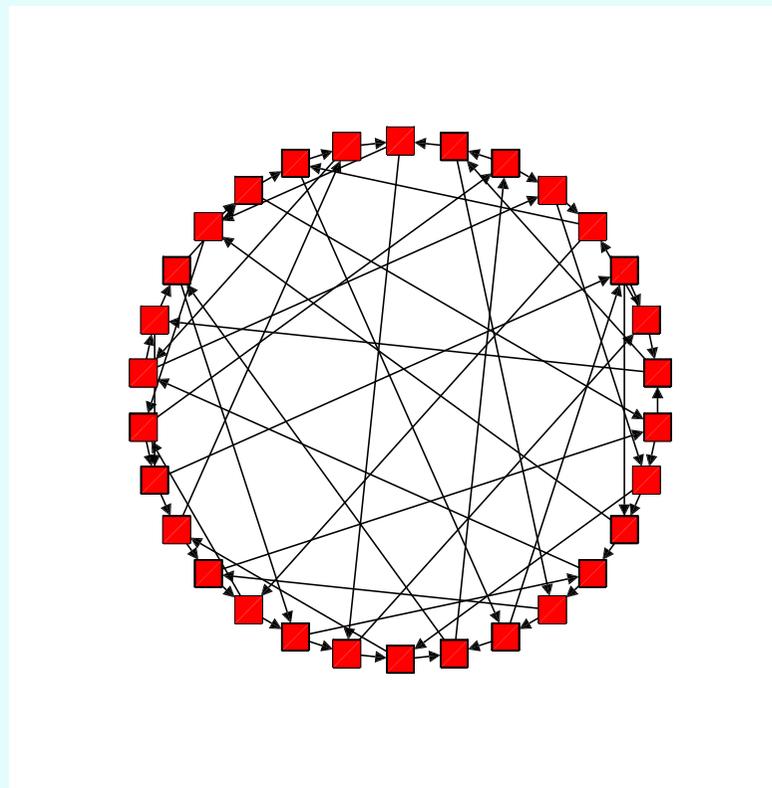
System of globally coupled oscillators [Hansel et al, Kori & Kuramoto] with symmetry  $S_n$ :

$$\dot{\theta}_i = \omega + \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n g(\theta_i - \theta_j)$$

where  $g(x) = -\sin(x + \alpha) + b \sin(2x + \beta)$ .

Much richer dynamics than Kuramoto; 'slow oscillations' caused by noise-perturbed heteroclinic cycles.

Five oscillator case: for open set of parameters attractor as below where boxes represent synchronized clusters.



## General structure of heteroclinic-like networks

For  $x, y \in \Sigma$  and  $\epsilon > 0$  there is an  $\epsilon$ -pseudo orbit joining  $x$  to  $y$  if there is

$$\{x = x_0, y_0, x_1, \dots, x_n, y_n = y\} \subset \Sigma$$

and  $t_i \geq 1$ ,  $0 \leq i < n$  s.t.

$$\begin{aligned} \rho(x_i, y_i) &< \epsilon, \\ x_{i+1} &= \phi_{t_i}(y_i). \end{aligned}$$

for  $0 \leq i < n$ .

Suppose given  $x, y$  and any  $\epsilon$  there is an  $\epsilon$ -p.o. from  $x$  to  $y$  then we say  $x \rightarrow y$ .

A set  $X$  is *chain recurrent* if  $x \rightarrow y$  for any  $x, y \in X$ .

## Structure of heteroclinic networks [A+Field]

Consider  $\Sigma$  a connected & compact invariant set for continuous flow

$$\phi_t : \Sigma \rightarrow \Sigma. \quad (1)$$

Interesting case is when  $\Sigma$  fails to have a dense orbit (not transitive) but is chain recurrent.

We say  $\Sigma$  is **indecomposable** if all points are nontrivially chain recurrent to themselves.

- If  $\Sigma$  is an  $\omega$ -limit set then it is indecomposable.
- Chain recurrent + connected  $\Rightarrow$  indecomposable.

For  $x \in \Sigma$ , let

$$\lambda(x) = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \{\phi_{\pm t}(x)\}$$

union of  $\alpha$  and  $\omega$ -limits. Say  $\Sigma$  is **recurrent** (or *transitive*) if there is an  $x \in \Sigma$  such that  $\lambda(x) = \Sigma$ .

For any  $S \subset \Sigma$  invariant, define

$$R(S) = \{x \in S : x \in \lambda(x)\}$$

the **set of recurrent points** (of  $S$ ) and let

$$C(S) = S \setminus R(S)$$

the **set of connections** in  $S$ .

If  $R(\Sigma)$  is a finite union of disjoint, compact, connected flow invariant subsets then say  $\Sigma$  has a **finite nodal set**.

For  $S \subset \Sigma$  compact define

$$\lambda(S) = \overline{\cup_{x \in S} \lambda(x)},$$

Note that if  $X$  is invariant then

$$\lambda(X) \subset X$$

If  $X$  is recurrent then

$$\lambda(X) = X.$$

Suppose there is an  $N$  such that

$$\lambda^{N-1}(x) \neq \lambda^N(\Sigma) = R(\Sigma)$$

then say  $\Sigma$  has **depth**  $N$ .

**Definition** We say  $\Sigma$  is a **heteroclinic network** if

- (a)  $\Sigma$  is indecomposable
- (b)  $\Sigma$  has finite nodal set
- (c)  $\Sigma$  has finite depth

**Theorem** [A, Field, 1999]

Let  $\Sigma$  be a heteroclinic network of depth  $N$ . For  $N \geq n > 0$ ,

$$\Sigma_n := \lambda^n(\Sigma)$$

is a finite union of heteroclinic networks each with depth less than or equal to  $N - n$ .

Such networks may be **Asymptotically stable**.

There may be an open set of  $x \in \mathbf{R}^n$  such that

$$\omega(x) = \Sigma.$$

However may have nontrivial 'selection of connections' resulting in

$$\omega(x) \subsetneq \Sigma$$

Consequences for ergodic averages Recall that

$$\mu_T(x_0) = \frac{1}{T} \int_{t=0}^T \delta_{\phi_t(x_0)} dt.$$

**Easy:** If  $x_0$  has  $\omega(x_0) \subset \Sigma$  where  $\Sigma$  is a heteroclinic network with recurrent set  $R$  then

$$L(x_0) = \text{limits}\{\mu_T(x_0) : T \rightarrow \infty\} \subset \text{Conv}(\mathcal{M}_{erg}(R)).$$

**Hard:** Which subset is this? (e.g. Sigmund, Hofbauer, Gaunersdorfer) What is the dynamics on  $\text{Conv}(\mathcal{M}_{erg}(R))$ ?

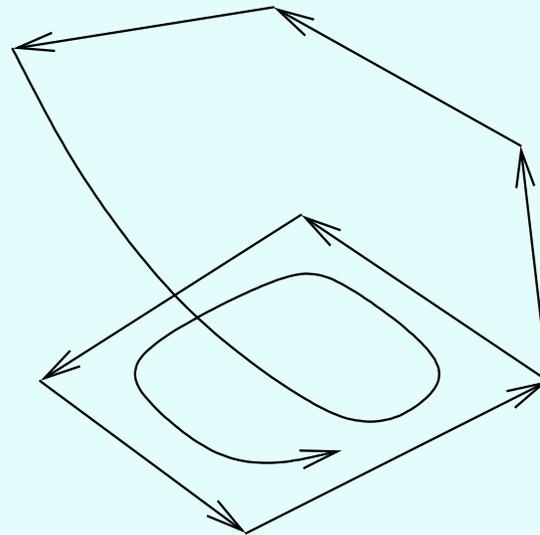
**What I believe** Generic smooth flows on finite dimensions have attractors composed of finite depth heteroclinic networks. On the networks there is a finite set  $M$  of ergodic measures such that

$$L(x_0) \subset \text{Conv}(M)$$

for almost every  $x_0$ .

## A depth 2 example (Chawanya)

Flow given by replicator dynamics on 5-simplex. Has connection from equilibrium to 'child cycle'.



Not representable as transitive graph between equilibria! Infinite number of attracting p.o.s near cycle.

## Example 2: a new robust depth 2 attractor from convection

(work with O. Podvigina)

Boussinesq convection problem in domain  $(x, y, z) \in [0, L] \times [0, L] \times [0, 1]$

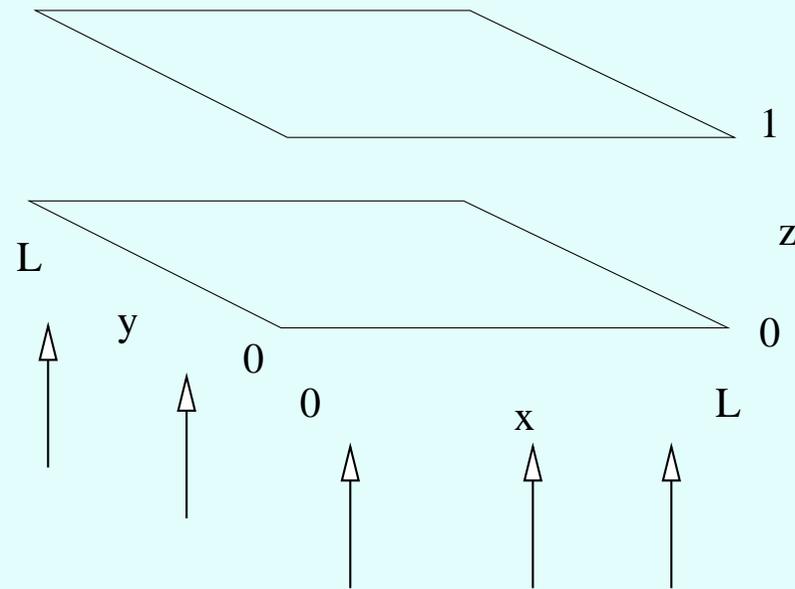
$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{v}}{\partial t} = \mathbf{v} \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{v}) + P\Delta \mathbf{v} + PR\theta \mathbf{e}_z - \nabla p \quad (2)$$

with incompressibility

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} = 0 \quad (3)$$

and

$$\frac{\partial \theta}{\partial t} = -(\mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla)\theta + \Delta \theta. \quad (4)$$

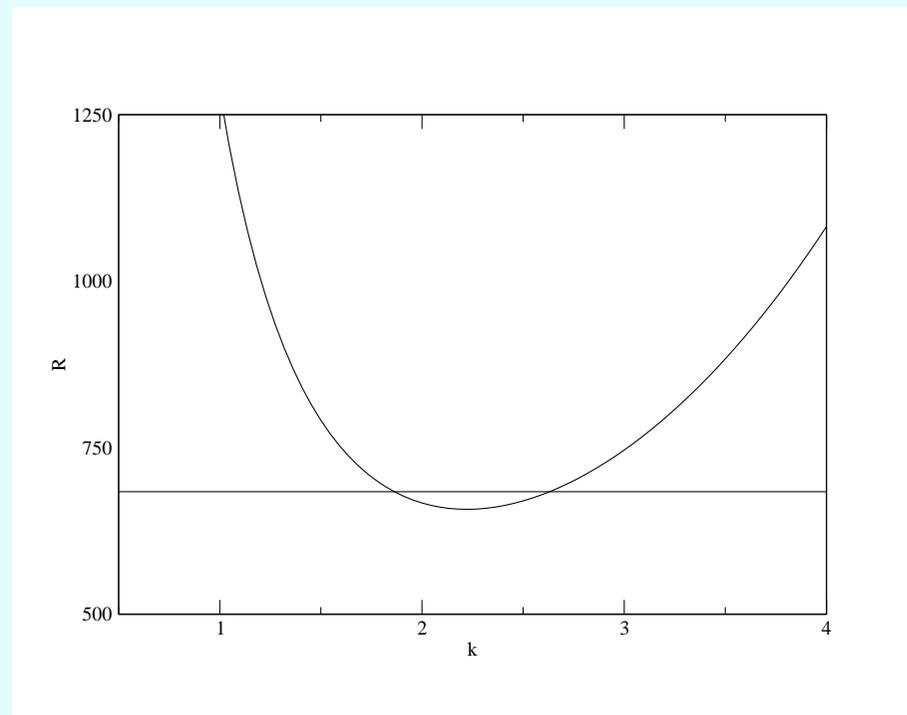


Boundary conditions:  $v_{x;z} = v_{y;z} = v_z = 0, \theta = 0$  at  $z = 0, 1$ .

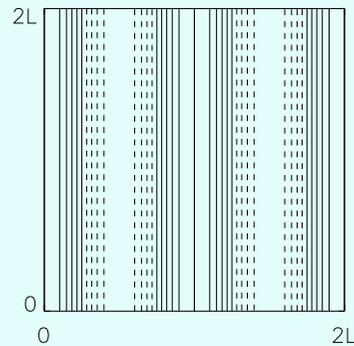
Periodic boundary conditions in  $x, y$ .

## Stability

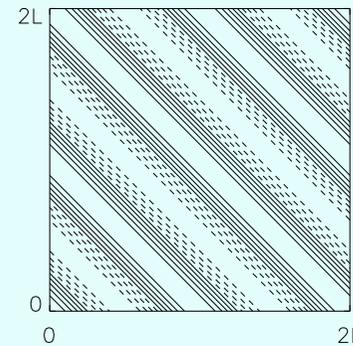
[Cox, Matthews, Proctor, Hirschberg, Knobloch] For fixed Prandtl number  $P$  there are two parameters to this problem:  $L$  and  $R$ . Trivial (conduction) state stable for  $R < R_c = (k^2 + \pi^2)^3 / k^2$  at which point it becomes unstable to convection rolls.



Examine stability with  $L$  that gives instability to rolls of wavelength  $L$  and to rolls of wavelength  $L\sqrt{2}$ ; planforms of lines of equal  $v_z$ :



Large rolls (LR)



Small rolls (SR)

Unstable modes have form

$$z_1 e^{2\pi i x/L} + z_2 e^{2\pi i y/L} + z_3 e^{2\pi i (x+y)/L} + z_4 e^{2\pi i (x-y)/L} + \text{C.C.}$$

## Normal form at bifurcation

(Truncated to cubic order)

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{z}_1 &= \lambda_1 z_1 + z_1(A_1|z_1|^2 + A_2|z_2|^2 + A_3(|z_3|^2 + |z_4|^2)) + A_4 \bar{z}_1 z_3 z_4, \\ \dot{z}_2 &= \lambda_1 z_2 + z_2(A_1|z_2|^2 + A_2|z_1|^2 + A_3(|z_3|^2 + |z_4|^2)) + A_4 \bar{z}_2 z_3 \bar{z}_4, \\ \dot{z}_3 &= \lambda_2 z_3 + z_3(A_5|z_3|^2 + A_6|z_4|^2 + A_7(|z_1|^2 + |z_2|^2)) + A_8(z_2^2 z_4 + z_1^2 \bar{z}_4), \\ \dot{z}_4 &= \lambda_2 z_4 + z_4(A_5|z_4|^2 + A_6|z_3|^2 + A_7(|z_1|^2 + |z_2|^2)) + A_8(\bar{z}_2^2 z_3 + z_1^2 \bar{z}_3), \end{aligned} \tag{5}$$

$z_i$  amplitudes of roll modes;

$A_i$  parameters determined by centre manifold reduction;

$\lambda_i$  correspond to perturbations to  $L$  and  $R$ .

Note presence of symmetries

$$\mathbb{T}^2 \times_s \mathbb{D}_4 \times \mathbb{Z}_2.$$

Physical symmetries of the domain

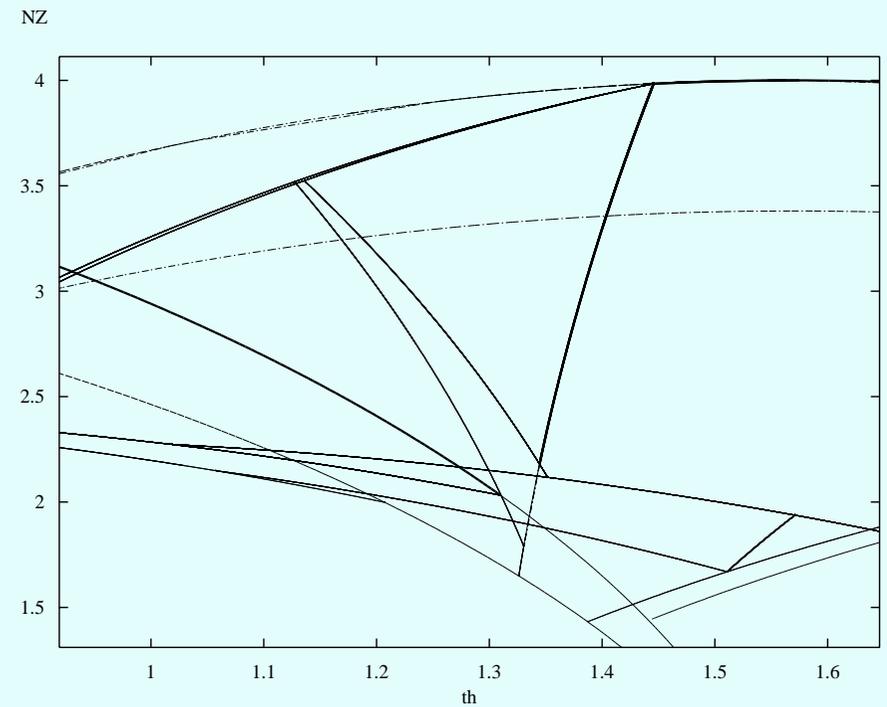
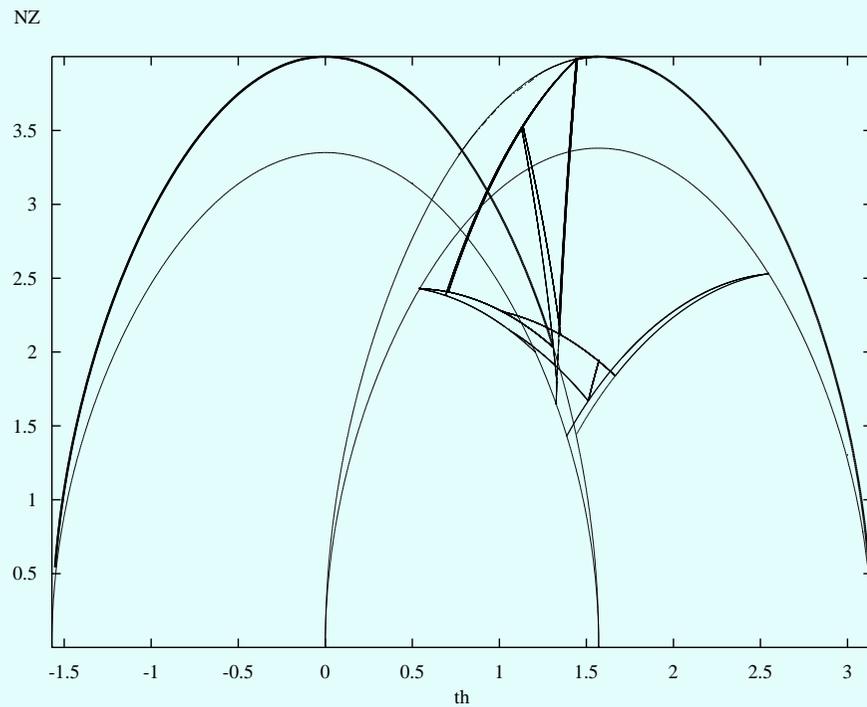
$$\mathbb{T}^2 \times_s \mathbb{D}_4$$

Boussinesq symmetry  $\mathbb{Z}_2$  generated by  $z \mapsto 1 - z$ .

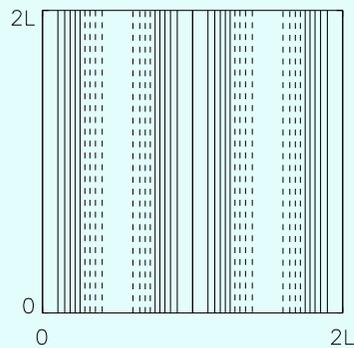
Forces the existence of more than 20 different types of symmetry-invariant subspace.

## Bifurcation behaviour

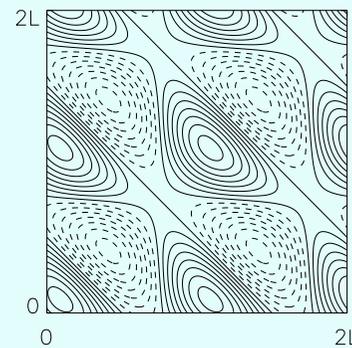
Set  $P = 1$  and take  $\lambda_1 = \cos \theta$  and  $\lambda_2 = \sin \theta$ . ( $NZ = \sqrt{\sum_k |z_k|^2}$ )



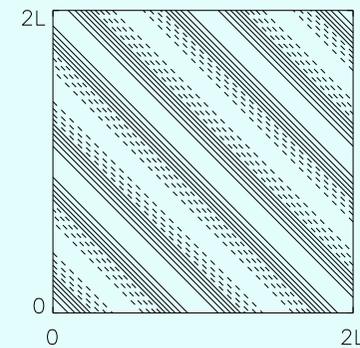
Bifurcation to stable solutions:



(LR)  $(x, 0, 0, 0)$   
for  $\theta < 1.31$

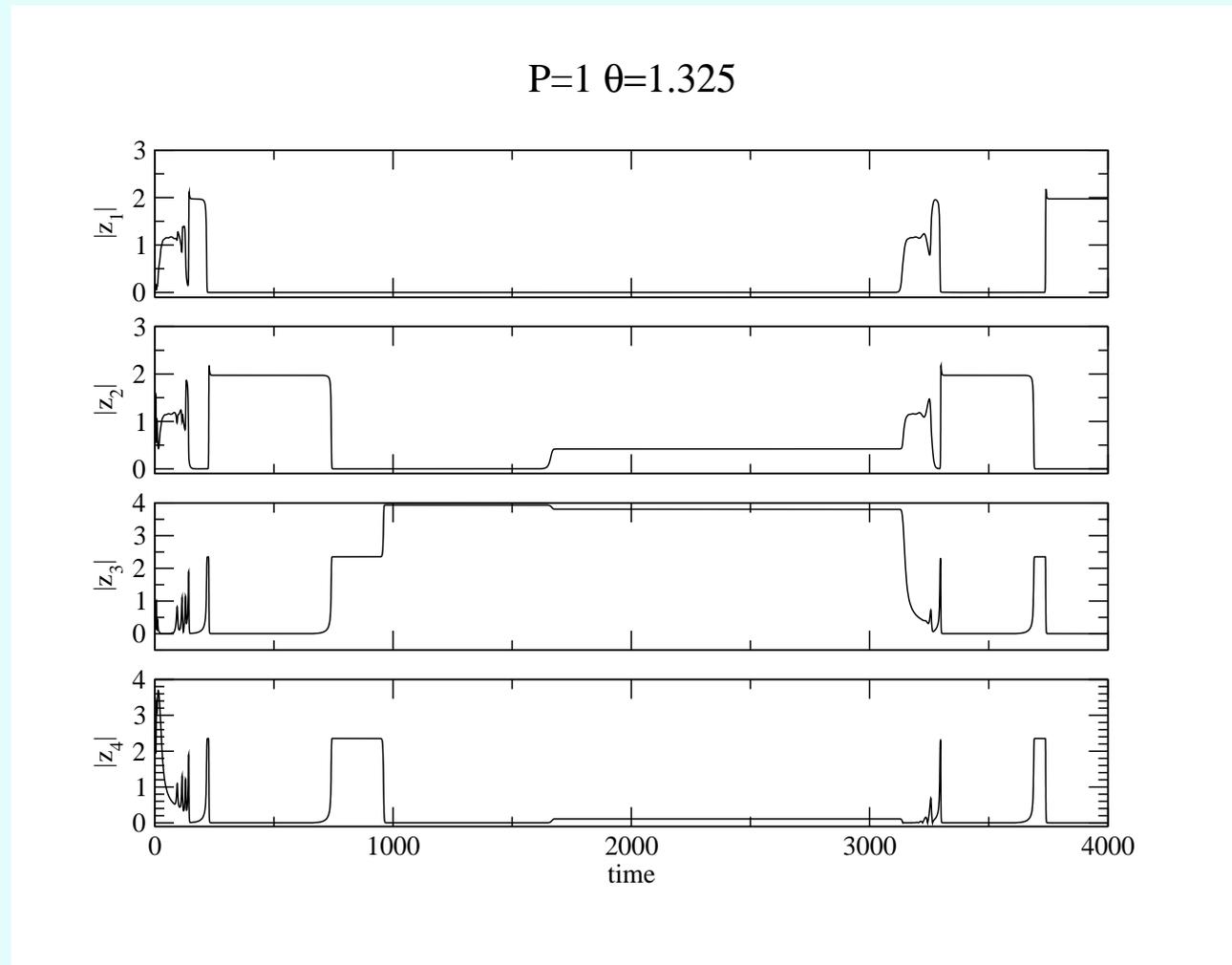


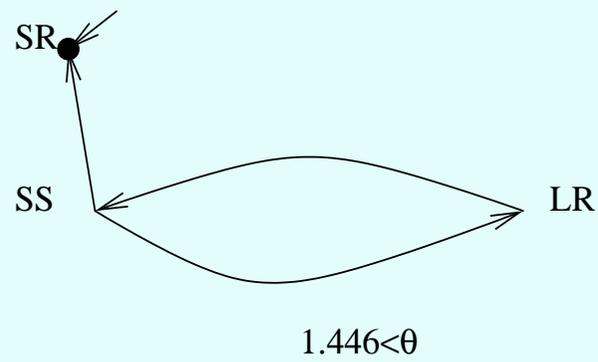
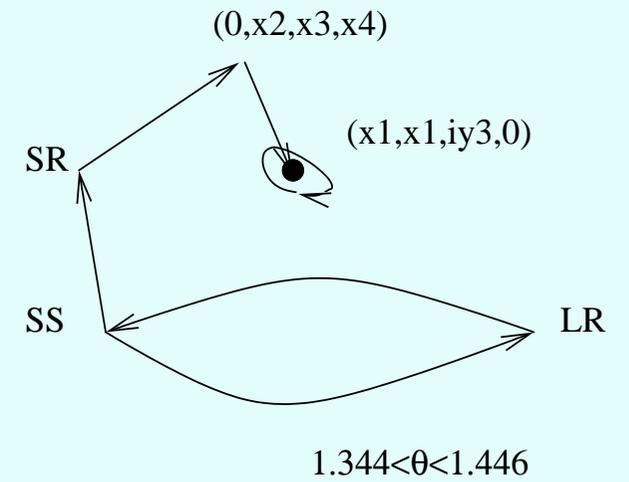
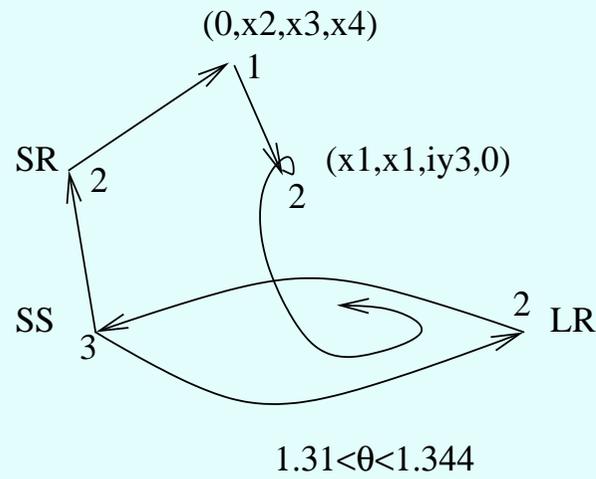
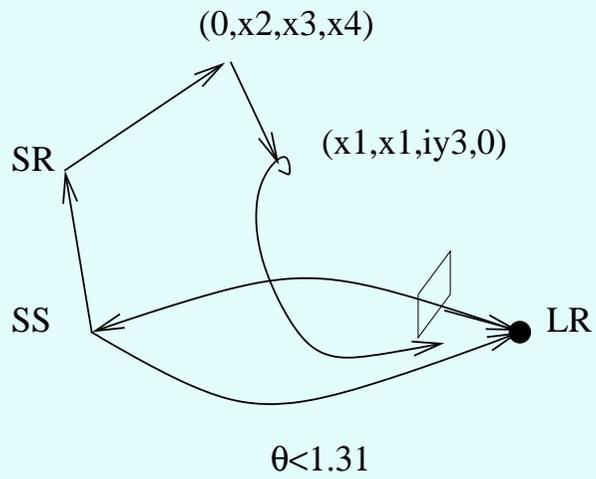
(WR3)  $(x, x, iy, 0)$   
for  $1.344 < \theta < 1.446$

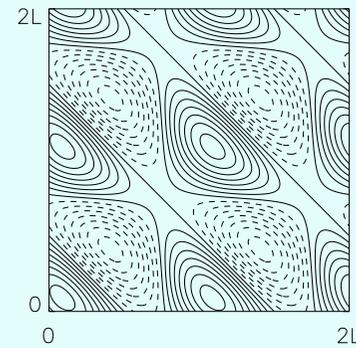
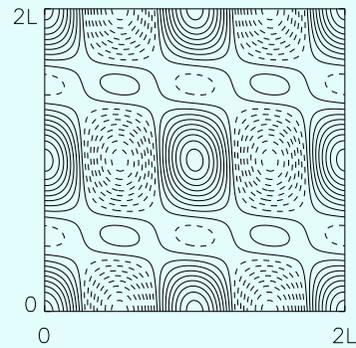
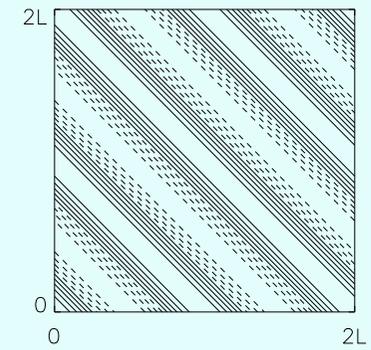
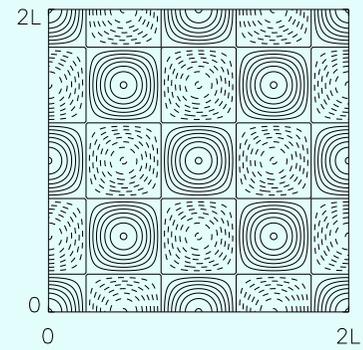
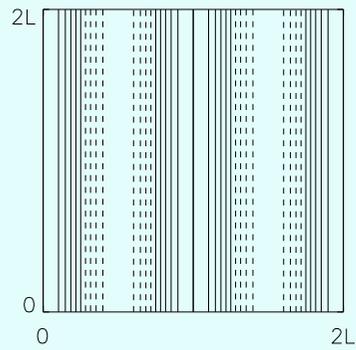


(SR)  $(0, 0, x, 0)$   
for  $\theta > 1.446$

What about  $\theta \in (1.31, 1.344)$ ?





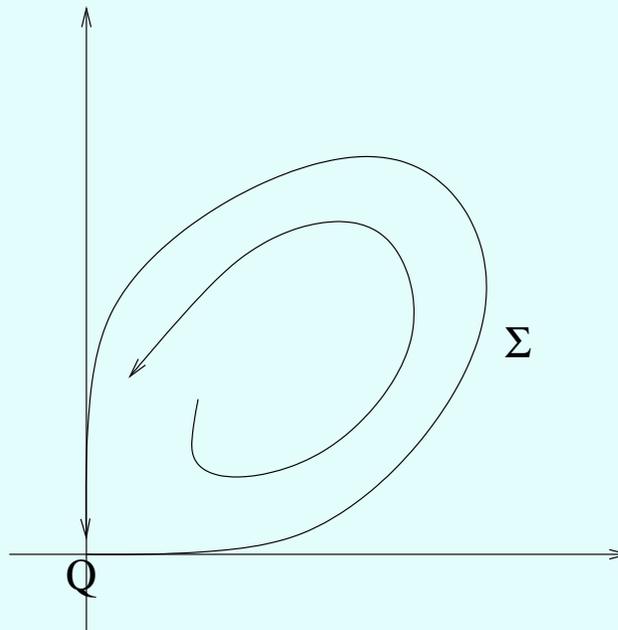


- Robust depth 2 heteroclinic network for this system.
- Several of the connections are multi-dimensional.
- Not completed: determination of largest chain recurrent set containing this network.
- Expect most trajectories to select the most unstable eigendirection.
- However multiple positive eigenvalues caused by symmetry!.

## Product dynamics for heteroclinic attractors

Given two periodic attractors  $L_1$  and  $L_2$  of different flows, generically  $L_1 \times L_2$  is (minimal) attractor for product system.

What about product of two heteroclinic attractors?



Can characterise attraction in terms of 'geometric slowing down ratio'  $\lambda > 1$ .

Consider a product of two planar ODEs with homoclinic attractors  $\Sigma_1, \Sigma_2$  to equilibria  $Q_1, Q_2$ .

**Theorem [A + Field 2005]** The Milnor attractor for the product of two systems is typically NOT the product of the attractors, rather it is

$$(Q_1 \times \Sigma_2) \cup (\Sigma_1 \times Q_2).$$

This is because for typical  $\lambda_1 > 1, \lambda_2 > 1$  and almost all  $a, b$  the sequence

$$\{a\lambda_1^n + b\lambda_2^m : (n, m) \in \mathbb{N}^2\}$$

typically has no accumulation points.

## Some conclusions

Get robust non-ergodic behaviour in models for

- Fluid flows/magnetohydrodynamics
- Population/economic models
- Climate systems (D Cromellin)
- Coupled systems esp neuroscience (winnerless competition)

Singular behaviour on addition of noise; very poorly understood in general.

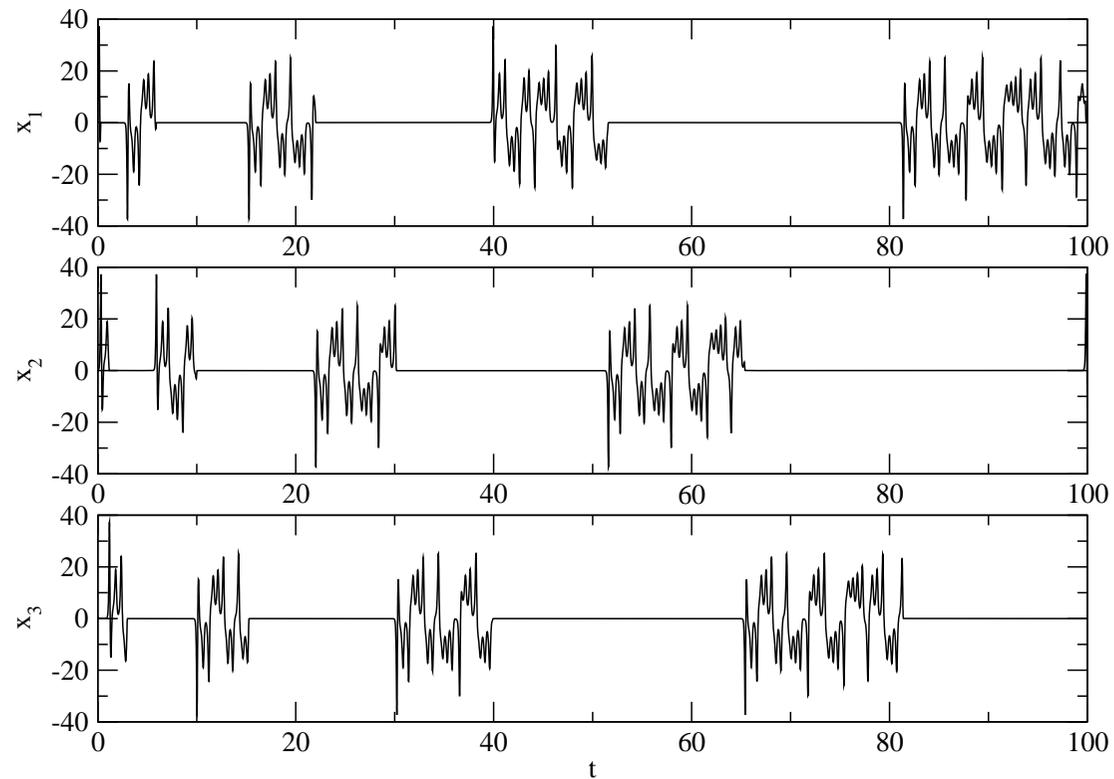
- Effect of noise on choice of trajectory?
- Effect of noise on choice of 'averaged' measure.



Heteroclinics between other invariant sets

## **Cycling chaos**

System with same symmetry as Guckenheimer-Holmes example can get robust heteroclinic cycle between chaotic saddles. [Dellnitz & al]



Attracted trajectory switches between a number of chaotic sets for with 'asymptotic slowing down' of switching