

# Synchronization on complex networks

A model for neural networks

Janusz Meylahn

Dutch Institute for Emergent Phenomena - University of Amsterdam

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- **Kuramoto**: a mathematical model
- when there is synchronization

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If you are looking for your next **popular science** book to read try:  
'**Sync**: The emerging science of spontaneous order' - Steven Strogatz





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## Example: Coin flipping

- win 1 € if heads
- lose 1 € if tails

$$\omega = \{H, T, T, T, T, H, T, H \dots\}$$

How can you calculate your wealth after  $n$  coin flips?

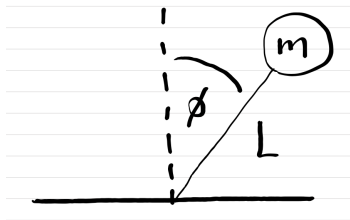
- 1 Given a sequence of coin-flip outcomes  $\omega$  construct a function  $X_n(\omega)$  representing your wealth after the  $n^{\text{th}}$  flip, if you win a euro when the outcome is heads and lose a euro if the outcome is tails.
- 2 Calculate the probability of having three euros after five coin flips given that the coin is head with probability  $1/2$ .

Solution:

- 1 
$$X_n(\omega) = \sum_{i=1}^n \left[ \mathbb{1}_{\{\omega_i=H\}} - \mathbb{1}_{\{\omega_i=T\}} \right]$$
- 2 
$$\mathbb{P}[X_5(\omega) = 4] = \binom{5}{4} (1/2)^3 (1/2)^2 = 5/32.$$

# Single noisy oscillator

Consider a metronome in the wind:



“State” characterized by position and velocity. Can we go simpler?  
Consider a circle:

- all the way to the right  $\rightarrow$  top point (0 degrees)
- straight and moving to the left  $\rightarrow$  right point ( $\pi/2$  degrees)
- all the way to the left  $\rightarrow$  bottom point ( $\pi$  degrees)
- straight and moving to the right  $\rightarrow$  left point ( $3\pi/2$  degrees)

# Single noisy oscillator

So each position of the metronome can be described by an angle  $\theta \in [0, 2\pi)$ . Depending on the mass ( $m$ ) and length  $L$  it will move with some frequency, say  $\omega$ . We can then write the evolution of the metronome as:

$$\frac{d\theta(t)}{dt} = \omega + \xi(t) \quad (1)$$

$\xi(t)$  is noise which has  $\langle \xi(t) \rangle = 0$  and  $\langle \xi(t)\xi(t') \rangle = 2D\delta(t - t')$ .

- $\xi(t)$  is constructed using the sort of procedure we went through earlier
- the difference here is that time is a continuous “index”.
- $\xi(t)$  is representing the random aspect of the evolution due to the wind.



To illustrate please open up:

<https://www.networkpages.nl/synchrony-animation/>

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And fill in:  $N_1 = 1$ ,  $N_2 = 0$ ,  $K_1 = L_1 = K_2 = L_2 = 0$ ,  $D = 1$  under the Dynamics section. In the Initialization section set both  $u_1 = u_2 = 0$  and  $r_1 = r_2 = 0$  and pick between "Constant zero" and "Standard normal" for your frequency distribution.

Q: What happens?

# Including an interaction (two metronomes)

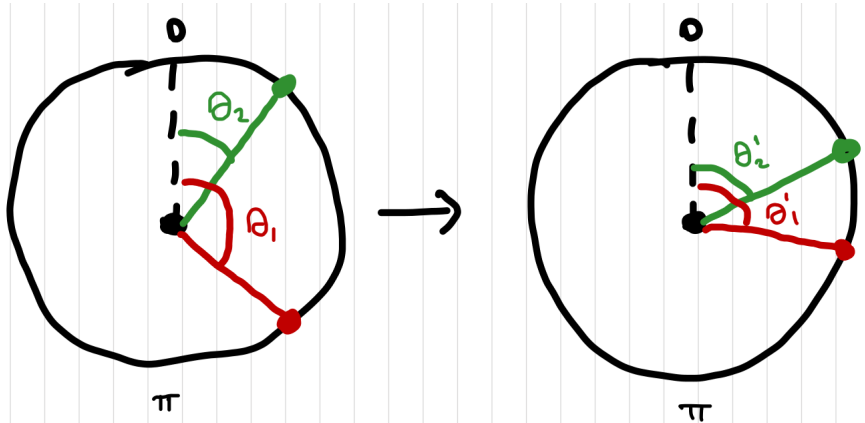
What happens if I include the following interaction?

$$\frac{d\theta_1(t)}{dt} = \omega_1 + \sin(\theta_2 - \theta_1) + \xi_1(t) \quad (2)$$

$$\frac{d\theta_2(t)}{dt} = \omega_2 + \sin(\theta_1 - \theta_2) + \xi_2(t) \quad (3)$$

- Consider two points on the circle.
- Determine the sign of the interaction terms.
- What can you conclude?

[Exercise and poll]



$$\sin(\theta_1 - \theta_2) > 0, \quad \sin(\theta_2 - \theta_1) < 0$$

[10 minute break!]

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Oscillators evolve according to a system of **coupled stochastic differential equations**

$$\frac{d\theta_i(t)}{dt} = \omega_i + \frac{K}{N} \sum_{j=1}^N \sin [\theta_j(t) - \theta_i(t)] + \xi_i(t). \quad (4)$$

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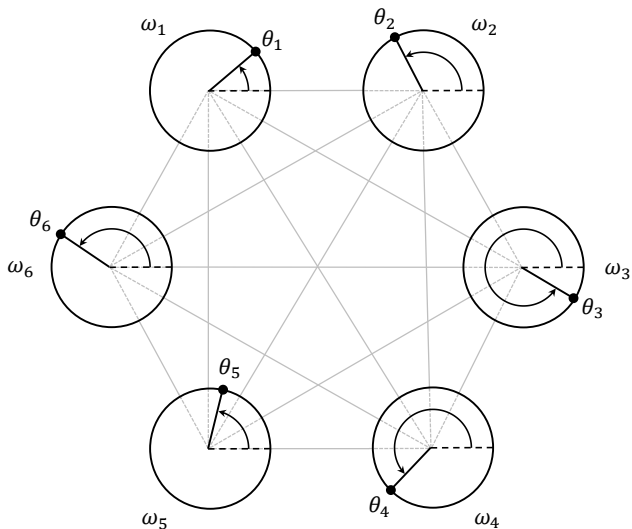
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**Question:**

Can you spot the network here?

# Cartoon of the Kuramoto model for $N = 6$



# Keeping track of the order

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$$r_N(t) e^{i\psi_N(t)} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^N e^{i\theta_j(t)}. \quad (5)$$

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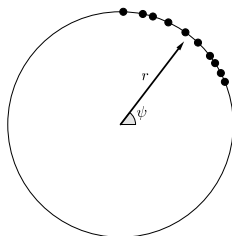
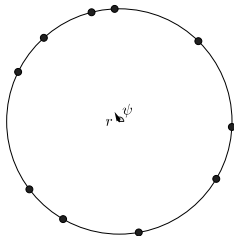
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Phase distributions with  $r = 0.095$  and  $r = 0.929$ .



# Kuramoto's Trick

- Multiplying both sides by  $e^{-i\theta_i}$  gives

$$r_N(t)e^{i(\psi_N(t)-\theta_i(t))} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^N e^{i(\theta_j(t)-\theta_i(t))}. \quad (6)$$

- Express both complex exponentials using Euler

$$\begin{aligned} r_N(t) \cos(\psi_N(t) - \theta_i(t)) + ir_N(t) \sin(\psi_N(t) - \theta_i(t)) & \quad (7) \\ = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^N \left[ \cos(\theta_j(t) - \theta_i(t)) + i \sin(\theta_j(t) - \theta_i(t)) \right]. \end{aligned}$$

- Rewrite:

$$r_N(t) \cos(\psi_N(t) - \theta_i(t)) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^N \cos(\theta_j(t) - \theta_i(t))$$

$$r_N(t) \sin(\psi_N(t) - \theta_i(t)) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^N \sin(\theta_j(t) - \theta_i(t)).$$

Plugging in to the evolution equation gives

$$d\theta_i(t) = K r_N(t) \sin [\psi_N(t) - \theta_i(t)] dt + D dW_i(t), \quad (8)$$

- The equation basically says that you only interact with the *average* angle of the oscillators
- and that your interaction is *modulated* by the amount of synchronization there is.
- This is an example of what is called a *mean-field* model.

Notice the importance of the choice of order parameter!

# Adding more oscillators and waiting

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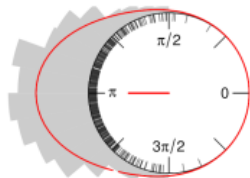
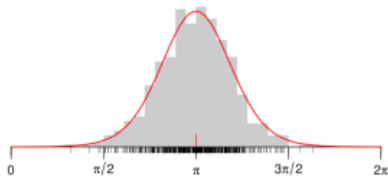
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## The large time limit (steady-state)

Question: Does the density of the system stop evolving at some point?

# Density



[10 minute break]

Feel free to experiment with the online animation.

# Critical threshold

There exists a **critical threshold**  $K_c$  such that:

- (I) For  $K < K_c$  the system relaxes to an **unsynchronized state** ( $r = 0$ ).
- (II) For  $K > K_c$  the system relaxes to a **partially synchronized state** ( $r > 0$ ).



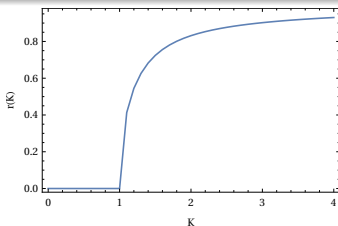
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## Theorem

If  $D = 1$ , then  $K_c = 1$ .



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- What happens?
- What happens if you set  $K_1 = 1$ ? Does that contradict the previous result?

# What if $D \neq 1$ ?

For steady-state solution  $r$  must satisfy:

$$r = V\left(\frac{2Kr}{D}\right), \quad (9)$$

where  $V(\cdot)$  is a special function with  $V(0) = 0$  and  $V'(0) = 1/2$ .  
For critical threshold use *Taylor expansion*, i.e., for small values of  $x$

$$V(x) < V(0) + V'(0) x. \quad (10)$$

- What is the critical threshold now?
- Does this make sense?

[Exercise and poll]

- By using the function properties in (10) we get

$$V(x) < \frac{1}{2} x. \quad (11)$$

- Replace the right hand side of (9) with this equation so

$$r < \frac{1}{2} \frac{2Kr}{D}. \quad (12)$$

Canceling the  $r$ 's, 2's and moving everything except the  $K$  to the other side we obtain the new critical threshold:

$$K_c = D < K. \quad (13)$$

- Yes! If there is more noise in the system (corresponding to a larger value of  $D$ ) we expect that it will be harder to synchronize so that we will need a larger  $K$ .

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- Using mathematics we can determine a critical threshold.
- Synchronization is achieved if the interaction wins the battle against the noise.

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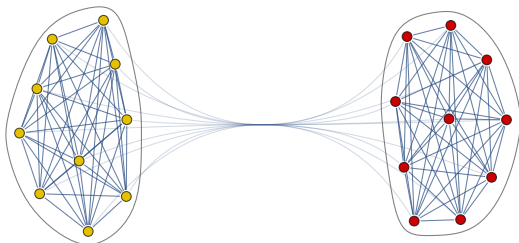
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