Geometric and probabilistic descriptions of chaotic phase space transport

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North Carolina State University, Differential Equations Seminar Department of Mathematics, November 9, 2011





MultiSTEPS: MultiScale Transport in Environmental & Physiological Systems, www.multisteps.esm.vt.edu



Motivation: application to real data

- Many systems defined from data or large-scale simulations
 - experimental measurements, observations
- e.g., from fluid dynamics, biology, social sciences

- Data-based, aperiodic, finite-time, finite resolution
 - in general, no fixed points, periodic orbits, or other invariant sets (or their stable and unstable manifolds) to organize phase space

Motivation: application to real data

- Perhaps can find appropriate analogs to the objects; adapt previous results to this setting
- Try some numerical explorations; see what merit furthers study

Chaotic phase space transport via lobe dynamics

 \square Suppose our dynamical system is a discrete map¹

$$f: \mathcal{M} \longrightarrow \mathcal{M},$$

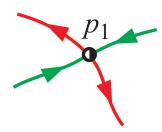
e.g., $f=\phi_t^{t+T}$, flow map of time-periodic **vector field** and $\mathcal M$ is a differentiable, orientable, two-dimensional manifold e.g., $\mathbb R^2$, S^2

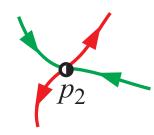
- \Box To understand the transport of points under the f, consider invariant manifolds of unstable fixed points
 - Let $p_i, i = 1, ..., N_p$, denote saddle-type hyperbolic fixed points of f.

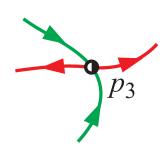
¹Following Rom-Kedar and Wiggins [1990]

Partition phase space into regions

- Natural way to partition phase space
 - Pieces of $W^u(p_i)$ and $W^s(p_i)$ partition \mathcal{M} .



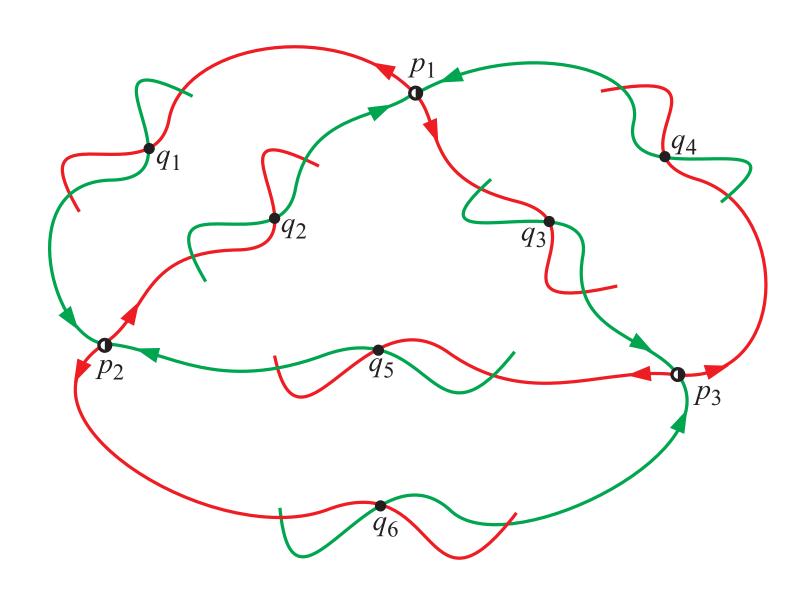




Unstable and stable manifolds in red and green, resp.

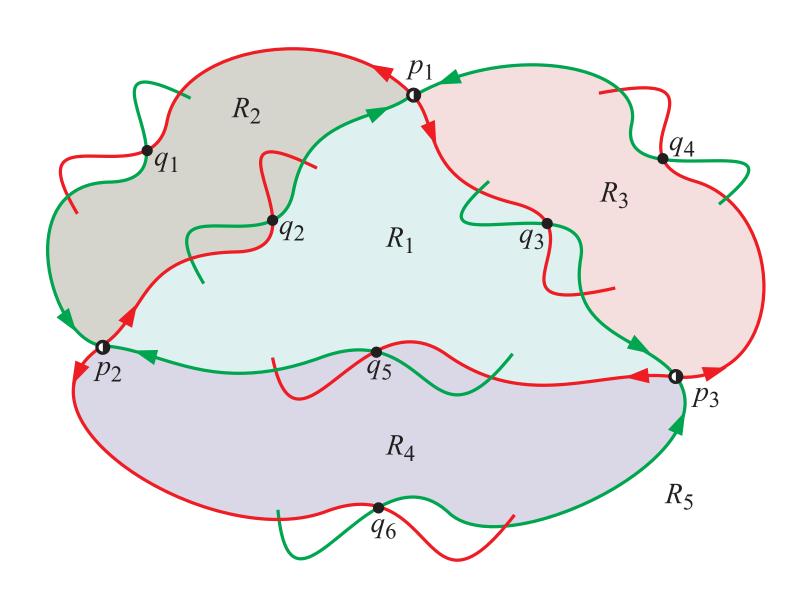
Partition phase space into regions

Intersection of unstable and stable manifolds define boundaries.



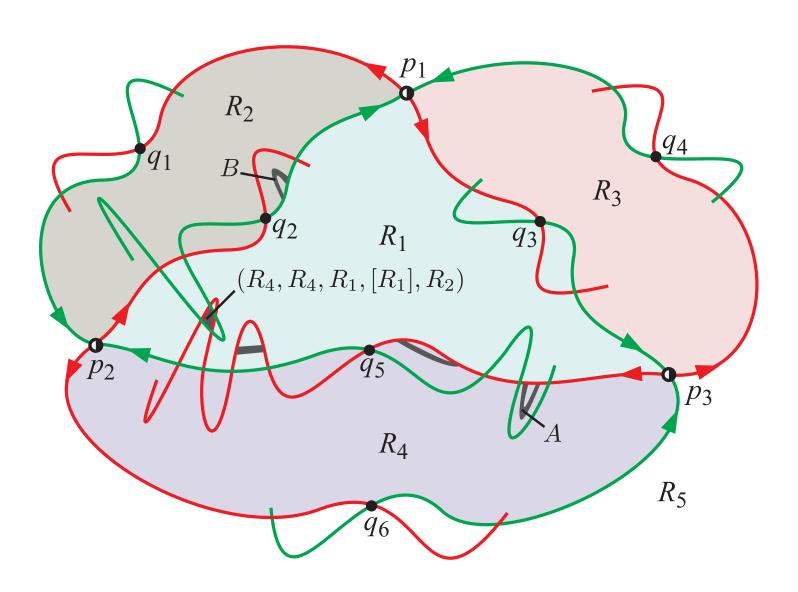
Partition phase space into regions

• These boundaries divide the phase space into regions



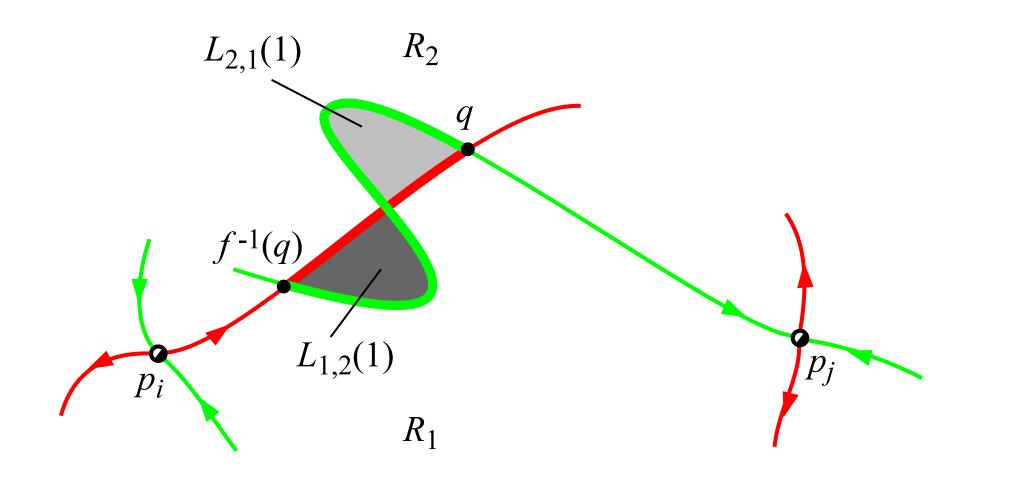
Label mobile subregions: 'atoms' of transport

• Can label mobile subregions based on their past and future whereabouts under one iterate of the map, e.g., $(\ldots, R_4, R_4, R_1, [R_1], R_2, \ldots)$



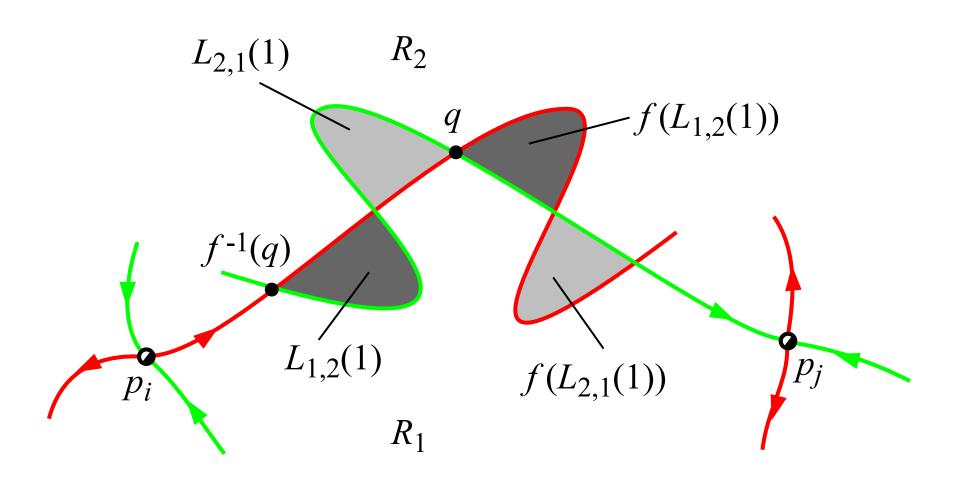
Lobe dynamics: transport across a boundary

 $\square W^u[f^{-1}(q),q] \bigcup W^s[f^{-1}(q),q]$ forms boundary of two lobes; one in R_1 , labeled $L_{1,2}(1)$, or equivalently $([R_1],R_2)$, where $f(([R_1],R_2))=(R_1,[R_2])$, etc. for $L_{2,1}(1)$



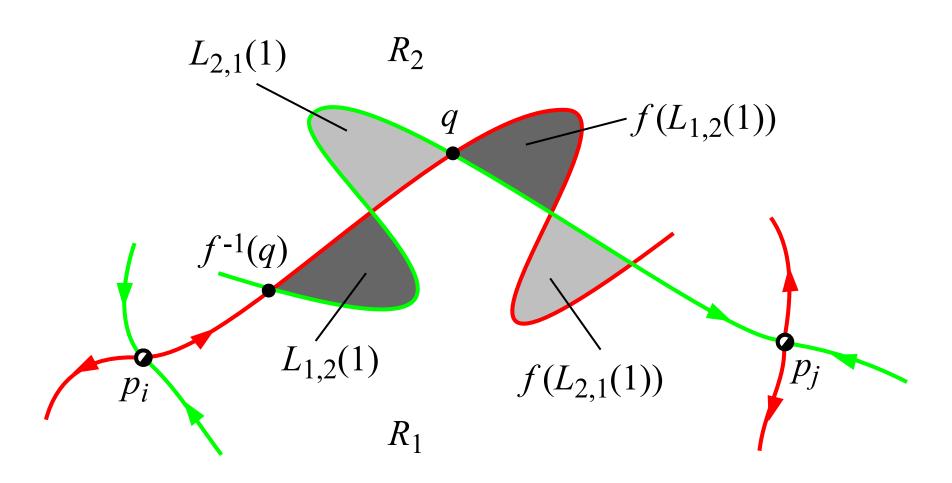
Lobe dynamics: transport across a boundary

- \square Under one iteration of f, **only points in** $L_{1,2}(1)$ can move from R_1 into R_2 by crossing their boundary, etc.
- \square The two lobes $L_{1,2}(1)$ and $L_{2,1}(1)$ are called a **turnstile**.

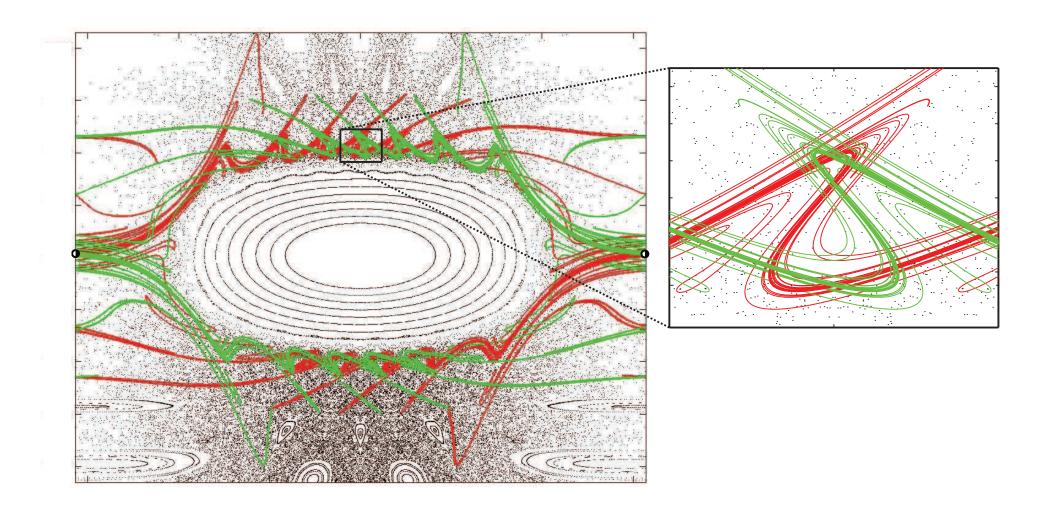


Lobe dynamics: transport across a boundary

□ Essence of lobe dynamics: dynamics associated with crossing a boundary is reduced to the dynamics of turnstile lobes associated with the boundary.

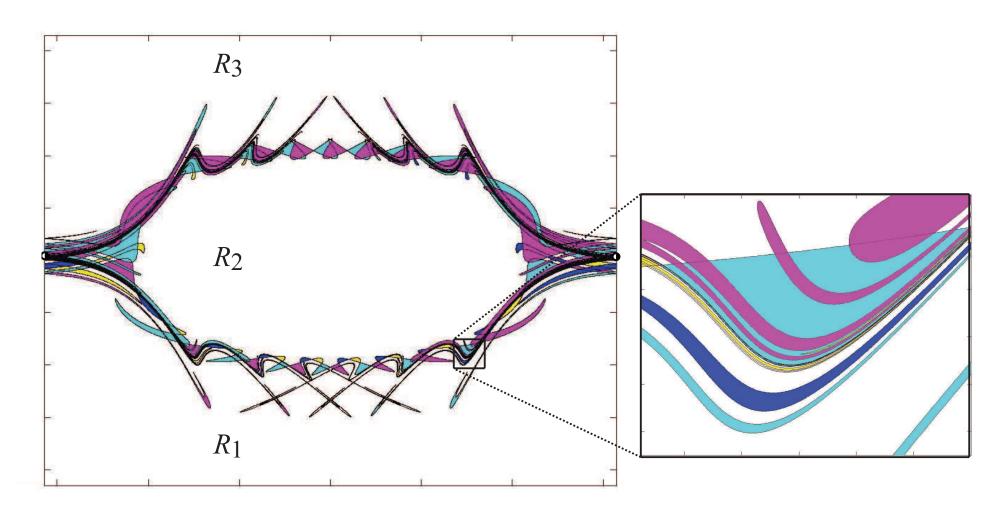


☐ In a complicated system, can still identify manifolds ...



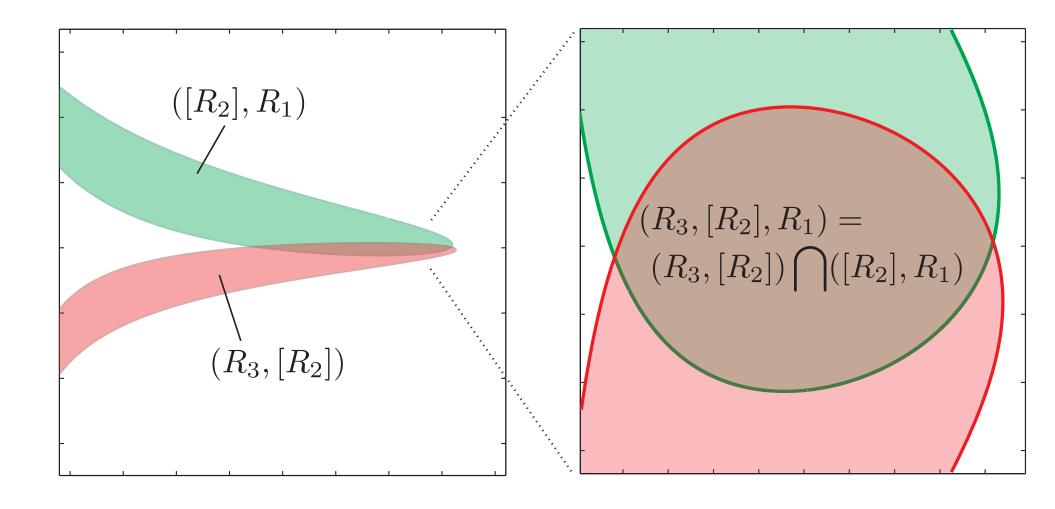
Unstable and stable manifolds in red and green, resp.

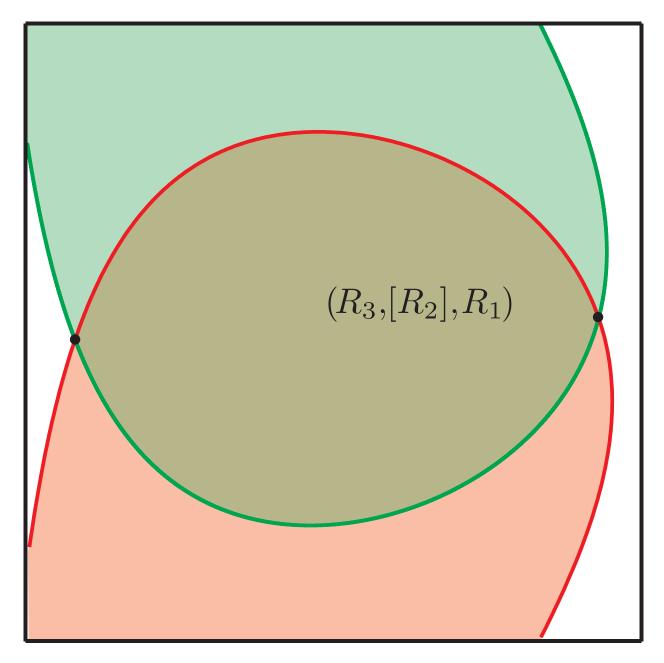
☐ ... and lobes



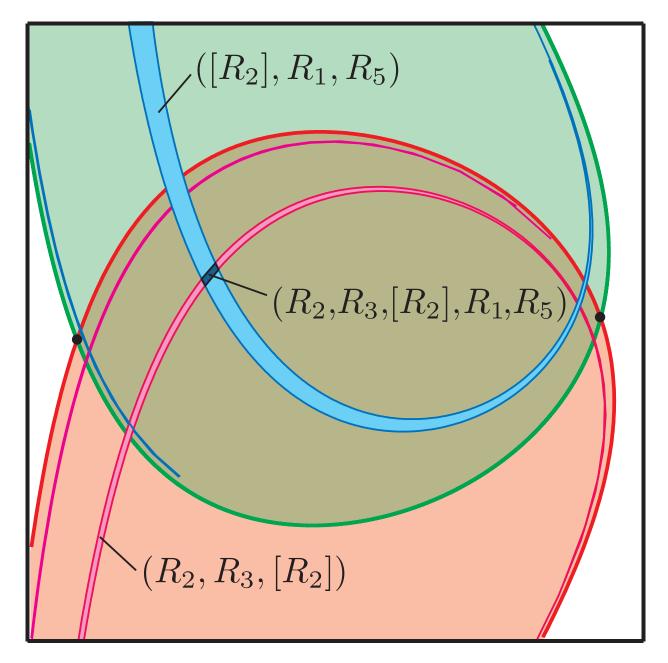
Significant amount of fine, filamentary structure.

- \square e.g., with three regions $\{R_1, R_2, R_3\}$, label lobe intersections accordingly.
 - Denote the intersection $(R_3,[R_2]) \cap ([R_2],R_1)$ by $(R_3,[R_2],R_1)$



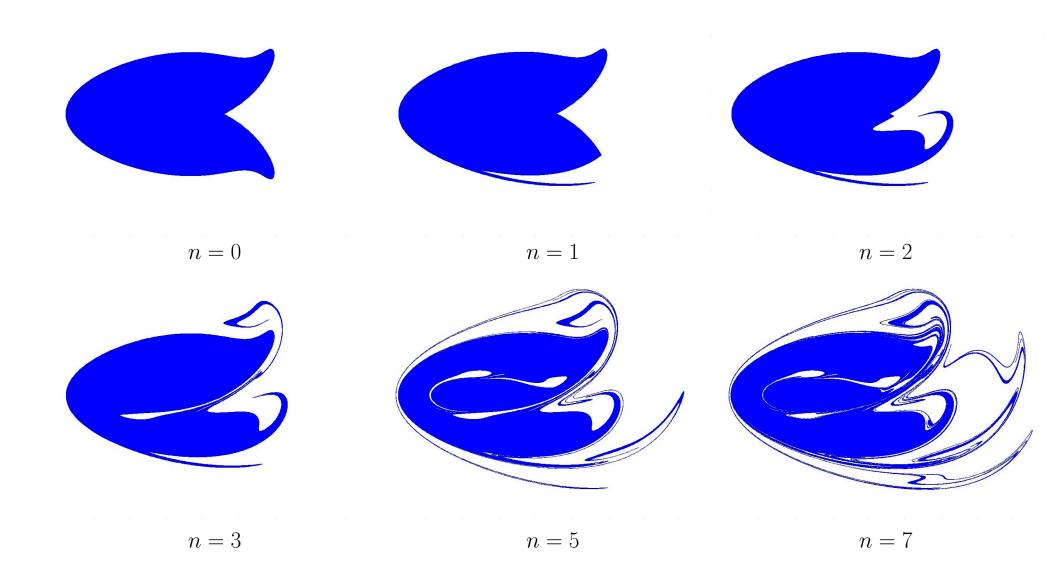


Longer itineraries...



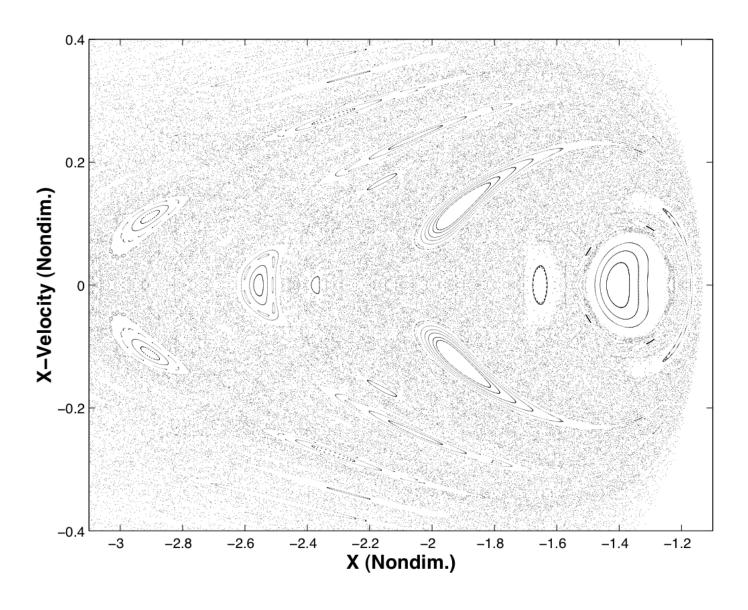
... correspond to smaller pieces of phase space; horseshoe dynamics, etc

Lobe dynamics intimately related to transport

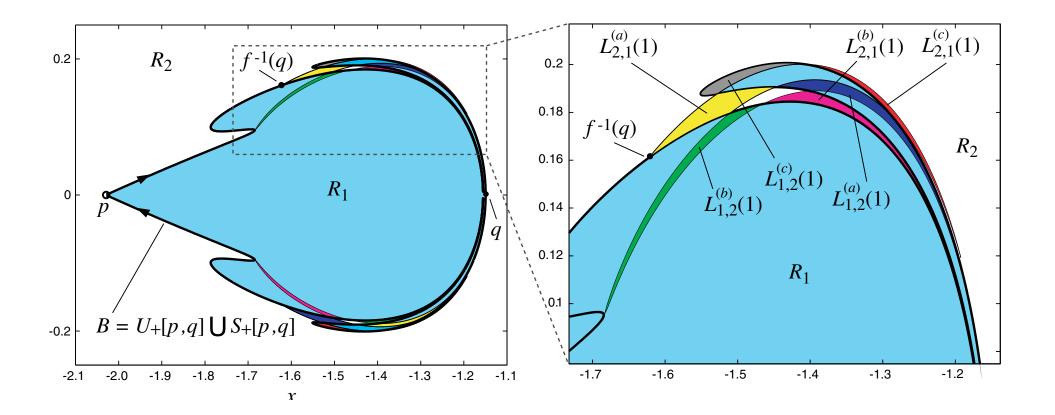


Lobe Dynamics: example

• Restricted 3-body problem: chaotic sea has unstable fixed points.



Compute a boundary



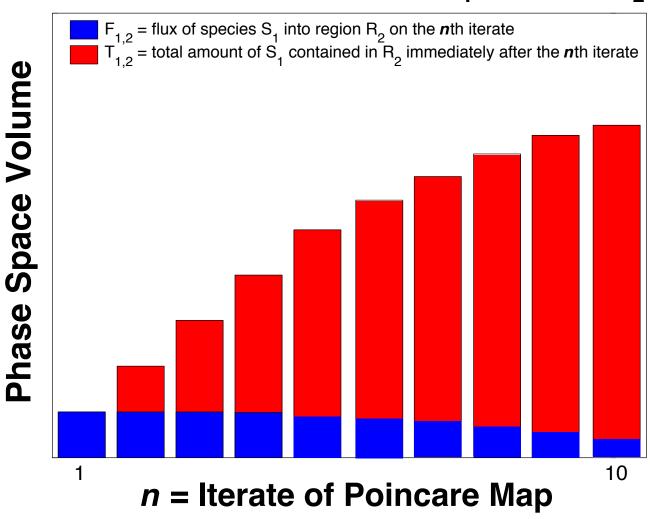
Transport btwn Two Regions

ullet The evolution of a lobe of species S_1 into R_2

Dellnitz, Junge, Lo, Marsden, Padberg, Preis, Ross, Thiere [2005] Physical Review Letters

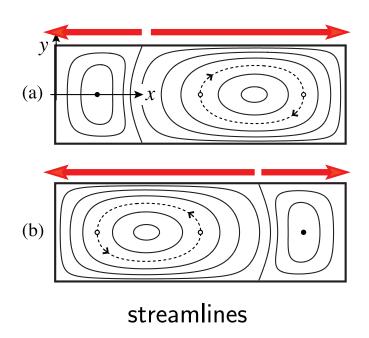
Transport btwn Two Regions

Species Distribution: Species S₁ in Region R₂



Lobe dynamics: fluid example

☐ Fluid example: time-periodic Stokes flow



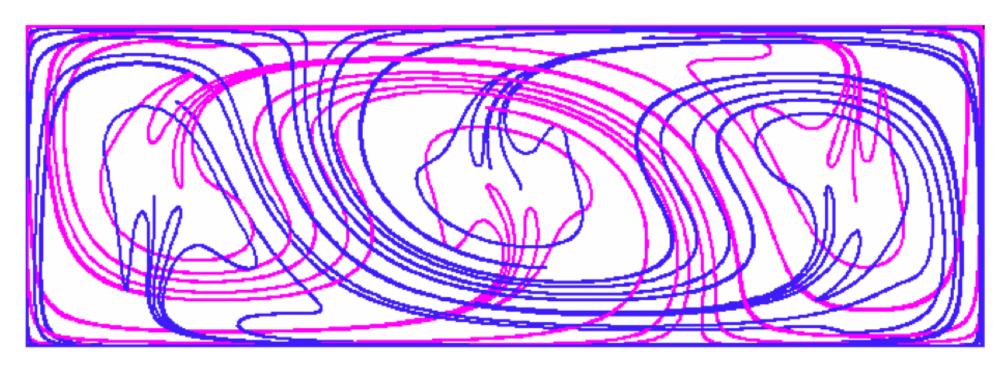
tracer blob

Lid-driven cavity flow

- Model for microfluidic mixer
- System has parameter au_f , which we treat as a bifurcation parameter critical point $au_f^*=1$; above and next few slides show $au_f>1$

Lobe dynamics: fluid example

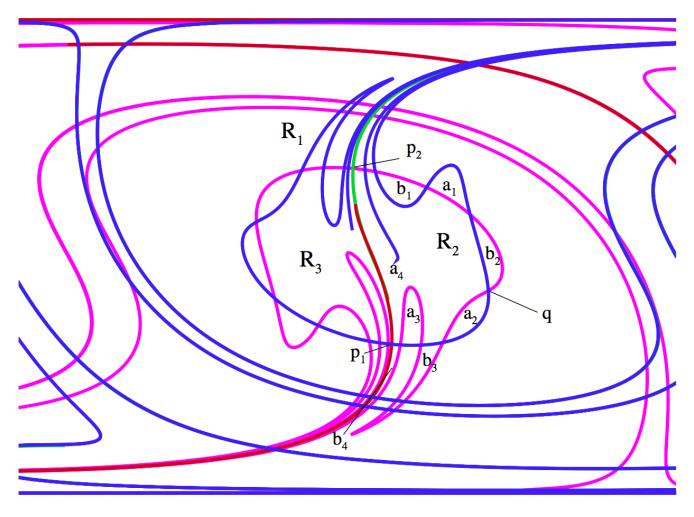
Structure associated with saddles of Poincaré map



some invariant manifolds of saddles

Lobe dynamics: fluid example

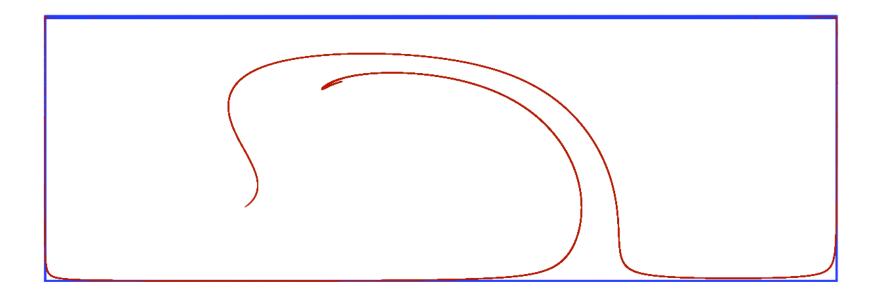
Can consider transport via lobe dynamics



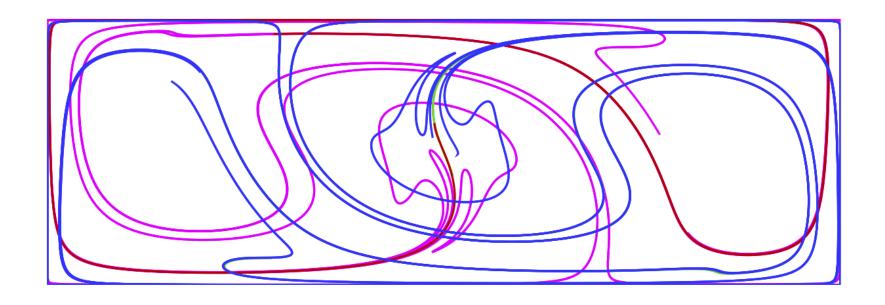
pips, regions and lobes labeled

•

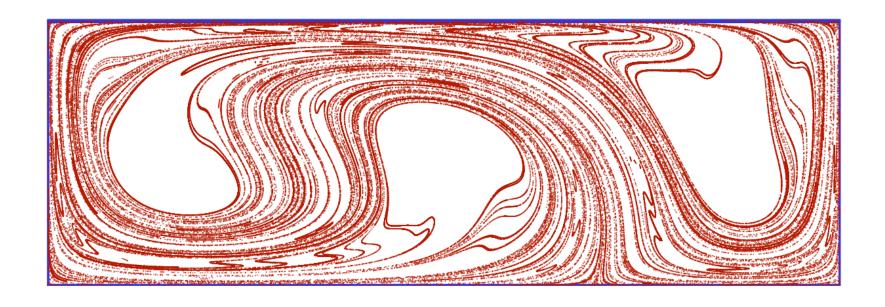
material blob at t=0



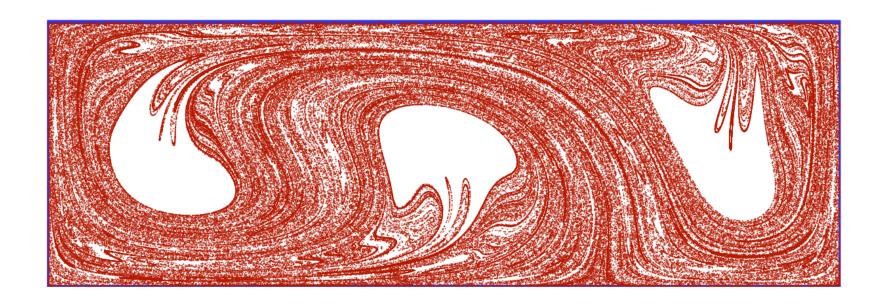
material blob at t=5



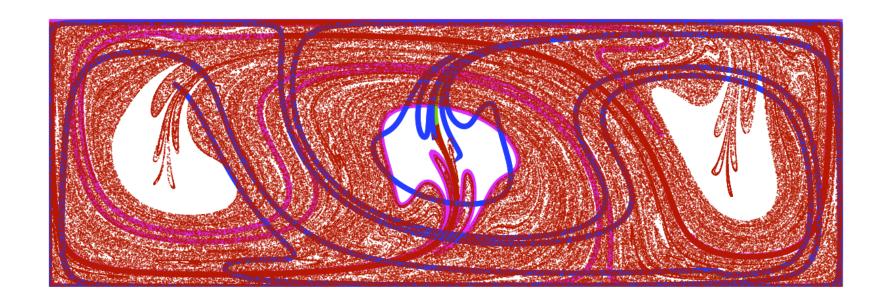
some invariant manifolds of saddles



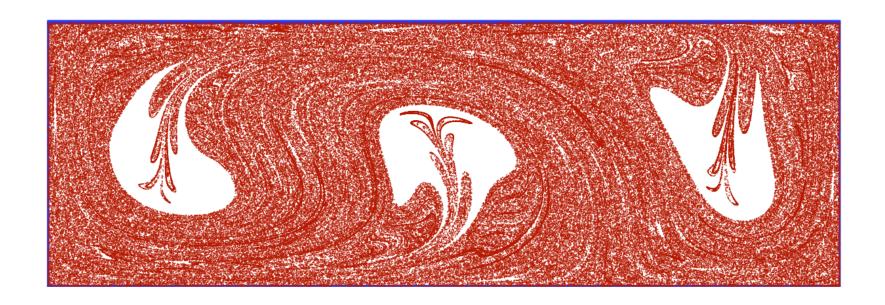
material blob at t = 10



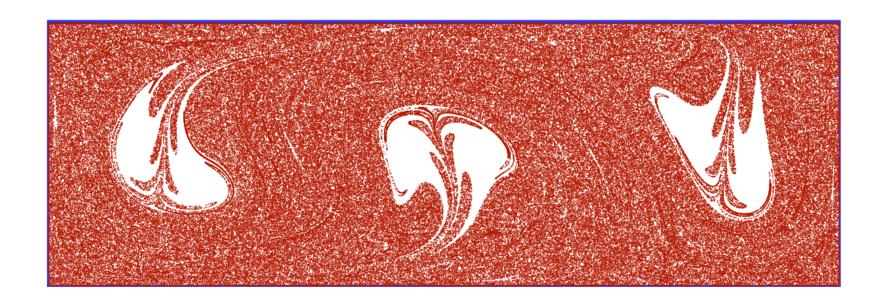
material blob at t = 15



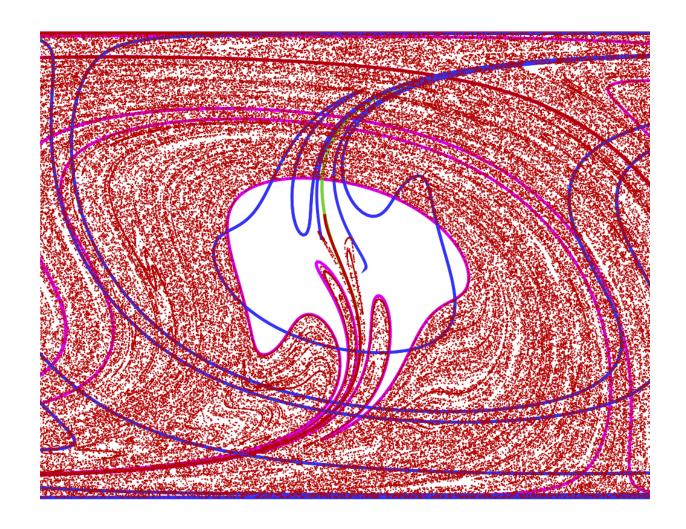
material blob and manifolds



material blob at t = 20

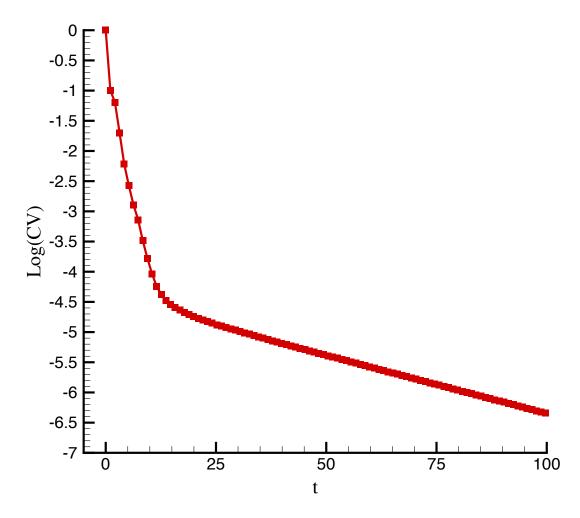


material blob at t = 25



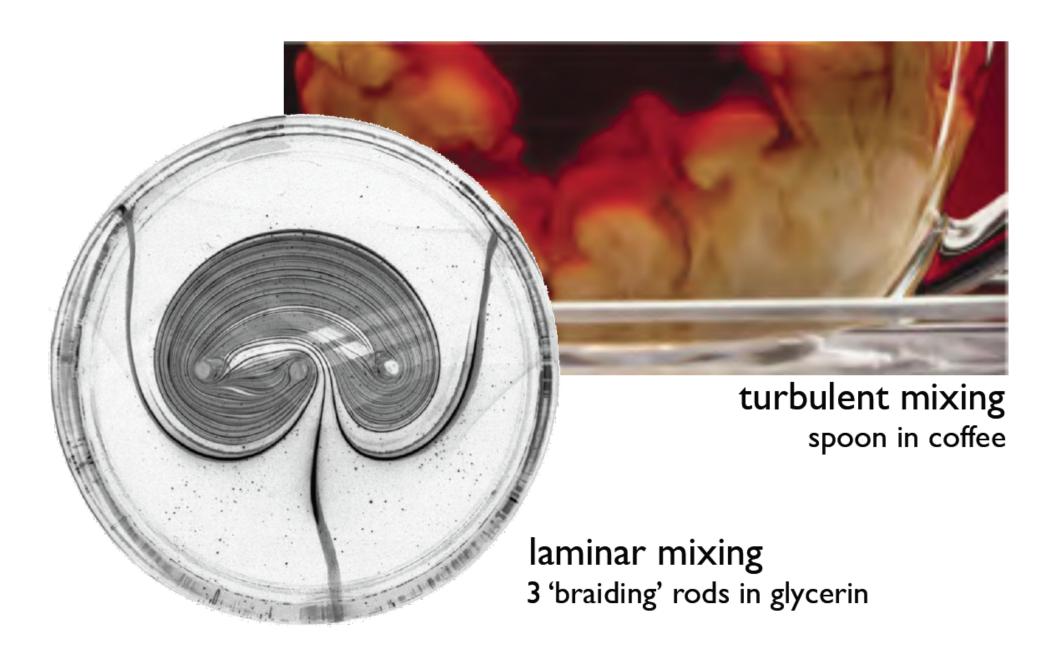
• Saddle manifolds and lobe dynamics provide template for motion

 \square Concentration variance; a measure of homogenization



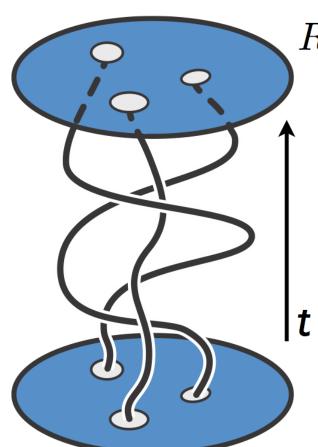
- Homogenization has two exponential rates: slower one related to lobes
- Fast rate due to braiding of 'ghost rods'

Stirring fluids with solid rods



Topological chaos through braiding of stirrers

Topological chaos is 'built in' the flow due to the topology of boundary motions



 R_N : 2D fluid region with N stirring 'rods'

stirrers move on periodic orbits

• stirrers = solid objects or fluid particles

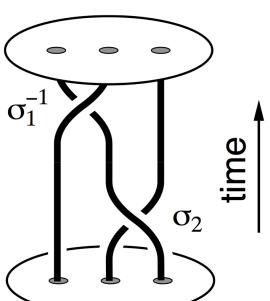
• stirrer motions generate diffeomorphism

$$f:R_N\to R_N$$

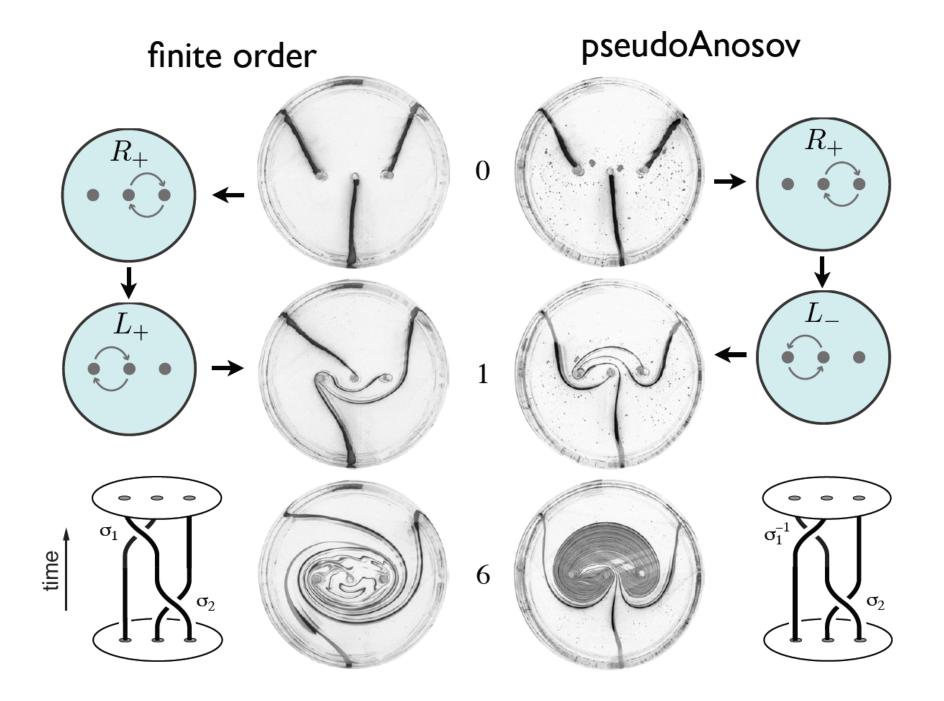
 stirrer trajectories generate braids in 2+1 dimensional space-time

Thurston-Nielsen classification theorem

- Thurston (1988) Bull. Am. Math. Soc.
- A stirrer motion f is isotopic to a stirrer motion g of one of three types (i) finite order (f.o.): the nth iterate of g is the identity (ii) pseudo-Anosov (pA): g has dense orbits, (iii) reducible: g contains both f.o. and pA regions
- ullet $h_{
 m TN}$ computed from 'braid word', e.g., $\sigma_{-1}\sigma_2$
- $\bullet \log(\lambda_{PF}(A))$ provides a **lower bound** on the true topological entropy
- i.e., non-trivial material lines grow like $\ell \sim \ell_0 \lambda^n$, where $\lambda \geq \lambda_{TN}$



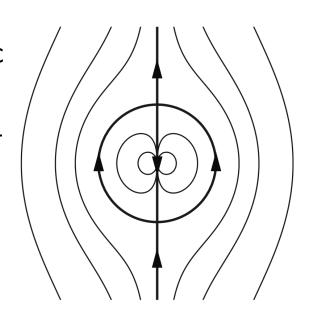
Topological chaos in a viscous fluid experiment



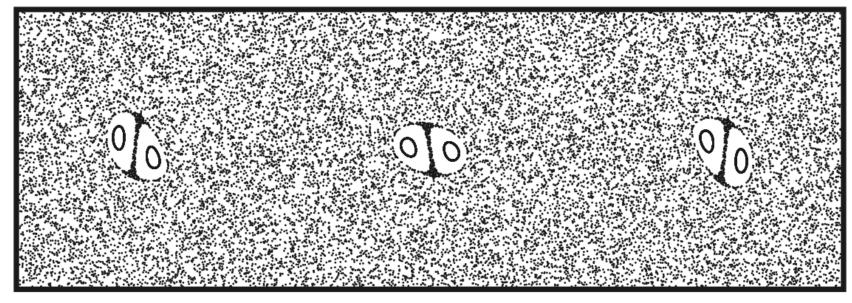
Identifying 'ghost rods': periodic points

tracer blob for $\tau_f > 1$

- \bullet For $\tau_f>1$, groups of elliptic and saddle periodic points of period 3
 - streamlines around groups resemble fluid motion around a solid rod \Rightarrow
- ullet At $au_f=1$, points merge into parabolic points
- Below $\tau_f < 1$, periodic points vanish

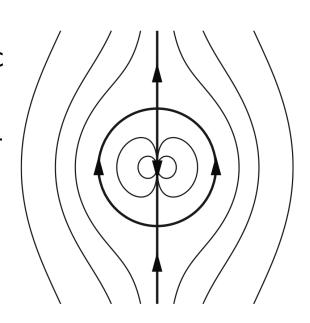


Identifying 'ghost rods': periodic points

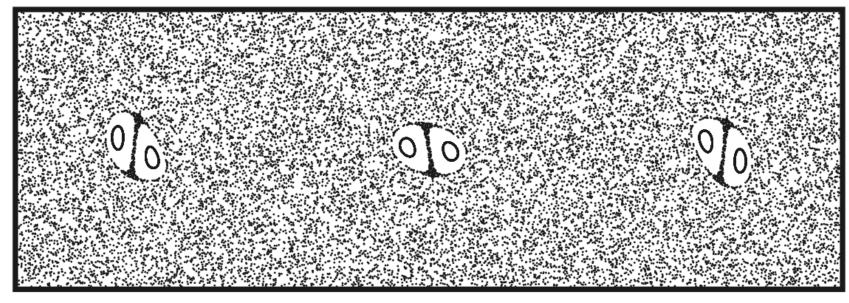


Poincaré section for $\tau_f > 1$

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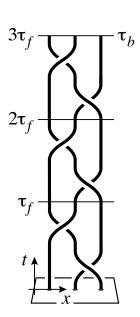


Identifying 'ghost rods': periodic points



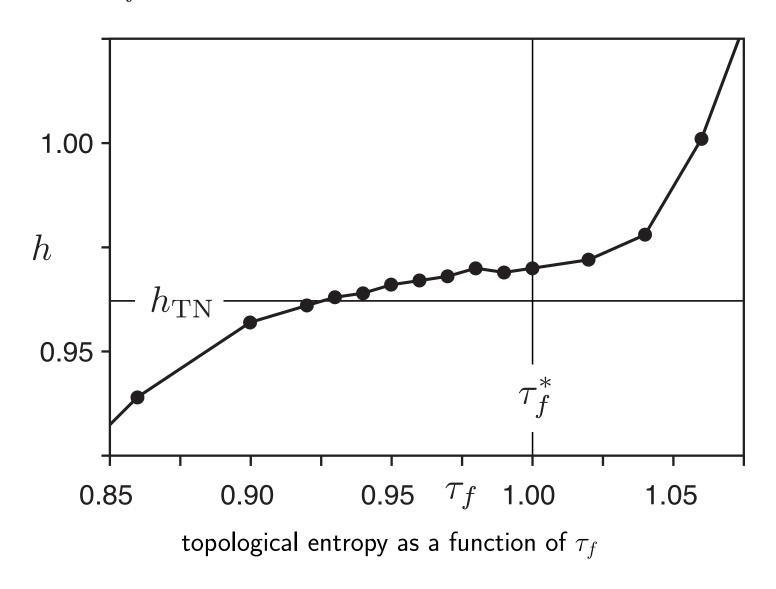
Poincaré section for $\tau_f > 1$

- Periodic points of period 3 ⇒ act as 'ghost rods'
- ullet Their braid has $h_{\mathrm{TN}} = 0.96242$ from TNCT
- Actual $h_{\mathrm{flow}} \approx 0.964$
- ullet $\Rightarrow h_{\mathrm{TN}}$ is an excellent lower bound

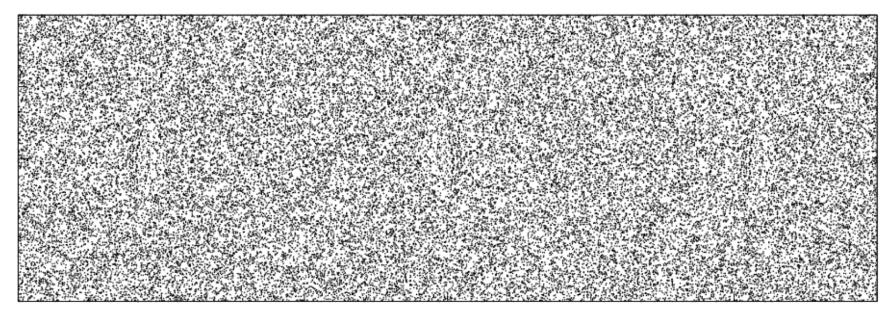


Topological entropy continuity across critical point

 \square Consider $\tau_f < 1$



Identifying 'ghost rods'?



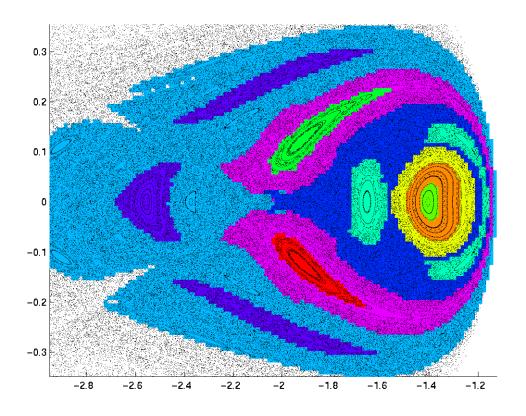
Poincaré section for $\tau_f < 1 \Rightarrow$ no obvious structure!

- Note the absence of any elliptical islands
- No periodic orbits of low period were found
- Is the phase space featureless?

Almost-invariant set (AIS) approach

- Take probabilistic point of view
- Partition phase space into loosely coupled regions

Almost-invariant sets \approx 'leaky' regions with a long residence time²



3-body problem phase space is divided into several invariant and almost-invariant sets.

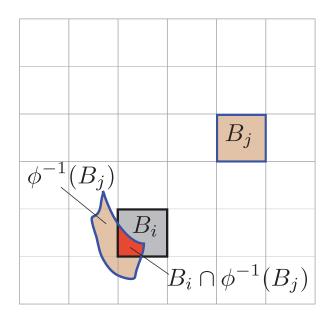
²Dellnitz, Junge, Koon, Lekien, Lo, Marsden, Padberg, Preis, Ross, Thiere [2005] Int. J. Bif. Chaos

Almost-invariant set (AIS) approach

- ullet Create box partition of phase space $\mathcal{B} = \{B_1, \dots B_q\}$, with q large
- Consider a q-by-q transition (Ulam) matrix, P, for our dynamical system, where

$$P_{ij} = \frac{m(B_i \cap f^{-1}(B_j))}{m(B_i)},$$

the $transition\ probability\ from\ B_i\ to\ B_j\ using,\ e.g.,\ f=\phi_t^{t+T}$



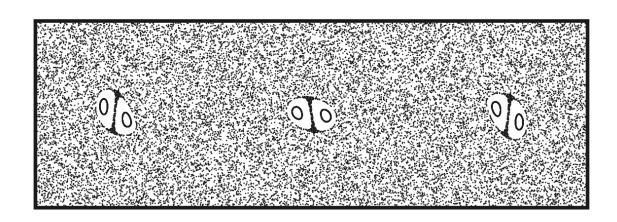
P approximates our dynamical system via a finite state Markov chain.

Almost-invariant set (AIS) approach

ullet A set B is called almost invariant over the interval [t,t+T] if

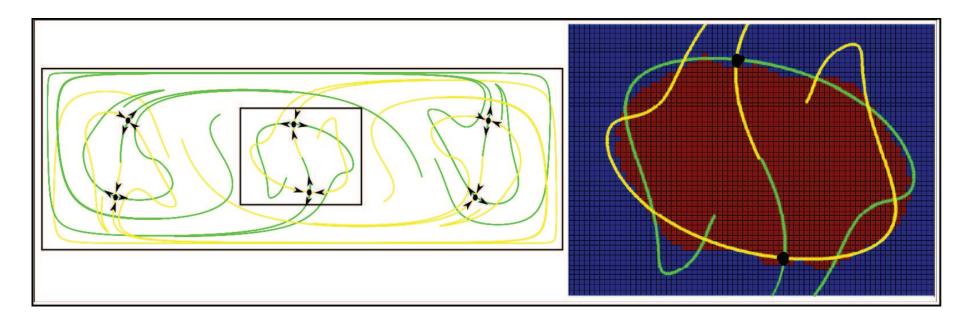
$$\rho(B) = \frac{m(B \cap \phi^{-1}(B))}{m(B)} \approx 1.$$

- ullet Can maximize value of ho over all possible combinations of sets $B \in \mathcal{B}$.
- In practice, AIS or relatedly, almost-cyclic sets (ACS), identified via eigenvectors (of eigenvalues with $|\lambda|\approx 1$) of P or graph-partitioning
- Appropriate for non-autonomous, aperiodic, finite-time settings



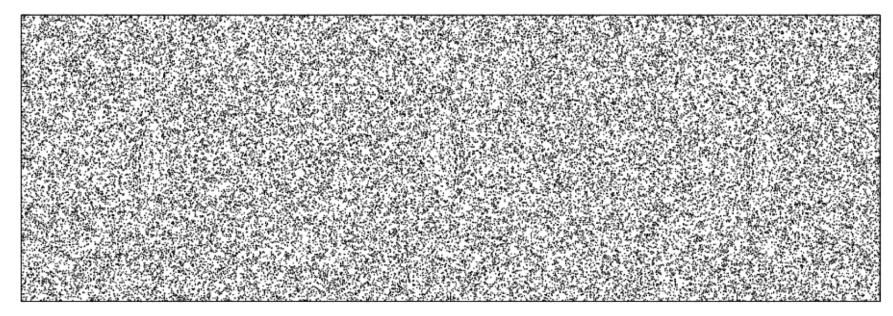
- ullet Return to $au_f>1$ case, where periodic points and manifolds exist
- Agreement between AIS boundaries and manifolds of periodic points
- \bullet Known previously and applies to more general objects than periodic points, i.e. normally hyperbolic invariant manifolds (NHIMs)

³Dellnitz, Junge, Lo, Marsden, Padberg, Preis, Ross, Thiere [2005] Phys. Rev. Lett.; Dellnitz, Junge, Koon, Lekien, Lo, Marsden, Padberg, Preis, Ross, Thiere [2005] Int. J. Bif. Chaos



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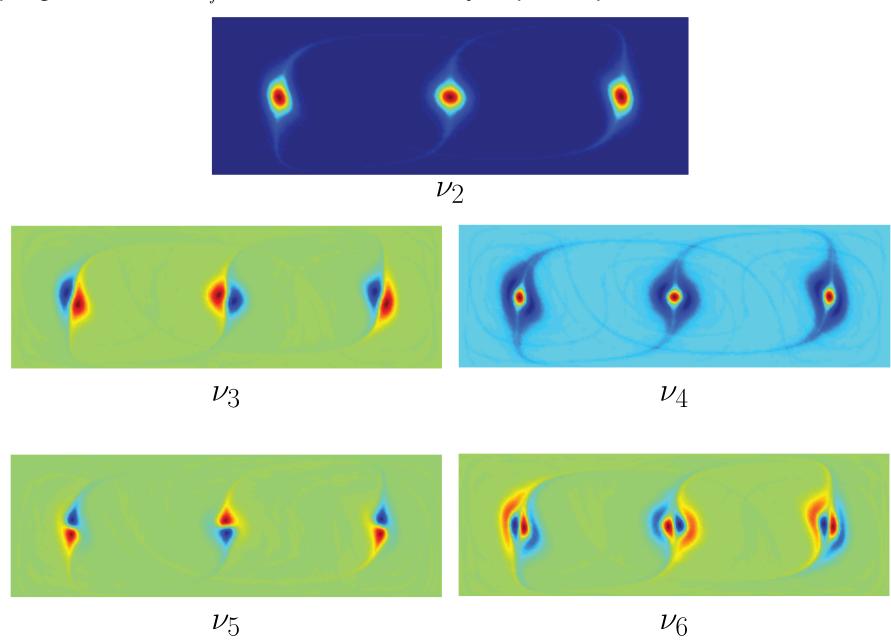
⁴Dellnitz, Junge, Lo, Marsden, Padberg, Preis, Ross, Thiere [2005] Phys. Rev. Lett.; Dellnitz, Junge, Koon, Lekien, Lo, Marsden, Padberg, Preis, Ross, Thiere [2005] Int. J. Bif. Chaos

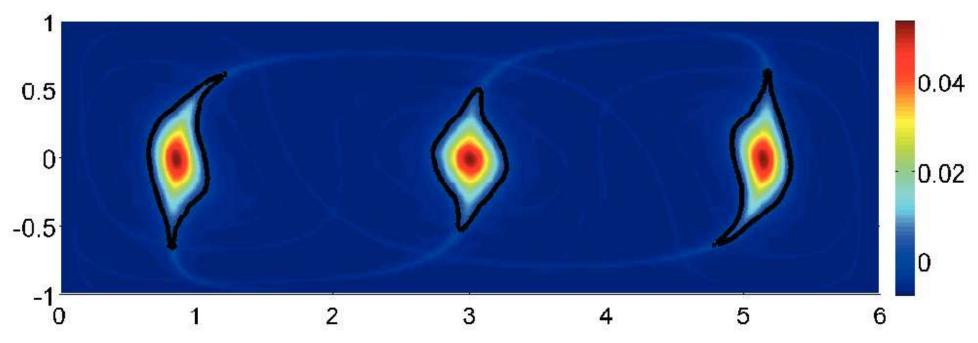


Poincaré section for $\tau_f < 1 \Rightarrow$ no obvious structure!

- \bullet Return to $\tau_f < 1$ case, where no periodic orbits of low period known
- Is the phase space featureless?
- ullet Consider transition matrix $P_t^{t+\tau_f}$ induced by Poincaré map $\phi_t^{t+\tau_f}$

Top eigenvectors for $\tau_f=0.99$ reveal hierarchy of phase space structures



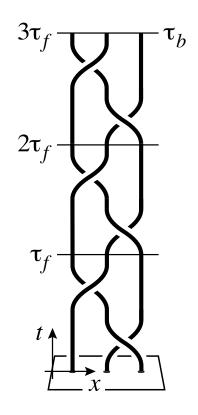


The zero contour (black) is the boundary between the two almost-invariant sets.

- Three-component AIS made of 3 almost-cyclic sets (ACSs) of period 3
- ACS effectively replace compact region bounded by saddle manifolds
- Also: we see a dynamical remnant of the global 'stable and unstable manifolds' of the saddle points, despite no saddle points

Almost-cyclic sets stirring the surrounding fluid like 'ghost rods' — works even when periodic orbits are absent!

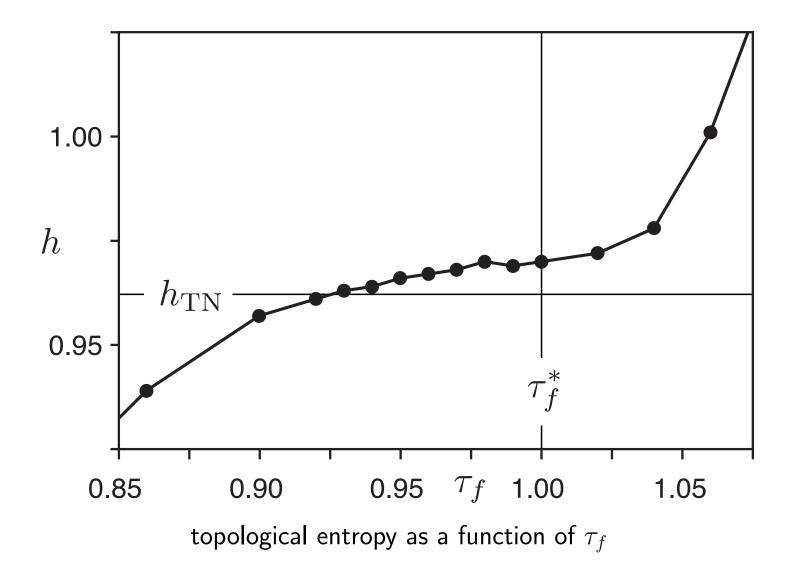
Movie shown is second eigenvector for $P_t^{t+\tau_f}$ for $t\in[0,\tau_f)$



Braid of ACSs gives lower bound of entropy via Thurston-Nielsen

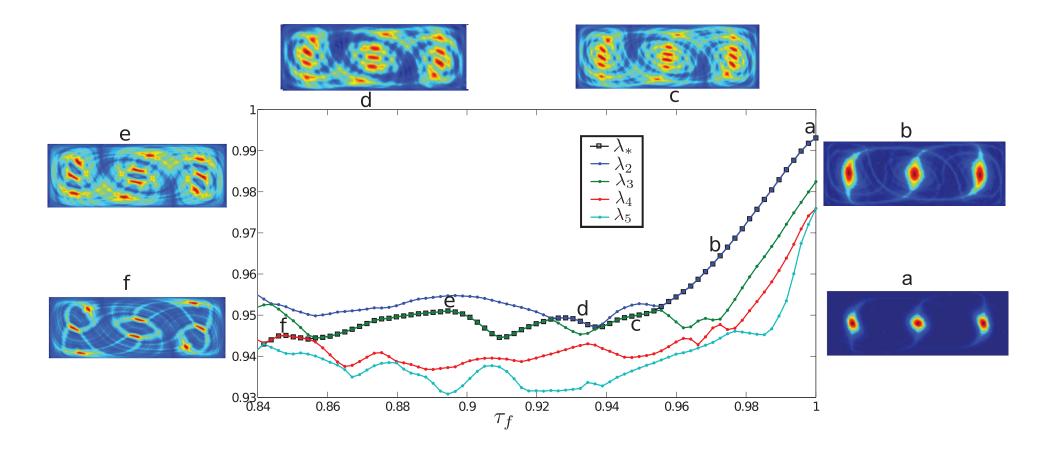
- One only needs approximately cyclic blobs of fluid
- Even though the theorems require exactly periodic points!
- Stremler, Ross, Grover, Kumar [2011] Phys. Rev. Lett.

Topological entropy vs. bifurcation parameter



ullet h_{TN} shown for ACS braid on 3 strands

Eigenvalues/eigenvectors vs. bifurcation parameter



Movie shows change in eigenvector along branch marked with ' $\neg\neg$ ' above (a to f), as τ_f decreases \Rightarrow

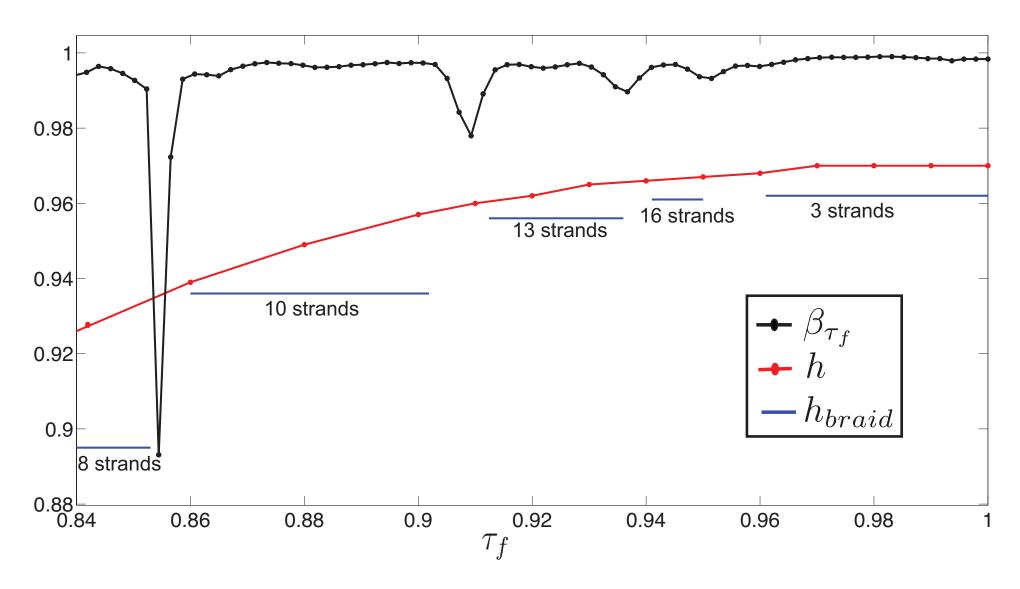
Bifurcation of ACSs

For example, braid on 13 strands for $\tau_f=0.92$

Movie shown is second eigenvector for $P_t^{t+\tau_f}$ for $t \in [0,\tau_f)$

Thurson-Nielsen for this braid provides lower bound on topological entropy

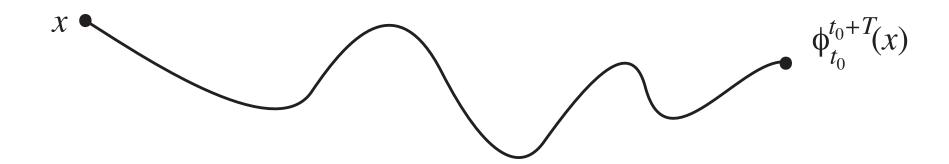
Sequence of ACS braids bounds entropy



For various braids of ACSs, the calculated entropy is given, bounding from below the true topological entropy over the range where the braid exists

Chaotic transport: aperiodic, finite-time setting

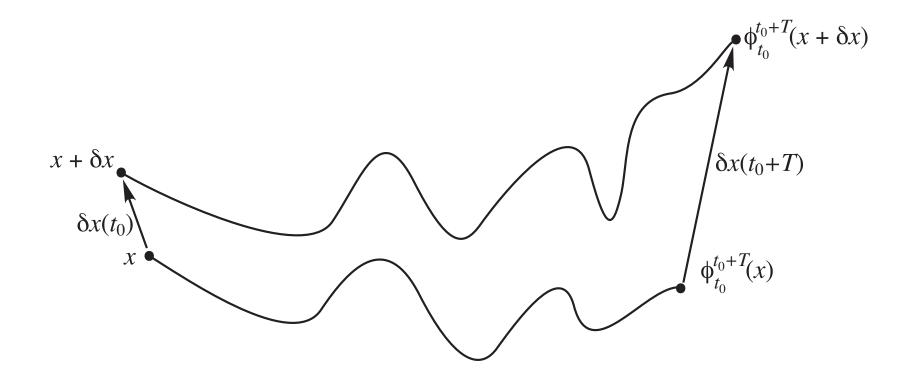
- Data-driven, finite-time, aperiodic setting
 e.g., non-autonomous ODEs for fluid flow
- How do we get at transport?
- ullet Recall the flow, $x\mapsto \phi_t^{t+T}(x)$, where $\phi:\mathbb{R}^n\to\mathbb{R}^n$



Identify regions of high sensitivity of initial conditions

• Small initial perturbations $\delta x(t)$ grow like

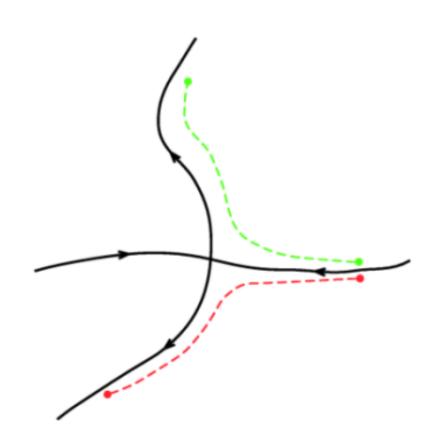
$$\begin{split} \delta x(t+T) &= \phi_t^{t+T}(x+\delta x(t)) - \phi_t^{t+T}(x) \\ &= \frac{d\phi_t^{t+T}(x)}{dx} \delta x(t) + O(||\delta x(t)||^2) \end{split}$$



Identify regions of high sensitivity of initial conditions

ullet Small initial perturbations $\delta x(t)$ grow like

$$\begin{split} \delta x(t+T) &= \phi_t^{t+T}(x+\delta x(t)) - \phi_t^{t+T}(x) \\ &= \frac{d\phi_t^{t+T}(x)}{dx} \delta x(t) + O(||\delta x(t)||^2) \end{split}$$

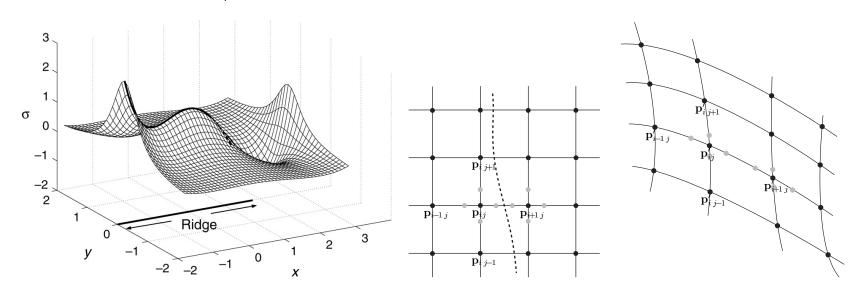


The finite-time Lyapunov exponent (FTLE),

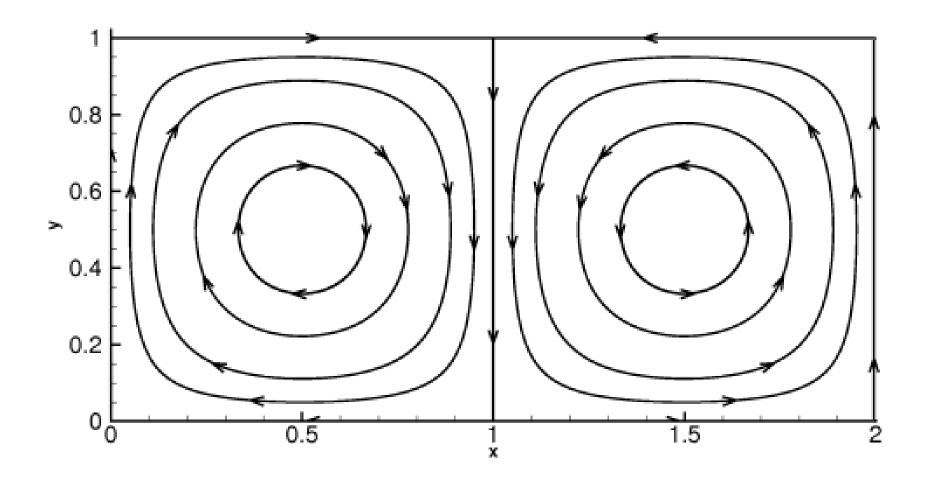
$$\sigma_t^T(x) = \frac{1}{|T|} \log \left\| \frac{d\phi_t^{t+T}(x)}{dx} \right\|$$

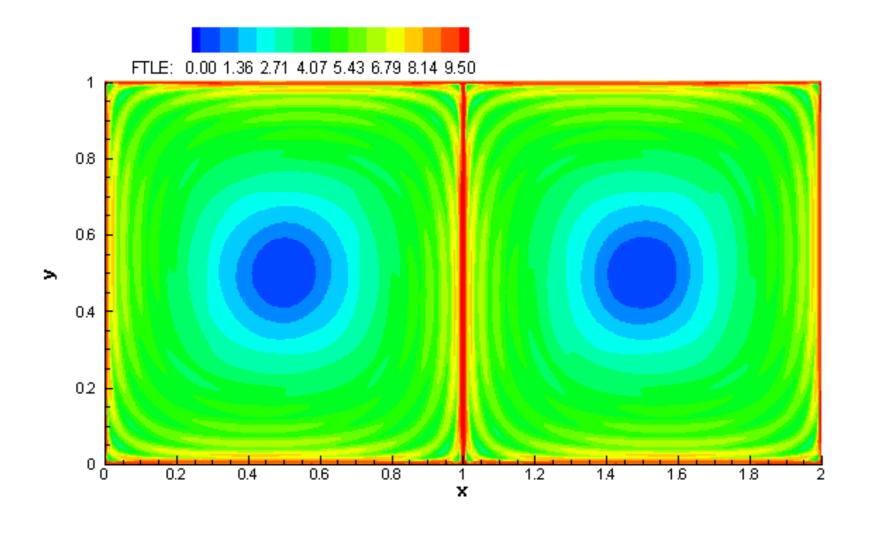
measures the maximum stretching rate over the interval T of trajectories starting near the point x at time t

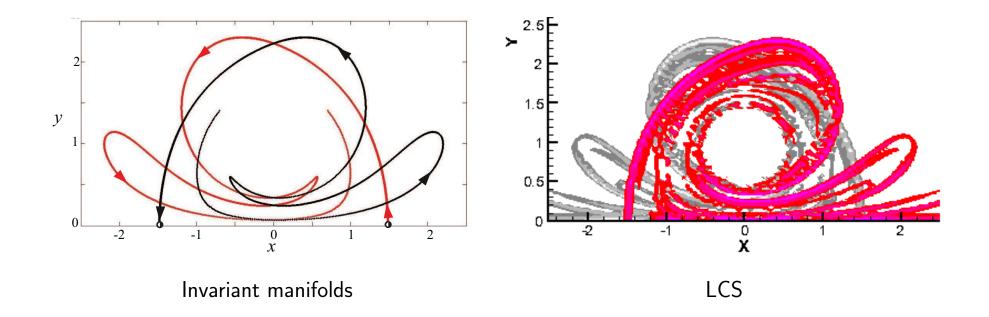
ullet Ridges of σ_t^T are candidate hyperbolic codim-1 surfaces; finite-time analogs of stable/unstable manifolds; 'Lagrangian coherent structures' 5



⁵cf. Bowman, 1999; Haller & Yuan, 2000; Haller, 2001; Shadden, Lekien, Marsden, 2005





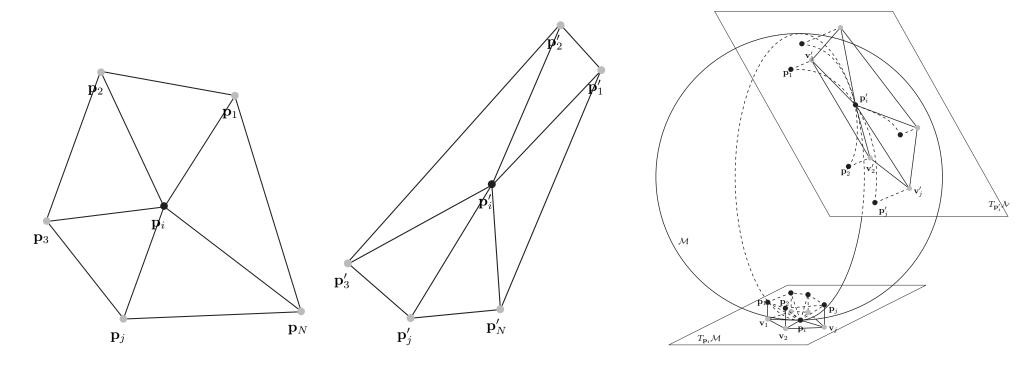


Time-periodic oscillating vortex pair flow

ullet We can define the FTLE for Riemannian manifolds 3

$$\sigma_t^T(x) = \frac{1}{|T|} \ln \left\| D\phi_t^{t+T} \right\| \doteq \frac{1}{|T|} \log \left(\max_{\mathbf{y} \neq 0} \frac{\left\| D\phi_t^{t+T}(\mathbf{y}) \right\|}{\|\mathbf{y}\|} \right)$$

with y a small perturbation in the tangent space at x.



³Lekien & Ross [2010] Chaos

Transport barriers on Riemannian manifolds

• Ridges correspond to dynamical barriers or Lagrangian coherent structures (LCS): repelling surfaces for T>0, attracting for T<0

cylinder

Moebius strip

Each frame has a different initial time t

Atmospheric flows: Antarctic polar vortex

Atmospheric flows: Antarctic polar vortex

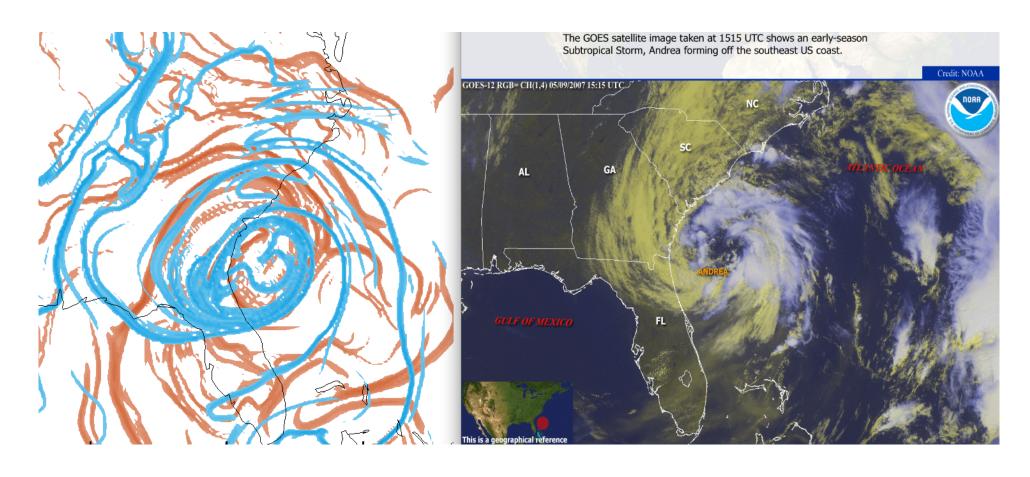
ozone data + LCSs (red = repelling, blue = attracting)

Atmospheric flows: Antarctic polar vortex

Atmospheric flows: continental U.S.

LCSs: orange = repelling, blue = attracting

Atmospheric flows and lobe dynamics



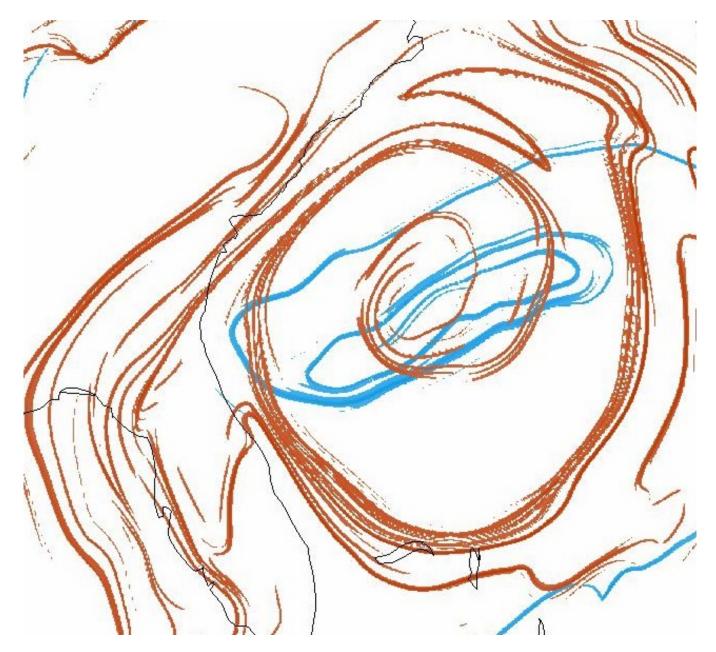
orange = repelling LCSs, blue = attracting LCSs

satellite

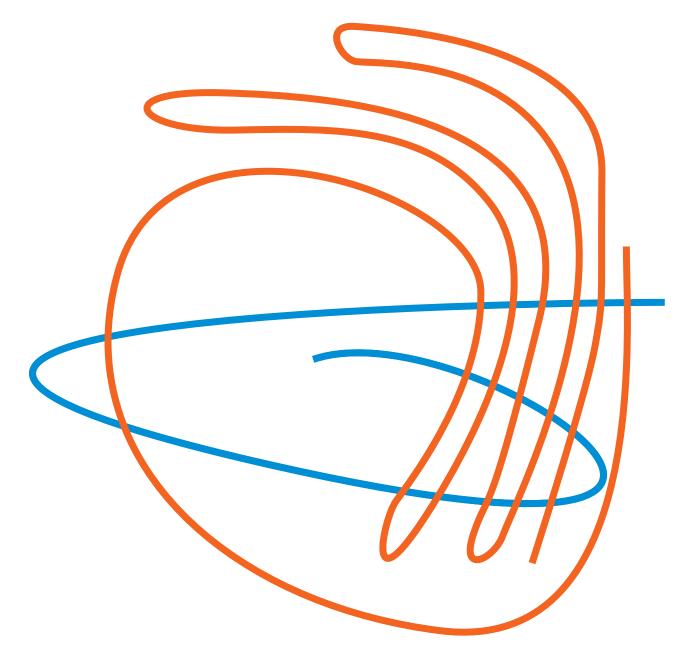
Andrea, first storm of 2007 hurricane season

cf. Sapsis & Haller [2009], Du Toit & Marsden [2010], Lekien & Ross [2010], Ross & Tallapragada [2011]

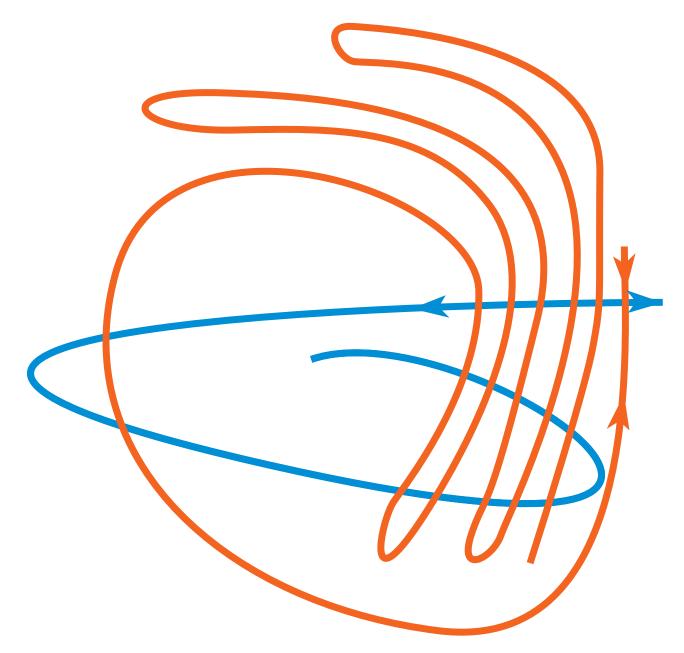
Atmospheric flows and lobe dynamics



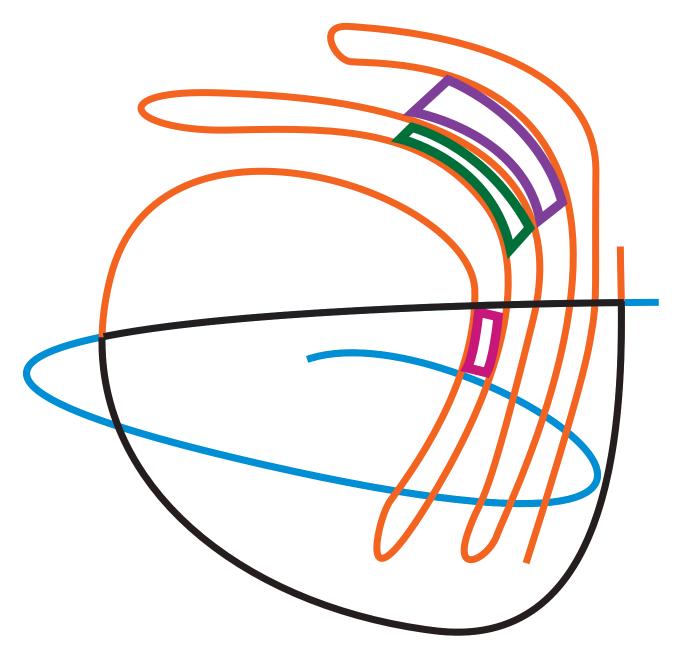
Andrea at one snapshot; LCS shown (orange = repelling, blue = attracting)



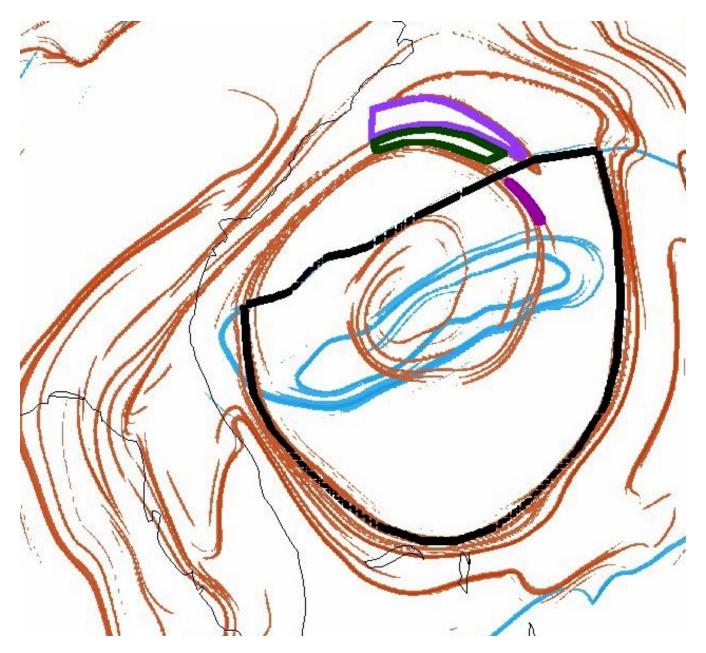
orange = repelling (stable manifold), blue = attracting (unstable manifold)



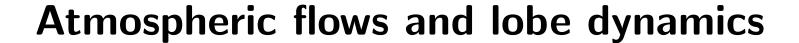
orange = repelling (stable manifold), blue = attracting (unstable manifold)



Portions of lobes colored; magenta = outgoing, green = incoming, purple = stays out



Portions of lobes colored; magenta = outgoing, green = incoming, purple = stays out



Sets behave as lobe dynamics dictates

Atmospheric transport network relevant for aeroecology

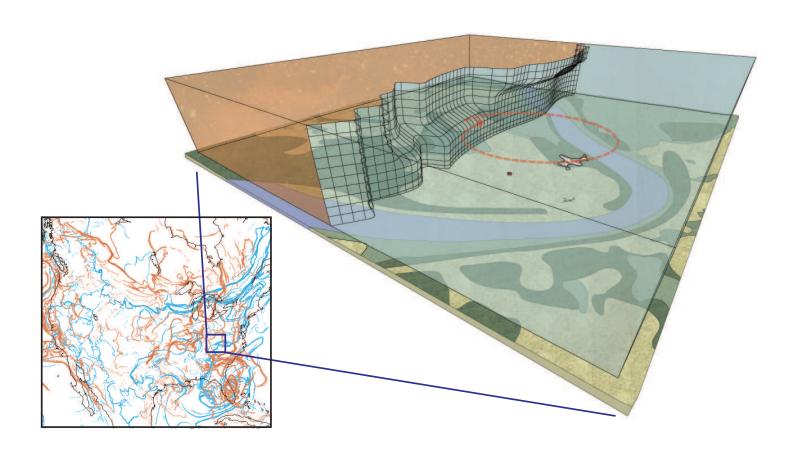
Skeleton of large-scale horizontal transport

relevant for large-scale spatiotemporal patterns of important biota e.g., plant pathogens

 $orange = repelling \ LCSs, \ blue = attracting \ LCSs$

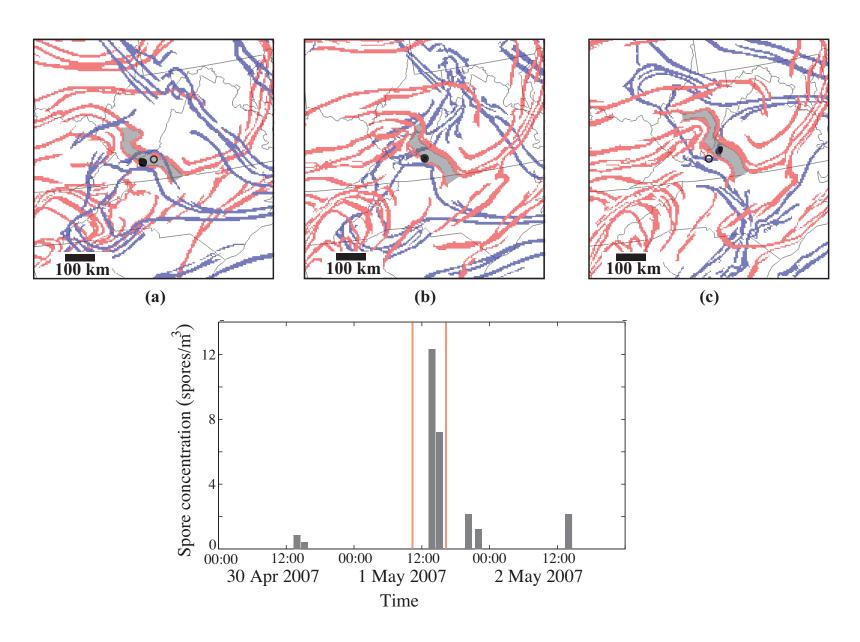
2D curtain-like structures bounding air masses

2D curtain-like structures bounding air masses

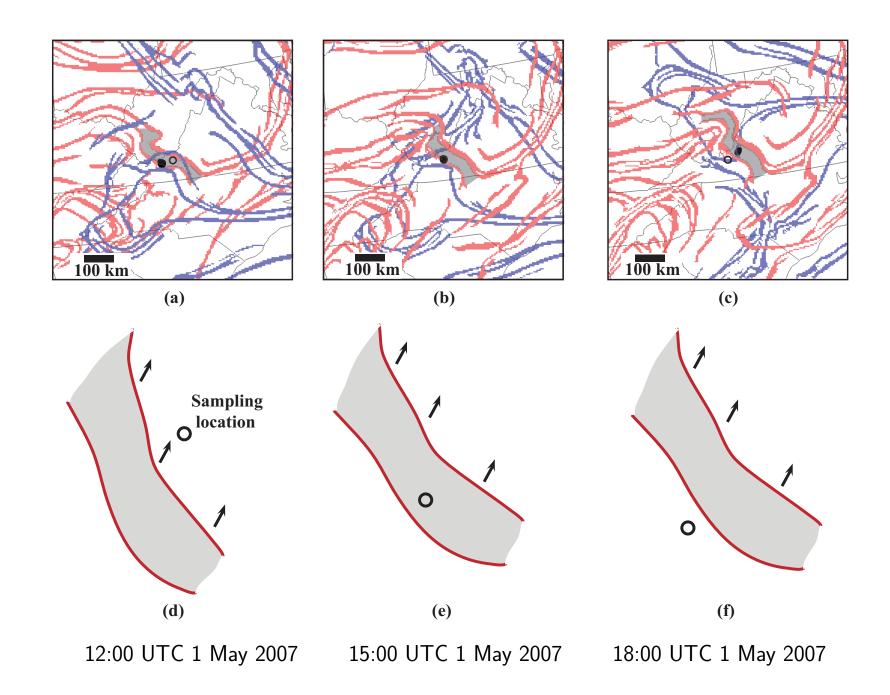




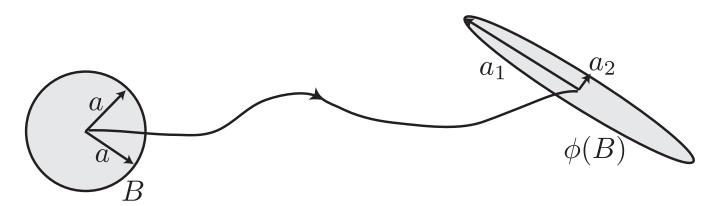
Pathogen transport: filament bounded by LCS



Pathogen transport: filament bounded by LCS



- Consider, e.g., a flow ϕ_t^{t+T} in $(x_1, x_2) \in \mathbb{R}^2$.
- Treat the evolution of set $B \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ as evolution of two random variables X_1 and X_2 defined by probability density function $f(x_1,x_2)$, initially uniform on B, $f=\frac{1}{\mu(B)}\mathcal{X}_B$, with \mathcal{X}_B the characteristic function of B.
- \bullet Under the action of the flow ϕ_t^{t+T} , f is mapped to Pf where P is the associated Perron-Frobenius operator.
- Let I(f) be the covariance of f and I(Pf) the covariance of Pf.

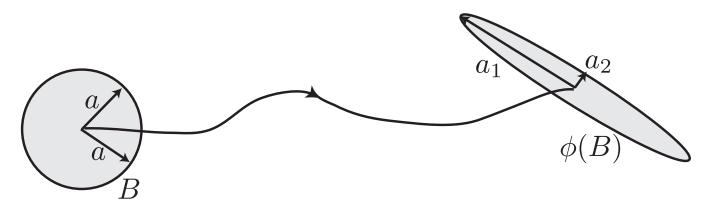


Deformation of a disk under the flow during [t, t+T]

• **Definition.** The **covariance-based FTLE** of B is

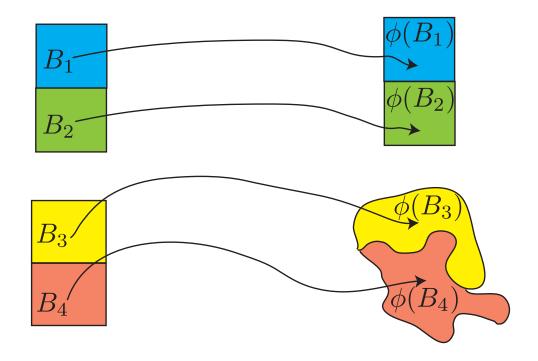
$$\sigma_I(B, t, T) = \frac{1}{|T|} \log \left(\frac{\sqrt{\lambda_{max}(I(Pf))}}{\sqrt{\lambda_{max}(I(f))}} \right).$$

 Reduces to usual definition of FTLE in the limit that the linearization approximation (i.e., line-stretching method) is valid

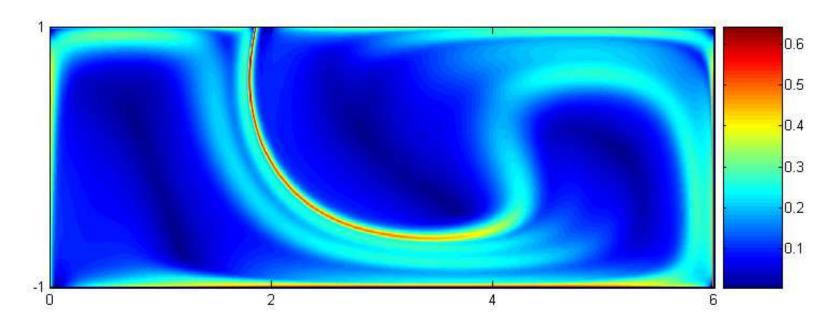


Deformation of a disk under the flow during [t, t+T]

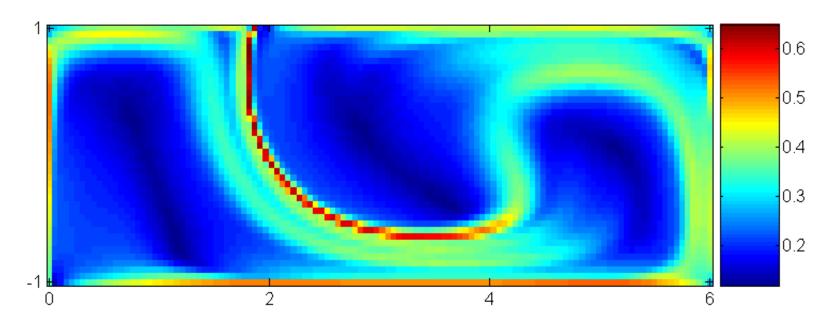
- The **coherence** of a set B during [t, t+T] is $\sigma_I(B, t, T)$.
- A set B is almost-coherent during [t, t+T] if $\sigma_I(B, t, T) \approx 0$.
- Captures the essential feature of a coherent set: it does not mix or spread significantly in the domain.
- This definition also can identify non-mixing **translating** sets.



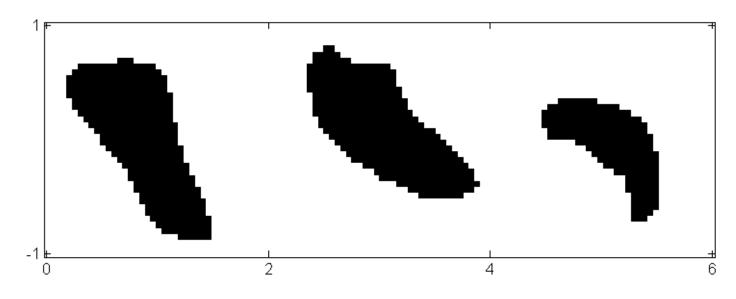
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- Captures the essential feature of a coherent set: it does not mix or spread significantly in the domain.
- This definition also can identify non-mixing translating sets.
- Values of $\sigma_I(B,t,T)$ determine the family of sets of various degrees of coherence.
- Need to set a heuristic threshold on the value of $\sigma_I(B,t,T)$ to determine coherent sets.
- Notice, coherent sets will be separated by ridges of high FTLE, i.e., LCS



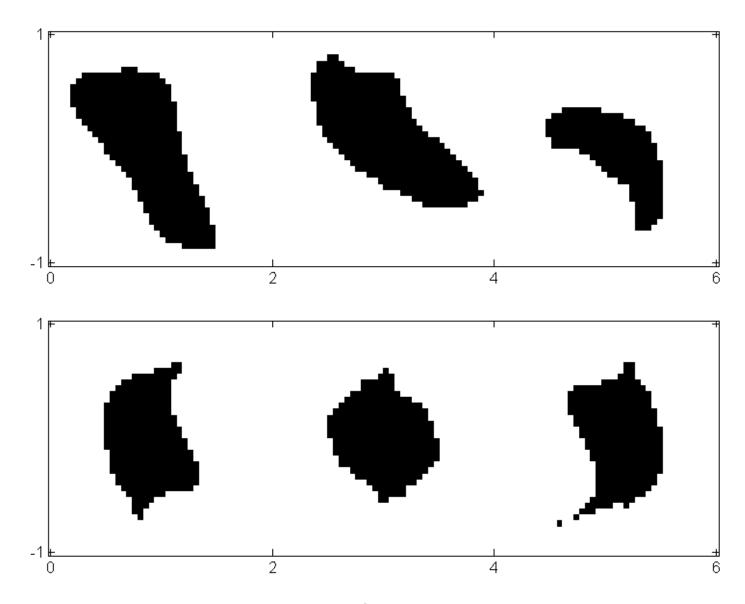
FTLE from line-stretching (conventional) during $[0, au_f]$



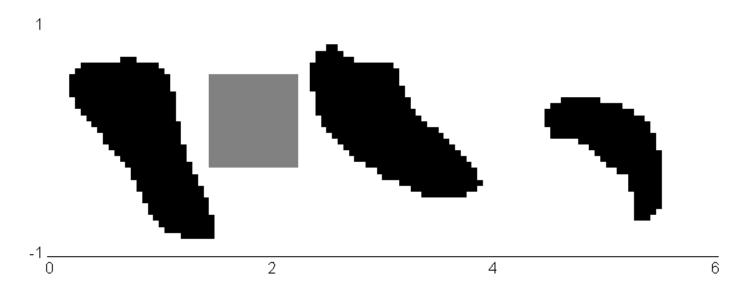
FTLE from covariance-based approach during $[0, \tau_f]$



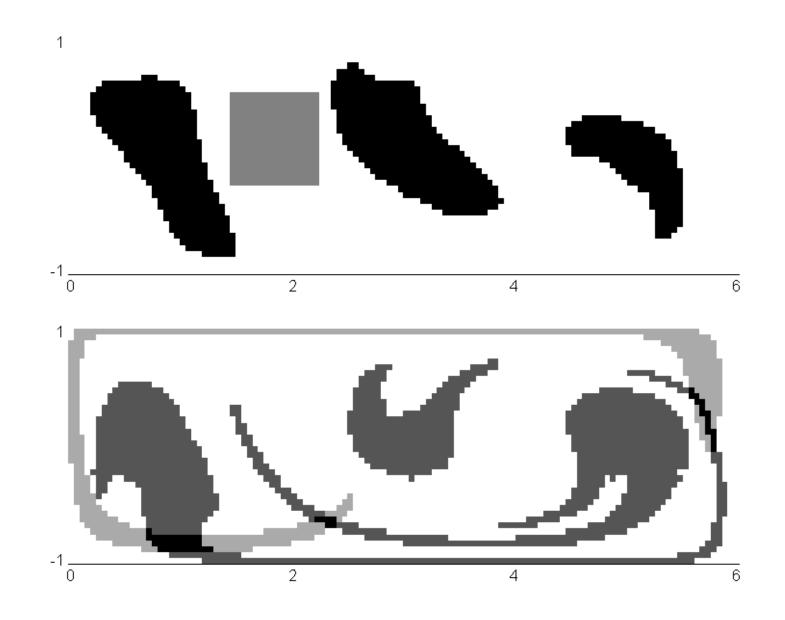
Sets of coherences $\sigma_I(0,\tau_f)<0.06$



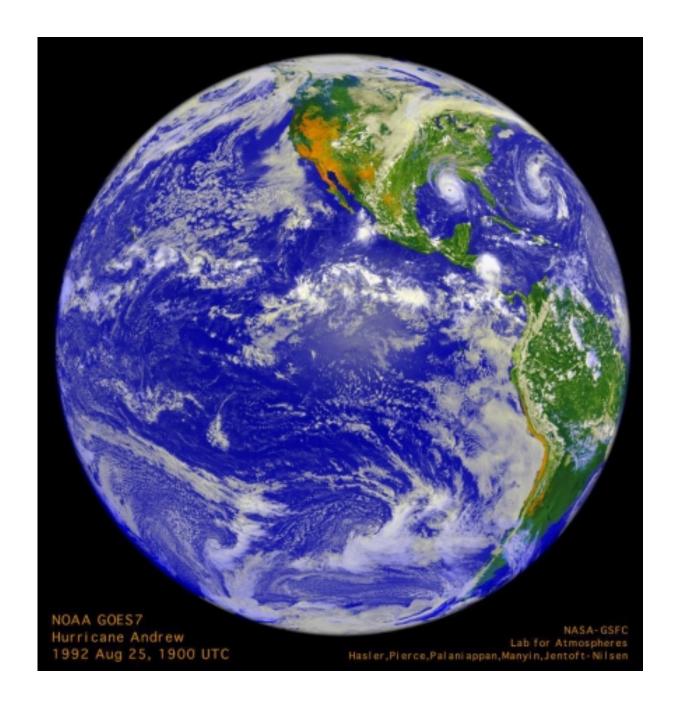
Compare coherent set with AIS from second eigenvector of ${\cal P}$



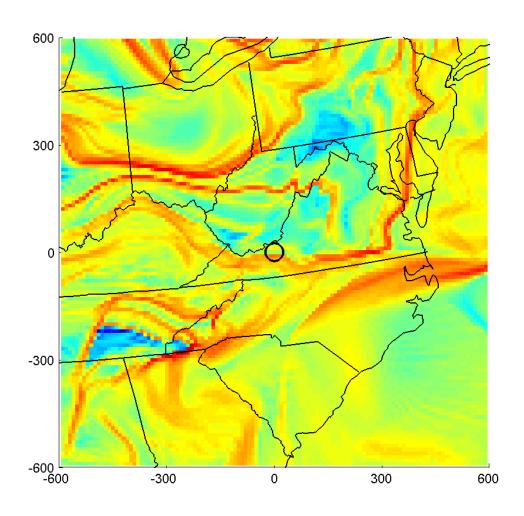
Compare coherent sets with non-coherent set (gray)



Coherent sets in the atmosphere

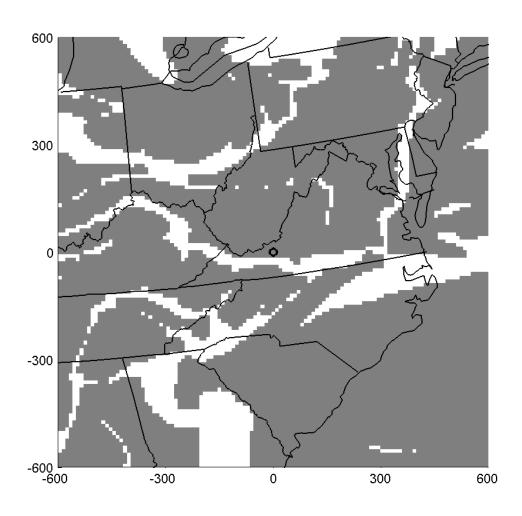


Coherent sets in the atmosphere



• FTLE from covariance during 24 hours starting 09:00 1 May 2007

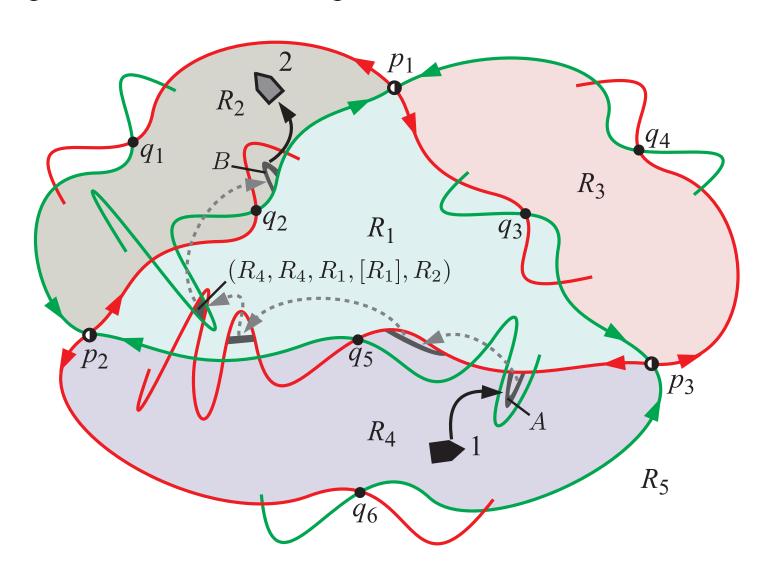
Coherent sets in the atmosphere



Coherent sets during 24 hours starting 09:00 1 May 2007

Optimal navigation in an aperiodic setting?

- Selectively 'jumping' between coherent air masses using control
- Moving between mobile subregions of different finite-time itineraries



Optimal navigation in an aperiodic setting?

- Selectively 'jumping' between coherent air masses using control
- Moving between mobile subregions of different finite-time itineraries

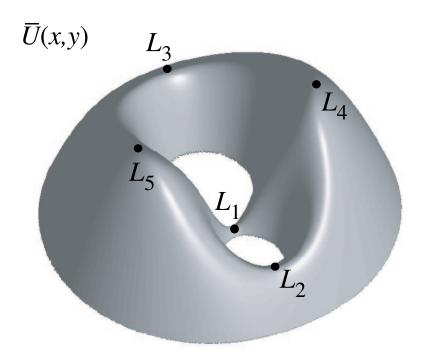
Chaotic transport in higher dimensional systems

- e.g., Hamiltonian systems with multiple potential wells.
- □ What structures guide transport between potential wells?─ e.g., restricted three-body problem

$$H = \frac{1}{2}((p_x + y)^2 + (p_y - x)^2) + \bar{U}(x, y),$$

where

$$\bar{U}(x,y) = -\frac{1}{2}(x^2 + y^2) - \frac{1-\mu}{r_1} - \frac{\mu}{r_2}$$



effective potential

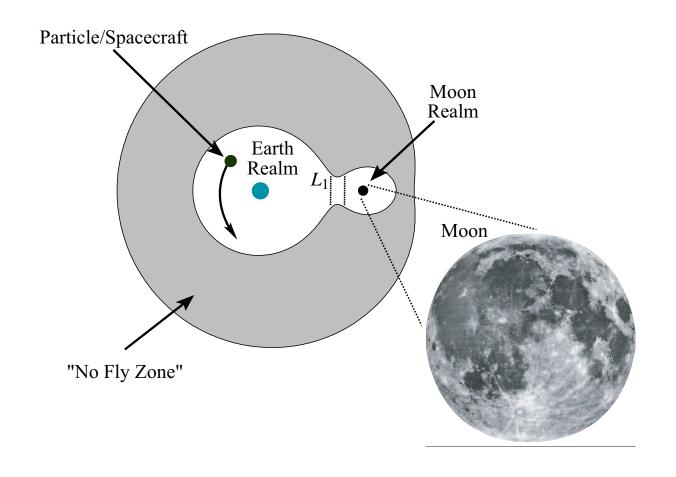
Motion in energy surface

lacksquare **Energy surface** of energy E is codim-1 surface

$$\mathcal{M}(E) = \{(q, p) \mid H(q, p) = E\}.$$

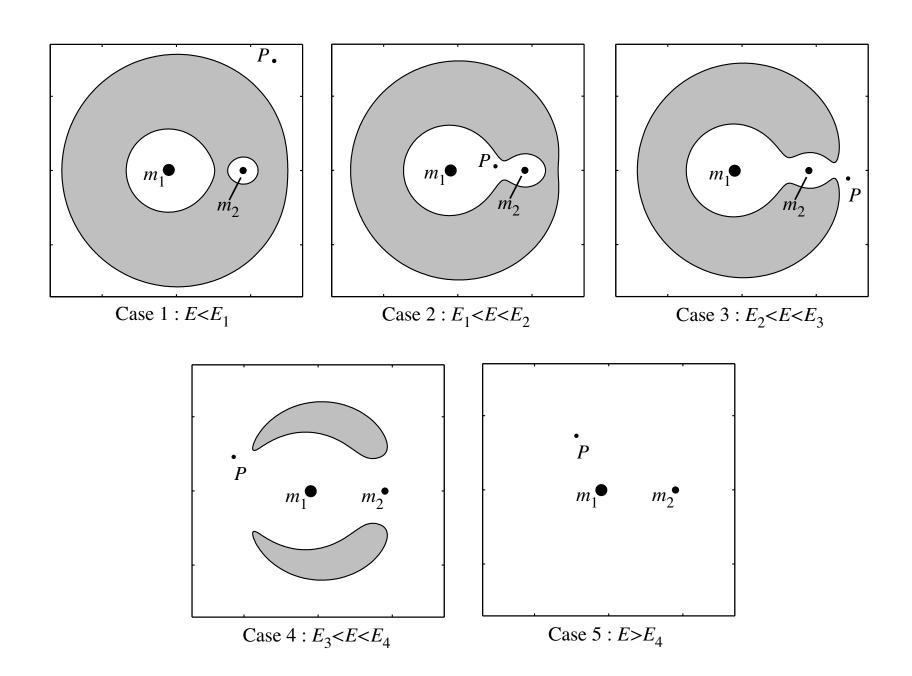
e.g., in 2 d.o.f., 3D surfaces foliating 4D phase space

Realms of possible motion



- $\square \mathcal{M}(E)$ partitioned into three **realms** e.g., Earth realm = phase space around Earth
- \square Energy E determines their connectivity

Realms of possible motion



 \square Near rank 1 saddles in N degree of freedom system, linearized vector field eigenvalues are

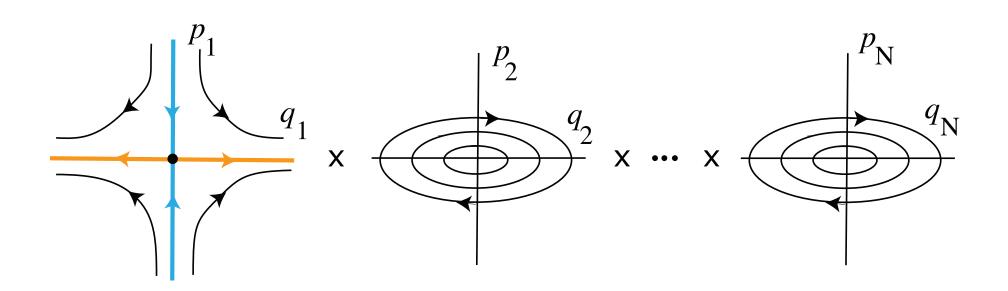
$$\pm \lambda$$
 and $\pm i\omega_j$, $j=2,\ldots,N$

■ Under local change of coordinates

$$H(q,p) = \lambda q_1 p_1 + \sum_{i=2}^{N} \frac{\omega_i}{2} (p_i^2 + q_i^2)$$

to lowest order

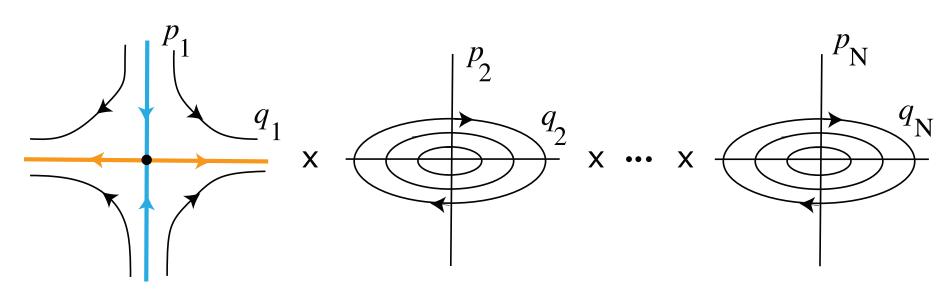
□ Equilibrium point is of type saddle × center × · · · × center (N-1 centers)



the N canonical planes

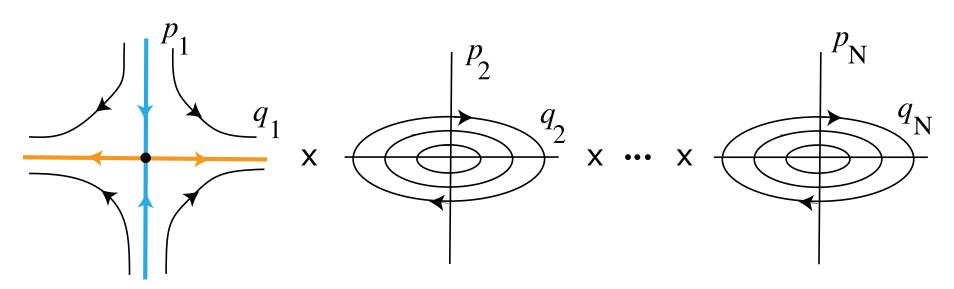
 \Box For energy h just above saddle pt, $(q_1, p_1) = (0, 0)$ is normally hyperbolic invariant manifold of bound orbits

$$\mathcal{M}_h = \sum_{i=2}^{N} \frac{\omega_i}{2} (p_i^2 + q_i^2) = h > 0.$$



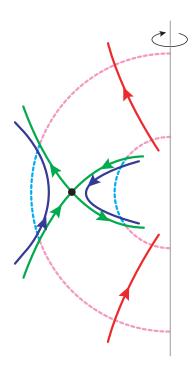
the N canonical planes

- \square Note that $\mathcal{M}_h \simeq S^{2N-3}$
 - N = 2, the circle S^1 , a single periodic orbit
 - ullet N=3, the 3-sphere S^3 , a set of periodic and quasi-periodic orbits



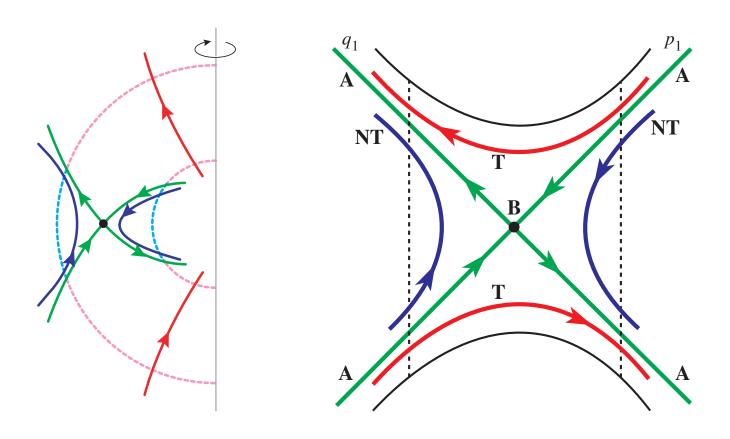
the N canonical planes

- $lue{}$ Note that $\mathcal{M}_h \simeq S^{2N-3}$
 - $\bullet N = 2$, the circle S^1 , a single periodic orbit
 - N=3, the 3-sphere S^3 , a set of periodic and quasi-periodic orbits
- Four "cylinders" or **tubes** of asymptotic orbits: stable, unstable manifolds, $W^s_{\pm}(\mathcal{M}_h), W^u_{\pm}(\mathcal{M}_h), \simeq S^1 \times \mathbb{R}$ for N=2

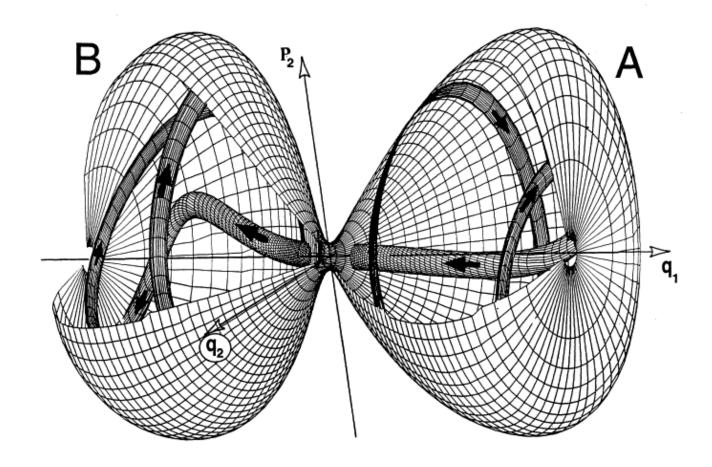


Motion near saddles: 2 d.o.f.

- **B** : **bounded orbits** (periodic/quasi-periodic): S^1
- A : asymptotic orbits to 1-sphere: $S^1 \times \mathbb{R}$ (tubes)
- T: transit and NT: non-transit orbits.



Tube dynamics: inter-realm transport

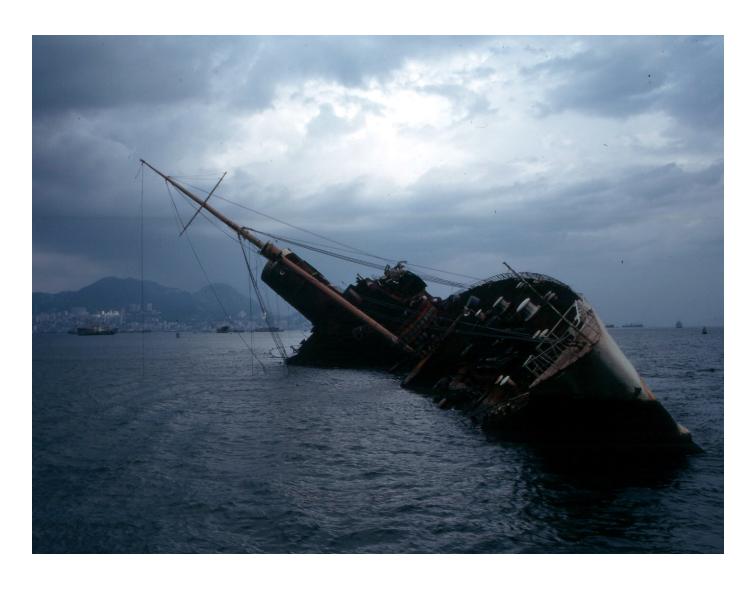


 \bullet Tube dynamics: All motion between adjacent realms connected by necks around saddles must occur through the interior of tubes 6

⁶Koon, Lo, Marsden, Ross [2000,2001,2002], Gómez, Koon, Lo, Marsden, Masdemont, Ross [2004]

Related systems

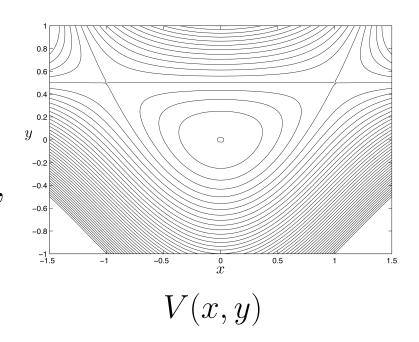
- Much work in celestial mechanics
- Results apply to problems in chemistry, biomechanics, ship capsize



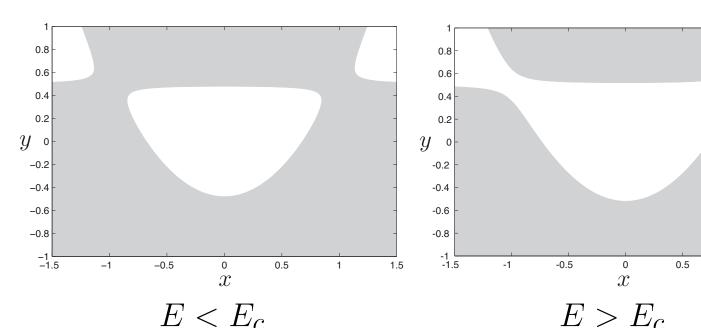
Tubes leading to capsize

Ship motion is Hamiltonian,

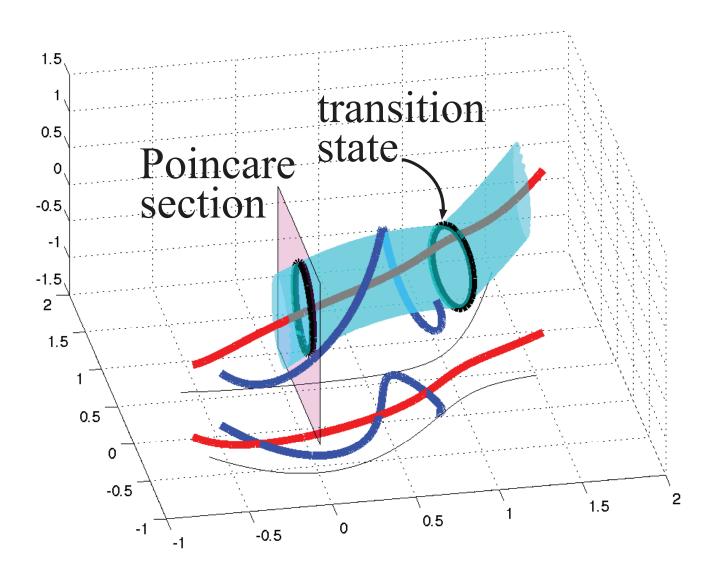
$$H = p_x^2/2 + R^2 p_y^2/4 + V(x, y),$$



1.5

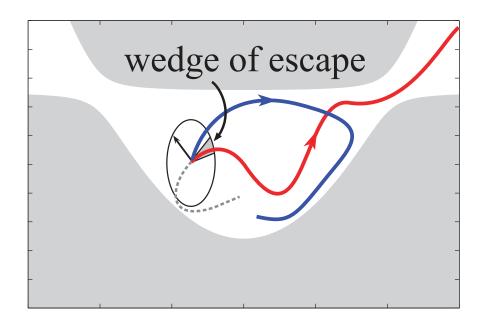


Tubes leading to capsize



Tubes leading to capsize

Wedge of trajectories leading to imminent capsize



- Tubes are a useful paradigm for predicting capsize even in the presence of random forcing, e.g., random waves
- Could inform control schemes to avoid capsize in rough seas

Final words on chaotic transport

- What are robust descriptions of transport which work in data-driven aperiodic, finite-time settings?
 - Possibilities: finite-time lobe dynamics / symbolic dynamics may work
 finite-time analogs of homoclinic and heteroclinic tangles
 - Probabilistic, geometric, and topological methods
 - invariant sets, almost-invariant sets, almost-cyclic sets, coherent sets, stable and unstable manifolds, Thurston-Nielsen classification, FTLE, LCS
 - Many links between these notions e.g., LCS locate analogs of stable and unstable manifolds
 - boundaries between coherent sets are naturally LCS
 - periodic points \Rightarrow almost-cyclic sets
 - their 'stable/unstable invariant manifolds' \Rightarrow ???

The End

For papers, movies, etc., visit: www.shaneross.com

Main Papers:

- ullet Stremler, Ross, Grover, Kumar [2011] Topological chaos and periodic braiding of almost-cyclic sets. $Physical\ Review\ Letters\ 106$, 114101.
- Tallapragada, Ross, Schmale [2011] Lagrangian coherent structures are associated with fluctuations in airborne microbial populations. $Chaos\ 21$, 033122.
- Lekien & Ross [2010] The computation of finite-time Lyapunov exponents on unstructured meshes and for non-Euclidean manifolds. $Chaos\ 20$, 017505.
- Senatore & Ross [2011] Detection and characterization of transport barriers in complex flows via ridge extraction of the finite time Lyapunov exponent field, International Journal for Numerical Methods in Engineering 86, 1163.
- Grover, Ross, Stremler, Kumar [2011] Topological chaos, braiding and breakup of almost-invariant sets. Preprint.
- Tallapragada & Ross [2011] A geometric and probabilistic description of coherent sets.
 Preprint.