Anticipating climatic tipping points and regime shifts

Part 2: Classical and network methods of anticipation

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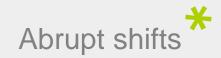
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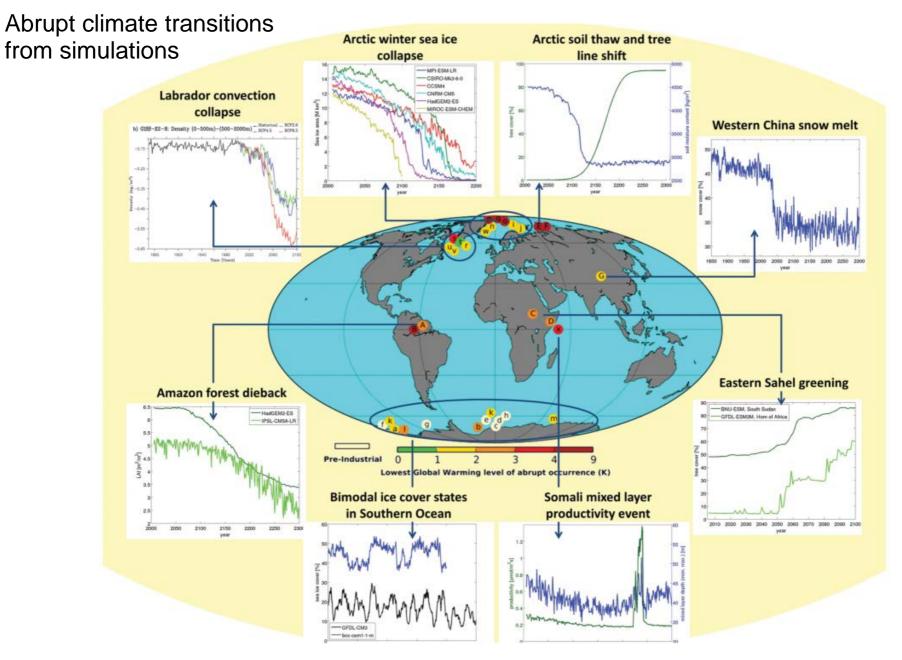
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From Bathiany et al., Beyond Bifurcation: using complex models to understand and predict abrupt climate change. Dynamics and Statistics of the Climate System 1, dzw004 (2016)



CLIMATIC PHENOMENA AT SHORTER TIME SCALES THAT CAN BENEFIT FROM A 'TIPPING-POINT PERSPECTIVE'

- El Niño phenomenon
 - Rodriguez-Mendez, Eguiluz, Hernandez-Garcia, Ramasco. Percolation-based precursors of transitions in extended systems. Scientific Reports 6, 29552 (2016)
 - Meng, Fan, Ashkenazy, Havlin. Percolation framework to describe El Niño conditions. Chaos 27, 035807 (2017)
- Monsoon onset
 - Stolbova, Surovyatkina, Bookhagen, Kurths (2016), Tipping elements of the Indian monsoon: Prediction of onset and withdrawal, Geophys. Res. Lett., 43, 3982 (2016)
- Cyclones
 - Shraddha Gupta, Kurths, Pappenberger. Study of Tropical Cyclones in the North Indian Ocean basin using Percolation in Climate Networks, EGU General Assembly 2020, Online, 4–8 May 2020, EGU2020-5916, https://doi.org/10.5194/egusphere-egu2020-5916, 2020
- ???



A working scientific hypothesis is that abrupt climatic transitions are associated to dangerous and to explosive bifurcations

Since climatic abrupt transitions may have important impact on human activities (without time to slowly adapt, as with safe bifurcations), it is relevant to devise methods of early warning: is there something in the system behavior before the bifurcation telling us that we are close to a tipping point?







- Critical slowing-down
 - Slower recovery from perturbations
 - Increased autocorrelation
 - Increased variance
- Skewness, flickering, potential recovery
- Spatial indicators
 - Increased spatial variance
 - Increased correlation length
- Network indicators
 - Degree, clustering, ...
 - Percolation-based methods

Dakos et al. *Slowing down as an early warning singal for abrupt climate change,* PNAS 105, 14308 (2008)

Thompson and Sieber, *Predicting Climate tipping as a noisy bifurcation: A review,* International Journal of Bifurcation and Chaos 21, 399 (2011).

Lenton, *Early warning of climate tipping points*. Nature Clim. Change 1, 201 (2008)

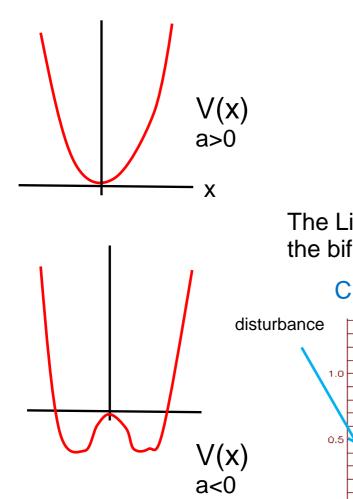
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Example (for a pitchfork bifurcation):



Critical slowing-down

Let us consider overdamped motion in a potential:

$$\dot{x}(t) = -\frac{\partial}{\partial x}V(x)$$

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

i.e.:

with

 $\dot{x} = -ax - bx^3$

close to $x \approx 0$ we have for both a > 0 and a < 0:

$$\dot{x} \approx -ax$$
,

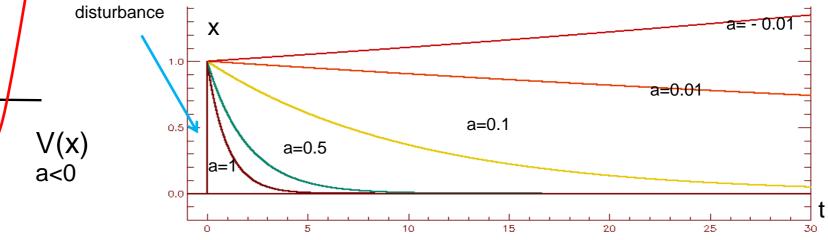
so that

 $x(t) \approx x(0)e^{-at}$

Exponential relaxation to equilibrium when it is stable (a > 0). Exponential escape from equilibrium when it is unstable (a < 0).

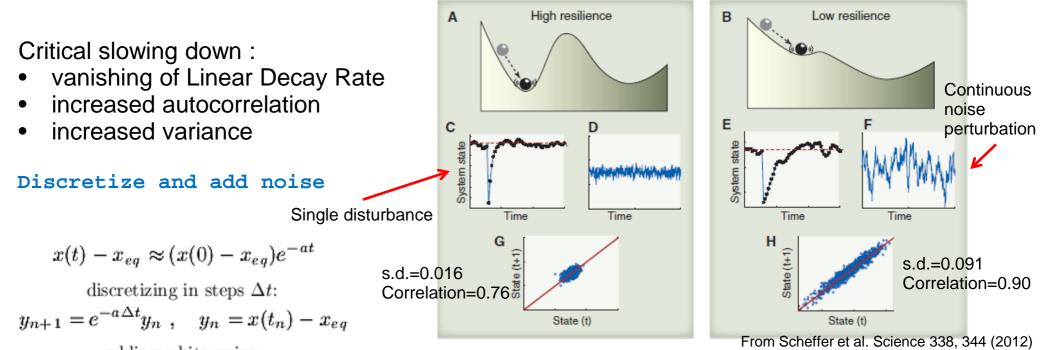
The Linear Decay Rate LDR=*a* approaches zero when approaching the bifurcation. Relaxation time *1/LDR* diverges

CRITICAL SLOWING DOWN





Critical slowing down



adding white noise:

$$y_{n+1} = cy_n + \sigma \epsilon_n$$
 AR(1) process. $c = e^{-a\Delta t}$

$$\langle y_n \rangle \rightarrow 0, n \rightarrow \infty$$

 $\langle y_{n+1}y_n \rangle = c \langle y_n^2 \rangle + \sigma \langle \epsilon_n y_n \rangle$
 $c = \frac{\langle y_{n+1}y_n \rangle}{\langle y_n^2 \rangle}$

Thus *c* is the lag-1 autocorrelation. Critical slowing down $\longrightarrow c \rightarrow 1$ is the propagator, or autocorrelation function or factor (ACF), or first-order autoregressive coefficient

variance
$$= \langle y_n^2 \rangle - \langle y_n \rangle^2 \rightarrow \frac{\sigma^2}{1 - c^2}$$
, as $n \rightarrow \infty$

Then, variance diverges when approaching the bifurcation

But remember that the linear approximation is no longer valid when a=0 or c=1



Q: Do all relevant bifurcations display critical slowing down? A: Not all. But most of them:

Precursors of Codimension-1 Bifurcations

Supercritical Hopf S: point to cycle Supercritical Neimark S: cycle to torus Supercritical flip S: cycle to cycle Band merging S: chaos to chaos Flow explosion E: point to cycle Map explosion E: cycle to torus E: point to chaos Intermittency expl: flow Intermittency expl: map E: cycle to chaos Regular interior crisis E: chaos to chaos Chaotic interior crisis E: chaos to chaos Static fold D: from point Cyclic fold D: from cycle Subcritical Hopf D: from point Subcritical Neimark D: from cycle Subcritical flip D: from cycle Saddle connection D: from cycle D: from chaos Regular exterior crisis Chaotic exterior crisis D: from chaos

 $LDR \rightarrow 0$ linearly with control $LDR \rightarrow 0$ linearly with control $LDR \rightarrow 0$ linearly with control separation decreases linearly Path folds. LDR $\rightarrow 0$ linearly along path Path folds. LDR $\rightarrow 0$ linearly along path $LDR \rightarrow 0$ linearly with control $LDR \rightarrow 0$ as trigger (fold, flip, Neimark) lingering near impinging saddle cycle lingering near impinging chaotic saddle Path folds. LDR $\rightarrow 0$ linearly along path Path folds. LDR $\rightarrow 0$ linearly along path $LDR \rightarrow 0$ linearly with control $LDR \rightarrow 0$ linearly with control $LDR \rightarrow 0$ linearly with control period of cycle tends to infinity lingering near impinging saddle cycle lingering near impinging accessible saddle



Practicalities

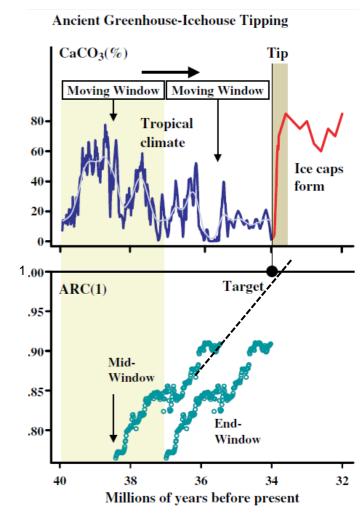
Q: How to extract the Linear Decay Rate or the propagator c from a time series?

A1: Held and Kleinen, GRL 31, L23207 (degenerate fingerprinting); Dakos et al., PNAS 105, 14308 (2008)

- 1. Interpolation: if the time series measurements are not equidistant, interpolate it to equidistant time steps Δt . One should have 1/LDR >> Δt >> 1/decay rate of all other modes
- 2. Detrending: Remove slow drifts of the possibly moving equilibrium. For example, calculate $X(t_n)$ as an average of the series values with a Gaussian kernel of witdth *d* centered at t_n , or use a local polynomial fit, and replace x_n by $y_n = x_n X(t_n)$.
- **3.** Fit data to the AR(1) model $y_{n+1}=cy_n+\sigma\epsilon_n$ in a moving window of width 2k centered at t_n . This can be done by least squares of data to $y_{n+1}=cy_n$. Assign the $c(t_n)$ value to the middle of the sliding window (in some papers it is assigned to the end point).

Increasing $c(t_n)$ indicates increasing slowing down. One can extrapolate to $c \rightarrow 1$ to make a prediction of the time for the transition.

A2: Fit an increase in variance as $\sigma^2/(1-c^2)$





Q: How to extract the Linear Decay Rate or the propagator c from a time series? A3: Livina and Lenton, GRL 34, L03712 : Detrended fluctuation analysis (DFA) propagator

- **Interpolation**: as before 1.
- **Detrending:** $y_n = x_n X(t_n)$ as before 2.
- Calculate the variance in a window of width 2k: 3.

$$F^{2}(t_{n},k) = \frac{1}{2k} \sum_{i=n-k}^{n+k} y_{i}^{2}$$

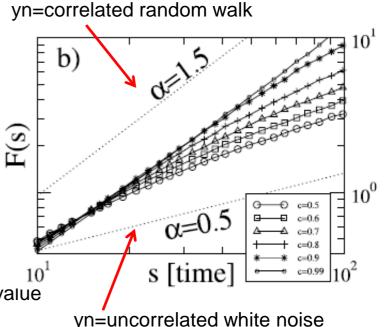
and fit a local exponent α_n by varying window size 2k: 4.

$$F^2(t_n,k) \sim k^{2\,\alpha_n}$$

 $\alpha_n = 0.5$ for white noise, and $\alpha_n > 0.5$ when there are power-law correlations. The idea (nonrigurous) is that, since correlations will increase as c approaches 1, one should see an increasing value of α_n when approaching a bifurcation.

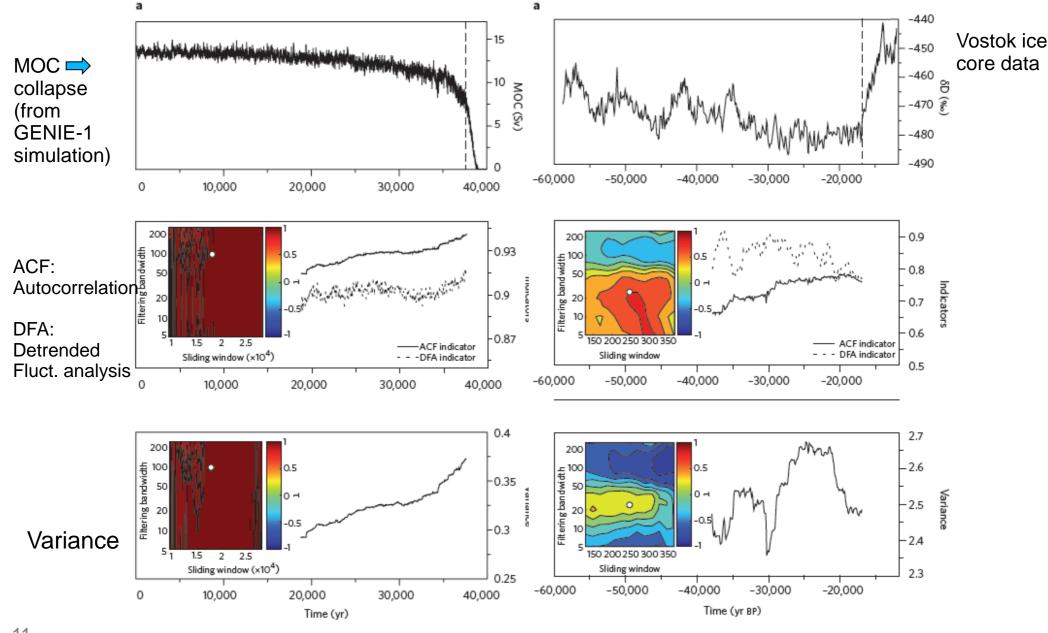
Living and Lenton proposed an empirical formula to obtain c_n from α_n

Apparently this method is good when the time series is short





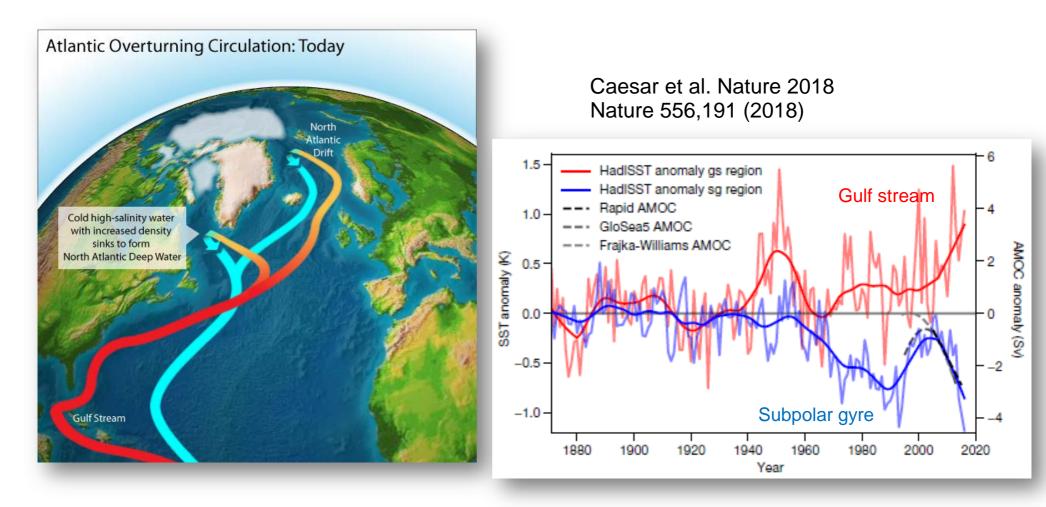
Examples (from Lenton, Nature Clim. Change 1, 201 (2008))







Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC or MOC)







Phenomenon	Indicator	System	Data Source	Signal	Reference(s)
Critical slowing down	Increasing autocorrelation, AR(1)	Climate	Models	+	8, 10, 12, 53
	coefficient		Palaeorecord	+	10, 12, 53
				0	12, 13
		Ecological	Models	+	44
	Increasing return time from	Ecological	Models	+	39, 40, 45, 51
	perturbations		Lab experiments	+	6,52
	Increasing DFA exponent	Climate	Models	+	9, 11, 12
	0		Palaeorecord	+	9,12
				-	12
	Spectral reddening	Climate	Models	+	7
		Ecological	Model	0	79
	Increasing spatial correlation	Ecological	Models	+	47
	0.	0	Lab experiments	+	52
Increased variability	Increasing variance	Climate	Models	+	12
	increasing variance	Climate	Models	0	12
			Palaeorecord	+	12
				0	13
				_	12
		Ecological	Models	+	43-45, 79
			Lab experiments	+	52
	Increasing spatial variance	Ecological	Model	+	48
	0.1	Ŭ	Data	+	49
			Lab experiments	+	52
Skewed responses	Increasing skewness	Climate	Palaeodata	0	46
		Ecological	Model	+	44-46
		0	Lab experiments	+	52
	Increasing spatial skewness	Ecological	Model	+	48

Table 1 | Early warning indicators of approaching bifurcation points and tests thereof.

'+' means indicator increased as expected; '-' means indicator decreased, contrary to expectation; 'O' means there was no significant change in the indicator.

from Lenton, Nature Clim. Change 1, 201 (2008))



Q: What can go wrong with the bifurcation approach (B-tipping)?

A: Many things:

Critical slowing down is present in many bifurcation types, but not in all. Several parameters to tune: interpolation step, filter width, window width, ...

There is an assumption of quasistationarity: control parameter changing much slower than system's time scales. For anthropogenic changes this is certainly not true: bifurcation effects will be seen well after crossing the tipping point (**R**-tipping – Ashwin et al. Tipping points in open systems: bifurcation, noise-induced and rate-dependent examples in the climate system, Phil. Trans. R. Soc. A.370: 1166 (2012)).

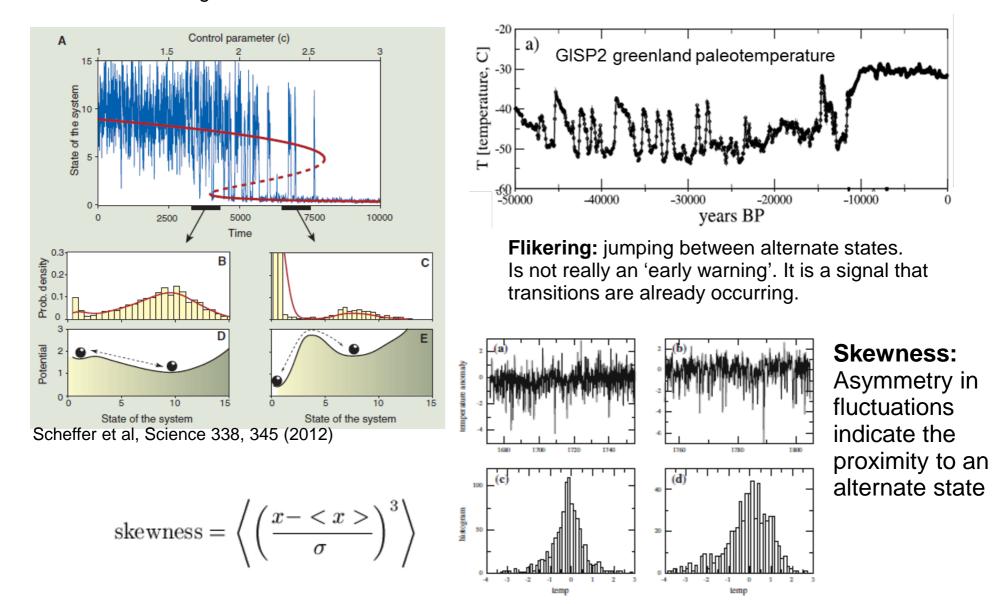
After all, perhaps abrupt changes do not come from a bifurcation:

External causes (asteroid, volcanism, geological changes, ... outside the monitored climatic variables)

Noise induced transitions (N-tipping)



Noise induced jumps between metastable states: no advancement towards bifurcation, so **no** critical slowing down indicators.





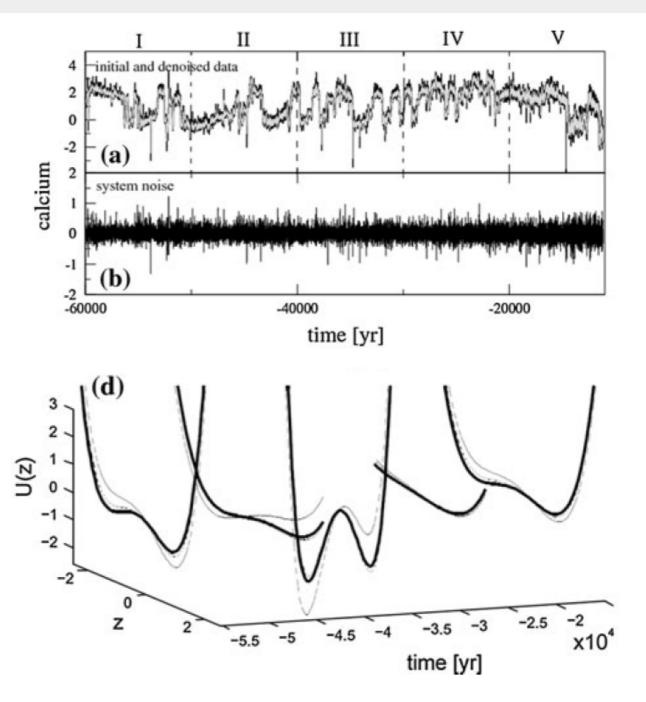


Beyond increased variance, skewness, ... full reconstruction of the probability distribution and landscape potential.

Other developments:

Livina, Kwasniok, Lohman, Kantelhardt, Lenton, Clim. Dyn 37, 2437 (2011)

Livina, Lohmann, Mudelsee, Lenton, Physica A 392, 3891 (2013).







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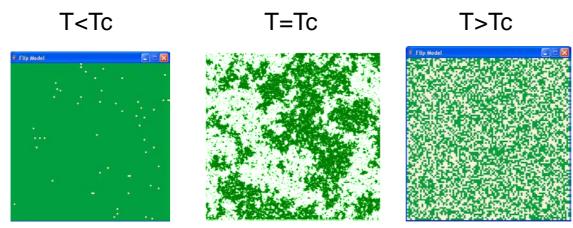
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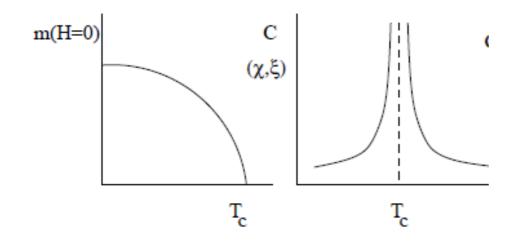


Spatial indicators

Historically, divergence of SPATIAL correlations and spatial variance was recognized as an indicator of phase transitions before TEMPORAL ones.



Ising model at H=0



$$\begin{split} \chi_{\pm}(T,H\to 0^+) &= \frac{\partial m}{\partial H}\Big|_{H=0^+} \propto |t|^{-\gamma_{\pm}}, \\ t=& \mathsf{T-Tc/Tc} \end{split}$$

Susceptibility diverges at the critical point

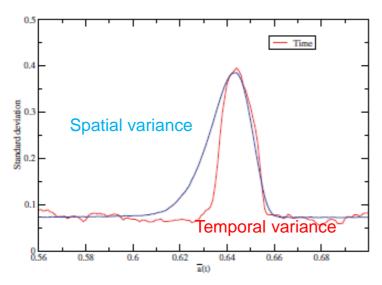
$$\frac{V\chi}{\beta} = \operatorname{var}(M) \equiv \langle M^2 \rangle - \langle M \rangle^2. = \int d\mathbf{x} \int d\mathbf{x}' \left[\langle m(\mathbf{x})m(\mathbf{x}') \rangle - \langle m(\mathbf{x}) \rangle \langle m(\mathbf{x}') \rangle \right].$$

Implying divergence of spatial variance and of the correlation lenght of the magnetization

The reason is that this type of transition is towards long-range order (together with the definition of connected correlations)



Divergence of spatial variance/correlation has been proposed as early warning indicator of critical transitions in some ecological systems



Donangelo et al. IJBC 20, 315 (2010) Dakos et al. Theor. Ecol. *3*, 163 (2009)

> This works here because the type of **transition is between ordered homogeneous states**, so that maximum variance occurs during the transition. There are also **enhanced spatial correlations**

10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 10

Because of inhomogeneities and boundary conditions, it is unlikely that this will be pertinent to climatic transitions (it could be useful for vegetation transitions)







Q: Why spatial correlations are enhanced near a critical transition?

$$\partial_t A(x,t) = F(A,\nabla)$$

Linearization with respect to a (x-dependent) steady state

$$\partial_t \delta A(x,t) = L(\nabla) \delta A(x,t)$$

$$\varphi_{x}(t) = \sum_{i=1}^{N} f_{i}(t) v_{x}^{i} \qquad \qquad \delta A(x,t) = \sum_{i} a_{i} e^{-\lambda_{i} t} v_{i}(x) , \ Lv_{i}(x) = -\lambda_{i} v_{i}(x)$$

Close to the bifurcation, one eigenmode dominates, the bifurcating one (critical slowing down). The others decay much faster:

1

$$\varphi_x(t) \approx f_1(t) v_x^1 + ...$$
 and also $\varphi_y(t) \approx f_1(t) v_y^1 + ...$

Then

$$\varphi_x(t) \approx \frac{v^{1}y}{v^{1}x} \varphi_y(t)$$
 Perfect coherence:
Pearson correlation $C_{xy} = \pm 1$

This mode $v_1(x)$ will be also be easily excited by noise and detected, for example, by EOFs





Q: How to detect the increased spatial coherence when approaching a bifurcation?

- A1: If the linear operator L is of diffusive type, and boundary conditions are not too disturbing, the steady state and $v_1(x)$ will be rather homogeneous, and standard spatial correlation function and correlation length will be adequate to detect when it becomes dominant.
- But if advection is dominant (strange eigenmodes) and/or complex geometries ...
- A2: Network idea: use network links to represent the increased coherence.





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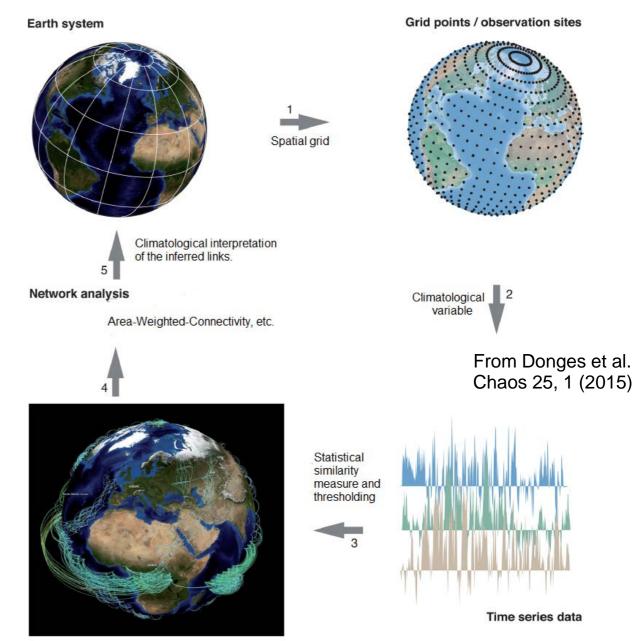
Correlation network construction

CLIMATE NETWORK CONSTRUCTION

Dijkstra, Hernandez-Garcia, Masoller, Barreiro. *Networks in Climate.* Cambridge (2019).

If links constructed from correlations, they measure statistical coherence

Degree: number of links of a node Clustering: number of triangles adjacent to a node



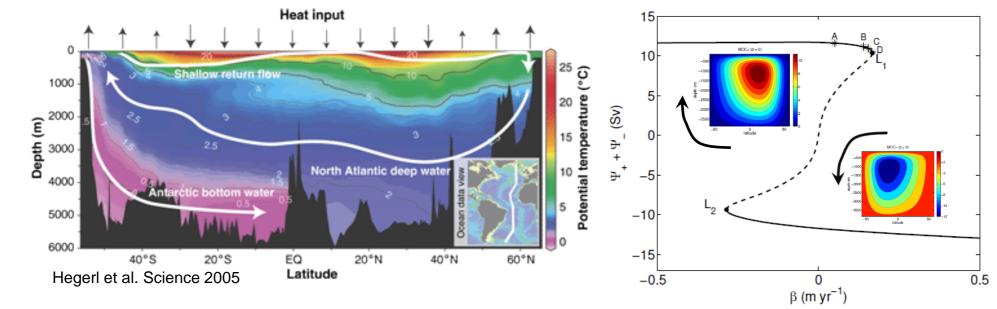
Functional climate network





Two-dimensional version (meridional-depth) of the Thermohaline Circulation Model (de Niet et al 2007). Fluctuating (noise) freshwater input + anomalous excess β in the North of the domain.

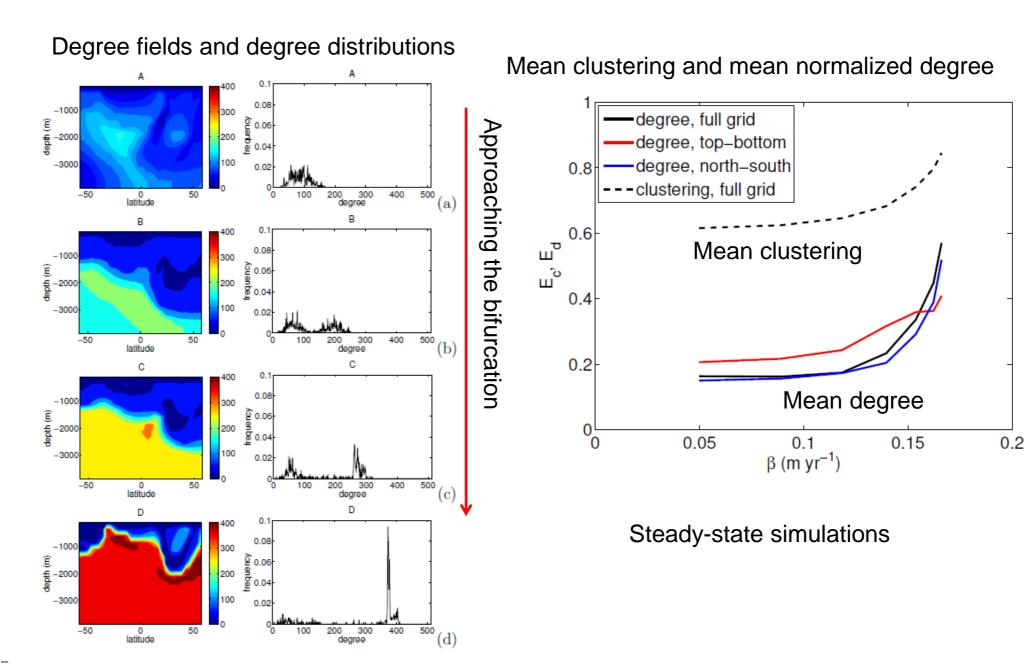
Model of the Atlantic overturning circulation van der Mheen, Dijkstra, Gozolchiani, den Toom, Feng, Kurths, Hernandez-Garcia, GRL **40**, 2714 (2013)



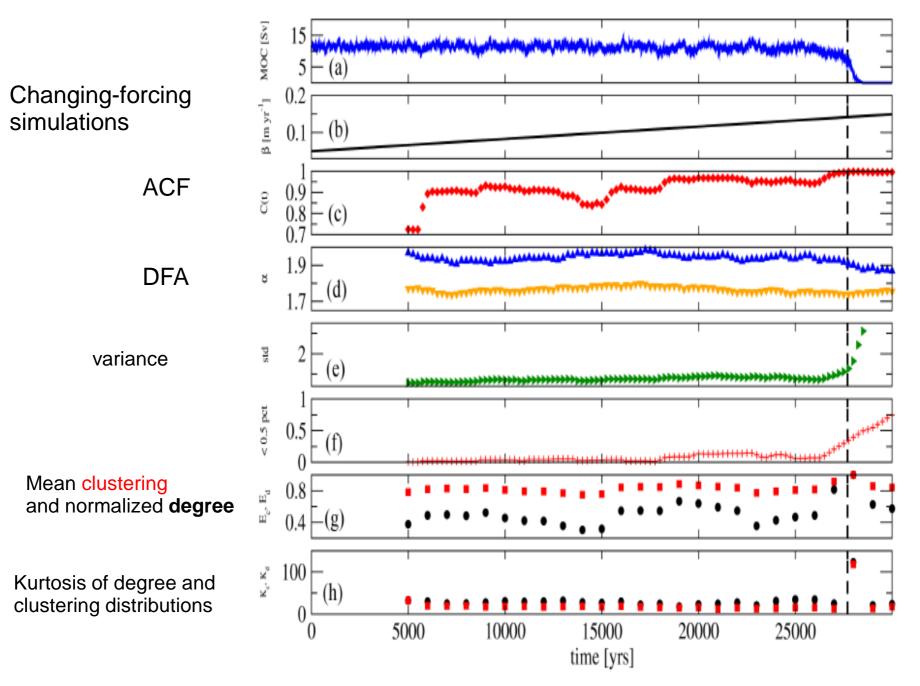
Network constructed by linking points where zero-lag (Pearson) correlations between temperature fluctuations exceed 0.7

Further examples: Feng, Viebahn, Dijkstra, GRL (2014) MOC from the FAMOUS model Tirabassi, Viebahn, Dakos, Dijkstra, Masoller, Rietkerk, Ecol. Complexity (2014): desertification transition













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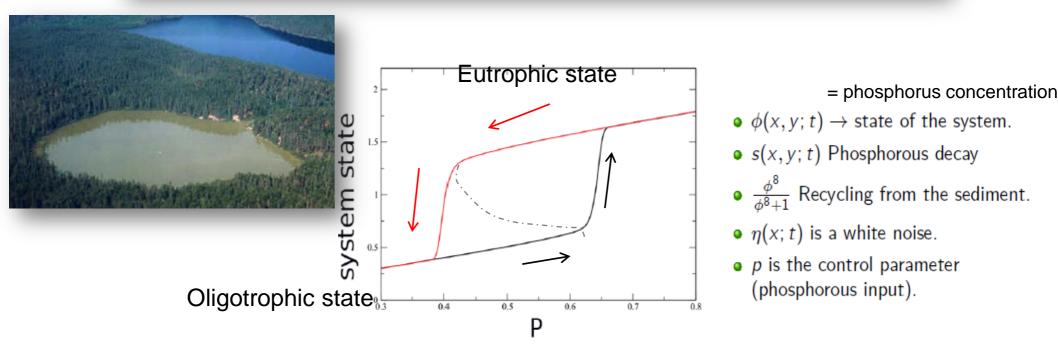
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Lake eutrophication model (2d)

$$\frac{\partial \phi(x,y;t)}{\partial t} = p - b\phi(x,y;t) + \frac{\phi^8}{\phi^8 + 1} + \epsilon \nabla^2 \phi(x,y;t) + \eta(x,y;t)$$

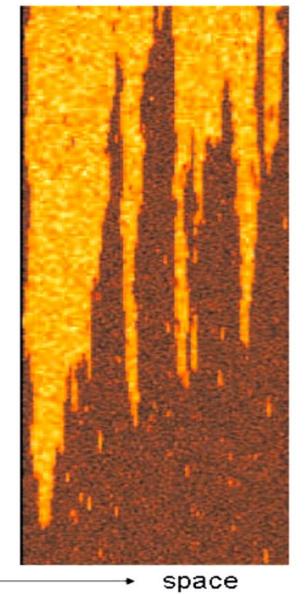


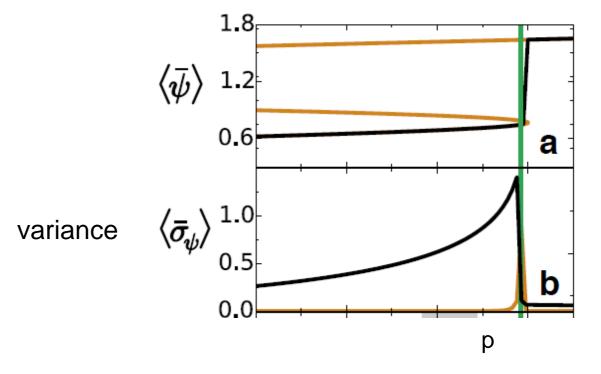
Carpenter, Ludwig, Brock, Management of eutrophication for lakes subject to potentially irreversible change, Ecological Applications 9, 751–771 (1999).



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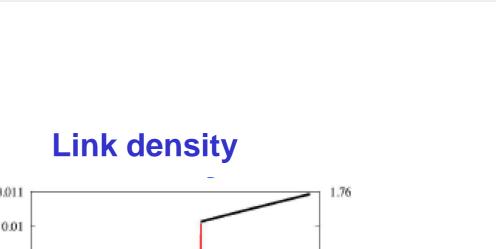


Identifies. Not really anticipates.

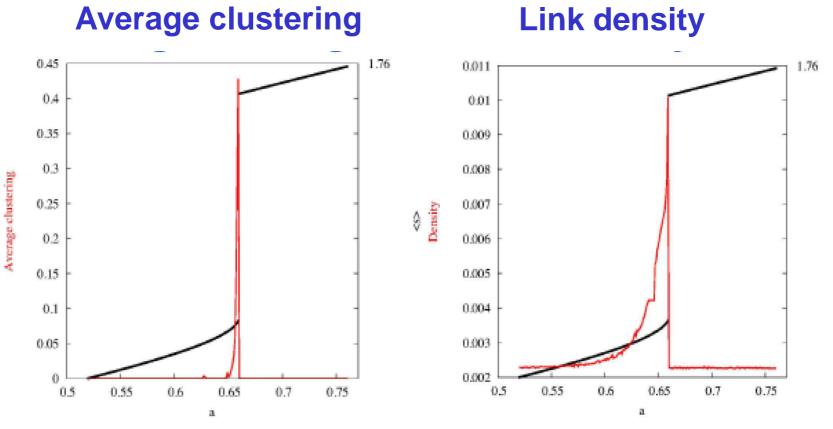
time



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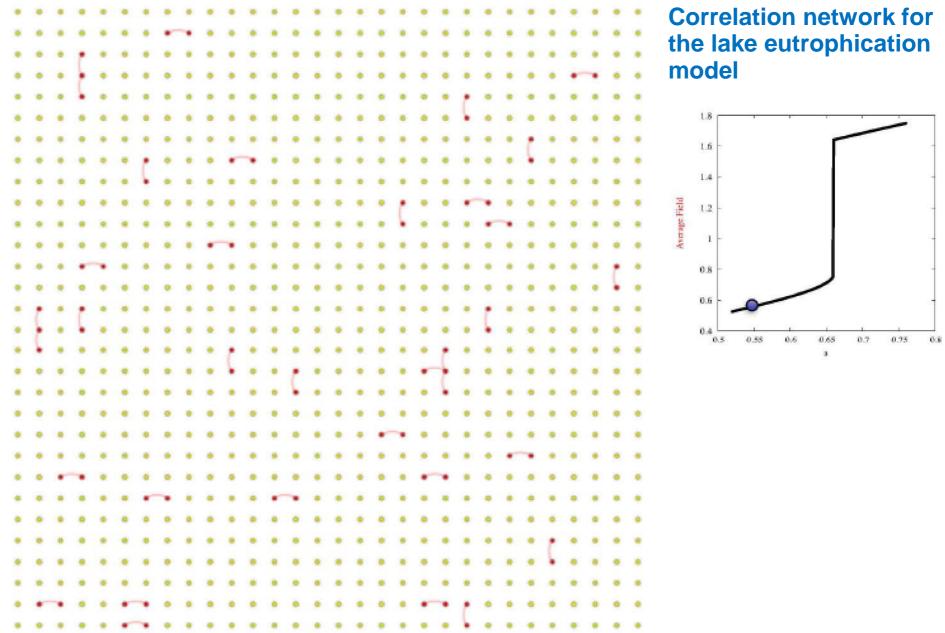
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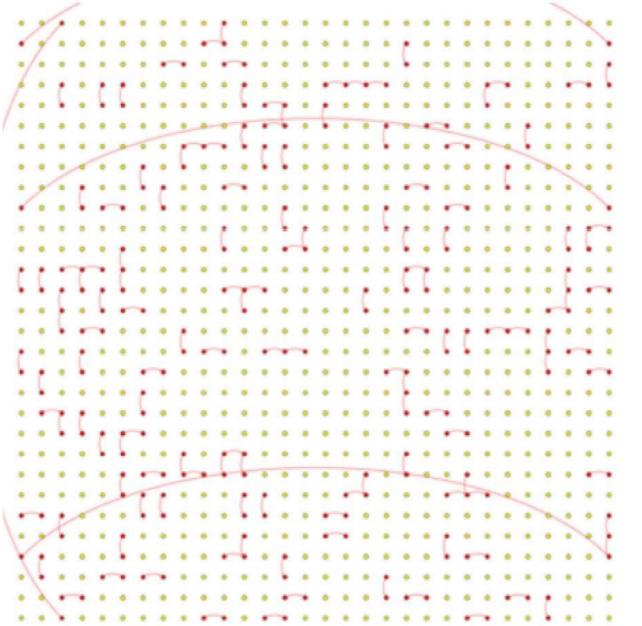
Parameter p

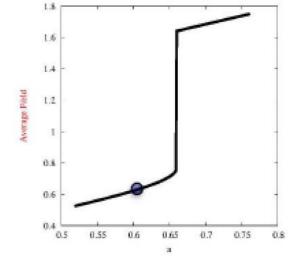
Still: Identify. Not really anticipate.



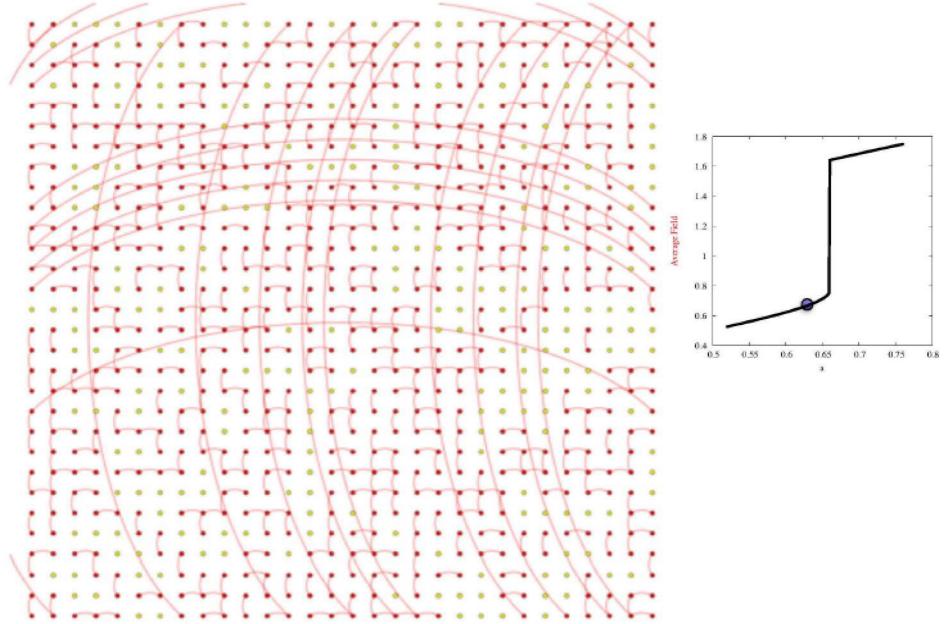




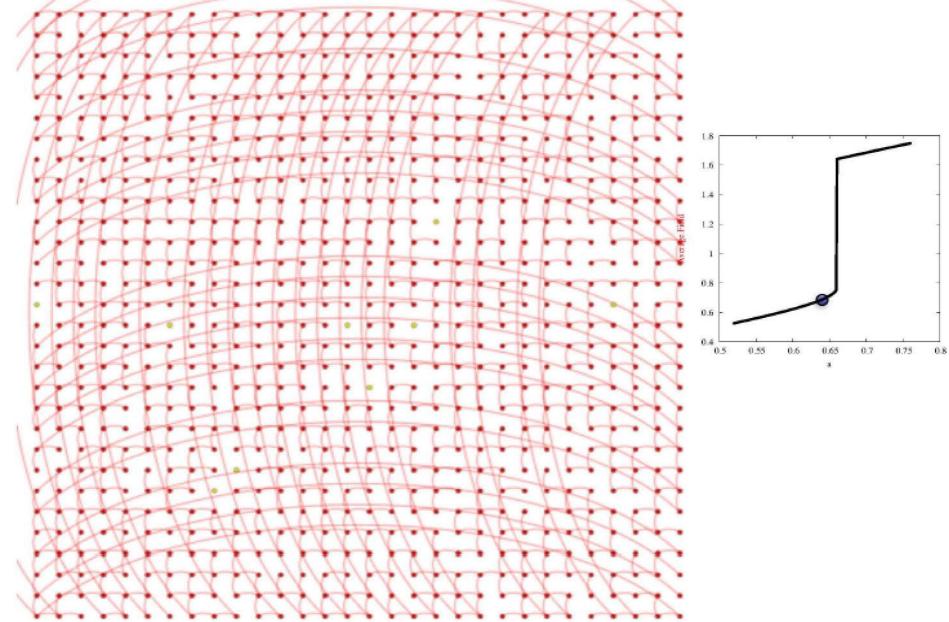




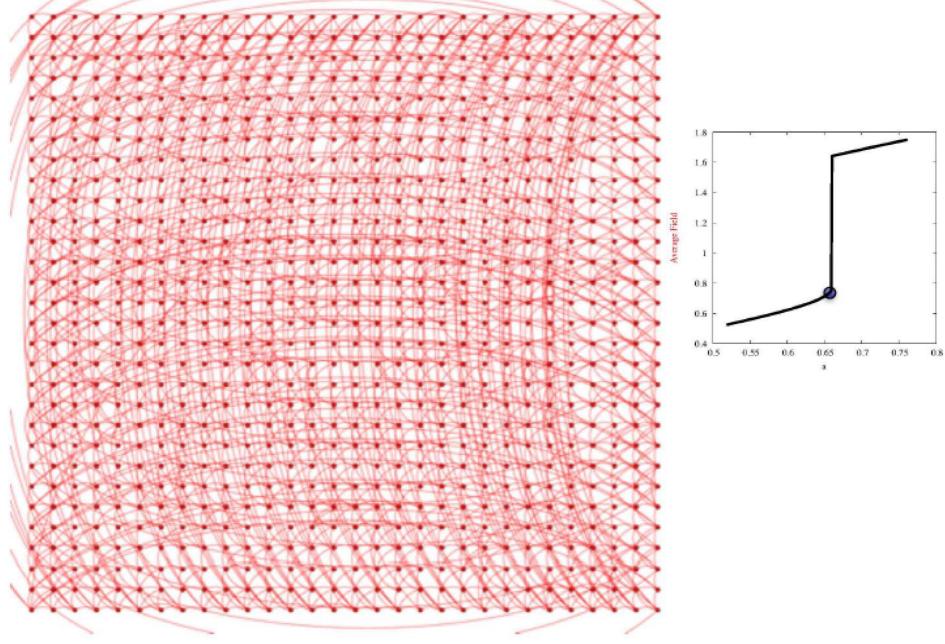




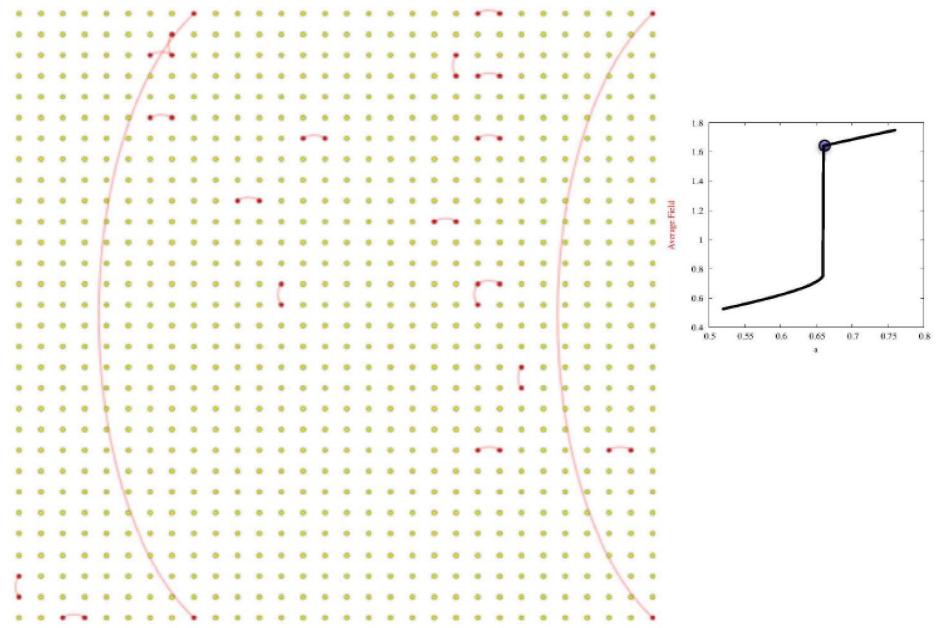








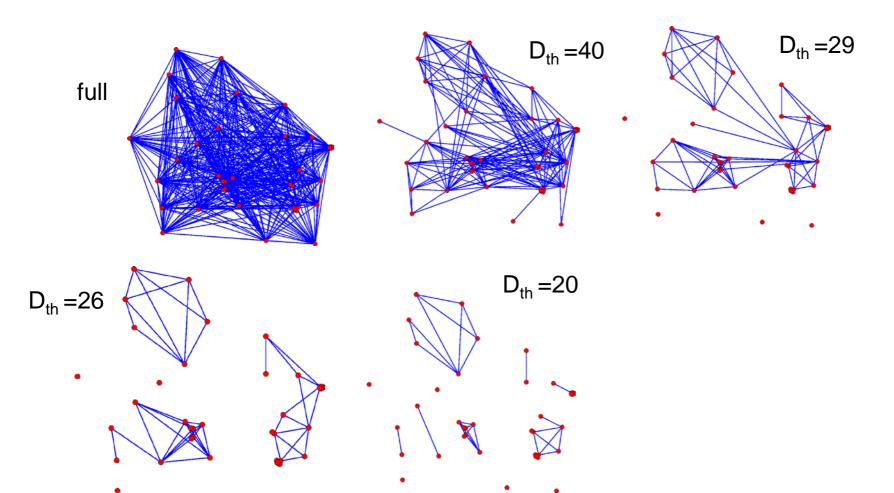






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Percolation in networks:





Link density increases until …

... total connectivity at the bifurcation point

But at some intermediate connectivity …

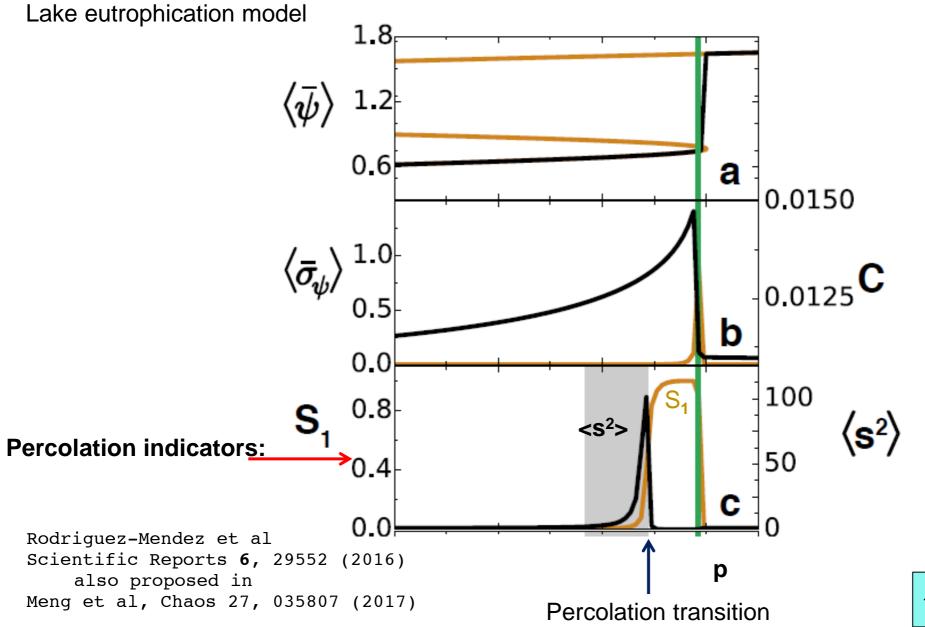
... a **PERCOLATION TRANSITION** should occur

Percolation transition occurs BEFORE the dynamical transition Thus, indicators of percolation **ANTICIPATE** the bifurcation: **early warning**

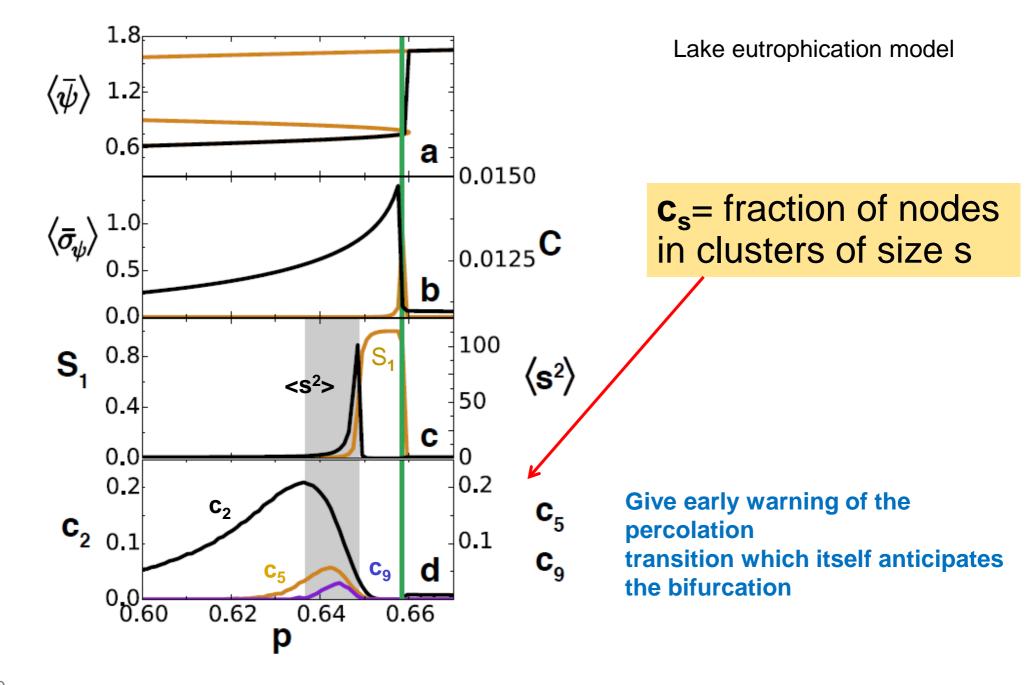
Standard percolation indicators: S_1 : size (proportion of nodes) of the largest cluster $<s^2>$: average size of the leftover clusters (related to the size of second largest one, or to the evariance of the cluster distribution

Percolation-based precursors of transitions in extended systems Rodriguez-Mendez, Eguiluz, Hernandez-Garcia, Ramasco Scientific Reports **6**, 29552 (2016)





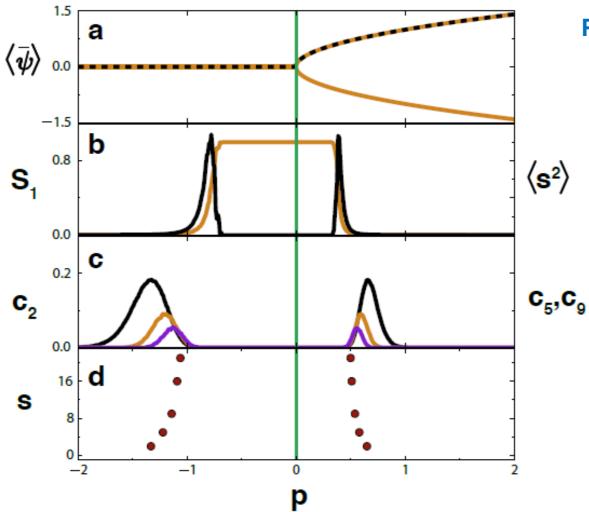






Ginzburg-Landau model (1d)

$$\frac{\partial \phi(x,t)}{\partial t} = p\phi(x,t) - \phi(x,t)^3 + \epsilon \nabla^2 \phi(x,t) + \eta(x;t).$$



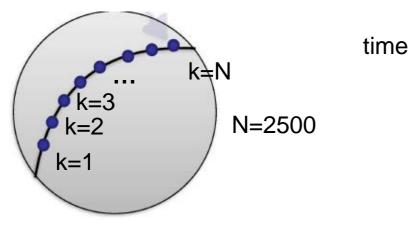
Pitchfork bifurcation



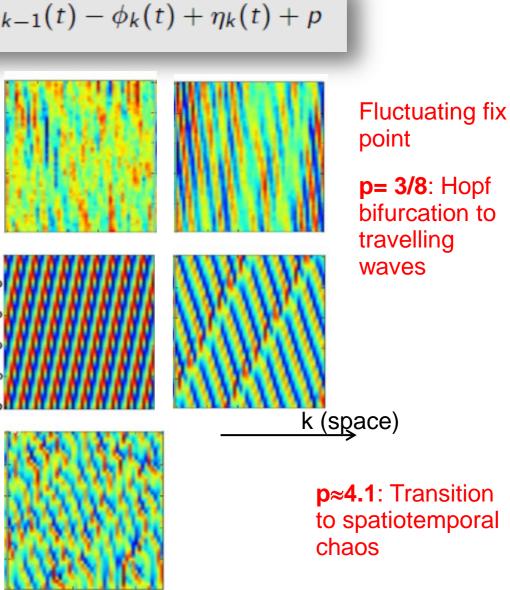


$$\frac{d\phi_k(t)}{dt} = (\phi_{k+1}(t) - \phi_{k-2}(t))\phi_{k-1}(t) - \phi_k(t) + \eta_k(t) + p$$

Toy model for atmospheric dynamics

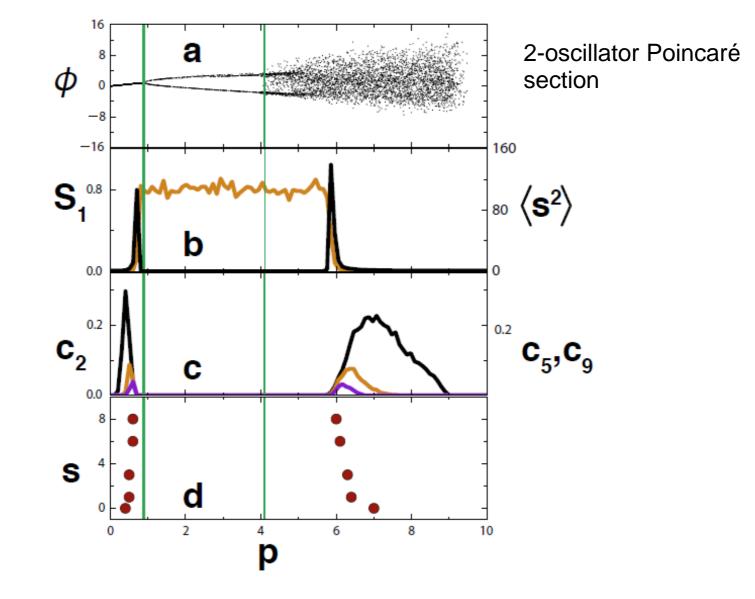


- φ_k some atmospheric quantity in K sectors of a latitude circle.
- Linear terms \rightarrow internal dissipation.
- Quadratic terms \rightarrow advection.
- p is the control parameter (external forcing).
- $\eta_k(t)$ is a white noise.





Lorenz96 model





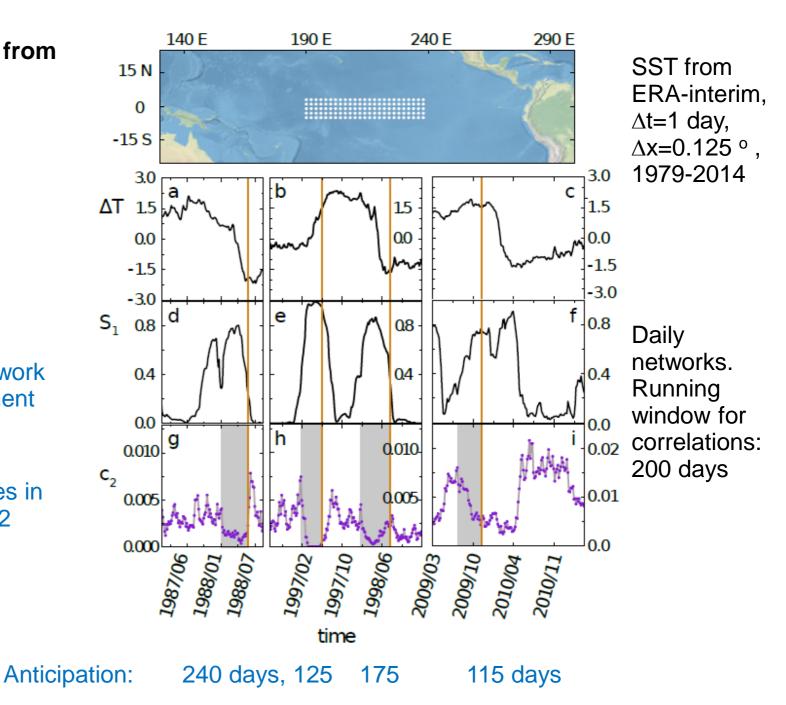
El Niño

Correlation network from El Niño3.4 index

ENSO dynamics: System close to a Hopf bifurcation (not clear if above or below) forced by noise

Correlation network largest component

Fraction of nodes in clusters of size 2

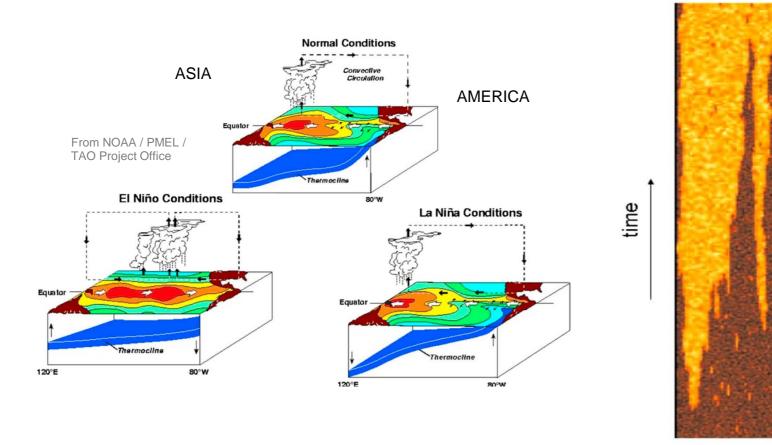




El Niño

Why the approach seems to work for El Niño, if it is though to be an oscillation?

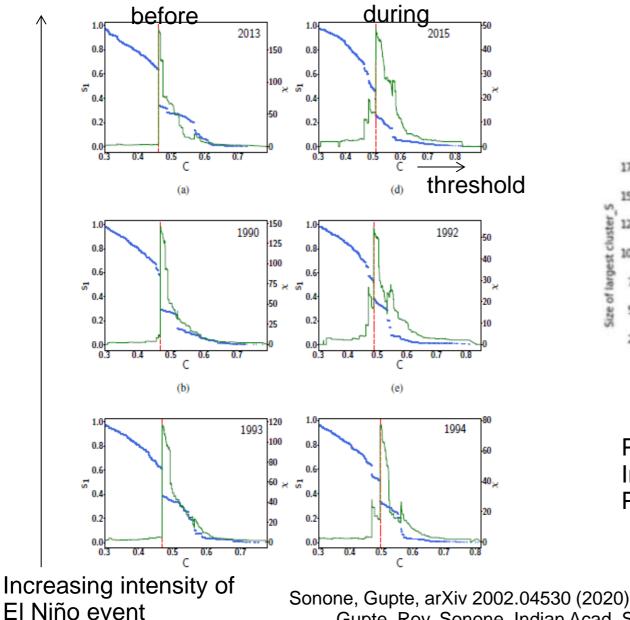
Especulative: The oscillation is between (simplifying) a cold state and a hot state (with associated thermocline depth). The transition between these states does not occur spatially at random, but with some coherence (in fact it involves wave propagation) that is detected by the correlation network

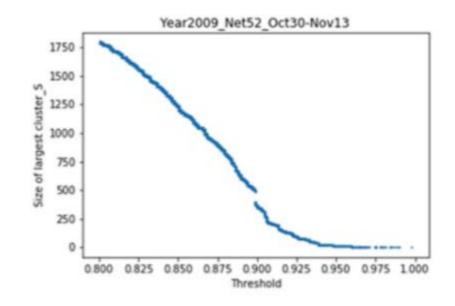


space



Besides standard percolation, one can monitor 'microtransitions'





Presence of a cyclone in the North-Indian ocean (Gupta, Kurths, Pappenberger, EGU 2020)

Sonone, Gupte, arXiv 2002.04530 (2020) Gupte, Roy, Sonone, Indian Acad. Sci. Conf. Ser. 2:1 (2019)





Take-home message

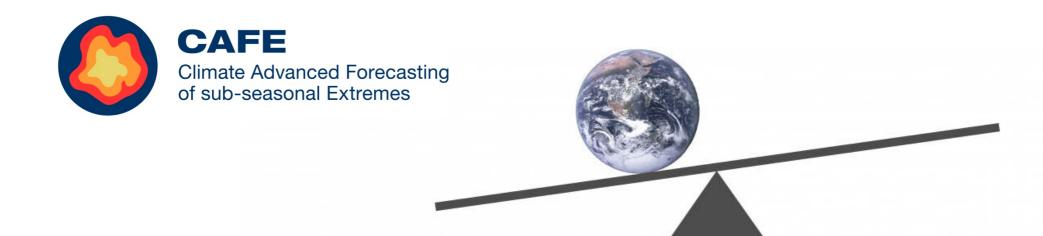
- Climate transitions have occurred in the past and are likely to occur again. Within CAFE, extending the concept towards the subseasonal time scale would be a useful goal
- It is highly desirable to have early warning indicators which will announce us on the proximity of a close transition
- Many indicators have been proposed (most having in mind the hypothesis of an underlying bifurcation) and many work well with model transitions, but considerable improvement is needed to deal with real data
- Network approaches are a new line of research that is providing more efficient indicators



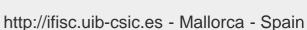




for your attention







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