

# life in extreme dimensions

predrag cvitanović

109th Statistical Mechanics Conference, Rutgers

may 12, 2013

## Hour of the Wolf

VARGTIMMEN

EN FILM AV  
INGMAR BERGMAN

- 1 dynamics in  $\infty$  dimensions
- 2 who's afraid of symmetry
- 3 knowing when to stop

our hero



Max von Sydow

a physicist so brilliant he has not read a paper since grad school

our heroine



Liv Ullmann

understands it all but cannot save him

theirs is a life in extreme dimensions

since 1822 have Navier-Stokes equations

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{v}}{\partial t} + (\mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{v} = \frac{1}{R} \nabla^2 \mathbf{v} - \nabla p + \mathbf{f}, \quad \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} = 0,$$

since 1883 Osborne Reynolds experiments

the most fundamental outstanding problem of classical physics :

turbulence!

## numerical challenges

### computation of turbulent solutions

requires 3-dimensional volume discretization

→ integration of  $10^4$ - $10^6$  coupled ordinary differential equations

challenging, but today possible

## numerical challenges

### computation of turbulent solutions

requires 3-dimensional volume discretization

→ integration of  $10^4$ - $10^6$  coupled ordinary differential equations

challenging, but today possible

### typical simulation

each instant of the flow > Megabytes

a video of the flow > Gigabytes

**Max the man :**

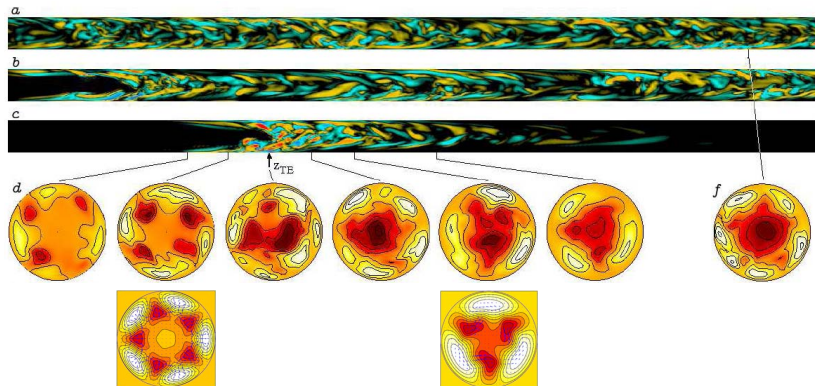


he can do it all



## example : pipe flow

amazing data! amazing numerics!



- here each instant of the flow  $\approx 2.5$  MB
- videos of the flow  $\approx$  GBs

## the challenge

turbulence.zip

**or 'equation assisted' data compression:**

replace the  $\infty$  of turbulent videos by the best possible

**small finite set**

of **videos** encoding all physically distinct motions of the turbulent fluid

## Liv Ullmann to Max von Sydow :



please, look at it in

the state space!

E. Hopf 1948, Ya. Sinai 1972 :

identify templates, partition it!



## !!! THE POINT OF THIS TALK !!!

UNLEARN:  
3-d VISUALIZATION

instant in turbulent evolution:  
a 3-d video frame,  
each pixel a 3-d velocity field

THINK:  
 $\infty$ -d PHASE SPACE

instant in turbulent evolution:  
a **unique** point  
theory of turbulence =  
geometry of the state space

[E. Hopf 1948]

# dynamical description of turbulence

## state space

a manifold  $\mathcal{M} \in \mathbb{R}^d$  :  $d$  numbers determine the state of the system

## representative point

$$x(t) \in \mathcal{M}$$

a state of physical system at instant in time

## deterministic dynamics

trajectory  $x(\tau) = f^\tau(x_0)$  = representative point time  $\tau$  later

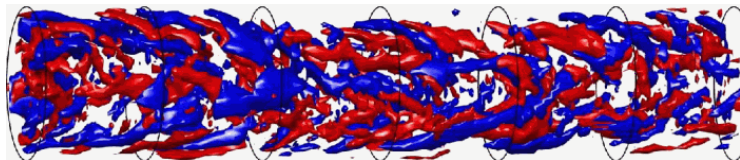
## today's experiments

### example of a representative point

$$x(t) \in \mathcal{M}, d = \infty$$

a state of turbulent pipe flow at instant in time

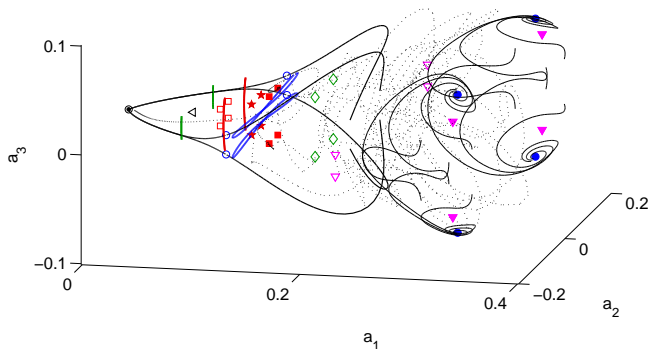
Stereoscopic Particle Image Velocimetry  $\rightarrow$  3- $d$  velocity field over the entire pipe<sup>1</sup>



---

<sup>1</sup>Casimir W.H. van Doorne (PhD thesis, Delft 2004)

can visualize 61,506 dimensional state space of turbulent flow

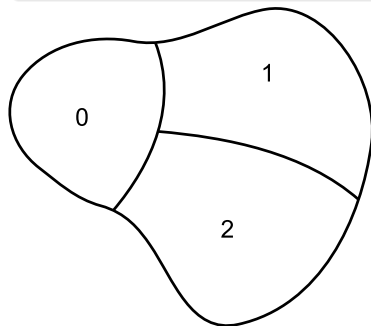


equilibria of turbulent plane Couette flow,  
their unstable manifolds, and  
myriad of turbulent videos mapped out as one happy family

for movies, please click through [ChaosBook.org/tutorials](http://ChaosBook.org/tutorials)

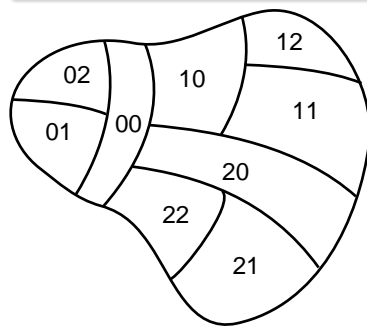
## deterministic partition into regions of similar states

1-step memory partition



$\mathcal{M} = \mathcal{M}_0 \cup \mathcal{M}_1 \cup \mathcal{M}_2$   
ternary alphabet  
 $\mathcal{A} = \{1, 2, 3\}$ .

2-step memory refinement



$\mathcal{M}_i = \mathcal{M}_{i0} \cup \mathcal{M}_{i1} \cup \mathcal{M}_{i2}$   
labeled by nine 'words'  
 $\{00, 01, 02, \dots, 21, 22\}$ .



the problem with symmetry :

# nature loves symmetry

or does she?

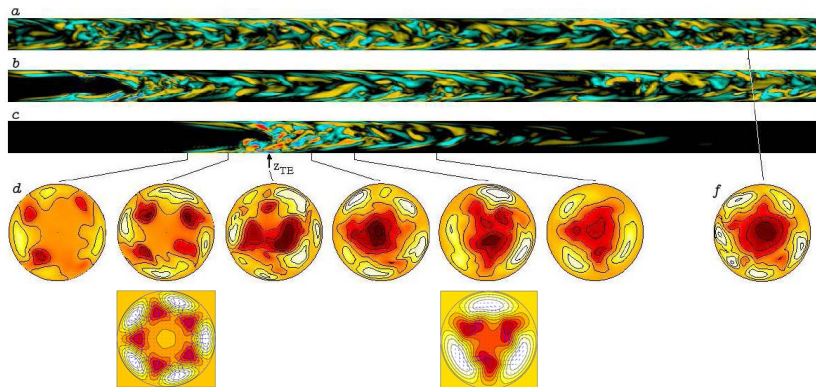
## problem

physicists like symmetry more than Nature

Rich Kerswell

## nature : turbulence in pipe flows

top : experimental / numerical data  
bottom : theorist's solutions



Nature, **she don't care** : turbulence breaks all symmetries

Liv to you :

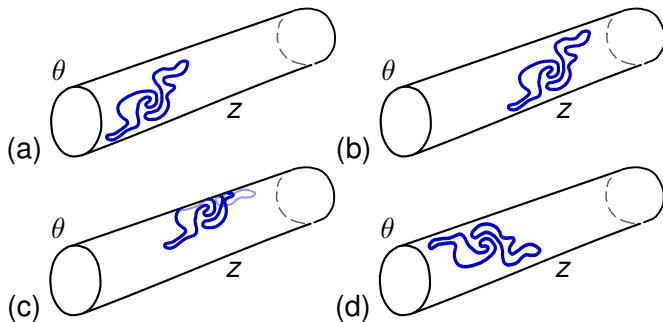


please, use **symmetries!**

H. Poincaré 1899, Elie Cartan 1926 :

section it, slice it!

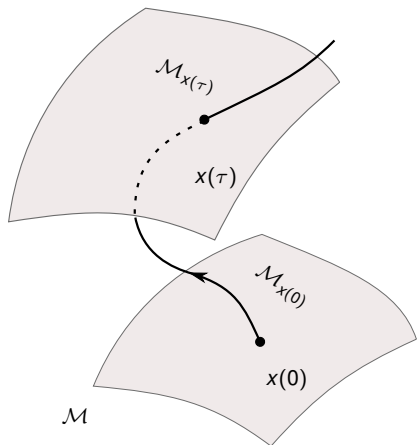
**example :  $SO(2)_z \times O(2)_\theta$  symmetry of pipe flow**



a fluid state, shifted by a stream-wise translation, azimuthal rotation  $g_p$  is a physically equivalent state

- b)** stream-wise
- c)** stream-wise, azimuthal
- d)** azimuthal flip

## group orbits



*group orbit*  $\mathcal{M}_x$  of  $x$  is the set of all group actions

$$\mathcal{M}_x = \{g x \mid g \in G\}$$

**group orbits are NOT circles**

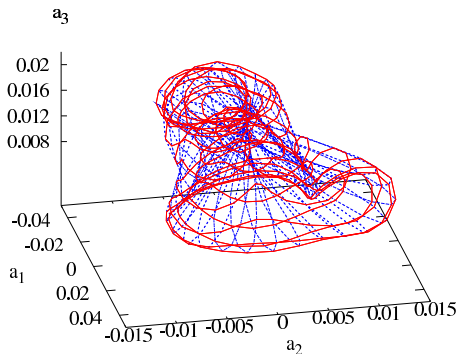
**nature couples many Fourier modes**

group orbit manifolds of highly nonlinear states are smooth, but not nice

## example : group orbit of a pipe flow turbulent state

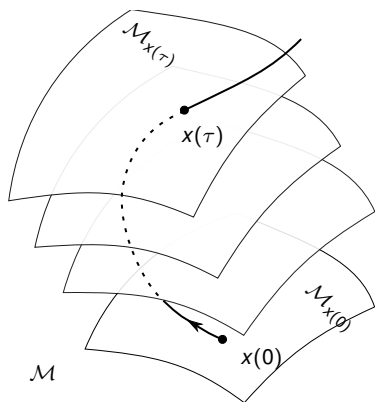
$SO(2) \times SO(2)$  symmetry  
 $\Rightarrow$  group orbit is  
topologically 2-torus,  
but a mess in any  
projection

a turbulent state



group orbits of highly nonlinear states are topologically tori, but  
highly contorted tori

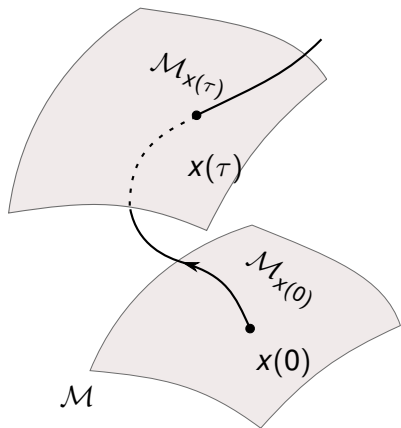
## foliation by group orbits



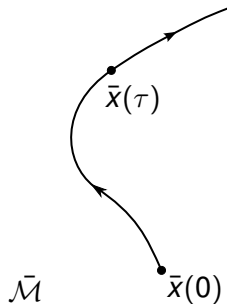
actions of a symmetry group  
foliates the state space  $\mathcal{M}$  into  
a union of group orbits  $\mathcal{M}_x$



## full state space



## reduced state space



replace each group orbit by a unique point in a lower-dimensional

**symmetry reduced state space  $\mathcal{M}/G$**

## inspiration : pattern recognition

you are observing turbulence in a pipe flow, or your defibrillator has a mesh of sensors measuring electrical currents that cross your heart, and

you have a precomputed pattern, and are sifting through the data set of observed patterns for something like it

here you see a pattern, and there you see a pattern that seems much like the first one

how 'much like the first one?'

take the first pattern

**‘template’ or ‘reference state’**

a point  $\bar{x}'$  in the state space  $\mathcal{M}$

and use the symmetries of the flow to

**slide and rotate the ‘template’**

act with elements of the symmetry group  $G$  on  $\bar{x}' \rightarrow g(\theta) \bar{x}'$

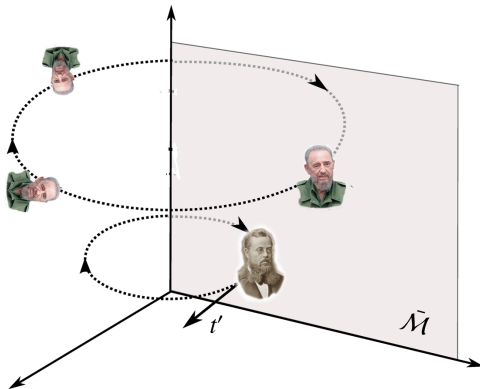
until it overlies the second pattern (a point  $x$  in the state space)

**distance between the two patterns**

$$|x - g(\theta) \bar{x}'| = |\bar{x} - \bar{x}'|$$

is minimized

## idea: the closest match



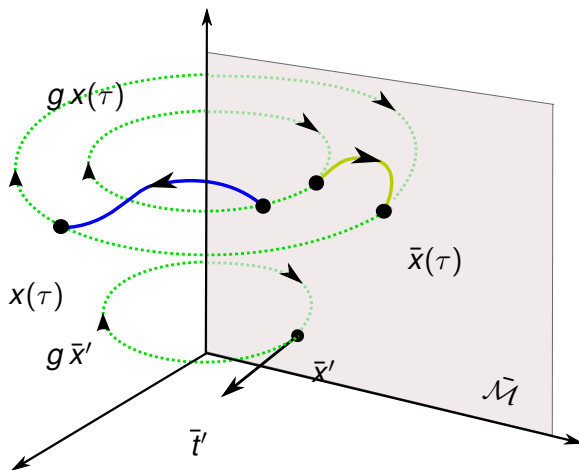
template: Sophus Lie

(1) rotate face  $x$   
traces out group orbit  
 $\mathcal{M}_x$

(2) replace the group  
orbit by the closest  
match  $\bar{x}$  to the template  
pattern  $\bar{x}'$

the closest matches  $\bar{x}$  lie  
in the  $(d-N)$  symmetry  
reduced state space  $\bar{\mathcal{M}}$

## flow within the slice



full-space trajectory  $x(\tau)$

rotated into the reduced state space  $\bar{x}(\tau) = g(\theta)^{-1}x(\tau)$   
by appropriate *moving frame* angles  $\{\theta(\tau)\}$

**take home :**

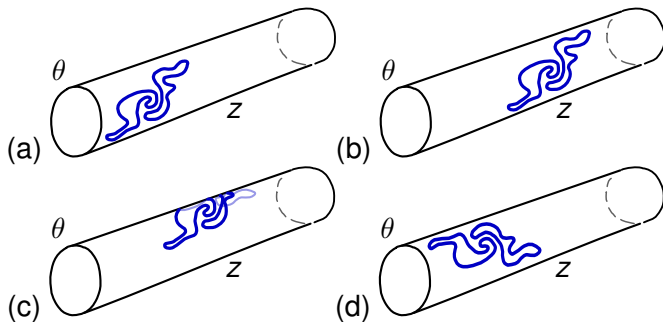
if you have a symmetry, reduce it!

**your quandry**

mhm - seems this would require extra thinking

what's the payoff?

## $SO(2)_z \times O(2)_\theta$ relative periodic orbits of pipe flow

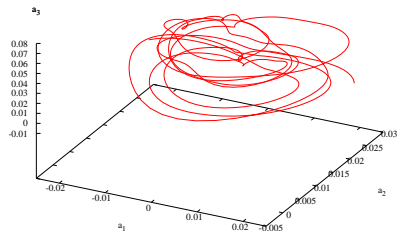


relative periodic orbit : recurs at time  $T_p$ , shifted by a streamwise translation, azimuthal rotation  $g_p$

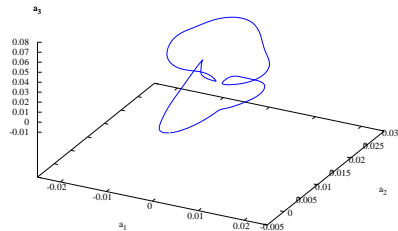
- b)** stream-wise recurrent
- c)** stream-wise, azimuthal recurrent
- d)** azimuthal flip recurrent

## example : pipe flow relative periodic orbit

3 repeats, full space



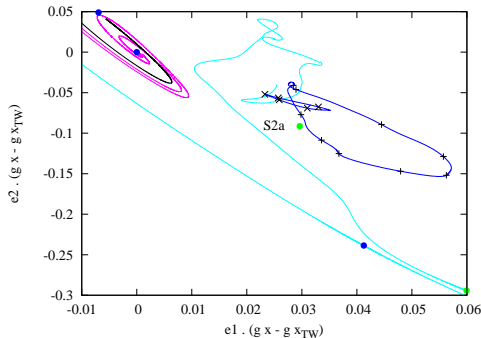
reduced space





it works : all pipe flow solutions in one happy family

could not find without symmetry reduction :



first pipe flow relative periodic orbits embedded in turbulence!

# take-home message

if you have a symmetry

use it!

without symmetry reduction, no understanding of fluid flows,  
nonlinear field theories possible

Liv to Max :



deterministic partitions are **no**  
**good!**

**deterministic dynamics: partitioning can be arbitrarily fine**  
requires exponential # of exponentially small regions

**deterministic dynamics: partitioning can be arbitrarily fine**  
requires exponential # of exponentially small regions

yet

**in practice**

every physical problem must be coarse partitioned

Liv to Max :



please, know when to stop!

Laplace 1810, A. Lyapunov 1892 :

noise frees us from the shackles of determinism!

## knowing when to stop

[[click here for an example of a fluid in motion](#)]

need the 3D velocity field at **every**  $(x, y, z)$ !

### **motions of fluids : require $\infty$ bits?**

numerical simulations track millions of computational degrees of freedom; observations, from laboratory to satellite, stream terabytes of data, but how much information is there in all of this?

**knowing when to stop**

**motions of fluids : require  $\infty$  bits??**

**that cannot be right...**



## knowing when to stop

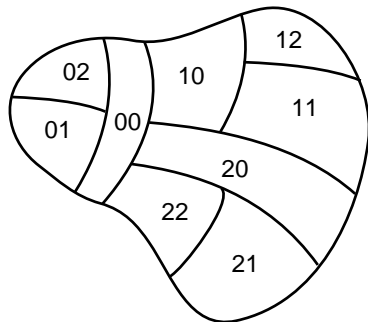
Science originates from curiosity and bad eyesight.

— Bernard de Fontenelle,  
*Entretiens sur la Pluralité des Mondes Habités*

### in practice

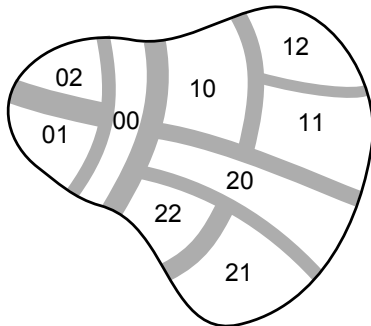
every physical problem is coarse partitioned and finite

## deterministic vs. noisy partitions



deterministic partition

can be refined  
*ad infinitum*



noise blurs the boundaries

when overlapping, no further  
refinement of partition

### mathematician's idealized state space

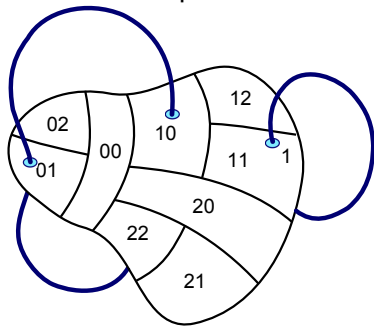
a manifold  $\mathcal{M} \in \mathbb{R}^d$  :  $d$  continuous numbers determine the state of the system  $x \in \mathcal{M}$

### noise-limited state space

a 'grid'  $\mathcal{M}'$  :  $N$  discrete states of the system  $a \in \mathcal{M}'$ , one for each noise covariance ellipsoid  $Q_a$

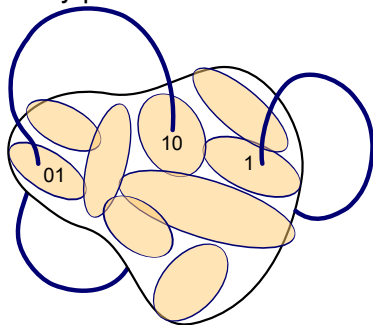
## periodic orbit partition

deterministic partition



some short periodic points:  
fixed point  $\bar{1} = \{x_1\}$   
two-cycle  $\overline{01} = \{x_{01}, x_{10}\}$

noisy partition

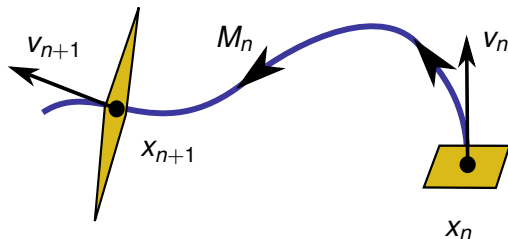


periodic points blurred by noise  
into cigar-shaped densities

**challenge : knowing when to stop**

*determine the finest possible partition for a given noise*

## linearized deterministic flow



$$x_{n+1} + z_{n+1} = f(x_n) + M_n z_n, \quad M_{ij} = \partial f_i / \partial x_j$$

in one time step a linearized neighborhood of  $x_n$  is

- (1) advected by the flow and
- (2) mapped by the Jacobian matrix  $M_n$  into a neighborhood whose size and orientation are given by the  $M$  eigenvalues and eigenvectors

## covariance advection

let the initial density of deviations  $z$  from the deterministic center be a Gaussian whose covariance matrix is

$$Q_{jk} = \langle z_j z_k^T \rangle$$

a step later the Gaussian is advected to

$$\begin{aligned} \langle z_j z_k^T \rangle &\rightarrow \langle (M z)_j (M z)_k^T \rangle \\ Q &\rightarrow M Q M^T \end{aligned}$$

add noise, get the next slide

## covariance evolution

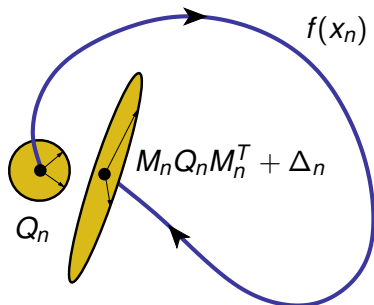
$$Q_{n+1} = M_n Q_n M_n^T + \Delta_n$$

- (1) advect deterministically  
local density covariance matrix  $Q \rightarrow MQM^T$
- (2) add noise covariance matrix  $\Delta$

covariances add up as sums of squares



## roll your own cigar



in one time step

a Gaussian density distribution with covariance matrix  $Q_n$  is

- (1) advected by the flow
- (2) smeared with additive noise

into a Gaussian 'cigar' whose widths and orientation are given by the singular values and vectors of  $Q_{n+1}$

## Remembrance of Things Past

noisy dynamics of a nonlinear system is fundamentally different from Brownian motion, as the flow **ALWAYS** induces a local, history dependent effective noise

## example : noise and a single attractive fixed point

if all eigenvalues of  $M$  are strictly contracting, all  $|\lambda_j| < 1$

any initial compact measure converges to the unique invariant Gaussian measure  $\rho_0(z)$  whose covariance matrix satisfies

**Lyapunov equation: time-invariant measure condition**

$$Q = MQM^T + \Delta$$

[A. M. Lyapunov doctoral dissertation 1892]

## example : Ornstein-Uhlenbeck process

width of the natural measure concentrated at the attractive deterministic fixed point  $z = 0$

$$\rho_0(z) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi Q}} \exp\left(-\frac{z^2}{2Q}\right), \quad Q = \frac{\Delta}{1 - |\Lambda|^2},$$

- is balance between contraction by  $\Lambda$  and noisy smearing by  $\Delta$  at each time step

**local problem solved: can compute every cigar**

a periodic point of period  $n$  is a fixed point of  $n$ th iterate of dynamics

**global problem solved: can compute all cigars**

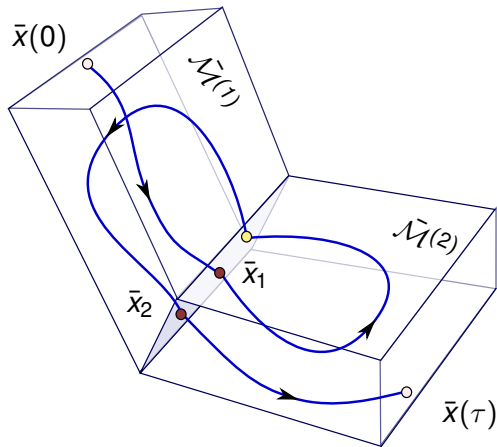
more algebra: can compute the noisy neighborhoods of all periodic points

## charting the state space

for turbulent/chaotic systems an atlas - a set of charts - is needed to capture the dynamics

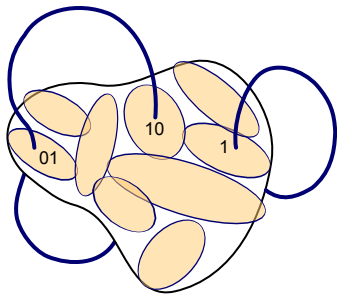
templates  $\bar{x}'^{(j)}$  should be representative of the dynamically dominant patterns seen in the solutions of nonlinear PDEs

each chart  $\bar{\mathcal{M}}^{(j)}$  captures a neighborhood of a template  $\bar{x}'^{(j)}$



two charts drawn as two  $(d-1)$ -dimensional slabs  
 shaded plane : the ridge, their  $(d-2)$ -dimensional intersection

## optimal partition hypothesis



### optimal partition:

the maximal set of resolvable  
periodic point neighborhoods



## the payback for your patience

**claim:**

optimal partition hypothesis

---

- the best of all possible state space partitions
- optimal for the given noise

## the payback for your patience

**claim:**

optimal partition hypothesis

---

- optimal partition replaces stochastic PDEs by finite, low-dimensional Markov graphs

## the payback for your patience

claim:

### optimal partition hypothesis

- optimal partition replaces stochastic PDEs by finite, low-dimensional Markov graphs
- finite matrix calculations  $\Rightarrow$  optimal estimates of long-time observables (Lyapunov exponents, mean temperature in Chicago and its variance, etc.)

Liv & Max :



can this ever work?

## example: representative solutions of fluid dynamics

- Professor Zweistein, from the back of auditorium:
  - (1) she has already done all this in 1969
  - (2) you must be kidding, it cannot be done for turbulence

## example: representative solutions of fluid dynamics

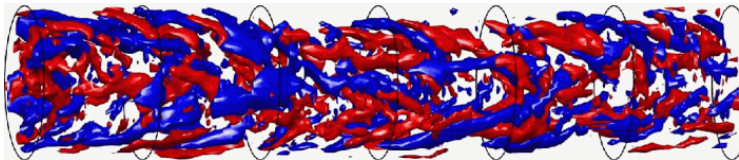
- Professor Zweistein, from the back of auditorium:
  - (1) she has already done all this in 1969
  - (2) you must be kidding, it cannot be done for turbulence
- OK, OK, we have about 50 state space cell centers

[\[click here for examples of frozen fluid states\]](#)

[\[click here for examples of a fluid in periodic motions\]](#)

and we have their Jacobians (that was hell to get)

- Computation of unstable periodic orbits in high-dimensional state spaces, such as Navier-Stokes,



is at the border of what is feasible numerically, and criteria to identify finite sets of the most important solutions are very much needed. Where are we to stop calculating these solutions?

- disclosure

we have not yet tested the method on fluid dynamics data sets.



- Georgia Tech Center for Nonlinear Science is looking for several brave postdocs to help us really 'zip' turbulence

- Georgia Tech Center for Nonlinear Science is looking for several brave postdocs to help us really 'zip' turbulence
- the brave candidates: step up after the talk