

# Nonlinear dynamics of active particles

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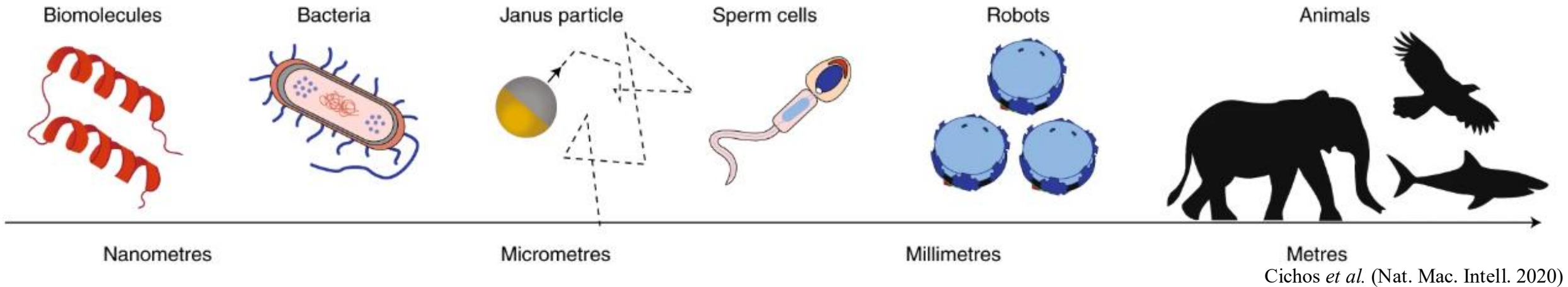
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# Nonlinear dynamics of active particles

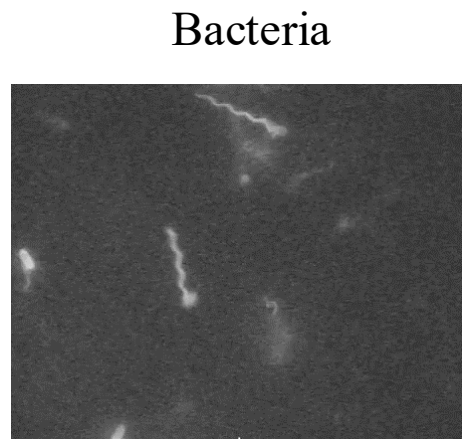
- Active particles and active matter
- Nonlinear dynamical systems
- Nonlinear dynamics of active particles
  - Example 1: Active particle in channel flows
  - Example 2: Superwalking droplets

# Active particle

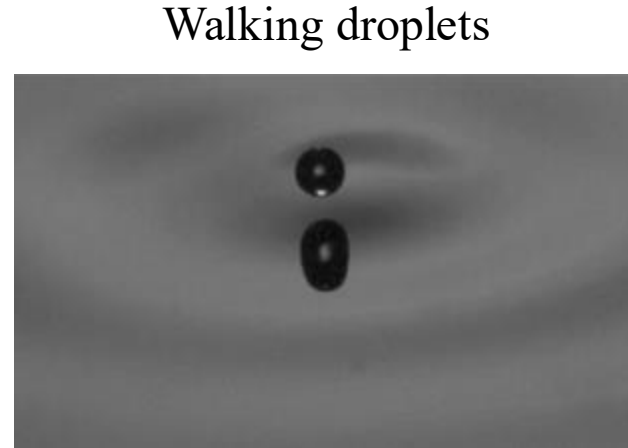
- Entity that consume energy and convert it into persistent motion



David Rogers (1950s)



Turner *et al.* (2000)



Valani *et al.* (2019)



Paramanick *et al.* (2024)

# Active matter

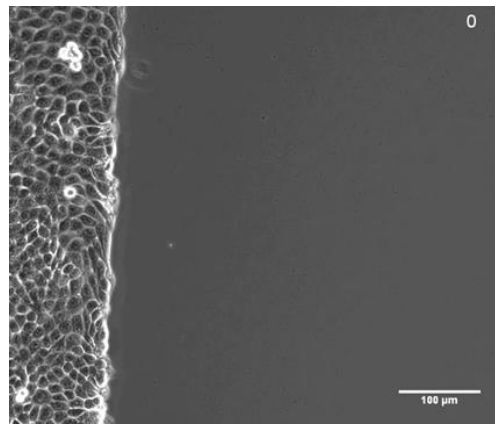
- Matter composed of large number of active particles
- Emergent non-equilibrium behaviors
  - “More is different” (P. Anderson, Science 1972)

Murmuration of birds



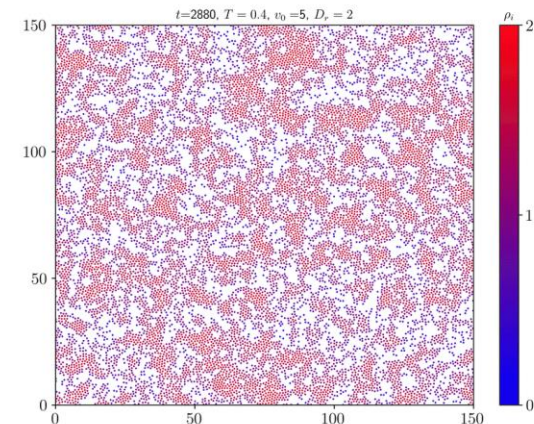
Credit: YouTube

Collective cell migration



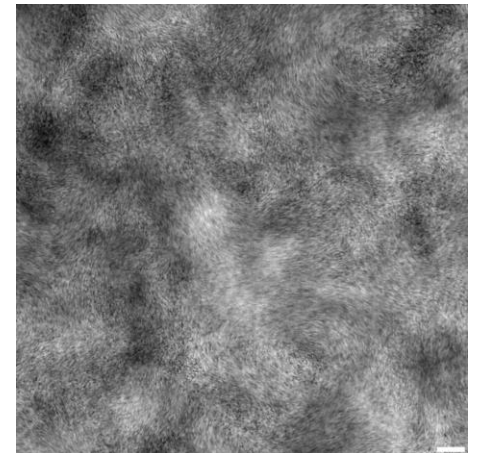
Matsuzawa *et al.* (Cell Rep. 2018)

Motility induced phase separation (MIPS)



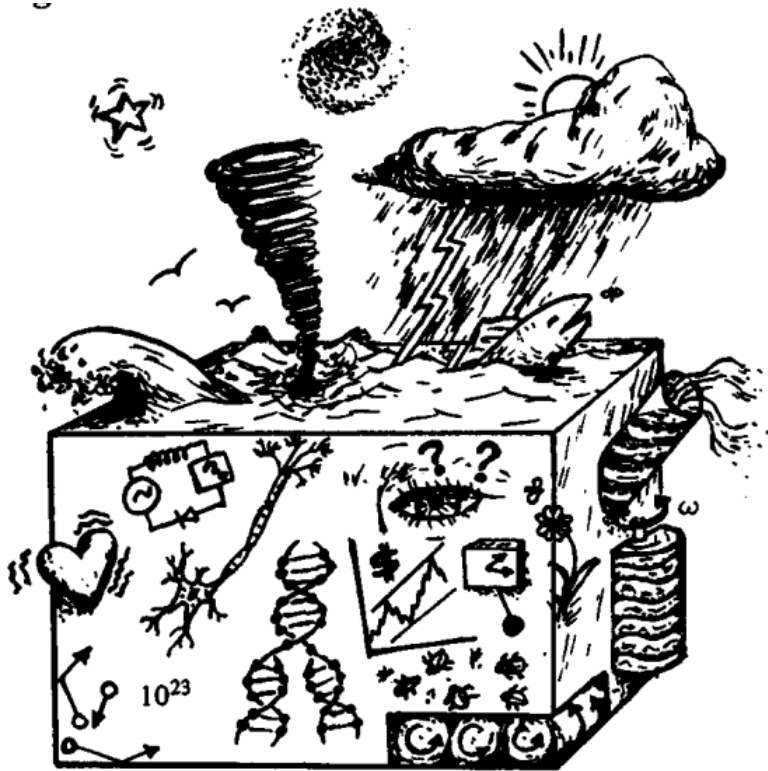
Credit: Gianmarco Spera

Active turbulence



Peng *et al.* (Sci Adv. 2021)

# Nonlinear dynamical systems



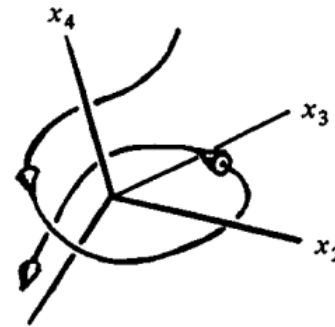
Dynamics in the real world



MODELS

This process contains the physical insight ('artistry') of the theorist in attempting to describe real phenomena

$$\frac{dx_k}{dt} = F_K(x_1, \dots, x_4) \quad (K = 1, \dots, 4)$$



$$x_1 \quad N(t+1) = CN(t)(1 - N(t))$$

$$\frac{\partial U}{\partial t} + U \frac{\partial U}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial^3 U}{\partial x^3} = 0$$

$$S_i(t+1) = F(S_{i-1}(t), S_i(t), S_{i+1}(t))$$

Nonlinear dynamics in the phase space of the physical variables

$$\mathbf{x} = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_N)$$

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x})$$

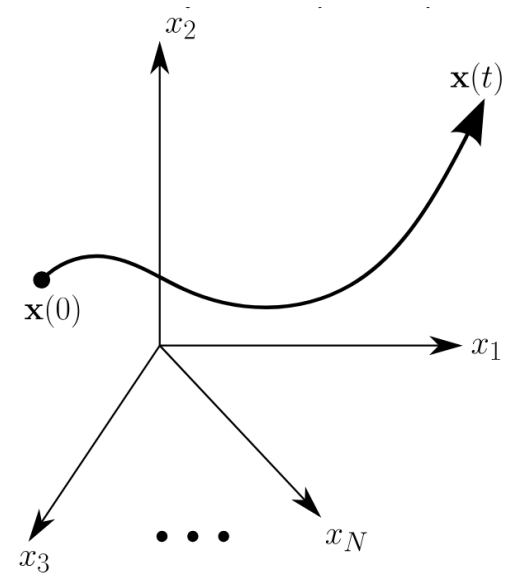
nonlinear functions

$$\dot{x}_1 = f_1(x_1, \dots, x_N)$$

$$\dot{x}_2 = f_2(x_1, \dots, x_N)$$

⋮

$$\dot{x}_N = f_N(x_1, \dots, x_N).$$



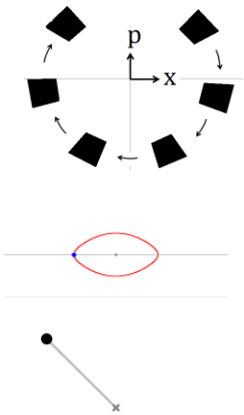
# Conservative & dissipative dynamical systems

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x})$$

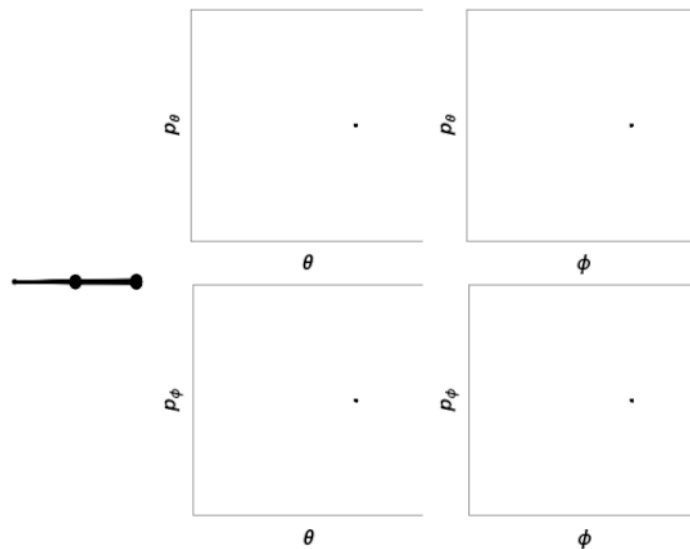
## Conservative systems

- Phase-space volume conserved
- Nonlinear systems can exhibit conservative chaos e.g. double pendulum or 3-body problem

pendulum



double pendulum



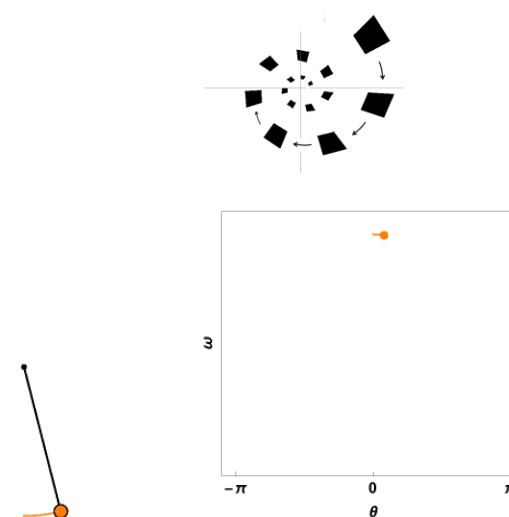
Credit: Lucas Vieira  
(Wikipedia)

Credit: Jacopo Bertolotti  
(Wikipedia)

## Dissipative systems

- Phase-space volume shrinks
- Nonlinear systems can exhibit dissipative chaos e.g. Lorenz system

damped pendulum



Credit: Jacopo Bertolotti  
(Wikipedia)

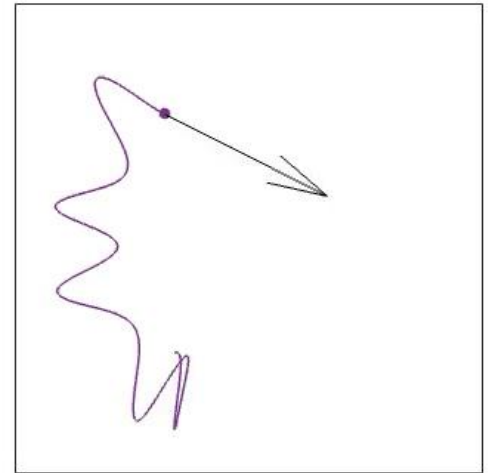
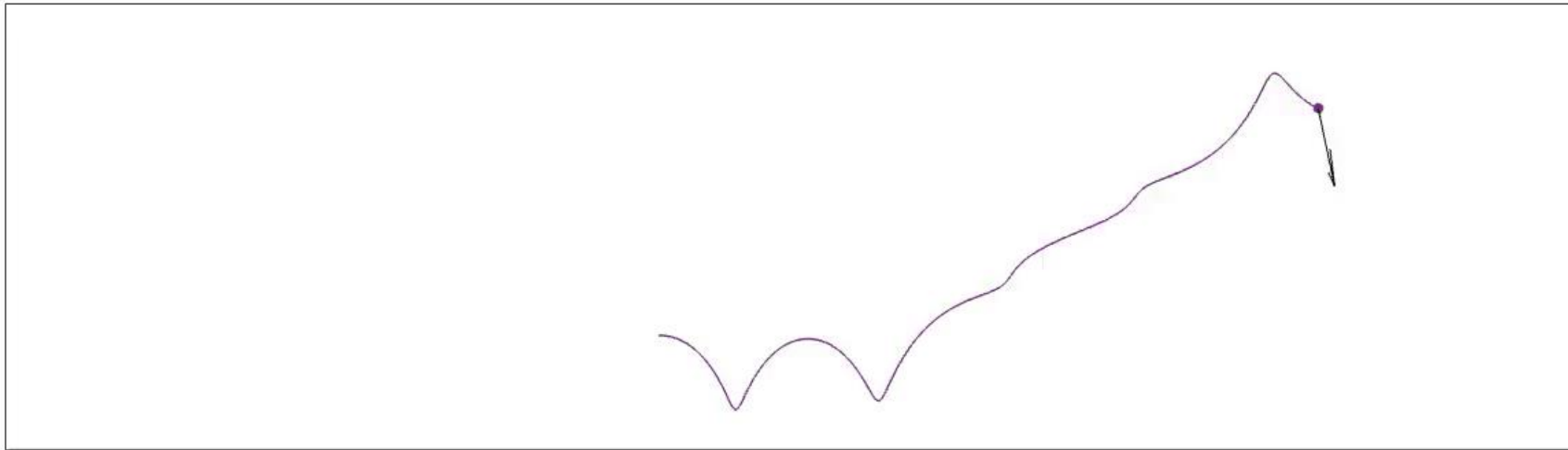
Lorenz chaos



Credit: Dan Quinn  
(Wikipedia)

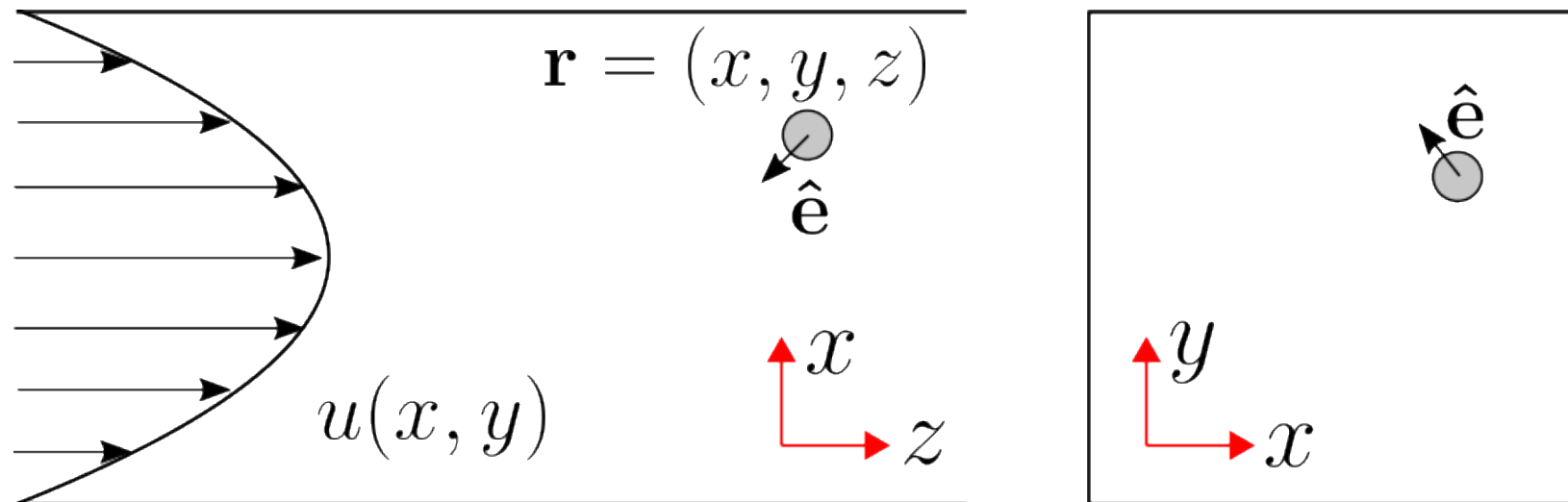
# Example 1:

## Active particles in unidirectional flows



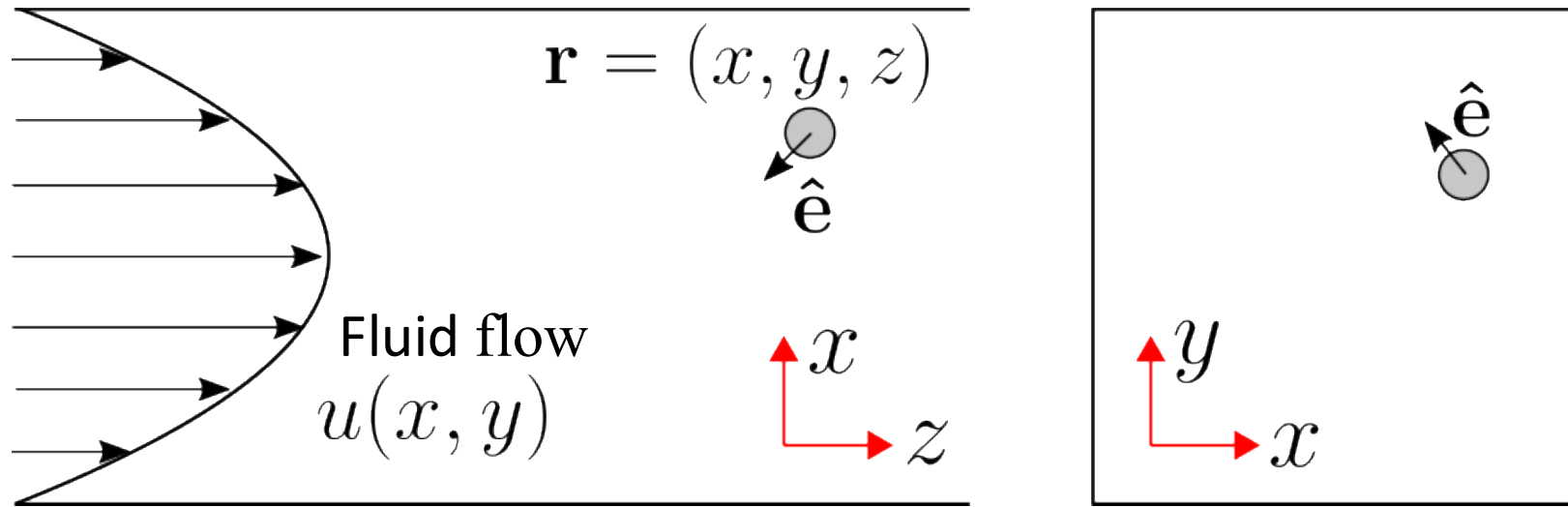
# Active particles in unidirectional flows

- Microswimmer – active particle immersed in a fluid medium at the microscale e.g. bacteria, motile cell, microrobot
- Microswimmers experience unidirectional fluid flows in confined environments e.g. sperm cells in fallopian tubes, microrobots for targeted drug delivery applications, pathogens in bloodstream





# Active particle motion in unidirectional flow



$$\frac{d\mathbf{r}}{dt} = v_0 \hat{\mathbf{e}} + u(x, y) \hat{\mathbf{k}}$$

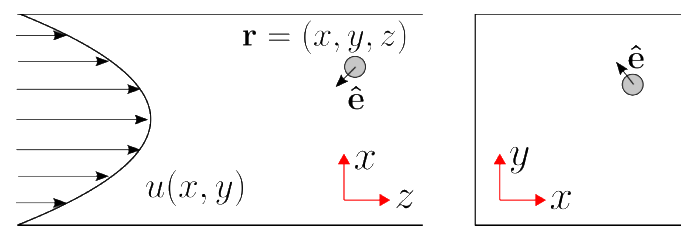
← Total velocity = intrinsic (active) velocity + background flow velocity

$$\frac{d\hat{\mathbf{e}}}{dt} = \frac{1}{2} \left( \nabla \times u(x, y) \hat{\mathbf{k}} \right) \times \hat{\mathbf{e}}$$

←

Particle orientation rotates due to local vorticity of fluid

# Active particle motion in unidirectional flow



- 5 coupled equations
- 2 constants of motion

$$\dot{x} = e_x, \dot{y} = e_y, \dot{z} = e_z - \bar{u}(x, y),$$

$$\dot{e}_x = -\frac{1}{2}e_z \frac{\partial \bar{u}}{\partial x}, \dot{e}_y = -\frac{1}{2}e_z \frac{\partial \bar{u}}{\partial y}, \dot{e}_z = \frac{1}{2}e_z \frac{\partial \bar{u}}{\partial x} + \frac{1}{2}e_y \frac{\partial \bar{u}}{\partial y}$$

Constants of motion

$$|\hat{e}|^2 = e_x^2 + e_y^2 + e_z^2 = 1$$

$$C = -\frac{1}{2}\bar{u}(x, y) + e_z$$



Conservative  
dynamical system

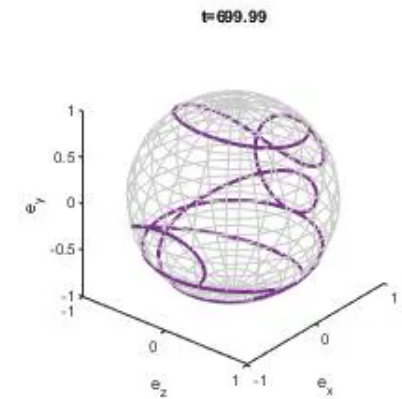
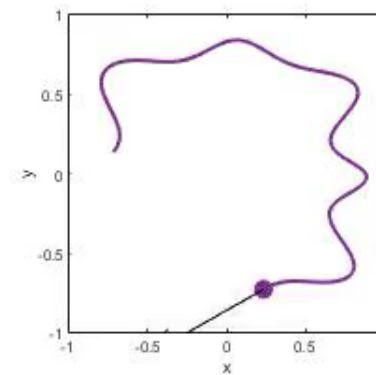
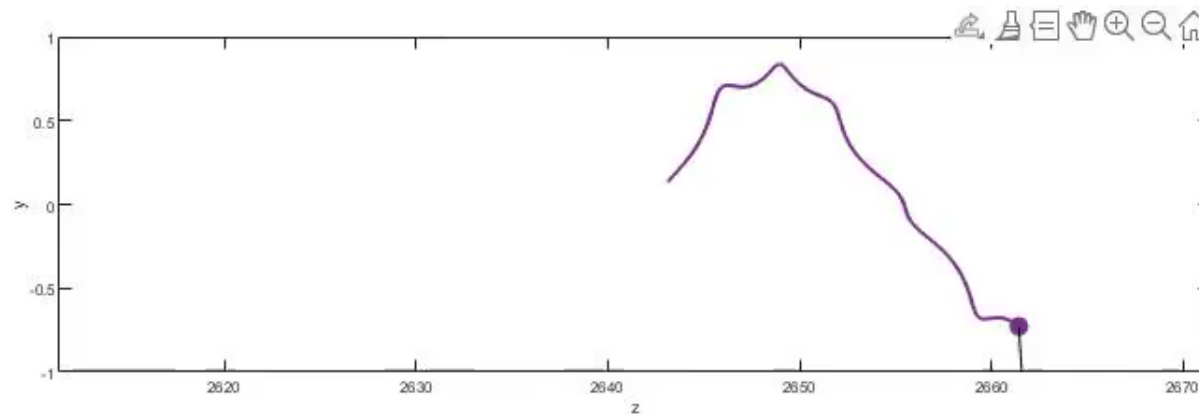
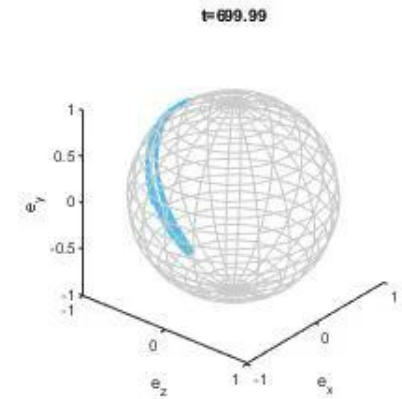
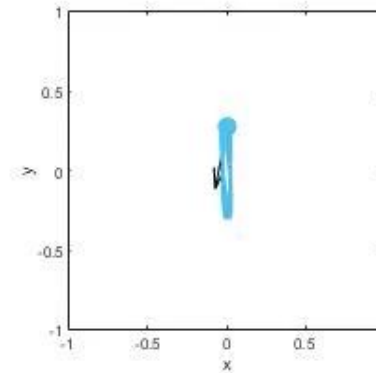
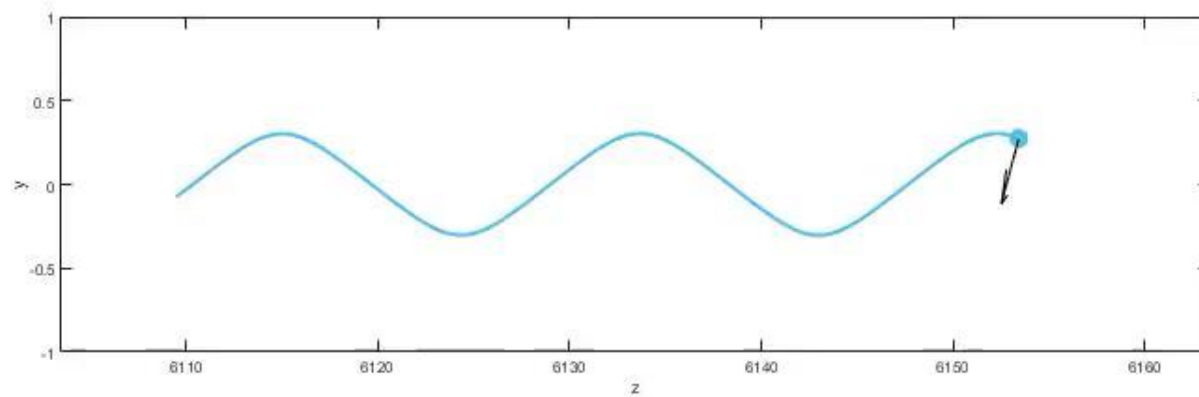
$$\dot{x} = \frac{\partial \mathcal{H}}{\partial P_x}, \dot{P}_x = -\frac{\partial \mathcal{H}}{\partial x}, \dot{y} = \frac{\partial \mathcal{H}}{\partial P_y}, \dot{P}_y = -\frac{\partial \mathcal{H}}{\partial y}$$

Hamiltonian  $\mathcal{H} = \frac{1}{2}(P_x^2 + P_y^2) + V_s(x, y)$

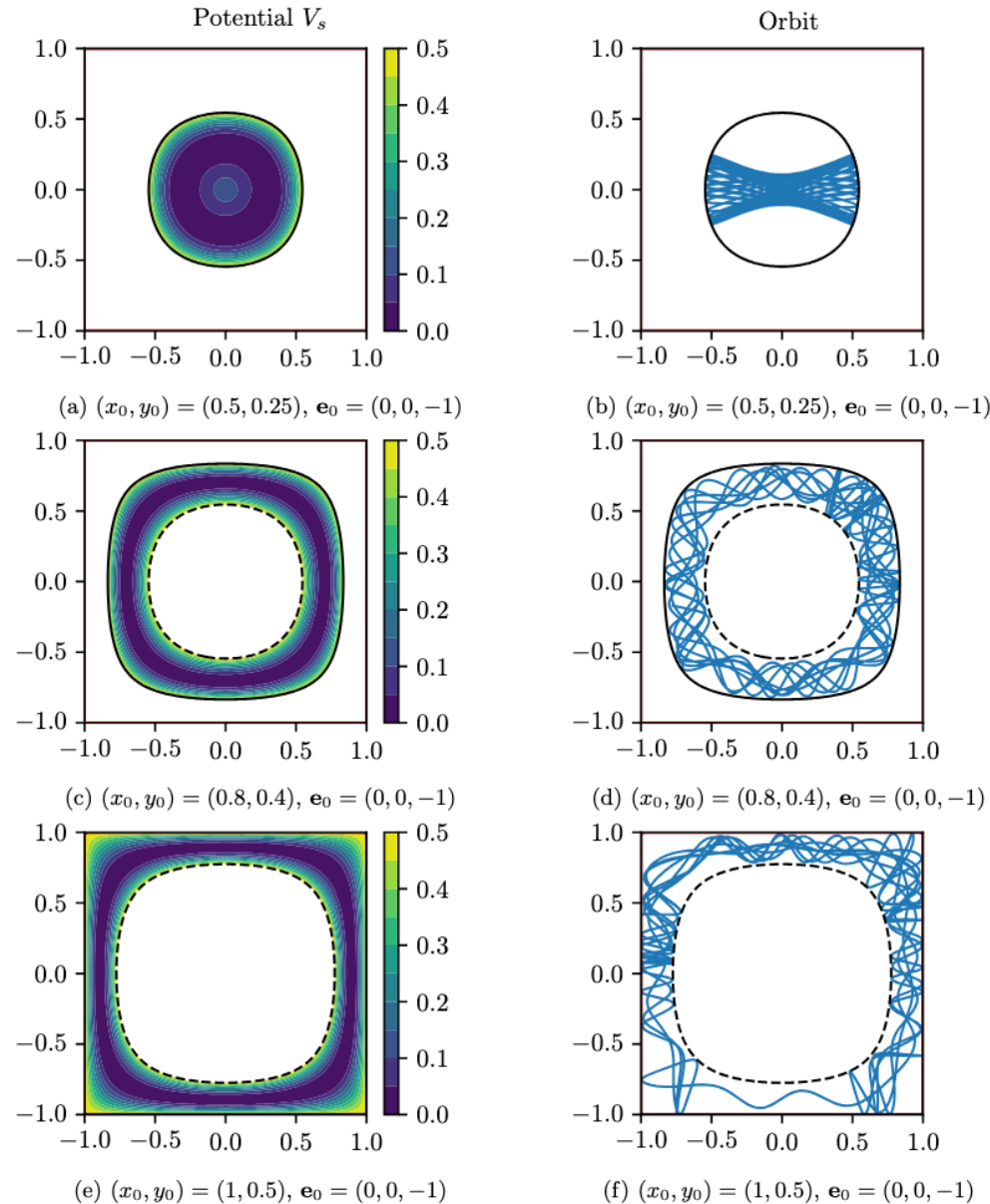
Momenta  $P_x = \dot{x} \quad P_y = \dot{y}$

Potential energy  $V_s = \frac{1}{2} \left( C + \frac{1}{2}\bar{u}(x, y) \right)^2$

# Active particle trajectories in 3D channel with square cross-section



# Active particle trajectories in rectangular channels

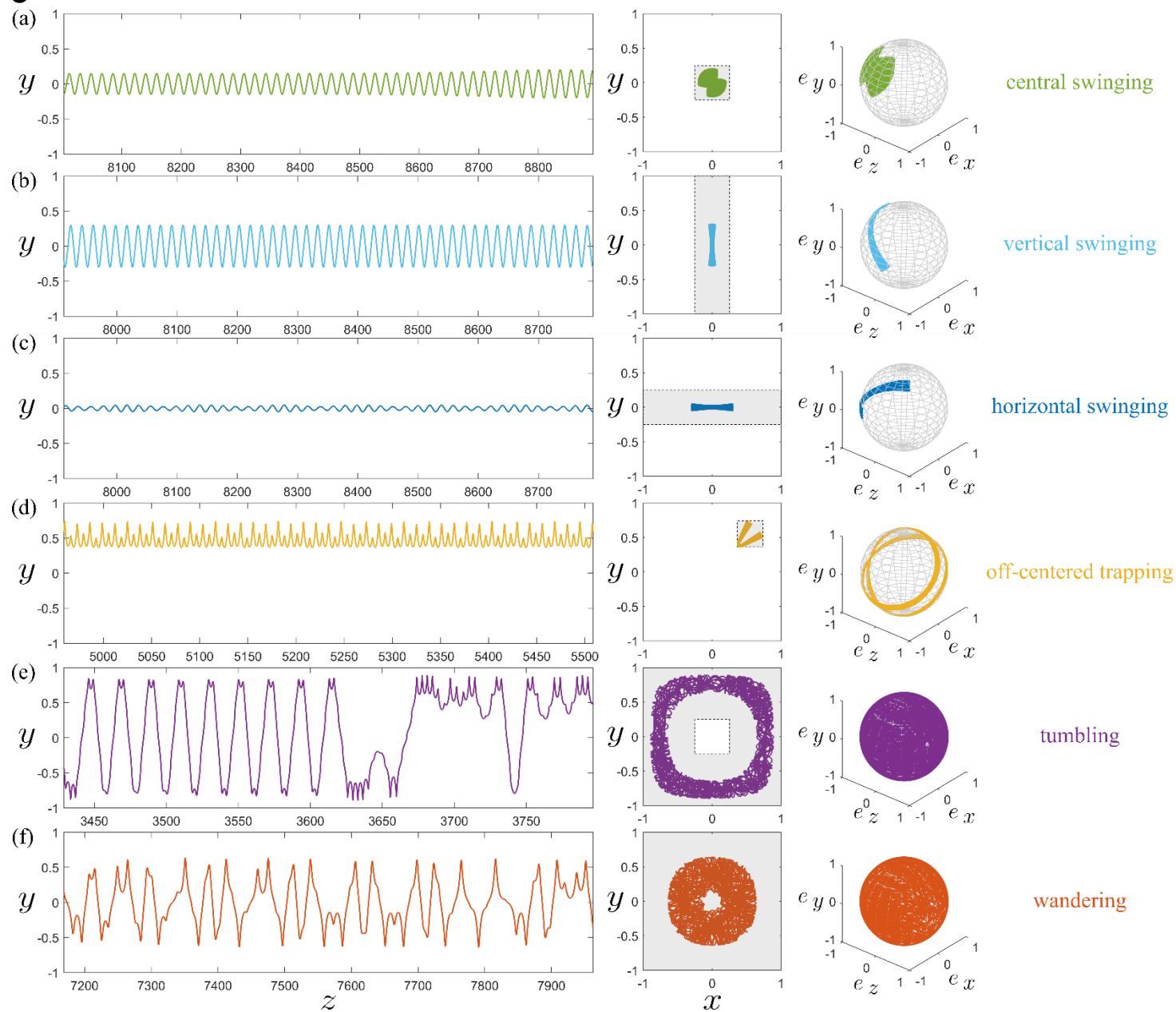
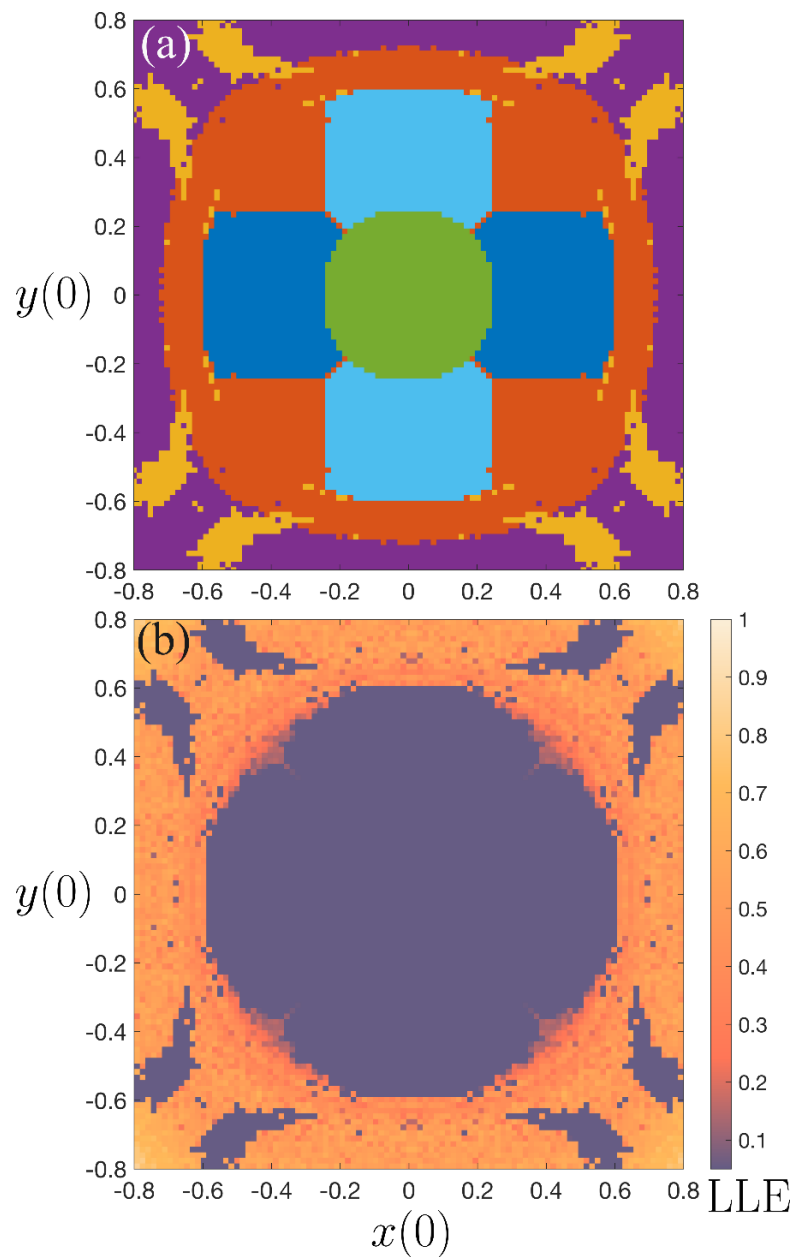


$$C = -\frac{1}{2}\bar{u}(x, y) + e_z$$

Potential energy

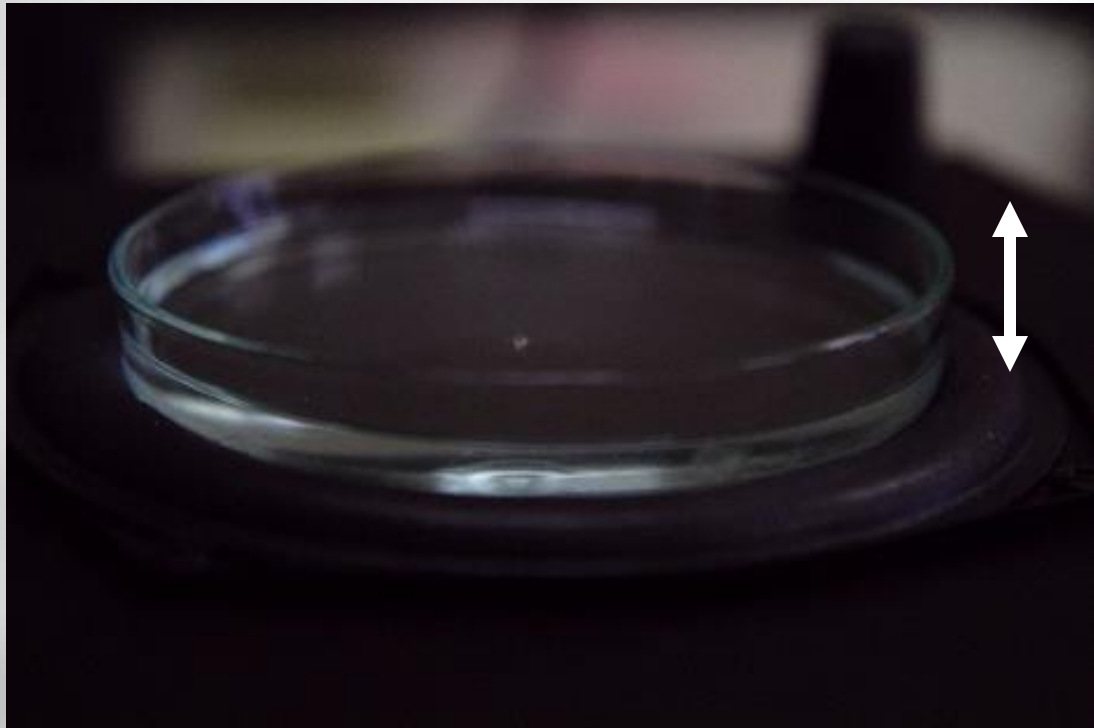
$$V_s = \frac{1}{2} \left( C + \frac{1}{2}\bar{u}(x, y) \right)^2$$

# Sensitivity to initial conditions



# Example 2: Superwalking droplets

Flat surface



Faraday standing waves

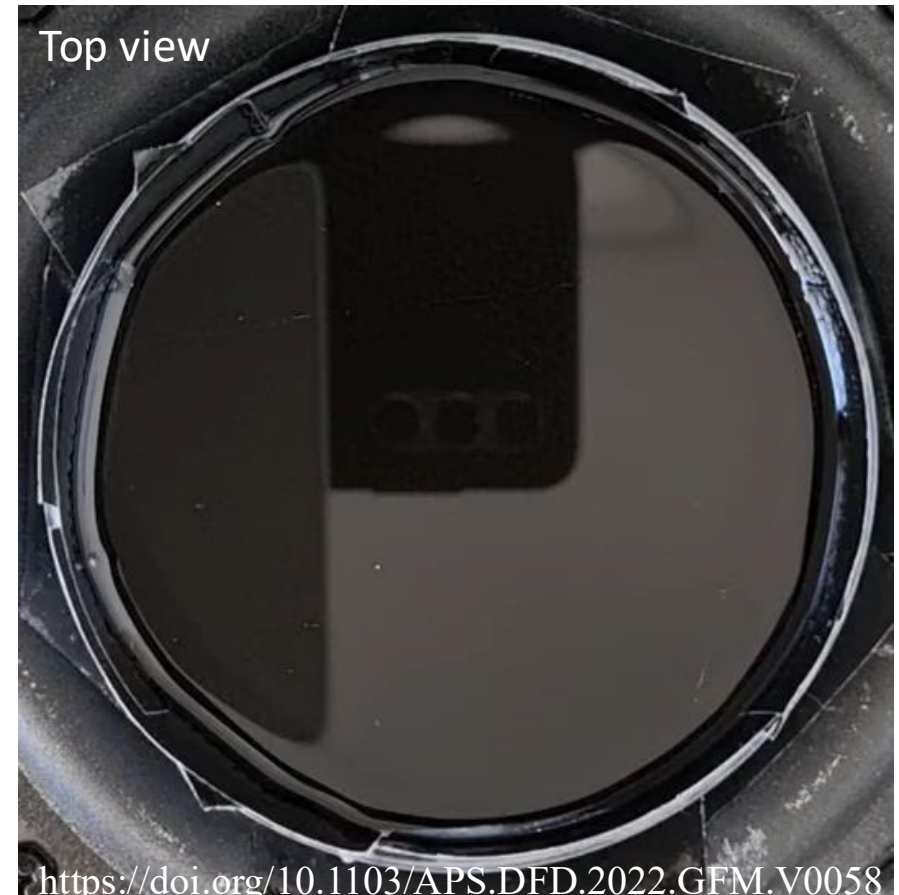
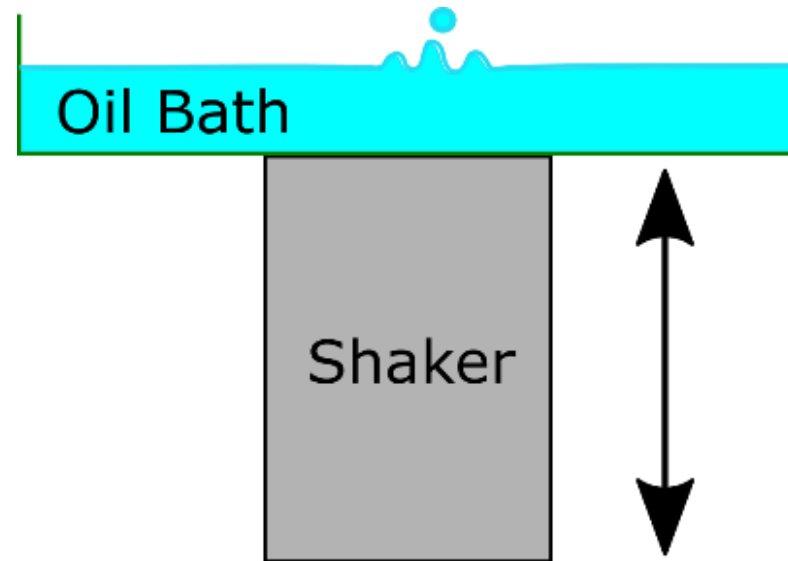
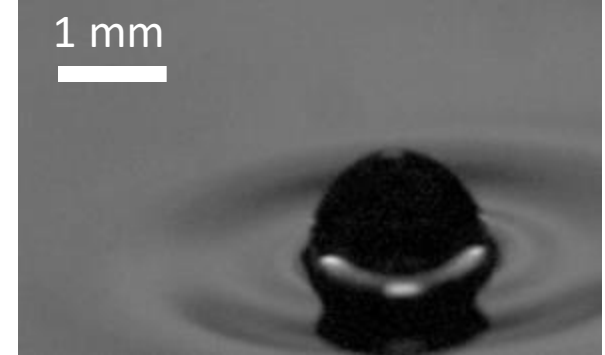
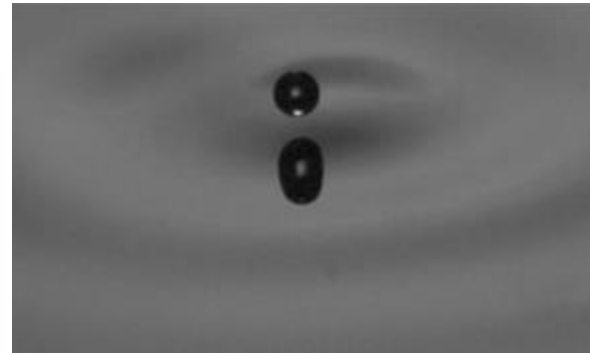


Faraday threshold

Increasing driving amplitude



# Walkers & Superwalkers – active wave-particle entities



Couder *et al.* (Nature 2005)

Valani *et al.* (PRL 2019)

<https://doi.org/10.1103/APS.DFD.2022.GFM.V0058>



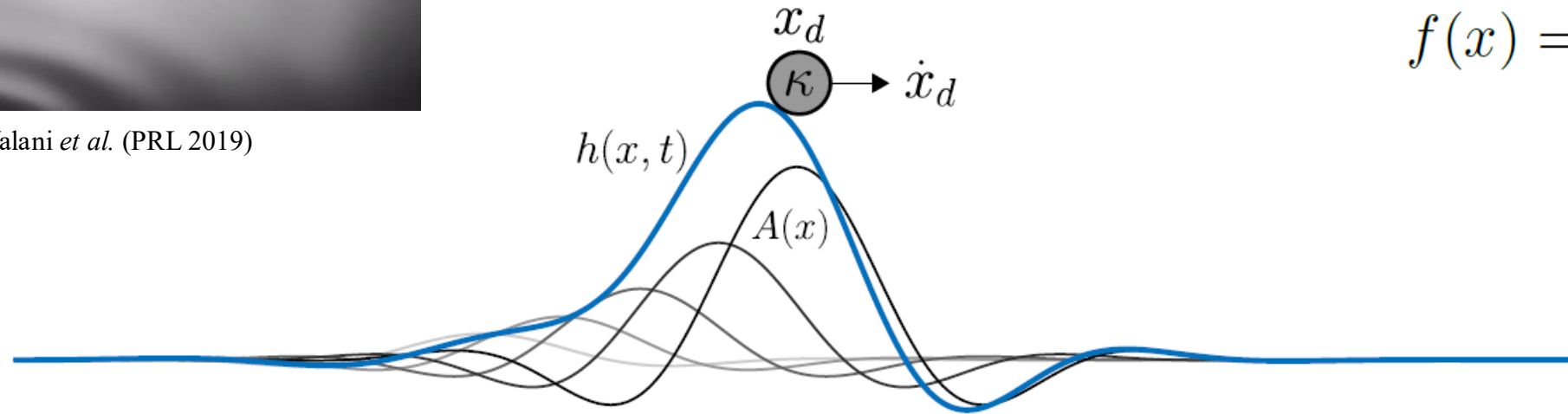
# Stroboscopic model for the active wave-particle entity



Valani *et al.* (PRL 2019)

$$\begin{array}{cc} -\dot{x}_d & -\beta \frac{\partial h}{\partial x} \Big|_{x=x_d} \\ \text{Drag force} & \text{Wave force} \\ \leftarrow & \rightarrow \end{array}$$

$$f(x) = -A'(x)$$



Inertia Drag

Wave-memory force

$$\boxed{\kappa \ddot{x}_d} + \boxed{\dot{x}_d} = \beta \int_{-\infty}^t f(x_d(t) - x_d(s)) e^{-(t-s)} ds$$

# Connection to Lorenz equations

$$\kappa \ddot{x}_d + \dot{x}_d = \beta \int_{-\infty}^t \sin(x_d(t) - x_d(s)) e^{-(t-s)} ds$$

$$\sigma = 1/\kappa$$

$$r = \beta$$

$$b = 1$$



Dissipative dynamical system

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{X} &= \sigma (Y - X) \\ \dot{Y} &= -Y + rX - XZ \\ \dot{Z} &= -bZ + XY\end{aligned}$$

particle velocity

$$X = \dot{x}_d$$

Wave-memory terms

$$Y = \beta \int_{-\infty}^t \sin(x_d(t) - x_d(s)) e^{-(t-s)} ds$$

$$Z = \beta \left( 1 - \int_{-\infty}^t \cos(x_d(t) - x_d(s)) e^{-(t-s)} ds \right)$$

# Dynamics with increasing memory

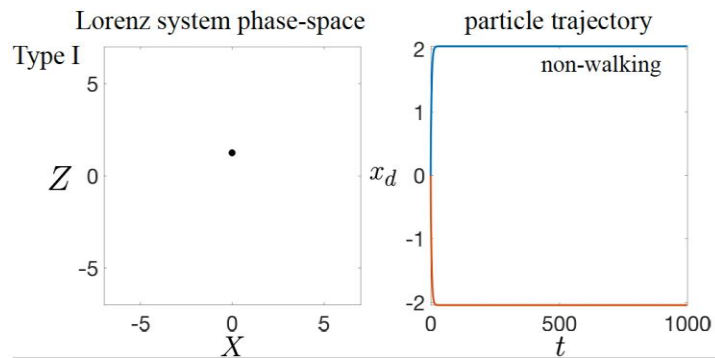
$$\dot{X} = Y - X$$

$$\dot{Y} = -\frac{Y}{\tau} + XZ$$

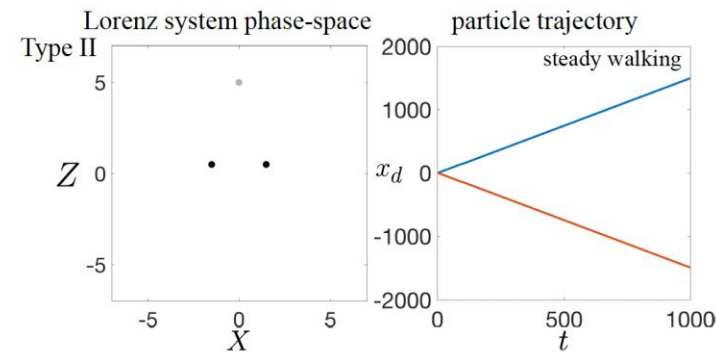
$$\dot{Z} = R - \frac{Z}{\tau} - XY$$

$R$  = dimensionless wave-amplitude

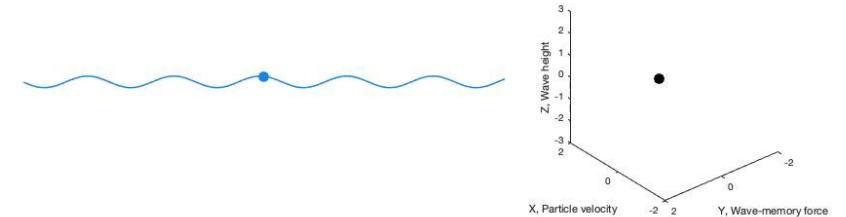
$\tau$  = dimensionless wave-decay rate



stationary state



steady walking state



increasing memory  $\tau$

# Dynamics with increasing memory

$$\dot{X} = Y - X$$

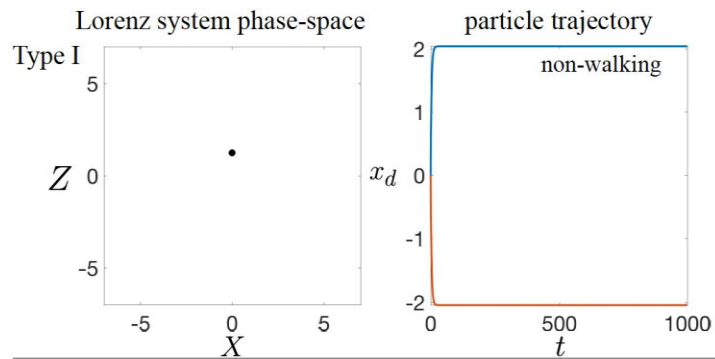
$$\dot{Y} = -\frac{Y}{\tau} + XZ$$

$$\dot{Z} = R - \frac{Z}{\tau} - XY$$

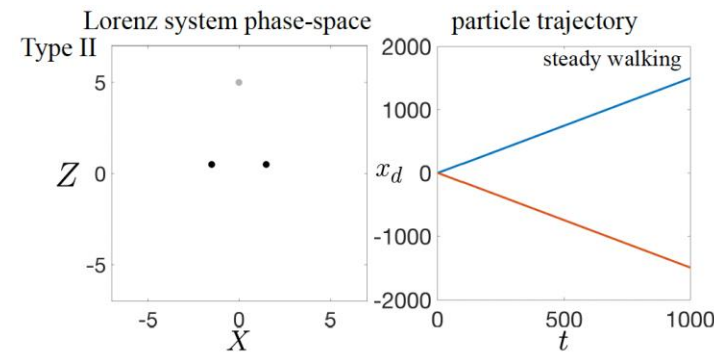
$R$  = dimensionless wave-amplitude

$\tau$  = dimensionless wave-decay rate

Jackson EA. Perspectives of Nonlinear Dynamics 2. (Cambridge University Press 1990)

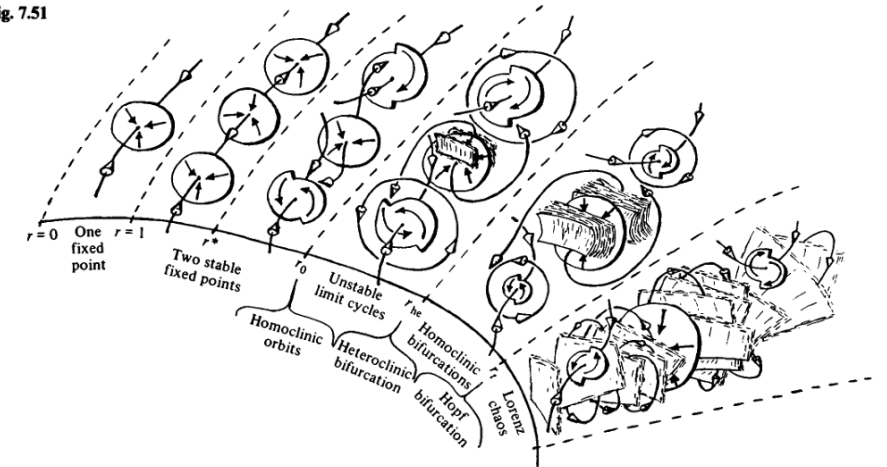


stationary state



steady walking state

Fig. 7.51



increasing memory  $\tau$

# Dynamics with increasing memory

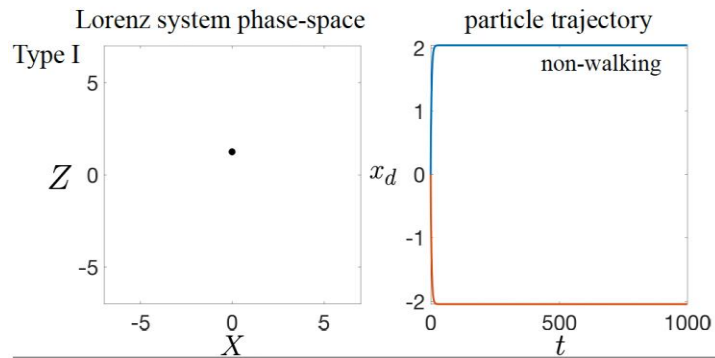
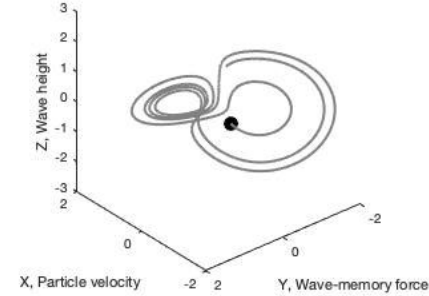
$$\dot{X} = Y - X$$

$$\dot{Y} = -\frac{Y}{\tau} + XZ$$

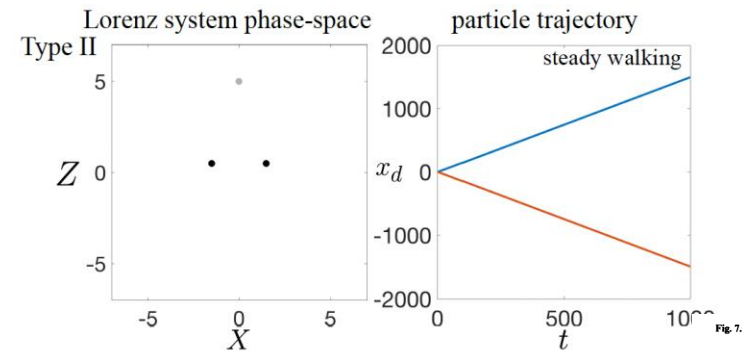
$$\dot{Z} = R - \frac{Z}{\tau} - XY$$

$R$  = dimensionless wave-amplitude

$\tau$  = dimensionless wave-decay rate

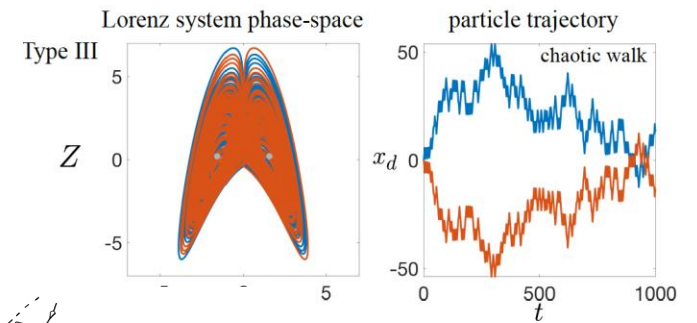
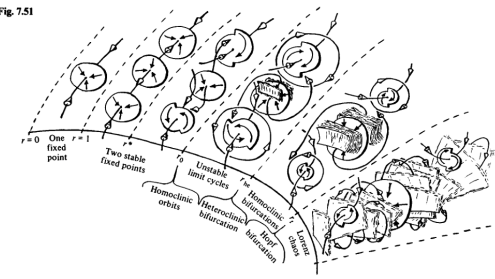


stationary state



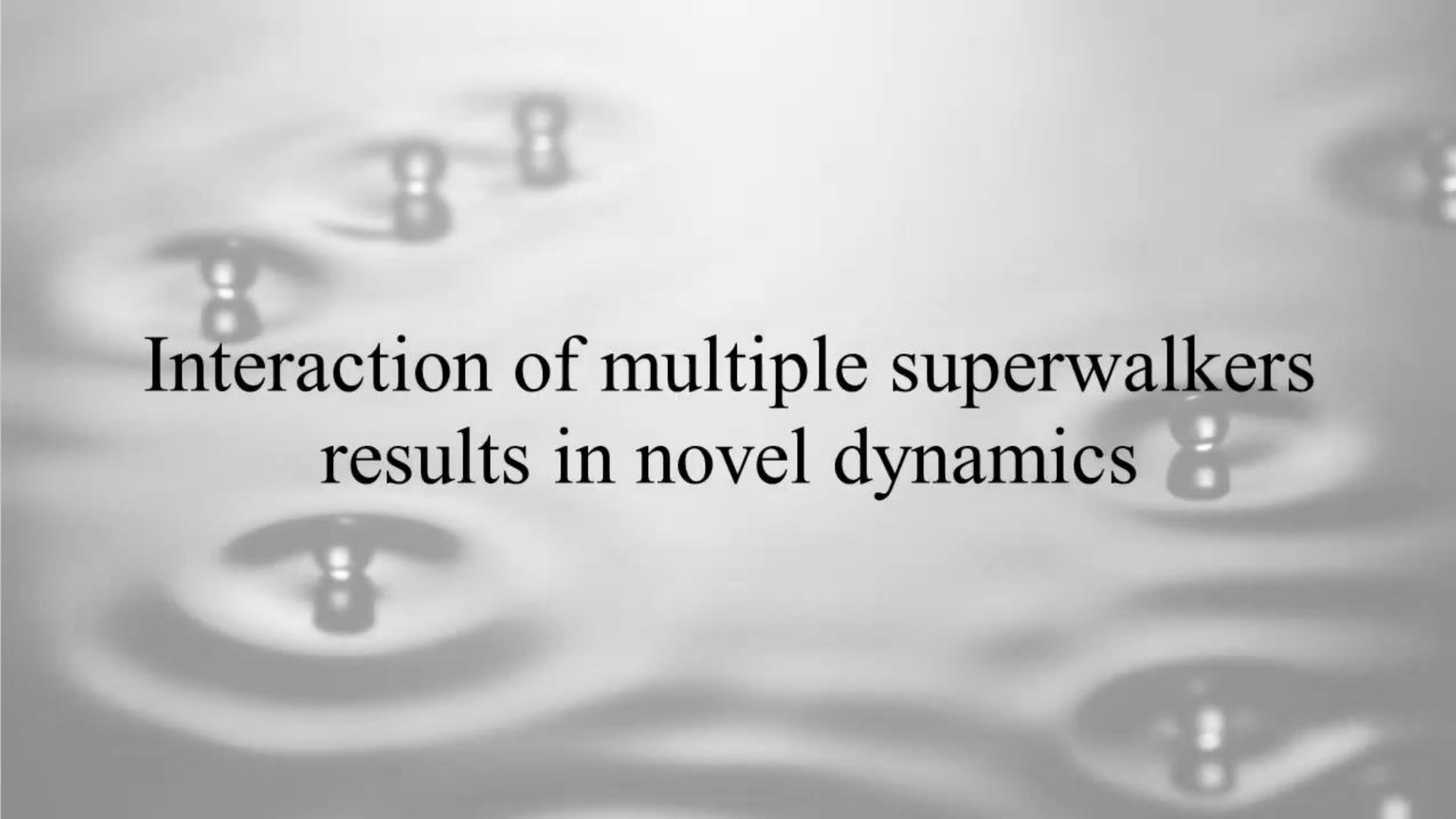
steady walking state

Fig. 7.51



chaotic walk

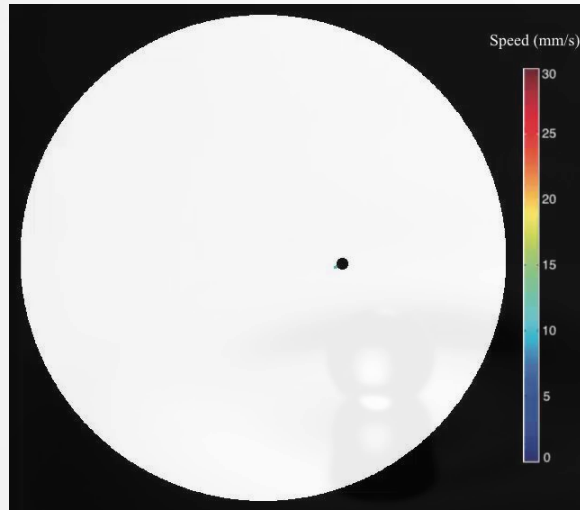
increasing memory  $\tau$

The background of the slide is a grayscale photograph of a water surface. It features several concentric ripples emanating from small, dark, cylindrical objects that appear to be floating or moving through the water. The lighting creates soft highlights on the peaks of the ripples, giving the image a textured, dynamic feel.

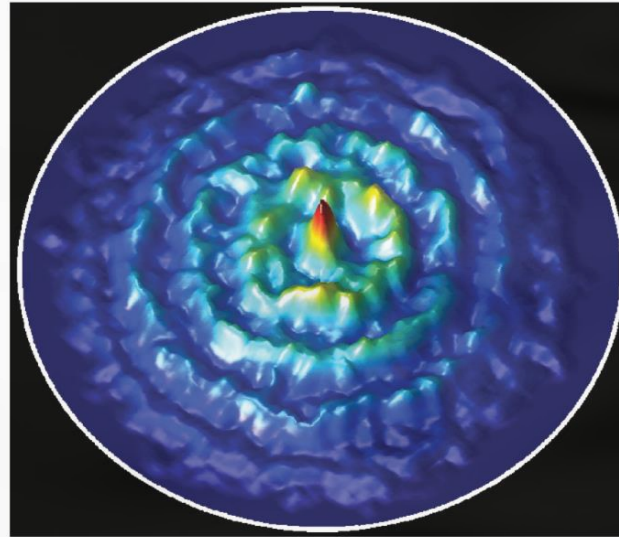
Interaction of multiple superwalkers  
results in novel dynamics

# Hydrodynamic Quantum Analogs

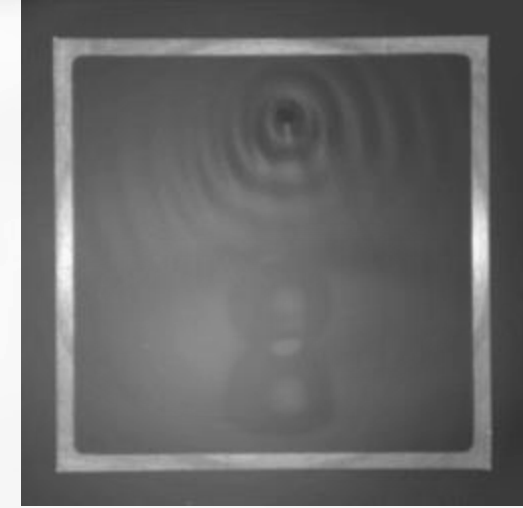
Wave-like statistics in confined geometries



Harris *et al.* (PRE 2013)

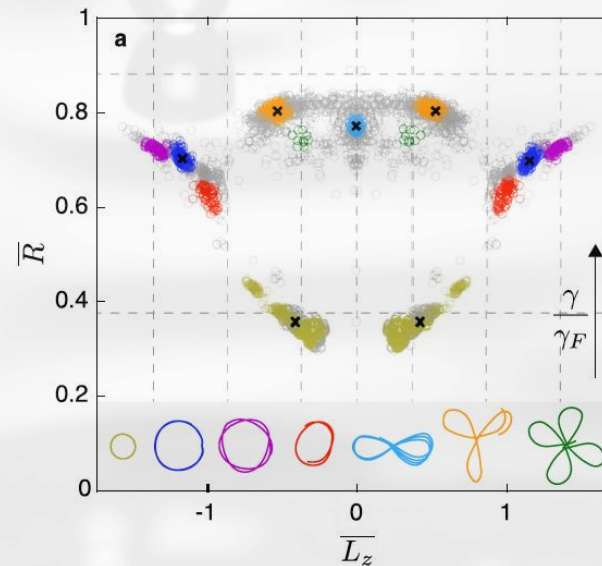


Tunnelling across submerged barriers



Eddie *et al.* (PRL 2009)

Diffraction & Interference



Quantisation in droplet's dynamics

Perrard *et al.* (Nature 2014),  
Cristea-Platon *et al.* (Chaos 2018)

Couder *et al.*  
(PRL 2006),  
Pucci *et al.*  
(JFM 2013)



# Summary

- Active particles are non-equilibrium entities that consume energy and convert it to directed motion
- Many interacting active particles result in the emergence of non-equilibrium phases e.g. flocking, active turbulence
- Simple models of active particles can result in nonlinear dynamical systems that exhibit rich complexity of regular and chaotic behaviours
- These dynamical behaviours can be rationalized in terms of conservative and dissipative dynamical systems



# Thank you!