

# Scaling, complex systems and all that...

*S. C. Chapman*

*Notes for MPAGS MM1 Time Series Analysis*

- **SCALING:** Some generic concepts: universality, Pi theorem, turbulence, and other systems that show scaling (Self Organized Criticality) and order- disorder transitions (flocking)
- **Fractal measures-‘BURST’ MEASURES-** waiting times, avalanche distributions
- **Nonlinear correlation-** Mutual information and information entropy



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# Scaling

*Some more ideas and examples*



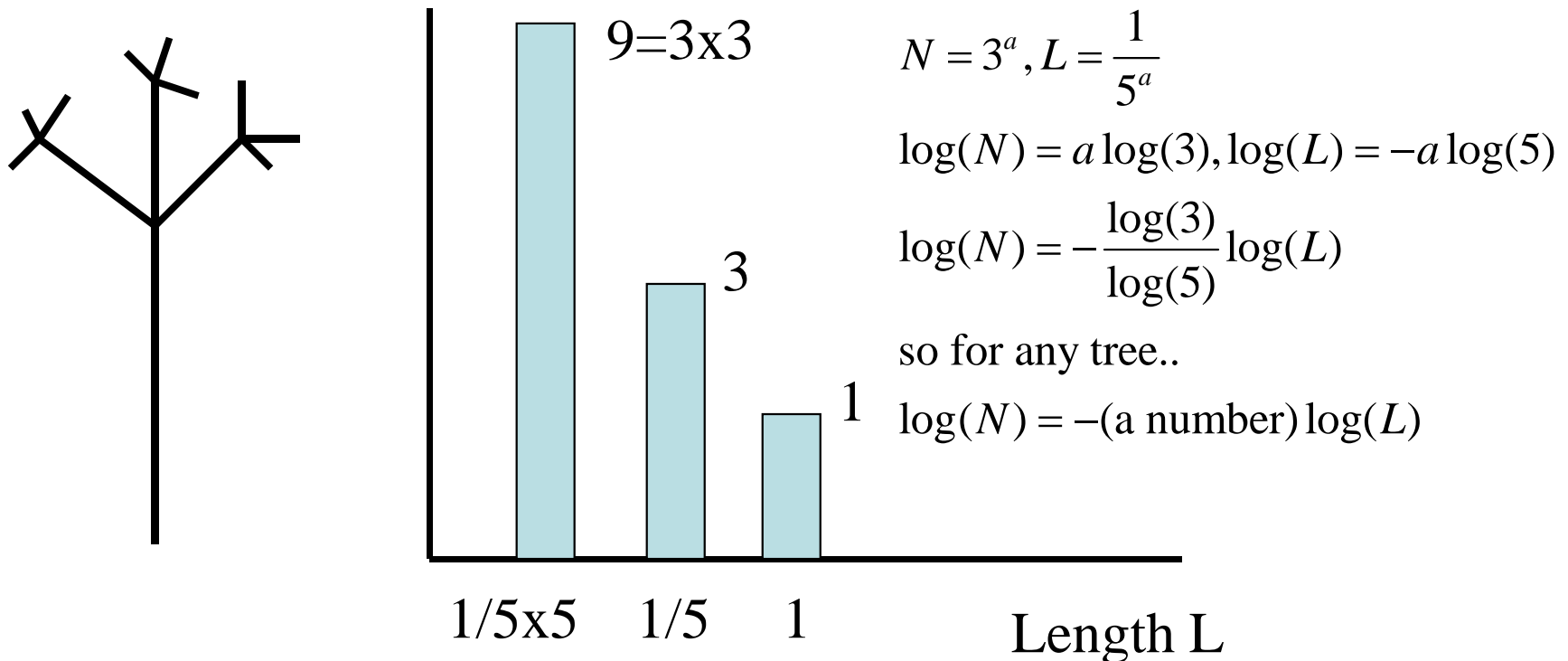
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# Scaling and universality-Branches on a self-similar tree

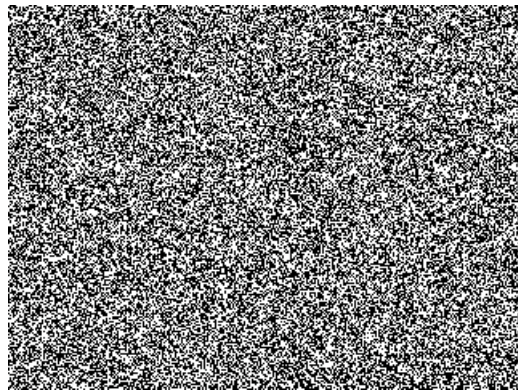
*Each branch grows 3 new branches, 1/5 as long as itself..*

Number N of branches of length L



# Segregation/coarsening- a selfsimilar dynamics

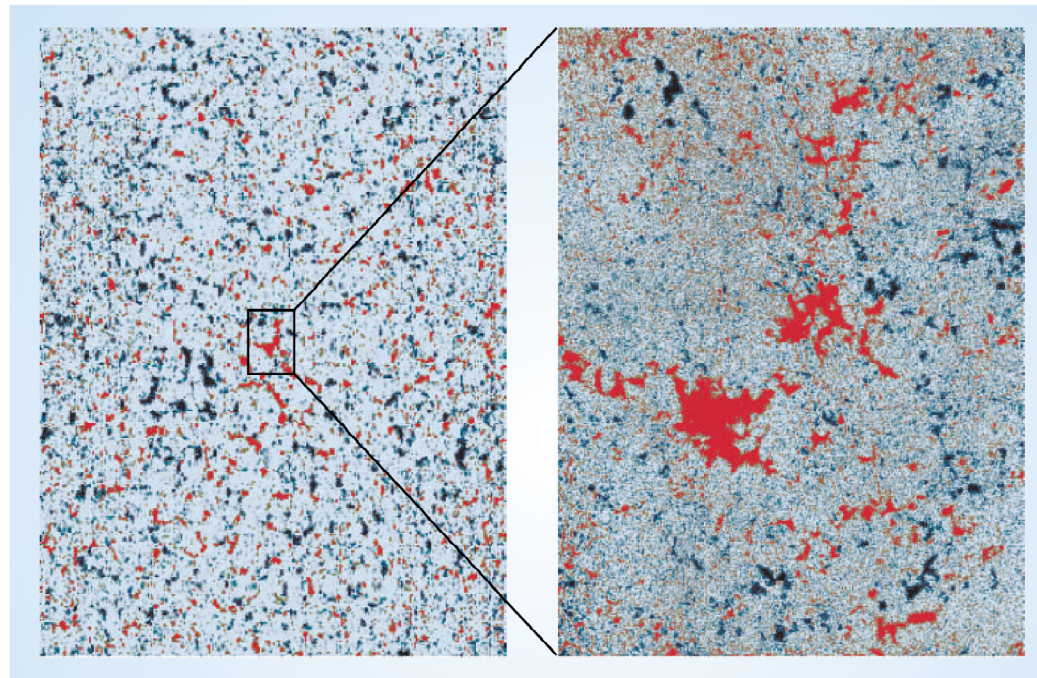
Rules: each square changes to be like the majority of its neighbours  
Coarsening, segregation, selfsimilarity



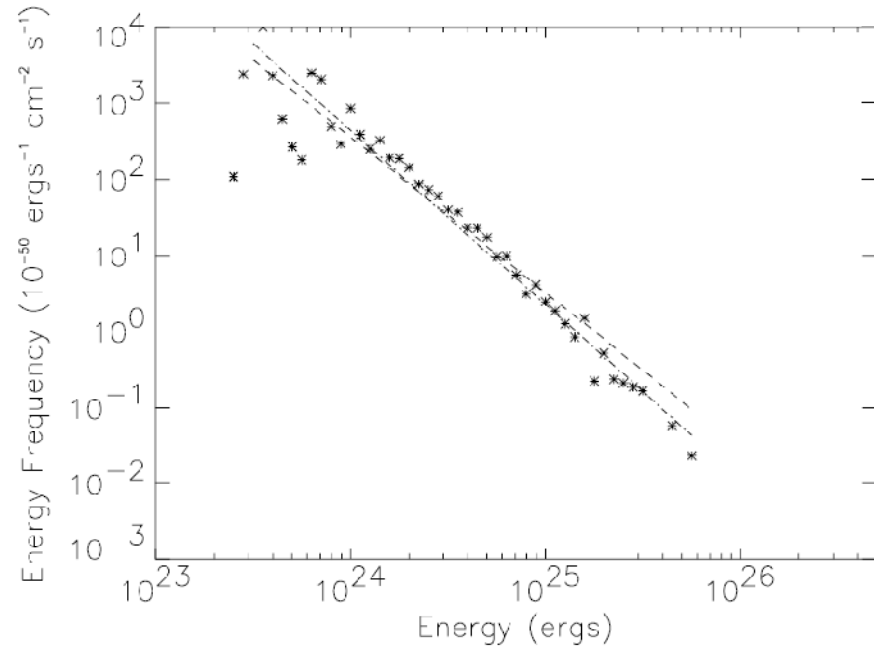
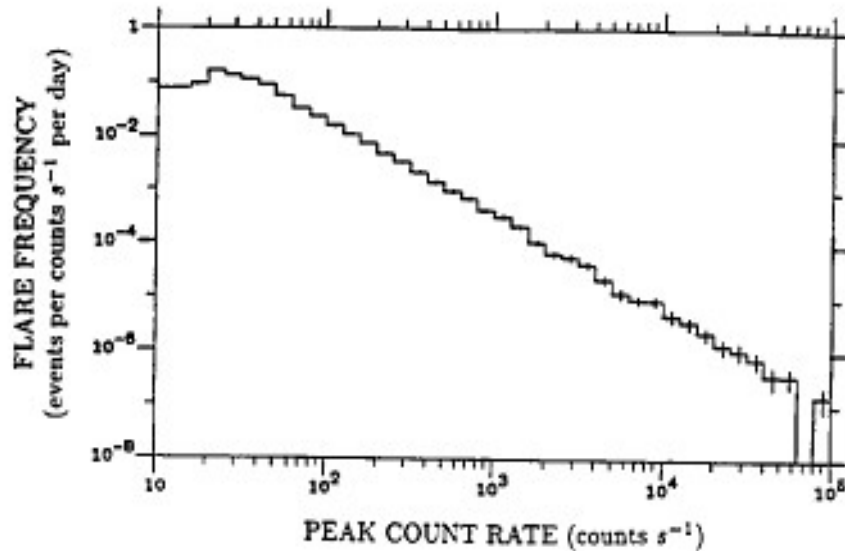
*Courtesy P. Sethna*

# 'Fractal -like' patches of magnetic polarity on the quiet sun

Patches of opposing polarity –  
Zeeman effect photosphere, quiet sun,  
(Stenflo, *Nature* 2004, See eg Janssen et al *A&A* 2003,  
Bueno et al *Nature* 2004+..) - **spatial**



# Power law statistics of flares



Peak flare count rate *Lu&Hamilton ApJ 1991*

TRACE nanoflare events *Parnell&Judd ApJ 2000*

***-temporal***

# Scaling and similarity

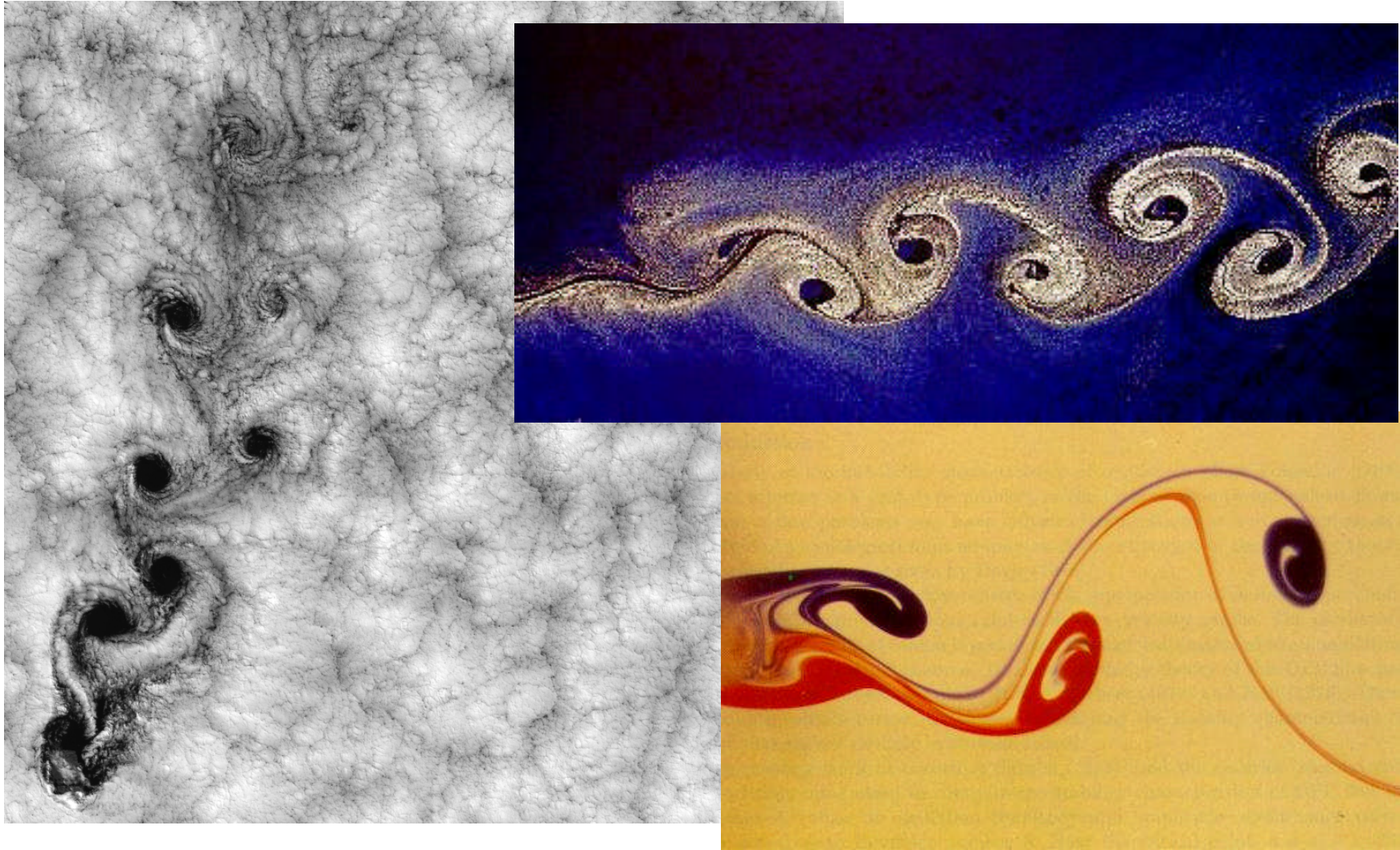
*Buckingham PI theorem  
(‘dimensional analysis’) of  
systems that show scaling*



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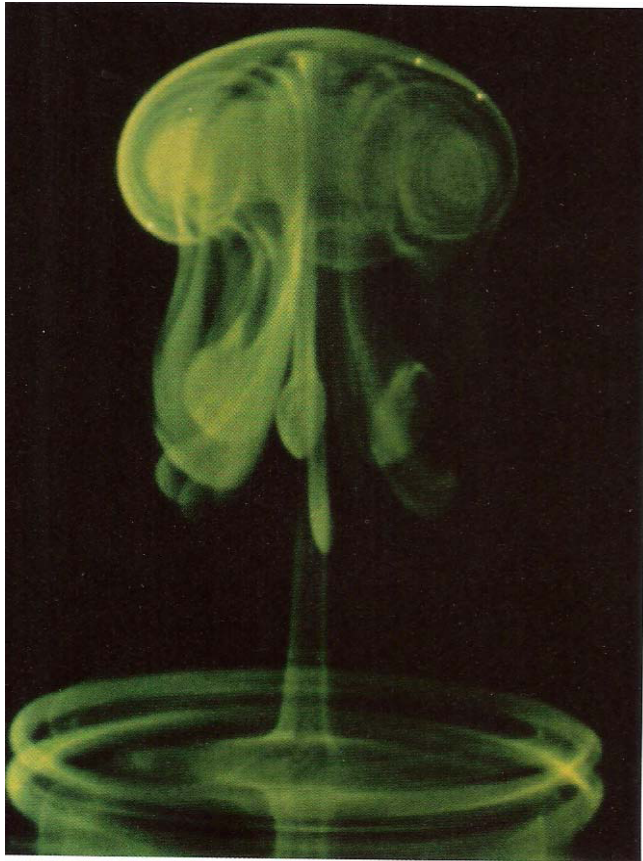
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# Similarity in action...





# Similarity in action...



*Peck and Sigurdson, A Gallery of Fluid Motion, CUP(2003)*

# Universality- 1 d.o.f.

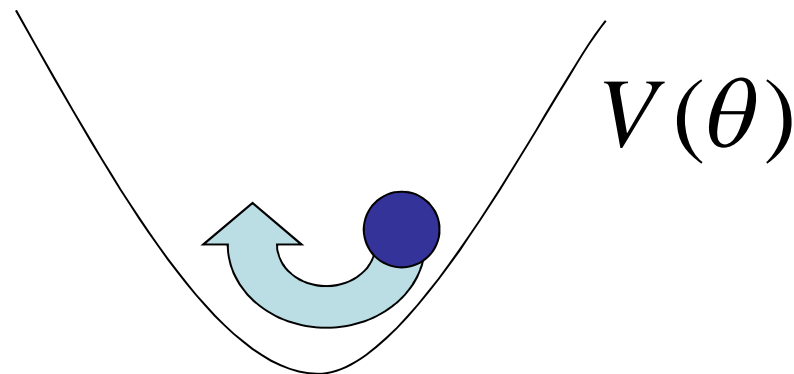
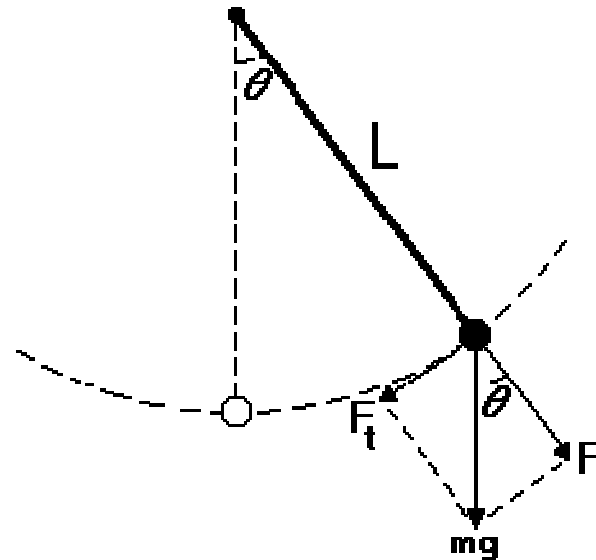
Pendulum

$$F = mg, F_t = mg \sin \theta, a_t = l \frac{d^2 \theta}{dt^2}$$

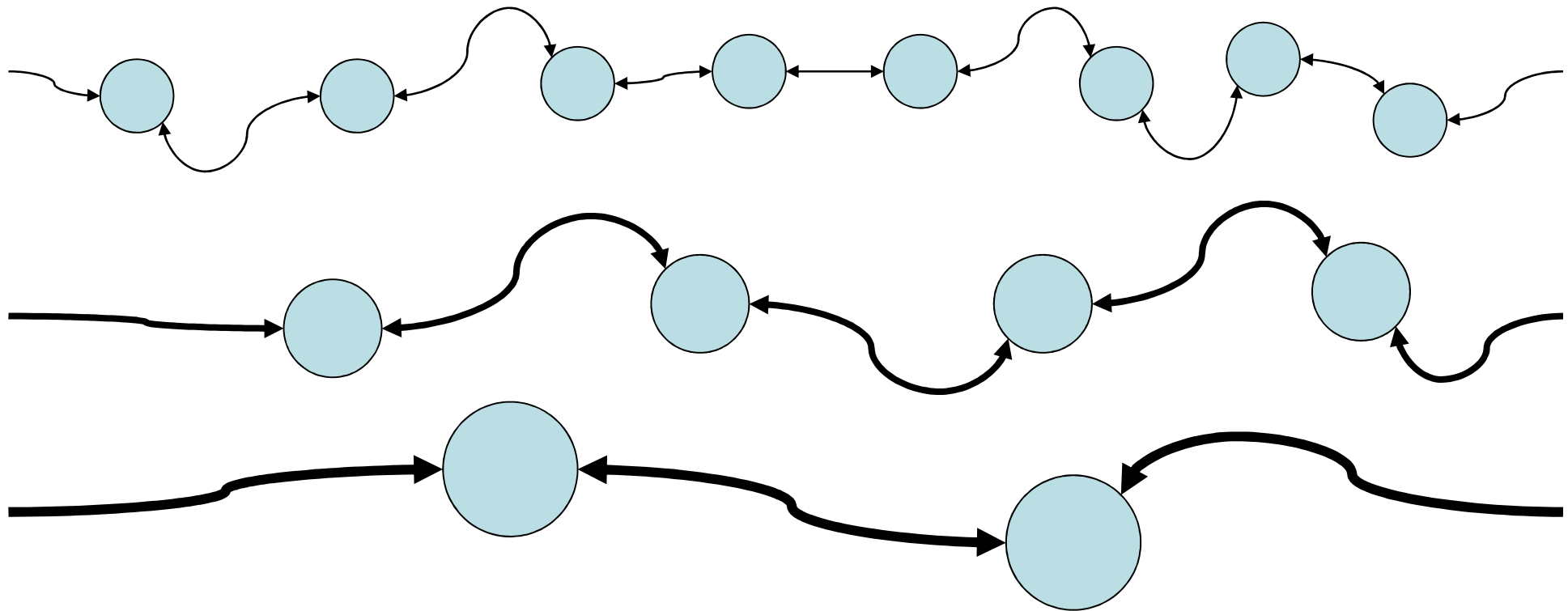
$$F_t = ma_t; \frac{d^2 \theta}{dt^2} = -\frac{g}{l} \sin \theta = -\omega^2 \frac{\partial V}{\partial \theta}$$

$$V(\theta) = 1 - \cos(\theta) \sim \frac{\theta^2}{2} + \dots$$

same behaviour at  
*any* local minimum in  $V(\theta)$   
(insensitive to details)



# Universality- many d.o.f.



Keep coarsegraining-  
rescaled system 'looks the same' (selfsimilar), insensitive to details

# Similarity and universality

- Different systems, same physical model
- The same function (suitably normalized) can describe them
- This function is universal (the details do not matter)
- The values of the normalizing parameters are not universal
- How can we find the physical model (solution)?
- Particularly useful in nonlinear systems which are ‘hard’ to solve – i.e. turbulence!
- ‘Classical’ inertial range turbulence- self similarity, intermittency...
- Leads to *order/control parameters*

## Buckingham $\pi$ theorem

System described by  $F(Q_1 \dots Q_p)$  where  $Q_{1..p}$  are the relevant macroscopic variables

$F$  must be a function of dimensionless groups  $\pi_{1..M}(Q_{1..p})$

if there are  $R$  physical dimensions (mass, length, time etc.)

there are  $M = P - R$  distinct dimensionless groups.

Then  $F(\pi_{1..M}) = C$  is the general solution for this universality class.

To proceed further we need to make some intelligent guesses for  $F(\pi_{1..M})$

See e.g. *Barenblatt, Scaling, self - similarity and intermediate asymptotics, CUP, [1996]*

also *Longair, Theoretical concepts in physics, Chap 8, CUP [2003]*



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## Example: simple (nonlinear) pendulum

System described by  $F(Q_1 \dots Q_p)$  where  $Q_k$  is a macroscopic variable

$F$  must be a function of dimensionless groups  $\pi_{1..M}(Q_{1..p})$

if there are  $R$  physical dimensions (mass, length, time etc.) there are  $M = P - R$  dimensionless groups

Step 1: write down the relevant macroscopic variables:

variable	dimension	description
$\theta_0$	–	angle of release
$m$	$[M]$	mass of bob
$\tau$	$[T]$	period of pendulum
$g$	$[L][T]^{-2}$	gravitational acceleration
$l$	$[L]$	length of pendulum

Step 2: form dimensionless groups:  $P = 5, R = 3$  so  $M = 2$

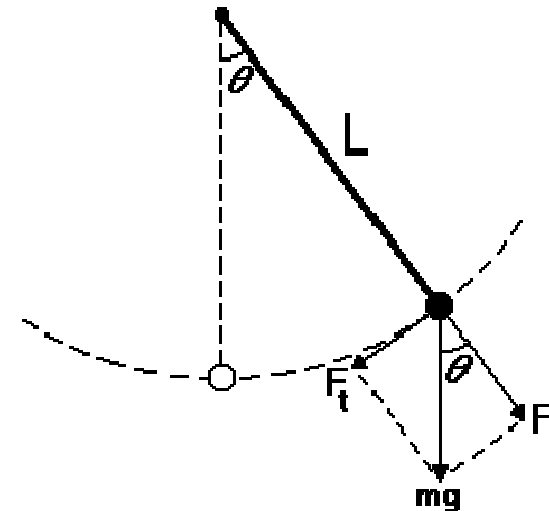
$$\pi_1 = \theta_0, \pi_2 = \frac{\tau^2 l}{g} \text{ and no dimensionless group can contain } m$$

$$\text{then solution is } F(\theta_0, \tau^2 l / g) = C$$

Step 3: make some simplifying assumption:  $f(\pi_1) = \pi_2$  then the period:  $\tau = f(\theta_0) \sqrt{l/g}$

NB  $f(\theta_0)$  is universal ie same for all pendula-

we can find it knowing some other property eg conservation of energy..



## Example: fluid turbulence, the Kolmogorov '5/3 power spectrum'

System described by  $F(Q_1 \dots Q_p)$  where  $Q_k$  is a macroscopic variable

$F$  must be a function of dimensionless groups  $\pi_{1..M}(Q_{1..p})$

if there are  $R$  physical dimensions (mass, length, time etc.) there are  $M = P - R$  dimensionless groups

Step 1: write down the relevant variables (incompressible so energy/mass):

variable	dimension	description
$E(k)$	$[L]^3 [T]^{-2}$	energy/unit wave no.
$\varepsilon_0$	$[L]^2 [T]^{-3}$	rate of energy input
$k$	$[L]^{-1}$	wavenumber

Step 2: form dimensionless groups:  $P = 3, R = 2$ , so  $M = 1$

$$\pi_1 = \frac{E^3(k)k^5}{\varepsilon_0^2}$$

Step 3: make some simplifying assumption:

$F(\pi_1) = \pi_1 = C$  where  $C$  is a non universal constant, then:  $E(k) \sim \varepsilon_0^{2/3} k^{-5/3}$

## Buchingham $\pi$ theorem (similarity analysis)

### universal scaling, anomalous scaling

System described by  $F(Q_1 \dots Q_p)$  where  $Q_k$  is a **relevant** macroscopic variable

$F$  must be a function of dimensionless groups  $\pi_{1..M}(Q_{1..p})$

if there are  $R$  physical dimensions (mass, length, time etc.) there are  $M = P - R$  dimensionless groups

### Turbulence:

variable	dimension	description
$E(k)$	$[L]^3 [T]^{-2}$	energy/unit wave no.
$\varepsilon_0$	$[L]^2 [T]^{-3}$	rate of energy input
$k$	$[L]^{-1}$	wavenumber

$$M = 1, \pi_1 = \frac{E^3(k)k^5}{\varepsilon_0^2}, E(k) \sim \varepsilon_0^{2/3} k^{-5/3}$$

### introduce another characteristic speed....

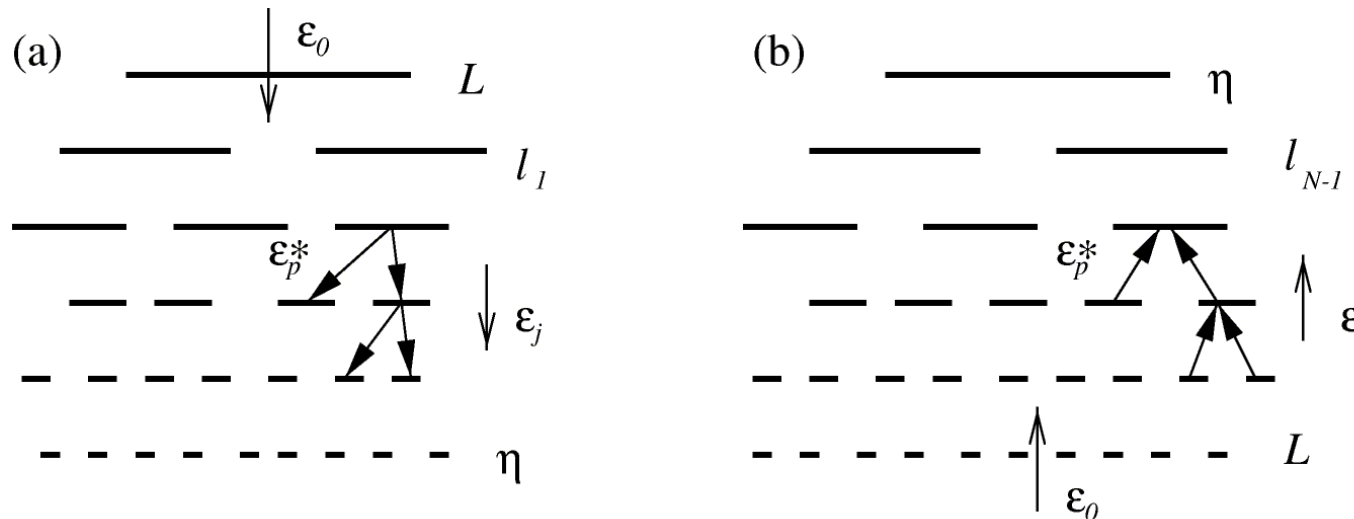
variable	dimension	description
$E(k)$	$[L]^3 [T]^{-2}$	energy/unit wave no.
$\varepsilon_0$	$[L]^2 [T]^{-3}$	rate of energy input
$k$	$[L]^{-1}$	wavenumber
$v$	$[L][T]^{-1}$	characteristic speed

$$M = 2, \pi_1 = \frac{E^3(k)k^5}{\varepsilon_0^2}, \pi_2 = \frac{v^2}{Ek} \text{ let } \pi_1 \sim \pi_2^\alpha, E(k) \sim k^{-(5+\alpha)/(3+\alpha)}$$





# Turbulence and 'degrees of freedom'



- System is driven on one lengthscale ( $L$ ) and dissipates on another ( $\eta$ ) –forward cascade
- Inverse cascade- same thing, just the other way around
- System has many degrees of freedom i.e. structures on many lengthscales (eddies here)
- System is scaling- structures, processes can be rescaled to 'look the same on all scales'
- These structures transmit some dynamical quantity from one lengthscale to another that is, over all the d.o.f.
- There is conservation of flux of the dynamical quantity- here energy transfer rate
- Steady state (not equilibrium) means energy injection rate balances energy dissipation rate on the average

## Homogeneous Isotropic Turbulence and Reynolds Number

Step 1: write down the relevant variables:

variable	dimension	description
$L_0$	$[L]$	driving scale
$\eta$	$[L]$	dissipation scale
$U$	$[L][T]^{-1}$	bulk (driving ) flow speed
$\nu$	$[L]^2[T]^{-1}$	viscosity

Step 2: form dimensionless groups:  $P = 4, R = 2$ , so  $M = 2$

$$\pi_1 = \frac{UL_0}{\nu} = R_E, \pi_2 = \frac{L_0}{\eta} \text{ and importantly } \frac{L_0}{\eta} = f(N), \text{ where } N \text{ is no. of d.o.f}$$

Step 3: d.o.f from scaling ie  $f(N) \sim N^\alpha$  here  $\frac{L_0}{\eta} \sim N^3$ , or  $N^{3\beta}$  or  $\frac{L_0}{\eta} \sim \lambda^{N/3}$  or ...

Step 4: assume steady state and conservation of the dynamical quantity, here energy...

$$\text{transfer rate } \varepsilon_r \sim \frac{u_r^3}{r}, \text{ injection rate } \varepsilon_{inj} \sim \frac{U^3}{L_0}, \text{ dissipation rate } \varepsilon_{diss} \sim \frac{\nu^3}{\eta^4} - \text{ gives } \varepsilon_{inj} \sim \varepsilon_r \sim \varepsilon_{diss}$$

$$\text{this relates } \pi_1 \text{ to } \pi_2 \text{ giving: } R_E = \frac{UL_0}{\nu} \sim \left( \frac{L_0}{\eta} \right)^{4/3} \sim N^\alpha, \alpha > 0 \text{ thus } N \text{ grows with } R_E$$

# Statistics of 'bursts'

*Avalanche distributions, waiting  
times*



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# Avalanching systems and scaling behaviour

Avalanche models: add grains slowly, redistribute only if local gradients exceeds a critical value

**Suggested as a model for bursty transport and energy release in plasmas- solar corona, magnetotail, edge turbulence in tokamaks (L-H), accretion disks**

## Avalanching systems

- Threshold for avalanching
- Avalanches are much faster than feeding rate
- Avalanches on all sizes, no characteristic size
- Feeding rate=outflow rate on average only
- System moves through many metastable states- rather than toward an equilibrium



# Measures of ‘burstiness’

Statistics of:

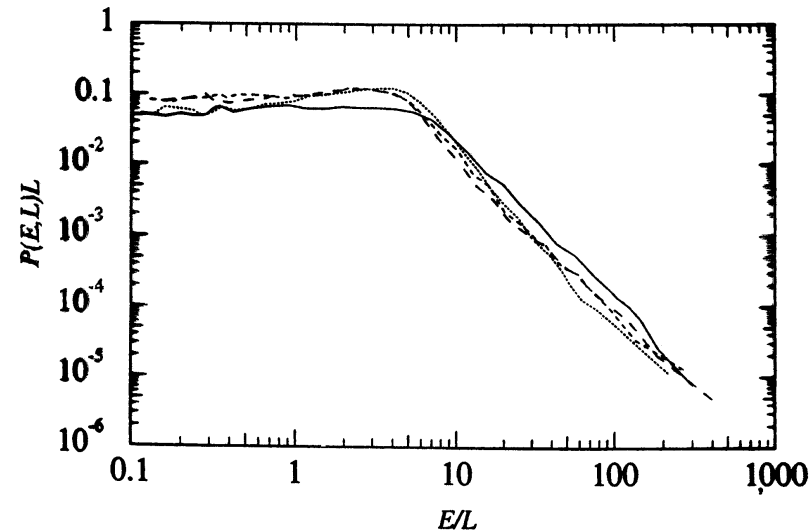
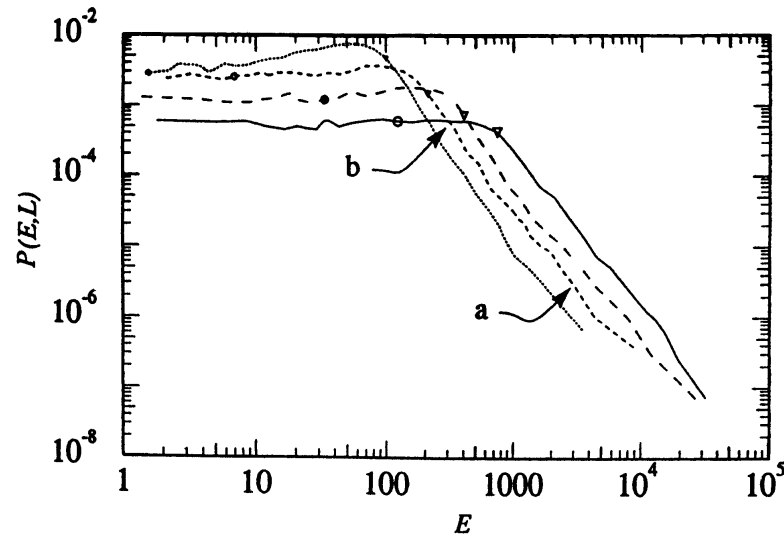
- Waiting time between events
- Energy dissipated
- Peak size
- Duration

Questions:

- Scaling? PDF, CDF, rank order plots etc
- Finite size scaling?



# Statistics of avalanches (rice)



Shown: Statistics of energy dissipated per avalanche

➤ Power law- no characteristic event size: scaling

➤ 'finite size scaling'-

Normalize to the size of the box

*Frette et al, Nature (1996)*

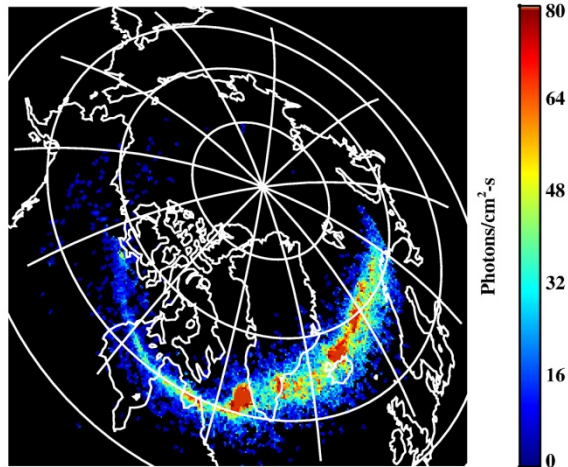
➤ Dynamical quantity- rice

➤ Flux is conserved

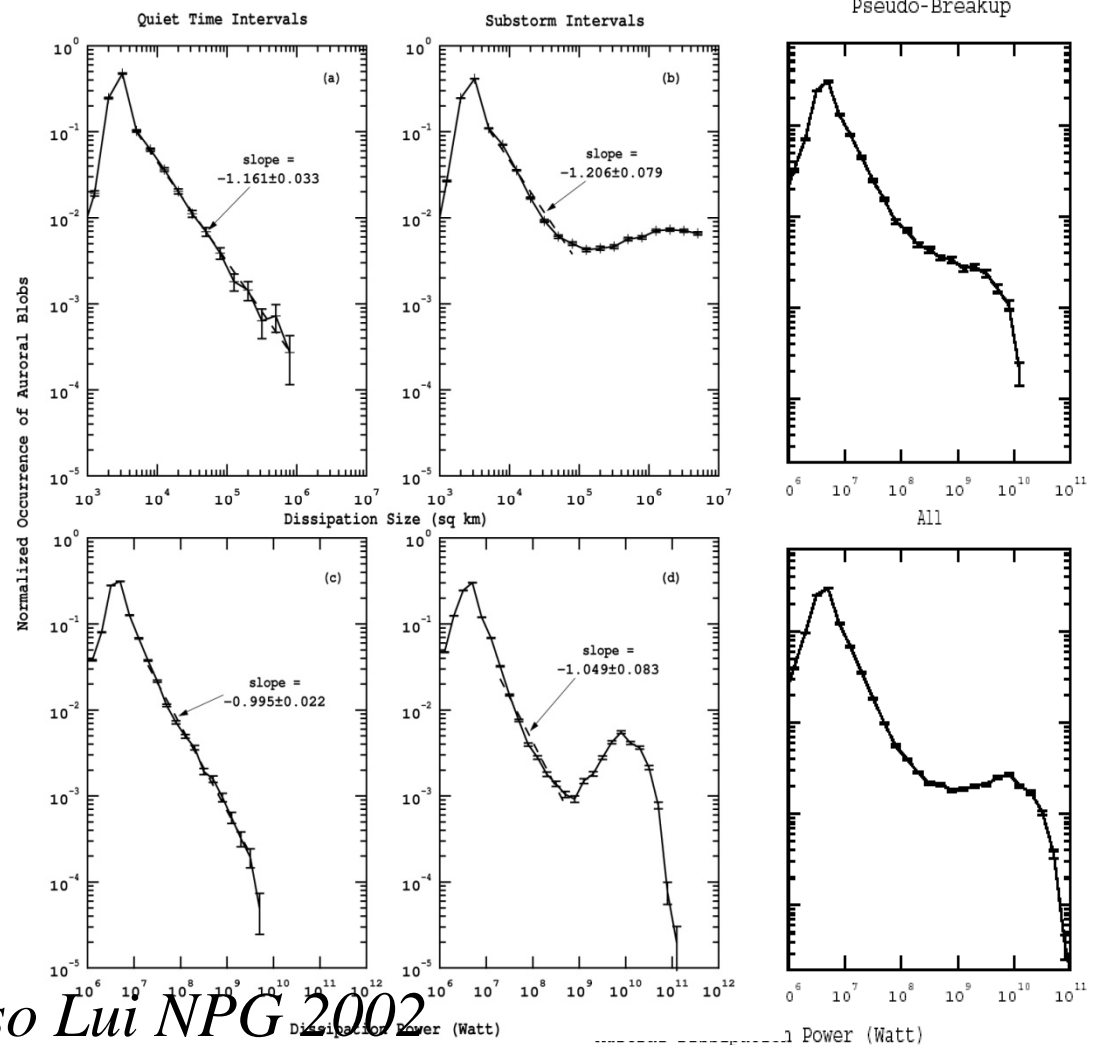
➤ d.o.f. are the possible avalanche (sizes/topplings)

# Counting auroral snapshot 'blobs'

- 1 month of POLAR UVI data=200,000 'blobs'
- Quiet and active times
- Robust power law(?)
- +substorms



Auroral Blob Analysis from Polar UVI (Jan 1-31, 1997)



*Lui et al GRL, 2000, see also Lui NPG 2002*

# Blob statistics- Edwards Wilkinson- dynamics

A *linear* model

Shown:  $100^2$  grid  $D=0.3$

Solves:

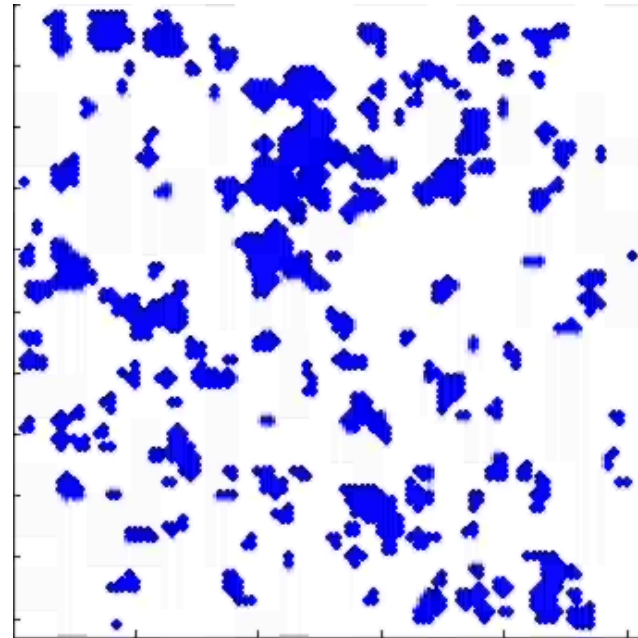
$$\frac{\partial \bar{h}}{\partial t} = D \nabla^2 \bar{h} + \eta$$

where  $\eta$  is iid 'white'

random source of grains

'height'  $\bar{h} = h - \langle h \rangle$

blue patches are  $\bar{h} > h_0$



*Chapman et al PPCF 2004*

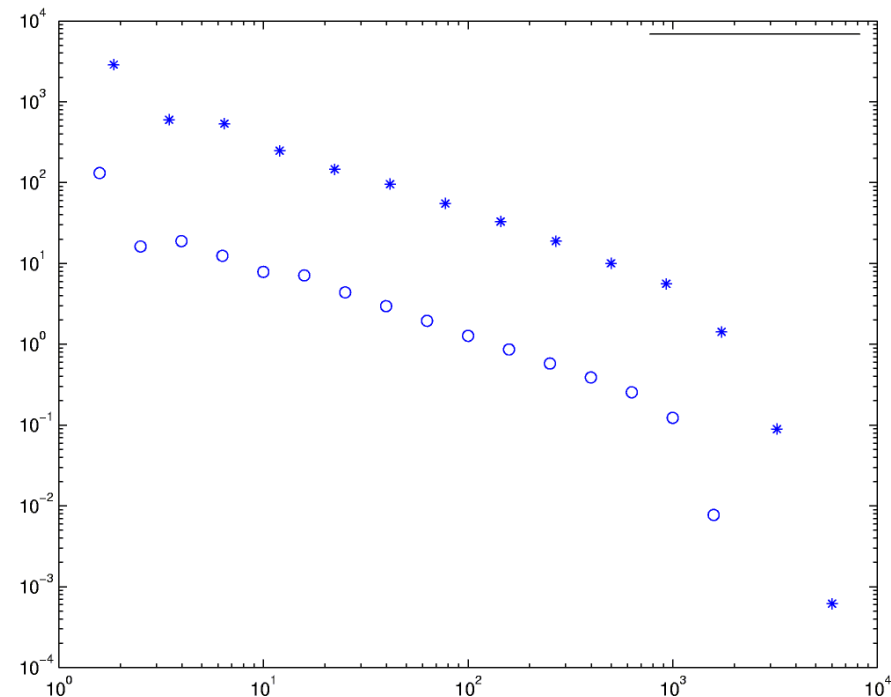


# Edwards Wilkinson- statistics

Statistics of instantaneous patch size are power law

Linear model- driver (random rain of particles) has inherent fractal scaling (Brownian surface) +selfsimilar diffusion which preserves scaling

- No robustness- scaling exponent *depends* on drive.
- No transport of patches



*Chapman et al PPCF 2004*

# Power laws and blobs?

- Linear systems e.g. EW model give ‘blobs’ with power law statistics
- Missing element is ‘bursty’ (intermittent) *transport* via avalanches. Requires threshold (nonlinear diffusion)- breaks symmetry
- It matters what the exponent is

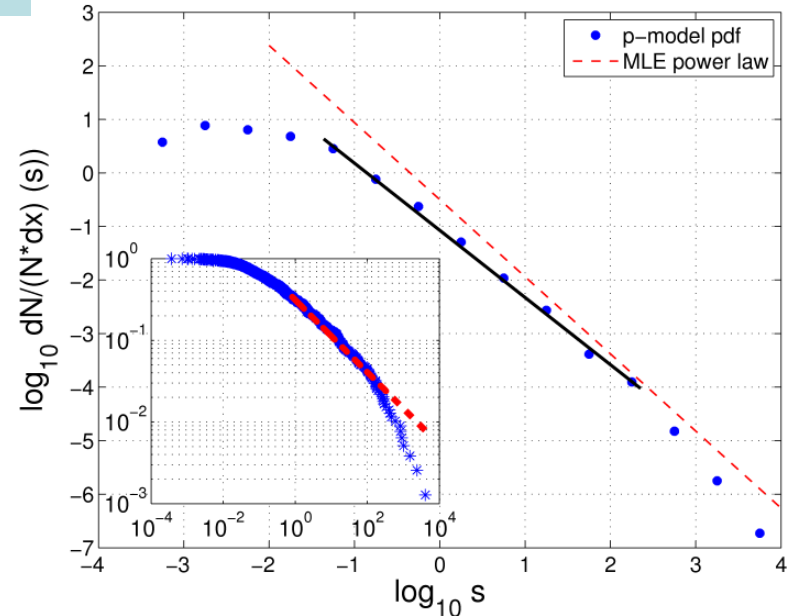
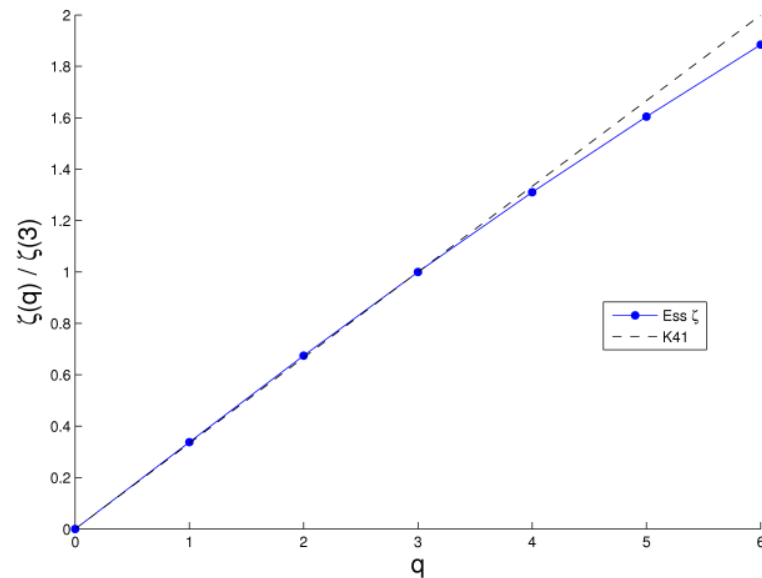
$$\frac{\partial \bar{h}}{\partial t} = D(\bar{h}) \nabla^2 \bar{h} + \eta$$

$$D(\bar{h}) \propto H(\nabla \bar{h} - \bar{h}_0) \text{ - avalanche models}$$

$$D(\bar{h}) \propto (\nabla \bar{h})^2 \text{ KPZ - transforms to Burgers eqn.}$$

# p-model for intermittent turbulence- shows finite range power law avalanches

p-model timeseries shows multifractal behaviour in structure functions as expected



Thresholding the timeseries to form an avalanche distribution- finite range power law  
*Watkins, SCC et al, PRL, 2009, SCC et al, POP 2009*

# Recurrence, Information Entropy and Correlation

*Recurrence and Mutual  
Information- principles and  
practice*



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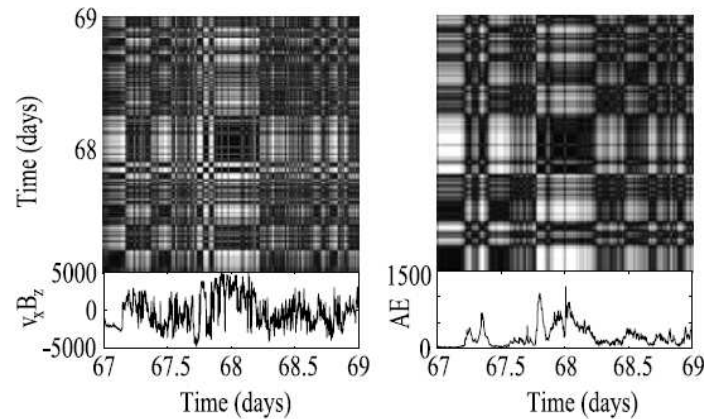
# Recurrence measures

$R$  is a recurrence matrix

$\{\mathbf{x}_i\}_{i=1}^N$ , with  $\mathbf{x}_i \in \mathcal{R}^n$  of a dynamical system and are based on the matrix

$$R_{i,j}^{(\varepsilon)} = \Theta(\varepsilon - \|\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{x}_j\|), \quad i, j = 1, \dots, N, \quad (1)$$

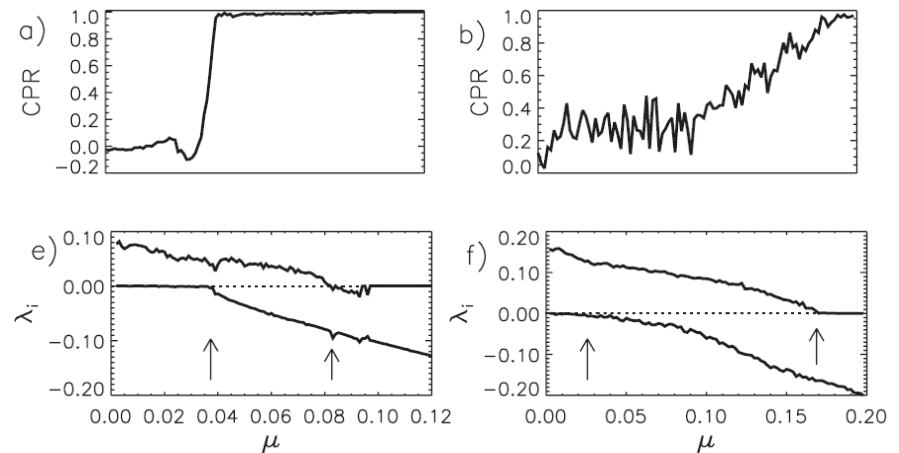
where  $\varepsilon$  is a predefined threshold and  $\Theta(\cdot)$  is the Heaviside function. Then the value “1” is coded as a black dot and the value “0” as a white dot in the plot. Hence, one obtains an  $N \times N$  matrix which provides a visual impression of the system behavior.



Solar wind driving of space weather- March, SCC et al, (2005)

2 coupled nonlinear oscillators (left) plus noise (right)

After Romano et al Eur Lett (2005)



$$\hat{P}^{(\varepsilon)}(\tau) = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{N-\tau} \Theta(\varepsilon - \|\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{x}_{i+\tau}\|)}{N - \tau} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{N-\tau} R_{i,i+\tau}^{(\varepsilon)}}{N - \tau}$$

Normalize..

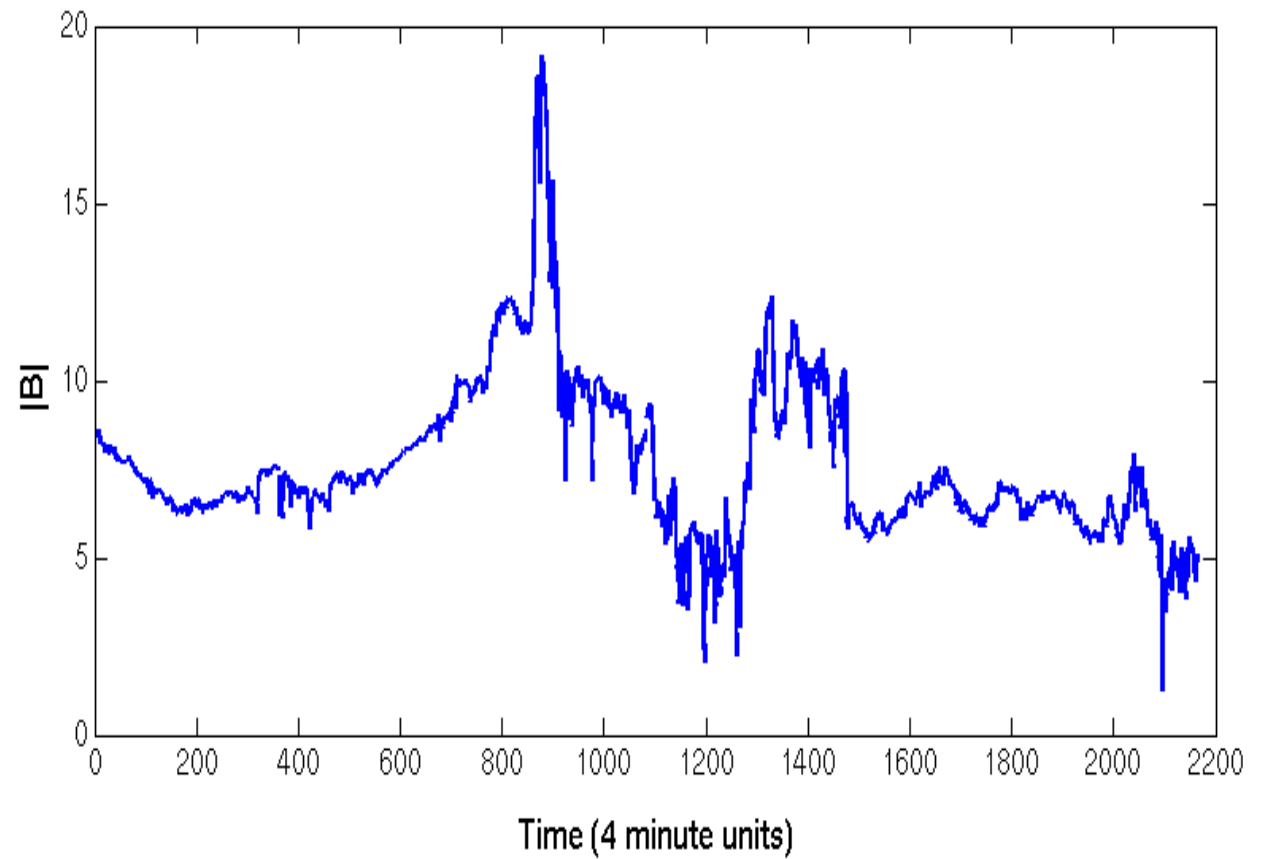
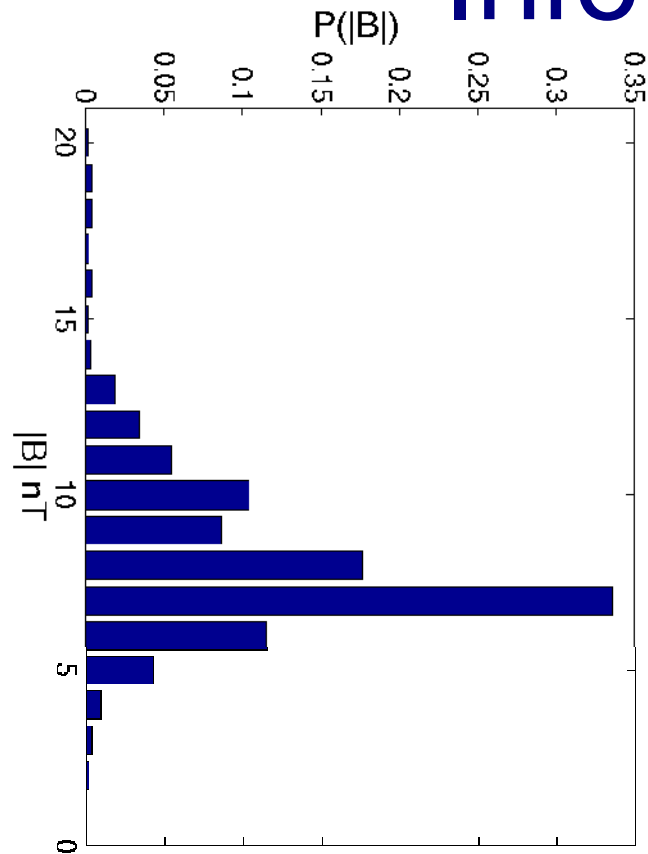
$$CPR = \langle \bar{P}_1(\tau) \bar{P}_2(\tau) \rangle / (\sigma_1 \sigma_2),$$

# Information and Mutual Information

- A given signal can be thought of as a sequence of symbols that form an alphabet.
- Signal has alphabet  $X = \{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_i\}$
- Each symbol in the alphabet has a probability of occurrence

$$P(x_i) = \frac{n_{x_i}}{N}$$

# Information entropy



# Information and entropy

- A signal ( $X$ ) carries a certain amount of information expressed as an entropy  $H(X)$  in the order of its symbols  $\{x_i\}$

$$H(X) = -\sum_i P(x_i) \log_2(P(x_i))$$

- $\log_2 \Rightarrow$  binary units

- We assume the relation  $0 \times \log_2 0 = 0$



# Mutual Information

- Entropy can also be defined for joint probability distributions

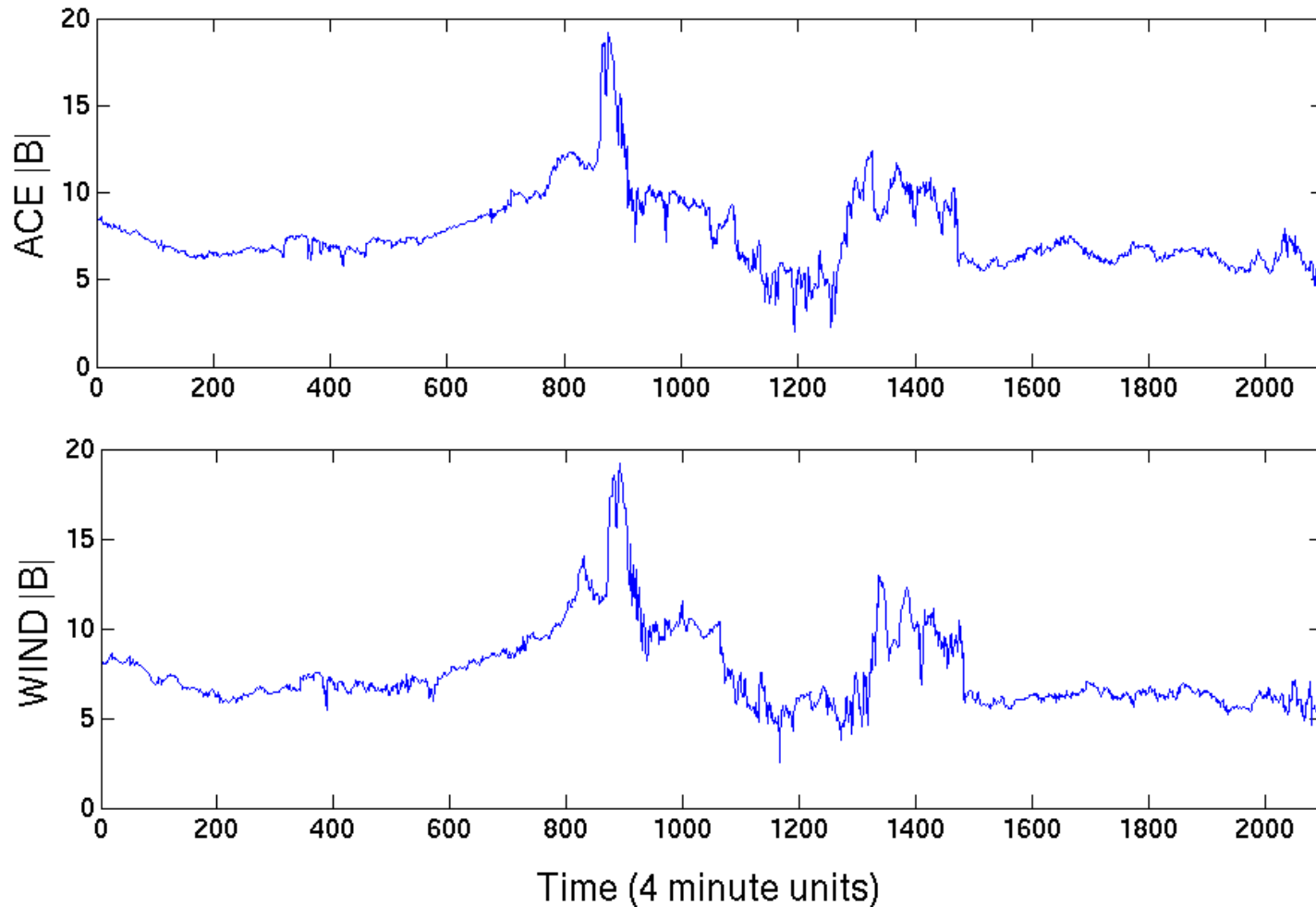
$$H(X, Y) = - \sum_{ij} P(x_i, y_j) \log_2 (P(x_i, y_j))$$

- Mutual Information compares the information content of two signals

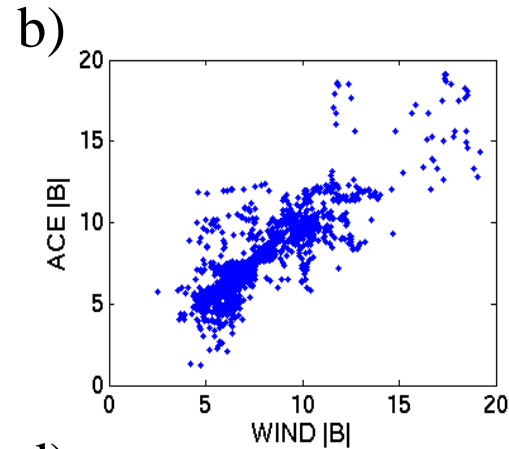
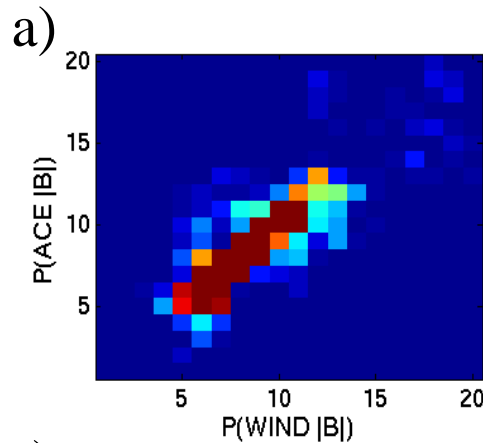
$$I(X; Y) = \sum_{ij} P(x_i, y_j) \log_2 \left[ \frac{P(x_i, y_j)}{P(x_i)P(y_j)} \right]$$

$$I(X; Y) = H(X) + H(Y) - H(X, Y)$$

# Timeseries

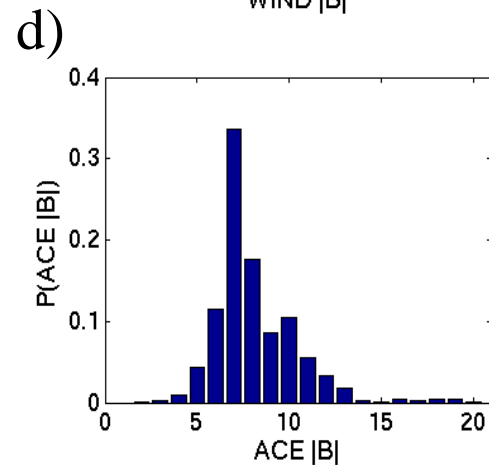
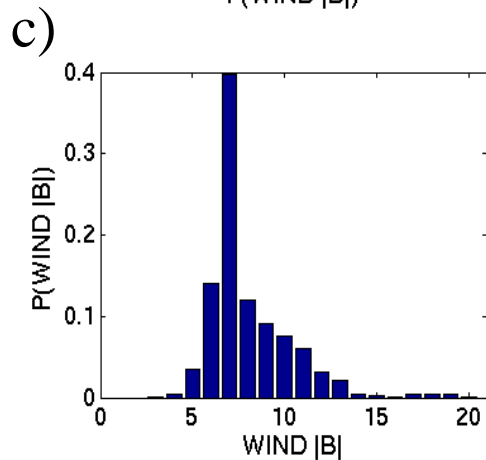


# Mutual Information



a)  $P(\text{WIND} | B, \text{ACE} | B)$

b) Raw data  $\text{WIND} | B$  vs  $\text{ACE} | B$



c)  $P(\text{WIND} | B)$

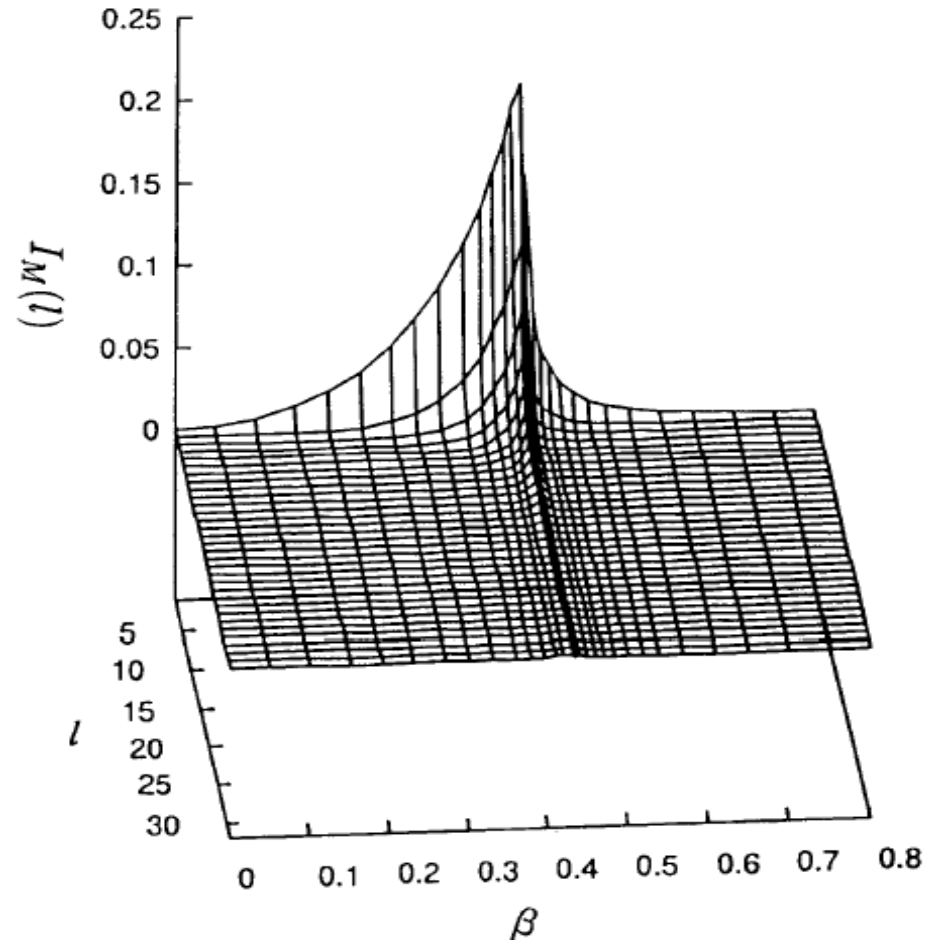
d)  $P(\text{ACE} | B)$

$MI = 1.09$  bits

Ratio of MI to  $H = 0.39$

# The Ising Model- phase transition

- Matsuda *et al* (1996):
- MI peaks at the phase transition and is robust to coarse graining



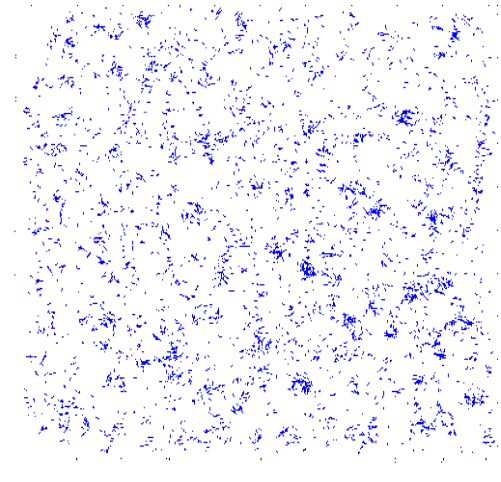
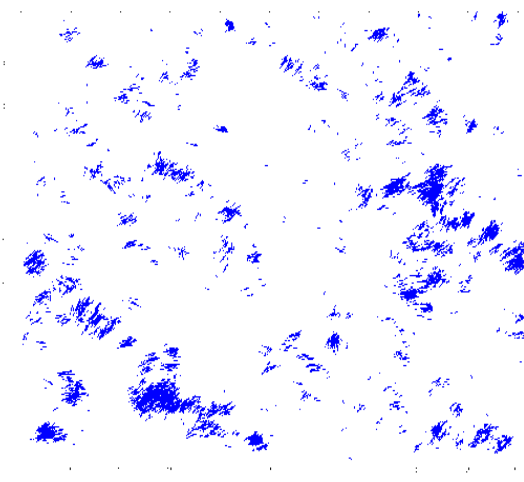
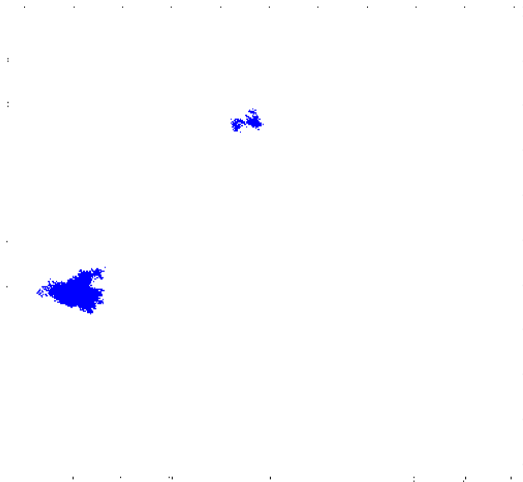
# Competition between order and disorder

Rules: random fluctuation plus 'following the neighbours'

$$\mathbf{x}_{n+1}^k = \mathbf{x}_n^k + \mathbf{v}_n^k dt, \quad |\mathbf{v}_n^k| \text{ constant}$$

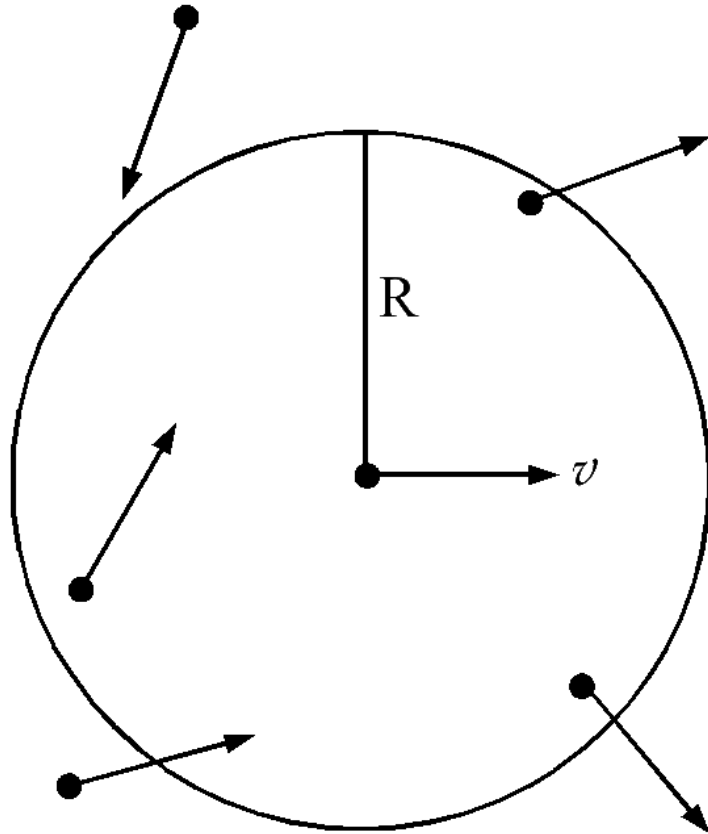
$$\theta_{n+1}^k = \left\langle \theta_n^k \right\rangle_{k \in R} + \delta\theta, \quad \delta\theta = [-\eta, \eta] \text{ iid random variable}$$

$$\text{order parameter: total speed } \frac{1}{N} \left| \sum_{i=1}^N \mathbf{v}_i \right|$$



Vicsek bird model

# The Vicsek Model



Dynamical rules for each particle:

$$x_{n+1} = x_n + \vec{v} \delta t$$

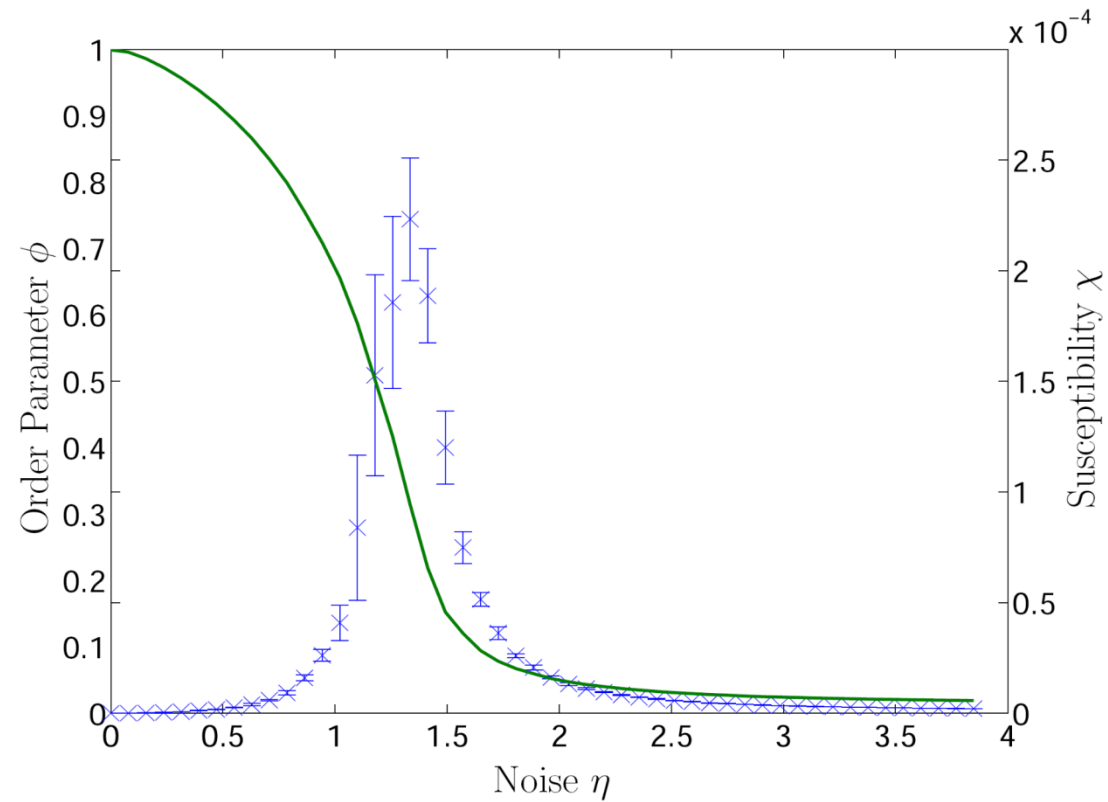
$$\theta_{n+1} = \langle \theta_n \rangle_R + \delta \theta_n$$

Order parameter and susceptibility:

$$\phi = \frac{1}{N v_0} \left| \sum_{i=1}^N \underline{v}_i \right|$$

$$\chi = \sigma^2(\phi) = \frac{1}{N} \left( \langle \phi^2 \rangle - \langle \phi \rangle^2 \right)$$

# The Vicsek Model



# The Vicsek Model

- Mutual information is calculated between position and angle of motion for a snapshot.
- MI for each dimension is the averaged to give total.
- This is done for 50 realisations of the model.

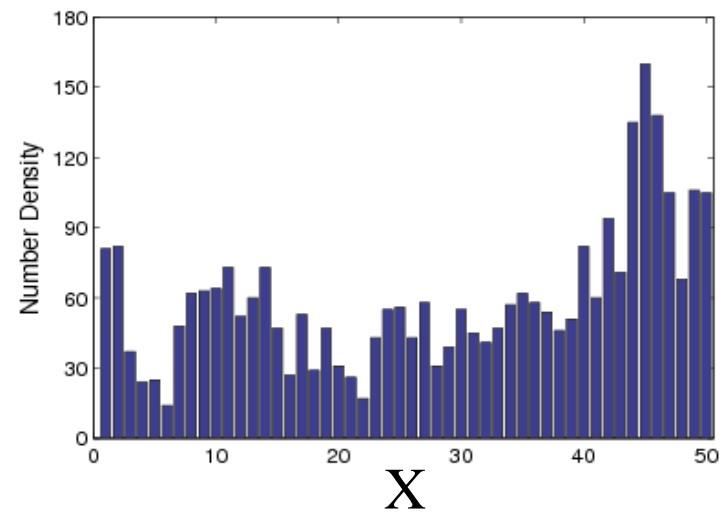
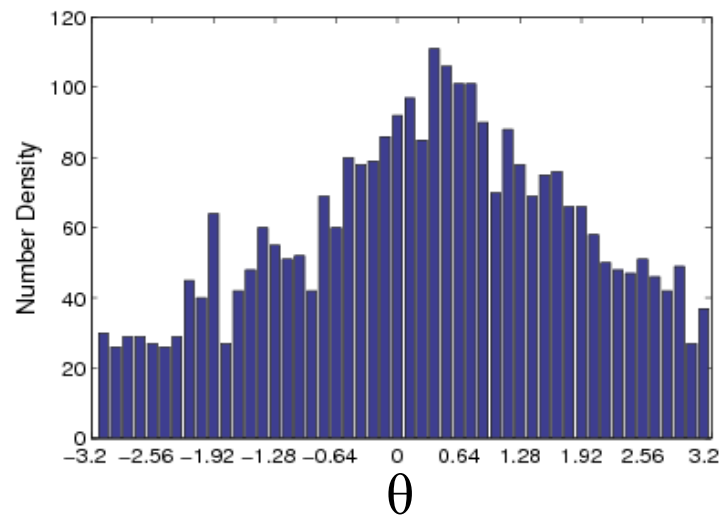
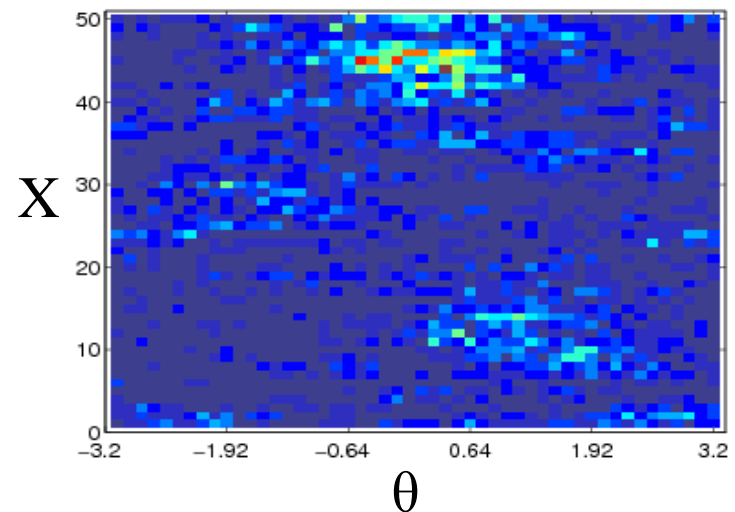
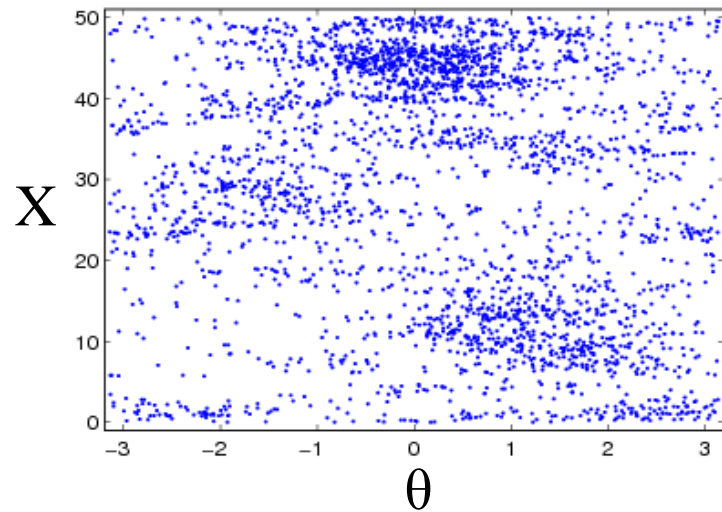
$$I(X, \Theta) = \sum_{i,j} P(X_i, \Theta_j) \log_2 \left( \frac{P(X_i, \Theta_j)}{P(X_i)P(\Theta_j)} \right)$$

$$I(Y, \Theta) = \sum_{i,j} P(Y_i, \Theta_j) \log_2 \left( \frac{P(Y_i, \Theta_j)}{P(Y_i)P(\Theta_j)} \right)$$

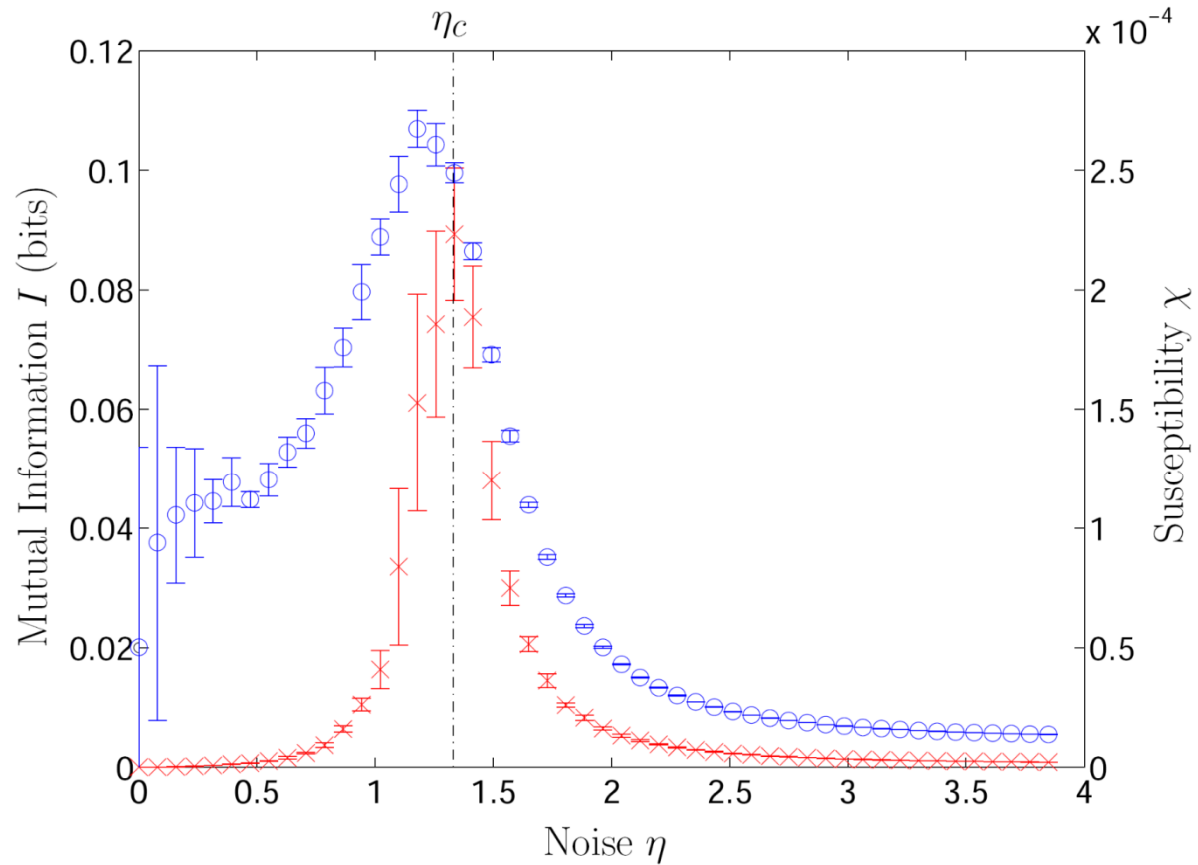
$$I = \frac{I(X, \Theta) + I(Y, \Theta)}{2}$$



# The Vicsek Model



# The Vicsek Model

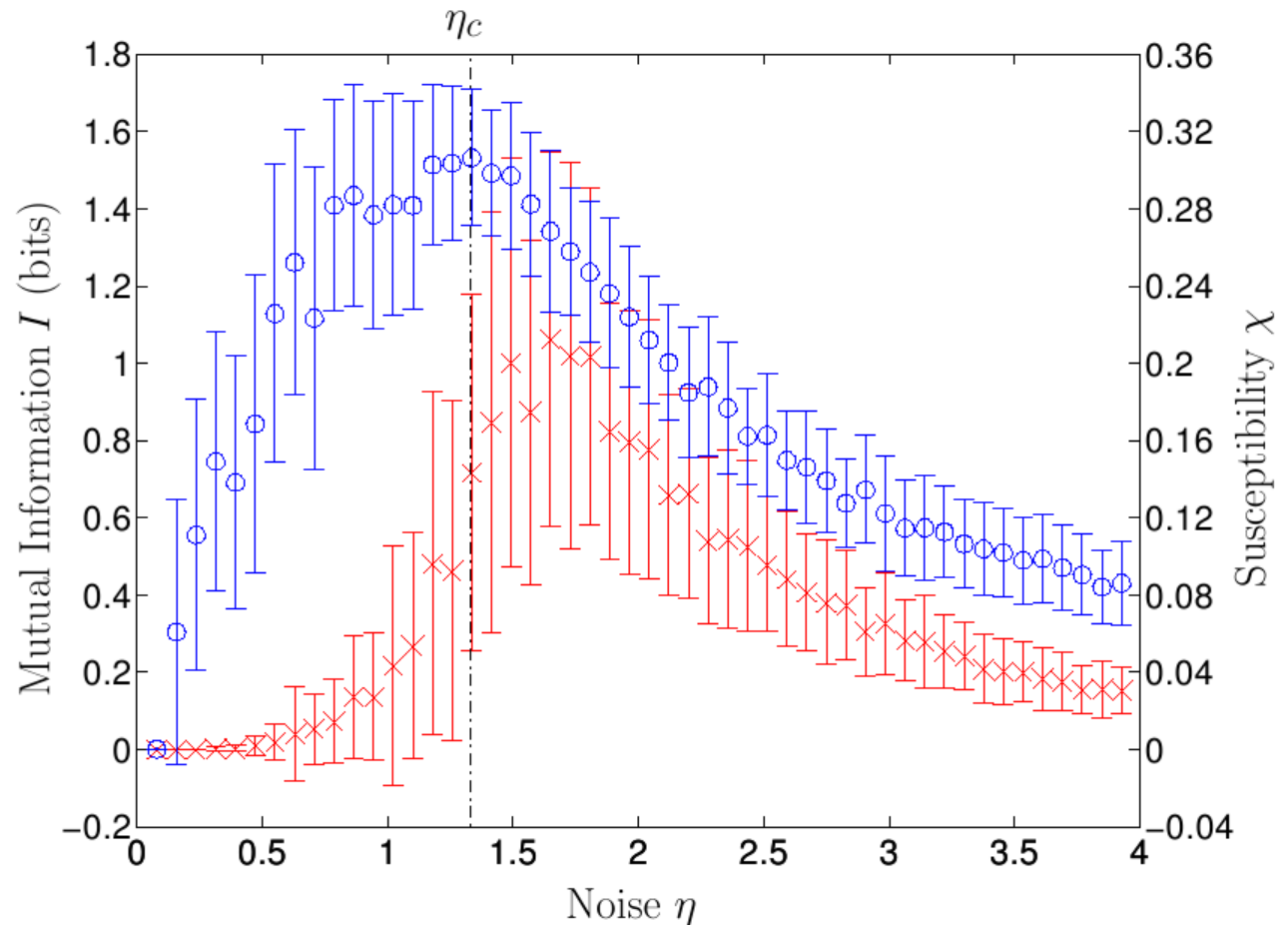


*Wicks, SCC et al PRE (2007)*

# 'real world'- follow only a few particles

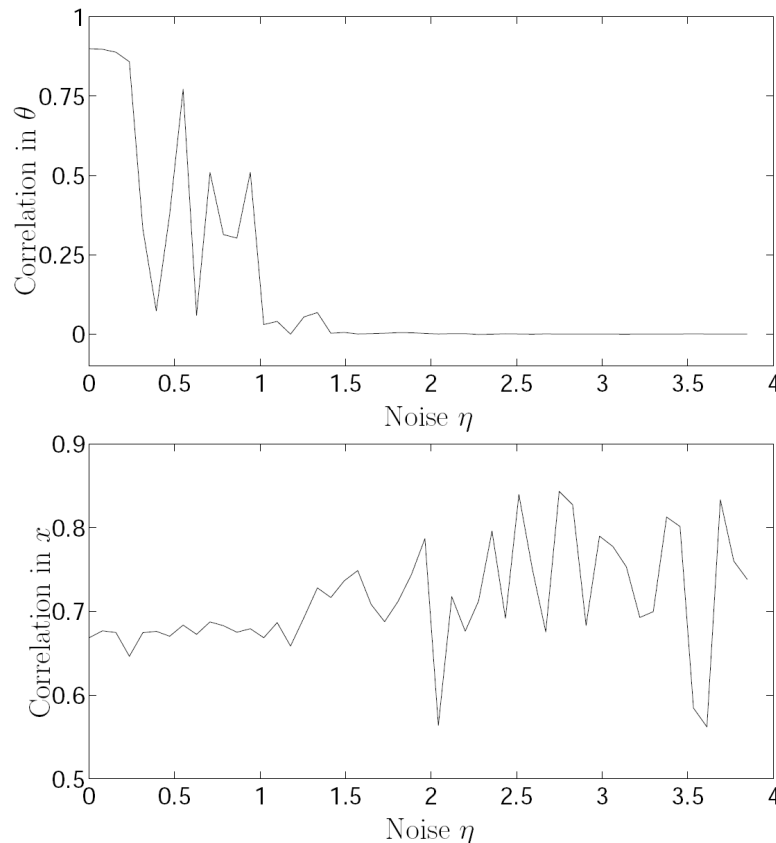
- 10 particles chosen at random.
- Time series of 5000 steps used.
- MI calculated between each particle's X position and X velocity for 500 step sections
- Compared to susceptibility for same sections.

(assumption: Vicsek model is ergodic)



# Follow only a few particles- linear measure

- Average cross correlation between the same 10 particles.



End

*See the MPAGS web site for more  
reading...*



*centre for fusion, space and astrophysics*

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