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Dynamic scaling in natural swarms

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Collective behaviour in biological systems



bacteria



cells





insects



fish



birds



mammals

self-organized collective behaviour

Analogy with statistical physics and active non-living matter



Narayan et al, Science 2007



Deseigne et al, PRL 2010



Bricard et al, Nature 2013

Hope: details do not matter – few features determine the universality class simple models capture the large scale behavior of active matter

$$\vec{v}_{i}(t+1) = \vec{v}_{i}(t) + J \sum_{k \in i} \vec{v}_{k}(t) + \vec{\xi}_{i} \qquad \left| \vec{v}_{i} \right| = v_{0}$$

$$\vec{r}_{i}(t+1) = \vec{r}_{i}(t) + \vec{v}_{i}(t+1)$$

self-propelled particles Vicsek model

Are these hopes/assumptions justified for animal groups and complex biological systems?

Collective behaviour in animal groups



movie by C. Carere - Starflag

Flocks

Global order Scale free correlations - Collective turns

Pnas 105 (2008), Pnas 107 (2010), Pnas 109 (2012) Nature Phys 10 (2014), Jstat 2015, Nature Phys 12 (2016) PRL 118 (2017)



movie by S. Melillo, SWARM

Swarms

No global order Correlations – quasi critical behavior

Plos Comp. Biol 10 (2014) , PRL 113 (2014) Nature Phys 13 (2017)

Can we define classes of behavior ?

scaling in critical phenomena

static scaling

correlation function in momentum space:

control parameters

a.

$$C_s(k) = C_s(k; \alpha_1, \dots, \overset{\bullet}{\alpha}_n)$$

correlation length:

$$\xi = \xi(\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_n)$$

static scaling hypothesis:

for
$$\xi \gg a$$
 \leftarrow microscopic scale
 $C_s(k; \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n) = \frac{1}{k^{2-\eta}} f(k\xi)$

dynamic scaling

dynamic scaling hypothesis:

$$C(k,t) = C_s(k) \ g(t/\tau_k, \ k\xi)$$

$$\tau_k = \frac{1}{k^z} \ h(k\xi)$$

dynamic critical exponent

dynamical renormalization group idea:

$$x \to x/b \implies t \to t/b^z$$

consequences of dynamic scaling

collapse

$$C(k,t) = C_s(k) g(t/\tau_k, k\xi)$$

$$\tau_k = \frac{1}{k^z} h(k\xi)$$

if $k\xi = \text{constant}$

$$C(k,t)/C_s(k) \equiv \hat{C}(k,t) = g(k^z t)$$



critical slowing down

$$\tau_k = \frac{1}{k^z} h(k\xi)$$

if $k\xi = \text{constant}$

$$au_k \sim k^{-z} \sim \xi^z$$

systems strongly correlated in space are also strongly correlated in time

Equation of State in the Neighborhood of the Critical Point

B. WIDOM

Department of Chemistry, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York (Received 15 July 1965)

Physics Vol. 2, No. 6, pp. 263-272, 1966. Physics Publishing Co. Printed in Great Britain.

SCALING LAWS FOR ISING MODELS NEAR 7.*

LEO P. KADANOFF

Department of Physics, University of Illinois Urbana, Illinois

PHYSICAL REVIEW

VOLUME 177, NUMBER 2

10 JANUARY 1969

Scaling Laws for Dynamic Critical Phenomena

B. I. HALPERIN AND P. C. HOHENBERG Bell Telephone Laboratories, Murray Hill, New Jersey 07974 (Received 13 August 1968)

VOLUME 28, NUMBER 4

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

24 JANUARY 1972

Critical Exponents in 3.99 Dimensions*

Kenneth G. Wilson and Michael E. Fisher

Laboratory of Nuclear Studies and Baker Laboratory, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York 14850 (Received 11 October 1971)



universality in biological systems?





experiments

















$$C(r,t) = \left\langle \frac{\sum_{i,j}^{N} \delta \hat{\mathbf{v}}_{i}(t_{0}) \cdot \delta \hat{\mathbf{v}}_{j}(t_{0}+t) \delta[r-r_{ij}(t_{0},t)]}{\sum_{i,j}^{N} \delta[r-r_{ij}(t_{0},t)]} \right\rangle_{t_{0}}$$

dynamic correlations in k-space

$$C(k,t) = \left\langle \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i,j}^{N} \frac{\sin[k r_{ij}(t_0,t)]}{k r_{ij}(t_0,t)} \delta \hat{\mathbf{v}}_i(t_0) \cdot \delta \hat{\mathbf{v}}_j(t_0+t) \right\rangle$$

natural swarms



dynamic scaling hypothesis

$$\hat{C}(k,t) = f(t/\tau_k;k\xi),$$

$$\tau_k = k^{-z}g(k\xi),$$

if $k\xi = \text{constant}$

$$\hat{C}(k,t) = f(k^z t)$$
$$\tau_k \sim k^{-z}$$

we will fix
$$k = 1/\xi$$

dynamic scaling holds and a new exponent emerges



• natural swarms: $z=1.0\pm0.2$

• Vicsek swarms: $z=2.0\pm0.03$

how anomalous is the exponent z = 1?

equilibrium models:

- Heisenberg/Ising model (Model A): *z* = 2
- Non-dissipative antiferromagnet (linear spin-wave) (Model G): z = 1.5
- Quantum ferromagnet (Model J): *z* = 2.5

active matter models:

- Vicsek model, ordered phase (flocks): *z* = 1.6
- Vicsek model, disordered phase (swarms): *z* = 2

such a small value of z seems to require a non-trivial renormalization structure



non-dissipative relaxation



$$h(x) \equiv -\frac{1}{x} \log \hat{C}(x) \quad , \quad x \equiv t/\tau_k$$

 $\lim_{x \to 0} h(x) = 1$ exponential relaxation - dissipative

 $\lim_{x \to 0} h(x) = 0 \quad \text{non-exponential relaxation-non-dissipative}$



second-order inertial dynamics ?

the system has no long-range order why don't we observe a purely dissipative regime?

hydrodynamic vs critical regime



near-critical censorship of hydrodynamics

conclusions

dynamic scaling holds in natural swarms

anomalous critical exponent and non-dissipative relaxation

near-critical censorship of hydrodynamics

arXiv:1611.08201 Nature Physics, 06/2017

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