

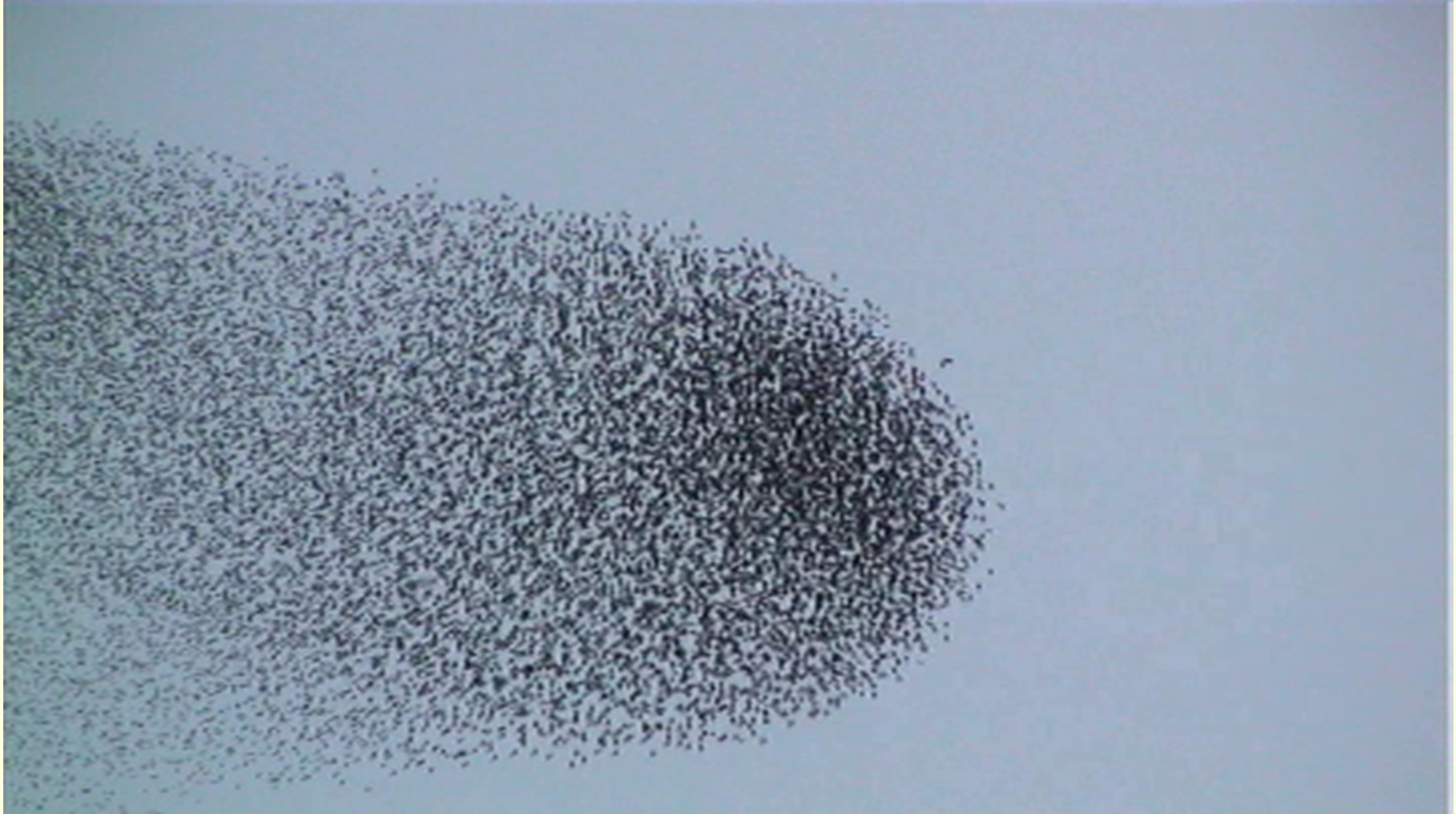
Collective motion in animal populations



Simon Levin, 2010
Trieste

Iain Couzin

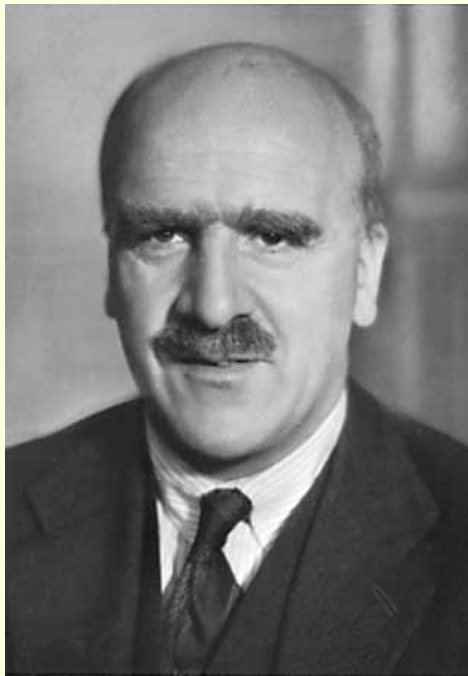
The main topic of my lecture is collective motion



But for context, it's important to start first
with uncorrelated movement

Claudio Carere

There is a classic literature
concerned with the modeling of
animal movements



Haldane

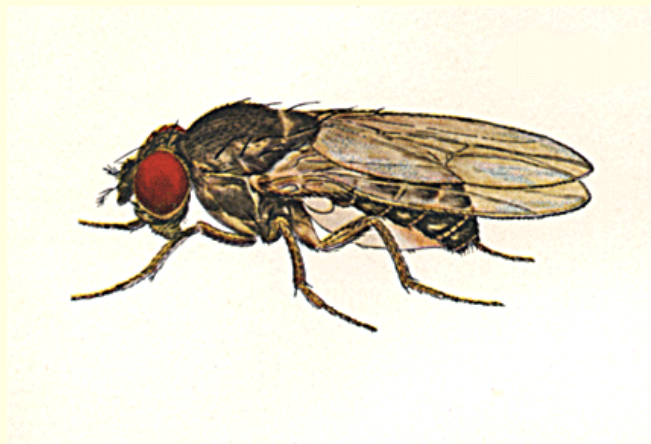
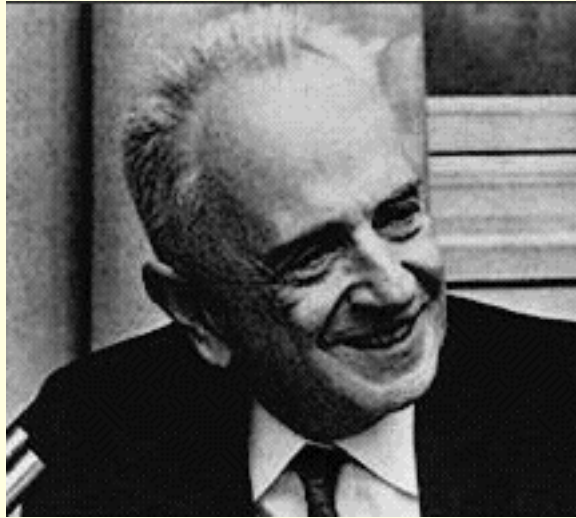


Fisher

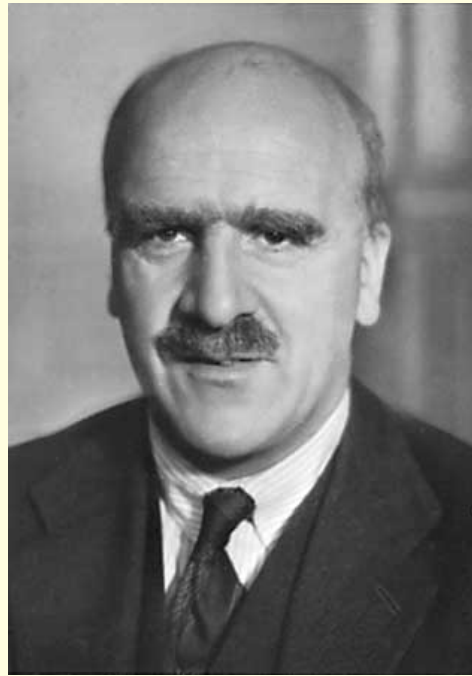


Wright

Dobzhansky and Wright dealt with the dispersal of *D.pseudobscura*

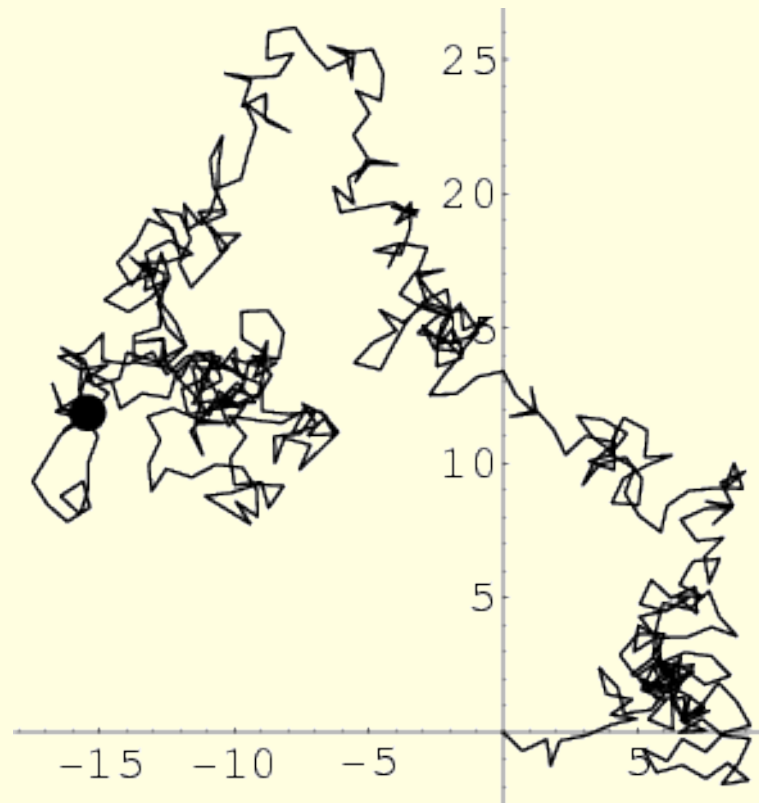


Haldane and Fisher



were concerned with advancing fronts and clines,

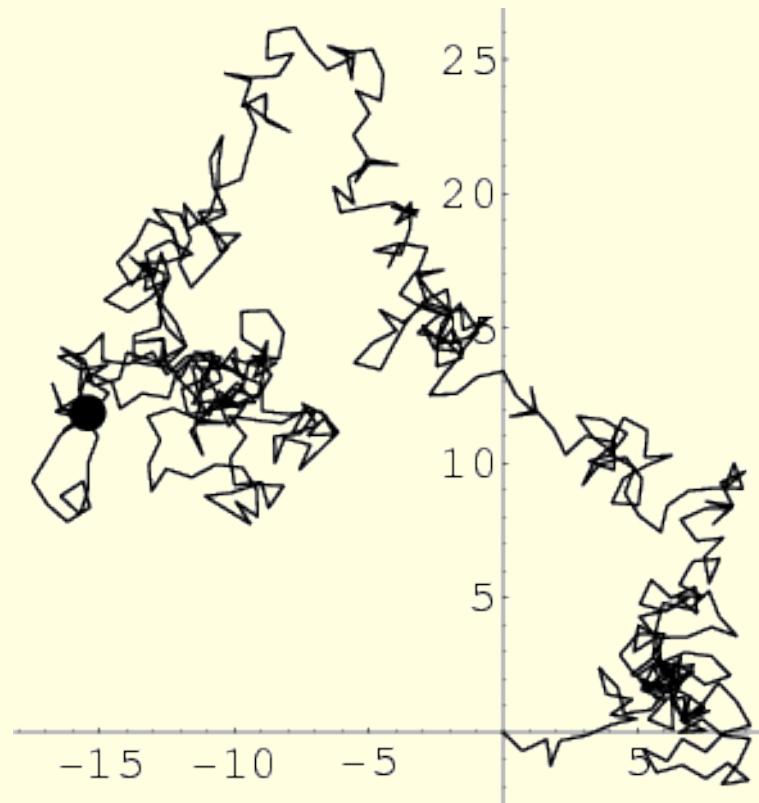
The null movement hypothesis: a random walk



$$\partial n / \partial t = D(\partial^2 n / \partial x^2 + \partial^2 n / \partial y^2)$$

mathworld.wolfram.com

The null movement hypothesis: a random walk plus growth



$$\partial n / \partial t = D(\partial^2 n / \partial x^2 + \partial^2 n / \partial y^2) + f(n)$$

mathworld.wolfram.com

Rates of advance

Fisher, Haldane, KPP

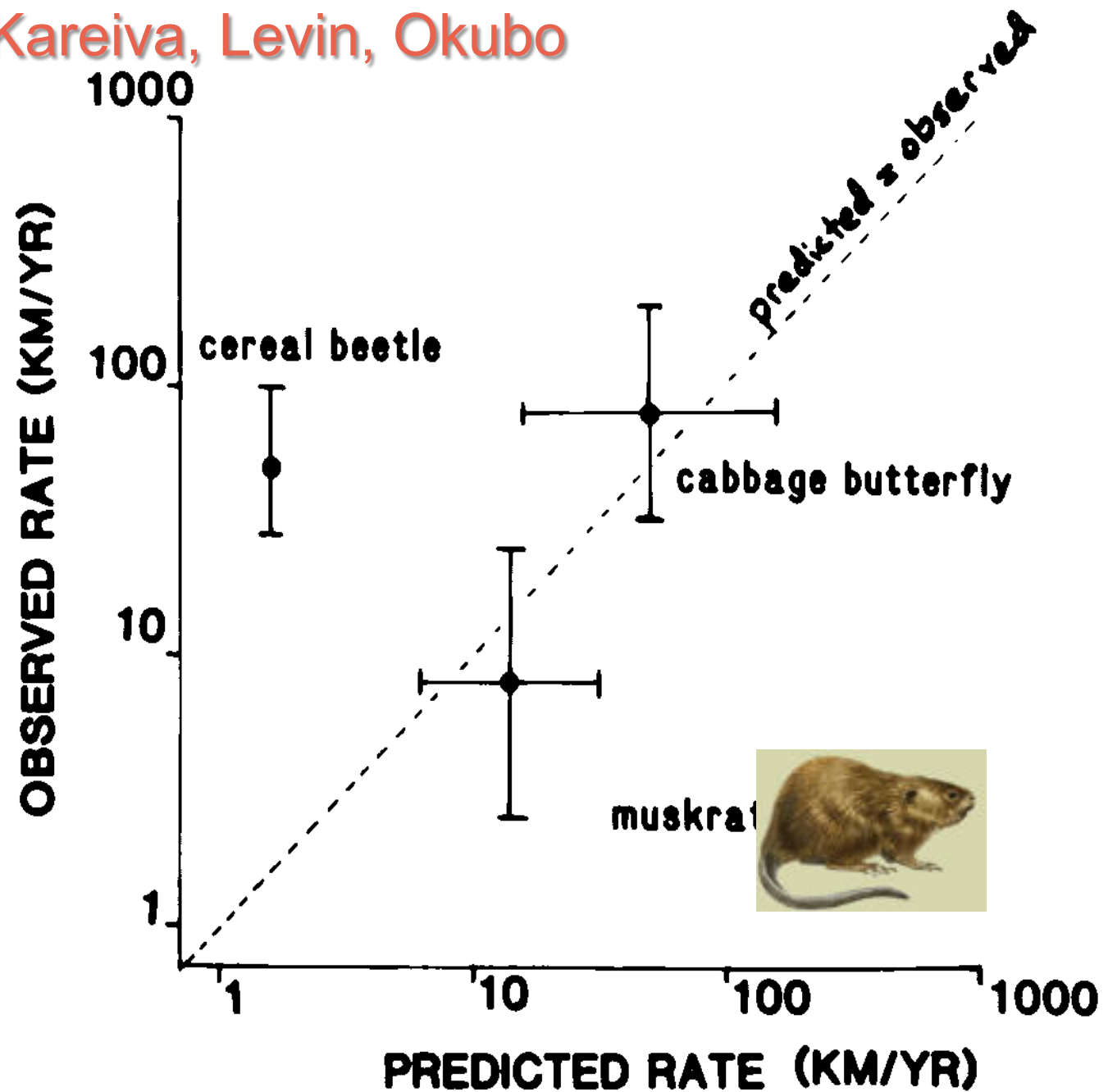
$$\partial n / \partial t = f(n) + D \partial^2 n / \partial x^2$$

Asymptotic Rate: $2\sqrt{rD}$

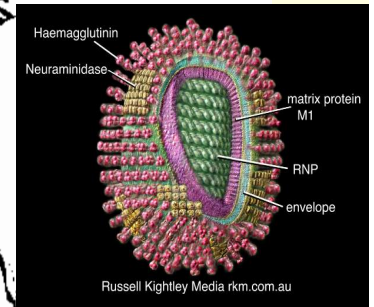
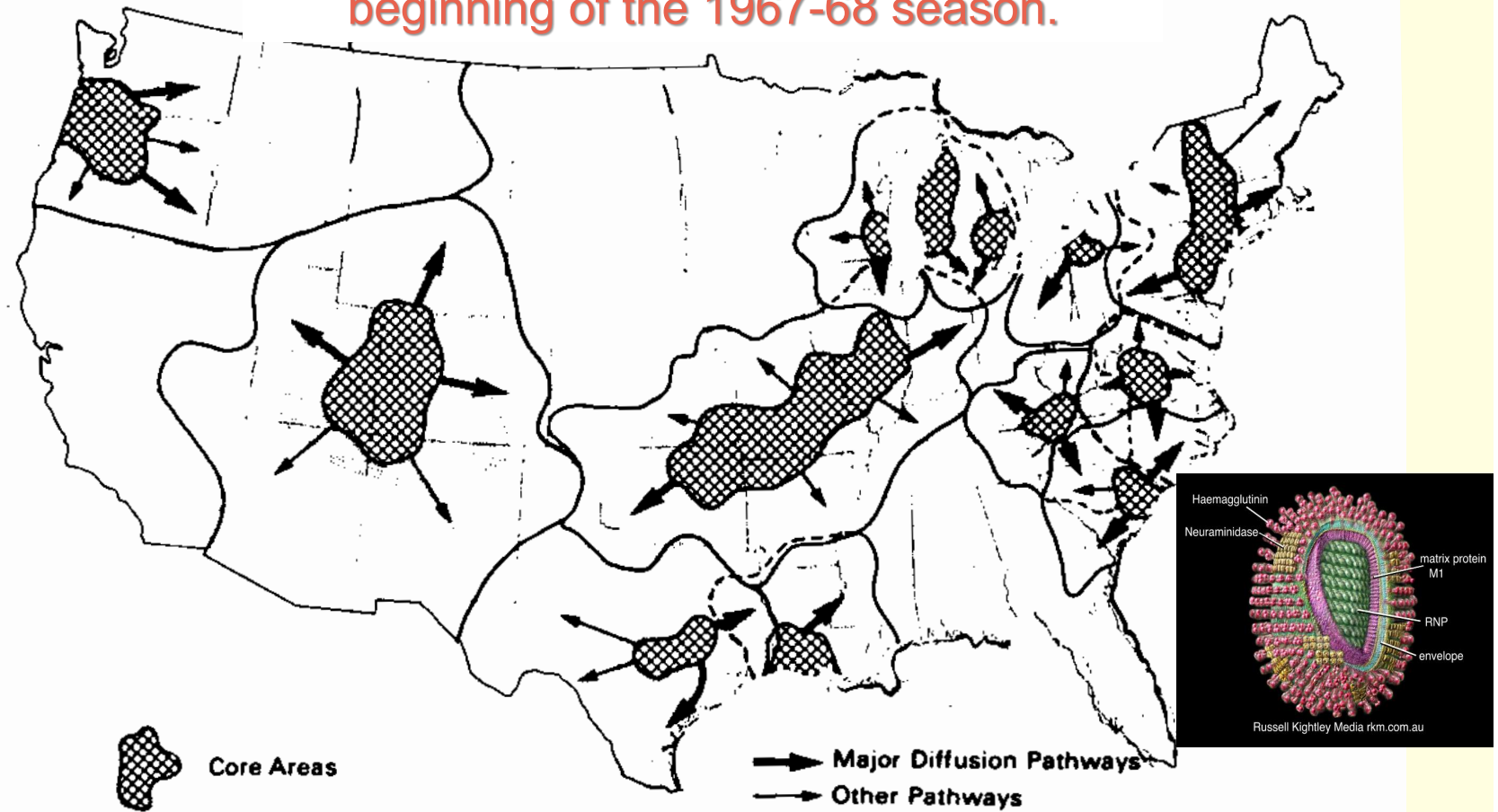
$r=f'(0)$ (intrinsic rate of natural increase)

D (diffusion coefficient)

Andow, Kareiva, Levin, Okubo



Core areas and diffusion pathways for
primary outbreaks of influenza during the
beginning of the 1967-68 season.



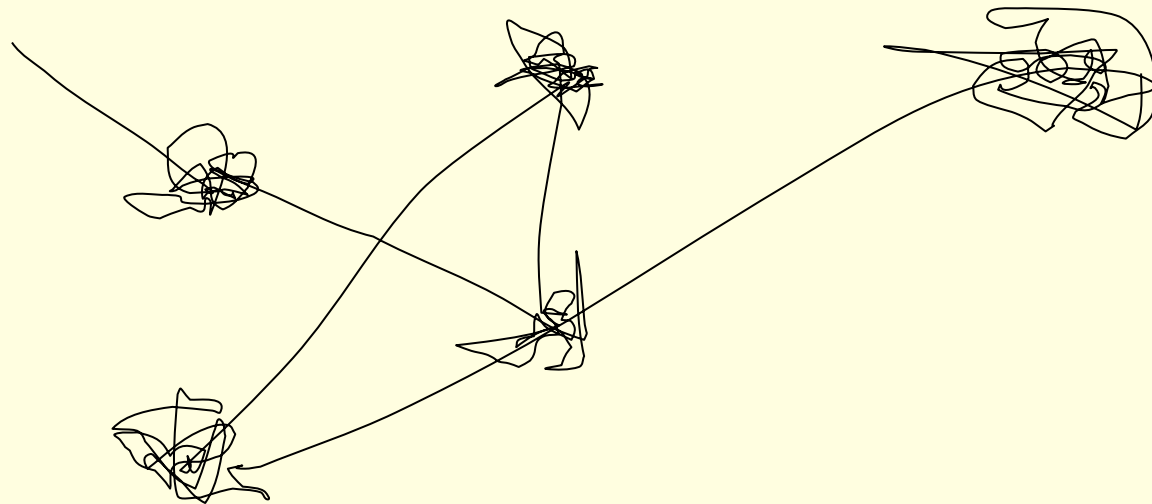
From: Influenza Models (P. Selby, ed) ., MTP Press.

Other approaches to movement

- Long-distance spatial contact process
 - Integral equation
 - Skellam
 - Mollison

Other approaches to movement

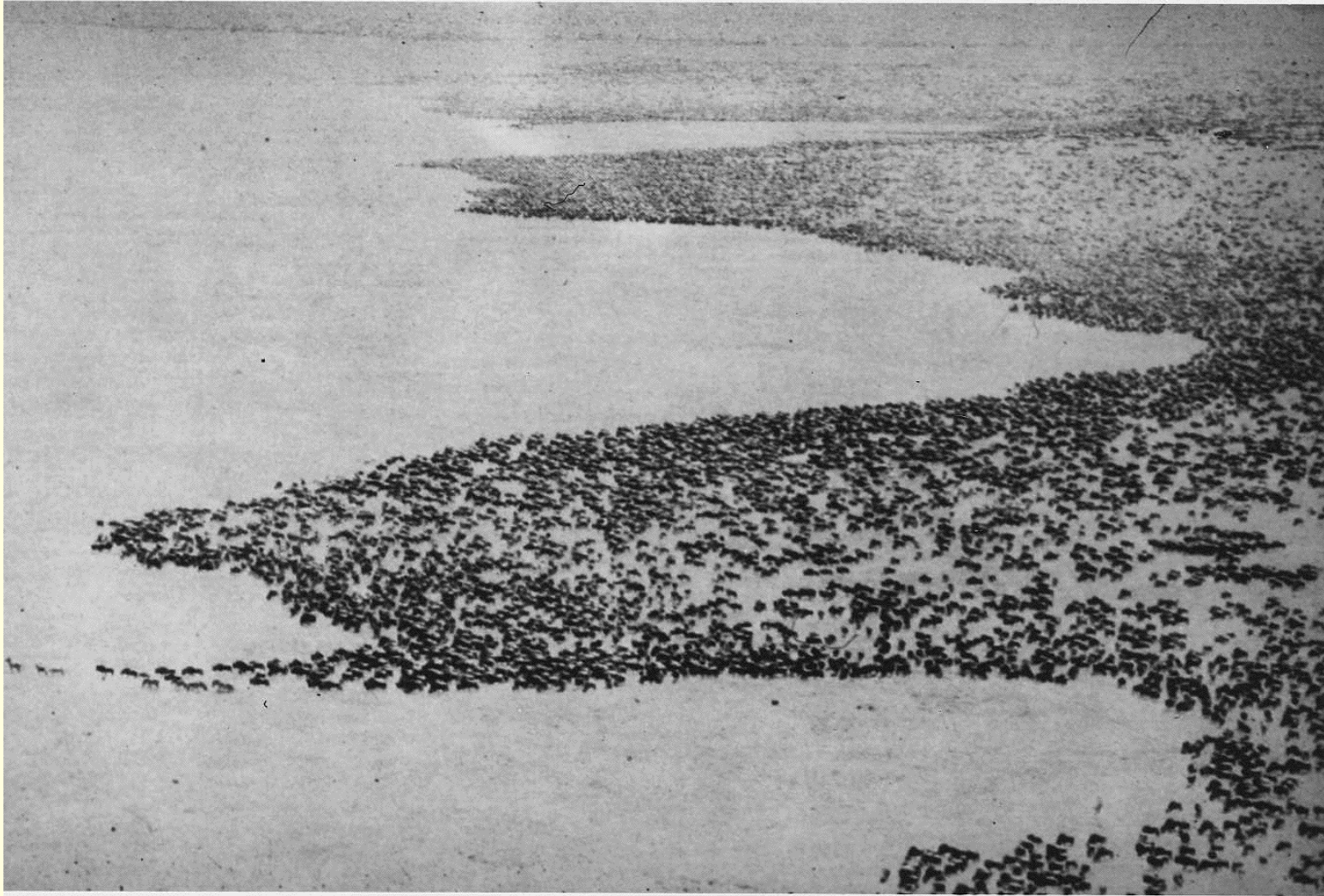
- Long-distance spatial contact process
- Anomalous diffusion
 - Variance increases as a power of time



**Rates of advance are just one
application of such models:**

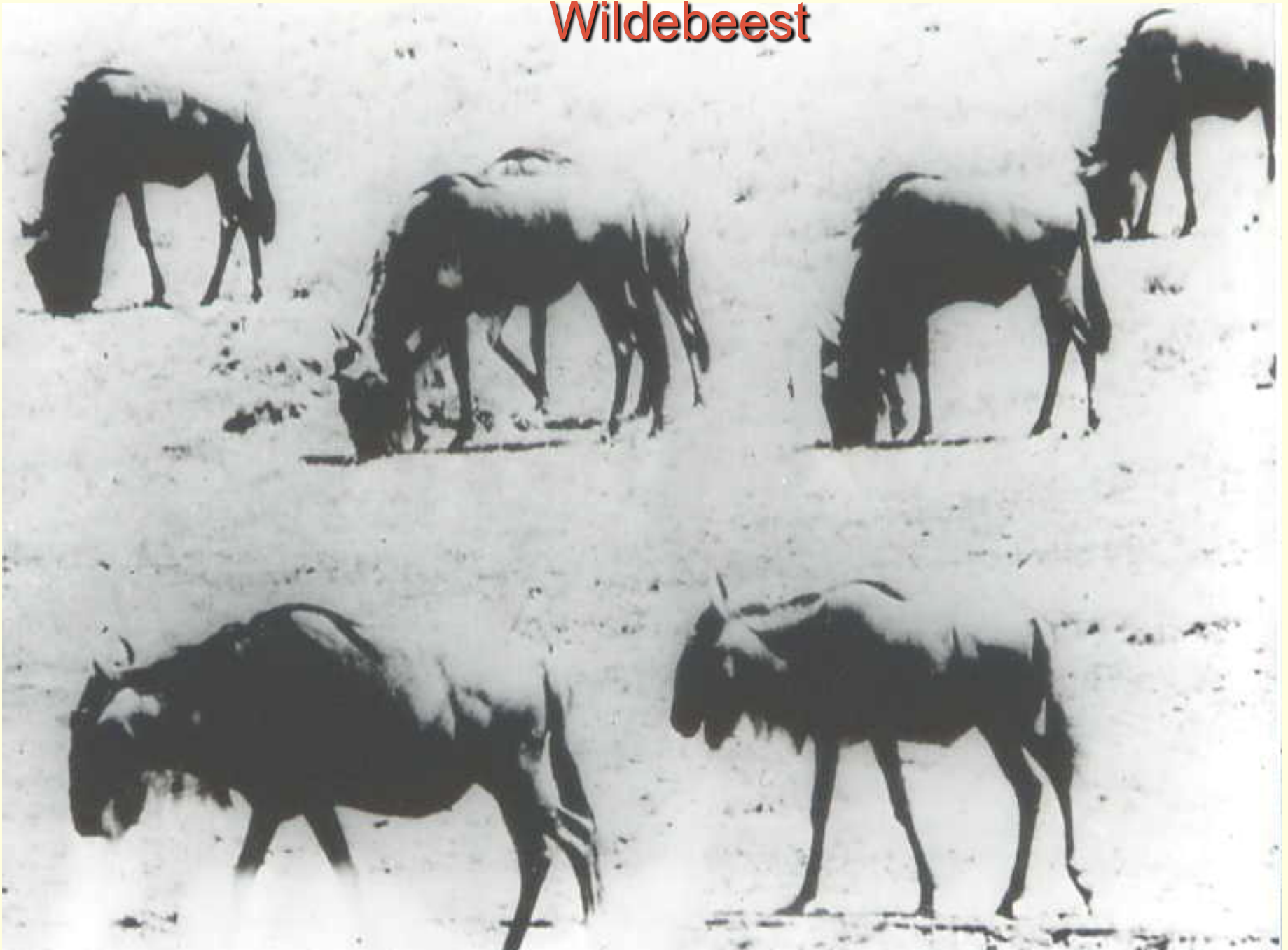
Rates of advance are just one application of such models

- Critical patch size for persistence
- Pattern formation and patchiness
- Coexistence

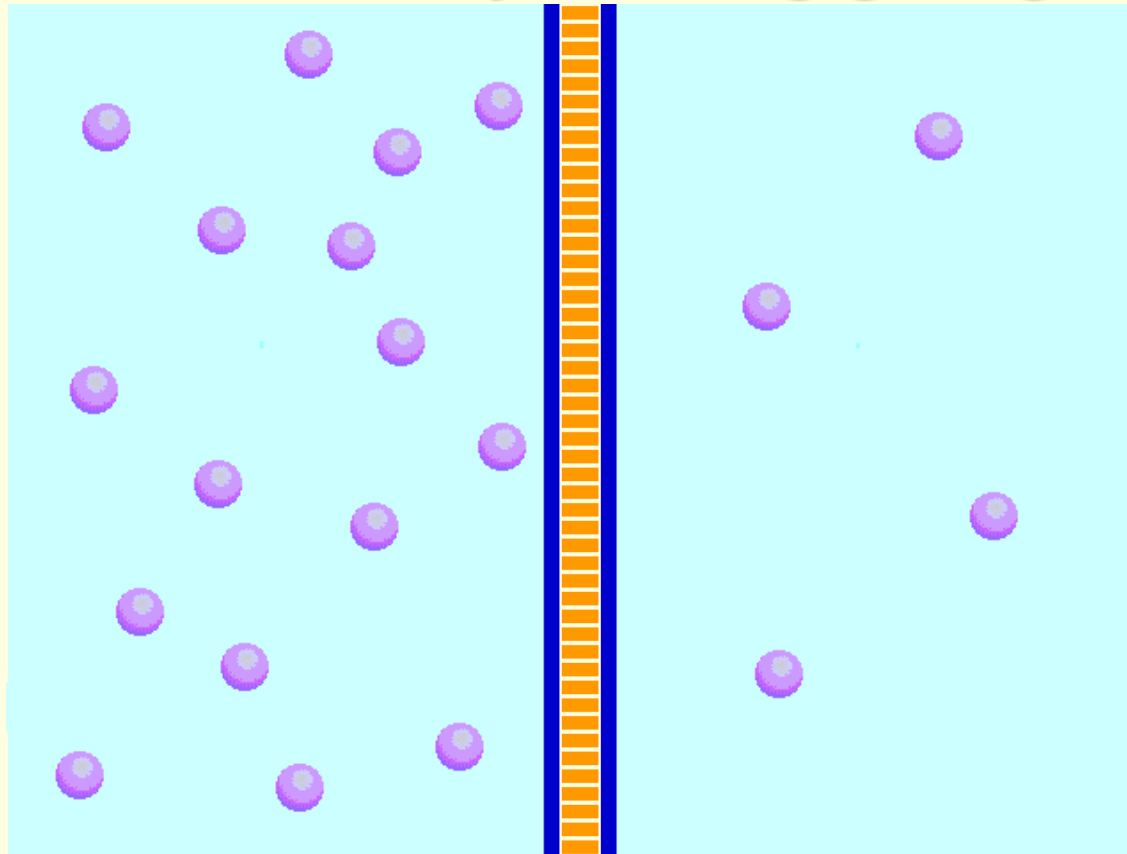


Aerial photograph of a large wildebeest herd, courtesy A.R.E. Sinclair (plate 3 from A.R.E. Sinclair, *The African Buffalo*).

Wildebeest



Diffusion alone can't explain..
it's the enemy of aggregation



Central tendencies could lead to aggregation

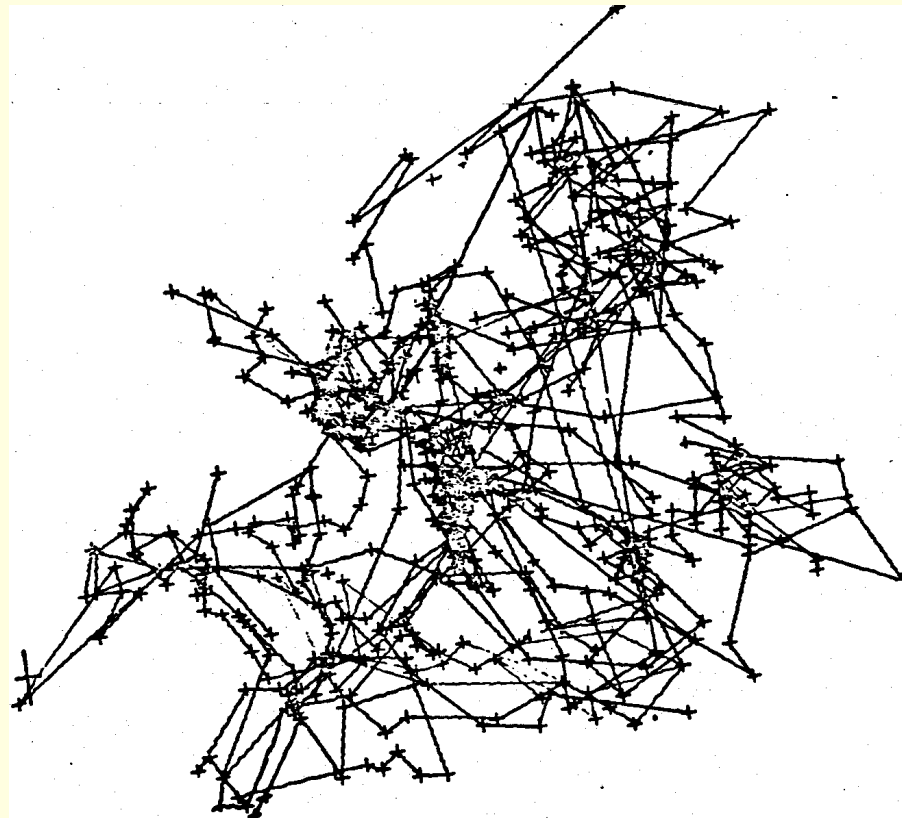
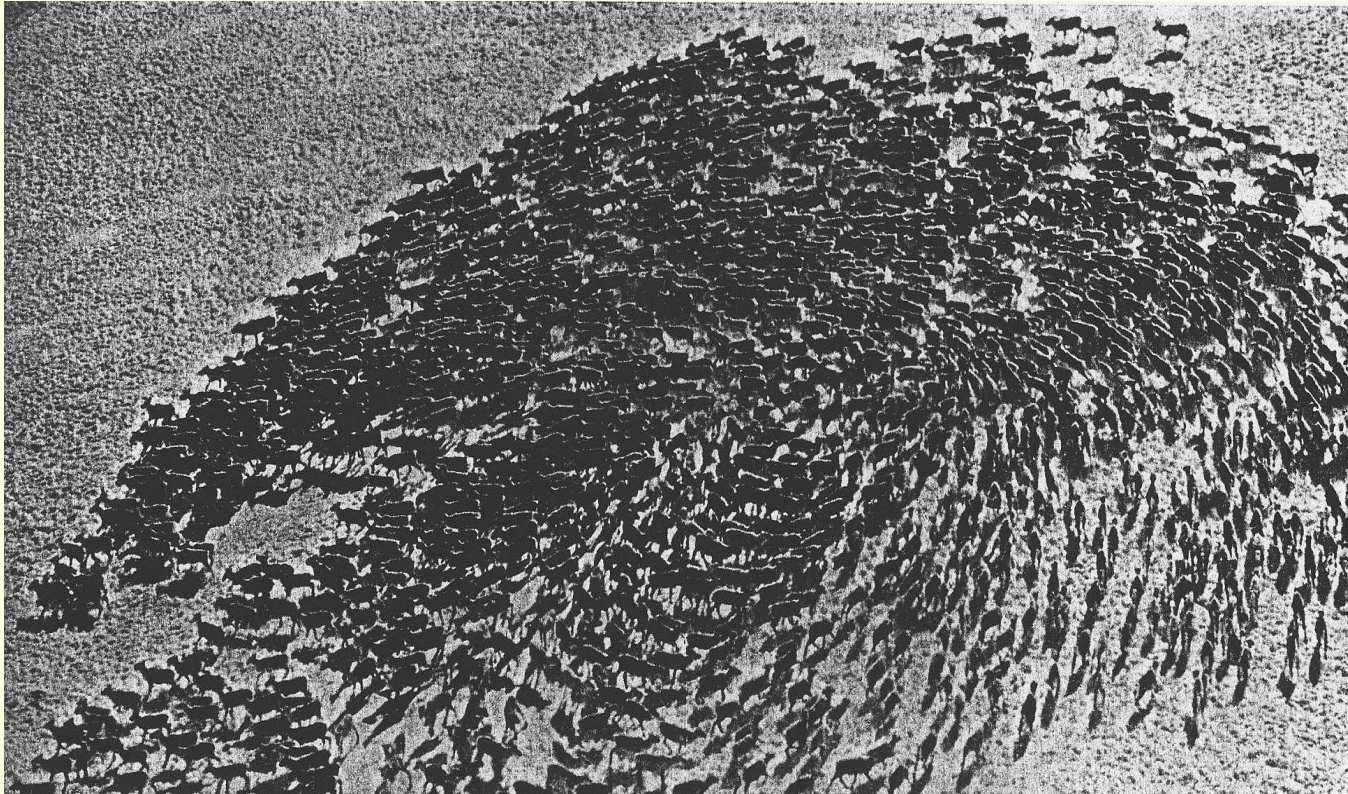


FIG. 1. An example of red fox movement as obtained from telemetry data.

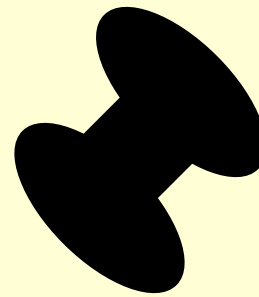
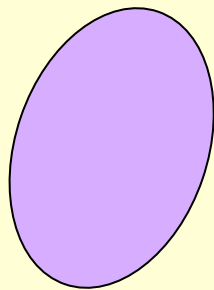
But can aggregation be endogenous?

Inter-individual interactions are essential



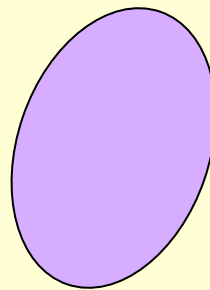
The rde approach extends easily to coupled populations

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = F(u, v) + D_u \nabla^2 u$$
$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial t} = G(u, v) + D_v \nabla^2 v$$



With equal diffusion rates, no
stable non-uniform patterns
in convex environments

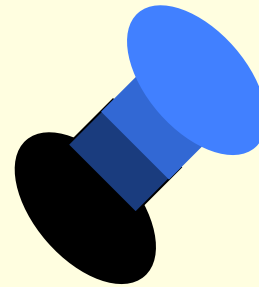
$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = F(u, v) + D \nabla^2 u$$
$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial t} = G(u, v) + D \nabla^2 v$$



But stable non-uniform patterns
are possible in non-convex regions

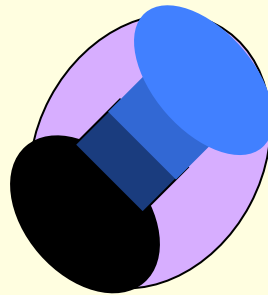
$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = F(u, v) + D \nabla^2 u$$

$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial t} = G(u, v) + D \nabla^2 v$$



Depending on second eigenvalue of
Laplacian, with Neumann conditions
(Matano)

Spatially or density dependent diffusion can achieve the same result even in convex regions



23

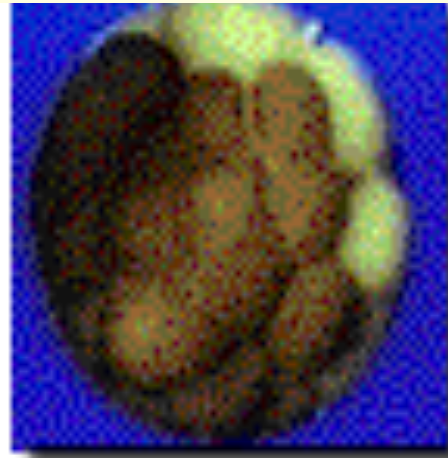
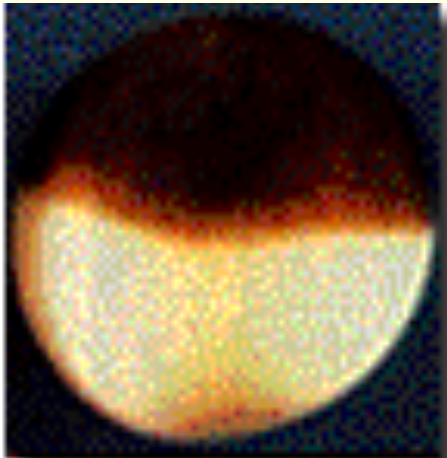
$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = F(u, v) + D(*) \nabla^2 u$$

$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial t} = G(u, v) + D(*) \nabla^2 v$$

But unequal diffusion can lead to stable non-uniform patterns arise in convex environments



Animal coat patterns are the simplest of challenges for the study of development, in which highly differentiated structures self-organize from initially homogenous ensembles





Alan Turing (1912-1954)

Alan Turing posited the existence of
two interacting chemicals
(morphogens) in a homogeneous
space



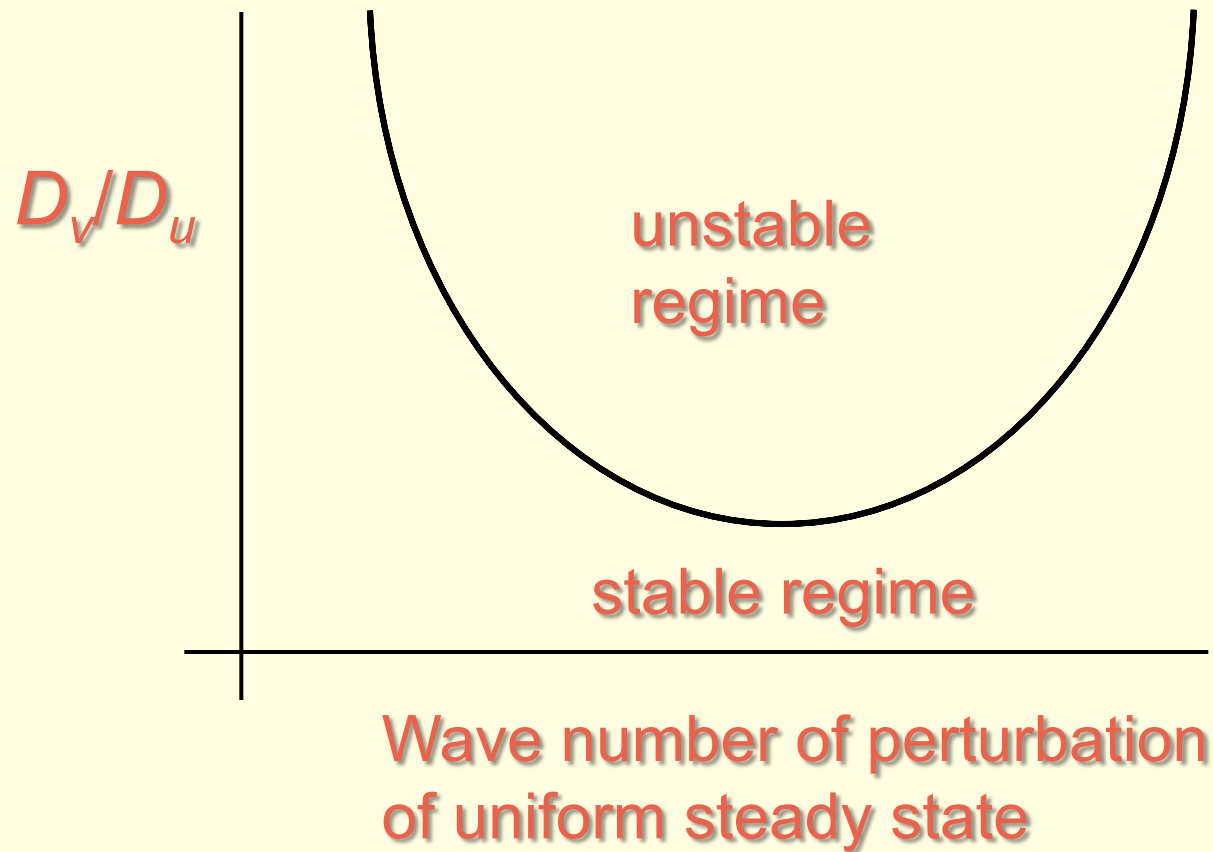
Turing instabilities:

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = F(u, v) + D_u \nabla^2 u$$

$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial t} = G(u, v) + D_v \nabla^2 v$$

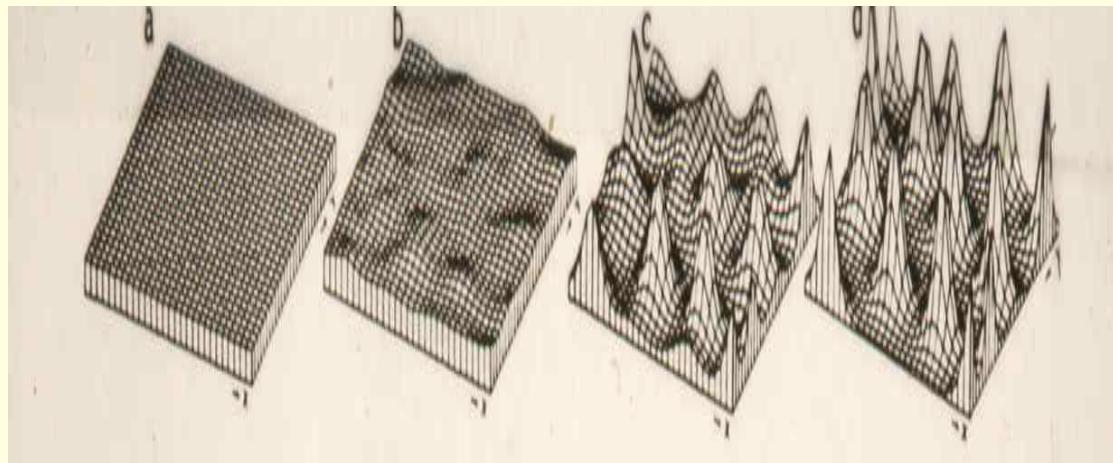
uniform states can become unstable if
 D_v/D_u is above some threshold.

Turing (diffusive instabilities): The linear theory



Dissipative structures

- Nonlinear theory (Segel and Levin)
- Multiple scale expansion
- Successive approximations
- *Stable non-uniform patterns can emerge*

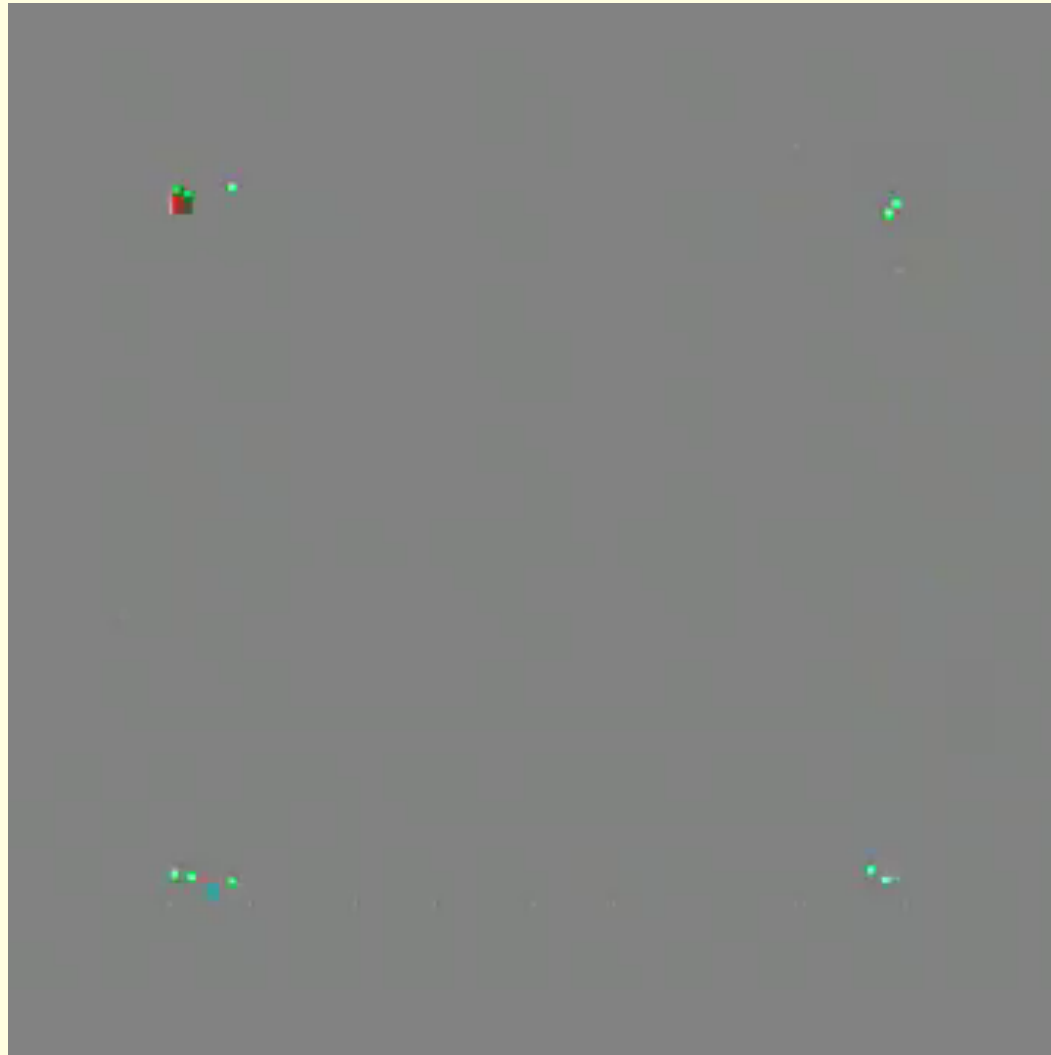


Meinhardt

The resulting spatial pattern in the distribution of morphogens establishes pre-patterns for development



Gierer-Meinhardt patterns



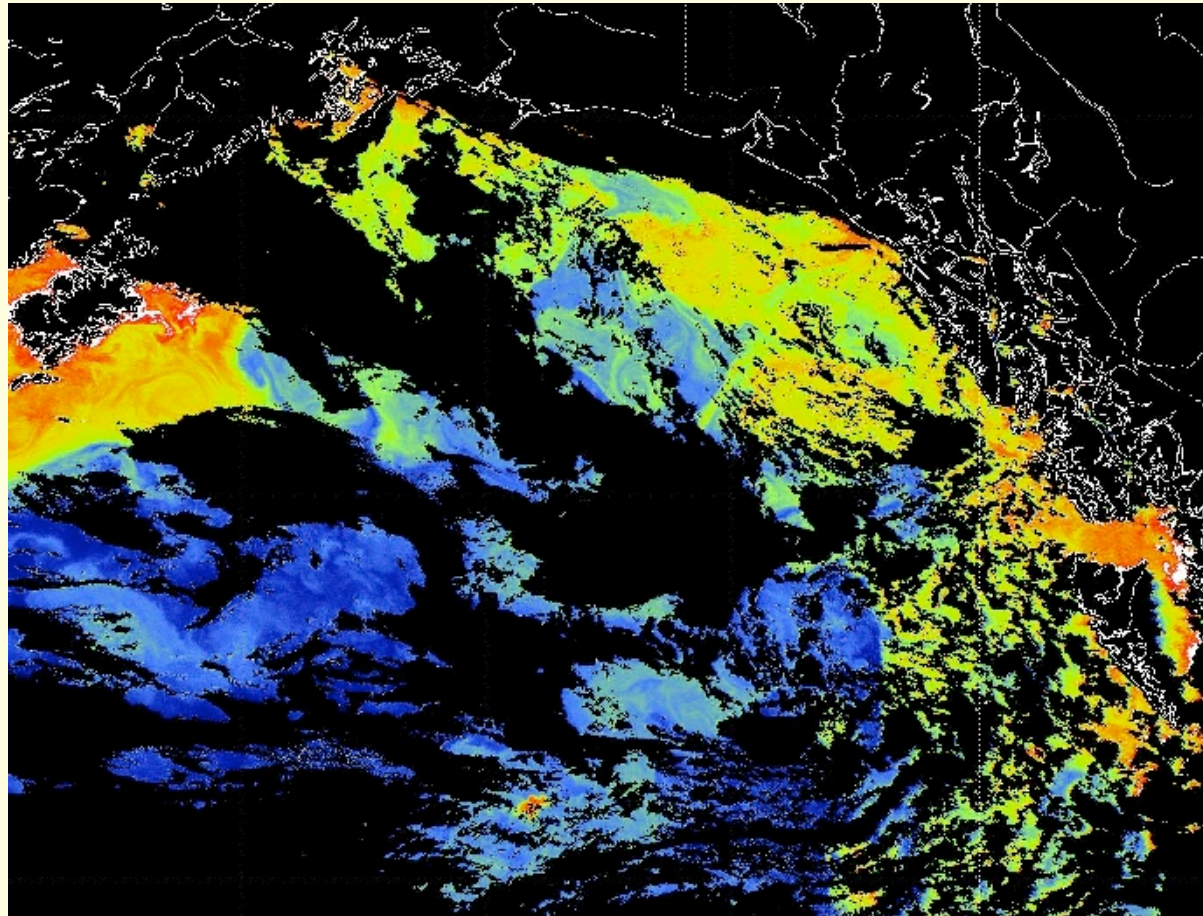
Tatsuo Yanagita

Pattern arises from balance
between short-range
activation long-range inhibition

Do such mechanisms underlie spatial patterns in ecology?



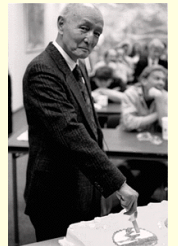
Plankton are patchy on almost every scale



Could Turing apply to planktonic patchiness?

- Phytoplankton as “activators”
- Zooplankton as “inhibitors”

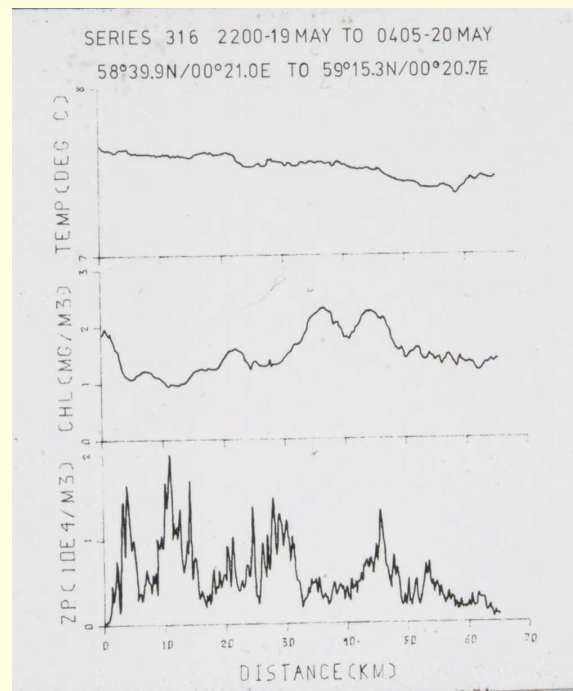
Levin and Segel, and Okubo, applied such models to aggregation of marine zooplankton, like krill





Didn't work

Zooplankton are more patchily distributed



Mackas et al

Zooplankton don't move randomly, but aggregate



Zooplankton don't move randomly, but aggregate



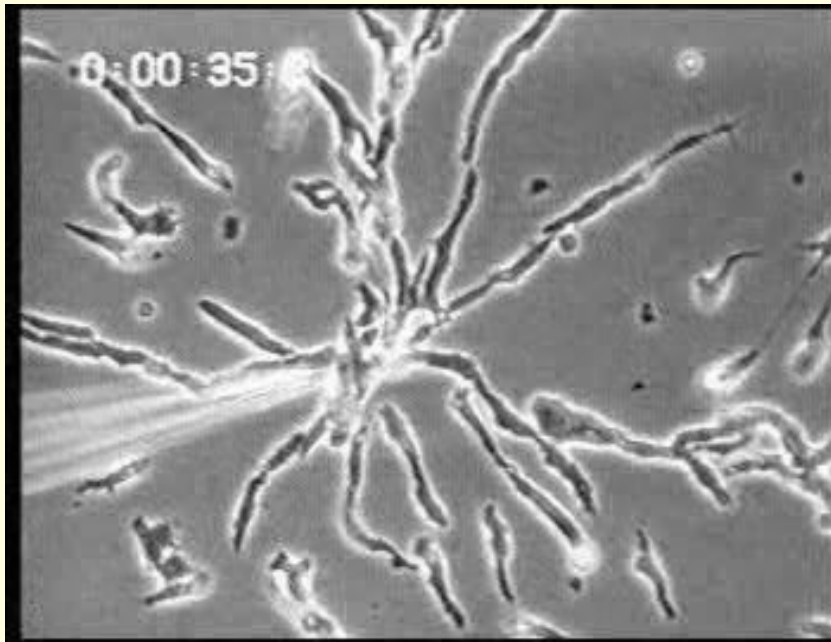
Hence, collective motion is important to these patterns

Zooplankton don't move
diffusively, but aggregate



Aggregation has been addressed for a wide range of organisms

- **Slime molds**



Bonner: The social cell

Keller and Segel: Initiation of aggregation as an instability

Keller-Segel Model

$$\frac{\partial n}{\partial t} = \nabla \cdot \left\{ \overbrace{D_n(c) \nabla n}^{\text{Random cell movement}} - \overbrace{\chi(c) n \nabla c}^{\text{Directed cell movement}} \right\}$$

$$\frac{\partial c}{\partial t} = \underbrace{D_c \nabla^2 c}_{\text{Chemical diffusion}} - \underbrace{n \delta(c)}_{\text{Chemical degradation by cells}}$$

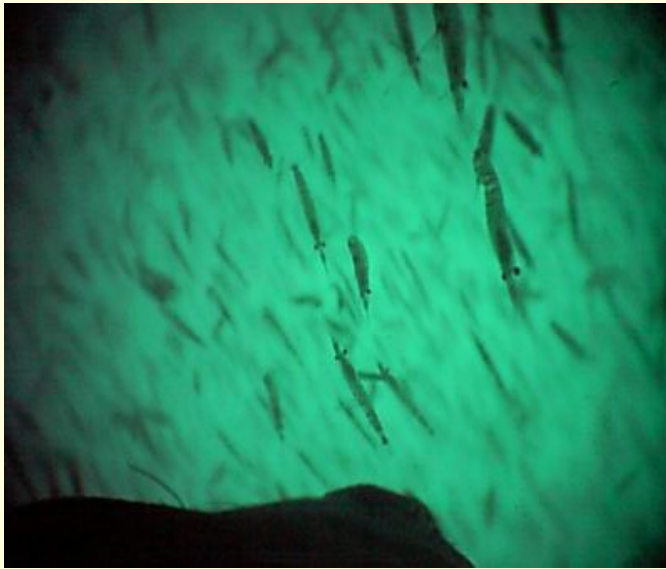
Aggregation has been addressed for a wide range of organisms

- Slime molds
- **Insects**



Aggregation has been addressed for a wide range of organisms

- Slime molds
- Insects
- **Krill**



antarctica.org.nz/04-biology/

www.antarctica.ac.uk/.../Bird_Island/2000/bidir1200.html

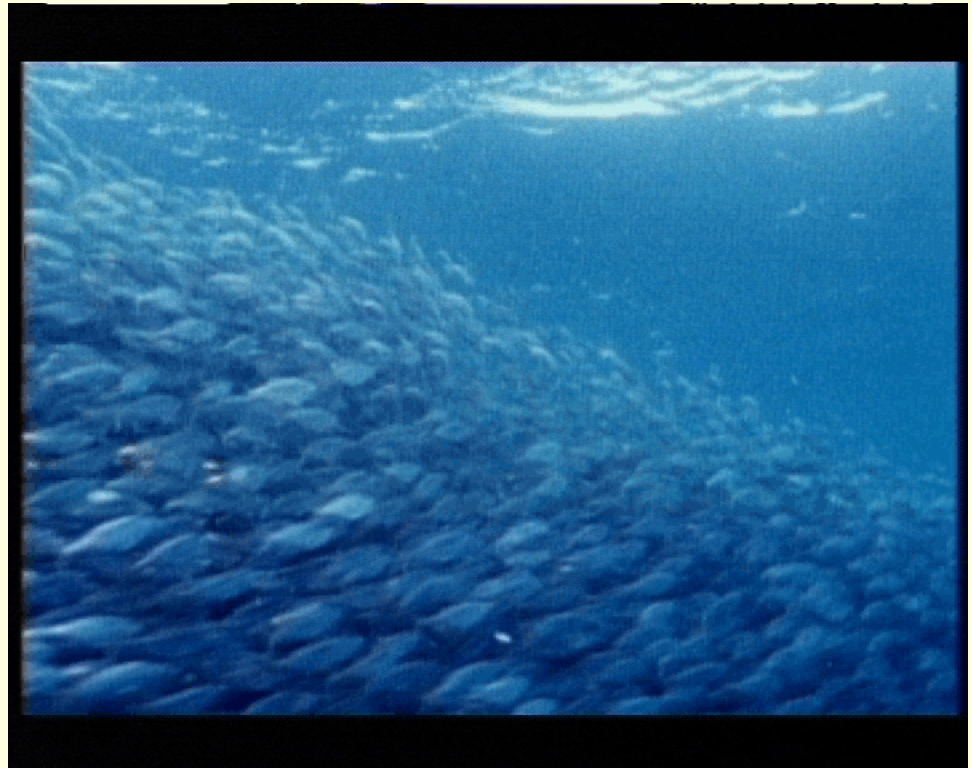
Aggregation has been addressed for a wide range of organisms

- Slime molds
- Insects
- Krill
- **Birds**



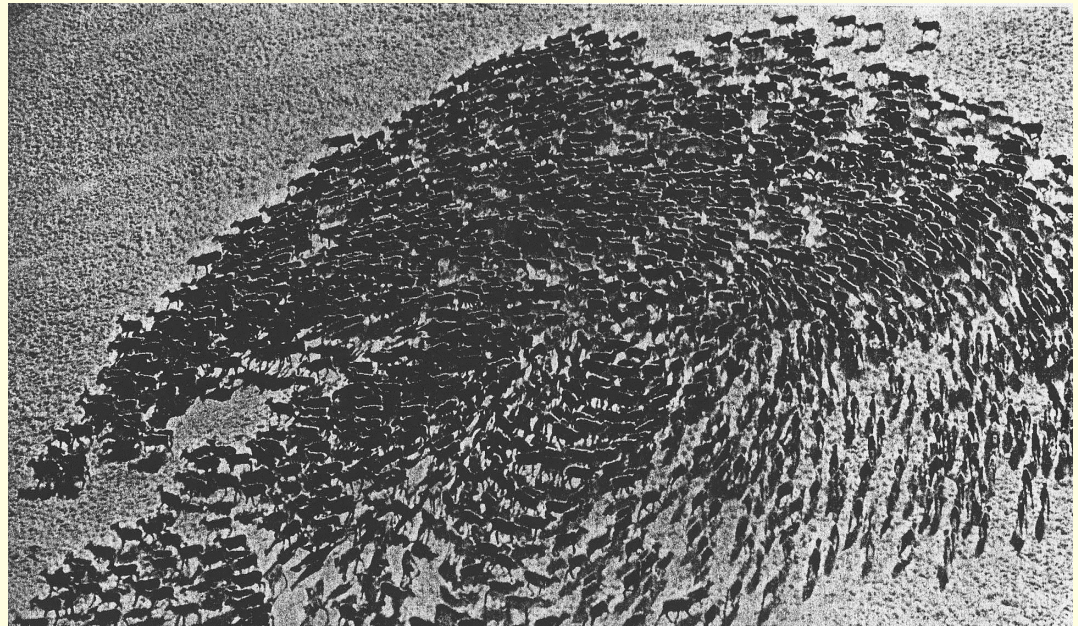
Aggregation has been addressed for a wide range of organisms

- Slime molds
- Insects
- Krill
- Birds
- Fish

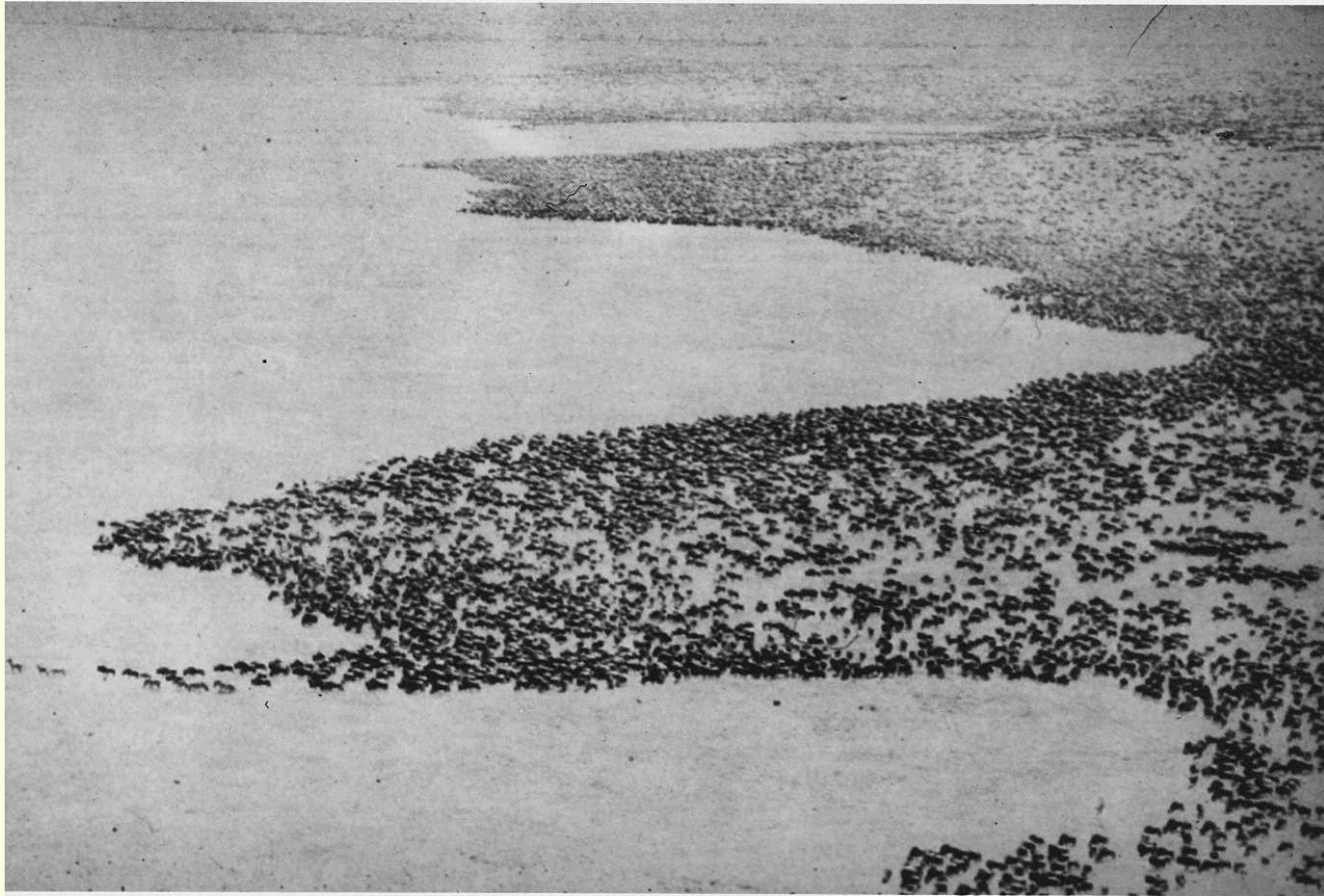


Aggregation has been addressed for a wide range of organisms

- Slime molds
- Insects
- Krill
- Birds
- Fish
- Ungulates



Wildebeest



Aerial photograph of a large wildebeest herd, courtesy A.R.E. Sinclair (plate 3 from A.R.E. Sinclair, *The African Buffalo*).

Can such patterns arise endogenously,
basically as hydrodynamic instabilities?



$$\frac{\partial P}{\partial t} + \nabla \left\{ \frac{aP}{S} \nabla S + b \nabla P \right\} = \beta \nabla^2 P^2$$

Can such patterns arise endogenously,
basically as hydrodynamic instabilities?

Again, a simple balance between short-range repulsion (“activation”) and long-range attraction (“inhibition”) can produce patterns

Reproducing wave-fronts (Gueron and Levin)

$$y = y(x, t)$$

$$\dot{y} = v_0(t) + F(\Delta(y))$$

$$\Delta(y(x, t)) = \frac{1}{2\delta} \int_{x-\delta}^{x+\delta} y(s, t) ds - y(x, t)$$

Observations on large mammals

- Repulsion if others too close
- Attraction if others too far

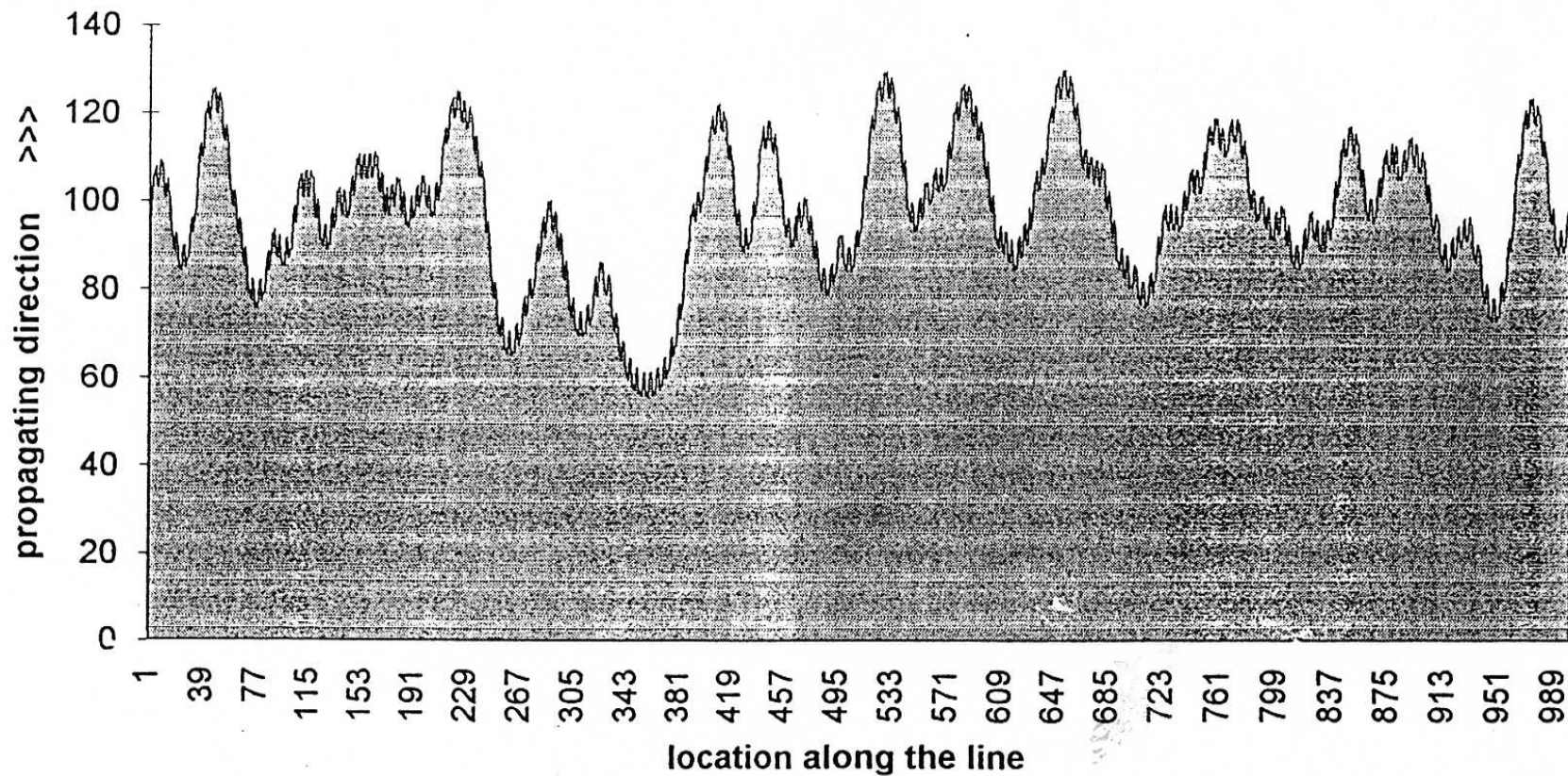
Observations on ungulates:

- **Attraction:**
 - Slow down if too far ahead
 - Speed up if too far behind
- **Repulsion**
 - Speed up if slightly ahead
 - Slow down if slightly behind

$$\dot{y} = v_0(t) + F(\Delta(y))$$

Traveling fronts arise spontaneously

Unstable model (interaction with three neighbors)



Most generally, the problem is

What is the relationship
between an individual agent



...and how it responds to its
neighbors and local
environment



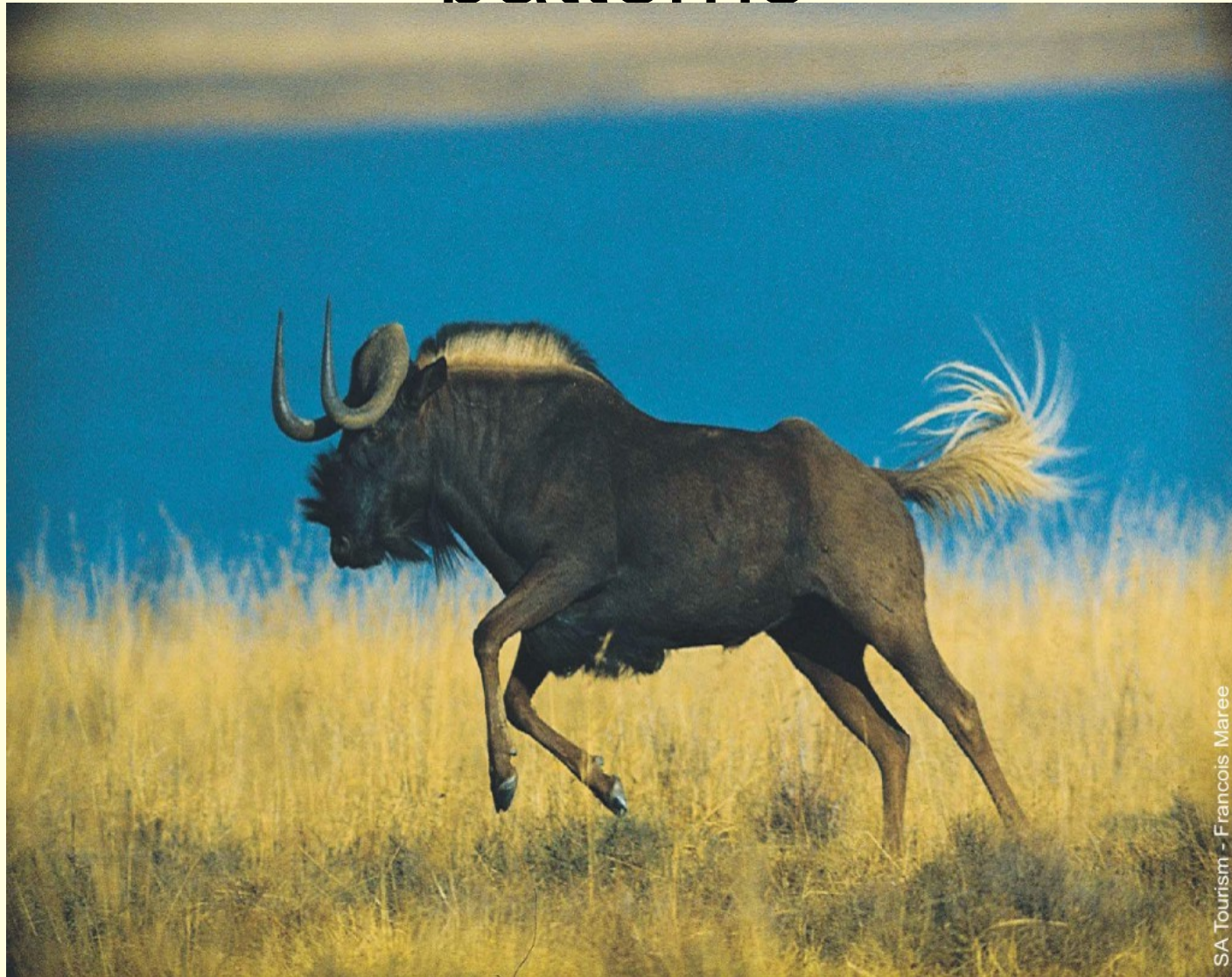
...and the macroscopic properties of ensembles of such agents?





How do we relate the
macroscopic patterns to the
microscopic rules?

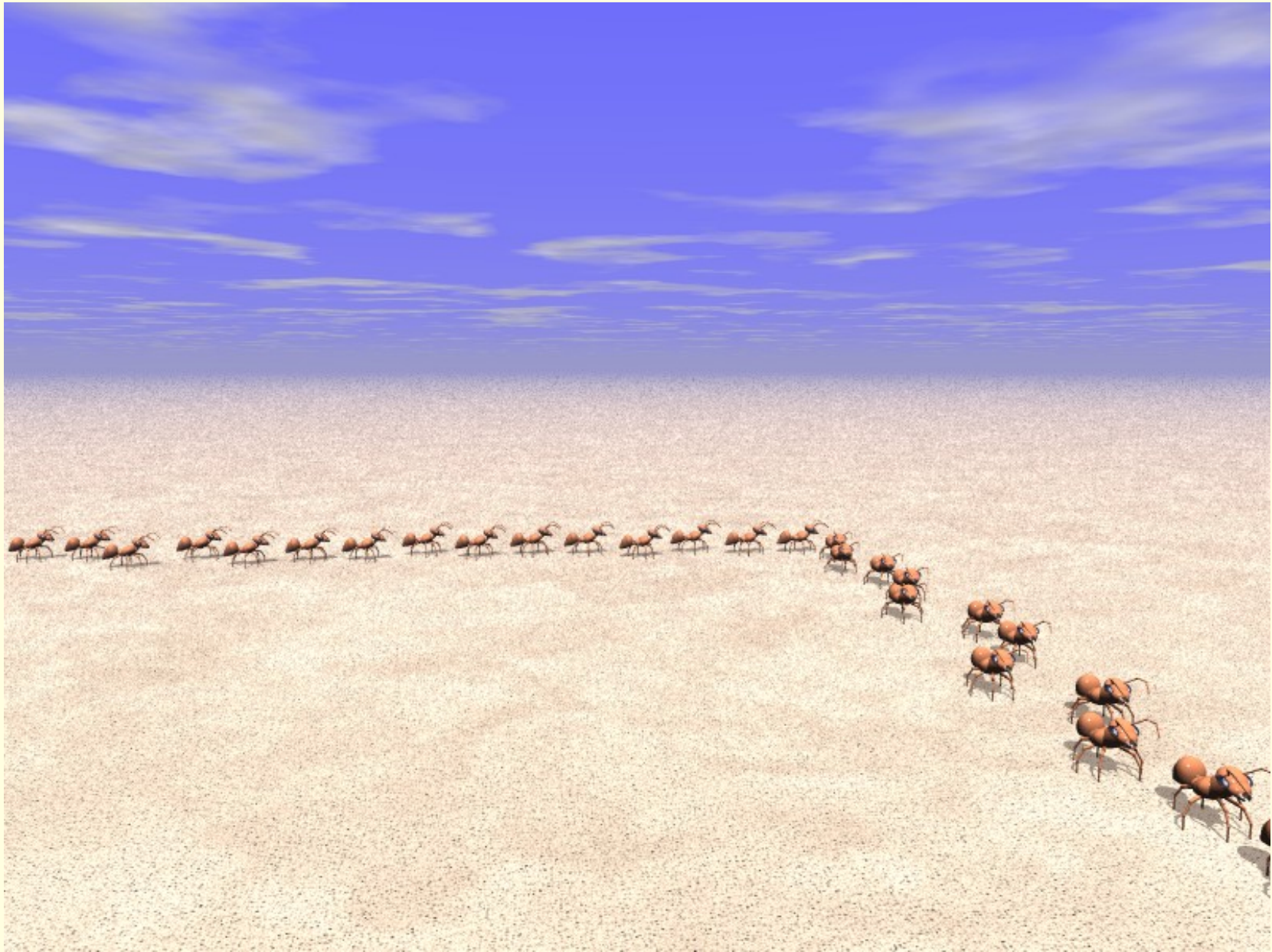
Wildebeest show a variety of patterns



SA Tourism - Francois Maree



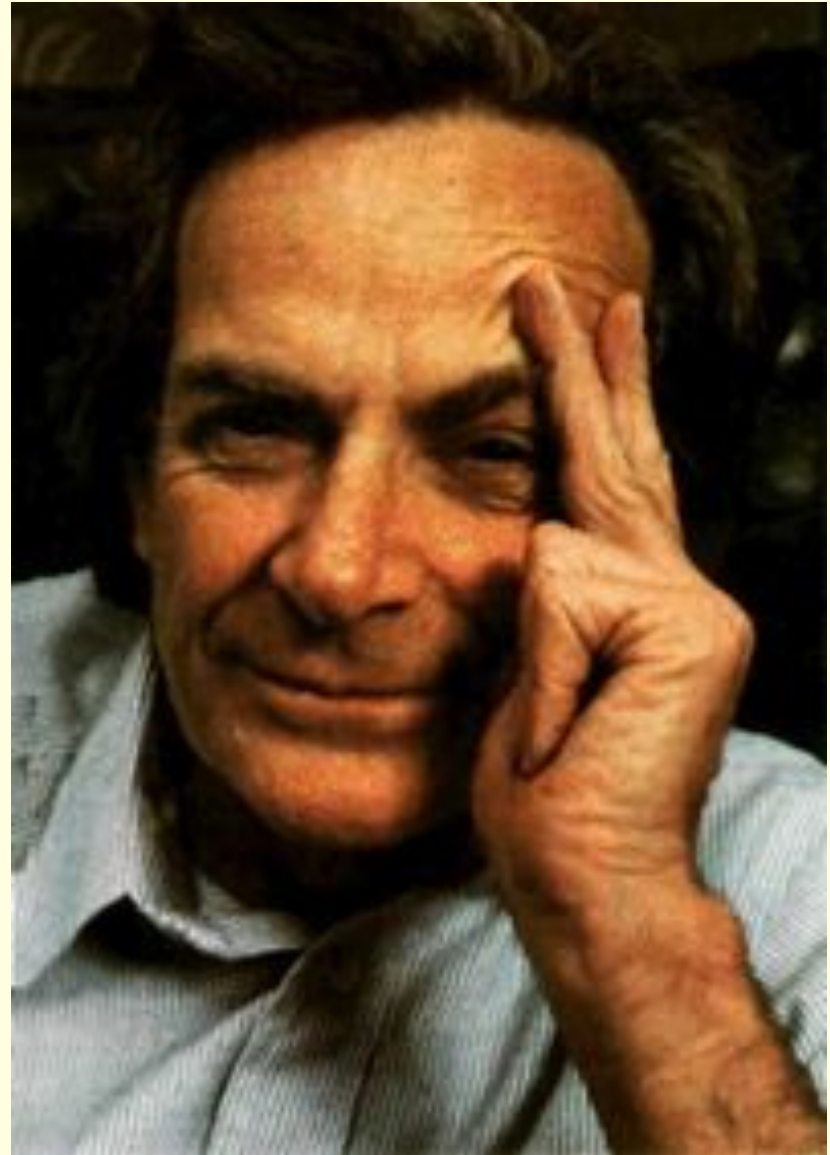
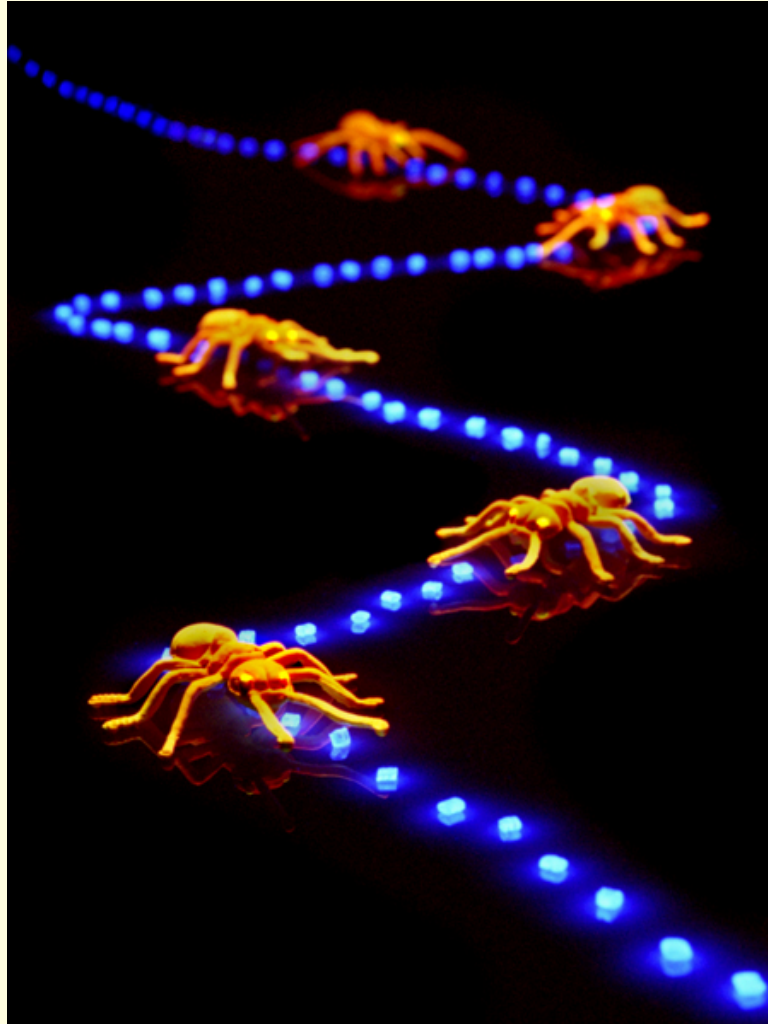
www.ribbitphotography.com



Ants

www.irtc.org

Feynman: Trail-following



mishilo.image.pbbase.com

Lagrangian-Eulerian connections



- **Begin from microscopic (Lagrangian) rules**

$$m\ddot{x} = \underset{\text{Random}}{F_1} + \underset{\text{Directed}}{F_2} + \underset{\text{Grouping}}{F_3} + \underset{\text{Arrayal}}{F_4}$$



Flierl, Grunbaum, Levin, Olson 1999

Lagrangian/Eulerian transformation

1. Start from individual-based model, in which positions or velocities change according to specific rules.

Lagrangian/Eulerian transformation

1. Start from individual-based model, in which positions or velocities change according to specific rules.
2. Write population descriptions in terms of spatial/velocity density.

Spatial/velocity density

$$n(x, v, t + \delta t) = \int dx' dv' \mathcal{P}_{\delta X}(x - x' - v' \delta t; x', v', t) * \mathcal{P}_{\delta V}(v - v' - a \delta t; x', v', t) n(x', v', t)$$

$\mathcal{P}_{\delta X}$ = probability particle at x' , velocity v' , time t has random jump $\delta x = x - x' - v' \delta t$, etc.

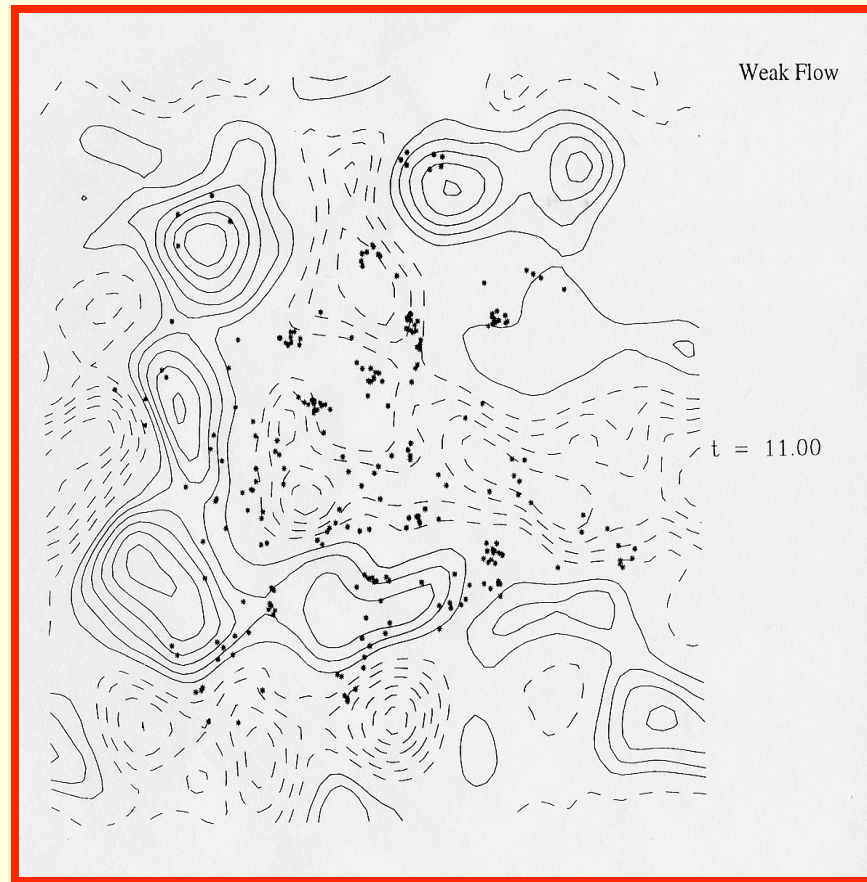
Lagrangian/Eulerian transformation

1. Start from individual-based model, in which positions or velocities change according to specific rules.
2. Write population descriptions in terms of spatial/velocity density.
3. To close system, assume something like Poisson distribution locally.

Boltzmann equation

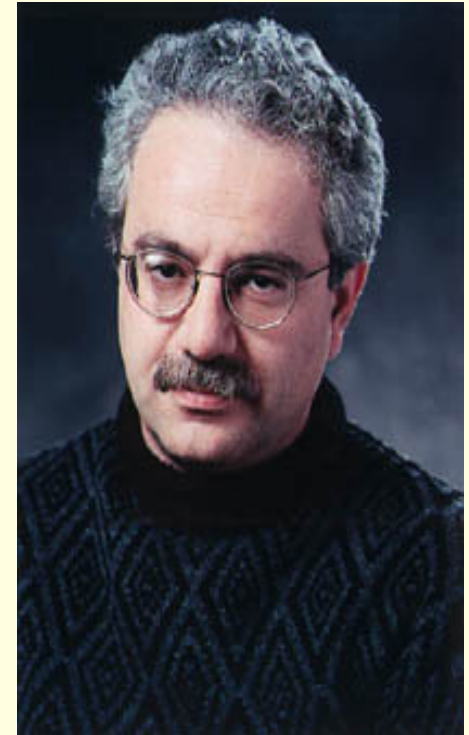
$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} n(x, v, t) = & - \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} [v_i n(x, v, t) \\ & - \frac{\partial}{\partial v_i} [a_i n(x, v, t)] \\ & + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial v_i \partial v_j} [\gamma_{ij} n(x, v, t)]. \end{aligned}$$

If closures are good, these approximations work well



If closures are not known, may be able to use equation-free methods

- Coarse-graining techniques of Kevrekidis et al. start from individual-based approaches
- “Equation-free” computation
- Circumvents explicit closure, allows microscopic simulators to perform system-level tasks directly



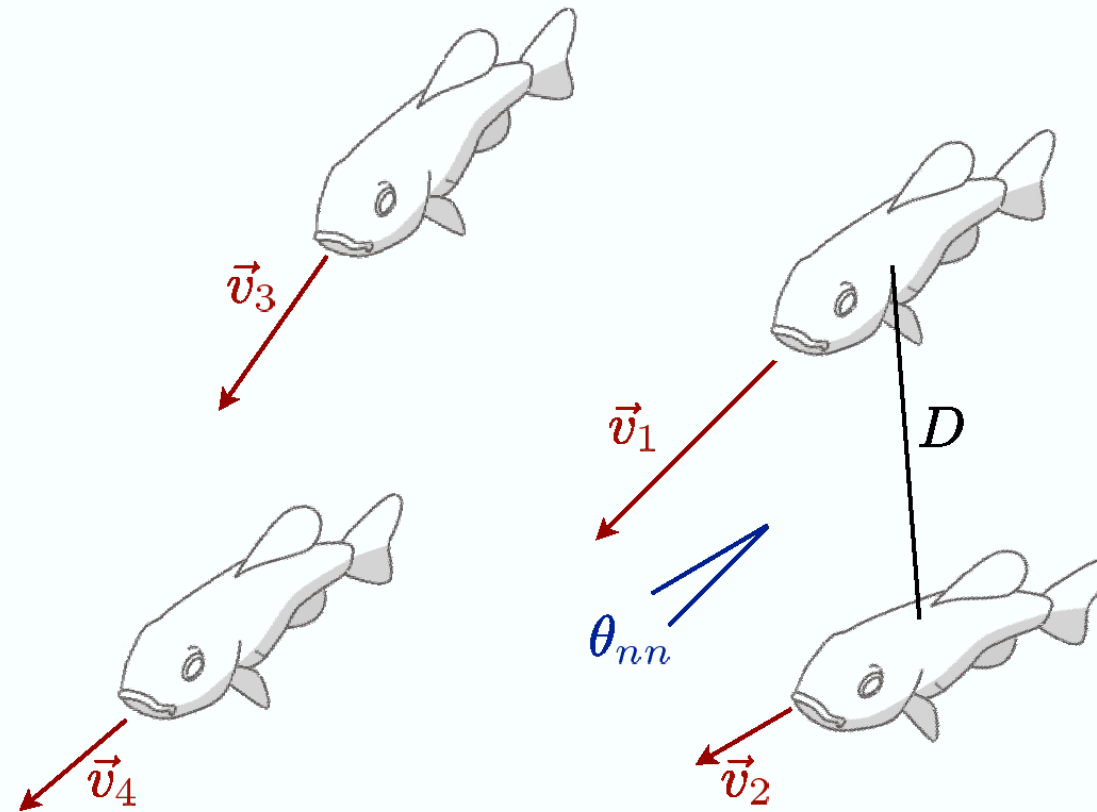
But real aggregations are
heterogeneous assemblages
of individuals

Couzin, Krause, Franks, Levin



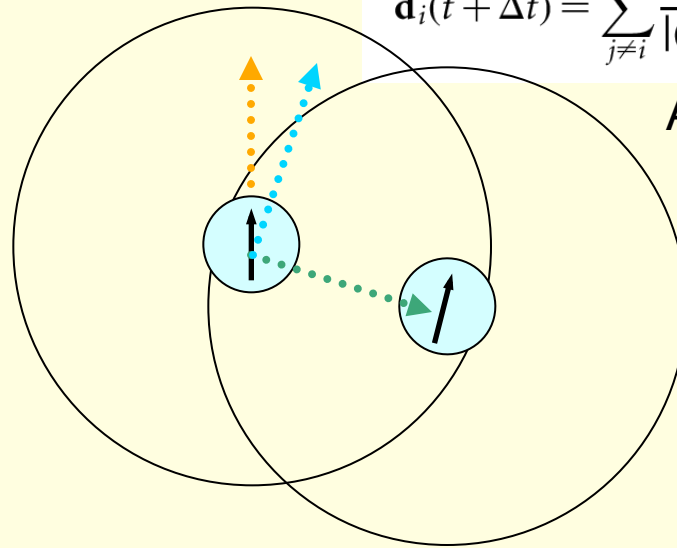
- Utilize simulations to explore these issues

Velocity vectors



Social interactions

$$\mathbf{d}_i(t + \Delta t) = \sum_{j \neq i} \frac{\mathbf{c}_j(t) - \mathbf{c}_i(t)}{|\mathbf{c}_j(t) - \mathbf{c}_i(t)|} + \sum_{j=1} \frac{\mathbf{v}_j(t)}{|\mathbf{v}_j(t)|} \quad (2)$$

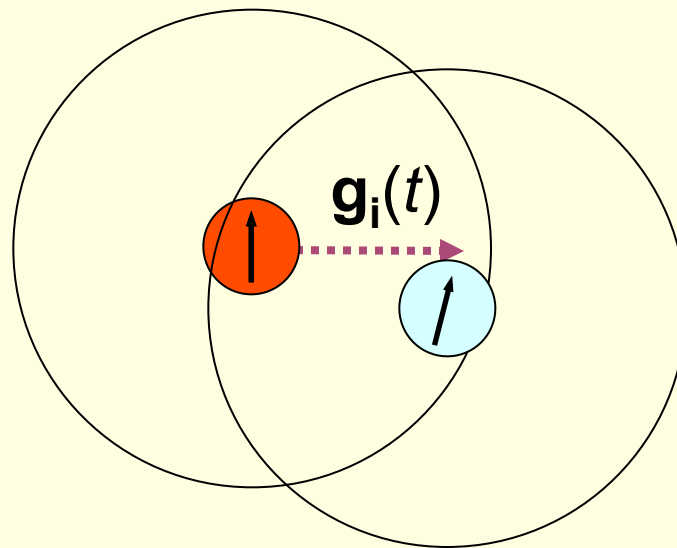


Attraction

Alignment

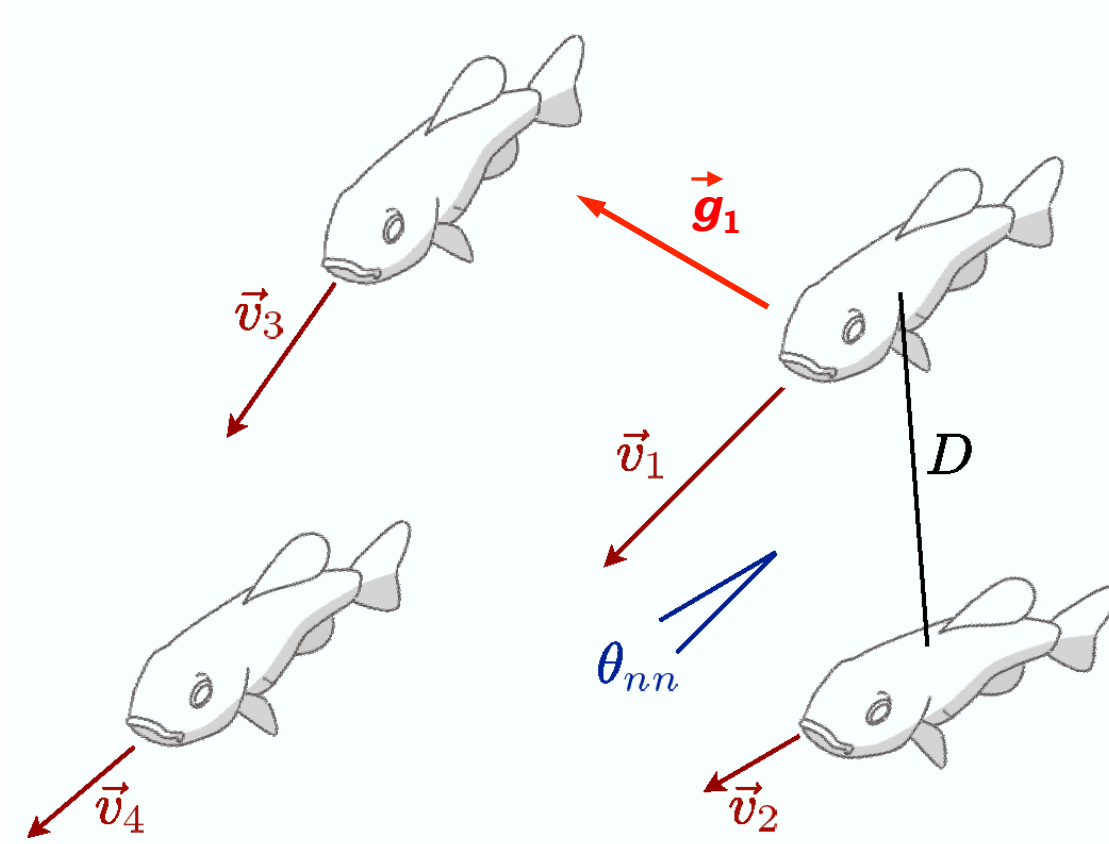
+ local repulsion

“Informed” individuals have an additional influence, here simulated as a desired direction of motion (e.g. towards a resource or the direction of a section of a migration route)

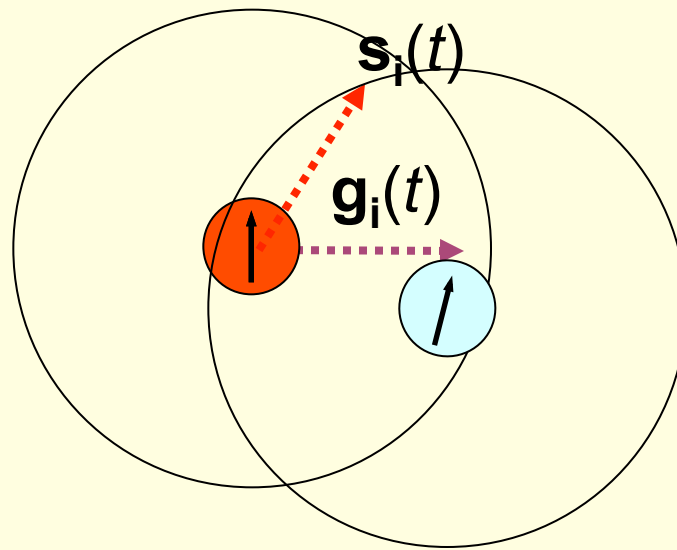


But individuals have no explicit knowledge as to who is informed and who is not.

Collective decision-making



So the direction chosen by informed individuals must reconcile these tendencies.



$$\mathbf{d}_i(t+\Delta t) = \frac{\mathbf{s}_i(t) + \omega \mathbf{g}_i(t)}{|\mathbf{s}_i(t) + \omega \mathbf{g}_i(t)|}$$

Collective decision-making

Unregistered Screen Recorder Gold

1 informed individuals in group of 100.

Collective decision-making

Unregistered Screen Recorder Gold

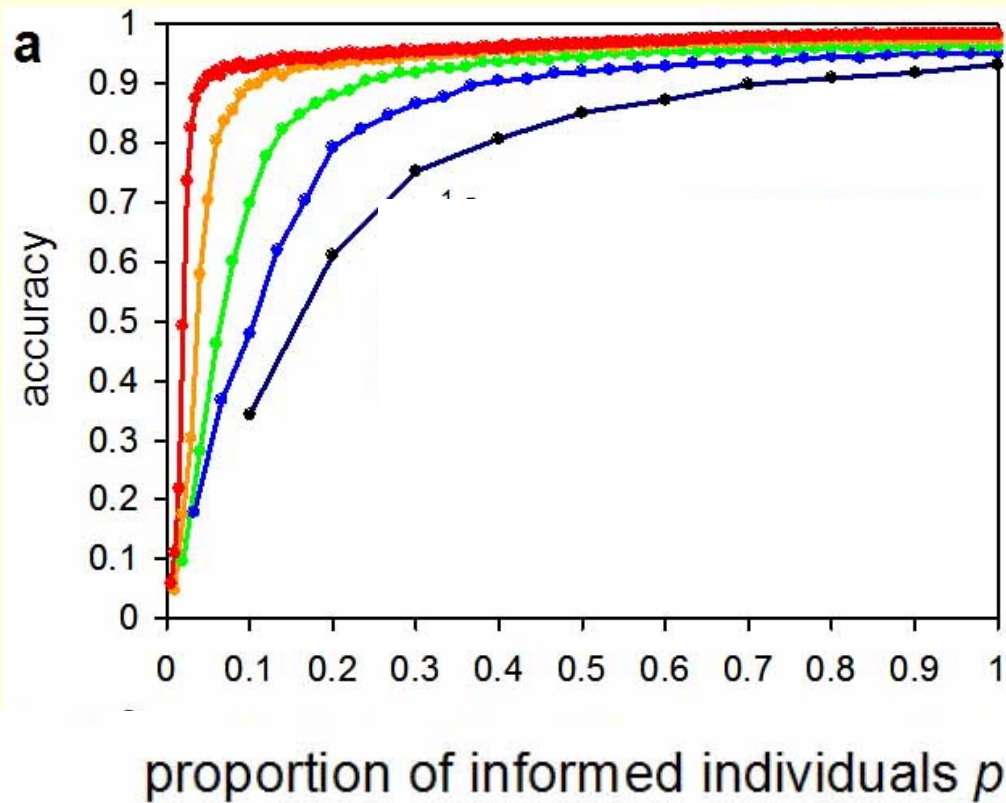
5 informed individuals in group of 100.

Collective decision-making



10 informed individuals in group of 100.

Animal groups may be led by a small number of individuals



Tim Buchman's recreation of Huyghens' experiment

Metronome Synchronization

N=5

Rate=208+/-2

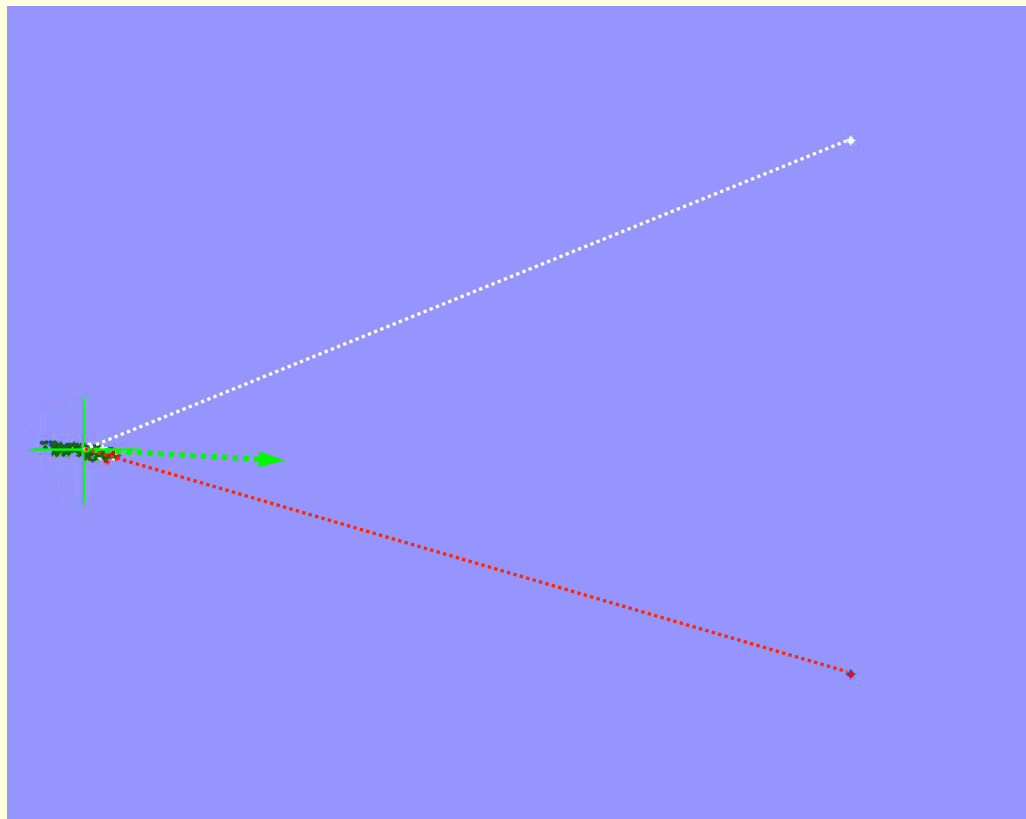
Initial Phase: Rand

09 Oct 2005

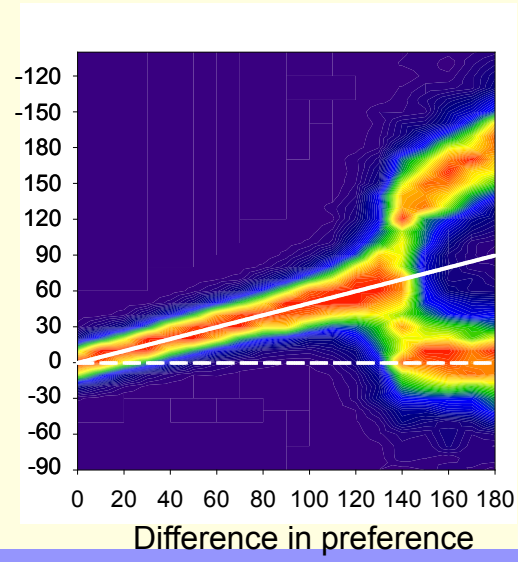
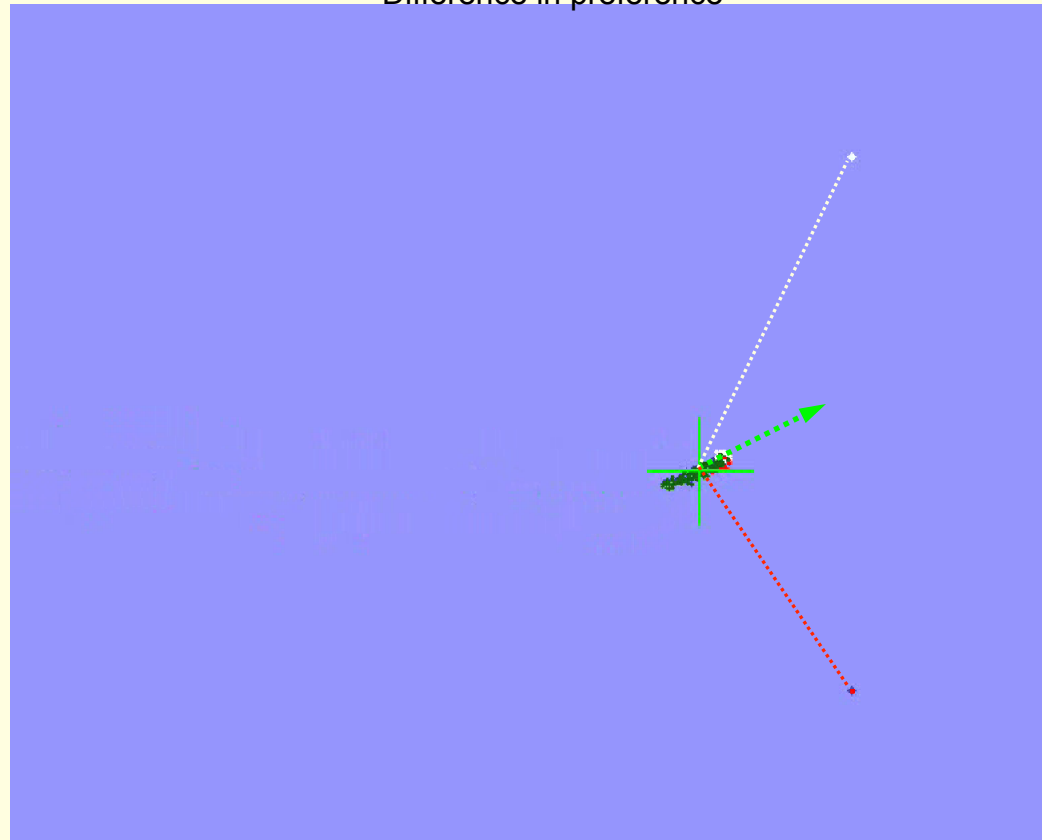
Serial V1322

Competing preferences

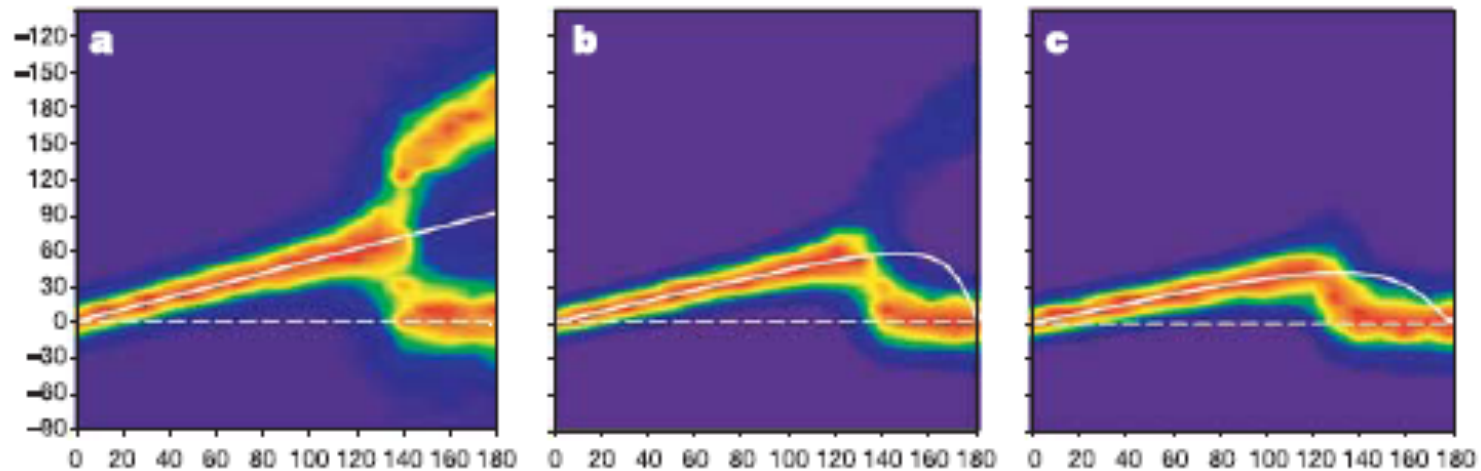
Difference in preference



Collective decision-making



Unequal numbers of leaders



Couzin, I.D., Krause, J., Franks, N.R. and Levin, S.A. (2005) *Effective leadership and decision-making in animal groups on the move*. Nature 434, 513-516

Unregistered Screen Recorder Gold

◆

◆

Unregistered Screen Recorder Gold

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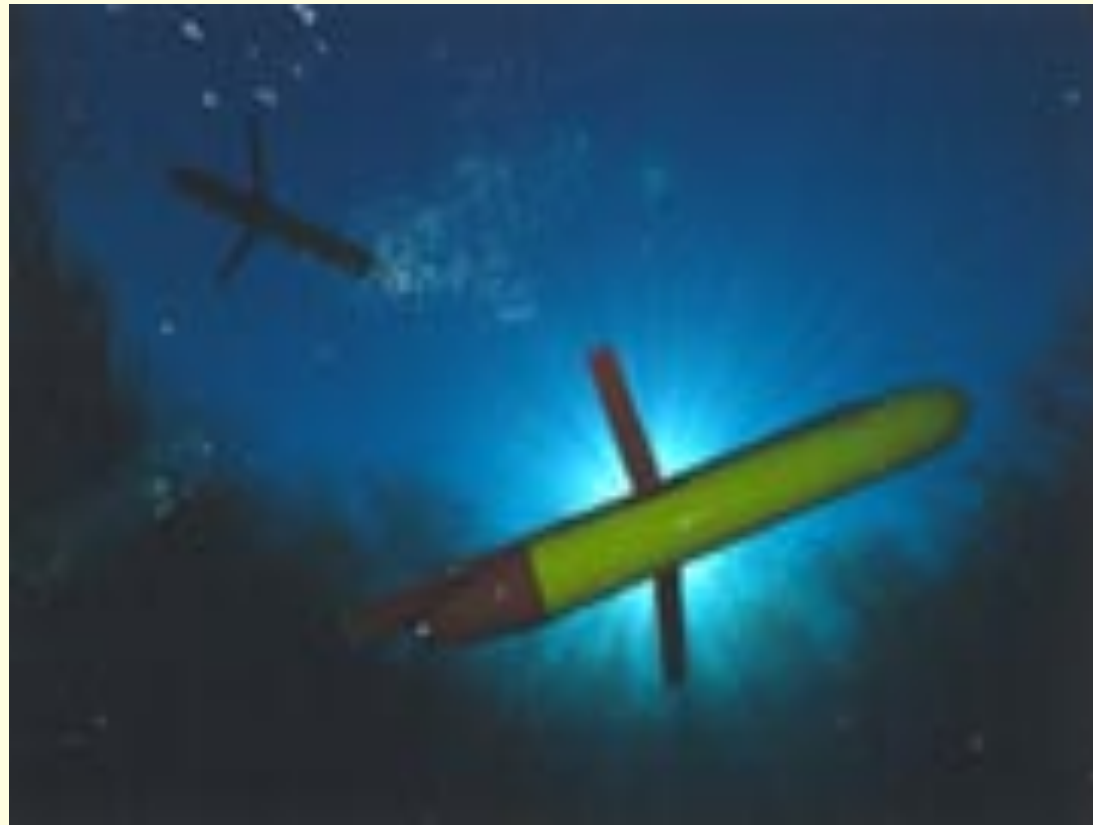
Efforts to understand simulations

- *Leonard, Nabet*
- *Kevrekidis, Moon*
- *Couzin, Levin*
- Strong connections to control theory

Distributed, communicating robots



**Naomi
Leonard**



A continuous multi-agent model with simple interconnections

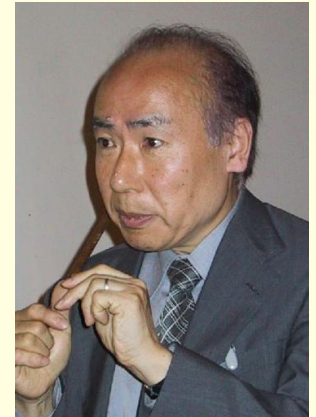
We consider $N = N_1 + N_2 + N_3$ individuals
divided into 3 subgroups.

- N_1 individuals with preferred direction $\bar{\theta}_1$
- N_2 individuals with preferred direction $\bar{\theta}_2$
- N_3 individuals with no preferred direction

These individuals are moving at constant speed
in a given plane seeking to stay together.

We are only considering the dynamics of their
heading.

Kuramoto model



$$\dot{\theta}_j = \sin(\bar{\theta}_1 - \theta_j) + k \sum_{l=1}^N \sin(\theta_l - \theta_j)$$

$$j = 1, \dots, N_1$$

$$\dot{\theta}_j = \sin(\bar{\theta}_2 - \theta_j) + k \sum_{l=1}^N \sin(\theta_l - \theta_j)$$

$$j = N_1 + 1, \dots, N_1 + N_2$$

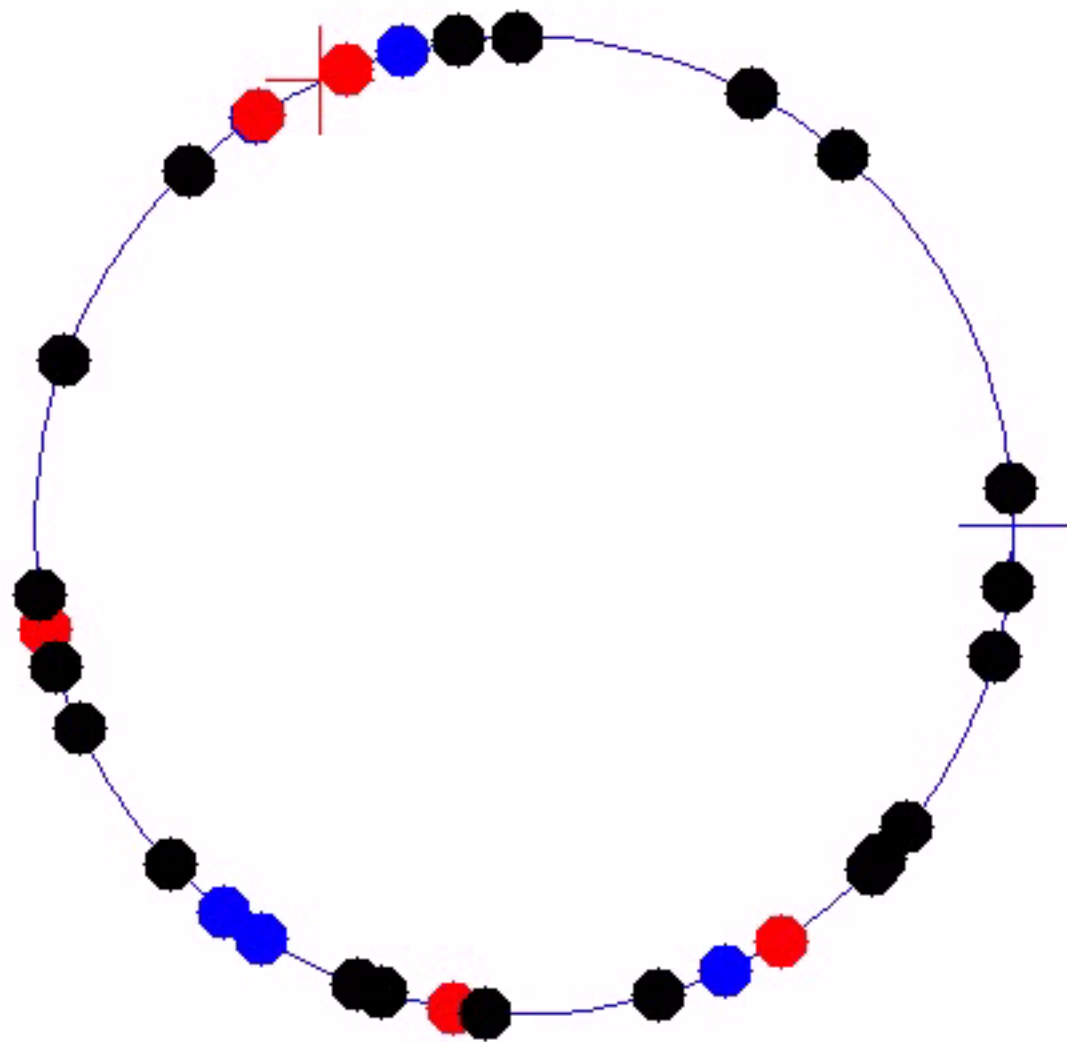
$$\dot{\theta}_j = k \sum_{l=1}^N \sin(\theta_l - \theta_j)$$

$$j = N_1 + N_2 + 1, \dots, N$$

Gradient system, with potential

$$V = \sum_{j \in \mathcal{N}_1} \cos(\bar{\theta}_1 - \theta_j) + \sum_{j \in \mathcal{N}_2} \cos(\bar{\theta}_2 - \theta_j) + \frac{K}{N} \sum_{l=j+1}^N \sum_{j=1}^{N-1} \cos(\theta_j - \theta_l)$$

So all solutions go to equilibrium

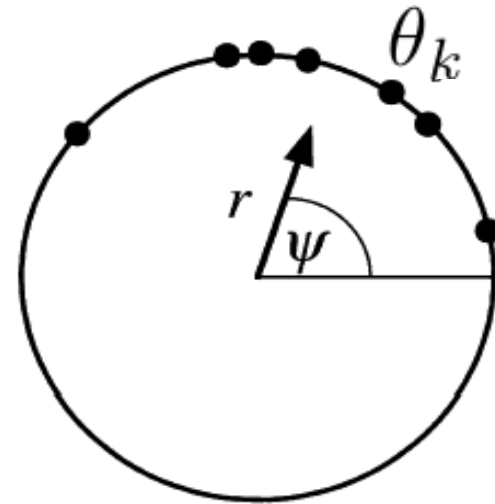


Multiple scales

Bifurcation analysis

The complex order parameter

$$p_\theta = r e^{i\psi} = \sum_{j=1}^N e^{i\theta_j}$$



r measures the level of synchrony in the group,
 ψ gives the average direction of the group.

A lump model

We write the dynamics for ψ_1, ψ_2, ψ_3 the average heading of respectively η_1, η_2 and η_3 .

$$r_j e^{i\psi_j} = \frac{1}{N_j} \sum_{l \in \eta_j} e^{i\theta_l} \quad j = 1, 2, 3$$

$$\dot{r}_j e^{i\psi_j} + i\dot{\psi}_j = \frac{1}{N_j} \sum_{l \in \eta_j} i\dot{\theta}_l e^{i\theta_l} \quad j = 1, 2, 3.$$

During the second time scale

$$\theta_l = \psi_j$$

$$r_j = 1$$

$$\dot{r}_j = 0$$

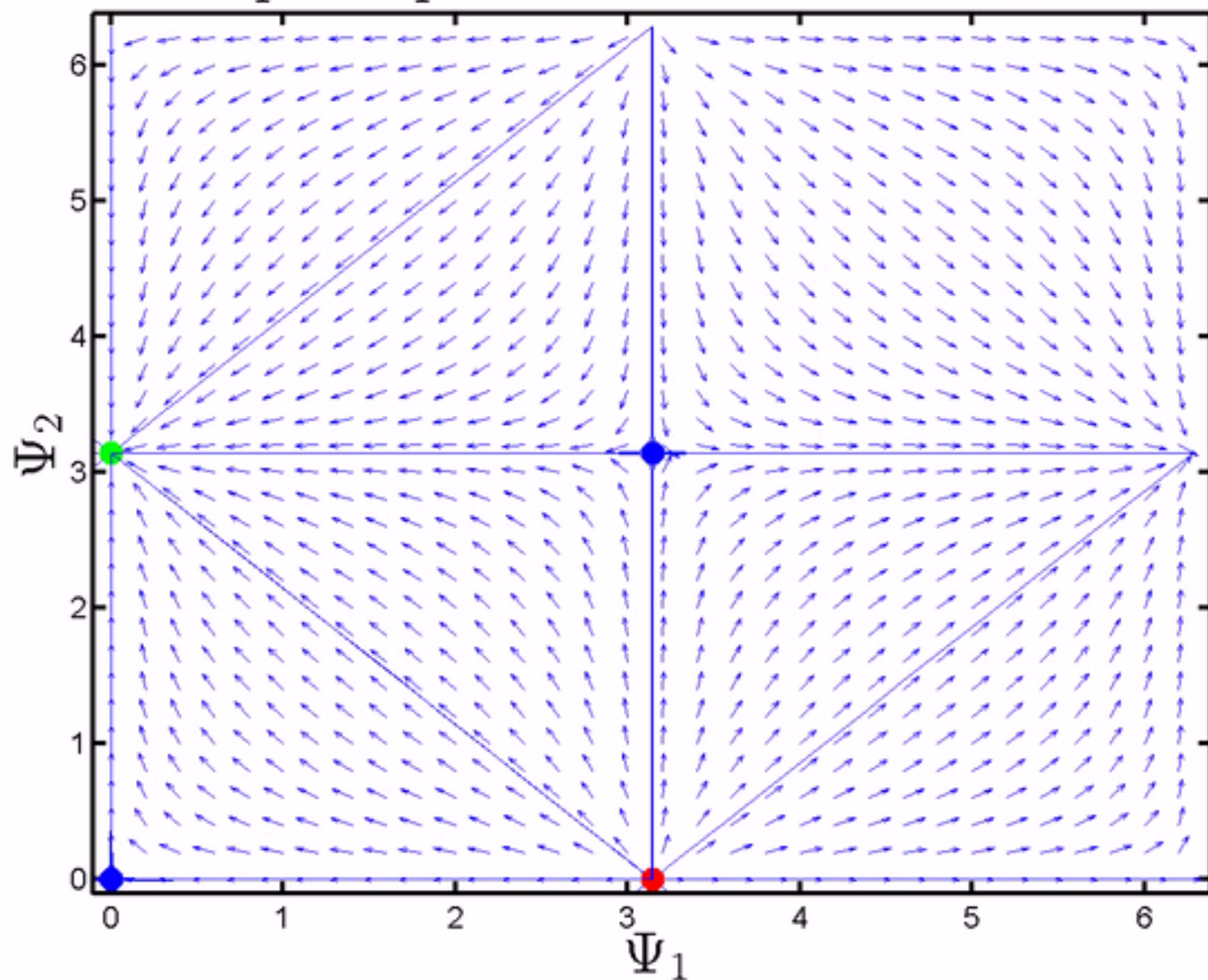
Everyone in cluster
has same heading

A lump model

We get for the second time scale

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{\psi}_1 &= \sin(\bar{\theta}_1 - \psi_1) + kN_2 \sin(\psi_2 - \psi_1) + kN_3 \sin(\psi_3 - \psi_1) \\ \dot{\psi}_2 &= \sin(\bar{\theta}_2 - \psi_2) + kN_1 \sin(\psi_1 - \psi_2) + kN_3 \sin(\psi_3 - \psi_2) \\ \dot{\psi}_3 &= kN_1 \sin(\psi_1 - \psi_3) + kN_2 \sin(\psi_2 - \psi_3)\end{aligned}$$

phase portrait for $K=0$ and $\bar{\theta}_2=3.1416$



Conclusions

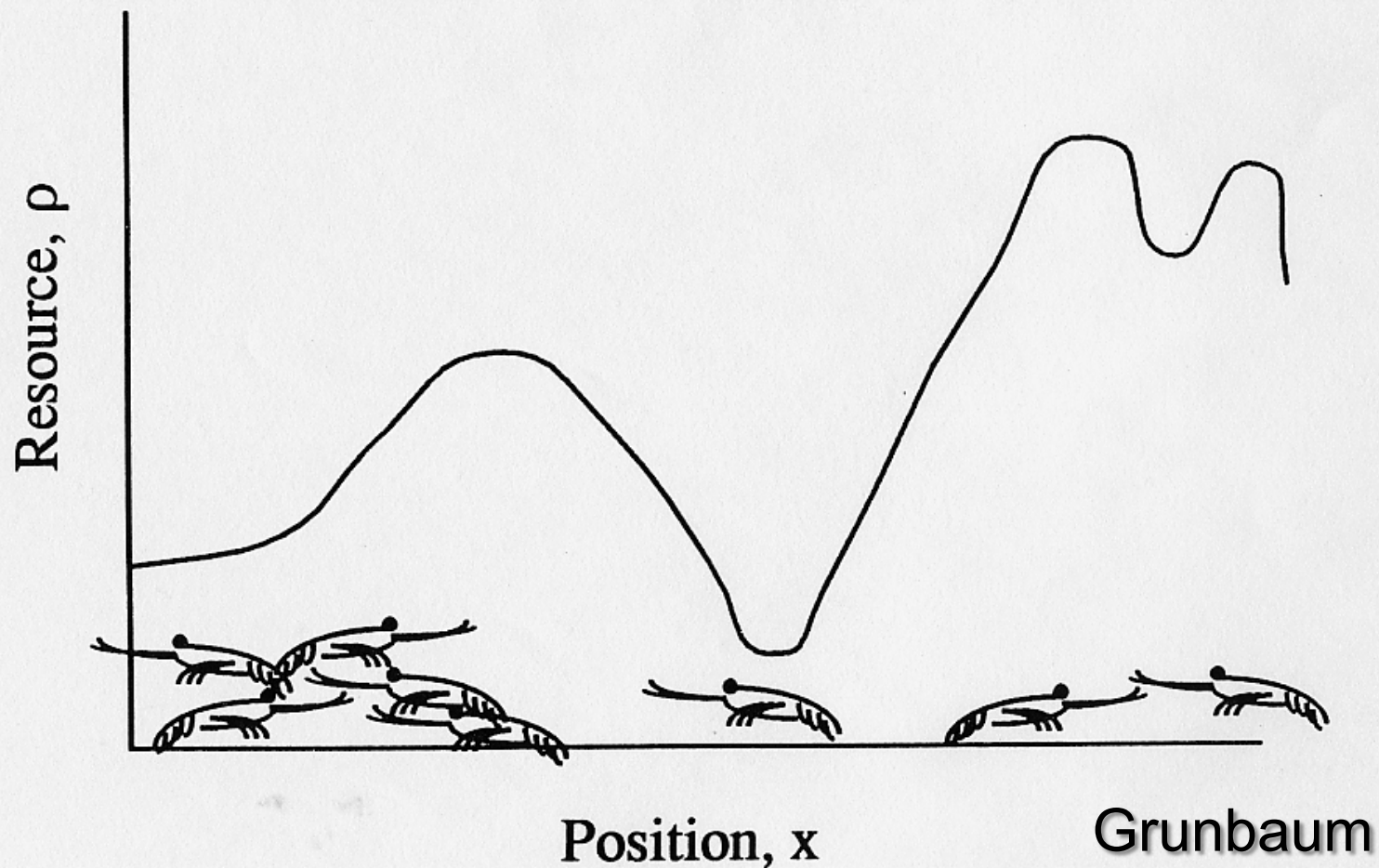
- Naïve individuals are crucial to consensus
- Non-spatial models miss key detail
- Multi-scale analyses also essential

That's ecological

What strategies does evolution
shape?

What is the value of information?

Searching on Resource Landscapes



How does selection shape the trade-off between tracking resources and tracking other individuals?

Guttal and Couzin

- Two evolvable parameters, gradient-following and neighbor-following
- Depending on values of parameters, may evolve
 - Solitary random walk or migratory behavior
 - Aggregation
 - Fission-fusion dynamics

Evolving specialized leadership roles

- Assume reproductive fitness is dependent on following a defined migration route
- The route is not known a priori but shown by environmental cues
- Detecting these cues is costly (e.g. lost foraging time, reduced predator vigilance, energetic costs of exploration)
- Naive following of others is a low cost alternative strategy



Specialization and evolutionary branching within migratory populations
Colin Torney, Simon A. Levin & Iain D. Couzin | PNAS, to appear

Evolving specialized leadership roles

- Model fluctuating environmental signal as a stochastic process
- Individual heading θ follows mean reverting process, where $\theta=0$ is the optimum migration direction

$$d\theta_t = -x_g \theta dt + \sigma dW_t$$

Level of investment in
detecting the
environmental cue

Noise term,
representing
fluctuations or errors in
detection

- Level of investment x_g is costly but following others is free

Natural selection

- Select for highest average migration speed, minus a cost function

Evolution:
In absence of social
information, fitness is

$$F = \exp(-\sigma^2 / 4 x_g)$$

Mean Velocity

Quantifying the social information

- Follow Kuramoto's approach for coupled oscillators to reduce population orientations to 2 dimensional order parameter

$$\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N e^{i\theta} = \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \rho(\theta) e^{i\theta} d\theta = r e^{i\psi}$$

Average heading

Degree of ordering, $r = 0$
complete disorder, $r = 1$
completely aligned

- Leads to coarse grained representation of social interactions

$$d\theta_t = -x_s(\theta - \psi)dt + \eta\sqrt{(1-r)}dW_t$$

Level of
sociality

Turns toward mean
population heading

Noise is decreasing function
of degree of ordering

Add these together

$$d\theta_t = (x_g d\theta_g + x_s d\theta_s) / (x_g + x_s)$$

Adaptive dynamics and branching

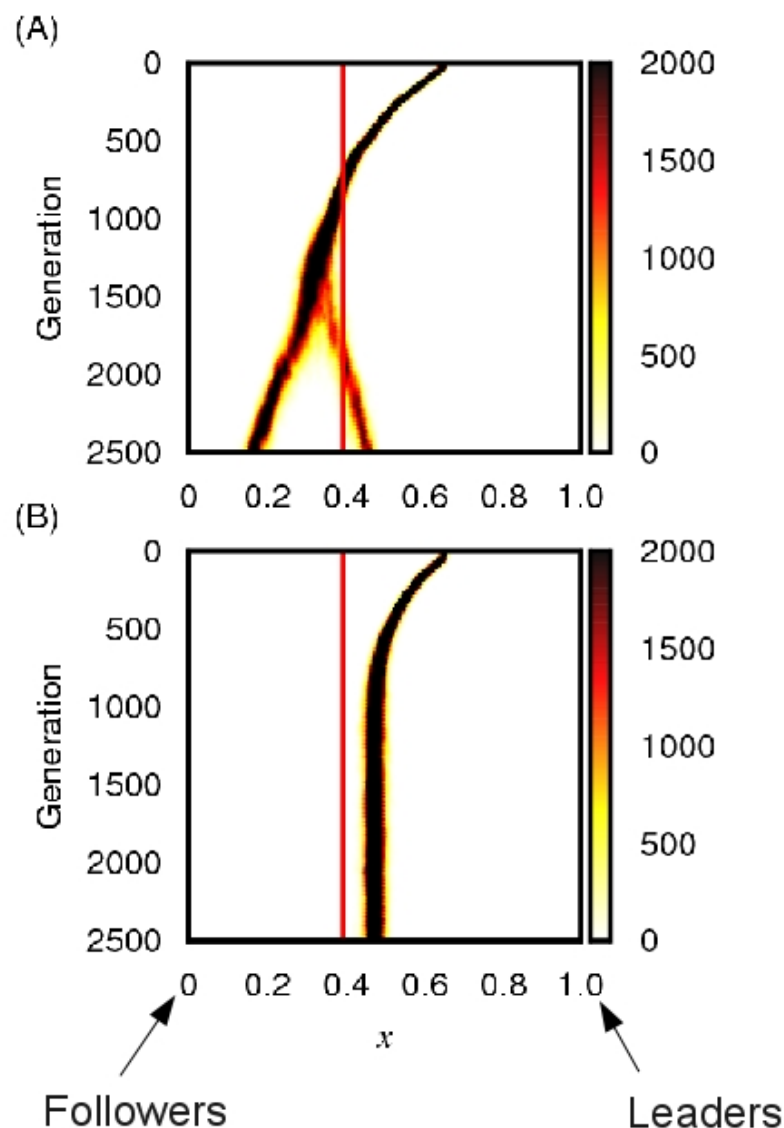
- Evolutionary change determined by differential fitness of mutant in the resident population

$$s_x(y) = F(y, x) - F(x, x)$$

- Population moves toward convergence stable solution (CSS)
- But if CSS not an evolutionary stable solution (ESS) branching will occur -

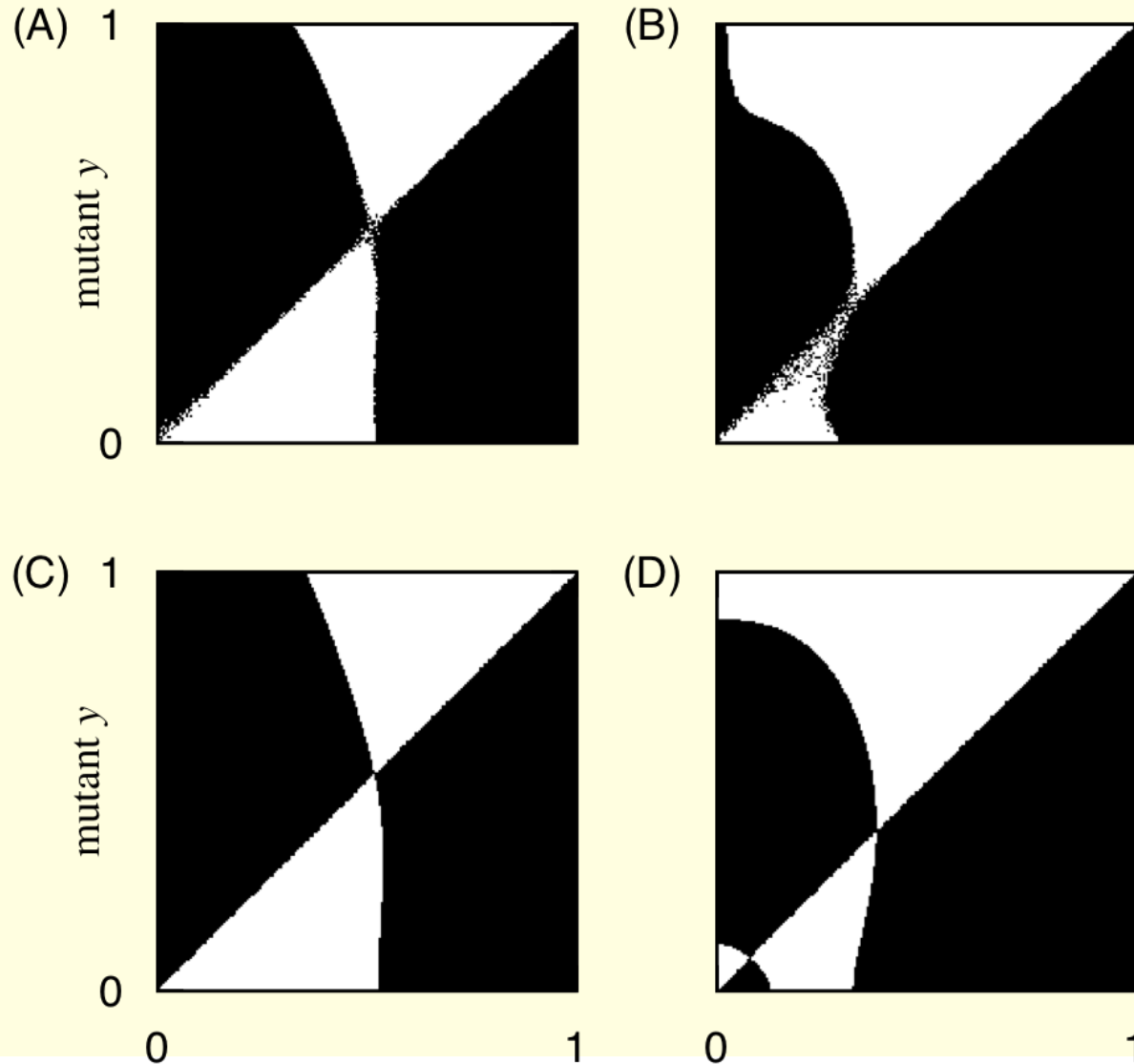
$$\left. \frac{\partial^2 F(y, x^*)}{\partial y^2} \right|_{y=x^*} > 0$$

- Branching and specialized sub-populations of leaders and followers emerge if CSS is less than critical value (red line)



Invasibility plots

Dark: Mutant can invade



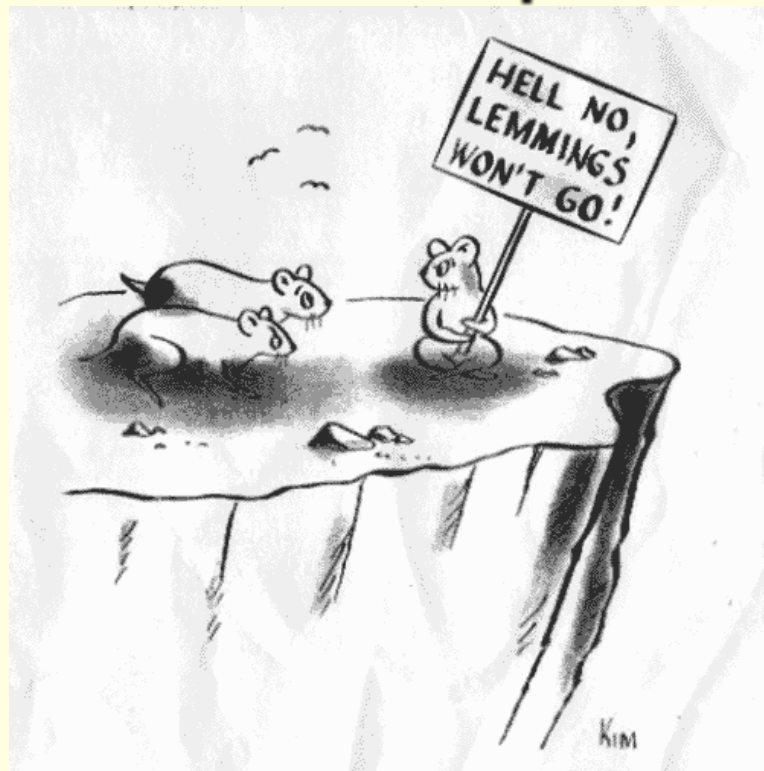
Conclusions:

Collective motion is important biologically, and raises fascinating mathematical problems

- Statistical mechanics of collectives
- Multi-scale dynamics
- Game theory
- Unifying theory and experiment/observation

Can such simplistic insights
be extended to human
groups?

How much does herd
behavior explain?



Can we model the dynamics of social norms?

- Antibiotic use
- Energy use
- Environmental protection
- Consumption

Social norms can be good

- Charitable giving
- Systems of justice
- Moral persuasion



Social norms can be good *or they can be bad*

- Charitable giving
- Systems of justice
- Moral persuasion
- **Caste systems**
- **Overconsumption**





www.weirdthings.org

Equity is a fundamental aspect of achieving sustainability



Equity can only be achieved through

- Concern for others and sense of fairness
- Social norms and international agreements that incorporate these principles

We live in a global commons, in which

- Individual agents act largely in their own self-interest



We live in a global commons, in which

- Individual agents act largely in their own self-interest
- **Social costs are not adequately accounted for**



Courtesy ODOT

The challenge....achieving
cooperation at the global level



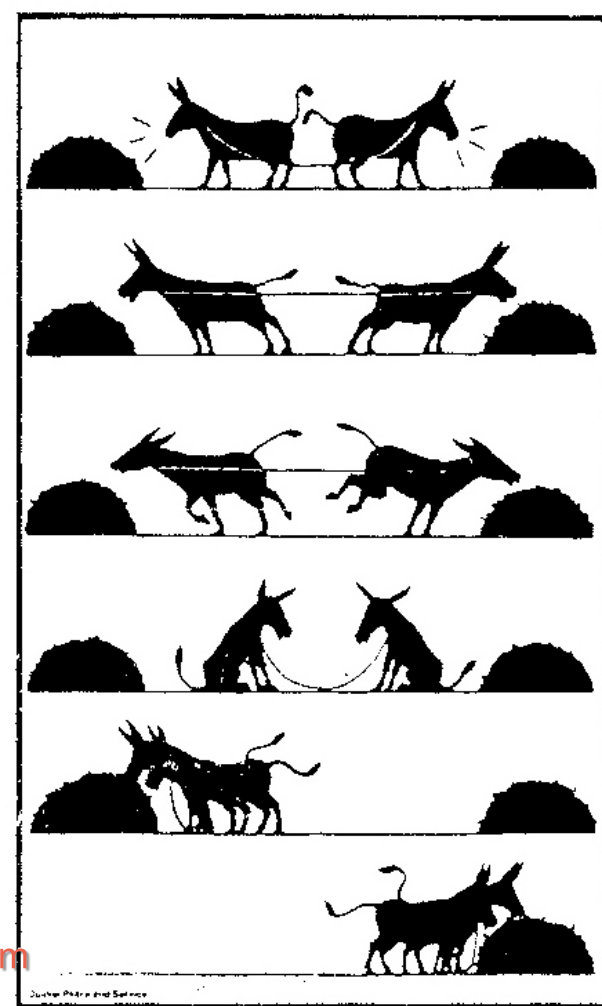
For public goods, leads to
The Tragedy of the Commons



William Forster Lloyd (1832)

Aelbert_Cuyp

But cooperation does arise in Nature...and in theory



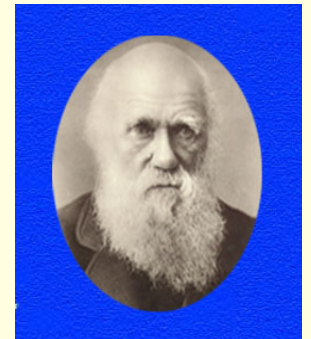
How?

The evolution of altruism and cooperation

- **Altruism** was a puzzle for Charles Darwin

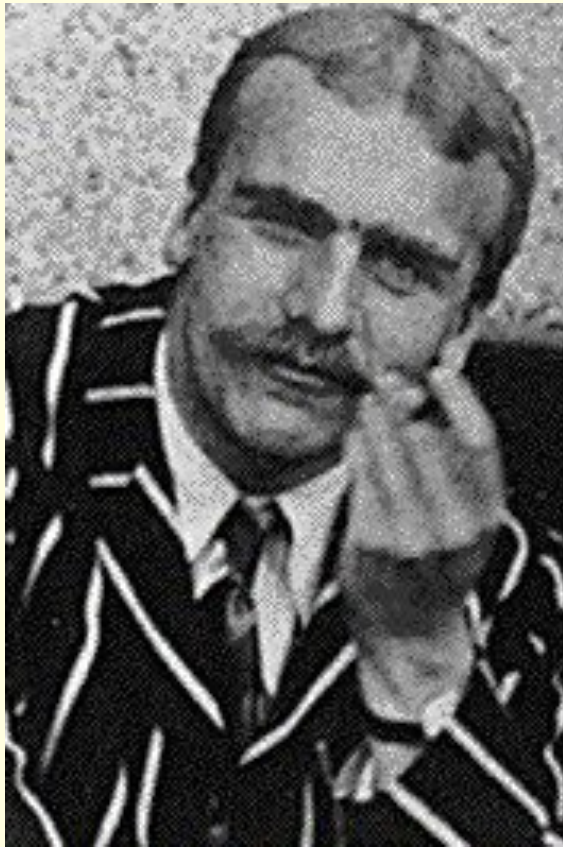


morningnoonandnight.files.wordpress.com



Delayed publication of "Origin of Species" for twenty years

Now well-understood that altruism
and cooperation facilitated by
close genetic relationship



I would lay down my life for

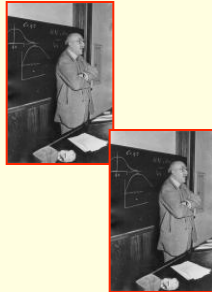
www.blackwellpublishing.com

J.B.S.Haldane

Now well-understood that altruism
and cooperation facilitated by
close genetic relationship



J.B.S.Haldane

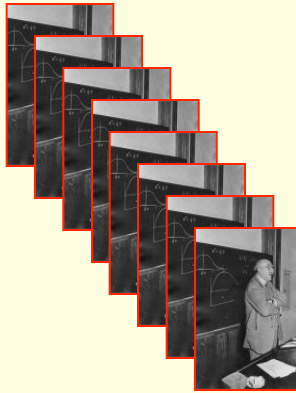


Two siblings

Now well-understood that altruism
and cooperation facilitated by
close genetic relationship

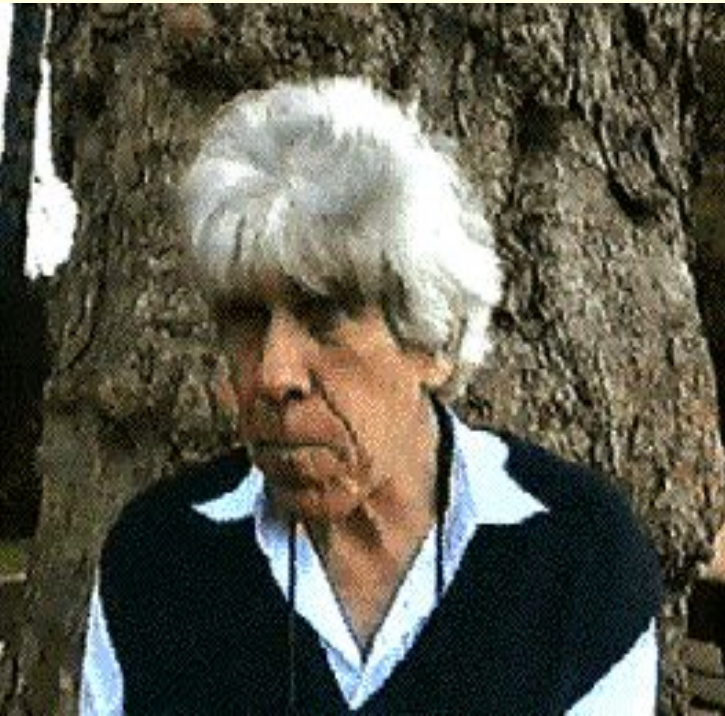


J.B.S.Haldane



Or eight cousins

W.D.Hamilton and the social insects



Well, not as well-understood as it used to be

Vol 466|26 August 2010|doi:10.1038/nature09205

nature

ANALYSIS

The evolution of eusociality

Martin A. Nowak¹, Corina E. Tarnita¹ & Edward O. Wilson²

Eusociality, in which some individuals reduce their own lifetime reproductive potential to raise the offspring of others, underlies the most advanced forms of social organization and the ecologically dominant role of social insects and humans. For the past four decades kin selection theory, based on the concept of inclusive fitness, has been the major theoretical attempt to explain the evolution of eusociality. Here we show the limitations of this approach. We argue that standard natural selection theory in the context of precise models of population structure represents a simpler and superior approach, allows the evaluation of multiple competing hypotheses, and provides an exact framework for interpreting empirical observations.

For most of the past half century, much of sociobiological theory has focused on the phenomenon called eusociality, where adult members are divided into reproductive and (partially) non-reproductive castes and the latter care for the young. How can genetically prescribed selfless behaviour arise by natural selection, which is seemingly its antithesis? This problem has vexed biologists since Darwin, who in *The Origin of Species* declared the paradox—in particular displayed by ants—to be the most important challenge to his theory. The solution offered by the master naturalist was to regard the sterile worker caste as a “well-flavoured vegetable”, and the queen as the plant that produced it. Thus, he said, the whole colony is the unit of selection.

Modern students of collateral altruism have followed Darwin in continuing to focus on ants, honeybees and other eusocial insects, because the colonies of most of their species are divided unambiguously into different castes. Moreover, eusociality is not a marginal phenomenon in the living world. The biomass of ants alone composes more than half that of all insects and exceeds that of all terrestrial nonhuman

greater than two times the cost to the altruist ($R = 1/2$) or eight times in the case of a first cousin ($R = 1/8$).

Due to its originality and seeming explanatory power, kin selection came to be widely accepted as a cornerstone of sociobiological theory. Yet it was not the concept itself in its abstract form that first earned favour, but the consequence suggested by Hamilton that came to be called the “haplodiploid hypothesis.” Haplodiploidy is the sex-determining mechanism in which fertilized eggs become females, and unfertilized eggs males. As a result, sisters are more closely related to one another ($R = 3/4$) than daughters are to their mothers ($R = 1/2$). Haplodiploidy happens to be the method of sex determination in the Hymenoptera, the order of ants, bees and wasps. Therefore, colonies of altruistic individuals might, due to kin selection, evolve more frequently in hymenopterans than in clades that have diploid sex determination.

In the 1960s and 1970s, almost all the clades known to have evolved eusociality were in the Hymenoptera. Thus the haplodiploid hypothesis seemed to be supported, at least at first. The belief that haplo-

Indeed, close genetic relationship not essential for cooperation



Reciprocal altruism also facilitates cooperation



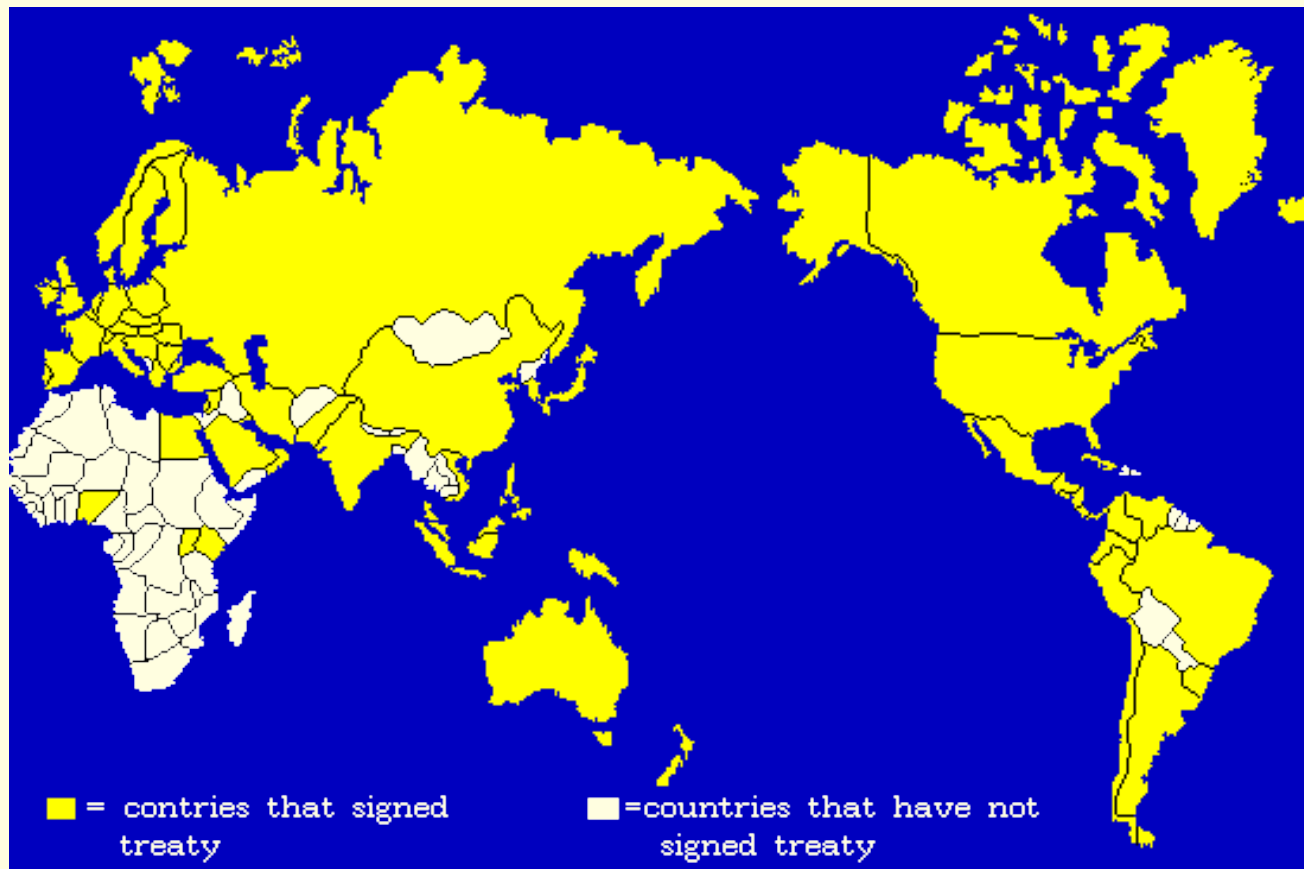
Cooperation is easily explained in
small groups, with repeated
interactions



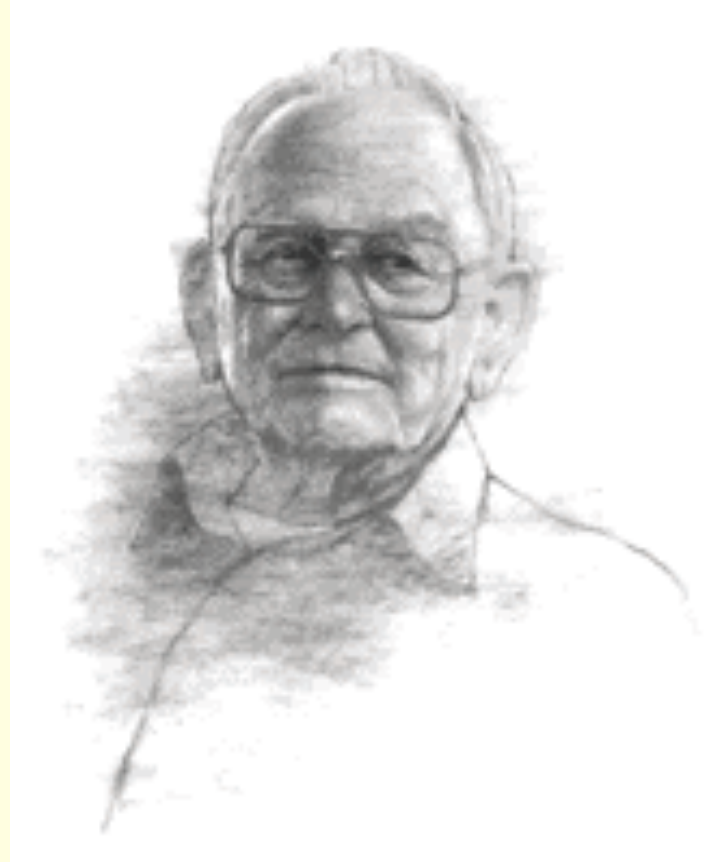
But how is cooperation
sustained in larger groups, like
societies?



And can these principles be extended to the global level?



The Commons solution (Hardin)



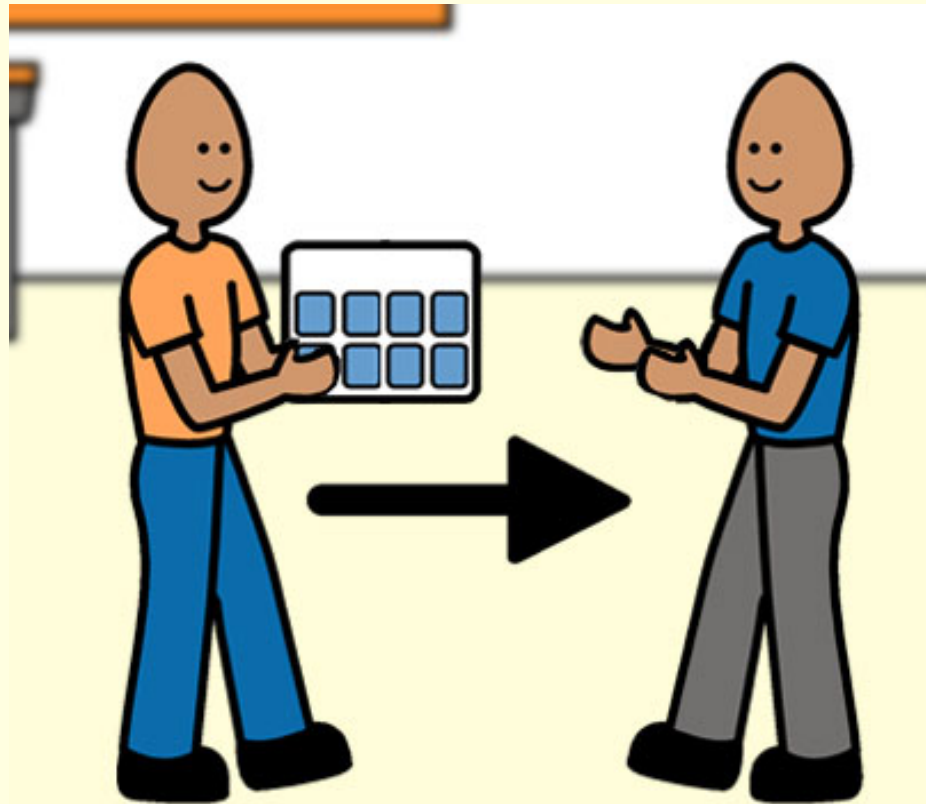
“Mutual coercion, mutually agreed upon”

The maintenance of cooperation in small societies depends on shared and mutually agreed-upon norms

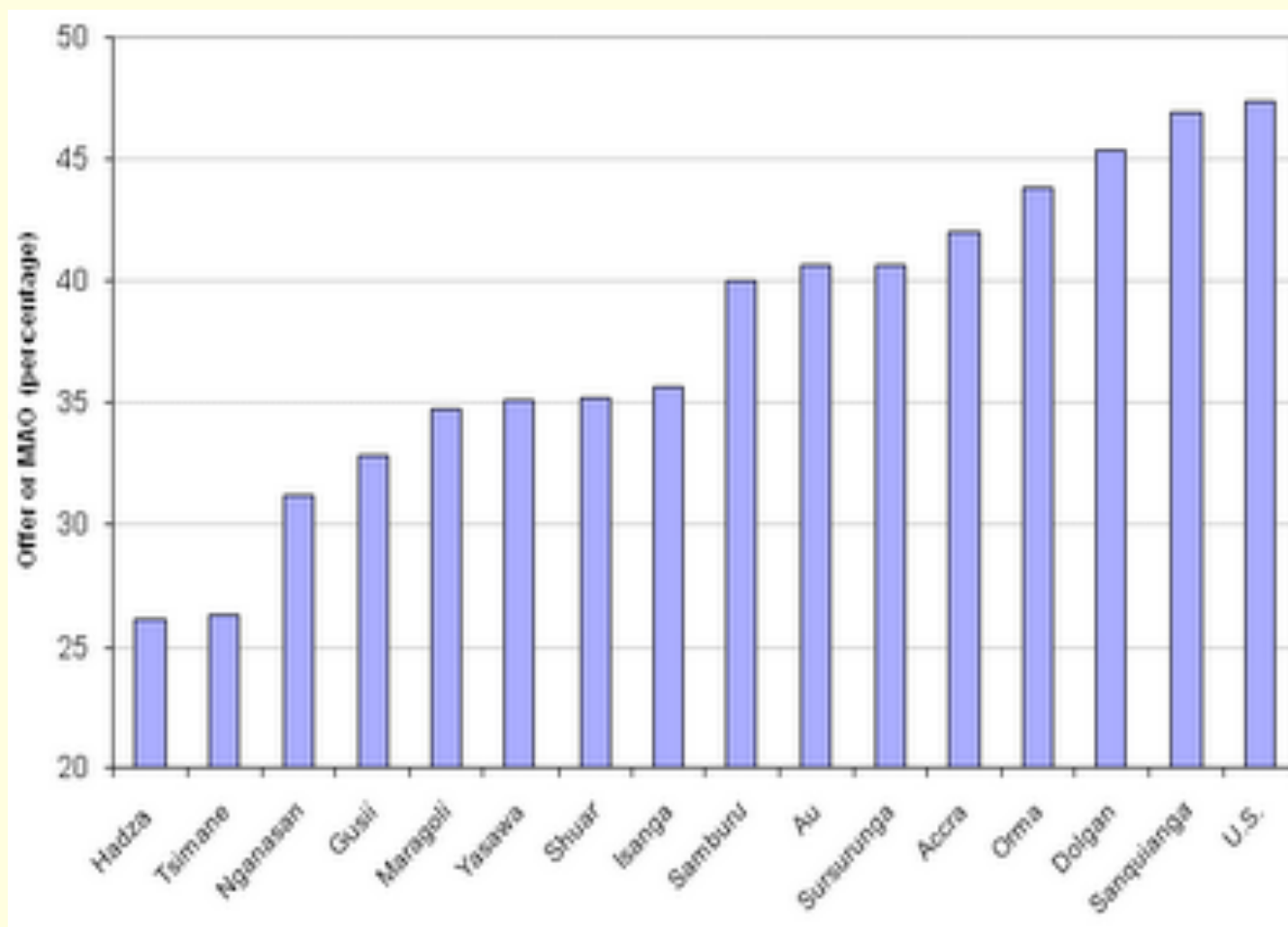
- *Elinor Ostrom, and others, have pioneered the study of how distributed management maintains the stability of common property resources, such as fisheries*



Other-regarding behavior: The Ultimatum Game



Henrich, J., Heine, S. J., & Norenzayan, A. (in press). The Weirdest people in the world? Behavioral and Brain Sciences.



Cultural differences

	Mean Offer	Mean Reject
US East	41	17
US West	43	9
Chile	34	7
Japan	44	20
Kenya	44	4
Spain	27	29
UK	34	24
Papua/NG	41	34

Modified from Oosterbeek et al., ideas.repec.org



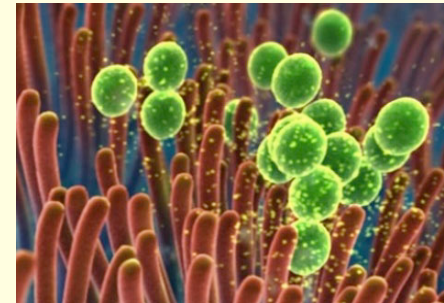
Public goods and punishment

E. Fehr

- Humans will punish others who deviate from social norms, at cost to themselves
- Punishment itself is a norm, and can evolve from repeated interactions
- How do social norms arise and spread?

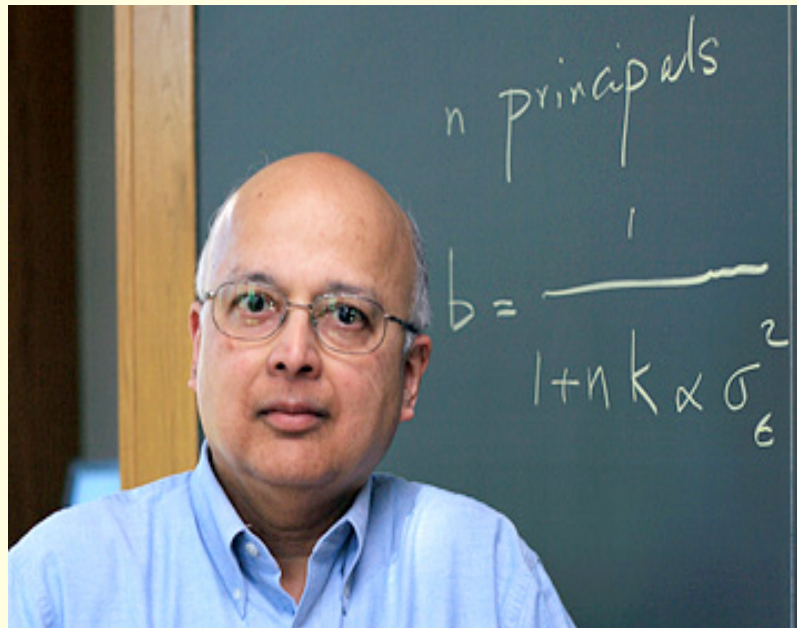
Public goods evolution in Nature

- Production of extracellular proteins
- Defenses against biofilms
- Nitrogen fixation
- Evolution of reduced resource use by plants
- Evolution of reduced predation
- Evolution of reduced virulence



<http://www.treehugger.com>

Why do individuals contribute to public goods?



Dixit-Levin

Individual utility:

$$v_i = F(x_i, z_i, \langle z \rangle_i)$$

x=private effort,
z=public effort,
 $\langle z \rangle$ =public pool

Dixit-Levin

x=private effort,
z=public effort,

Individual utility:

$$v_i = F(x_i, z_i, < z >_i) + \sum_{k \neq i} \gamma_{ik} F(x_k, z_k, < z >_k)$$

where γ is *prosociality*, and $< z >$ is the public pool, which benefits from local prosociality and “leakage” from other groups

Example (with Dan Rubenstein)

- Pastoralism and sharing of grazing grounds



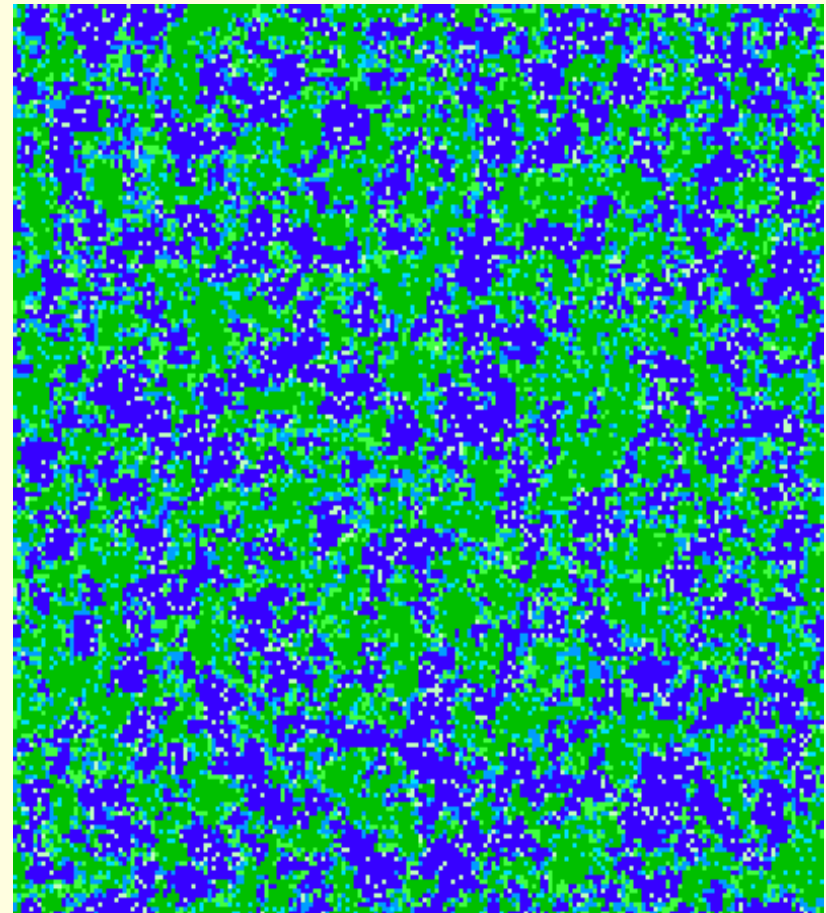
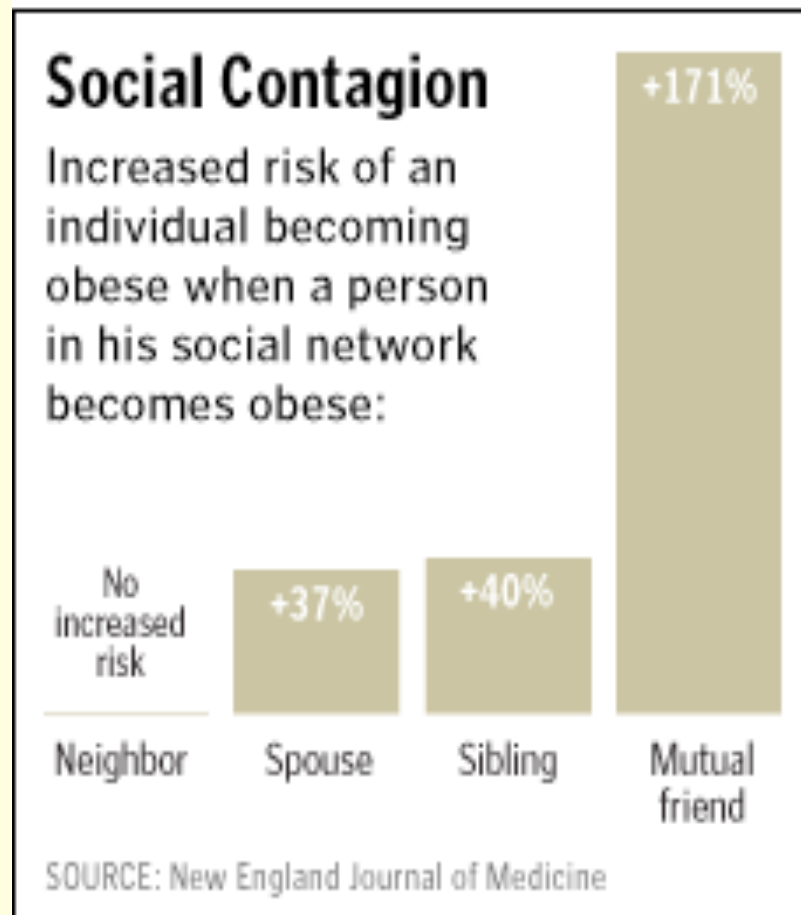
But what selects for group formation and local prosociality?

- Genetic relatedness
- Genetic tendencies for cooperation among unrelated individuals
- Penalties for defection
- Learning and imitation
- Leadership

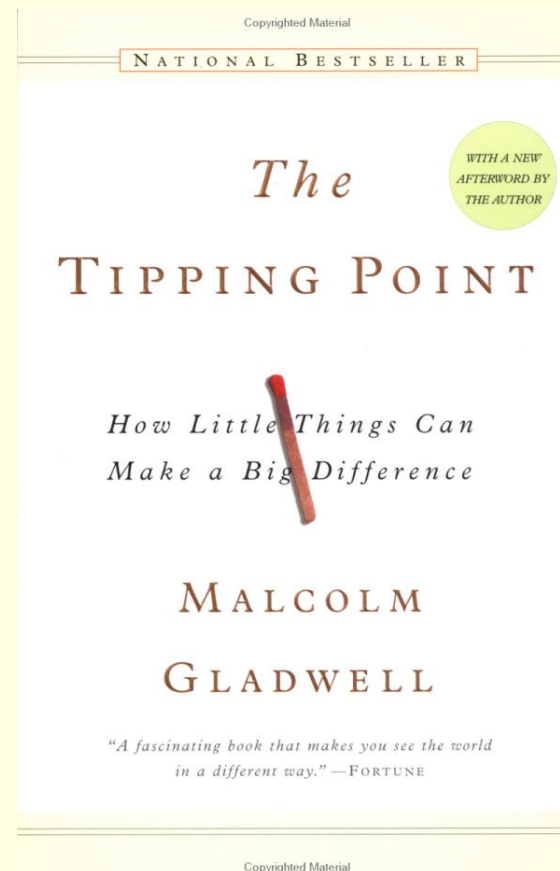
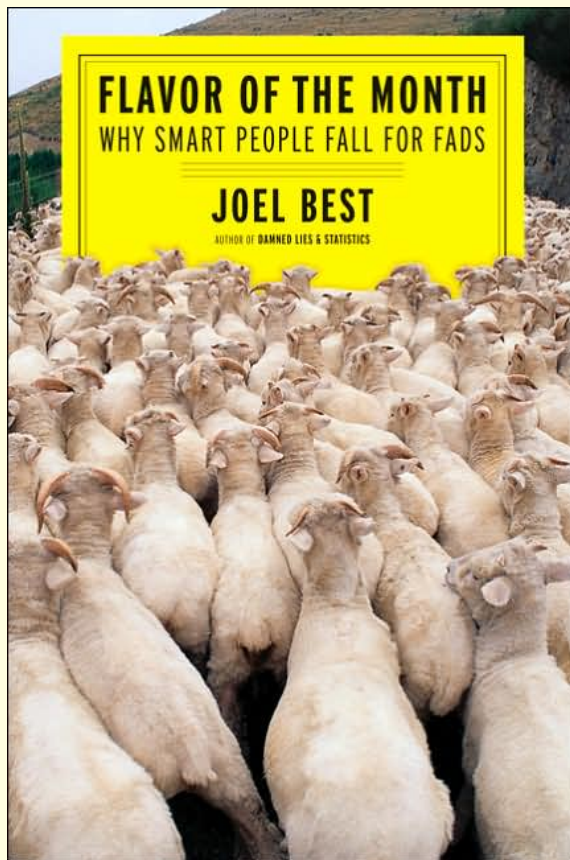
Individuals imitate others' behavior



Social contagion and spending



Implications for social norms: Imitation can drive collective changes in human behaviors



Fundamental questions for studying dynamics of decisions

- How are individual decisions affected by the social context?
- How does the social context, including enforcement, emerge and evolve?
- How does leadership arise, and affect transitions?
- How do collectives arise, and interact with other collectives?

There has been a great deal
of work on the dynamics of
animal groups



But human behaviors are
more complicated than those
of fish

- *Imitation*
- *Responses to cues conditioned by evolution, culture, learning*
- Calculation
- Communication, at a high level
- *Can we tease these apart? How do behaviors arise and spread?*

Simplest (Ising) model: Homophilous imitation

Labels

Durrett and Levin . IERD

Focal individual



Neighbor



N

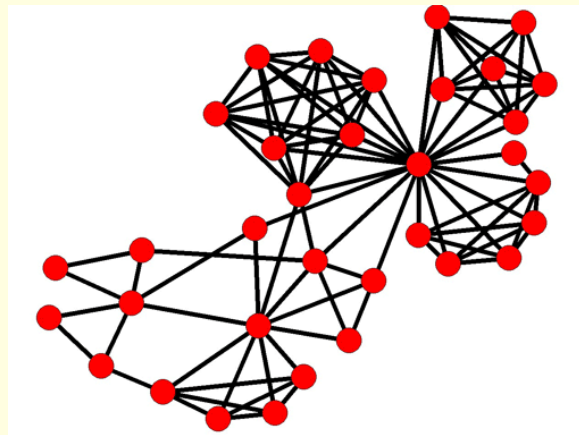
P

R

*Nationality (N)

*Political party
(P)

*Religion (R)



www.news.ku.edu/MichaelVitevich

Simplest model: Homophilous imitation

Durrett and Levin,

JEBO

Labels

Focal individual



Neighbor



***Nationality**

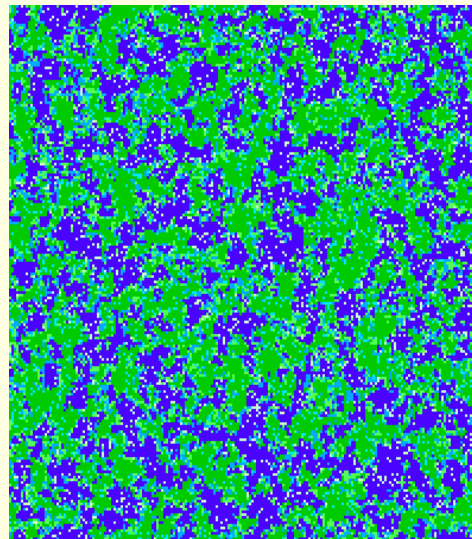
***Political party**

***Religion**

N

P

R

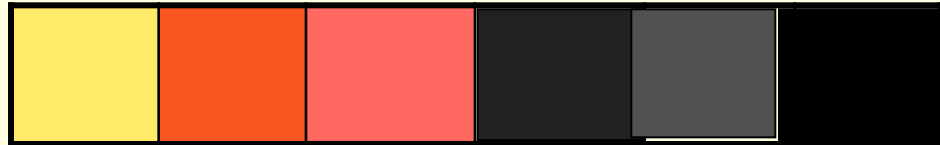


Social norms, multiple traits/opinions

Labels

Attitudes

Focal individual

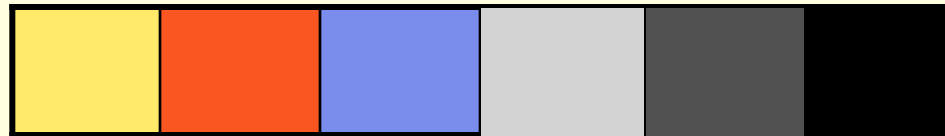


*Abortion rights (A)

*Consumption (C)

*Prosociality (P)

Neighbor



A

C

P

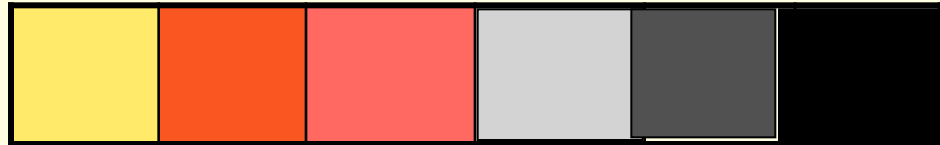
Individuals change opinions
based
on their similarities to neighbors

Social norms, multiple traits/opinions

Labels

Attitudes

Focal individual

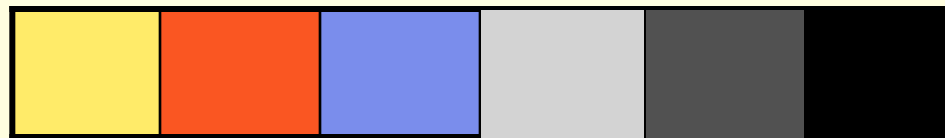


***Abortion rights**

***Consumption**

***Prosociality**

Neighbor



A

C

P

Individuals change opinions
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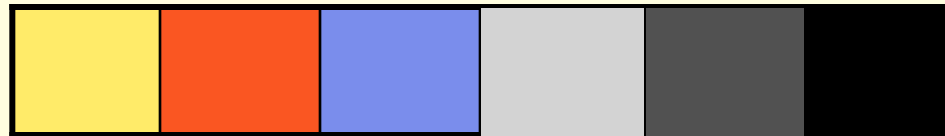


*Abortion rights

*Consumption

*Prosociality

Neighbor



A

C

P

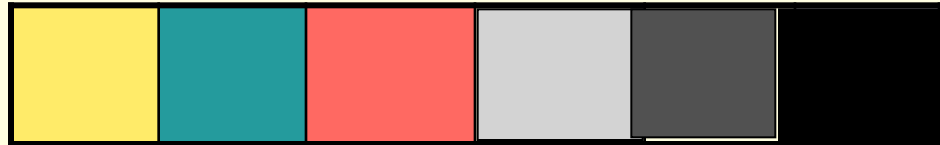
Individuals may change labels, less often, if their opinions disagree with group norms

Social norms, multiple traits/opinions

Labels

Attitudes

Focal individual



*Abortion rights

*Consumption

*Prosociality

Neighbor



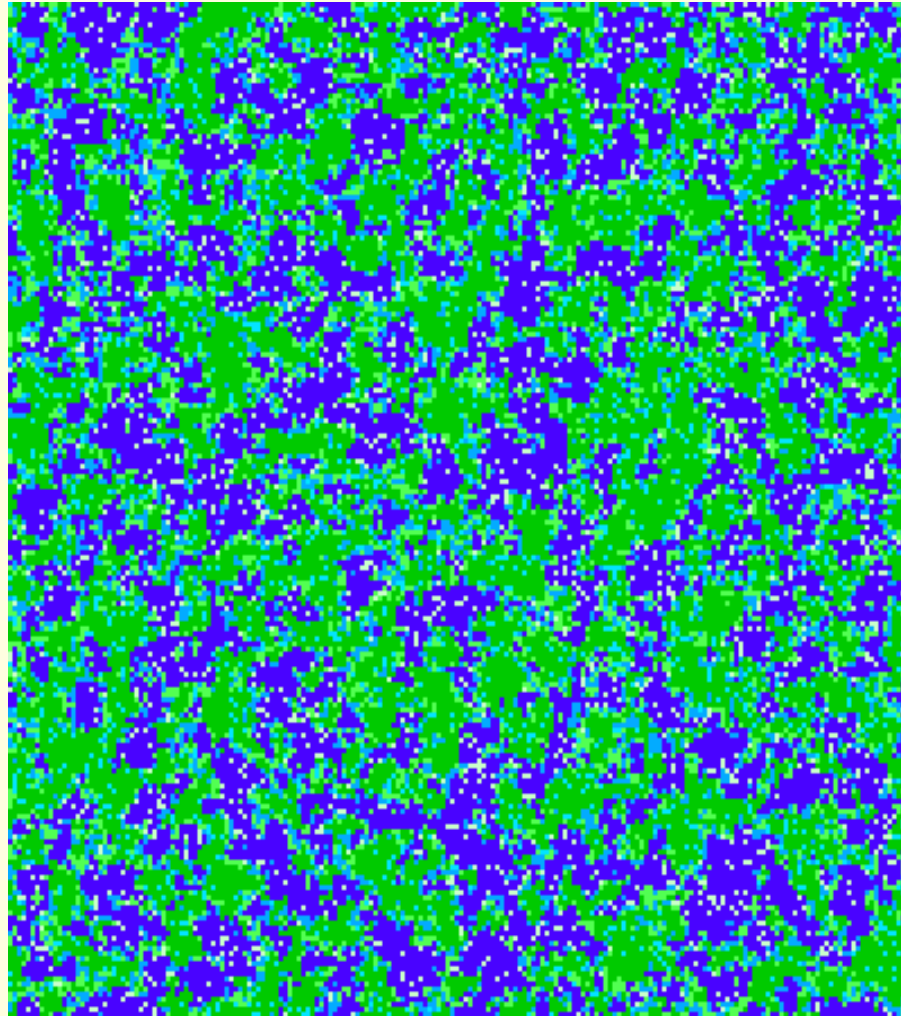
A

C

P

Individuals may change labels, less often, if their opinions disagree with group norms

Homophilous Imitation



Formation of cooperative groups

- Imitation alone can lead to formation of stable groups
 - Opinions and attitudes on diverse issues may get bundled as “frozen accidents”
 - Sudden shifts are possible

Formation of cooperative groups

- Imitation alone can lead to formation of stable groups
- **Existence of groups can produce collective benefits**
 - **Enforce communal norms**

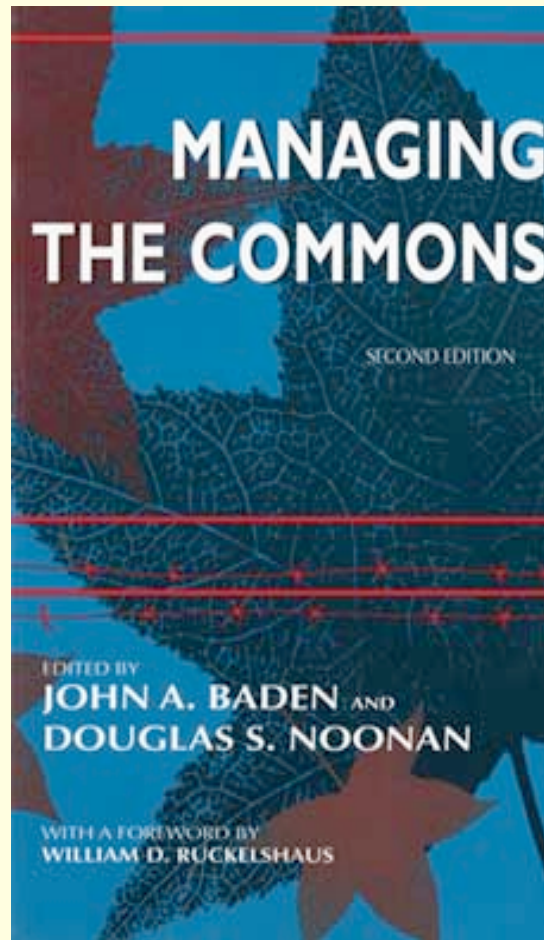


Formation of cooperative groups

- Imitation alone can lead to formation of stable groups
- Existence of groups can produce collective benefits, payoffs for membership
- **Collective benefits can lead to selection for imitation, local prosociality, less inter-group mixing, intergroup conflict**



These considerations influence:
Management issues



Ecological systems and socio-economic systems alike are complex adaptive systems



The nature of ecological and socioeconomic systems as complex adaptive systems means

- Patterns emerge from and feed back to influence (collective) individual behaviors
- Individual variation represents the capacity of systems to adapt, and to maintain robustness, but..
- Emergent patterns carry no assurance of collective good
- Management requires a balance between free-market and regulation

Adam Smith's Invisible Hand



www.bized.co.uk

The invisible hand does not protect society



Those lessons are magnified
for ecological and
environmental systems



The CAS perspective also means

- In both cases, management requires a balance between free-market and regulation
- New institutions must be adaptive
 - Can adaptive features be built in?
 - Robustness
- Trust and cooperation essential
 - Key to macroscopic goals is in microscopic incentives
 - Montreal Protocol?

Can cooperation be extended to the global level?



Emergence of cooperation
within groups is often for the
benefit of conflict with *other*
groups



Lariviere

In the global commons, there
is no “other”



Understanding how to achieve international cooperation is at the core of achieving sustainability in dealing with our common enemy: environmental degradation



...so that we can achieve a sustainable future
for our children and grandchildren



Thank you

Carole Levin