

Collective dynamics in life sciences

Lecture 3. Phase transitions in the Vicsek model

Pierre Degond

Imperial College London

pdegond@imperial.ac.uk (see <http://sites.google.com/site/degond/>)

Joint works with:

Amic Frouvelle (Dauphine), Jian-Guo Liu (Duke),
Sébastien Motsch (ASU)

1. Phase transitions in the Vicsek model
2. Mathematical analysis of the phase transitions
3. Self-organized Hydrodynamics (SOH)
4. Conclusion

1. Phase transitions in the Vicsek model

Particle system

self-propelled \Rightarrow constant velocity

align with their neighbours up to a certain noise

Time-discrete model

k -th particle position X_k^n , velocity V_k^n , at time $t^n = n\Delta t$

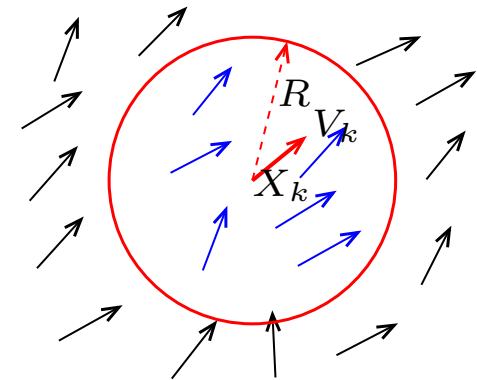
$$|V_k^n| = 1$$

$$X_k^{n+1} = X_k^n + V_k^n \Delta t,$$

$$\bar{V}_k^n = \frac{\mathcal{J}_k^n}{|\mathcal{J}_k^n|}, \quad \mathcal{J}_k^n = \sum_{j, |X_j^n - X_k^n| \leq R} V_j^n$$

$$\arg(V_k^{n+1}) = \arg(\bar{V}_k^n + \tau_k^n)$$

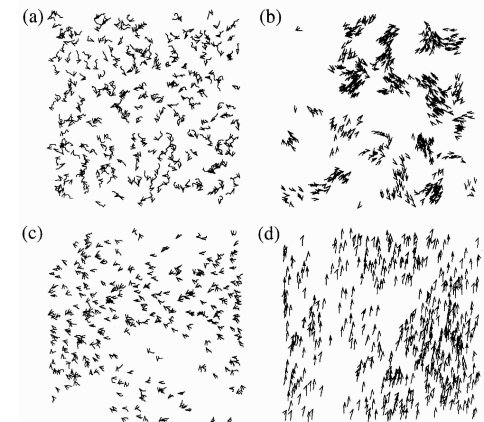
τ_k^n drawn uniformly in $[-\tau, \tau]$; R = interaction range



Phase transition

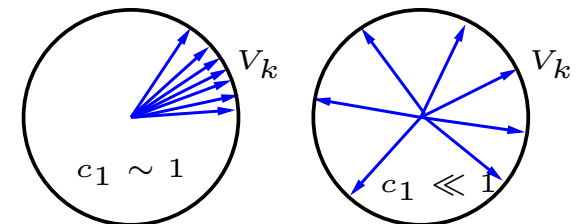
disordered \rightarrow aligned state

Symmetry breaking

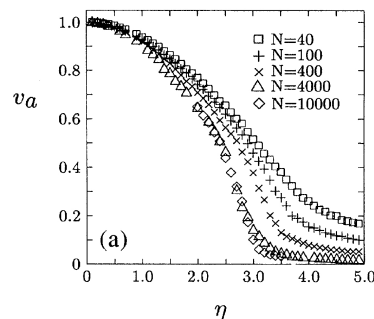


Order parameter measures alignment

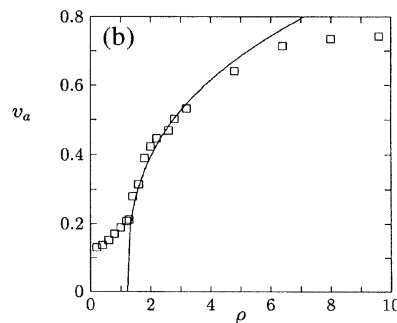
$$c_1 = \left| N^{-1} \sum_j V_j \right|, \quad 0 \leq c_1 \leq 1$$



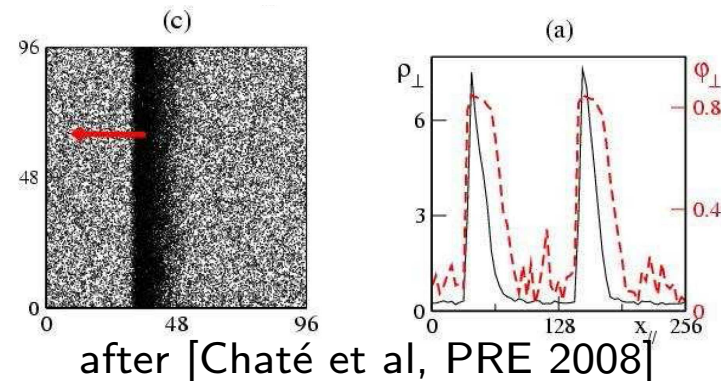
c_1 vs noise



c_1 vs density



band formation



after [Chaté et al, PRE 2008]

2. Mathematical analysis of the phase transitions

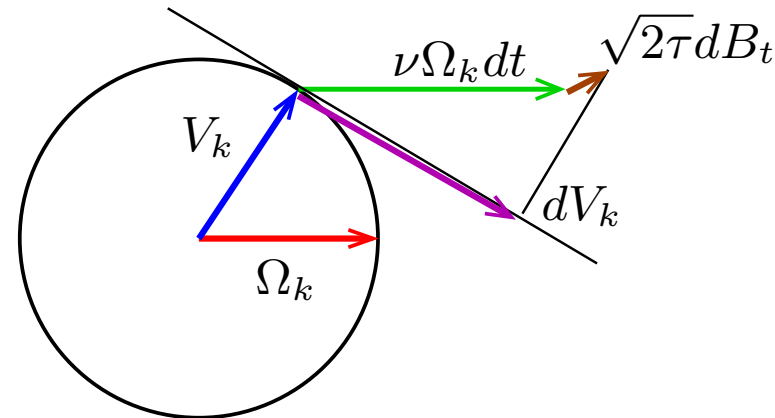
$$\dot{X}_k(t) = V_k(t), \quad |V_k(t)| = 1$$

$$dV_k(t) = P_{V_k^\perp}(\nu \bar{V}_k dt + \sqrt{2\tau} \circ dB_t^k), \quad P_{V_k^\perp} = \text{Id} - V_k \otimes V_k$$

$$\bar{V}_k = \frac{\mathcal{J}_k}{|\mathcal{J}_k|}, \quad \mathcal{J}_k = \sum_{j, |X_j - X_k| \leq R} V_j$$

ν collision frequency τ noise intensity

$P_{V_k^\perp}$ maintains $|V_k(t)| = 1$



$f(x, v, t)$ = 1-particle proba distr. ($v \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $|v| = 1$)

$$\partial_t f + v \cdot \nabla_x f = -\nabla_v \cdot (F_f f) + \tau \Delta_v f$$

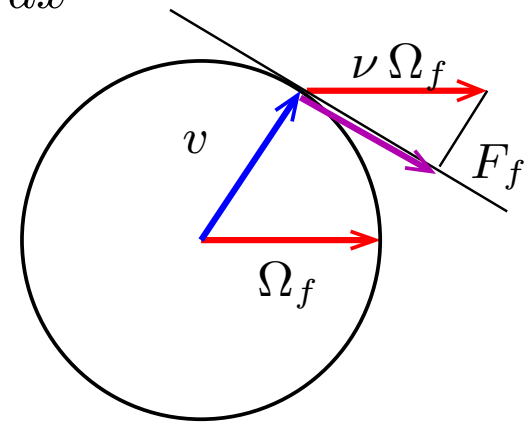
$$F_f = \nu P_{v^\perp} \bar{v}_f, \quad P_{v^\perp} = (\text{Id} - v \otimes v), \quad \bar{v}_f = \frac{\mathcal{J}_f}{|\mathcal{J}_f|}$$

$$\mathcal{J}_f = \int_{(x', v')} K\left(\frac{|x' - x|}{R}\right) f(x', v', t) v' dv' dx'$$

\bar{v}_f = direction of locally averaged flux

Here, we assume:

$$\nu = \nu(|\mathcal{J}_f|), \quad \tau = \tau(|\mathcal{J}_f|)$$



Forget the space-variable: $\nabla_x \equiv 0$

Motivation: medium-scale size observations

Find the **equilibria**

Use them as LTE in **hydrodynamic expansion**

Local Thermodynamic Equilibria

Global existence result in [Figalli, Kang, Morales, arXiv:1509.02599]

Spatially homogeneous system: $f(v, t)$, $v \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $|v| = 1$

$$\partial_t f = -\nabla_v \cdot (F_f f) + \tau(|J_f|) \Delta_v f := Q(f)$$

$$F_f = \nu(|J_f|) P_{v^\perp} u_f, \quad u_f = \frac{J_f}{|J_f|}, \quad J_f = \int_{v'} f(v', t) v' dv'$$

Note that $\partial_t \rho = 0$

$$\rho(t) = \int f(v, t) dv = \text{Constant}$$

Equilibria are functions $f(v)$ such that $Q(f) := 0$

$$Q(f) = \tau(|J_f|) \nabla_v \cdot \left[-k(|J_f|) P_{v^\perp} u_f f + \nabla_v f \right] \quad \text{with} \quad k(|J|) = \frac{\nu(|J|)}{\tau(|J|)}$$

Von Mises-Fisher (VMF) distribution $M_{\kappa u}$:

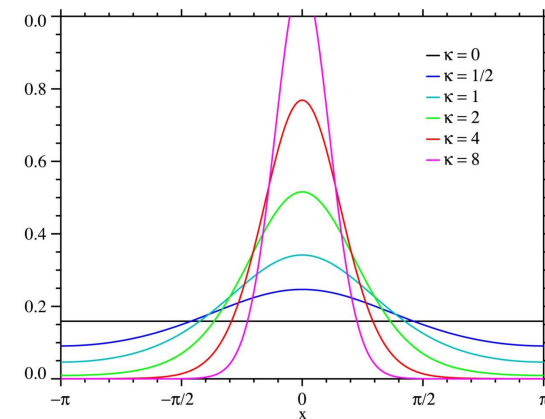
$$M_{\kappa u}(v) = \frac{e^{\kappa u \cdot v}}{\int e^{\kappa u \cdot v} dv}$$

$\kappa > 0$: concentration parameter ; $u \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $|u| = 1$: orientation

Order parameter: $c_1(\kappa) = \int M_{\kappa u}(v) (u \cdot v) dv$

$$\kappa \xrightarrow{\nearrow} c_1(\kappa), \quad 0 \leq c_1(\kappa) \leq 1$$

$$\text{Flux:} \quad \int M_{\kappa u}(v) v dv = c_1(\kappa) u$$



Equilibria are of the form $f(v) = \rho M_{\kappa u}(v)$

where $\rho > 0$ and $u \in \mathbb{R}^n$ s.t. $|u| = 1$ are arbitrary

Current given by: $|J_f| = \rho c_1(\kappa)$

From expression of Q , κ must be equal to $k(|J_f|)$

Leads to compatibility condition

$$\kappa = k(\rho c_1(\kappa)) \quad \text{or equivalently} \quad \rho = \frac{j(\kappa)}{c_1(\kappa)}$$

where $j(\kappa)$ is the inverse function of $k(|J|)$ ($|J| \xrightarrow{\nearrow} k(|J|)$):

$$\kappa = k(|J|) \iff |J| = j(\kappa)$$

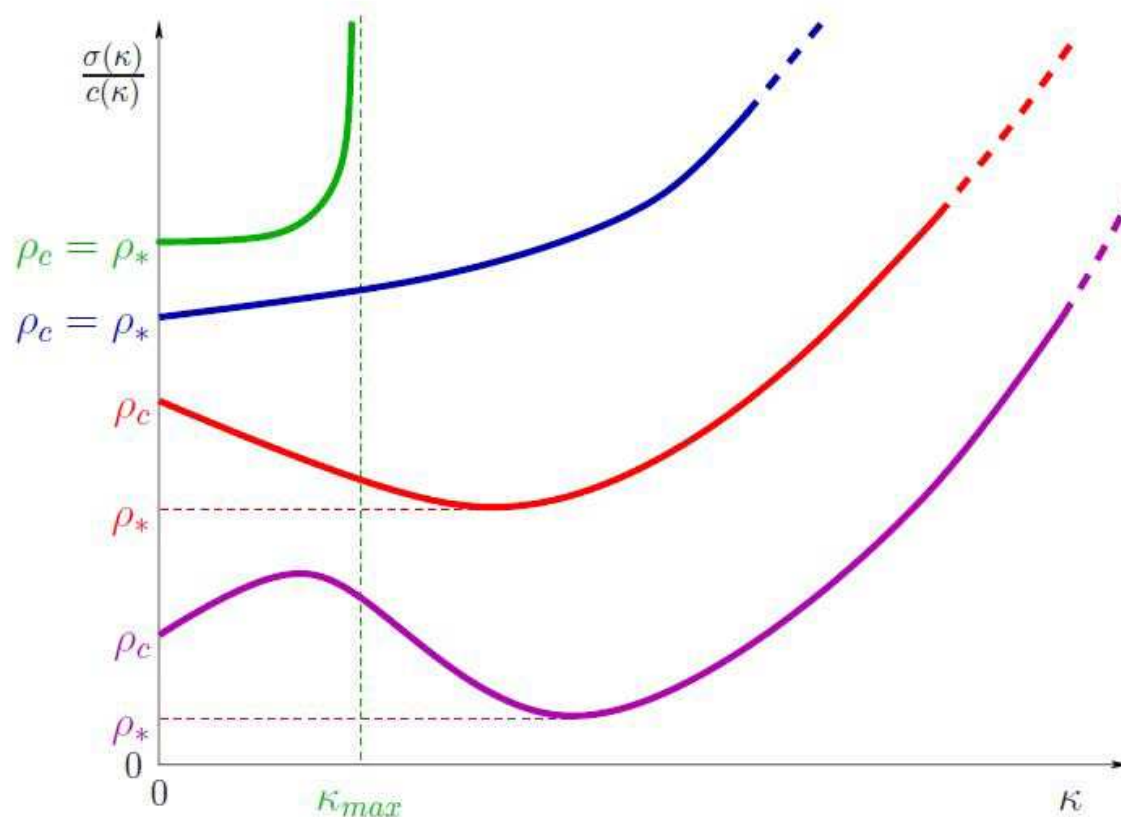
Number of roots and local monotony of $\frac{j(\kappa)}{c_1(\kappa)}$

determine number of equilibria and their stability

We assume $|J| \rightarrow \tau(|J|)$ and $|J| \rightarrow \frac{\nu(|J|)}{|J|}$ smooth

Define $\rho_* = \min_{\kappa > 0} \frac{j(\kappa)}{c_1(\kappa)}$, $\rho_c = \lim_{\kappa \rightarrow 0} \frac{j(\kappa)}{c_1(\kappa)}$, $\rho_* \leq \rho_c$

But monotony of $\kappa \rightarrow \frac{j(\kappa)}{c_1(\kappa)}$ can be arbitrary



$\kappa = 0$ (uniform distribution) **always a solution**

If $\rho < \rho_*$, the **only** equilibrium

If $\rho > \rho_*$, \exists **non-isotropic** equilibria

Number of classes of non-isotropic equilibria (different κ 's)
= number of roots of $\frac{j(\kappa)}{c_1(\kappa)} = \rho$

Stability:

Isotropic equilibria are **stable** if $\rho < \rho_c$, **unstable** if $\rho > \rho_c$

Non-isotropic equilibria are **stable** if $\frac{j(\kappa)}{c_1(\kappa)} \nearrow$, **unstable** if \searrow

In non-isotropic case, stability means that:

if f_0 is close to equilibrium $f_{\text{eq}} = \rho M_{\kappa u}$

solution $f(t) \rightarrow \tilde{f}_{\text{eq}} = \rho M_{\kappa \tilde{u}}$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$

but \tilde{u} may be $\neq u$

Free energy

$$\mathcal{F}(f) = \int f \ln f \, dv - \Phi(|J_f|) \quad \text{with} \quad \Phi' = k$$

Free energy dissipation

$$\mathcal{D}(f) = \tau(|J_f|) \int f |\nabla_v f - k(|J_f|)(v \cdot u_f)|^2 \, dv \quad \text{with} \quad u_f = \frac{J_f}{|J_f|}$$

Free energy dissipation identity

Free energy **decays** with time

$$\frac{d}{dt} \mathcal{F}(f) = -\mathcal{D}(f) \leq 0$$

 f is an **equilibrium** iff $\mathcal{D}(f) = 0$

Stability / Instability of isotropic equilibria

Behavior determined by first spherical harmonics, i.e. by J_f

$$\frac{d}{dt} J_f = -(n-1)\tau_0 \left(1 - \frac{\rho}{\rho_c}\right) J_f + \text{h. o. t.} \quad \text{with} \quad \tau_0 = \tau|_{|J|=0}$$

In stable case, convergence to equilibrium with **rate** λ_0

$$\lambda_0 = (n-1)\tau_0 \left(1 - \frac{\rho}{\rho_c}\right)$$

Instability of non-isotropic equilibria proved by showing:

In any neighborhood of an unstable equilibrium $f_{\text{eq}} = \rho M_{\kappa u}$,

$\exists f_0$ with $\mathcal{F}(f_0) < \mathcal{F}(f_{\text{eq}})$

Then $\mathcal{F}(f(t)) \leq \mathcal{F}(f_0) < \mathcal{F}(f_{\text{eq}})$

$f(t)$ cannot converge to any equilibrium of the same family

$\tilde{f}_{\text{eq}} = \rho M_{\kappa \tilde{u}}$ with any \tilde{u} since $\mathcal{F}(\tilde{f}_{\text{eq}}) = \mathcal{F}(f_{\text{eq}})$

Stability of non-isotropic equilibrium uses that

if $\left(\frac{j}{c_1}\right)' > 0$, we have

$$\|f(t) - \rho M_{\kappa u_f(t)}\|_{L^2}^2 \sim \mathcal{F}(f(t)) - \mathcal{F}(\rho M_{\kappa u_f(t)})$$

and this quantity is decreasing

Convergence to limit equilibrium with rate λ_κ

$$\lambda_\kappa = \frac{c_1 \tau(j)}{j'}(\kappa) \Lambda_\kappa \left(\frac{j}{c_1}\right)'(\kappa)$$

where Λ_κ is the best Poincaré constant for

$$\int |\nabla_v g|^2 M_{\kappa u}(v) dv \geq \Lambda_\kappa \int |g - \langle g \rangle|^2 M_{\kappa u}(v) dv, \quad \langle g \rangle = \int g(v) M_{\kappa u}(v) dv$$

Relies on estimate on the free energy dissipation

$$\mathcal{D}(f) \geq 2\lambda_\kappa (\mathcal{F}(f) - \mathcal{F}(M_{\kappa u})) + \mathcal{O}((\mathcal{F}(f) - \mathcal{F}(M_{\kappa u}))^{1+\varepsilon})$$

Assume $\kappa \rightarrow \frac{j(\kappa)}{c_1(\kappa)}$ increasing: then $\rho_c = \rho_*$

If $\rho < \rho_c$: isotropic distribution = only equilibrium and stable

If $\rho > \rho_c$: isotropic distribution is unstable 

\exists only one class of non-isotropic equilibria and is stable

Order parameter: $c_1(\rho) = c_1(\kappa(\rho))$, with $\frac{j}{c_1}(\kappa(\rho)) = \rho$

Then $c_1(\rho) \sim \tilde{c}_{10}(\rho - \rho_c)^\beta$ as $\rho \xrightarrow{>} \rho_c$; β = critical exponent

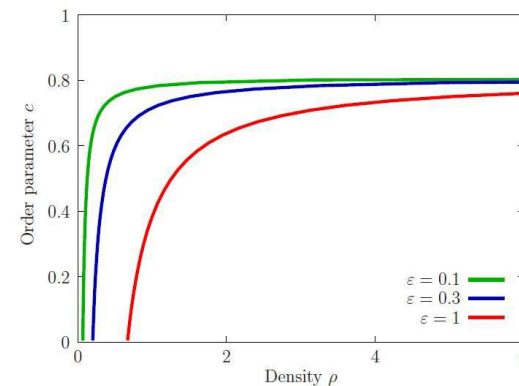
Assume $\frac{k(|J|)}{|J|} = \frac{n}{\rho_c} - a|J|^q + o(|J|^q)$ as $|J| \rightarrow 0$ then:

If $q < 2$, $\beta = \frac{1}{q} > \frac{1}{2}$

If $q > 2$, $\beta = \frac{1}{2}$

If $q = 2$, $0 < \beta \leq \frac{1}{2}$

Phase diagram for $k(|J|) = \frac{|J|}{\varepsilon + |J|}$:

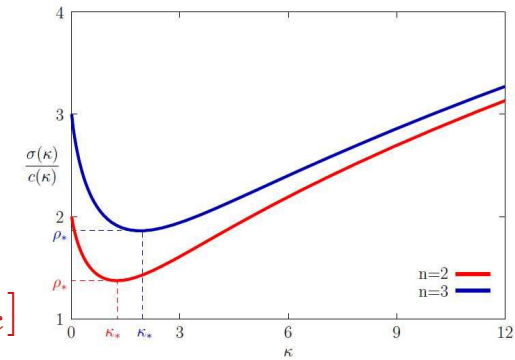


Assume $k(|J|) = |J| + |J|^2$

Uniform equilib. **stable** for $\rho \in [0, \rho_c]$

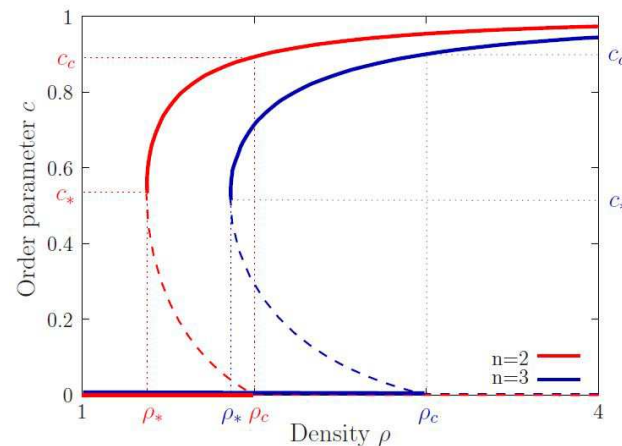
Non-isotropic equilibria with maximal κ **stable** for $\rho \in [\rho_*, \infty]$

Second class of **unstable** non-isotropic equilibria for $\rho \in [\rho_*, \rho_c]$



Function $\kappa \rightarrow \frac{j}{c_1}(\kappa)$

Phase diagram

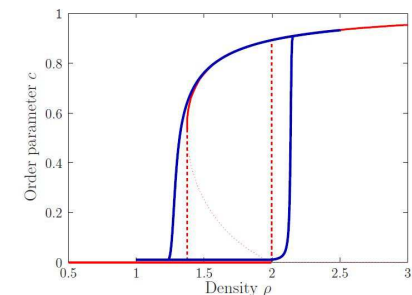


Hysteresis

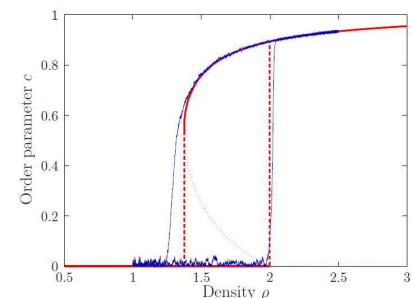
Numerical computation of **hysteresis loop**

Using the **kinetic** model

Using the **particle** model



Kinetic simulation



Particle simulation

3. Self-organized Hydrodynamics (SOH)

Scaling assumptions: let $\varepsilon, \eta \ll 1$ with $\eta = \eta(\varepsilon)$

Social force and noise are large: $\nu, \tau = \mathcal{O}(\frac{1}{\varepsilon})$

Interaction radius is small: $R = \mathcal{O}(\eta)$

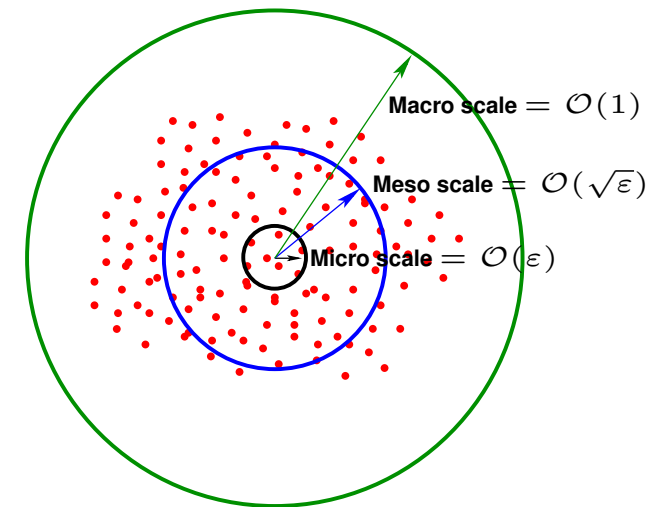
$$\varepsilon(\partial_t f^\varepsilon + v \cdot \nabla_x f^\varepsilon) + \eta^2 \nabla_v \cdot (F_{f^\varepsilon}^{(1)} f^\varepsilon) = Q(f^\varepsilon)$$

$F_f^{(1)}$ = First order term in the expansion of F_f in η^2

Two types of scaling

$\eta = O(\varepsilon)$: **microscopic** interaction radius

$\eta = O(\sqrt{\varepsilon})$: **mesoscopic** interaction radius



Macroscopic limit $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$: $f^\varepsilon \rightarrow$ local equilibrium f_{eq} :

$$f_{\text{eq}}(x, v, t) = \rho(x, t) M_{\kappa(\rho(x, t))u(x, t)}(v), \quad \text{with} \quad |u(x, t)| = 1$$

locally around (x, t) , a branch of stable equilibria is chosen

question: what equations for $\rho(x, t)$ and $u(x, t)$?

Two cases: either $\kappa(\rho) = 0$: isotropic equilibria

or $\kappa(\rho) \neq 0$: non-isotropic equilibria

Limit $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$: Mass conservation eq.

obtained by integrating kinetic eq. w.r.t. v

and closing the flux $\int f(v) v dv$ with $f = f_{\text{eq}}$

$$\partial_t \rho + \nabla \cdot (c_1(\rho) \rho u) = 0$$

Then $c_1(\rho) = c_1(\kappa(\rho)) = 0$: flux vanishes

Leads to $\partial_t \rho = 0$

To get non-trivial dynamics, requires $\mathcal{O}(\varepsilon)$ terms

Gives **diffusion** model

$$\partial_t \rho^\varepsilon = \frac{\varepsilon}{(n-1)n\tau_0} \nabla_x \cdot \left(\frac{1}{1 - \frac{\rho^\varepsilon}{\rho_c}} \nabla_x \rho^\varepsilon \right)$$

Note: stability of isotropic equilibria requires $1 - \frac{\rho^\varepsilon}{\rho_c} > 0$

Now, $c_1(\rho) = c_1(\kappa(\rho)) \neq 0$: flux does not vanish

Requires an equation for $u(x, t)$

Problem: **no momentum conservation**

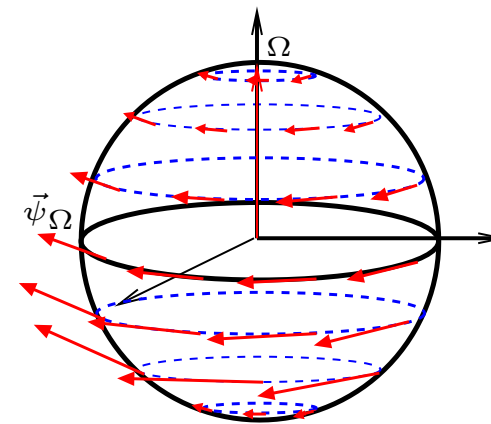
Requires new concept: **Generalized Collision Invariants (GCI)**

Fix u and require 'momentum' conservation only for f such that $J_f \parallel u$

This special 'momentum' $\vec{\psi}_u$ is the GCI

Not explicit: solves a PDE related to Q^*

Yields **'Self-Organized Hydrodynamics' (SOH)**



$$\partial_t \rho + \nabla_x \cdot (c_1 \rho u) = 0$$

$$\rho (\partial_t u + c_2 (u \cdot \nabla_x) u) + \Theta P_{u^\perp} \nabla_x \rho = \delta P_{u^\perp} \Delta_x (c_1 \rho u)$$

$$|u| = 1; \quad c_1, c_2, \Theta, \delta \text{ functions of } \rho; \quad \delta = 0 \text{ if } \eta = \mathcal{O}(\varepsilon)$$

Similar to Compressible Navier-Stokes

First-order part **hyperbolic** under some conditions on the data

But **major differences**:

Geometric constraint $|u| = 1$

Non-conservative projection P_{u^\perp} and factors c , Θ , δ

$c_2 \neq c_1$: **loss of Galilean invariance**

Phase interface when disordered and aligned phases coexist

Connection conditions between models at interfaces between

region $\kappa(\rho) = 0$ (diffusion eq.)

and region $\kappa(\rho) \neq 0$ (SOH)

are unknown

Numerical treatment:

Relaxation 'super-model' (no diffusion case)

$$\partial_t \rho + \nabla_x \cdot (\rho v) = 0$$

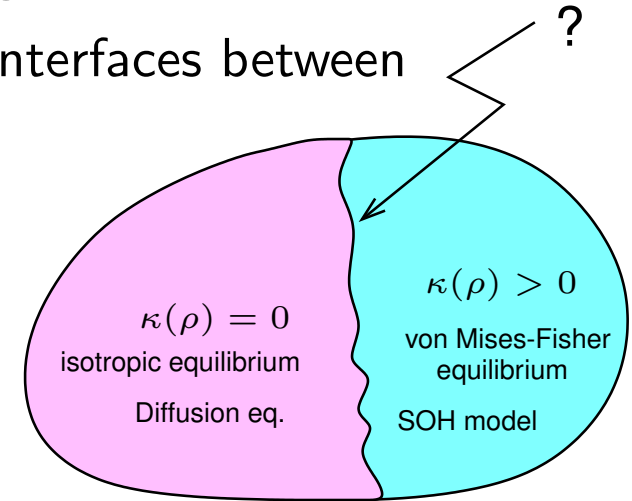
$$p'(\rho) = c_1(\rho) \Theta(\rho)$$

$$\partial_t(\rho v) + \nabla_x \cdot \left(\frac{c_2}{c_1} \rho v \otimes v \right) + \nabla_x p(\rho) = \frac{1}{\alpha} \rho v (c_1(\rho)^2 - |v|^2)$$

As $\alpha \rightarrow 0$ super-model tends to [PD, H. Yu, S. Merino-Aceituno, WIP]

SOH (if $c_1(\rho) > 0$)

Diffusion eq (if $c_1(\rho) = 0$)



4. Conclusion

Complete characterization of **phase transitions**

in kinetic models of **self-propelled** particles with **alignment**

Order of phase transition fully determined

Occurrence of **hysteresis** in case of first-order phase transitions

Derivation of **macroscopic models** of Self-Propelled particles

Diffusion in regions where isotropic equilibria are stable

New **hydrodynamics** in regions of anisotropic equilibria

Opens **new challenges** in analysis and numerical simulation

Model has potential validity for **large class** of phenomena

can be **improved** → attraction/repulsion, volume exclusion . . .