

# dynamical zeta functions: what, why and what are the good for?

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I accept chaos

I am not sure that it accepts me

—Bob Dylan, *Bringing It All Back Home*

**in physics, no problem is tractable**

requires summing up exponentially increasing # of  
exponentially decreasing terms

yet

**in practice**

every physical problem must be tractable

“can't do” doesn't cut it

# dynamical systems

## state space

a manifold  $\mathcal{M} \in \mathbb{R}^d$  :  $d$  numbers determine the state of the system

## representative point

$$x(t) \in \mathcal{M}$$

a state of physical system at instant in time

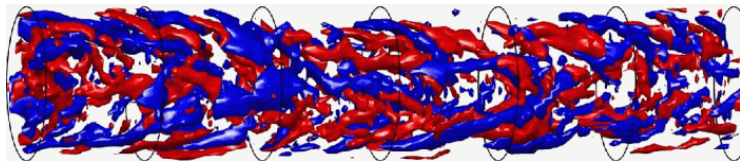
## today's experiments

## example of a representative point

$$x(t) \in \mathcal{M}, d = \infty$$

a state of turbulent pipe flow at instant in time

Stereoscopic Particle Image Velocimetry  $\rightarrow$  3-*d* velocity field  
over the entire pipe<sup>1</sup>

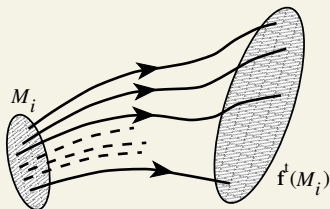


<sup>1</sup>Casimir W.H. van Doorne (PhD thesis, Delft 2004)

## dynamics

map  $f^t(x_0)$  = representative point time  $t$  later

## evolution



$f^t$  maps a region  $\mathcal{M}_i$  of the state space into the region  $f^t(\mathcal{M}_i)$ .

## dynamics defined

### dynamical system

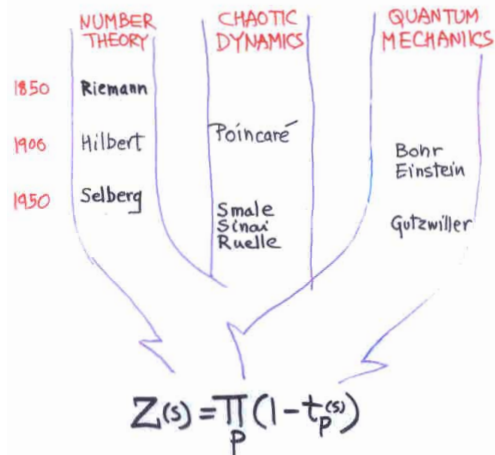
the pair  $(\mathcal{M}, f)$

### the problem

enumerate, classify all solutions of  $(\mathcal{M}, f)$

one needs to enumerate  $\rightarrow$  hence **zeta functions !**

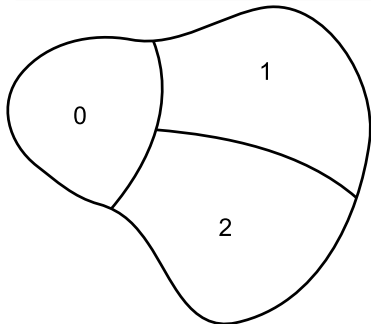
# A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE PERIODIC ORBIT THEORY



state space, partitioned

## partition into regions of similar states

state space coarse partition

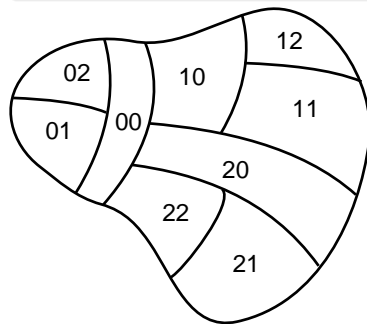


$$\mathcal{M} = \mathcal{M}_0 \cup \mathcal{M}_1 \cup \mathcal{M}_2$$

ternary alphabet

$$\mathcal{A} = \{1, 2, 3\}.$$

1-step memory refinement



$$\mathcal{M}_i = \mathcal{M}_{i0} \cup \mathcal{M}_{i1} \cup \mathcal{M}_{i2}$$

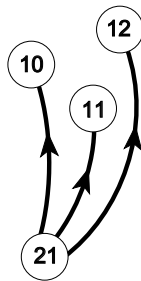
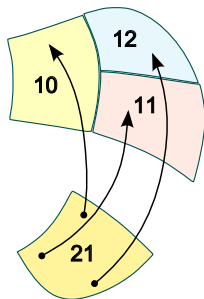
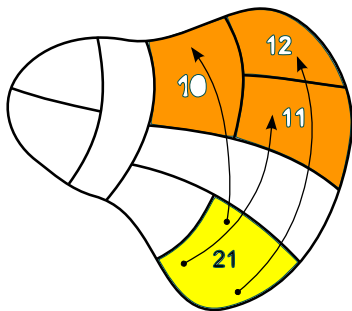
labeled by nine 'words'

$$\{00, 01, 02, \dots, 21, 22\}.$$



state space, partitioned

## topological dynamics



## one time step

points from  $\mathcal{M}_{21}$   
reach  $\{\mathcal{M}_{10}, \mathcal{M}_{11}, \mathcal{M}_{12}\}$   
and no other regions

## each region = node

allowed transitions

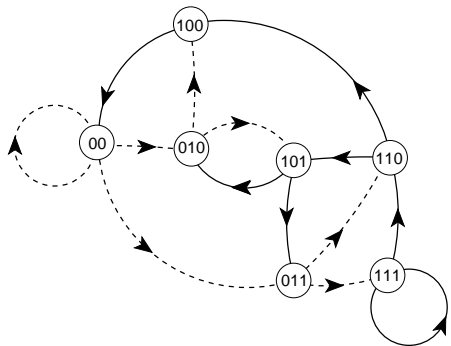
$$T_{10,21} = T_{11,21} = T_{12,21} \neq 0$$

directed links

state space, partitioned

# topological dynamics

**Transition graph  $T_{ba}$**   
 regions reached in one  
 time step



**example: state space resolved into 7 neighborhoods**

$$\{\mathcal{M}_{00}, \mathcal{M}_{011}, \mathcal{M}_{010}, \mathcal{M}_{110}, \mathcal{M}_{111}, \mathcal{M}_{101}, \mathcal{M}_{100}\}$$

## how many ways to get there from here?

$$\begin{aligned}(T^n)_{ij} &= \sum_{k_1, k_2, \dots, k_{n-1}} T_{ik_1} T_{k_1 k_2} \cdots T_{k_{n-1} j} \\ &\propto \lambda_0^n, \quad \lambda_0 = \text{leading eigenvalue}\end{aligned}$$

counts topologically distinct  $n$ -step paths  
starting in  $\mathcal{M}_j$  and ending in partition  $\mathcal{M}_i$ .

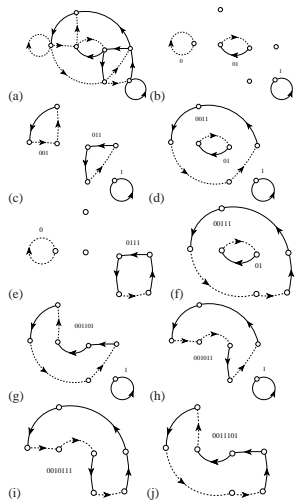
compute eigenvalues by evaluating the determinant

### topological (or Artin-Mazur) zeta function

$$1/\zeta_{\text{top}} = \det(1 - zT)$$

# topological dynamics

$$\det(1 - zT) = \sum [\text{non-(self)-intersecting loops}]$$

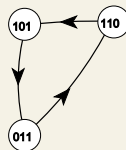


## periodic orbit

### *loop, periodic orbit, cycle*

walk that ends at the starting node, for example

$$t_{011} = L_{110,011} L_{011,101} L_{101,110} =$$



zeta function (“partition function”)

$$\det(1 - zT)$$

can be read off the graph, expanded as a polynomial in  $z$ , with coefficients given by products of non-intersecting loops (traces of powers of  $T$ )

### cycle expansion of a zeta function

$$\begin{aligned} \det(1 - zT) = & 1 - (t_0 + t_1)z - (t_{01} - t_0 t_1) z^2 \\ & - (t_{001} + t_{011} - t_{01} t_0 - t_{01} t_1) z^3 \\ & - (t_{0011} + t_{0111} - t_{001} t_1 - t_{011} t_0 - t_{011} t_1 + t_{01} t_0 t_1) z^4 \\ & - (t_{00111} - t_{0111} t_0 - t_{0011} t_1 + t_{011} t_0 t_1) z^5 \\ & - (t_{001011} + t_{001101} - t_{0011} t_{01} - t_{001} t_{011}) z^6 \\ & - (t_{0010111} + t_{0011101} - t_{001011} t_1 - t_{001101} t_1 \\ & \quad - t_{00111} t_{01} + t_{0011} t_{01} t_1 + t_{001} t_{011} t_1) z^7 \end{aligned}$$

## if there is one idea that one should learn about chaotic dynamics

it is this

there is a fundamental local  $\leftrightarrow$  global duality which says that

**eigenvalue spectrum is dual to periodic orbits spectrum**

for dynamics on the circle, this is called Fourier analysis

for dynamics on well-tiled manifolds, Selberg traces and zetas

for generic nonlinear dynamical systems the duality is embodied in the trace formulas and zeta functions

## global eigenspectrum $\Leftrightarrow$ local periodic orbits

Twenty years of schooling  
and they put you on the day shift  
Look out kid, they keep it all hid

—Bob Dylan, *Subterranean Homesick Blues*

the eigenspectrum  $s_0, s_1, \dots$  of the classical evolution operator

### trace formula, infinitely fine partition

$$\sum_{\alpha=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{s - s_{\alpha}} = \sum_p T_p \sum_{r=1}^{\infty} \frac{e^{r(\beta \cdot A_p - s T_p)}}{|\det(\mathbf{1} - M_p^r)|}.$$

the beauty of trace formulas lies in the fact that everything on the right-hand-side

–prime cycles  $p$ , their periods  $T_p$  and the eigenvalues of  $M_p$ –

is a coordinate independent, invariant property of the flow



## deterministic chaos vs. noise

### any physical system:

noise limits the resolution that can be attained in partitioning the state space

### noisy orbits

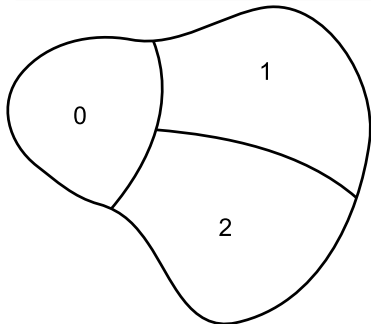
probabilistic densities smeared out by the noise:  
a finite # fits into the attractor

### goal: determine

the **finest attainable** partition

## deterministic partition

state space coarse partition

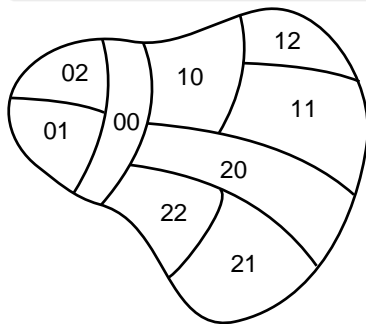


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1-step memory refinement



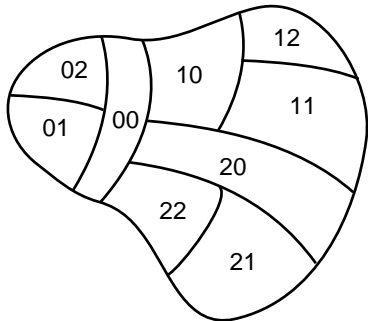
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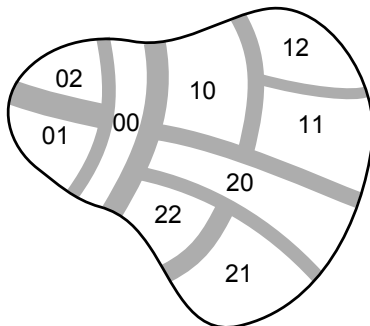
intuition

## deterministic vs. noisy partitions



deterministic partition

can be refined  
*ad infinitum*



noise blurs the boundaries

when overlapping, no further  
refinement of partition

idea #1: partition by periodic points

## periodic points instead of boundaries

- each partition contains a short periodic point smeared into a 'cigar' by noise

idea #1: partition by periodic points

## periodic points instead of boundaries

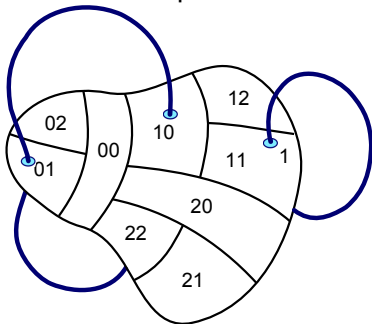
- each partition contains a short periodic point smeared into a 'cigar' by noise

compute the size of a noisy periodic point neighborhood

idea #1: partition by periodic points

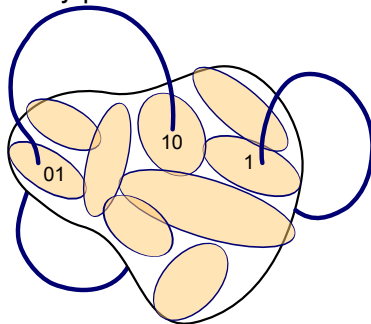
## periodic orbit partition

deterministic partition



some short periodic points:  
 fixed point  $\bar{1} = \{x_1\}$   
 two-cycle  $\overline{01} = \{x_{01}, x_{10}\}$

noisy partition



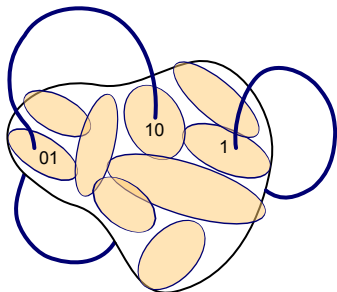
periodic points blurred by the  
 Langevin noise into  
 cigar-shaped densities

- successive refinements of a deterministic partition: exponentially shrinking neighborhoods
- as the periods of periodic orbits increase, the diffusion always wins:

partition stops at the finest attainable partition, beyond which the diffusive smearing exceeds the size of any deterministic subpartition.

idea #1: partition by periodic points

## noisy periodic orbit partition



### optimal partition hypothesis

optimal partition:  
the maximal set of resolvable  
periodic point neighborhoods

### why care?

if the high-dimensional flow has only a few unstable directions, the overlapping stochastic 'cigars' provide a *compact cover* of the noisy chaotic attractor, embedded in a state space of arbitrarily high dimension



## strategy

- use periodic orbits to partition state space
- compute local eigenfunctions of the Fokker-Planck operator to determine their neighborhoods
- done once neighborhoods overlap

idea #2: evolve densities, not Langevin trajectories

## how big is the neighborhood blurred by the Langevin noise?

**the (well known) key formula**

**composition law for the covariance matrix  $Q_a$**

$$Q_{a+1} = M_a Q_a M_a^T + \Delta_a$$

density covariance matrix at time  $a$ :  $Q_a$

Langevin noise covariance matrix:  $\Delta_a$

Jacobian matrix of linearized flow:  $M_a$

idea #2: evolve densities, not Langevin trajectories

## roll your own cigar

evolution law for the covariance matrix  $Q_a$ 

$$Q_{a+1} = M_a Q_a M_a^T + \Delta_a$$

in one time step a Gaussian density distribution with covariance matrix  $Q_a$  is smeared into a Gaussian 'cigar' whose widths and orientation are given by eigenvalues and eigenvectors of  $Q_{a+1}$

- (1) deterministically advected and deformed  
local density covariance matrix  $Q \rightarrow MQM^T$
- (2) add noise covariance matrix  $\Delta$

add up as sums of squares

idea #2: evolve densities, not Langevin trajectories

## noise along a trajectory

iterate  $Q_{a+1} = M_a Q_a M_a^T + \Delta_a$  along the trajectory

if  $M$  is contracting, over time the memory of the covariance  $Q_{a-n}$  of the starting density is lost, with iteration leading to the limit distribution

$$Q_a = \Delta_a + M_{a-1} \Delta_{a-1} M_{a-1}^T + M_{a-2}^2 \Delta_{a-2} (M_{a-2}^2)^T + \dots$$

diffusive dynamics of a nonlinear system is fundamentally different from Brownian motion, as the flow induces a history dependent effective noise:

**Always!**

idea #2: evolve densities, not Langevin trajectories

## noise and a single attractive fixed point

if all eigenvalues of  $M$  are strictly contracting, any initial compact measure converges to the unique invariant Gaussian measure  $\rho_0(z)$  whose covariance matrix satisfies

**time-invariant measure condition (Lyapunov equation)**

$$Q = MQM^T + \Delta$$

[A. M. Lyapunov 1892, doctoral dissertation]

idea #2: evolve densities, not Langevin trajectories

**example : Ornstein-Uhlenbeck process**

width of the natural measure concentrated at the deterministic fixed point  $z = 0$

$$Q = \frac{2D}{1 - |\Lambda|^2}, \quad \rho_0(z) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi Q}} \exp\left(-\frac{z^2}{2Q}\right),$$

- is balance between contraction by  $\Lambda$  and diffusive smearing by  $2D$  at each time step
- for strongly contracting  $\Lambda$ , the width is due to the noise only
- As  $|\Lambda| \rightarrow 1$  the width diverges: the trajectories are no longer confined, but diffuse by Brownian motion

idea #3: for unstable directions, look back

## things fall apart, centre cannot hold

but what if  $M$  has *expanding* Floquet multipliers?

both deterministic dynamics and noise tend to smear densities away from the fixed point: no peaked Gaussian in your future

idea #3: for unstable directions, look back

## things fall apart, centre cannot hold

but what if  $M$  has *expanding* Floquet multipliers?

Fokker-Planck operator is non-selfadjoint

If right eigenvector is peaked (attracting fixed point)  
the left eigenvector is flat (probability conservation)



idea #3: for unstable directions, look back

## case of *repelling* fixed point

if  $M$  has only *expanding* Floquet multipliers, both deterministic dynamics and noise tend to smear densities away from the fixed point

balance between the two is described by the *adjoint Fokker-Planck operator*, and the evolution of the covariance matrix  $Q$  is now given by

$$Q_a + \Delta = M_a Q_{a+1} M_a^T,$$

[aside to control freaks: reachability and observability Gramians]

## optimal partition challenge

**finally in position to address our challenge:**

*determine the finest possible partition for a given noise*

## resolution of a one-dimensional chaotic repeller

As an illustration of the method, consider the chaotic repeller on the unit interval

$$x_{n+1} = \Lambda_0 x_n(1 - x_n)(1 - bx_n) + \xi_n, \quad \Lambda_0 = 8, \quad b = 0.6,$$

with noise strength  $2D = 0.002$

## 'the best possible of all partitions' hypothesis formulated as an algorithm

- calculate the local adjoint Fokker-Planck operator eigenfunction width  $Q_a$  for every unstable periodic point  $x_a$
- assign one-standard deviation neighborhood  $[x_a - Q_a, x_a + Q_a]$  to every unstable periodic point  $x_a$
- cover the state space with neighborhoods of orbit points of higher and higher period  $n_p$
- stop refining the local resolution whenever the adjacent neighborhoods of  $x_a$  and  $x_b$  overlap:

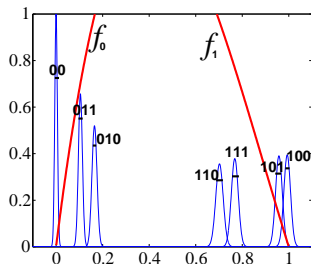
$$|x_a - x_b| < Q_a + Q_b$$

## optimal partition, 1 dimensional map

$f_0, f_1$ : branches of deterministic map

local eigenfunctions  $\tilde{\rho}_a$  partition state space by neighborhoods of periodic points of period 3

neighborhoods  $\mathcal{M}_{000}$  and  $\mathcal{M}_{001}$  overlap, so  $\mathcal{M}_{00}$  cannot be resolved further



all neighborhoods  $\{\mathcal{M}_{0101}, \mathcal{M}_{0100}, \dots\}$  of period  $n_p = 4$  cycle points overlap, so

state space can be resolved into 7 neighborhoods

$$\{\mathcal{M}_{00}, \mathcal{M}_{011}, \mathcal{M}_{010}, \mathcal{M}_{110}, \mathcal{M}_{111}, \mathcal{M}_{101}, \mathcal{M}_{100}\}$$

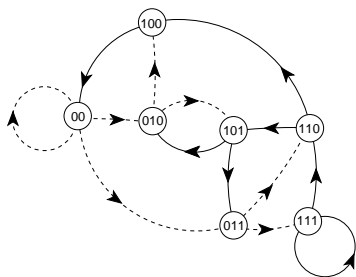
## Markov partition

evolution in time maps intervals

$$\mathcal{M}_{011} \rightarrow \{\mathcal{M}_{110}, \mathcal{M}_{111}\}$$

$$\mathcal{M}_{00} \rightarrow \{\mathcal{M}_{00}, \mathcal{M}_{011}, \mathcal{M}_{010}\}, \text{ etc..}$$

summarized by the transition graph (links correspond to elements of transition matrix  $T_{ba}$ ):  
the regions  $b$  that can be reached from the region  $a$  in one time step



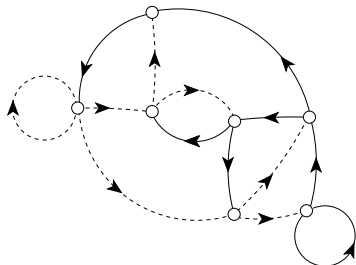
## transition graph

7 nodes = 7 regions of the optimal partition

dotted links = symbol 0 (next region reached by  $f_0$ )

full links = symbol 1 (next region reached by  $f_1$ )

region labels in the nodes can be omitted, with links keeping track of the symbolic dynamics



- (1) deterministic dynamics is full binary shift, but
- (2) noise dynamics nontrivial and *finite*



## predictions

**escape rate and the Lyapunov exponent of the repeller**

are given by the leading eigenvalue of this  $[7 \times 7]$  graph / transition matrix

tests : numerical results are consistent with the full Fokker-Planck PDE simulations

## what is novel?

- we have shown how to compute the **locally optimal partition**, for a given dynamical system and given noise, in terms of local eigenfunctions of the forward-backward actions of the Fokker-Planck operator and its adjoint

## what is novel?

- **A handsome reward:** as the optimal partition is always finite, the dynamics on this 'best possible of all partitions' is encoded by a finite transition graph of finite memory, and the Fokker-Planck operator can be represented by a finite matrix

## the payback

**claim:**

optimal partition hypothesis

- the best of all possible state space partitions
- optimal for the given noise

## the payback

**claim:**

optimal partition hypothesis

- optimal partition replaces stochastic PDEs by finite, low-dimensional Fokker-Planck matrices

## the payback

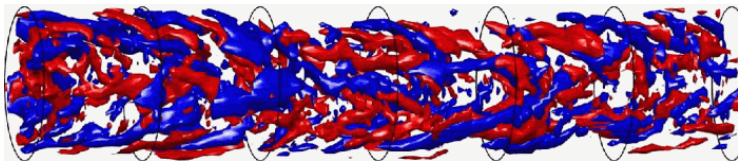
**claim:**

### optimal partition hypothesis

- optimal partition replaces stochastic PDEs by finite, low-dimensional Fokker-Planck matrices
- finite matrix calculations, finite cycle expansions  $\Rightarrow$  optimal estimates of long-time observables (escape rates, Lyapunov exponents, etc.)

## summary

- Computation of unstable periodic orbits in high-dimensional state spaces, such as Navier-Stokes,



is at the border of what is feasible numerically, and criteria to identify finite sets of the most important solutions are very much needed. Where are we to stop calculating orbits of a given hyperbolic flow?

## summary

- Intuitively, as we look at longer and longer periodic orbits, their neighborhoods shrink exponentially with time, while the variance of the noise-induced orbit smearing remains bounded; there has to be a *turnover time*, a time at which the noise-induced width overwhelms the exponentially shrinking deterministic dynamics, so that no better resolution is possible.



## summary

- We have described here the *optimal partition hypothesis*, a new method for partitioning the state space of a chaotic repeller in presence of weak Gaussian noise, and tested the method in a 1-dimensional setting against direct numerical Fokker-Planck operator calculation.

## references

- D. Lippolis and P. Cvitanović, *How well can one resolve the state space of a chaotic map?*, Phys. Rev. Lett. 104, 014101 (2010); [arXiv.org:0902.4269](https://arxiv.org/abs/0902.4269)
- D. Lippolis and P. Cvitanović, *Optimal resolution of the state space of a chaotic flow in presence of noise (in preparation)*