

# Geometric and probabilistic descriptions of chaotic phase space transport: stirring by braiding of almost-cyclic sets

Shane Ross

Engineering Science and Mechanics, Virginia Tech

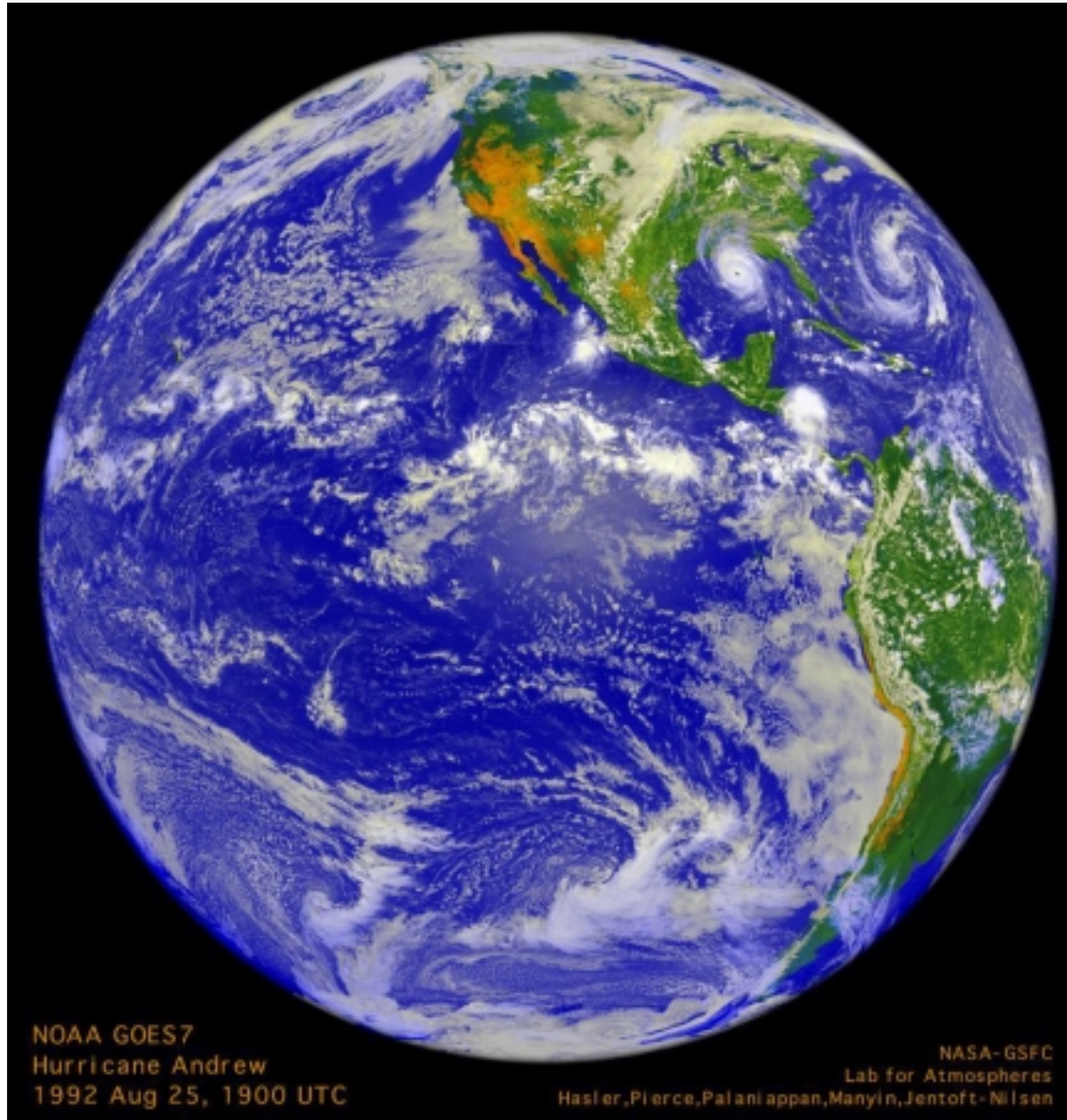
[www.shaneros.com](http://www.shaneros.com)

In collaboration with Francois Lekien, Mark Stremler, Piyush Grover,  
Carmine Senatore, Phanindra Tallapragada, Shibabrat Naik,  
Sam Raben, Amir BozorgMagham, Pankaj Kumar

BIRS Workshop, Open Dynamical Systems, April 2012



# Motivation: complex fluid motion, mixing, and control



# Motivation: complex fluid motion, mixing, and control

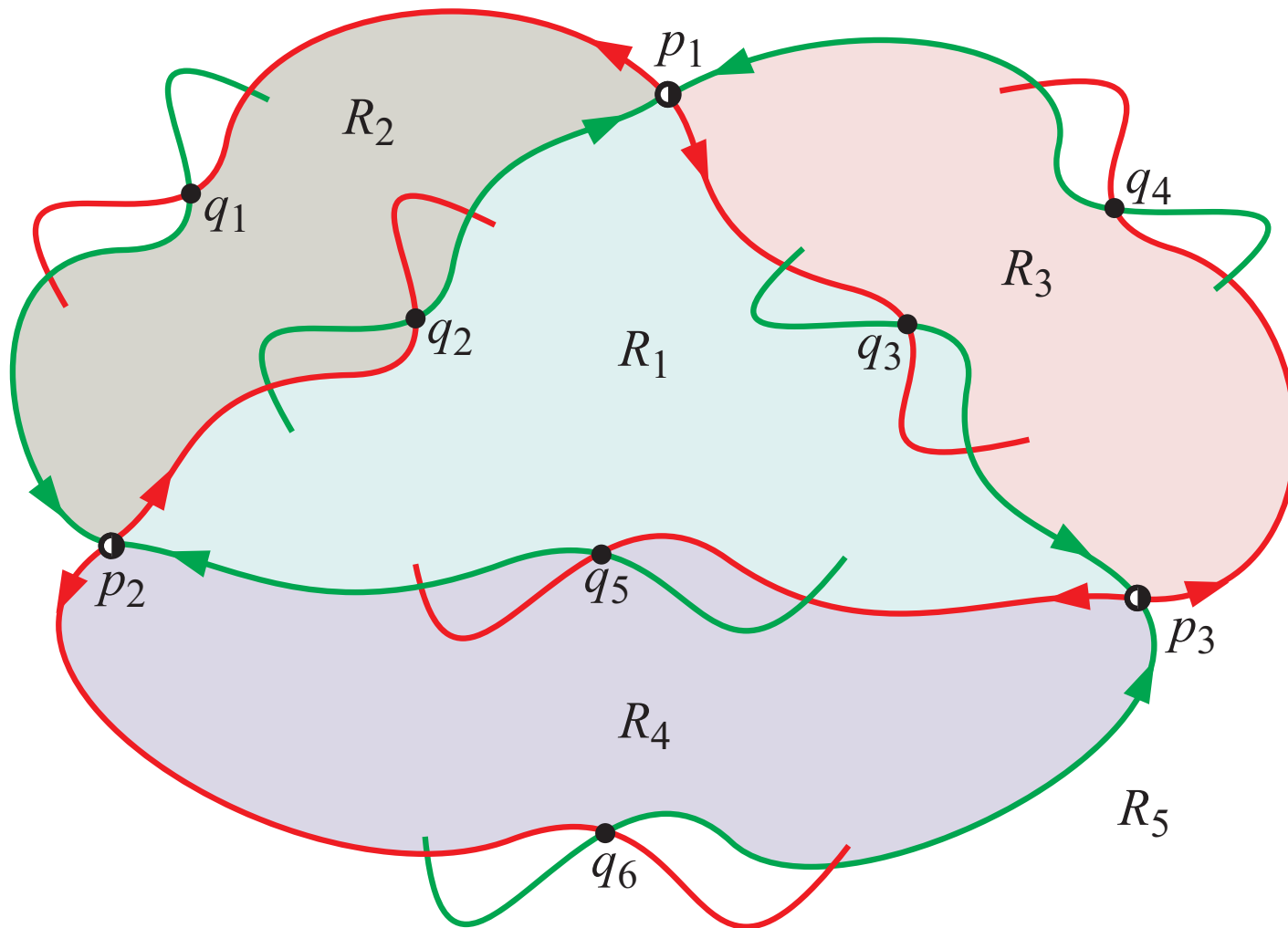
Atmosphere over North America. Lagrangian coherent boundaries: orange = repelling, blue = attracting

# Motivation: complex fluid motion, mixing, and control

Table top fluid experiment. Lagrangian coherent boundaries: red = repelling, blue = attracting

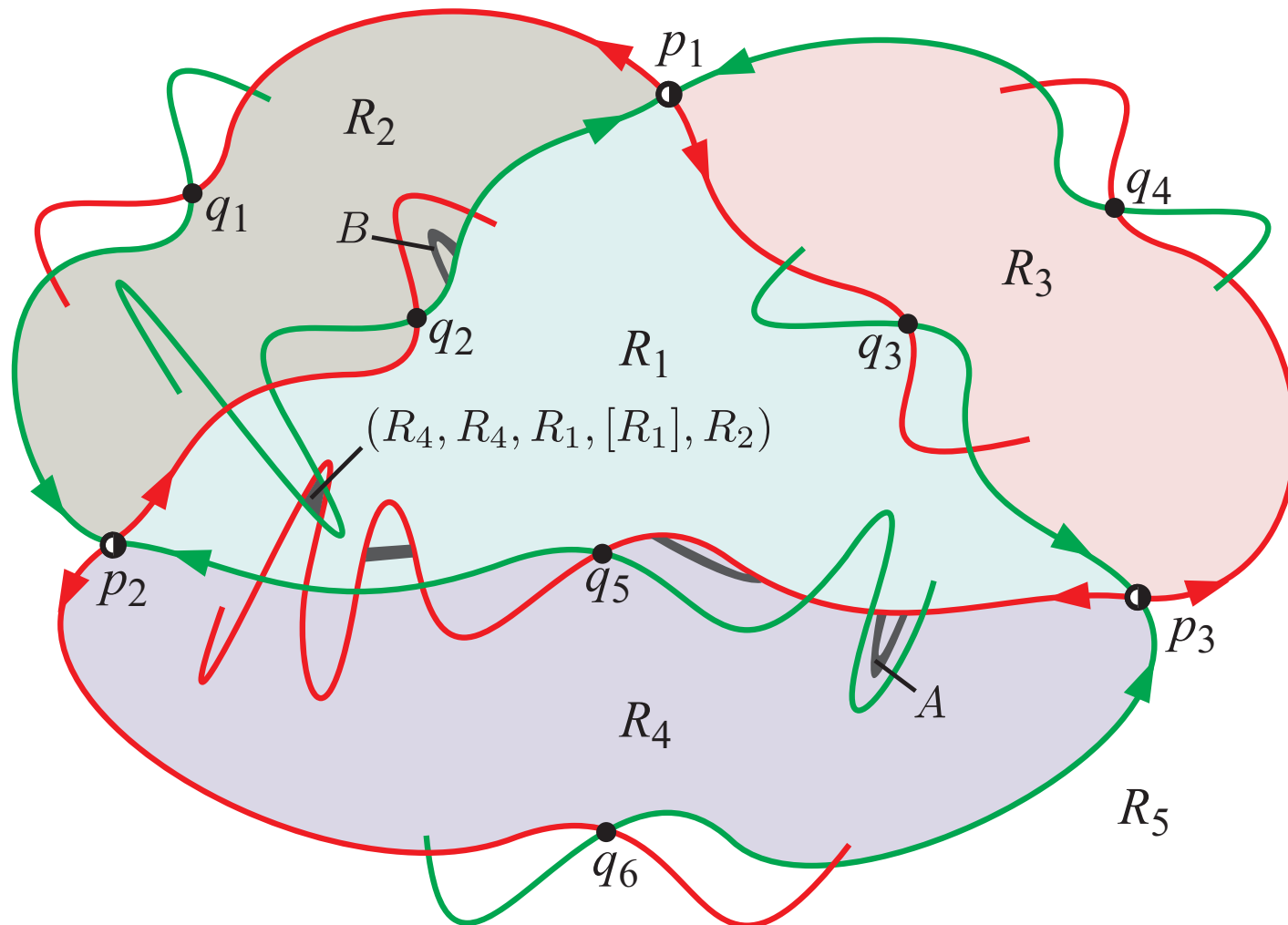
# Motivation: complex fluid motion, mixing, and control

- Selectively 'jumping' between coherent sets using control
- Moving between mobile subregions of different finite-time itineraries



# Motivation: complex fluid motion, mixing, and control

- Selectively 'jumping' between coherent sets using control
- Moving between mobile subregions of different finite-time itineraries





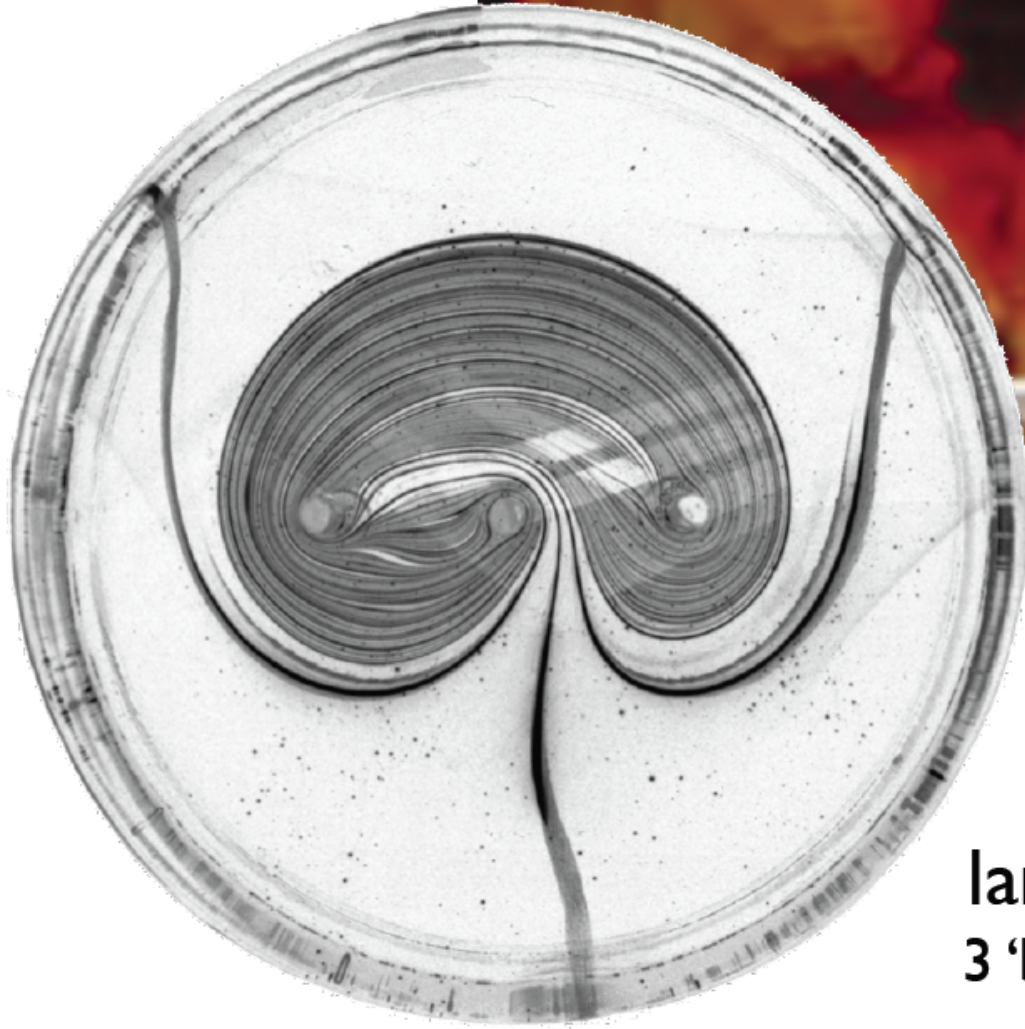
# Motivation: complex fluid motion, mixing, and control

- Selectively 'jumping' between coherent sets using control
- Moving between mobile subregions of different finite-time itineraries

green=uncontrolled, red=controlled



# Stirring fluids with solid rods

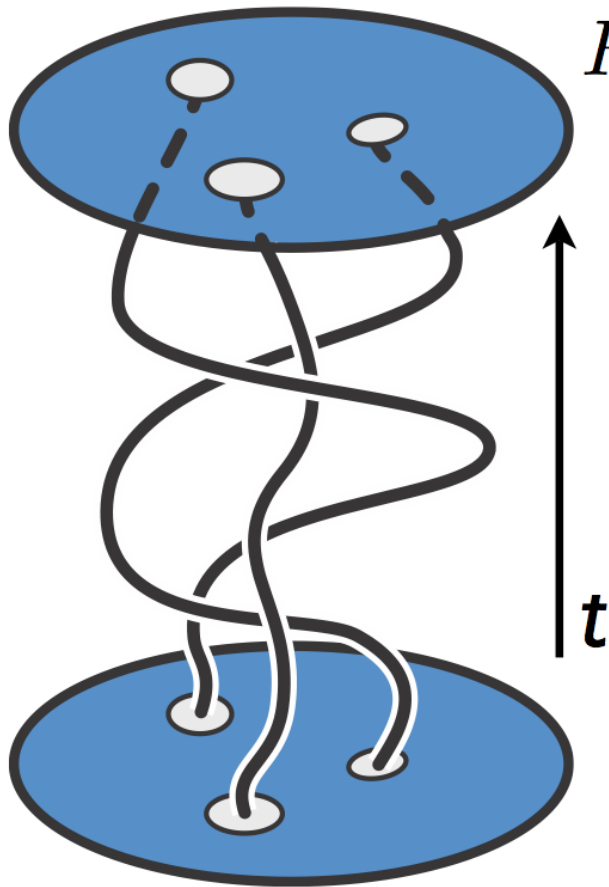


turbulent mixing  
spoon in coffee

laminar mixing  
3 'braiding' rods in glycerin

# Topological chaos through braiding of stirrers

- Topological chaos is 'built in' the flow due to the topology of boundary motions



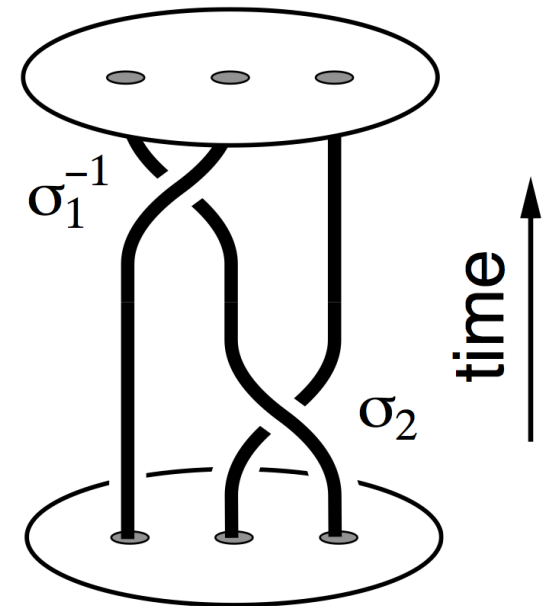
$R_N$  : 2D fluid region with  $N$  stirring 'rods'

- stirrers move on periodic orbits
- stirrers = solid objects or *fluid particles*
- stirrer motions generate diffeomorphism  
 $f : R_N \rightarrow R_N$
- stirrer trajectories generate braids  
in 2+1 dimensional space-time

# Thurston-Nielsen classification theorem

- Thurston (1988) Bull. Am. Math. Soc.
- A stirrer motion  $f$  is isotopic to a stirrer motion  $g$  of one of three types (i) finite order (f.o.): the  $n$ th iterate of  $g$  is the identity (ii) pseudo-Anosov (pA):  $g$  has Markov partition with transition matrix  $A$ , topological entropy  $h_{\text{TN}}(g) = \log(\lambda_{\text{PF}}(A))$ , where  $\lambda_{\text{PF}}(A) > 1$  (iii) reducible:  $g$  contains both f.o. and pA regions

- $h_{\text{TN}}$  computed from 'braid word', e.g.,  $\sigma_1^{-1}\sigma_2$
- $\log(\lambda_{\text{PF}}(A))$  provides a **lower bound** on the true topological entropy



# Topological chaos in a viscous fluid experiment

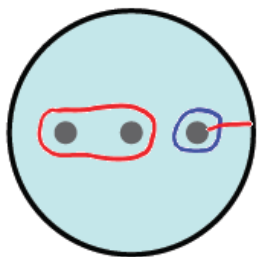
Move 3 rods on 'figure-8' paths through glycerin

Boyland, Aref & Stremler (2000) *J. Fluid Mech.*

- stirrers move on periodic orbits in two steps
- Thurston-Nielsen theorem gives a lower bound on stretching:

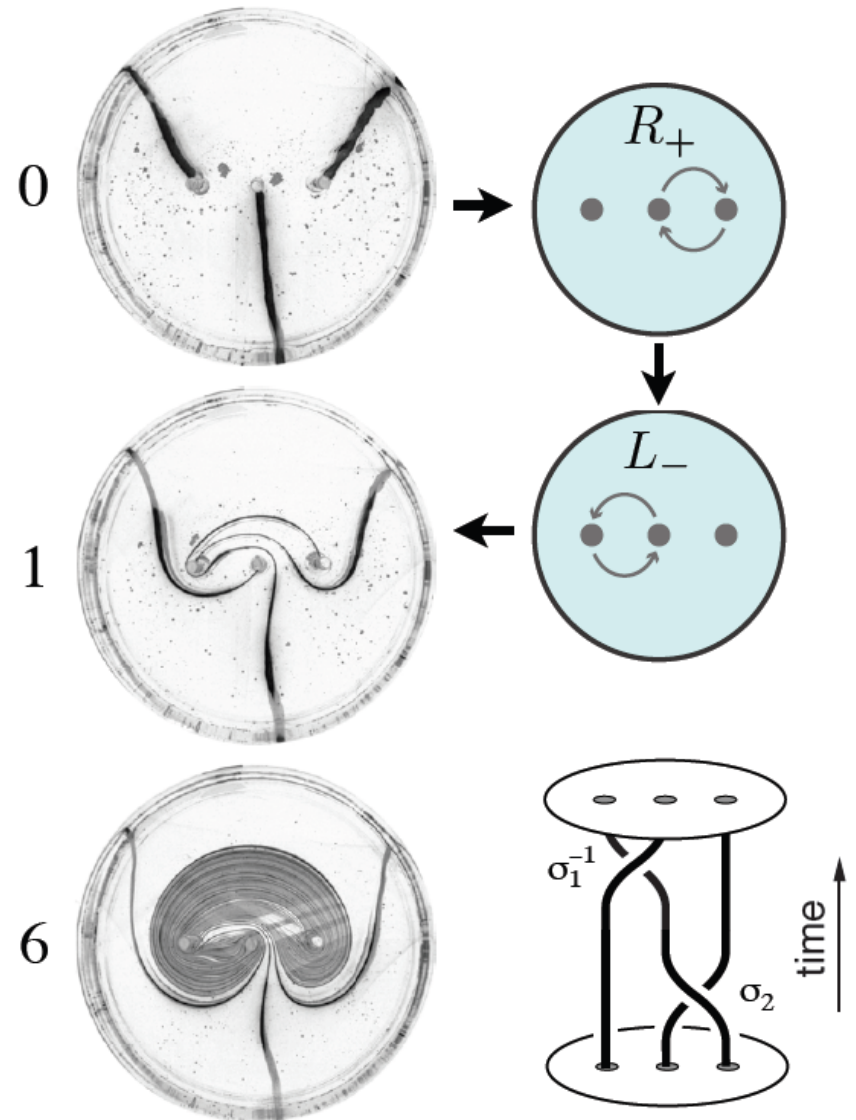
$$\lambda_{\text{TN}} = \frac{1}{2} (3 + \sqrt{5})$$

$$h_{\text{TN}} = \log(\lambda_{\text{TN}}) = 0.962 \dots$$

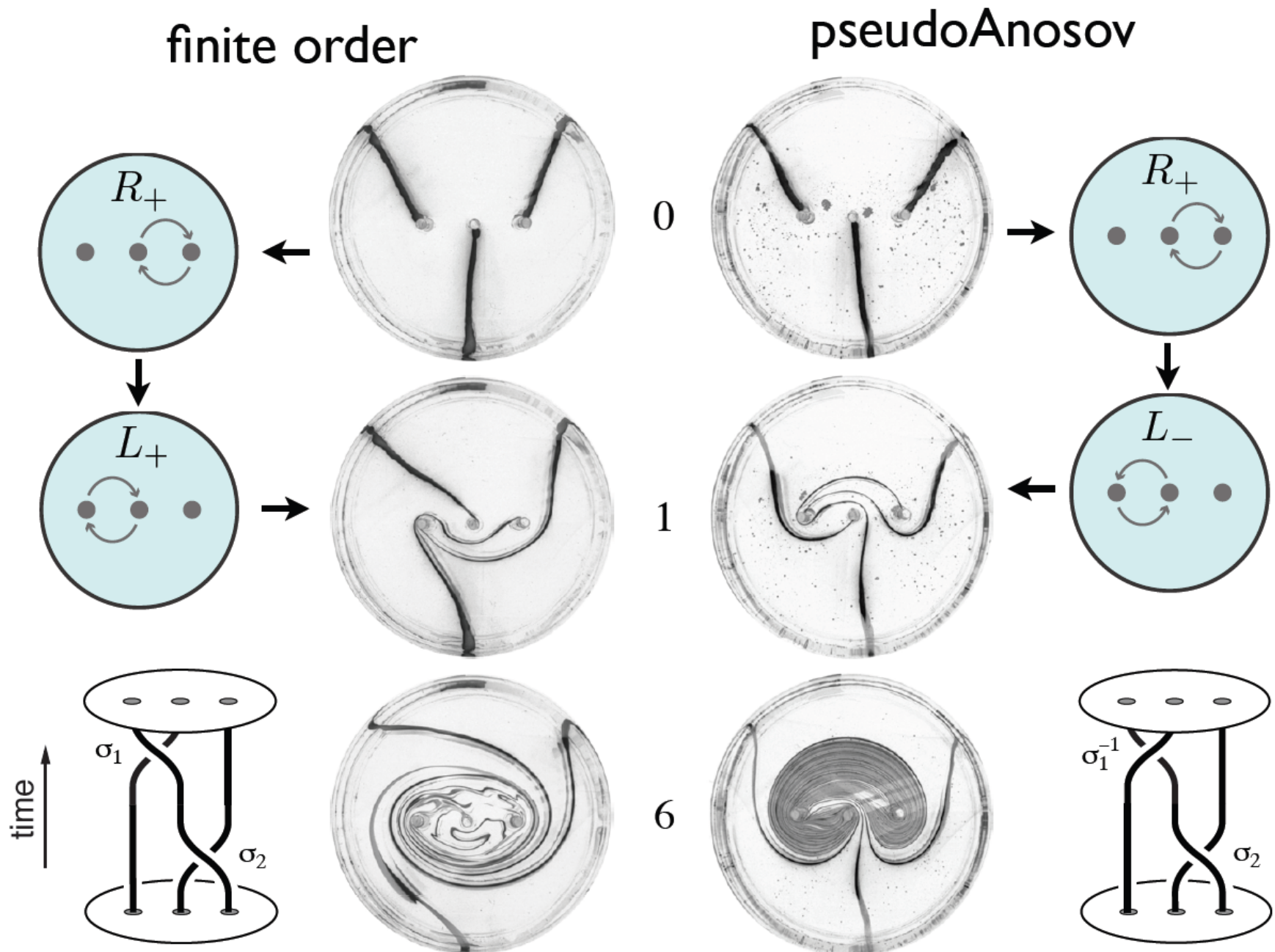


non-trivial material lines grow like  $l \sim l_0 \lambda^n$

$$\lambda \geq \lambda_{\text{TN}}$$



# Topological chaos in a viscous fluid experiment



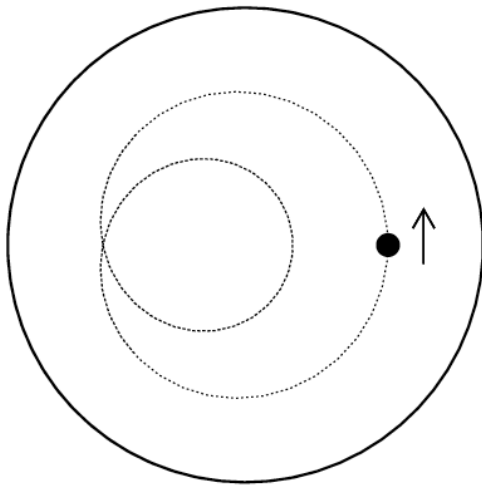
# 'Stirring' with fluid particles

point vortices in a periodic domain

Boyland, Stremler & Aref (2003) *Physica D*

one rod moving on an epicyclic trajectory

Gouillart, Thiffeault & Finn (2006) *Phys. Rev. E*



'ghost rods'



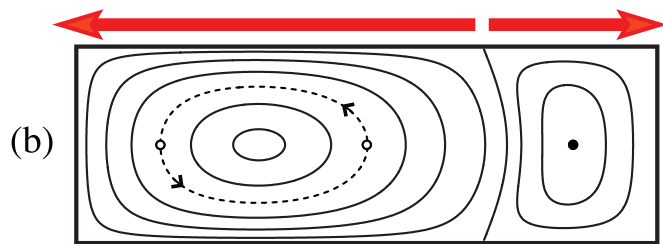
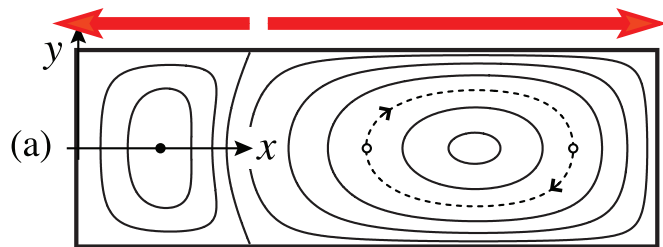
solid rods

Fluid is wrapped around 'ghost rods' in the fluid

– *flow structure assists in the stirring*

# Ghost rods in microfluidics mixer

□ Lid-driven cavity flow, periodic vector field



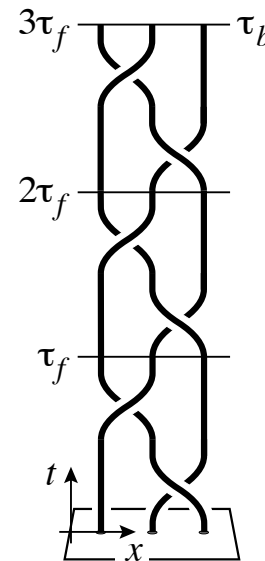
streamlines for  $\tau_f = 1$

tracer blob ( $\tau_f > 1$ )

- $t \in [n\tau_f, (n+1)\tau_f/2)$ , right two points exchange clockwise
- $t \in [(n+1)\tau_f/2, (n+1)\tau_f)$ , left two points exchange counter-clockwise
- System has parameter  $\tau_f$ , which we treat as a bifurcation parameter  
— critical point  $\tau_f^* = 1$

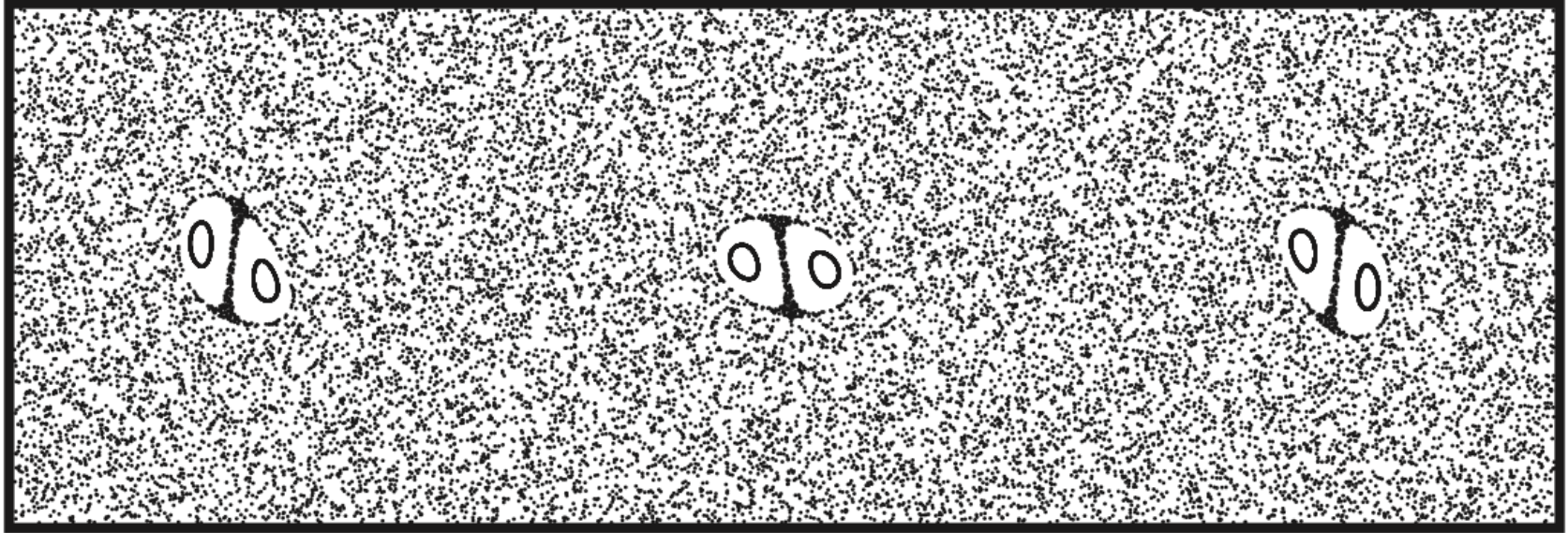
# Stirring protocol $\Rightarrow$ braid $\Rightarrow$ topological entropy

- Consider period- $\tau_f$  map
- For  $\tau_f = 1$ , period 3 points act as 'ghost rods'
- Their braid  $\Rightarrow h_{\text{TN}} = 0.96242$  from TNCT
- Actual  $h_{\text{flow}} \approx 0.964$  obtained numerically
- $\Rightarrow h_{\text{TN}}$  is an excellent lower bound



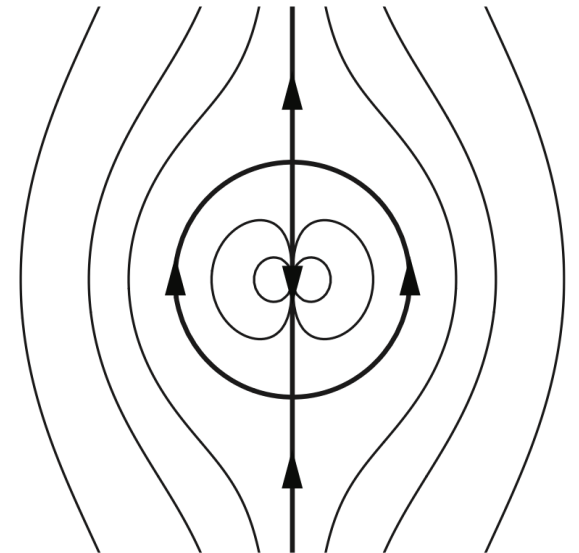


# Identifying 'ghost rods': periodic points



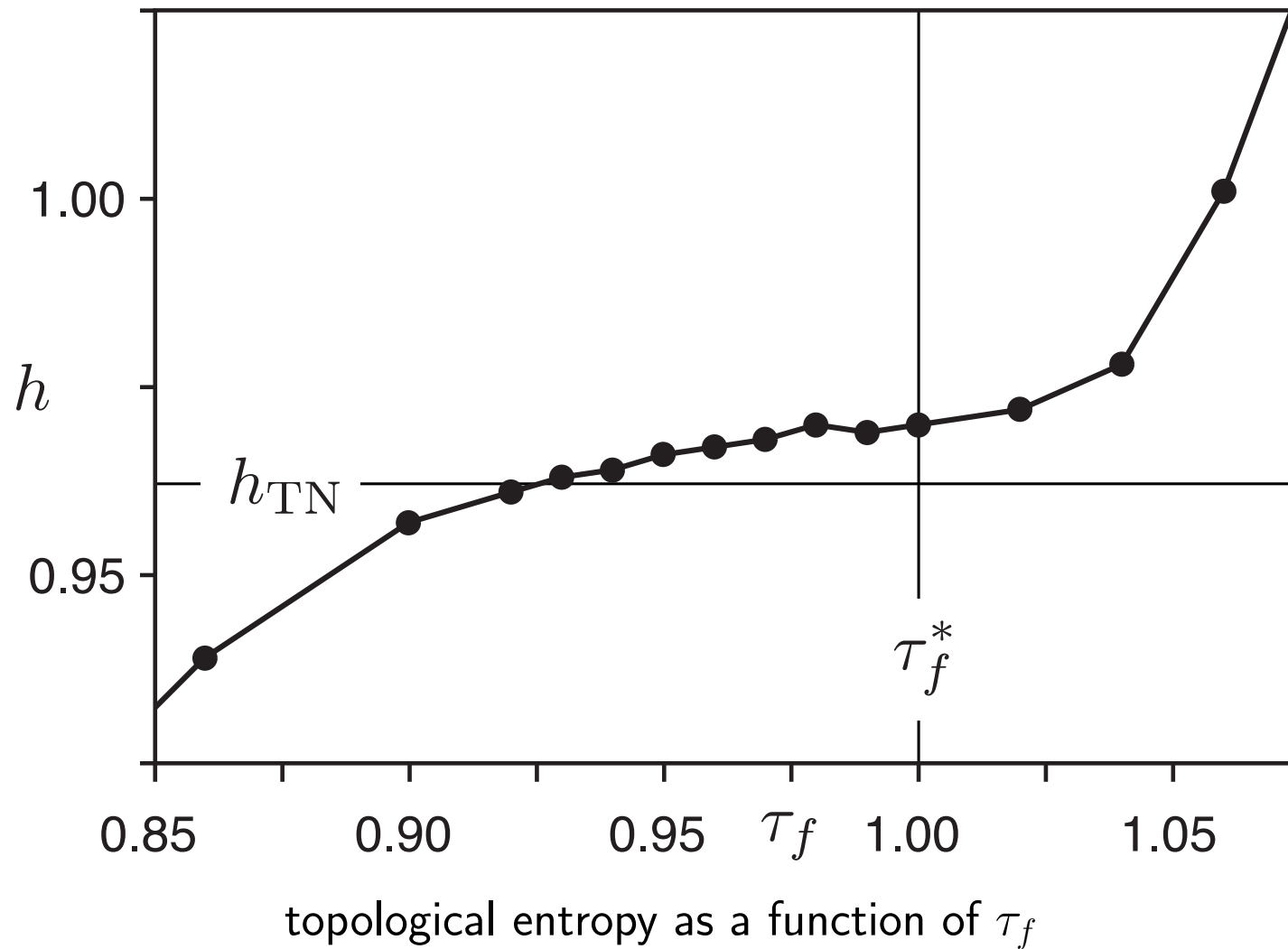
period- $\tau_f$  map for  $\tau_f$  just above 1

- At  $\tau_f = 1$ , parabolic period 3 points of map
- $\tau_f > 1$ , **elliptic / saddle points** of period 3  
— streamlines around groups resemble fluid motion around a solid rod  $\Rightarrow$
- $\tau_f < 1$ , **periodic points vanish**

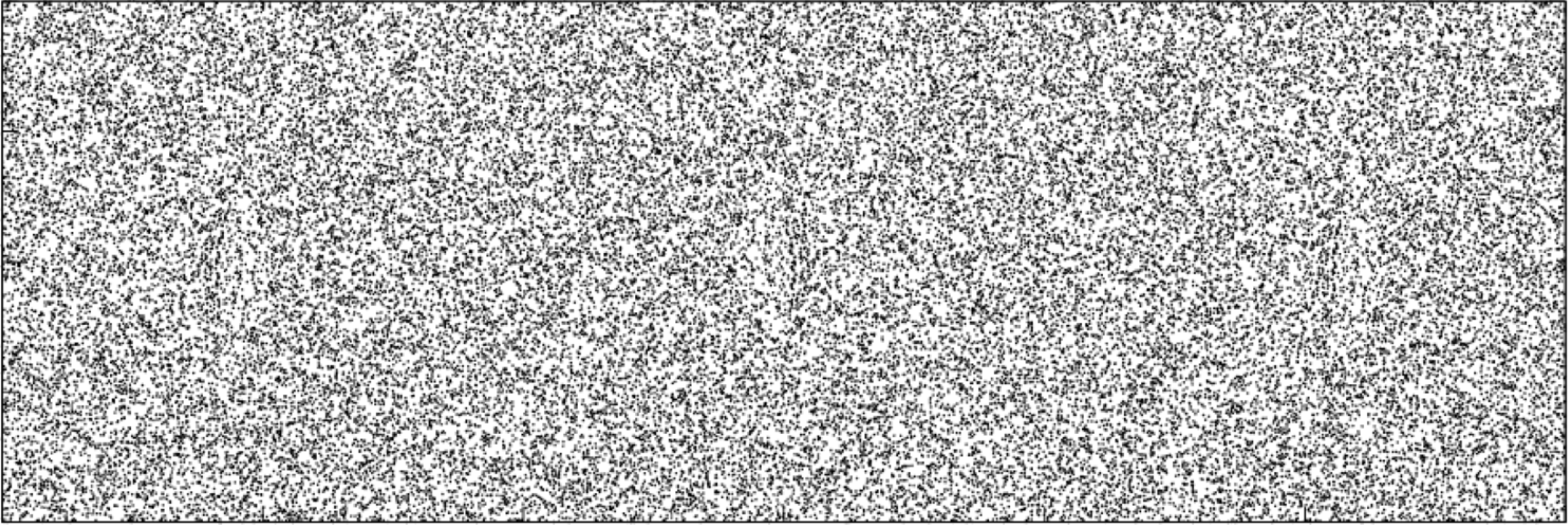


# Topological entropy continuity across critical point

□ Consider  $\tau_f < 1$



# Identifying 'ghost rods' ?



period- $\tau_f$  map for  $\tau_f < 1 \Rightarrow$  no 'obvious' structure

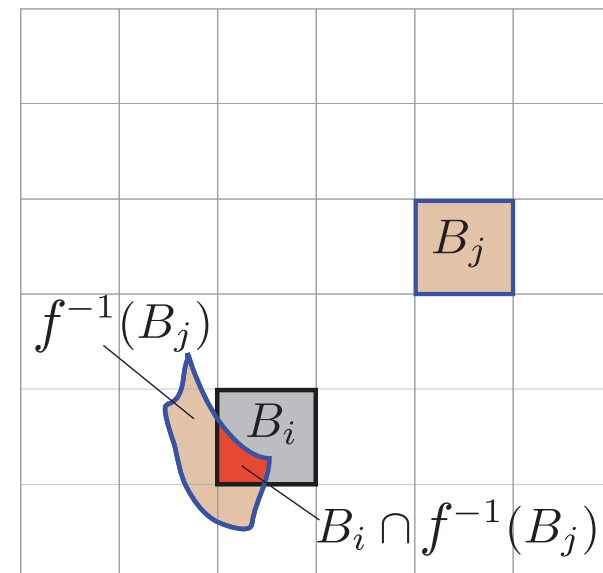
- Note the absence of any elliptical islands
- No periodic orbits of low period were found
- In practice, even when such low-order periodic orbits exist, they can be difficult to identify
- But phase space is not featureless

# Almost-cyclic set approach

- Identify **almost-invariant sets** (AISs, as discussed in previous talks)
- Relatedly, **almost-cyclic sets** (ACSs) (Dellnitz & Junge [1999])
- Create box partition of phase space  $\mathcal{B} = \{B_1, \dots, B_q\}$ , with  $q$  large
- Consider a  $q$ -by- $q$  **Ulam-Galerkin matrix**,  $P$ , where

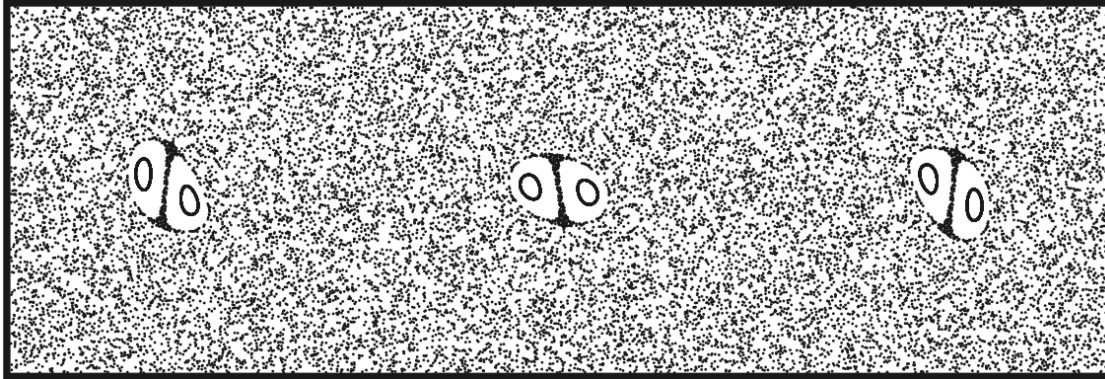
$$P_{ij} = \frac{m(B_i \cap f^{-1}(B_j))}{m(B_i)},$$

the *transition probability* from  $B_i$  to  $B_j$  using, e.g.,  $f = \phi_t^{t+T}$ , computed numerically



- Identify AISs and ACS via spectrum of  $P$

# Identifying 'ghost rods': almost-cyclic sets

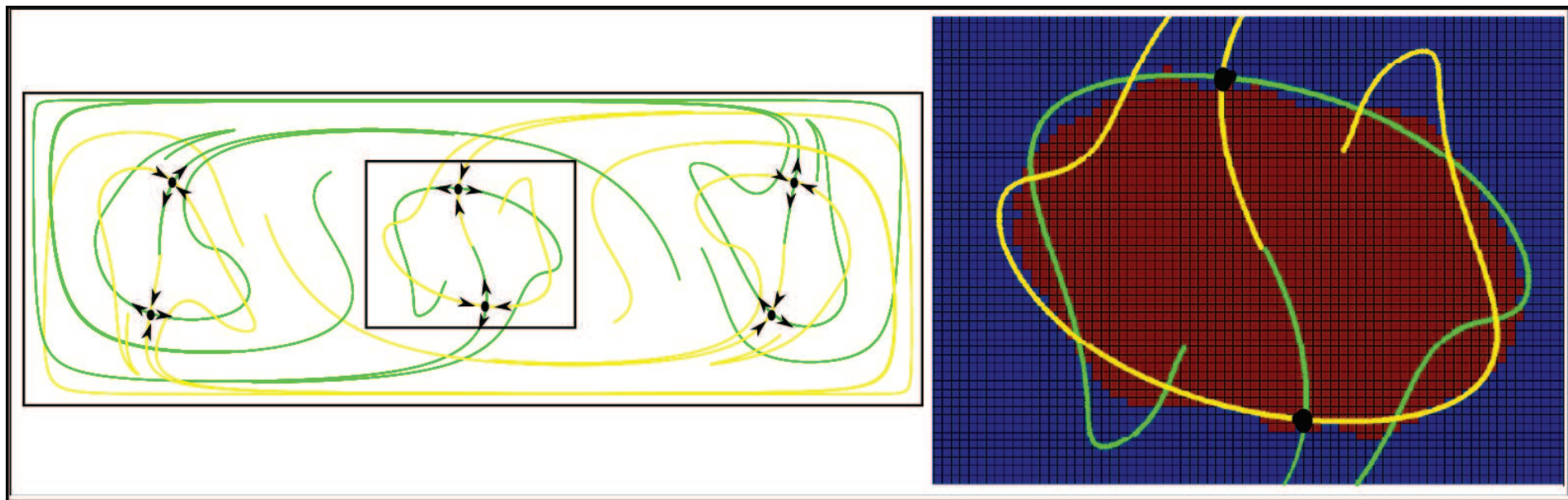


- For  $\tau_f > 1$  case, where periodic points and manifolds exist...
- Agreement between ACS boundaries and manifolds of periodic points
- Known previously<sup>1</sup> and applies to more general objects than periodic points, i.e. normally hyperbolic invariant manifolds (NHIMs)

---

<sup>1</sup>Dellnitz, Junge, Lo, Marsden, Padberg, Preis, Ross, Thiere [2005] Phys. Rev. Lett.; Dellnitz, Junge, Koon, Lekien, Lo, Marsden, Padberg, Preis, Ross, Thiere [2005] Int. J. Bif. Chaos

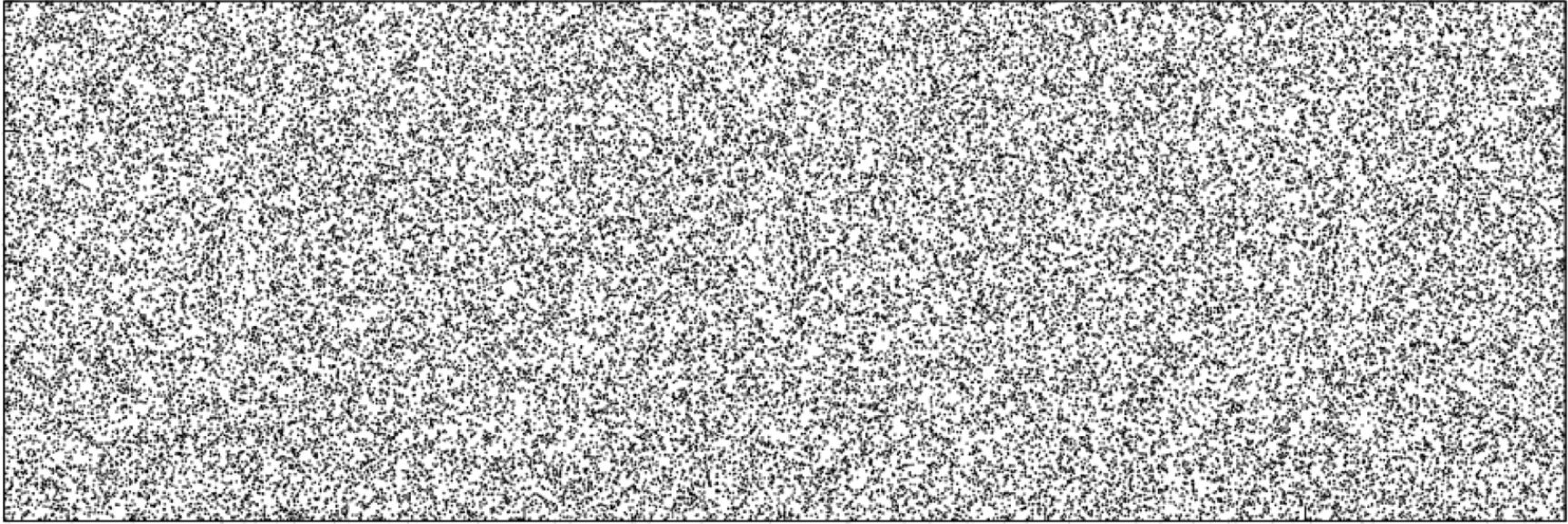
# Identifying 'ghost rods': almost-cyclic sets



- For  $\tau_f > 1$  case, where periodic points and manifolds exist...
- Agreement between ACS boundaries and manifolds of periodic points
- Known previously<sup>1</sup> and applies to more general objects than periodic points, i.e. normally hyperbolic invariant manifolds (NHIMs)

<sup>1</sup>Dellnitz, Junge, Lo, Marsden, Padberg, Preis, Ross, Thiere [2005] Phys. Rev. Lett.; Dellnitz, Junge, Koon, Lekien, Lo, Marsden, Padberg, Preis, Ross, Thiere [2005] Int. J. Bif. Chaos

# Identifying 'ghost rods': almost-cyclic sets

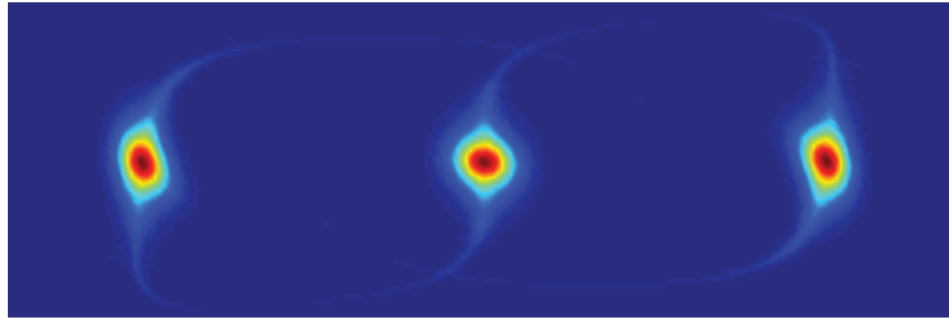


period- $\tau_f$  map for  $\tau_f < 1 \Rightarrow$  no 'obvious' structure

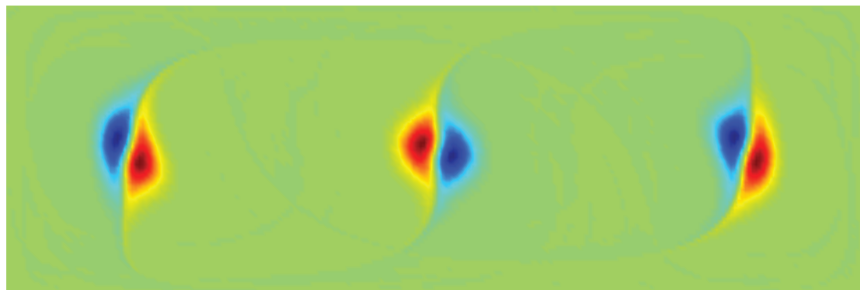
- Return to  $\tau_f < 1$  case, where no periodic orbits of low period known
- What are the AISs and ACSs here?
- Consider  $P_t^{t+\tau_f}$  induced by family of period- $\tau_f$  maps  $\phi_t^{t+\tau_f}$ ,  $t \in [0, \tau_f)$

# Identifying 'ghost rods': almost-cyclic sets

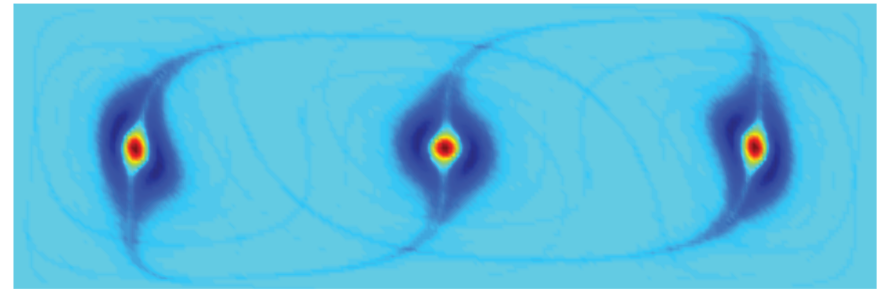
Top eigenvectors for  $\tau_f = 0.99$  reveal hierarchy of phase space structures



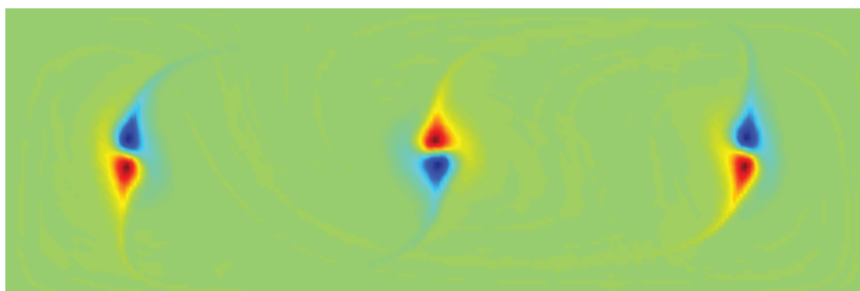
$\nu_2$



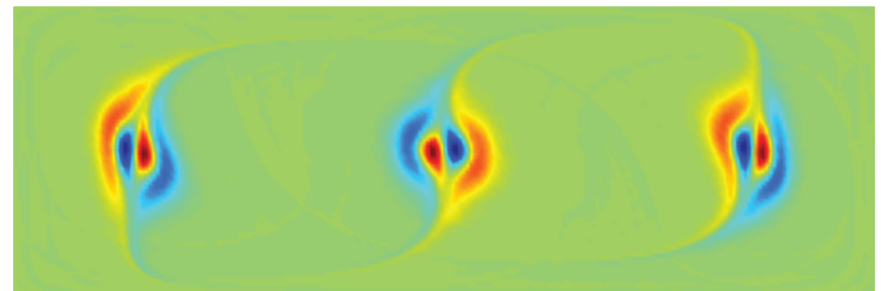
$\nu_3$



$\nu_4$



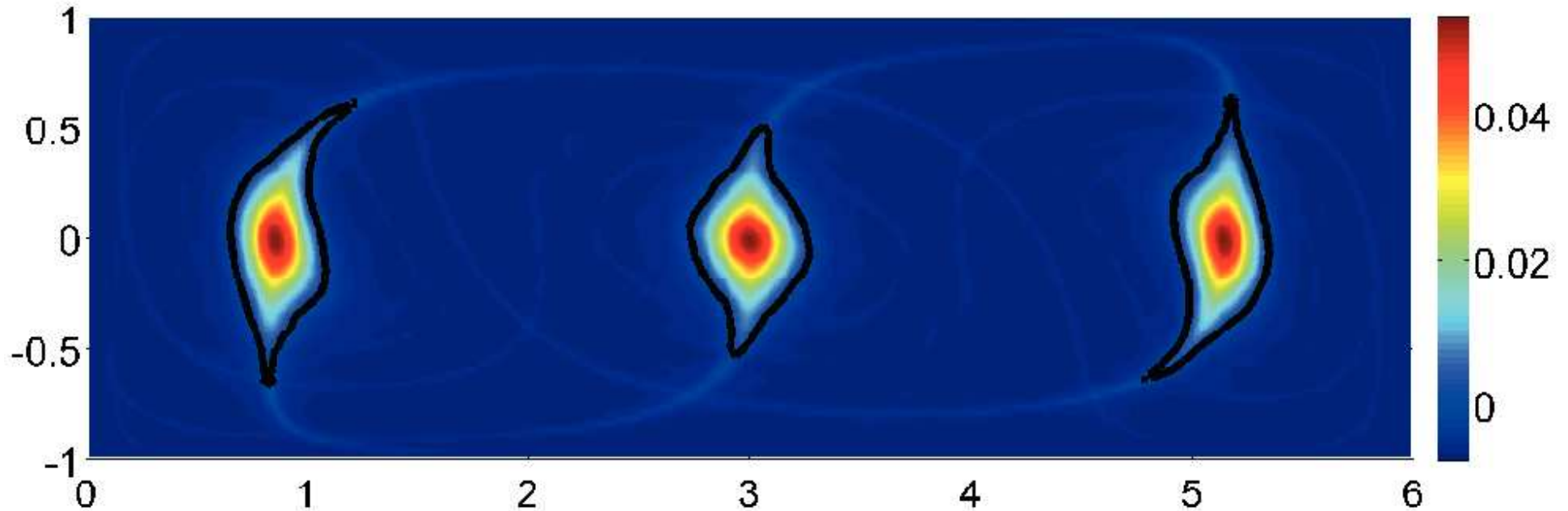
$\nu_5$



$\nu_6$



# Identifying 'ghost rods': almost-cyclic sets



The zero contour (black) is the boundary between the two almost-invariant sets.

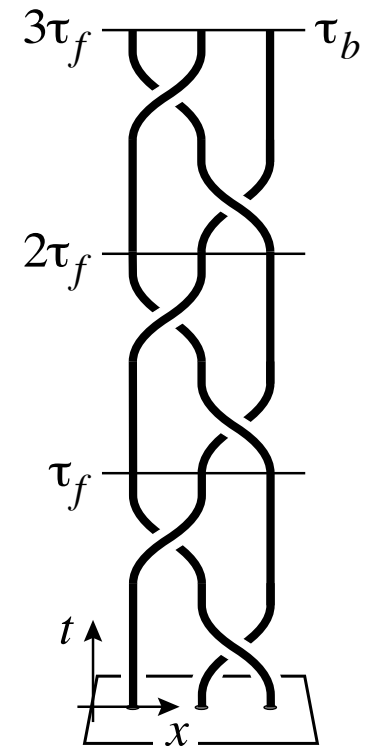
- Three-component AIS made of 3 ACSs of period 3
- ACS effectively replace periodic orbits for TNCT

# Identifying 'ghost rods': almost-cyclic sets

Almost-cyclic sets stirring the surrounding fluid like 'ghost rods'  
— **works even when periodic orbits are absent!**

Movie shown is second eigenvector for  $P_t^{t+\tau_f}$  for  $t \in [0, \tau_f)$

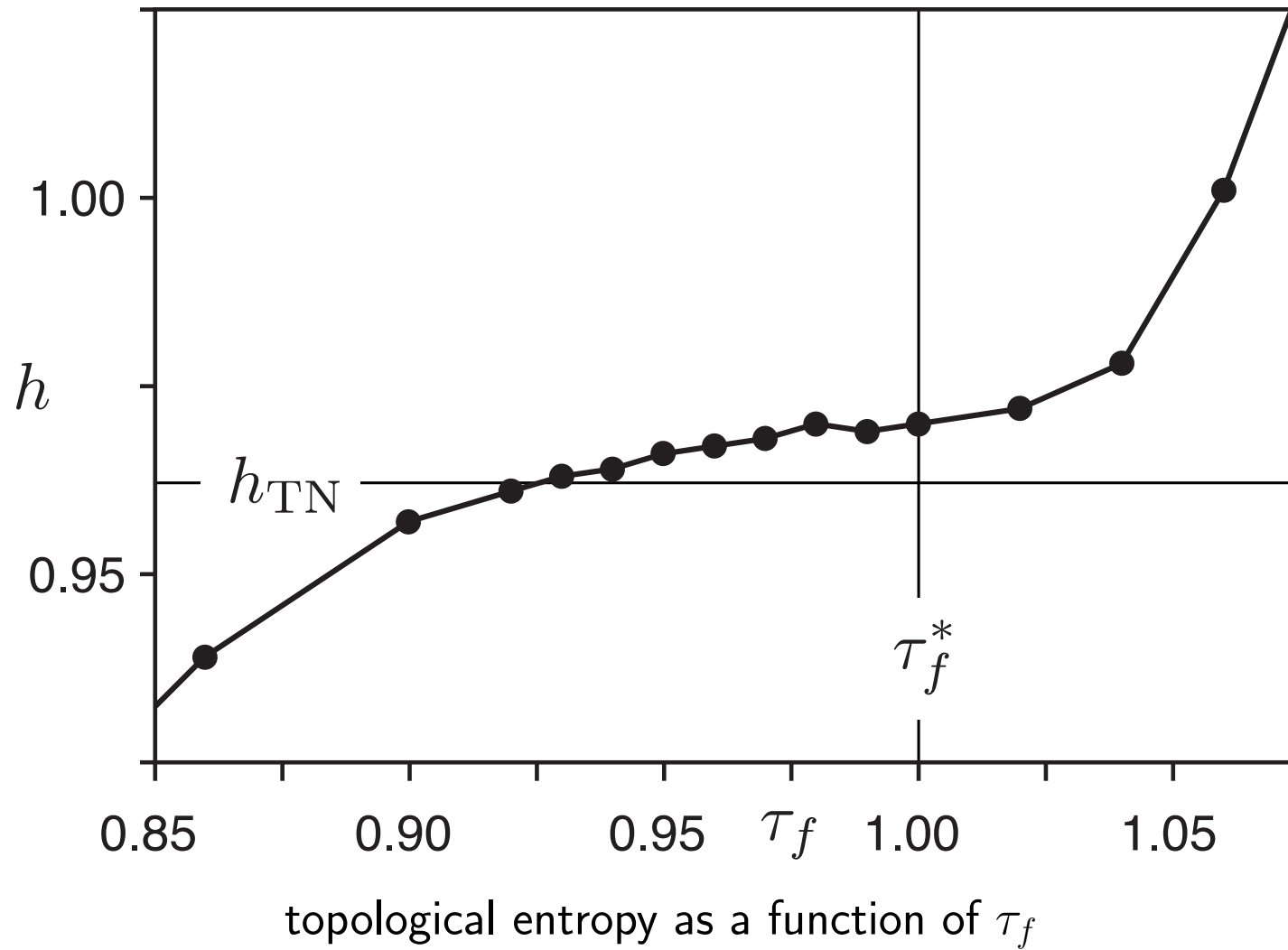
# Identifying 'ghost rods': almost-cyclic sets



Braid of ACSs gives lower bound of entropy via Thurston-Nielsen

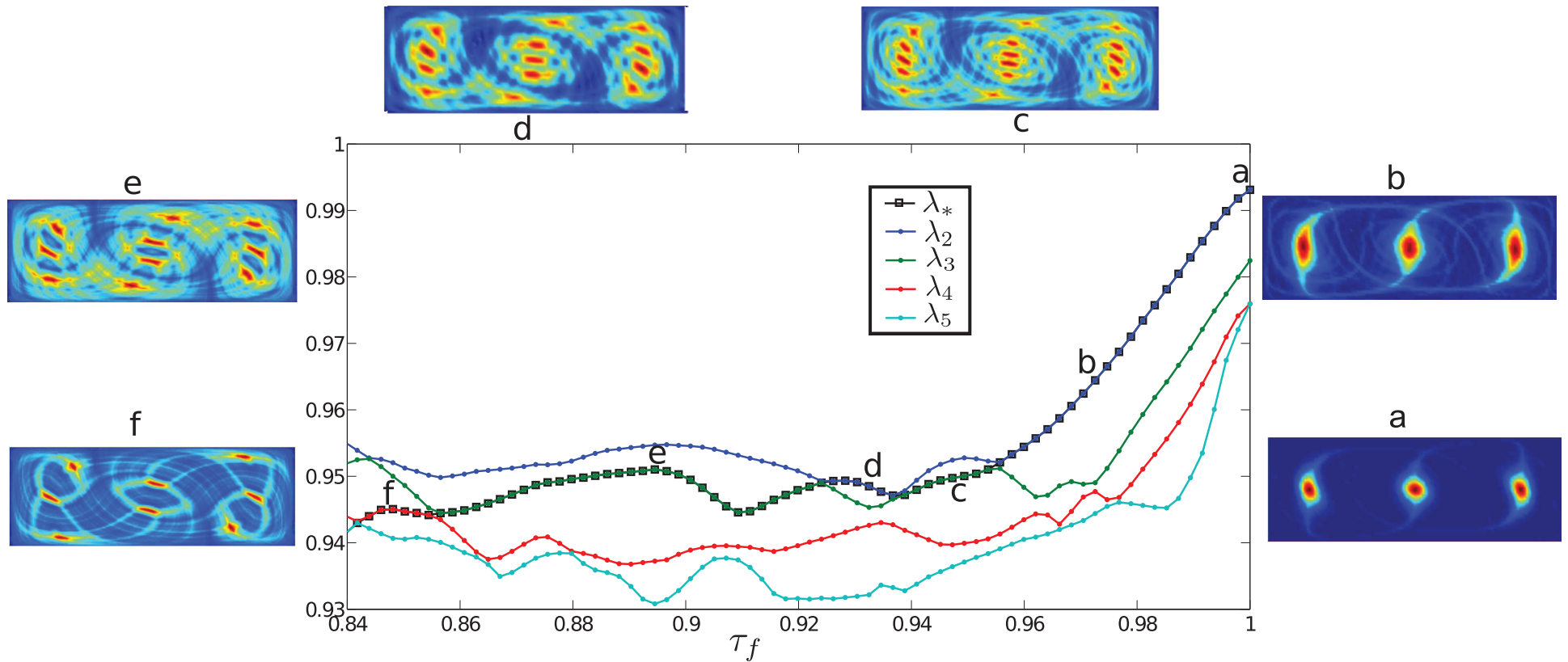
- One only needs approximately cyclic blobs of phase space
- But, theorems apply only to periodic points
- Stremler, Ross, Grover, Kumar [2011] Phys. Rev. Lett.

# Topological entropy vs. bifurcation parameter



- $h_{\text{TN}}$  shown for ACS braid on 3 strands

# Eigenvalues/vectors vs. bifurcation parameter



Consider change in eigenvector<sup>z</sup> along continuous branch marked with '-□-' above (from a to f), as  $\tau_f$  decreases  $\Rightarrow$

<sup>z</sup>Inspired by Junge, Marsden, Mezić [2004]

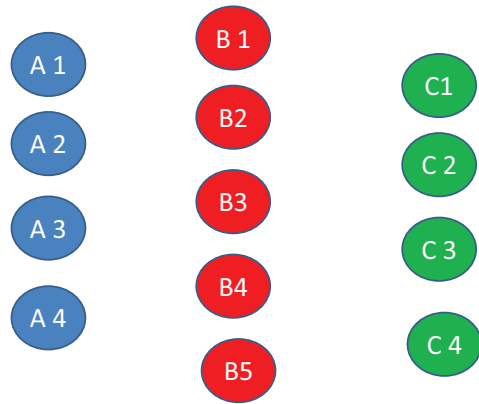
# Bifurcation of ACSs — braid on 13 strands

For example, braid on 13 strands for  $\tau_f = 0.92$

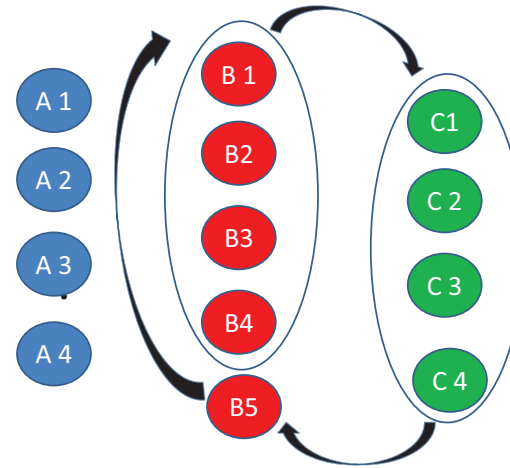
Movie shown is second eigenvector for  $P_t^{t+\tau_f}$  for  $t \in [0, \tau_f)$

Thurston-Nielsen for this braid provides lower bound on topological entropy

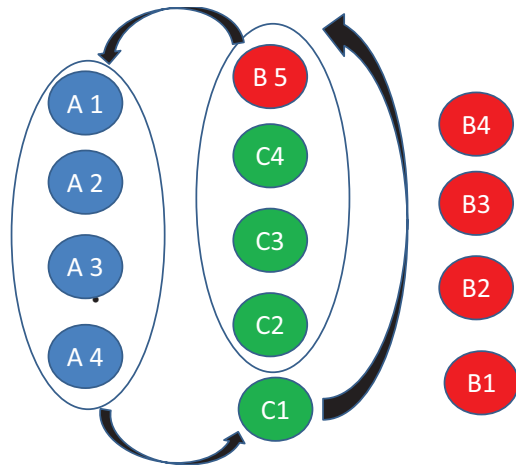
# Bifurcation of ACSs — braid on 13 strands



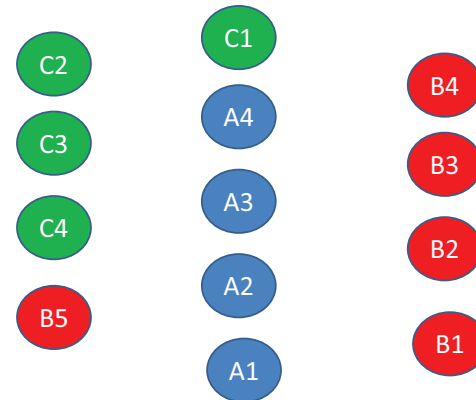
(a) Initial state



(b) First half-period

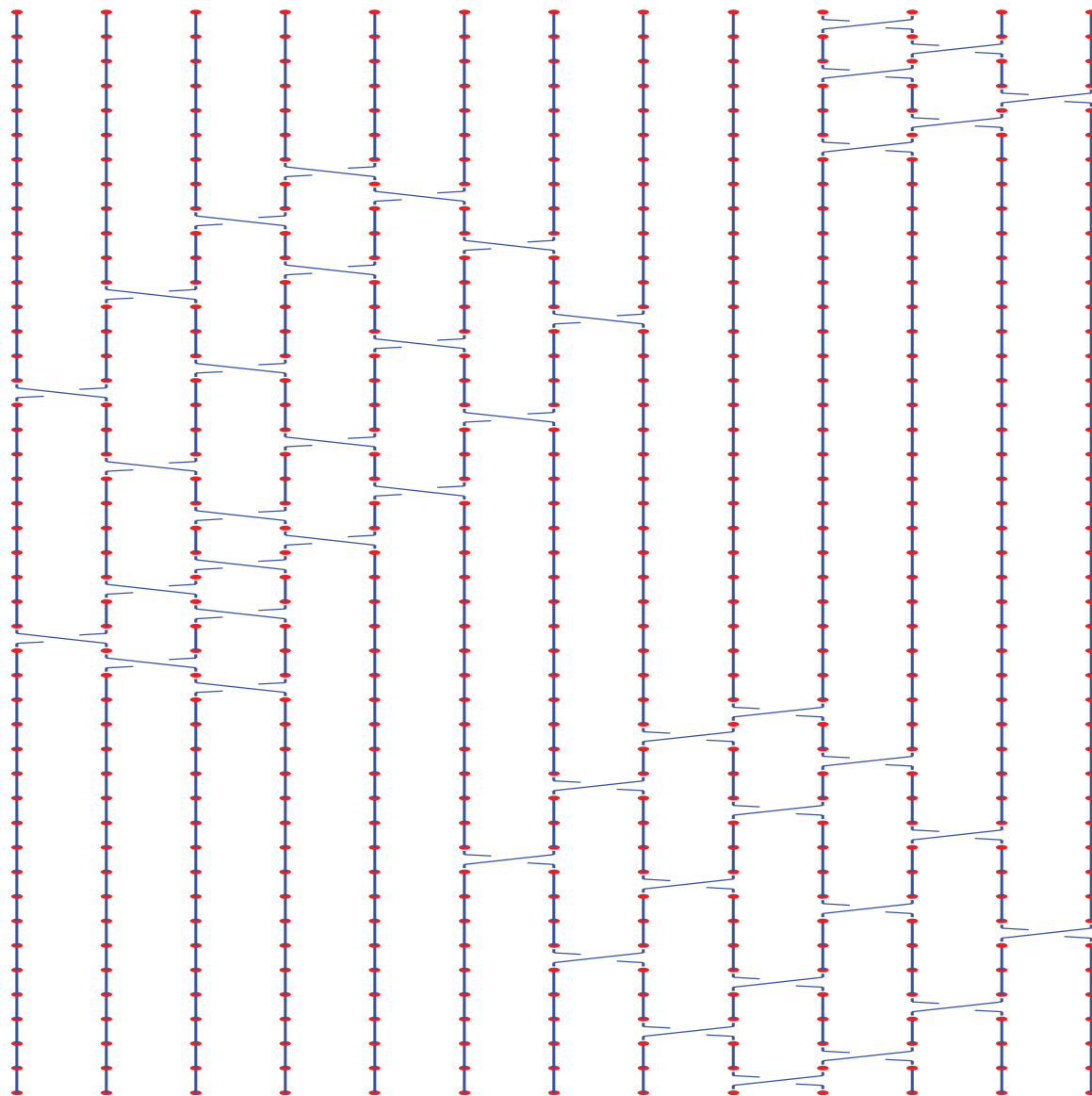


(c) Second half-period



(d) State after 1 period

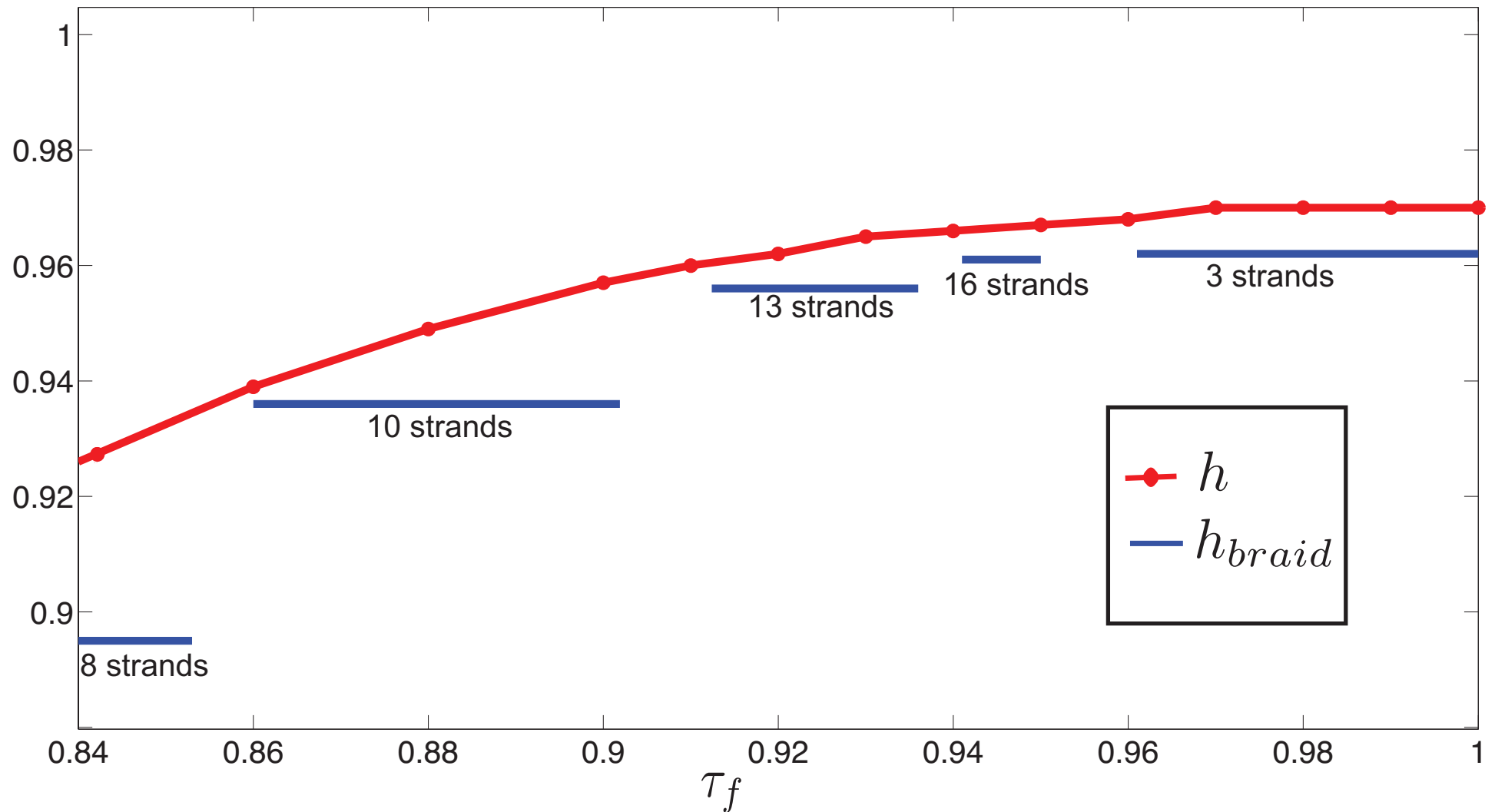
# Bifurcation of ACSs — braid on 13 strands



representation of braid



# Sequence of ACS braids bounds entropy



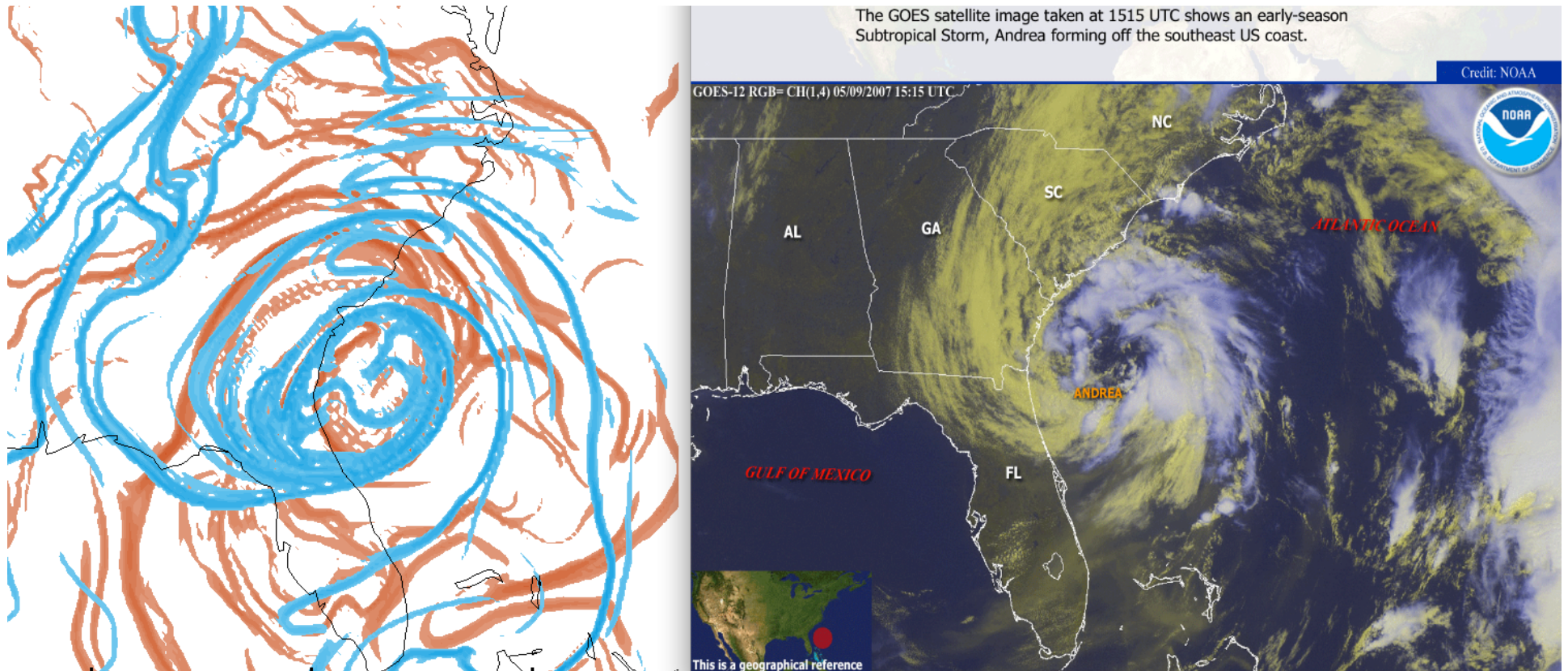
For various braids of ACSs, the calculated entropy is given, bounding from below the true topological entropy over the range where the braid exists

# Non-autonomous, non-periodic, finite-time setting

- Data-driven, finite-time, non-periodic setting
  - e.g., from experimental fluid measurements, observations
- Are there, e.g., braids in realistic fluid flows?

LCSs: orange = repelling, blue = attracting

# Atmospheric flows: hurricanes



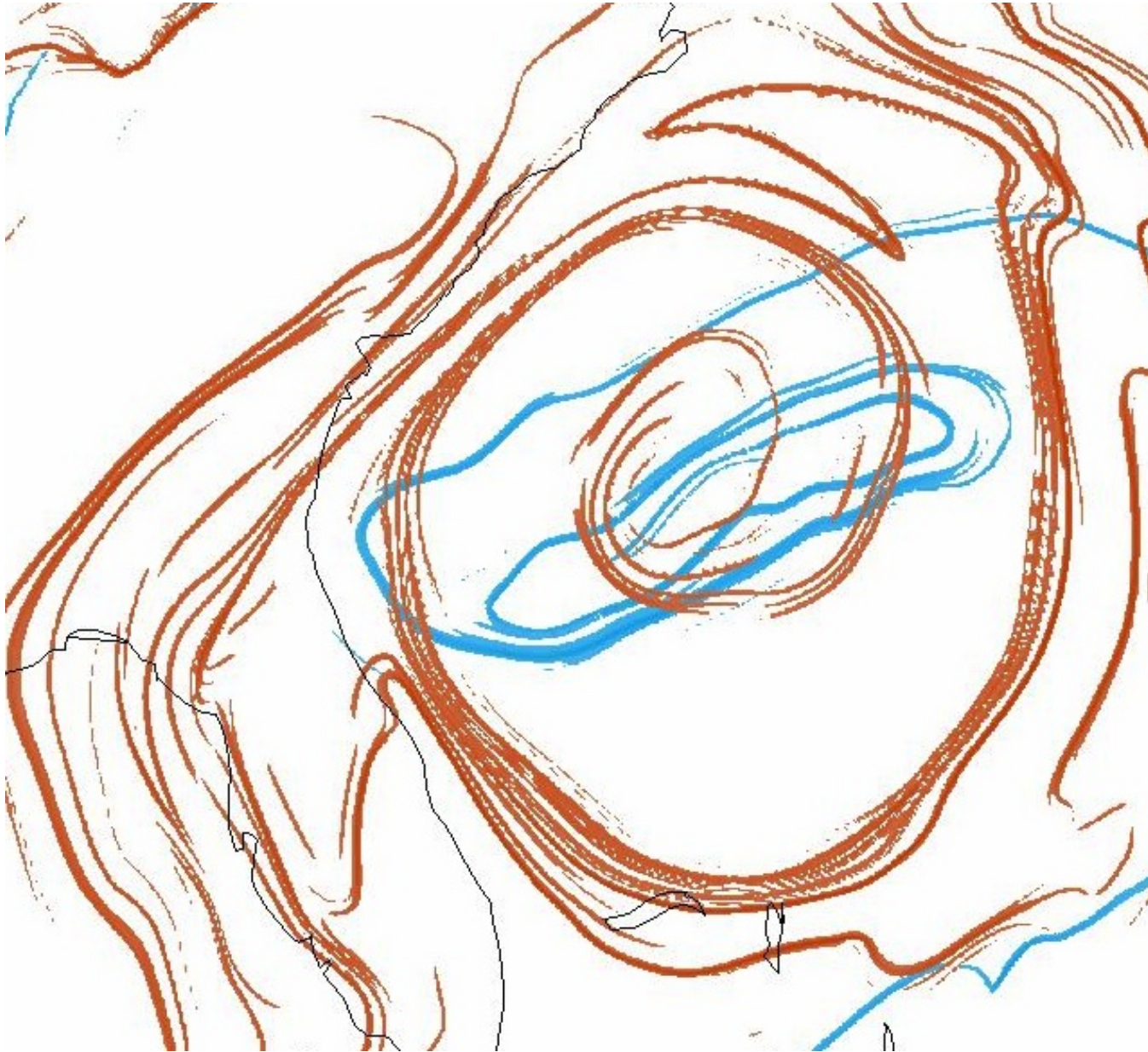
orange = repelling curves, blue = attracting curves

satellite

Andrea, first storm of 2007 hurricane season

cf. Sapsis & Haller [2009], Du Toit & Marsden [2010], Lekien & Ross [2010], Ross & Tallapragada [2012]

# Atmospheric flows: hurricanes



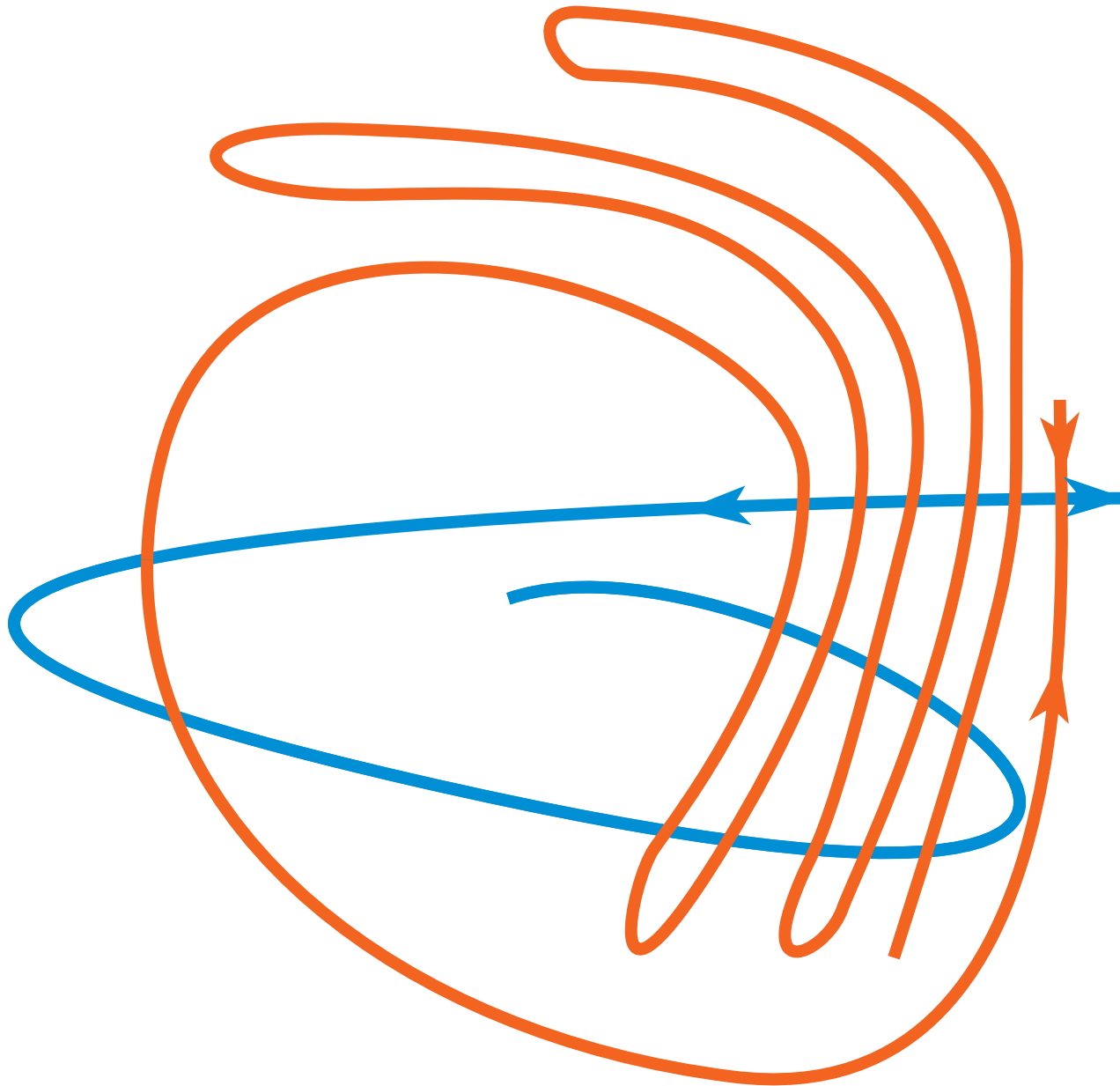
Andrea at one snapshot; Lagrangian coherent boundaries shown

# Atmospheric flows: lobe dynamics to find braids



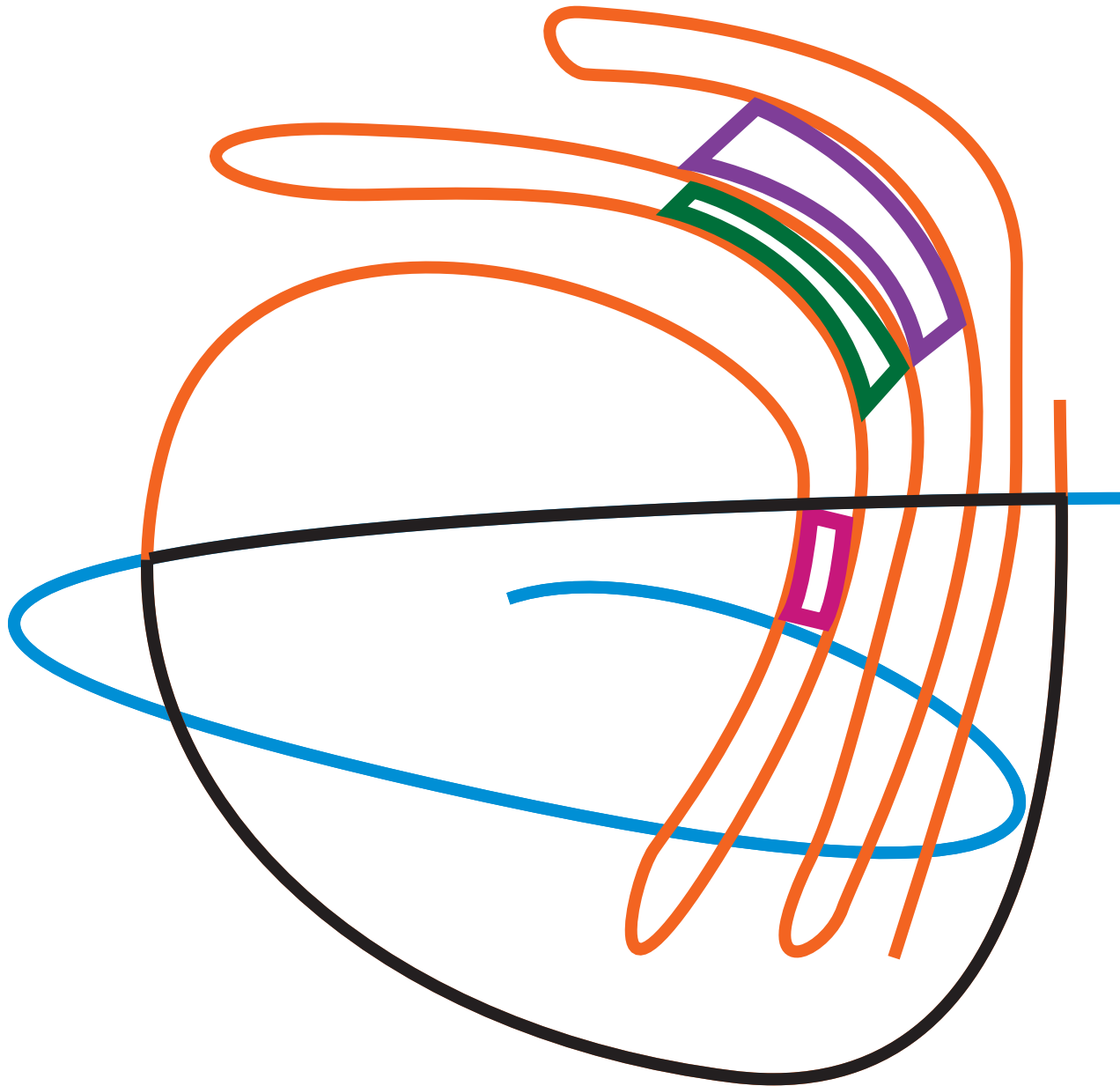
orange = repelling (stable manifold), blue = attracting (unstable manifold)

# Atmospheric flows: lobe dynamics to find braids



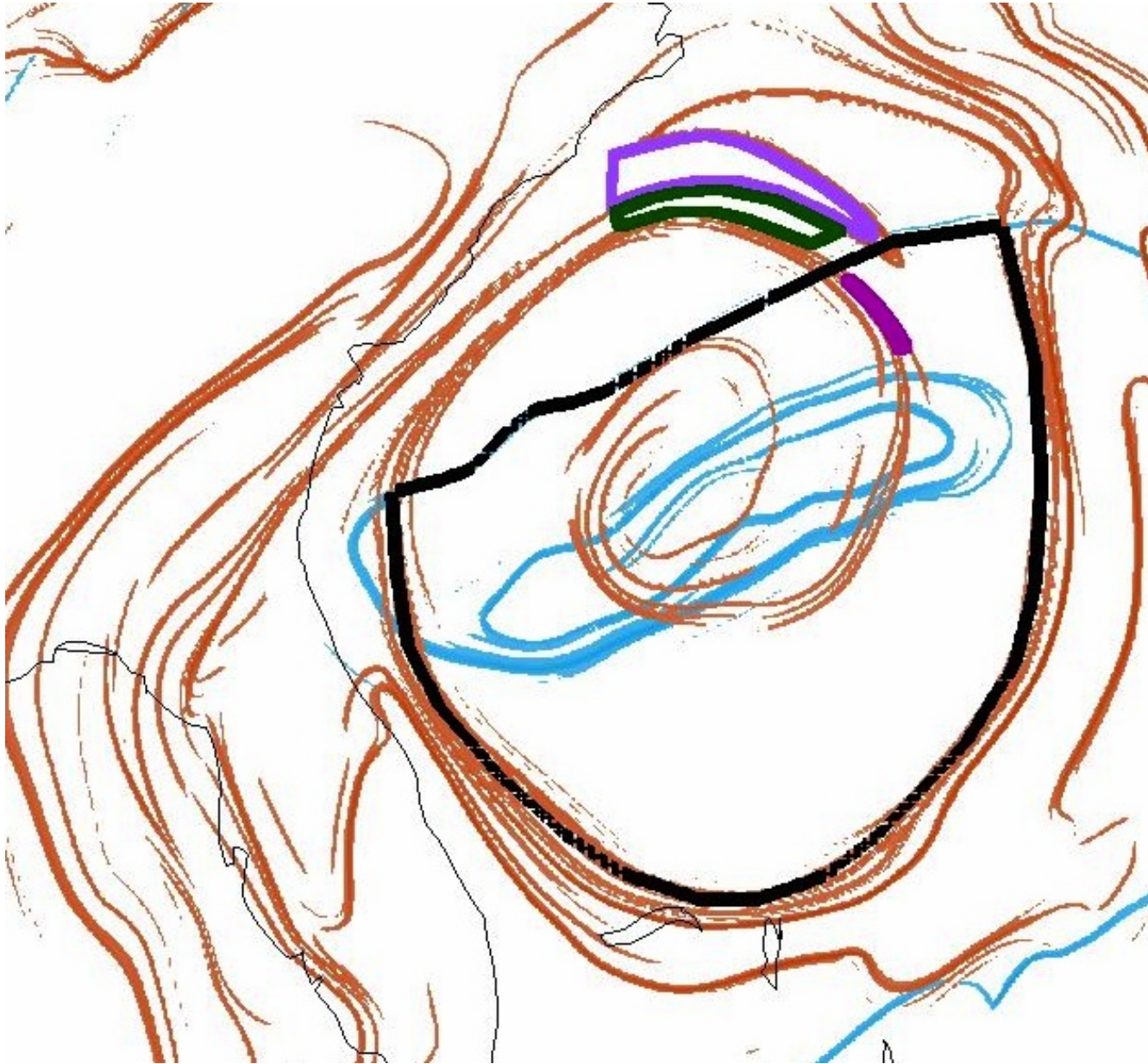
orange = repelling (stable manifold), blue = attracting (unstable manifold)

# Atmospheric flows: lobe dynamics to find braids



Portions of lobes colored; magenta = outgoing, green = incoming, purple = stays out

# Atmospheric flows: lobe dynamics to find braids



Portions of lobes colored; magenta = outgoing, green = incoming, purple = stays out



# Atmospheric flows: lobe dynamics to find braids

Sets behave as lobe dynamics dictates  $\Rightarrow$  form braid, but no periodicity

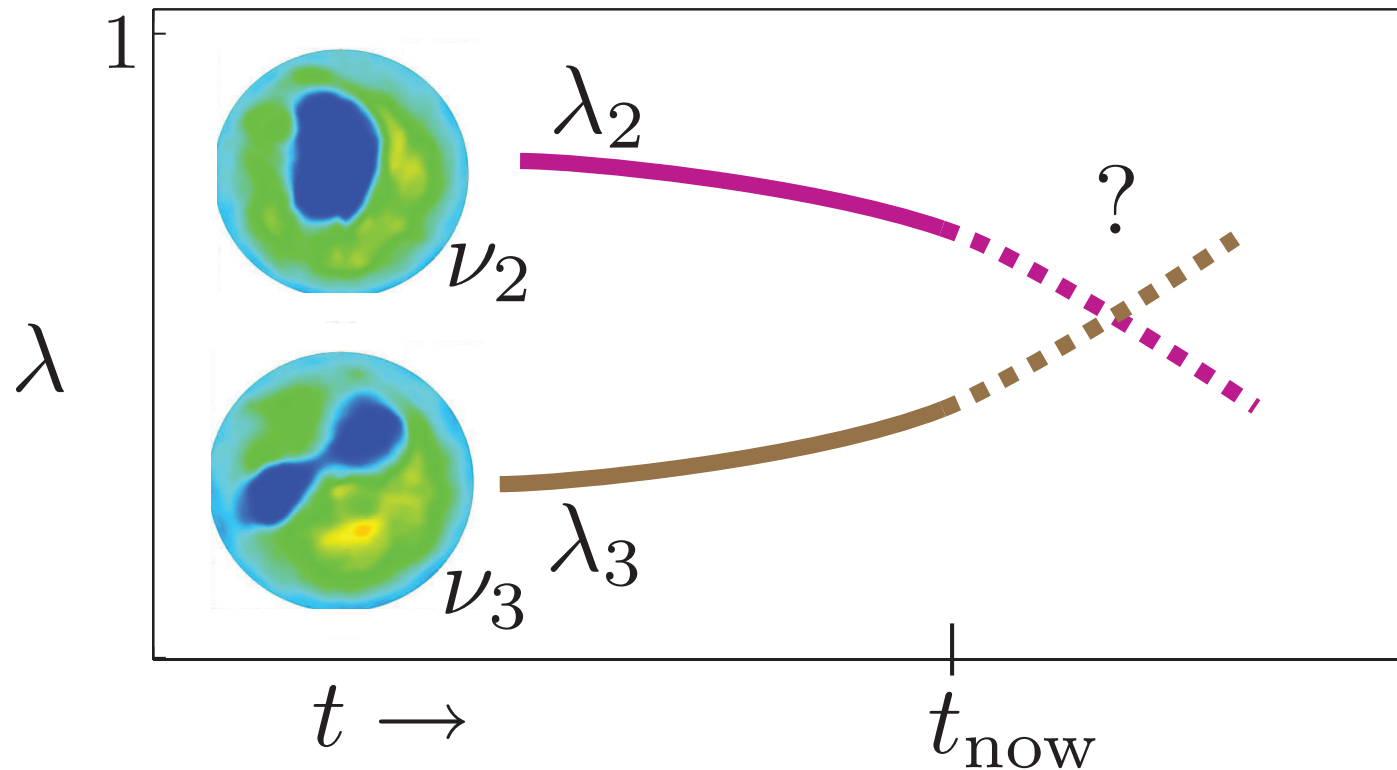
# Atmospheric flows: Antarctic polar vortex

ozone data

# Atmospheric flows: Antarctic polar vortex

ozone data + Lagrangian coherent boundaries (red = repelling, blue = attracting)

# Speculation: trends in eigenvalues/vectors for prediction



- Different eigenvectors can correspond to dramatically different behavior.
- Some eigenvectors increase in importance while others decrease
- Can we predict dramatic changes in system behavior?
- e.g., splitting of the ozone hole in 2002, using only data *before* split

# Final words

- Almost-cyclic sets enable application of the TNCT even in the absence of low-order periodic orbits.
  - For engineering systems, can design for mixing using ACSs
  - For natural systems, ghost rod/ACS paradigm may aid interpretation
  
- Connection between finite-time lobe dynamics and braids
  
- Bifurcation of phase space structure revealed through bifurcation of AIS/ACSs, braid bifurcations, etc.
  
- Prediction of dramatic changes in system behavior using changing order of eigenvectors?

# The End

For papers, movies, etc., visit:  
[www.shaneross.com](http://www.shaneross.com)

## Related Papers:

- Grover, Ross, Stremmer, Kumar [2012] Topological chaos, braiding and bifurcation of almost-cyclic sets. Preprint.
- Stremmer, Ross, Grover, Kumar [2011] Topological chaos and periodic braiding of almost-cyclic sets. *Physical Review Letters* 106, 114101.
- Lekien & Ross [2010] The computation of finite-time Lyapunov exponents on unstructured meshes and for non-Euclidean manifolds. *Chaos* 20, 017505.
- Senatore & Ross [2011] Detection and characterization of transport barriers in complex flows via ridge extraction of the finite time Lyapunov exponent field, *International Journal for Numerical Methods in Engineering* 86, 1163.
- Tallapragada & Ross [2008] Particle segregation by Stokes number for small neutrally buoyant spheres in a fluid, *Physical Review E* 78, 036308.