

# Kinetic and Hydrodynamic modelling of Active Particle Systems

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1. Introduction
2. Directional coordination: the Vicsek model
3. Space-homogeneous case: phase transitions
4. Space-inhomogeneous case: macroscopic limit
5. Conclusion

# 1. Introduction

self-organization (aka emergence) is the phenomenon by which:  
interacting **many-particle** (or agent) systems  
exhibit **large-scale self-organized structures**  
**not explicitly encoded** in the agents' interaction rules

Typical emergent phenomena are

**pattern formation**

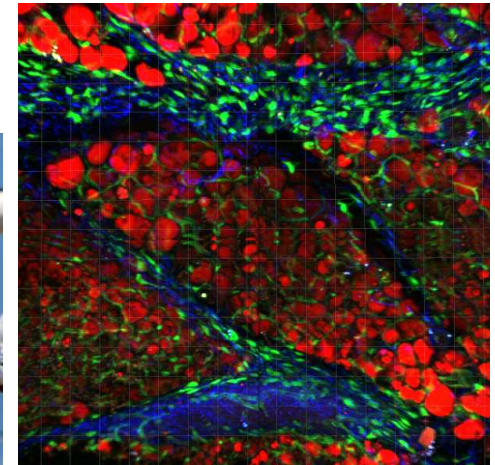
ex: a biological tissue

**coordination**

ex: a bird flock

**self-organization**

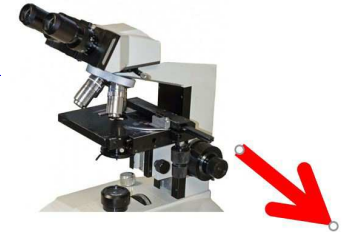
ex: pedestrian lanes



Emergence is a **key process**  
of life and social systems by which  
they self-organize into **functional systems**



# Questions



Understand link between:

**individual behavior** (micro model: ODE or SDE)  
& **large-scale structure** (macro model: PDE)

Requires **rigorous passage** “micro → macro”

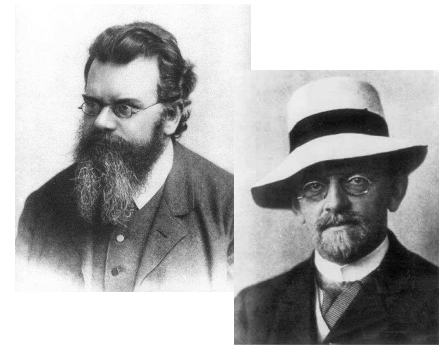


Why macro models ?

**Computational time**

**Analysis:** stability, bifurcations, ...

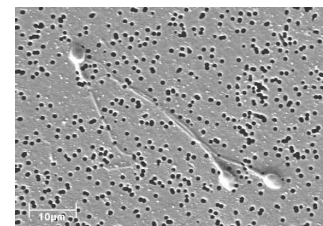
**Data** (images) inform on the macro scale



What is **special** about emergent systems ?

“micro → macro” Boltzmann, Hilbert, ...

Lions (94), Villani (10), Hairer (14), Figalli (18) ...



Unusual features

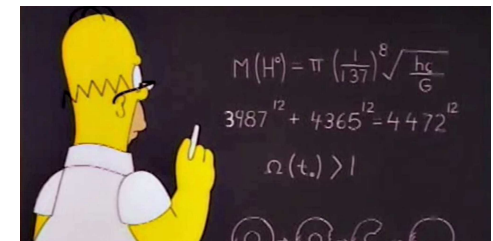
Lack of **propagation of chaos**

Lack of **conservations:** particles are “active”

Coexistence of **≠ phases**

Complex underlying **geometrical structures**

⇒ **revisit classical concepts**



## 2. Directional coordination: the Vicsek model



Tamàs Vicsek (Budapest)

## Individual-Based (i.e. particle) model

self-propelled  $\Rightarrow$  all particles have same constant speed = 1  
align with their neighbors up to some noise

Particle  $q$ : position  $X_q(t) \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , velocity direction  $V_q(t) \in \mathbb{S}^{n-1}$

$$\dot{X}_q(t) = V_q(t)$$

$$dV_q(t) = P_{V_q^\perp} \circ (kU_q dt + \sqrt{2} dB_t^q)$$

$$U_q = \frac{J_q}{|J_q|}, \quad J_q = \sum_{j, |X_j - X_q| \leq R} V_j$$

$R$  = interaction range

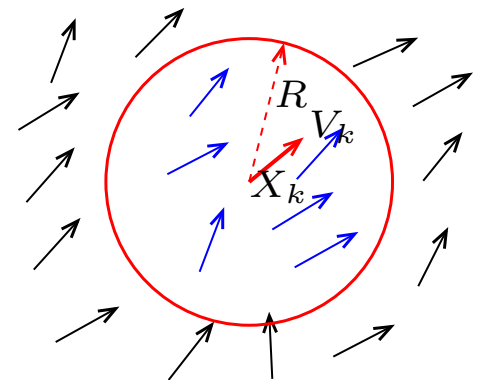
$k = k(|J_q|)$  = alignment frequency

$J_q$  = local particle flux in interaction disk

$U_q$  = neighbors' average direction

$P_{V_q^\perp} = \text{Id} - V_q \otimes V_q$  = orth. proj. on  $V_q^\perp$

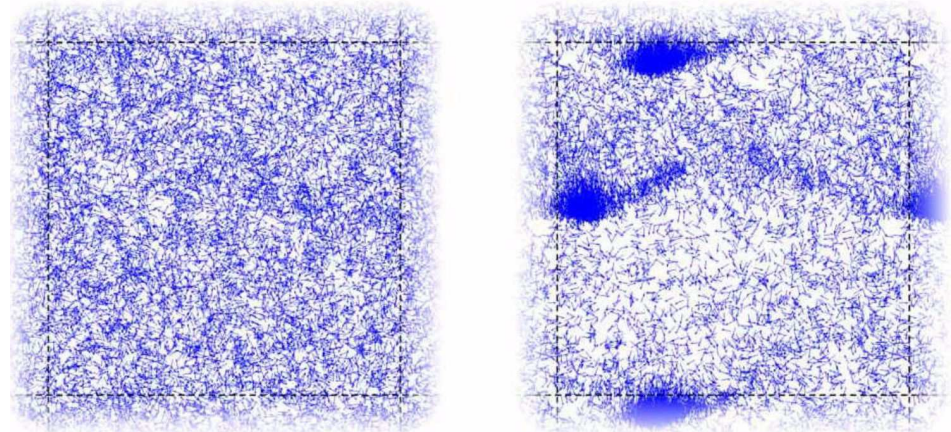
$\circ$  = Stratonovitch: guarantees  $|V_q(t)| = 1, \forall t$



“Minimal model” for collective dynamics

## Phase transition

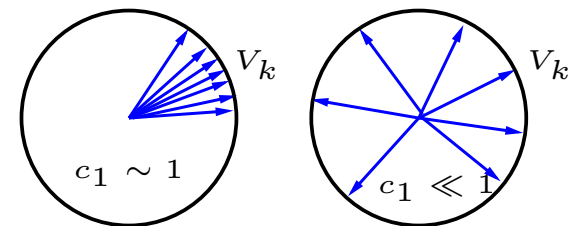
symmetry breaking  
disordered  $\rightarrow$  aligned



small  $k$                       large  $k$   
Simulations by A. Frouvelle

## Order parameter measures alignment

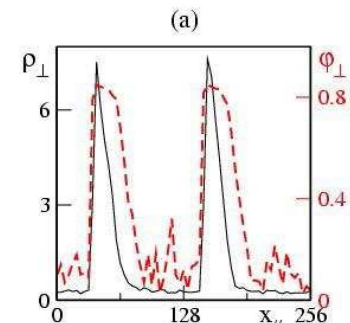
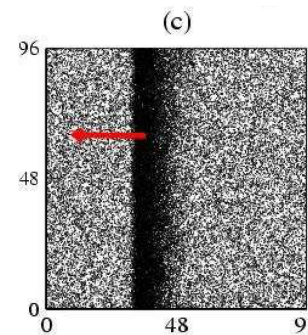
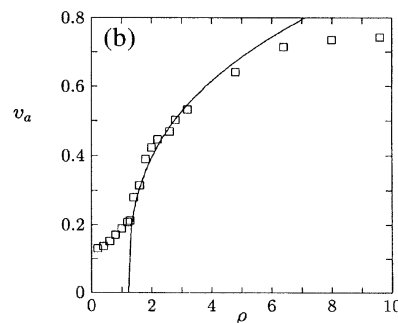
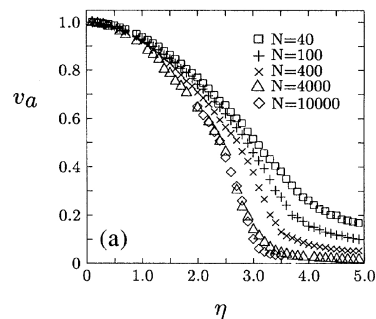
$$c_1 = \left| N^{-1} \sum_q V_q \right|, \quad 0 \leq c_1 \leq 1$$



$c_1$  vs  $1/k$

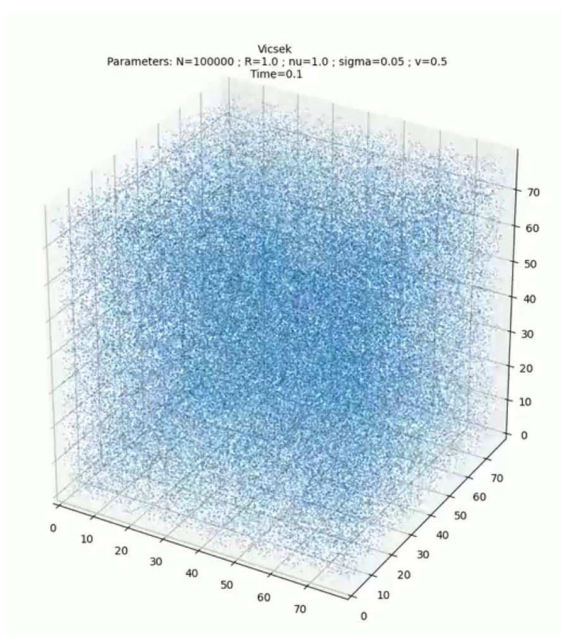
$c_1$  vs density

band formation

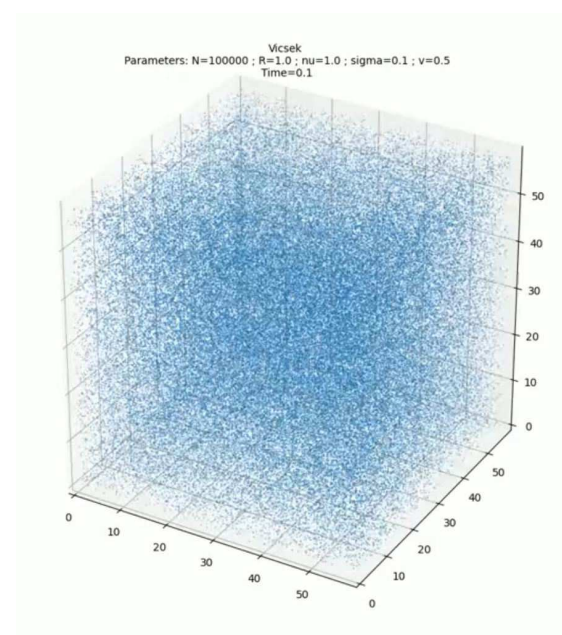


after [Chaté et al, PRE 2008]





bands from disorder



bands from flock

$f(x, v, t)$  = particle **probability density** with  $(x, v) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{S}^{n-1}$   
 satisfies a **Fokker-Planck** equation

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

$$F_f(x, v, t) = P_{v^\perp}(k u_f(x, t)), \quad P_{v^\perp} = \text{Id} - v \otimes v$$

$$u_f(x, t) = \frac{J_f(x, t)}{|J_f(x, t)|}, \quad J_f(x, t) = \int_{|y-x| < R} \int_{\mathbb{S}^{n-1}} f(y, w, t) w \, dw \, dy$$

$J_f(x, t)$  = **particle flux** in a neighborhood of  $x$

$u_f(x, t)$  = **direction** of this flux

$k u_f(x, t)$  = **alignment force** (with  $k = k(|J_f|)$ )

$F_f(x, v, t)$  = **projection** of alignment force on  $\{v\}^\perp$

$P_{v^\perp} = \text{Id} - v \otimes v$  = **projection** on  $\{v\}^\perp$

$\nabla_{v \cdot}, \nabla_v$ : div and grad on  $\mathbb{S}^{n-1}$ ;  $\Delta_v$  = **Laplace-Beltrami** on  $\mathbb{S}^{n-1}$

## From particle to mean-field

Requires **number of particles**  $N \rightarrow \infty$

Define **empirical measure**:

$$f^N(x, v, t) = N^{-1} \sum_{q=1}^N \delta_{(X_q(t), V_q(t))}(x, v)$$

$f^N \rightarrow f$  where  $f$  satisfies **Fokker-Planck**

Formal derivation in [D., Motsch (M3AS 2008)]

## Rigorous convergence proof:

Classical: particle models with smooth interaction e.g. [Spohn]

Difficulty here is **handling constraint**  $|v| = 1$

Done for  $k(|J_f|) = |J_f|$  in [Bolley, Canizo, Carrillo (2012)]

Open for  $k(|J_f|) = 1$  (difficulty: controlling singularity at  $J_f = 0$ )

## Existence and uniqueness of solutions to Fokker-Planck

[Gamba, Kang (2016); Figalli, Kang, Morales (2018); Briant, Merino (2020)]

## Other collective dynamics models **do not normalize velocities**

e.g. Cucker-Smale, Motsch-Tadmor  $\rightarrow$  huge literature

### 3. Space-homogeneous case: phase transitions

initiated with

Amic Frouvelle and Jian-Guo Liu

Frouvelle Liu (SIMA 2012), D. Frouvelle Liu (JNLS 2013 & ARMA 2015)

Barbaro D. (DCDS B 2014), Barbaro Cañizo Carrillo D. (MMS 2016)

D. Diez Frouvelle Merino (JNLS 2020), Frouvelle (arxiv 2020)



Amic



Jian-Guo

Forget the space-variable:  $\nabla_x \equiv 0$ :  $f(v, t)$ ,  $v \in \mathbb{S}^{n-1}$

$\partial_t f = -\nabla_v \cdot (F_f f) + \Delta_v f := Q(f) =$  **collision operator**

$$F_f = k(|J_f|) P_{v^\perp} u_f, \quad u_f = \frac{J_f}{|J_f|}, \quad J_f = \int_{\mathbb{S}^{n-1}} f(v', t) v' dv'$$

Set:  $\rho(t) = \int f(v, t) dv$ . Then  $\partial_t \rho = 0$ . So,  $\rho(t) = \rho =$  **Constant**

**Global existence** results

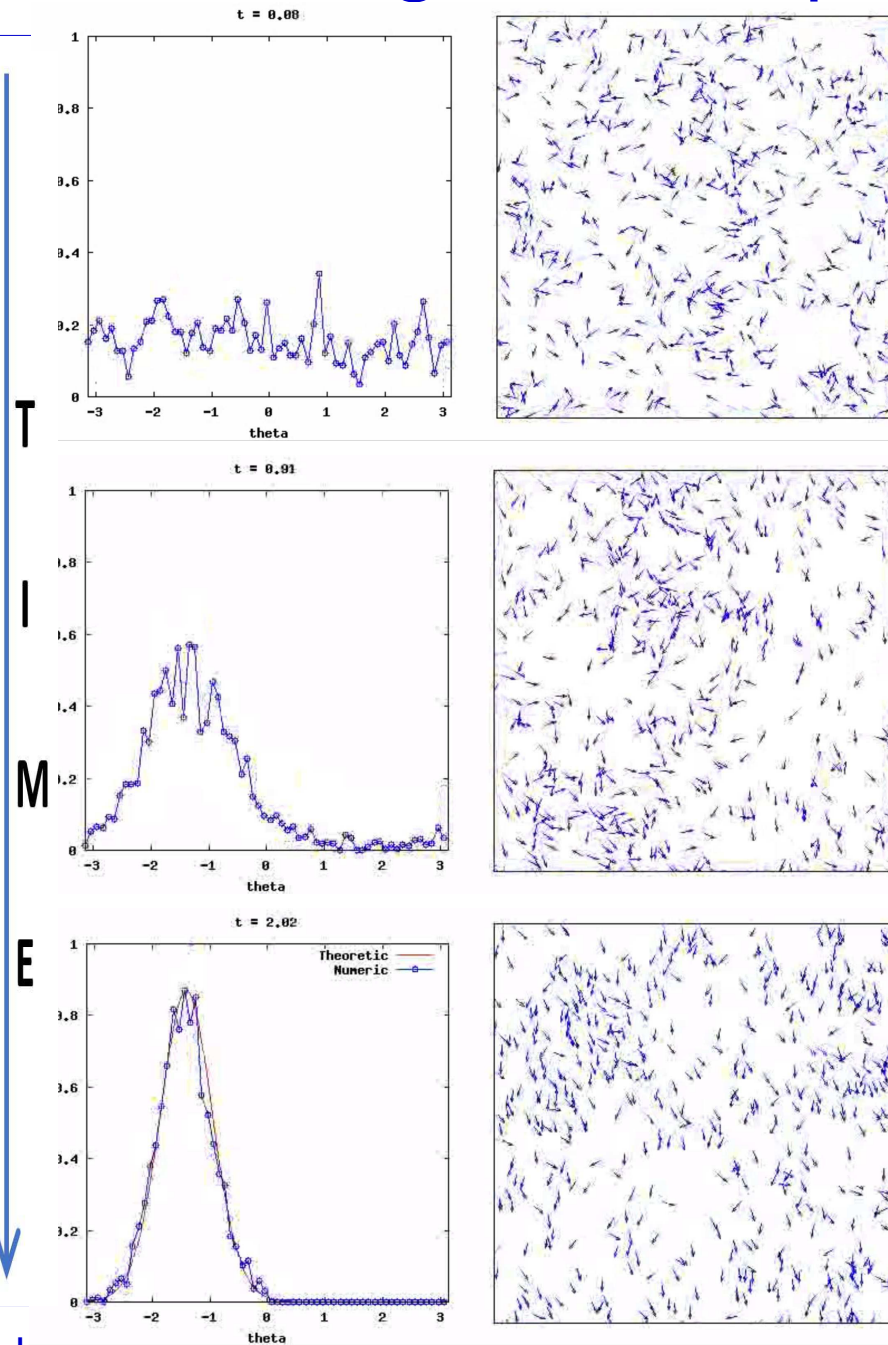
for  $k(|J_f|)/|J_f|$  smooth: [Frouvelle Liu (SIMA 2012),

D. Frouvelle Liu (JNLS 2013 & ARMA 2015)]

for  $k(|J_f|) = 1$ : [Figalli Kang Morales (ARMA 2018)]

**Equilibria:** solutions of  $Q(f) = 0$

Histogram of velocity directions in  $(-\pi, \pi)$



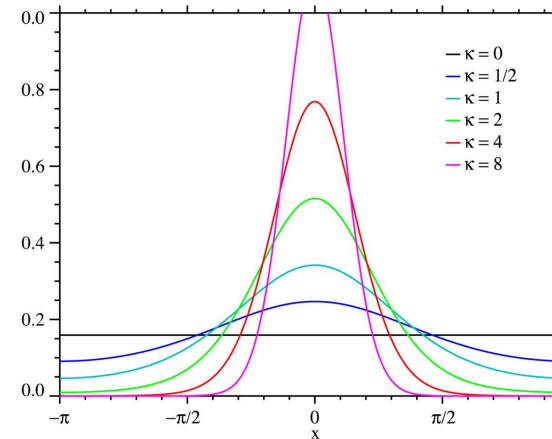
positions and velocity vectors of particles in periodic box

Simulation by  
S. Motsch

(VMF = Von Mises-Fisher) given by

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

where **orientation**  $u \in \mathbb{S}^{n-1}$  is **arbitrary**  
and **concentration parameter**  $\kappa = k(|J_f|)$



Order parameter:  $c_1(\kappa) = \int M_{\kappa u}(v) u \cdot v dv \in [0, 1]$ ,  $c_1(\kappa) \nearrow$

Compatibility equation:  $|J_f| = \rho c_1(\kappa) = \rho c_1(k(|J_f|))$

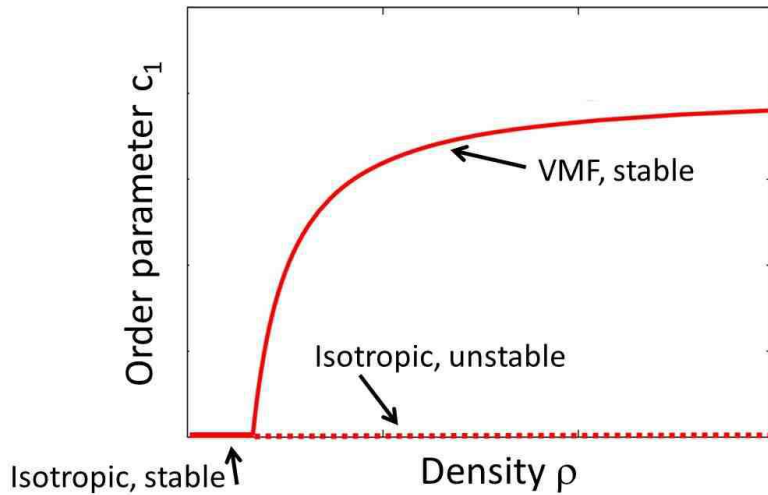
introducing  $j(\kappa) =$  inverse function of  $k(|J_f|)$ , can be recast in

$$\kappa = 0 \quad \text{or} \quad \rho = \frac{j(\kappa)}{c_1(\kappa)}$$

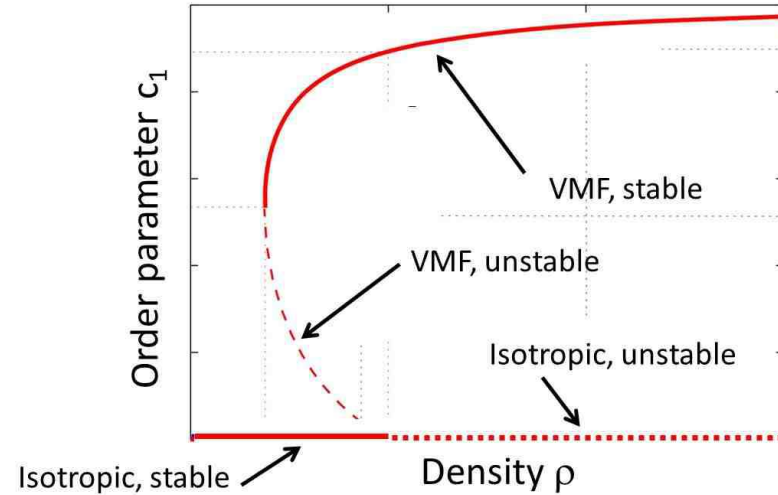
Number of roots and **local monotony** of  $\frac{j(\kappa)}{c_1(\kappa)}$  determine  
**number of equilibria** and their **stability**

Ex. 1:  $k(|J|) = \frac{|J|}{1+|J|}$ : continuous phase transition

Ex. 2:  $k(|J|) = |J| + |J|^2$ : discontinuous phase transition



Ex. 1



Ex.2



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

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

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

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

Free energy **decays** with time **towards an equilibrium**

**Unstable VMF** are local **max or saddle-points** of  $\mathcal{F}$

**Stable VMF** are local **min** of  $\mathcal{F}$

$\mathcal{F}$  estimates  **$L^2$ -distance to local equilibrium**:

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

**Convergence** to equilibrium with **explicit rate**

relies on **entropy-entropy dissipation estimates**: cf Villani, ...

$$\mathcal{D}(f) \geq 2\lambda_\kappa (\mathcal{F}(f) - \mathcal{F}(M_{\kappa u})) + \text{“small”}$$

## 4. Space-inhomogeneous case: macroscopic limit

initiated with  
**Sebastien Motsch**

D. Motsch (M3AS 2008), D. Liu Motsch Panferov (MAA 2013)  
D. Dimarco Mac Wang (CMS 2015)  
Aceves-Sanchez Bostan Carrillo D. (MBE 2019)



Sebastien Motsch



Giacomo Dimarco



Pedro Aceves-Sanchez

Restore  $x$ -dependence:

$$\partial_t f + v \cdot \nabla_x f + \nabla_v \cdot (F_f f) = \Delta_v f, \quad F_f(x, v, t) = P_{v^\perp}(k u_f(x, t)),$$

$$u_f(x, t) = \frac{J_f(x, t)}{|J_f(x, t)|}, \quad J_f(x, t) = \int_{|y-x| < R} \int_{\mathbb{S}^{n-1}} f(y, w, t) w \, dw \, dy$$

**Macroscopic scaling:** change variables to  $x' = \varepsilon x$ ,  $t' = \varepsilon t$   
 $(x', t')$  = macroscopic space and time variables

**Scaled model** (dropping primes):  $\partial_t f^\varepsilon + v \cdot \nabla_x f^\varepsilon = \frac{1}{\varepsilon} Q(f^\varepsilon)$

where  $Q(f)$  **collision operator studied above**  
 limit  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$  leads to **macroscopic model**

**When  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ ,  $f^\varepsilon \rightarrow f$  s. t.  $Q(f) = 0 \Rightarrow f$  is an **equilibrium****

Hypothesis:  $k = \text{Constant} \Rightarrow$  **only** equilibria are **VMF**  $\rho M_{ku}$   
 $\exists$  unique VMF equilibrium ;  $\nexists$  isotropic equilibrium

**No phase transition**

When  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$   $f^\varepsilon(x, v, t) \rightarrow \rho(x, t)M_{ku(x,t)}(v)$

space inhomogeneous  $\Rightarrow \rho(x, t)$  and  $u(x, t)$  are **not constant**  
 $\rho$  and  $u$  **determined by macroscopic equations**

Resulting system is **Self-Organized Hydrodynamics (SOH)**

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

$$\rho (\partial_t u + c_2 (u \cdot \nabla_x) u) + k^{-1} P_{u^\perp} \nabla_x \rho = 0$$

$$|u| = 1$$

Classically: use **collision invariants**:  $\psi(v) \mid \int Q(f)\psi dv = 0, \forall f$

Requires dimension  $\{ \text{CI} \} = \text{number of equations}$

Here dimension  $\{ \text{CI} \} = 1 < \text{number of equations} (= n)$

**Generalized collision invariants (GCI) overcome the problem**

first proposed in [D Motsch (M3AS 2008)]

GCI  $\psi$  satisfies CI property with **smaller class of  $f$**

Finding  $\psi$  involves **inverting the “adjoint” of  $Q$**

$c_2$  is found as a **moment of GCI  $\psi$** ;  $c_1 = \text{order parameter}$

SOH is similar to Compressible Euler eqs. of gas dynamics

Continuity eq. for  $\rho$

Material derivative of  $u$  balanced by pressure force  $-\nabla_x \rho$

But with major differences:

geometric constraint  $|u| = 1$  (ensured by projection operator  $P_{u^\perp}$ )

$c_2 \neq c_1$ : loss of Galilean invariance

Hyperbolic system

but not in conservative form: shock solutions not well-defined

Local existence of smooth solutions in 2D and 3D

[D. Liu Motsch Panferov (MAA 2013)]

Existence / uniqueness of non-smooth solutions open

Rigorous limit  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$  proved: [Jiang Xiong Zhang (SIMA 2016)]

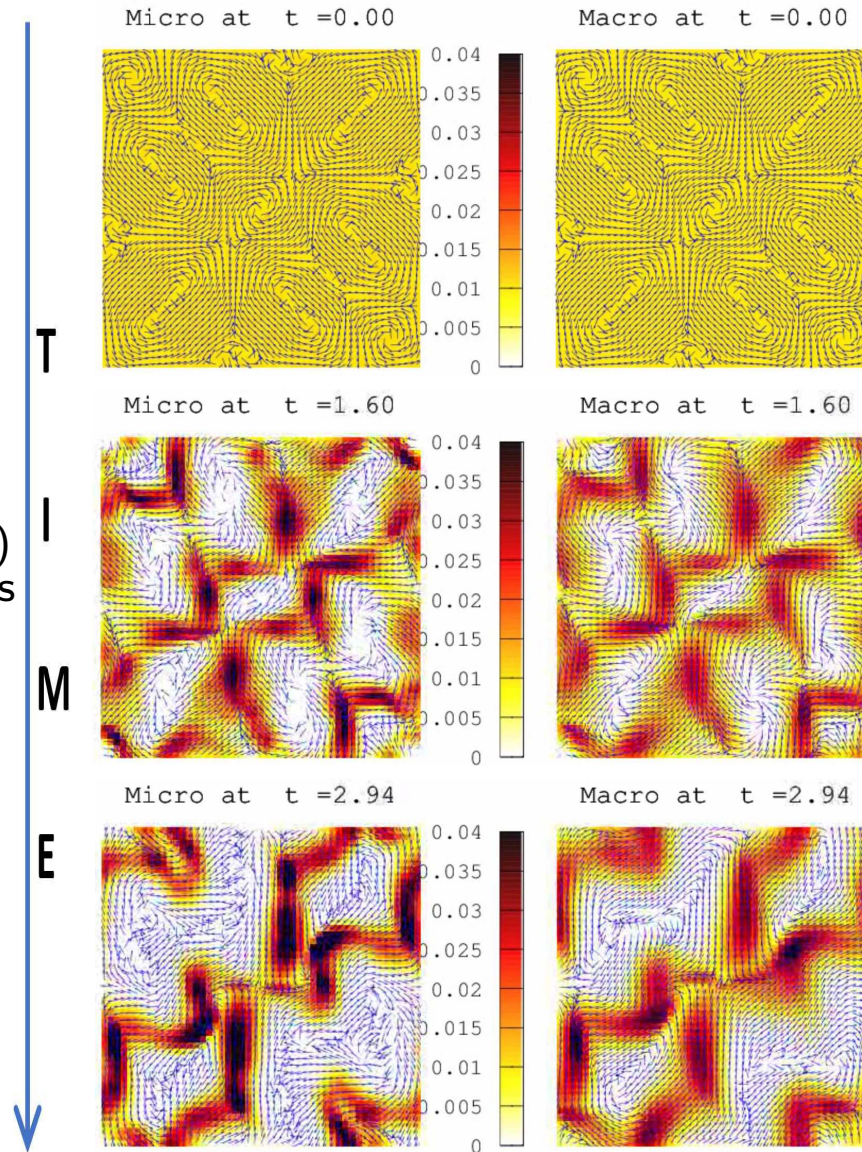
Differences (but also similarities) with the Toner-Tu model

[Toner Tu (PRL 1995)] built on symmetry considerations

Numerical simulations [Motsch Navoret (MMS 2011),

Gamba Haack Motsch (JCP 2015), Dimarco Motsch (M3AS 2016)]

Micro (Vicsek)  
Density (color code)  
& velocity directions



Macro (SOH)  
Density (color code)  
& velocity directions

Simulation by  
G. Dimarco,  
TBN. Mac,  
N. Wang

## 5. Conclusion

Emergence = development of large-scale structures  
by agents interacting **locally without leader**

Modelling emergence presents **new challenges**:

- **lack of conservations** due to agents' active character
- possible **breakdown of propagation of chaos**

Emergence = **phase transition** from disorder to patterns  
analyzed through **bifurcation theory**

Needed to describe **living and social systems complexity**  
and are source of **new fascinating mathematical questions**