# Spiral wave chaos: Tiling, local symmetries, and asymptotic freedom 

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## Spiral waves in excitable systems



BZ reaction


HL-1 cell culture


Slime mold


Fenton +
GT students

Human crowd

## Cardiac rhythms and arrhythmias



Fenton, Cherry
thevirtualheart.org


Normal
Rhythm

Ventricular
Tachycardia

Ventricular
Fibrillation

## Spiral chaos in a simple model

Reaction-diffusion system:

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \partial_{t} u=D \nabla^{2} u+f(u, v) \\
& \partial_{t} v=g(u, v)
\end{aligned}
$$

Karma (1994)



## Nonchaotic solutions and ECS



## Computing ECS



$$
E(t, \tau)=\min _{g \in G}\left\|\mathbf{w}-g \mathbf{w}_{\tau}\right\| /\|\mathbf{w}\|
$$



Newton-Krylov solver

Unstable periodic solutions?

u


## Weakly nonlinear waves

Complex Ginzburg-Landau Equation:

$$
\partial_{t} A=A+(1+i \alpha) \nabla^{2} A-(1+i \beta)|A|^{2} A
$$

Tile the domain using amplitude ridges:

$$
A=\rho e^{i \varphi}
$$

Bohr, Huber, Ott (1996)



## Strongly nonlinear waves



Use cycle area instead of amplitude: and elapsed time from crossing a Poincare section instead of phase:


$$
I=\oint v d u=\int_{0}^{T} v \dot{u} d t
$$

$$
\theta=\int \omega d t, \quad \omega=\frac{2 \pi}{T}
$$

## Tiling multispiral states



Can also describe tile boundaries analytically:


$$
\frac{d r}{d \varphi}=\frac{-\sigma r^{\prime 2}-\sigma^{\prime} r(R \cos \varphi-r)+2 \pi m r^{\prime} r \sin \varphi}{\sigma^{\prime} R^{2} \sin \varphi+m\left(r^{\prime 2}-r^{\prime}(r-R \cos \varphi)\right)}
$$

Luo, Zhang, Zhan (2009)

## Boundary conditions


o Tiles are noncircular
o Neumann boundary conditions

## Break-up

## Drift

## Collapse

## Stability of spiral waves




Floquet multipliers


Absolute instability


Convective instability

## Alternans instability

$$
u
$$



## Break-up

## Drift

## Collapse

## For some initial conditions...

Stroboscopic map:

o Cores are drifting $\rightarrow$ tiles have to deform
o Can we understand this drift and deformation?

## Dynamics of spirals on tiles



Period as a function of tile size



## Dynamics of tiles



Motion of the boundary:

$$
\mathbf{c}=\left(\omega_{1}-\omega_{2}\right) \frac{\mathbf{k}_{1}-\mathbf{k}_{2}}{\left|\mathbf{k}_{1}-\mathbf{k}_{2}\right|^{2}}
$$

Howard, Kopell (1977)

## Dynamics of tiles (continued...)

Stroboscopic map:

o Why are some cores moving (and others are not)?
o Why is their motion so slow?
o What sets the distance between cores?

## Local Euclidean symmetry



## Asymptotic freedom



Goldstone modes


Response functions

## Interaction of cores with boundaries





$$
\begin{aligned}
& \mathbf{x}^{n+1}=\mathbf{x}^{n}+\mathbf{h}\left(\mathbf{x}^{n}\right), \\
& \mathbf{x}^{n}=\mathbf{x}(n T)
\end{aligned}
$$



## Core-core interaction




## Core-core separation (\& tile size)



No timeperiodic
solutions

Solutions
unstable
(alternans)

## Break-up

## Drift

Collapse

## Core-core separation (\& tile size)



## Core meander



## Wave collapse



## Wave collapse



## The mechanism of spiral chaos

o Slow dynamics (of tiles)
$\checkmark$ The tiles are generally of different size
$\checkmark$ The frequencies of spirals differ
$\checkmark$ The tiles boundaries drift (slowly)
$\checkmark$ Small (fast) spirals grow at the expense of big (slow) ones
o Fast dynamics (of spirals)
$\checkmark$ Large spirals ( $L>L_{b}$ ) break up due to alternans instability
$\checkmark$ Small spirals $\left(L<4 l_{c}\right)$ survive for less than one period and collapse (with a neighbor)
$\checkmark$ Medium size spirals ( $4 l_{\mathrm{c}}<L<L_{b}$ ) interact with each other in nontrivial ways

## Implications for fluid turbulence

$\square$ No global ECS on domains much larger than the relevant coherence length, no matter what the physics is
$\square$ Need to look for localized solutions that respect local Euclidean symmetries and their interactions
$\square$ Coherence length can be defined with the help of adjoint eigenfunctions (to-do for fluid dynamicists)
$\square$ Spatial correlations may decay exponentially even when solutions do not
$\square$ Does exponential decay of velocity/energy imply short spatial correlations? What about pressure?

