

Convergence and Synchronization of Piecewise-smooth Networks



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI NAPOLI
FEDERICO II



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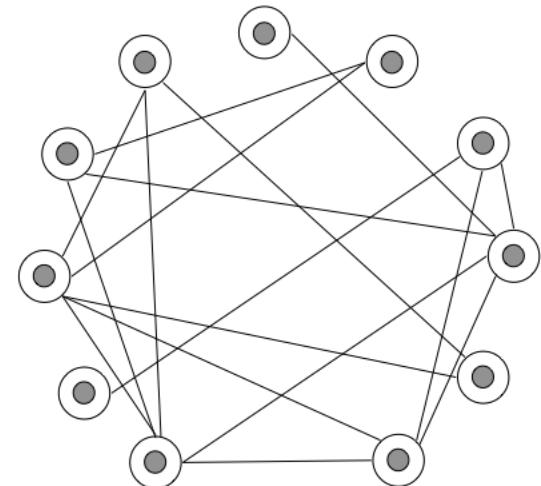
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Threshold Networks, Nottingham - 23rd November 2019

Outline

- Introduction and motivation
- From PWS systems to PWS networks
- Synchronization of networks of PWS systems
- Proving convergence
- A distributed multiplex approach
- Open Challenges and Future Work
- Conclusions



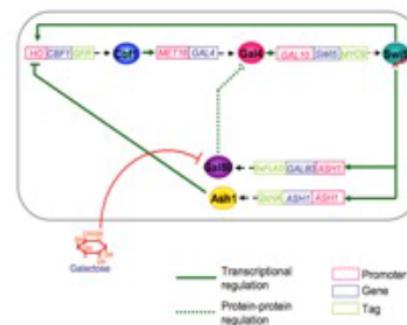
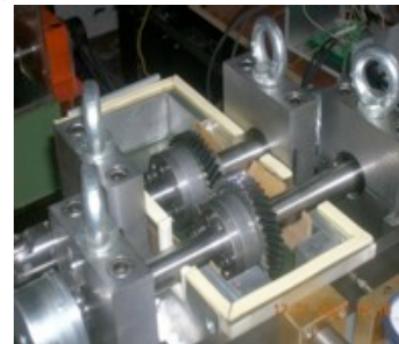
1.

Intro & motivation

Introduction

4

- A lot of attention has been spent to study the dynamics of piecewise smooth systems in many application domains



Bimodal PWS systems

5

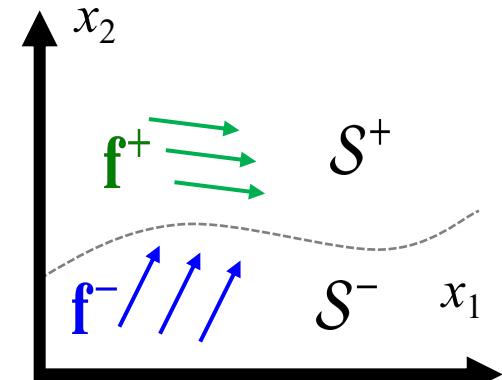
- Results are available to study well-posedness, bifurcations, stability and other properties of PWSS
- Attention is often focussed on bimodal PWSS of the form

$$\dot{x} = \begin{cases} F_1(x, \mu), & H(x, \mu) > 0 \\ F_2(x, \mu), & H(x, \mu) < 0 \end{cases}$$

- ..with low-dimensional state vectors..
- ..and one discontinuity boundary

$$\Sigma := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : H(x, \mu) = 0\}$$

- ..no delays or noise etc etc



Common open challenges

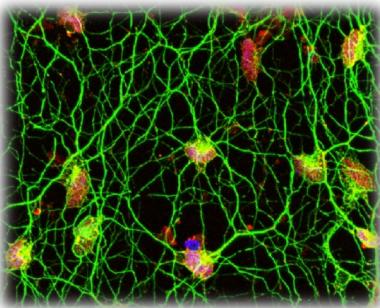
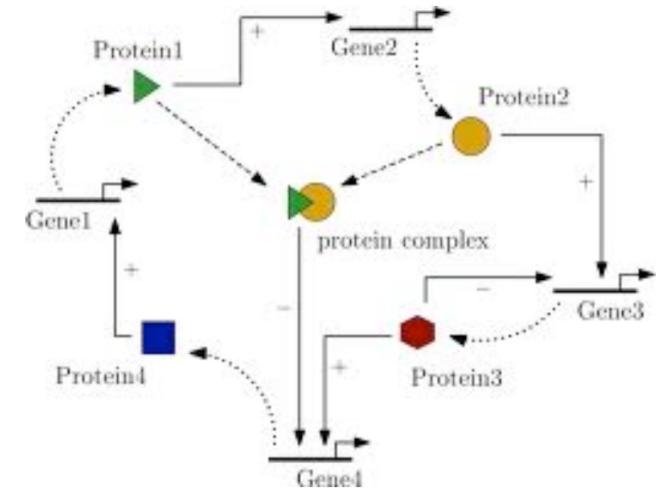
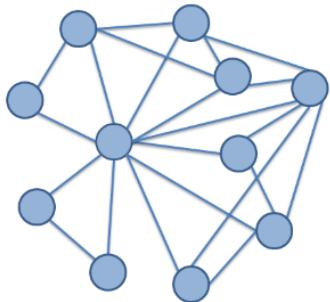
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- Theoretical progress has been haunted by a number of key problems.
- Open challenges include how to deal both analytically and numerically with:
 - higher-dimensional flows
[the curse of dimensionality]
 - intersections of multiple switching boundaries
 - bifurcations of higher-codimension
 - Sliding of sliding
 - etc

Crucial in many applications

7

- Solving these problems is crucial in many applications of the theory of piecewise smooth systems



- These problems are all instances of complex networks

Agent dynamics

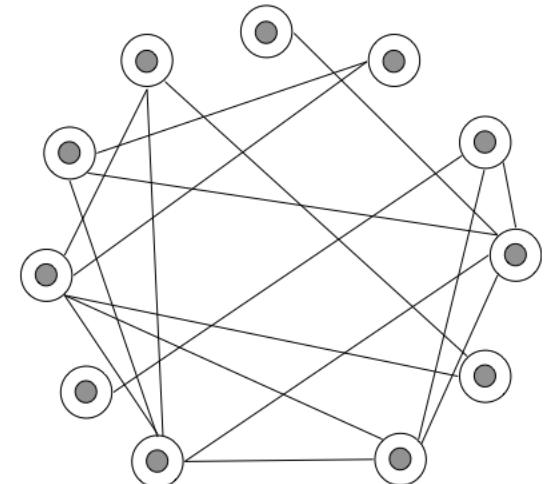
$$\dot{x}_i = f_i(x_i) + g_i(x_i)u_i, \quad i = 1, \dots, N$$

Coupling protocol

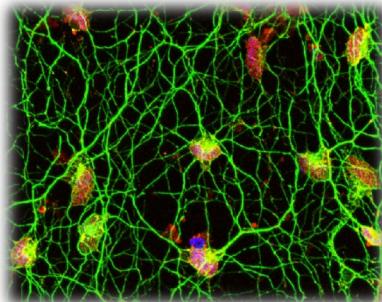
$$u_i = \sigma \sum_{j=1}^N a_{ij} [h(x_j) - h(x_i)]$$

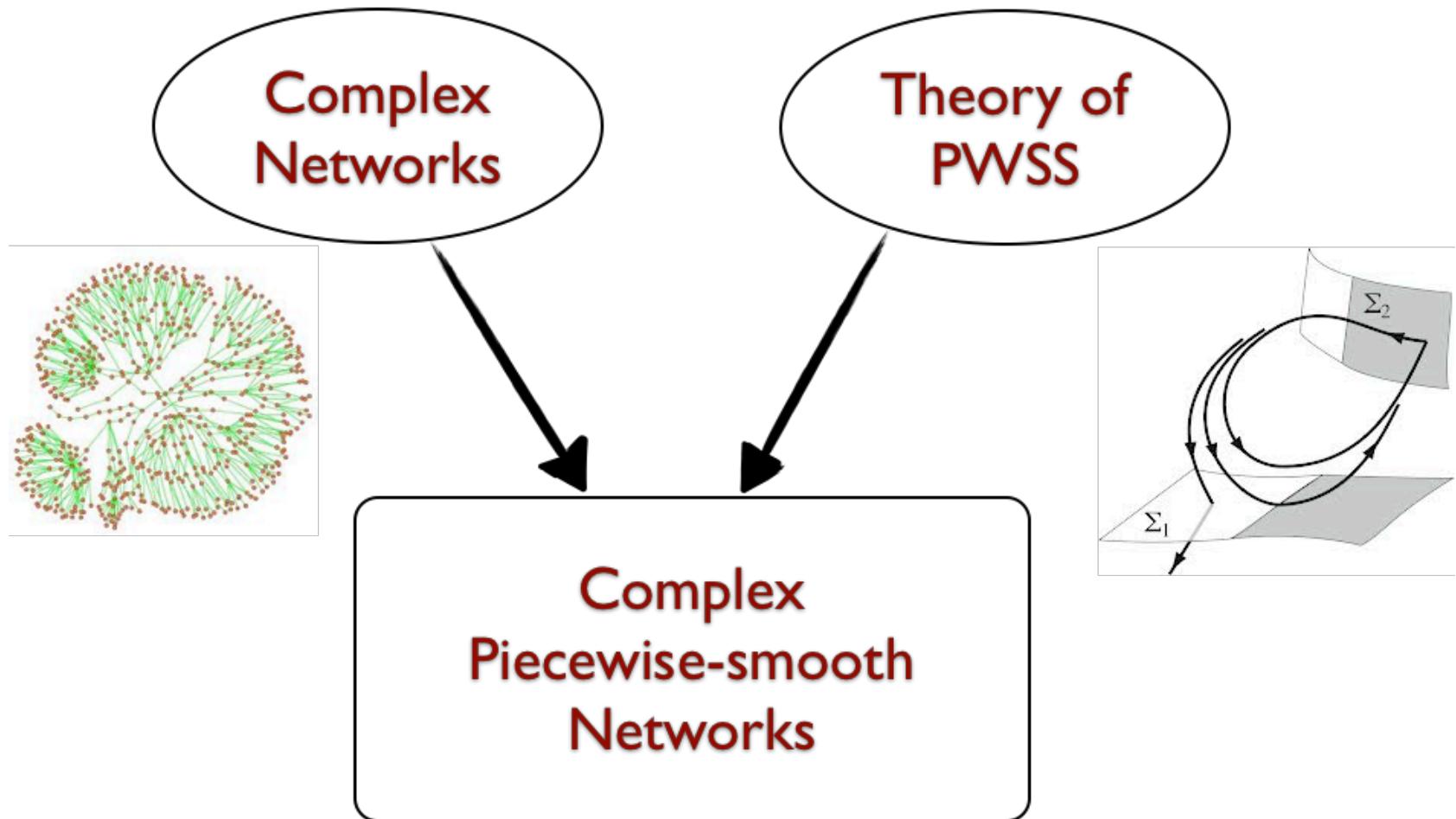
Network structure

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{D} - \mathcal{A}$$



- There is a notable difference though...
- In complex networks theory it is often assumed that
 1. The dynamics of each agent is sufficiently smooth and differentiable
 2. Agents communicate via coupling functions that are smooth and differentiable
 3. The network structure is fixed in time..
- This is not the case in these applications



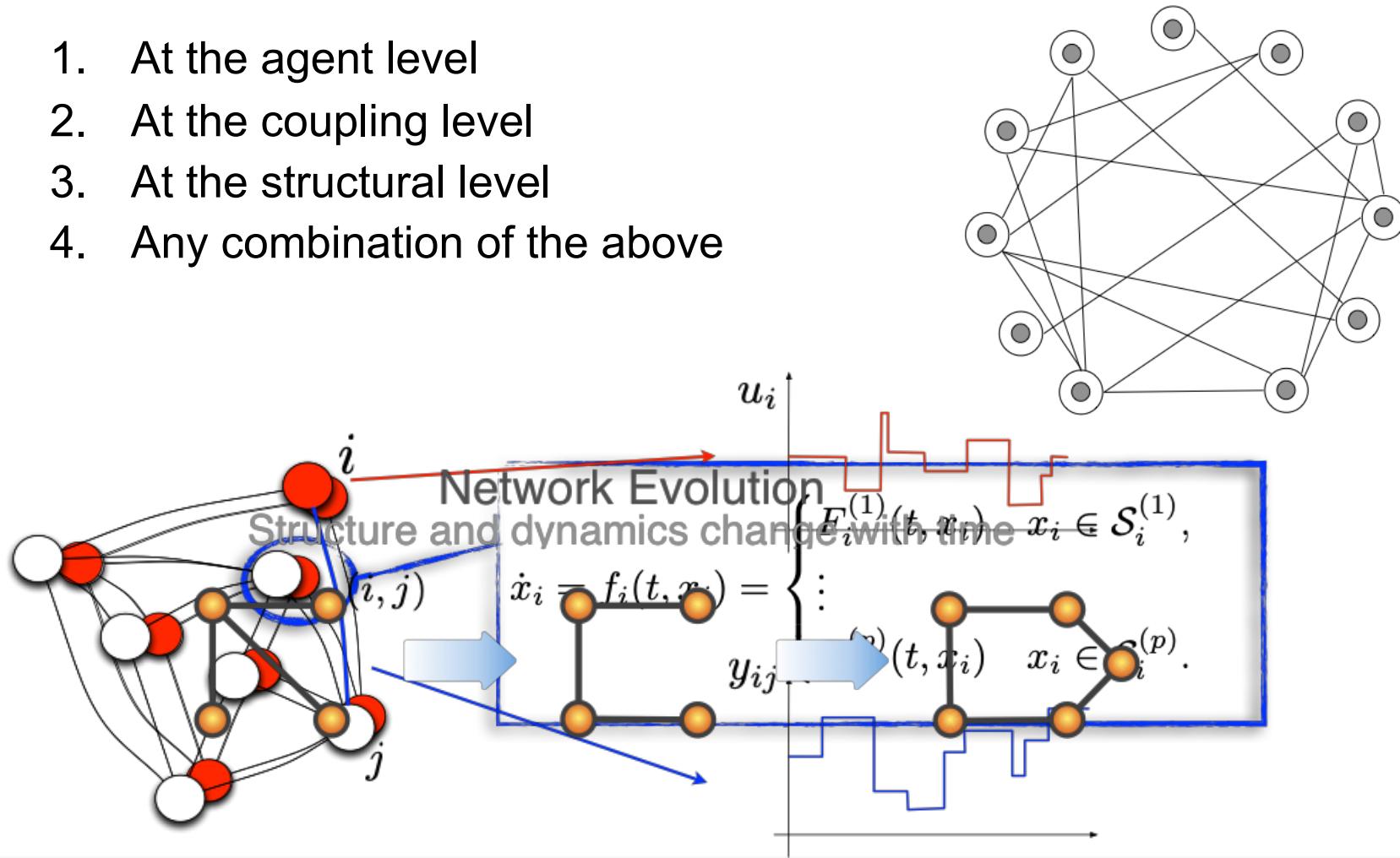


What is a piecewise-smooth network?

11

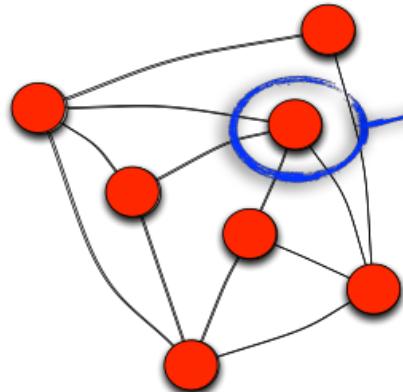
- A network can be piecewise smooth at different levels

1. At the agent level
2. At the coupling level
3. At the structural level
4. Any combination of the above



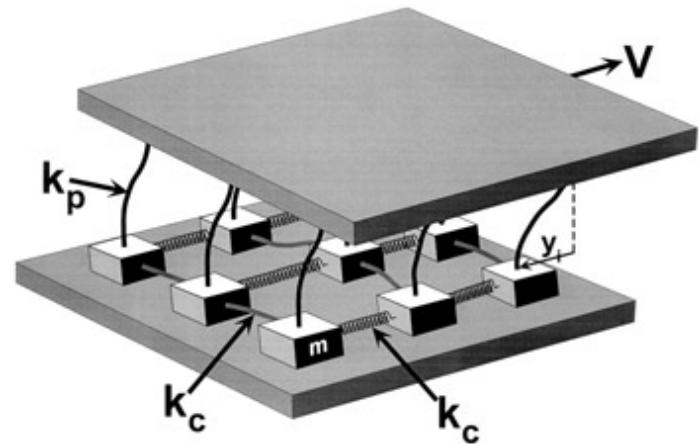
1. Networks of PWS systems

12

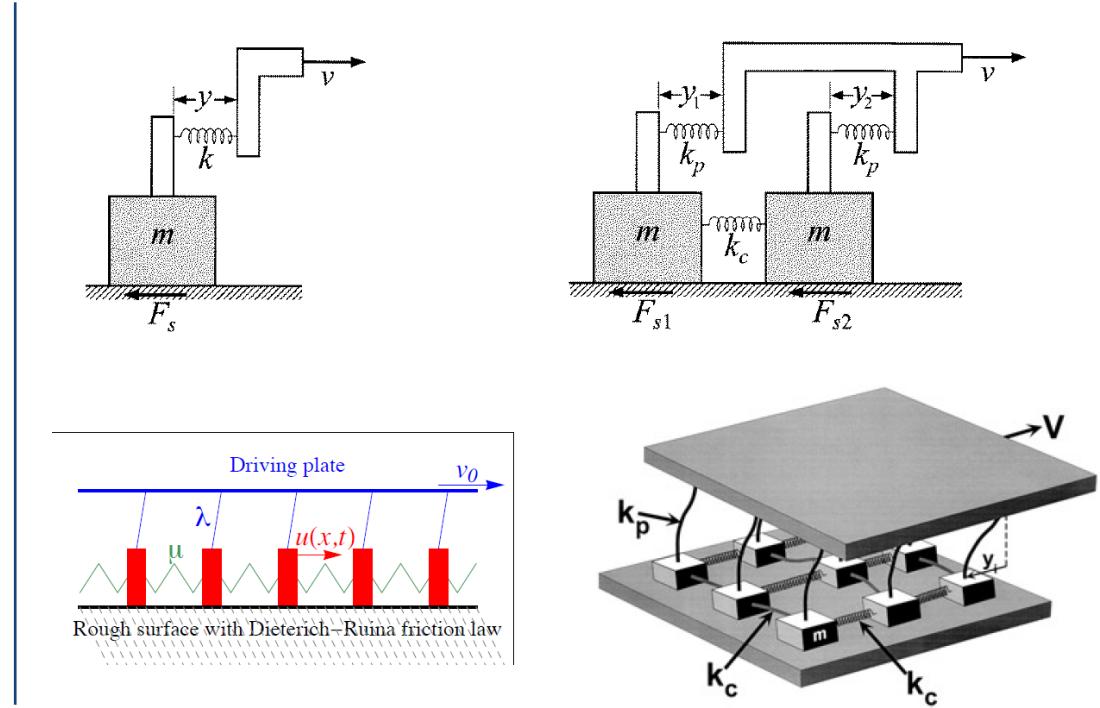


$$\dot{x}_i = f_i(t, x_i) = \begin{cases} F_i^{(1)}(t, x_i) & x_i \in \mathcal{S}_i^{(1)}, \\ \vdots \\ F_i^{(p)}(t, x_i) & x_i \in \mathcal{S}_i^{(p)}. \end{cases}$$

- Agents can
 - Have different degrees of discontinuity
 - Can be identical or heterogeneous
 - Switching can be time-dependent or state-dependent



- Oscillations in Brake Systems [1]
- Burridge-Knopoff models in earthquake engineering [2]

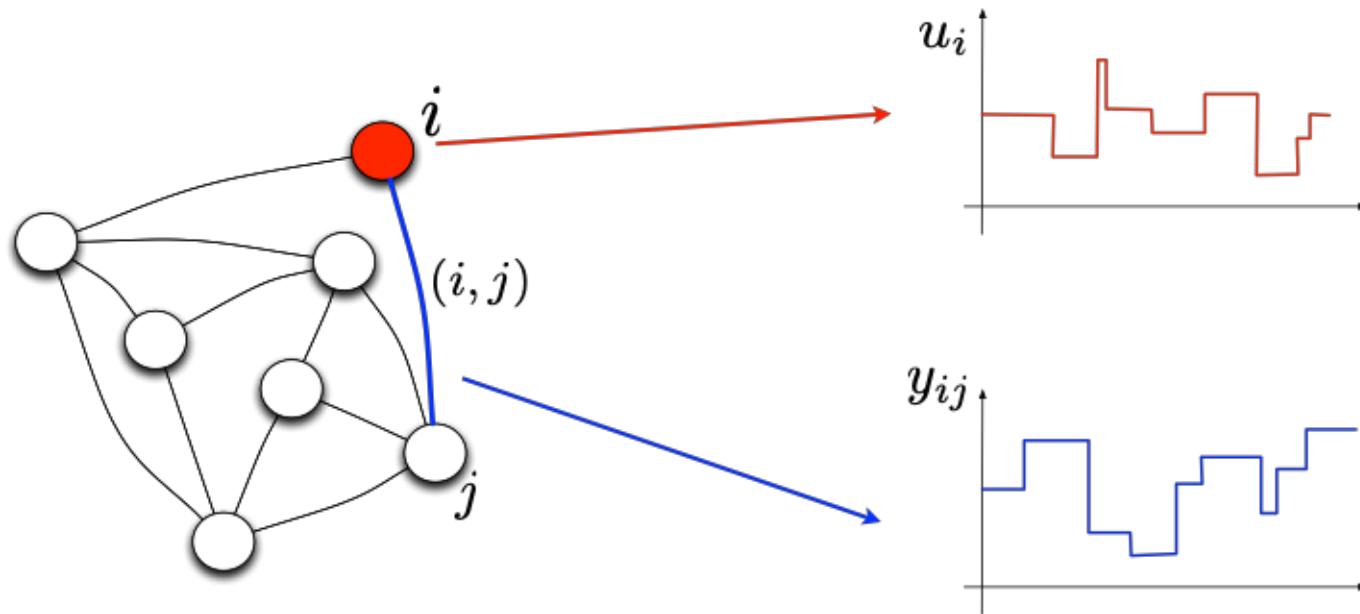


[1] G. Ostermeyer, "Dynamic Friction Laws and Their Impact on Friction Induced Vibrations", SAE technical paper, 2010.

[2] D L. Turcotte, "Self-organized criticality." Reports on progress in physics 62.10, 1999.

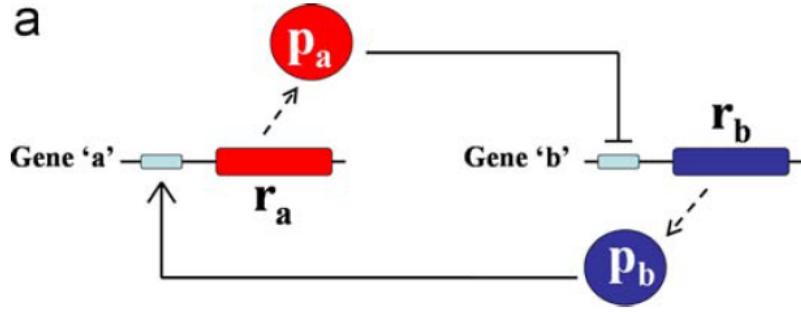
2. Networks with PWS coupling

14



- Structure is fixed
- Agents communicate via PWS functions
(e.g. switched functions, piecewise linear coupling)
- Delays, noise might be present

Example

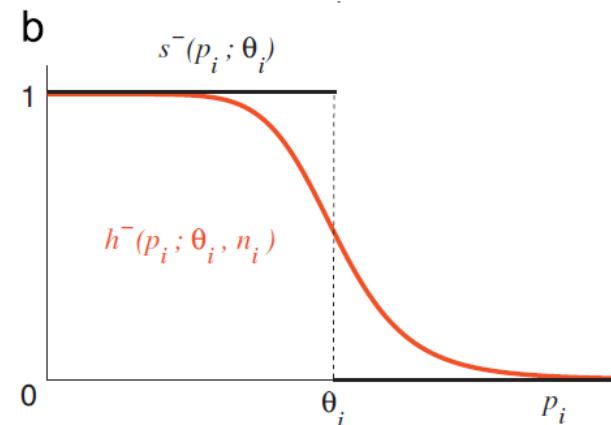
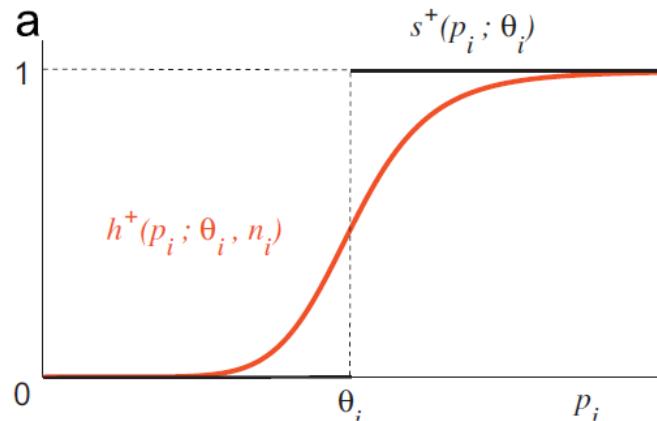


$$\dot{r}_a = m_a h^+(p_b; \theta_b, n_b) - \gamma_a r_a,$$

$$\dot{r}_b = m_b h^-(p_a; \theta_a, n_a) - \gamma_b r_b,$$

$$\dot{p}_a = k_a r_a - \delta_a p_a,$$

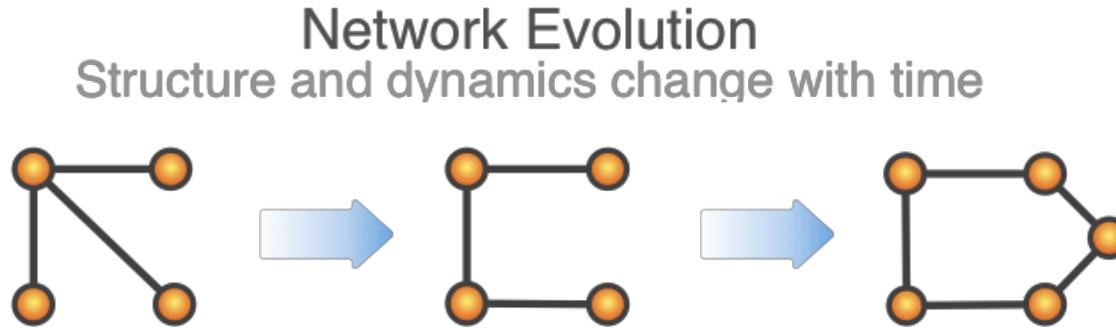
$$\dot{p}_b = k_b r_b - \delta_b p_b.$$



[1] L. Glass, S. A. Kauffman., "The logical analysis of continuous non-linear biochemical control networks", J. Theor. Biol. 39, 103–129, 1973.

3. Networks with a PWS structure

16

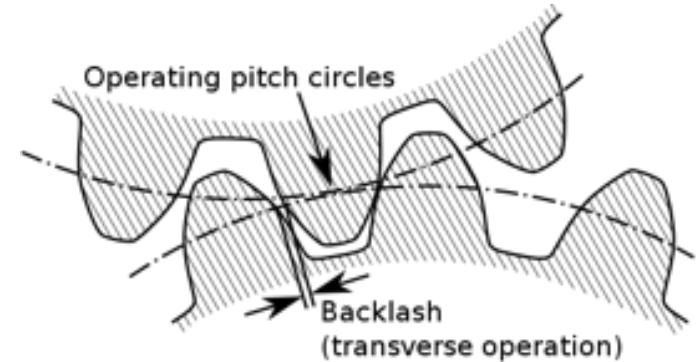
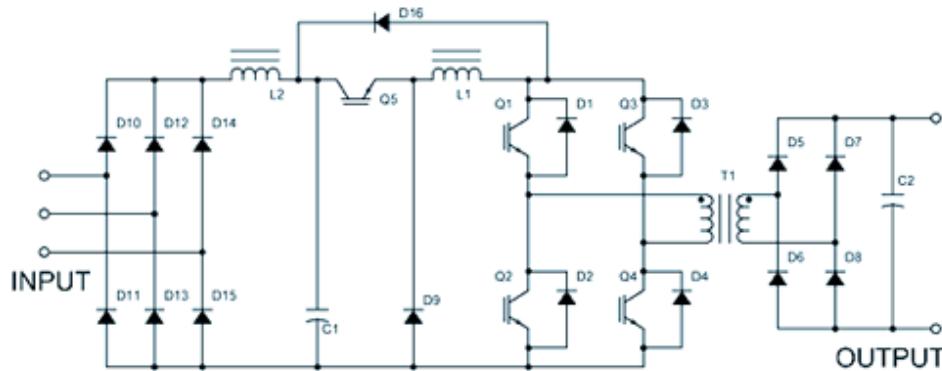


- In this case the structure of the graph evolves discontinuously
- This is encoded in a time-varying network Laplacian
- ..that can change in a time-dependent or state-dependent manner
- e.g., event-based connections, proximity networks

Examples

17

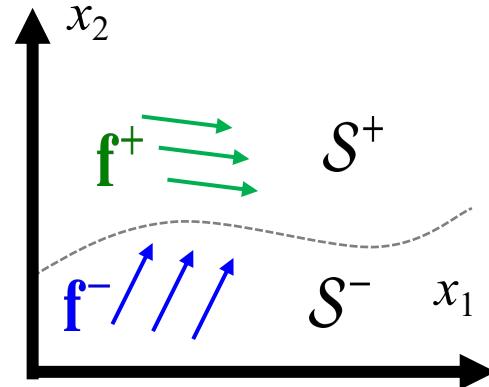
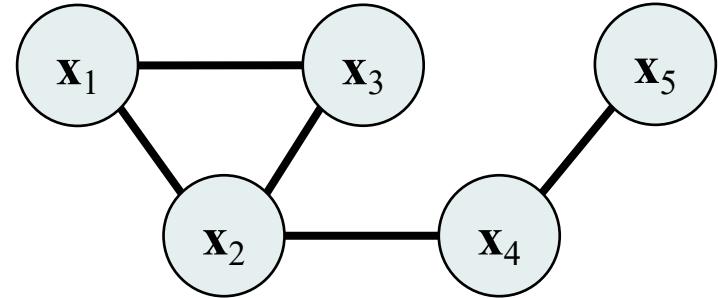
- Temporal networks
- State-dependent connections
(proximity networks)
- Power electronic networks



- We want to study the collective behaviour of *networks of piecewise smooth systems*

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}}_i = \mathbf{f}_i(\mathbf{x}_i) - \sum_{j=1}^N L_{ij} \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{x}_j), \quad i = 1, \dots, N.$$

$$\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}) = \begin{cases} \mathbf{f}^+(\mathbf{x}), & \mathbf{x} \in S^+ \\ \mathbf{f}^-(\mathbf{x}), & \mathbf{x} \in S^- \end{cases}$$



- We focus on synchronization as the simplest type of emerging behaviour

Key research questions

19

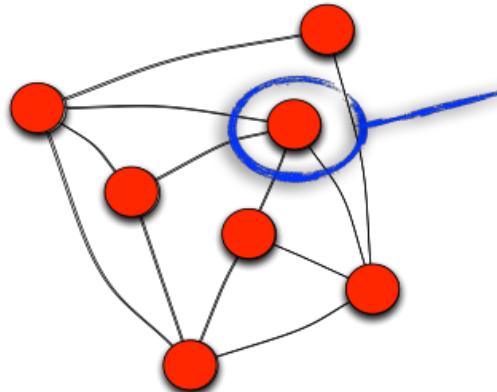
- Under what conditions can we guarantee convergence?
- Can we engineer a distributed coupling protocol able to induce synchronization?
- Can we achieve synchronization without controlling all of the system nodes?
- Can we *prove* local or global convergence to the synchronous behaviour? Bounded or asymptotic?



$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \sup \| \mathbf{x}_i(t) - \mathbf{x}_j(t) \| \leq \varepsilon, \quad \forall i, j \quad t > t_0.$$

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \| \mathbf{x}_i(t) - \mathbf{x}_j(t) \| = 0, \quad \forall i, j.$$

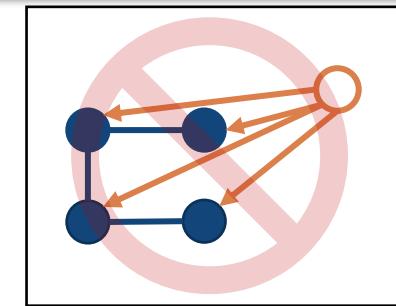
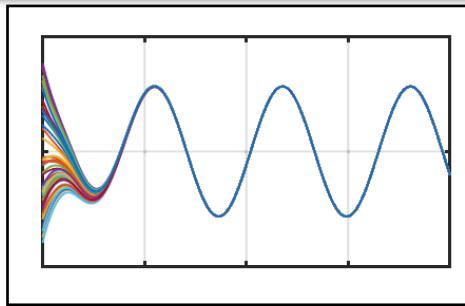
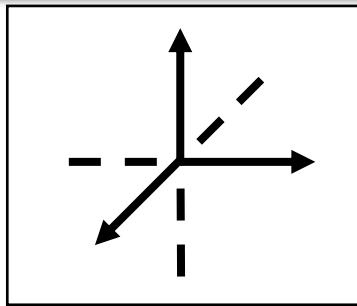
- A PWS network is a large high-dimensional PWS system
- Sliding motion can occur on several surfaces
- Asynchronous switching of different nodes can easily lead to instability
- Tools to prove global convergence of large PWS systems are few and very conservative



$$\dot{x}_i = f_i(t, x_i) = \begin{cases} F_i^{(1)}(t, x_i) & x_i \in \mathcal{S}_i^{(1)}, \\ \vdots \\ F_i^{(p)}(t, x_i) & x_i \in \mathcal{S}_i^{(p)}. \end{cases}$$

Relevant previous results

21



Paper	Global sync.	Asymptotic sync.	Control	Lack of centralised control
[1]			Yes	X

-
- [1] X. Yang, Z. Wu, J. Cao, "Finite-time synchronization of complex networks with nonidentical discontinuous nodes," Nonlin. Dyn., 73(4), 2313–2327, 2013.
 - [2] P. De Lellis, M. di Bernardo, D. Liuzza, "Convergence and sync. in heterogeneous networks of smooth and piecewise smooth systems," Automatica, 56, 1–11, 2015.
 - [3] S. Coombes, R. Thul, "Synchrony in networks of coupled non-smooth dynamical systems: Extending the master stability function", Eur.J.Appl.Math., 27(6), 904–922, 2016.
 - [4] M. Coraggio, P. De Lellis, M. di Bernardo, "Achieving convergence and synchronization in Networks of PWS Systems via distributed discontinuous coupling", submitted to Automatica, 2019.

2.

Proving convergence

- Given a network of PWS systems

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}}_i = \mathbf{f}_i(\mathbf{x}_i) - \sum_{j=1}^N L_{ij} \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{x}_j), \quad i = 1, \dots, N.$$

- We want to find conditions on
 - the agent dynamics
 - the coupling function
 - the network structure
- in order to guarantee **global** convergence of all the agents towards synchronization

- A widely used condition for networks of smooth systems is the QUAD assumption

$$(\mathbf{v}_1 - \mathbf{v}_2)^T \mathbf{P} [\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{v}_1) - \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{v}_2)] \leq (\mathbf{v}_1 - \mathbf{v}_2)^T \underline{\mathbf{Q}} (\mathbf{v}_1 - \mathbf{v}_2) \quad \forall \mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2.$$

- It is possible to show that some PWS systems fulfill this property
- In this case convergence results can immediately be extended to networks of PWS systems of the form

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}}_i = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_i) - c \sum_{j=1}^N L_{ij} \Gamma(\mathbf{x}_j - \mathbf{x}_i), \quad i = 1, \dots, N,$$

Theorem. Suppose

- f is QUAD(P, Q), with $P > 0$,
- $\Gamma > 0$.

The network synchronizes if $c > c^*$, where

$$c^* \triangleq \frac{\|Q\|_2}{\lambda_2(L) - \lambda_{\min}(\text{sym}(P\Gamma))}.$$

Topology Coupling protocol Agent dynamics



- Consider a relay system $\dot{\mathbf{x}}_i = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_i)$, with

$$\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_i) = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & -1 \\ 2 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}_i - \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 2\text{sign}(x_{i,1} + x_{i,2}) \end{bmatrix}.$$

- The system is QUAD with

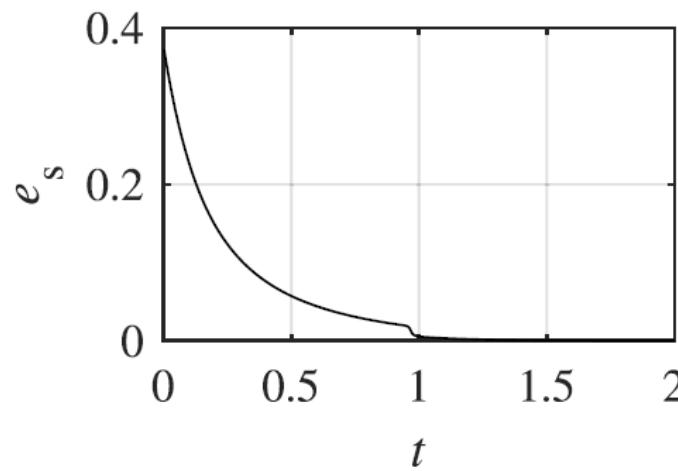
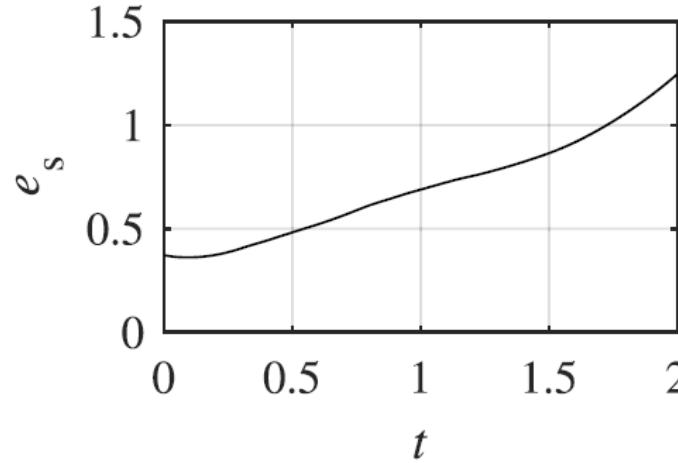
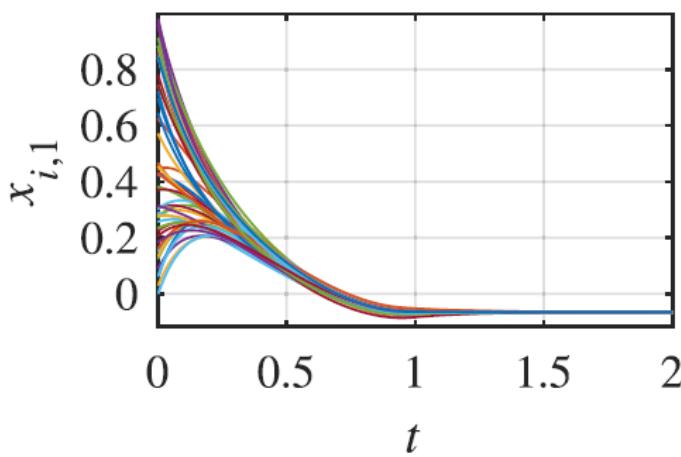
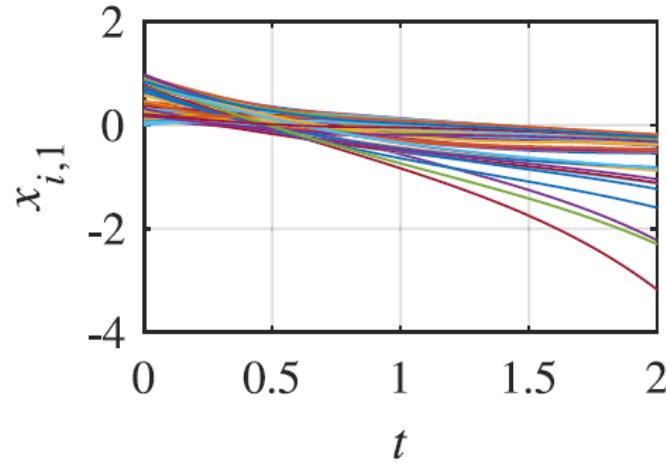
$$\mathbf{P} = \mathbf{I}, \quad \mathbf{Q} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & -1 \\ 2 & 3 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \|\mathbf{Q}\|_2 = 3.06$$

- Take a network of $N = 50$ systems with $\lambda_2(\mathbf{L}) = 14.80$, $\Gamma = \mathbf{I}$.
- Then we can estimate the critical coupling gain as

$$c^* = \|\mathbf{Q}\|_2 / \lambda_2(\mathbf{L}) = 0.21$$

Example

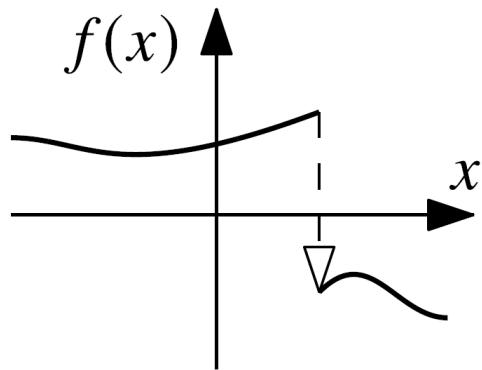
27



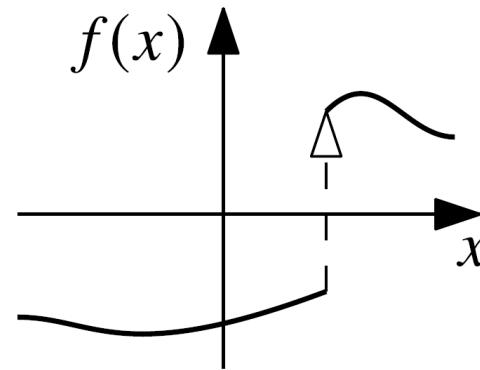
$$c = 0.05 < c^*$$

$$c = 0.25 > c^*$$

- For PWS systems the QUAD assumption is often too strong



QUAD function



Non-QUAD function

- So we need to relax that assumption in order to account for more realistic cases

- As a first attempt we introduced the concept of a **QUAD-affine** vector field such that

$$\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{f}_1(\mathbf{x}) + \mathbf{f}_2(\mathbf{x})$$

$$\mathbf{f}_1(\mathbf{x}) \text{ is QUAD, } \|\mathbf{f}_2(\mathbf{x})\|_2 < M \quad 0 < M < +\infty$$

- Under this assumption we were able to find sufficient conditions for **bounded** synchronization

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \sup \|\mathbf{x}_i(t) - \mathbf{x}_j(t)\| \leq \varepsilon, \quad \forall i, j \quad t > t_0.$$

- Here is a flavour of the conditions we were able to derive

Estimate of the critical coupling gain

$$\tilde{c} = \max \left\{ \frac{1}{\lambda_2(L \otimes \Upsilon_r)} \left(\frac{2\sqrt{N}(\bar{M} + h_{\max})}{e_{\max}} + \lambda_{\max}(W_r^{\max}) \right), 0 \right\}$$

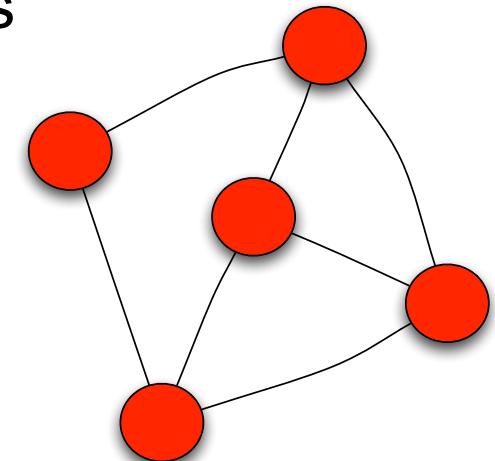
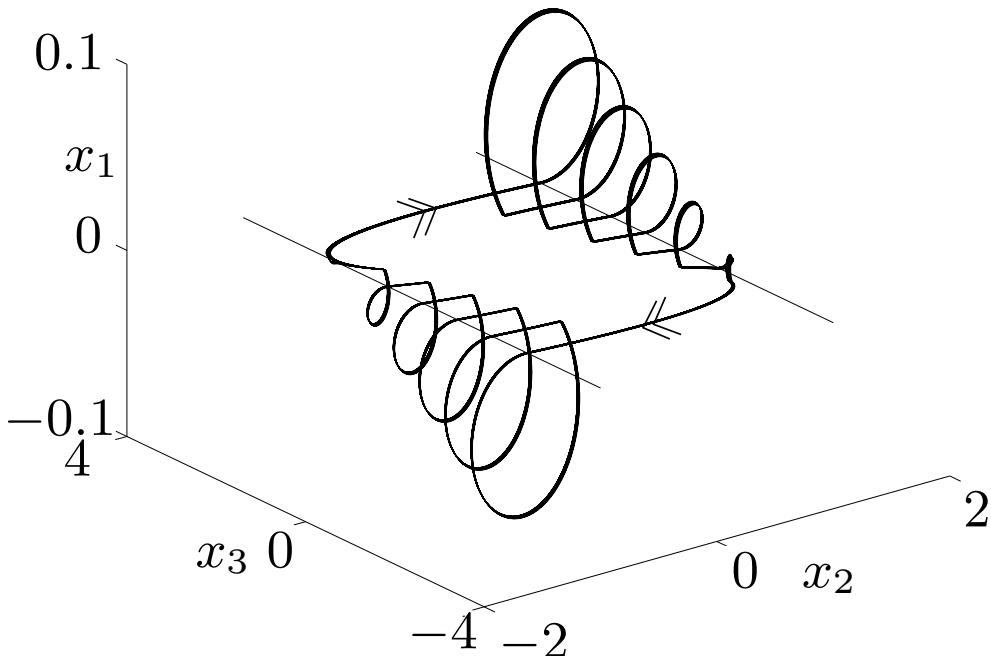
Upper bound of the synchronization error

$$\bar{\epsilon} = \min \left\{ -\frac{\sqrt{N}(\bar{M} + \bar{h}_0)}{w_{\max}}, \frac{\sqrt{N}(\bar{M} + h_{\max})}{-\max \{ \lambda_{\max}(W_r^{\max}) - c\lambda_2(L \otimes \Upsilon_r), \lambda_{\max}(W_{n-r}^{\max}) \}} \right\}$$

Example

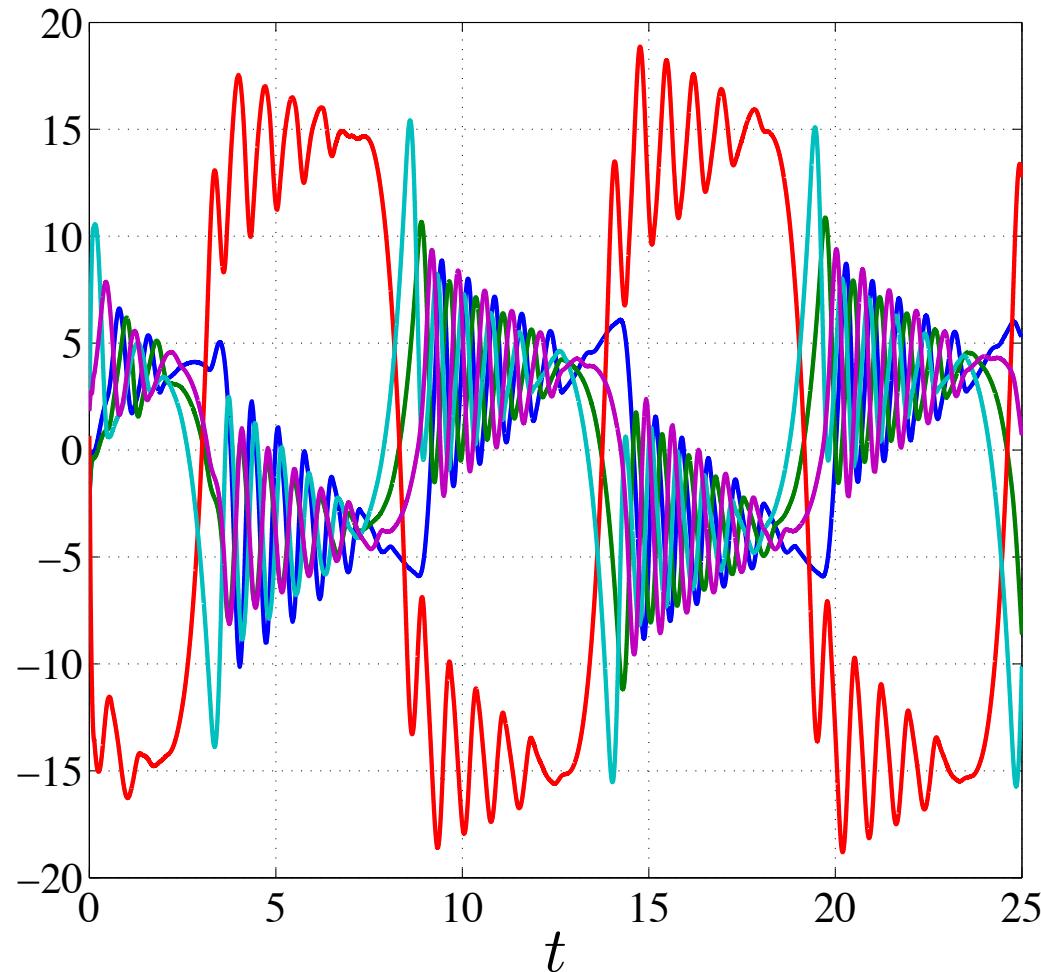
31

- Take a network of five chaotic relay systems



$$\begin{aligned}\dot{x}_i &= Ax_i + Br_i + u, \\ y_i &= Cx_i, \\ r_i &= -\text{sgn}(y_i).\end{aligned}$$

Uncoupled network dynamics

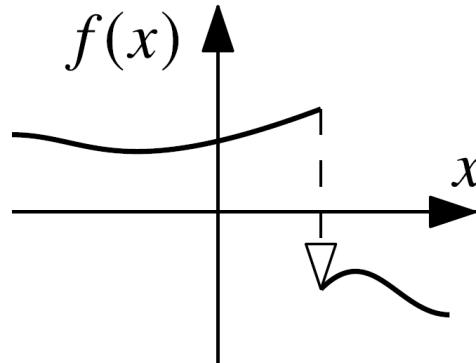


- The results are very general and also apply to networks of heterogeneous systems
- Conditions not always easy to apply (lots of algebraic manipulations)
- Most importantly analytical estimates are often too conservative
- We can only prove bounded convergence while often in simulations (e.g. relays' example) we observe asymptotic convergence
- What if we want to achieve asymptotic convergence?

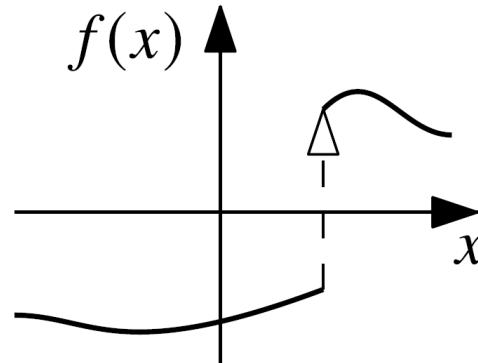
3.

A multiplex
discontinuous
approach

- For those PWS functions that are not QUAD...



QUAD

 σ -QUAD


not QUAD

 σ -QUAD

- We define a vector field as **σ -QUAD** if

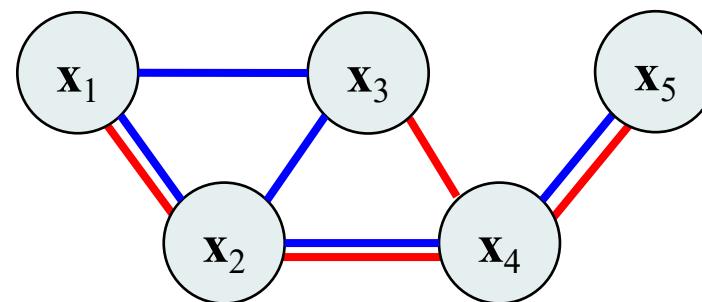
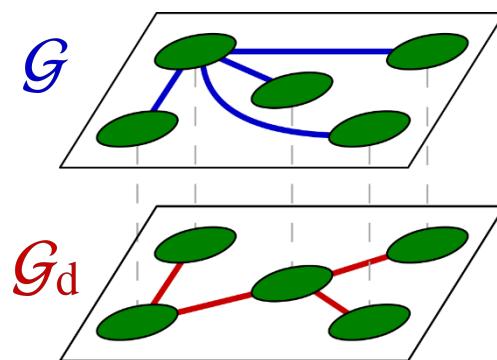
$$(\mathbf{v}_1 - \mathbf{v}_2)^T \mathbf{P} [\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{v}_1) - \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{v}_2)] \leq (\mathbf{v}_1 - \mathbf{v}_2)^T \mathbf{Q} (\mathbf{v}_1 - \mathbf{v}_2) \quad \forall \mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2$$

-
- Now the dynamics \mathbf{f} can have any number of finite jumps.

- In general diffusive coupling does not suffice on its own to achieve convergence in these cases

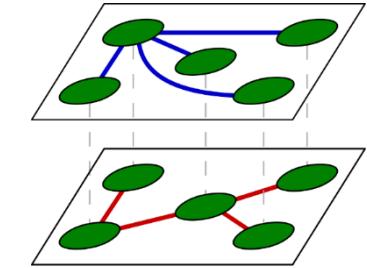
$$\ddot{x}_i = f(x_{ii}) - c \sum_{j=1}^N L_{ij} \Gamma(x_{jj} - x_{ij}) - c_d \sum_{j=1}^N L_{ijj}^d \Gamma_{dl} \text{sign}(x_{jj} - x_{il})$$

- So we added an extra discontinuous coupling layer to guarantee convergence



Theorem. Suppose

- f is σ -QUAD(P, Q, M), with $P > 0$,
- $\Gamma, \Gamma_d > 0$.



The network synchronizes if $c > c^*$ and $c_d \geq c_d^*$, where

$$c^* = \frac{\|Q\|_2}{\lambda_2(L) \lambda_{\min}(\text{sym } P\Gamma)}, \quad c_d^* = \frac{\|M\|_\infty}{\delta_{G_d} \mu_\infty^-(P\Gamma_d)}.$$

Agent dynamics

Topology

Coupling protocol

```

graph TD
    AD[Agent dynamics] <--> T[Topology]
    AD <--> CP[Coupling protocol]
    T <--> CP
    T --> C[c^*]
    CP --> C
    C --> CD[c_d^*]
    T --> CD
    CP --> CD
    
```

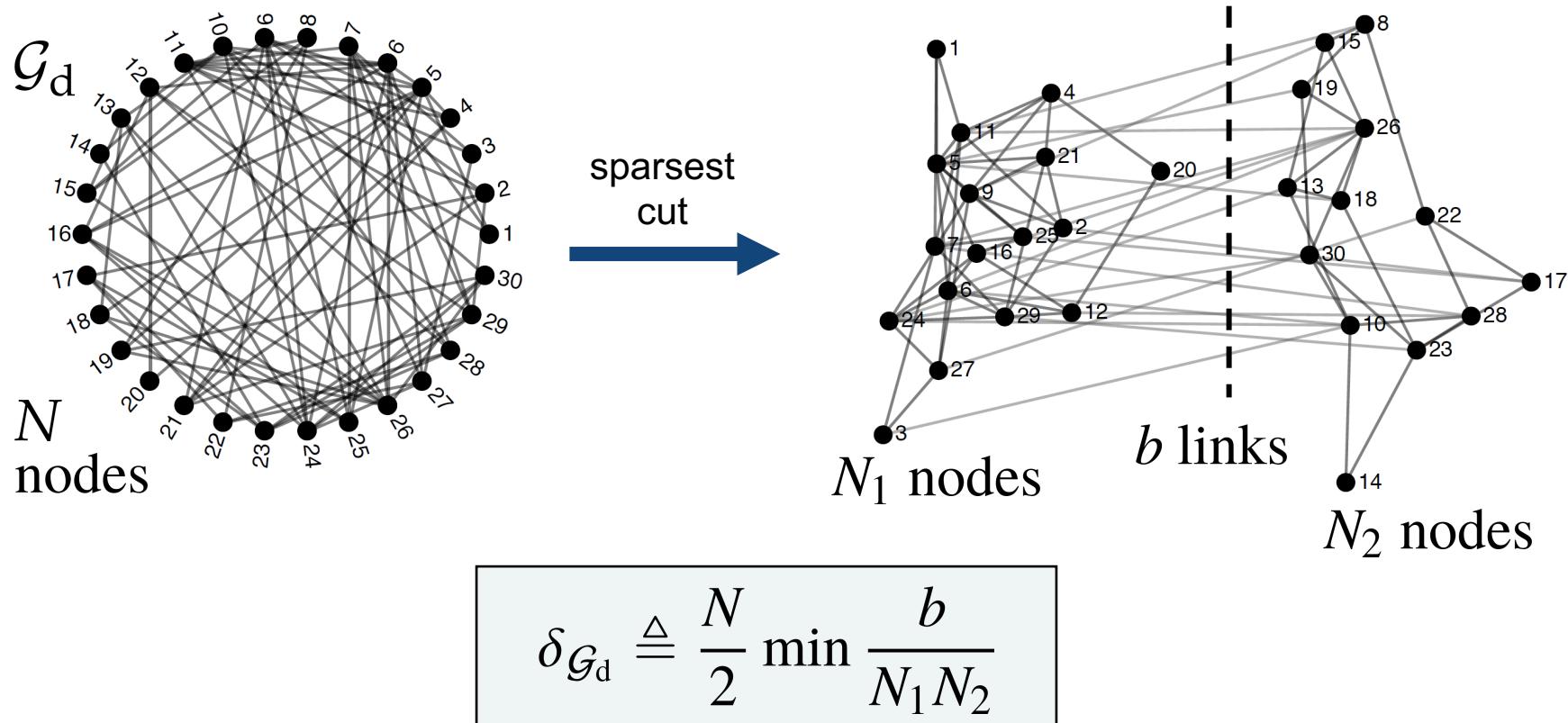


M. Coraggio, P. De Lellis, M. di Bernardo, "Achieving Convergence and Synchronization in Networks of Piecewise-Smooth Systems via Distributed Discontinuous Coupling", submitted to Automatica (see arXiv), 2019.

Minimum density

38

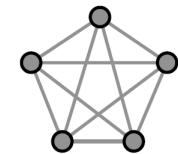
- $\delta_{\mathcal{G}_d}$: minimum density of \mathcal{G}_d ; computed from sparsest cut.



- We derived an algorithm and formulae for selected structures

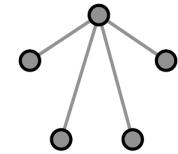
- Complete:

$$\delta_{\mathcal{G}} = \frac{N}{2}$$



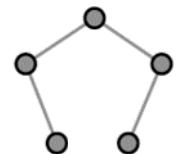
- Star:

$$\delta_{\mathcal{G}} = \frac{N}{2(N - 1)}$$



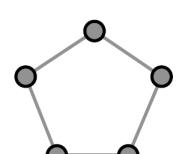
- Path:

$$\delta_{\mathcal{G}} = \begin{cases} 2/N, & N \text{ even} \\ 2N/(N^2 - 1), & N \text{ odd} \end{cases}$$



- Ring:

$$\delta_{\mathcal{G}} = \begin{cases} 4/N, & N \text{ even} \\ 4N/(N^2 - 1), & N \text{ odd} \end{cases}$$



- l -nearest neighbours:

$$\delta_{\mathcal{G}} = \begin{cases} \frac{4 \sum_{k=0}^{l-1} (l-k)}{N}, & N \text{ even} \\ \frac{4N \sum_{k=0}^{l-1} (l-k)}{N^2 - 1}, & N \text{ odd} \end{cases}$$

Example: back to relay systems

40

- Consider $N = 30$ chaotic relay systems $\dot{\mathbf{x}}_i = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_i)$, with

$$\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_i) = \begin{bmatrix} 1.51 & 1 & 0 \\ -99.922 & 0 & 1 \\ -5 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}_i - \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \text{sign}(x_{i,1}).$$

- These systems are σ -QUAD with

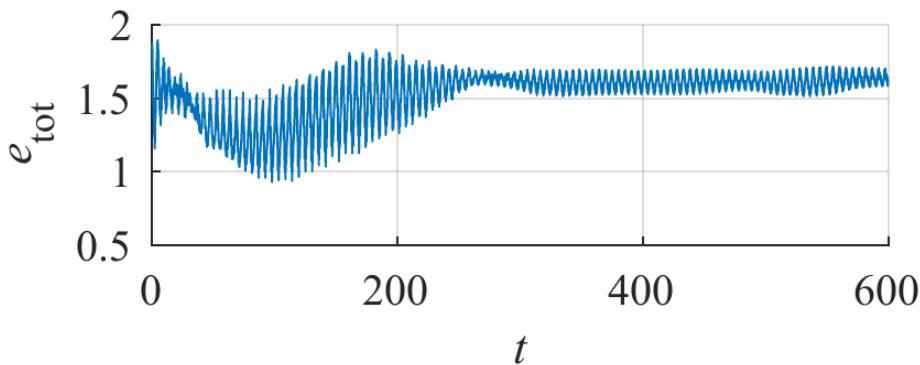
$$\mathbf{P} = \mathbf{I}, \quad \mathbf{Q} = \begin{bmatrix} 1.51 & 1 & 0 \\ -99.922 & 0 & 1 \\ -5 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{M} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 4 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

- $\|\mathbf{Q}\|_2 = 100.063$, $\|\mathbf{M}\|_\infty = 4$.

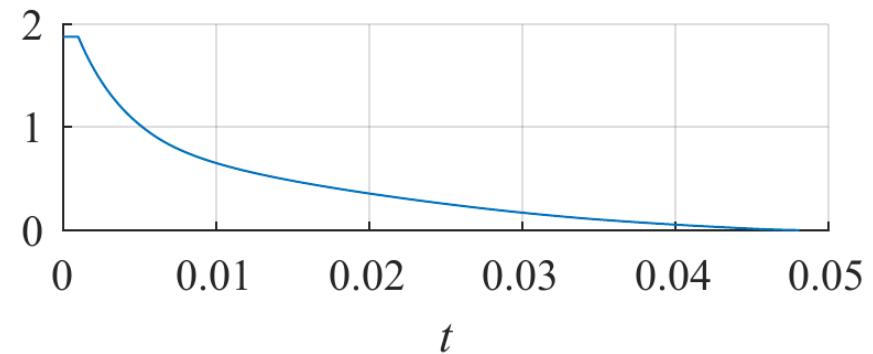
Numerical validation

41

- Coupling protocol: $\Gamma = \Gamma_d = I$;
Diffusive layer: $\lambda_2(L) = 1$;
Discontinuous layer: $\delta_{\mathcal{G}d} = 1.290$.
- $c^* = \|Q\|_2 / \lambda_2(L) = 100.063$, $c_d^* = \|M\|_\infty / \delta_{\mathcal{G}d} = 3.102$.

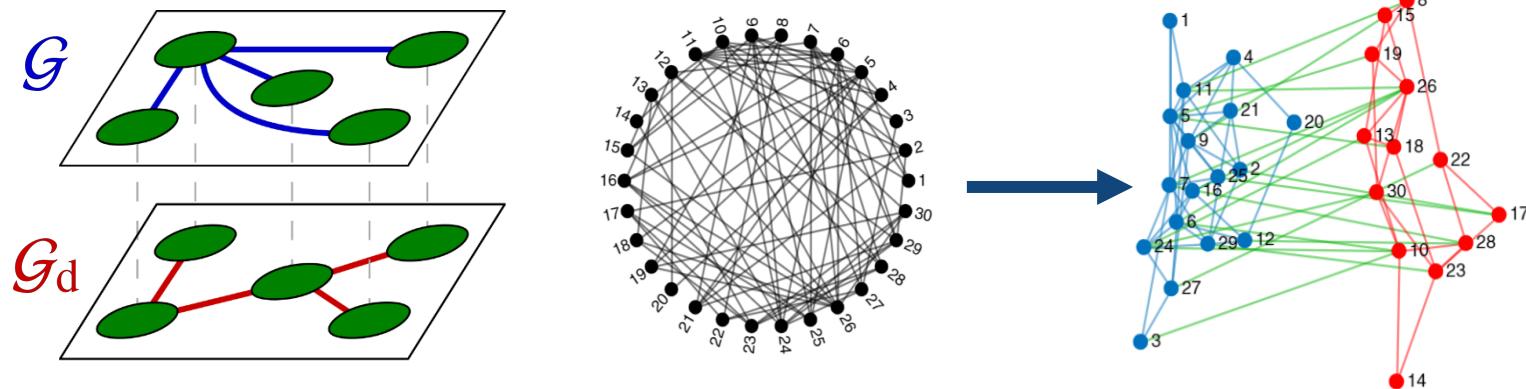


$$c = 0.1 < c^*, \quad c_d = 0.001 < c_d^*$$



$$c = 101 > c^*, \quad c_d = 3.2 > c_d^*$$

- Still a conservative result but..
- ..the structural nature of the sufficient conditions we obtained can be exploited to evaluate the effect on synchronization of structural changes in the network
- ..and its multiplex structure gives us additional degrees of freedom to enhance convergence



Resilience to faults

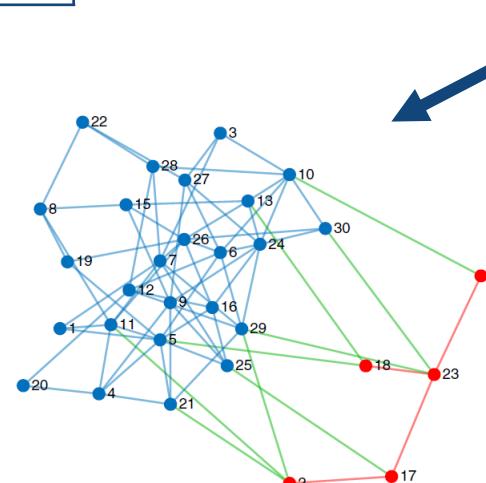
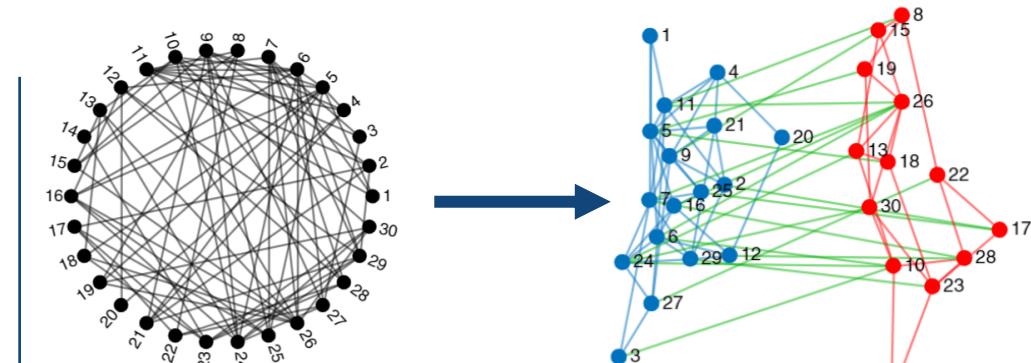
43

- Resilience: how does c_d^* change when links are removed?

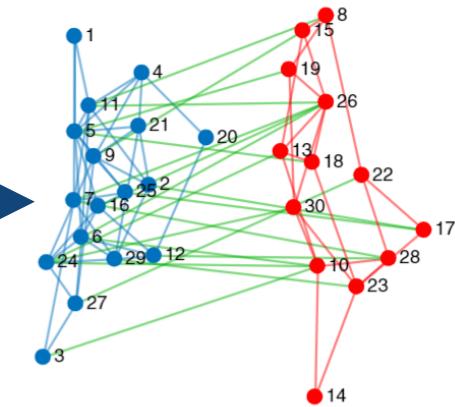
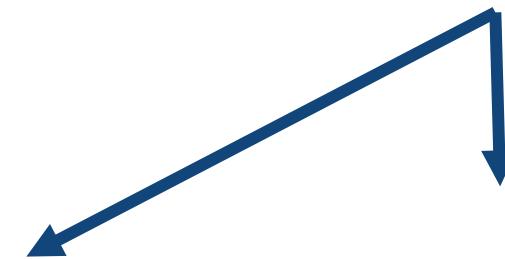
a) Remove 4 blue & 4 red.

b) Remove 8 green.

- $\delta_{\mathcal{G}_{d,a}} > \delta_{\mathcal{G}_{d,b}}$
(a better than b).
So here inter-cluster
links are more
important to have
a low threshold c_d^*



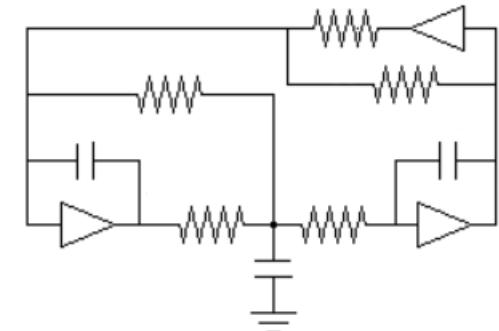
(a)



(b)

- Consider $N = 10$ chaotic Sprott circuits, with

$$\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_i) = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ -1 & -1 & -0.5 \end{bmatrix}}_{\mathbf{Q}} \mathbf{x}_i + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ \text{sign}(x_{i,1}) \end{bmatrix}.$$

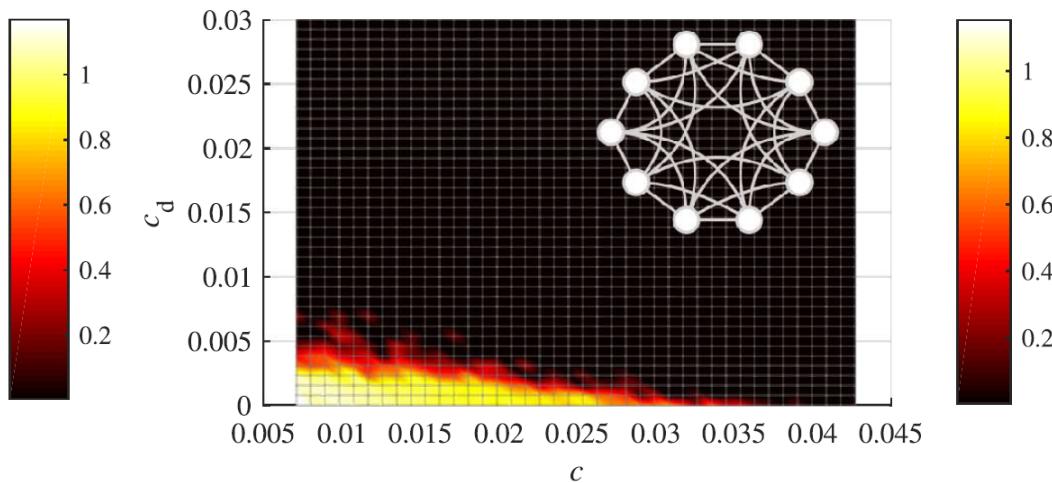
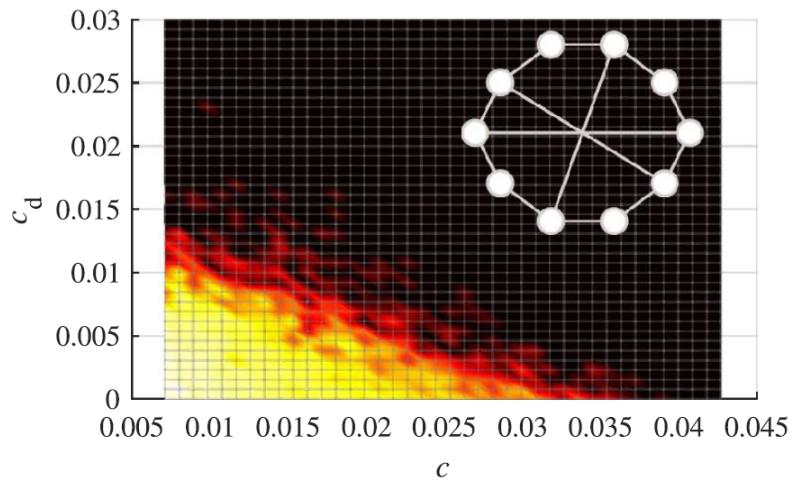
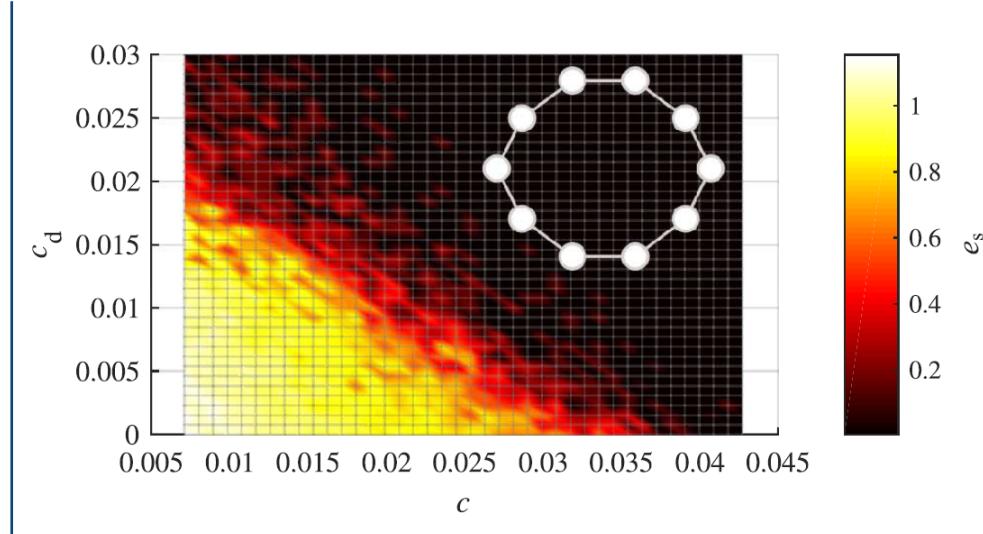


- \mathbf{f} is σ -QUAD with

$$\mathbf{P} = \mathbf{I}, \quad \|\mathbf{Q}\|_2 = 1.7, \quad \mathbf{M} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

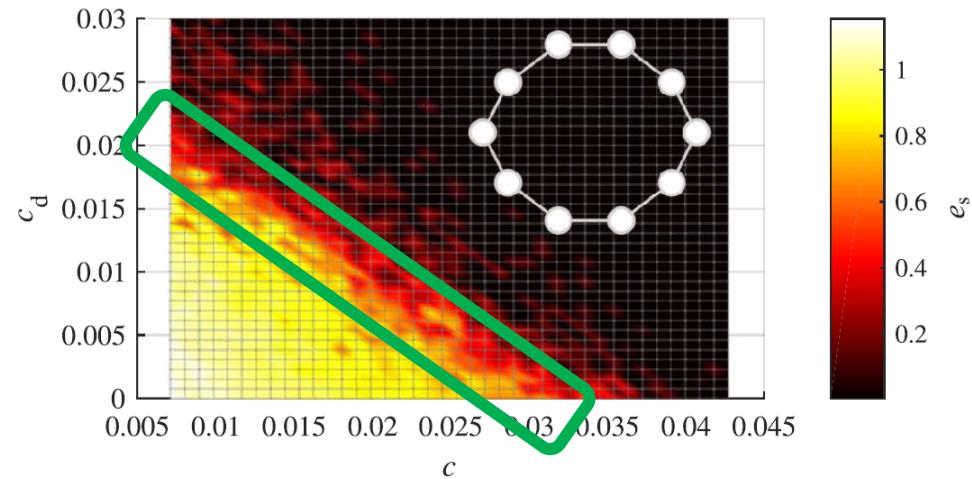
Varying the upper layer structure

- $N = 10$ Sprott circuits;
- L : 3-nearest-neighbours;
- L_d : variable.
- Different synchronizability regions with different multiplex structures



A pressing open problem

- Our convergence results give very conservative estimates of the region where synchronization is attained
- We need better conditions to capture the sophisticated link between the multiplex nature of the coupling layers and the synchronizability of the network

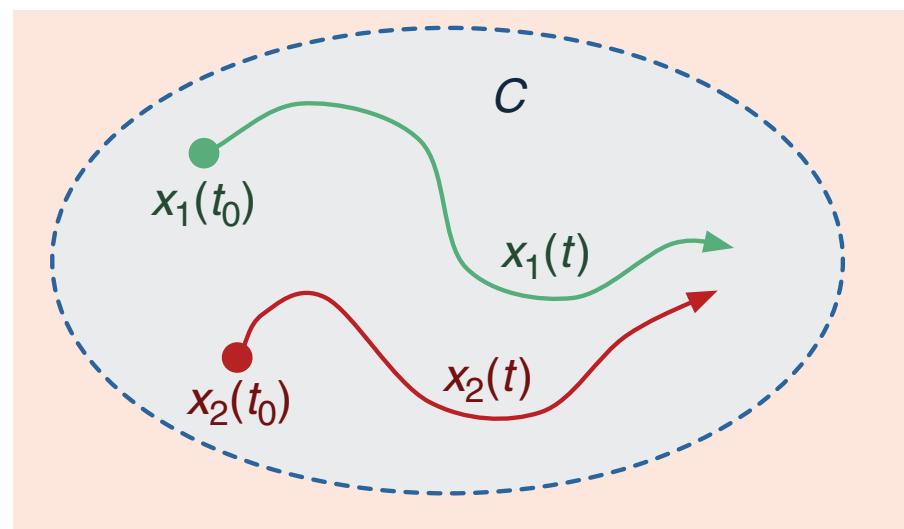


4.

Concluding remarks

- We focussed on the problem of finding sufficient conditions for **global convergence** in networks of dynamical systems with discontinuous vector fields
- We saw a set of **different conditions** on the agent dynamics, the coupling protocol and the network structure
- Common to all was the assumption that the agent vector field was **QUAD**, **QUAD-affine** or σ -**QUAD**
- We saw that a ***multiplex coupling strategy*** can be effective to achieve global asymptotic convergence..
- ..with conditions that can be nicely related to **structural properties** of the coupling layers

- Still the conditions are not always easy to apply
- They are very conservative and fail to capture the intricate link between the structure of the coupling layers and regions of stability
- As for networks of smooth systems maybe the goal is not to prove asymptotic stability of the network towards the synchronization manifold..
- ..but to prove **incremental stability** of the agent trajectories

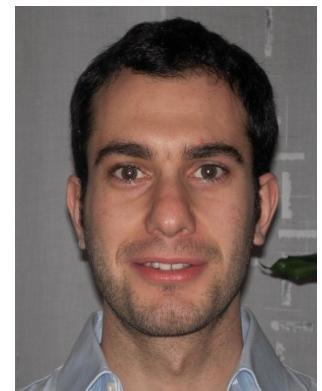


Acknowledgements

50

- Marco Coraggio (PWS networks)
- Piero De Lellis (PWS networks)
- Davide Liuzza (QUAD-affine systems)
- John Hogan (PWS networks)
- For more info check

<https://sites.google.com/site/dibernardogroup/>

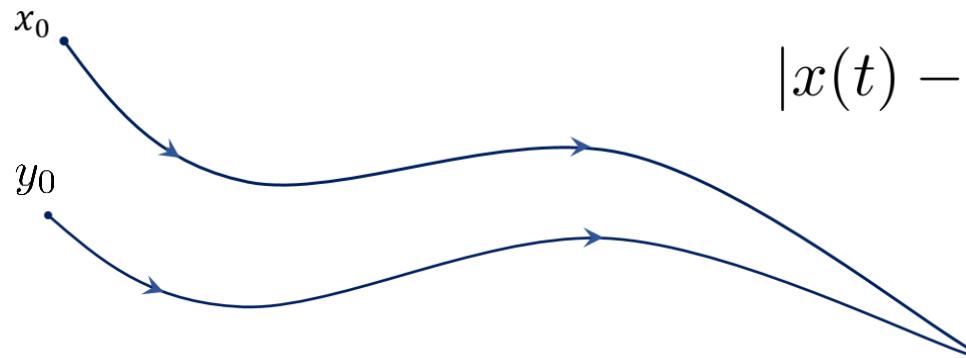


- A separate route we took was to extend contraction theory to PWS systems (this is another talk ☺)

Definition

A continuously differentiable system $\dot{x} = f(x)$ is said to be *contracting* in a subset $\mathcal{C} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ if there exists some norm, with associated matrix measure μ , such that

$$\mu \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(x) \right) \leq -c, \quad c > 0 \quad \forall x \in \mathcal{C}, \forall t \geq t_0$$



$$|x(t) - y(t)| \leq K e^{-c(t-t_0)} |x_0 - y_0|,$$

- Theorem: A bimodal nonlinear switched system is incrementally exponentially stable if there exists a norm with associated matrix measure such that

$$\mu \left(\frac{\partial F^+}{\partial x}(x) \right) \leq -c_1, \quad \forall x \in \bar{\mathcal{S}}^+$$

$$\mu \left(\frac{\partial F^-}{\partial x}(x) \right) \leq -c_2, \quad \forall x \in \bar{\mathcal{S}}^-$$

$$\mu \left(\left[F^+(x) - F^-(x) \right] \nabla H \right) = 0, \quad \forall x \in \Sigma$$



Application to PWA systems

53

- PWA systems

$$\dot{x} = \begin{cases} A_1x + b_1 + Bu & \text{if } h^T x > 0 \\ A_2x + b_2 + Bu & \text{if } h^T x < 0 \end{cases}$$

- Our conditions become

$$\mu(A_1) \leq -c_1$$

$$\mu(A_2) \leq -c_2$$

$$\mu(\Delta Axh^T) = 0$$

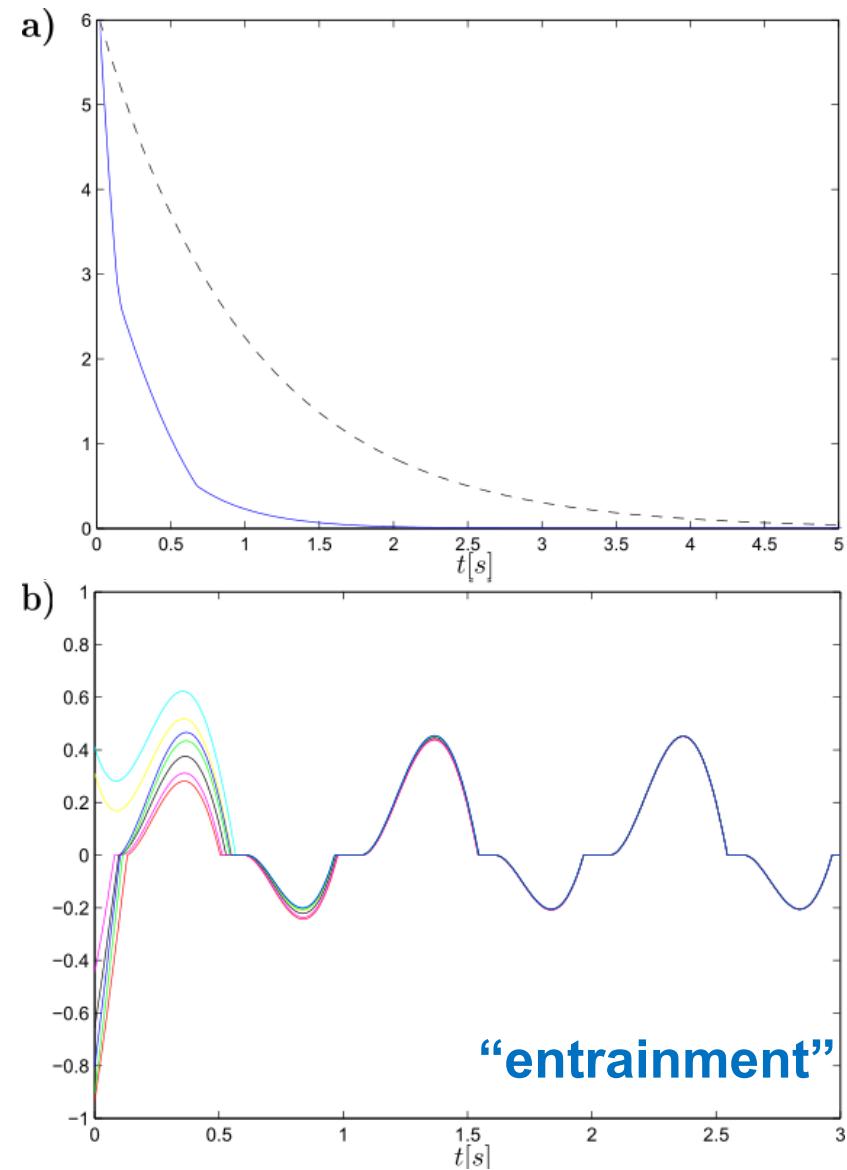
$$\mu(\Delta bh^T) = 0$$

- Using Euclidian norm

$$PA_i + A_i^T P < 0, \quad i = 1, 2,$$

$$\Delta A = gh^T$$

$$P\Delta b = -\gamma h$$



- Relay feedback systems

$$\dot{x} = Ax - b \operatorname{sgn}(y)$$

$$y = c^T x$$

- Our conditions become

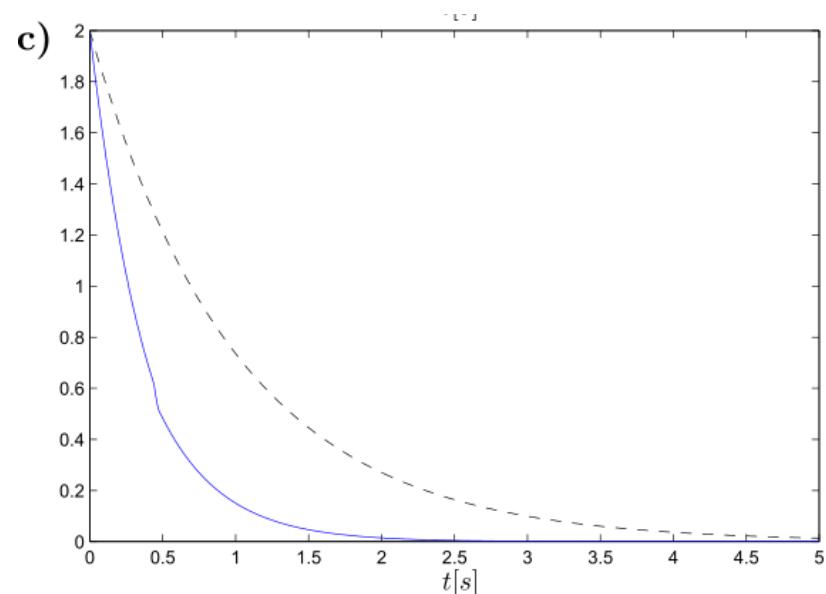
$$\mu(A) \leq -c_1$$

$$\mu(-bc^T) = 0$$

- Using Euclidean norm
they become the same as
those from the well-known
Kalman-Yakubovich Lemma

$$PA + A^T P < 0$$

$$Pb = c$$



Thank you for your attention.

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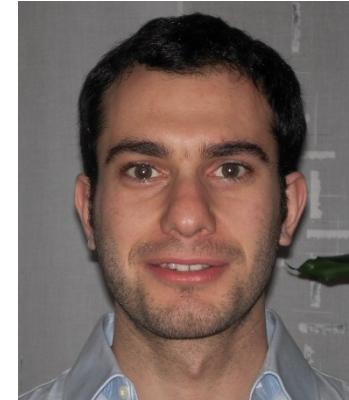
S. John Hogan



Mario Coraggio



Pietro De Lellis



Davide Liuzza