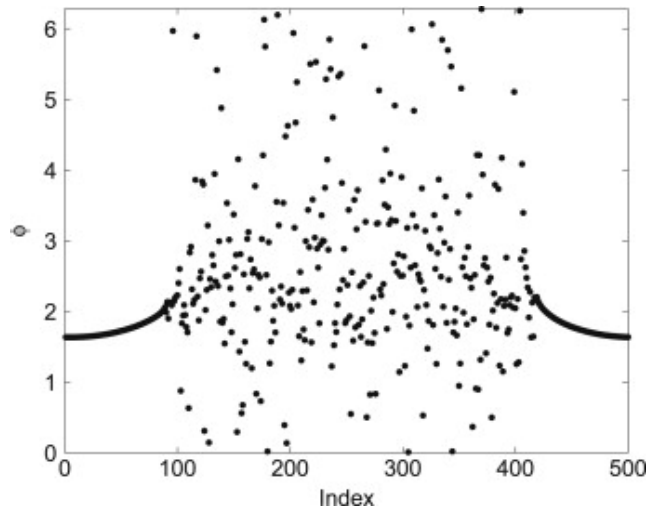


# Synchronization Phenomena & Chimera States in Coupled Oscillator Networks

**A. Provata**

**Institute of Nanoscience and Nanotechnology  
National Center for Scientific Research “Demokritos”**

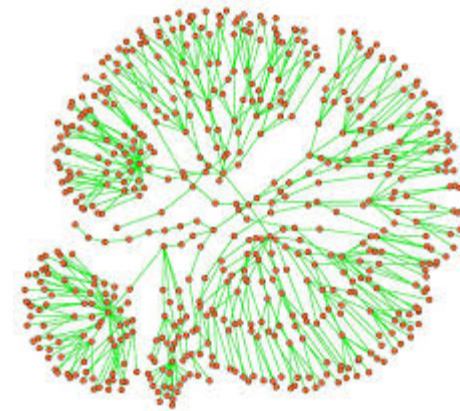
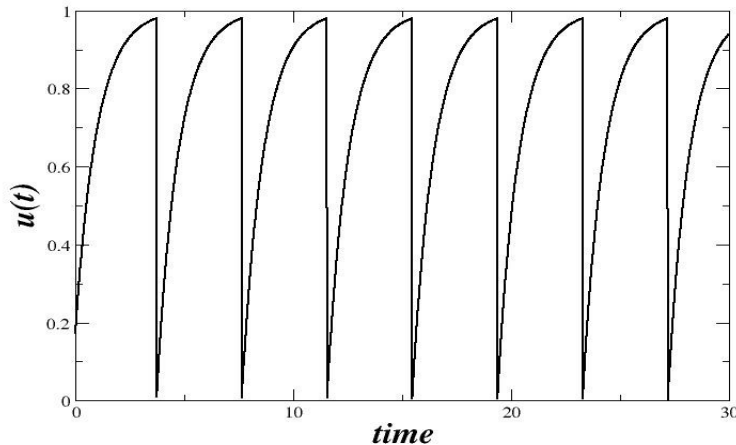
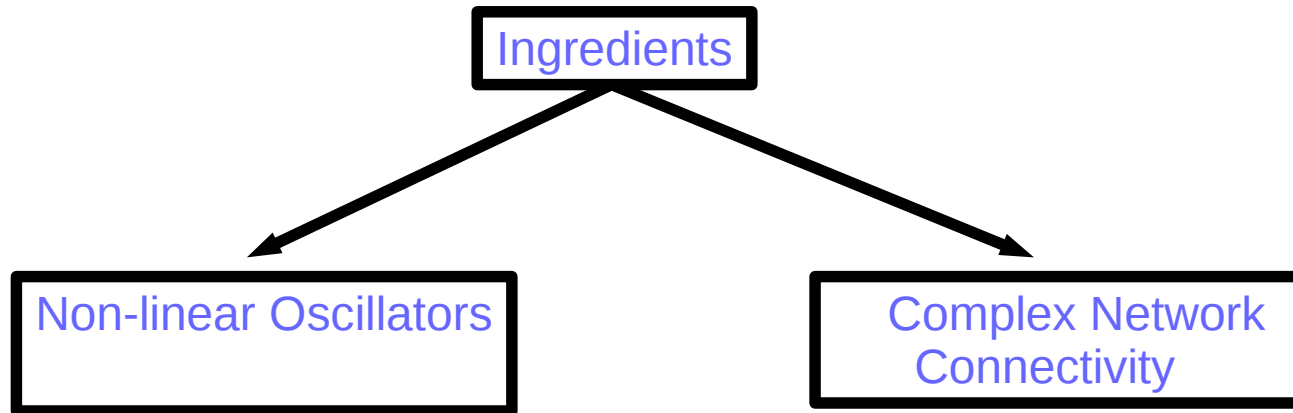


**26<sup>th</sup> Summer School-Conference on  
“Dynamical Systems and Complexity”  
NTUA, Athens 2019**

# Overview:

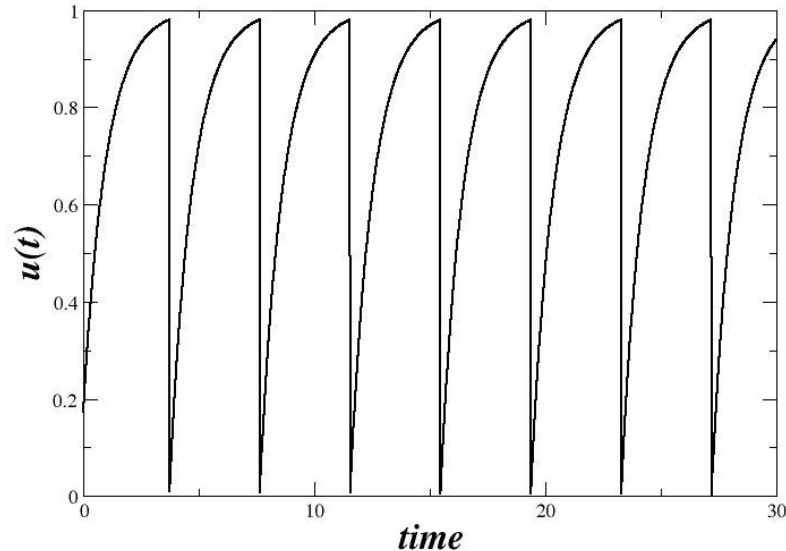
1. Introduction & Motivation
  - The System: Network and Dynamics
  - Dynamics and Synchronization phenomena:
  - What is a chimera state?
  - Applications in Brain Science et al.
2. The Leaky Integrate-and-Fire (LIF) Model
  - Nonlocal Connectivity
  - Other connectivities (Reflecting, Diagonal)
  - Hierarchical Connectivity
  - Non-local connectivity 2D & 3D
3. The FitzHugh Nagumo (FHN) Model
  - Non-local Connectivity 1D
  - Hierarchical Connectivity
4. Conclusions & Open Problems

# 1.1 Coupled Networks and Dynamics



$$\frac{du_i(t)}{dt} = f[u_i(t)] + \sum_{j=1}^N \sigma_{ij} [u_j(t) - u_i(t)]$$

## 1.4 Dynamics of Single Oscillators & Synchronization phenomena



**Single Element**  
**!!!Spiking!!!**

**Coupled system**

- **Single frequency!!!** or
- Distribution of frequencies and/or
- Distribution of parameters and/or
- Distribution of coupling constants

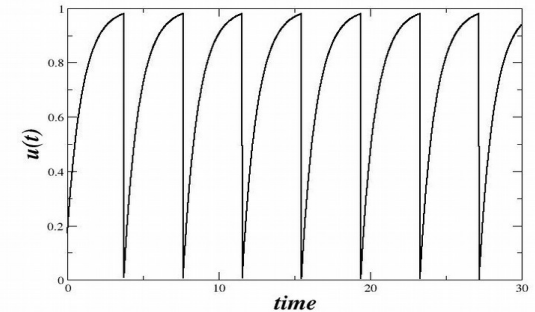
# Typical models of nonlinear **neuron!** oscillators

Leaky Integrate-and-Fire  
Model  
(Louis Lapicque, 1907)

$$\frac{du(t)}{dt} = \mu - u(t)$$

$$u(t) \rightarrow 0, \text{ when } u(t) > u_{th}$$

**2** parameters

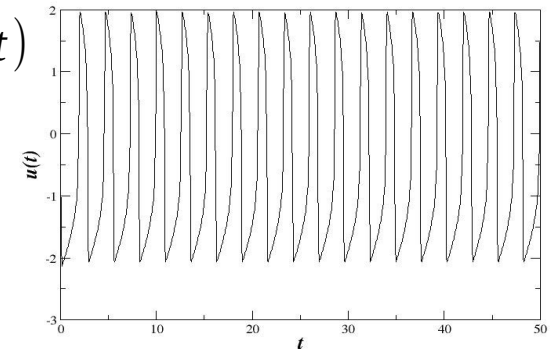


FitzHugh-Nagumo  
Model  
(1961-1962)

$$\epsilon \frac{du(t)}{dt} = u(t) - \frac{u^3(t)}{3} - v(t) + I(t)$$

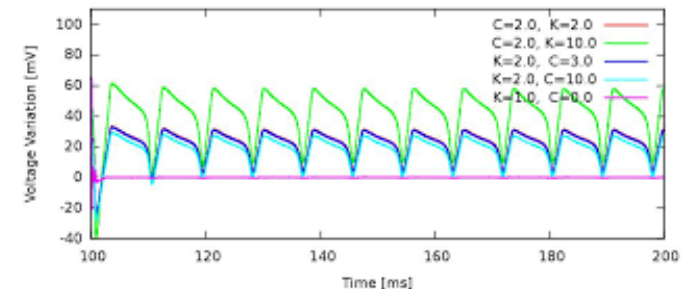
$$\frac{dv(t)}{dt} = u(t) + \alpha$$

**2** parameters

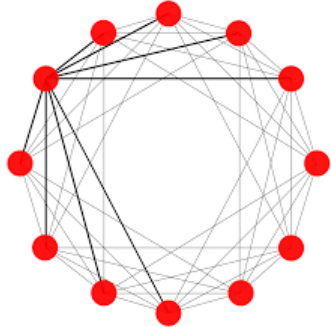


Hodgkin-Huxley Model  
(1952)

**5** equations  
**16** parameters



# 1.5 Synchronization phenomena

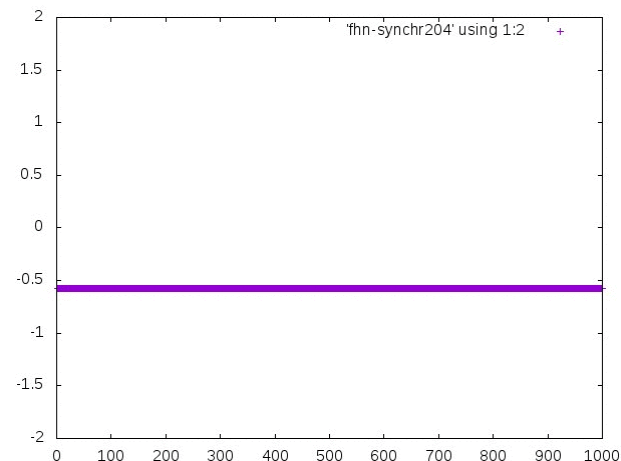


## 1. Full synchronization:

Starting from random initial states

$$u_i(t=0) \neq u_j(t=0), i, j=1, 2, \dots, N,$$

$$\exists t_0 : u_i(t) = u_j(t) \quad \forall t \text{ \& \ } \forall (i, j), \text{ for } t > t_0$$

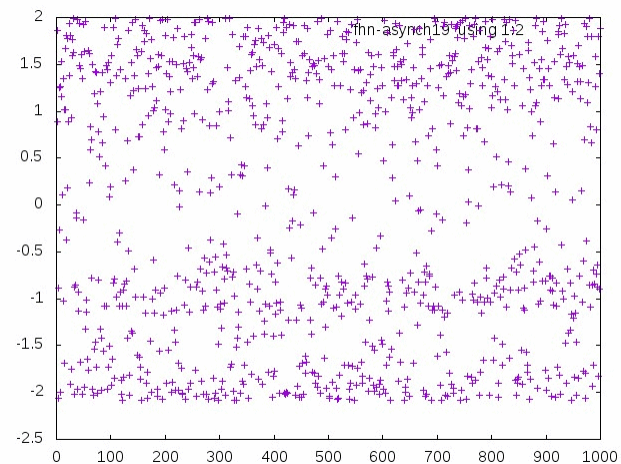


## 2. No-synchronization:

Starting from random initial states

$$u_i(t=0) \neq u_j(t=0), i, j=1, 2 \dots N,$$

$$\Rightarrow u_i(t) \neq u_j(t) \quad \forall t \text{ and } \forall (i, j)$$



### 3. Partial synchronization:

Starting from random initial states  
and identical oscillators &  $\sigma_{ij} = \sigma$

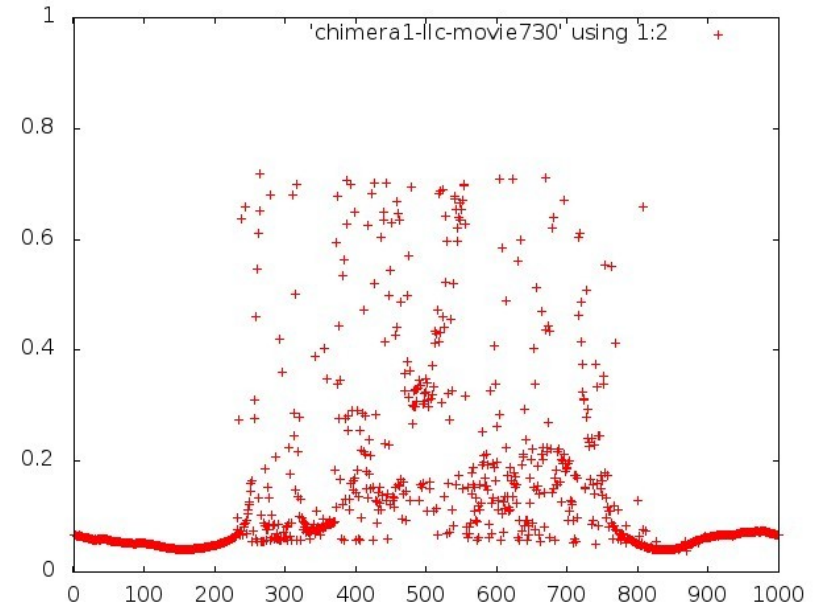
$$u_i(t=0) \neq u_j(t=0), i, j = 1, 2 \dots N$$

$$\forall t_0 \text{ \& \{K\}=[K, K+1, K+2, \dots, K+K']}$$

$$: u_l(t) = u_m(t) \quad \forall (l,m) \in \{K\}, \text{ for } t > t_0$$

while

$$u_i(t) \neq u_j(t) \quad \forall (i,j) \notin \{K\}, \text{ for } t > t_0$$



??? Partial Brain Activity ???  
???Fundamental Understanding of Chimeras???

# 1. 6 Elements of Chimera States

(Abrams and Strogatz in 2004)

Elements:

- identical oscillators
- identically linked in networks
- random initial conditions

Outcomes:

- \*Complete Synchronization
- ++ Partial synchronization  
(or partial disorder...)  
“Chimera State”
- \*Complete disorder



Chimera monster: with head of a lion, body of a goat, and tail of a snake.

Red-figure Apulian plate, c. 350–340 BC

- 2002: Kuramoto and Battogtokh, *Nonlin. Phen. in Complex Sys.*, 5:380.
- 2004: Abrams and Strogatz, *Phys. Rev. Lett.*, 93:174102.
- 2015: Panaggio and Abrams, *Nonlinearity*, 28:R67 (review).
- 2016: Schöll, *EPJ-ST*, 225:891 (review).
- 2018: Omel'chenko, *Nonlinearity*, 31 (5), R121 (review).



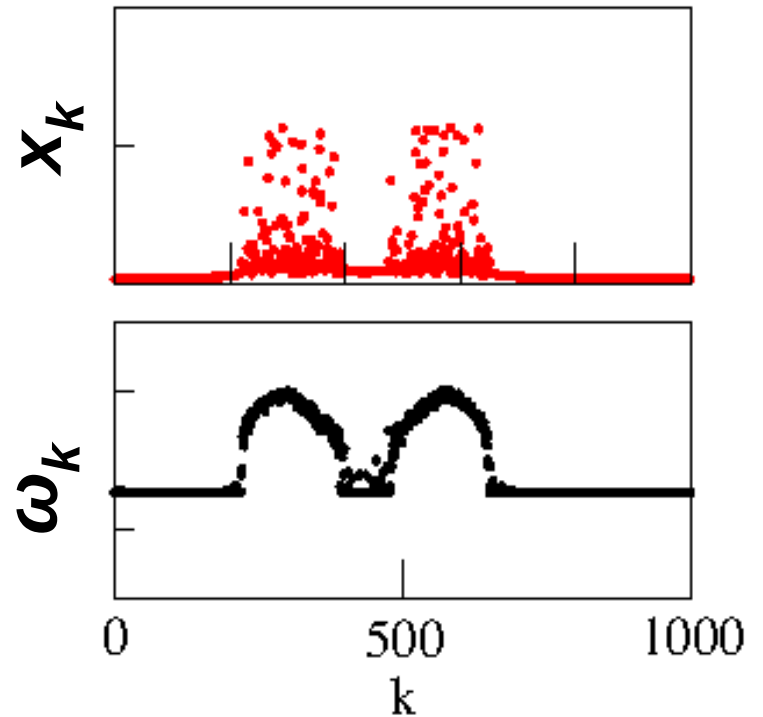
## Quantitative Description

$$\omega_i = \frac{\text{Number of cycles of element } i \text{ in time } \Delta T}{2\pi \Delta T}$$

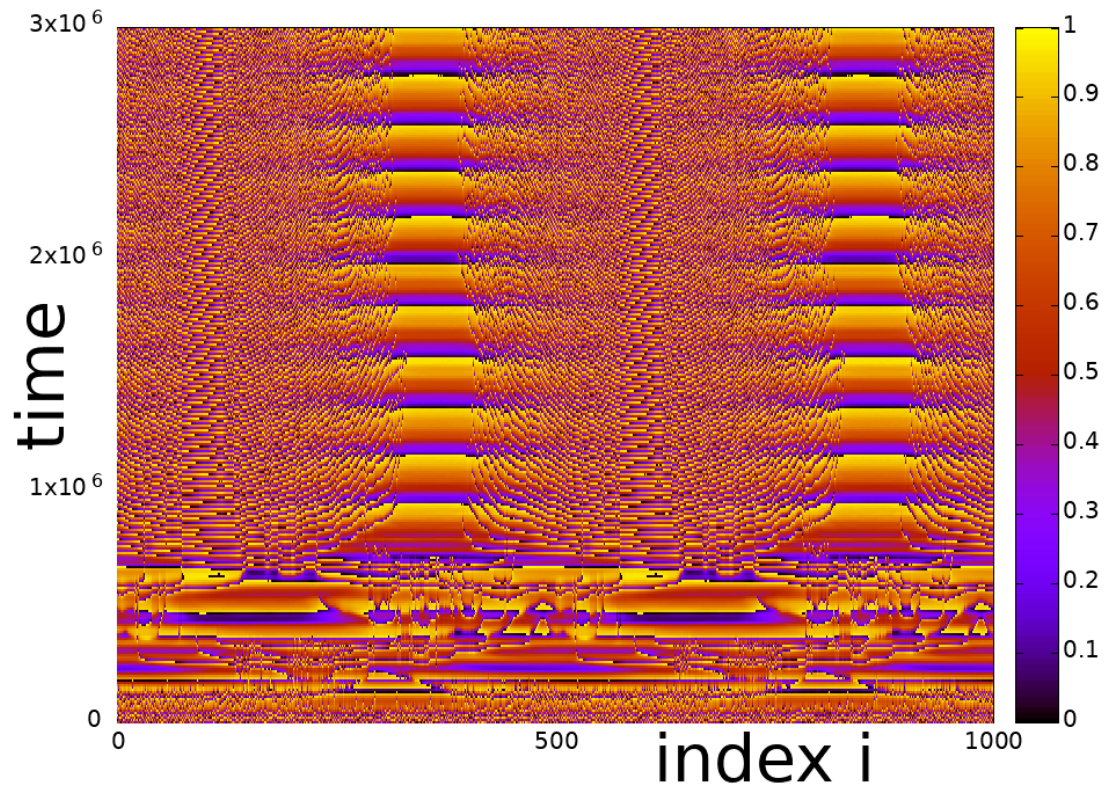
$$\Delta \omega = \omega_{incoh} - \omega_{coh}$$

$$N_{incoh} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \Theta(\omega_i - \omega_{coh} - c)$$

$$M_{incoh} = \sum_{i=1}^N (\omega_i - \omega_{coh})$$



## Visual representation via the space-time plot



# 1.7 Experiments

Now it has **experimental** verifications in the domains:

\*Mechanics: Coupled metronomes

(*Martens et al, Proc. Nat. Acad. Sciences, 2013*)

(*Blaha, Burrus,... Sorrentino, Chaos, 2017*)

\*Electronics: Equivalent circuits

(*Meena et al., Int. Jour. Bifurcations and Chaos, 2016*)

(*Klinshov ... Nekorkin, Phys. Rev. E, 2016*)

\*Chemical Dynamics: BZ experiments

(*Tinsley .... Showalter, Nature Physics, 2012*),

(*Taylor ... Showalter, Phys.Chem.ChemPhys. 2016*).

\*Lasers: Optical coupled-map lattices via liquid-crystal spatial light modulators

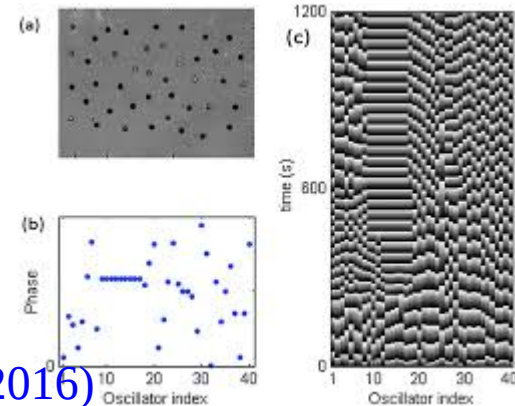
(*Hagerstrom et al., Nature Physics, 2012*)

(*Viktorov, Habruseva, ...Kelleher, CLEO-IQEC-2013*).

\*Uni-hemispheric sleep in birds and dolphins (*Panaggio and Abrams, 2015*)

\* Partial & mal-functionality of the brain-Epilepsy (*Mormann et al, 2012, Anderjack et al., 2016*)

\* Synchronization phenomena in the firing of fireflies etc (*Ott, Antonsen, Chaos 2017*)



**Videos:**

<https://www.quantamagazine.org/physicists-discover-exotic-patterns-of-synchronization-20190404/>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_3q6ni6C0Z4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_3q6ni6C0Z4)

# 1.8 Applications in Neuron Dynamics

Partial Synchronisation in the form of Chimera States is first numerically observed in the domain of **neuron dynamics**:

- \* Phase Oscillator (*Kuramoto et al. 2002, Abrams et al. 2004*)
- \* FitzHugh Nagumo Oscillator (*Omelchenko et al, 2013, 2014, 2015*)
- \* Leaky Integrate-and-Fire (*Olmi et al., 2010, Luccioli et al. 2010, Tsigkri et al. 2015*)
- \* van der Pol oscillators (*Ulonska et al., 2016*)
- \* Hindmarsh-Rose Oscillator (*Hizanidis et al., 2014, 2016*) .....

## Population Dynamics & Reaction Diffusion:

- \* BZ Reaction: (*Tinsley ... Showalter, Nature Physics, 2012*)
- \* Population Dynamics (*Hizanidis ..., PRE 2015*)

## Materials:

- \* Metamaterials: (*Lazarides et al., 2015; Hizanidis et al. 2016; Shena et al. 2017*)

### Importance & Influence of :

a) Dynamics

Spiking

Cut-offs

System parameters

b) Network Topology

Nonlocal Connectivity

Topology of connections

Coupling strength

## 2.1 The Leaky Integrate-and-Fire Model (Louis Lapicque, 1907)

[propagation of electrical signals in neurons, simple,  
popular in computational neuroscience]

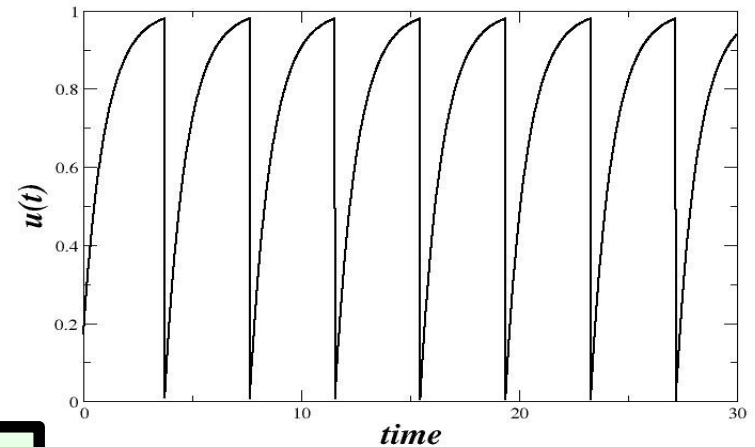
$$\frac{du(t)}{dt} = \mu - u(t)$$

$$u(t) \rightarrow u_{rest}, \text{ when } u(t) > u_{th}$$

$$u(t) = \mu - (\mu - u_{rest})e^{-t}$$

for  $u_{rest} < u(t) < u_{th}$

$u(t)$  = membrane potential  
 $p_r$  = refractory period  
 $\mu$  = leaky integrator constant

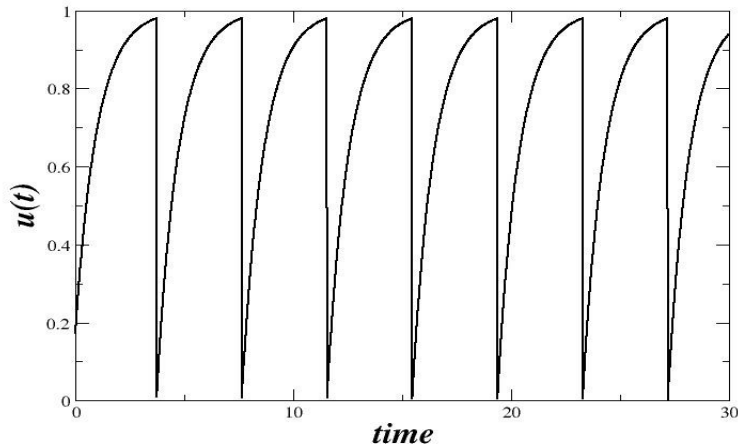


$$p_r = 0$$

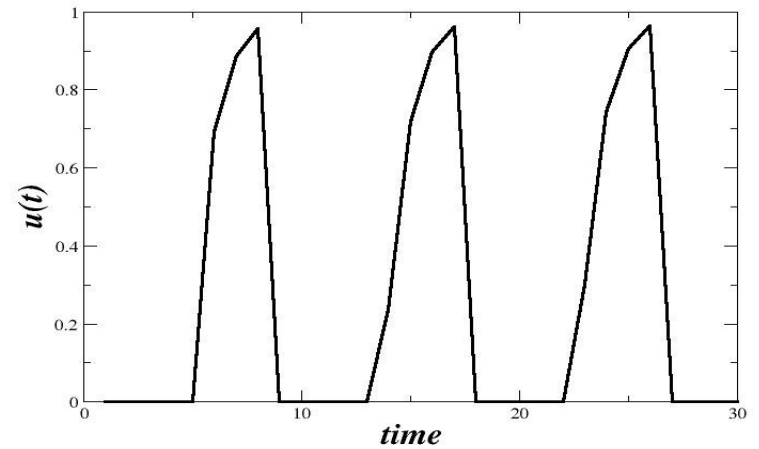
# LIF Model with refractory period

$$T = \ln \frac{\mu - u_{rest}}{\mu - u_{th}}$$

$$T = \ln \frac{\mu - u_{rest}}{\mu - u_{th}} + p_r$$



$$p_r = 0$$



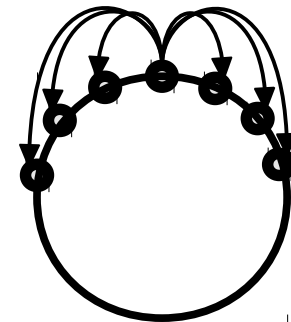
$$p_r \neq 0$$

## 2.2 Coupled LIF oscillators in various connectivity schemes

$$\frac{du_i(t)}{dt} = \mu - u_i(t) + \frac{1}{R} \sum_{j=\text{connect.}} \sigma_{ij} [u_i(t) - u_j(t)]$$

$$u_i(t) \rightarrow 0, \text{ when } u_i(t) > u_{th}$$

non-local



$\sigma_{ij}$  = coupling strength,  $[\sigma, 0]$

$\mu = 1$

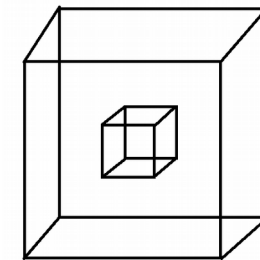
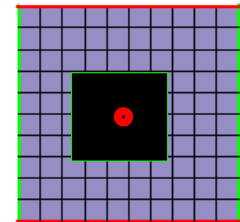
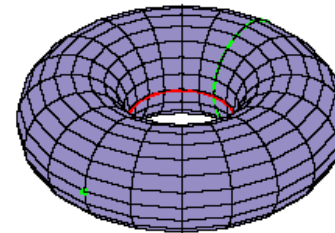
$u_{th} = 0.98$

\*Periodic boundary conditions:

1D  $\rightarrow$  ring

2D  $\rightarrow$  torus

3D  $\rightarrow$  hypertorus



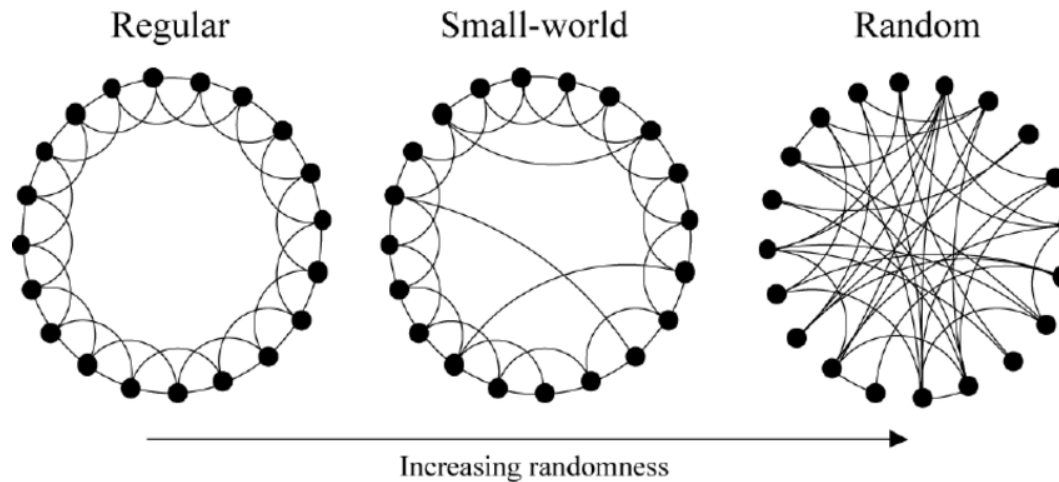
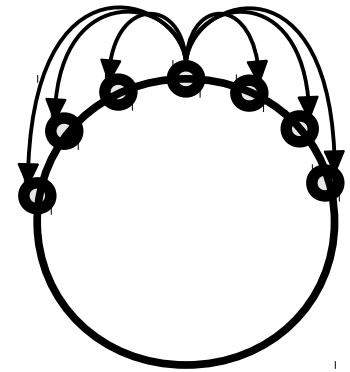
1D

\*Variables:  $\sigma, p_r, \text{ geometry}$

## 2.2 Coupled LIF oscillators.... (continued)

$$\frac{du_i(t)}{dt} = \mu - u_i(t) + \frac{1}{R} \sum_{j=connect.} \sigma_{ij} [u_j(t) - u_i(t)]$$

$$u_i(t) \rightarrow 0, \text{ when } u_i(t) > u_{th}$$



$\sigma_{ij}$  = coupling strength,  $\mu = 1$ ,  $u_{th} = 0.98$ ,  $N = 1000$   
 \*Periodic boundary conditions on a ring  
 \*Variables:  $\sigma$ ,  $p_r$ , geometry



## 2.3 Coupled LIF Oscillators in 1D ( ring)

$$\frac{du_i(t)}{dt} = \mu - u_i(t) + \frac{\sigma}{2R} \sum_{j=i-R}^{i+R} [u_i(t) - u_j(t)]$$

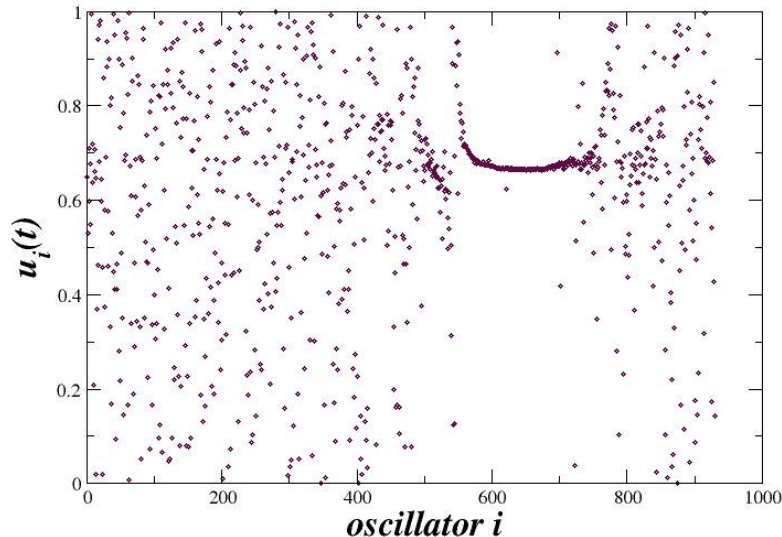
$$u_i(t) \rightarrow 0, \text{ when } u_i(t) > u_{th}$$

$$\sigma = 0.656$$

$$R = 350$$

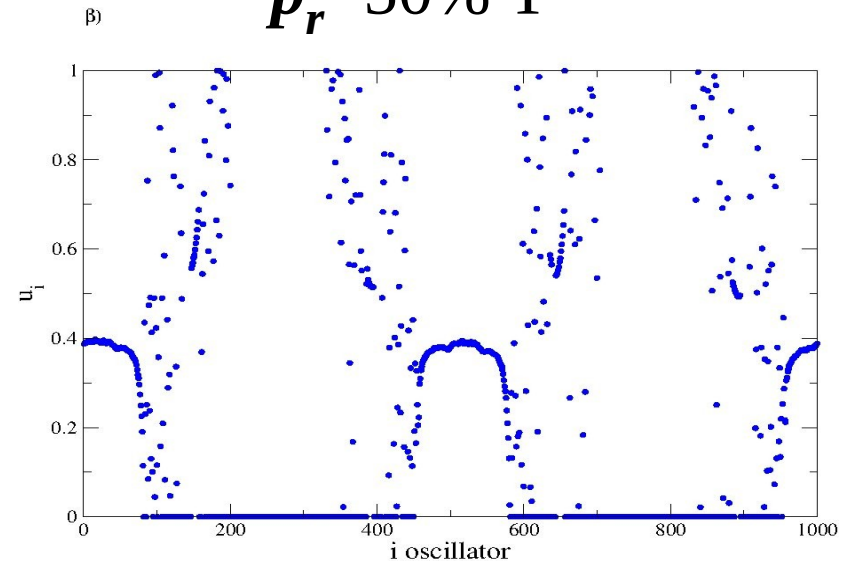
a) Without refractory period  
=> single chimera

$$p_r = 0$$



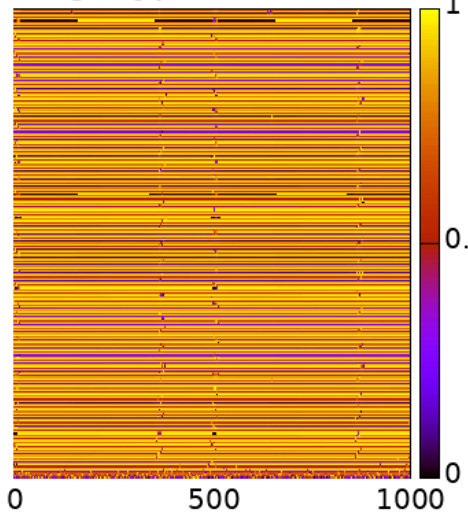
b) With refractory period  
=> multi-chimera

$$p_r = 50\% T$$

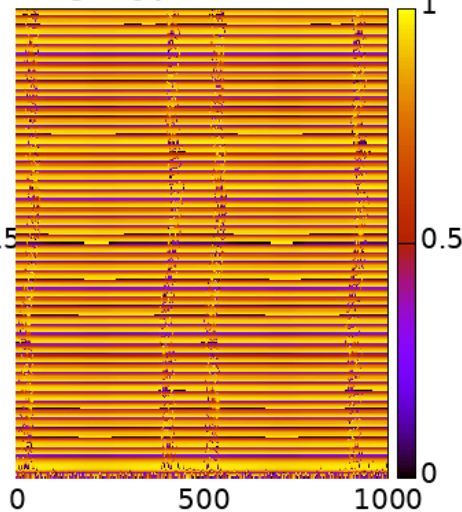


# Coupled LIF Oscillators: Influence of coupling strength

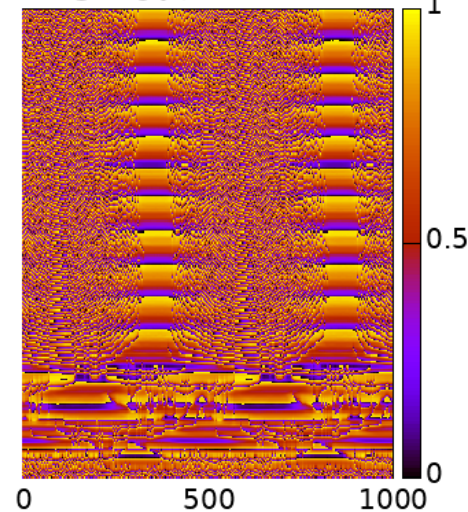
$\sigma=0.2$



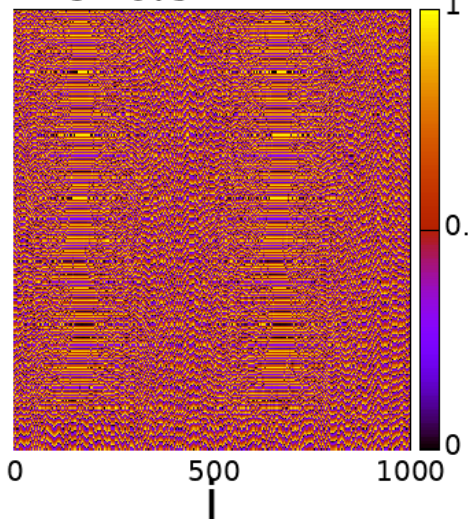
$\sigma=0.4$



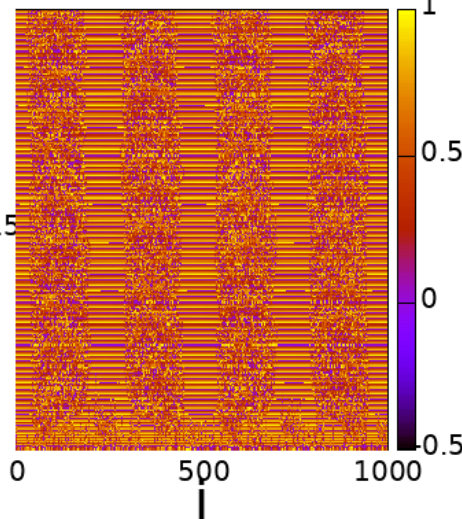
$\sigma=0.6$



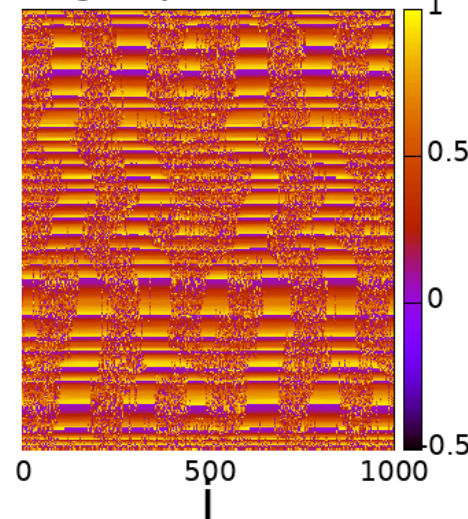
$\sigma=0.8$



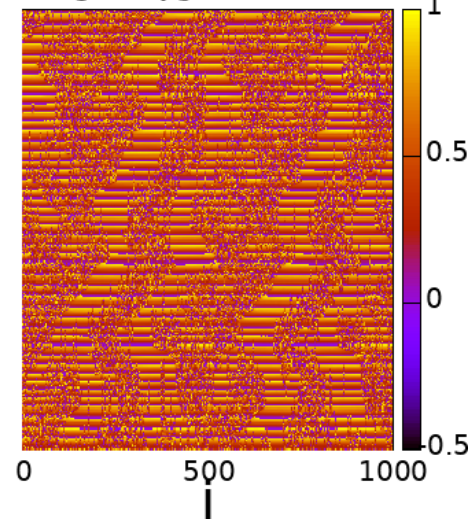
$\sigma=1.7$

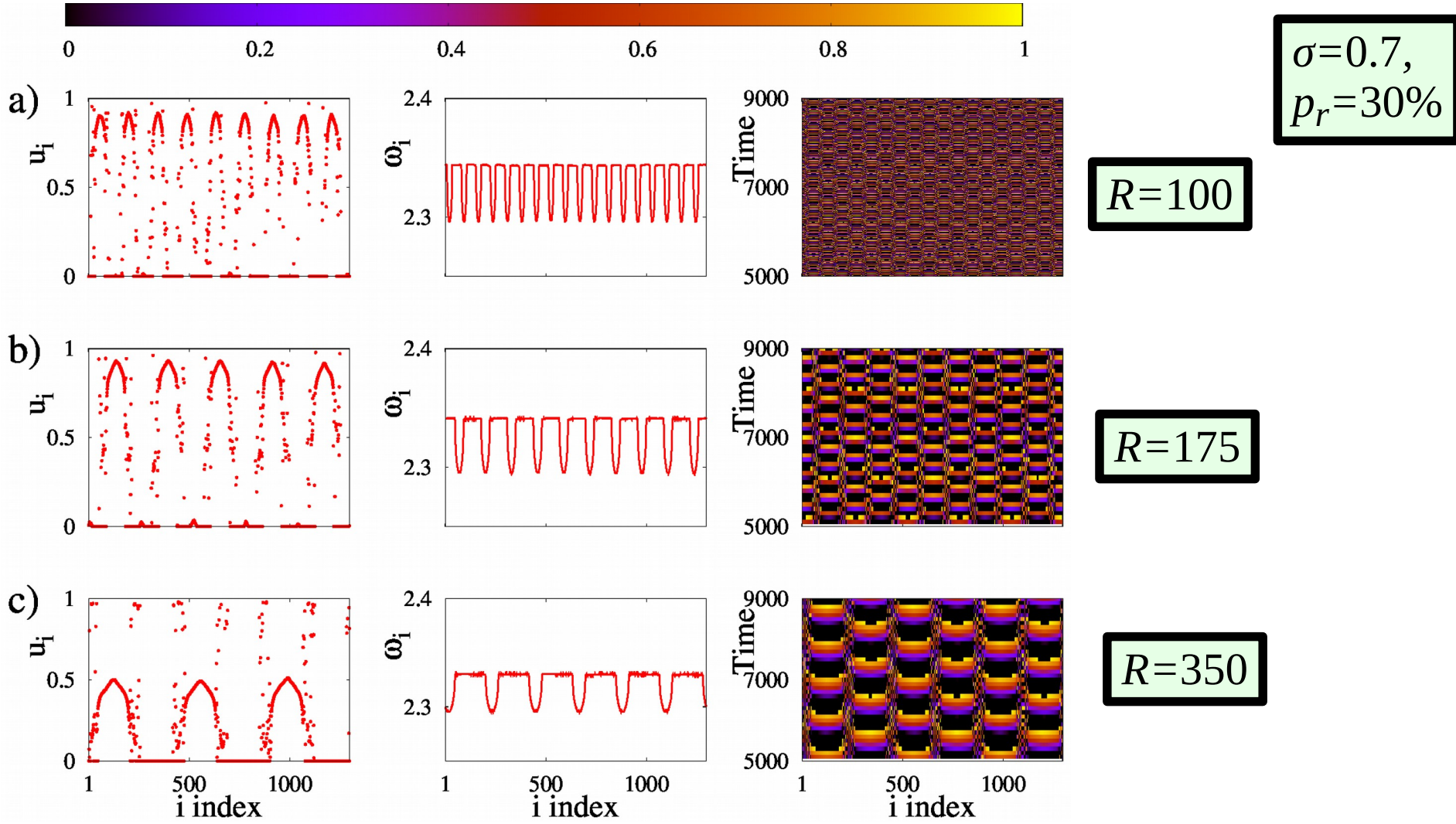


$\sigma=1.8$



$\sigma=1.8$

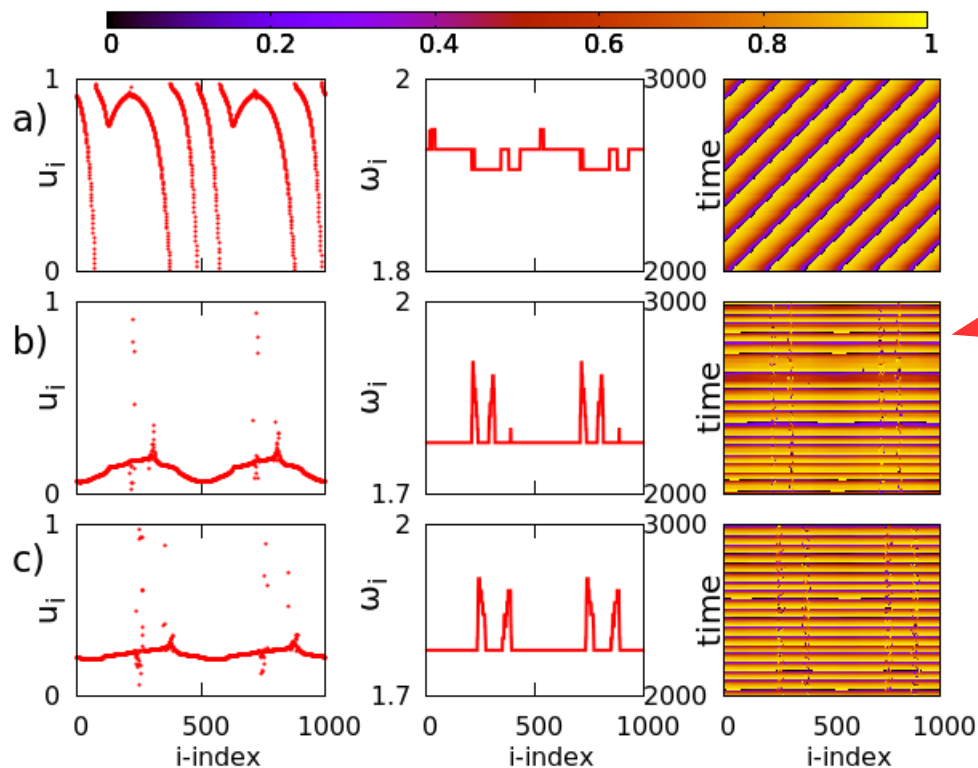




As  $R \uparrow$  the number of (in)coherent parts decreases: Expected...  
 Parameter range for chimeras :  $\sigma \in (0.5, 0.8)$ ,  $p_r \in (0T_s, 1.0T_s)$

## 2.4 Reversion of coherence

### 2.4.1 Solitaries/Chimeras for small $\sigma < 1.0$



a)  $R = 10$   
( $d=0.041$ ),

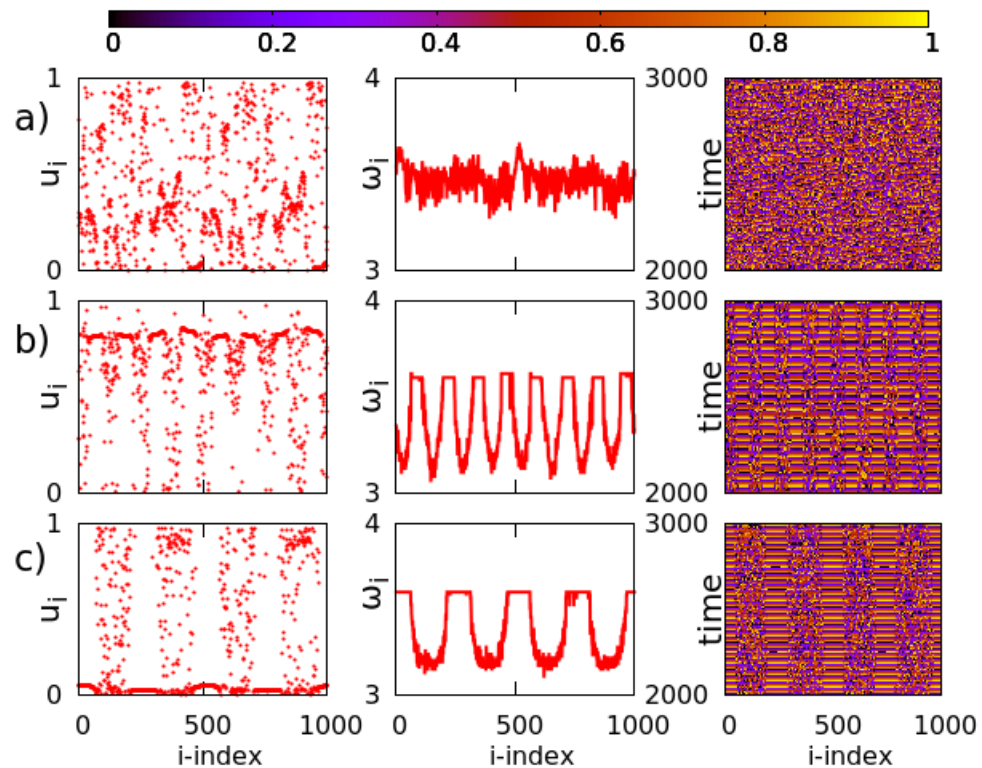
**instability**

b)  $R = 100$   
( $d=0.401$ )

c)  $R = 150$   
( $d=0.601$ ).

Other parameters are:  $\sigma = 0.4$ ,  $N = 1000$ ,  $\mu = 1$ . and  $u_{th} = 0.98$

## 2.4.2 Typical Chimeras $\sigma > 1.5$



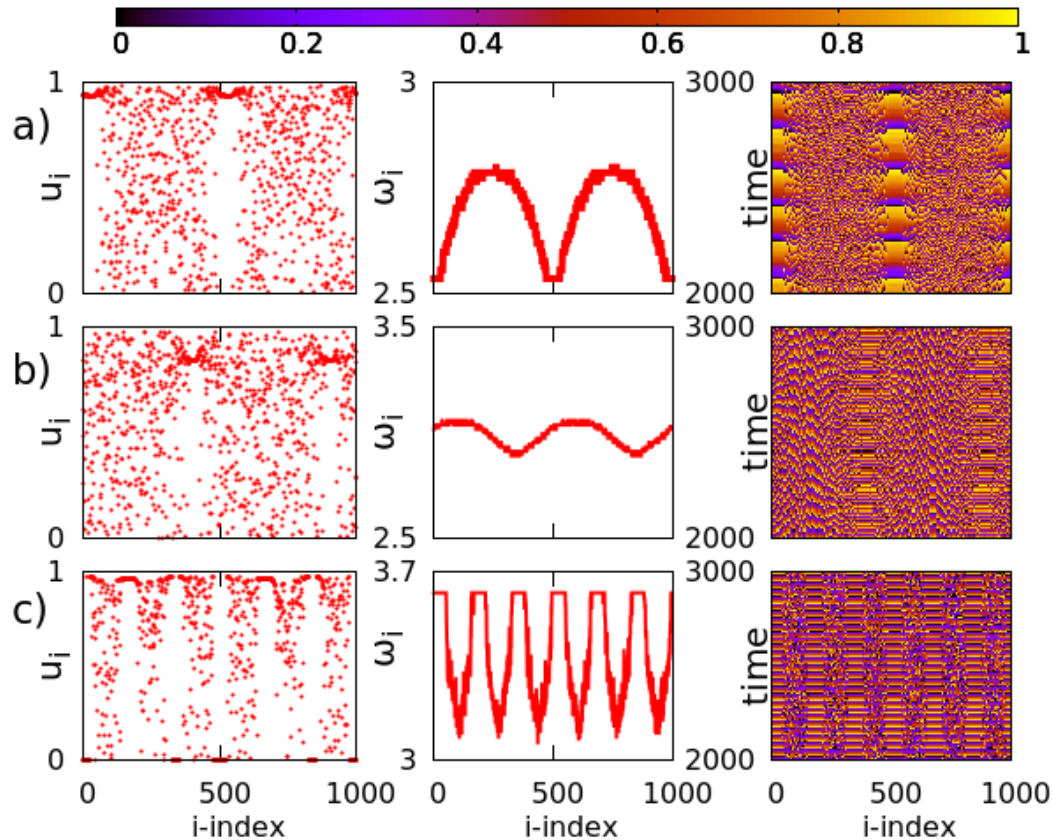
a)  $R = 10$   
( $d=0.041$ ),

b)  $R = 100$   
( $d=0.401$ )

c)  $R = 150$   
( $d=0.601$ ).

Other parameters are:  $\sigma = 1.6$ ,  $N = 1000$ ,  $\mu = 1$ . and  $u_{th} = 0.98$

## 2.4.3 Coherence reversion with $\sigma$



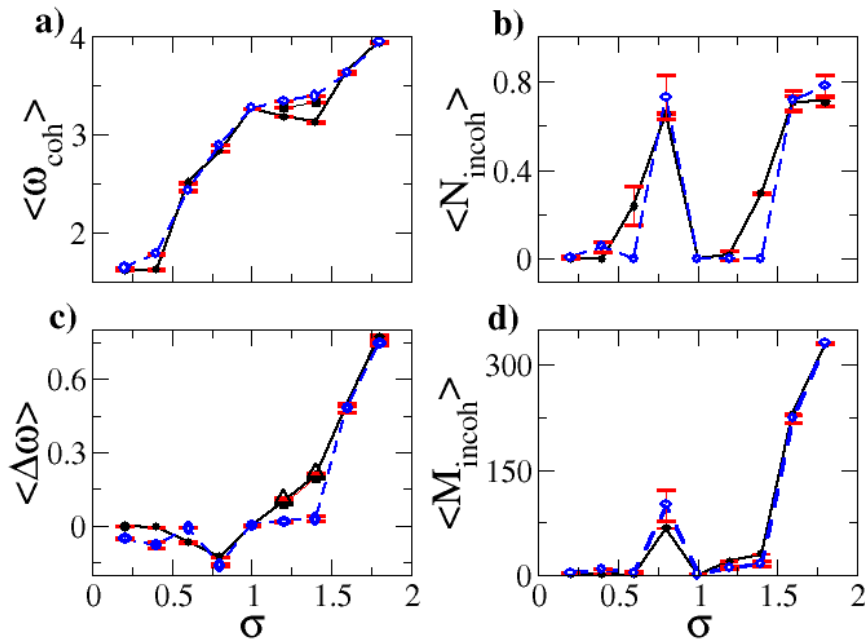
$\sigma = 0.6$

$\sigma = 0.8$

$\sigma = 1.6$

Other parameters are:  $R = 120$  ( $d = 0.481$ ),  $N = 1000$ ,  $\mu = 1$ . and  $u_{th} = 0.98$

## 2.4.4 Dependence on $\sigma$ (continued)

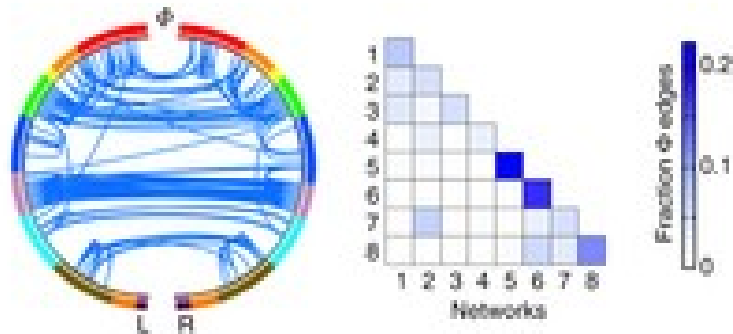
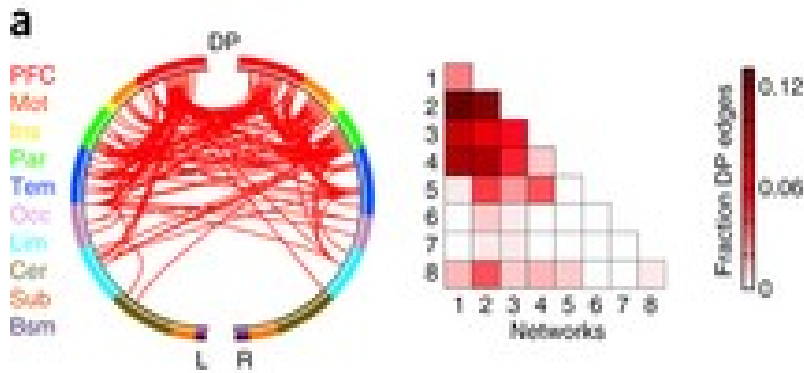
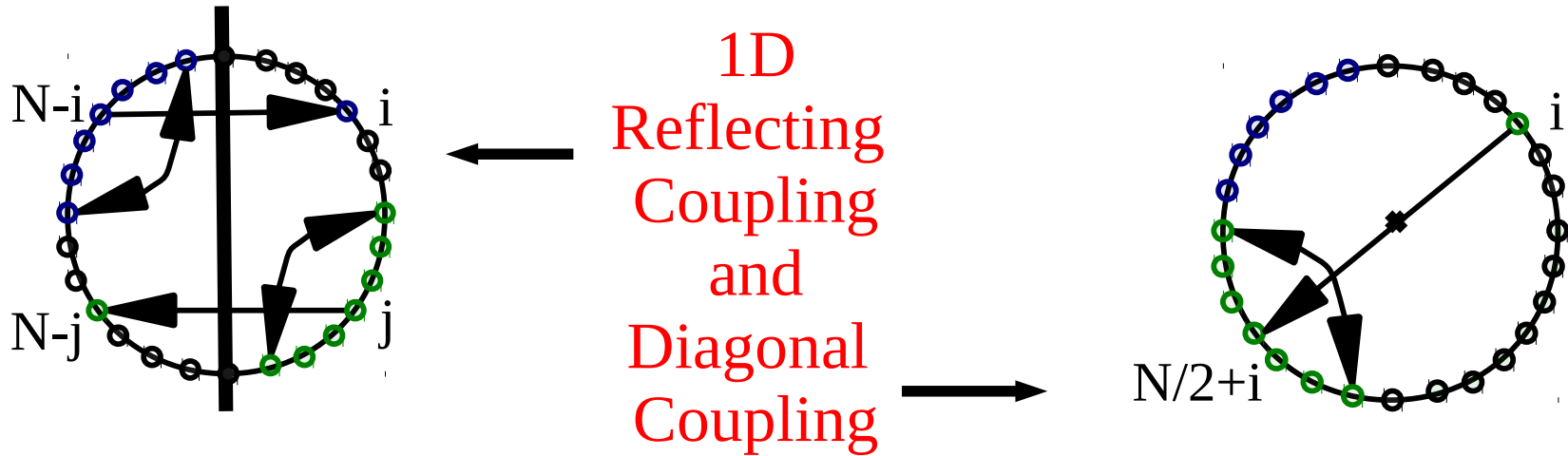


Transition  
is shown  
between

$1.0 < \sigma < 1.5$

Parameters are:  $R=120$  ( $d=0.481$ )-(blue-dashed lines)  
 $R=200$  ( $d=0.801$ )-(black-solid lines),  
 $N=1000$ ,  $\mu=1$ . and  $u_{\text{th}}=0.98$

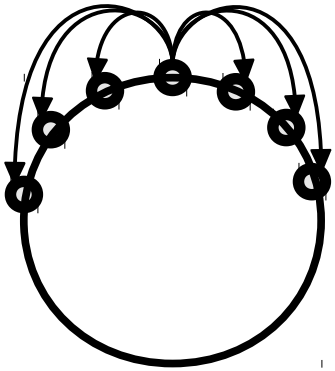
## 2.4 Coupled LIF oscillators in various connectivity schemes



*Finn et al.,  
Nature Neuroscience,  
Vol. 18, p. 1664 (2015)*

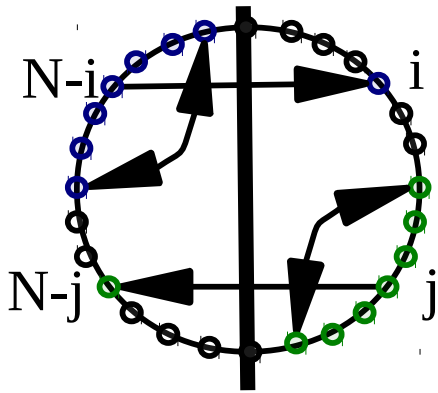


## 2.4 Coupled LIF ... connectivity schemes (continued)



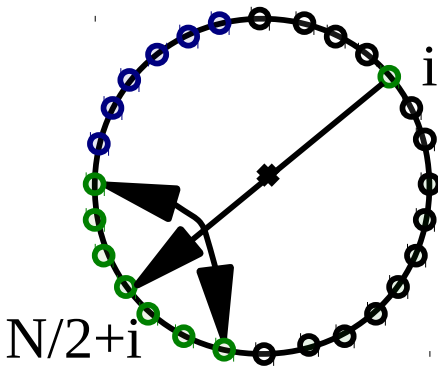
Non-local connectivity

$$\sigma_{ij} = \begin{cases} \sigma & \text{if } N-i-R \leq j \leq N-i-R \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$



Reflecting connectivity

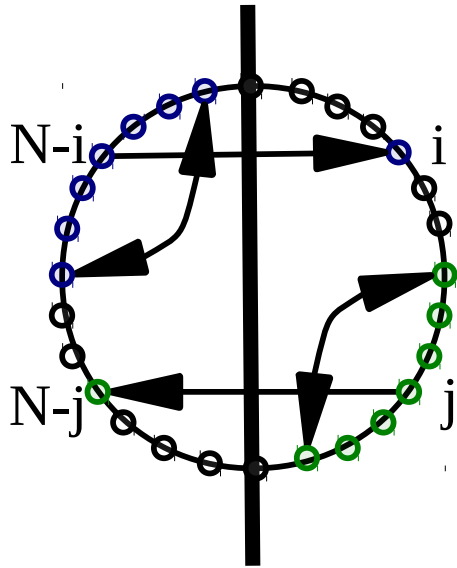
$$\sigma_{ij} = \begin{cases} \sigma & \text{if } N-i-R \leq j \leq N-i-R \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$



Diagonal connectivity

$$\sigma_{ij} = \begin{cases} \sigma & \text{if } \frac{N}{2}+i-R \leq j \leq \frac{N}{2}+i-R \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

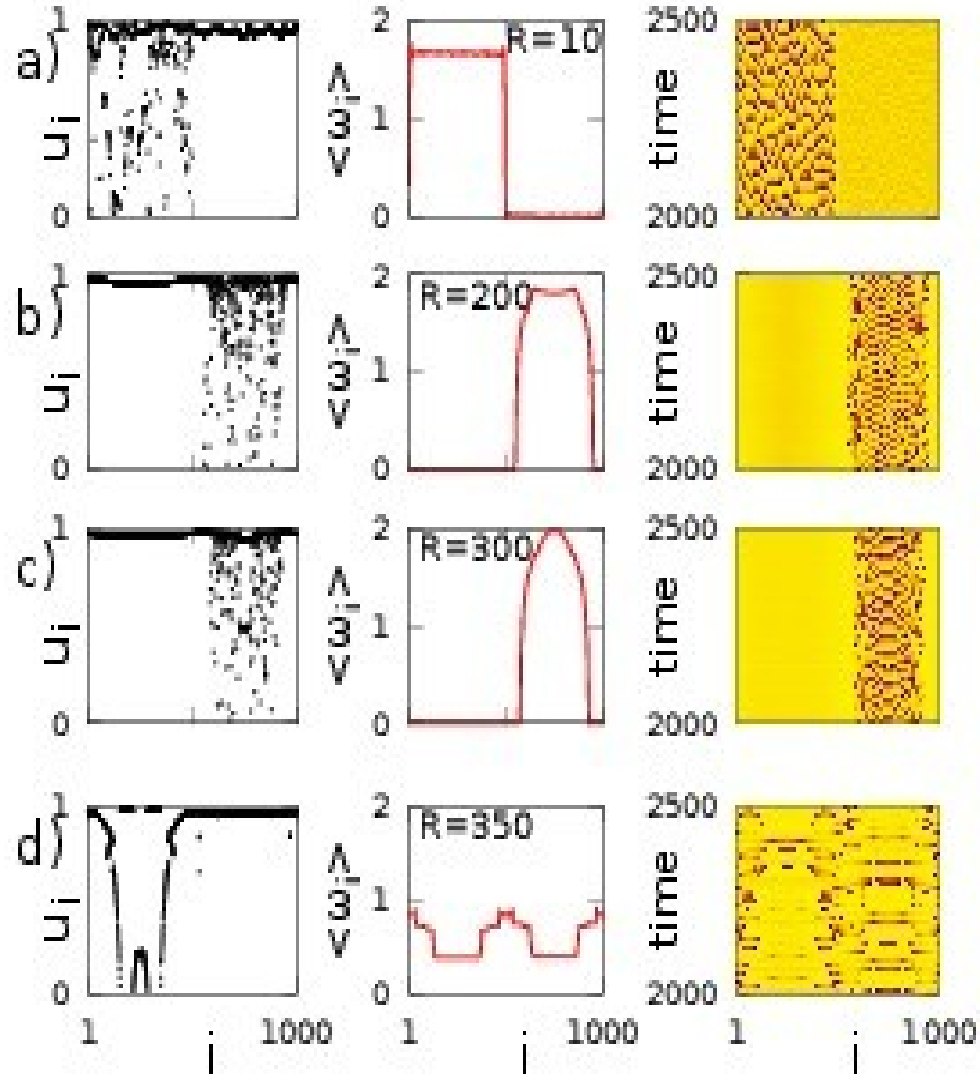
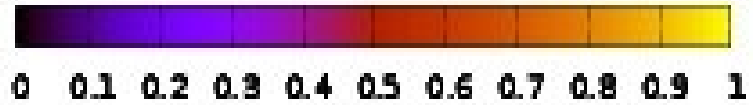
## 2.5 Reflecting Connectivity

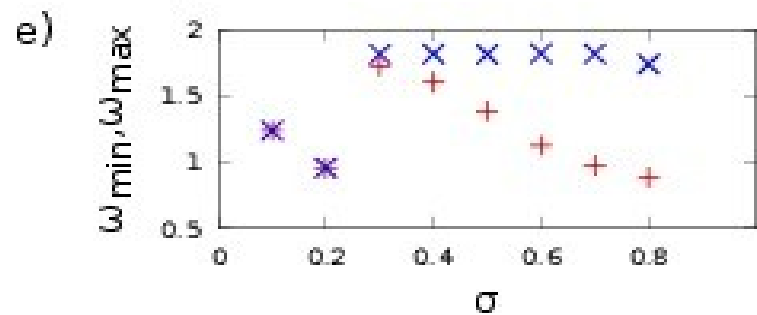
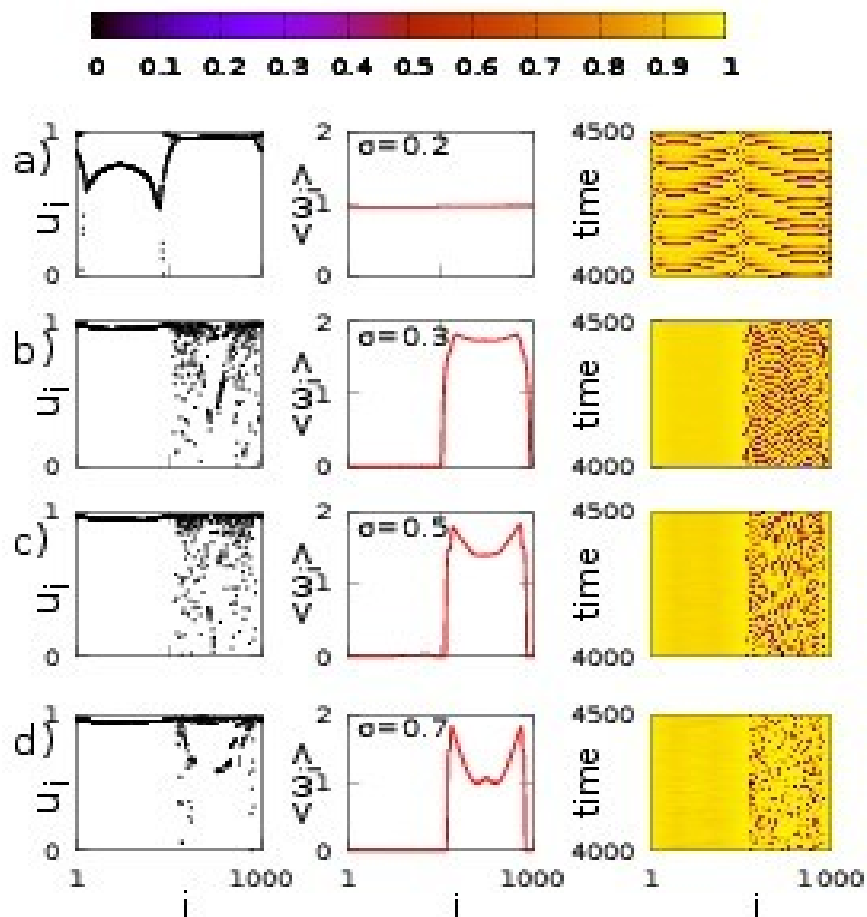


**Confinement Phenomena:** The activity gets confined in one semi-ring for small values of  $R$ . In the other semi-ring the elements stay near-threshold.

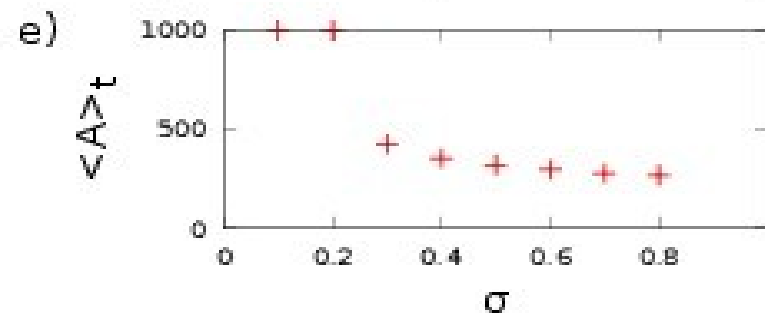
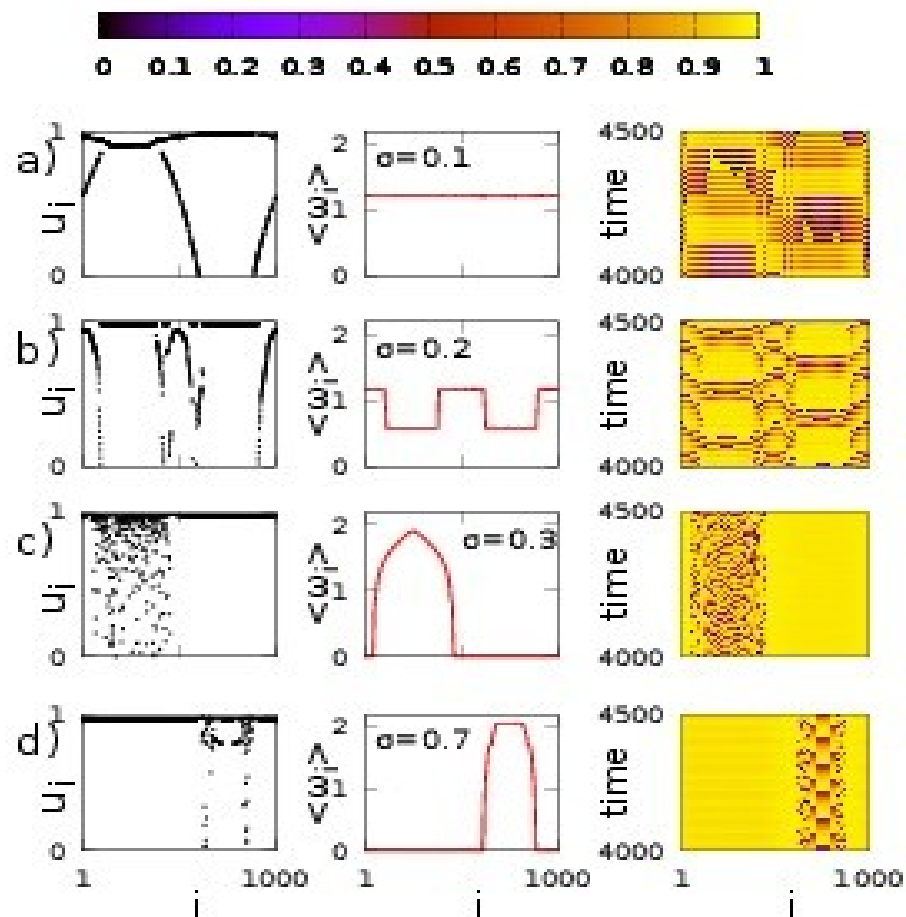
When  $R \rightarrow N$  the activity extends to the entire system.

( $\sigma=0.4, p_r=0, N=1000, \mu=1.0$ )

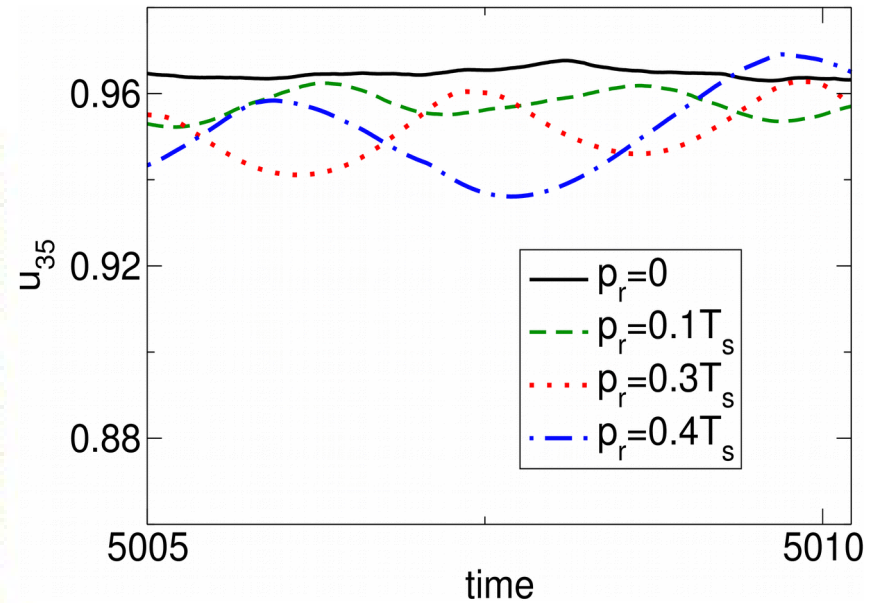
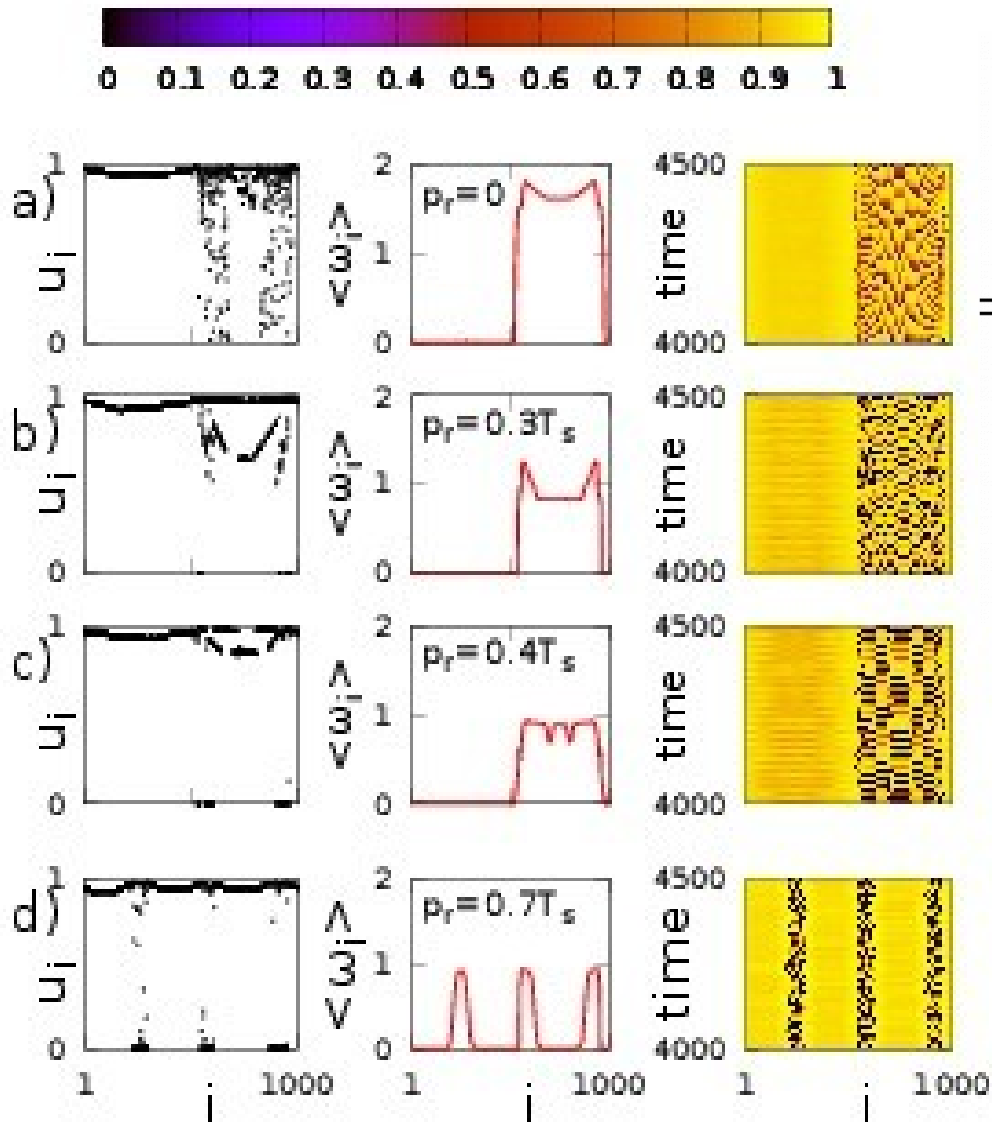




( $R=100$ )



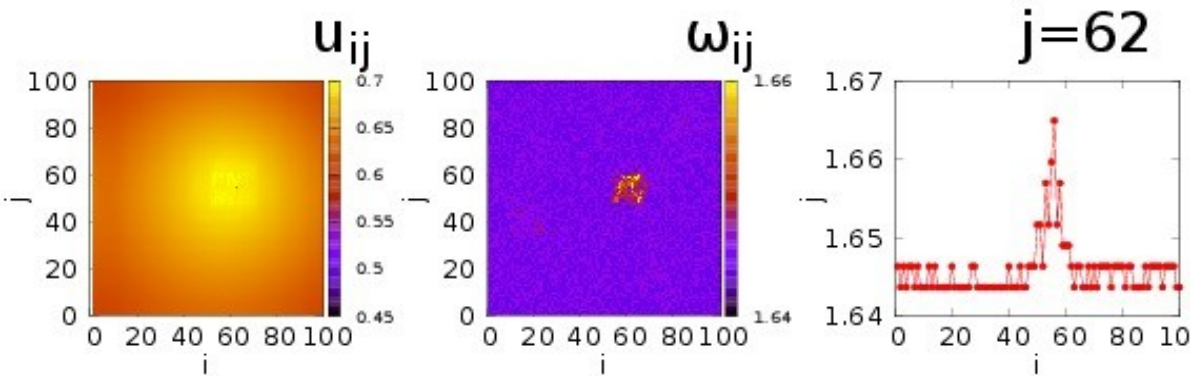
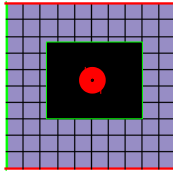
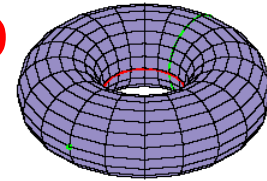
( $R=300$ )



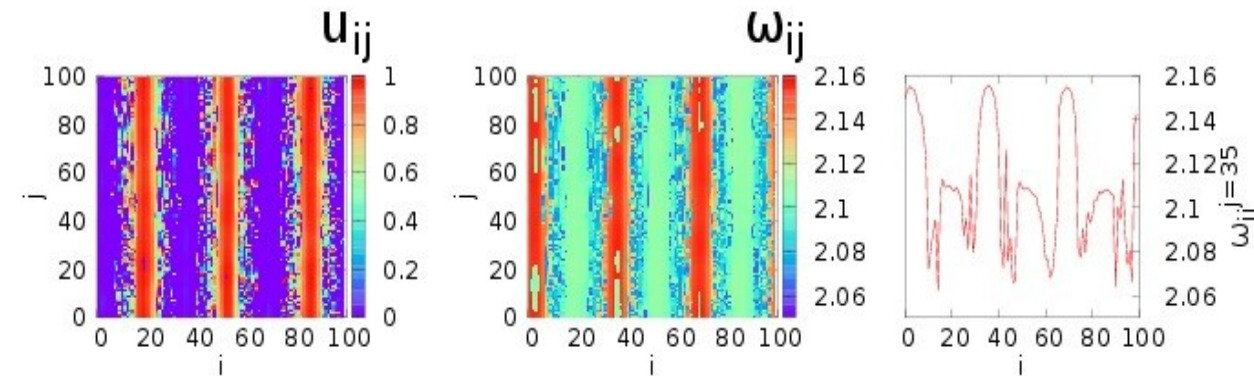
*The near-threshold elements are not totally immobile, they perform short **chaotic** oscillations but stay near the threshold OR **near their displaced fixed point!!!!***

$\sigma=0.4, R=100, N=1000, \mu=1.0$  and  $u_{th}=0.98$

## 2.6. Nontrivial generalizations in 2D & 3D



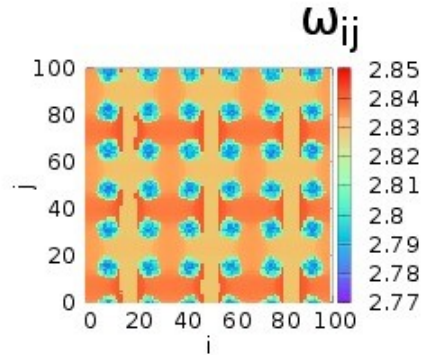
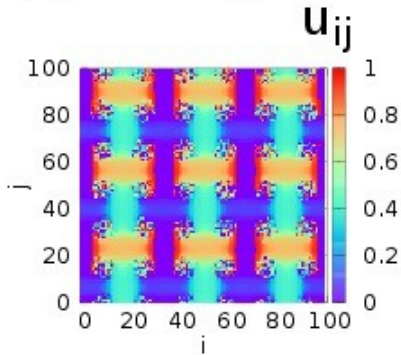
Direct generalization  
of 1D  
( $\sigma=0.1, R=10, p_r=0T_s$ )



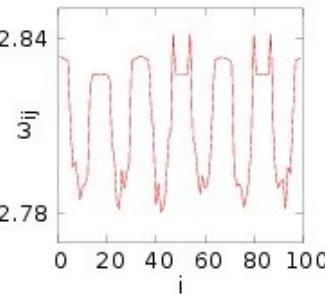
Generalization of 1D but:  
+ 2 coherent classes!  
( $\sigma=0.6, R=20, p_r=0.6T_s$ )

System size:  $N=100 \times 100, \mu=1.0$

(a)  $\sigma=0.7$   $N_R=2208$



section for  $j=15$

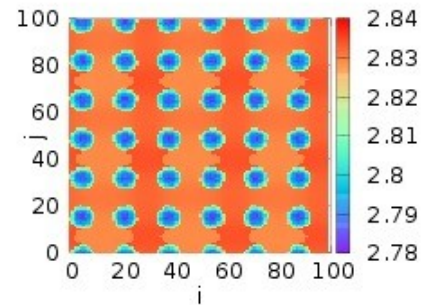
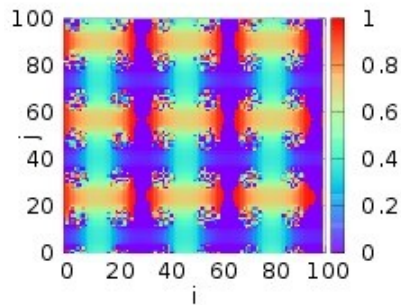


**Grid:** cannot exist in 1D

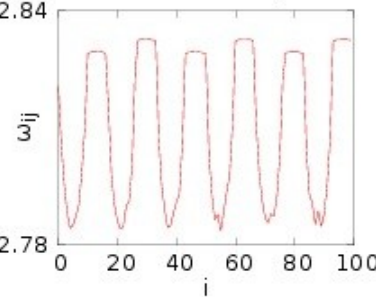
As the region of interaction  $R$  increases:

- multiplicity does **not** change
- grouping of coherent regions takes place
- the groups become more distinct as  $R$  increases

(b)  $\sigma=0.7$   $N_R=2600$

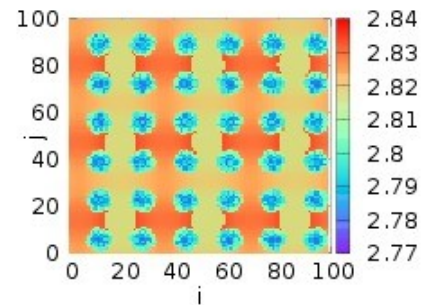
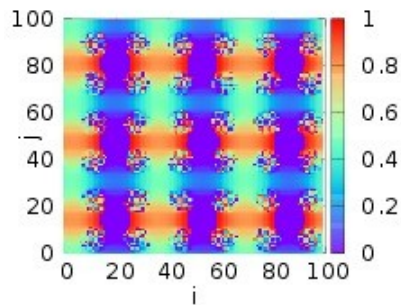


section for  $j=16$

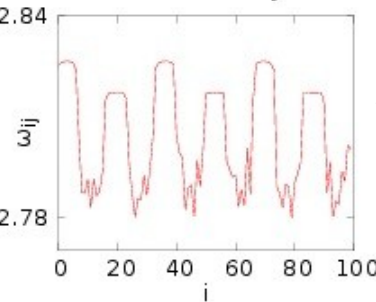


$\sigma=0.7, p_r=0.22T_s$

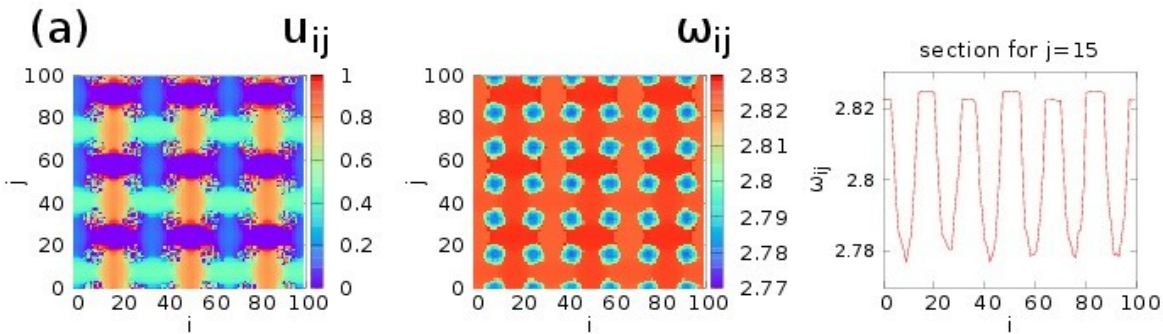
(c)  $\sigma=0.7$   $N_R=3024$



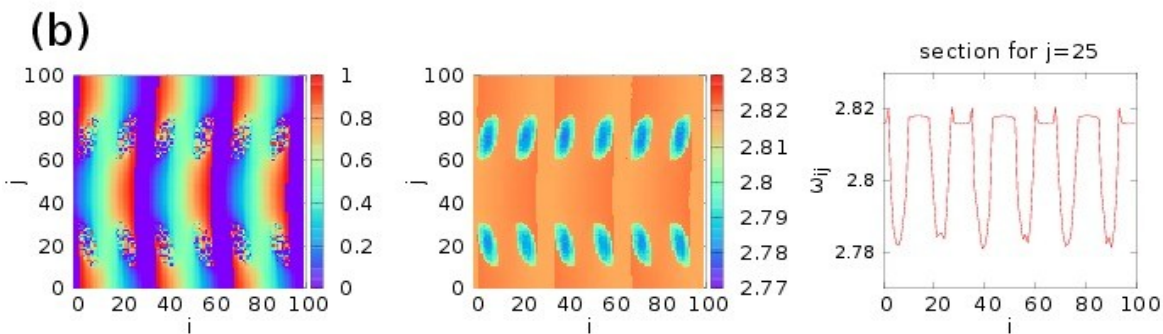
section for  $j=25$



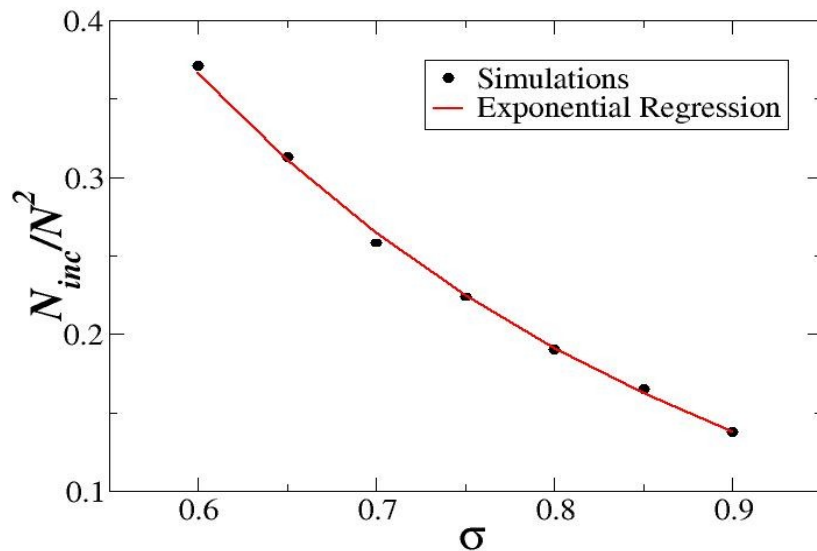
\*Only at  $N_R \rightarrow$  system size  
We observe fewer (in)coherent regions  
30 (4 x 4).



**Bi-(multi)-stability!**  
 $\sigma=0.7$ ,  $p_r=0.22T_s$   
 $R=22 \rightarrow N_R=2024$



**Reversion of coherence**  
 $\sigma \sim 0.5$

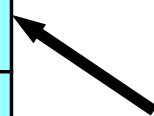
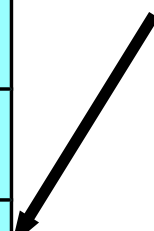
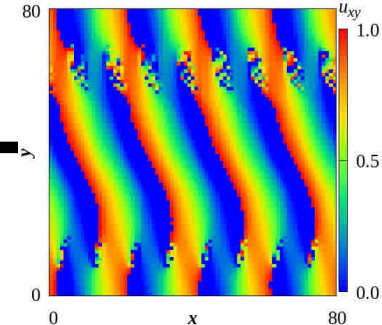
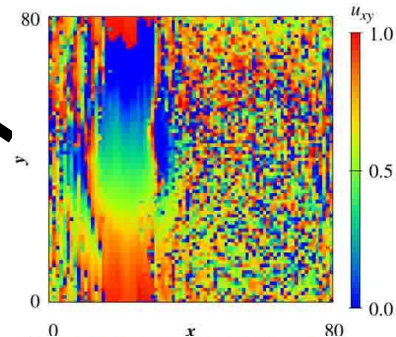
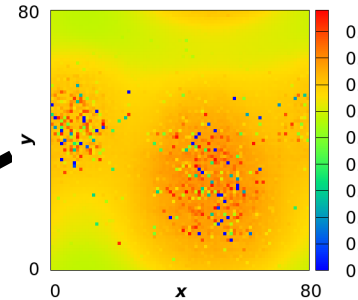
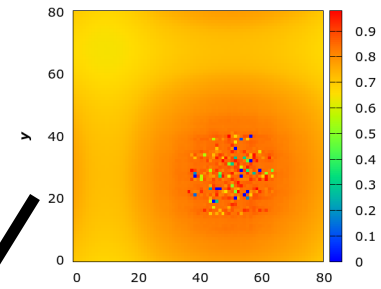


**Coupling strength  $\sigma$**   
**Controls**  
 -  $N_{inc}/N^2$   
 and  
 - mean phase velocities

$p_r=0.22T_s$   
 $R=25 \rightarrow N_R=2600$

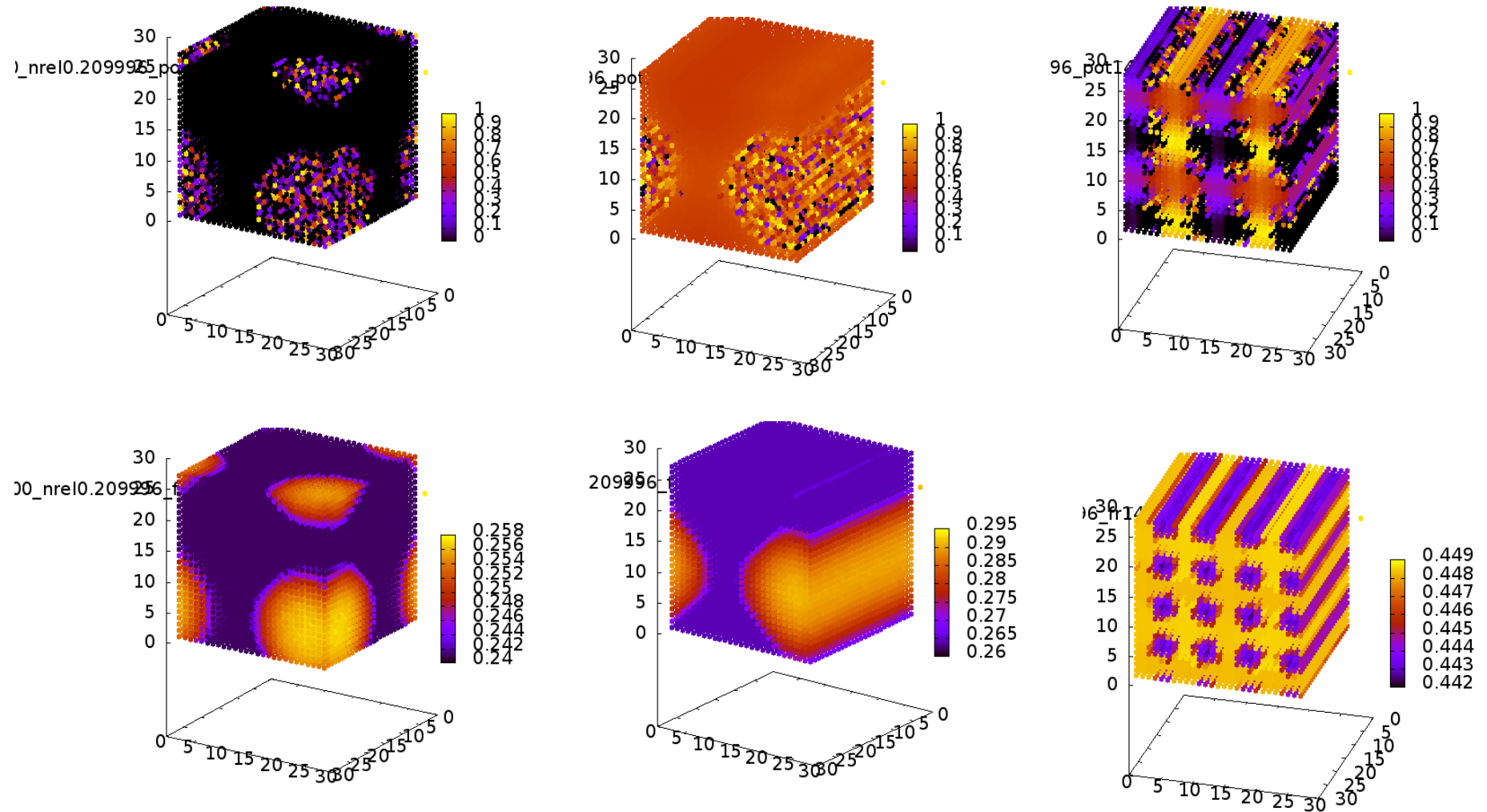
# Map of 2D Chimera Patterns

$\sigma$	Pattern
0.1	spot
0.2	spot
0.3	synchronized & double spot
0.4	synchronized & stripes
0.5	undefined/transition
0.6	undefined/transition
0.7	undefined/transition
0.8-1.4	grids & lines-of-spots





## 2.7 Results for chimeras in 3D connectivity

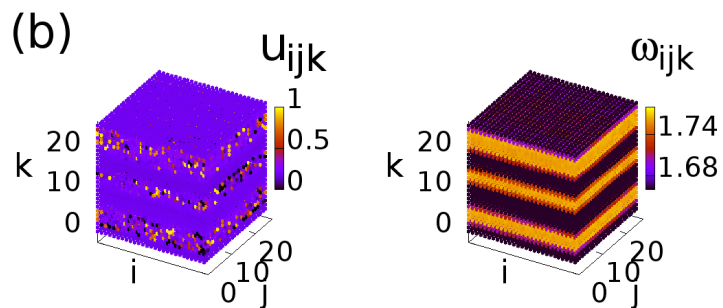
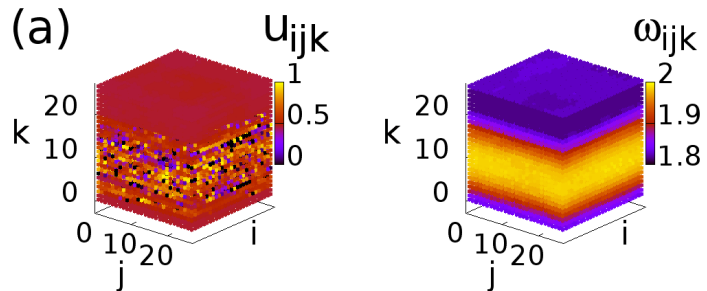
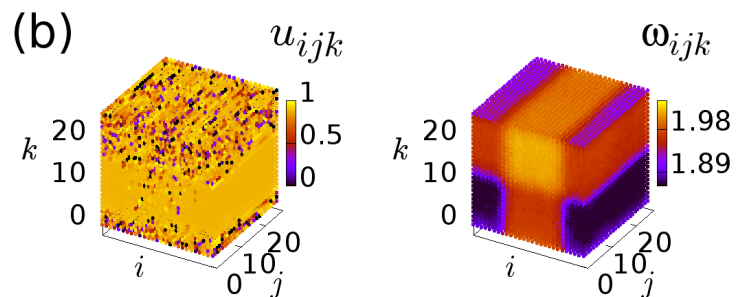
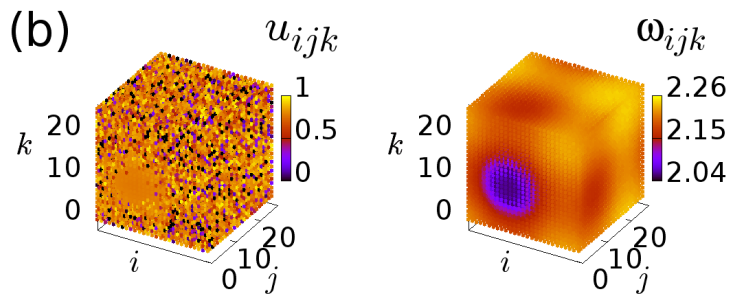
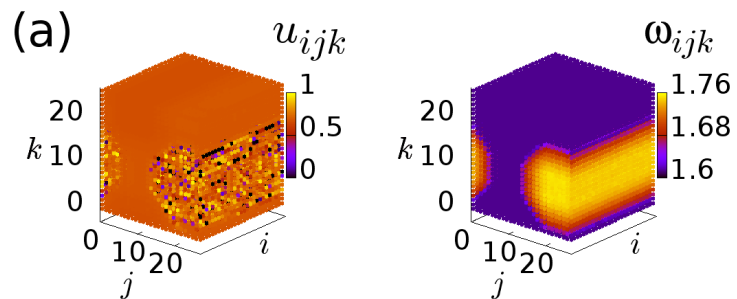
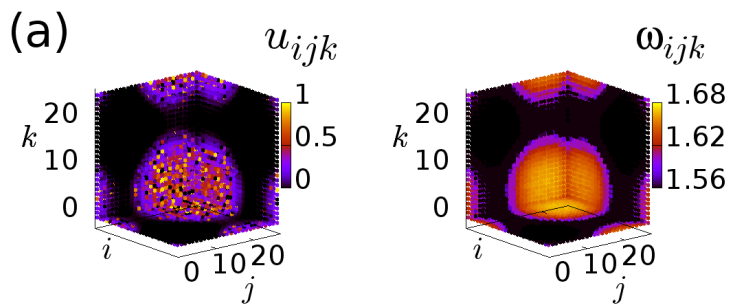


Incoherent spot  
 $(\rho_r=0.47, \sigma=0.1)$

Incoherent cylinder  
 $(\rho_r=0.47, \sigma=0.2)$

Grid  
 $(\rho_r=0.61, \sigma=0.7)$

Size:  $27 \times 27 \times 27 = 20000$ ;  $T=0.21T_s$ ; top=potential, bottom=mean phase velocity  
 (Y. Maistrenko et al., *New Journal of Physics* (2015): 3D-chimeras in Kuramoto model)



Other 3D stable patterns

Reversion of coherence

$\sigma \sim 0.3$

### 3.1 The FitzHugh Nagumo Model (1961):

[originates from the Hodgkin–Huxley model and models propagation of electrical signals in neurons]

$$\epsilon \frac{du(t)}{dt} = u(t) - \frac{u^3(t)}{3} - v(t) + I(t)$$

$$\alpha = 0.5$$

$$\epsilon = 0.05$$

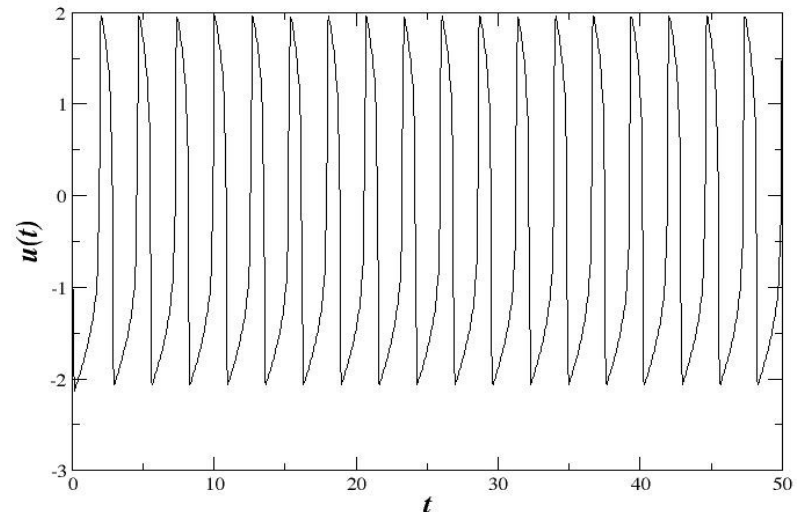
$$\frac{dv(t)}{dt} = u(t) + \alpha$$

$$I(t) = \text{const} = 0.5$$

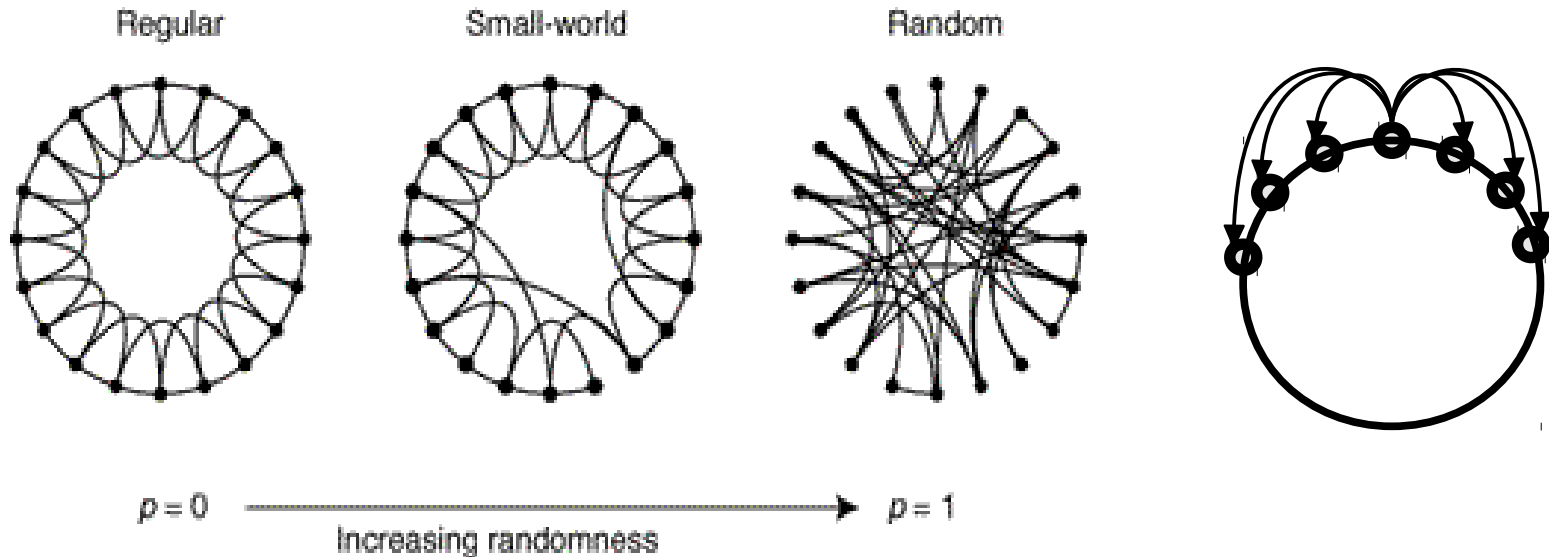
$u(t)$  = membrane potential  
(activator)

$v(t)$  = recovery potential  
(inhibitor),

$I(t)$  = external stimulus



## 3.2 Coupled FitzHugh Nagumo Oscillators (in a ring)

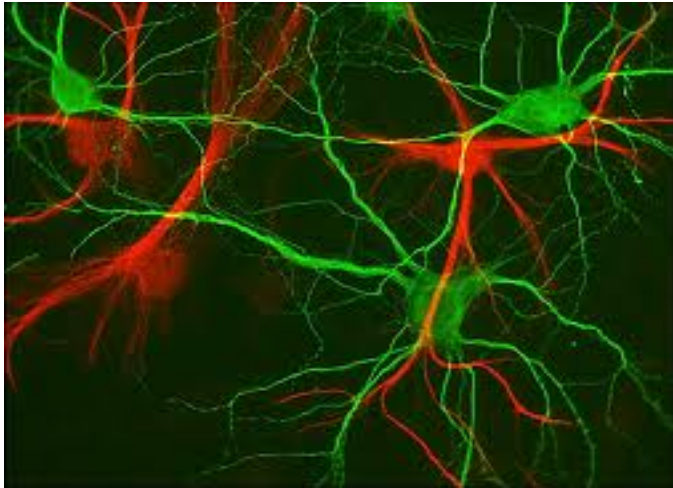


\* With the current development on networks, a first approach is to put the oscillators in a ring

$$\epsilon \frac{du_i(t)}{dt} = u_i(t) - \frac{u_i^3(t)}{3} - v_i(t) + \frac{\sigma}{2R} \sum_{j=i-R}^{i+R} [u_j(t) - u_i(t)]$$

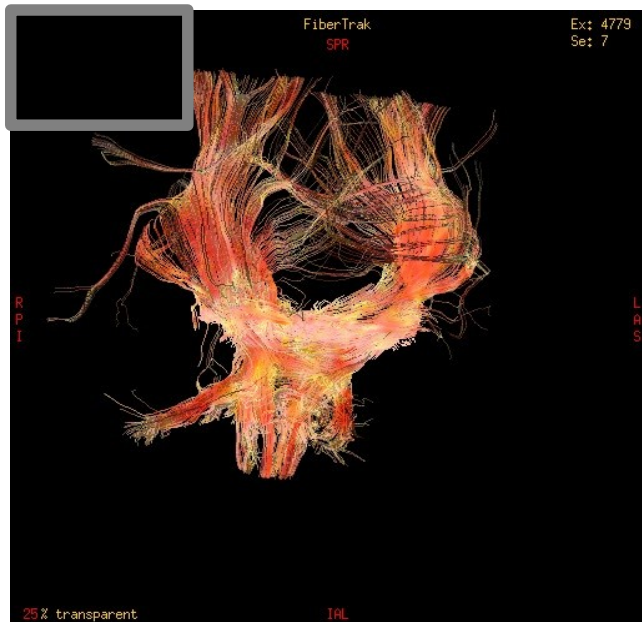
$$\frac{dv_i(t)}{dt} = u_i(t) + \alpha + \frac{\sigma}{2R} \sum_{j=i-R}^{i+R} [v_j(t) - v_i(t)]$$

[ Parenthesis on Brain Connectivity:



**Neurons:** are electrically excitable cells which process and transmit information through electrical signals

- **soma** (contains the nucleus, typical 25 $\mu$ m)
- **dendrites** (receive signals)
- **axons** (connect neurons and transmit signals, size 1 $\mu$ m, max 1m!)
- **axon terminals** (contain synapses to communicate the signal)

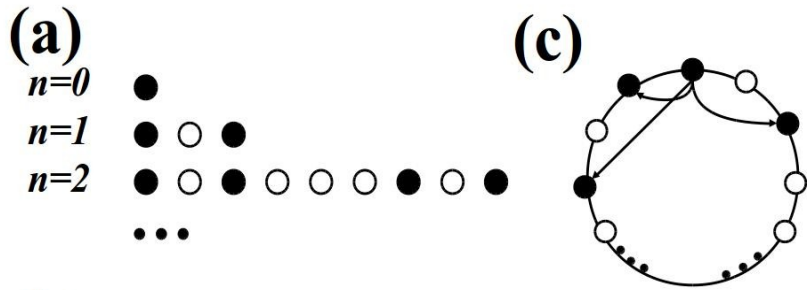


**DTI – MRI:** Neuron axons in **3D representation**

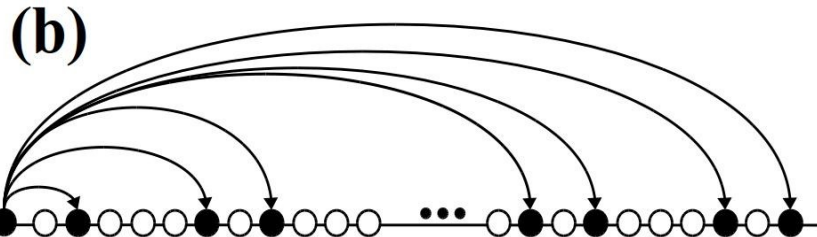
- Resolution: 1-3mm
- Fractal dimensions of the neuron axons network: 2.5-2.6
- Different correlations and fractality for neurodegenerative disorders

]

# 3.3 Coupling on Fractal Networks

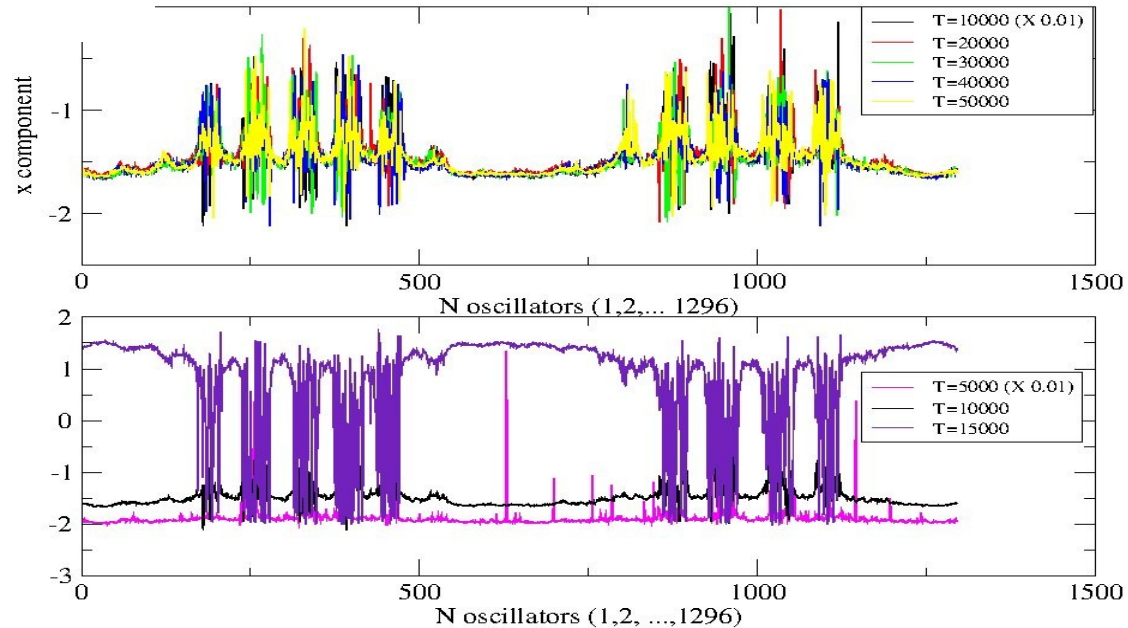
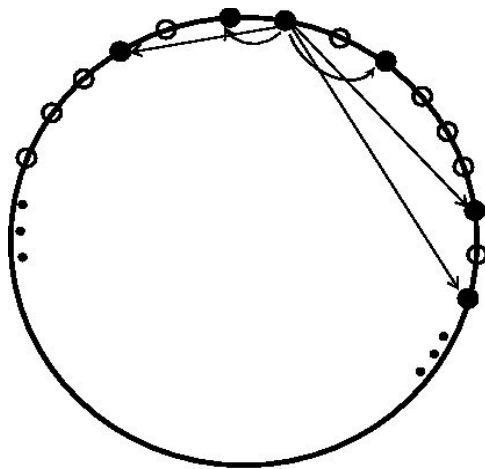


See: movie-fhn-fractal



Nested Chimera States

Random Fractal (2) connectivity  $\ln 4 / \ln 6$



# Appearance and destruction of a nested/ramified/hierarchical chimera state

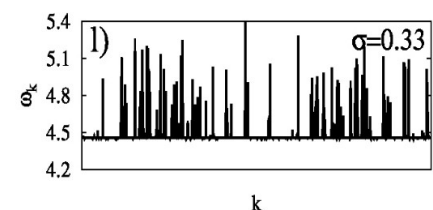
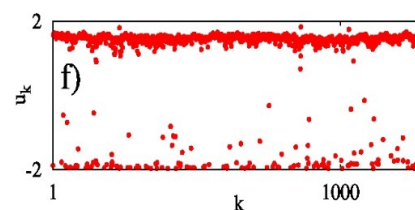
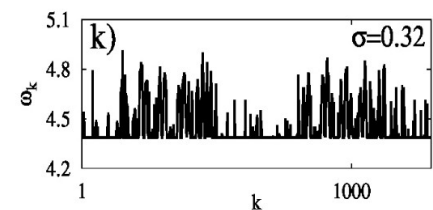
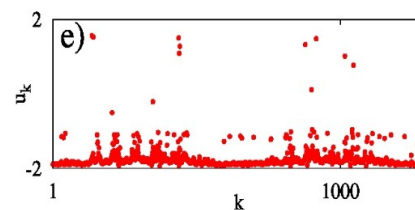
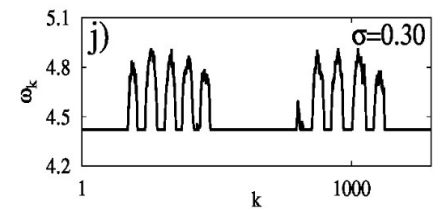
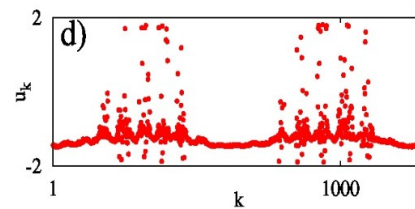
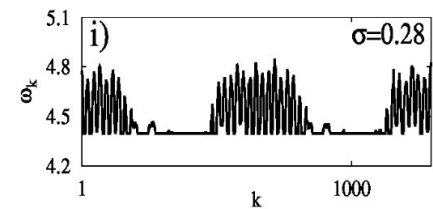
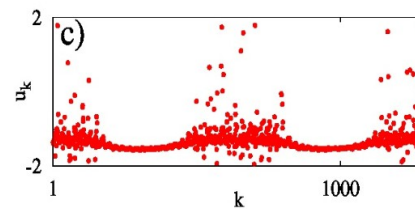
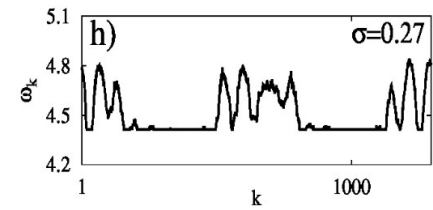
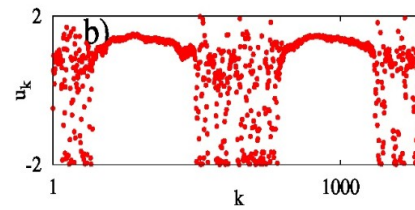
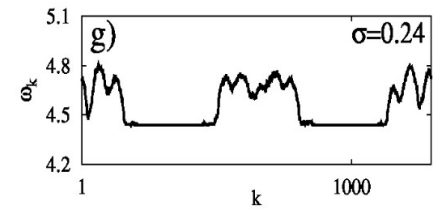
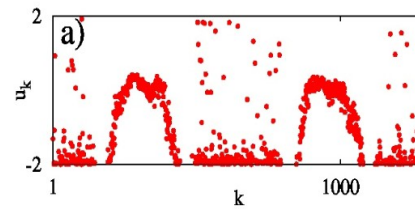
Ramifications are due to fractal connectivity

$\sigma =$  coupling strength

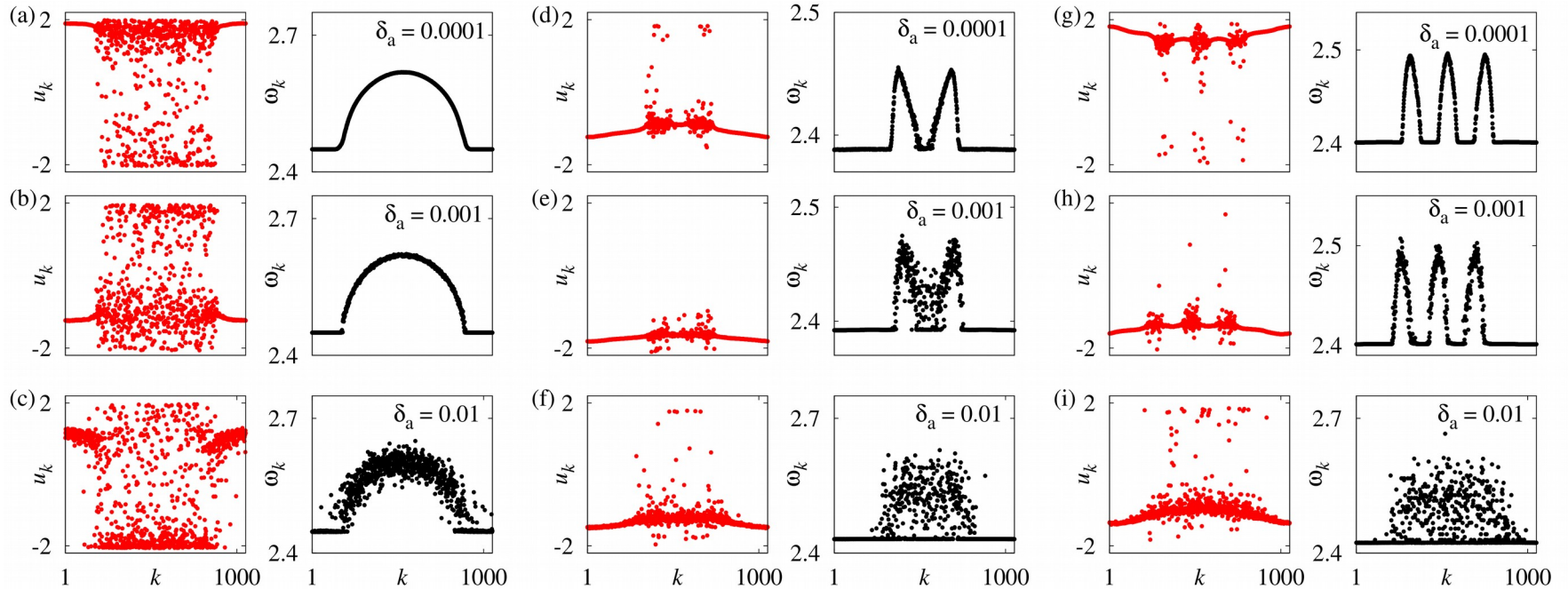
For  $\sigma \gg$  we drive to synchronization

*Omelchenko et al. PRE 2015*

See movie: chimera-fractal



# [ Parenthesis: Effects of noise

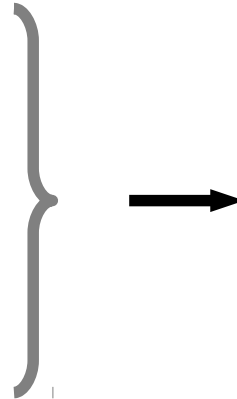


Noise in the distribution of coupling strength  $\sigma$



## The role of spatial correlations in connectivity

- I. Non-local connectivity
- II. Asymmetric nonlocal
- III. Fractal-hierarchical connectivity
- IV. Reflecting connectivity
- V. Diagonal connectivity
- VI. Modular networks connectivity



Spatial  
correlations  
in connectivity

- 1. Random connectivity networks
- 2. Random values of the coupling strengths
- 3. Small world networks
- ...
- 4. Other realistic networks



If noise is added  
in the  
connectivity,  
chimera state  
starts  
disintegrating

## 4. Conclusions

- Chimera States in FHN and LIF neuron dynamics
- Spiking regime induces chimera states
- Nonlocal (spatially correlated) connectivity produces chimera states
- Hierarchical connectivity: traveling chimeras

## Open Problems

- Connection of synchronization patterns with memory and cognition
- Interplay between topology and dynamics
- Spatial correlations in the connectivity => chimera states???
  
- Time dependent connectivity
- Apoptosis of neurons
- Influence of external forces on chimera states
- Influence of initial conditions...

## **Collaborations & Thanks**

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- \* **Dr. Johanne Hizanidis**
- \* **George Argyropoulos**
- \* **Ioannis Koulierakis**
- \* **George Karakos**
- \* **Despina Gatzioura**
- \* **Stratis Tsirtsis**

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- \* **Dr. Iryna Omelchenko**
- \* **Prof. Philipp Hoevel**
- \* **Dr. Anna Zakharova**
- \* **Prof. Eckehard Schoell**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION !**

## Motivating Questions:

### Theory:

- Why chimera numerical evidence is **mostly** linked with **neuron-related** models?
- **Spiking** dynamics essential in neuron models: Is it also essential for the production of chimera states?
- Role of **connectivity** and the formation of chimera states ?  
Are spatial correlations important for the formation of chimera states??

### Applications:

- Are chimera states, as patterns formed under certain (external) conditions in co-operation with internal dynamics+connectivity, relevant in memory & cognition-related activities.
- Is the form of chimera patterns relevant in brain neurological/ neurodegenerative disorders?
- Can it be revealed in experiments of brain partial activity (such simple task Experiments: parroting, eye movement, finger tapping )?