

Multiscale dynamics of marching locust nymphs

Gil Ariel

Joint work with

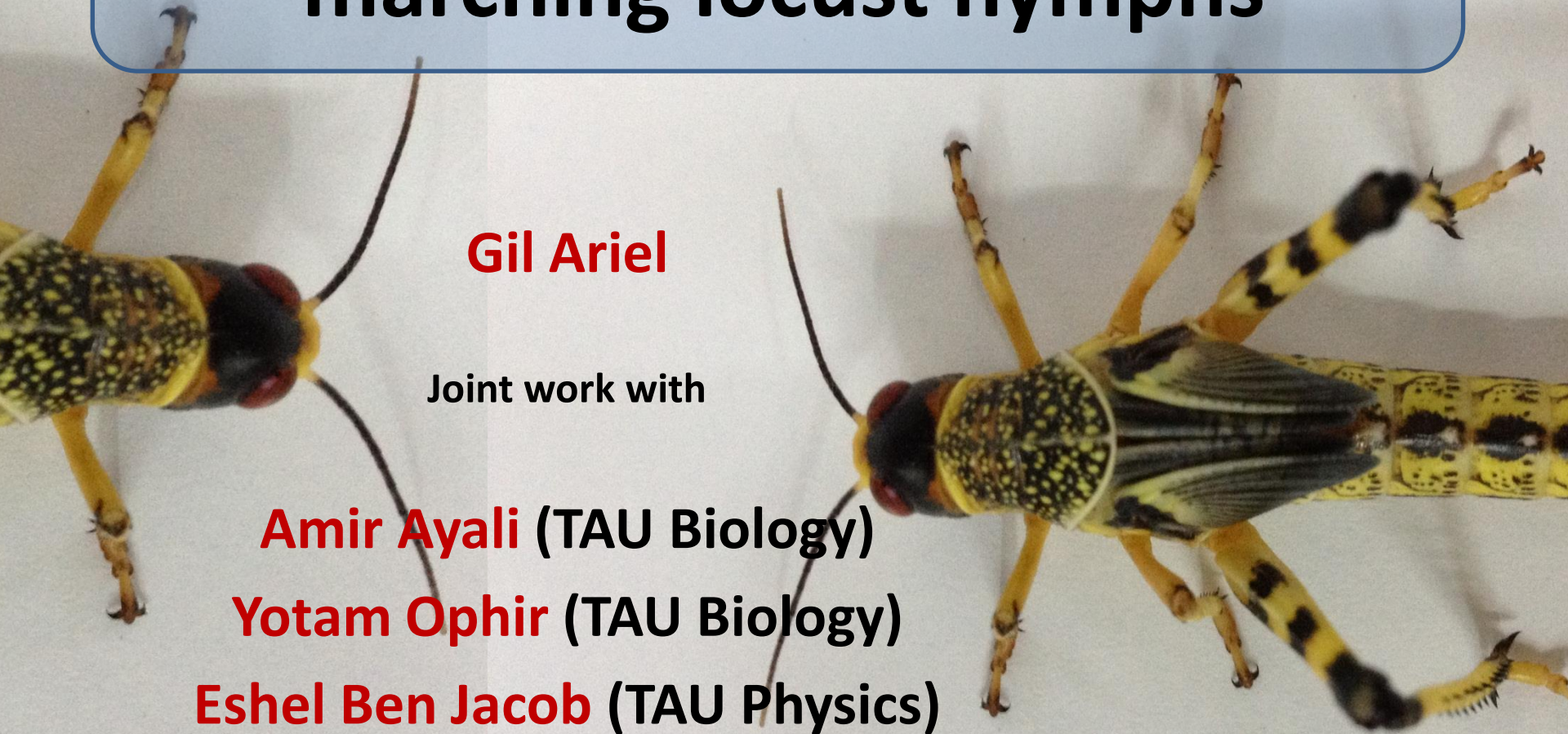
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Yotam Ophir (TAU Biology)

Eshel Ben Jacob (TAU Physics)

Sagi Levi (BIU Math)

Oren Rimer (BIU Math)



Israeli desert 2013

news clip



marching



close up

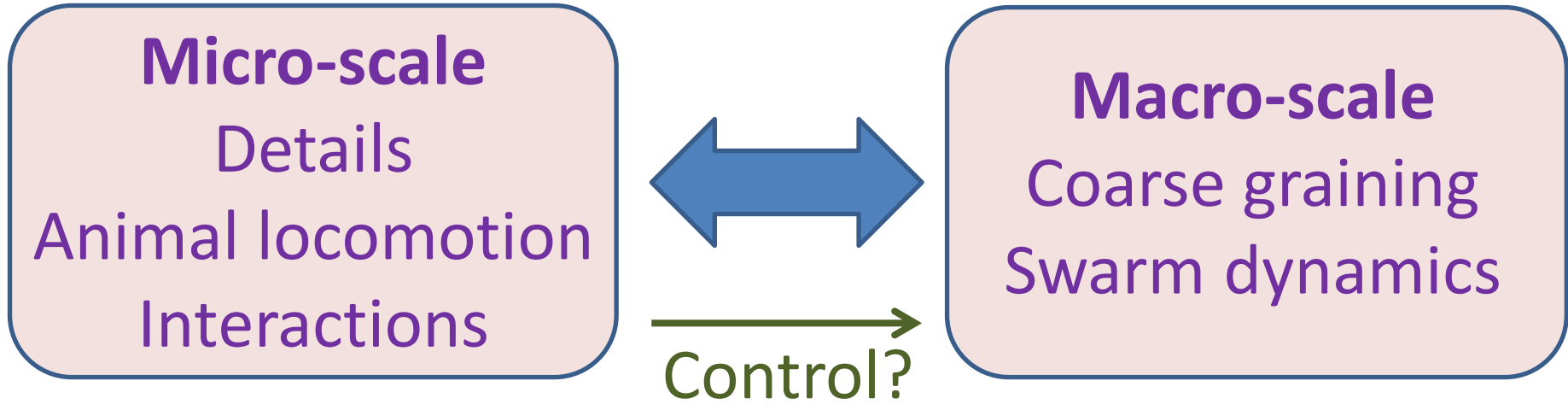


flying



Courtesy of Amir Ayali

Questions



“The locusts have no king, yet go they forth all of them by bands” Proverbs 30:27

What makes the system switch between ordered and disordered states?

Experiments

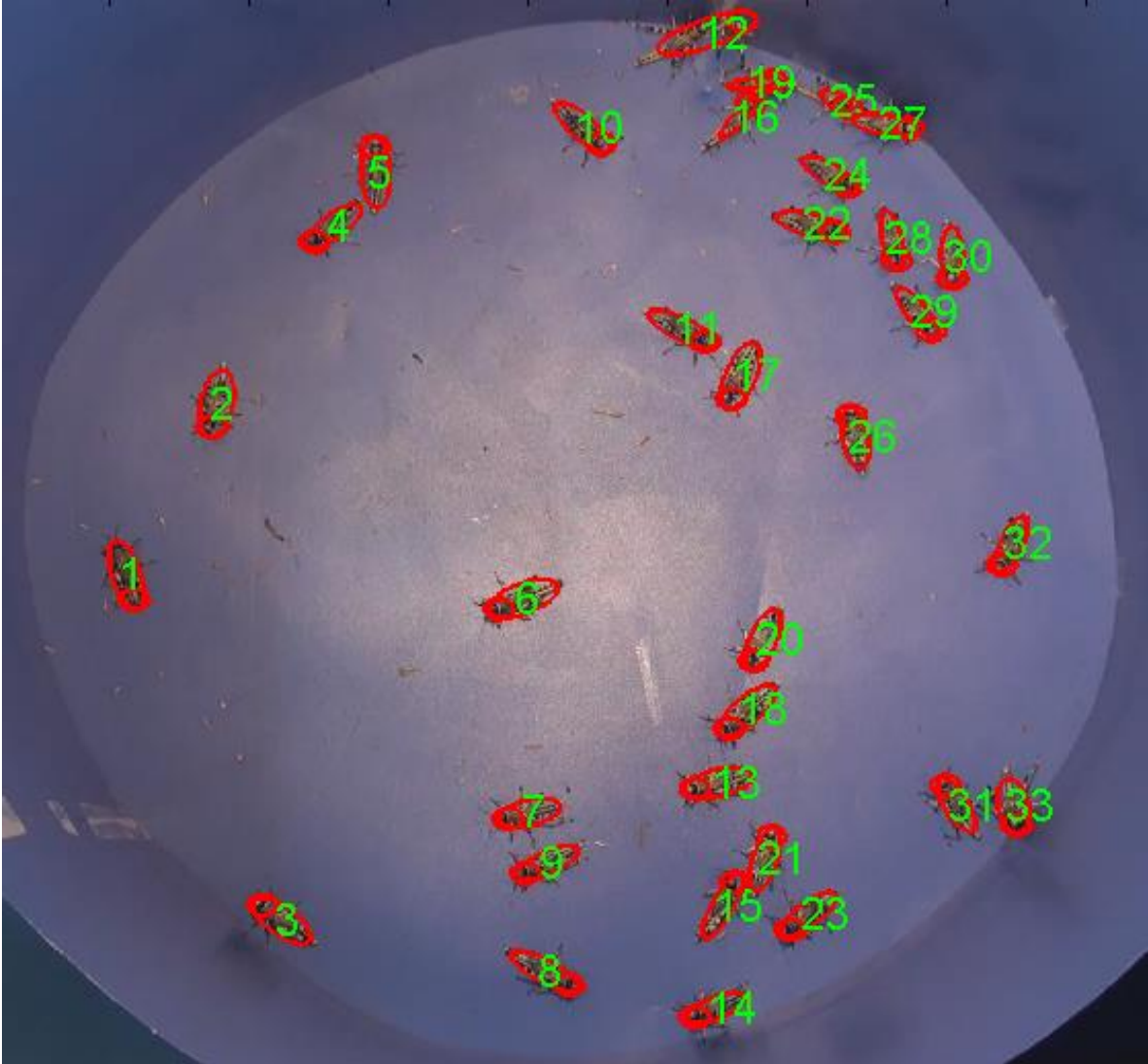
Previous experiments: **single animals, tactile interactions, global averages**

[Couzin, Simpson, Buhl et al 2006, Bazazi et al 2012]



[\[movie\]](#)

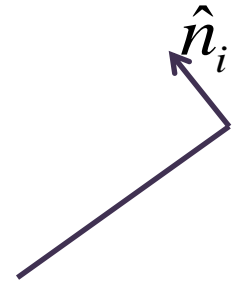
Experiments



[movie]

Macroscopic dynamics

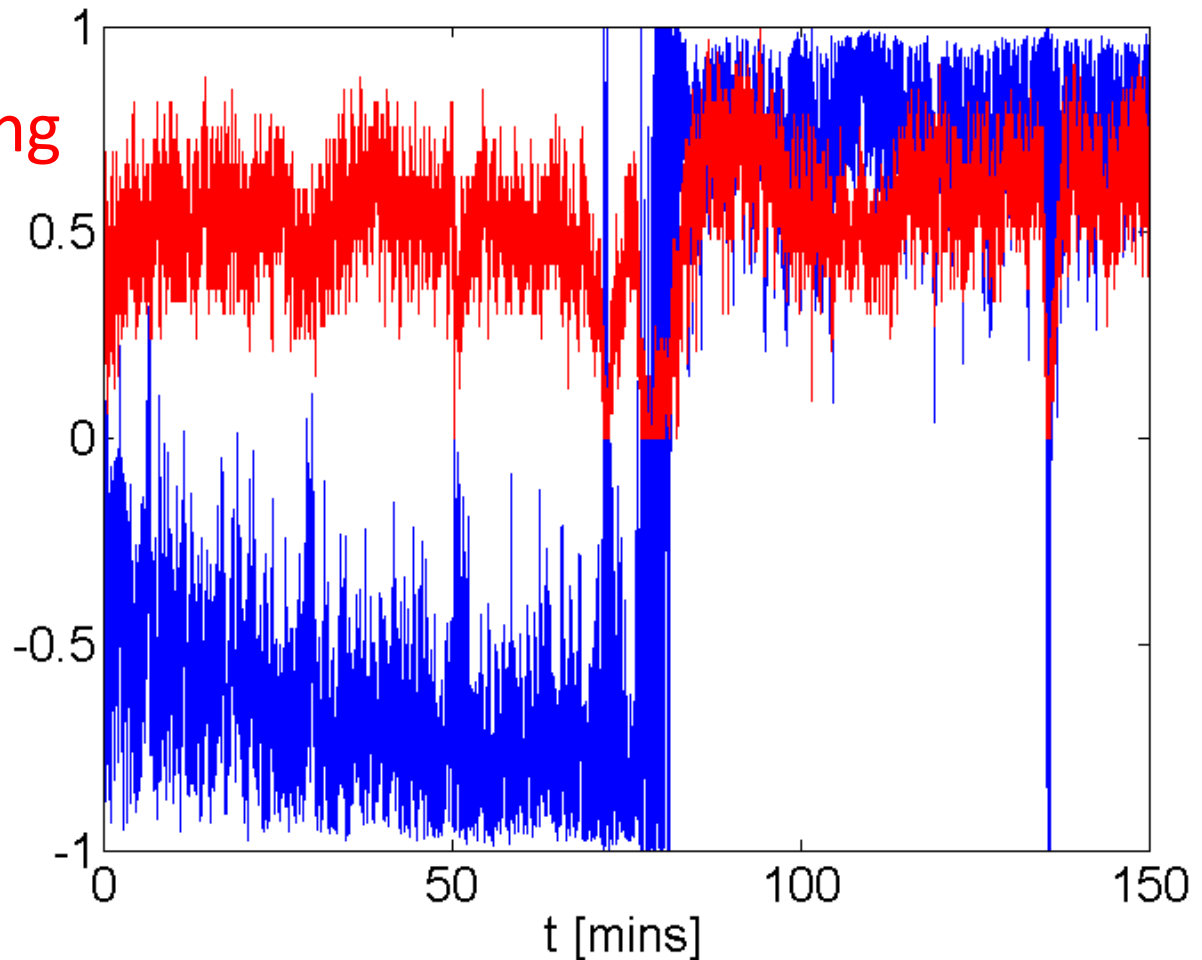
$$\text{Order parameter } \phi = \frac{1}{n_{\text{walking}}} \sum_{\text{walking animals}} v_i \cdot \hat{n}_i$$



Fraction of walking animals

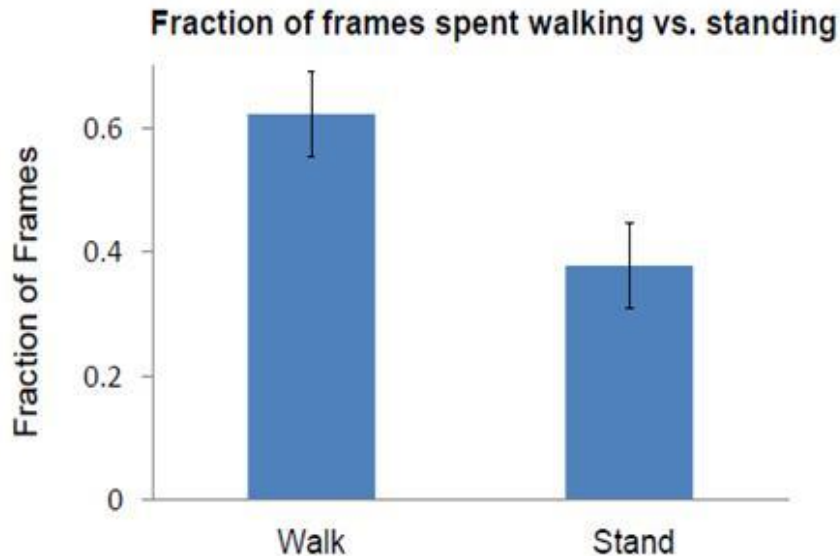
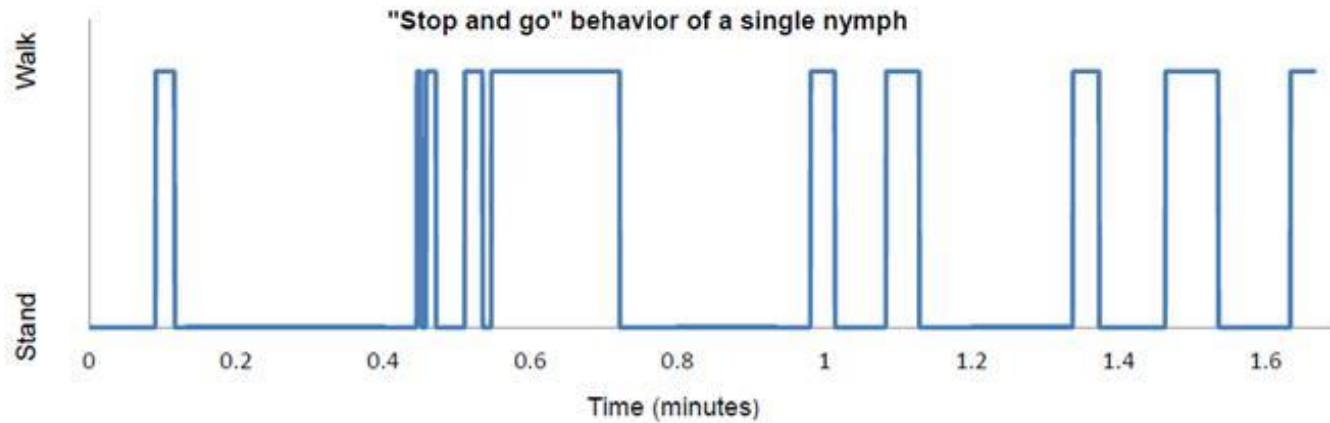
Order parameter

Correlation=0.4



Microscopic dynamics

Stop and go motion

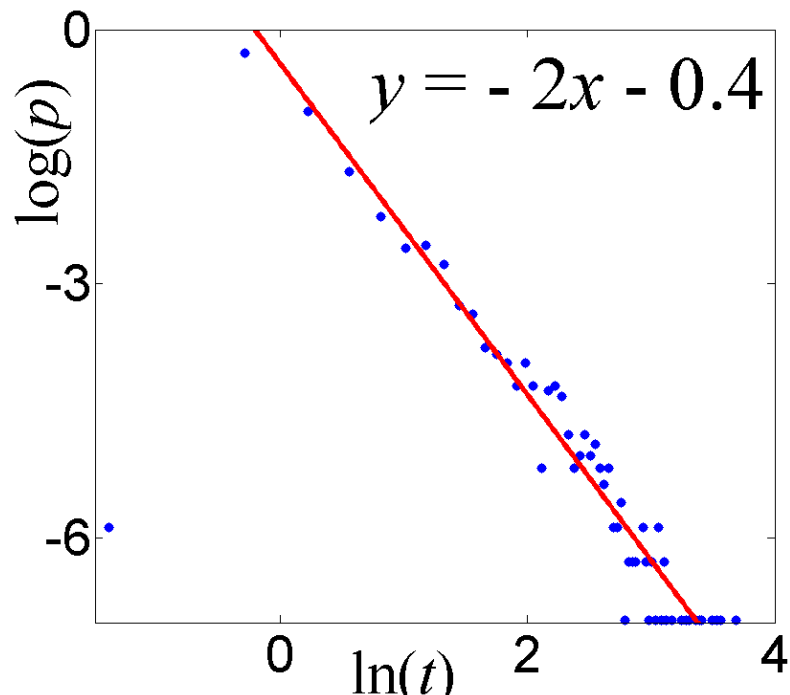


The key "decision" is when to start/stop moving and in which direction

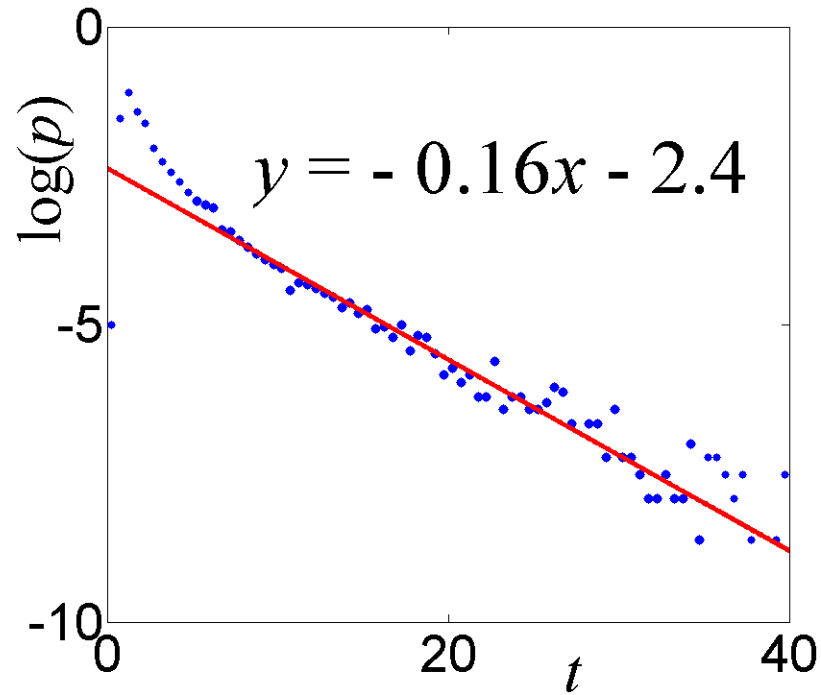
Microscopic dynamics



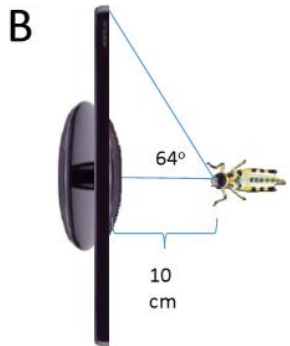
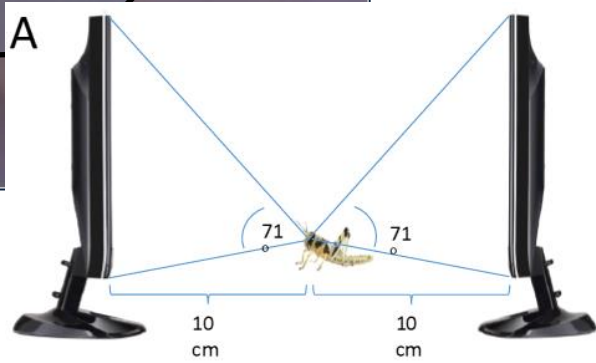
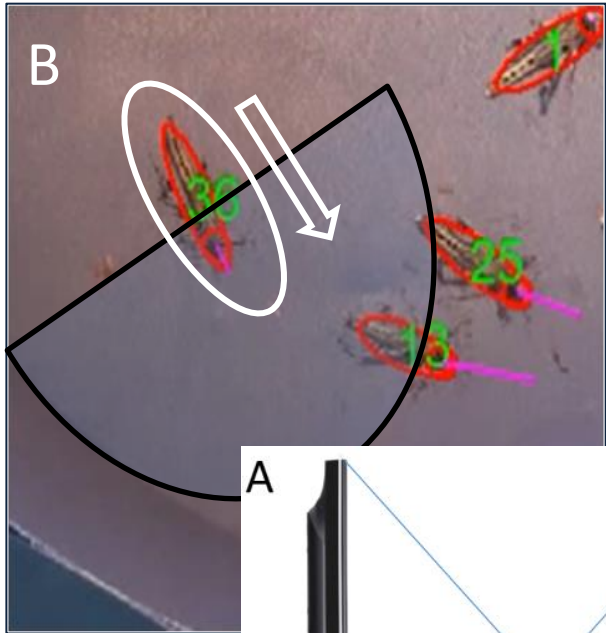
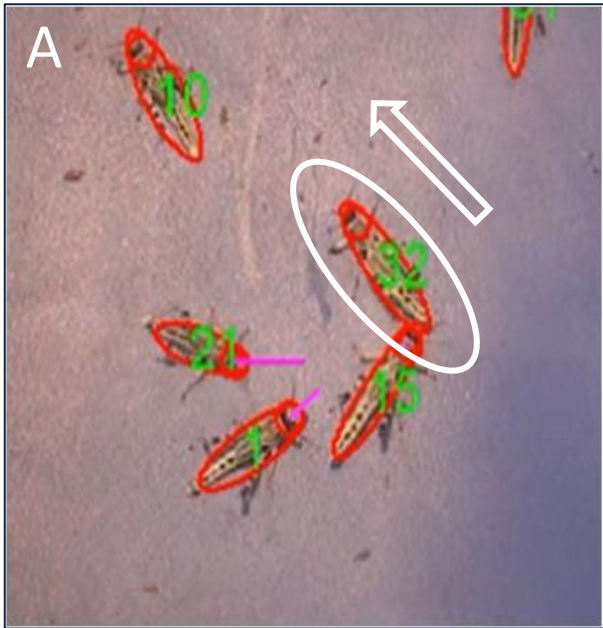
rest durations



walk durations



Walking initiations



**Visual\tactile triggers
for walking and turning**



Realistic model

Stop and go

No free parameters!

1D (for now)

- **Start walking**

Touch

Vision stimulus

Spontaneous

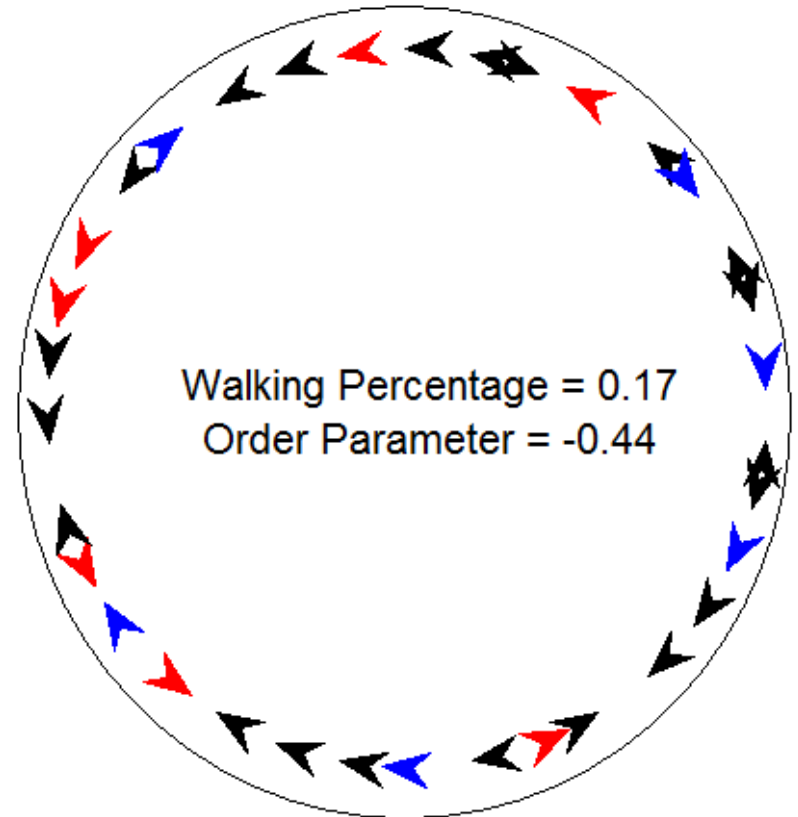
- **Stop walking**

Touch

Spontaneous

- **Turn.** Only when starting to walk.

Depends on global ϕ



[\[movie\]](#)

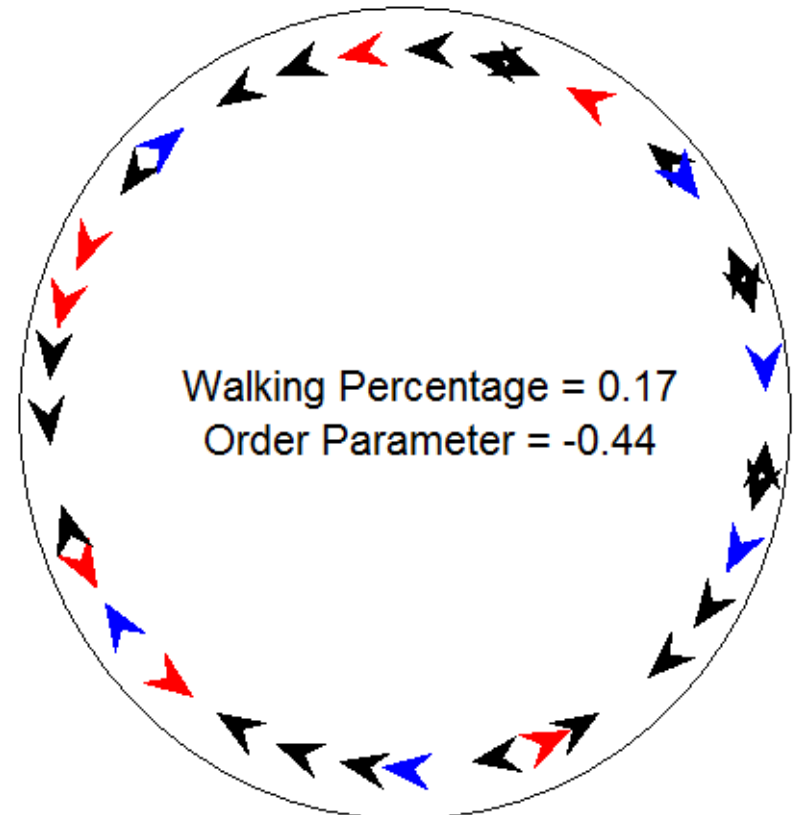
Simplified model

Stop and go

Local

1D (for now)

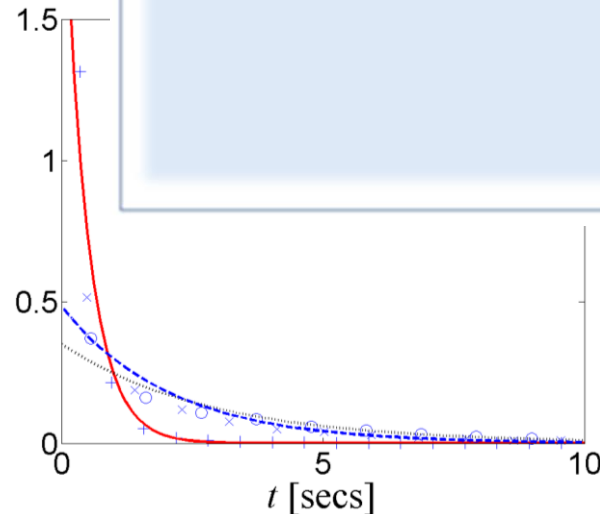
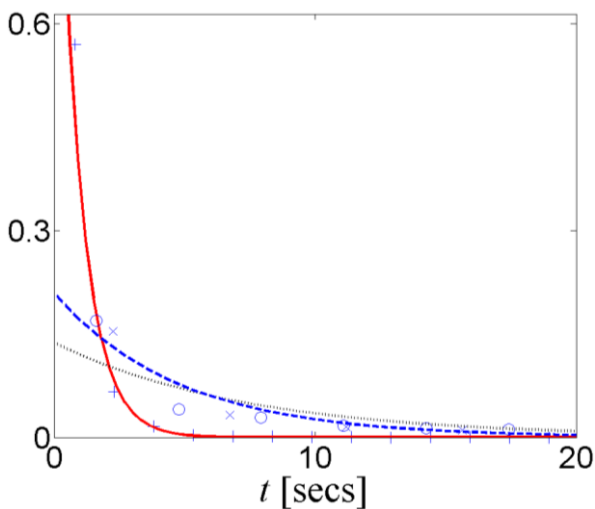
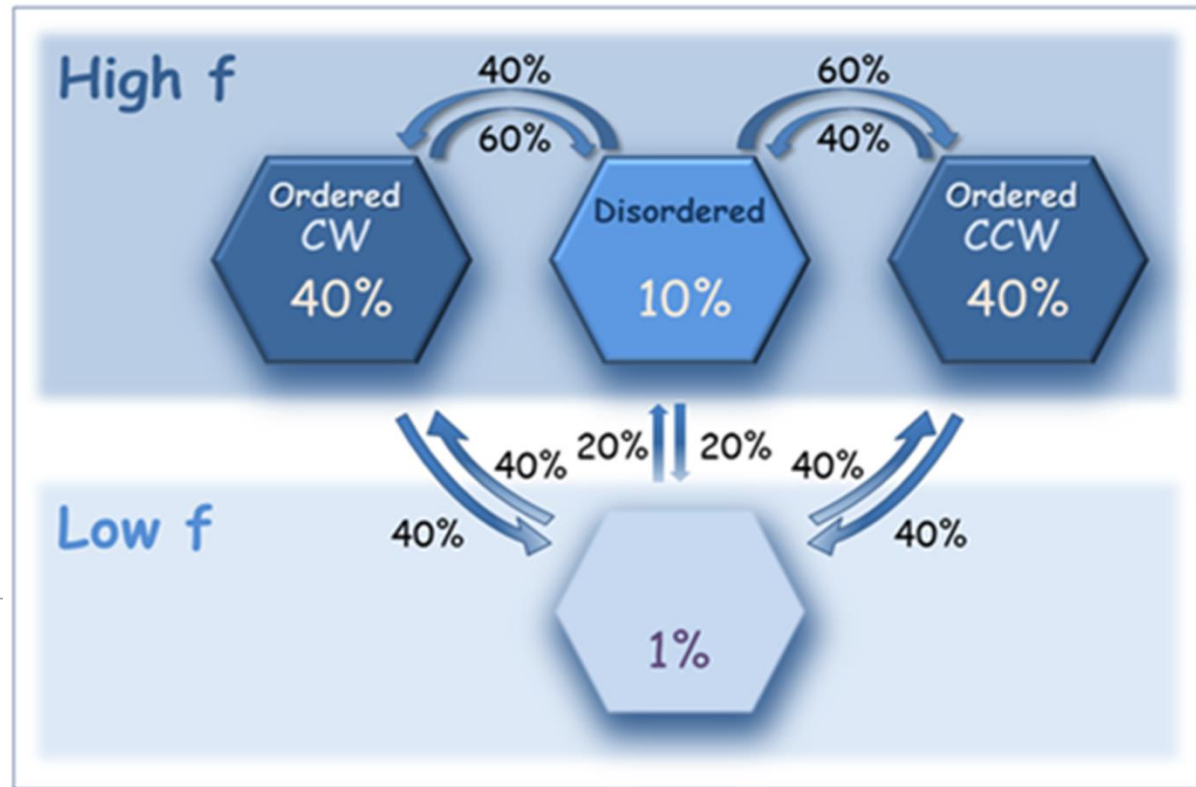
- **Start walking**
 - Increased local movement
 - Spontaneous
- **Stop walking**
 - Spontaneous
- **Turn** Positive feedback with local ϕ



[\[movie\]](#)

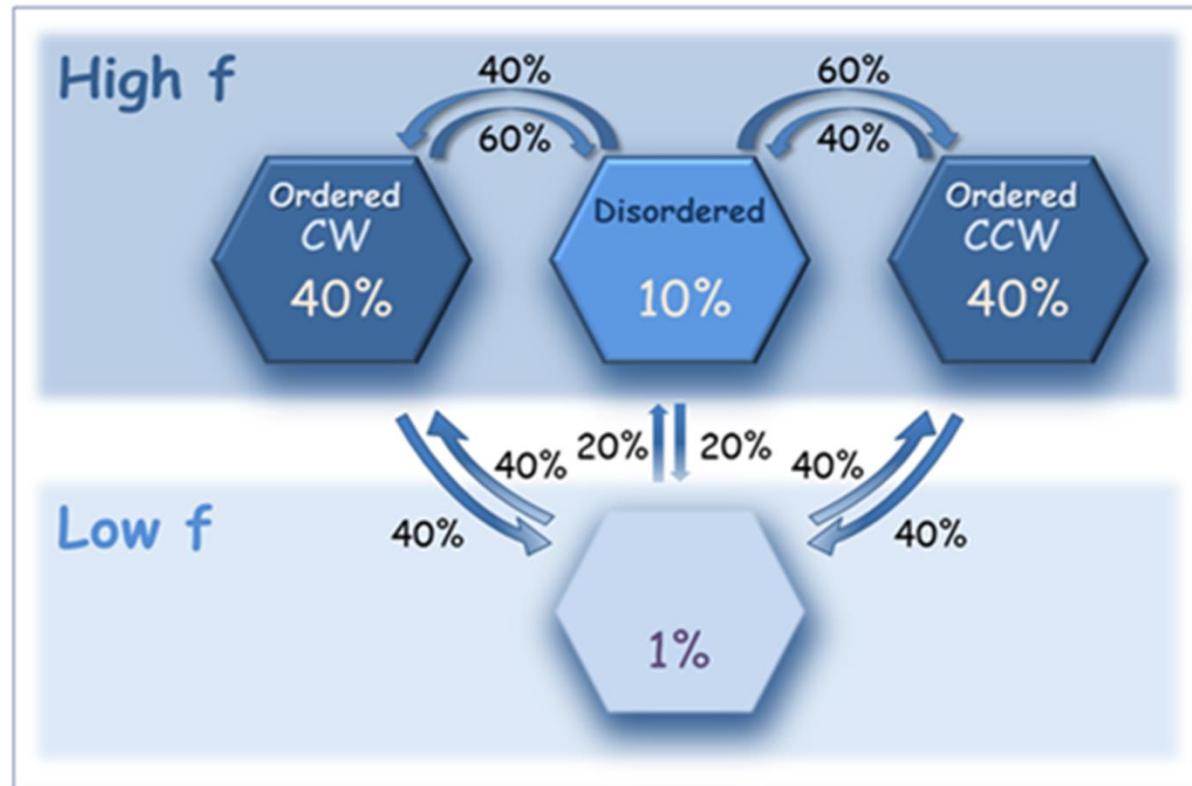
CTMC approximation

Coarse variables: f and ϕ



CTMC approximation

Coarse variables: f and ϕ



Most directional switches are through the low f state.

Multiscale analysis

[Yates et al '09]

Coarse grained coordinates:
the order parameter

Central limit theorem

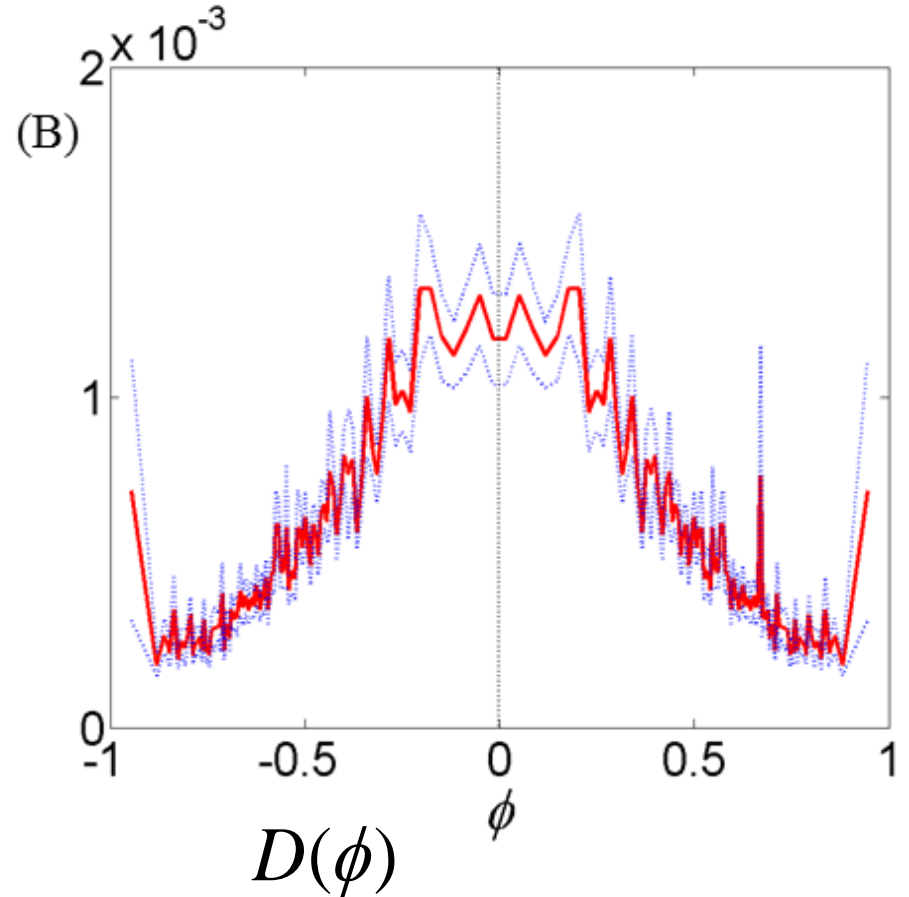
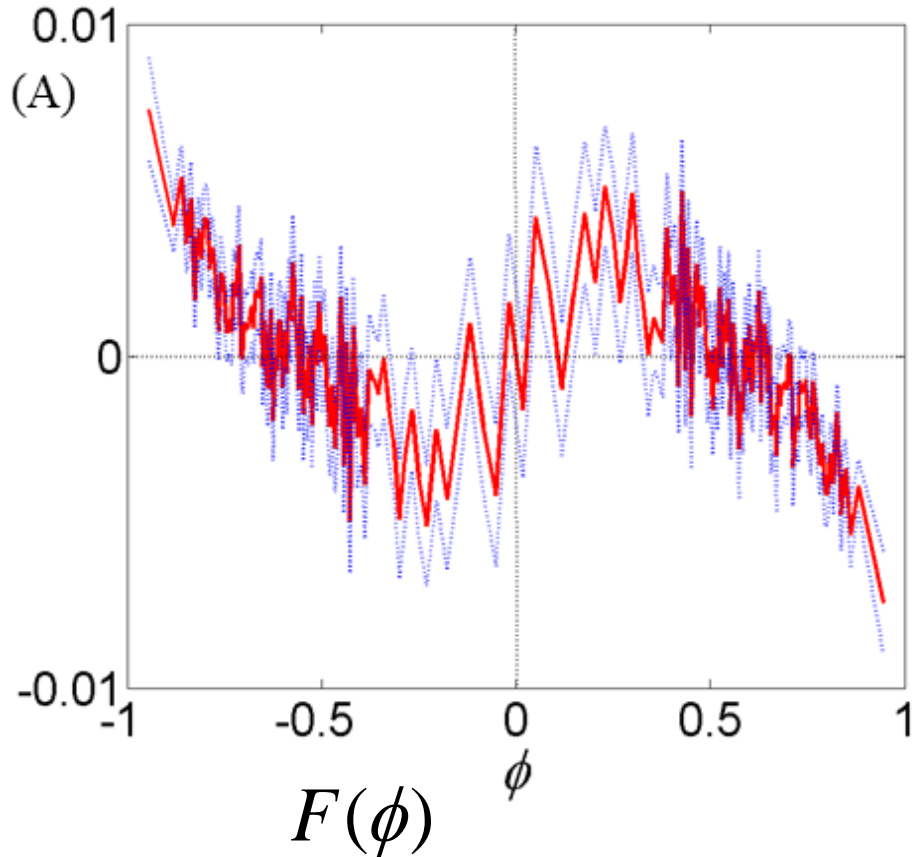
$$d\phi_t = F(\phi)dt + \sqrt{D(\phi)}dB_t$$

$$F(\phi) = \left\langle \frac{\phi_{t+\Delta t} - \phi_t}{\Delta t} \right\rangle$$

$$D(\phi) = \frac{1}{2} \left\langle \frac{(\phi_{t+\Delta t} - \phi_t)^2}{\Delta t} \right\rangle$$

Multiscale analysis

experiment

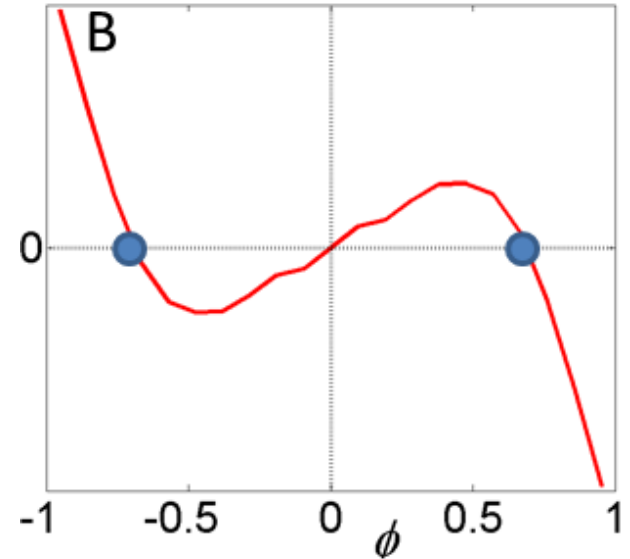


zeros of f = fixed points (stable or unstable)

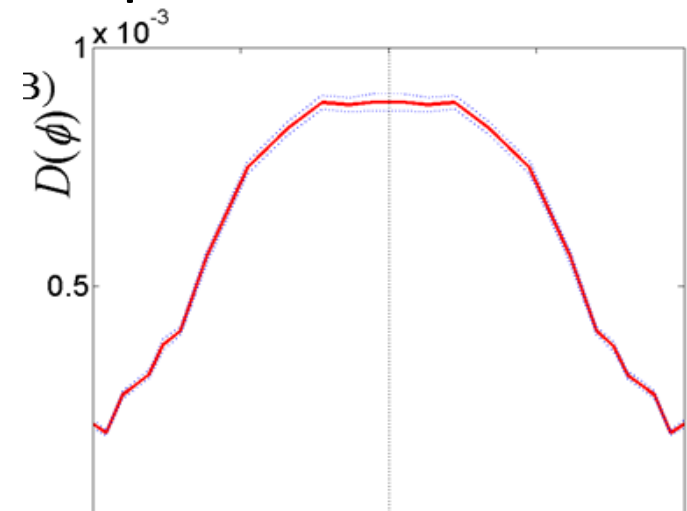
Multiscale analysis

[Yates et al '09]

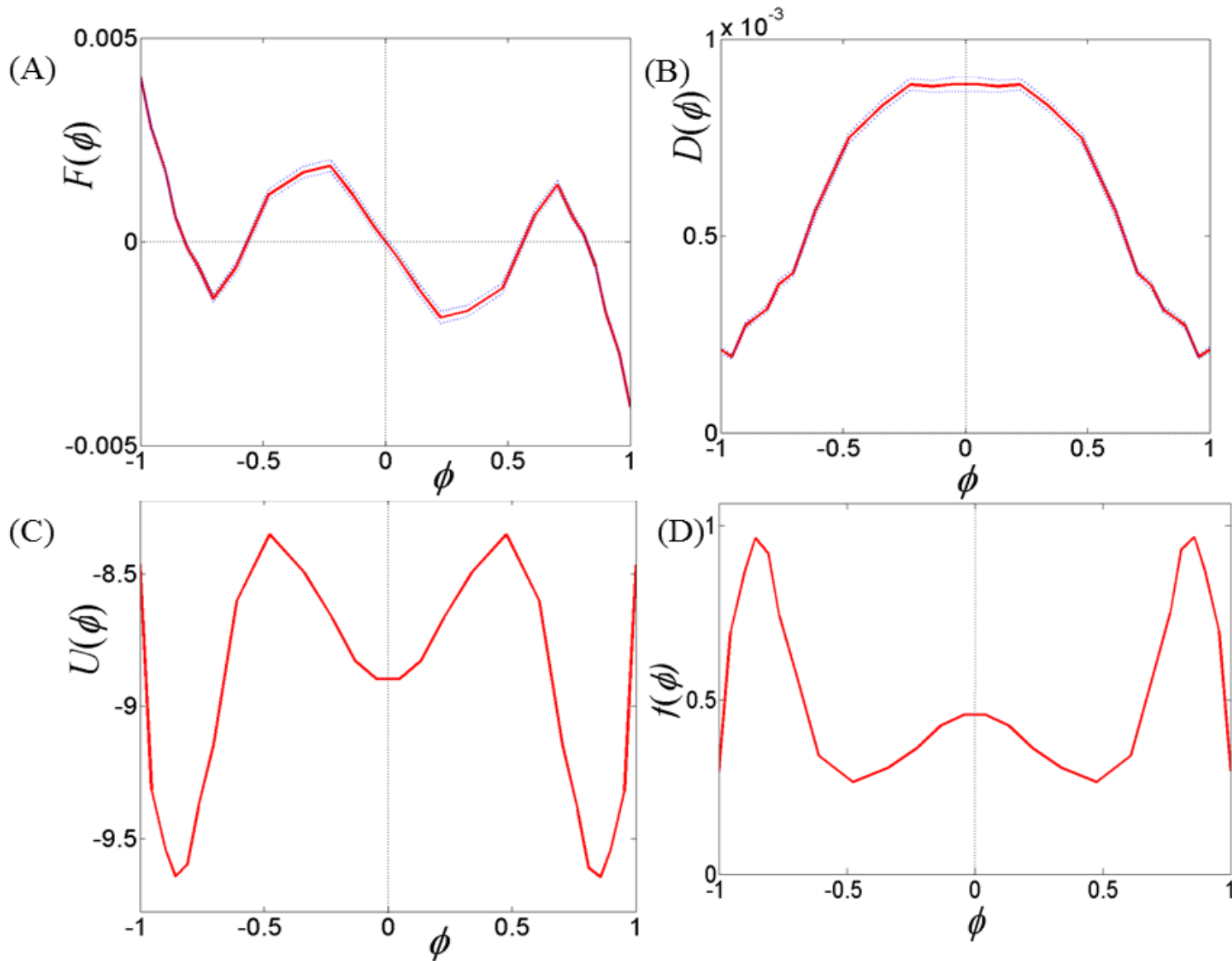
1D Viscek. $D=\text{const}$. Ad hoc correction.



[Bode et al '10. $D=\text{const}$. Asynchronous update



Realistic model



Multiscale analysis

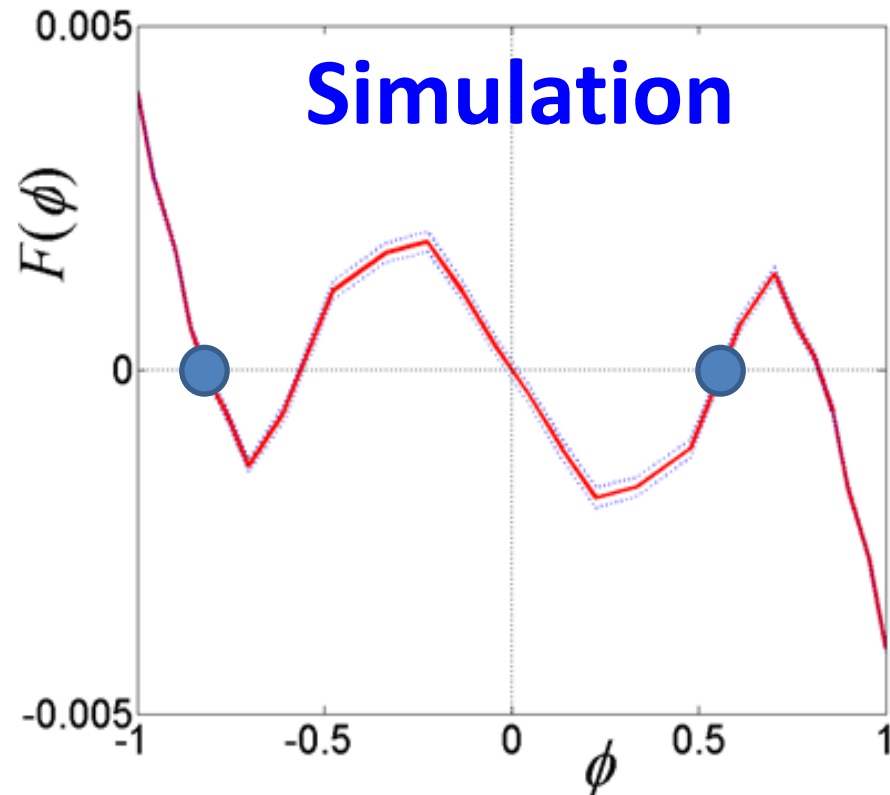
At **large** $|\phi|$ the probability to turn with or against ϕ is larger than against ϕ .

f : fraction of walkers

N : number of animals

$$\sum v_i = Nf$$

$$\phi = \frac{1}{Nf} \sum v_i = 1$$



Multiscale analysis

At **small** $|\phi|$ the probability to turn with or against ϕ is almost equal.

f : fraction of walkers

N : number of animals

$$\sum v_i = \sqrt{Nf}$$

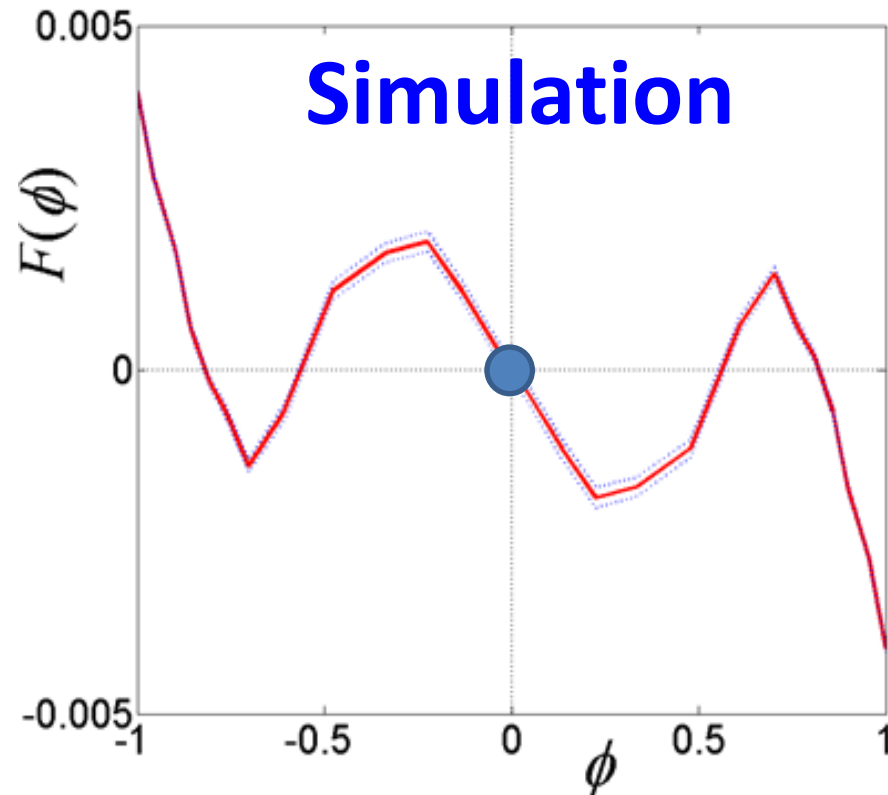
$$\phi = 1/\sqrt{Nf}$$

But $\phi \sim f$.

$$\phi^{3/2} \sim N^{-1/2}$$

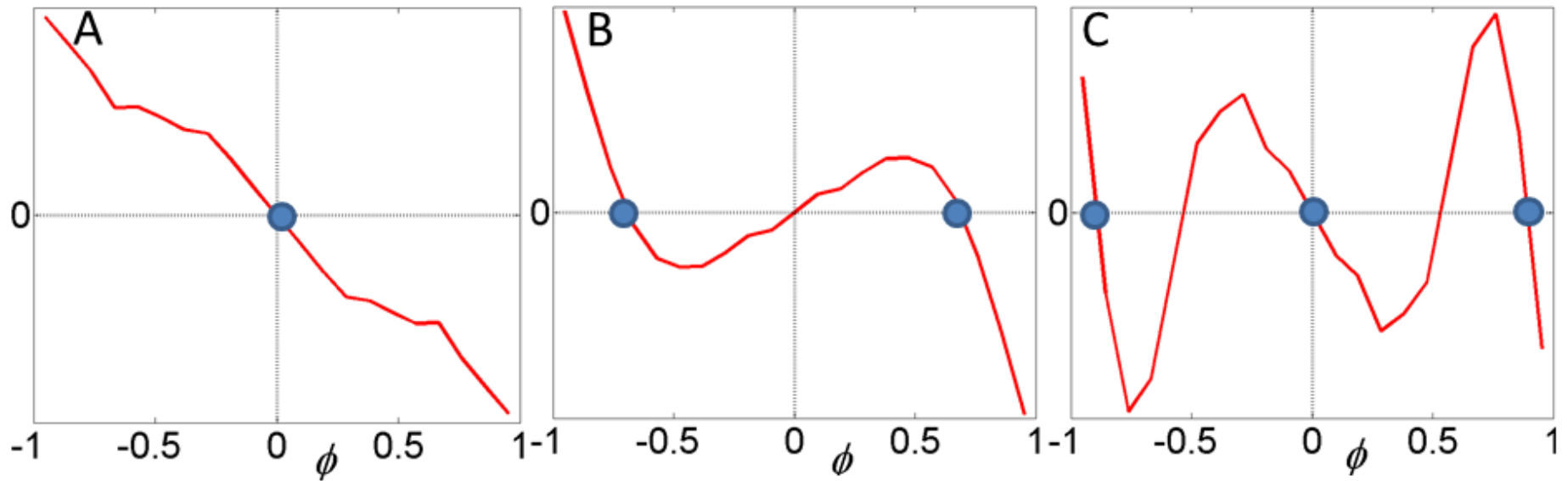
$$\phi \sim N^{-1/3}$$

With $N=34$, $\phi=0.3$. Fluctuations dominate $\rightarrow \phi \rightarrow 0$



Local model

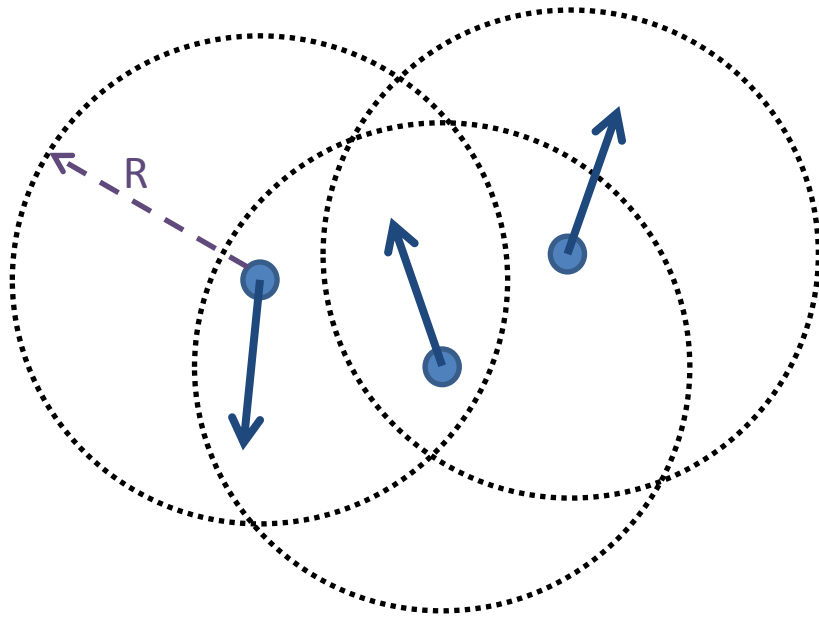
Effective drift with different U-turn probability



$$F(\phi)$$

2D stop-and-go model

- Viscek et al '96
stat phys. approach. XY model + movement.



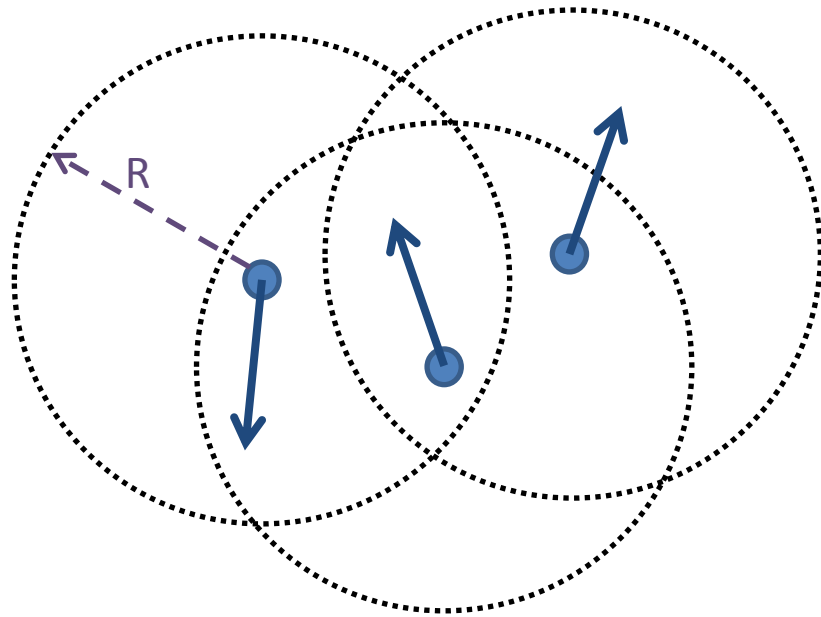
- Particle density f . 2D Torus.
- Constant speed
- Every step: align with local average + noise.

Order parameter

$$\phi = \frac{1}{N} \sum v_i$$

2D stop-and-go model

- Viscek et al '96
stat phys. approach. XY model + movement.



- Particle density f . 2D Torus.
- Constant speed \stop
- Every step: align with local average + noise \do nothing

Order parameter

$$\phi = \frac{1}{N_{\text{walk}}} \sum_{i \text{ is walking}} v_i$$

- The prob. To start walking depends on local movement.
- The prob. to align depends on local order.

Motivation: dynamic switching between phases

2D stop-and-go model

- Viscek et al '96
stat phys. approach. XY model + movement.

- Particle density f
- Constant speed \stop

The disordered state is not stable

Order parameter

$$\phi = \frac{1}{N_{\text{walk}}} \sum_{i \text{ is walking}} v_i$$

- The prob. To start walking depends on local movement.
- The prob. to align depends on local order.

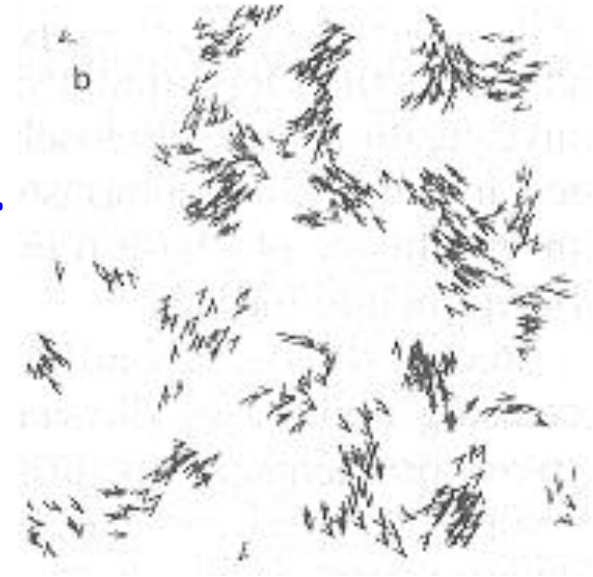
Motivation: dynamic switching between phases

2D stop-and-go model

Particles form clusters.

Local properties are different than global.

Difference between 1D and 2D.



2D stop-and-go model

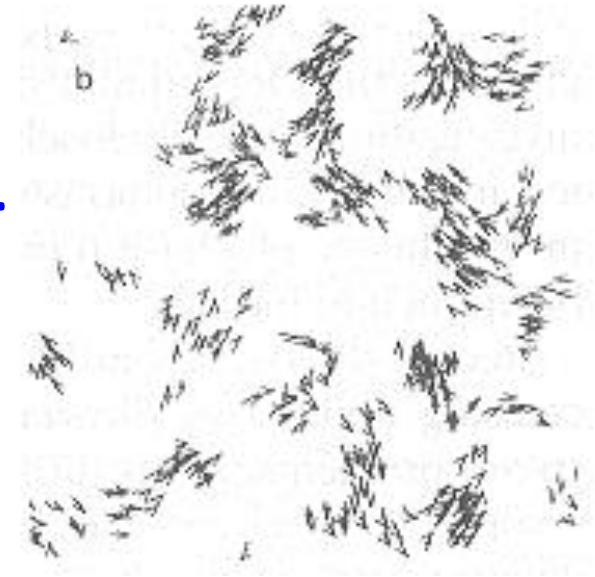
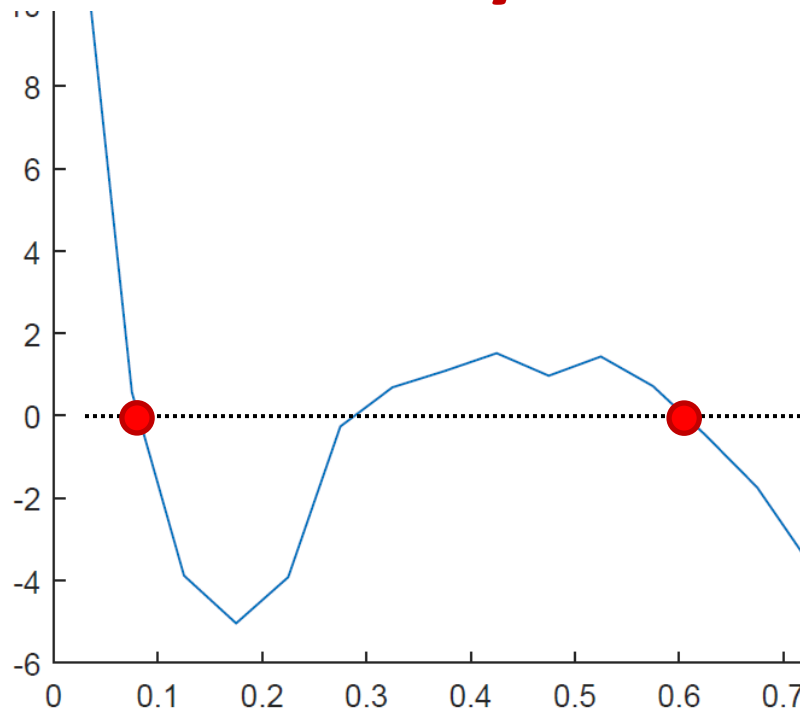
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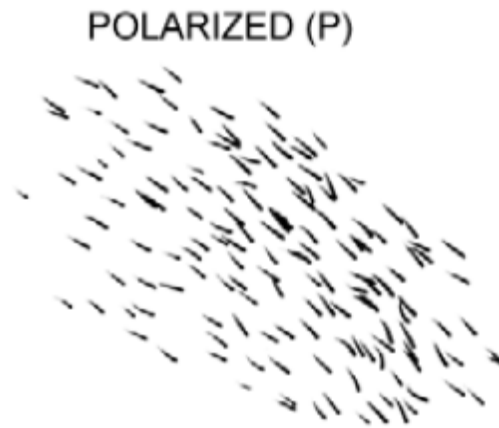
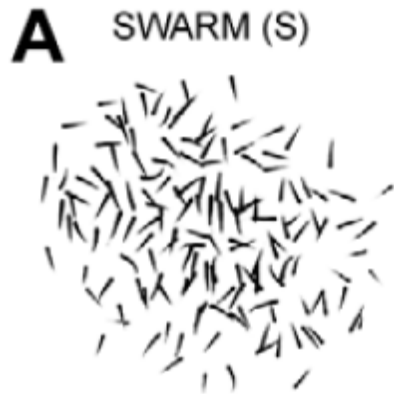
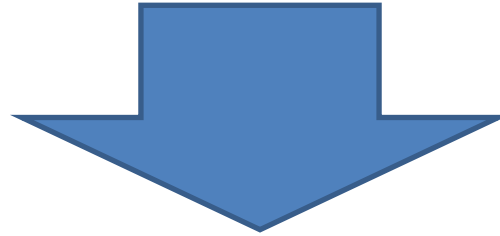
Solution: add memory

The drift



Intermittent motion

Fish: float and coast



Conclusions

A generic principle

- Stop and go motion
- Positive feedback with order



Three meta-stable states:

2 ordered and 1 disordered

Not a phase transition

Modelling locust collective motion: a review.
Ariel and Ayali. Under review.

Thank you

