

# Discussion of the Lorenz Equations

Jan Tantzen, Eduard Sauter

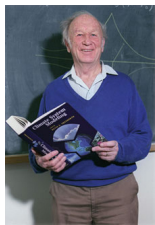
Leibniz Universität Hannover

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July 22, 2015

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# Edward N. Lorenz



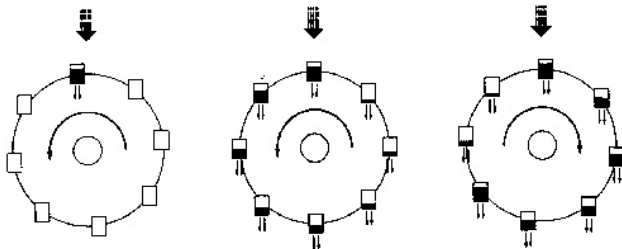
- \* May 23 1917
- Studied Mathematics
- After 1946: Focused on Meteorology and introduced non linear statistical models to weather theory
- 1962 Deterministic Nonperiodic Flow
- 1972

*“Predictability: Does the Flap of a Butterfly’s Wings in Brazil set off a Tornado in Texas?”*

- † April 16 2008

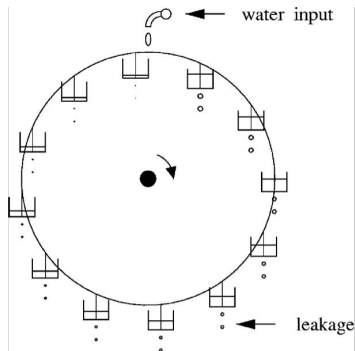
# A Chaotic Waterwheel

- a mechanical model of the Lorenz equations was invented by Willem Malkus and Lou Howard
- the idealized mathematical model obeys a special case of the Lorenz equations



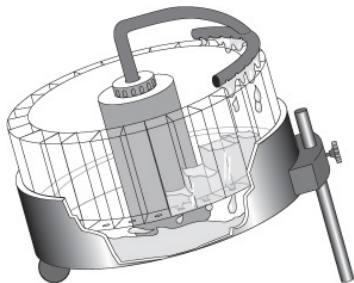
# A Chaotic Waterwheel

- the simplest version consists of a few leaky cups
- single stream of water flows in the cup from the top
- when the top cup gets heavy enough the wheel starts to rotate



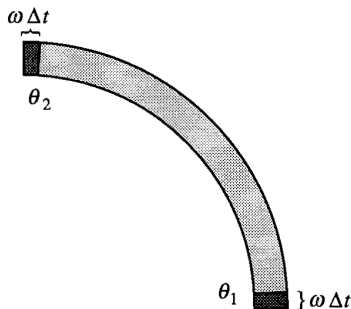
# A Chaotic Waterwheel

- nearly horizontal so that the cups form a continuous ring without gaps
- the series of water streams reduces the propability of overflow
- a brake on the wheel can add more or less friction
- the tilt of the wheel can be varied to alter the effective strength of gravity



# A Chaotic Waterwheel

- the water is pumped in by the rate  $Q$
- the leakage occurs at a rate proportional to the mass

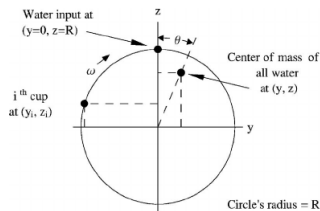


continuity equation

$$\frac{\partial m}{\partial t} = Q - Km - \omega \frac{\partial m}{\partial \theta}$$

# Torque Balance

- two sources of damping: viscous damping and “inertial” damping
- the gravitational torque tends to increase  $\omega$  when  $\sin(\theta) > 0$



## Torque Balance

$$I\dot{\omega} = -v\omega + gr \int_0^{2\pi} m(\theta, t) \sin(\theta) d\theta$$

where  $v$  is the damping rate and  $g$  the effective gravitational constant



# Amplitude Equations

- since  $m(\theta, t)$  is periodic in  $\theta$  the equations can be written as a Fourier series

$$m(\theta, t) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} [a_n(t)\sin(n\theta) + b_n(t)\cos(n\theta)]$$

- no  $\sin(n\theta)$  terms because the water is added symmetrically

$$Q(\theta) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} q_n \cos(n\theta)$$

# Amplitude Equations

- matching coefficients of  $\sin(n\theta)$  and  $\cos(n\theta)$  yields to

$$\dot{a}_n = n\omega b_n - K a_n \quad \dot{b}_n = -n\omega a_n - K b_n + q_n$$

- rewriting the torque balance equation eliminates all but one term by orthogonality

$$I\dot{\omega} = -v\omega + \pi g r a_1$$

## waterwheel equations

$$\dot{a} = \omega b_1 - K a_1$$

$$\dot{b} = -\omega a_1 - K b_1 + q_1$$

$$\dot{\omega} = (-v\omega + \pi g r a_1) / I$$

# Substitution

Substitutions:

$$a_1 = \alpha Y$$

$$b_1 = \beta Z + q_1/K$$

$$\omega = \gamma X$$

$$t = T\tau$$

Lorenz equations

$$\dot{X} = \sigma(Y - X)$$

$$\dot{Y} = rX - Y - XZ$$

$$\dot{Z} = XY - bZ$$

## Fixed Points

- Setting the derivatives equal to zero:

## Fixed Points

$$a_1 = \omega b_1 / K$$

$$\omega a_1 = q_1 - K b_1$$

$$a_1 = v \omega / \pi g r$$

- solving for  $b_1$

$$\frac{\omega b_1}{K} = \frac{v \omega}{\pi g r}$$

- $\omega = 0$  or  $b_1 = K v / \pi g r$

## Fixed Points

there are two kinds of fixed points:

- if  $\omega = 0$ , then  $a_1 = 0$  and  $b_1 = q_1/K$

$$(a_1, b_1, \omega) = (0, q_1/K, 0)$$

- no rotation with inflow balanced by leakage
- if  $\omega \neq 0$ , then  $b_1 = K/q_1 / (\omega^2 + K^2) = Kv/\pi gr$

$$(\omega)^2 = \frac{\pi gr q_1}{v} - K^2$$

- when  $\frac{\pi gr q_1}{v} > K^2$  there are two solutions  $\pm\omega$
- steady rotation in either direction

# Rayleigh number

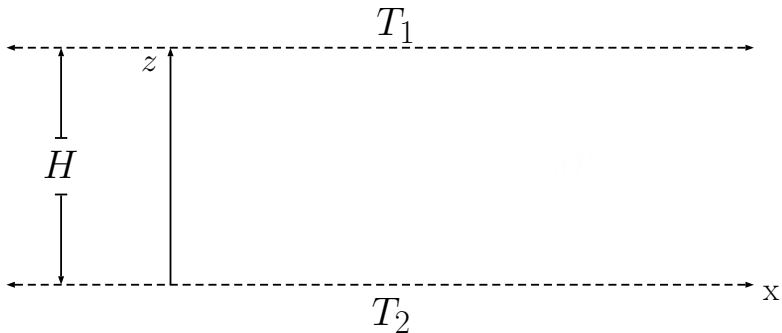
- the solutions only exist if

$$\frac{\pi g r q_1}{K^2 \nu} > 1$$

- this dimensionless group is called the Rayleigh number
- expresses a competition between a spinning and a stopping of the wheel

# Convection crash course

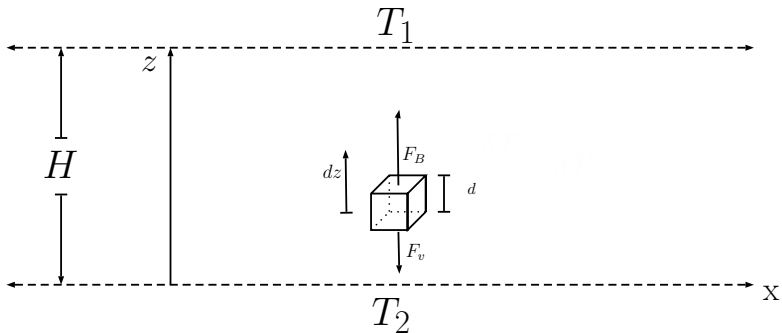
## Geometry of the Lorenz Model





# Convection crash course

## Geometry of the Lorenz Model



## Heat Equation

$$\frac{\partial T}{\partial t} = D_T \Delta T \quad (1)$$

Approximate the Laplacian operator by

$$\Delta T \approx \frac{\delta T dz}{h^3}$$

$D_T$	Thermal diffusivity
$H$	Height of the Box
$\alpha$	Thermal Expansion Coefficient
$\rho_0$	Initial density
$\delta T$	Temperature difference
$g$	Gravitational acceleration
$\mu$	Dynamic Viscosity

Find a Value for the Thermal displacement Time:

$$t_T \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} \stackrel{!}{=} dT = t_T D_T \Delta T$$

$$\approx t_T D_T \frac{dz}{H^3}$$

Calculate the bouyancy force:

$$F_B = \alpha \rho_0 g dT = \alpha \rho_0 g \frac{\delta T}{H} dz$$

$D_T$	Thermal diffusivity
$H$	Height of the Box
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Determine the viscous dissipation force:

$$F_v = \frac{\mu v}{H^2}$$

$D_T$	Thermal diffusivity
$H$	Height of the Box
$\alpha$	Thermal Expansion Coefficient
$\rho_0$	Initial density
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Set them equal:

$$F_v = F_B \iff v = \frac{\alpha \rho_0 g H \delta T}{\mu} dz$$

From this one obtains the displacement Time:

$$t_d = \frac{\mu}{\alpha \rho_0 g h \delta T}$$

$D_T$	Thermal diffusivity
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The ratio between the displacement Times is the Rayleigh number:

$$R = \frac{t_T}{t_D} = \frac{\alpha \rho_0 g H^3 \delta T}{D_T \mu}$$

$D_T$	Thermal diffusivity
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# Derivation of the Equations

## Navier-Stokes-Equations (Convective Form)

$$\frac{\partial \vec{u}}{\partial t} + \vec{u}(\nabla \vec{u}) - \mu \nabla^2 \vec{u} = -\frac{\nabla p}{\rho_0} + \vec{g} \quad (1)$$

$p$  is the Pressure,  $\vec{g}$  is the gravitational acceleration,  $\vec{u}$  is the stream field.

- Apply Boussinesq Approximation
- Substitute to dimensionless variables
- Introduce a Streamfunction  $\Psi$
- $\rightarrow$  Saltzman Equations

# Saltzman Equations

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{\sigma} \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial t} (\Delta \Psi) - \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left( \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial z} \frac{\partial^2 \Psi}{\partial^2 x z} - \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial x} \frac{\partial^2 \Psi}{\partial^2 z} \right) \right. \\ & \quad \left. - \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial z} \frac{\partial^2 \Psi}{\partial^2 x} - \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial x} \frac{\partial^2 \Psi}{\partial^2 z x} \right) \right) \\ & = R \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} + \Delta^2 \Psi \end{aligned}$$

Make the Ansatz:

$$\psi \propto X \sin\left(\frac{\pi a}{H} x\right) \sin\left(\frac{\pi z}{H}\right)$$

$$\theta \propto \left( Y \cos\left(\frac{\pi a}{H} x\right) - Z \sin\left(\frac{2\pi}{H} z\right) \right)$$

Where as:  $\sigma = \frac{\mu}{D_T}$      $r = \frac{R}{R_c}$

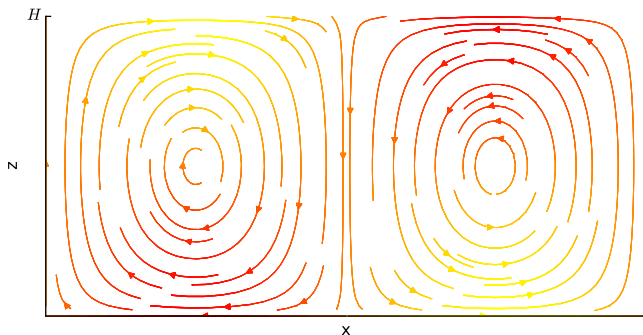
and  $R_c = 27 \frac{\pi^4}{4}$  is the critical Rayleigh Number



# Convection Rolls

Lorenz Ansatz: Fourier series truncation

$$\{x, z\} \propto X \left\{ a \cos\left(\frac{\pi a}{H}\right) \sin\left(\frac{\pi z}{H}\right), \sin\left(\frac{\pi a}{H}\right) - \cos\left(\frac{\pi z}{H}\right) \right\}$$



## Lorenz Equations

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A Chaotic  
Waterwheel

**Lorenz Model and  
Rayleigh Number**

Some  
mathematical  
properties

Trajectories in  
Phase Space

Chaos  
Sensitive  
dependency on  
initial Conditions  
Aperiodicity

Strange Attractor  
characteristics

References



# The actual Equations

From using the Lorenz Ansatz in the Saltzmann Equations:

## Lorenz Equations

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{X} &= \sigma(Y - X), \\ \dot{Y} &= X(r - Z) - Y, \\ \dot{Z} &= XY - bZ.\end{aligned}$$

# Properties of the Lorenz equations

## Lorenz equations

$$\dot{X} = \sigma(Y - X)$$

$$\dot{Y} = rX - Y - XZ$$

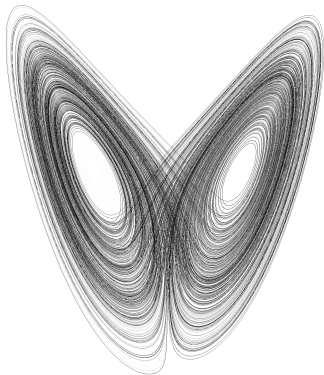
$$\dot{Z} = XY - bZ$$

- $\sigma$  ist the Prandtl number,  $r$  is the Rayleigh number and  $b$  has no specific name
- the system has two nonlinearities, the quadratic terms  $XZ$  and  $XY$

# Symmetry

- important symmetry in the Lorenz equations
- all solutions are either symmetric or have a symmetric partner

$$\begin{pmatrix} X \\ Y \\ Z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -X \\ -Y \\ Z \end{pmatrix}$$



# Volume Contraction

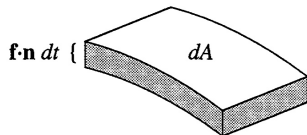
$$V(t + dt) = V(t) + \int_S (f \cdot n dt) dA$$

$$\dot{V} = \int_S f \cdot n dA = \int_V \nabla \cdot f dV$$

$$\nabla \cdot f = -\sigma - 1 - b < 0$$

$$V(t) = V(0) e^{-(\sigma+1+b)t}$$

- volumes in phase space shrink exponentially fast
- shrinks to a limiting set of zero volume
- the Lorenz system is dissipative



# Fixed Points

- the origin  $(x, y, z) = (0, 0, 0)$  is a fixed point for all values of the parameters
- for  $r > 1$  there is also a symmetric pair of fixed points

$$\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \pm \sqrt{b(r-1)} \\ \pm \sqrt{b(r-1)} \\ r-1 \end{pmatrix}$$

- Lorenz called them  $C^+$  and  $C^-$
- they represent left- or right turning convection rolls or the steady rotation of the waterwheel
- as  $r \rightarrow 1^+$ ,  $C^+$  and  $C^-$  fuse to a pitchfork bifurcation

# Stability of the Origin

- the linearization is obtained by omitting the nonlinearities
- Jacobian at the Origin:

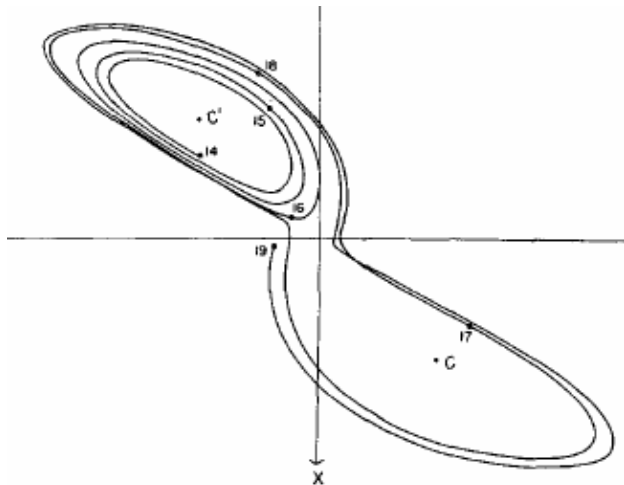
$$J = \begin{pmatrix} -\sigma & \sigma & 0 \\ r & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -b \end{pmatrix} \quad \det(J) = b\sigma(r - 1)$$

- $Z$  is decoupled and  $Z(t) \rightarrow 0$
- if  $r > 1$ , the origin is a saddle point because  $\det(J) < 0$
- if  $r < 1$ , the origin is a sink for all incoming directions



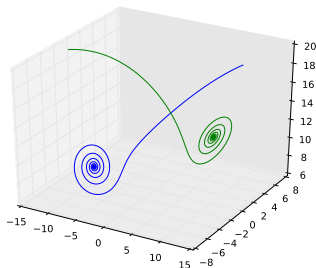
# Numerical Integration for different Rayleigh numbers

Low Rayleigh Numbers  $r < 40$



## Low Rayleigh Numbers

- For  $r < 1$ , the origin is globally stable
- For  $1 < r < r_a \approx 14$  there are two stable fixed points  $C_+$  and  $C_-$



# “Bifurcation Cloud”

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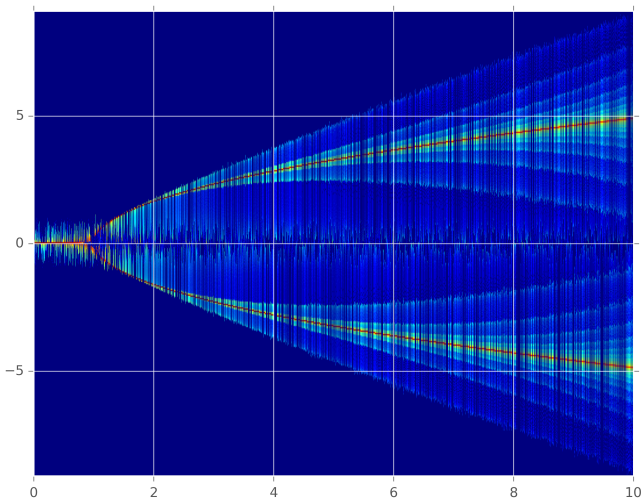
Chaos

Sensitive  
dependency on  
initial Conditions

Aperiodicity

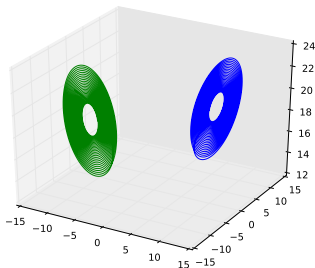
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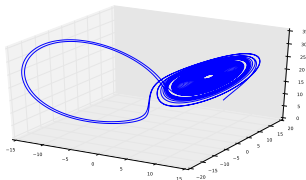
## Low Rayleigh Numbers

- For  $r_a < r < r_H = \frac{\sigma(\sigma+b+3)}{\sigma-b-1}$  there are also unstable limit cycles.



## Low Rayleigh Numbers

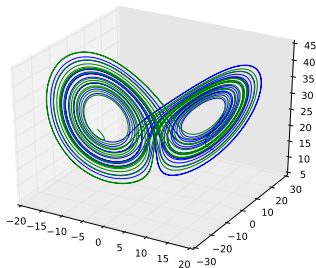
- For  $r_a < r < r_H = \frac{\sigma(\sigma+b+3)}{\sigma-b-1}$  there are also unstable limit cycles.



## Semi-Chaotic

## Low Rayleigh Numbers

- A subcritical Hopf bifurcation occurs at  $r > r_H$ .
- The fixed points disappear, leading to seemingly chaotic behaviour



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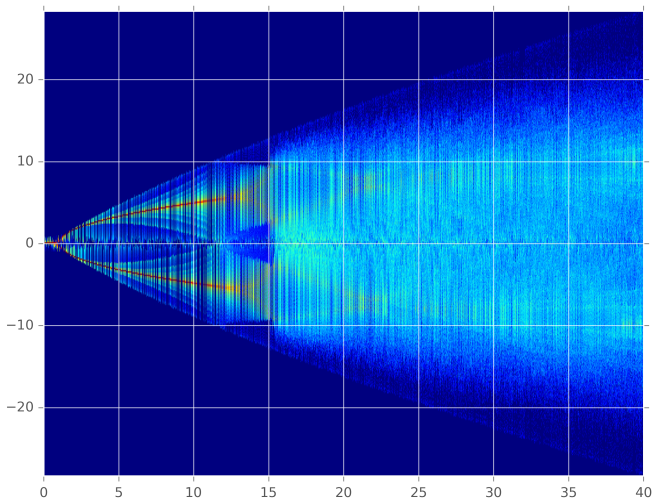
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# High Rayleigh Numbers

- For  $r > 99$ , there exist windows with stable limit cycles.
- For  $r > 313$ , there is only one global stable limit cycle

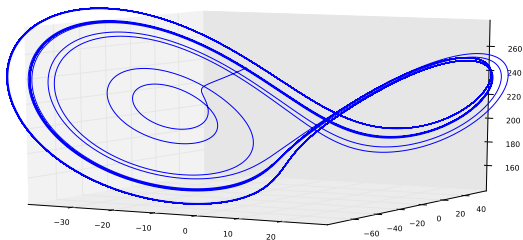


Figure: Solution for  $r = 212$ , Noisy Periodicity



# High Rayleigh Numbers

- For  $r > 99$ , there exist windows with stable limit cycles.
- For  $r > 313$ , there is only one global stable limit cycle

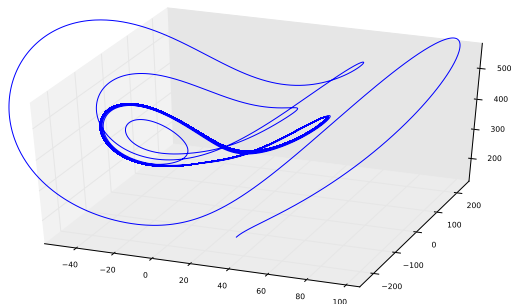
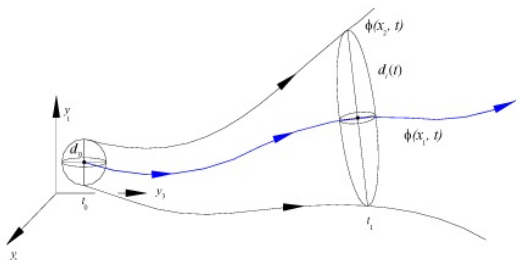


Figure: Solution for  $r = 350$ , Globally Stable limit Cycle

# Exponential Divergence of Nearby Trajectories

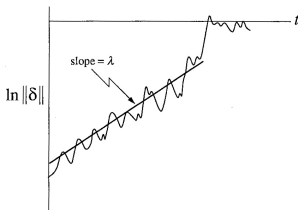
- sensitive dependence on initial conditions
- long-term prediction is impossible



# Exponential Divergence of Nearby Trajectories

- $x(t)$  is a point on the attractor at time  $t$
- $x(t) + \delta(t)$  is a nearby point with a tiny separation  $\delta$
- in numerical studies was found that

$$\|\delta(t)\| \sim \|\delta_0\| e^{\lambda t} \quad \text{where } \lambda \approx 0.9$$



- the divergence stops when the separation is comparable to the diameter of the attractor
- $\lambda$  is often called the Ljapunov exponent

# Time Horizon

- when a system has a positive Ljapunov exponent, there is a time horizon
- $a$  is a measure of tolerance
- our prediction becomes intolerable when  $\|\delta(t)\| \leq a$

$$t_{horizon} \sim O\left(\frac{1}{\lambda} \ln \frac{a}{\|\delta_0\|}\right)$$

- example:

original prediction:  $t_{horizon} \approx \frac{1}{\lambda} \ln \frac{10^{-3}}{10^{-7}} = \frac{4 \ln 10}{\lambda}$

improved prediction:  $t_{horizon} \approx \frac{1}{\lambda} \ln \frac{10^{-3}}{10^{-13}} = \frac{10 \ln 10}{\lambda}$

- after a millionfold improvement in our measurement we can predict only 2.5 times longer!
- $\Rightarrow$  big problem in weather prediction

# Aperiodicity

Can we really tell if the solutions are  
aperiodic?



Figure: Royal McBee LGP-30, used by Lorenz for numerical integration

# Return Map

Consider a certain perspective of the trajectory:

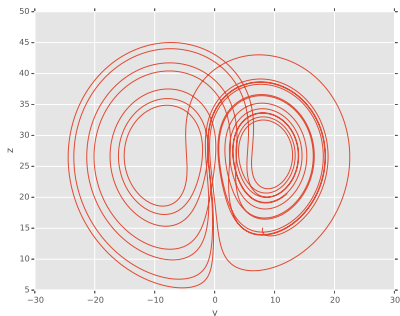


Figure: Projection of the Attractor on the x-z plane

# Return Map

A approach to reduce the systems dynamics to a discrete 1D map.

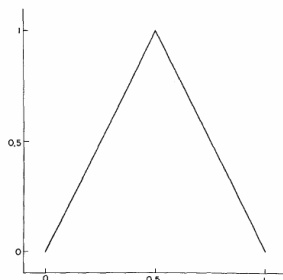
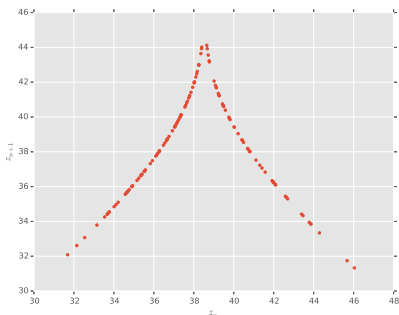
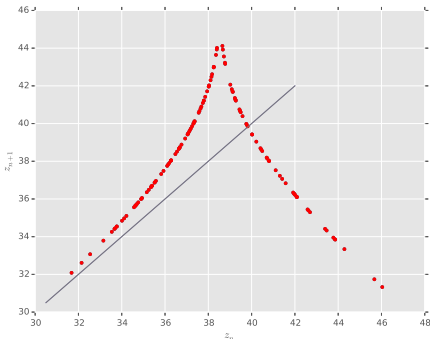


FIG. 5. The function  $M_{n+1}=2M_n$  if  $M_n < \frac{1}{2}$ ,  $M_{n+1}=2-2M_n$  if  $M_n > \frac{1}{2}$ , serving as an idealization of the locus of points in Fig. 4.

Figure: Return Map for  $r=28$ , Left: Actual numerical results. Right: Idealized Function from Lorenz

- The absolute value of the first derivative is  $f'(z_n) > 1$
- For  $z_n = z_{n+1}$  the orbit is stable
- Pertubating the orbit by  $\Delta z$ ,
- $\implies z'_{n+1} = z_n + \Delta z f'(z + \Delta z)$
- $\Delta z' = \Delta z f'(z + \Delta z) > \Delta z$
- This implies: The Cycle is unstable

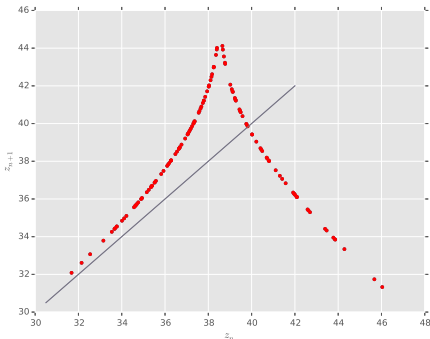
## Return Map





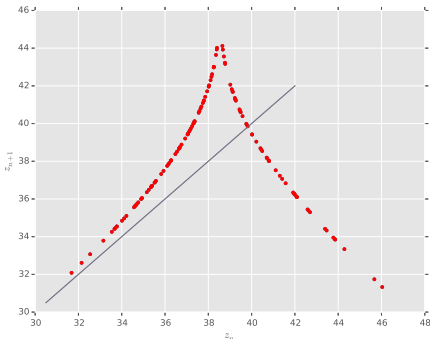
- The absolute value of the first derivative is  $f'(z_n) > 1$
- For  $z_n = z_n + 1$  the orbit is stable
- Pertubating the orbit by  $\Delta z$ ,
- $\implies z'_{n+1} = z_n + \Delta z f'(z + \Delta z)$
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## Return Map



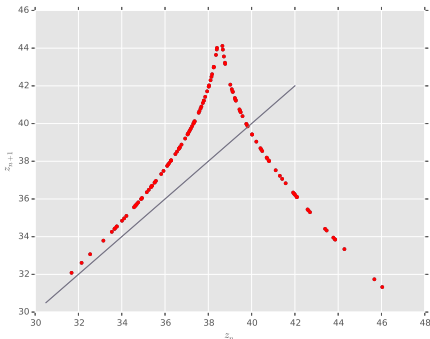
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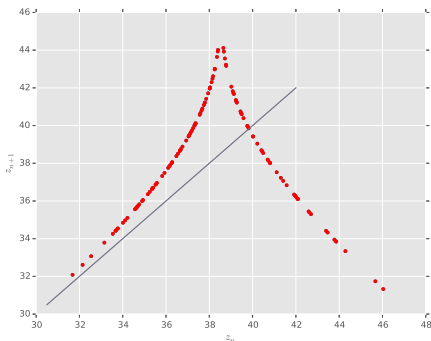
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## Return Map



## Return Map

The last argument does not hold for all values of  $r$

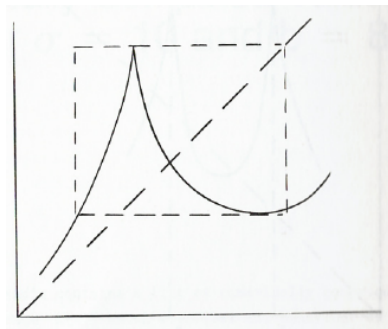
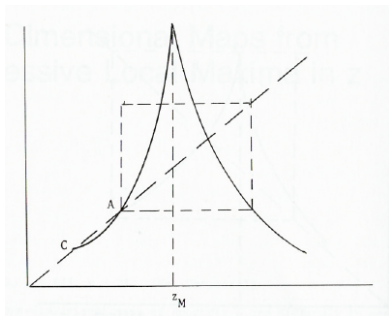


Figure: Return Map, Left:  $r < 24.06$  Right:  $r > 30.2$ , Sparrow[1980]

# Strangeness of the Lorenz Attractor

- Do the planes of attraction intersect at the origin?

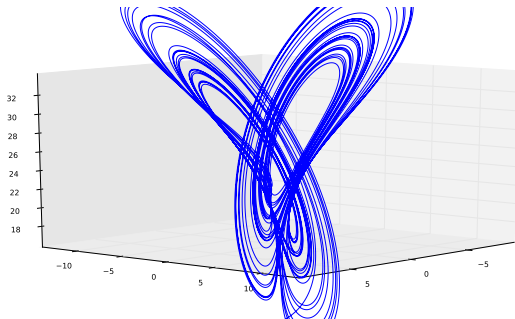


Figure: Lorenz Attractor at the origin for  $r = 28$

# Strangeness of the Lorenz Attractor

- Do the planes of attraction intersect at the origin?

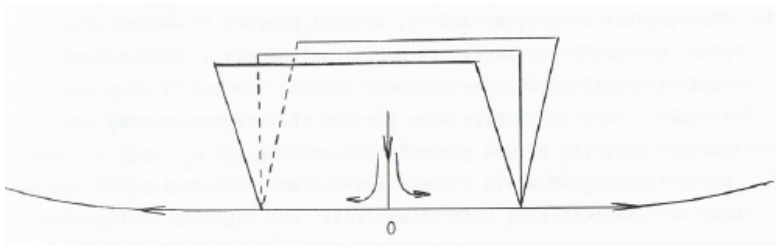


Figure: The Lorenz attractor manifold at the origin, Sparrow[1980]

**“if the flap of a butterfly’s wings can be instrumental  
in generating a tornado, it can equally well be  
instrumental in preventing a tornado” *Lorenz 1972***



# Resources I



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## Resources II



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