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Mobility induces global synchronization of oscillators in periodic extended systems

Fernando Peruani, Ernesto M. Nicola, Luis G. Morelli

(Submitted on 22 Mar 2010)

We study synchronization of locally coupled noisy phase oscillators which move diffusively in a one-dimensional ring. Together with the disordered and the globally synchronized states, the system also exhibits several wave-like states which display local order. We use a statistical description valid for a large number of oscillators to show that for any finite system there is a critical spatial diffusion above which all wave-like solutions become unstable. Through Langevin simulations, we show that the transition to global synchronization is mediated by the relative size of attractor basins associated to wave-like states. Spatial diffusion disrupts these states and paves the way for the system to attain global synchronization.

Comments: submitted to Phys. Rev. Lett.

Subjects: Biological Physics (physics.bio-ph); Chaotic Dynamics (nlin.CD)

Cite as: arXiv:1003.4253v1 [physics.bio-ph]

Submission history

From: Fernando Peruani [view email]
[v1] Mon, 22 Mar 2010 19:46:58 GMT (1007kb)

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