

# Braess' Paradox, (In-)Stability and Optimal Design in Modern Power Grids

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Max Planck Institute for Dynamics & Self-Organization



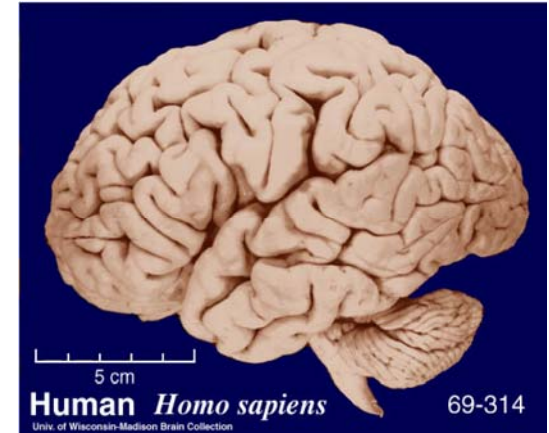
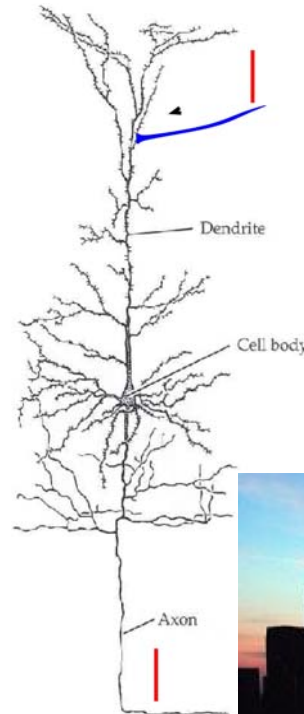
Georg August University, Göttingen

# Self-organized Dynamics in Networks of Biology and Physics

## Biological Networks

$(10^{-3} - 10^{10} s; 10^{-5} - 10^{-1} m)$

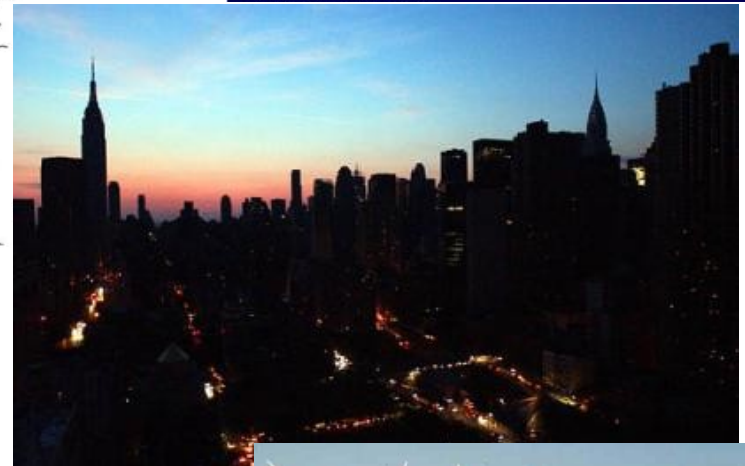
- Neurons & neural circuits
- Horizontal gene transfer & evolutionary networks



## Networks of physical & artificial units

$(10^{-2} - 10^{10} s; 10^{-9} - 10^6 m)$

- Network growth & disordered media
- Modern power grids (mind the renewables!)
- Autonomous robots & network control



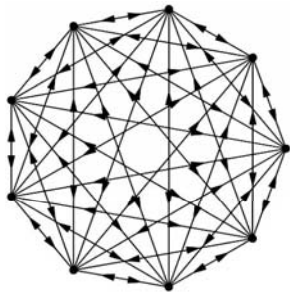
# Mathematical Challenges for Theory

Simultaneous occurrence of:

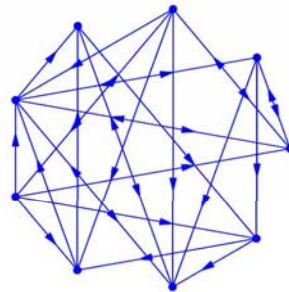
- **Nonlinearity**
- **High dimensionality**
- Complicated Network **Connectivity**
- Interaction **Delays**
- Strong **Heterogeneities**
- **Stochasticity**

common approach:

**Mean Field Theories, Statistical Description**, e.g. averaging over network



all-to-all  
(regular)



general  
(irregular)



local  
(regular)

Help: **Self-organization & bio-inspired approaches**

# Distributed collective grid dynamics ...



Local shut-down



Nonlocal impact

## Stromausfall in Europa



Frankf. Allg. Zeitung,  
Nov 5, 2006

## ... far from fully understood

just **two** single high-power **connections** in northwest Germany **cut**:

→ outages in France, Italy, Austria, some parts of Spain, Portugal, the Netherlands, Belgium and Marocco

→ **Delayed (30 min)** consequence

>> "In the past, these operations were often performed with no problems",

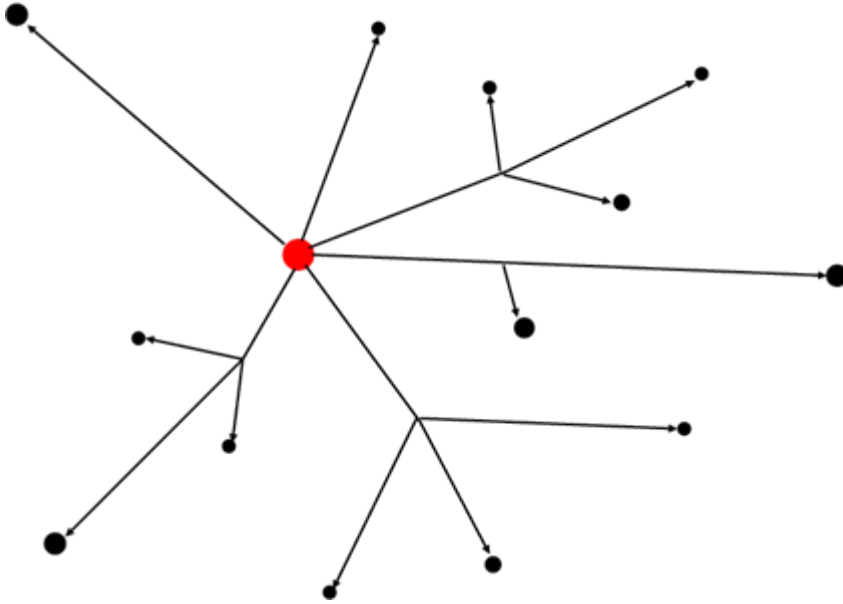
E.O.N. officials declared in great surprise<< (*Softpedia*)

„**We need more interconnections**“

says A.Merlin of RTE, France's power-grid operator (*Bloomberg*)

**Which factors determine  
the collective dynamics of power grids?**

# How does the grid self-organize dynamically?

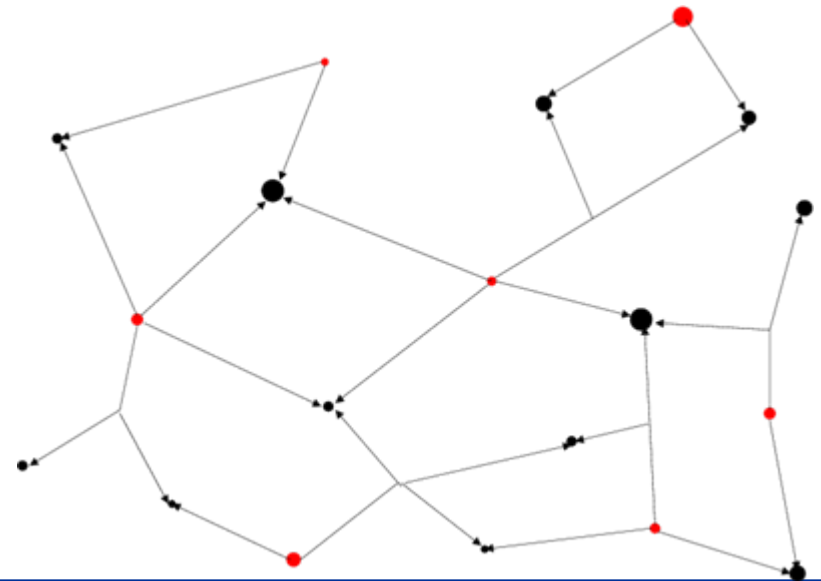


2000

- largely centralized
- dominated by large sources
- almost central control

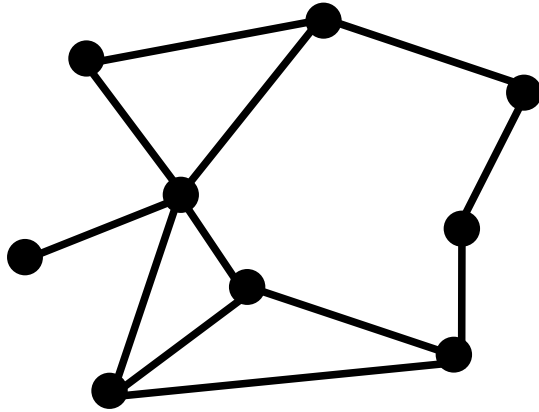
2050

- more distributed
- smaller sources
- less controllable

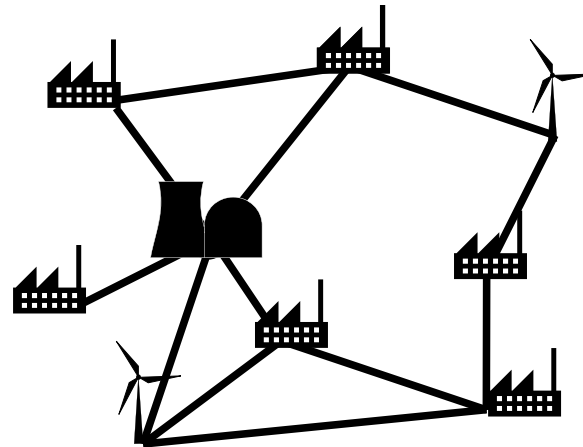
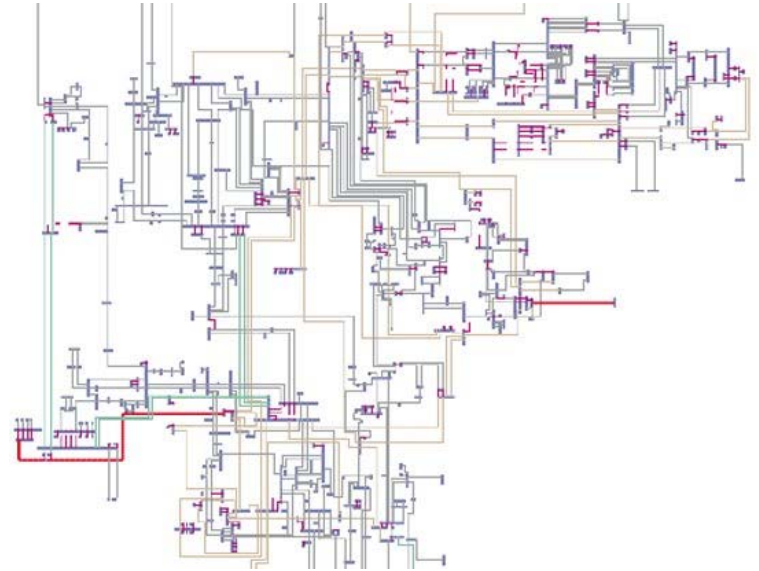


# Dynamic oscillator models: between abstract and detailed

Abstract: homogeneous, statistic, quasi-static, large-scale



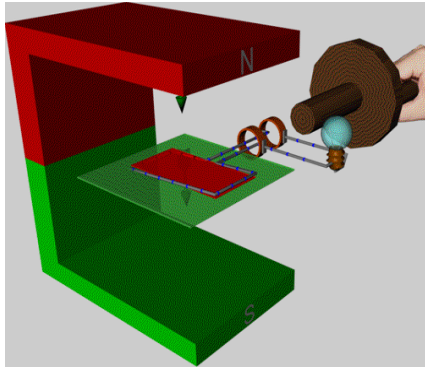
Detailed: heterogeneous, component-level, dynamic, small-scale



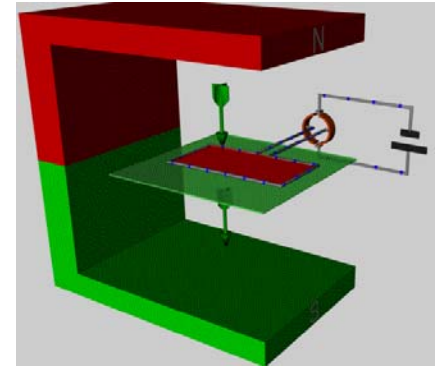
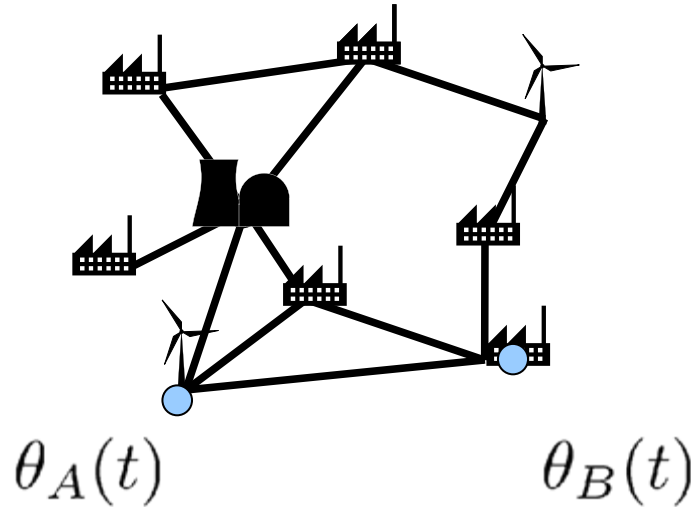
Oscillator model:

- heterogeneous
- coarse-grained
- dynamic
- large-scale

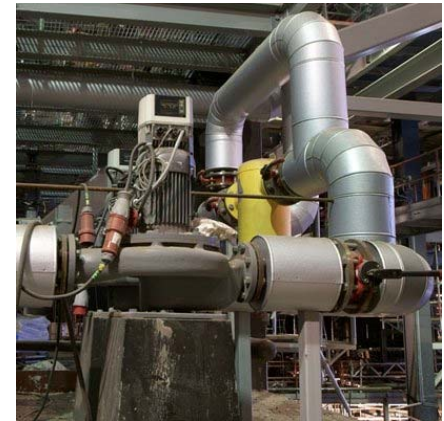
# Coarse, dynamic oscillator model of power grids



**Generator**



**Motor**



- $\theta(t)$  Phase at time  $t$
- $P$  input/output power
- $K$  Transmission capacity

Images: [physik3d.de](http://physik3d.de), Wikipedia



# Oscillator network as dynamical system

$$\ddot{\theta}_i(t) + \dot{\theta}_i(t) - K \sum_{j \neq i} a_{ij} \sin(\theta_j(t) - \theta_i(t)) = P_i$$

$\theta_i$  “mechanical” relative phase of oscillator  $i$

$\dot{\theta}_i$  First derivative (velocity) – damping

$\ddot{\theta}_i$  Second derivative (acceleration) – inertia

$K$  Capacity of each transmission line

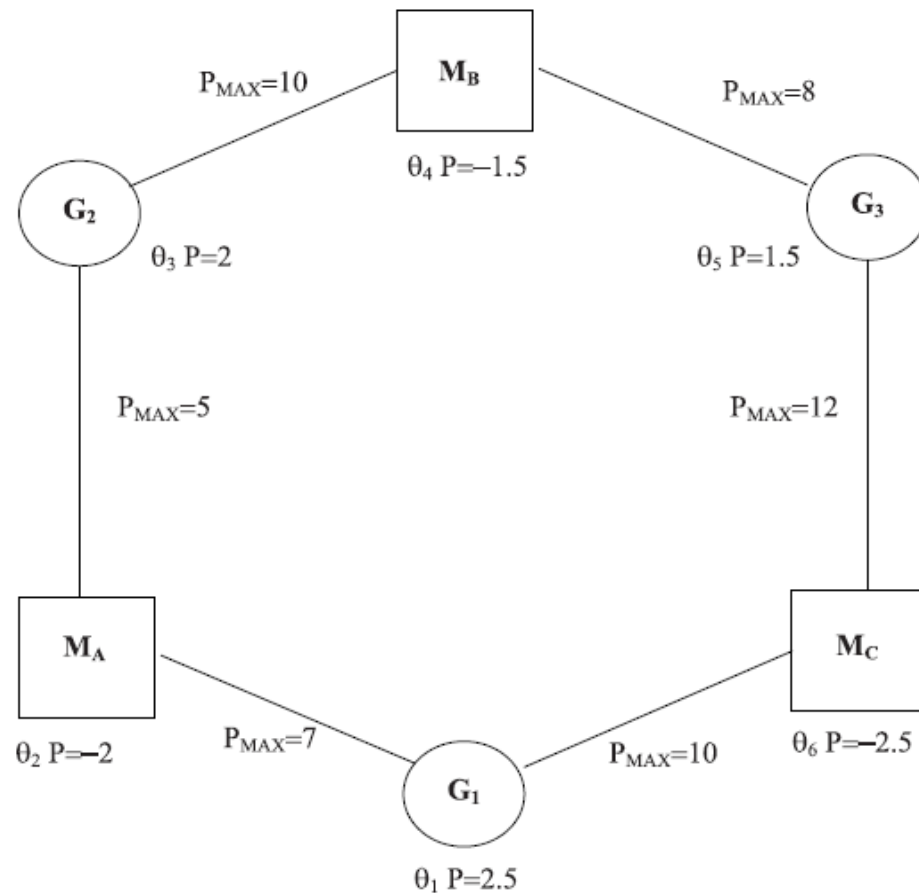
$a_{ij}$  = 1 if there is a line between  $i$  and  $j$  (=0 otherwise)

$P_i$  Power supplied (+) or consumed (–)

Filatrella et al., *Eur. Phys. J. B*, 61:485 (2008)

# Previous studies on this model

Approximation to grid of Zealand (Denmark)



- simple topology
- constant parameters
- simulations of impact of temporary perturbations

Filatrella et al., *Eur. Phys. J. B*, 61:485 (2008)

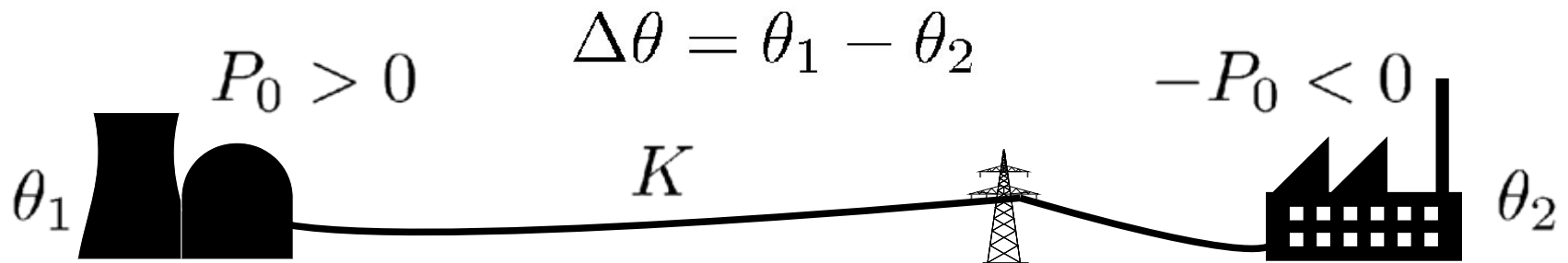
# Mathematical analysis of stationary dynamics (N=2)

$$\begin{aligned}\ddot{\theta}_1 + \dot{\theta}_1 - K \sin(-\Delta\theta) &= P_0 \\ - \ddot{\theta}_2 + \dot{\theta}_2 - K \sin(\Delta\theta) &= -P_0\end{aligned}$$

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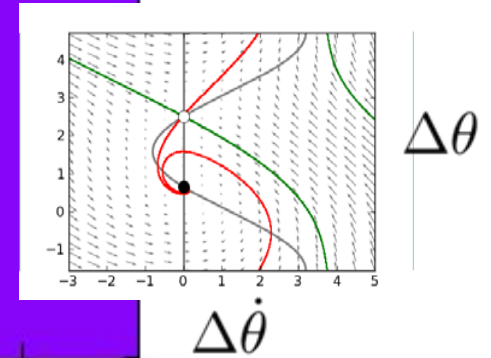
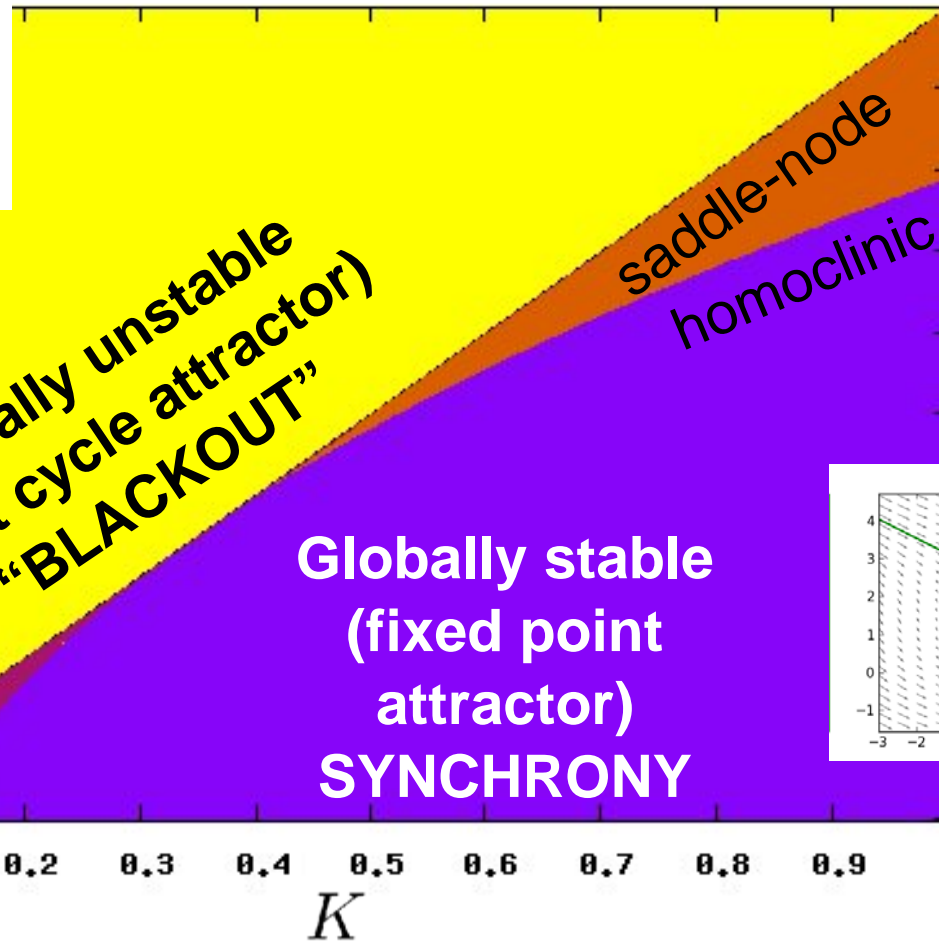
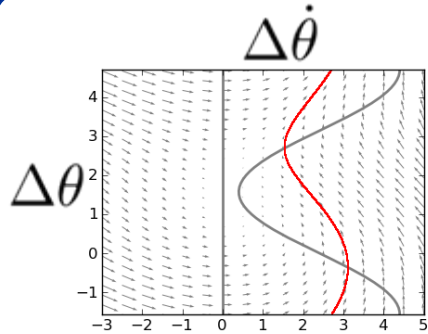
$$\Delta\ddot{\theta} + \Delta\dot{\theta} + 2K \sin(\Delta\theta) = 2P_0$$

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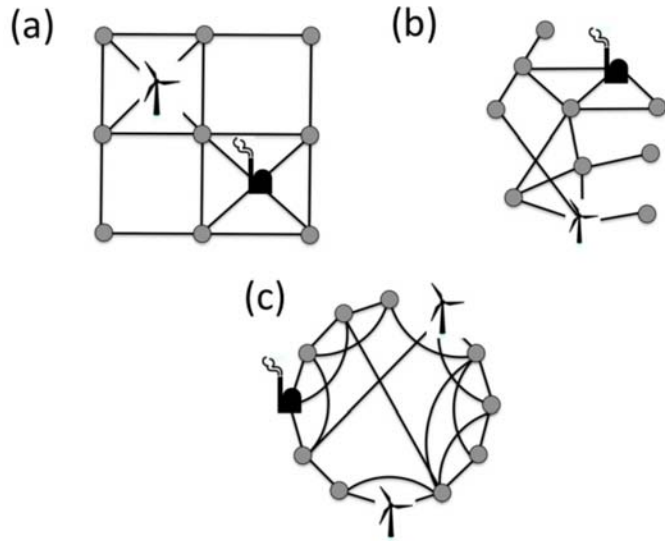
# Mathematical analysis of stationary dynamics (N=2)

$$\Delta\ddot{\theta} + \Delta\dot{\theta} + 2K \sin(\Delta\theta) = 2P_0$$



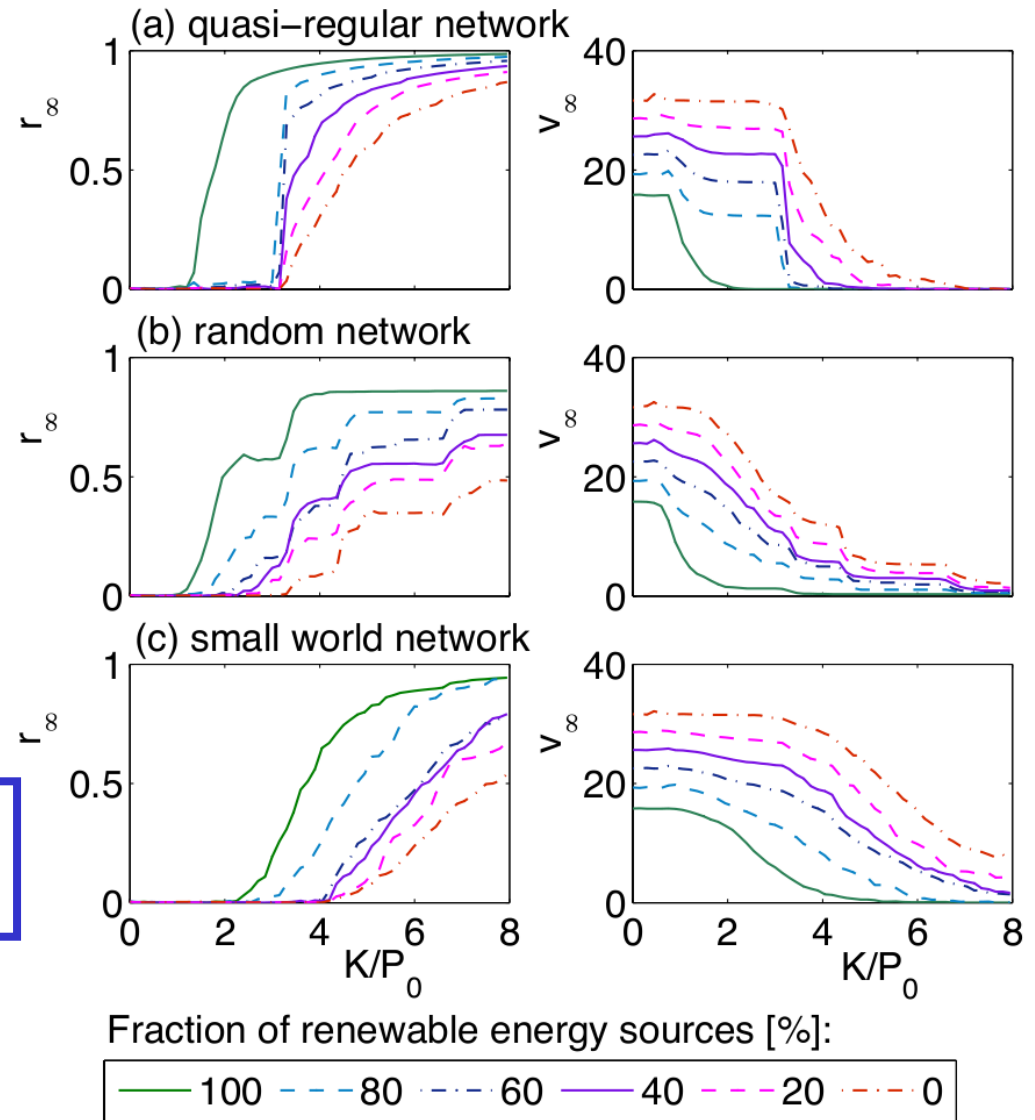
M. Rohden et al., *almost accepted*

# Computational analysis of networks of different topologies



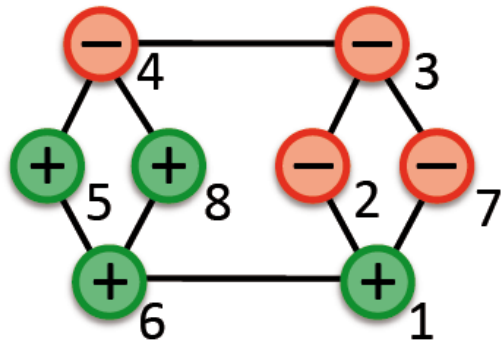
**More & smaller sources  
→ larger stationary stability**

M. Rohden, et al., *almost accepted*,  
*Phys. Rev. Lett.* (2012)

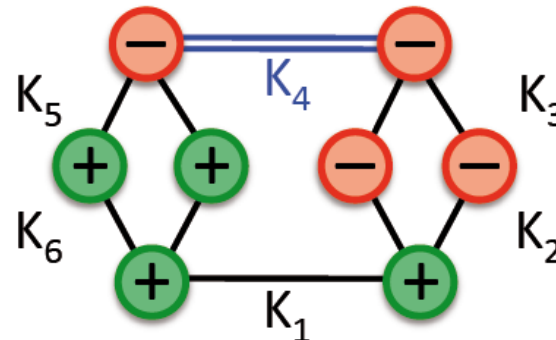


# Braess paradox: adding lines causes failure

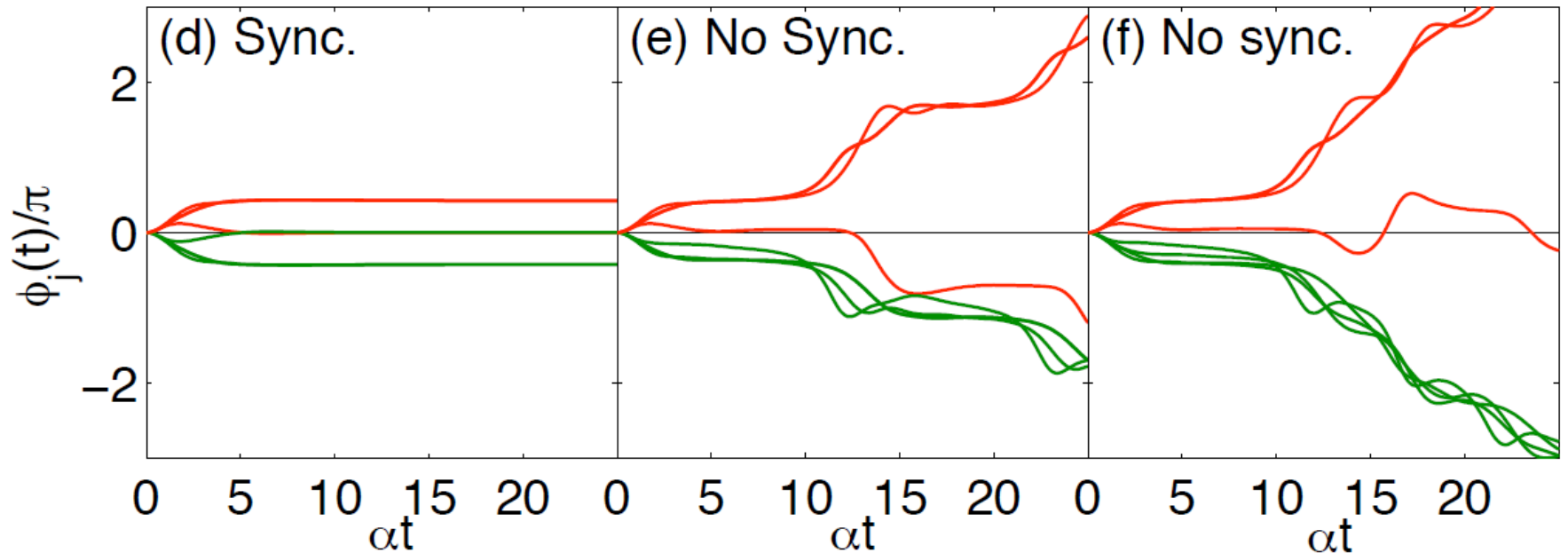
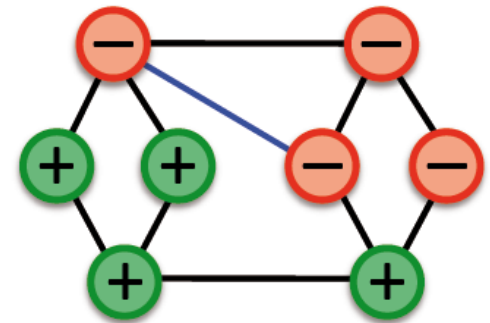
(a) Original configuration



(b) Add capacity

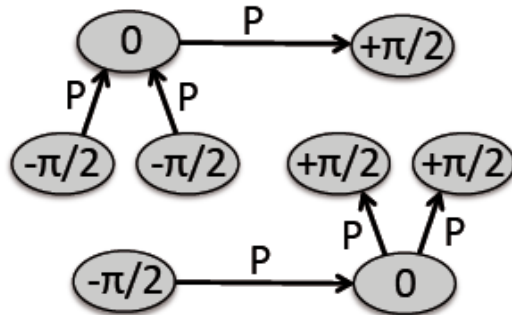


(c) Add line

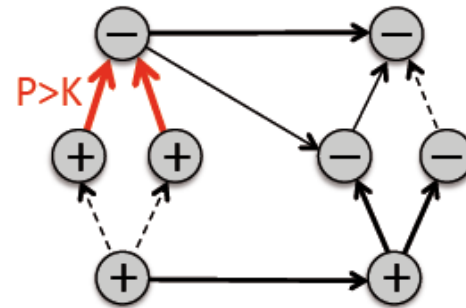


# Mechanism of Braess paradox: geometric frustration

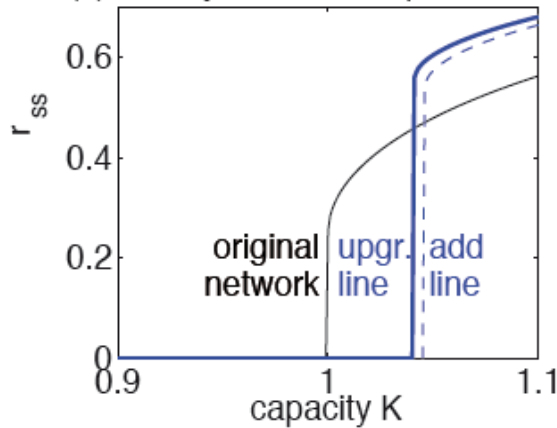
(a) Original network:  
Flows and phases at  $K_c$



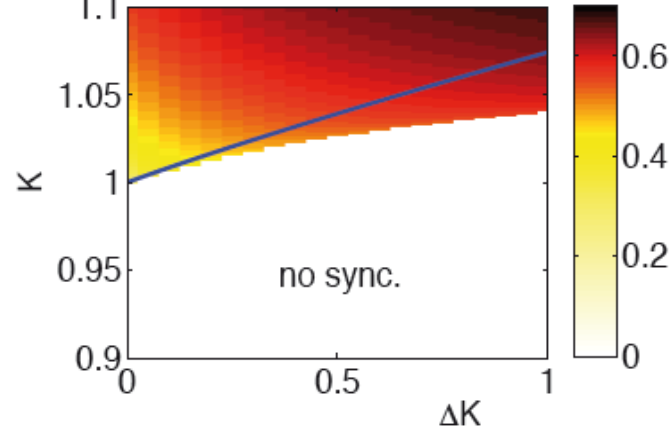
(b) Adding a transmission line:  
Change of the energy flow



(c) Steady-state order parameter

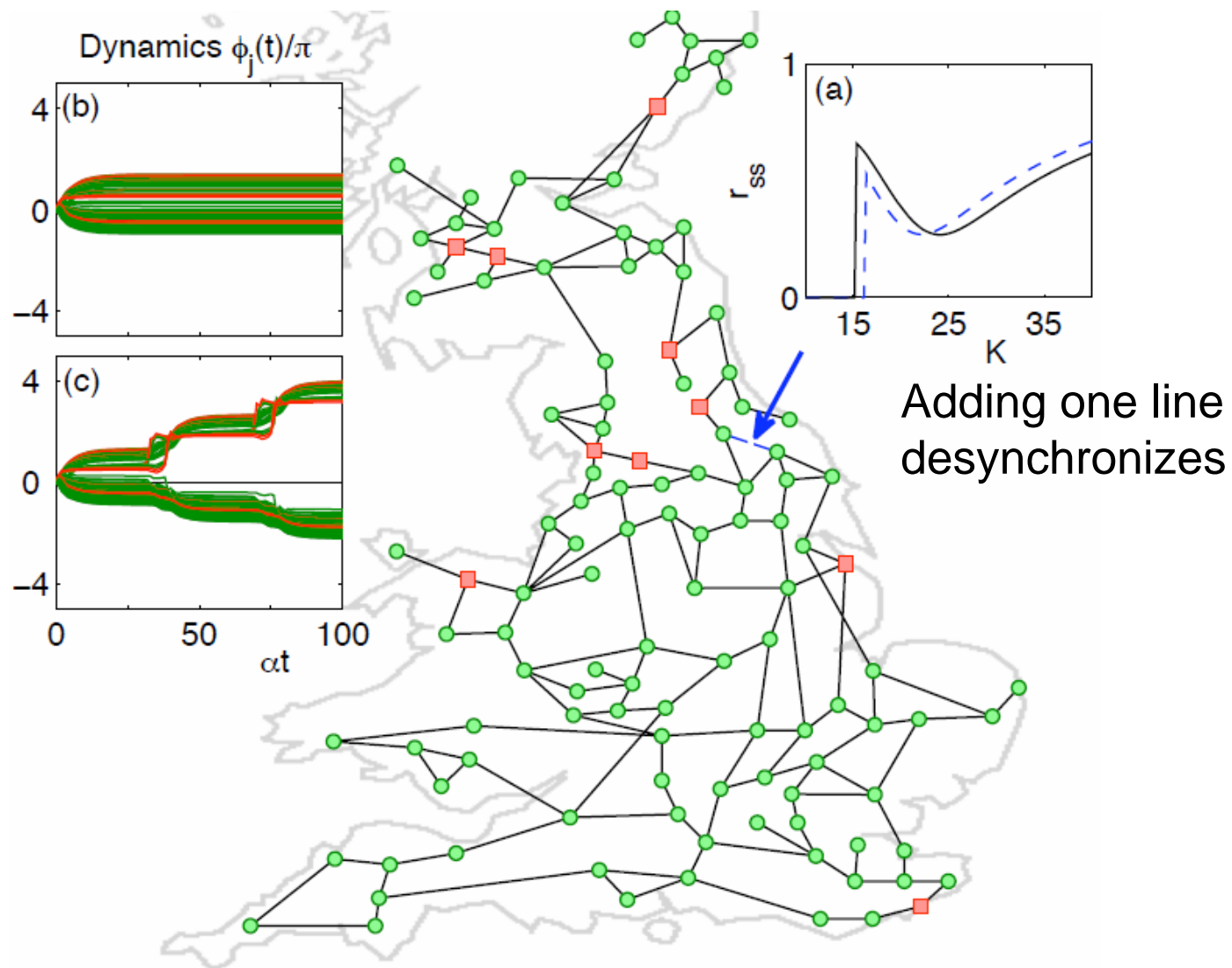


(d) Stability phase diagram



Cyclic phase differences need to add up to zero  
**→ Additional capacity „breaks the balance“**

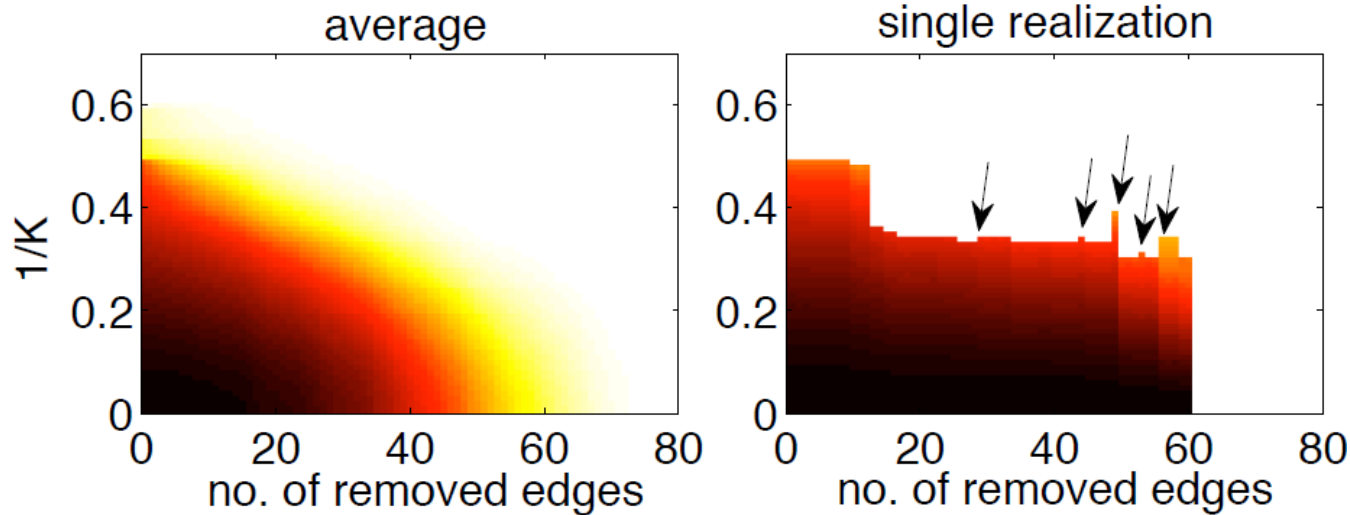
# Example of Braess paradox on given topology



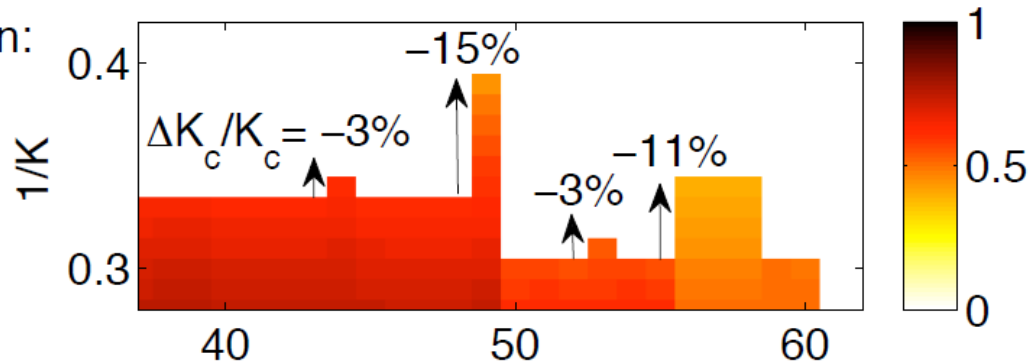


# Persistent occurrence on model topologies

## Small world networks ( $N=50+50, q=0.1$ )



Magnification:



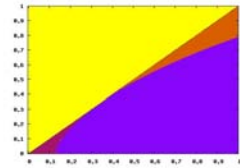
Substantial number of links cause Braess paradox

Dirk Witthaut & MT, under review (2012)

# Summary

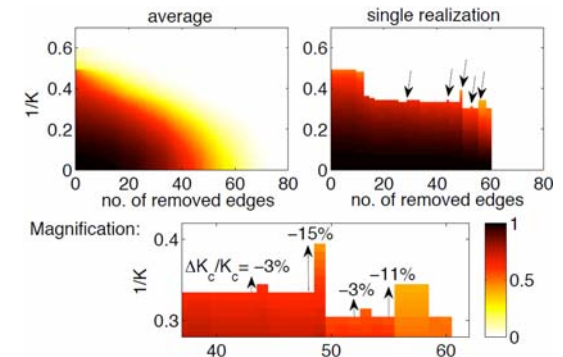
## Demonstrated some key capabilities of intermediate oscillator model

- complete understanding of basic determin. system ( $N=2$ , bifurcations)



- **distributed sources  $\rightarrow$  larger (stationary) stability**

- **Braess paradox (adding lines may be bad)**



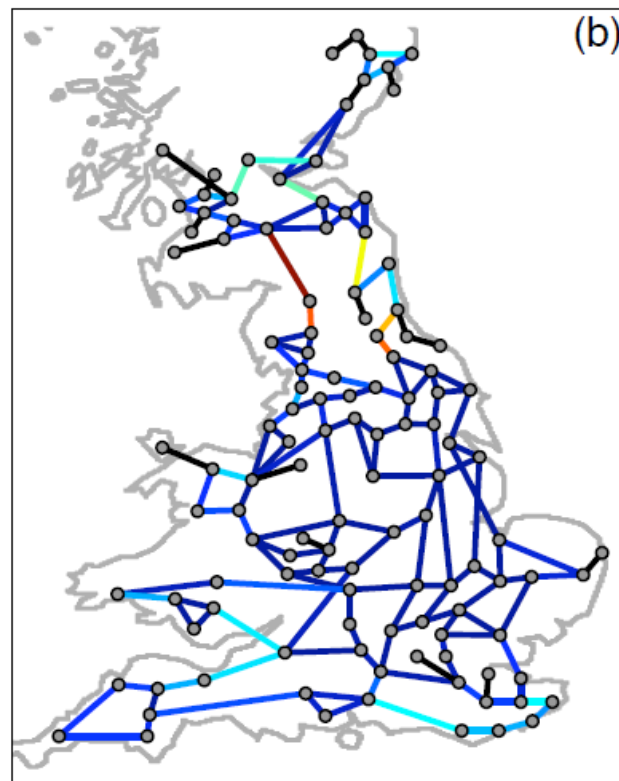
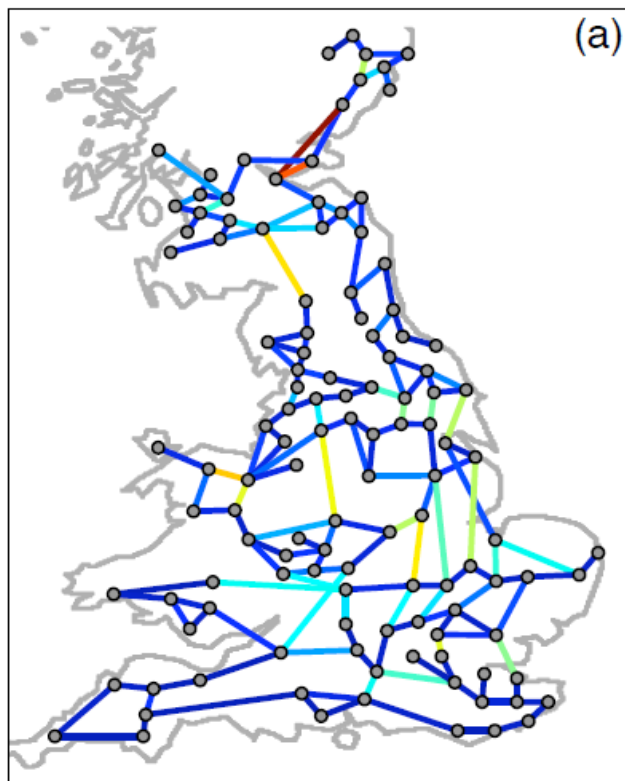
# Open Research Questions

## Open Questions & work in progress

- response to **instantaneous perturbations** (not shown)?
- Which lines are most critical (not those with highest load) ?
- sensitivity to continuous **fluctuations**  
(mathematical and computational analysis) in sources and consumers
- **redistribution** of energy (How to get the power where it is needed)  
**geographically & time-resolved data** (sun, wind, consumer demand)

...

# How robust against connection cuts?



*Not* heavily loaded links, but **least redundant links most critical ?**

# Theoretical Challenges in Network Dynamics: Nonlinear Dynamics, Inference, Computation & Behavior

## • Network Dynamics and Information Processing

*Phys. Rev. Lett.* 89:258701 (2002c);  
*Phys. Rev. Lett.* 92:074101 (2004b);  
*Chaos* 16:015108 (2006);  
*Phys. Rev. E* 78:065201(R) (2008);  
*Europhys. Lett.* 90:48002 (2010);  
*Chaos*, 21:025113 (2011);

*Phys. Rev. Lett.* 92:074103 (2004a);  
*Phys. Rev. Lett.* 93:074101 (2004c);  
*Nonlinearity* 21:1579 (2008);  
*Phys. Rev. Lett.* 102:068101 (2009);  
*SIAM J. Appl. Math.* 70:2119 (2010);  
*Phys. Rev. Lett.* 107:244101 (2011);

## • Network Inference: Design, Reconstruction and Stability

*Phys. Rev. Lett.* 97:188101 (2006);  
*Europhys. Lett.* 76:367 (2006);  
*Phys. Rev. Lett.* 100:048102 (2008);  
*Frontiers Comp. Neurosci.* 5:3 (2010);  
***Phys. Rev. Lett.* 108:218701 (2012);**  
small world formula

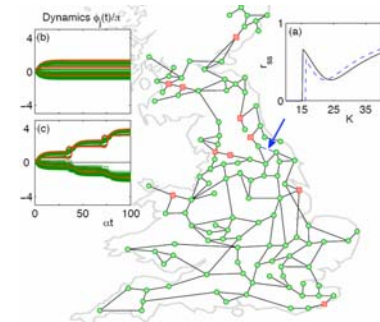
*Physica D* 224:182 (2006);  
*Phys. Rev. Lett.* 98:224101 (2007);  
*Frontiers in Comput. Neurosci.* 3:13 (2009);  
*New J. Physics.* 13:013004 (2011)  
Witthaut & MT, submitted (2012)



## • Spatio-temporal patterns, control and computation

*Phys. Rev. Lett.* 89:154105 (2002a);  
*Nonlinearity* 18:20 (2005);  
*Neurocomputing* 70:2096 (2007);  
*Frontiers in Neurosci.* 3:2 (2009);  
Handbook on Biological Networks (Chapter on 'Spike Patterns'), World Scientific (2010);  
Bick et al., *SIAM J. Appl. Dyn. Syst.*, accepted, (2012); *PLoS Comput. Biol.* 8:e1002384 (2012);

*Chaos* 13:377 (2003);  
*Nature* 436:36 (2005);  
*Neurosci. Res.* 61:S280 (2008);  
*Discr. Cont. Dyn, Syst.* 28:1555 (2010);



# Theoretical Challenges in Network Dynamics: Nonlinear Dynamics, Inference, Computation & Behavior

- **Adaptation and autonomous robots** via nonlinear dynamics

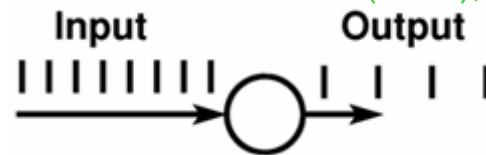
*Nature Phys.* 6:224 (2010);

*J. Phys. A: Math. Theor.* 42:345103 (2009);

*Phys. Rev. Lett.*, under revision (Kielblock et al., 2012)

*Phys. Rev. Lett.*, 109, 018701 (2012),

new paradigm: heteroclinic computing



- **Intelligent coordination and new computational devices**

*Phys. Rev. Lett.* 88:245501 (2002b);

*Cornell Rep.* 1813:1352 (2007);

*New J. Phys.* 11:023001 (2009);

*J. Phys. A: Math. Theor.*, 43:175002 (2010);

*Nature Phys.*, 7:265 (2011);

*New J. Phys.*, under review (2012)



# Thanks to ...

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Carsten Grabow

Christoph Kirst

[Martin Rohden](#)

Gunter Weber

Wen-Chuang Chou

Britta Feldsmann

Sven Jahnke

Christoph Kolodziejski

[Andreas Sorge](#)

[Dirk Witthaut](#)

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**MPIDS & BCCN Göttingen**

Silke Steingrube

**Solar Energy Research, Univ. Hannover**

Shuwen Chang, Holger Taschenberger

**MPI BPC Göttingen**

**YOU all for your attention !**

[Questions & Comments Welcome!](#)