

SIAM DS23 - MS29

TIPPING POINTS IN
NATURAL SYSTEMS:
THEORY AND
APPLICATIONS



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MS29 Tipping Points in Natural Systems: Theory and applications

4:55 – 5:20	Robbin Bastiaansen	Tipping Phenomena and Time Scales
5:25 – 5:50	Kerstin Lux	Uncertainty Quantification for Tipping Points of the Atlantic Meridional Overturnin Circulation
5:55 – 6:20	Iacopo Longo	Rigorous Criteria for Tipping and Tracking of Concave Coercive ODEs
6:25 – 6:50	Sebastian Wieczorek	Rate-Induced Tipping to Zombie Fires

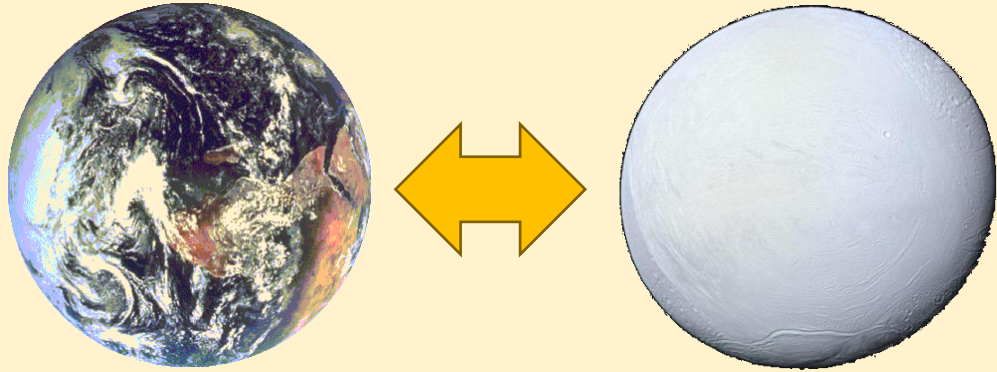
TIPPING PHENOMENA AND TIME SCALES



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SIAM DS23, 2023-05-14

Tipping Points

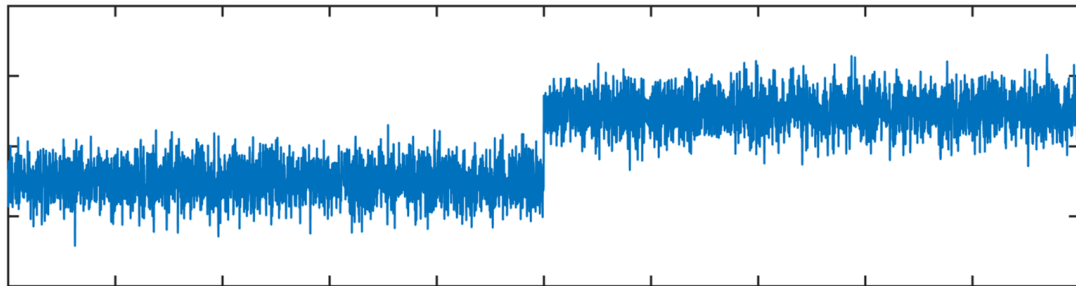
IPCC AR6 (2021) : “a critical threshold beyond which a system reorganizes, often abruptly and/or irreversibly”



Planetary transitions

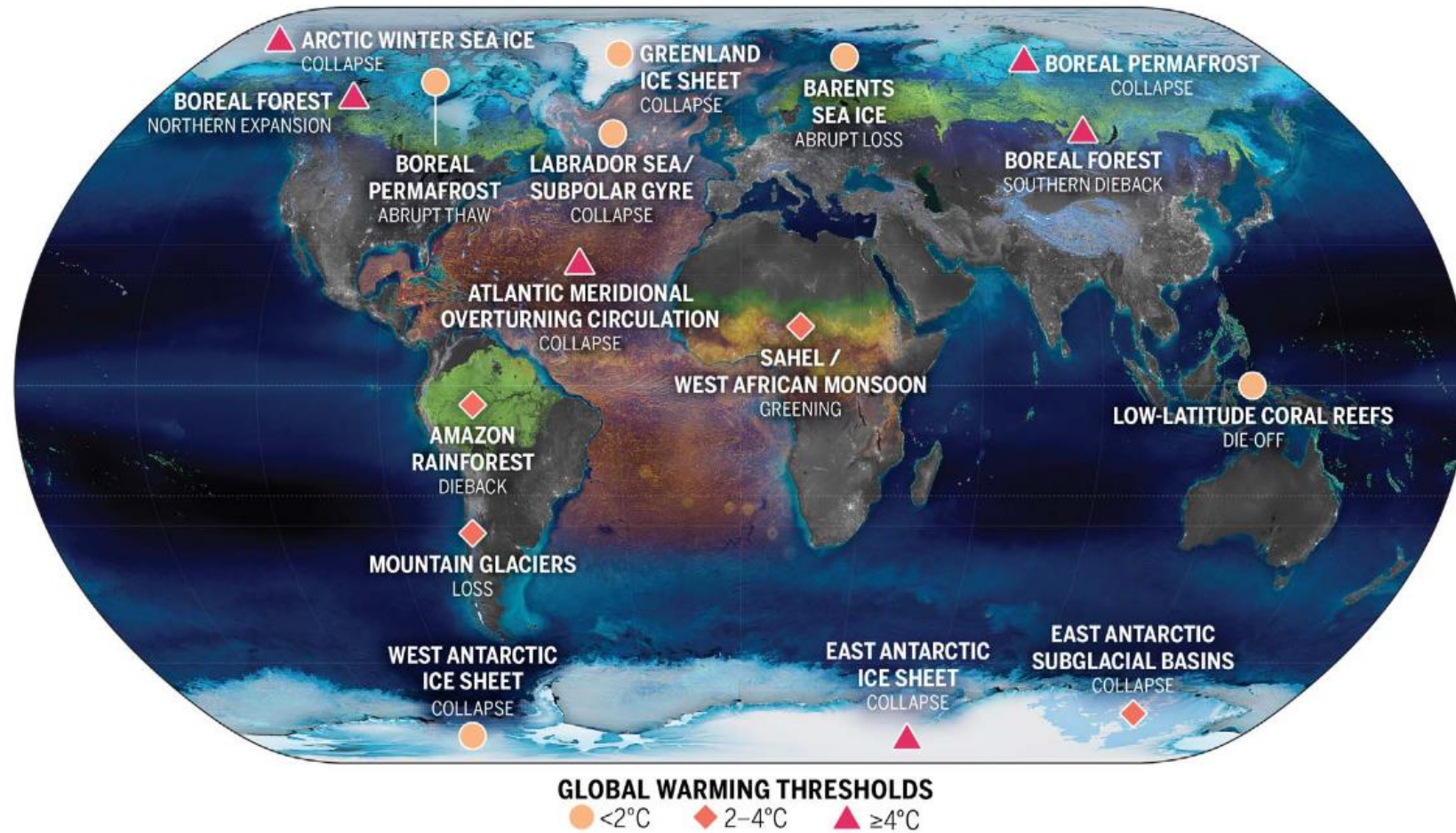


Ecosystem shifts



Tipping Points

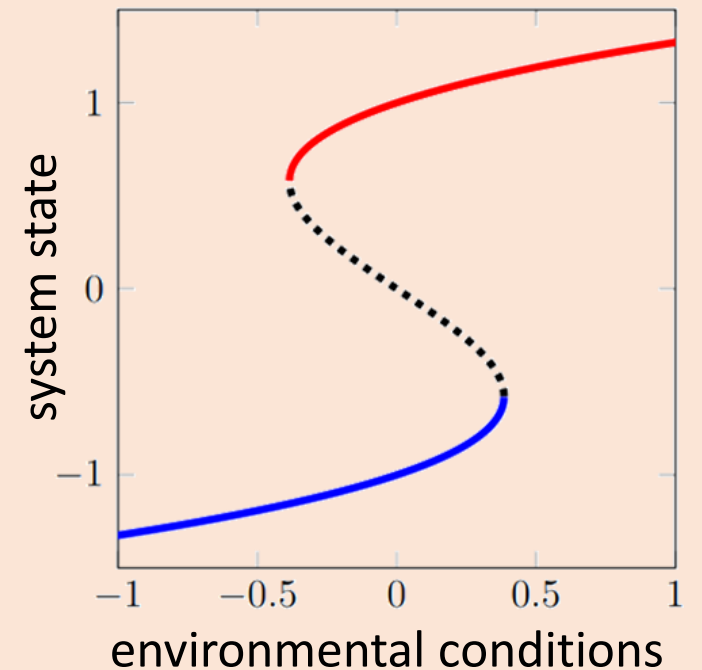
IPCC AR6 (2021) : “a critical threshold beyond which a system reorganizes, often abruptly and/or irreversibly”



Mathematics

Tipping points \leftrightarrow Bifurcations

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = f(y, \mu)$$



Classic Theory of Tipping

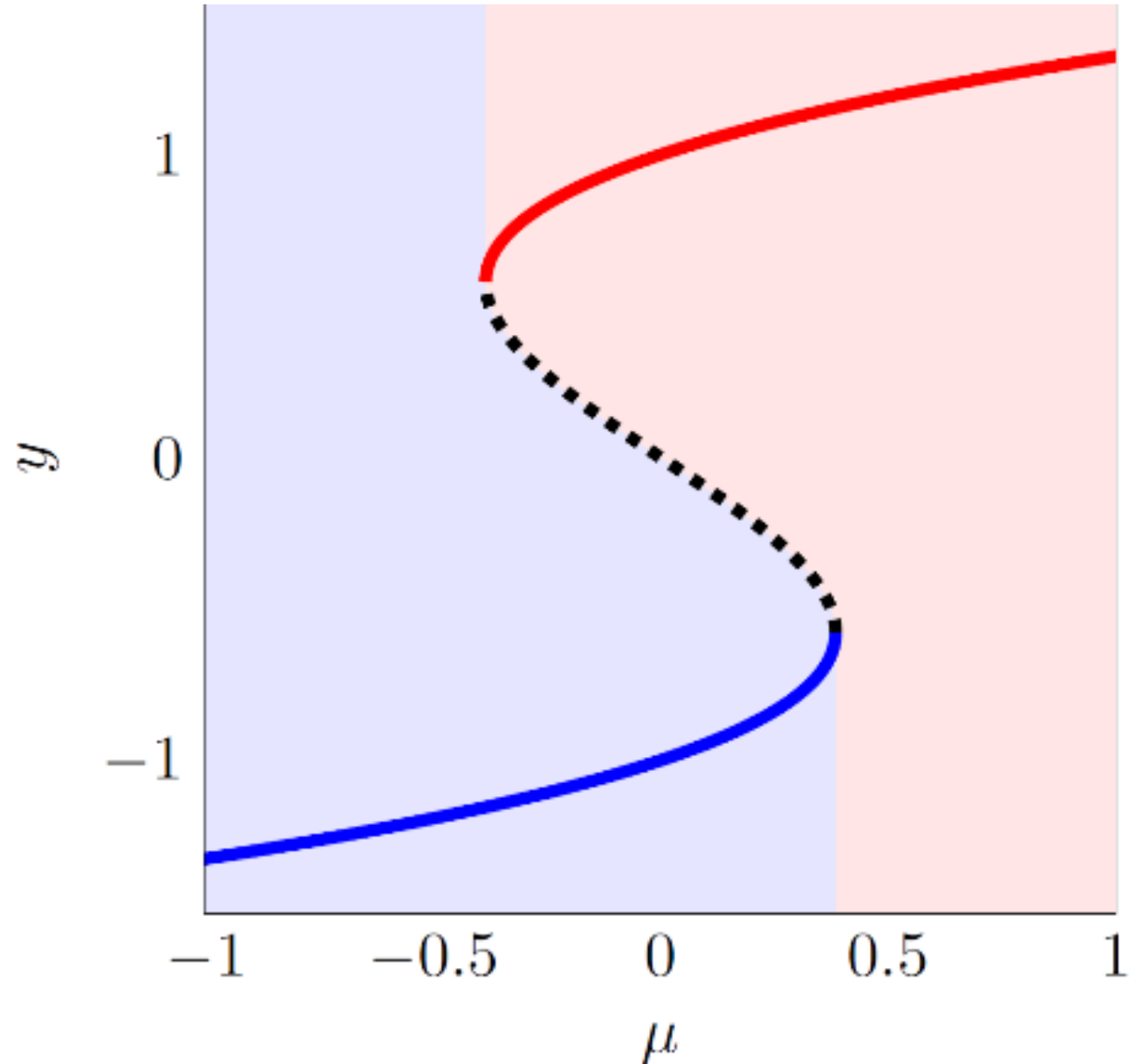
$$\frac{d\vec{y}}{dt} = f(\vec{y}; \mu)$$

Canonical example:

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = y(1 - y^2) + \mu$$

Bifurcation structure and location of tipping points are hard to predict

→ Kerstin's talk @5:25 for progress in this direction



How does tipping work?

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = y(1 - y^2) + \mu$$

Internal Dynamics

$$\frac{d\mu}{dt} = \delta$$

Parameter Drift

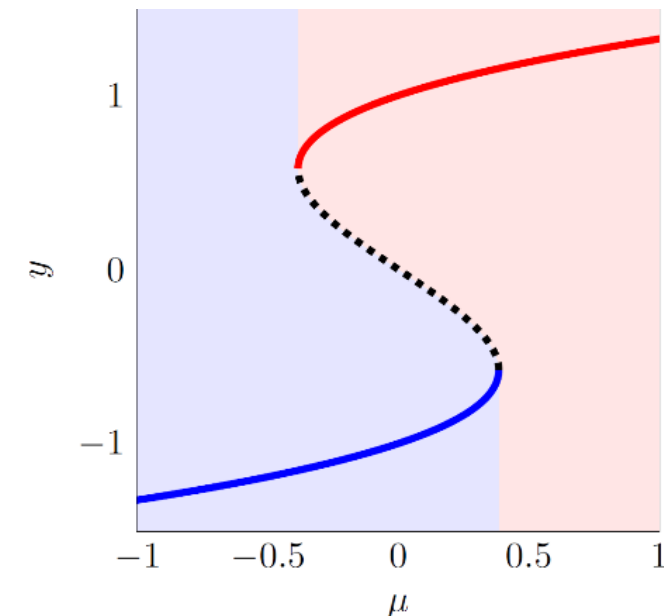
Time Scale Separation

$0 < \delta \ll 1$: Bifurcation-tipping (B-tipping)

$\delta \geq \mathcal{O}(1)$: more complicated stuff

→ Iacopo's talk @ 5:55

→ Sebastian's talk @ 6:25



Time Scales

INTERNAL TIME SCALES:

dynamics of tipping element

EXTERNAL TIME SCALE:

parameter drift

Previous slide: 1 **internal** time scale

Upcoming: examples with multiple **internal** time scales

EXAMPLE 1: Multiscale Global Energy Balance Model

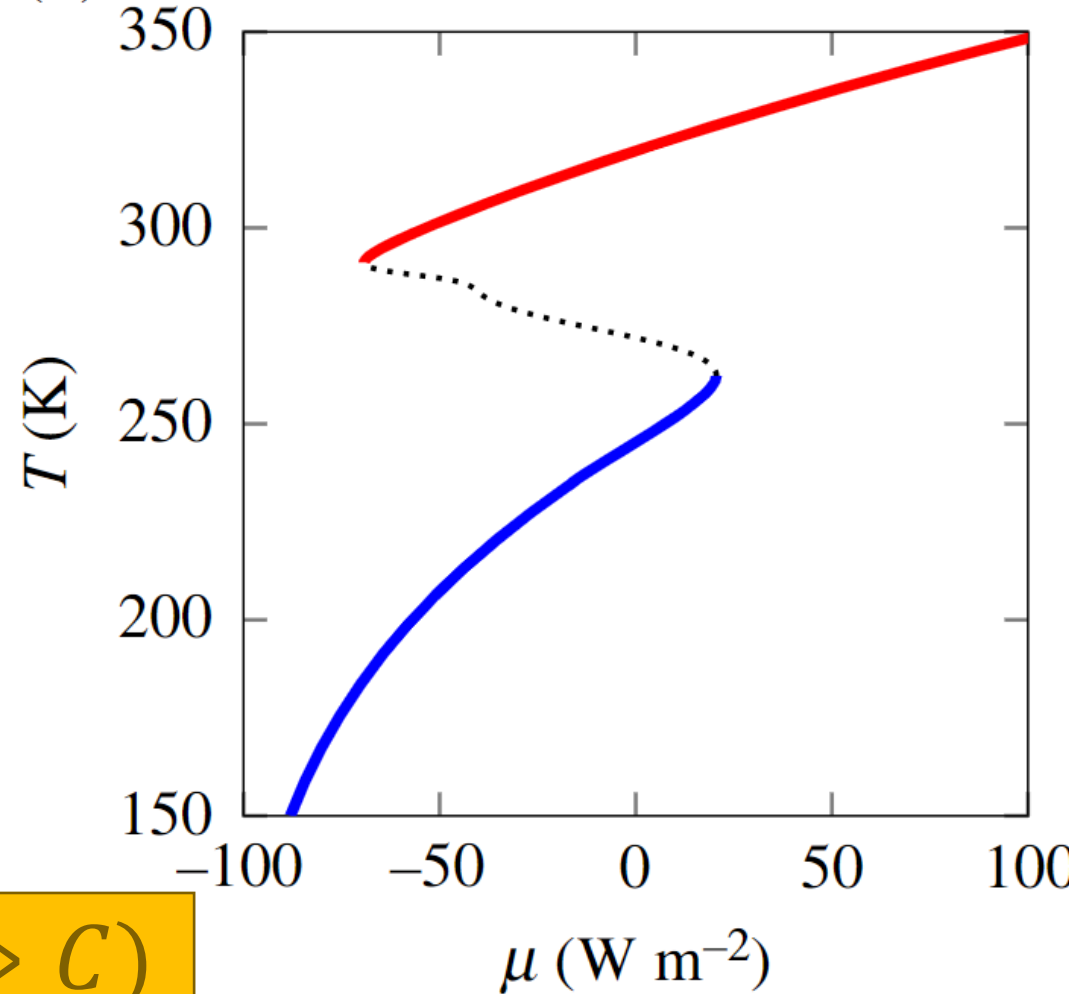
$$C \frac{dT}{dt} = Q_0(1 - \alpha) - \epsilon(T)\sigma T^4 + \mu$$

Short-Wave

CO₂

Long-Wave

(a)



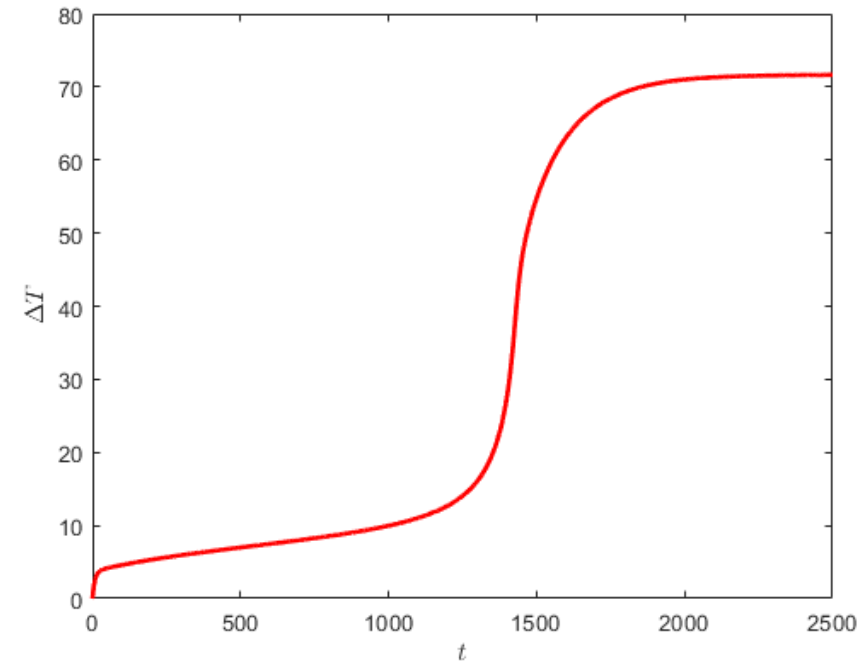
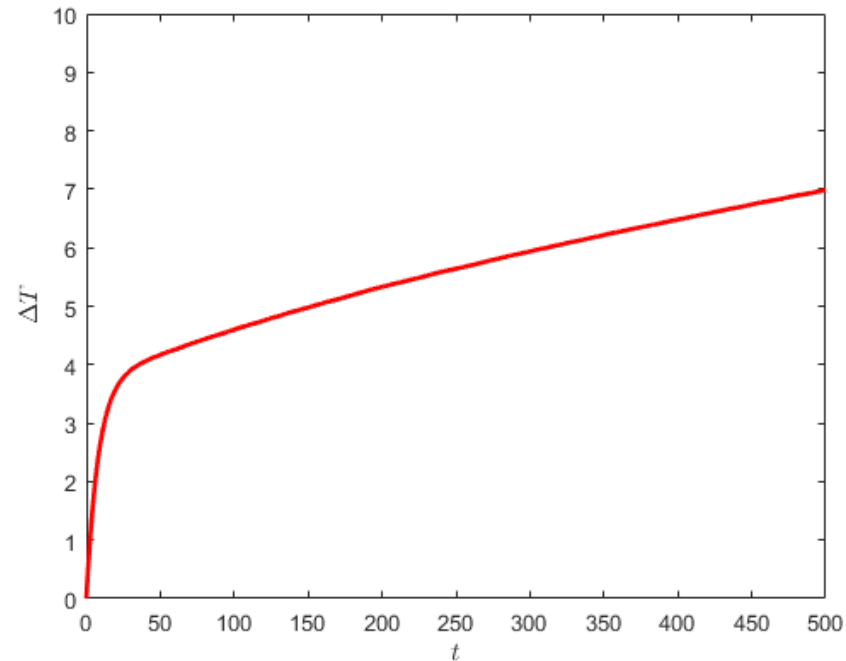
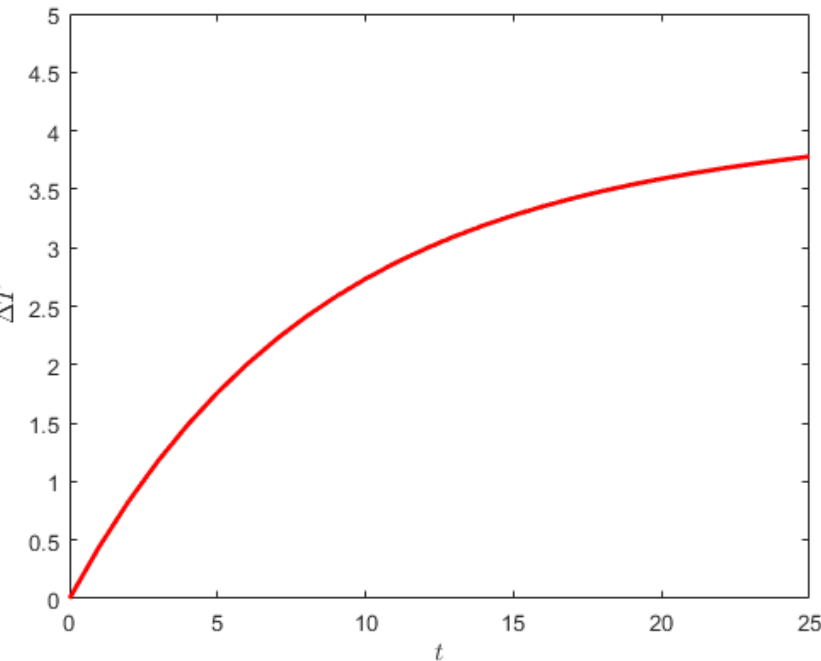
$$\tau_\alpha \frac{d\alpha}{dt} = \alpha_0(T) - \alpha$$

Dynamic albedo

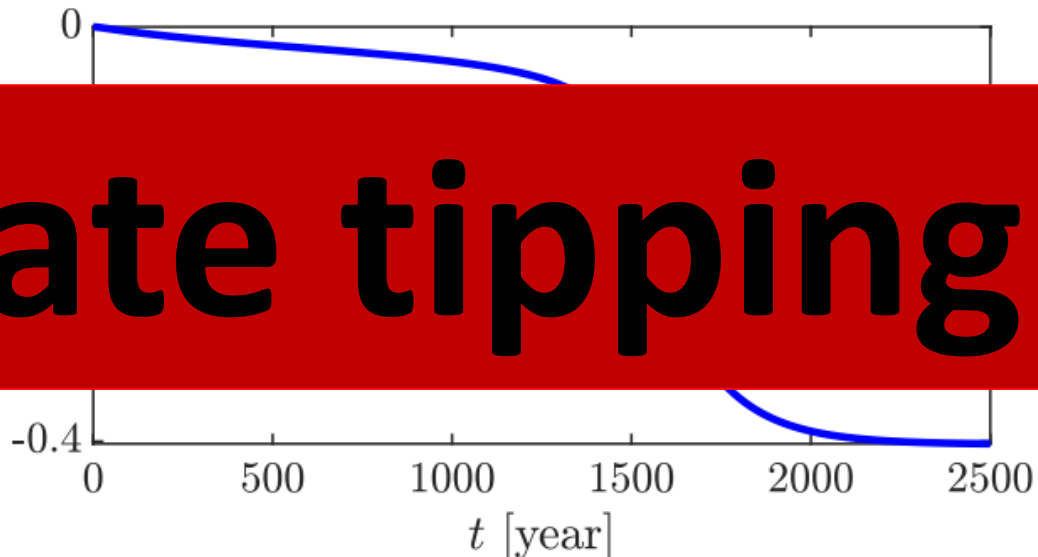
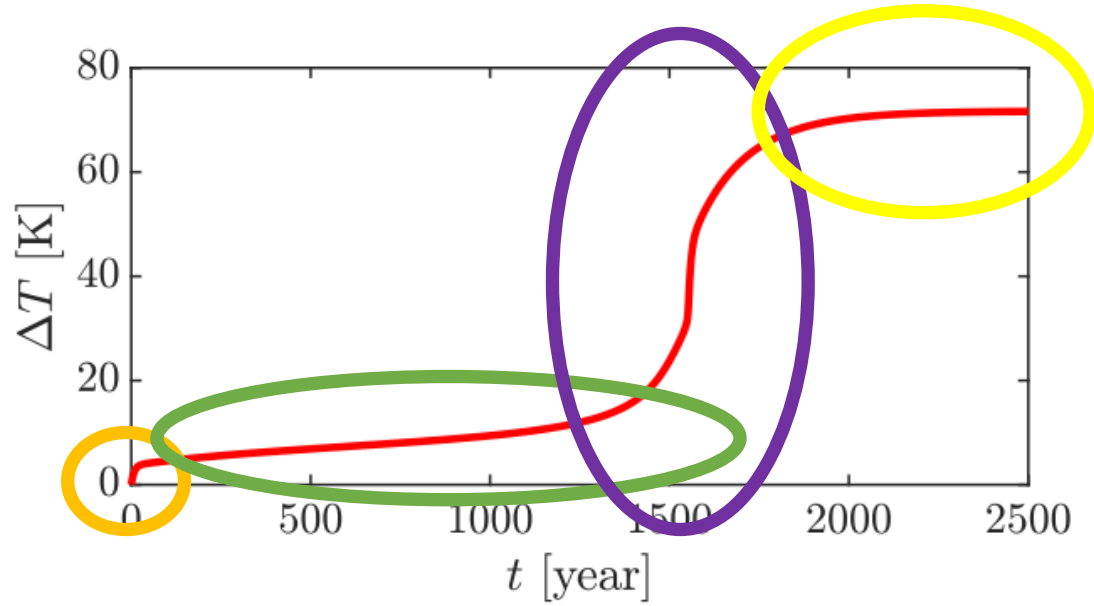
Internal Time Scale Separation ($\tau_\alpha \gg C$)

Abrupt 4xCO2 forcing experiment

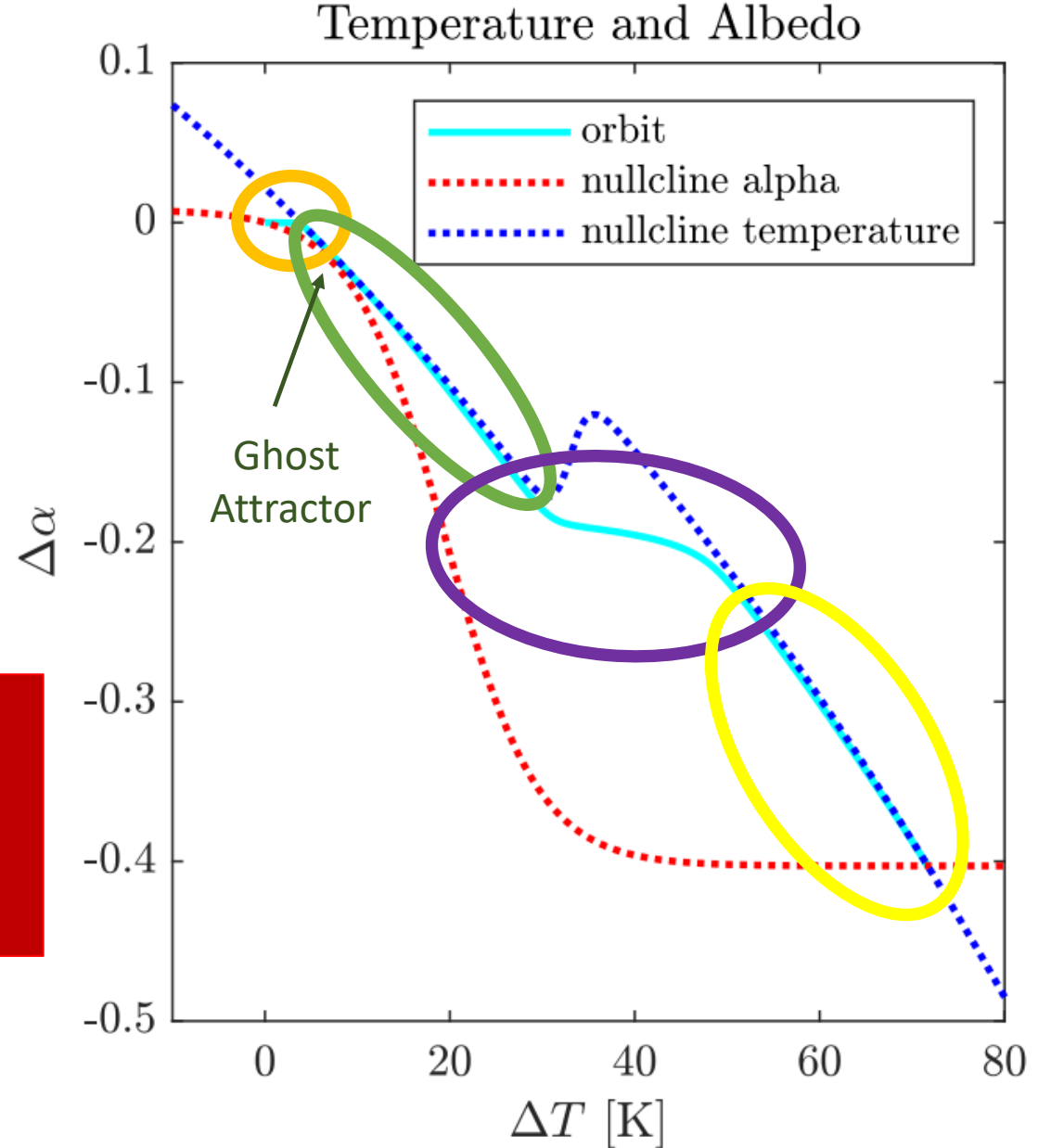
- Initialize for μ_0 (initial CO2-levels)
 - Change to μ_1 (4xCO2 levels)
- Look at dynamics



How does this work?



Late tipping!



EXAMPLE 2: AMOC \leftrightarrow ICE interaction

Tipping Element 1 (ICE)

$$\frac{dI}{dt} = f(I, R, T)$$

Energy balance model
[Eisenman & Wettlaufer, 2009]

Tipping Element 2 (AMOC)

$$\tau_0 \frac{dT}{dt} = g_1(T, S, I)$$
$$\tau_0 \frac{dS}{dt} = g_2(T, S)$$

2-Box Model
[Stommel, 1961]

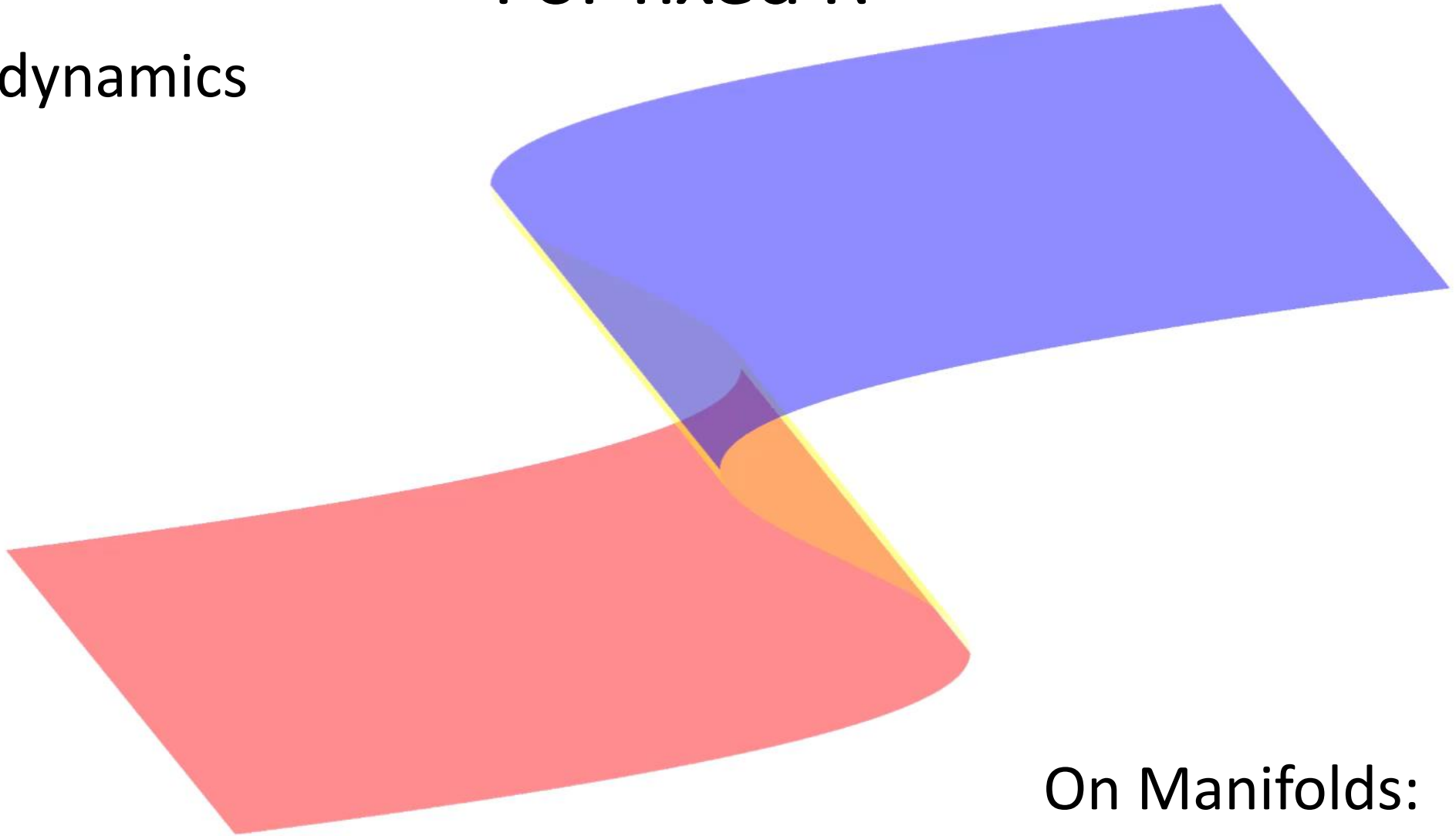
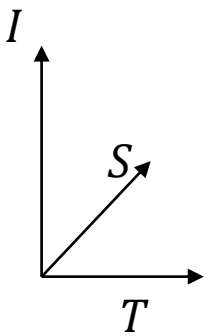
$$\tau_0 \gg 1$$

Parameter drift

$$\frac{dR}{dt} = \delta$$

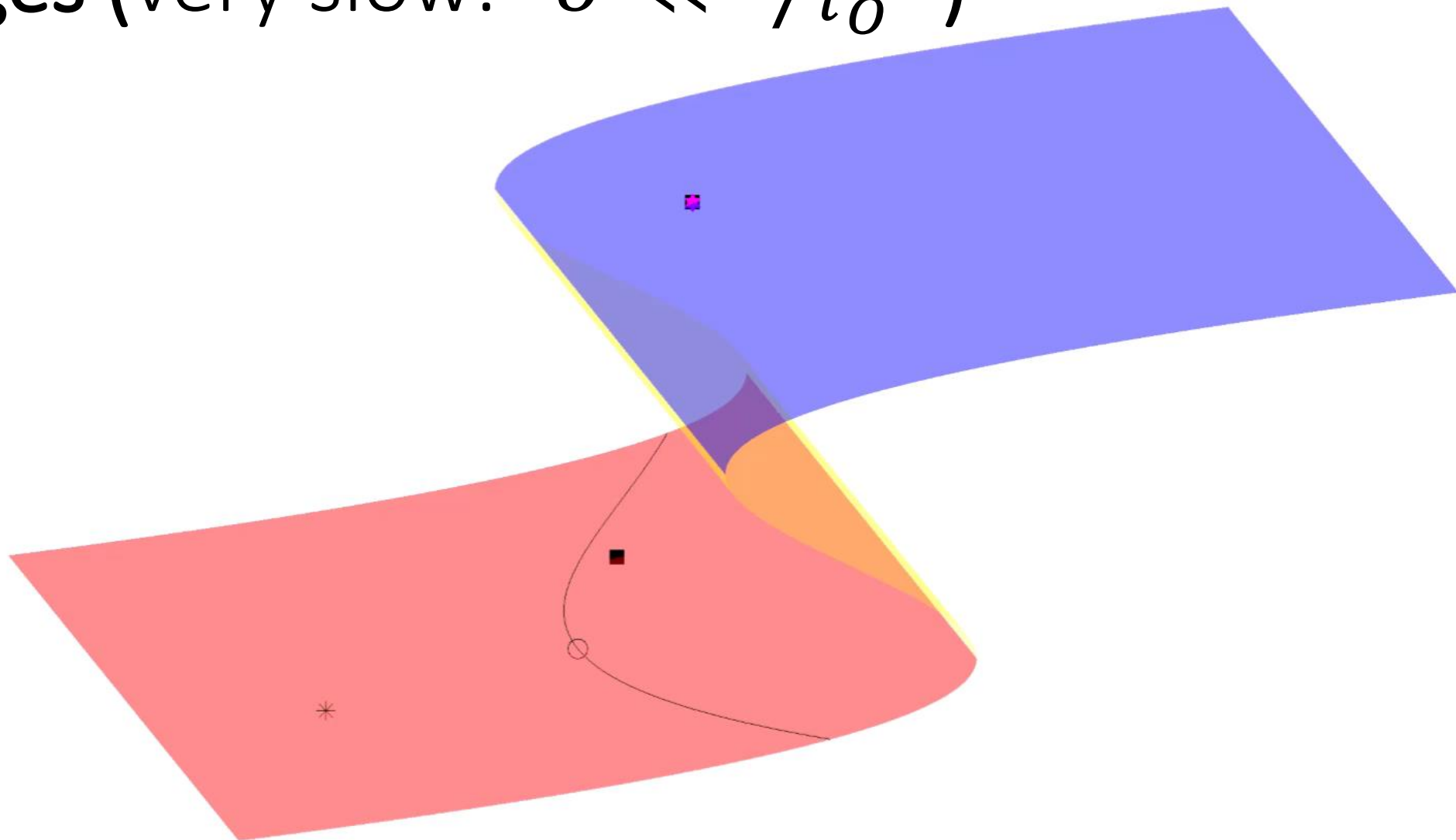
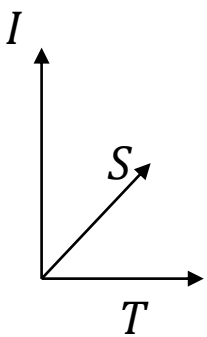
For fixed R

FAST **ICE** dynamics



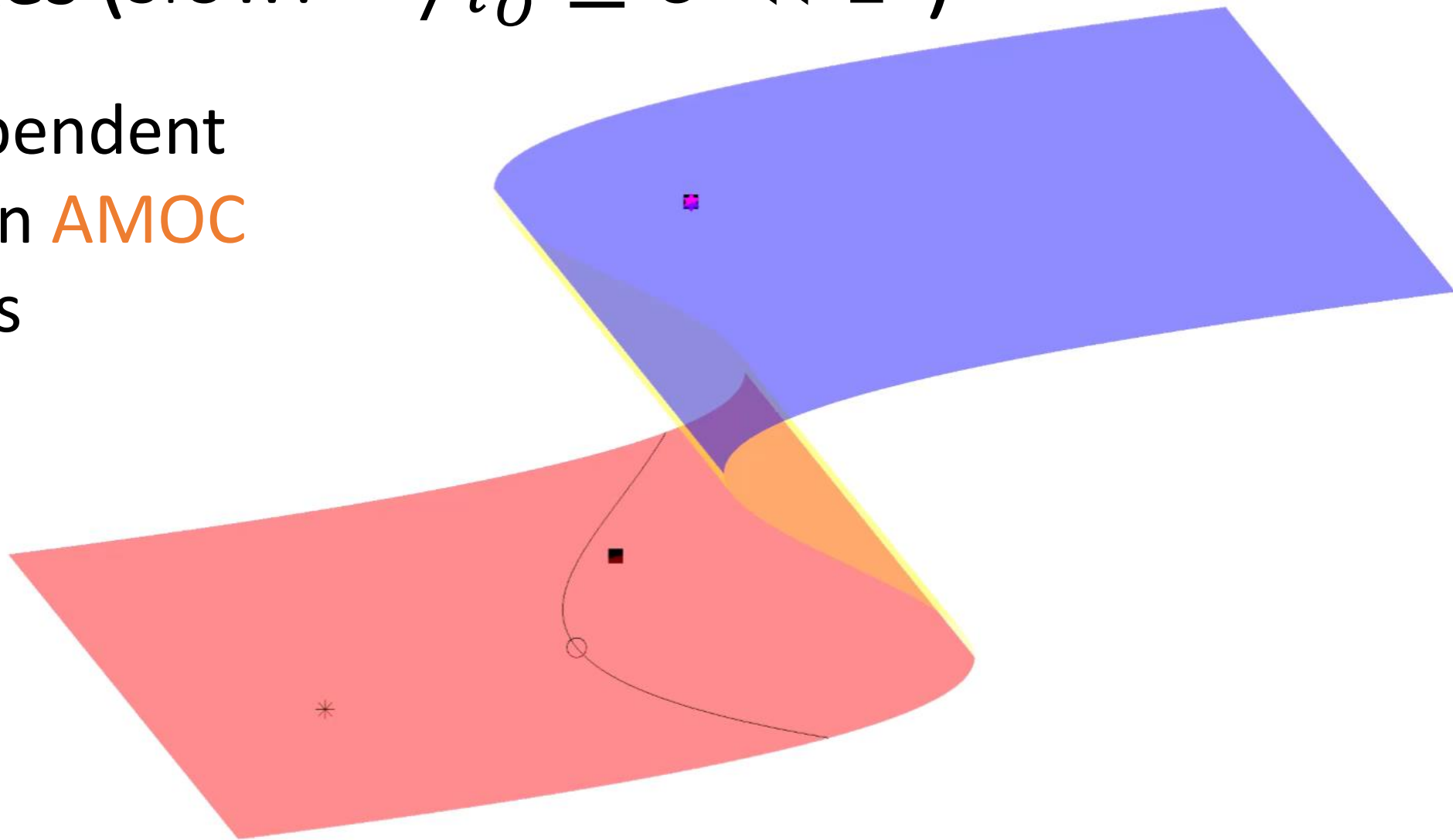
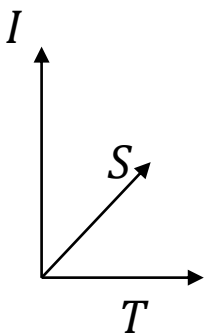
On Manifolds:
SLOW **AMOC** dynamics

R changes (very slow: " $\delta \ll 1/\tau_0$ ")



R changes (slow: " $1/\tau_0 \leq \delta \ll 1$ ")

Rate-dependent
effects on **AMOC**
dynamics



R changes (fast: " $\delta \gg 1$ ")

- Whole structure breaks down
- Rate-dependent effects on **AMOC** and **ICE** dynamics

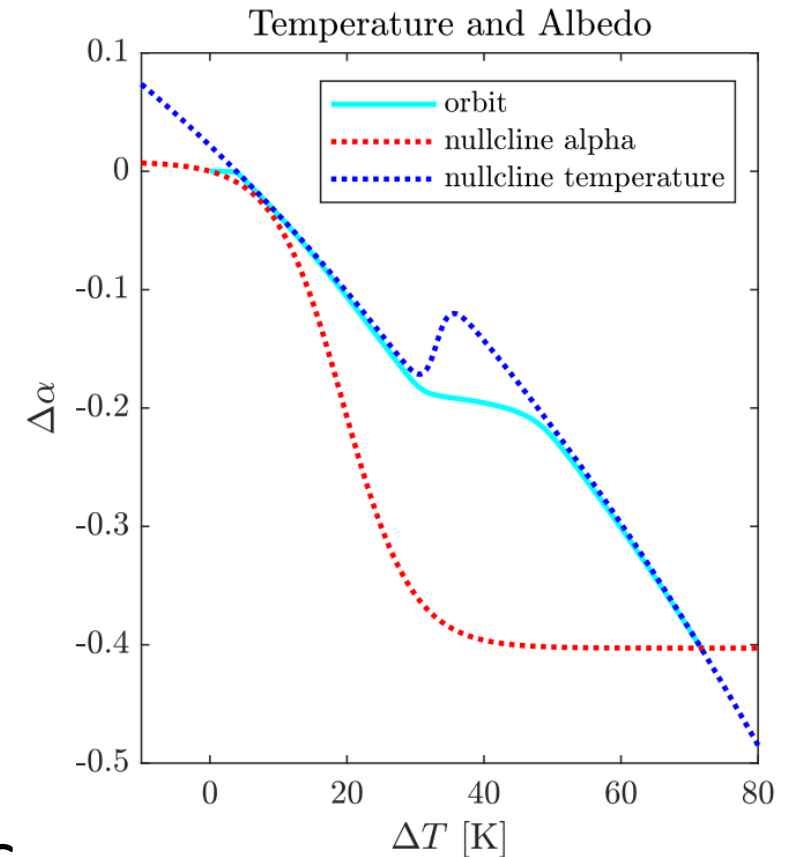
Conclusions

- Tipping DYNAMICS also important

TIME SCALES !

In multiscale systems:

- Late tipping possible
- FAST-SLOW analysis possible
- Rate-induced effects depend on time scales



slides at [bastiaansen.github.io](https://github.com/bastiaansen)

Thanks to:

Peter Ashwin, Anna von der Heydt, David Hokken