

**TRANSITION TO A NEW SOCIETY**  
**20-22 March 2014, Podgorica, Montenegro**

**TRANSFORMATIONS OF PHYSICAL SYSTEMS  
AND TRANSITIONS OF HUMAN SOCIETY**

**Giuseppe Caglioti**  
Politecnico di Milano , Italy  
Energy Department  
[giuseppe.caglioti@polimi.it](mailto:giuseppe.caglioti@polimi.it)

# NATURE OF THE SUBSYSTEMS

- ATOMS

Can even be identical or indistinguishable

Simple types of interactions

- HUMANS

Each individual has his/her own identity

Humans interact in complex, ways.

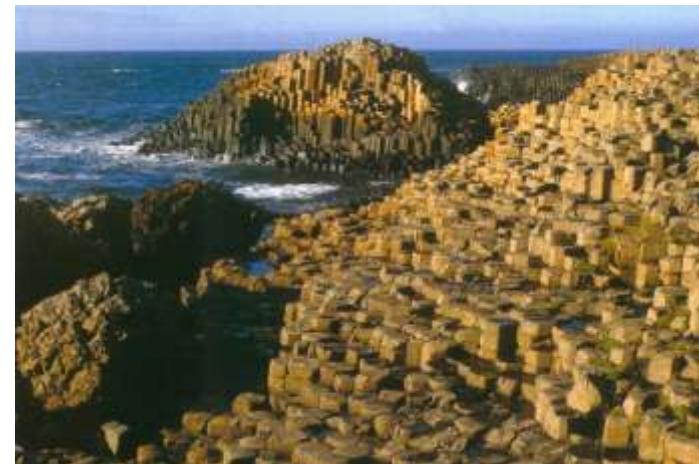
INSTINCT OF  
SURVIVAL &  
IMITATION

# **TRANSFORMATIONS OF PHYSICAL SYSTEMS**

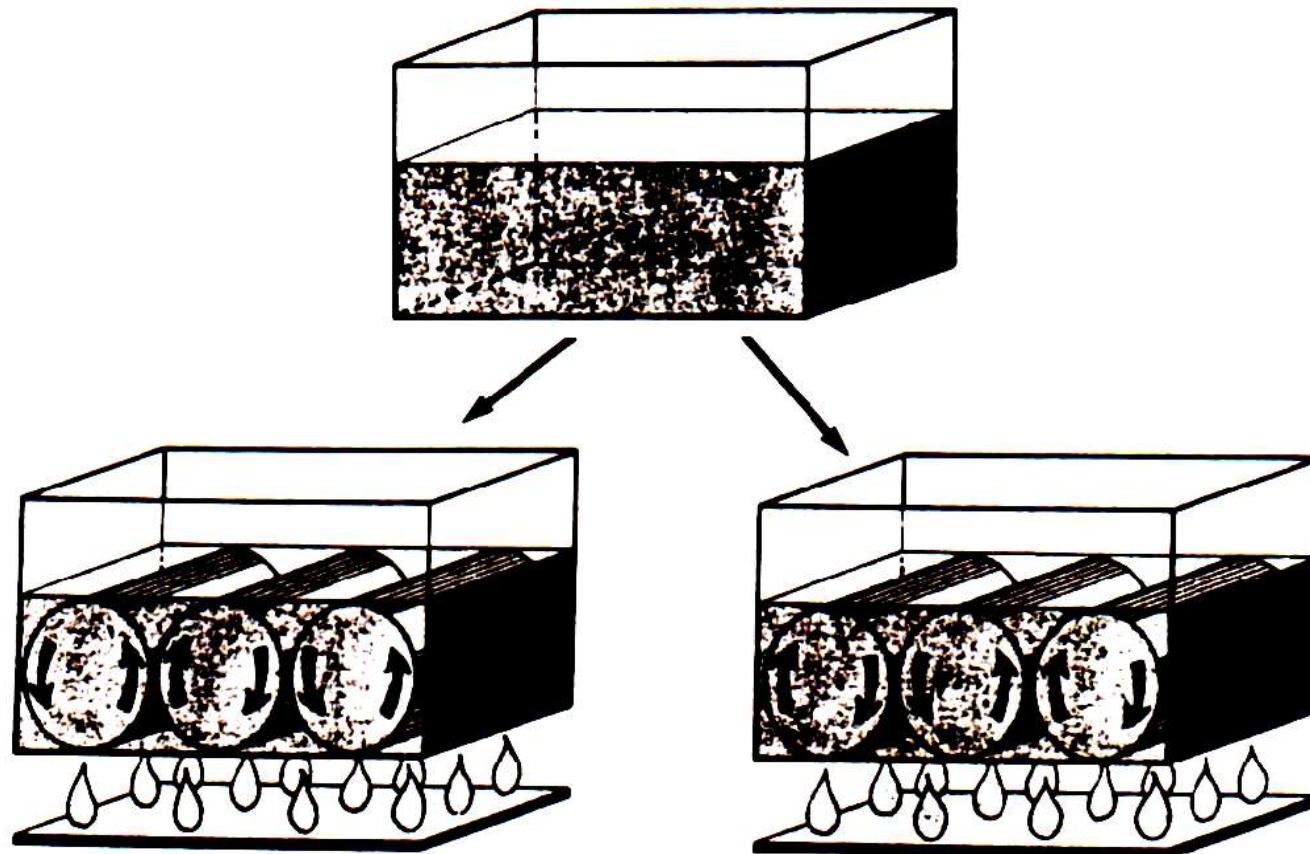
# **NON-EQUILIBRIUM THERMODYNAMICS**

**HOW NATURAL STRUCTURES  
TRANSFORM**

# THE RAYLEIGH-BENARD diffusion → convection DYNAMIC TRANSFORMATION



an initially steady liquid  
heated from below



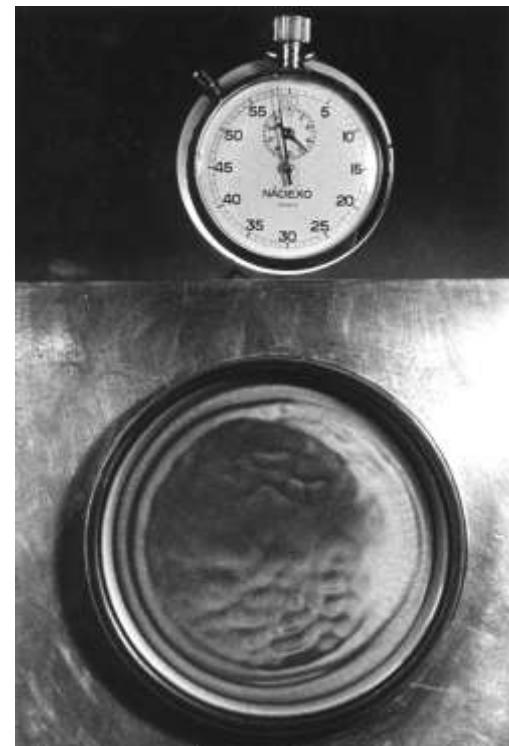
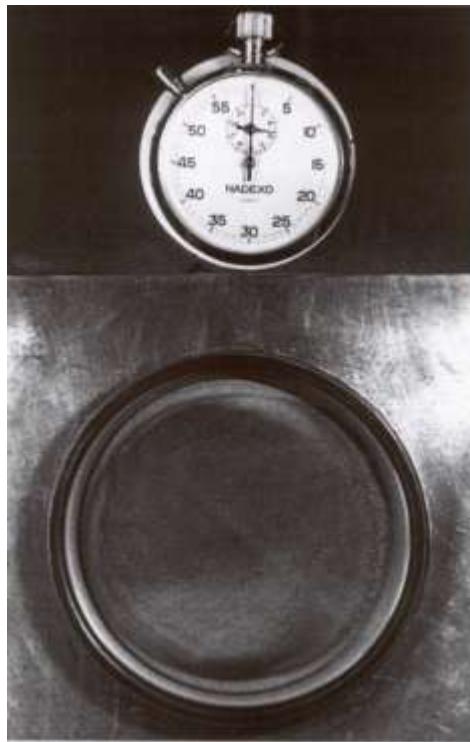
# **CONTROL PARAMETER**

**flux of resources**

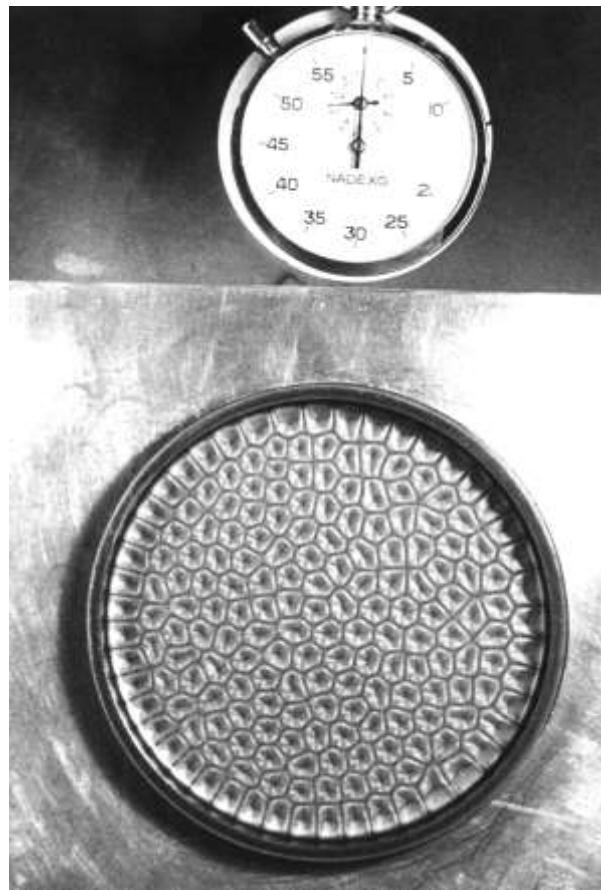
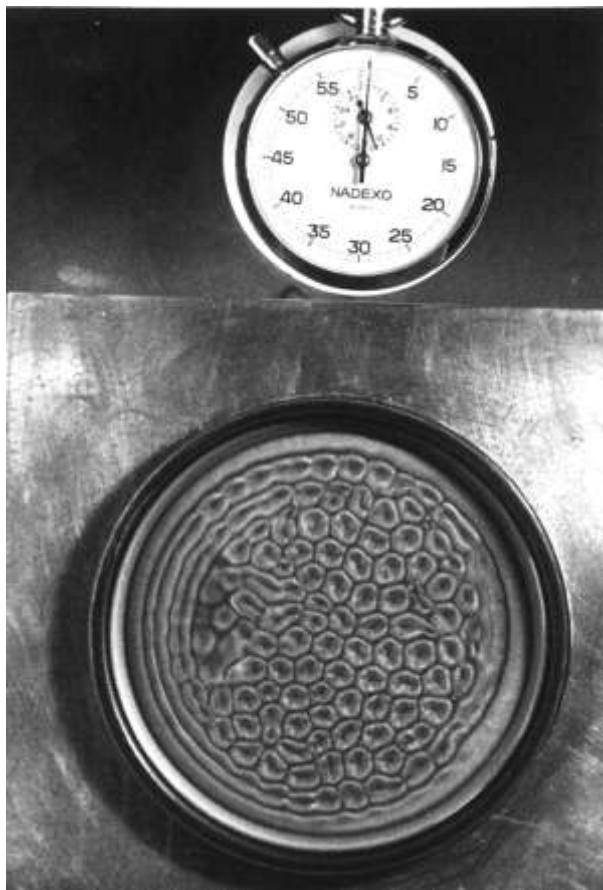


# **ORDER PARAMETER**

**emergence of order,  
correlations & structure**



Courtesy of Manuel G. Velarde



# Rayleigh-Benard cells



Courtesy of Manuel G. Velarde



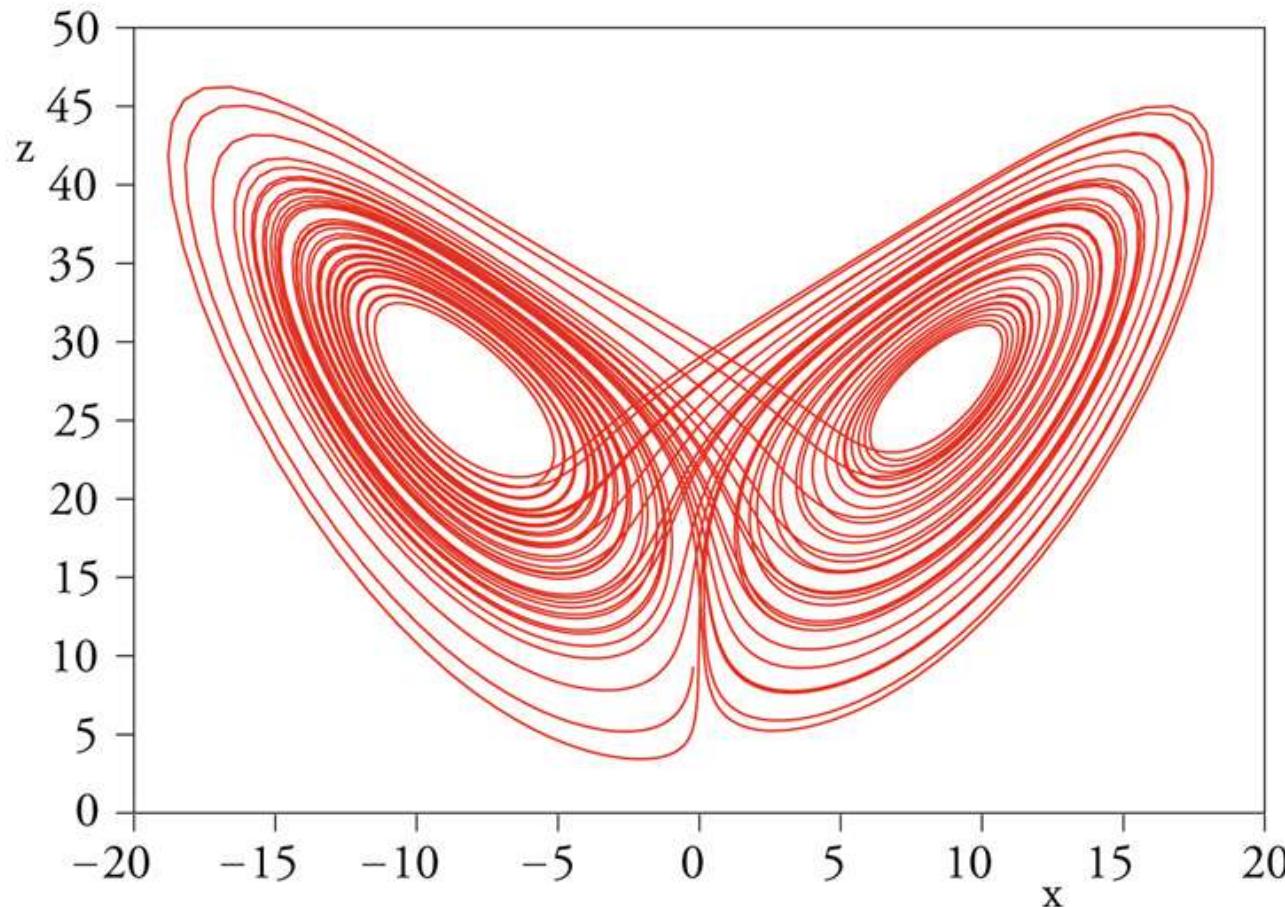
# Ireland: the Giant's Causeway

# Ireland: the Giant's Causeway



# Lorenz model

## Simulation of climatic changes



# More examples of nonequilibrium dynamic instabilities

- Layered clouds
- The desert sand
- The LASER
- Tornado
- The miracle of a blooming flower







# **TRANSITIONS OF HUMAN SOCIETY**

# NATURE OF THE SUBSYSTEMS

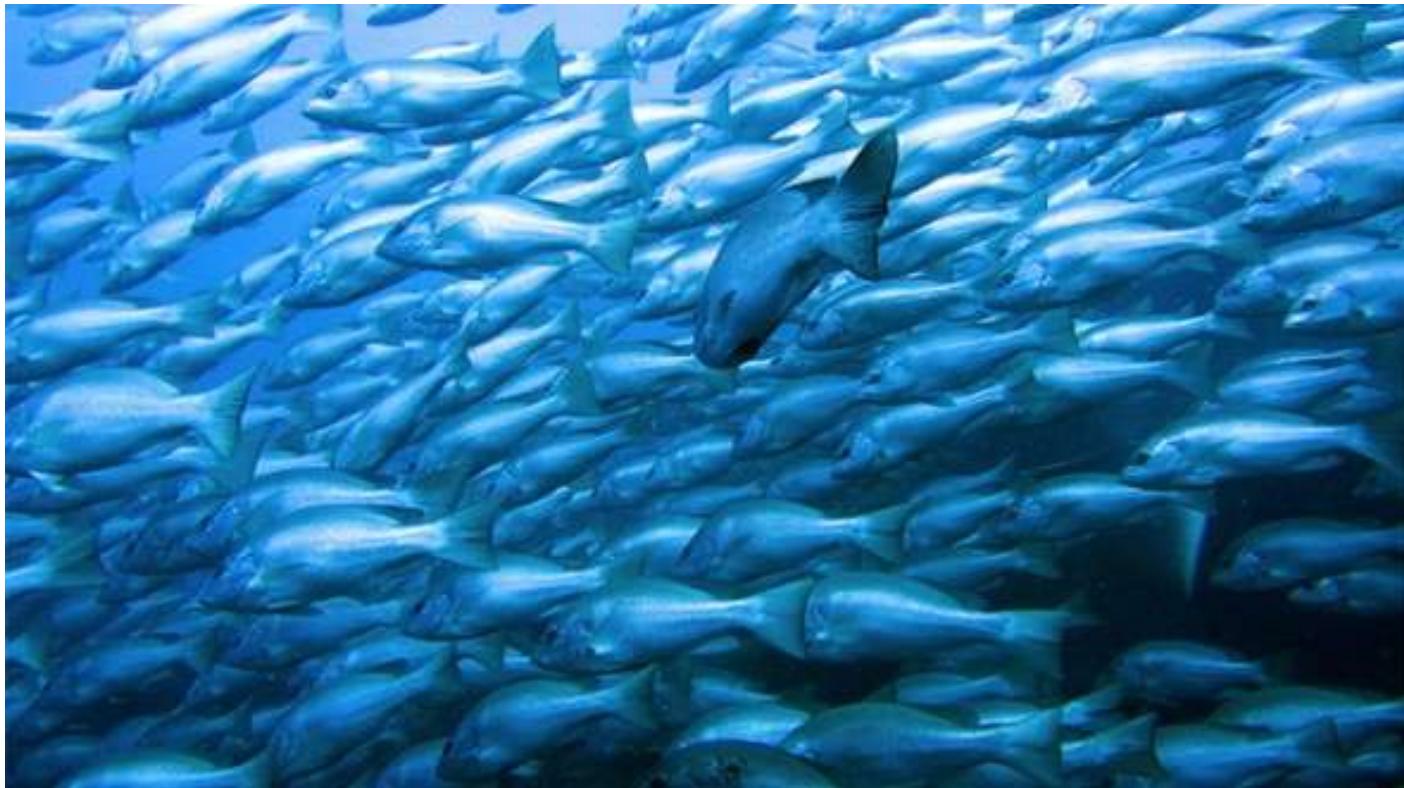
,

Among humans (and living creatures) individuality vanishes and collective behavior prevails

- ❑ unexpected dangerous circumstances trigger the instinct of survival & imitation

# Prey-predator

[by Graham Templeton (2014)]



# NATURE OF THE HUMANS

- Also a shared objective firmly unites individuals: **solidarity**
- Trade union demonstrations
- the synchronized, rhythmic applause of an audience that wants to get an encore at the end of an exciting concert.

# Giuseppe Pellizza da Volpedo



# **CONTROL PARAMETER**

materials, energy ,

Information → the web



# **ORDER PARAMETER**

emergence of correlations

and structures

**2,7 Toe/year**



**from agricultural  
to industrial society**

# **MIS-USE OF THE CONTROL PARAMETER**

# Business district in Guangzhou



# Olimpic Park in Beijing



# A HIERARCHY OF CONTROL PARAMETERS

**MATTER & ENERGY**

**0.31% procapite/year**

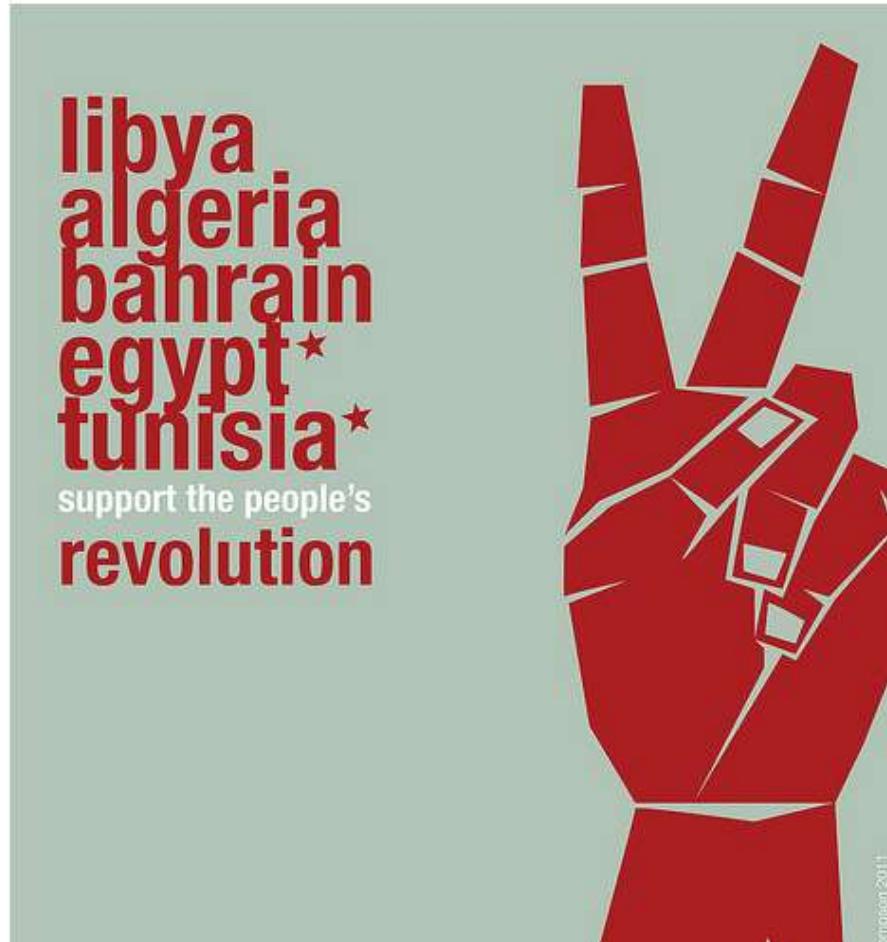
**INFORMATION**

**COMMUNICATION**

**WEB & MONETARY SYSTEM**



# the arab spring





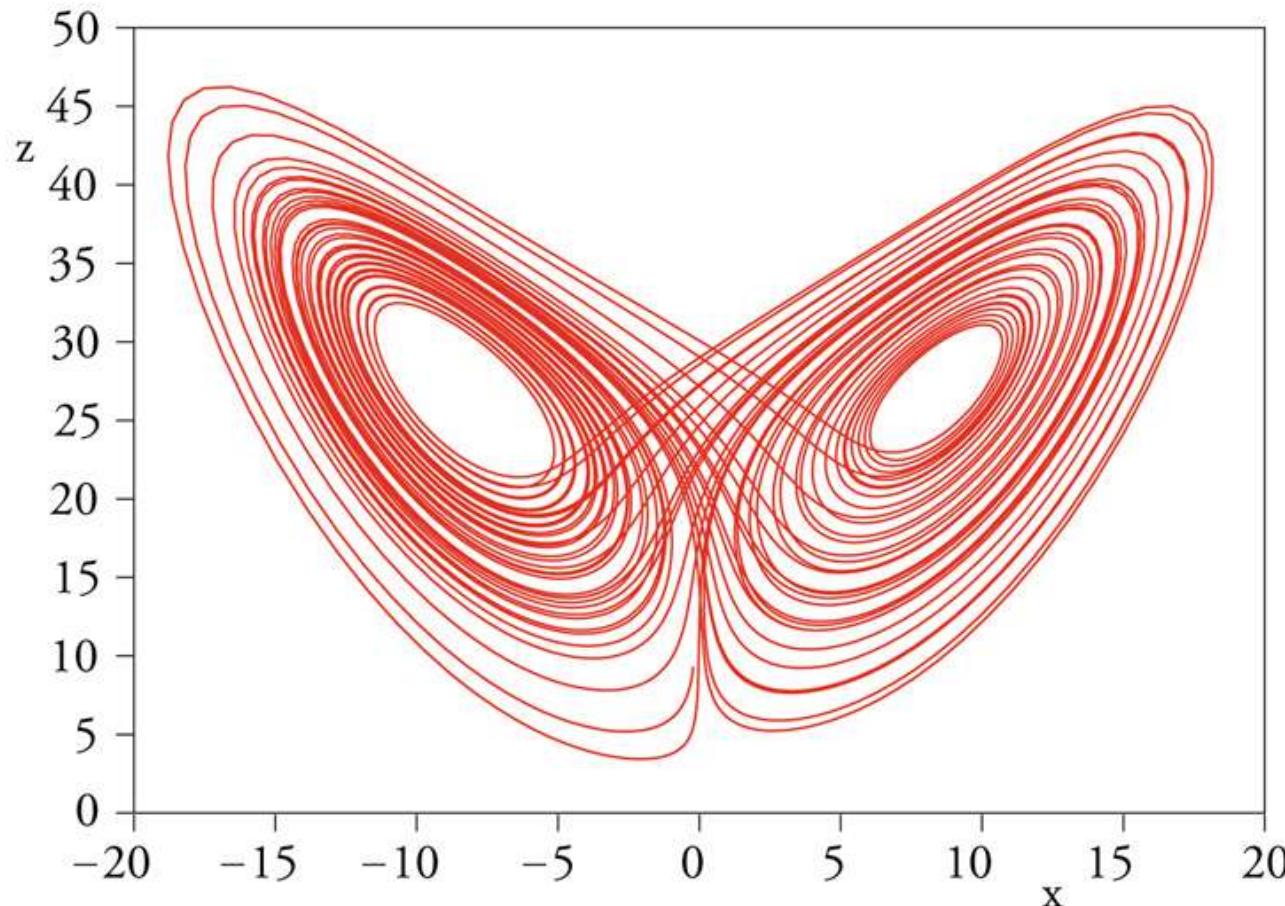
# social media activism





# Lorenz model

## Simulation of climatic changes

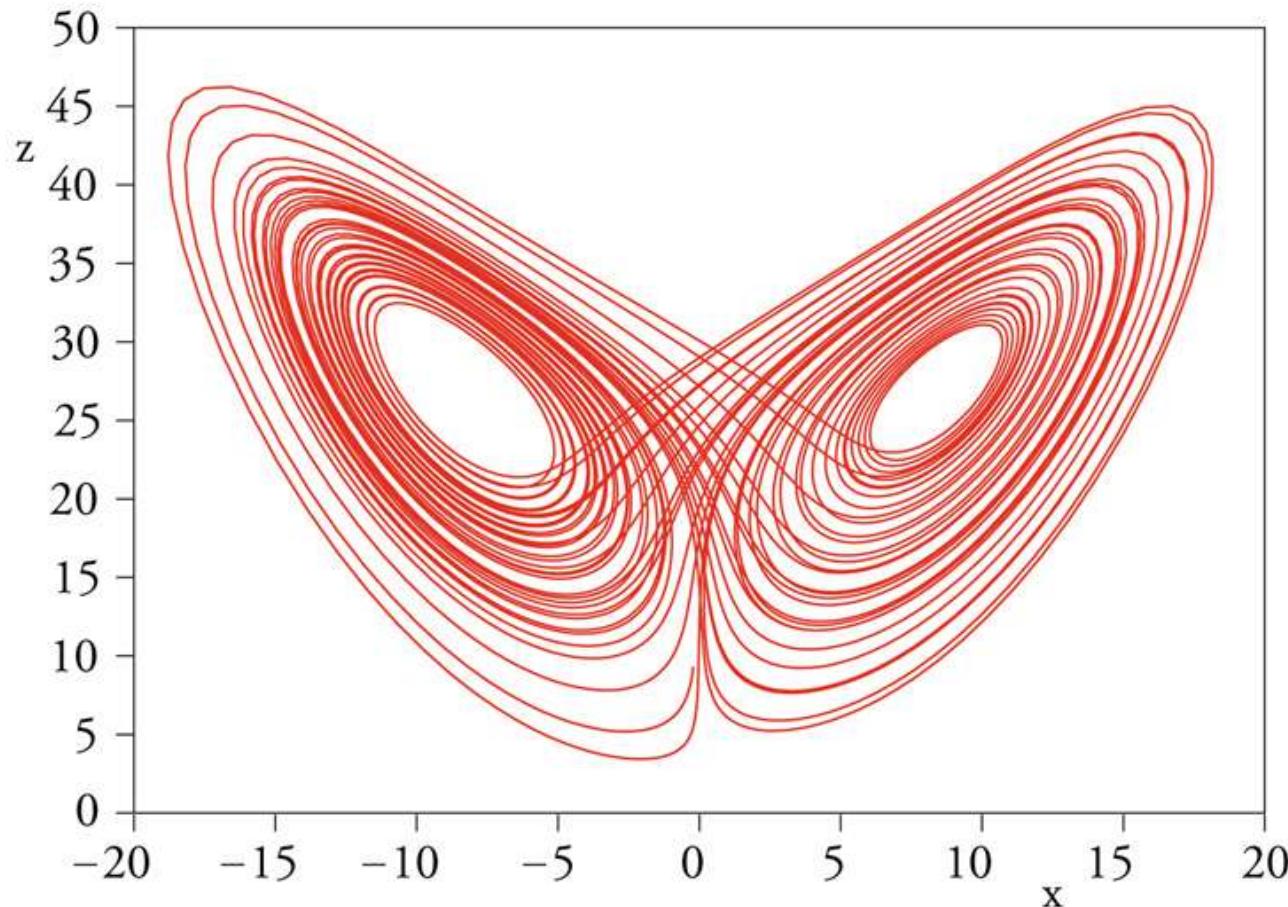


Abnormal increase of  
the control parameters

Critical fluctuations

Deterministic chaos

# An asymptotic route-to-chaos of the human society ?



# turbulence & tornados



# CONCLUSIONS

- TRANSFORMATIONS OF PHYSICAL SYSTEMS AND TRANSITIONS OF HUMAN SOCIETY are characterized by control and order parameters
- CRITICAL FLUCTUATIONS
- If – locally or globally - control parameters will exceed critical values a sort of deterministic chaos could be produced with unpredictable consequences



