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SIDEWALL FORCING OF HEXAGONAL TURING PATTERNS: RHOMBIC PATTERNS

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V. Pérez-Muñuzuri, M. Gómez-Gesteira, A. P. Muñuzuri, L. O. Chua, and V. Pérez-Villar

Course Page

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Abstract

Rhombic arrays were obtained by sidewall forcing during Turing pattern formation. Locking between the frequency of forcing and the wave length between blobs in accordance with the Farey sequence was obtained. This locking being represented by a perfect rhombic array oriented in the direction of the imposed forcing. For a constant forcing in duration and amplitude, the following scheme of bifurcation was observed: parallel stripes \mapsto rhombic array \mapsto domains of hexagons and rhombi separated by "penta-hepta" defects. Symmetry considerations based on a non-uniform stretching along the x-axis was used to describe these transitions. Unstable "varicose-vein" stripes were observed to evolve during the temporal evolution of rhombic arrays.

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1. Introduction

The effect of imposed spatial or temporal modulations on pattern-forming systems has been analyzed recently in various experimental and theoretical situations [1.2]. For example, periodic spatial forcing imposed on a system which undergoes a instability may induce transitions between structures with pattern-forming incommensurate wavelengths [3,4] or lead to continuous variations of the wavelength of the pattern [5]. On the other hand, purely temporal modulations of the bifurcation parameter have also been studied [6,7], as in the case of Rayleigh-Bénard instabilities where a temporal modulation of the temperature gradient may trigger the formation of hexagonal planforms [8,9]. Temporal modulation of an external field applied on the Belousov-Zhabotinsky reaction is able to disorganize spiral waves leading to spatial disorder [10] or to induce the drift of the spiral waves [11-14]. Thus, in two-dimensional systems, pattern selection and stability [9,15] may be strongly affected by externally imposed modulations as discussed by Pismen [16].

Hexagonal patterns constitute an important subject of research in the theory of Turing and convection structures. They are easily observed in Rayleigh-Bénard convection, in non-Boussinesq fluids [17,18], in Bénard-Marangoni convection [19-21], within starch-gels in reaction-diffusion systems [22-24], etc. However, perfect hexagonal patterns are rather difficult to observe in large-aspect ratio systems. Typically, different line or point defects appear in the background of a hexagonal pattern. Among point defects, the most typical are the so called "penta-hepta" defects, or pair of cells with five and seven ridges. These defects, once having been created, are very stable [18] and separate multiple domains of hexagons with different orientations [25-27].

On the other hand, although the effect of global spatial or temporal

- modulation have been widely studied, little has been done on the effect of local forcing on Turing structures [28-30]. Periodic sidewall forcing on Turing patterns mimics the behavior of the boundary between two domains; one, where periodic wave trains propagate through the medium and the other, where Turing structures are developing.

The purpose of this paper is to study in numerical experiments the conditions under which defects disappear when sidewall forcing occurs in a reaction-diffusion systems undergoing a Turing bifurcation. This kind of forcing is shown to perfectly re-organize the systems in form of a rhombic array. The influence of the frequency of forcing in the bifurcation between the different patterns; stripes, rhombi and hexagons is presented in this paper.

2. Numerical Model and Theory

Turing structures can be numerically described by many systems of reactiondiffusion partial differential equations such that its homogeneous steady state can become unstable due to random disturbances. In particular, the ratio between diffusion coefficients plays an important role in Turing pattern formation. Since Turing's classical paper in 1952 [28], multitude of numerical models have been suggested in order to describe these structures. In this paper, we use a set of discretely-coupled dynamical systems, each cell/unit being described by a Chua's circuit [31], in order to describe the regular appearance of rhombi when sidewall forcing is applied into the medium. Our motivation for choosing this system is that arrays of Chua's circuits can be fabricated into a VLSI chip which allows real-time experiments where all the parameters can be controlled easily and with higher accuracy than in chemical media. The most important difference of this system from those studied previously is its discrete (in space) nature which gives rise to

. slightly different set of conditions for Turing pattern formation.

The set of discretely-coupled system of ordinary differential equations is

$$\dot{u}_{i,j} = \alpha \left\{ v_{i,j} - h(u_{i,j}) \right\} + D_u \left\{ u_{i+1,j} + u_{i-1,j} + u_{i,j+1} + u_{i,j-1} - 4u_{i,j} \right\}$$

$$\dot{v}_{i,j} = u_{i,j} - v_{i,j} + w_{i,j} + D_v \left\{ v_{i+1,j} + v_{i-1,j} + v_{i,j+1} + v_{i,j-1} - 4v_{i,j} \right\}$$

$$\dot{w}_{i,j} = -\beta v_{i,j} - \gamma w_{i,j} \qquad (i, j = 1...n) \qquad (1)$$

where h(u) describes a continuous three-segment piece-wise-linear curve of the nonlinear characteristic described by $h(u) = m_1 u + 0.5(m_0 - m_1)(|u+1| - |u-1|) + \varepsilon$ (ε is a constant related to the excitability of the system [32]). Here m_0 and m_1 denote the slopes of the three segments.

In order to describe the limits of validity of our equations for Turing pattern formation we can reduce the set of equations (1) to,

$$\dot{u}_{i,j} = \alpha \left\{ v_{i,j} - h(u_{i,j}) \right\} + D_u \left\{ u_{i+1,j} + u_{i-1,j} + u_{i,j+1} + u_{i,j-1} - 4u_{i,j} \right\}$$

$$\dot{v}_{i,j} = u_{i,j} - \nu v_{i,j} + D_v \left\{ v_{i+1,j} + v_{i-1,j} + v_{i,j+1} + v_{i,j-1} - 4v_{i,j} \right\}$$

$$(2)$$

Since the parameters α , β and γ in our study are chosen such that w changes on the fastest time scale, we have assumed that w(r,t) is always determined by the instantaneous values of u and v according to

$$w = -\frac{\beta}{\gamma}v$$

and ν in equation (2) is a new parameter equal to $(\gamma + \beta)/\beta$. Here u, v and w denote vectors whose components are $u_{i,j}$, $v_{i,j}$ and $w_{i,j}$, respectively. We also define $\overrightarrow{r} = \overrightarrow{xi} + \overrightarrow{yj}$.

Since we are concerned with Turing pattern formation or diffusion driven instability, we are interested in the linear (local) stability of the steady state of Eq.(2). Following Murray [29], we look for solutions in the form $exp\{i(kj-\lambda t)\}$ where k and λ are considered to be independent of the position² j (j = 1...n), which differs from continuous dynamical systems where the coupling in Eq.(2) is represented by the Laplacian operator for the u and v variables and we seek for solutions of the form $exp\{i(kr-\lambda t)\}$.

Straightforward calculations give the following conditions for the generation of spatial patterns by a two-species reaction-diffusion mechanism of the form of Eq.(2)

$$f_{u} + g_{v} < 0$$

$$f_{u} g_{v} - f_{v} g_{u} > 0$$

$$f_{u} D_{v} + g_{v} D_{u} > 0$$

$$\left(f_{u} D_{v} + g_{v} D_{u}\right)^{2} - 4 D_{u} D_{v} \left(f_{u} g_{v} - f_{v} g_{u}\right) > 0$$
(3)

where f_u , f_v , g_u and g_v are the partial derivatives of f and g (right side part of equations (2) without coupling) evaluated at the steady state. The critical wavenumber is given by

$$\cos(k_{c}) = 1 - \frac{f_{u} D_{v} + g_{v} D_{u}}{4 D_{u} D_{v}}$$
(4)

Equation (4) restricts the limit of Turing pattern formation such that

²For simplicity in the calculations, we consider here only the one-dimensional problem.

$$\left| \frac{f_u D_v + g_v D_u}{8 D_u D_v} \right| \le 1$$
(5)

The set of fixed parameters, satisfying conditions (3) to (5), used throughout this paper is $\{\alpha, \nu, m_0, m_1, \varepsilon\} = \{-10, 2, -1, 0.1, 2\}$. Figure 1 shows the allowable values of D_u and D_v as a function of the critical wavenumber k_c satisfying equations (3) to (5). Note that for a given value of D_u , k_c remains approximately constant for any D_v .

The periodic sidewall forcing to the system was modeled by periodically forcing the u-variable in Eq.(1) as follows

$$\dot{u}_{i,j} = \alpha \left\{ v_{i,j} - h(u_{i,j}) \right\} + D_u \left\{ u_{i+1,j} + u_{i-1,j} + u_{i,j+1} + u_{i,j-1} - 4u_{i,j} \right\} + A_p \cos(\omega t) \delta(i-1)$$

$$\dot{v}_{i,j} = u_{i,j} - \nu v_{i,j} + D_v \left\{ v_{i+1,j} + v_{i-1,j} + v_{i,j+1} + v_{i,j-1} - 4v_{i,j} \right\}$$
(6)

where A_p and ω are the amplitude and frequency of forcing respectively and $\delta(\cdot)$ is the Dirac's delta equal to one when i=1 at any $j \in [1,n]$ and zero otherwise. A_p was kept constant and set equal to one for all calculations shown in this paper.

The nonlinear boundary value problem described by Eqs.(6) was completed by imposing zero-flux boundary conditions. A uniform time step of 0.001 was used throughout as the differential equations were integrated using an explicit Euler method. Even though most of our simulations were carried out on a 50 x 50 grid, the effect of the grid size on Turing pattern formation was studied on grids as small as 30 x 30 and as large as 100 x 100. A random initial condition was chosen for all the variables in Eqs.(6) so that the average values were equal to their respective homogeneous fixed point values. Without forcing ($A_p = 0$) the system evolves naturally from this random initial state to an hexagonal array with multiple defects.

hepta" defects and perfectly organized rhombic arrays within the resonant peaks. Parallel stripes were not observed.

For values of the frequency of forcing within the resonant peaks, rhombic arrays develop in time from an unstable striped pattern. As an intermediate pattern, "beans" or "varicose-vein" parallel stripes (Figure 5) evolve from the regular stripes and finally they split into blobs organized in a perfect rhombic array.

Any stable pattern obtained by sidewall forcing is stable after switching off the forcing ($A_p = 0$), as well as to slight perturbations on the forcing parameters, ω and A_p .

4. Discussion

Rhombic arrays can be obtained by stretching the natural selected pattern, hexagons, along one of its symmetry axes. This phenomenon was recently explained by the Austin group [33] by applying the transformation

S:
$$(\mathbf{x},\mathbf{y}) \longrightarrow ((1+\overline{\beta})^{-1}\mathbf{x},\mathbf{y})$$
 (7)

to a hexagonal pattern (β small and positive). This transformation stretches the xaxis, which is one of the symmetry axes of the hexagonal array. It is possible to show that this transformation leads to the formation of rhombic arrays.

In our case, since the stretching due to sidewal forcing is not uniform along the x-axis, the transformation given by Eq.(7) is not valid here. For $\omega = 0$, the stretching is constant in time but it depends on the distance from the forcing (x=0) namely, those points near the left boundary are stretched more than far from it. This stretching factor depends on the amplitude of forcing and on the ratio D_v/D_u . Any transformation to a hexagonal pattern of the form

$$S: (\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \longrightarrow (\mathbf{x}^{\mathbf{p}'\mathbf{q}}/\mu, \mathbf{y})$$
(8)

represents the dependence of the stretching on the x position. In Eq.(8), p and q are integers, p > q and μ is the stretching factor. Although, we have used $x^{p/q}$ in Eq.(8), any function $\phi(x) \in C^{1}[0,n]$, with $\phi'(x) > 0$ in (0,n) could be used instead.

Then, following [33], we deduce that the rhombic pattern $U_R(\mathbf{r},t)$ $(\mathbf{r} = x\mathbf{i} + y\mathbf{j})$ can be described in the original hexagonal basis, \mathbf{k}_i , by

$$U_{R}(\vec{r},t) = \sum_{i=1}^{3} a_{i} \exp\left\{i \stackrel{\rightarrow}{k_{i}} \cdot (S^{-1}\vec{r})\right\}$$
(9)

....

and

$$\vec{k}_{1} \cdot (S^{-1}\vec{r}) = k_{0} y$$

$$\vec{k}_{2} \cdot (S^{-1}\vec{r}) = k_{0} \left\{ \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \vartheta(x) - \frac{y}{2} \right\}$$

$$\vec{k}_{3} \cdot (S^{-1}\vec{r}) = k_{0} \left\{ -\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \vartheta(x) - \frac{y}{2} \right\}$$
(10)

where $\vartheta(x) = (\mu x)^{q/p}$ and a_i (i=1,2,3) are the complex envelope functions of the hexagonal pattern, here spatially modulated by $\vartheta(x)$. Perfectly organized rhombic patterns, such as those shown in Figure 3b, are obtained for all array sizes of the array if $\vartheta(x) \ge 1$, $\forall x \in [1,n]$ (note that only two wave vectors are modified by this transformation). In the other case, competition between domains of hexagons and rhombi can be obtained (for $\vartheta(x) = 1$, for some x > 1 and some μ , the hexagonal basis is recovered).

For $\omega > 0$, Eq.(8) should be modified to account for the periodic modulation in time of the stretching factor.

On the other hand, the differences observed in the Turing scale between the value predicted by Eq.(4) and that calculated numerically for the rhombic array (Figure 4b) are not resolved by Eqs.(8-10). This distortion between the observed results and those expected for hexagons should be described by a more appropriate transformation. Calculations based on symmetry arguments to describe these phenomena will be published elsewhere.

Main resonant peaks occur for $D_u = 3/n$, n=1,2... at a critical wavenumber, k_c , given by

$$6 \left\{ k_{c} \pm \varepsilon(\omega) \right\}^{2} = n \qquad n = 1, 2, \dots \qquad (11)$$

where $\varepsilon(\omega)$ accounts for the near resonant case; it is a decreasing function of ω , such that $\varepsilon(\omega) = 0$ for the maximum allowable frequency of forcing. Substitution of k_c into Eq.(4) provides the allowable D_v for resonance.

Secondary resonant peaks (in amplitude) obeying the Farey sequence correspond to

$$12 \left\{ k_{c} \pm \varepsilon(\omega) \right\}^{2} = 2 n + 1 \qquad n = 1, 2, ...$$
 (12)

Although, the values of D_u are proportional to the Farey elements, we did not find a correlation between the amplitude of the resonant peaks and the level of the Farey tree.

The height of the resonant peaks in Figure 3 increases with D_u as a consequence of the increase in the wavelength, i.e. less number of blobs for the same constant size of the array; 50 x 50. Renormalizing the size of the array with respect

to the observed wavelength leads to similar heights for the main resonant peaks but at a considerably higher computation costs.

In the temporal evolution to the rhombic array formation, "varicose-vein" stripes have been observed. Each one of the two interfaces of the stripes loses its stability to sinusoidal perturbations which are π out of phase, producing a set of "varicose-vein" parallel stripes [34] as a consequence of the periodic forcing.

The transition to the rhombic state near the resonant case when D_v is increased follows the following scheme: stripes \mapsto rhombi \mapsto multiple domains (usually characterized by a competition between hexagons and rhombi domains). For large values of D_v , the constant amplitude of the forcing (for the case of $\omega = 0$) decays quicker to zero than when D_v is lower, since the range of the inhibitor increases too. Thus, the stretching factor μ increases when D_v diminishes (for a constant value of D_u). In this case, for high values of μ , the system can no longer support blobs, thereby giving rise to the appearance of stripes. Small values of μ (i.e. high values of D_v) provide enough space between the blobs so that rhombi and defects can appear everywhere, thereby lead to a situation with multiple domains.

5. Conclusions

Perfect organization into a rhombic array has been obtained for the resonant case when laterally forcing a two-dimensional medium undergoing a Turing bifurcation. The nature of the observed phenomena is independent of the selected numerical model.

Periodic sidewall forcing has been found to strongly influence the selection of stationary pattern formation, namely; stripes, rhombic arrays and hexagonal lattices with "penta-hepta" defects have been obtained depending on the frequency of forcing. The familiar Farey sequence, usually observed in the temporal modulation of dynamical systems without spatial-terms, has been translated to a reaction-diffusion

- system. This resonance is shown to re-organize the system into a perfectly ordered rhombic array. Symmetry considerations based on a non-uniform stretching along the x-axis have been used to describe this bifurcation.

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Rhombic arrays have been observed experimentally [33] and numerically [35] in reaction-diffusion systems under spontaneous conditions for values of the control parameters close to those for hexagonal pattern formation (usually found with "pentahepta" defects). Although the kind of bifurcation and symmetry reported here is different from those considered in the literature, we hope this paper will stimulate others to find new alternative ways for rhombic pattern formation and control of perfect formation of structures experimentally.

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FIGURE CAPTIONS

Figure 1: Allowable values of D_v for Turing pattern formation as a function of the critical wavenumber, k_c in Eq.(4), for different values of D_u . Note that for a constant value of D_u , k_c does not change quantitatively when increasing D_v .

Figure 2: Spontaneous formation of hexagonal arrays. Note the different orientations of the hexagon domains separated by "penta-hepta" defects. Some of the blobs are not completely split from their neighbors. Size of the array: 100×100 and time of calculation 20000 t.u.

Figure 3: Resonant peaks for three different values of D_u . For any value of the frequency of forcing, ω , and D_v within the peaks, locking between the forcing and the Turing pattern was observed in the form of a perfectly organized rhombic array (no defects). The Farey sequence was observed for values of $D_u = 1.2$ and 2.0. For $\omega = 0$, the bifurcations between patterns is shown in Figure 4. For any $\omega > 0$, and values of ω and D_v outside the resonant peaks, a disordered situation consisting of rhombi and hexagons was always observed.

The peaks amplitude has been normalized in all cases by ω^{\max}/D_u ($D_u = 1.0$, $\omega^{\max} = 0.05$; $D_u = 1.5$, $\omega^{\max} = 0.70$; $D_u = 3.0$, $\omega^{\max} = 40.0$) in order to present the peaks with the same order of magnitude.

Figure 4: Parallel stripes (a), $D_v = 36.4$, rhombic array (b), $D_v = 40.0$, and domain of hexagons and rhombi (c), $D_v = 43.0$, for a continuous forcing in time and amplitude ($\omega = 0$, $A_p = 1$). The underneath figures (d)-(f) are their respective spatial Fourier transforms. For the stripes pattern (a), only one frequency is relevant, a pair of peaks in (d), while the Fourier transform of the rhombic state contains three pairs of peaks, (e), and the magnitude of one pair is higher than the other two. The disordered situation shown in (c), corresponds in the Fourier space to a multitude of frequencies, (f). Note the perfect organization of the rhombic array where one of the wave vectors is perpendicular to the direction of forcing.

In all figures, blue color corresponds to the minimum value of the x-variable in Equation 6, while the red color corresponds to the maximum x-value. Size of the array: 50 x 50 and time of calculation: 50000 t.u. Left lateral sidewall forcing was used in all the cases.

Figure 5: Varicose-vein parallel stripes. This unstable behavior was observed for $\omega = 0$ when the system evolves in time to a perfectly organized of rhombic array. Usually it was found for values of D_v close enough to the boundaries of the resonant peaks.

Colors and size of the array like in Figure 4. Time of calculation 16000 t.u. for the same parameters leading to Figure 4b.

Table I: Comparison of wavelengths obtained numerically, λ , with those predicted by Eq.(4), $\lambda_{dis.}$, and the continuous theory, $\lambda_{cont.}$ [27]. Average values of the wavelengths were calculated for those patterns shown in Figure 4. In all cases, the prediction agrees with the observed results except for the rhombic array where a difference higher than 20% was found. Note also the differences (2%) between the wavelengths predicted by the continuous [27] and discrete theory (Eq.(4)).



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V. Picer. Minuter et al Figure 3





Figure 45

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Figure 40

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Figure 4d

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Figure 40 V. Pierez. Minuran et cl

Coli plate 1

Turing	Dv	$\lambda_{dis.}$	λ _{cont.}	λ
Pattern	(Du = 1)	Linear Stability	Linear Stability	Simulation
Parallel	36.4	8.95	9.14	9
Stripes				
Rhombic	40.0	8.93	9.12	10.8
Array				
Hexagons and	43.0	8.91	9.10	8.8
Rhombi				

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Table I

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