

Dynamical Properties of Two Semiconductor Lasers with Bidirectional Optoelectronic Coupling

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- I Introduction
- II Model
- III Stability and Route to Chaos
- IV "Death by Delay"
- V Conclusions and future trends

Introduction

- ❍ Unidirectional delayed coupled lasers [→] *Anticipating synchronization*, *chaotic communications.*
- ❍ Mutual delayed coupled lasers [→] *spontaneous symmetry breaking, leader-laggard behaviour.*
- ❍ The study of two bidirectionally coupled lasers is the first step to understand more complicated structures (ring configurations).
- To know the role of different delay times in bidirectionally coupled lasers. Route to chaos.
- ❍ Observation of some general phenomena in delayed coupled oscillators ("Death by delay").

Model

Model

! These are the coupled delayed rate equations for the photon and carrier densities.

 \Box Expressions for the optical gain and the different strengths.

$$
g \approx g_0 + g_n (N - N_0) + g_p (S - S_0)
$$

$$
\xi = a \eta_{ext} \frac{\eta c \alpha_m}{2n_g}
$$

 \Box Both positive and negative values of ξ are studied.

 \square The system has four fixed points:

- F.P. I \Rightarrow Both lasers are lasing.
- F.P. II \Rightarrow Off-state.
- F.P. III and IV \Rightarrow One laser is lasing while the other is turned-off. (Stability $\rightarrow \rm \ J_{eff} < J_{th}$)

 \Box The stability of these fixed points is studied by evaluating the eigenvalues of the characteristic equation det $\Delta(\lambda)\,{=}\,0$ with $= 0$

$$
\Delta(\lambda) \equiv -\lambda I + \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}\bigg|_{x_{st}} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_{\tau_f}}\bigg|_{x_{st}} \exp(-\lambda \tau_f) + \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_{\tau_c}}\bigg|_{x_{st}} \exp(-\lambda \tau_c)
$$

as function of the bias current **J**, coupling strength ξ and the <u>delay time</u> τ.

 \Box After impossing λ = iω, it is analytically found the stability diagram in the Coupling-Current plane

• There is a maximum current beyond which instabilities are forbidden.

• It is easier to destabilize the system with inhibitory couplings than with excitatory ones.

> • Saturation largely reduces the size of the unstable regions for $\xi > 0$.

 \Box Fixing the current, we are also able to find the Hopf curves in the Coupling-Delay plane

• The Hopf curves are periodic in the delay time:

$$
\tau \to \tau + \frac{2\pi}{\omega_{1,2}}
$$

• It is also found that for $\xi > 0$, ω_1 ≈ ROF while for ξ < 0, ω_2 ≈ ROF.

□ Direction and "velocity" of the transitions

•From implicit derivation of the characteristic equation it is concluded that:

$$
\left. \frac{d \operatorname{Re}(\lambda)}{d \tau} \right|_{\lambda = i\omega_1} > 0, \quad \left. \frac{d \operatorname{Re}(\lambda)}{d \tau} \right|_{\lambda = i\omega_2} < 0
$$

•What implies that ω_1 is a destabilizing eigenfrequency while ω_2 is a stabilizing one.

•Since $2\pi/\omega_1 < 2\pi/\omega_2 \rightarrow \#$ of unstable eigenvalues grows with ^τ. Although their magnitude decreases with τ.

•More unstable directions in the phase space but the stretching is smaller in those directions.

• $\mathrm{D_{F}}$ \propto τ, $\mathrm{H_{KS}}$ \neq $\mathrm{H_{KS}}$ (τ)

■ At the crossing points of two Hopf curves, a codimension two bifurcation appears:

 \bullet The eigenvalues follow a closed path in the complex plane.

 \bullet A pair of complex conjugate eigenvalues is crossing the imaginary axis towards the right while at the same time another is crossing towards the left.

 \Box Finally, the stability diagram in the Coupling-Delay plane is constructed from the exterior borders of the Hopf curves:

 \bullet For short delays, the system is very sensitive to small changes in the distance between lasers.

 \bullet Assymptoticaly, the delay seems to play a minor role in the details of the stability diagram.

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 \Box To completely understand the transition to chaos in this system it is essential the study of the stability of the limit cycles and their interaction. Curry-Yorke quasiperiodic scenario and boundary crisis seems to be present in the road to chaos followed by the system.

 \Box Now, we consider the case in which a feedback loop is present in each laser. Fully analytical results are hopeless in this case. Numerical results suggest that the same route to chaos is followed when increasing either feedback or the coupling time. The Hopf curves in the Coupling-Feedback delay time are formed by closed curves.

"Death by delay"

 \Box With its own feedback both lasers can be operated as selfsustained oscillators when they are decoupled and we can try to observe the recently discovered phenomena named "Death by delay". (Ramana et al., "Phys. Rev. Lett." 80, 5109, 1998)

 \Box It consists of the quenching of the oscillations of two coupled oscillators when the delay in the coupling is varied.

 \Box The strong restrictions needed to observe the phenomenon when the delay is not taken into account disappear:

"Death by delay"

 \Box This effect can be predicted in our system by looking at the stabilization of the largest eigenvalue as function of the delay time.

Islands of amplitude death appear while increasing the delay time.

Their size is smaller as thecoupling time becomes larger.

□ Curry-Yorke quasiperiodic route to chaos has been identified for this system.

 \Box Crisis events are also presents in the road to chaos.

 \Box " Death by delay" has been predicted for this system when both lasers are operating as selfsustained oscillators.

□ Similarity of the roles of feedback and coupling delays.

 \Box Extension of these results to other systems like the incoherent optical coupling.