



**E-Futures**

# Self-Organised Criticality

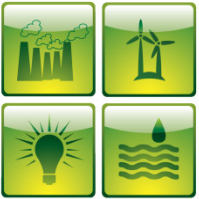
Non-linear systems

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# Outline

- Aims
- Van der Pol oscillator
- Unforced - Natural oscillation
- Forced:
  - Periodic forcing
  - Random forcing
- Further work



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# Aims

- Want to model a sustainable energy system using self-organised criticality and entropy
- Use Van der Pol model
- Link results to entropy



# Van der Pol oscillator

- Typical model for self-organisation (applicable to many systems)
- Based on model of an oscillating particle
- Nonlinear differential equation

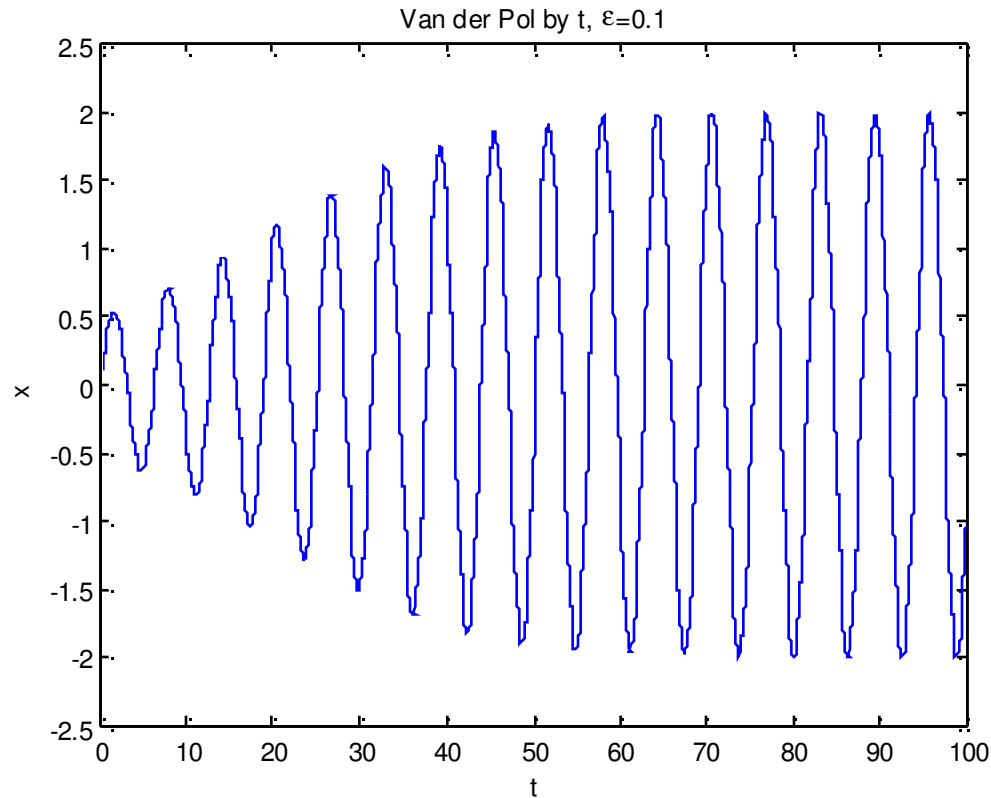
$$\ddot{x} - \varepsilon(1 - x^2)\dot{x} + x = 0$$

- Constant  $\varepsilon$  is a *control parameter* – governs damping force



# Natural Oscillation

Low damping force ( $\varepsilon=0.1$ )

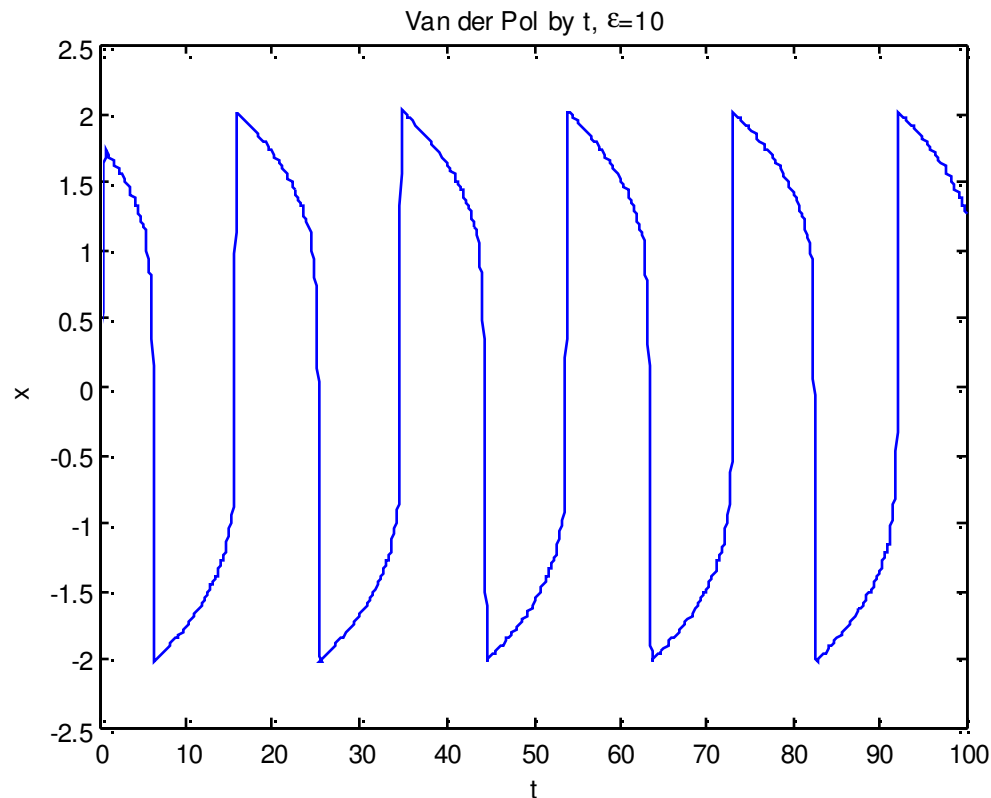


Falls into steady state  
(limit cycle) with max  
deviation 2 from  
origin



# Natural Oscillation

## High damping force ( $\epsilon=10$ )

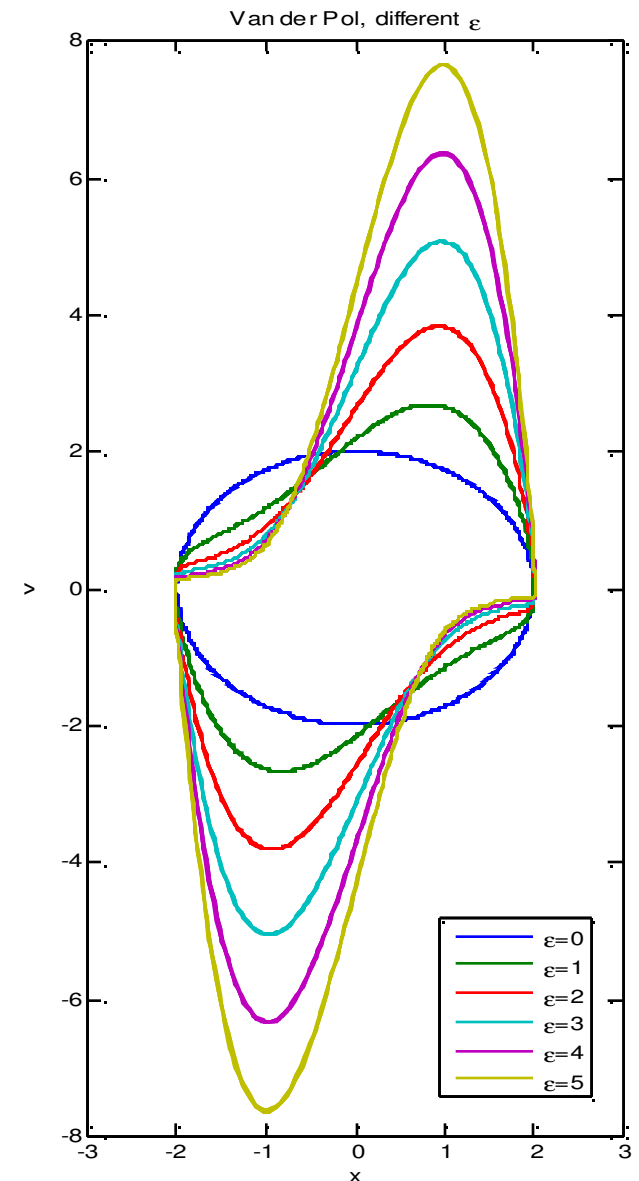


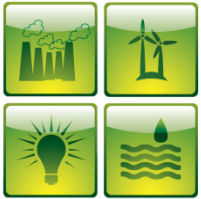
Same deviation from origin, but longer period of oscillation and sharper change in direction at max distance



# Limit cycles

- The repeating oscillation that the system falls into is called its *limit cycle*, or attractor
- The movement around the limit cycle is clockwise
- Limit cycle becomes more distorted as  $\varepsilon$  increases





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# Periodic forcing

- Limit cycle changes due to external oscillating force:

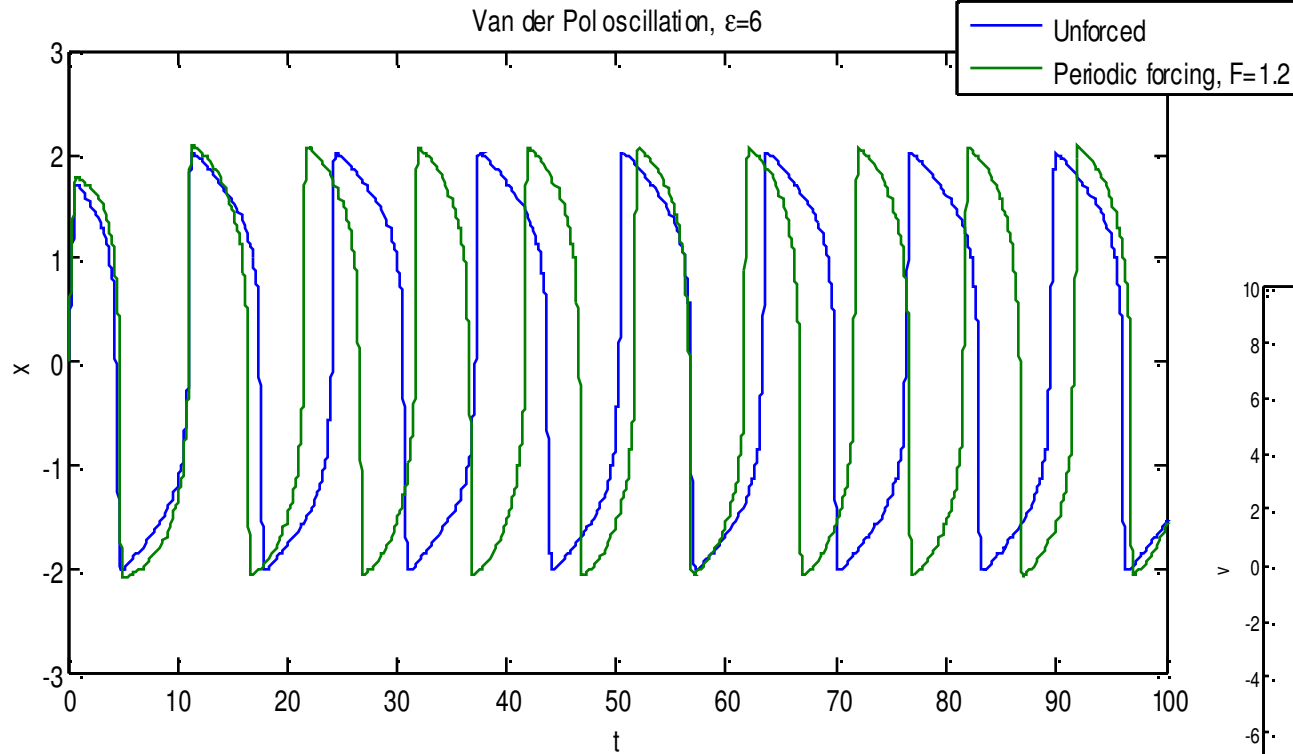
$$\ddot{x} - \varepsilon(1 - x^2)\dot{x} + x = F \cos\left(\frac{2\pi t}{T_{in}}\right)$$

- Results depend on the value of  $\varepsilon$ ,  $F$ , and  $T_{in}$
- Chaotic or periodic

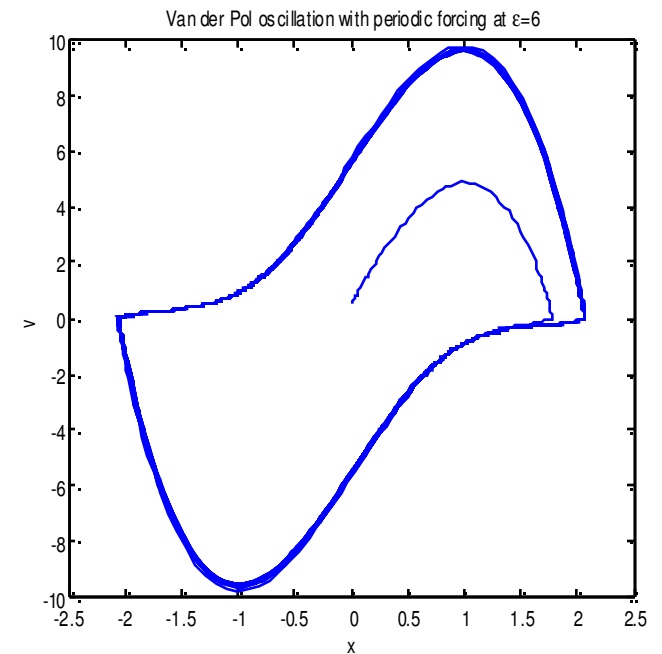


# Modelling forcing

## Periodic result ( $\epsilon=6$ )

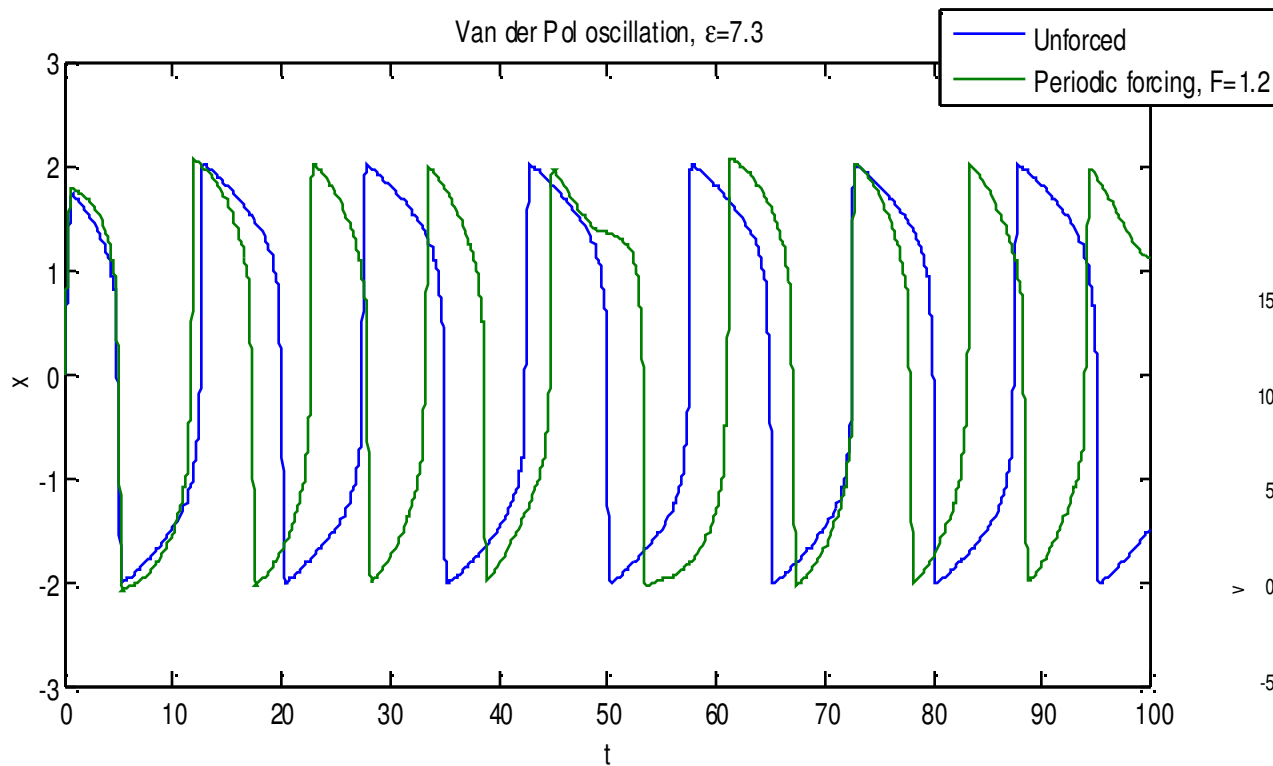


Falls into a limit cycle different to previous, but still stable looking

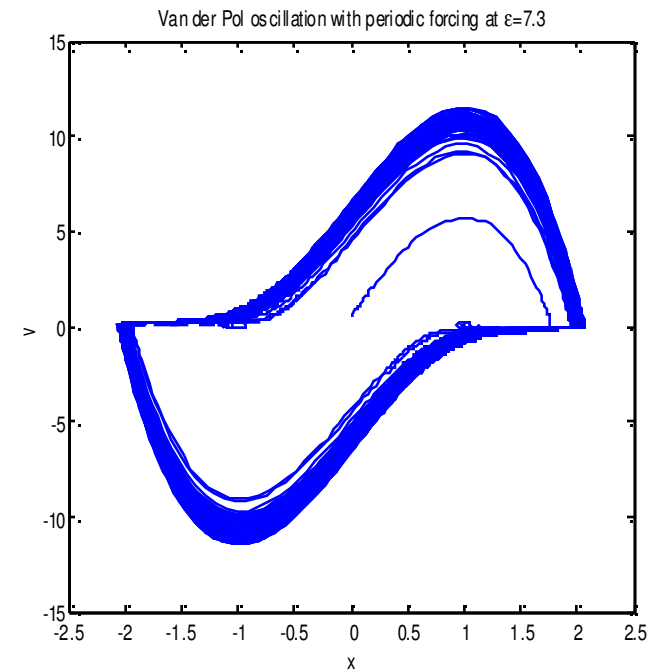


# Modelling forcing

## Chaotic result ( $\epsilon=7.3$ )



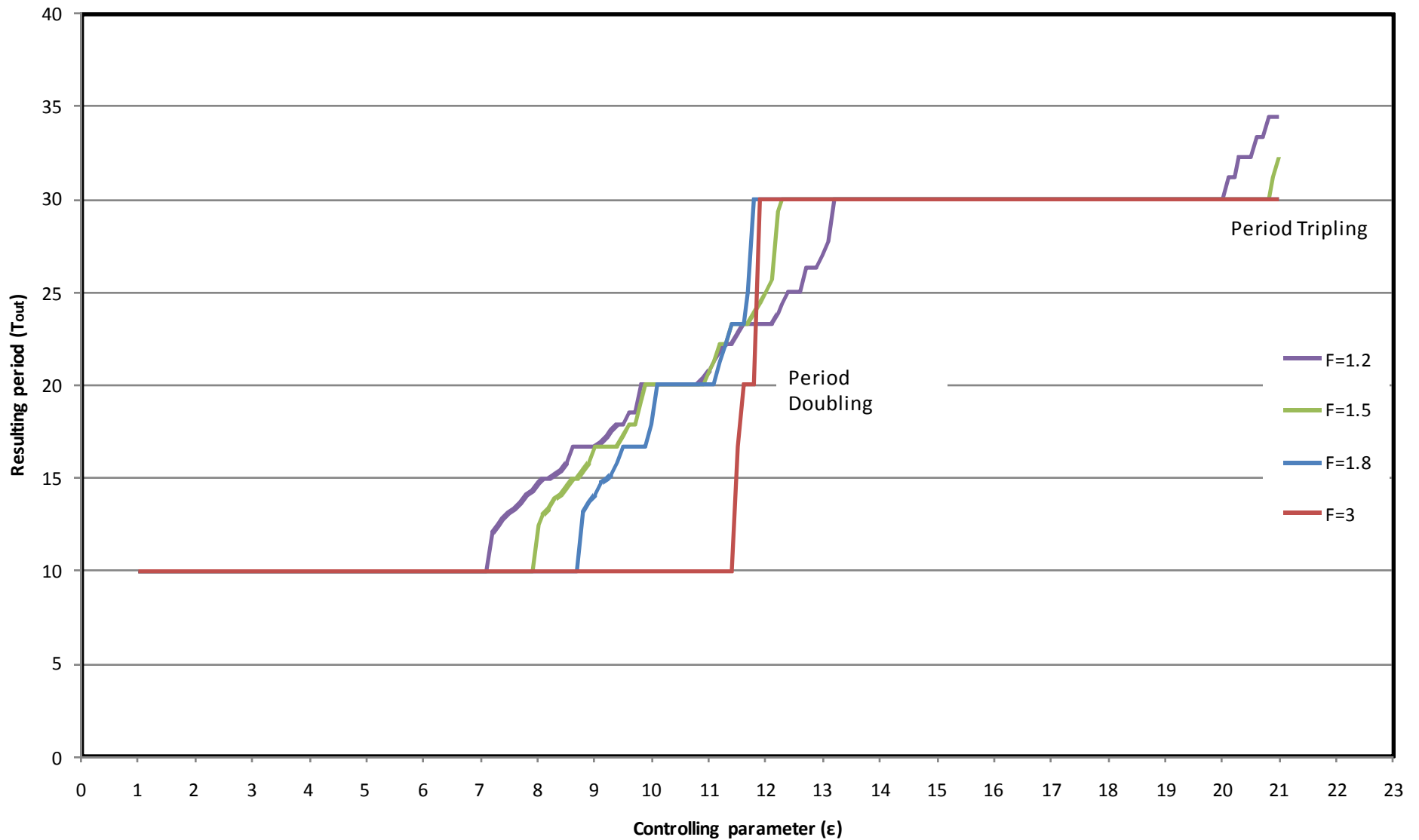
No proper limit cycle reached

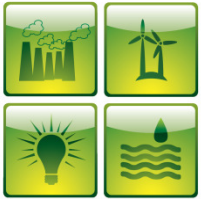




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# Chaotic regions





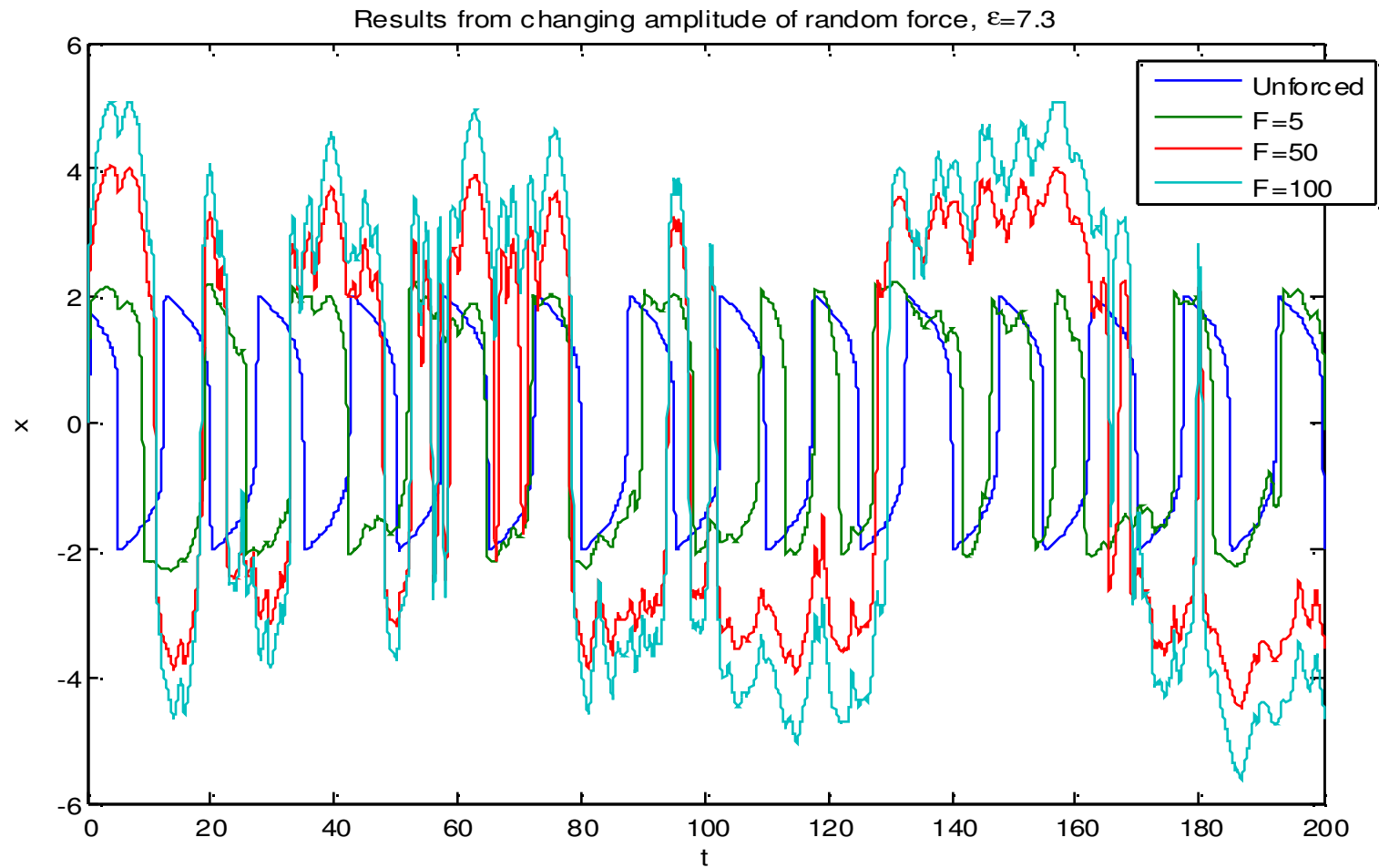
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# Random forcing

- The period  $T_{in}$  of the external force was randomised between 0 and 20
- Randomly changes every second (correlation time=1)
- Model unknown stochastic forces, or noise

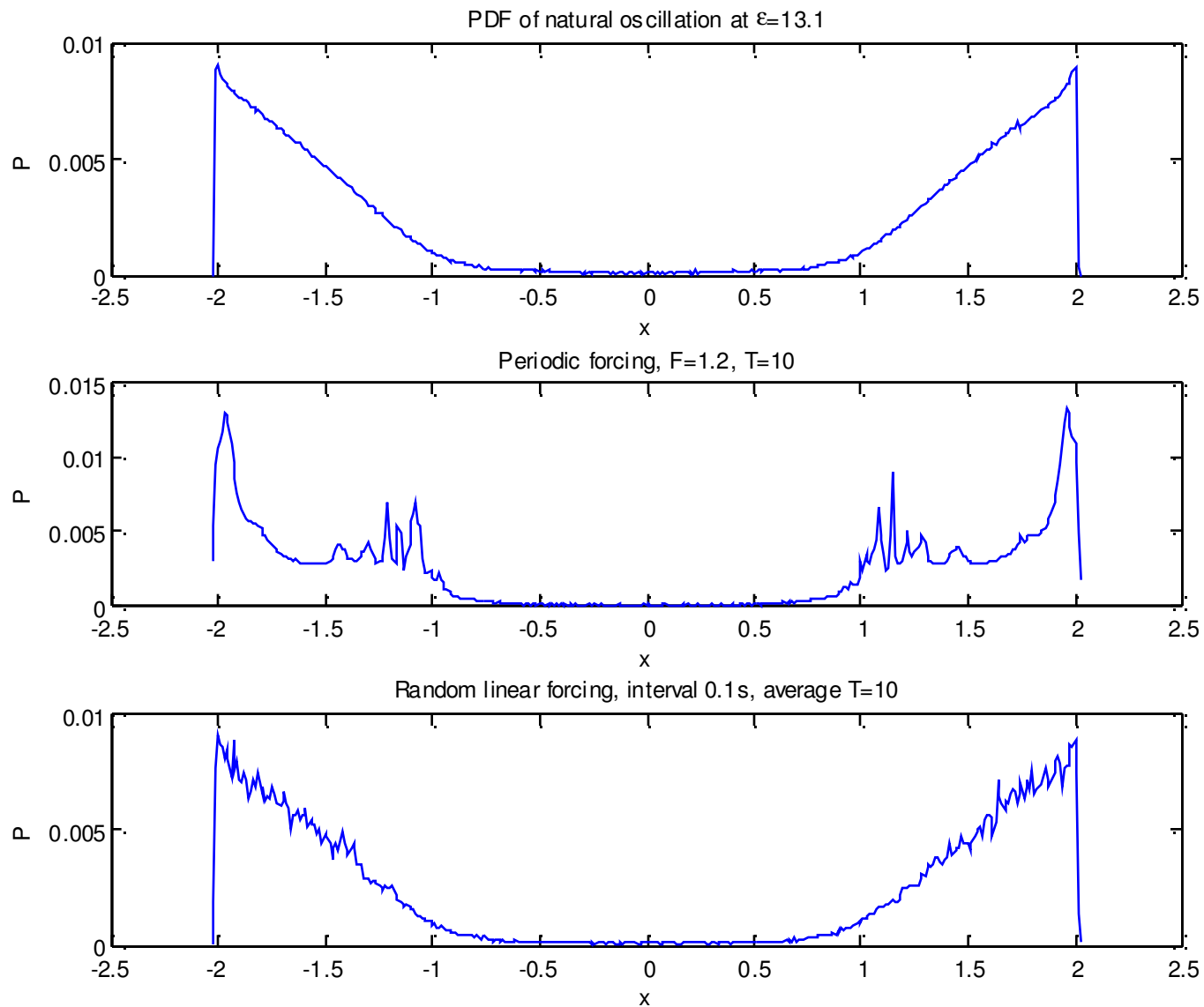


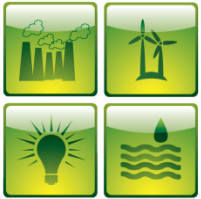
# Random forcing





# Probability Distributions





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# Entropy

- Measures missing information
- Powerful concept for understanding strongly nonlinear system
- Need for generalised entropy to understand strongly nonlinear system (esp. self-organisation)
- Aim in future is to link generalised entropy to self-organisation



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# References

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- Period-doubling cascades and devil's staircase of the driven van der Pol oscillator, Ulrich Parlitz & Werner Lauterborn. Physical Review A.
- Stochastic transient of a noisy van der Pol oscillator, H. K. Leung. Physica A.
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- Stochastic bifurcations and coherencelike resonance in a self-sustained bistable noisy oscillator, A. Zakharova. Physical Review E.





Thank you for listening.  
Any questions?