Information propagation in active system

Fernando Peruani
Cyu, France

Collective motion is generally not a continuous process, and collectives display repeated transitions from static to moving phases. The initiation of collective motion -- of an initially static group -- is a crucial process to ensure group cohesion and behavioral synchrony that remains largely unexplored. Here, we investigate the statistical properties of the initiation of collective motion. We find that the information propagates as an activation wave, whose speed is modulated by the velocity of the active agents, where both, the magnitude and direction of the agents' velocity play a crucial role. The analysis reveals a series of distinct dynamic regimes, including a selfish regimes that allow the first informed individuals to avoid predation by swapping position with uninformed individuals. Furthermore, we unravel the existence of a generic and intimate connection between the initiation of collective motion and critical phenomena in systems with an absorbing phase, showing that in a range of agents' velocities the initiation process displays criticality. The obtained results provide an insight in the way collectives distribute, process, and respond to the local environmental cues.