

# Physics of Stochastic Processes

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## Physik der Materie — Physik des Straßenverkehrs

Es gibt nur eine Physik, aber die Physik muss zur Fragestellung passen.

1. Makro-Materie: Newtonsche Axiome:

Symmetrie der Wechselwirkung → harmonischer Oszillator → Pendelkette

2. Mikro-Materie: Quantenphysik:

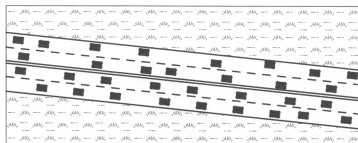
Schrödingergleichung → Quantenzahlen inklusive Spin → Termschema

3. Makroskopische Auto-Materie: **Straßenverkehrsphysik:**

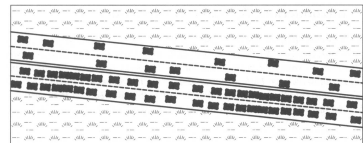
- **Starke Asymmetrie der Wechselwirkung** (Autos fahren vorwärts) → Nicht-Newton
- **Aktive Teilchen** (Autos haben einen Tank) → Energie-Bilanz im offenen System
- **Verkehrszusammenbruch** (empirische Beobachtung) → Stochastischer Prozess

⇒ Langevin-Gleichung — Master-Gleichung — Fokker-Planck-Gleichung

## Freier Verkehr



## Verkehrszusammenbruch

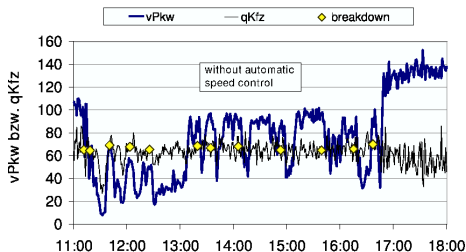


Freier Verkehr bei geringer Dichte

Auto-Stau-Cluster bei hoher Dichte

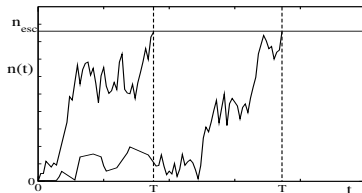
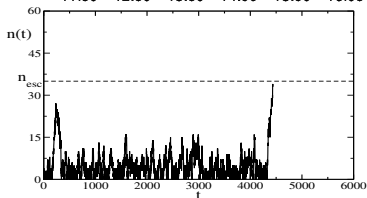
Quelle: Mobility and Traffic in the 21st Century

## Controlling traffic breakdowns (ISTTT 16, U of Maryland, 2005)



A traffic breakdown is defined (usually based on 5 minutes measurement interval data) as a

- speed drop  $\Delta v > 15$  km/h
- mean velocity after speed drop  $v_{final} < 75$  km/h
- traffic volume before speed drop  $q > 1000$  veh/h/lane

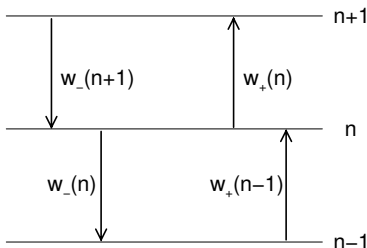


## Stochastic Master Equation

Balance equation: probability  $P(n, t)$  of number of congested vehicles  $n$  at time  $t$

$$\frac{\partial P(n, t)}{\partial t} = w_+(n-1)P(n-1, t) + w_-(n+1)P(n+1, t) - [w_+(n) + w_-(n)]P(n, t)$$

Our car cluster model:



- inflow or attachment rate

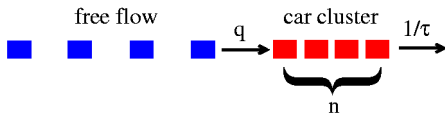
$$w_+(n) = q$$

- escape or detachment rate

$$w_-(n) = 1/\tau$$

## Nucleation on Highways

Probabilistic description of traffic pattern formation



$q$  [veh/h] = traffic flow or traffic volume (from net time gap for a freely moving car)

$n$  = cluster size or queue length (number of congested vehicles) as stochastic variable

$\tau$  [ $\tau \approx 1.5$  s] = characteristic time needed for the first car leaving the cluster to become free

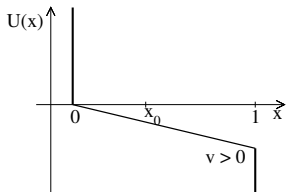
## Fokker-Planck-Equation: Drift-Diffusion Approximation

dimensionless quantities:  $x = n/n_{esc}$ ,  $T = D t$

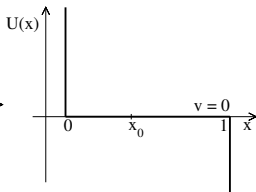
$$\frac{\partial p(x, T)}{\partial T} = -v \frac{\partial p(x, T)}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial^2 p(x, T)}{\partial x^2} \quad \text{with } v = \left( q - \frac{1}{\tau} \right) \frac{1}{D}$$

left boundary:  $j(x = 0, T) = 0$ ; right boundary:  $p(x = 1, T) = 0$

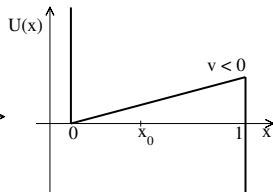
linear potential:  $U(x) = -v x$



$q > 1/\tau$



$q = 1/\tau$



$q < 1/\tau$



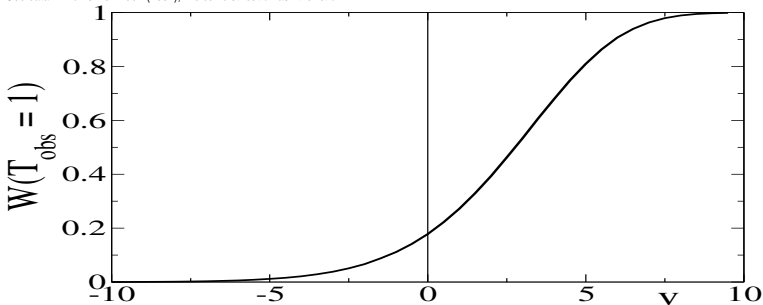
## Cumulative breakdown distribution

Defining

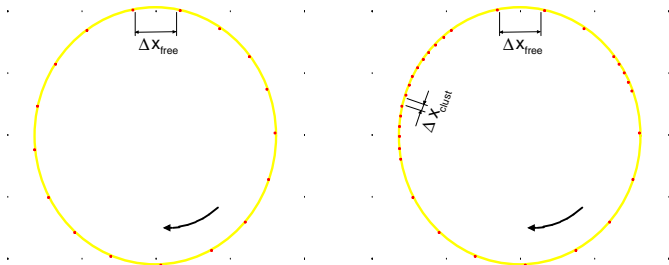
$$W(T_{obs}, \nu) = \int_0^{T_{obs}} \mathcal{P}(T; \nu) dT$$

in relation to measurements.  $T_{obs}$  is called **observation time**.

See data: Brilon & Zurlinden (2002), Weibull distribution as fit function.



## Das einfachste Modell der Auto-Vielteilchen-Physik: $N$ Autos im Kreisverkehr der Länge $L$



Freier Verkehr (links) und gestauter Stopp-und-Go-Verkehr (rechts) auf einer einspurigen Ringstraße. Jeder rote Punkt repräsentiert ein Auto; die Fahrtrichtung ist durch einen Pfeil angedeutet.

## Many-particle chain system with forward- and backward-directed forces

### Particle chain dynamics

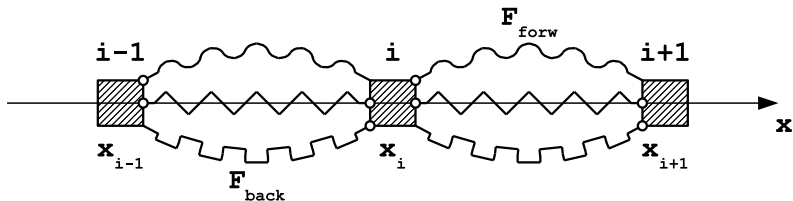
We consider a many-particle system (particles of mass  $m$  numbered by  $i = 1, 2, \dots, N$ ) with periodic boundary conditions ( $0 \leq x < L$ ). The dynamics is given by the equations of motion for velocities  $v_i$  and headway distances  $\Delta x_i$

$$m \frac{dv_i}{dt} = F_{forw}(\Delta x_i) + F_{back}(\Delta x_{i-1}) + F_{diss}(v_i) \quad (1)$$

$$\frac{d(\Delta x_i)}{dt} = v_{i+1} - v_i \quad ; \quad \Delta x_i = x_{i+1} - x_i \quad ; \quad \sum_{i=1}^N \Delta x_i = L \quad (2)$$

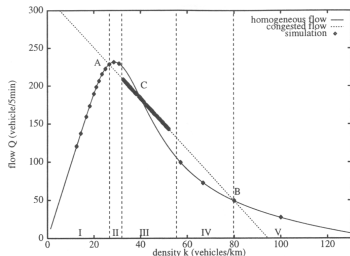
with forward directed force  $F_{forw}$ , backward directed force  $F_{back}$ , as well as dissipation (friction) term  $F_{diss}(v_i)$ .

## Many-particle chain model with forward- and backward-directed forces: Spring-block model



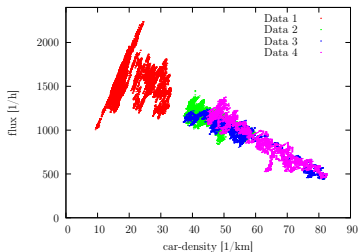
**Abb.:** A chain model of particles coupled by springs. The forward- and backward-directed forces are represented as different springs marked by  $F_{\text{forw}}$  and  $F_{\text{back}}$ , respectively. Each of such springs connects two particles, but acts only on one of them – that particle for which the connection is marked by a circle. The zig-zag spring in the middle shows the usual symmetric interaction.

## Fundamentaldiagramm Fluss–Dichte–Relation



### Theorie + Simulation

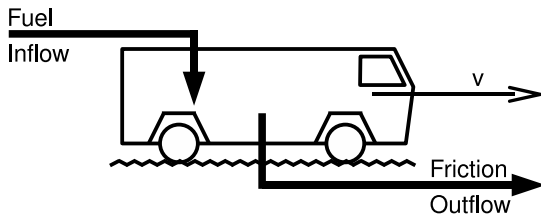
M. Bando et al., J. Phys. (France) 5, 1389 (1995)



### Empirische Daten

Christof Liebe, Diplomarbeit, Univ. Rostock (2006)

## Auto als offenes System: Energie-Fluss-Schema





## Summary

- Traffic as driven many particle system with asymmetric interaction
- Modeling of vehicular transport with active particles
- Level of description as microscopic, mesoscopic or macroscopic system
- Understanding of traffic breakdown as stochastic process