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Patterns of coherence and incoherence

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Arrays of coupled limit-cycle oscillators are used to model a variety of patternforming systems in neuroscience, biochemistry, physics and engineering. One of the most striking discoveries made recently in this field, are so-called 'chimera states', or coherence-incoherence patterns emerging spontaneously in systems of identical nonlocally coupled oscillators. Despite the nontrivial dynamical nature of such patterns, one can effectively study them using methods of nonequilibrium statistical physics. In this talk, we discuss a continuum limit integro-differential equation describing the evolution of the local order parameter representing chimera states. We overview typical bifurcation scenarios leading to the appearance of chimera states and provide their natural classification.