



# International Journal of PharmTech Research

CODEN (USA): IJPRIF, ISSN: 0974-4304 Vol.8, No.6, pp 01-11, 2015

# Chaos in Neurons and Synchronization of Birkhoff-Shaw Strange Chaotic Attractors via Adaptive Control

## Sundarapandian Vaidyanathan

R & D Centre, Vel Tech University, Avadi, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, INDIA

**Abstract:** Chaos theory has important applications in Science and Engineering. Recently, there is an active research on the applications of chaos theory to many real-world systems including the biological systems. Nerve membranes are known to exhibit their own nonlinear dynamics which generate and propagate action potentials. Such nonlinear dynamics in nerve membranes can produce chaos in neurons and related bifurcations. In 1952, A.L. Hodgkin and A.F. Huxley proposed a nonlinear dynamical system as a mathematical model of nerve membranes based on their electrophysiological experiments with squid giant atoms. Chaos in nerve membranes have been studied in the chaos literature both theoretically and experimentally. In this research work, we discuss the properties of the Birkhoff-Shaw strange chaotic attractor (1981), which is a forced oscillator. Birkhoff-Shaw strange chaotic attractor exhibits the structure of beaks and wings, typically observed in chaotic neuronal models. We also derive new results for the synchronization of identical Birkhoff-Shaw chaotic attractors via adaptive control method. All the main results for the Birkhoff-Shaw chaotic attractor are proved using Lyapunov stability theory. Also, numerical simulations have been plotted using MATLAB to illustrate the main results for the Birkhoff-Shaw chaotic attractor.

**Keywords:** Chaos, chaotic systems, biology, neurons, synchronization, Birkhoff-Shaw attractor, etc.

#### 1. Introduction

Chaos theory describes the qualitative study of deterministic chaotic dynamical systems, and a chaotic system must satisfy three properties: boundedness, infinite recurrence and sensitive dependence on initial conditions [1-2].

In 1963, Lorenz [3] discovered a 3-D chaotic system when he was studying a 3-D weather model for atmospheric convection. After a decade, Rössler [4] discovered a 3-D chaotic system, which was constructed during the study of a chemical reaction. These classical chaotic systems paved the way to the discovery of many 3-D chaotic systems such as Arneodo system [5], Sprott systems [6], Chen system [7], Lü-Chen system [8], Cai system [9], Tigan system [10], etc. Many new chaotic systems have been also discovered in the recent years like Sundarapandian systems [11, 12], Vaidyanathan systems [13-42], Pehlivan system [43], Pham system [44], etc.

Chaos theory is applicable to many real-world systems including the biological systems. Nerve membranes are known to exhibit their own nonlinear dynamics which generate and propagate action potentials. Such nonlinear dynamics in nerve membranes can produce chaos in neurons and related bifurcations. In 1952, A.L. Hodgkin and A.F. Huxley proposed a nonlinear dynamical system as a

mathematical model of nerve membranes based on their electrophysiological experiments with squid giant atoms. Their mathematical model is referred to as *Hodgkin-Huxley equations* in the literature [45]. Chaos in nerve membranes have been studied in the chaos literature both theoretically and experimentally.

In this research work, we discuss the qualitative properties of the Birkhoff-Shaw chaotic attractor (1981, [46]), which is a forced oscillator. Birkhoff-Shaw strange chaotic attractor exhibits the structure of beaks and wings, typically observed in chaotic neuronal models. We also derive new results for the global chaos synchronization of the Birkhoff-Shaw chaotic attractors via adaptive control method. All the main results are proved using Lyapunov stability theory [47].

In control theory, active control method is used when the parameters are available for measurement [48-68]. Adaptive control is a popular control technique used for stabilizing systems when the system parameters are unknown [69-82]. There are also other popular methods available for control and synchronization of systems such as backstepping control method [83-89], sliding mode control method [90-101], etc.

Recently, chaos theory is found to have important applications in several areas such as chemistry [102-107], biology [108-117], memristors [118-121], electrical circuits [122], etc.

#### 2. Birkhoff-Shaw Chaotic Attractor

Shaw (1981, [46]) derived a strange chaotic attractor, called as the *Birkhoff-Shaw chaotic attractor*, which is described by the 2-D system of differential equations

$$\begin{cases} \dot{x}_1 = ax_2 + x_1 - bx_1 x_2^2 \\ \dot{x}_2 = -x_1 + 0.25 \sin(1.57t) \end{cases}$$
 (1)

where  $x_1, x_2$  are the states and a, b are positive constants.

The Birkhoff-Shaw system (1) is chaotic [46] when the parameter values are taken as

$$a = 0.7, b = 10$$
 (2)

For numerical simulations, we take the initial conditions as  $x_1(0) = -0.2$  and  $x_2(0) = 0.2$ .

The 2-D phase portrait of the Birkhoff-Shaw strange chaotic attractor is depicted in Figure 1. This type of chaotic behaviour is a common feature for the chaotic behaviour observed in neurons.

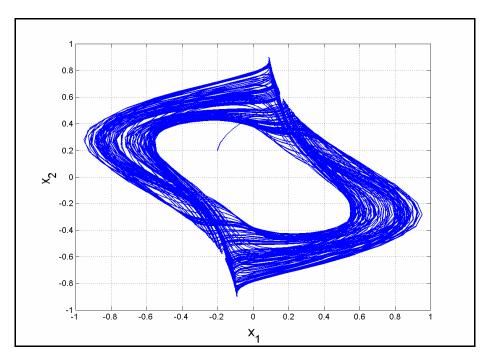


Figure 1. The 2-D phase portrait of the Birkhoff-Shaw Chaotic Attractor

## 3. Adaptive Synchronization of the Birkhoff-Shaw Chaotic Attractors

The chaotic behaviour of the Birkhoff-Shaw chaotic behaviour [46] is similar to the chaotic behaviour observed in neurons. In this section, we investigate the global chaos synchronization of Birkhoff-Shaw chaotic attractors via adaptive control method.

As the master system, we consider the Birkhoff-Shaw chaotic system given by

$$\begin{cases} \dot{x}_1 = ax_2 + x_1 - bx_1 x_2^2 \\ \dot{x}_2 = -x_1 + 0.25 \sin(1.57t) \end{cases}$$
 (3)

In (3),  $x_1, x_2$  are the states and a, b are unknown system parameters.

As the slave system, we consider the controlled Birkhoff-Shaw chaotic system given by

$$\begin{cases} \dot{y}_1 = ay_2 + y_1 - by_1y_2^2 + u_1 \\ \dot{y}_2 = -y_1 + 0.25\sin(1.57t) + u_2 \end{cases}$$
(4)

In (4),  $y_1, y_2$  are the states and  $u_1, u_2$  are adaptive controls to be determined.

The synchronization error between the chaotic systems (3) and (4) is defined by

$$\begin{cases} e_1 = y_1 - x_1 \\ e_2 = y_2 - x_2 \end{cases}$$
 (5)

Then the synchronization error dynamics is obtained as

$$\begin{cases} \dot{e}_1 = ae_2 + e_1 - b(y_1y_2^2 - x_1x_2^2) + u_1 \\ \dot{e}_2 = -e_1 + u_2 \end{cases}$$
(6)

We consider the adaptive controller defined by

$$\begin{cases} u_1 = -\hat{a}(t)e_2 - e_1 + \hat{b}(t)(y_1y_2^2 - x_1x_2^2) - k_1e_1 \\ u_2 = e_1 - k_2e_2 \end{cases}$$
 (7)

where  $k_1, k_2$  are positive gain constants.

Substituting (7) into (6), we get the closed-loop error dynamics given by

$$\begin{cases} \dot{e}_{1} = [a - \hat{a}(t)]e_{2} - [b - \hat{b}(t)](y_{1}y_{2}^{2} - x_{1}x_{2}^{2}) - k_{1}e_{1} \\ \dot{e}_{2} = -k_{2}e_{2} \end{cases}$$
(8)

We define the parameter estimation errors as follows:

$$\begin{cases} e_a = a - \hat{a}(t) \\ e_b = b - \hat{b}(t) \end{cases}$$
(9)

Using (9), we can simplify the closed-loop error dynamics (8) as follows.

$$\begin{cases} \dot{e}_1 = e_a e_2 - e_b \left( y_1 y_2^2 - x_1 x_2^2 \right) - k_1 e_1 \\ \dot{e}_2 = -k_2 e_2 \end{cases}$$
(10)

Differentiating the parameter estimation errors (9) with respect to time, we get

$$\begin{cases} \dot{e}_a = -\dot{\hat{a}}(t) \\ \dot{e}_b = -\dot{\hat{b}}(t) \end{cases}$$
(11)

Next, we consider the candidate Lyapunov function given by

$$V(e_1, e_2, e_a, e_b) = \frac{1}{2} \left( e_1^2 + e_2^2 + e_a^2 + e_b^2 \right), \tag{12}$$

which is a positive definite function on  $R^4$ .

Differentiating V along the trajectories of (10) and (11), we obtain

$$\dot{V} = -k_1 e_1^2 - k_2 e_2^2 + e_a \left[ e_1 e_2 - \dot{a} \right] + e_b \left[ -e_1 \left( y_1 y_2^2 - x_1 x_2^2 \right) - \dot{b} \right]$$
(13)

In view of (13), we take the parameter estimates as follows:

$$\begin{cases} \dot{\hat{a}} = e_1 e_2 \\ \dot{\hat{b}} = -e_1 \left( y_1 y_2^2 - x_1 x_2^2 \right) \end{cases}$$
 (14)

Next, we state and prove the main result of this section.

**Theorem 1.** The Birkhoff-Shaw chaotic attractors (3) and (4) are globally and exponentially synchronized by the adaptive control law (7) and the parameter update law (14), where  $k_1, k_2$  are positive gain constants.

**Proof.** The quadratic Lyapunov function V defined by Eq. (12) is a positive definite function on  $\mathbb{R}^4$ .

Substituting the parameter update law (14) into (13), the time-derivative of V is obtained as

$$\dot{V} = -k_1 e_1^2 - k_2 e_2^2, \tag{15}$$

which is a negative semi-definite function on  $R^4$ .

Thus, by Barbalat's lemma in Lyapunov stability theory [47], we conclude that the synchronization errors  $e_1(t), e_2(t)$  converge to zero exponentially as  $t \to \infty$  for all initial conditions  $e(0) \in \mathbb{R}^2$ .

This completes the proof. ■

#### 4. Numerical Simulations

We use classical fourth-order Runge-Kutta method in MATLAB with step-size  $h = 10^{-8}$  for solving the systems of differential equations given by (3), (4) and (14). We take the gain constants as  $k_1 = 5$  and  $k_2 = 5$ .

The parameter values of the Birkhoff-Shaw chaotic attractors are taken as in the chaotic case (2), i.e.

$$a = 0.7, b = 10$$

We take the initial conditions of the Birkhoff-Shaw chaotic attractor (3) as

$$x_1(0) = 5.2$$
,  $x_2(0) = 8.7$ 

We take the initial conditions of the Birkhoff-Shaw chaotic attractor (4) as

$$y_1(0) = 9.3$$
,  $y_2(0) = 2.1$ 

Also, we take the initial conditions of the parameter estimates as

$$\hat{a}(0) = 12.4, \ \hat{b}(0) = 16.9$$

Figures 2-3 show the complete synchronization of the Birkhoff-Shaw chaotic attractors (3) and (4).

Figure 4 shows the time-history of the synchronization errors  $e_1(t)$ ,  $e_2(t)$ .

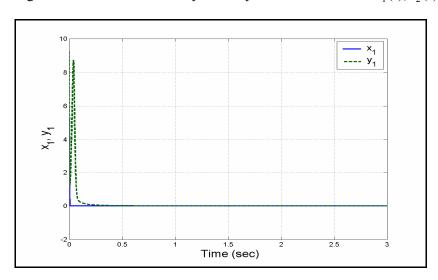


Figure 2. Synchronization of the states  $x_1$  and  $y_1$ 

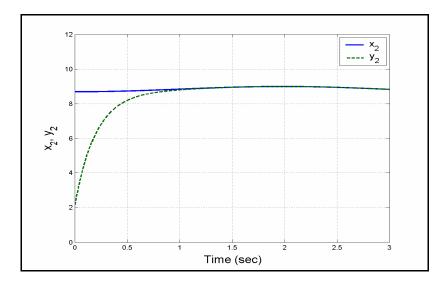


Figure 3. Synchronization of the states  $x_2$  and  $y_2$ 

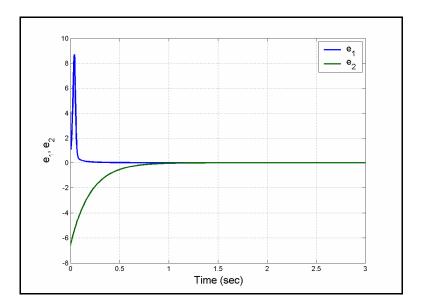


Figure 4. Time-history of the synchronization errors  $e_1, e_2$ 

#### 5. Conclusions

In this paper, chaos in neurons was discussed and new results have been derived for the analysis and adaptive synchronization of the Birkhoff-Shaw chaotic attractor (1981) with unknown system parameters. Main results were established using Lyapunov stability theory. MATLAB simulations have been show to demonstrate and validate all the results derived in this paper for the properties and adaptive synchronization of the Birkhoff-Shaw chaotic attractor.

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