Basin stability in delayed dynamics

Siyang Leng1,2, Wei Lin3 & Jürgen Kurths2,3,4

Basin stability (BS) is a universal concept for complex systems studies, which focuses on the volume of
the basin of attraction instead of the traditional linearization-based approach. It has a lot of applications
in real-world systems especially in dynamical systems with a phenomenon of multi-stability, which is
even more ubiquitous in delayed dynamics such as the firing neurons, the climatological processes,
and the power grids. Due to the infinite dimensional property of the space for the initial values, how to
properly define the basin’s volume for delayed dynamics remains a fundamental problem. We propose
here a technique which projects the infinite dimensional initial state space to a finite-dimensional
Euclidean space by expanding the initial function along with different orthogonal or nonorthogonal
basis. A generalized concept of basin's volume in delayed dynamics and a highly practicable calculating
algorithm with a cross-validation procedure are provided to numerically estimate the basin of attraction
in delayed dynamics. We show potential applicabilities of this approach by applying it to study several
representative systems of biological or/and physical significance, including the delayed Hopfield
neuronal model with multistability and delayed complex networks with synchronization dynamics.

The linear stability theory plays a central role in complex systems science, which describes the long-term
behavior of system’s steady states, such as equilibriums and periodic orbits, after a small perturbation. Such
a linearization-based approach has many applications both theoretically and practically by determining whether
the steady state is stable or not (in terms of the sign of the Lyapunov exponents). However, due to the localness
of this approach, it is only valid when the perturbation is limited to a small range. Since non-small perturbations
are omnipresent in real-world systems, a global method for complementing the linear-stability paradigm needs
to be developed. Although the classical Lyapunov function method with the Invariance Principle could be a can-
didate1–6, this method, which usually requires subtle construction techniques and highly depends on the accurate
form of the systems investigated, has some theoretical significance but lacks of extensively practical usefulness.
Fortunately, the basin stability (BS), proposed recently by Menck et al., becomes such a global method, which
uses the basin of attraction instead to fully assess the steady state's stability7. This method focuses on the basin's
volume which serves as a measure of the likelihood of return to a steady state after being subjected to any random
perturbation8 and thus explains to what extent a steady state is stable in a probability sense.

The BS approach has become a powerful tool for complex systems studies and has already been successfully
applied to many fields of science8–11, especially in those systems with multi-stability. As a matter of fact, the
phenomenon of multi-stability is even more ubiquitous in delayed dynamical systems12–14. Moreover, due to a
certain amount of time duration for the signal transmission, such as the finite switching speed and the memory
effect, time delay exists in almost every real system15–18. Therefore, it is of great significance to consider the BS in
delayed dynamics. To this end, we need to define the basin's volume in a time-delayed sense, while the space for
the initial values of a time-delayed differential equation (DDE) is by expanding the initial function along with different orthogonal or nonorthogonal
basis. Through this, a generalized notion of basin's volume is theoretically described and a practical calculating
algorithm with a cross-validation procedure is introduced. We then apply the developed approach to study a
multi-stable Hopfield neuronal model with time delays. Some further applications, including the investigations

1School of Mathematical Sciences, LNSM and Centre for Computational Systems Biology, Fudan University, Shanghai
200433, China. 2Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK), Potsdam 14473, Germany. 3Department
of Physics, Humboldt University, Berlin 12489, Germany. 4Institute for Complex Systems and Mathematical Biology,
University of Aberdeen, Aberdeen AB24 3UE, United Kingdom. Correspondence and requests for materials should
be addressed to W.L. (email: wlin@fudan.edu.cn)
of the synchronization of delayed complex networks and multi-stability of equilibriums and periodic orbits in time-delayed oscillators, show the broad potential of applications of this developed approach.

**Results**

Consider a system described by the delayed differential equation

$$\dot{x}(t) = f(t, x_t),$$

where $x$ is an $s$-dimensional state variable, $x_t(\theta) = x(t + \theta)$ for $\theta \in [-\tau, 0]$, and $\tau$ is a time delay. The set denoted by $C[-\tau, 0]$, for the initial values of system (1) is a space consisting of continuous functions. We use $| \cdot |$ to represent the Euclidean norm in an $n$-dimensional space.

Due to the one-to-one property between $n$-dimensional state variable, there exists a unique sequence of numbers such that $n$ persistently for larger $n$. We call the volume of the geometry $C$ is then used to represent the function space for the initial values is taken into account, the basin of attraction of system (1) is of infinite dimension. A direct computation for measuring this kind of BS is impossible, so that some approximate algorithm should be adopted. Notice that, for any $g \in C[-\tau, 0]$ and a given standard orthogonal basis $\{f_1, f_2, \ldots, f_n, \ldots\} \subset C[-\tau, 0]$, there exists a unique sequence of numbers $\{a_1, a_2, \ldots, a_n, \ldots\}$ such that

$$g_n \triangleq a_1 f_1 + a_2 f_2 + \cdots + a_n f_n \rightarrow g, \text{ as } n \rightarrow \infty,$$

where the limit is interpreted in a sense of the square integral on $[-\tau, 0]$ and $\{a_1, a_2, \ldots, a_n, \ldots\}$ are the Fourier coefficients with $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n^2 < +\infty$. Refer to the section of Method for specific bases that we use in the paper. We thus construct a set through $C_{(\omega_{(\alpha, \alpha)})} \triangleq \{z = a_1 f_1 + a_2 f_2 + \cdots + a_n f_n \in \mathbb{R}^n : \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n^2 \leq \alpha \} \subset C[-\tau, 0]$ where $\alpha$ is a sufficiently large positive constant and $C_{(\omega_{(\alpha, \alpha)})} \subset C_{(\omega_{(\alpha+1, \alpha)})}$. Due to the one-to-one property between $C_{(\omega_{(\alpha, \alpha)})}$ and the bounded set $C_{(\omega_{(\alpha, \alpha)})} \triangleq \{a_1, a_2, \ldots, a_n \} \subset \mathbb{R}^n : \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n^2 \leq \alpha \}$ we use the conventional Lebesgue measure $m$ to count the volume of $C_{(\omega_{(\alpha, \alpha)})}$ as $\text{Vol}(C_{(\omega_{(\alpha, \alpha)})}) = \int m$. We call the volume of the geometry $C_{(\omega_{(\alpha, \alpha)})} \cap \mathbb{B}$ the $n$th-order generalized basin’s volume with respect to the given standard orthogonal basis (also called basin’s volume if not confused). We further normalize this volume through

$$\text{Vol}(C_{(\omega_{(\alpha, \alpha)})} \cap \mathbb{B})/\text{Vol}(C_{(\omega_{(\alpha, \alpha)})}) \in [0, 1]$$

and denote this normalized value by $S_{(\omega_{(\alpha, \alpha)})}$. $S_{(\omega_{(\alpha, \alpha)})}$ is then used to represent the $n$th-order approximate BS of the basin $\mathbb{B}$ for the delayed dynamics (1).

For the sake of practical use, we introduce how to numerically compute the generalized BS defined above. We integrate system (1) for $T$ points drawn uniformly at random from $C$, which correspond to $T$ initial functions $\{a_1, a_2, \ldots, a_n\}$ is mapped to the function $g_n$ defined in (2), and then count the number $M$ of the initial functions that finally arrive at the stable steady state $\phi$. $S_{(\omega_{(\alpha, \alpha)})}$ can then be estimated as $M/T$ when $T$ is sufficiently large. In Supplementary Materials, we analytically show how to choose a proper value of $T$ for getting a credible estimation on the $n$th-order approximate BS.

Moreover, the generalized BS, as defined in (3), depends on both $n$ and the ranges of the coefficients $a_i$. Analytical proof of the BS convergence with increasing either $n$ or the range is hard at present. However, numerical validation of this convergence could be adopted in applications, which is shown in the following examples as well as the examples in Supplementary Materials. In fact, when the fluctuations of $S_{(\omega_{(\alpha, \alpha)})}$, persistently for larger $n$’s or wider ranges, are below an allowable bias specified \textit{a priori}, we take the smallest value of such $n$’s as the number of the basis functions that are successively taken from the standard orthogonal basis, and take the smallest value of such boundaries for the coefficient $a_i$ used in $C_{(\omega_{(\alpha, \alpha)})}$.

Clearly, the above procedure for defining and computing the generalized BS for delayed dynamics could be performed not only with the orthogonal bases, such as the trigonometric and the Legendre bases (refer to the section of Method), but also with the nonorthogonal bases, including the Bernstein basis (refer to Supplementary Materials). Then, in order to avoid losing the essential functions for the initial values in computation, we determine $n$ and the ranges for the coefficients through a cross-validation procedure in applications, that is, they take values such that the aforementioned convergence requirements on the approximate BS are satisfied simultaneously for three different bases. Interestingly, as shown in the following examples, although the exact values of the BS for different bases are not uniform, they display almost the same changing tendency with the variation of some parameters such as the time delay.

**Delayed Hopfield neuronal model.** We first apply the generalized BS approach to the delayed neuronal model. Multi-stability exists widely in neural networks especially when applied to associative memory. Several sample patterns (represented as equilibriums) are stored in the weights of networks, and associative memory is used to recover from an incomplete or damaged version to its complete pattern with a help of network dynamics. The number of equilibriums represents the capacity of memorial storage, and the basin’s volume is the error correcting
We demonstrate it by considering a simple two-dimensional delayed Hopfield neuronal model, described by

\[ \begin{align*}
\dot{u}_1(t) &= -bu_1(t) + af(u_1(t - \tau_1)) + a_{12}f(u_2(t - \tau_{12})) + I_1, \\
\dot{u}_2(t) &= -bu_2(t) + a_{21}f(u_1(t - \tau_{12})) + af(u_2(t - \tau_{21})) + I_2,
\end{align*} \]

(4)

where \(u_i(t)\) is the state of neuron \(i\) at time \(t\). Parameters \(a, b, a_{12}, a_{21}, I_1\) and \(I_2\) are constants with \(a > 0, b > 0\), and \(a_{ij} \geq 0\) for \(i, j = 1, 2\) and \(i \neq j\). \(f(\cdot): \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}\) is a nonlinear neuronal activation function. Here, the parameters are set as \(a = 2, a_{12} = a_{21} = 0.55, b_1 = 1, I_1 = I_2 = 0\), and \(f(x) = \tanh(x)\). Time delays in the equations represent the transmission times between different neurons and here we let \(\tau_1 = \tau_{12} = \tau_{21} = \tau\). By linear stability theory, the model (4) with \(\tau \in [0, 5]\) has four asymptotically stable equilibrium points, i.e., \(E_1(-1.2156, 1.2156), E_2(1.2156, -1.2156), E_3(2.5170, 2.5170),\) and \(E_4(-2.5170, -2.5170)\), as shown in Fig. 1(a,d,g). For \(\tau > 0\), these equilibriums correspond to four constant function vectors on the interval \([\tau, 0]\), respectively. In the meanwhile, looking into the BS reveals us more interesting detail information about these equilibriums besides whether they are stable or not.

First, in order to find the appropriate number of basis functions in calculating the \(n\)th-order approximate BS for the four equilibrium points, we use the algorithms with a cross-validation procedure introduced above. In particular, take in account the Bernstein, the trigonometric and the Legendre bases simultaneously, set \(\alpha = 6\), and denote by \(S^n_\beta = S^n_\beta(\alpha, \beta)\) for simplicity. As shown in Fig. 1(b,e,h), the fluctuations of \(S^n_\beta\) for every basis tend to be stable when \(n\) is sufficiently large, and thus for the model (4), we take \(n = 20\) as the number of the basis functions that are successively selected from the given bases. Since \(S^n_\beta\) represents the possibility of a pattern that might be remembered, investigating the variation of its value with some parameters becomes an important issue. As shown in Fig. 1(c,f,i), values of \(S^n_\beta\) for the two equilibriums \(E_{1,2}\) are getting smaller and smaller when the time delay \(\tau\) increases (showing a less probability of being remembered), and finally the two other patterns, \(E_{3,4}\), become dominant with an almost equal proportion. For all the three bases, Fig. 1(j) depicts the normalized variations of \(S^n_\beta\) with \(\tau\) for the four equilibriums. As mentioned above, despite the fact that values of \(S^n_\beta\) for different bases are not exactly uniform, the variations of these values with the time delay approach a high consensus.
The dynamics of the individual units is governed by the function $F$. By considering the largest transverse Lyapunov exponent of the master function (MSF)31, for a large amount of networks we can obtain a range of the normalized coupling parameter $p$, compared to the traditional indicator, synchronizability $R$, which is always used to measure the network’s capability of reaching synchronization7.

More synchronizable but the basin of the synchronization manifold is otherwise decreasing. Clearly, this application of the generalized BS approach on delayed networks also complements the linear synchronization studies.

We thus investigate the generalized BS of the complex networks where we take into account the time delay, which may affect the system’s stability of synchronization or even change the synchronization manifold28,29. We consider an undirected complex network with $N$ delay-coupled identical nodes, which is represented as follows30:

$$X_i(t) = F[X_i(t)] - \sigma \sum_{j=1}^{N} G_{ij} X_j(t-\tau)$$

where $X_i \in \mathbb{R}^m$ and $i = 1, \ldots, N$. The dynamics of the individual units is governed by the function $F$, $\sigma$ denotes the overall coupling strength constant, and the network’s Laplacian $G = g_{ij}$ is an $N \times N$ matrix which determines the topology of the network. $h$ is a coupling function (we choose it as an identity map here) and $\tau$ is the coupling delay. Under the requirement of $\sum_{i=1}^{N} g_{ii} = 0$ (\forall i), system (5)’s synchronization manifold is $X_i(t) = X_2(t) = \cdots = X_n(t) = X_1(t)$. By considering the largest transverse Lyapunov exponent of the master stability function (MSF)33, for a large amount of networks we can obtain a range of the normalized coupling parameter $\varepsilon$ which depends on coupling strength $\sigma$ and coupling matrix $G$ (see Methods). In this range, system (5) can be stably synchronized. In the following discussion, the Watts-Strogatz networks consisting of the paradigmatic Rössler oscillators are taken into account34. A single Rössler oscillator with given parameters is governed by

$$\dot{x} = -y - z, \quad \dot{y} = x + 0.2y, \quad \dot{z} = 0.2 + z(x - 9.0).$$

Here, the $x$-$x$ component coupling is used to build the network34. According to the MSF method, the stable synchronous state exists only in the range of the normalized coupling parameter $\varepsilon \in (0.18, 4.61)$ in the absence of the coupling delay. As $\tau$ increases to 0.24, a second stable regime $\varepsilon > 7.38$ emerges and when $\tau$ reaches 0.4, again only one stable regime exists with $\varepsilon \in (0.18, 7.38)$33. It is easy to calculate the range of $\sigma$ according to $\varepsilon$ and different network topology $G$ (see Methods). In the following we concentrate on the regime $\tau = 0.4$. The rewiring probability $p$ in the Watts-Strogatz network ($p = 0$ for regular lattices and $p = 1$ for random graphs) is varied to see the relationship between network topology and its synchronization.

From the traditional viewpoint, network’s synchronizability $R$, defined as $\gamma_{\text{max}}/\gamma_{\text{min}}$, the ratio of matrix $G$’s maximum and minimum non-zero eigenvalues (the smaller $R$ is, the more synchronizable the network is), always indicates an improvement with the increasing of $p$ (from unstable regime to stable regime), see the blue dashed curve plotted in Fig. 2. However, akin to the results for the non-delayed networks, the mean basin stability (see Methods for details) shoots up when $p$ is small and reaches a peak. After that, just opposite to the variation of $R$ with $p$, an exponential decline of the mean basin stability can be observed, which means the network becomes more synchronizable but the basin of the synchronization manifold is otherwise decreasing. Clearly, this application of the generalized BS approach on delayed networks also complements the linear synchronization studies.

While human brains have a large amount of neurons, the capacity of memorial storage is even enormous. As shown by the example, the BS provides us a potential method to fully discover the multi-attractors and their basins. And comparing to the linearization approach, the BS proves itself a practical tool which provides a global view of the system in a probability sense.

Application to complex networks with time-delayed couplings. To show the applicability of this approach even to delayed complex networks, we apply it to study the synchronization phenomenon here. Synchronization is a fundamental nonlinear behavior26, which can be observed in many systems such as the firing neurons13, the human cardiorespiratory system27, the singing crickets and the power grids9. The original BS theory shows us to what extent a system will maintain synchronous behavior when perturbations occur and the relationship between networks’ topology and the basin’s volume. An amazing discovery is that the BS of a network shows a quite different trend versus the Watts-Strogatz network’s parameter $p$, compared to the traditional indicator, synchronizability $R$, which is always used to measure the network’s capability of reaching synchronization7. From the traditional viewpoint, network’s synchronizability $R$, defined as $\gamma_{\text{max}}/\gamma_{\text{min}}$, the ratio of matrix $G$’s maximum and minimum non-zero eigenvalues (the smaller $R$ is, the more synchronizable the network is), always indicates an improvement with the increasing of $p$ (from unstable regime to stable regime), see the blue dashed curve plotted in Fig. 2. However, akin to the results for the non-delayed networks, the mean basin stability (see Methods for details) shoots up when $p$ is small and reaches a peak. After that, just opposite to the variation of $R$ with $p$, an exponential decline of the mean basin stability can be observed, which means the network becomes more synchronizable but the basin of the synchronization manifold is otherwise decreasing. Clearly, this application of the generalized BS approach on delayed networks also complements the linear synchronization studies.

Figure 2. Basin stability of the Watts-Strogatz networks consisting of the delay-coupled paradigmatic Rössler oscillators. Results were obtained for $N = 100$ oscillators, each having on average 6 neighbours. The red vertical line separates the unstable and stable regimes.
Moreover, this generalized BS approach could also be applied to systems with periodic orbits or even chaotic attractors, which would reveal more subtle nonlinear properties (refer to Supplementary Materials for examples including the delayed Van der Pol-Duffing oscillator model and the delay coupled Stuart-Landau system). All these examples show that the generalized BS approach for delayed dynamics could provide a relatively comprehensive knowledge of the basin of the steady state and shows whether a perturbation is permissible, which is quite essential in engineering.

Conclusions
The linear stability theory provides a local method to determine whether a state is stable or not. However, limited by the infinite dimension of the initial state space, it is still difficult to have a comprehensive understanding of attractors in delayed dynamics. Although the method of Lyapunov-Krasovskii functional could be used to analyze the multi-stability and basins of multi-attractors, this method still produces a sufficient condition, lacking a capacity of describing the exact shape of an attractor’s basin[4,19], and also this method in essence still restricts the discussion in the finite-dimensional space, describing the condition on initial value only at a time of zero[4,19]. To overcome these difficulties, we propose here an approximate approach of applying basin stability to delayed dynamics. The BS approach turns our eyes from a traditional local linearized view of stability to a global inspection. And our method extends its application and converts an infinite dimensional problem into a highly practicable algorithm especially when time delay plays an important role in real-world systems. The generalized BS approach even provides an opportunity to fully investigate more nonlinear properties of attractors in delayed dynamics such as the bifurcation phenomena. Furthermore, an analytical proof on the convergence of our proposed approach for computing the generalized BS is also of great significance, which becomes a topic of our present and future works.

Methods
Orthogonal bases. We take, respectively, the orthogonal basis consisting of trigonometric functions on $[-\pi, \pi]$ as follows:

\[
\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}, \frac{\cos(x)}{\sqrt{\pi}}, \frac{\sin(x)}{\sqrt{\pi}}, \frac{\cos(2x)}{\sqrt{\pi}}, \frac{\sin(2x)}{\sqrt{\pi}}, \ldots,
\]

and the Legendre basis on $[-1, 1]$, which is also an orthogonal basis, as follows:

\[
P_n(x) = \frac{1}{2^n n!} \frac{d^n}{dx^n} (x^2 - 1)^n, \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \ldots
\]

In the framework of functional analysis, a series, which is generated by expanding a function along with a given standard orthogonal basis, could be regarded as a Fourier series[21]. Moreover, in order to realize the cross-validation procedure formalized in the section of Result, we also use the nonorthogonal Bernstein basis, which is introduced in Supplementary Materials.

Remember that different basis leads to different $S_{n}^{(n, a)}$. So we should make clear which basis is used if we need to focus on the exact value of $S_{n}^{(n, a)}$. As shown in the above examples and examples in Supplementary Materials, almost the same results on the changing tendency can be obtained while considering the variation of the generalized basin's volume with some parameters.

Master stability function. The stability of the synchronization manifold is determined by the eigenvalues of the system's Laplacian $G$ and the following variational equation (i.e., MSF)[31]

\[
\xi(t) = DF[G_{v}(t)]\xi(t) - \varepsilon Dh|X_{v}(t - \tau)\xi(t - \tau).
\]

Here, $\xi$ is an $m$-dimensional variation transverse to the synchronization manifold. The normalized coupling parameter $\varepsilon = \sigma \gamma_k$ in which $\gamma_k$ denotes the eigenvalues of $G$ for $k = 0, 1, 2, \ldots, N - 1$. Thus, the stability of the synchronized state of a given network topology $G$ is guaranteed by the negative sign of the largest transverse Lyapunov exponent of Eq. (6)[32].

Estimation of mean basin stability. Notice that the stable synchronous state requires $\sigma$ to take its value in a specific range. Here, we estimate the basin stability for several different equally spaced values in this range and average to obtain a mean $S_{n}^{(n, a)}$. Additionally, several networks are produced for one probability $p$ to acquire the average value of $S_{n}^{(n, a)}$.

References
1. Pikovsky, A., Rosenblum, M. & Kurths, J. Synchronization: A Universal Concept in Nonlinear Sciences, vol. 12 (Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2003).
2. LaSalle, J. P. The Stability of Dynamical Systems (SIAM, Philadelphia, PA, 1976).
3. Rodrigues, H. M., Alberto, L. F. C. & Bretas, N. G. Uniform invariance principle and synchronization. Robustness with respect to parameter variation. J. Differential Equations 169, 228–254 (2001).
4. Rabelo, M. & Alberto, L. F. C. An extension of the invariance principle for a class of differential equations with finite delay. Adv. Difference Equations 2010, 496936 (2010).
5. Ge, T., Lin, W. & Feng, J. Invariance principles allowing of non-Lyapunov functions for estimating attractor of discrete dynamical systems. IEEE Transactions on Automatic Control 57, 300–505 (2012).
6. Zhong, W., Lin, W. & Ruan, J. The generalized invariance principle for dynamic equations on time scales. *Appl. Math. Comput.* 184, 557–565 (2007).
7. Menck, P. J., Heitzig, J., Marwan, N. & Kurths, J. How basin stability complements the linear-stability paradigm. *Nature Physics* 9, 89–92 (2013).
8. Wiley, D. A., Strogatz, S. H. & Girvan, M. The size of the sync basin. *Chaos: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Nonlinear Science* 16, 015103 (2006).
9. Schultz, P., Heitzig, J. & Kurths, J. Detours around basin stability in power networks. *New Journal of Physics* 16, 125001 (2014).
10. Ji, P. & Kurths, J. Basin stability of the Kuramoto-like model in small networks. *The European Physical Journal Special Topics* 12, 2483–2491 (2014).
11. Menck, P. J. & Kurths, J. Topological identification of weak points in power grids. In *Nonlinear Dynamics of Electronic Systems, Proceedings of NDES 2012*, 1–4 (VDE, 2012).
12. Lucarini, V., Pascale, S., Boschi, R., Kirk, E. & Iro, N. Habitability and multistability in earth-like planets. *Astronomische Nachrichten* 334, 576–588 (2013).
13. Shayer, L. P. & Campbell, S. A. Stability, bifurcation, and multistability in a system of two coupled neurons with multiple time delays. *SIAM Journal on Applied Mathematics* 61, 673–700 (2000).
14. Wang, H., Hu, H. & Wang, Z. Global dynamics of a Duffing oscillator with delayed displacement feedback. *International Journal of Bifurcation and Chaos* 14, 2753–2775 (2004).
15. Wang, Q., Duan, Z., Perc, M. & Chen, G. Synchronization transitions on small-world neuronal networks: Effects of information transmission delay and rewiring probability. *EPL-Europhysics Letters* 83, 50008 (2008).
16. Wang, Q., Perc, M., Duan, Z. & Chen, G. Delay-induced multiple stochastic resonances on scale-free neuronal networks. *Chaos: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Nonlinear Science* 19, 023112 (2009).
17. Wang, Q., Perc, M., Duan, Z. & Chen, G. Synchronization transitions on scale-free neuronal networks due to finite information transmission delays. *Physical Review E* 80, 026206 (2009).
18. Lakshmanan, M. & Senthilkumar, D. V. Dynamics of Nonlinear Time-Delay Systems (Springer, Berlin, 2011).
19. Hale, J. K. *Functional Differential Equations* (Springer, New York, 1971).
20. Xia, D.-X. *Measure and Integration Theory on Infinite-Dimensional Spaces* (Elsevier, Academic Press, Massachusetts, 1972).
21. Kolmogorov, A. N. & Fomin, S. *Elements of the Theory of Functions and Functional Analysis* (Dover Publications, New York, 1999).
22. Korovkin, P. P. *Bernstein Polynomials, in Hazewinkel, M., Encyclopedia of Mathematics* (Springer, Berlin, 2001).
23. Kohonen, T. *Self-Organization and Associative Memory*, vol. 8 (Springer, Berlin, 2012).
24. Lin, W. & Chen, G. Large memory capacity in chaotic artificial neural networks: A view of the anti-integrable limit. *IEEE Transactions on Neural Networks* 20, 1340–1351 (2009).
25. Van Den Driessche, P. & Zou, X. Global attractivity in delayed hopfield neural network models. *SIAM Journal on Applied Mathematics* 58, 1878–1890 (1998).
26. Arenas, A., Daz-Guilera, A., Kurths, J., Moreno, Y. & Zhou, C. Synchronization in complex networks. *Physics Reports* 469, 93–153 (2008).
27. Schäfer, C., Rosenblum, M. G., Kurths, J. & Abel, H.-H. Heartbeat synchronized with ventilation. *Nature* 392, 239–240 (1998).
28. Masoller, C. & Martí, A. C. Random delays and the synchronization of chaotic maps. *Physical Review Letters* 94, 134102 (2005).
29. Lin, W., Pu, Y., Guo, Y. & Kurths, J. Oscillation suppression and synchronization: Frequencies determine the role of control with time delays. *EPL-Europhysics Letters* 102, 20003 (2013).
30. Murugesan, M. S. Delay Effects on Synchronization in Networks of Dynamical Systems. Ph.D. thesis, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Mathematisch-Naturwissenschaftliche Fakultät I (2013).
31. Pecora, L. M. & Carroll, T. L. Master stability functions for synchronized coupled systems. *Physical Review Letters* 80, 2109 (1998).
32. Rössler, O. E. An equation for continuous chaos. *Physics Letters A* 57, 397–398 (1976).
33. Shrii, M. M., Senthilkumar, D. & Kurths, J. Delay coupling enhances synchronization in complex networks. *EPL-Europhysics Letters* 98, 10003 (2012).
34. Lin, W. & Ma, H. Synchronization between adaptively coupled systems with discrete and distributed time-delays. *IEEE Transactions on Automatic Control* 55, 819–830 (2010).
35. Ma, H. & Lin, W. Realization of parameters identification in only locally Lipschitzian dynamical systems with multiple types of time delays. *SIAM Journal on Control and Optimization* 51, 3692–3721 (2013).

**Acknowledgements**

S.L. was supported by the China Scholarship Council (CSC) scholarship (Grant No. 501100004543). W.L. was supported by the National Natural Science Foundation (NNSF) of China (Grants No. 61273014 and No. 11322111).

**Author Contributions**

W.L. conceived the idea and S.L. performed the research and analyzed the data. W.L., S.L. and J.K. wrote the paper.

**Additional Information**

Supplementary information accompanies this paper at http://www.nature.com/srep

**Competing financial interests:** The authors declare no competing financial interests.

**How to cite this article:** Leng, S. *et al.* Basin stability in delayed dynamics. *Sci. Rep.* 6, 21449; doi: 10.1038/srep21449 (2016).

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License. The images or other third party material in this article are included in the article’s Creative Commons license, unless indicated otherwise in the credit line; if the material is not included under the Creative Commons license, users will need to obtain permission from the license holder to reproduce the material. To view a copy of this license, visit http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/