Neural Networks Dynamics

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- Neural networks share fascinating capacities (adaptation, memory, generalisation capabilities, ...).
- Understanding these capacities via (mathematical) models.
 - A model is a set of equations attempting to mimic some aspects of neural dynamics.
 - We don't want to include all bio-physical details.
 - We want a trade-off between a realistic description and mathematical/numerical tractability.
 - A model \Leftrightarrow a set of well posed questions.

At the current state of knowledge we need new mathematical concepts and methods for a proper analysis of the brain dynamics.

Neural networks



- Multi-scale spatio-temporal dynamics.
- A neural network is formally a graph where the nodes are the neurons and the edges are the synapses.
- Dynamics results from a complex interplay between neurons dynamics and network structure, which is itself evolving.
- Analysing models with theoretical tools such as dynamical systems theory and statistical physics.
- Extracting mechanisms and principles from this analysis and apply/compare to artificial/biological neural networks.



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We shall address mathematically the following questions.

- Dynamical analysis and generic dynamics.
- Mean-field methods: presentation, justification and extensions.
- Response to stimuli.
- Is there a natural notion of connectivity in a neural network ?
- Plasticity (synaptic and intrinsic).

The Amari-Wilson-Cowan model (amari:72, wilson-cowan:72):

$$\frac{du_i}{dt} = -\frac{u_i}{\tau} + \sum_{j=1}^N J_{ij} f(u_j(t)) - \theta_i; \qquad (1)$$

- *u_i* Membrane potential of neuron *i*.
- au leak rate time constant.
- J_{ij} synaptic weight from j (pre-synaptic neuron) to i (post-synaptic neuron).
- f is a sigmoidal function $(tanh(gx); \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{gx} e^{-\frac{t^2}{2}} dt).$
- θ_i : external stimulus imposed upon neuron *i*.

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• dt = 1.

• Add Gaussian noise $\sigma B_i(t)$. $B_i(t)$ i.i.d.r.v. $\mathcal{N}(0, 1)$.

$$u_i(t+1) = \gamma u_i(t) + \sum_{j=1}^N J_{ij} f(u_j(t)) - \theta_i + \sigma B_i(t).$$
 (2)

The SNT model

$$u_i(t+1) = \gamma u_i(t) + \sum_{j=1}^N J_{ij} f(u_j(t)) - heta_i + \sigma B_i(t).$$

- N-dimensional stochastic non linear dynamical system;
- Depending on $N^2 + N + 3$ parameters (N^2 synaptic weights, N stimuli, the gain g, the leak γ , the noise intensity σ);
- Later on we shall consider the case where the stimulus θ_i depends on time (linear response);
- We shall also consider the case where J_{ij} depend on time via the network history (synaptic plasticity).

$$u_i(t+1) = \gamma u_i(t) + \sum_{j=1}^N J_{ij} f(u_j(t)) - \theta_i + \sigma B_i(t).$$
$$F(u) = \gamma u + \mathcal{J} f(u) - \theta$$
(3)

$$F_i(\boldsymbol{u}) = \gamma u_i + \sum_{j=1}^N J_{ij} f(u_j) - \theta_i$$

$$\boldsymbol{u}(t+1) = \boldsymbol{F}(\boldsymbol{u}(t)) + \sigma \boldsymbol{B}(t). \tag{4}$$

Theorem

 $\forall \gamma, \theta, \mathcal{J}, N$ there is a g value, $g_{as} > 0$ such that for $0 \le g < g_{as}$, F is a contraction.



$$\mathcal{D}\boldsymbol{F}_{\boldsymbol{u}} = \gamma \mathcal{I} + g \mathcal{J}.\boldsymbol{\Lambda}(\boldsymbol{u}), \tag{5}$$
$$\boldsymbol{\Lambda}_{ij}(\boldsymbol{u}) = f'_g(\boldsymbol{u}_i)\delta_{ij}$$

Corollary

 $\forall \gamma, \theta, \mathcal{J}, N$ there is a g value, $g_{as} > 0$ such that for $0 \leq g < g_{as}$ the dynamical system (2) has a unique stable equilibrium attracting all trajectories (for $\sigma = 0$).

Neurons membrane potential converge to a constant value.

Example

$$f(x) = \tanh(gx); \theta_i = 0$$

 \Rightarrow

 $u_i = 0$ is a equilibrium point.

One equilibrium



Saddle-node bifurcation



Hopf bifurcation



All these bifurcations are codimension one bifurcations for which a general classification exist.

For codimensions > 2 (especially $N^2 + N + 3$) this is "terra incognita".

Random sampling

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Example 1: fully connected, i.i.d., one population. Amari, 72; Sompolinsky et al. 1988; ...

$$\mathbb{E}\left[J_{ij}\right] = \frac{\overline{J}}{N}, \quad \operatorname{Cov}\left[J_{ij}, J_{kl}\right] = \frac{J^2}{N} \delta_{i,j} \delta_{k,l}$$

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Example 2: fully connected, i.i.d. several populations. e.g. Faugeras et al, 2008

$$\mathbb{E}\left[J_{ij}\right] = \frac{\overline{J}_{\alpha,\beta}}{N_{\beta}}, \quad \operatorname{Cov}\left[J_{ij}, J_{kl}\right] = \frac{J_{\alpha,\beta}^2}{N_{\beta}}\delta_{i,j}\delta_{k,l}$$

Random sampling

 N² synaptic weights ⇒ sampled by a Gaussian distribution controlled by two parameters: mean and covariance E [J_{ij}], Cov [J_{ij}, J_{kl}].

Example 3: fully connected, correlated. Faugeras & MacLaurin, 2013

$$\mathbb{E}[J_{ij}] = \frac{\overline{J}}{N}, \quad \operatorname{Cov}[J_{ij}, J_{kl}] = \frac{C_{ij,kl}}{N}$$

Random sampling

 N² synaptic weights ⇒ sampled by a Gaussian distribution controlled by two parameters: mean and covariance E [J_{ii}], Cov [J_{ii}, J_{kl}].

Example 4: Sparse; and so on.

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• N stimuli \Rightarrow sampled by a Gaussian distribution controlled by two parameters: mean and covariance $\mathbb{E}[\theta_i]$, $\operatorname{Cov}[\theta_i, \theta_j]$.

Fully connected, i.i.d., one population.

$$\mathbb{E}\left[\theta_{i}\right] = \overline{\theta}; \quad \operatorname{Var}\left[\theta_{i}\right] = \sigma_{\theta}^{2}$$
The SNT model

$$u_i(t+1) = \gamma u_i(t) + \sum_{j=1}^N J_{ij} f(u_j(t)) - heta_i + \sigma B_i(t).$$

We have now a *N*-dimensional, non-linear dynamical system + noise, where parameters are additionally random (and *quenched*).

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Random matrices spectra and bifurcation analysis

$$\mathcal{D}F_{u} = \gamma \mathcal{I} + g \mathcal{J} \cdot \Lambda(u), \quad \Lambda_{ij}(u) = f'_{g}(u_{i})\delta_{ij}$$

If u^* is a fixed point, its stability is given by the spectral radius $\rho(\mathcal{D}F^*_u)$.

The spectrum of $\mathcal{D}F_{u}^{*}$ is random because here \mathcal{J} is random.

The spectrum of $\mathcal J$ is known from random matrices theory (in the balanced case). (Girko, 1985; Edelman, 1988; Sompolinsky et al. 1988).



$$m(t) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^{N} f(u_j(t))$$

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This is the Ruelle-Takens-Newhouse transition to chaos by quasiperiodicity Ruelle-Takens, 1971, Newhouse, Ruelle, Takens, 1973.



Figure: From Cessac, Sepulchre, 2006.

Maximal Lyapunov exponent



Figure: Figures from E. Daucé.

Maximal Lyapunov exponent



(i) The local chaos hypothesis (Amari, 1972; Doyon et al, 1994; Cessac, 95).

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- (ii) The generating functional approach developed for spin-glasses and used, for the first time, by Sompolinsky and coworkers (1988), for the continuous time dynamics, and Molgedey et al (1992) for the model (2)
- (iii) The large deviations technique introduced by Guionnet and Ben Arous for spin-glasses in 1995 and used by Moynot and Samuelides in 2002. This technique extends to correlated synaptic weights (Faugeras et

MacLaurin, 2013; Muratori et al, in preparation).

$$egin{aligned} &u_i(t+1) = \gamma u_i(t) + \sum_{j=1}^N J_{ij}\,f(u_j(t)) - heta_i + \sigma B_i(t) \ &G_i(t) = \sum_{j=1}^N J_{ij}\,f(u_j(t)) - heta_i + \sigma B_i(t). \end{aligned}$$

(local neuronal field)

Thermodynamic limit $N \to \infty$

 $G_i(t)$ converges (in law) to a Gaussian process. As a consequence, $u_i(t)$ converges to a Gaussian process with mean $\mu_i(t)$ and covariance $\Delta_{ij}(t, s)$.

Dynamic mean-field equations

A closed set of equations for the mean and covariance of the Gaussian process $u_i(t)$.

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Example 1: i.i.d. synaptic weigths (Cessac, 1995).

$$\begin{split} \mu(t+1) &= \overline{J} \int_{\mathbb{R}} f\left(\sqrt{v(t)}h + \mu(t)\right) Dh - \overline{\theta}, \\ v(t+1) &= J^2 \int_{\mathbb{R}} f\left(\sqrt{v(t)}h + \mu(t)\right)^2 Dh + \sigma_{\theta}^2 + \sigma^2, \\ \Delta(t+1,s+1) &= J^2 \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} f\left(\frac{\sqrt{v(t)v(s) - \Delta^2(t,s)}}{\sqrt{v(s)}}h + \frac{\Delta(t,s)}{\sqrt{v(s)}}h' + \mu(t)\right) \\ f\left(\sqrt{v(s)}h' + \mu(s)\right) DhDh' + \sigma_{\theta}^2 + \sigma^2, \end{split}$$









Maximal Lyapunov exponent

Cessac, 1995; Muratori et al, in preparation

$$\mathbb{E}\left[\lambda\right] = \frac{1}{2} \log \left[J^2 \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} f'_g \left(h\sqrt{v} + \overline{J}\mu - \sigma_{\theta}^2\right)^2 Dh\right]$$



Is there a natural notion of connectivity in the SNT ?



Of course !!! THE synaptic graph !!!

Is there a natural notion of connectivity in the SNT ?



Yes, but this connectivity does not take into account dynamics. What about correlations ?

Is there a natural notion of connectivity in the SNT ?



Yes, but correlations are non causal. What about (linear) response ?



Figure: Amplification



Figure: Saturation



Figure: Propagation
Linear response to stimuli and effective connectivity



Figure: Effective connectivity ?

Superimpose a weak, time dependent signal $\xi_i(t)$ upon the chaotic background.

$$u_i(t+1) = \gamma u_i(t) + \sum_{j=1}^N J_{ij} f(u_j(t)) - heta_i + \xi_i(t).$$

What to expect ?

- There will be no measurable effect due to chaos.
- If there is a linear response it obeys the fluctuation-dissipation theorem.

Linear response



Figure: Strange attractor

Main properties

- Local expansion (unstable manifold);
- Fractal (stable manifold);
- Ergodicity;
- Carries a natural probability measure (Sinai-Ruelle-Bowen) ρ .



Figure: Perturbation

• The effect of a stimulus can be measured by taking averages (time average or ρ average).

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- Let φ be some function of neurons state. The application of a time dependent stimulus will change the average value of φ. If the stimulus is weak, perturbation reads:

$$\delta_t \rho \left[\phi\right] = \langle \mathsf{K} * \xi(t), \phi \rangle,$$

where the linear response kernel K decomposes as $K = K^s + K^u$.

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- The unstable part ${\cal K}^u$ obeys the fluctuation-dissipation theorem; not ${\cal K}^s$
- The Fourier transform of K has poles, corresponding to resonances. The resonances of K^u are in the power spectrum, not those of K^s.

Linear response Cessac-Sepulchre, 2004-2006



Figure: Power Spectrum

Linear response Cessac-Sepulchre, 2004-2006



Figure: Susceptibility spectrum

In the SNT model the linear response of neurons membrane potential is given by:

$$K_{ij}(t) = \sum_{\gamma_{ij}(t)} \prod_{l=1}^{t} J_{k_l k_{l-1}} \rho \left[\prod_{l=1}^{t} f'(u_{k_{l-1}}(l-1)) \right]$$











 $\langle u_{5,i+1} \rangle = \varepsilon \chi_{s_0}(\omega) \cos(\omega_{id} t) \sin(\omega t + \phi_{s_0}(\omega)) + O(\varepsilon^2)$









 $\langle u_{5,t+1} \rangle = \varepsilon \chi_{50}(\omega) \cos(\omega_M t) \sin(\omega t + \phi_{50}(\omega)) + O(\varepsilon^2)$