# Neural Networks Dynamics 

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20-01-14

Neural networks


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- Multi-scale spatio-temporal non-linear dynamics.
- 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



## 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.


We are going to consider a single example of neural network (Simple but Non Trivial Model) (SNT).
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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 model

## The model

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

$$
\begin{equation*}
\frac{d u_{i}}{d t}=-\frac{u_{i}}{\tau}+\sum_{j=1}^{N} J_{i j} f\left(u_{j}(t)\right)-\theta_{i} \tag{1}
\end{equation*}
$$

- $u_{i}$ Membrane potential of neuron $i$.
- $\tau$ leak rate time constant.
- $J_{i j}$ synaptic weight from $j$ (pre-synaptic neuron) to $i$ (post-synaptic neuron).
- $f$ is a sigmoidal function $\left(\tanh (g x) ; \frac{1}{\sqrt{2 \pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{g x} e^{-\frac{t^{2}}{2}} d t\right)$.
- $\theta_{i}$ : external stimulus imposed upon neuron $i$.


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- $d t=1$.


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- Time discretization. $\frac{d u_{i}}{d t} \rightarrow \frac{u_{i}(t+d t)-u_{i}(t)}{d t} . d t \ll \tau$
- $\gamma=1-\frac{d t}{\tau} ; \gamma \in[0,1[$
- $d t=1$.
- Add Gaussian noise $\sigma B_{i}(t)$. $B_{i}(t)$ i.i.d.r.v. $\mathcal{N}(0,1)$.

$$
\begin{equation*}
u_{i}(t+1)=\gamma u_{i}(t)+\sum_{j=1}^{N} J_{i j} f\left(u_{j}(t)\right)-\theta_{i}+\sigma B_{i}(t) \tag{2}
\end{equation*}
$$

## The SNT model

$$
u_{i}(t+1)=\gamma u_{i}(t)+\sum_{j=1}^{N} J_{i j} f\left(u_{j}(t)\right)-\theta_{i}+\sigma B_{i}(t)
$$

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


## Dynamical analysis and generic dynamics

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$$
u_{i}(t+1)=\gamma u_{i}(t)+\sum_{j=1}^{N} J_{i j} f\left(u_{j}(t)\right)-\theta_{i}+\sigma B_{i}(t) .
$$

$$
\begin{equation*}
\boldsymbol{F}(\boldsymbol{u})=\gamma \boldsymbol{u}+\mathcal{J} . f(\boldsymbol{u})-\boldsymbol{\theta} \tag{3}
\end{equation*}
$$

$$
F_{i}(\boldsymbol{u})=\gamma u_{i}+\sum_{j=1}^{N} J_{i j} f\left(u_{j}\right)-\theta_{i}
$$

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

## Contraction

## Theorem

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


$$
\begin{gather*}
\mathcal{D} \boldsymbol{F}_{\boldsymbol{u}}=\gamma \mathcal{I}+g \mathcal{J} . \Lambda(\boldsymbol{u})  \tag{5}\\
\Lambda_{i j}(\boldsymbol{u})=f_{g}^{\prime}\left(u_{i}\right) \delta_{i j}
\end{gather*}
$$

## Contraction

## Corollary

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

Neurons membrane potential converge to a constant value.

## Example

$$
f(x)=\tanh (g x) ; \theta_{i}=0
$$

$$
\Rightarrow
$$

$u_{i}=0$ is a equilibrium point.

## Contraction

## One equilibrium



## Beyond gas

## Saddle-node bifurcation



Coexistence of several equilibrium.

## Dynamical bifurcations

## Hopf bifurcation



Appearence of oscillations in dynamics.

## Remark

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".

## Sampling the parameters space with random parameters

## 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_{i j}\right]=\frac{\bar{J}}{N}, \quad \operatorname{Cov}\left[J_{i j}, J_{k l}\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_{i j}\right]=\frac{\bar{J}_{\alpha, \beta}}{N_{\beta}}, \quad \operatorname{Cov}\left[J_{i j}, J_{k l}\right]=\frac{J_{\alpha, \beta}^{2}}{N_{\beta}} \delta_{i, j} \delta_{k, l}
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Example 3: fully connected, correlated. Faugeras \& MacLaurin, 2013

$$
\mathbb{E}\left[J_{i j}\right]=\frac{\bar{J}}{N}, \quad \operatorname{Cov}\left[J_{i j}, J_{k l}\right]=\frac{C_{i j, k l}}{N}
$$

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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 $\mathbb{E}\left[\theta_{i}\right], \operatorname{Cov}\left[\theta_{i}, \theta_{j}\right]$.

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

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

## The SNT model

$$
u_{i}(t+1)=\gamma u_{i}(t)+\sum_{j=1}^{N} J_{i j} f\left(u_{j}(t)\right)-\theta_{i}+\sigma B_{i}(t)
$$

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

$$
\mathcal{D} \boldsymbol{F}_{\boldsymbol{u}}=\gamma \mathcal{I}+g \mathcal{J} . \Lambda(\boldsymbol{u}), \quad \Lambda_{i j}(\boldsymbol{u})=f_{g}^{\prime}\left(u_{i}\right) \delta_{i j}
$$

If $\boldsymbol{u}^{*}$ is a fixed point, its stability is given by the spectral radius $\rho\left(\mathcal{D} \boldsymbol{F}_{\boldsymbol{u}}^{*}\right)$.
The spectrum of $\mathcal{D} F_{\boldsymbol{u}}^{*}$ 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).


## Generic scenario as $g$ growths (no noise)

$$
m(t)=\frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^{N} f\left(u_{i}(t)\right)
$$

Figures from E. Daucé.

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## Generic scenario as g growths (no noise)

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



## Mean-field analysis and bifurcation map

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3 ways to obtain Mean-Field equations

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(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).

## Mean-field analysis and bifurcation map

$$
\begin{gathered}
u_{i}(t+1)=\gamma u_{i}(t)+\sum_{j=1}^{N} J_{i j} f\left(u_{j}(t)\right)-\theta_{i}+\sigma B_{i}(t) \\
G_{i}(t)=\sum_{j=1}^{N} J_{i j} f\left(u_{j}(t)\right)-\theta_{i}+\sigma B_{i}(t) \\
\quad \text { (local neuronal field) }
\end{gathered}
$$

## Thermodynamic limit $N \rightarrow \infty$

$G_{i}(t)$ 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 $\Delta_{i j}(t, s)$.

## Mean-field analysis and bifurcation map

## 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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## Dynamic mean-field equations

A closed set of equations for the mean and covariance of the Gaussian process $u_{i}(t)$.

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

$$
\begin{array}{ll}
\mu(t+1) & =\bar{J} \int_{\mathbb{R}} f(\sqrt{v(t)} h+\mu(t)) D h-\bar{\theta}, \\
v(t+1) & =J^{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}} f(\sqrt{v(t)} h+\mu(t))^{2} D h+\sigma_{\theta}^{2}+\sigma^{2}, \\
\Delta(t+1, s+1)= & J^{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{2}} f\left(\frac{\sqrt{v(t) v(s)-\Delta^{2}(t, s)}}{\sqrt{v(s)}} h+\frac{\Delta(t, s)}{\sqrt{v(s)}} h^{\prime}+\mu(t)\right) \\
& \quad f\left(\sqrt{v(s)} h^{\prime}+\mu(s)\right) D h D h^{\prime}+\sigma_{\theta}^{2}+\sigma^{2},
\end{array}
$$

## Mean-field analysis and bifurcation map

Cessac et al, 1994; Muratori et al, 2013


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## Maximal Lyapunov exponent

Cessac, 1995; Muratori et al, in preparation

$$
\mathbb{E}[\lambda]=\frac{1}{2} \log \left[J^{2} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} f_{g}^{\prime}\left(h \sqrt{v}+\bar{J}_{\mu}-\sigma_{\theta}^{2}\right)^{2} D h\right]
$$



## Linear response to stimuli and effective connectivity

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Is there a natural notion of connectivity in the SNT?


Of course !!! THE synaptic graph !!!

## Linear response to stimuli and effective connectivity

## Is there a natural notion of connectivity in the SNT ?



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

## Linear response to stimuli and effective connectivity

## Is there a natural notion of connectivity in the SNT ?



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

## Linear response to stimuli and effective connectivity



Figure: Amplification

## Linear response to stimuli and effective connectivity



Figure: Saturation

## Linear response to stimuli and effective connectivity



Figure: Propagation

## Linear response to stimuli and effective connectivity



Figure: Effective connectivity ?

## Linear response

Superimpose a weak, time dependent signal $\xi_{i}(t)$ upon the chaotic background.

$$
u_{i}(t+1)=\gamma u_{i}(t)+\sum_{j=1}^{N} J_{i j} f\left(u_{j}(t)\right)-\theta_{i}+\xi_{i}(t)
$$

## Linear response

## 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) $\rho$.


## Linear response

Example

$$
\left\{\begin{array}{l}
r_{t+1}=\gamma_{t+1}^{r_{t}+(1-\gamma)} \\
\theta_{t+1}=2 \theta_{t} \bmod 2 \pi
\end{array}\right.
$$



Figure: Perturbation

## Averaging

- The effect of a stimulus can be measured by taking averages (time average or $\rho$ average).


## Linear response Ruelle, 1999; Cessac-Sepulchre, 2004-2006

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- The effect of a stimulus can be measured by taking averages (time average or $\rho$ average).
- Let $\phi$ be some function of neurons state. The application of a time dependent stimulus will change the average value of $\phi$. If the stimulus is weak, perturbation reads:

$$
\delta_{t} \rho[\phi]=\langle K * \xi(t), \phi\rangle,
$$

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

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- The unstable part $K^{u}$ obeys the fluctuation-dissipation theorem; not $K^{s}$
- 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

## Linear response Cessac-Sepulchre, 2004-2006

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

$$
K_{i j}(t)=\sum_{\gamma_{i j}(t)} \prod_{l=1}^{t} J_{k_{l} k_{l-1}} \rho\left[\prod_{l=1}^{t} f^{\prime}\left(u_{k_{l-1}}(I-1)\right]\right.
$$



## Effective connectivity



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