# From retina to statistical physics 

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## Visual system



## Visual system



## Visual system



## Visual system



## Multi Electrodes Array



Figure: Multi-Electrodes Array.

## Multi Electrodes Array



## Encoding a visual scene



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## Encoding a visual scene



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Do Ganglion cells act as independent encoders ?

## Encoding a visual scene

Do Ganglion cells act as independent encoders ?
Or do their dynamical (spatio-temporal) correlations play a role in encoding a visual scene (population coding) ?

## Let us measure（instantaneous pairwise）correlations

E．Schneidman，M．J．Berry，R．Segev，and W．Bialek．＂Weak pairwise correlations imply strongly correlated network states in a neural population＂．Nature，440（7087）：1007－1012， 2006.


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# Constructing a statistical model handling measured correlations 

- Assume stationarity.
- Measure empirical correlations.
- Select the probability distribution which maximizes the entropy and reproduces these correlations.


## Spike events

## Spike state

$$
\omega_{k}(n) \in\{0,1\}
$$



Figure: Spike state.

## Spike events



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## Spike pattern

$$
\omega(n)=\left(\omega_{k}(n)\right)_{k=1}^{N}
$$

Figure: Spike pattern.

## Spike events

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\omega_{k}(n) \in\{0,1\}
$$



## Spike pattern

$$
\omega(n)=\left(\omega_{k}(n)\right)_{k=1}^{N} \quad\left(\begin{array}{c}
1 \\
0 \\
0 \\
1
\end{array}\right)
$$

Figure: Spike pattern.

## Spike events



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Spike block
$\omega_{m}^{n}=\{\omega(m) \omega(m+1) \ldots \omega(n)\}$

Figure: Spike block.

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Raster plot

$$
\omega \stackrel{\text { def }}{=} \omega_{0}^{T}
$$

## Constructing a statistical model handling measured correlations

- Let $\pi_{\omega}^{(T)}$ be the empirical measure:

$$
\pi_{\omega}^{(T)}[f]=\frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^{T} f \circ \sigma^{t}(\omega)
$$

e.g. $\pi_{\omega}^{(T)}\left[\omega_{i}\right]=\frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^{T} \omega_{i}(t)$ : firing rate; $\pi_{\omega}^{(T)}\left[\omega_{i} \omega_{j}\right]=\frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^{T} \omega_{i}(t) \omega_{j}(t)$.

- Find the (stationary) probability distribution $\mu$ that maximizes statistical entropy under the constraints:

$$
\pi_{\omega}^{(T)}\left[\omega_{i}\right]=\mu\left(\omega_{i}\right) ; \pi_{\omega}^{(T)}\left[\omega_{i} \omega_{j}\right]=\mu\left(\omega_{i} \omega_{j}\right)
$$

## Constructing a statistical model handling measured correlations

There is a unique probability distribution which satisfies these conditions.

This is the Gibbs distribution with potential:

$$
H(\omega(0))=\sum_{i=1}^{N} h_{i} \omega_{i}(0)+\sum_{i, j=1}^{N} J_{i j} \omega_{i}(0) \omega_{j}(0)
$$

Ising model

## End of the story ?



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The Ising potential:

$$
H(\omega(0))=\sum_{i=1}^{N} h_{i} \omega_{i}(0)+\sum_{i, j=1}^{N} J_{i j} \omega_{i}(0) \omega_{j}(0)
$$

does not consider time correlations between neurons. It is therefore bad at predicting spatio-temporal patterns !

## Which correlations ？

Spikes correlations seem to play a role in spike coding．

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 Although this statement depends on several assumption that could bias statistics Stationarity;Binning;
Stimulus dependence ?

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Although this statement depends on several assumption that could bias statistics
Stationarity；
Binning；
Stimulus dependence ？

Modulo these remarks，Maximum entropy seems to be a relevant setting to study the role of spatio－temporal spike correlations in retina coding．

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Easy !

$$
H\left(\omega_{0}^{D}\right)=\sum_{i=1}^{N} h_{i} \omega_{i}(0)+\sum_{i, j=1}^{N} J_{i j}^{(0)} \omega_{i}(0) \omega_{j}(0)
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+ & \sum_{i, j, k=1}^{N} J_{i j k}^{(2)} \omega_{i}(0) \omega_{j}(1) \omega_{k}(2)
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Easy! Euh... In fact not so easy.

$$
\begin{align*}
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& +\sum_{i, j=1}^{N} J_{i j}^{(1)} \omega_{i}(0) \omega_{j}(1) \\
+ & \sum_{i, j, k=1}^{N} J_{i j k}^{(2)} \omega_{i}(0) \omega_{j}(1) \omega_{k}(2)
\end{align*}
$$

## Two "small" problems.

Handling temporality and memory.


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Ising model considers successive times as independent

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## Probability of characteristic spatio-temporal patterns

The probability of a spike pattern .... depends on the network history (transition probabilities).

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## Probability of characteristic spatio-temporal patterns

Given a set of hypotheses on transition probabilities there exists a mathematical framework to solve the problem.

## Handling memory.

- Markov chains
- Variable length Markov chains
- Chains with complete connections
- Gibbs distributions.


## Mathematical setting

- Probability distribution on (bi-infinite) rasters:
$\mu\left[\omega_{m}^{n}\right], \forall m<n \in \mathbb{Z}$


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$$
\left(\begin{array}{llll:l}
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－Generating arbitrary depth $D$ blocks probabilities：

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- Generating arbitrary depth $D$ blocks probabilities:

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\mu\left[\omega_{m}^{m+D}\right]=P_{m+D}\left[\omega(m+D) \mid \omega_{m}^{m+D-1}\right] \mu\left[\omega_{m}^{m+D-1}\right]
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- Generating arbitrary depth $D$ blocks probabilities:

$$
\begin{gathered}
\mu\left[\omega_{m}^{m+D}\right]=P_{m+D}\left[\omega(m+D) \mid \omega_{m}^{m+D-1}\right] \mu\left[\omega_{m}^{m+D-1}\right] \\
\mu\left[\omega_{m}^{n}\right]=\prod_{l=m+D}^{n} P_{l}\left[\omega(I) \mid \omega_{l-D}^{I-1}\right] \mu\left[\omega_{m}^{m+D-1}\right] \\
\forall m<n \in \mathbb{Z}
\end{gathered}
$$

Chapman-Kolmogorov relation

## Mathematical setting

$$
\mu\left[\omega_{m}^{n}\right]=\prod_{I=m+D}^{n} P_{l}\left[\omega(I) \mid \omega_{I-D}^{I-1}\right] \mu\left[\omega_{m}^{m+D-1}\right], \quad \forall m<n \in \mathbb{Z}
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\phi_{I}\left(\omega_{l-D}^{I}\right)=\log P_{I}\left[\omega(I) \mid \omega_{l-D}^{I-1}\right]
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\phi_{l}\left(\omega_{l-D}^{I}\right)=\log P_{l}\left[\omega(I) \mid \omega_{l-D}^{I-1}\right] \\
\mu\left[\omega_{m}^{n}\right]=\exp \sum_{I=m+D}^{n} \phi_{l}\left(\omega_{l-D}^{I}\right) \mu\left[\omega_{m}^{m+D-1}\right]
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& \mu\left[\omega_{m}^{n}\right]=\exp \sum_{I=m+D}^{n} \phi_{I}\left(\omega_{I-D}^{I}\right) \mu\left[\omega_{m}^{m+D-1}\right] \\
& \mu\left[\omega_{m}^{n} \mid \omega_{m}^{m+D-1}\right]=\exp \sum_{I=m+D}^{n} \phi_{I}\left(\omega_{I-D}^{I}\right)
\end{aligned}
$$

## Gibbs distribution



## Gibbs distribution



Boundaries
$\forall \Lambda \subset \mathbb{Z}^{d}, \mu\left(\left.\{S\}\right|^{\partial} \Lambda\right)=\frac{1}{Z_{\Lambda, \partial_{\Lambda}}} e^{-\beta H_{\Lambda, \partial_{\Lambda}}(\{S\})}$

## Gibbs distribution



Boundaries

$$
\forall \Lambda \subset \mathbb{Z}^{d}, \mu\left(\left.\{S\}\right|^{\partial} \Lambda\right)=\frac{1}{Z_{\Lambda, \partial_{\Lambda}}} e^{-\beta H_{\Lambda, \partial_{\Lambda}}(\{S\})}
$$

$$
f(\beta)=-\frac{1}{\beta} \lim _{\Lambda \uparrow \infty} \frac{1}{|\Lambda|} \log Z_{\Lambda,{ }_{\partial}}
$$

(free energy density)

## Gibbs distribution



## Gibbs distribution


$\forall m, n, \quad \mu\left[\omega_{m}^{n} \mid \omega_{m}^{m+D-1}\right]=\exp \sum_{I=m+D}^{n} \phi_{l}\left(\omega_{I-D}^{\prime}\right)$
(normalized potential)

## Gibbs distribution


$\forall m<n, \quad A<\frac{\mu\left[\omega_{m}^{n}\right]}{\exp \sum_{l=m+D}^{n} H\left(\omega_{l-D}^{I}\right) \exp -(n-m) P(H)}<B$
(non normalized potential)

## Gibbs distribution

- $P(H)$ is called "topological pressure" and is formaly equivalent to free energy density.
- Does not require time-translation invariance (stationarity).
- In the stationary case (+ assumptions) a Gibbs state is also an equilibrium state.

$$
\sup _{\nu \in M_{\text {inv }}} h(\nu)+\nu(H)=h(\mu)+\mu(H)=P(H)
$$

## Gibbs distribution

This formalism allows to handle the spatio-temporal case

$$
\begin{gathered}
H\left(\omega_{0}^{D}\right)=\sum_{i=1}^{N} h_{i} \omega_{i}(0)+\sum_{i, j=1}^{N} J_{i j}^{(0)} \omega_{i}(0) \omega_{j}(0) \\
+\sum_{i, j=1}^{N} J_{i j}^{(1)} \omega_{i}(0) \omega_{j}(1) \\
+\sum_{i, j, k=1}^{N} J_{i j k}^{(2)} \omega_{i}(0) \omega_{j}(1) \omega_{k}(2)+\ldots
\end{gathered}
$$

## even numerically.

J.C. Vasquez, A. Palacios, O. Marre, M.J. Berry II, B. Cessac, J. Physiol. Paris, , Vol 106, Issues 3-4, (2012).
H. Nasser, O. Marre, and B. Cessac, J. Stat. Mech. (2013) P03006.
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## Two small problems.

## Exponential number of possible terms.

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## Exponential number of possible terms.

Contrarily to what happens usually in physics, we do not know what should be the right potential.

Can we have a reasonable idea of what could be the spike statistics by studying a neural network model ?

## An Integrate and Fire neural network model with chemical and electric synapses



ON pathway

## An Integrate and Fire neural network model with chemical and electric synapses

R.Cofré,B. Cessac: "Dynamics and spike trains statistics in conductance-based Integrate-and-Fire neural networks with chemical and electric synapses", Chaos, Solitons and Fractals, 2013.


# An Integrate and Fire neural network model with chemical and electric synapses 

Sub-threshold dynamics:

$$
C_{k} \frac{d V_{k}}{d t}=-g_{L, k}\left(V_{k}-E_{L}\right)
$$

An Integrate and Fire neural network model with chemical and electric synapses

Sub－threshold dynamics：

$$
\begin{gathered}
C_{k} \frac{d V_{k}}{d t}=-g_{L, k}\left(V_{k}-E_{L}\right) \\
-\sum_{j} g_{k j}(t, \omega)\left(V_{k}-E_{j}\right)
\end{gathered}
$$


www shutterstockcom－ 154156187

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-\sum_{j} g_{k j}(t, \omega)\left(V_{k}-E_{j}\right) \\
-\sum_{j} \overline{g_{k j}}\left(V_{k}-V_{j}\right)
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C_{k} \frac{d V_{k}}{d t}=-g_{L, k}\left(V_{k}-E_{L}\right) \\
-\sum_{j} g_{k j}(t, \omega)\left(V_{k}-E_{j}\right) \\
-\sum_{j} \overline{g_{k j}}\left(V_{k}-V_{j}\right) \\
+i_{k}^{(e x t)}(t)+\sigma_{B} \xi_{k}(t)
\end{gathered}
$$



## Sub-threshold regime

$$
\begin{gathered}
C \frac{d V}{d t}+[G(t, \omega)-\bar{G}] V=I(t, \omega), \\
G_{k l}(t, \omega)=\left[g_{L, k}+\sum_{j=1}^{N} g_{k j}(t, \omega)\right] \delta_{k l} \stackrel{\text { def }}{=} g_{k}(t, \omega) \delta_{k l} . \\
I(t, \omega)=I^{(c s)}(t, \omega)+I^{(e x t)}(t)+I^{(B)}(t) \\
I_{k}^{(c s)}(t, \omega)=\sum_{j} W_{k j} \alpha_{k j}(t, \omega), W_{k j} \stackrel{\text { def }}{=} G_{k j} E_{j} .
\end{gathered}
$$

## Sub-threshold regime

$$
\left\{\begin{array}{c}
d V=(\Phi(t, \omega) V+f(t, \omega)) d t+\frac{\sigma_{B}}{c} \mathcal{I}_{N} d W(t) \\
V\left(t_{0}\right)=v \\
\Phi(t, \omega)=C^{-1}(\bar{G}-G(t, \omega)) \\
f(t, \omega)=C^{-1} \jmath^{(c s)}(t, \omega)+C^{-1} \jmath^{(e x t)}(t)
\end{array}\right.
$$

## Homogeneous Cauchy problem

$$
\left\{\begin{aligned}
\frac{d V(t, \omega)}{d t} & =\Phi(t, \omega) V(t, \omega), \\
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$$

## Theorem

$\Phi(t, \omega)$ square matrix with bounded elements.

$$
\begin{gathered}
M_{0}\left(t_{0}, t, \omega\right)=\mathcal{I}_{N} \\
M_{k}\left(t_{0}, t, \omega\right)=\mathcal{I}_{N}+\int_{t_{0}}^{t} \Phi(s, \omega) M_{k-1}(s, t) d s, \quad t \leq t_{1}
\end{gathered}
$$

converges uniformly in $\left[t_{0}, t_{1}\right]$.
Brockett, R. W., "Finite Dimensional Linear Systems", John Wiley and Sons, 1970.

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Flow

$$
\Gamma\left(t_{0}, t, \omega\right) \stackrel{\text { def }}{=} \lim _{k \rightarrow \infty} M_{k}\left(t_{0}, t, \omega\right)
$$

## Homogeneous Cauchy problem

If $\Phi(t, \omega)$ and $\Phi(s, \omega)$ commute

$$
\Gamma\left(t_{0}, t, \omega\right)=\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k!}\left(\int_{t_{0}}^{t} \Phi(s, \omega) d s\right)^{k}=e^{\int_{t_{0}}^{t} \Phi(s, \omega) d s}
$$

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$$
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$$

This holds only in two cases :

- $\bar{G}=0$;

$$
\Gamma\left(t_{0}, t, \omega\right)=e^{-\frac{1}{c} \int_{t_{0}}^{t} G(s, \omega) d s}
$$

B. Cessac, J. Math. Neuroscience, 2011.

## Homogeneous Cauchy problem

If $\Phi(t, \omega)$ and $\Phi(s, \omega)$ commute

$$
\Gamma\left(t_{0}, t, \omega\right)=\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k!}\left(\int_{t_{0}}^{t} \Phi(s, \omega) d s\right)^{k}=e^{\int_{t_{0}}^{t} \Phi(s, \omega) d s}
$$

This holds only in two cases ：
－ $\bar{G}=0$ ；

$$
\Gamma\left(t_{0}, t, \omega\right)=e^{-\frac{1}{c} \int_{t_{0}}^{t} G(s, \omega) d s}
$$

B．Cessac，J．Math．Neuroscience， 2011.
－$G(t, \omega)=\kappa(t, \omega) \mathcal{I}_{N}$

## Homogeneous Cauchy problem

## In general：

$$
\begin{gathered}
\Gamma\left(t_{0}, t, \omega\right)=\mathcal{I}_{N}+\sum_{n=1}^{+\infty} \sum_{\substack{x_{1}=\left(B, A\left(s_{1}, \omega\right)\right) \\
x_{2}=\left(B, A\left(s_{2}, \omega\right)\right)}} \int_{t_{0}}^{t} \cdots \int_{t_{0}}^{x_{n}=\left(B, A\left(s_{n}, \omega\right)\right)} \prod_{k=1}^{s_{n-1}} \prod_{k} d_{s_{1}} \cdots d_{s_{n}} \\
B=C^{-1} \bar{G} ; \quad A(t, \omega)=-C^{-1} G(t, \omega)
\end{gathered}
$$

## Exponentially bounded flow

Definition: An exponentially bounded flow is a two parameter $\left(t_{0}, t\right)$ family $\left\{\Gamma\left(t_{0}, t, \omega\right)\right\}_{t \leq t_{0}}$ of flows such that, $\forall \omega \in \Omega$ :
(1) $\Gamma\left(t_{0}, t_{0}, \omega\right)=\mathcal{I}_{N}$ and $\Gamma\left(t_{0}, t, \omega\right) \Gamma(t, s, \omega)=\Gamma\left(t_{0}, s, \omega\right)$ whenever $t_{0} \leq t \leq s$;
(2) For each $v \in \mathbb{R}^{N}$ and $\omega \in \Omega,\left(t_{0}, t\right) \rightarrow \Gamma\left(t_{0}, t, \omega\right) v$ is continuous for $t_{0} \leq t$;
(3) There is $M>0$ and $m>0$ such that:

$$
\begin{equation*}
\|\Gamma(s, t, \omega)\| \leq M e^{-m(t-s)}, s \leq t \tag{1}
\end{equation*}
$$

## Exponentially bounded flow

## Proposition

Let $\sigma_{1}$ be the largest eigenvalue of $\bar{G}$. If:

$$
\sigma_{1}<g_{L},
$$

then the flow 「 in our model has the exponentially bounded flow property.

## Exponentially bounded flow

## Proposition

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Remark The typical electrical conductance values are of order 1 nano-Siemens, while the leak conductance of retinal ganglion cells is of order 50 micro-Siemens. Therefore, this condition is compatible with the biophysical values of conductances in the retina.

## Exponentially bounded flow

## Theorem

If $\Gamma\left(t_{0}, t, \omega\right)$ is an exponentially bounded flow, there is a unique strong solution for $t \geq t_{0}$ given by:
$V\left(t_{0}, t, \omega\right)=\Gamma\left(t_{0}, t, \omega\right) v+\int_{t_{0}}^{t} \Gamma(s, t, \omega) f(s, \omega) d s+\frac{\sigma_{B}}{c} \int_{t_{0}}^{t} \Gamma(s, t, \omega) d W(s)$
R. Wooster, "Evolution systems of measures for non-autonomous stochastic differential equations with Levy noise", Communications on Stochastic Analysis, vol 5, 353-370, 2011

## Membrane potential decomposition

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V(t, \omega)=V^{(d)}(t, \omega)+V^{(\text {noise })}(t, \omega),
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V^{(c s)}(t, \omega)=\frac{1}{c} \int_{-\infty}^{t} \Gamma(s, t, \omega) \chi(s, \omega) I^{(c s)}(s, \omega) d s,
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V^{(n o i s e)}(t, \omega)=\frac{\sigma_{B}}{c} \int_{\tau_{k}(t, \omega)}^{t} \Gamma(s, t, \omega) d W(s) .
\end{gathered}
$$

## Transition probabilities

Pb : to determine $P\left[\omega(n) \mid \omega_{-\infty}^{n-1}\right]$

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Neuron $k$ emits a spike at integer time $n\left(\omega_{k}(n)=1\right)$ if:

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"First passage" problem, in $N$ dimension, with a time dependent boundary $\widehat{\theta}_{k}(t, \omega)$. (general form unknown).

## Conditional probability

Without electric synapses the probability of $\omega(n)$ conditionally to $\omega_{-\infty}^{n-1}$ can be approximated by:

$$
P\left[\omega(n) \mid \omega_{-\infty}^{n-1}\right]=\prod_{k=1}^{N} P\left[\omega_{k}(n) \mid \omega_{-\infty}^{n-1}\right]
$$

with $P\left[\omega_{k}(n) \mid \omega_{-\infty}^{n-1}\right]=$

$$
\omega_{k}(n) \pi\left(X_{k}(n-1, \omega)\right)+\left(1-\omega_{k}(n)\right)\left(1-\pi\left(X_{k}(n-1, \omega)\right)\right),
$$

where

$$
X_{k}(n-1, \omega)=\frac{\theta-V_{k}^{(d e t)}(n-1, \omega)}{\sigma_{k}(n-1, \omega)}
$$

and

$$
\pi(x)=\frac{1}{\sqrt{2 \pi}} \int_{x}^{+\infty} e^{-\frac{u^{2}}{2}} d u
$$

## Conditional probability

- $\phi(\omega)=\log P\left[\omega(n) \mid \omega_{-\infty}^{n-1}\right]$ defines a (infinite range) normalized potential defining a unique Gibbs distribution.


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－It depends explicitly on networks parameters and external stimulus．
－Its definition holds for a time－dependent stimulus（non stationary）．
－It is similar to the so－called Generalized Linear Model used for retina analysis，although with a more complex structure．
－The general form（with electric synapses）is yet unknown．

## Back to our second "small" problem

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Is there a Maximum Entropy potential corresponding to $\phi$ (in the stationary case) ?

## Back to our second "small" problem

One can make a Taylor expansion of $\phi(\omega)$.

## Back to our second "small" problem

Using $\omega_{i}(n)^{k}=\omega_{i}(n), k \geq 1$ one ends up with a potential of the form:

$$
\phi(\omega)=\sum_{i=1}^{N} h_{i} \omega_{i}(0)+\sum_{i, j=1}^{N} J_{i j}^{(0)} \omega_{i}(0) \omega_{j}(0)+\ldots
$$

## Back to our second "small" problem

The expansion is infinite although one can approximate the infinite range potential $\phi$ by a finite range approximation (finite memory), giving rise to a finite expansion.

## Back to our second "small" problem

The coefficients of the expansion are non linear functions of the network parameters and stimulus.

They are therefore somewhat redundant.

## Back to our second "small" problem

Rodrigo Cofré, Bruno Cessac, "Exact computation of the maximum-entropy potential of spiking neural-network models", Phys. Rev. E 89, 052117.

Given a set of stationary transition probabilities $P\left[\omega(D) \mid \omega_{0}^{D-1}\right]>0$ there is a unique (up to a constant) Maximum Entropy potential, written as a linear combination of spike interactions terms with a minimal number of terms (normal form). This potential can be explicitly (and algorithmically) computed.

Hints: Using variable change one can eliminate terms in the potential ("normal" form).

The construction is based on equivalence between Gibbs potentials (cohomology) and periodic orbits expansion.

## Back to our second＂small＂problem

However，there is still a number of terms growing exponentially with the number of neurons and the memory depth．

These terms are generically non zero．

## Back to the retina

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- Neuromimetic models have typically $O\left(N^{2}\right)$ parameters where $N$ is the number of neurons.


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\Rightarrow
$$

- Intractable determination of parameters;
- Stimulus dependent parameters;
- Overfitting.

BUT

## Back to the retina

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- Intractable determination of parameters;
- Stimulus dependent parameters;
- Overfitting.

BUT Real neural networks are not generic

## Back to the retina

MaxEnt approach might be useful if there is some hidden law of nature/ symmetry which cancels most terms in the expansion.


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Two distinct potentials $\mathcal{H}^{(1)}, \mathcal{H}^{(2)}$ of range $R=D+1$ correspond to the same Gibbs distribution (are "equivalent"), if and only if there exists a range $D$ function $f$ such that (Chazottes-Keller (2009)):

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathcal{H}^{(2)}\left(\omega_{0}^{D}\right)=\mathcal{H}^{(1)}\left(\omega_{0}^{D}\right)-f\left(\omega_{0}^{D-1}\right)+f\left(\omega_{1}^{D}\right)+\Delta \tag{2}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $\Delta=\mathcal{P}\left(H^{(2)}\right)-\mathcal{P}\left(H^{(1)}\right)$.

## Can we hear the shape of a Maximum entropy potential

Summing over periodic orbits we get rid of the function $f$

$$
\begin{equation*}
\sum_{n=1}^{R} \phi\left(\omega \sigma^{n} I_{1}\right)=\sum_{n=1}^{R} \mathcal{H}^{*}\left(\omega \sigma^{n} I_{1}\right)-R \mathcal{P}\left(\mathcal{H}^{*}\right) \tag{3}
\end{equation*}
$$

We eliminate equivalent constraints．

Given a set of transition probabilities $P\left[\omega(D) \mid \omega_{0}^{D-1}\right]>0$ there is a unique，up to a constant，MaxEnt potential，written as a linear combination of constraints（average of spike events）with a minimal number of terms．This potential can be explicitly（and algorithmically）computed．

