



Machine Consciousness

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Conscious system vs Unconscious system

What determines to what extent a system has conscious experience





The key difference between you and the camera: information integration

From Neuroscience to Computer Science



A theory of consciousness: information integration theory(IIT)

Φ: Measuring the capacity to integrate information for a system

Key: Partition & Measure difference

• System partition:

$$S \to A, B$$

Measure difference

$$Dist(p_A p_B, p)$$

Calculate phi

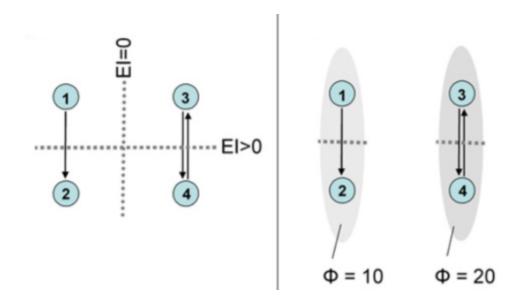
$$\phi = \min Dist(p_A p_B, p)$$

for minimum information partition (A,B)

Information integration theory



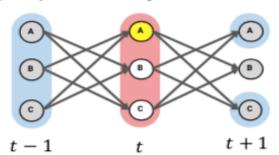
Key: Partition & Measure difference

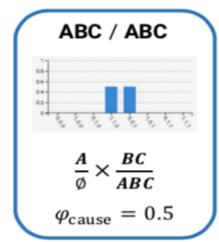


Information integration theory 3.0

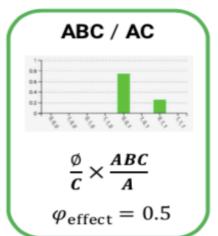


Concept specified by mechanism ABC





Maximally-irreducible cause repertoire

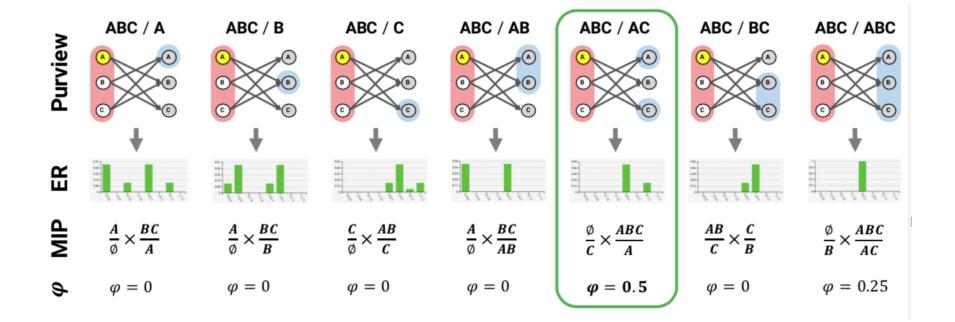


Maximally-irreducible effect repertoire

$$\varphi = 0.5$$

Information integration theory 3.0

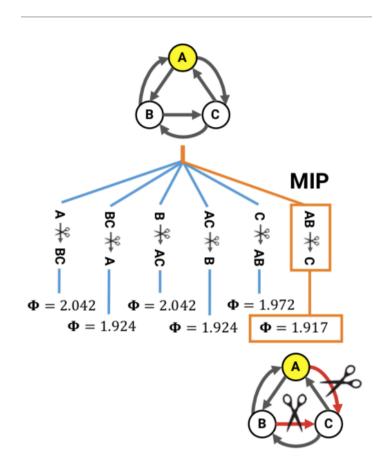




Information integration theory 3.0



- The minimal Φ -value, Φ^{MIP} , is the Φ of the whole candidate system
- As with mechanisms, the cut that makes the least difference to the candidate system captures how intrinsically irreducible it is



Our Work



Generalize to continuous system

Calculate φ for Neural Network

From Discrete to Continuous



- Transition Probability Matrix → Probability Distribution
- Assumption:
 - Current state: Gaussian distribution
 - Transition probability: Gaussian distribution
- Key: Partition & Measure difference

$$p_t = Mp_{t-1}; p_t = \tilde{M}p_{t+1}$$

Cause distance

$$D_c = Dist\left(p_t, M^A p_{t-1}^A \otimes M^B p_{t-1}^B\right)$$

Effect distance

$$D_e = Dist\left(p_t, \tilde{M}^A p_{t+1}^A \otimes \tilde{M}^B p_{t+1}^B\right)$$

- Calculate phi

$$\phi = \min_{(A,B)} (D_c + D_e)$$

From Discrete to Continuous



Transition Probability Distribution:

$$M \sim Norm(\mu, \Sigma)$$

Ma, Mb are normal distribution, their parameters are:

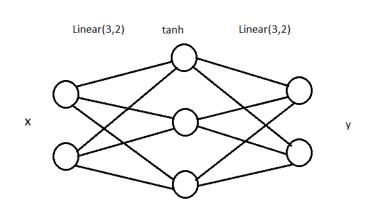
$$(\mu_A, \Sigma_A) = f(\mu, \Sigma)$$

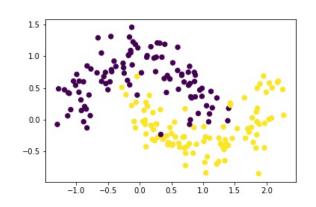
$$(\mu_B, \Sigma_B) = g(\mu, \Sigma)$$

Experiment on simple neural network

k Coo

MLP for classification: A feed-forward system





Sampling for Sigma; mu











Epoch t-1











Epoch t+1

Result



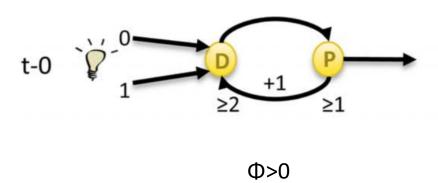
$$\Phi = 36.8 > 0$$

Influence factors:

- 1. Linear vs Non-linear
- 2. Definition of distance metric
- 3. Input distribution

Intuition





A system with feedback circuit is more conscious?

