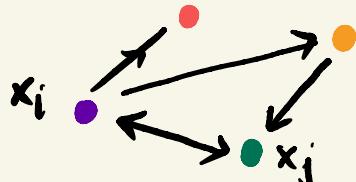




THRESHOLD  
LINEAR  
NETWORKS

## SETUP



Network of neurons

recurrent  
neural  
network

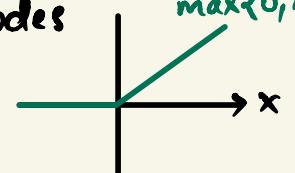


- $x_i(t)$  represents the firing rate or activity level of node  $i$ .

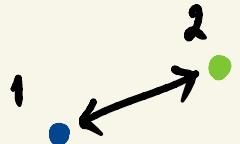
- $\frac{dx_i}{dt} = -x_i(t) + \left[ \sum W_{ij} x_j(t) + b_i(t) \right]_+$   
or,  $\dot{\vec{x}} = -\vec{x} + [W\vec{x} + \vec{b}]_+$

- $W$  is a real valued matrix and it encodes the interaction strengths between nodes
- $[\cdot]_+ : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is RELU function

- $b_i(t)$  is external input (usually this is constant)



## EXAMPLE 0



Take  $W = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 2 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ , Then

$$\dot{x}_1 = -x_1 + [-x_2 + \theta]_+$$

$$\dot{x}_2 = -x_2 + [2x_1 + \theta]_+$$

$(\theta = b$  is a positive real number)

# INHIBITION DOMINATED TLNs

$$\frac{dx_i}{dt} = -x_i + \left[ \sum w_{ij} x_j + b_j \right]_+ \quad (1) \quad \text{RELU notation}$$

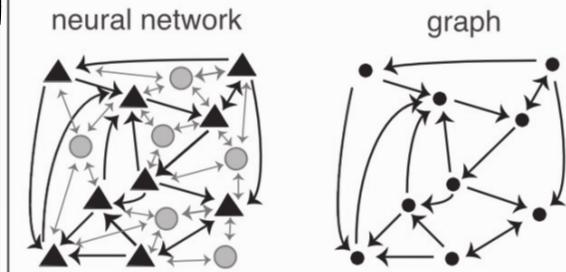
- take  $W$  to be entrywise nonpositive.
- $\Leftrightarrow$  interaction between neurons is inhibitory.

Figure 6.

**CTLNs.** A neural network with excitatory pyramidal neurons (triangles) and a background network of inhibitory interneurons (gray circles) that produces a global inhibition. The corresponding graph (right) retains only the excitatory neurons and their connections.

WHY?

[CURTO, MORRISON]



# SPECIALIZATION (inhibition dominated TLNs)

## COMBINATORIAL THRESHOLD LINEAR NETWORKS

$$W_{ij} = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } i=j \\ -1+\epsilon & \text{if } j \rightarrow i \text{ in } G \\ -1-\delta & \text{if } j \not\rightarrow i \text{ in } G \end{cases}$$

and  $b_i = \theta$  positive constant

$$\Rightarrow i | \left( \begin{array}{c} j \\ -1+\epsilon \end{array} \right)$$

Note:

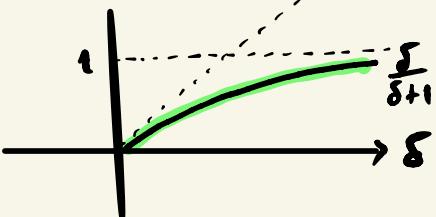
- when  $j \rightarrow i$  neuron  $j$  inhibits  $i$  less than itself.
- when  $j \not\rightarrow i$  neuron  $j$  inhibits  $i$  more than it inhibits itself.

$$\frac{dx_i}{dt} = -x_i + [ \dots (-1-\delta)x_j + \dots ]$$

$$\frac{dx_i}{dt} = -x_i$$

$$e^{-t}$$

Here  $\delta > 0$ ,  $0 < \epsilon < \frac{\delta}{\delta+1}$



$$\Rightarrow i | \left( \begin{array}{c} j \\ -1-\delta \end{array} \right)$$

# MOTIVATING QUESTIONS

- Given the model defined by (1), what is the emergent dynamics?
  - fixed points?
    - stable?
    - unstable?
  - attracting sets?
    - periodic?
    - quasi-periodic?
    - chaotic?
- What can the graph  $G$  tell about the dynamics?



$$(1) \quad \dot{\vec{x}} = -\vec{x} + [\vec{W}\vec{x} + \vec{\theta}]_+$$

# CTLNs AND HYPERPLANE ARRANGEMENTS

$x_1$        $x_2$

AUTO  
XPP

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$W = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1-\delta \\ -1+\epsilon & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} \epsilon, \delta > 0 \\ 0 < \epsilon < 1 \end{array}$$

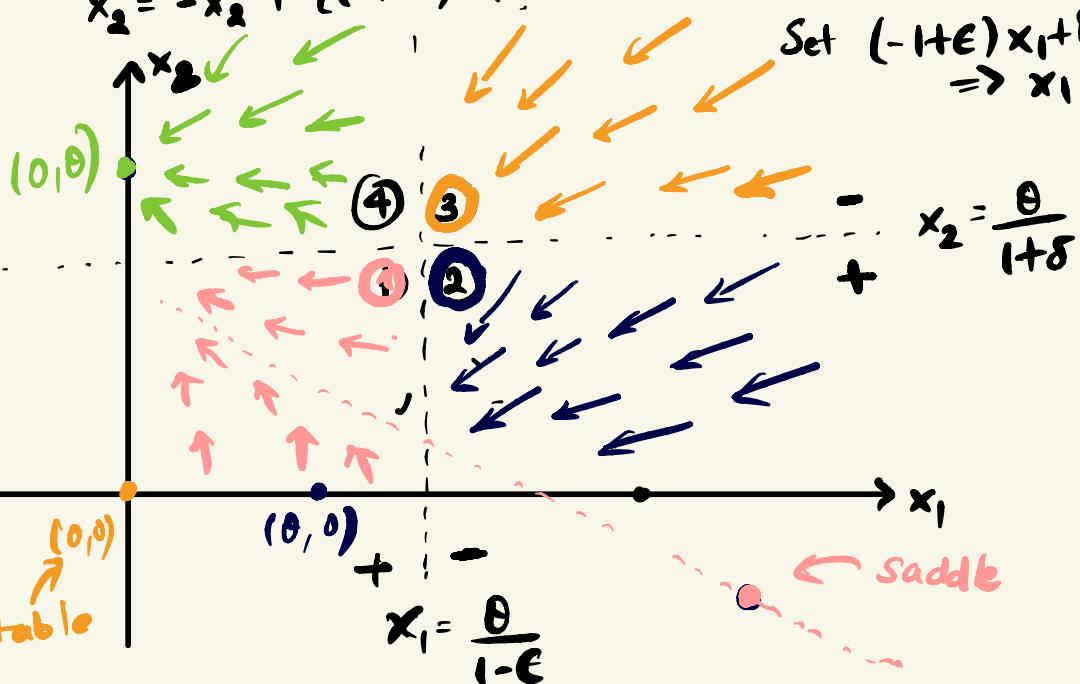
$$\theta > 0$$

$$\dot{x}_1 = -x_1 + [(-1-\delta)x_2 + \theta]_+$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Set } (-1-\delta)x_2 + \theta &= 0 \\ \Rightarrow x_2 &= \frac{\theta}{1+\delta} \end{aligned}$$

$$\dot{x}_2 = -x_2 + [(-1+\epsilon)x_1 + \theta]_+$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Set } (-1+\epsilon)x_1 + \theta &= 0 \\ \Rightarrow x_1 &= \frac{\theta}{1-\epsilon} \end{aligned}$$



①

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \dot{x}_1 = -x_1 + (-1-\delta)x_2 + \theta \\ \dot{x}_2 = -x_2 + (-1+\epsilon)x_1 + \theta \end{array} \right\}$$

fixed points  $\Rightarrow \begin{cases} x_1 = (-1-\delta)x_2 + \theta \\ x_2 = (-1+\epsilon)x_1 + \theta \end{cases}$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} x_1 = (-1-\delta)(-1+\epsilon)x_1 + (-1-\delta)\theta + \theta \\ = (-1-\delta)(-1+\epsilon)x_1 - \cancel{\theta} - \delta\theta + \cancel{\theta} \end{cases}$$

$$\Rightarrow [(-1-\delta)(-1+\epsilon) - 1]x_1 = \delta\theta$$

$$\Rightarrow [\cancel{x_1} - \epsilon + \delta - \epsilon\delta - \cancel{1}]x_1 = \delta\theta$$

$$\Rightarrow x_1 = \frac{\delta\theta}{\delta - \epsilon - \epsilon\delta}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} -1 & -1-\delta \\ -1+\epsilon & -1 \end{pmatrix} \frac{-\epsilon\theta}{\delta - \epsilon - \epsilon\delta}$$

$\Rightarrow$  Saddle

$\left( \frac{\delta\theta}{\delta - \epsilon - \epsilon\delta}, \frac{-\epsilon\theta}{\delta - \epsilon - \epsilon\delta} \right)$  is a fixed point for

$$\frac{-\epsilon\theta}{\delta - \epsilon - \epsilon\delta} \quad \begin{matrix} \leftarrow \\ \text{negative} \end{matrix}$$
$$\underbrace{\delta - \epsilon - \epsilon\delta}_{\text{denominator positive}}$$

$$\epsilon < \frac{\delta}{\delta+1}$$

$$\Rightarrow \epsilon\delta + \epsilon < \delta$$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \dot{x}_1 = -x_1 + (-1-\delta)x_2 + \theta \\ \dot{x}_2 = -x_2 \end{array} \right\} \text{fp.} \Rightarrow \begin{array}{l} x_2 = 0 \\ x_1 = \theta \end{array}$$

$(\theta, 0)$  is a fixed point  
 $\Rightarrow \underline{\text{stable}}$

$$\begin{pmatrix} -1 & -1-\delta \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

eigenvalues are  $-1$  twice

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{x}_1 &= -x_1 \\ \dot{x}_2 &= -x_2 \end{aligned} \quad \left. \begin{array}{l} \\ \end{array} \right\} \quad \text{f.p.} \quad x_1 = 0, x_2 = 0$$

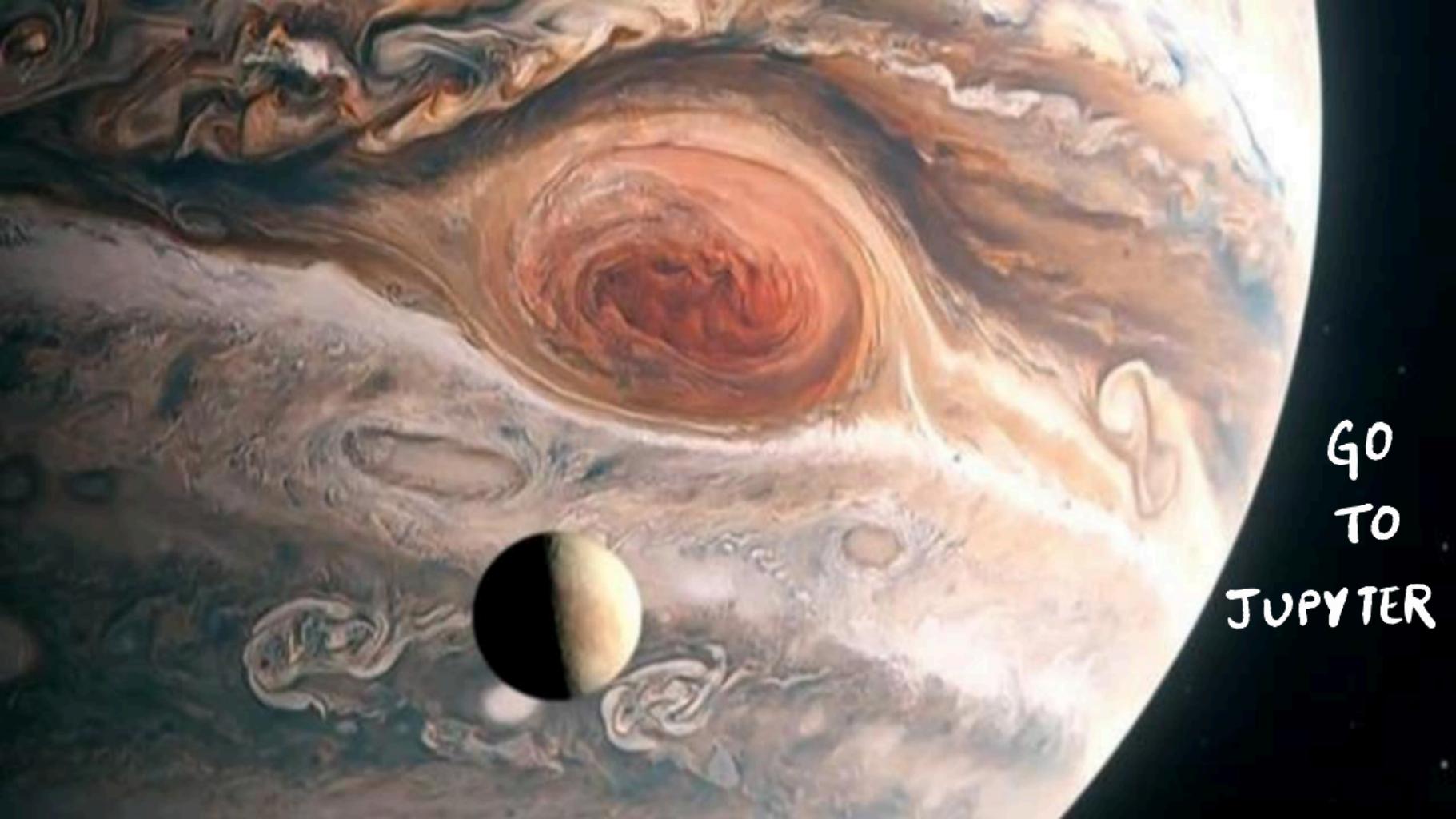
$$\begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow \text{stabb}$$

④

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{x}_1 &= -x_1 \\ \dot{x}_2 &= -x_2 + (-1+\epsilon)x_1 \neq 0 \end{aligned} \quad \left. \begin{array}{l} \\ \end{array} \right\} \quad \text{f.p.} \quad \begin{aligned} x_1 &= 0 \\ x_2 &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$(0, 0) \text{ is a fixed point}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ -1+\epsilon & -1 \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow \text{stable}$$

A composite image featuring a close-up view of the Great Red Spot on the planet Jupiter. The red storm is a prominent, swirling feature in the upper half of the frame. In the lower-left foreground, the dark, circular silhouette of the moon Europa is visible against the bright, textured background of Jupiter's clouds.

GO  
TO  
JUPITER

## SOME THEOR (Y/EMS)

### THEOREM [Curto et al.]

Let  $G$  be a graph with no sinks. Then for any parameters  $\epsilon, \delta, \theta$  in the legal range, the associated CTLN has no stable fixed points.



## THEOREM [MORRISON, DEGERATU, ITSKOV, CURTO]

Let  $(W, b)$  be a competitive nondegenerate TLN on  $n$  nodes, with  $b_i > 0$  for all  $i \in [n]$ . Then

$$\sum_{\sigma \in \text{IFP}(W, b)} \text{id}_X(\sigma) = +1$$

$$\text{id}_X(\sigma) = \text{sgn} \det(I - W_\sigma)$$

$\sigma$  is support of fixed point  
so some subset of  $\{1, \dots, n\}$

In particular, the total number of fixed points  $|\text{FP}(W, b)|$   
is always odd.

## THEOREM [MDIC]

Let  $G$  be a simple directed graph, and consider an associated nondegenerate CTLN with  $W = W(G, \epsilon, \delta)$  for any choice of the parameters  $\epsilon, \delta, \theta > 0$  with  $\epsilon < 1$ . If  $\sigma$  is a clique of  $G$ , then there exists a stable fixed point with support  $\sigma$  if and only if  $\sigma$  is target-free.



↓  
Stable fixed point with support



• is a target



there is no stable fixed point with support



## REFERENCES

- Morrison, Degeratu, Stskov, Curtó. Diversity of emergent dynamics in competitive threshold-linear networks. 2023
- Curtó, Morrison. Graph rules for recurrent neural network dynamics. 2023

Hopfield network      60's 70's

$$W = \begin{pmatrix} & +1 & -1 \\ +1 & & \\ -1 & & \end{pmatrix}$$

non symmetric