Analyses for Tag-based Genetic Regulation for Genetic Programming

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Chapter 1

Test

Chapter 2

SignalGP Digital Organisms

Here, we give more details on the setup of the SignalGP digital organisms used in the diagnostic experiments. For a broad overview of SignalGP, see (Lalejini and Ofria, 2018). For specific parameter choices, see experiment-specific configuration descriptions (TODO - link here).

For DISHTINY SignalGP details, see DISHTINY docs.

Navigation

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2.1 Memory model

SignalGP digital organisms have four types of memory buffers with which to carry out computations:

- Working (register) memory
 - Call-local (* thread-local) memory.
 - Memory used by the majority of computation instructions.
- Input memory
 - Call-local (& thread-local) memory.
 - Read-only.
 - This memory is used to specify function call arguments. When a function is called on a thread (i.e., a call instruction is executed), the

- caller's working memory is copied into the input memory of the new call-state, which is created on top of the thread's call stack.
- Programs must execute explicit instructions to read from the input memory buffer (into the working memory buffer).
- · Output memory
 - Call-local (& thread-local) memory.
 - Write-only.
 - This memory is used to specify the return values of a function call.
 - When a function returns to the previous call-state (i.e., the one just below it on the thread's call stack), positions that were set in the output buffer are returned to the caller's working memory buffer.
 - Programs must execute explicit instructions to write to the output memory buffer (from the working memory buffer).
- Global memory
 - This memory buffer is shared by all executing threads. Threads must use explicit instructions (GlobalToWorking or WorkingToGlobal) to access it.

These are described in more detail in (Lalejini and Ofria, 2018).

Memory buffers are implemented as integer => double maps.

2.2 Mutation operators

- Single-instruction insertions
 - Applied per instruction
- Single-instruction deletions
 - Applied per instruction
- Single-instruction substitutions
 - Applied per instruction
- Single-argument substitutions
 - Applied per argument
- Slip mutations (Lalejini et al., 2017)
 - Applied at a per-function rate.
 - Pick two random positions in function's instructions sequence: A and
 - If A < B: duplicate sequence from A to B
 - If A > B: delete sequence from A to B
- Single-function duplications
 - Applied per-function
- Single-function deletions
 - Applied per-function
- Tag bit flips
 - Applied at a per-bit rate
 - (applies to both instruction- and function-tags)

2.3 Instruction Set

Abbreviations:

- EOP: End of program
- Reg: local register
 - Reg[0] indicates the value at the register specified by an instruction's first argument (either tag-based or numeric), Reg[1] indicates the value at the register specified by an instruction's second argument, and Reg[2] indicates the value at the register specified by the instruction's third argument.
 - $-\operatorname{Reg}[0], \operatorname{Reg}[1], etc. \operatorname{Register } 0, \operatorname{Register } 1, etc.$
- Input: input buffer
 - Follows same scheme as Reg
- Output: output buffer
 - Follows same scheme as Reg
- Arg: Instruction argument
 - Arg[i] indicates the i'th instruction argument (an integer encoded in the genome)
 - E.g., Arg[0] is an instruction's first argument

Instructions that would produce undefined behavior (e.g., division by zero) are treated as no operations.

2.3.1 Default Instructions

I.e., instructions used across all diagnostic tasks.

Instruction	Arguments Used	Description
Nop	0	No operation
Not	1	Reg[0] = !Reg[0]
Inc	1	Reg[0] = Reg[0] + 1
Dec	1	Reg[0] = Reg[0] - 1
Add	3	Reg[2] = Reg[0] +
		Reg[1]
Sub	3	$\operatorname{Reg}[2] = \operatorname{Reg}[0]$ -
		Reg[1]
Mult	3	Reg[2] = Reg[0] *
		Reg[1]
Div	3	$\operatorname{Reg}[2] = \operatorname{Reg}[0] /$
		Reg[1]
Mod	3	$\operatorname{Reg}[2] = \operatorname{Reg}[0] \%$
		Reg[1]
TestEqu	3	$\operatorname{Reg}[2] = \operatorname{Reg}[0] ==$
		Reg[1]
TestNEqu	3	$\operatorname{Reg}[2] = \operatorname{Reg}[0] !=$
		Reg[1]

Instruction	Arguments Used	Description
TestLess	3	Reg[2] = Reg[0] <
		$\operatorname{Reg}[1]$
TestLessEqu	3	$\operatorname{Reg}[2] = \operatorname{Reg}[0] <=$
		Reg[1]
TestGreater	3	$\operatorname{Reg}[2] = \operatorname{Reg}[0] >$
		Reg[1]
TestGreaterEqu	3	$\operatorname{Reg}[2] = \operatorname{Reg}[0] > =$
		Reg[1]
SetMem	2	$\operatorname{Reg}[0] = \operatorname{Arg}[1]$
Terminal	1	Reg[0] = double value
		encoded by
		instruction tag
CopyMem	2	Reg[0] = Reg[1]
SwapMem	2	Swap(Reg[0], Reg[1])
InputToWorking	2	Reg[1] = Input[0]
WorkingToOutput	2	Output[1] = Reg[0]
If	1	If $\operatorname{Reg}[0] != 0$,
		proceed. Otherwise
		skip to the next
		Close or EOP.
While	1	While $Reg[0] != 0$,
		loop. Otherwise skip
		to next Close or
		EOP.
Close	0	Indicate the end of a
		control block of code
		(e.g., loop, if).
Break	0	Break out of current
		control flow (e.g.,
		loop).
Terminate	0	Kill thread that this
		instruction is
		executing on.
Fork	0	Generate an internal
		signal (using this
		instruction's tag) that
		can trigger a function
		to run in parallel.
Call	0	Call a function, using
	Ç.	this instruction's tag
		to determine which
		function is called.
		rancoron to canca.

Instruction	Arguments Used	Description
Routine	0	Same as call, but local memory is shared. Sort of like a jump that will jump back when the routine ends.
Return	0	Return from the current function call.

2.3.2 Global memory access instructions

For experimental conditions without global memory access, these instructions are replaced with no-operation such that the instruction set remains a constant size regardless of experimental condition.

Instruction	Arguments Used	Description
WorkingToGlobal	2	$\overline{\text{Global}[1] = \text{Reg}[0]}$
${\tt GlobalToWorking}$	2	Reg[1] = Global[0]

2.3.3 Regulation instructions

For experimental conditions without regulation, these instructions are replaced with no-operation such that the instruction set remains a constant size regardless of experimental condition.

Note that several regulation instructions have a baseline and (-) version. The (-) versions are identical to the baseline version, except that they multiply the value they are regulating with by -1. This eliminates any bias toward either up-/down-regulation.

Also note that the emp::MatchBin (in the Empirical library) data structure that manages function regulation is defined in terms of tag DISTANCE, not similarity. So, decreasing function regulation values decreases the distance between potential referring tags, and thus, unintuitively, *up-regulates* the function.

All tag-based referencing used by regulation instructions use unregulated, raw match scores. Thus, programs can still up-regulate a function that was previously 'turned off' with down-regulation.

Instruction	Arguments Used	Description
SetRegulator	1	Set regulation value of function (targeted with instruction tag) to Reg[0].
SetRegulator-	1	Set regulation value of function (targeted with instruction tag) to -1 * Reg[0].
SetOwnRegulator	1	Set regulation value of function (currently executing) to Reg[0].
SetOwnRegulator-	1	Set regulation value of function (currently executing) to -1 * Reg[0].
AdjRegulator	1	Regulation value of function (targeted with instruction tag) += Reg[0]
AdjRegulator-	1	Regulation value of function (targeted with instruction tag) -= Reg[0]
AdjOwnRegulator	1	Regulation value of function (currently executing) += Reg[0]
AdjOwnRegulator-	1	Regulation value of function (currently executing) -= Reg[0]
ClearRegulator	0	Clear function regulation (reset to neutral) of function targeted by instruction's tag.
ClearOwnRegulator	0	Clear function regulation (reset to neutral) of currently executing function
SenseRegulator	1	Reg[0] = regulator state of function targeted by instruction tag

Instruction	Arguments Used	Description
SenseOwnRegulator	1	Reg[0] = regulator state of current function
IncRegulator	0	Increment regulator state of function targeted with this instruction's tag
IncOwnRegulator	0	Increment regulator state of currently executing function
DecRegulator	0	Decrement regulator state of function targeted with this instruction's tag
DecOwnRegulator	0	Decrement regulator state of the currently executing function

2.3.4 Task-specific instructions

Each task as a number of response instructions added to the instruction set equal to the possible set of responses that can be expressed by a digital organism. Each of these response instructions set a flag on the virtual hardware indicating which response the organism expressed and reset all executing threads such that only function regulation and global memory contents persist.

2.4 References

Lalejini, A., & Ofria, C. (2018). Evolving event-driven programs with SignalGP. Proceedings of the Genetic and Evolutionary Computation Conference on -GECCO '18, 1135–1142. https://doi.org/10.1145/3205455.3205523

Lalejini, A., Wiser, M. J., & Ofria, C. (2017). Gene duplications drive the evolution of complex traits and regulation. Proceedings of the 14th European Conference on Artificial Life ECAL 2017, 257–264. https://doi.org/10.7551/ecal_a_045

Chapter 3

Changing-signal problem analysis

Here, we give an overview of the changing-signal diagnostic problem, and we provide our data analyses for related experiments. All of our source code for statistical analyses and data visualizations is embedded in this document. The raw data can be found on the OSF project associated with this work (link coming).

Please file an issue or make a pull request on github to report any mistakes, ask questions, request more explanation, et cetera.

3.1 Overview

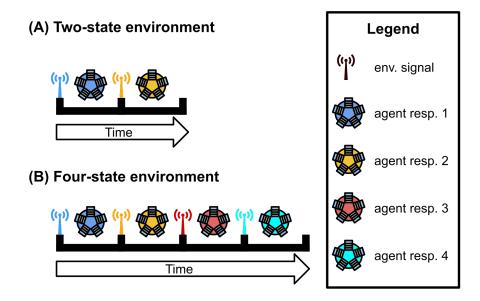
```
# Experimental parameters referenced in-text all in one convenient
time_steps <- 128
replicates <- 200
population_size <- 1000
generations <- 10000
env_complexities <- c(16)

# Settings for statistical analyses.
alpha <- 0.05
correction_method <- "bonferroni"

# Relative location of data.
working_directory <- "experiments/2020-11-11-chg-sig/analysis/" # << For bookdown
# working_directory <- "./" # << For local analysis</pre>
```

The changing-signal task requires programs to express a unique response for

each of K distinct environmental signals (i.e., each signal has a distinct tag); the figure below is given as an example. Because signals are distinct, programs do not need to alter their responses to particular signals over time. Instead, programs may 'hardware' each of the K possible responses to the appropriate environmental signal. However, environmental signals are presented in a random order; thus, the correct order of responses will vary and cannot be hardcoded. As in the repeated signal task, programs respond by executing one of K response instructions. Otherwise, evaluation (and fitness assignment) on the changing-signal task mirrors that of the repeated signal task.



Requiring programs to express a distinct instruction in response to each environmental signal represents programs having to perform distinct behaviors.

We afforded programs 128 time steps to express the appropriate response after receiving an environmental signal. Once the allotted time to respond expires or the program expresses any response, the program's threads of execution are reset, resulting in a loss of all thread-local memory. Only the contents of a program's global memory and each function's regulatory state persist. The environment then produces the next signal (distinct from all previous signals) to which the program may respond. A program's fitness is equal to the number of correct responses expressed during evaluation.

We evolved populations of 1000 SignalGP programs to solve the changing-signal task at K=16 (where K denotes the number of environmental signals). We evolved populations for 10^4 generations or until an program capable of achieving a perfect score during task evaluation (i.e., able to express the appropriate response to each of the K signals) evolved.

We ran 200 replicate populations (each with a distinct random number seed) of each of the following experimental conditions:

- 1. a regulation-enabled treatment where programs have access to genetic regulation.
- 2. a regulation-disabled treatment where programs do not have access to genetic regulation.

Note this task does not require programs to shift their response to particular signals over time, and as such, genetic regulation is unnecessary. Further, because programs experience environmental inputs in a random order, erroneous genetic regulation can manifest as cryptic variation. For example, non-adaptive down-regulation of a particular response function may be neutral given one sequence of environmental signals, but may be deleterious in another. We expected regulation-enabled SignalGP to exhibit non-adaptive plasticity, potentially resulting in slower adaptation and non-general solutions.

3.2 Analysis Dependencies

Load all required R libraries.

```
library(ggplot2)
library(tidyverse)
library(cowplot)
library(viridis)
source("https://gist.githubusercontent.com/benmarwick/2a1bb0133ff568cbe28d/raw/fb53bd97121f7f9ce9
```

These analyses were conducted in the following computing environment:

print(version)

```
x86_64-pc-linux-gnu
## platform
## arch
                  x86_64
## os
                  linux-gnu
                  x86_64, linux-gnu
## system
## status
                  4
## major
                  0.2
## minor
## year
                  2020
## month
                  06
                  22
## day
## svn rev
                  78730
## language
## version.string R version 4.0.2 (2020-06-22)
## nickname
                  Taking Off Again
```

3.3 Setup

Load data, initial data cleanup, configure some global settings.

```
# Load data file
data_loc <- pasteO(working_directory, "data/max_fit_orgs.csv")</pre>
data <- read.csv(data_loc, na.strings="NONE")</pre>
# Define function to summarize regulation/memory configurations.
get_con <- function(reg, mem) {</pre>
  if (reg == "0" && mem == "0") {
    return("none")
  } else if (reg == "0" && mem=="1") {
    return("memory")
  } else if (reg=="1" && mem=="0") {
    return("regulation")
  } else if (reg=="1" && mem=="1") {
    return("both")
  } else {
    return("UNKNOWN")
}
# Specify experimental condition for each datum.
data$condition <- mapply(</pre>
  get_con,
  data$USE_FUNC_REGULATION,
  data$USE_GLOBAL_MEMORY
data$condition <- factor(</pre>
  data$condition,
  levels=c("regulation", "memory", "none", "both")
# For convenience, create a data set with only solutions
# Filter data to include only replicates labeled as solutions
sol_data <- filter(</pre>
  data,
  solution=="1"
# A lookup table for task complexities
task_label_lu <- c(</pre>
 "2" = "2-signal task",
  "4" = "4-signal task",
```

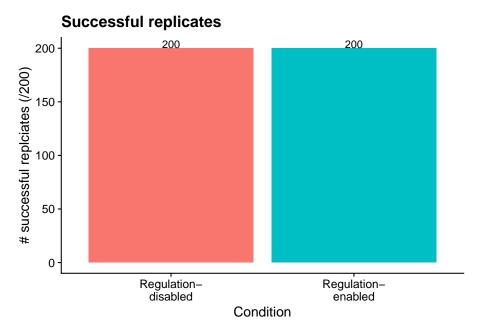
```
"8" = "8-signal task",
"16" = "16-signal task",
"32" = "32-signal task"
)

# Configure our default graphing theme
theme_set(theme_cowplot())
```

3.4 Does regulation hinder the evolution of successful genotypes?

Here, we look at the number of solutions evolved under regulation-enabled and regulation-disabled conditions. A program is categorized as a 'solution' if it can correctly respond to each of the K environmental signals $during\ evaluation$.

```
# Graph the number of solutions evolved in each condition, faceted
ggplot( sol_data, aes(x=condition, fill=condition) ) +
    geom_bar() +
    geom_text(
        stat="count",
        mapping=aes(label=..count..),
    position=position_dodge(0.9),
        vjust=0
) +
    scale_x_discrete(
        name="Condition",
        breaks=c("memory","both"),
        labels=c("Regulation-\ndisabled","Regulation-\nenabled")
) +
    ylab("# successful replciates (/200)") +
    theme(legend.position = "none") +
    ggtitle("Successful replicates")
```



Programs capable of achieving a perfect score on the changing-signal task (for a given sequence of environment signals) evolve in all 200 replicates of each condition (i.e., with and without access to genetic regulation). These programs, however, do not necessarily generalize across all possible sequences of environmental signals.

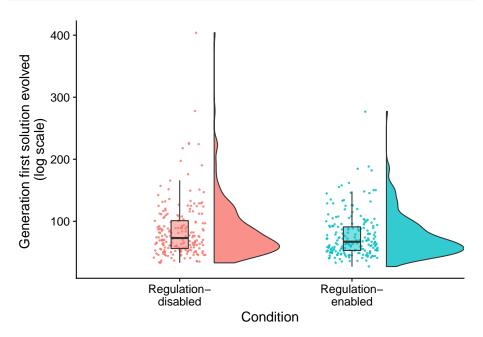
3.4.1 Does access to regulation slow adaptation?

I.e., did successful regulation-enabled programs take longer (more generations) to evolve than those evolved in the regulation-disabled treatment?

```
ggplot( sol_data, aes(x=condition, y=update, fill=condition) ) +
  geom_flat_violin(
    position = position_nudge(x = .2, y = 0),
    alpha = .8
) +
  geom_point(
    aes(y = update, color = condition),
    position = position_jitter(width = .15),
    size = .5,
    alpha = 0.8
) +
  geom_boxplot(
    width = .1,
    outlier.shape = NA,
    alpha = 0.5
```

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```
) +
scale_x_discrete(
  name="Condition",
  breaks=c("memory", "both"),
  labels=c("Regulation-\ndisabled","Regulation-\nenabled")
) +
scale_y_continuous(
  name="Generation first solution evolved \n(log scale)",
) +
guides(fill = FALSE) +
guides(color = FALSE)
```



print(wilcox.test(formula=update~condition, data=sol_data, exact=FALSE, conf.int=TRUE))

```
##
## Wilcoxon rank sum test with continuity correction
##
## data: update by condition
## W = 22188, p-value = 0.05845
## alternative hypothesis: true location shift is not equal to 0
## 95 percent confidence interval:
## -3.860236e-05 1.000000e+01
## sample estimates:
## difference in location
## 5.000013
```

The difference in the number of generations before a solution arises is not significantly different.

3.4.2 Do they generalize?

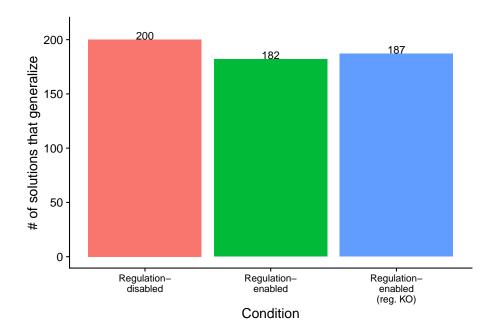
Note that solutions may or may not generalize beyond the sequence of environmental signals on which they achieved a perfect score (and were thus categorized as a 'solution'). We re-evaluated each 'solution' on a random sample of 5000 sequences of environmental signals to test for generalization. We deem programs as having successfully generalized only if they responded correctly in all 5000 tests.

To see if regulation is preventing some regulation-enabled solutions from generalizing, we test generalization for regulation-enabled solutions with their regulation faculties knocked out (i.e., regulation instructions replaced with no-operations).

```
# Grab count data to make bar plot life easier
num_solutions_reg <- length(filter(data, condition=="both" & solution=="1")$SEED)
num_generalize_reg <- length(filter(data, condition=="both" & all_solution=="1")$SEED)</pre>
num_generalize_ko_reg <- length(filter(data, condition=="both" & all_solution_ko_reg==
num_generalize_mem <- length(filter(data, condition=="memory" & all_solution=="1")$SEE
sol_cnts <- data.frame(x=1:3)</pre>
sol_cnts$type <- c("reg_generalize", "reg_generalize_ko_reg", "mem_generalize")</pre>
sol cnts$val <- c(num generalize reg, num generalize ko reg, num generalize mem)
ggplot( sol cnts, aes(x=type, y=val, fill=type) ) +
  geom_bar(stat="identity") +
  geom_text(
    aes(label=val),
    stat="identity",
    position=position_dodge(0.75),
    viust=-0.01
  ) +
  scale_x_discrete(
    name="Condition",
    limits=c(
      "mem_generalize",
      "reg_generalize",
      "reg_generalize_ko_reg"
      ),
    labels=c(
      "Regulation-\ndisabled",
      "Regulation-\nenabled",
      "Regulation-\nenabled\n(reg. KO)"
```

3.4. DOES REGULATION HINDER THE EVOLUTION OF SUCCESSFUL GENOTYPES?23

```
) +
scale_y_continuous(
  name="# of solutions that generalize",
  limits=c(0, 210),
  breaks=seq(0,200,50)
) +
theme(
  legend.position="none",
  axis.text.x = element_text(size=10)
) +
ggsave(paste0(working_directory, "imgs/chg-env-16-generalization.png"), width=4,height=4)
```



All regulation-disabled programs successfully generalized.

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18

reg-augmented

```
## reg-disabled
                     200
                            0
fisher.test(table)
##
##
   Fisher's Exact Test for Count Data
##
## data: table
## p-value = 5.113e-06
## alternative hypothesis: true odds ratio is not equal to 1
## 95 percent confidence interval:
## 0.0000000 0.2115509
## sample estimates:
## odds ratio
##
```

The difference in number of generalizing solutions between regulation-enabled and regulation-disabled conditions is statistically significant (Fisher's exact test).

Moreover, 5 of the 18 non-generalizing programs generalize when we knockout genetic regulation. Upon close inspection, the other 13 non-general programs relied on genetic regulation to achieve initial success but failed to generalize to arbitrary environment signal sequences.

Chapter 4

Repeated-signal problem analysis

Here, we give an overview of the repeated-signal diagnostic problem, and we provide our data analyses for related experiments. All of our source code for statistical analyses and data visualizations is embedded in this document. The raw data can be found on the OSF project associated with this work (link coming).

Please file an issue or make a pull request on github to report any mistakes, ask questions, request more explanation, et cetera.

4.1 Overview

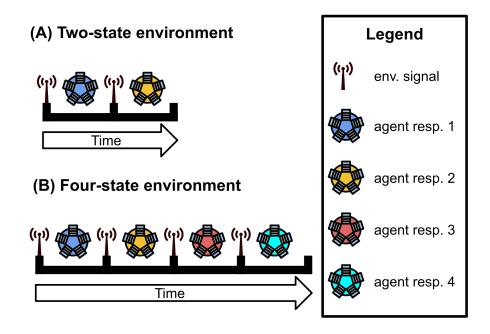
```
# Experimental parameters referenced in-text all in one convenient
time_steps <- 128
replicates <- 200
population_size <- 1000
generations <- 10000
env_complexities <- c(2, 4, 8, 16)

# Settings for statistical analyses.
alpha <- 0.05
correction_method <- "bonferroni"

# Relative location of data.
working_directory <- "experiments/2020-11-25-rep-sig/analysis/" # << For bookdown
# working_directory <- "./" # << For local analysis</pre>
```

The repeated-signal problem requires programs to output the appropriate (dis-

tinct) response to a single environmental signal each of the K times the signal is repeated. Programs output responses by executing one of K response instructions. For example, if a program receives two signals from the environment during evaluation (i.e., K=2), the program should execute Response-1 after the first signal and Response-2 after the second signal.



We afford programs 128 time steps to respond to each environmental signal. Once the allotted time expires or the program executes any response, the program's threads of execution are reset, resulting in a loss of all thread-local memory; only the contents of the global memory buffer and each program module's regulatory state persist. The environment then produces the next signal (identical to each previous environmental signal) to which the program may respond. A program must use the global memory buffer or genetic regulation to correctly shift its response to each subsequent environmental signal. Evaluation continues in this way until the program executes an incorrect response. A program's fitness equals the number of correct responses given during evaluation, and a program is considered a solution if it correctly responds to each of the K environmental signals.

4.2 Analysis Dependencies

Load all required R libraries.

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```
library(reshape2)
library(cowplot)
library(viridis)
library(igraph)
source("https://gist.githubusercontent.com/benmarwick/2a1bb0133ff568cbe28d/raw/fb53bd97121f7f9ce9
```

These analyses were conducted in the following computing environment:

```
print(version)
##
                  x86_64-pc-linux-gnu
## platform
## arch
                  x86_64
## os
                  linux-gnu
## system
                  x86_64, linux-gnu
## status
## major
## minor
                  0.2
## year
                  2020
## month
                  06
## day
                  22
                  78730
## svn rev
## language
                  R
## version.string R version 4.0.2 (2020-06-22)
```

4.3 Setup

nickname

library(ggplot2)
library(tidyverse)

Load data, initial data cleanup, configure some global settings.

Taking Off Again

```
max_fit_org_data_loc <- paste0(working_directory, "data/max_fit_orgs_noprogram.csv")
reg_network_data_loc <- paste0(working_directory, "data/reg_graphs_summary.csv")
inst_exec_data_loc <- paste0(working_directory, "data/exec_trace_summary.csv")

####### Load max fit program data ######
max_fit_org_data <- read.csv(max_fit_org_data_loc, na.strings="NONE")

# Specify factors (not all of these matter for this set of runs).
max_fit_org_data$matchbin_thresh <- factor(
    max_fit_org_data$matchbin_thresh,
    levels=c(0, 25, 50, 75)
)</pre>
```

```
max_fit_org_data$NUM_SIGNAL_RESPONSES <- factor(</pre>
  max_fit_org_data$NUM_SIGNAL_RESPONSES,
 levels=c(2, 4, 8, 16, 32)
)
max_fit_org_data$NUM_ENV_CYCLES <- factor(</pre>
  max_fit_org_data$NUM_ENV_CYCLES,
 levels=c(2, 4, 8, 16, 32)
max_fit_org_data$TAG_LEN <- factor(</pre>
 max fit org data$TAG LEN,
 levels=c(32, 64, 128, 256)
# Define function to summarize regulation/memory configurations.
get_con <- function(reg, mem) {</pre>
  if (reg == "0" && mem == "0") {
    return("none")
  } else if (reg == "0" && mem=="1") {
    return("memory")
  } else if (reg=="1" && mem=="0") {
   return("regulation")
  } else if (reg=="1" && mem=="1") {
    return("both")
  } else {
    return("UNKNOWN")
  }
}
# Specify experimental condition for each datum.
max_fit_org_data$condition <- mapply(</pre>
  get_con,
 max_fit_org_data$USE_FUNC_REGULATION,
 max_fit_org_data$USE_GLOBAL_MEMORY
)
max_fit_org_data$condition <- factor(</pre>
 max_fit_org_data$condition,
  levels=c("regulation", "memory", "none", "both")
# Does this program rely on a stochastic strategy?
max_fit_org_data$stochastic <- 1 - max_fit_org_data$consistent</pre>
```

4.3. SETUP 29

```
max_fit_org_data$stochastic <- factor(</pre>
 max_fit_org_data$stochastic,
 levels=c(0, 1)
)
# Filter data to include only runs from regulation-enabled ('both') and regulation-disabled ('mer
max_fit_org_data <- filter(max_fit_org_data, condition %in% c("both", "memory"))</pre>
# Filter data to include only replicates labeled as solutions
sol_data <- filter(max_fit_org_data, solution=="1")</pre>
# Label solution strategies
get_strategy <- function(use_reg, use_mem) {</pre>
 if (use_reg=="0" && use_mem=="0") {
    return("use neither")
 } else if (use_reg=="0" && use_mem=="1") {
    return("use memory")
  } else if (use_reg=="1" && use_mem=="0") {
   return("use regulation")
  } else if (use_reg=="1" && use_mem=="1") {
    return("use both")
  } else {
    return("UNKNOWN")
 }
}
# Specify experimental conditions (to make labeling easier).
sol_data$strategy <- mapply(</pre>
 get_strategy,
 sol_data$relies_on_regulation,
  sol_data$relies_on_global_memory
sol_data$strategy <- factor(</pre>
  sol_data$strategy,
 levels=c(
    "use regulation",
    "use memory",
    "use neither",
    "use both"
  )
)
###### Load network data ######
reg_network_data <- read.csv(reg_network_data_loc, na.strings="NA")</pre>
```

```
reg_network_data <- filter(reg_network_data, run_id %in% max_fit_org_data$SEED)
# Make a lookup function to get each run's environment complexity level.
get_num_sig_resps <- function(seed) {</pre>
  return(filter(max_fit_org_data, SEED==seed)$NUM_SIGNAL_RESPONSES)
reg_network_data$NUM_SIGNAL_RESPONSES <- mapply(</pre>
  get_num_sig_resps,
  reg_network_data$run_id
reg_network_data$NUM_SIGNAL_RESPONSES <- factor(reg_network_data$NUM_SIGNAL_RESPONSES)</pre>
###### Load instruction execution data ######
inst_exec_data <- read.csv(inst_exec_data_loc, na.strings="NA")</pre>
inst_exec_data$condition <- mapply(</pre>
  get_con,
  inst_exec_data$USE_FUNC_REGULATION,
  inst_exec_data$USE_GLOBAL_MEMORY
inst_exec_data$condition <- factor(</pre>
  inst_exec_data$condition,
  levels=c("regulation", "memory", "none", "both")
inst_exec_data$NUM_SIGNAL_RESPONSES <- factor(</pre>
  inst_exec_data$NUM_SIGNAL_RESPONSES,
  levels=c(2, 4, 8, 16, 32)
inst_exec_data$NUM_ENV_CYCLES <- factor(</pre>
  inst_exec_data$NUM_ENV_CYCLES,
  levels=c(2, 4, 8, 16, 32)
# Labels for each
label_lu <- c(</pre>
  "2" = "2-signal task",
  "4" = "4-signal task",
  "8" = "8-signal task",
  "16" = "16-signal task",
```

```
"32" ="32-signal task"
)

####### misc ######
# Configure our default graphing theme
theme_set(theme_cowplot())
```

4.4 Problem-solving success

We expected populations with access to genetic regulation to be more successful on the repeated-signal task than those evolved without access to genetic regulation. Further, we expected the success differential to increase with problem difficulty.

We can look at (1) the number of successful replicates (i.e., replicates in which a program capable of perfectly solving the repeated signal task evolved) per condition and (2) the scores of the highest-fitness program evolved in each replicate.

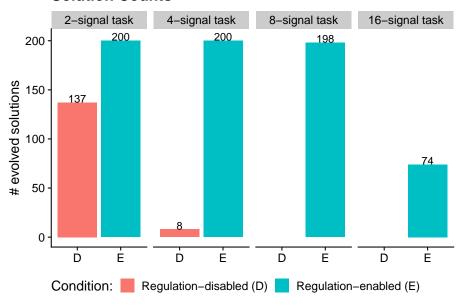
4.4.1 Number of successful replicates by condition

Note that a program is categorized as a 'solution' only if it can correctly respond to each of repetition of the environment signal.

```
# Graph the number of solutions evolved in each condition, faceted by environmental complexity
ggplot( sol_data, aes(x=condition, fill=condition) ) +
  geom_bar() +
  geom_text(
   stat="count",
   mapping=aes(label=..count..),
   position=position_dodge(0.9),
    vjust=0
  ) +
  scale_y_continuous(
   name="# evolved solutions",
   breaks=seq(0, replicates, 50),
   limits=c(0, replicates+2)
  scale_fill_discrete(
   name="Condition:",
   limits=c("memory", "both"),
   labels=c("Regulation-disabled (D)", "Regulation-enabled (E)")
  ) +
  scale_x_discrete(
   name="Condition",
```

```
limits=c("memory", "both"),
  labels=c("D", "E")
) +
facet_wrap(
  ~ NUM_SIGNAL_RESPONSES,
  nrow=1,
  labeller=labeller(NUM_SIGNAL_RESPONSES=label_lu)
) +
ggtitle("Solution Counts") +
theme(
 legend.position="bottom",
  axis.title.x=element blank()
) +
ggsave(
  paste0(working_directory, "imgs/repeated-signal-solultion-cnts.png"),
  width=8,
  height=4
```

Solution Counts



We confirmed that each difficulty level of the repeated-signal problem is solvable without regulation using hand-coded SignalGP programs.

We use a Fisher's exact test to determine if there are significant differences (p < 0.05) between the numbers of regulation-enabled versus regulation-disabled solutions for each problem difficulty.

```
# This code chunk is sort of a monster to have things print out all pretty-like in the knitted H.
# For each environment complexity level, do a fisher's exact test and print results.
for (env in env_complexities) {
  env_data <- filter(max_fit_org_data, NUM_SIGNAL_RESPONSES==env)</pre>
  cat("#### ", paste0(env, "-signal task"), " - statistical analysis of solution counts \n")
  # Extract successes/fails for each condition.
  mem_success_cnt <- nrow(filter(env_data, solution=="1" & condition=="memory"))</pre>
  mem_fail_cnt <- nrow(filter(env_data, condition=="memory")) - mem_success_cnt</pre>
  both_success_cnt <- nrow(filter(env_data, solution=="1" & condition=="both"))
  both_fail_cnt <- nrow(filter(env_data, condition=="both")) - both_success_cnt
  # Regulation-disabled vs regulation-enabled
  mem_sgp_table <- matrix(c(both_success_cnt,</pre>
                             mem_success_cnt,
                             both_fail_cnt,
                             mem_fail_cnt),
                           nrow=2)
  rownames(mem_sgp_table) <- c("reg-enabled", "reg-disabled")</pre>
  colnames(mem_sgp_table) <- c("success", "fail")</pre>
  mem_sgp_fishers <- fisher.test(mem_sgp_table)</pre>
  cat("\n")
  cat("Regulation-enabled SignalGP vs. regulation-disabled SignalGP (original version of SignalGF
  cat("```\n")
  print(mem_sgp_table)
  print(mem_sgp_fishers)
  cat("```\n")
  cat("\n")
}
```

4.4.1.1 2-signal task - statistical analysis of solution counts

Regulation-enabled SignalGP vs. regulation-disabled SignalGP (original version of SignalGP):

```
success fail
reg-enabled 200 0
reg-disabled 137 63
Fisher's Exact Test for Count Data
```

data: mem_sgp_table
p-value < 2.2e-16
alternative hypothesis: true odds ratio is not equal to 1</pre>

```
95 percent confidence interval:
23.54182 Inf
sample estimates:
odds ratio
Inf
```

4.4.1.2 4-signal task - statistical analysis of solution counts

Regulation-enabled SignalGP vs. regulation-disabled SignalGP (original version of SignalGP):

```
success fail reg-enabled 200 0 reg-disabled 8 192
```

Fisher's Exact Test for Count Data

4.4.1.3 8-signal task - statistical analysis of solution counts

Regulation-enabled SignalGP vs. regulation-disabled SignalGP (original version of SignalGP):

```
success fail reg-enabled 198 2 reg-disabled 0 200
```

Fisher's Exact Test for Count Data

4.4.1.4 16-signal task - statistical analysis of solution counts

Regulation-enabled SignalGP vs. regulation-disabled SignalGP (original version of SignalGP):

```
success fail
reg-enabled 74 126
reg-disabled 0 200

Fisher's Exact Test for Count Data

data: mem_sgp_table
p-value < 2.2e-16
alternative hypothesis: true odds ratio is not equal to 1
95 percent confidence interval:
30.12902 Inf
sample estimates:
odds ratio
Inf
```

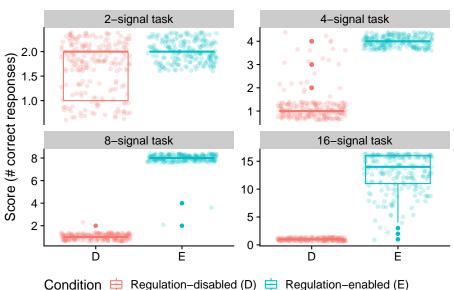
4.4.2 Aggregate fitness scores by condition

Here, we visualize the raw task scores for the highest-fitness program from each run across all environments/conditions.

```
ggplot( max_fit_org_data, aes(x=condition, y=score, color=condition) ) +
  geom_boxplot() +
  geom_jitter(alpha=0.2) +
  ylab("Score (# correct responses)") +
  scale_color_discrete(
   name="Condition",
   breaks=c("memory", "both"),
   labels=c("Regulation-disabled (D)", "Regulation-enabled (E)")
  ) +
  scale_x_discrete(
   name="Condition",
   breaks=c("memory", "both"),
   labels=c("D", "E")
  ) +
  facet wrap(
    ~ NUM_SIGNAL_RESPONSES,
   scales="free_y",
   labeller=labeller(NUM_SIGNAL_RESPONSES=label_lu)
  ) +
  theme(
   legend.position="bottom",
   axis.title.x=element_blank()
```

```
ggtitle("Task Scores") +
ggsave(
  paste0(working_directory, "imgs/repeated-signal-scores.png"),
  width=16,
  height=8
)
```

Task Scores



4.5 How many generations elapse before solutions evolve?

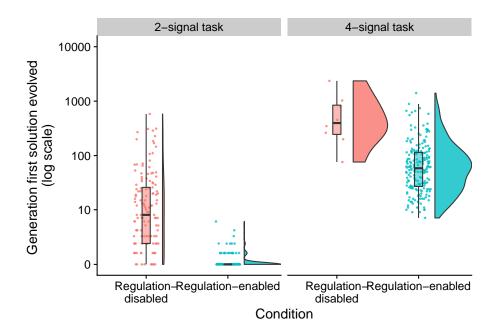
Do some conditions lead to the evolution of solutions in fewer generations than other conditions?

Here, we compare the generation at which solutions arise (only at difficulty levels where regulation-disabled solutions evovled).

```
ggplot( data = filter(sol_data, NUM_SIGNAL_RESPONSES %in% c(2, 4)), aes(x=condition, y-geom_flat_violin(
    position = position_nudge(x = .2, y = 0),
    alpha = .8
) +
geom_point(
    aes(y=update, color=condition),
```

```
position = position_jitter(width = .15),
  size = .5,
  alpha = 0.8
) +
geom_boxplot(
  width = .1,
  outlier.shape = NA,
 alpha = 0.5
) +
scale_x_discrete(
 name="Condition",
 breaks=c("memory", "both"),
  labels=c("Regulation-\ndisabled", "Regulation-enabled")
) +
scale_y_continuous(
 name="Generation first solution evolved \n(log scale)",
  limits=c(0, generations),
 breaks=c(0, 10, 100, 1000, 10000),
 trans="pseudo_log"
) +
facet_wrap(
  ~ NUM_SIGNAL_RESPONSES,
 labeller=labeller(NUM_SIGNAL_RESPONSES=label_lu)
guides(fill = FALSE) +
guides(color = FALSE) +
  paste0(working_directory, "./imgs/repeated-signal-solve-time-cloud.png"),
  width=5,
 height=4
```

```
## Warning: Removed 110 rows containing missing values (geom_point).
## Warning: Removed 110 rows containing missing values (geom_point).
```



4.5.1 Two-signal task - statistical analysis

We compare the time to solution using a Wilcoxon rank-sum test.

```
env_2_sol_data <- filter(
  sol_data,
  NUM_SIGNAL_RESPONSES==2
print(wilcox.test(formula=update~condition, data=env_2_sol_data, exact=FALSE, conf.int-
##
   Wilcoxon rank sum test with continuity correction
##
##
## data: update by condition
## W = 24940, p-value < 2.2e-16
\#\# alternative hypothesis: true location shift is not equal to 0
## 95 percent confidence interval:
##
     6.000004 11.000006
## sample estimates:
## difference in location
                 7.999963
##
```

4.5.2 Four-signal task - statistical analysis

We compare the time to solution using a Wilcoxon rank-sum test.

```
env_4_sol_data <- filter(</pre>
  sol_data,
  NUM_SIGNAL_RESPONSES==4
print(wilcox.test(formula=update~condition, data=env_4_sol_data, exact=FALSE, conf.int=TRUE))
##
##
   Wilcoxon rank sum test with continuity correction
##
## data: update by condition
## W = 1456, p-value = 8.603e-05
## alternative hypothesis: true location shift is not equal to 0
## 95 percent confidence interval:
## 173 738
## sample estimates:
## difference in location
##
                  319.636
```

4.6 Teasing apart evolved strategies

We analyzed:

- mechanisms underlying capacity to adjust responses to input signals (using knockout experiments)
- whether programs used stochasticity as part of their strategy
- instruction execution traces

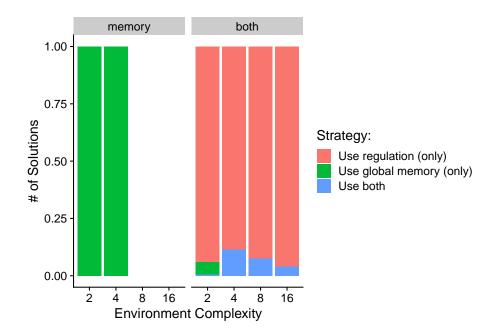
4.6.1 Do solutions rely on genetic regulation or global memory access to dynamically adjust responses?

Here, we take a closer at the strategies employed by solutions evolved across environment complexities. For each evolved solution, we independently knocked out (disabled) tag-based regulation and global memory access, and we measured the fitness effects knocking each out. If a knockout resulted in a decrease in fitness, we labeled that program as relying on that functionality (global memory or genetic regulation) for success.

The graph(s) below gives the proportion of solutions that rely exclusively on regulation, exclusively on global memory, on both global memory and regulation, and on neither functionality.

Proportions as stacked bar chart:

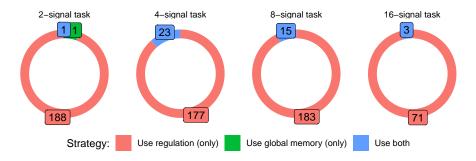
```
ggplot( data=sol_data, mapping=aes(x=NUM_SIGNAL_RESPONSES, fill=strategy) ) +
   geom_bar(
   position="fill"
```



As fun donuts(?!):

```
# https://www.r-graph-gallery.com/128-ring-or-donut-plot.html
donut_data <- data.frame(
  env=character(),
  count=numeric(),
  category=character()
)</pre>
```

```
for (env in env_complexities) {
  env_donut_data <- data.frame(</pre>
    env=c(env, env, env, env),
    count=c(
      nrow(filter(sol_data, condition=="both" & NUM_SIGNAL_RESPONSES==env & strategy=="use neither
      nrow(filter(sol_data, condition=="both" & NUM_SIGNAL_RESPONSES==env & strategy=="use memory
      nrow(filter(sol_data, condition=="both" & NUM_SIGNAL_RESPONSES==env & strategy=="use regula
     nrow(filter(sol_data, condition=="both" & NUM_SIGNAL_RESPONSES==env & strategy=="use both")
   ),
    category=c("neither", "memory", "regulation", "both")
  )
  env_donut_data <- filter(env_donut_data, count > 0)
  env_donut_data$fraction <- env_donut_data$count / sum(env_donut_data$count)</pre>
  env_donut_data$ymax <- cumsum(env_donut_data$fraction)</pre>
  env_donut_data$ymin <- c(0, head(env_donut_data$ymax, n=-1))</pre>
  env_donut_data$labelPosition <- (env_donut_data$ymax + env_donut_data$ymin) / 2
  env_donut_data$label <- paste0(env_donut_data$count)</pre>
  donut_data<-rbind(donut_data, env_donut_data)</pre>
}
ggplot( donut_data, aes(ymax=ymax, ymin=ymin, xmax=4, xmin=3, fill=category) ) +
  geom_rect() +
  geom_label( x=4, aes(y=labelPosition, label=label), size=4, show.legend = FALSE) +
  coord_polar(theta="y") +
  xlim(c(-1, 4)) +
  scale_fill_discrete(
    name="Strategy:",
    limits=c("regulation",
             "memory",
             "both"),
    labels=c("Use regulation (only)",
             "Use global memory (only)",
             "Use both")) +
  theme_void() +
  theme(legend.position = "bottom") +
  facet_wrap(
    ~env,
    nrow=1.
    labeller=labeller(env=label_lu)
```



We can see that in conditions where programs have access to regulation, evolved solutions generally rely on regulation to adjust their responses to input signals. In conditions where memory is the only mechanism for solving the repeated-signal task, we see that all evolved solutions rely exclusively on global memory access for adjusting responses to input signals.

4.6.2 What forms of genetic regulation do evolved programs rely on?

We used two approaches to tease apart forms of genetic regulation that evolved SignalGP programs rely on:

- 1. We traced program execution step-by-step (including each function's regulatory state) during evaluation on the repeated signal task and extracted regulatory interactions between executing functions as a directed graph. We draw a directed edge from function A to function B if B's regulatory state changes while A is executing. We label each edge as up- or down-regulation. The distribution of edge types in these graphs hints at what strategy the program is using.
- 2. We independently knockout up-regulation and down-regulation and record the fitness of knockout-variants. If fitness decreases when a target functionality is knocked out, we categorize the program as relying on that functionality.

Note that the knockout data more directly indicates which forms of regulation a program relies on, as the gene regulation networks may include neutral and

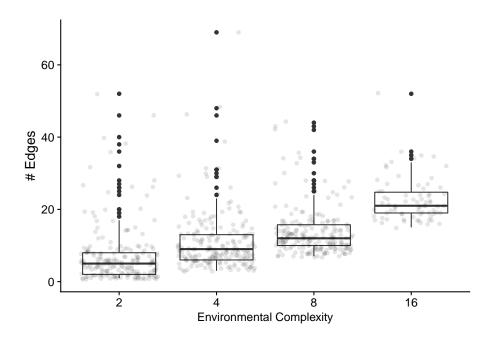
non-adaptive regulatory interactions.

4.6.2.1 Gene regulatory network edges

Let's only look at programs that solved the repeated-signal task and rely on regulation.

First, total edges as a function of problem difficulty.

```
relies_on_reg <- filter(</pre>
  sol_data,
 relies_on_regulation=="1"
)$SEED
ggplot(filter(reg_network_data, run_id %in% relies_on_reg), aes(x=NUM_SIGNAL_RESPONSES, y=edge_
  geom_boxplot() +
  geom_jitter(alpha=0.1) +
  xlab("Environmental Complexity") +
 ylab("# Edges") +
  theme(
   legend.position="bottom",
   legend.text=element_text(size=9),
   legend.title=element_text(size=10),
   axis.title.x=element_text(size=12)
  ) +
  ggsave(
   paste0(working_directory, "imgs/repeated-signal-regulation-edges.png"),
   width=4,
   height=3
```



Next, let's look at edges by type.

```
# Get seeds (run ids) of replicates that rely on regulation and are a solution.
melted_network_data <- melt(</pre>
  filter(reg_network_data, run_id %in% relies_on_reg),
  variable.name = "reg_edge_type",
  value.name = "reg_edges_cnt",
  measure.vars=c("repressed_edges_cnt", "promoted_edges_cnt")
)
ggplot( melted_network_data, aes(x=NUM_SIGNAL_RESPONSES, y=reg_edges_cnt, color=reg_ed;
  geom_boxplot() +
  xlab("Environmental Complexity") +
  ylab("# Edges") +
  scale_color_discrete(
    name="Edge type:",
    limits=c("repressed_edges_cnt", "promoted_edges_cnt"),
    labels=c("Repressing edges", "Promoting edges")
  ) +
  theme(
    legend.position="bottom",
    legend.text=element_text(size=9),
    legend.title=element_text(size=10),
    axis.title.x=element_text(size=12)
```

```
) +
ggsave(
  paste0(working_directory, "imgs/repeated-signal-regulation-edge-types.png"),
  width=4,
  height=3
)
 50
 40
 30
 20
 10
  0
             ż
                           4
                                          8
                                                         16
```

Edge type: Edge type: Promoting edges

```
for (env in env_complexities) {
  print(paste("Environment", env))
  print(paste0(" Median repressing edges: ", median(filter(melted_network_data, NUM_SIGNAL_RESPONTED)
  print(paste0(" Median promoting edges: ", median(filter(melted_network_data, NUM_SIGNAL_RESPONTED)
  wt <- wilcox.test(
    formula=reg_edges_cnt ~ reg_edge_type,
    data=filter(melted_network_data, NUM_SIGNAL_RESPONSES==env),
    exact=FALSE,
    conf.int=TRUE
  )
  print(wt)
}</pre>
```

Environmental Complexity

```
## [1] "Environment 2"
## [1] " Median repressing edges: 3"
## [1] " Median promoting edges: 2"
##
## Wilcoxon rank sum test with continuity correction
```

```
##
## data: reg_edges_cnt by reg_edge_type
## W = 21990, p-value = 8.308e-05
## alternative hypothesis: true location shift is not equal to 0
## 95 percent confidence interval:
## 6.294052e-06 1.000039e+00
## sample estimates:
## difference in location
                0.9999429
##
##
## [1] "Environment 4"
## [1] " Median repressing edges: 6"
## [1] " Median promoting edges: 3"
##
## Wilcoxon rank sum test with continuity correction
##
## data: reg_edges_cnt by reg_edge_type
## W = 30971, p-value < 2.2e-16
## alternative hypothesis: true location shift is not equal to 0
## 95 percent confidence interval:
## 2.999916 3.999984
## sample estimates:
## difference in location
##
                 3.000027
##
## [1] "Environment 8"
## [1] " Median repressing edges: 9"
## [1] " Median promoting edges: 3"
##
## Wilcoxon rank sum test with continuity correction
##
## data: reg_edges_cnt by reg_edge_type
## W = 34138, p-value < 2.2e-16
## alternative hypothesis: true location shift is not equal to 0
## 95 percent confidence interval:
## 5.000045 6.000012
## sample estimates:
## difference in location
##
                 5.999952
##
## [1] "Environment 16"
## [1] " Median repressing edges: 16"
## [1] " Median promoting edges: 4"
## Wilcoxon rank sum test with continuity correction
##
```

```
## data: reg_edges_cnt by reg_edge_type
## W = 4984, p-value < 2.2e-16
## alternative hypothesis: true location shift is not equal to 0
## 95 percent confidence interval:
## 11.00002 13.00001
## sample estimates:
## difference in location
## 12.00003</pre>
```

4.6.2.2 Knockout experiments

Do successful programs rely on:

- neither up- nor down-regulation?
- either up- or down-regulation interchangeably?
- only on down-regulation?
- only on up-regulation?

```
# Limit the genotypes we're looking at to just solutions from the 'both' and 'regulation' condit'
relies_on_reg_orgs <- filter(
   max_fit_org_data,
   solution=="1" & relies_on_regulation=="1"
)</pre>
```

Note that there are 661 total programs represented in the graphs below.

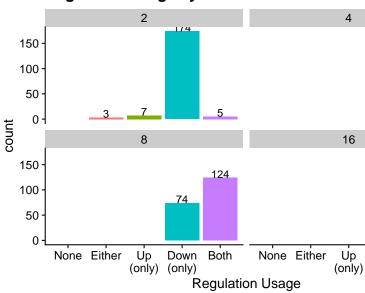
```
# Data processing/clean up
get_reg_relies_on <- function(uses_down, uses_up, uses_reg) {</pre>
            (uses down == "0" && uses up == "0" && uses reg == "0") {
   return("neither")
 } else if (uses_down == "0" && uses_up == "0" && uses_reg == "1") {
   return("either")
  } else if (uses_down == "0" && uses_up == "1") {
   return("up-regulation-only")
  } else if (uses_down == "1" && uses_up == "0") {
   return("down-regulation-only")
  } else if (uses_down == "1" && uses_up == "1") {
   return("up-and-down-regulation")
  } else {
   return("UNKNOWN")
  }
}
relies_on_reg_orgs$regulation_type_usage <- mapply(</pre>
  get_reg_relies_on,
 relies_on_reg_orgs$relies_on_down_reg,
 relies on reg orgs$relies on up reg,
  relies_on_reg_orgs$relies_on_regulation
```

```
relies_on_reg_orgs$regulation_type_usage <- factor(
  relies_on_reg_orgs$regulation_type_usage,
  levels=c(
    "neither",
    "either",
    "up-regulation-only",
    "down-regulation-only",
    "up-and-down-regulation"
)
)</pre>
```

```
ggplot(relies_on_reg_orgs, aes(x=regulation_type_usage, fill=regulation_type_usage)) +
  geom_bar() +
  geom_text(
    stat="count",
    aes(label=..count..),
    position=position_dodge(0.9),
    vjust=0
  ) +
  scale_x_discrete(
    name="Regulation Usage",
    limits=c(
      "neither",
      "either",
      "up-regulation-only",
      "down-regulation-only",
      "up-and-down-regulation"
    ),
    labels=c(
      "None",
      "Either"
      "Up\n(only)",
      "Down\n(only)",
      "Both"
    )
  ) +
  facet_wrap(~NUM_SIGNAL_RESPONSES) +
  theme(legend.position="none") +
  ggtitle("Regulation usage by environment") +
  ggsave(
    pasteO(working_directory, "imgs/rst-reg-usage-by-env.png"),
    width=8,
```

```
height=6
)
```

Regulation usage by environment

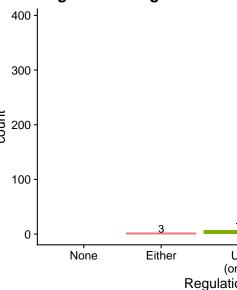


4.6.2.2.1 Regulation usage by environment

```
ggplot(relies_on_reg_orgs, aes(x=regulation_type_usage, fill=regulation_type_usage)) +
 geom_bar() +
  geom_text(
   stat="count",
   aes(label=..count..),
   position=position_dodge(0.9),
   vjust=0
  ) +
  scale_x_discrete(
   name="Regulation Usage",
   limits=c(
      "neither",
      "either",
      "up-regulation-only",
      "down-regulation-only",
      "up-and-down-regulation"
   ),
   labels=c(
      "None",
      "Either",
```

```
"Up\n(only)",
   "Down\n(only)",
   "Both"
)
) +
theme(legend.position="none") +
ggtitle("Regulation usage across all environments") +
ggsave(
   pasteO(working_directory, "imgs/rst-reg-usage-total.png"),
   width=8,
   height=6
)
```

Regulation usage across a



4.6.2.2.2 Regulation usage across all environments

4.6.3 Are evolved programs relying on stochastic strategies?

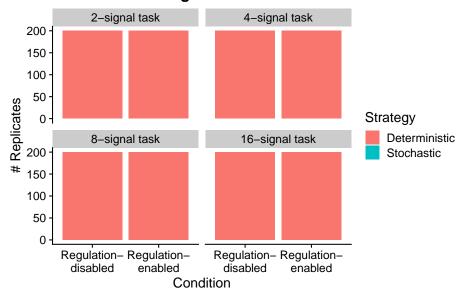
To confirm that evolved programs are not relying on stochastic approaches to solve the repeated signal task, we tested the most fit individual from each replicate at the end of each run three times. If program's behavior was not identical across each of the three trials, we labeled is as using a stochastic strategy.

```
ggplot( max_fit_org_data, aes(x=condition, fill=stochastic)) +
  geom_bar() +
  ggtitle("Stochastic Strategies?") +
```

```
ylab("# Replicates") +
ylim(0, replicates) +
scale_fill_discrete(
   name="Strategy",
   limits=c(0, 1),
   labels=c("Deterministic", "Stochastic")
) +
scale_x_discrete(
   name="Condition",
   breaks=c("memory", "both"),
   labels=c("Regulation-\ndisabled", "Regulation-\nenabled")
) +
facet_wrap(
   ~NUM_SIGNAL_RESPONSES,
   labeller=labeller(NUM_SIGNAL_RESPONSES=label_lu)
)
```

```
## Warning: Continuous limits supplied to discrete scale.
## Did you mean `limits = factor(...)` or `scale_*_continuous()`?
```

Stochastic Strategies?



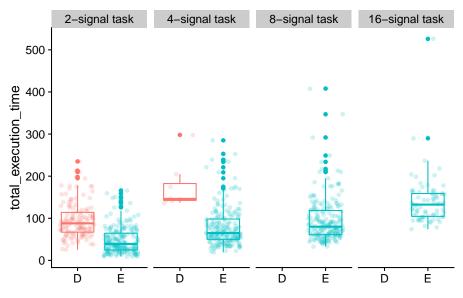
We see no evidence of evolved programs relying on stochastic strategies to solve the repeated signal task: all programs responded consistently across trials. Note, this is unsurprising, as we did not give programs access to instructions capable of generating random values and ensured that the version of SignalGP virtual hardware used in this work operated in a deterministic manner.

4.6.4 Program instruction execution traces

4.6.4.1 Execution time

How many time steps do evolved programs use to solve the repeated-signal task?

```
# only want solutions
solutions_inst_exec_data <- filter(inst_exec_data, SEED %in% sol_data$SEED)</pre>
ggplot( solutions_inst_exec_data, aes(x=condition, y=total_execution_time, color=condi-
 geom_boxplot() +
 geom_jitter(alpha=0.2) +
 scale_color_discrete(
   name="Condition: ",
   breaks=c("memory", "both"),
   labels=c("Regulation-disabled (D)", "Regulation-enabled (E)")
 ) +
  scale_x_discrete(
   breaks=c("memory", "both"),
   labels=c("D", "E")
 ) +
 facet_wrap(
   ~ NUM_SIGNAL_RESPONSES,
   nrow=1,
   labeller=labeller(NUM_SIGNAL_RESPONSES=label_lu)
 ) +
 theme(
   legend.position="bottom",
    axis.title.x=element_blank()
```



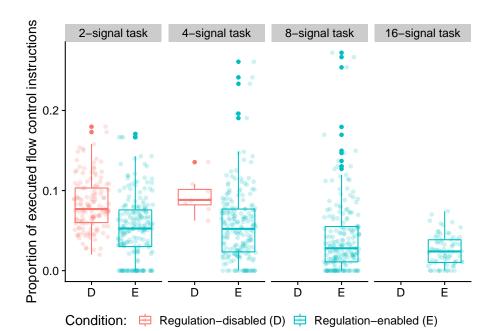
```
Two-signal task:
print(
  wilcox.test(
    formula=total_execution_time~condition,
    data=filter(solutions_inst_exec_data, NUM_SIGNAL_RESPONSES==2),
    exact=FALSE,
    conf.int=TRUE)
)
##
   Wilcoxon rank sum test with continuity correction
##
##
## data: total_execution_time by condition
## W = 23102, p-value < 2.2e-16
## alternative hypothesis: true location shift is not equal to 0
## 95 percent confidence interval:
   38.00000 51.99997
## sample estimates:
## difference in location
##
                 44.99995
Four-signal task:
print(
  wilcox.test(
    formula=total_execution_time~condition,
```

```
data=filter(solutions_inst_exec_data, NUM_SIGNAL_RESPONSES==4),
    exact=FALSE,
    conf.int=TRUE)
)
##
##
   Wilcoxon rank sum test with continuity correction
##
## data: total_execution_time by condition
## W = 1494.5, p-value = 3.214e-05
## alternative hypothesis: true location shift is not equal to 0
## 95 percent confidence interval:
##
    67.99998 112.00000
## sample estimates:
## difference in location
##
                 89.00002
```

4.6.4.2 Distribution of executed instruction types

Here, we look at the distribution of instruction types that programs execute during evaluation. For this work, we are primarily interested in the proportions of control flow instructions executed.

```
ggplot( solutions_inst_exec_data, aes(x=condition, y=control_flow_inst_prop, color=con-
 geom_boxplot() +
 geom_jitter(alpha=0.2) +
 scale_color_discrete(
   name="Condition: ",
   breaks=c("memory", "both"),
   labels=c("Regulation-disabled (D)", "Regulation-enabled (E)")
 ) +
  scale_x_discrete(
   breaks=c("memory", "both"),
   labels=c("D", "E")
  ) +
 ylab("Proportion of executed flow control instructions") +
 facet_wrap(
   ~ NUM_SIGNAL_RESPONSES,
   nrow=1,
   labeller=labeller(NUM_SIGNAL_RESPONSES=label_lu)
 ) +
 theme(
   legend.position="bottom",
   axis.title.x=element_blank()
```

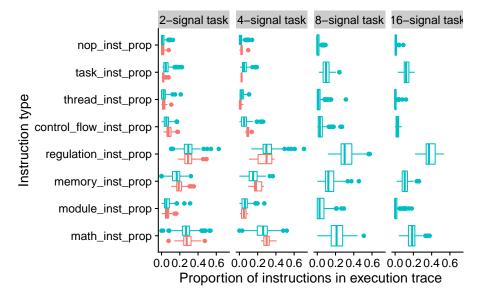


Two-signal task statistical comparison:

```
print(
  wilcox.test(
    formula=control_flow_inst_prop~condition,
    data=filter(solutions_inst_exec_data, NUM_SIGNAL_RESPONSES==2),
    exact=FALSE,
    conf.int=TRUE)
)
##
##
    Wilcoxon rank sum test with continuity correction
##
## data: control_flow_inst_prop by condition
## W = 19580, p-value = 2.118e-11
## alternative hypothesis: true location shift is not equal to 0
## 95 percent confidence interval:
## 0.02022011 0.03692075
## sample estimates:
## difference in location
               0.02817524
Four-signal task statistical comparison:
print(
  wilcox.test(
    formula=control_flow_inst_prop~condition,
```

```
data=filter(solutions_inst_exec_data, NUM_SIGNAL_RESPONSES==4),
    exact=FALSE,
    conf.int=TRUE)
)
##
##
   Wilcoxon rank sum test with continuity correction
##
## data: control_flow_inst_prop by condition
## W = 1292.5, p-value = 0.003185
## alternative hypothesis: true location shift is not equal to 0
## 95 percent confidence interval:
## 0.01577416 0.06398521
## sample estimates:
## difference in location
##
               0.04051067
In case you're curious, here's all categories of instructions:
melted <- melt(</pre>
  solutions_inst_exec_data,
  variable.name = "inst type",
  value.name = "inst_type_prop",
  measure.vars=c(
    "math_inst_prop",
    "module_inst_prop",
    "memory_inst_prop",
    "regulation_inst_prop",
    "control_flow_inst_prop",
    "thread_inst_prop",
    "task_inst_prop",
    "nop_inst_prop"
  )
)
ggplot( melted, aes(x=inst_type, y=inst_type_prop, color=condition) ) +
  geom_boxplot() +
  scale_color_discrete(
    name="Condition: ".
    breaks=c("memory", "both"),
    labels=c("Regulation-disabled (D)", "Regulation-enabled (E)")
  ) +
  xlab("Instruction type") +
  ylab("Proportion of instructions in execution trace") +
  facet_wrap(
    ~NUM_SIGNAL_RESPONSES,
```

```
nrow=1,
  labeller=labeller(NUM_SIGNAL_RESPONSES=label_lu)
) +
coord_flip() +
theme(
  legend.position="bottom"
)
```



Condition:
Regulation-disabled (D) Regulation-enable

4.7 Case study: visualizing regulation in an evolved program

Let's take a closer look at the behavioral/regulatory profile of a representative program that solves the four-signal version of the repeated signal task.

```
trace_id <- 20203
```

Specifically, we'll be looking at the solution evolved in run id 2.0203×10^4 .

4.7.1 Data wrangling

```
case_study_info <- read.csv(
  paste0(working_directory, "data/max_fit_orgs_noprogram.csv"),
  na.strings="NONE"
)</pre>
```

```
case_study_info <- filter(</pre>
  case_study_info,
 SEED == trace_id
)
# Extract relevant information about solution of interest.
num_envs <- case_study_info$NUM_SIGNAL_RESPONSES</pre>
score <- case_study_info$score</pre>
is_sol <- case_study_info$solution</pre>
num_modules <- case_study_info$num_modules</pre>
# Load trace file associated with this solution.
trace_file <- paste0(working_directory, "data/reg-traces/trace-reg_update-10000_run-id
trace_data <- read.csv(trace_file, na.strings="NONE")</pre>
trace_data$similarity_score <- 1 - trace_data$match_score</pre>
# Data cleanup/summarizing
trace_data$triggered <- (trace_data$env_signal_closest_match == trace_data$module_id)
trace_data$is_running <- trace_data$is_running > 0 | trace_data$triggered | trace_data$
# Extract which modules responded and when
response_time_steps <- levels(factor(filter(trace_data, is_cur_responding_function=="1
responses_by_env_update <- list()
for (t in response_time_steps) {
  env_update <- levels(factor(filter(trace_data, time_step==t)$env_cycle))</pre>
  if (env_update %in% names(responses_by_env_update)) {
    if (as.integer(t) > as.integer(responses_by_env_update[env_update])) {
      responses_by_env_update[env_update] = t
    }
 } else {
    responses_by_env_update[env_update] = t
 }
# Build a list of modules that were triggered {\mathfrak C} those that responded to a signal
triggered_ids <- levels(factor(filter(trace_data, triggered==TRUE)$module_id))</pre>
response_ids <- levels(factor(filter(trace_data, is_cur_responding_function=="1")$modu
trace_data$is_ever_active <-</pre>
  trace_data$is_ever_active=="1" |
 trace_data$is_running |
 trace_data$module_id %in% triggered_ids |
 trace_data$module_id %in% response_ids
trace_data$is_cur_responding_function <-</pre>
```

```
trace_data$is_cur_responding_function=="1" &
  trace_data$time_step %in% responses_by_env_update
# function to categorize each regulatory state as promoted, neutral, or repressed
# remember, the regulatory states in our data file operate with tag DISTANCE in mind
# as opposed to tag similarity, so: promotion => reg < 0, repression => reg > 0
categorize_reg_state <- function(reg_state) {</pre>
 if (reg_state == 0) {
   return("neutral")
 } else if (reg_state < 0) {</pre>
   return("promoted")
  } else if (reg state > 0) {
    return("repressed")
  } else {
    return("unknown")
  }
}
trace_data$regulator_state_simplified <- mapply(</pre>
  categorize_reg_state,
  trace_data$regulator_state
)
# Omit all in-active rows
# Extract only rows that correspond with modules that were active during evaluation.
active_data <- filter(trace_data, is_ever_active==TRUE)</pre>
# Do some work to have module ids appear in a nice order along axis.
active_module_ids <- levels(factor(active_data$module_id))</pre>
active module ids <- as.integer(active module ids)
module_id_map <- as.data.frame(active_module_ids)</pre>
module_id_map$order <- order(module_id_map$active_module_ids) - 1</pre>
get_module_x_pos <- function(module_id) {</pre>
 return(filter(module_id_map, active_module_ids==module_id)$order)
active_data$mod_id_x_pos <- mapply(get_module_x_pos, active_data$module_id)
```

4.7.2 Function regulation over time

First, let's omit all non-active funcitons.

Vertical orientation:

```
out_name <- paste0(
  working_directory,</pre>
```

```
"imgs/case-study-trace-id-",
  trace_id,
   "-regulator-state-vertical.pdf"
)
ggplot(
    active_data,
    aes(x=mod_id_x_pos, y=time_step, fill=regulator_state_simplified)
  scale_fill_viridis(
   name="Regulation:",
   limits=c(
      "promoted",
      "neutral",
      "repressed"
    ),
    labels=c(
      "+".
      "\u00F8",
      0 \pm 0
    ),
   discrete=TRUE,
   direction=-1
  scale_x_discrete(
   name="Function ID",
   limits=seq(0, length(active_module_ids)-1, 1),
   labels=active_module_ids
  ) +
  scale_y_discrete(
   name="Time Step",
   limits=seq(0, 30, 5)
  # Background tile color
  geom_tile(
    color="white",
    size=0.2,
   width=1,
   height=1,
   alpha=0.75
  # Highlight actively running functions
  geom_tile(
   data=filter(active_data, is_running==TRUE | triggered==TRUE),
    color="black",
```

```
size=0.8,
  width=1,
 height=1
) +
# Environment delimiters
geom_hline(
  vintercept=filter(active data, cpu step==0)$time step - 0.5,
  size=1.25,
 color="black"
) +
# Draw points on triggered modules
geom_point(
  data=filter(active_data, triggered==TRUE),
  shape=8,
  colour="black",
 fill="white",
  stroke=0.5,
  size=1.5.
  position=position_nudge(x = 0, y = 0.01)
) +
geom_point(
  data=filter(active_data, is_cur_responding_function==TRUE),
  shape=21,
  colour="black",
  fill="white",
  stroke=0.5,
  size=1.5,
  position=position_nudge(x = 0, y = 0.01)
) +
theme(
  legend.position = "top",
  legend.text = element_text(size=9),
  legend.title=element_text(size=8),
  axis.text.y = element_text(size=8),
  axis.title.y = element_text(size=8),
  axis.text.x = element_text(size=8),
  axis.title.x = element_text(size=8),
  plot.title = element_text(hjust = 0.5)
) +
ggsave(
  out name,
  height=3.5,
  width=2.25
)
```

Function ID

Horizontal orientation:

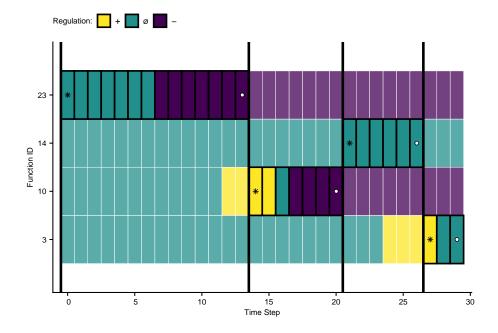
5

```
out_name <- paste0(working_directory, "imgs/case-study-trace-id-",trace_id,"-regulator
ggplot(active_data, aes(x=mod_id_x_pos, y=time_step, fill=regulator_state_simplified))
  scale_fill_viridis(
    name="Regulation:",
    limits=c(
      "promoted",
      "neutral",
      "repressed"
    ),
    labels=c(
      "+",
      "\u00F8",
      0 \perp 0
    ),
    discrete=TRUE,
    direction=-1
```

```
scale_x_discrete(
 name="Function ID",
 limits=seq(0, length(active_module_ids)-1, 1),
 labels=active_module_ids
) +
scale_y_discrete(
 name="Time Step",
 limits=seq(0, 30, 5)
# Background tile color
geom_tile(
 color="white",
 size=0.2,
 width=1,
 height=1,
 alpha=0.75
) +
# Highlight actively running functions
geom_tile(
 data=filter(active_data, is_running==TRUE | triggered==TRUE),
 color="black",
 size=0.8,
 width=1,
 height=1
) +
# Environment delimiters
geom_hline(
 yintercept=filter(active_data, cpu_step==0)$time_step - 0.5,
 size=1.25,
 color="black"
) +
# Draw points on triggered modules
geom_point(
 data=filter(active_data, triggered==TRUE),
 shape=8,
 colour="black",
 fill="white",
 stroke=0.5,
 size=1.5,
 position=position_nudge(x = 0, y = 0.01)
geom_point(
 data=filter(active_data, is_cur_responding_function==TRUE),
  shape=21,
 colour="black",
```

```
fill="white",
  stroke=0.5,
  size=1.5,
 position=position_nudge(x = 0, y = 0.01)
) +
theme(
  legend.position = "top",
  legend.text = element_text(size=9),
  legend.title=element_text(size=8),
  axis.text.y = element_text(size=8),
  axis.title.y = element_text(size=8),
  axis.text.x = element_text(size=8),
 axis.title.x = element_text(size=8),
 plot.title = element_text(hjust = 0.5)
) +
coord_flip() +
ggsave(out_name, height=2.25, width=4)
```

```
## Warning: Continuous limits supplied to discrete scale.
## Did you mean `limits = factor(...)` or `scale_*_continuous()`?
## Warning: Continuous limits supplied to discrete scale.
## Did you mean `limits = factor(...)` or `scale_*_continuous()`?
```



4.7.3 Environmental signal tag-match score over time

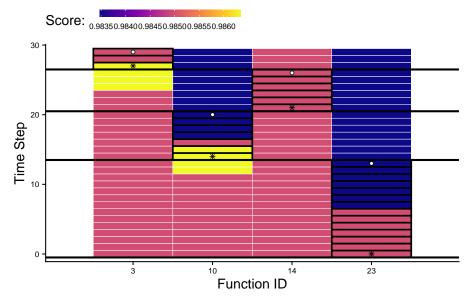
Again, we'll omit unexecuted functions.

```
out_name <- paste0(working_directory, "imgs/case-study-trace-id-", trace_id, "-similarity-score.p
ggplot(active_data, aes(x=mod_id_x_pos, y=time_step, fill=similarity_score)) +
  scale_fill_viridis(
   option="plasma",
   name="Score: "
  ) +
  scale_x_discrete(
   name="Function ID",
   limits=seq(0, length(active module ids)-1, 1),
   labels=active_module_ids
  ) +
  scale_y_discrete(
   name="Time Step",
   limits=seq(0, 30, 10)
  # Background
  geom_tile(
   color="white",
   size=0.2,
   width=1,
   height=1
  ) +
  # Module is-running highlights
  geom_tile(
   data=filter(active_data, is_running==TRUE | triggered==TRUE),
   color="black",
   width=1,
   height=1,
   size=0.8
  ) +
  # Environment delimiters
  geom_hline(
   yintercept=filter(active_data, cpu_step==0)$time_step-0.5,
  ) +
  # Draw points on triggered modules
  geom_point(
   data=filter(active_data, triggered==TRUE),
   shape=8,
   colour="black",
   fill="white",
```

```
stroke=0.5,
 size=1.5,
 position=position_nudge(x = 0, y = 0.01)
geom_point(
 data=filter(active_data, is_cur_responding_function==TRUE),
  shape=21,
 colour="black",
 fill="white",
 stroke=0.5,
 size=1.5,
 position=position_nudge(x = 0, y = 0.01)
) +
theme(
  legend.position = "top",
 legend.text = element_text(size=8),
 axis.text.y = element_text(size=8),
 axis.text.x = element_text(size=8)
guides(fill = guide_colourbar(barwidth = 10, barheight = 0.5)) +
ggtitle("Function Match Scores") +
ggsave(out_name, height=3, width=4)
```

```
## Warning: Continuous limits supplied to discrete scale.
## Did you mean `limits = factor(...)` or `scale_*_continuous()`?
## Warning: Continuous limits supplied to discrete scale.
## Did you mean `limits = factor(...)` or `scale_*_continuous()`?
```

Function Match Scores



4.7.4 Evolved regulatory network

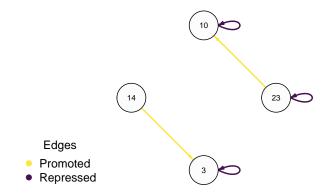
We use the igraph package to draw this program's gene regulatory network.

```
# Networks!
graph_nodes_loc <- pasteO(working_directory, "data/igraphs/reg_graph_id-", trace_id, "_nodes.csv")</pre>
graph_edges_loc <- paste0(working_directory, "data/igraphs/reg_graph_id-", trace_id, "_edges.csv")</pre>
graph_nodes_data <- read.csv(graph_nodes_loc, na.strings="NONE")</pre>
## Warning in read.table(file = file, header = header, sep = sep, quote = quote, :
## incomplete final line found by readTableHeader on 'experiments/2020-11-25-rep-
## sig/analysis/data/igraphs/reg_graph_id-20203_nodes.csv'
graph_edges_data <- read.csv(graph_edges_loc, na.strings="NONE")</pre>
network <- graph_from_data_frame(</pre>
  d=graph_edges_data,
  vertices=graph_nodes_data,
  directed=TRUE
# Setup edge styling
E(network)$color[E(network)$type == "promote"] <- "#FCE640"</pre>
E(network)$lty[E(network)$type == "promote"] <- 1</pre>
E(network)$color[E(network)$type == "repress"] <- "#441152"</pre>
E(network)$lty[E(network)$type == "repress"] <- 1</pre>
```

```
network_out_name <- paste0(working_directory, "imgs/case-study-id-", trace_id, "-network_out_name <- paste0(working_directory, "imgs/case-study-id-")</pre>
draw_network <- function(net, write_out, out_name) {</pre>
   if (write_out) {
      svg(out_name, width=4,height=1.5)
      # bottom, left, top, right
      par(mar=c(0.2,0,1,0.5))
   }
   plot(
      net,
      edge.arrow.size=0.4,
      edge.arrow.width=0.75,
      edge.width=2,
      vertex.size=40,
      vertex.label.cex=0.65,
      curved=TRUE,
      vertex.color="grey99",
      vertex.label.color="black",
      vertex.label.family="sans",
      layout=layout.circle(net)
   )
   legend(
      x = "bottomleft",
                                         ## position, also takes x,y coordinates
      legend = c("Promoted", "Repressed"),
      pch = 19,
                                            ## legend symbols see ?points
      col = c("#FCE640", "#441152"),
      bty = "n",
      border="black",
      xpd=TRUE,
      title = "Edges"
   )
   if (write_out) {
      dev.flush()
      dev.off()
   }
}
draw_network(network, TRUE, network_out_name)
```

```
## pdf
## 2
draw_network(network, FALSE, "")
```

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Chapter 5

Contextual-signal problem analysis

Here, we give an overview of the contextual-signal diagnostic problem, and we provide our data analyses for related experiments. All of our source code for statistical analyses and data visualizations is embedded in this document. The raw data can be found on the OSF project associated with this work (link coming).

Please file an issue or make a pull request on github to report any mistakes, ask questions, request more explanation, et cetera.

5.1 Overview

```
# Experimental parameters referenced in-text all in one convenient
time_steps <- 128
replicates <- 200
population_size <- 1000
generations <- 10000

# Settings for statistical analyses.
alpha <- 0.05

# Relative location of data.
working_directory <- "experiments/2020-11-27-context-sig/analysis/" # << For bookdown
# working_directory <- "./" # << For local analysis</pre>
```

In the contextual-signal problem, programs must respond appropriately to a sequence of two input signals where the first, "contextual", signal dictates how a program should respond to each possible second, "response", signal. In this

work, there are a total of four possible input signals and four possible output responses. Programs output these responses by executing one of four response instructions.

The dataframe below gives the correct output for each combination of input

```
testcases <- read.csv(paste0(working_directory, "../hpcc/examples_S4.csv"))
print(testcases)
##
            input output type
## 1 OP:S0;OP:S0
                       0 S0;S0
## 2 OP:S0;OP:S1
                       1 S0;S1
## 3 OP:S0;OP:S2
                       2 S0;S2
                       3 S0;S3
## 4 OP:S0;OP:S3
## 5 OP:S1;OP:S0
                       1 S1;S0
## 6 OP:S1;OP:S1
                       2 S1;S1
                  0 L
2 S2;SL
3 S2;S1
0 S2;S2
## 7 OP:S1;OP:S2
                     3 S1;S2
## 8 OP:S1;OP:S3
## 9 OP:S2;OP:S0
## 10 OP:S2;OP:S1
## 11 OP:S2;OP:S2
## 12 OP:S2;OP:S3
                   3 S3;S0
0 S3;S1
1 S3;S2
## 13 OP:S3;OP:S0
```

5.2 **Analysis Dependencies**

1 S3;S2

2 S3;S3

Load all required R libraries.

14 OP:S3;OP:S1 ## 15 OP:S3;OP:S2

16 OP:S3;OP:S3

```
library(ggplot2)
library(tidyverse)
library(cowplot)
library(viridis)
library(reshape2)
library(igraph)
source("https://gist.githubusercontent.com/benmarwick/2a1bb0133ff568cbe28d/raw/fb53bd9
```

These analyses were conducted in the following computing environment:

```
print(version)
## platform
                  x86_64-pc-linux-gnu
                  x86 64
## arch
## os
                  linux-gnu
```

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```
## system
                  x86_64, linux-gnu
## status
                  4
## major
## minor
                  0.2
                  2020
## year
## month
                  06
## day
                  22
                  78730
## svn rev
## language
                  R
## version.string R version 4.0.2 (2020-06-22)
## nickname
                  Taking Off Again
```

5.3 Setup

Load data, initial data cleanup, configure some global settings.

```
###### Load max fit program data ######
data_loc <- pasteO(working_directory, "data/max_fit_orgs.csv")</pre>
data <- read.csv(data_loc, na.strings="NONE")</pre>
# Specify factors (not all of these matter for this set of runs).
data$matchbin_thresh <- factor(</pre>
  data$matchbin_thresh,
  levels=c(0, 25, 50, 75)
)
data$TAG LEN <- factor(</pre>
  data$TAG_LEN,
  levels=c(32, 64, 128, 256)
data$task <- factor(</pre>
  data$task,
  levels=c("S2", "S3", "S4")
# Filter down to only data we use in paper.
data <- filter(data, task=="S4")</pre>
# Define function to summarize regulation/memory configurations.
get_con <- function(reg, mem) {</pre>
  if (reg == "0" && mem == "0") {
    return("none")
  } else if (reg == "0" && mem=="1") {
    return("memory")
```

```
} else if (reg=="1" && mem=="0") {
    return("regulation")
  } else if (reg=="1" && mem=="1") {
    return("both")
  } else {
    return("UNKNOWN")
}
# Specify experimental condition for each datum.
data$condition <- mapply(</pre>
  get_con,
  data$USE FUNC REGULATION,
  data$USE_GLOBAL_MEMORY
data$condition <- factor(</pre>
  data$condition,
  levels=c("regulation", "memory", "none", "both")
# Given knockout info, what strategy does a program use?
get_strategy <- function(use_reg, use_mem) {</pre>
  if (use_reg=="0" && use_mem=="0") {
   return("use neither")
  } else if (use_reg=="0" && use_mem=="1") {
    return("use memory")
  } else if (use_reg=="1" && use_mem=="0") {
    return("use regulation")
  } else if (use_reg=="1" && use_mem=="1") {
    return("use both")
  } else {
    return("UNKNOWN")
}
# Specify experimental conditions (to make labeling easier).
data$strategy <- mapply(</pre>
  get_strategy,
  data$relies_on_regulation,
  data$relies_on_global_memory
data$strategy <- factor(</pre>
  data$strategy,
  levels=c(
```

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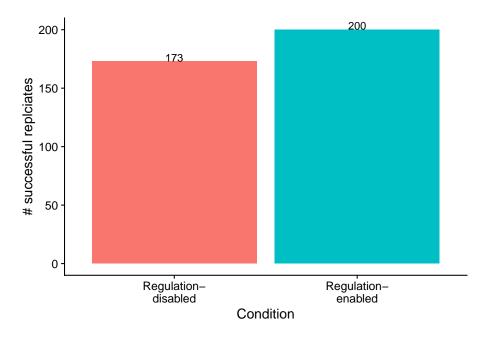
```
"use regulation",
    "use memory",
    "use neither",
    "use both"
  )
)
# Filter data to include only replicates labeled as solutions
sol_data <- filter(data, solution=="1")</pre>
###### Load instruction execution data ######
inst_exec_data <- read.csv(paste0(working_directory, "data/exec_trace_summary.csv"), na.strings='
inst_exec_data$condition <- mapply(</pre>
  get_con,
 inst_exec_data$USE_FUNC_REGULATION,
  inst_exec_data$USE_GLOBAL_MEMORY
inst_exec_data$condition <- factor(</pre>
  inst_exec_data$condition,
  levels=c("regulation", "memory", "none", "both")
inst_exec_data$task <- factor(</pre>
  inst_exec_data$task,
  levels=c("S2", "S3", "S4")
###### Load network data ######
reg_network_data <- read.csv(paste0(working_directory, "data/reg_graphs_summary.csv"), na.strings
reg_network_data <- filter(reg_network_data, run_id %in% data$SEED)</pre>
get_task <- function(seed) {</pre>
  return(filter(data, SEED==seed)$task)
reg_network_data$task <- mapply(</pre>
 get_task,
 reg_network_data$run_id
reg_network_data$task <- factor(reg_network_data$task)</pre>
###### misc ######
```

```
# Configure our default graphing theme
theme_set(theme_cowplot())
```

5.4 Problem-solving success

The number of successful replicates by condition:

```
# Graph the number of solutions evolved in each condition, faceted by environmental co.
ggplot(filter(sol_data, task=="S4"), aes(x=condition, fill=condition)) +
 geom_bar() +
 geom_text(
   stat="count",
   mapping=aes(label=..count..),
   position=position_dodge(0.9),
   vjust=0
 ) +
  scale_x_discrete(
    name="Condition",
   breaks=c("memory","both"),
   labels=c("Regulation-\ndisabled", "Regulation-\nenabled")
  ylab("# successful replciates") +
 theme(legend.position = "none") +
  ggsave(
   pasteO(working_directory, "imgs/context-signal-solution-counts.pdf"),
   width=4,
   height=4
```



Test for significance using Fisher's exact test.

```
# Extract successes/fails for each condition.
reg_disabled_success_cnt <- nrow(filter(sol_data, task=="S4" & solution=="1" & condition=="memory
reg_disabled_fail_cnt <- replicates - reg_disabled_success_cnt</pre>
reg_enabled_success_cnt <- nrow(filter(sol_data, task=="S4" & solution=="1" & condition=="both")
reg_enabled_fail_cnt <- replicates - reg_enabled_success_cnt</pre>
# Regulation-disabled vs regulation-enabled
perf_table <- matrix(</pre>
  c(
    reg_enabled_success_cnt,
    reg_disabled_success_cnt,
    reg_enabled_fail_cnt,
    reg_disabled_fail_cnt
    ),
    nrow=2
)
rownames(perf_table) <- c("reg-enabled", "reg-disabled")</pre>
colnames(perf_table) <- c("success", "fail")</pre>
print(perf_table)
```

##

success fail

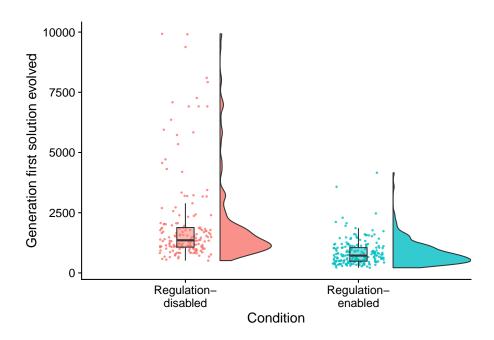
```
## reg-enabled
                    200
                           0
## reg-disabled
                    173
                          27
print(fisher.test(perf_table))
## Fisher's Exact Test for Count Data
## data: perf_table
## p-value = 5.818e-09
\#\# alternative hypothesis: true odds ratio is not equal to 1
## 95 percent confidence interval:
## 7.714282
                  Inf
## sample estimates:
## odds ratio
##
          Inf
```

5.5 How many generations elapse before solutions evolve?

```
ggplot( data = filter(sol_data, task=="S4"), aes(x=condition, y=update, fill=condition
 geom_flat_violin(
   position=position_nudge(x = .2, y = 0),
    alpha=.8
 ) +
  geom_point(
    aes(y=update, color=condition),
   position = position_jitter(width = .15),
   size = .5,
    alpha = 0.8
  geom_boxplot(
   width = .1,
   outlier.shape = NA,
   alpha = 0.5
 ) +
 scale_x_discrete(
   name="Condition",
   breaks=c("memory", "both"),
   labels=c("Regulation-\ndisabled", "Regulation-\nenabled")
 ) +
  scale_y_continuous(name="Generation first solution evolved") +
  guides(fill = FALSE) +
 guides(color = FALSE) +
 ggsave(
```

5.5. HOW MANY GENERATIONS ELAPSE BEFORE SOLUTIONS EVOLVE?79

```
paste0(working_directory, "imgs/context-signal-solve-time-cloud.png"),
  width=4,
  height=4
)
```



Test for statistical difference between conditions using a Wilcoxon rank sum test.

print(wilcox.test(formula=update~condition, data=filter(sol_data, task=="S4"), exact=FALSE, conf.

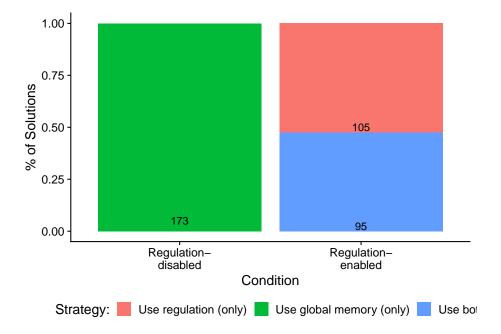
```
##
## Wilcoxon rank sum test with continuity correction
##
## data: update by condition
## W = 28950, p-value < 2.2e-16
## alternative hypothesis: true location shift is not equal to 0
## 95 percent confidence interval:
## 557.9999 764.0000
## sample estimates:
## difference in location
## 657</pre>
```

5.6 Evolved strategies

5.6.1 What mechanisms do programs rely on to adjust responses to signals over time?

We used indpendent knockouts of tag-based genetic regulation and global memory buffer access to investigate the mechanisms underpinning successful programs.

```
ggplot( filter(sol_data, task=="S4"), mapping=aes(x=condition, fill=strategy) ) +
 geom_bar(
   position="fill",
    stat="count"
 ) +
  geom_text(
   stat='count',
   mapping=aes(label=..count..),
   position=position_fill(vjust=0.05)
 ylab("% of Solutions") +
  scale_fill_discrete(
   name="Strategy:",
    breaks=c(
      "use regulation",
      "use memory",
      "use neither",
      "use both"
   ),
   labels=c(
      "Use regulation (only)",
      "Use global memory (only)",
      "Use neither",
      "Use both"
    )
  scale_x_discrete(
   name="Condition",
   breaks=c("memory", "both"),
   labels=c("Regulation-\ndisabled", "Regulation-\nenabled")
  ) +
 theme(legend.position = "bottom")
```

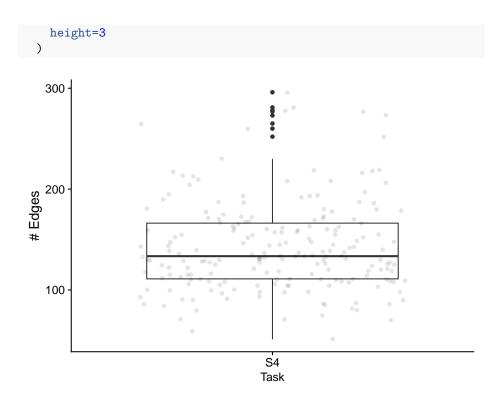


5.6.2 Gene regulatory networks

Looking only at successful programs that rely on regulation. At a glance, what do gene regulatory networks look like?

First, the total edges found in networks:

```
relies_on_reg <- filter(</pre>
  sol_data,
 relies_on_regulation=="1"
) $SEED
ggplot(filter(reg_network_data, run_id %in% relies_on_reg & task=="S4"), aes(x=task, y=edge_cnt)
  geom_boxplot() +
  geom_jitter(alpha=0.1) +
  xlab("Task") +
  ylab("# Edges") +
  theme(
    legend.position="bottom",
    legend.text=element_text(size=9),
    legend.title=element_text(size=10),
    axis.title.x=element_text(size=12)
  ) +
  ggsave(
    paste0(working_directory, "imgs/contextual-signal-regulation-edges.png"),
    width=4,
```

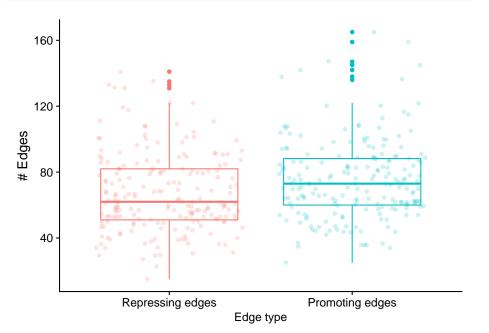


Next, let's look at edges by type.

```
# Process/cleanup the network data
melted_network_data <- melt(</pre>
  filter(reg_network_data,
         run_id %in% relies_on_reg
        ),
  variable.name = "reg_edge_type",
  value.name = "reg_edges_cnt",
  measure.vars=c("repressed_edges_cnt", "promoted_edges_cnt")
ggplot(filter(melted_network_data, task=="S4"), aes(x=reg_edge_type, y=reg_edges_cnt,
  geom_boxplot() +
  geom_jitter(alpha=0.2) +
  xlab("Environmental Complexity") +
  ylab("# Edges") +
  scale_x_discrete(
    name="Edge type",
    limits=c("repressed_edges_cnt", "promoted_edges_cnt"),
    labels=c("Repressing edges", "Promoting edges")
```

paste0(

```
theme(
  legend.position="none",
  legend.text=element_text(size=9),
  legend.title=element_text(size=10),
  axis.title.x=element_text(size=12)
) +
  ggsave(
  paste0(working_directory, "imgs/context-signal-regulation-edge-types.png"),
  width=4,
  height=3
)
```



Test for a statistical difference between edge types using a wilcoxon rank sum test:

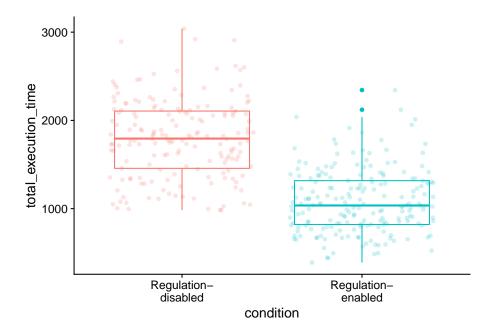
```
print(
   paste0(
     "Median # repressed edges: ",
     median(filter(melted_network_data, task=="S4" & reg_edge_type=="repressed_edges_cnt")$reg_edge
   )
)
## [1] "Median # repressed edges: 62"
print(
```

```
"Median # promoting edges: ",
    median(filter(melted_network_data, task=="S4" & reg_edge_type=="promoted_edges_cnt
  )
)
## [1] "Median # promoting edges: 73"
print(wilcox.test(formula=reg_edges_cnt ~ reg_edge_type, data=filter(melted_network_da
##
##
   Wilcoxon rank sum test with continuity correction
##
## data: reg_edges_cnt by reg_edge_type
## W = 15690, p-value = 0.0001927
## alternative hypothesis: true location shift is not equal to 0
## 95 percent confidence interval:
## -13.000026 -4.000018
## sample estimates:
## difference in location
##
                -8.000026
```

5.6.3 Program instruction execution traces

5.6.3.1 Execution time

How many time steps do evolved programs use to solve the contextual-signal task?



Test for significant difference between conditions using Wilcoxon rank sum test:

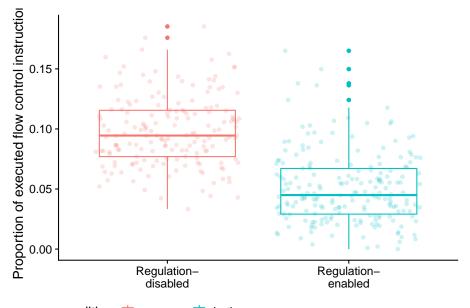
```
print(
  wilcox.test(
    formula=total_execution_time~condition,
    data=filter(solutions_inst_exec_data),
    exact=FALSE,
    conf.int=TRUE)
)
##
##
   Wilcoxon rank sum test with continuity correction
##
## data: total_execution_time by condition
## W = 30794, p-value < 2.2e-16
## alternative hypothesis: true location shift is not equal to 0
## 95 percent confidence interval:
   634.0001 810.0000
## sample estimates:
## difference in location
##
                 722.8488
```

5.6.3.2 What types of instructions to successful programs execute?

Here, we look at the distribution of instruction types executed by successful programs. We're primarily interested in the proportion of control flow instructions,

so let's look at that first.

```
ggplot( solutions_inst_exec_data, aes(x=condition, y=control_flow_inst_prop, color=condition)
geom_boxplot() +
geom_jitter(alpha=0.2) +
scale_x_discrete(
    breaks=c("memory", "both"),
    labels=c("Regulation-\ndisabled", "Regulation-\nenabled")
) +
ylab("Proportion of executed flow control instructions") +
theme(
    legend.position="bottom",
    axis.title.x=element_blank()
)
```



condition 🖨 memory 🖨 both

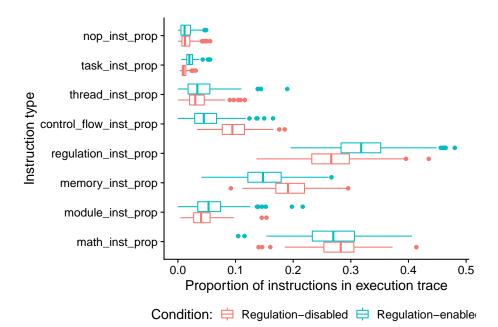
Test for significant difference between conditions using a Wilcoxon rank sum test:

```
print(
  wilcox.test(
    formula=control_flow_inst_prop~condition,
    data=filter(solutions_inst_exec_data),
    exact=FALSE,
    conf.int=TRUE)
)
```

```
## Wilcoxon rank sum test with continuity correction
##
## data: control_flow_inst_prop by condition
## W = 30479, p-value < 2.2e-16
## alternative hypothesis: true location shift is not equal to 0
## 95 percent confidence interval:
## 0.04280319 0.05431491
## sample estimates:
## difference in location
## 0.04838185</pre>
```

In case you're curious, here's all categories of instructions:

```
melted <- melt(</pre>
  solutions_inst_exec_data,
 variable.name = "inst_type",
 value.name = "inst_type_prop",
  measure.vars=c(
    "math_inst_prop",
    "module inst prop",
    "memory_inst_prop",
    "regulation_inst_prop",
    "control_flow_inst_prop",
    "thread_inst_prop",
    "task_inst_prop",
    "nop_inst_prop"
 )
)
ggplot( melted, aes(x=inst_type, y=inst_type_prop, color=condition) ) +
  geom_boxplot() +
  scale_color_discrete(
    name="Condition:",
    breaks=c("memory", "both"),
    labels=c("Regulation-disabled", "Regulation-enabled")
  ) +
  xlab("Instruction type") +
  ylab("Proportion of instructions in execution trace") +
  coord flip() +
  theme(legend.position="bottom")
```



5.7 Visualizing an evolved gene regulatory network

Let's take a closer look at a successful gene regulatory network.

```
trace_id <- 23997
```

Specifically, we'll be looking at the solution evolved in run id 2.3997×10^4 (arbitrarily selected).

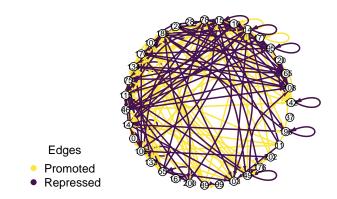
5.7.1 Evolved regulatory network

We use the igraph package to draw this program's gene regulatory network.

```
# Networks!
graph_nodes_loc <- paste0(working_directory, "data/igraphs/reg_graph_id-", trace_id, "
graph_edges_loc <- paste0(working_directory, "data/igraphs/reg_graph_id-", trace_id, "
graph_nodes_data <- read.csv(graph_nodes_loc, na.strings="NONE")
graph_edges_data <- read.csv(graph_edges_loc, na.strings="NONE")
network <- graph_from_data_frame(
    d=graph_edges_data,
    vertices=graph_nodes_data,
    directed=TRUE
)</pre>
```

```
# Setup edge styling
E(network)$color[E(network)$type == "promote"] <- "#FCE640"</pre>
E(network)$lty[E(network)$type == "promote"] <- 1</pre>
E(network)$color[E(network)$type == "repress"] <- "#441152"</pre>
E(network)$lty[E(network)$type == "repress"] <- 1</pre>
network_out_name <- paste0(working_directory, "imgs/case-study-id-", trace_id, "-network.svg")</pre>
draw_network <- function(net, write_out, out_name) {</pre>
  if (write_out) {
    svg(out_name, width=4,height=1.5)
    # bottom, left, top, right
    par(mar=c(0.2,0,1,0.5))
  }
 plot(
    net,
    edge.arrow.size=0.4,
    edge.arrow.width=0.75,
    edge.width=2,
    vertex.size=10,
    vertex.label.cex=0.65,
    curved=TRUE,
    vertex.color="grey99",
    vertex.label.color="black",
    vertex.label.family="sans",
    layout=layout.circle(net)
  )
  legend(
    x = "bottomleft",
                            ## position, also takes x,y coordinates
    legend = c("Promoted", "Repressed"),
    pch = 19,
                            ## legend symbols see ?points
    col = c("#FCE640", "#441152"),
    bty = "n",
    border="black",
    xpd=TRUE,
    title = "Edges"
  if (write_out) {
    dev.flush()
    dev.off()
}
draw_network(network, TRUE, network_out_name)
```

```
## pdf
## 2
draw_network(network, FALSE, "")
```



Chapter 6

Boolean calculator problem (prefix notation)

Here, we give an overview of the boolean logic calculator problem, and we provide our data analyses for related experiments. All of our source code for statistical analyses and data visualizations is embedded in this document. The raw data can be found on the OSF project associated with this work (link coming).

Please file an issue or make a pull request on github to report any mistakes, ask questions, request more explanation, et cetera.

6.1 Overview

```
# Experimental parameters referenced in-text all in one convenient
time_steps <- 128
replicates <- 200
population_size <- 1000
generations <- 10000

# Settings for statistical analyses.
alpha <- 0.05

# Relative location of data.
working_directory <- "experiments/2020-11-28-bool-calc-prefix/analysis/" # << For bookdown
# working_directory <- "./" # << For local analysis</pre>
```

The Boolean logic calculator problem requires programs to implement a calculator capable of performing each of the following 10 bitwise logic operations: ECHO, NOT, NAND, AND, OR-NOT, OR, AND-NOT, NOR, XOR, and EQUALS. In

this problem, there are 11 distinct types of input signals: one for each of the 10 possible operators and one for numeric inputs. Each distinct signal type is associated with a unique tag and is meant to represent different types of buttons that could be pressed on a physical calculator. Programs receive a sequence of input signals in *prefix notation*, receiving an operator signal followed by the appropriate number of numeric input signals (that each contain an operand to use in the computation). After receiving the requisite input signals, programs must output the correct result of the requested computation.

6.2 Analysis Dependencies

Load all required R libraries.

```
library(ggplot2)
library(tidyverse)
library(cowplot)
library(viridis)
library(reshape2)
library(igraph)
source("https://gist.githubusercontent.com/benmarwick/2a1bb0133ff568cbe28d/raw/fb53bd9
```

These analyses were conducted in the following computing environment:

```
print(version)
```

```
##
                  x86 64-pc-linux-gnu
## platform
## arch
                  x86_64
## os
                  linux-gnu
## system
                  x86_64, linux-gnu
## status
## major
## minor
                  0.2
                  2020
## year
                  06
## month
                  22
## day
                  78730
## svn rev
## language
                  R
## version.string R version 4.0.2 (2020-06-22)
## nickname
                  Taking Off Again
```

6.3 Setup

Load data, initial data cleanup, configure some global settings.

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```
data_loc <- paste0(working_directory, "data/max_fit_orgs.csv")</pre>
data <- read.csv(data_loc, na.strings="NONE")</pre>
# Specify factors (not all of these matter for this set of runs).
data$matchbin_thresh <- factor(</pre>
  data$matchbin_thresh,
 levels=c(0, 25, 50, 75)
data$TAG_LEN <- factor(</pre>
 data$TAG_LEN,
 levels=c(32, 64, 128, 256)
)
data$notation <- factor(</pre>
 data$notation,
 levels=c("prefix", "postfix")
# Define function to summarize regulation/memory configurations.
get_con <- function(reg, mem) {</pre>
 if (reg == "0" && mem == "0") {
   return("none")
 } else if (reg == "0" && mem=="1") {
    return("memory")
  } else if (reg=="1" && mem=="0") {
   return("regulation")
 } else if (reg=="1" && mem=="1") {
    return("both")
 } else {
    return("UNKNOWN")
 }
# Specify experimental condition for each datum.
data$condition <- mapply(</pre>
  get_con,
  data$USE_FUNC_REGULATION,
  data$USE_GLOBAL_MEMORY
data$condition <- factor(</pre>
 data$condition,
 levels=c("regulation", "memory", "none", "both")
```

```
# Given knockout info, what strategy does a program use?
get_strategy <- function(use_reg, use_mem) {</pre>
  if (use_reg=="0" && use_mem=="0") {
   return("use neither")
 } else if (use_reg=="0" && use_mem=="1") {
   return("use memory")
 } else if (use_reg=="1" && use_mem=="0") {
   return("use regulation")
 } else if (use_reg=="1" && use_mem=="1") {
   return("use both")
 } else {
   return("UNKNOWN")
 }
}
# Specify experimental conditions (to make labeling easier).
data$strategy <- mapply(</pre>
 get_strategy,
 data$relies_on_regulation,
 data$relies_on_global_memory
data$strategy <- factor(</pre>
 data$strategy,
 levels=c(
    "use regulation",
   "use memory",
   "use neither",
   "use both"
 )
)
# Filter data to include only replicates labeled as solutions
sol_data <- filter(data, solution=="1")</pre>
###### Load instruction execution data ######
inst_exec_data$condition <- mapply(</pre>
  get_con,
 inst_exec_data$USE_FUNC_REGULATION,
 inst_exec_data$USE_GLOBAL_MEMORY
inst_exec_data$condition <- factor(</pre>
```

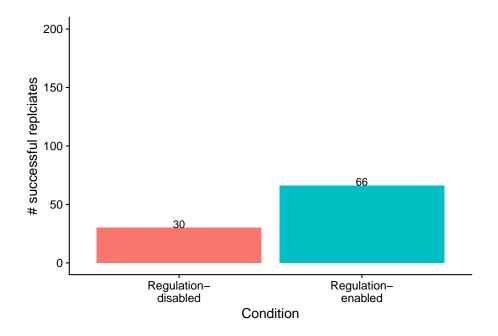
```
inst_exec_data$condition,
 levels=c("regulation", "memory", "none", "both")
inst_exec_data$notation <- factor(</pre>
  inst_exec_data$notation,
 levels=c("prefix", "postfix")
###### Load network data ######
reg_network_data <- read.csv(paste0(working_directory, "data/reg_graphs_summary.csv"), na.strings</pre>
reg_network_data <- filter(reg_network_data, run_id %in% data$SEED)
get_notation <- function(seed) {</pre>
 return(filter(data, SEED==seed)$notation)
reg_network_data$notation <- mapply(</pre>
  get_notation,
 reg_network_data$run_id
reg_network_data$notation <- factor(</pre>
 reg_network_data$notation,
 levels=c("prefix", "postfix")
###### misc ######
# Configure our default graphing theme
theme_set(theme_cowplot())
```

6.4 Problem-solving success

The number of successful replicates by condition: $% \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) \left(1\right) \left($

```
# Graph the number of solutions evolved in each condition, faceted
ggplot(sol_data, aes(x=condition, fill=condition)) +
   geom_bar() +
   geom_text(
    stat="count",
    mapping=aes(label=..count..),
   position=position_dodge(0.9),
   vjust=0
) +
   scale_x_discrete(
```

```
name="Condition",
  breaks=c("memory","both"),
  labels=c("Regulation-\ndisabled", "Regulation-\nenabled")
) +
  ylab("# successful replciates") +
  ylim(0, 200) +
  theme(legend.position = "none") +
  ggsave(
   pasteO(working_directory, "imgs/boolean-calc-prefix-solution-counts.pdf"),
   width=4,
  height=4
)
```



Test for significance using Fisher's exact test.

```
# Extract successes/fails for each condition.
reg_disabled_success_cnt <- nrow(filter(sol_data, solution=="1" & condition=="memory")
reg_disabled_fail_cnt <- replicates - reg_disabled_success_cnt

reg_enabled_success_cnt <- nrow(filter(sol_data, solution=="1" & condition=="both"))
reg_enabled_fail_cnt <- replicates - reg_enabled_success_cnt

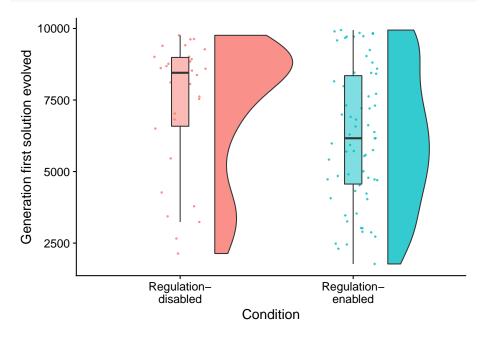
# Regulation-disabled vs regulation-enabled
perf_table <- matrix(
    c(</pre>
```

```
reg_enabled_success_cnt,
   reg_disabled_success_cnt,
   reg_enabled_fail_cnt,
   reg_disabled_fail_cnt
   nrow=2
)
rownames(perf_table) <- c("reg-enabled", "reg-disabled")</pre>
colnames(perf_table) <- c("success", "fail")</pre>
print(perf_table)
                success fail
## reg-enabled
                 66 134
## reg-disabled
                     30 170
print(fisher.test(perf_table))
## Fisher's Exact Test for Count Data
##
## data: perf_table
## p-value = 3.585e-05
## alternative hypothesis: true odds ratio is not equal to 1
## 95 percent confidence interval:
## 1.673731 4.711896
## sample estimates:
## odds ratio
## 2.783852
```

6.5 How many generations elapse before solutions evolve?

```
ggplot( data = sol_data, aes(x=condition, y=update, fill=condition) ) +
  geom_flat_violin(
    position=position_nudge(x = .2, y = 0),
        alpha=.8
) +
  geom_point(
    aes(y=update, color=condition),
    position = position_jitter(width = .15),
    size = .5,
    alpha = 0.8
```

```
) +
geom_boxplot(
  width = .1,
  outlier.shape = NA,
  alpha = 0.5
) +
scale_x_discrete(
  name="Condition",
  breaks=c("memory", "both"),
  labels=c("Regulation-\ndisabled", "Regulation-\nenabled")
) +
scale_y_continuous(name="Generation first solution evolved") +
guides(fill = FALSE) +
guides(color = FALSE) +
ggsave(
  paste0(working_directory, "imgs/boolean-calc-prefix-solve-time-cloud.png"),
  width=4,
  height=4
)
```



Test for statistical difference between conditions using a Wilcoxon rank sum test.

```
print(wilcox.test(formula=update~condition, data=sol_data, exact=FALSE, conf.int=TRUE)
```

```
##
## Wilcoxon rank sum test with continuity correction
```

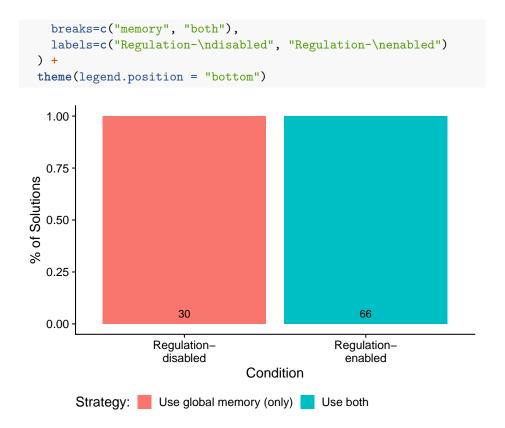
```
##
## data: update by condition
## W = 1249, p-value = 0.04102
## alternative hypothesis: true location shift is not equal to 0
## 95 percent confidence interval:
## 45.00003 2448.99997
## sample estimates:
## difference in location
## 1291.265
```

6.6 Evolved strategies

6.6.1 What mechanisms do programs rely on to adjust responses to signals over time?

We used indpendent knockouts of tag-based genetic regulation and global memory buffer access to investigate the mechanisms underpinning successful programs.

```
ggplot( sol_data, mapping=aes(x=condition, fill=strategy) ) +
  geom_bar(
    position="fill",
    stat="count"
  ) +
  geom_text(
    stat='count',
    mapping=aes(label=..count..),
    position=position_fill(vjust=0.05)
  ) +
  ylab("% of Solutions") +
  scale_fill_discrete(
    name="Strategy:",
    breaks=c(
      "use regulation",
      "use memory",
      "use neither",
      "use both"
    ),
    labels=c(
      "Use regulation (only)",
      "Use global memory (only)",
      "Use neither",
      "Use both"
    )
  ) +
  scale_x_discrete(
  name="Condition",
```



6.6.2 Gene regulatory networks

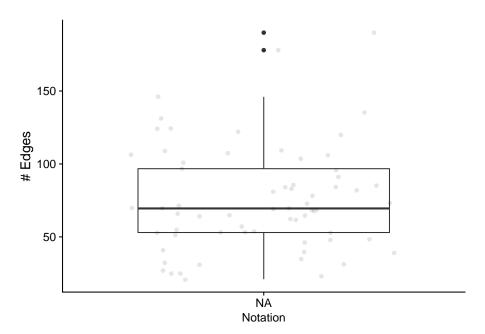
Looking only at successful programs that rely on regulation. At a glance, what do gene regulatory networks look like?

First, the total edges found in networks:

```
relies_on_reg <- filter(
    sol_data,
    relies_on_regulation=="1"
)$SEED

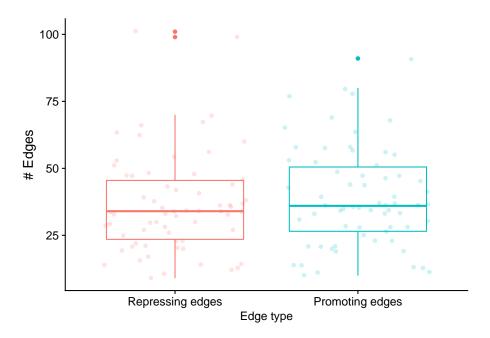
ggplot( filter(reg_network_data, run_id %in% relies_on_reg), aes(x=notation, y=edge_cn_geom_boxplot() +
    geom_jitter(alpha=0.1) +
    xlab("Notation") +
    ylab("# Edges") +
    theme(
    legend.position="bottom",
    legend.text=element_text(size=9),</pre>
```

```
legend.title=element_text(size=10),
   axis.title.x=element_text(size=12)
) +
ggsave(
   paste0(working_directory, "imgs/boolean-calc-prefix-regulation-edges.png"),
   width=4,
   height=3
)
```



Next, let's look at edges by type.

```
ylab("# Edges") +
scale_x_discrete(
  name="Edge type",
  limits=c("repressed_edges_cnt", "promoted_edges_cnt"),
  labels=c("Repressing edges", "Promoting edges")
) +
theme(
  legend.position="none",
  legend.text=element_text(size=9),
  legend.title=element_text(size=10),
  axis.title.x=element text(size=12)
) +
ggsave(
  paste0(working_directory, "imgs/boolean-calc-prefix-regulation-edge-types.png"),
  width=4,
  height=3
)
```



Test for a statistical difference between edge types using a wilcoxon rank sum test:

```
print(
   paste0(
    "Median # repressed edges: ",
    median(filter(melted_network_data, reg_edge_type=="repressed_edges_cnt")$reg_edges_
```

```
)
## [1] "Median # repressed edges: 34"
print(
 paste0(
   "Median # promoting edges: ",
   median(filter(melted_network_data, reg_edge_type=="promoted_edges_cnt")$reg_edges_cnt)
  )
)
## [1] "Median # promoting edges: 36"
print(wilcox.test(formula=reg_edges_cnt ~ reg_edge_type, data=melted_network_data, exact=FALSE, 
##
## Wilcoxon rank sum test with continuity correction
##
## data: reg_edges_cnt by reg_edge_type
## W = 1961.5, p-value = 0.3254
\#\# alternative hypothesis: true location shift is not equal to 0
## 95 percent confidence interval:
## -8.999963 2.999998
## sample estimates:
## difference in location
##
                -2.999964
```

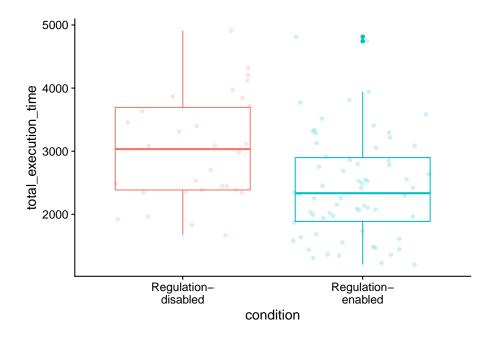
6.6.3 Program instruction execution traces

6.6.3.1 Execution time

How many time steps do successful programs take to solve the boolean calculator problem?

```
# only want solutions
solutions_inst_exec_data <- filter(inst_exec_data, SEED %in% sol_data$SEED)

ggplot( solutions_inst_exec_data, aes(x=condition, y=total_execution_time, color=condition) ) +
    geom_boxplot() +
    geom_jitter(alpha=0.2) +
    scale_x_discrete(
        breaks=c("memory", "both"),
        labels=c("Regulation-\ndisabled", "Regulation-\nenabled")
    ) +
    theme(
    legend.position="none"</pre>
```



Test for significant difference between conditions using Wilcoxon rank sum test:

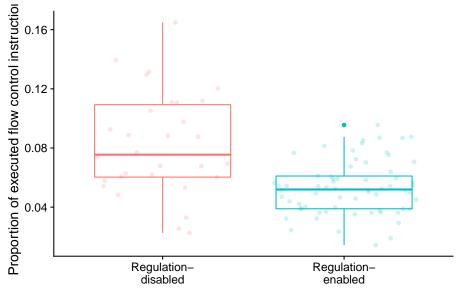
```
print(
  wilcox.test(
    formula=total_execution_time~condition,
    data=filter(solutions_inst_exec_data),
    exact=FALSE,
    conf.int=TRUE)
)
##
##
   Wilcoxon rank sum test with continuity correction
##
## data: total_execution_time by condition
## W = 1374, p-value = 0.002434
## alternative hypothesis: true location shift is not equal to 0
## 95 percent confidence interval:
##
   240 986
## sample estimates:
## difference in location
##
                 587.0774
```

6.6.3.2 What types of instructions to successful programs execute?

Here, we look at the distribution of instruction types executed by successful programs. We're primarily interested in the proportion of control flow instructions,

so let's look at that first.

```
ggplot( solutions_inst_exec_data, aes(x=condition, y=control_flow_inst_prop, color=condition) ) +
geom_boxplot() +
geom_jitter(alpha=0.2) +
scale_x_discrete(
    breaks=c("memory", "both"),
    labels=c("Regulation-\ndisabled", "Regulation-\nenabled")
) +
ylab("Proportion of executed flow control instructions") +
theme(
    legend.position="bottom",
    axis.title.x=element_blank()
)
```



Test for significant difference between conditions using a Wilcoxon rank sum test:

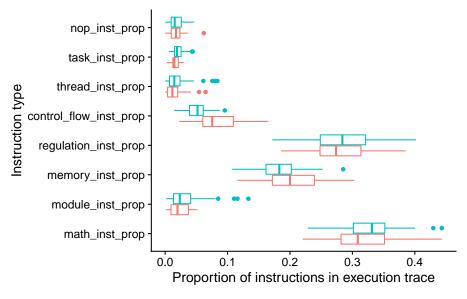
condition 🖨 memory 🖨 both

```
print(
  wilcox.test(
    formula=control_flow_inst_prop~condition,
    data=filter(solutions_inst_exec_data),
    exact=FALSE,
    conf.int=TRUE)
)
```

```
## Wilcoxon rank sum test with continuity correction
##
## data: control_flow_inst_prop by condition
## W = 1541.5, p-value = 1.328e-05
## alternative hypothesis: true location shift is not equal to 0
## 95 percent confidence interval:
## 0.01486019 0.03910795
## sample estimates:
## difference in location
## 0.02639857
```

In case you're curious, here's all categories of instructions:

```
melted <- melt(</pre>
  solutions_inst_exec_data,
  variable.name = "inst_type",
  value.name = "inst_type_prop",
  measure.vars=c(
    "math_inst_prop",
    "module_inst_prop",
    "memory_inst_prop",
    "regulation_inst_prop",
    "control_flow_inst_prop",
    "thread_inst_prop",
    "task_inst_prop",
    "nop_inst_prop"
  )
)
ggplot( melted, aes(x=inst_type, y=inst_type_prop, color=condition) ) +
  geom_boxplot() +
  scale_color_discrete(
   name="Condition:",
   breaks=c("memory", "both"),
   labels=c("Regulation-disabled", "Regulation-enabled")
  ) +
  xlab("Instruction type") +
  ylab("Proportion of instructions in execution trace") +
  coord flip() +
  theme(legend.position="bottom")
```



Condition: Regulation-disabled Regulation-enable

6.7 Visualizaing an evolved regulatory network

Let's take a closer look at a successful gene regulatory network.

```
trace_id <- 24386
```

Specifically, we'll be looking at the solution evolved in run id 2.4386×10^4 (arbitrarily selected).

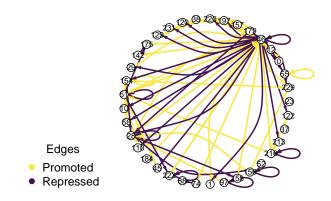
6.7.1 Evolved regulatory network

We use the igraph package to draw this program's gene regulatory network.

```
# Networks!
graph_nodes_loc <- paste0(working_directory, "data/igraphs/reg_graph_id-", trace_id, "_nodes.csv'
graph_edges_loc <- paste0(working_directory, "data/igraphs/reg_graph_id-", trace_id, "_edges.csv'
graph_nodes_data <- read.csv(graph_nodes_loc, na.strings="NONE")
graph_edges_data <- read.csv(graph_edges_loc, na.strings="NONE")
network <- graph_from_data_frame(
    d=graph_edges_data,
    vertices=graph_nodes_data,
    directed=TRUE
)</pre>
```

```
# Setup edge styling
E(network)$color[E(network)$type == "promote"] <- "#FCE640"</pre>
E(network)$lty[E(network)$type == "promote"] <- 1</pre>
E(network)$color[E(network)$type == "repress"] <- "#441152"</pre>
E(network)$lty[E(network)$type == "repress"] <- 1</pre>
network_out_name <- paste0(working_directory, "imgs/case-study-id-", trace_id, "-network_out_name")</pre>
draw_network <- function(net, write_out, out_name) {</pre>
  if (write_out) {
    svg(out_name, width=4,height=1.5)
    # bottom, left, top, right
    par(mar=c(0.2,0,1,0.5))
  }
  plot(
    net,
    edge.arrow.size=0.4,
    edge.arrow.width=0.75,
    edge.width=2,
    vertex.size=10,
    vertex.label.cex=0.65,
    curved=TRUE,
    vertex.color="grey99",
    vertex.label.color="black",
    vertex.label.family="sans",
    layout=layout.circle(net)
  )
  legend(
    x = "bottomleft",
                          ## position, also takes x,y coordinates
    legend = c("Promoted", "Repressed"),
                            ## legend symbols see ?points
    pch = 19,
    col = c("#FCE640", "#441152"),
    bty = "n",
    border="black",
    xpd=TRUE,
    title = "Edges"
  )
  if (write_out) {
   dev.flush()
    dev.off()
  }
}
draw_network(network, TRUE, network_out_name)
```

```
## pdf
## 2
draw_network(network, FALSE, "")
```



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Chapter 7

Boolean calculator problem (postfix notation)

Here, we give an overview of the boolean logic calculator problem, and we provide our data analyses for related experiments. All of our source code for statistical analyses and data visualizations is embedded in this document. The raw data can be found on the OSF project associated with this work (link coming).

Please file an issue or make a pull request on github to report any mistakes, ask questions, request more explanation, et cetera.

7.1 Overview

We use a modified version of the Boolean logic calculator problem to further investigate the potential for our implementation of tag-based regulation to impede adaptive evolution. Our previous experiments with the Boolean logic calculator

problem provided inputs in prefix notation: the operator (e.g., AND, OR, XOR, etc.) is specified first, followed by the requisite number of numeric operands. As such, the final input signal does not differentiate which type of computation a program is expected to perform (e.g., AND, OR, XOR, etc.). This requires programs to adjust their response to the final input signal based on the context provided by the previous two signals, thereby increasing the value of regulation.

We explore whether the calculator problem's context-dependence is driving the benefit of tag-based regulation that we identified in previous experiments. We can reduce context-dependence of the calculator problem by presenting input sequences in postfix notation. In postfix notation, programs receive the requisite numeric operand inputs first and the operator input last. As such, the final signal in an input sequence will always differentiate which bitwise operation should be performed. Successful programs must store the numeric inputs embedded in operand signals, and then, as in the changing-signal problem, a distinct signal will differentiate which of the response types a program should execute.

7.2 Analysis Dependencies

Load all required R libraries.

```
library(ggplot2)
library(tidyverse)
library(cowplot)
library(viridis)
library(reshape2)
library(igraph)
source("https://gist.githubusercontent.com/benmarwick/2a1bb0133ff568cbe28d/raw/fb53bd9
```

These analyses were conducted in the following computing environment:

```
print(version)
##
## platform
                   x86_64-pc-linux-gnu
## arch
                   x86_64
## os
                   linux-gnu
## system
                   x86_64, linux-gnu
## status
## major
                   0.2
## minor
## year
                   2020
## month
                   06
## day
                   22
## svn rev
                   78730
## language
## version.string R version 4.0.2 (2020-06-22)
```

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nickname Taking Off Again

7.3 Setup

Load data, initial data cleanup, configure some global settings.

```
data_loc <- pasteO(working_directory, "data/max_fit_orgs.csv")</pre>
data <- read.csv(data_loc, na.strings="NONE")</pre>
# Specify factors (not all of these matter for this set of runs).
data$matchbin_thresh <- factor(</pre>
  data$matchbin_thresh,
 levels=c(0, 25, 50, 75)
data$TAG_LEN <- factor(</pre>
  data$TAG_LEN,
 levels=c(32, 64, 128, 256)
data$notation <- factor(</pre>
  data$notation,
  levels=c("prefix", "postfix")
)
# Define function to summarize regulation/memory configurations.
get_con <- function(reg, mem) {</pre>
 if (reg == "0" && mem == "0") {
   return("none")
  } else if (reg == "0" && mem=="1") {
    return("memory")
  } else if (reg=="1" && mem=="0") {
    return("regulation")
  } else if (reg=="1" && mem=="1") {
    return("both")
 } else {
    return("UNKNOWN")
 }
}
# Specify experimental condition for each datum.
data$condition <- mapply(</pre>
  get_con,
  data$USE_FUNC_REGULATION,
  data$USE_GLOBAL_MEMORY
```

```
data$condition <- factor(</pre>
  data$condition,
  levels=c("regulation", "memory", "none", "both")
)
# Given knockout info, what strategy does a program use?
get_strategy <- function(use_reg, use_mem) {</pre>
  if (use_reg=="0" && use_mem=="0") {
    return("use neither")
  } else if (use reg=="0" && use mem=="1") {
    return("use memory")
  } else if (use_reg=="1" && use_mem=="0") {
    return("use regulation")
  } else if (use_reg=="1" && use_mem=="1") {
    return("use both")
  } else {
    return("UNKNOWN")
  }
}
# Specify experimental conditions (to make labeling easier).
data$strategy <- mapply(</pre>
  get_strategy,
  data$relies_on_regulation,
  data$relies_on_global_memory
data$strategy <- factor(</pre>
  data$strategy,
  levels=c(
    "use regulation",
    "use memory",
    "use neither",
    "use both"
  )
)
# Filter data to include only replicates labeled as solutions
sol_data <- filter(data, solution=="1")</pre>
###### Load instruction execution data ######
inst_exec_data <- read.csv(paste0(working_directory, "data/exec_trace_summary.csv"), newscape inst_exec_data</pre>
```

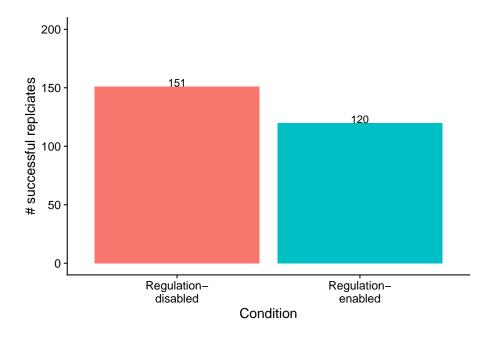
```
inst_exec_data$condition <- mapply(</pre>
  get_con,
  inst_exec_data$USE_FUNC_REGULATION,
  inst_exec_data$USE_GLOBAL_MEMORY
inst_exec_data$condition <- factor(</pre>
  inst_exec_data$condition,
 levels=c("regulation", "memory", "none", "both")
inst_exec_data$notation <- factor(</pre>
 inst_exec_data$notation,
  levels=c("prefix", "postfix")
###### Load network data ######
reg_network_data <- read.csv(paste0(working_directory, "data/reg_graphs_summary.csv"), na.strings
reg_network_data <- filter(reg_network_data, run_id %in% data$SEED)
get_notation <- function(seed) {</pre>
 return(filter(data, SEED==seed)$notation)
reg_network_data$notation <- mapply(</pre>
  get_notation,
 reg_network_data$run_id
reg_network_data$notation <- factor(</pre>
 reg_network_data$notation,
  levels=c("prefix", "postfix")
###### misc ######
# Configure our default graphing theme
theme_set(theme_cowplot())
```

7.4 Problem-solving success

The number of successful replicates by condition:

```
# Graph the number of solutions evolved in each condition, faceted by environmental complexity
ggplot(sol_data, aes(x=condition, fill=condition)) +
  geom_bar() +
```

```
geom_text(
  stat="count",
  mapping=aes(label=..count..),
  position=position_dodge(0.9),
  vjust=0
) +
scale_x_discrete(
  name="Condition",
  breaks=c("memory","both"),
  labels=c("Regulation-\ndisabled", "Regulation-\nenabled")
ylab("# successful replciates") +
ylim(0, 200) +
theme(legend.position = "none") +
ggsave(
  paste0(working_directory, "imgs/boolean-calc-postfix-solution-counts.pdf"),
  width=4,
  height=4
)
```



Test for significance using Fisher's exact test.

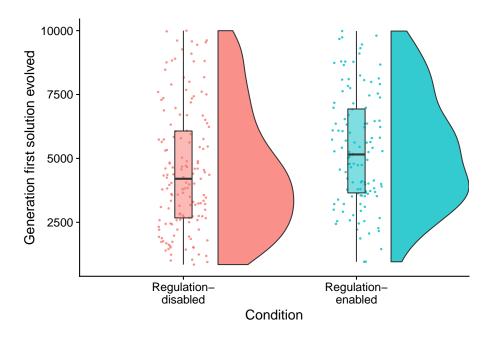
```
# Extract successes/fails for each condition.
reg_disabled_success_cnt <- nrow(filter(sol_data, solution=="1" & condition=="memory")
reg_disabled_fail_cnt <- replicates - reg_disabled_success_cnt</pre>
```

```
reg_enabled_success_cnt <- nrow(filter(sol_data, solution=="1" & condition=="both"))
reg_enabled_fail_cnt <- replicates - reg_enabled_success_cnt</pre>
# Regulation-disabled vs regulation-enabled
perf_table <- matrix(</pre>
  c(
    reg_enabled_success_cnt,
    reg_disabled_success_cnt,
    reg_enabled_fail_cnt,
    reg_disabled_fail_cnt
    ),
    nrow=2
)
rownames(perf_table) <- c("reg-enabled", "reg-disabled")</pre>
colnames(perf_table) <- c("success", "fail")</pre>
print(perf_table)
##
                success fail
## reg-enabled
                    120
                          80
## reg-disabled
                    151
print(fisher.test(perf_table))
##
## Fisher's Exact Test for Count Data
## data: perf_table
## p-value = 0.001286
## alternative hypothesis: true odds ratio is not equal to 1
## 95 percent confidence interval:
## 0.3093253 0.7635173
## sample estimates:
## odds ratio
## 0.4876392
```

7.5 How many generations elapse before solutions evolve?

```
ggplot( data = sol_data, aes(x=condition, y=update, fill=condition) ) +
geom_flat_violin(
   position=position_nudge(x = .2, y = 0),
   alpha=.8
```

```
) +
  geom_point(
    aes(y=update, color=condition),
    position = position_jitter(width = .15),
    size = .5,
    alpha = 0.8
  ) +
  geom_boxplot(
    width = .1,
    outlier.shape = NA,
    alpha = 0.5
  ) +
  scale_x_discrete(
    name="Condition",
    breaks=c("memory", "both"),
    labels=c("Regulation-\ndisabled", "Regulation-\nenabled")
  ) +
  scale_y_continuous(name="Generation first solution evolved") +
  guides(fill = FALSE) +
  guides(color = FALSE) +
  ggsave(
    paste0(working_directory, "imgs/boolean-calc-postfix-solve-time-cloud.png"),
    width=4,
    height=4
```



Test for statistical difference between conditions using a Wilcoxon rank sum test.

```
print(wilcox.test(formula=update~condition, data=sol_data, exact=FALSE, conf.int=TRUE))
##
## Wilcoxon rank sum test with continuity correction
##
## data: update by condition
## W = 7175.5, p-value = 0.003285
## alternative hypothesis: true location shift is not equal to 0
## 95 percent confidence interval:
## -1422 -310
## sample estimates:
## difference in location
## -872
```

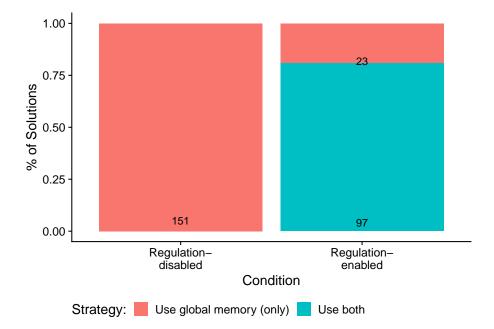
7.6 Evolved strategies

7.6.1 What mechanisms do programs rely on to adjust responses to signals over time?

We used indpendent knockouts of tag-based genetic regulation and global memory buffer access to investigate the mechanisms underpinning successful programs.

```
ggplot( sol_data, mapping=aes(x=condition, fill=strategy) ) +
  geom_bar(
```

```
position="fill",
 stat="count"
) +
geom_text(
 stat='count',
 mapping=aes(label=..count..),
 position=position_fill(vjust=0.05)
) +
ylab("% of Solutions") +
scale_fill_discrete(
  name="Strategy:",
  breaks=c(
    "use regulation",
    "use memory",
    "use neither",
    "use both"
  ),
  labels=c(
    "Use regulation (only)",
    "Use global memory (only)",
    "Use neither",
    "Use both"
) +
scale_x_discrete(
 name="Condition",
 breaks=c("memory", "both"),
 labels=c("Regulation-\ndisabled", "Regulation-\nenabled")
) +
theme(legend.position = "bottom")
```

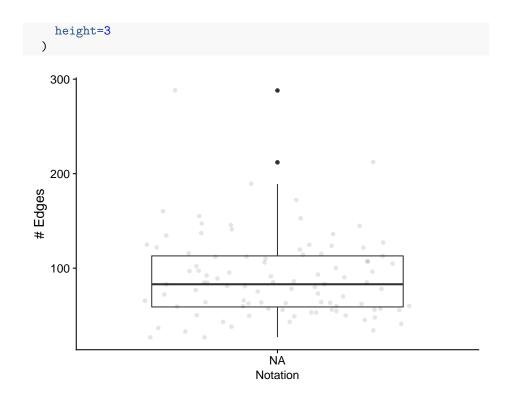


7.6.2 Gene regulatory networks

Looking only at successful programs that rely on regulation. At a glance, what do gene regulatory networks look like?

First, the total edges found in networks:

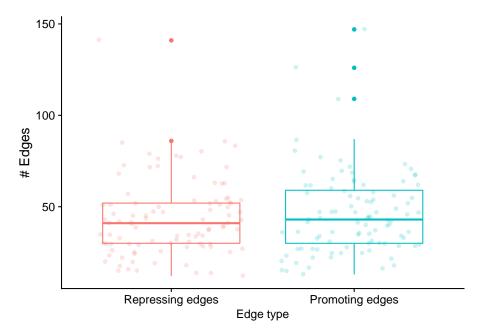
```
relies_on_reg <- filter(</pre>
  sol_data,
 relies_on_regulation=="1"
) $SEED
ggplot( filter(reg_network_data, run_id %in% relies_on_reg), aes(x=notation, y=edge_cnt) ) +
  geom_boxplot() +
  geom_jitter(alpha=0.1) +
  xlab("Notation") +
  ylab("# Edges") +
  theme(
    legend.position="bottom",
    legend.text=element_text(size=9),
    legend.title=element_text(size=10),
    axis.title.x=element_text(size=12)
  ) +
  ggsave(
    paste0(working_directory, "imgs/boolean-calc-postfix-regulation-edges.png"),
    width=4,
```



Next, let's look at edges by type.

```
# Process/cleanup the network data
melted_network_data <- melt(</pre>
  filter(reg_network_data,
         run_id %in% relies_on_reg
        ),
  variable.name = "reg_edge_type",
  value.name = "reg_edges_cnt",
  measure.vars=c("repressed_edges_cnt", "promoted_edges_cnt")
ggplot( melted_network_data, aes(x=reg_edge_type, y=reg_edges_cnt, color=reg_edge_type
  geom_boxplot() +
  geom_jitter(alpha=0.2) +
  xlab("Environmental Complexity") +
  ylab("# Edges") +
  scale_x_discrete(
    name="Edge type",
    limits=c("repressed_edges_cnt", "promoted_edges_cnt"),
    labels=c("Repressing edges", "Promoting edges")
```

```
theme(
  legend.position="none",
  legend.text=element_text(size=9),
  legend.title=element_text(size=10),
  axis.title.x=element_text(size=12)
) +
ggsave(
  paste0(working_directory, "imgs/boolean-calc-postfix-regulation-edge-types.png"),
  width=4,
  height=3
)
```



Test for a statistical difference between edge types using a wilcoxon rank sum test:

```
print(
   paste0(
    "Median # repressed edges: ",
    median(filter(melted_network_data, reg_edge_type=="repressed_edges_cnt")$reg_edges_cnt)
)

## [1] "Median # repressed edges: 41"

print(
   paste0(
```

```
"Median # promoting edges: ",
    median(filter(melted_network_data, reg_edge_type=="promoted_edges_cnt")$reg_edges_
  )
)
## [1] "Median # promoting edges: 43"
print(wilcox.test(formula=reg_edges_cnt ~ reg_edge_type, data=melted_network_data, exa
##
##
   Wilcoxon rank sum test with continuity correction
##
## data: reg_edges_cnt by reg_edge_type
## W = 4411, p-value = 0.4535
## alternative hypothesis: true location shift is not equal to 0
## 95 percent confidence interval:
## -7.999975 3.000061
## sample estimates:
## difference in location
##
                -1.999985
```

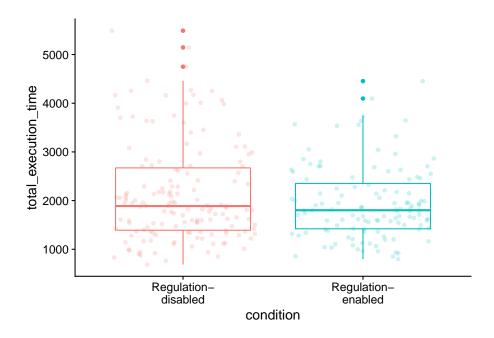
7.6.3 Program instruction execution traces

7.6.3.1 Execution time

How many time steps do successful programs take to solve the boolean calculator problem?

```
# only want solutions
solutions_inst_exec_data <- filter(inst_exec_data, SEED %in% sol_data$SEED)

ggplot( solutions_inst_exec_data, aes(x=condition, y=total_execution_time, color=condit
    geom_boxplot() +
    geom_jitter(alpha=0.2) +
    scale_x_discrete(
        breaks=c("memory", "both"),
        labels=c("Regulation-\ndisabled", "Regulation-\nenabled")
) +
    theme(
    legend.position="none"</pre>
```



Test for significant difference between conditions using Wilcoxon rank sum test:

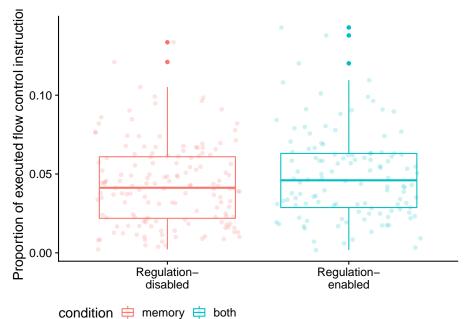
```
print(
  wilcox.test(
    formula=total_execution_time~condition,
    data=filter(solutions_inst_exec_data),
    exact=FALSE,
    conf.int=TRUE)
)
##
   Wilcoxon rank sum test with continuity correction
##
##
## data: total_execution_time by condition
## W = 9737, p-value = 0.2912
## alternative hypothesis: true location shift is not equal to 0
## 95 percent confidence interval:
   -78.00002 274.00000
## sample estimates:
## difference in location
##
                 96.00004
```

7.6.3.2 What types of instructions to successful programs execute?

Here, we look at the distribution of instruction types executed by successful programs. We're primarily interested in the proportion of control flow instructions,

so let's look at that first.

```
ggplot( solutions_inst_exec_data, aes(x=condition, y=control_flow_inst_prop, color=condition)
geom_boxplot() +
geom_jitter(alpha=0.2) +
scale_x_discrete(
    breaks=c("memory", "both"),
    labels=c("Regulation-\ndisabled", "Regulation-\nenabled")
) +
ylab("Proportion of executed flow control instructions") +
theme(
    legend.position="bottom",
    axis.title.x=element_blank()
)
```

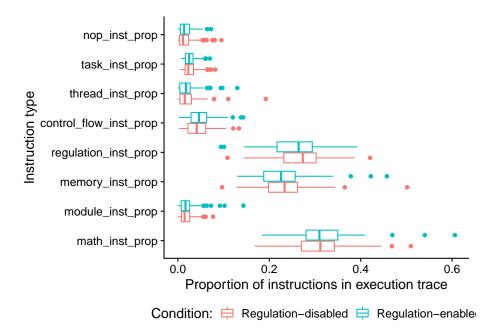


Test for significant difference between conditions using a Wilcoxon rank sum test:

```
print(
  wilcox.test(
    formula=control_flow_inst_prop~condition,
    data=filter(solutions_inst_exec_data),
    exact=FALSE,
    conf.int=TRUE)
)
```

In case you're curious, here's all categories of instructions:

```
melted <- melt(</pre>
  solutions_inst_exec_data,
 variable.name = "inst_type",
 value.name = "inst_type_prop",
  measure.vars=c(
    "math_inst_prop",
    "module inst prop",
    "memory_inst_prop",
    "regulation_inst_prop",
    "control_flow_inst_prop",
    "thread_inst_prop",
    "task_inst_prop",
    "nop_inst_prop"
 )
)
ggplot( melted, aes(x=inst_type, y=inst_type_prop, color=condition) ) +
  geom_boxplot() +
  scale_color_discrete(
    name="Condition:",
    breaks=c("memory", "both"),
    labels=c("Regulation-disabled", "Regulation-enabled")
  ) +
  xlab("Instruction type") +
  ylab("Proportion of instructions in execution trace") +
  coord flip() +
  theme(legend.position="bottom")
```



7.7 Visualizaing an evolved regulatory network

Let's take a closer look at a successful gene regulatory network.

```
trace_id <- 25392
```

Specifically, we'll be looking at the solution evolved in run id 2.5392×10^4 (arbitrarily selected).

7.7.1 Evolved regulatory network

We use the igraph package to draw this program's gene regulatory network.

```
# Networks!
graph_nodes_loc <- paste0(working_directory, "data/igraphs/reg_graph_id-", trace_id, "
graph_edges_loc <- paste0(working_directory, "data/igraphs/reg_graph_id-", trace_id, "
graph_nodes_data <- read.csv(graph_nodes_loc, na.strings="NONE")
graph_edges_data <- read.csv(graph_edges_loc, na.strings="NONE")

network <- graph_from_data_frame(
    d=graph_edges_data,
    vertices=graph_nodes_data,
    directed=TRUE
)</pre>
```

```
# Setup edge styling
E(network)$color[E(network)$type == "promote"] <- "#FCE640"</pre>
E(network)$lty[E(network)$type == "promote"] <- 1</pre>
E(network)$color[E(network)$type == "repress"] <- "#441152"</pre>
E(network)$lty[E(network)$type == "repress"] <- 1</pre>
network_out_name <- paste0(working_directory, "imgs/case-study-id-", trace_id, "-network.svg")</pre>
draw_network <- function(net, write_out, out_name) {</pre>
  if (write_out) {
    svg(out_name, width=4,height=1.5)
    # bottom, left, top, right
    par(mar=c(0.2,0,1,0.5))
 }
 plot(
    net,
    edge.arrow.size=0.4,
    edge.arrow.width=0.75,
    edge.width=2,
    vertex.size=10,
    vertex.label.cex=0.65,
    curved=TRUE,
    vertex.color="grey99",
    vertex.label.color="black",
    vertex.label.family="sans",
    layout=layout.circle(net)
  )
  legend(
    x = "bottomleft",
                           ## position, also takes x,y coordinates
    legend = c("Promoted", "Repressed"),
                            ## legend symbols see ?points
    pch = 19,
    col = c("\#FCE640", "\#441152"),
    bty = "n",
    border="black",
    xpd=TRUE,
    title = "Edges"
 if (write_out) {
    dev.flush()
    dev.off()
 }
}
draw_network(network, TRUE, network_out_name)
```

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```
## pdf
## 2
draw_network(network, FALSE, "")
```

