



Biological Heterogeneity Is Necessary Under Continual Learning

Arash Golmohammadi ¹, Christian Tetzlaff ¹

arash.golmohammadi@med.uni-goettingen.de

¹ Group of Computational Synaptic Physiology, Department for Neuro- and Sensory Physiology, University Medical Center Göttingen

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INTRODUCTION

Motivation

- Cognitive tasks need network level neuronal communication
- Artificial neural networks (ANN) effectively solve these tasks
- But their weights are frozen after learning [1]
- Biological synapse continuously undergo adaptation

Open questions

- Can neural networks perform under continual learning?

METHODS

Network Specification

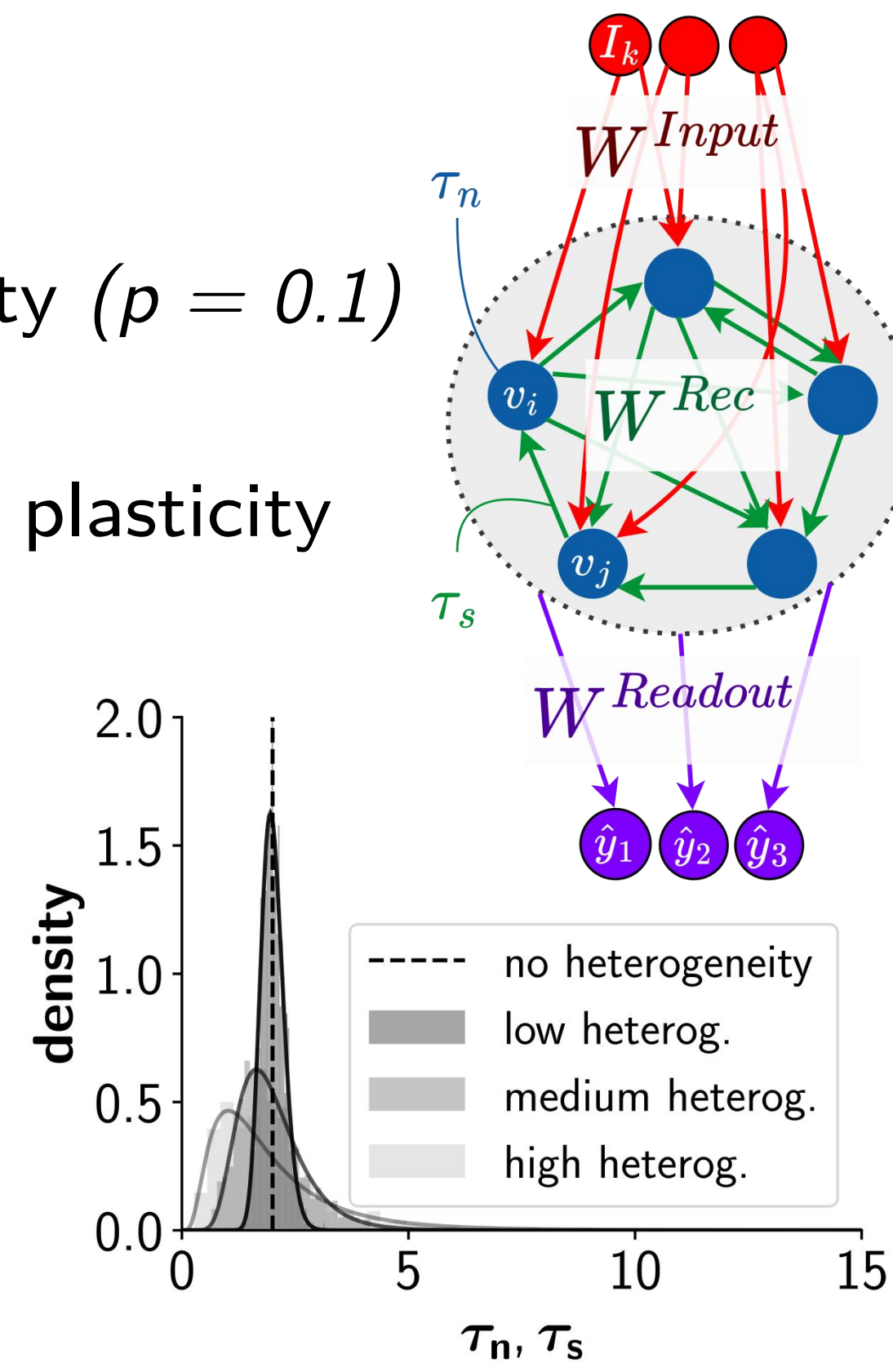
- A reservoir of rate neurons ($N = 50$)
- Random and sparse recurrent connectivity ($p = 0.1$)
- Sigmoidal activation function
- Synapses with Hebbian and homeostatic plasticity
- Allowed heterogeneity

Dynamics

$$\tau_n \frac{dv_i}{dt} = -v_i + \sum_j W_{ij}^{Rec} f(v_j) + \sum_k W_{ik}^{Input} I_k$$

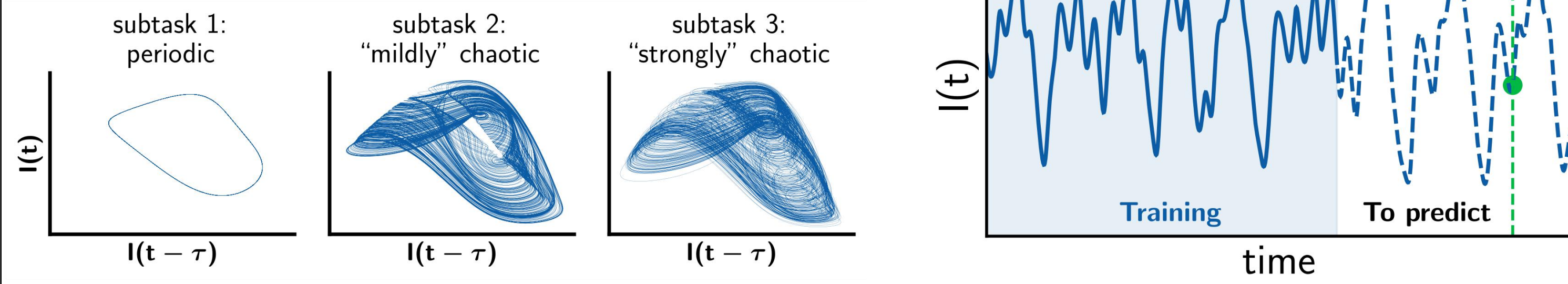
$$\tau_s \frac{dW_{ij}^{Rec}}{dt} = f(v_i)f(v_j) - \alpha W_{ij}^{Rec} f(v_j)^2$$

$$\hat{y} = W^{Readout} \cdot f(v)$$



Task

- Mackey-Glass time series prediction with three subtasks
- Near and distant future horizons (Δt) for each subtask
- Linear supervised readout

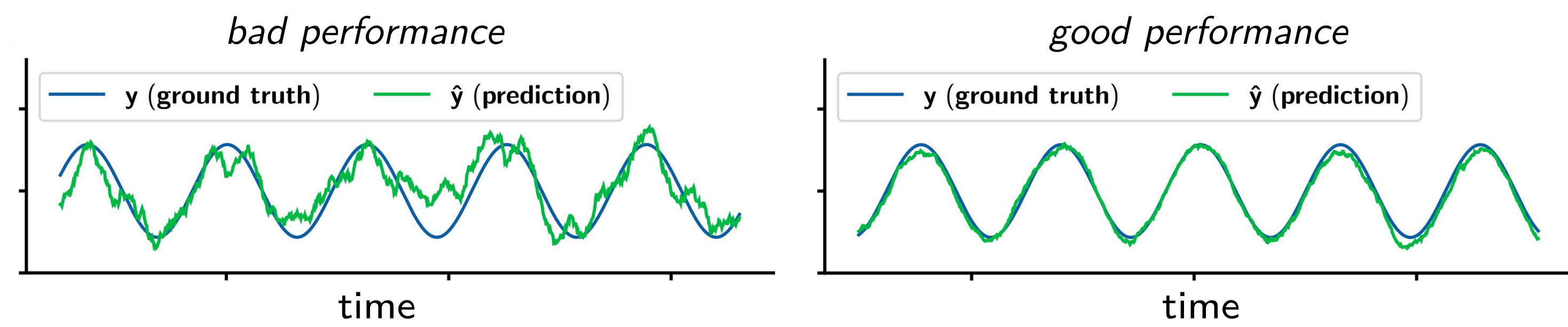


Performance measure

- Coefficient of determination
- Overall score on all horizons Δt

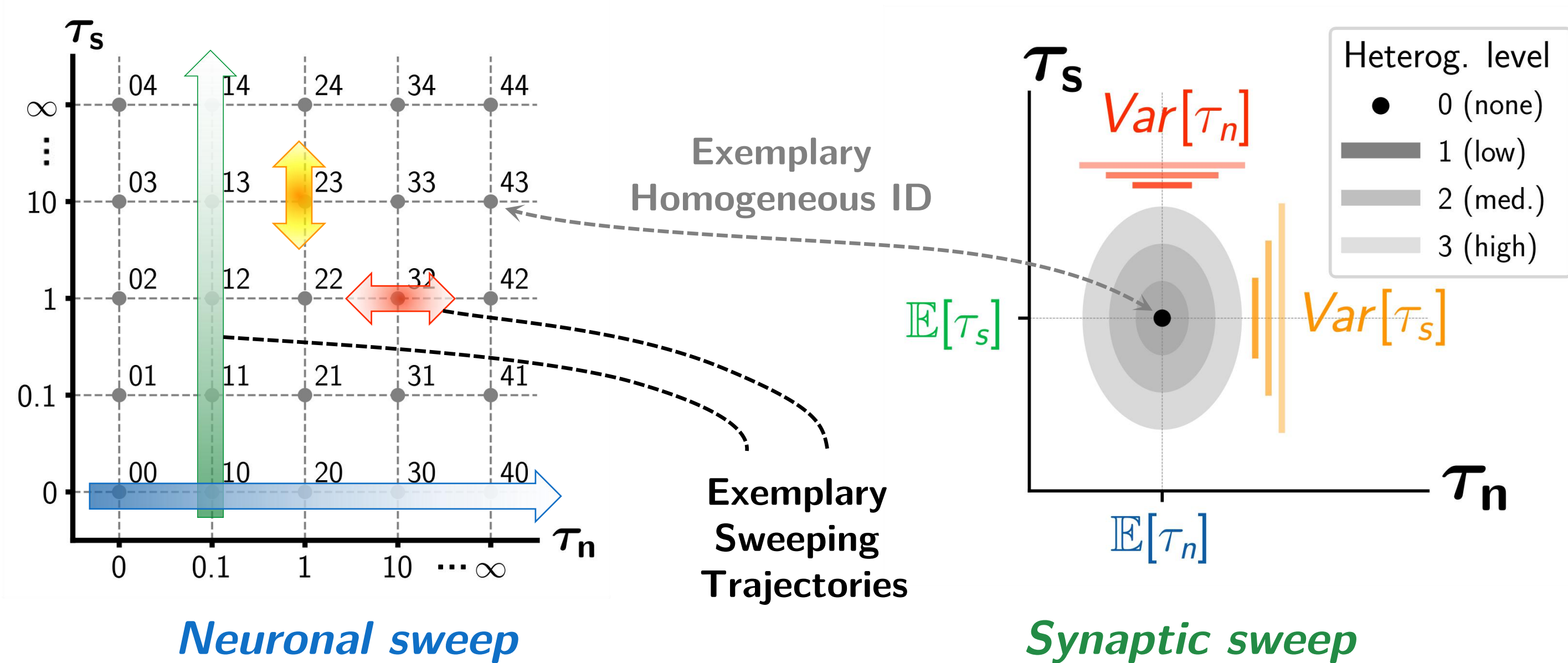
$$R^2(\Delta t) = 1 - \frac{\langle (y(t) - \hat{y}(t; \Delta t))^2 \rangle}{\langle (y(t) - \langle y(t) \rangle)^2 \rangle}$$

$$\overline{R^2} = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^M R^2(\Delta t_m)$$



Parameters

- Network ID: $\{E[\tau_n], E[\tau_s], Var[\tau_n], Var[\tau_s]\}$



$$Var[\tau_n] = Var[\tau_s] = 0 \\ E[\tau_s] = const.$$

Synaptic sweep

$$Var[\tau_n] = Var[\tau_s] = 0 \\ E[\tau_n] = const.$$

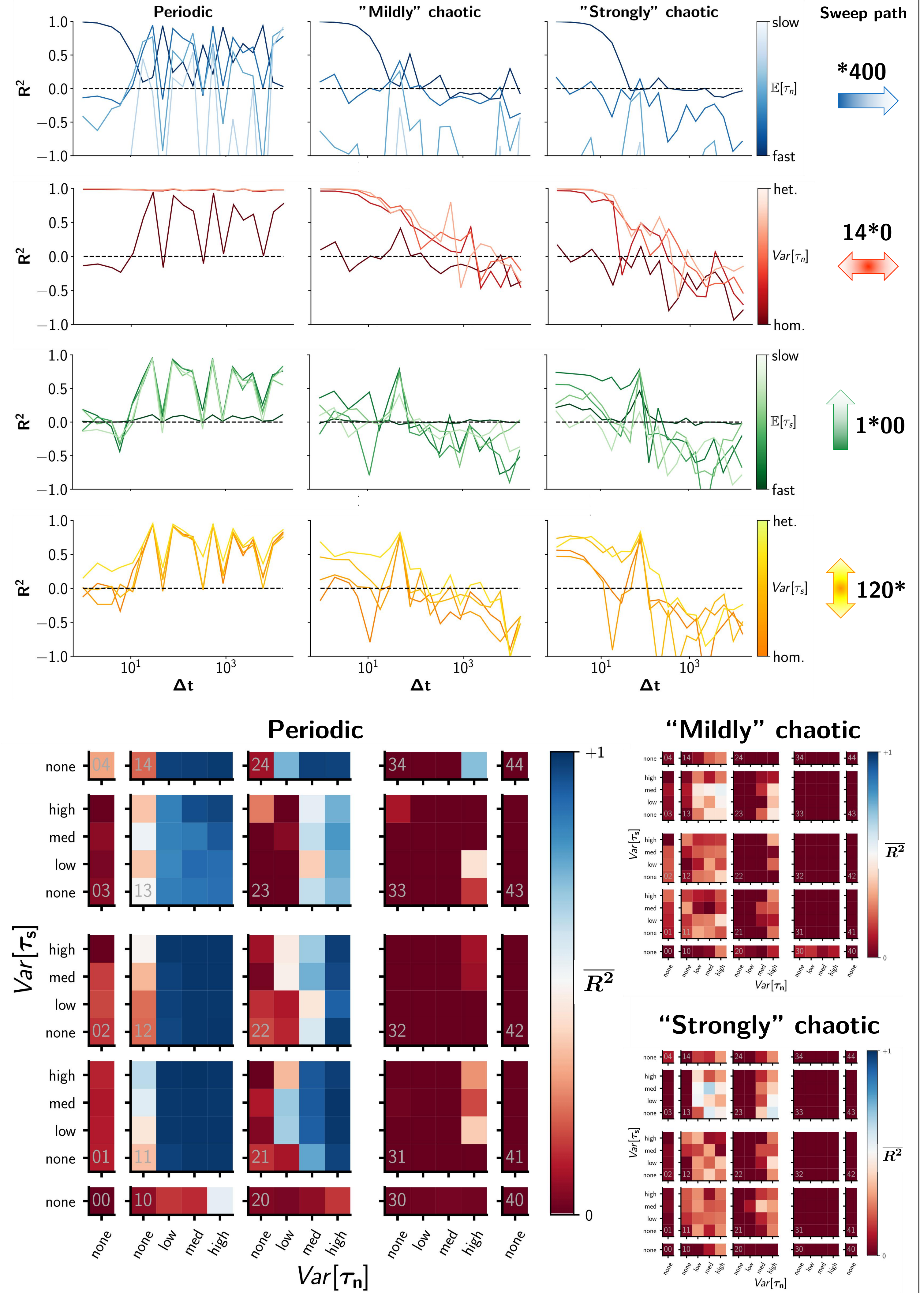
$$E[\tau_n] = const. ; E[\tau_s] = const. \\ Var[\tau_s] = const.$$

Neuronal heterogeneity sweep

$$E[\tau_n] = const. ; E[\tau_s] = const. \\ Var[\tau_n] = const.$$

Synaptic heterogeneity sweep

RESULTS



CONCLUSION & OUTLOOK

1. Continual learning does not hamper performance if neuronal and synaptic parameters are suitably distributed.
2. Diverse neuronal timescales help capture the main frequencies in periodic tasks, but they are not sufficient to capture the context in non-periodic tasks.
3. Synaptic heterogeneity provides a means to encode contexts of different lengths in the adaptive weights.
4. The best performance is achieved with some degree of synaptic and neuronal heterogeneity.
5. The optimal heterogeneity profile depends on the task.

CONCLUSION & OUTLOOK

In any network, there is a trade-off between memory and information processing capacity [2, 3]. Our next step is to quantify the effect of neuronal and synaptic heterogeneity on this trade-off by computing the change in the information processing capacities of different degrees.

References

- [1] Quax, Silvan C., Michele D'Asaro, and Marcel A. J. van Gerven. "Adaptive Time Scales in Recurrent Neural Networks." Scientific Reports 10, no. 1 (July 9, 2020): 11360. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-020-68169-x>.
- [2] Dambre, Joni, David Verstraeten, Benjamin Schrauwen, and Serge Massar. "Information Processing Capacity of Dynamical Systems." Scientific Reports 2, no. 1 (July 19, 2012): 514. <https://doi.org/10.1038/srep00514>.
- [3] Kubota, Tomoyuki, Hirokazu Takahashi, and Kohei Nakajima. "Unifying Framework for Information Processing in Stochastically Driven Dynamical Systems." Physical Review Research 3, no. 4 (November 23, 2021): 043135. <https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevResearch.3.043135>.