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Spontaneous Emergence of Computation in Network Cascades

Galen Wilkerson*+, Sotiris Moschoyiannis* and Henrik Jeldtoft Jensen+
University of Surrey* and Imperial College+, London

Correspondence: g.wilkers on 21@imperial.ac.uk

Abstract:

Neuronal network computation and computation by avalanche supporting networks are of interest to the fields of physics, computer science (computation theory as well as statistical or machine learning) and neuroscience. Here we show that computation of complex Boolean functions arises spontaneously in threshold networks as a function of connectivity and antagonism (inhibition), computed by logic automata (motifs) in the form of computational cascades. We explain the emergent inverse relationship between the computational complexity of the motifs and their rank-ordering by function probabilities due to motifs, and its relationship to symmetry in function space. We also show that the optimal fraction of inhibition observed here supports results in computational neuroscience, relating to optimal information processing.

The Team

Imperial College London



Henrik Jeldtoft Jensen
Centre for Complexity Science
Mathematics Department
Imperial College London
https://www.ma.ic.ac.uk/~hjjens/





Galen Wilkerson
g.wilkerson21@imperial.ac.uk





Sotiris Moschoyiannis
Department of Computer Science
University of Surrey

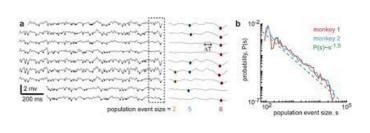
https://www.surrey.ac.uk/people/sotiris-moschoyiannis

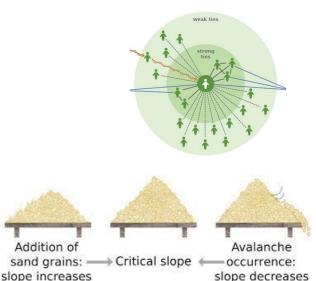
Outline

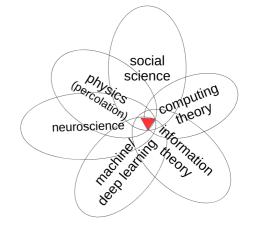
- Cascades and Computation
 - -Cascades are universal, ubiquitous
 - -Linear Threshold Model (LTM)
 - -LTM computes logic via sub-networks (motifs)
 - -Antagonistic cascades compute universal basis
- Statistics of Attractors in Boolean space
 - -Rank-ordering according to function complexity
 - -Relation between:
 - function symmetries, complexity, and frequency

Cascades are ubiquitous and fundamental

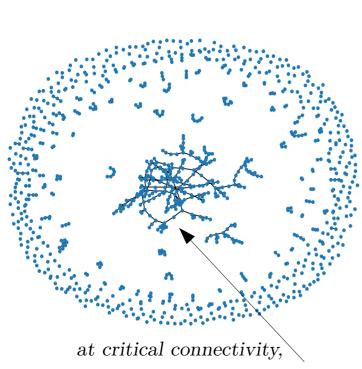
- cascades seen in many systems and domains
 - brain neuronal avalanches
 - social networks
 - epidemics !!
 - information diffusion,
 - viral marketing (CS: 'influence maximization')
 - physical, chemical systems
- percolation basic branching process
- simplest possible perturbation of system \rightarrow **point-bit**
- interaction of system elements \rightarrow interaction-bit
- elements of any system that interact \rightarrow **network**
- interactions of perturbation patterns \rightarrow **Boolean functions**
- basic research into physics and mathematics of information in systems [Christensen 2005, Watts 2002].





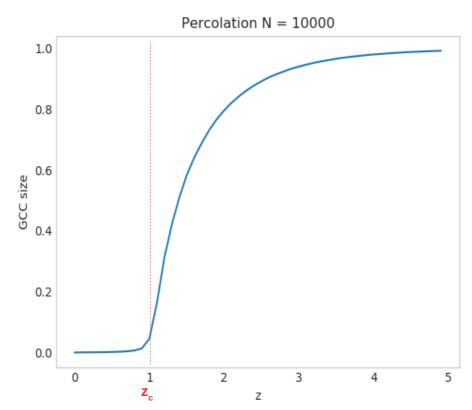


Recall Percolation



suddenly appears.

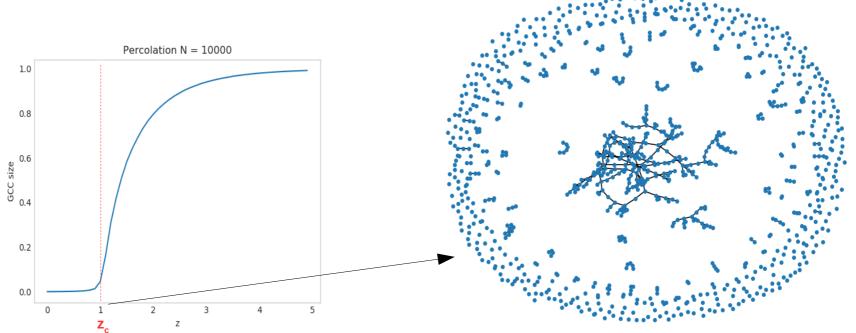
a giant connected component (GCC)



for random (Erdos-Renyi-Gilbert) graphs, over many trials, the size of largest connected component (GCC) explodes at critical average degree (z_c)

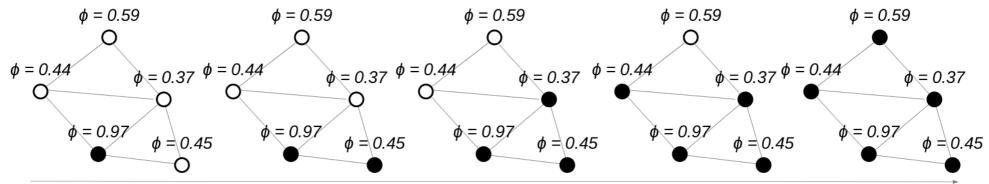
 $(recall\ z \approx Np)$

Recall Percolation



At critical degree z_c , there seems to be scale invariance of component size distribution: $p(x) \sim cx^{\beta}$ [Hofstad]

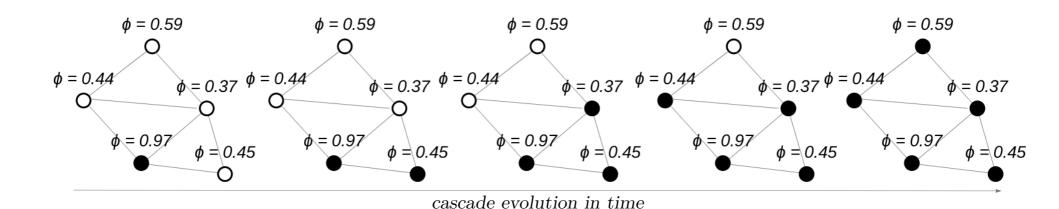
Linear Threshold Model (LTM)



cascade evolution in time

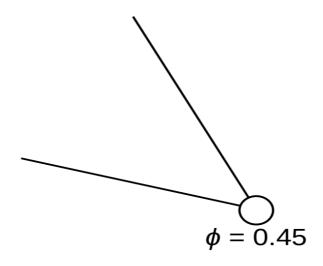
- create Erdos-Renyi random graph G(N, p)
- assign each node random threshold $\phi \sim U[0, 1]$
- set all nodes unlabelled
- label a few seeds
- randomly check each unlabelled node **u** until no change:
 - If fraction of \mathbf{u} 's neighbors labelled $\geq \phi \rightarrow \text{label } \mathbf{u}$ (1)

Linear Threshold Model (LTM)



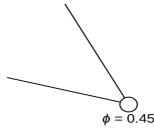
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- label a few seeds
- randomly check each unlabelled node **u** until no change:
- If fraction of \mathbf{u} 's neighbors labelled $\geq \boldsymbol{\phi} \rightarrow \text{label } \mathbf{u}$ (1) (can be written in vector form à la deep learning) $\bar{L}_{t+1} \leftarrow \bar{L}_t \vee \mathcal{H}(A \cdot \bar{L}_t - (A \cdot \bar{1}) \cdot \bar{\phi})$

LTM critical cascades are percolation

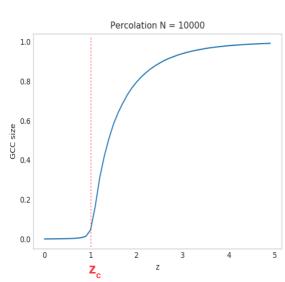


in LTM, vulnerable nodes require only 1 labelled neighbor to become labelled

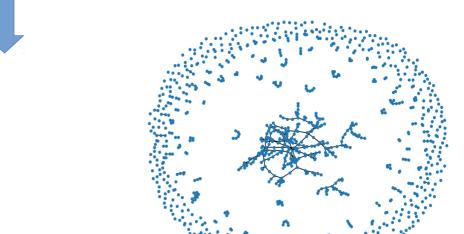
LTM critical cascades are percolation



Cascades are sudden increase (percolation) of giant component (GCC) of vulnerable nodes [Watts, 2002].

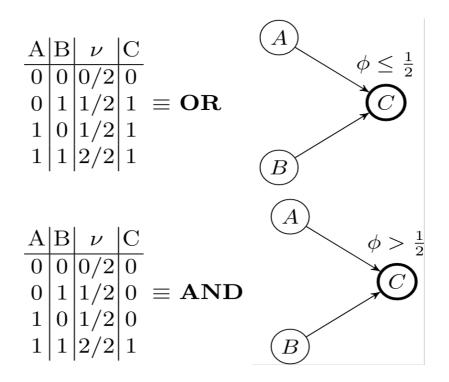


for random graphs, over many trials, the size of largest connected component (GCC) explodes at critical average degree (z_c)



At critical degree z_c , there is scale invariance of size distribution: $p(x) \sim cx^{-\beta}$

LTM cascades compute (monotone) logic



LTM computes logic, depending on threshold and input values.

These are logical automata or logic motifs.

[Von Neumann 1956, Milo 2002]

(note similarity to thresholding nodes in McCulloch-Pitts and other neural networks)

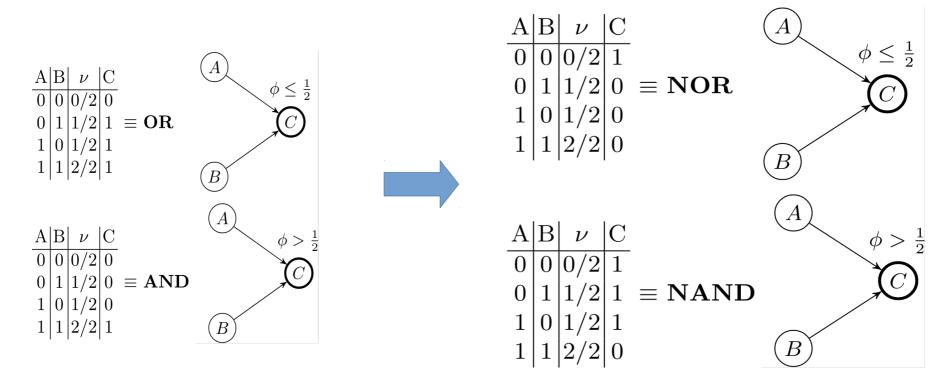
Obtain Antagonistic LTM (ALTM) by reversing threshold rule (1):

- create Erdos-Renyi random graph G(N, p)
- assign each node random threshold $\phi \sim U[0, 1]$
- set all nodes unlabelled
- label a few seeds
- randomly check each unlabelled node **u** until no change:

- If fraction of
$$\mathbf{u}$$
's neighbors labelled $\geq \phi \rightarrow \text{label } \mathbf{u}$ (1)

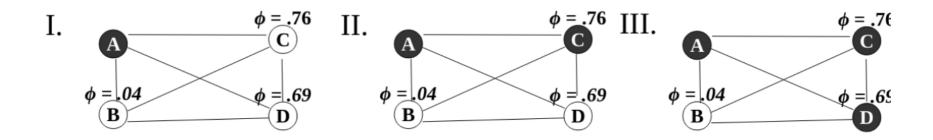
if fraction of u's neighbors labelled $<\phi \rightarrow$ label u

Obtain Antagonistic LTM (ALTM) by reversing threshold rule (1):

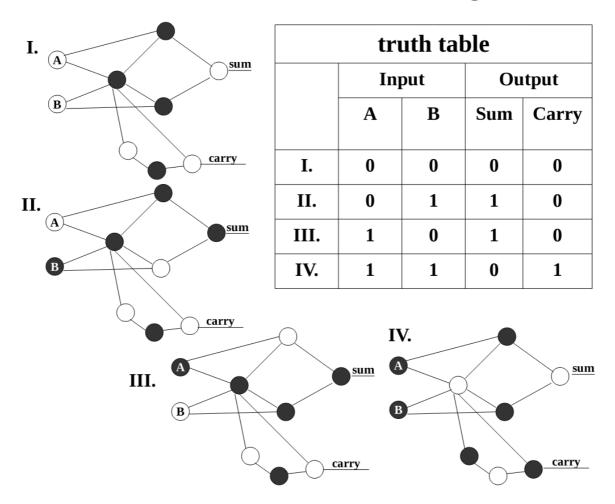


ALTM computes NAND, NOR

Antagonism (ALTM) also undergoes cascades



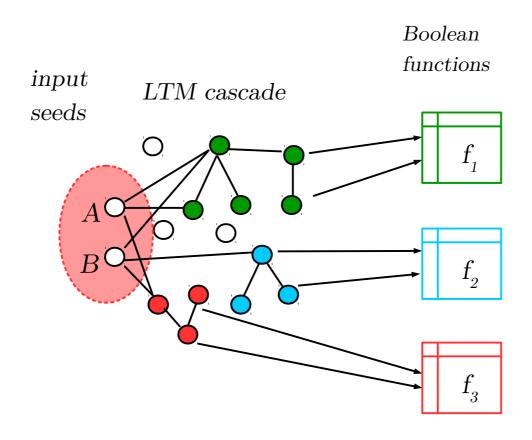
Antagonism (ALTM) Computes Universal Boolean Logic



ALTM computes NAND, NOR, which when composed can compute any Boolean function (universal basis)

e.g. Half-adder

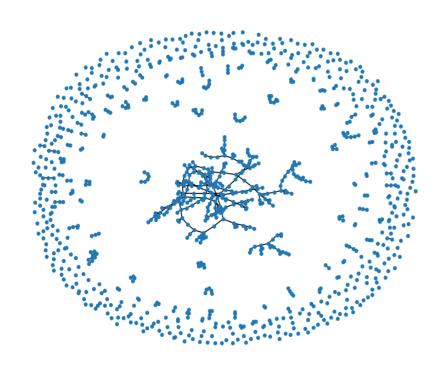
LTM computes functions on seed perturbations



Simulation:

- Create LTM, freeze edges E and thresholds ϕ
- Run cascades on all possible values of A and B,
- each node in the LTM computes some Boolean function on the seed nodes.

LTM computes functions on seeds



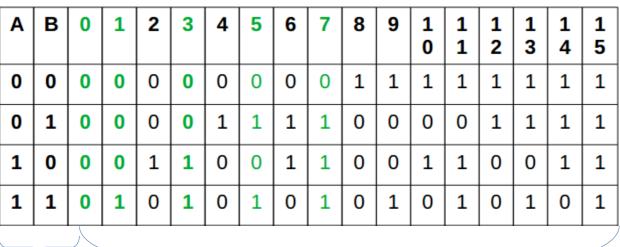
"It has been pointed out by A. M. Turing in 1937 and by W. S. McCulloch and W. Pitts in 1943 that effectively constructive logics, that is, intuitionistic logics, can be best studied in terms of *automata*. Thus *logical propositions can* be represented as electrical networks or (idealized) nervous systems. Whereas logical propositions are built up by combining certain primitive symbols, networks are formed by connecting basic components, such as relays in electrical circuits and neurons in the nervous system."

– J. von Neumann, 1956

sub-networks are like logic functions, imported by connection \rightarrow logical automata

network patterns = logic motifs

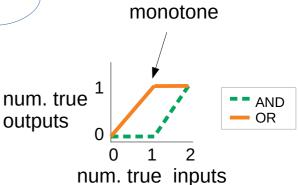
The LTM only computes monotone Boolean functions



The LTM computes **monotone**(non-decreasing in number of true inputs)
Boolean functions (green, above)

unique functions

inputs



Boolean function space grows very large in the inputs k

Α	В	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1 0	1 1	1 2	1 3	1 4	1 5
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1
1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1
		7					k										\mathcal{T}

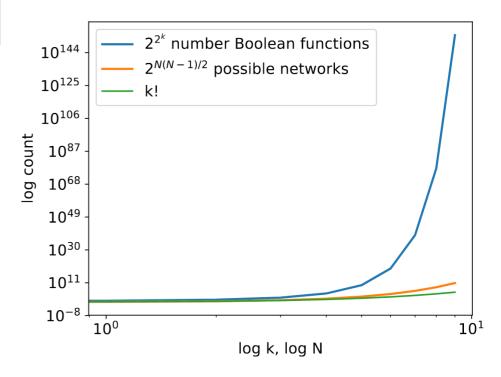
$$k = 2$$
 inputs

$$2^{2^k} = 16$$
 unique functions

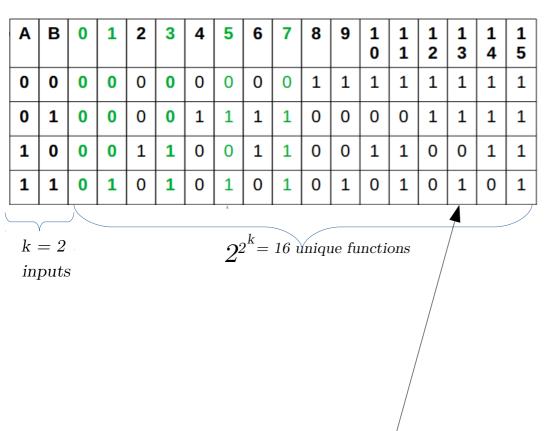
The number of Boolean functions 2^{2^k}

The number of networks $2^{N(N-1)/2}$

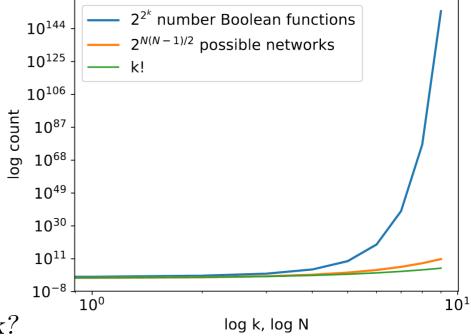
How do these combinatorial spaces interact?



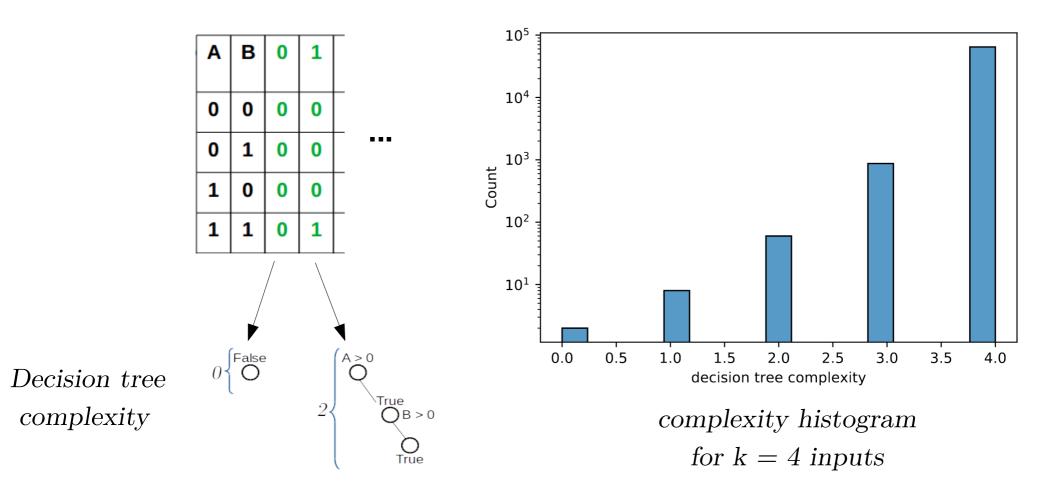
Boolean function space grows very large in the inputs k



What if you want one particular function to dominate (or even occur) in the network?

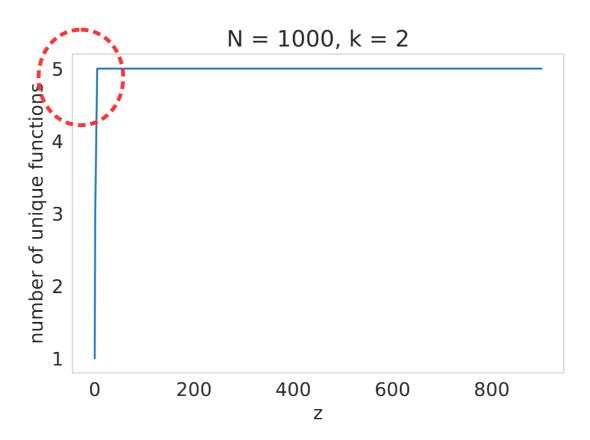


Available (truth table) Boolean functions tend to be complex



Decision tree complexity (depth of decision tree) of all available Boolean functions is hyper-exponentially distributed.

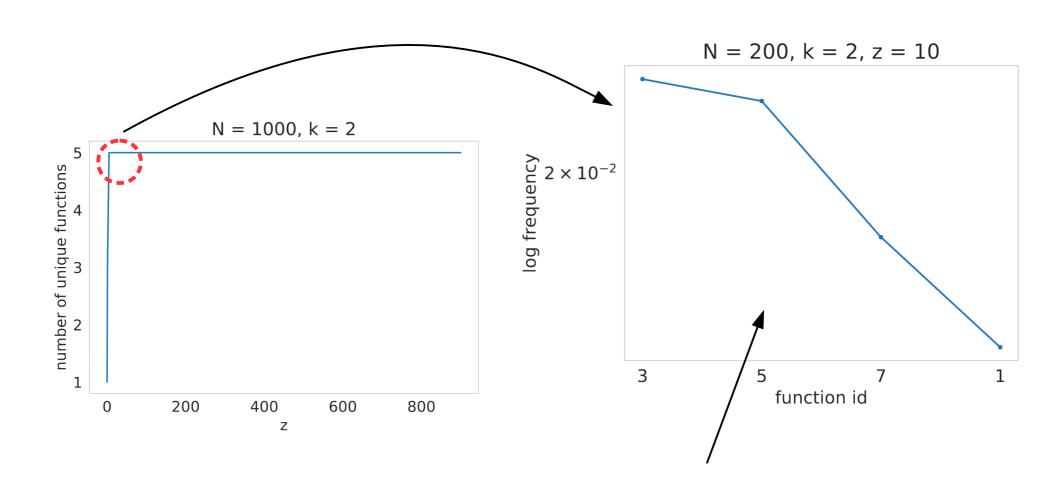
Emergence of complex Boolean functions



'Toy' example $(k = 2 \rightarrow 5 \text{ monotone functions available})$

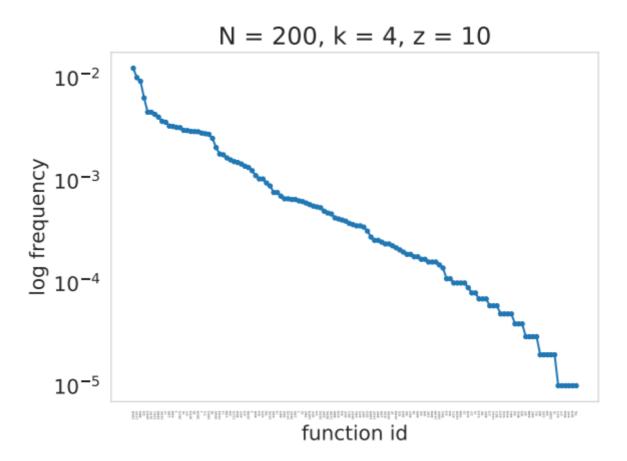
Number of unique functions computed in simulation vs. average degree (z), undergoes a sudden increase at z_c .

Emergence of complex Boolean functions



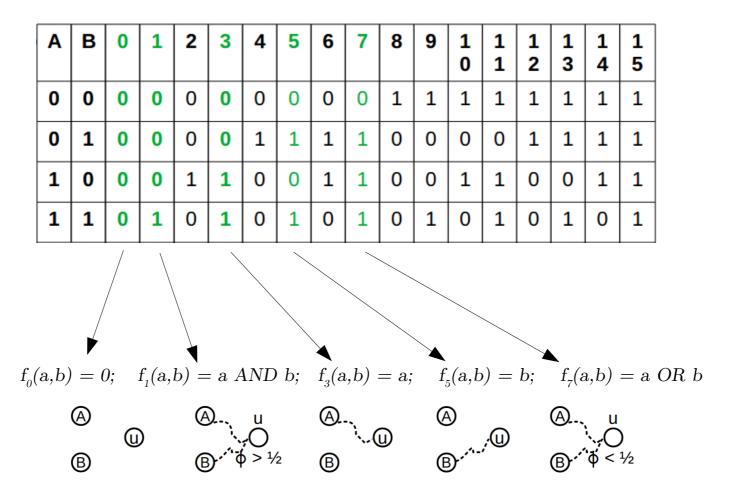
apparent decreasing exponential of function frequency

Emergence of complex Boolean functions



apparent decreasing exponential relation: 167 unique non-zero functions observed (200 trials)

Boolean function probabilities in the LTM



simplest sufficient networks to calculate the monotonic increasing functions

Boolean function probabilities in the LTM

simplest sufficient networks to calculate the monotonic increasing functions



proportionality of monotone function probability:
$$p(f_0) \propto (1 - p_{path})^2$$

$$p(f_1) \propto p_{path}^2$$

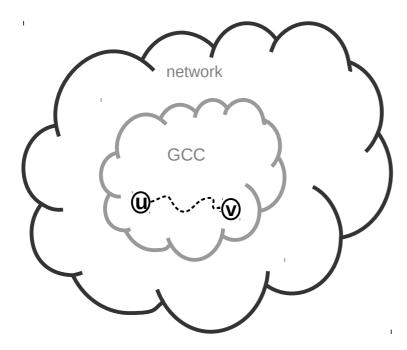
$$p(f_3) \propto p_{path}$$

$$p(f_5) \propto p_{path}$$

$$p(f_7) \propto p_{path}^2$$

for p_{path} the probability of a path between two nodes

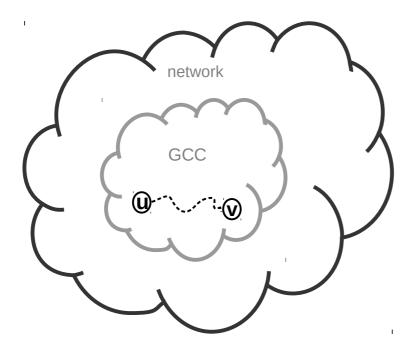
$p(u,v)_{path}$ can be approximated by $p(u,v)_{inGCC}$



if there is a path(u,v), then u and v are very likely in the Giant Connected Component (GCC)

as $N \to \infty$ this is exactly true

$p(u,v)_{path}$ can be approximated by $p(u,v)_{inGCC}$



$$p_{gcc} = v = 1 - e^{-zv}$$

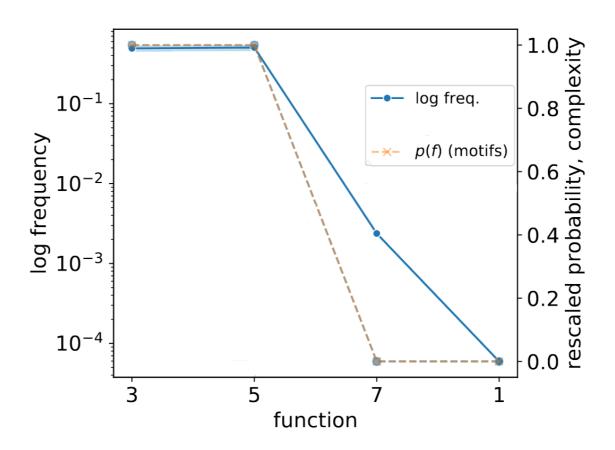
if there is a path(u,v), then u and v are very likely in the Giant Connected Component (GCC)

as $N \to \infty$ this is exactly true

From [Newman 2018] we have the recursion relation.

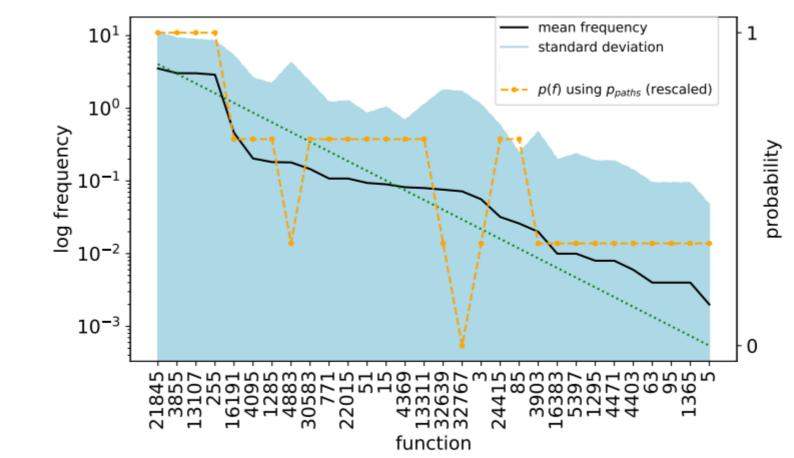
Can solve numerically.

Apparent agreement between prediction and frequencies



The frequency corresponds to the probability from motifs.

Apparent agreement between prediction and frequencies



The frequency corresponds to the probability from motifs, (Pearson correlation 0.74) and is fit by an exponential with $R^2 = 0.88$

Symmetry and Function Frequency

Α	В	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1 0	1 1	1 2	1 3	1 4	1 5
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1
1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1

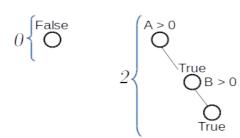
number of paths required for simplest graph

B

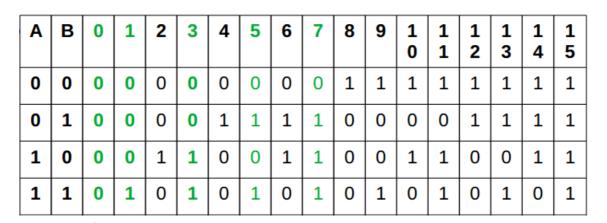
(A)

For monotone functions, the number of required paths is the decision tree complexity.

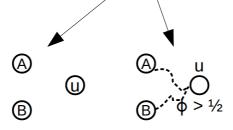
decision tree complexity (depth of decision tree)



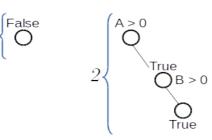
Symmetry and Function Frequency



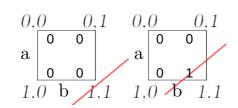
number of paths required for simplest graph



decision tree complexity (depth of decision tree)

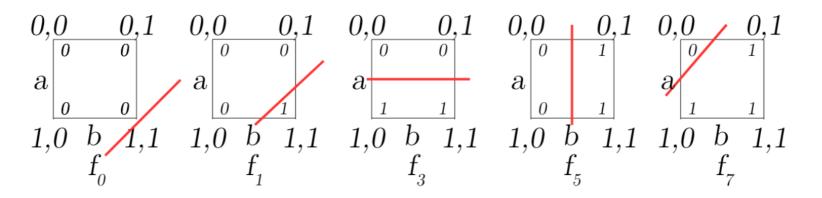


reflection
symmetries
of
Hamming Cube



The decision tree complexity is inversely related to the axial reflection symmetries of the Hamming cube.

Hamming Asymmetries \rightarrow Decision Tree Complexity



That is, if a function's Hamming cube representation is constant along an axis, it is independent of that axis, giving us

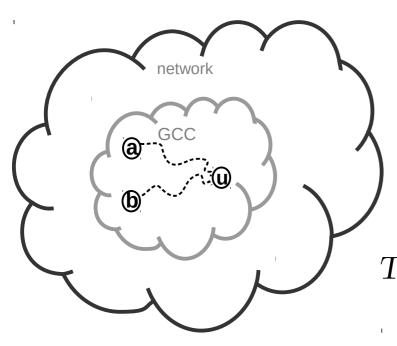
$$C = D - R$$

where C is decision tree \underline{c} omplexity,

D is the number of axes ($\underline{\mathbf{d}}$ imension) of the Hamming cube, and R is the number of congruent axial $\underline{\mathbf{r}}$ effections of the Hamming cube.

$complexity \rightarrow probability$

- Near criticality, the graph is sparsely connected,
- therefore tree-like (no loops)
- In a tree, $N = |E| + 1 \rightarrow N_{gcc} = C + 1$
- Therefore, the number of nodes in the GCC is one more than the number of paths



$$p(f) \propto p_{gcc}^{C(f)+1}$$

This is a decreasing exponential distribution

Putting it all together

$$C = D - R$$

$$N_{\rm gcc} = C + 1$$

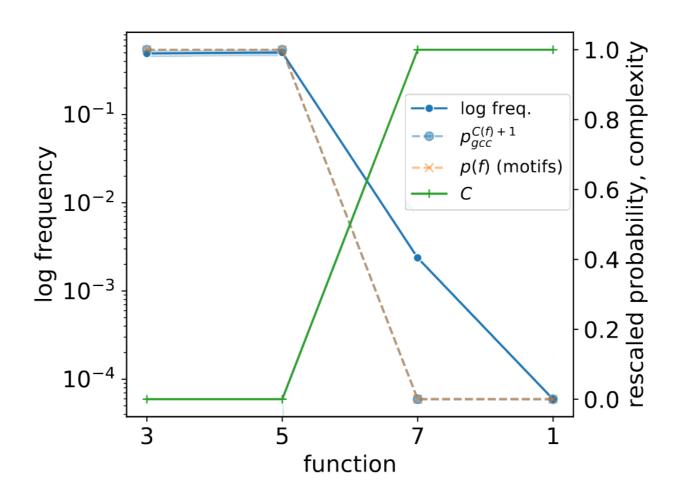
$$N_{\rm gcc} = C + 1$$

$$p(f) \propto p_{gcc}^{C(f)+1}$$

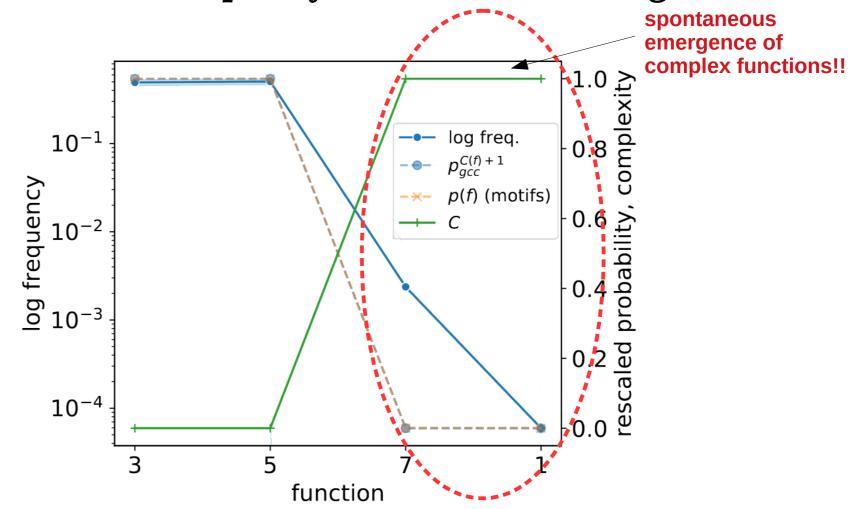
- Hamming asymmetry of function \rightarrow
- Decision Tree Complexity \rightarrow
- number of required network paths \rightarrow
- number of nodes in $GCC \rightarrow$
- probability factor (proportionality)

The probability of a monotone function in the LTM is proportional to the number of axial reflection <u>asymmetries</u> of its Hamming cube.

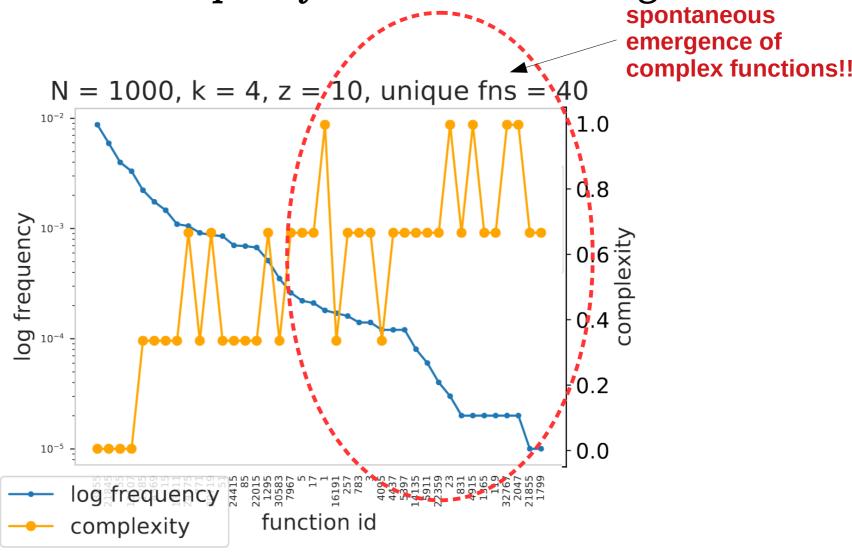
Function Frequency and Rank Ordering



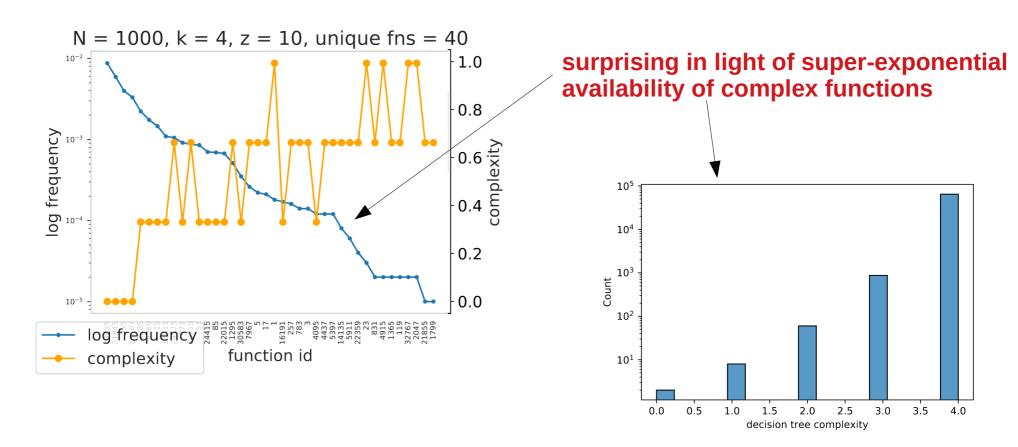
Inverse relationship between function **complexity** and **frequency** \rightarrow rank ordering, inversely related to complexity.



Inverse relationship between function **complexity** and **frequency** \rightarrow rank ordering, inversely related to complexity.

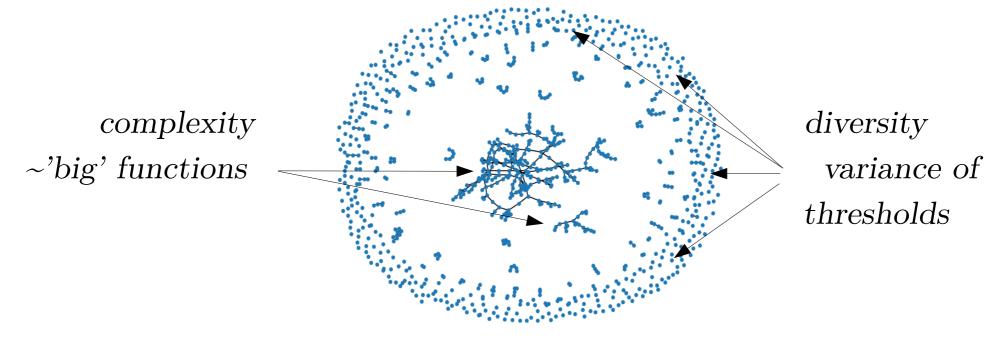


frequency (blue) is fit by exponential, having $r^2 = 0.88$



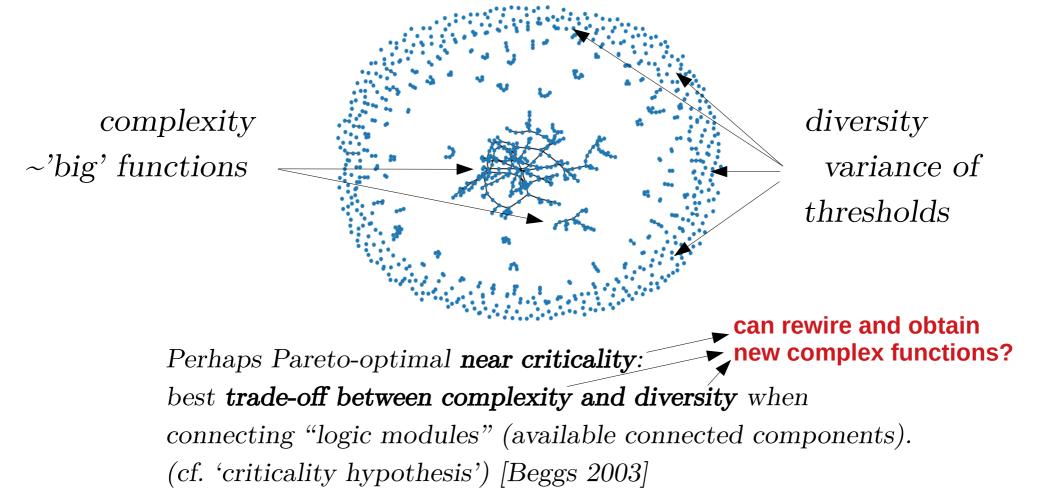
frequency (blue) is fit by exponential, having $r^2 = 0.88$

Inverse relationship between function **complexity** and **frequency** \rightarrow rank ordering (inverse to complexity)



Perhaps Pareto-optimal near criticality:
best trade-off between complexity and diversity when
connecting "logic modules" (available connected components).
(cf. 'criticality hypothesis') [Beggs 2003]

Inverse relationship between function **complexity** and **frequency** \rightarrow rank ordering (inverse to complexity)

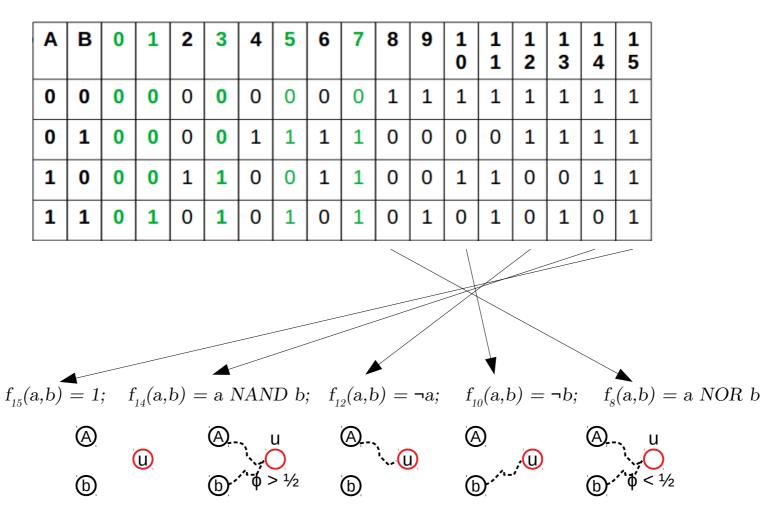


Boolean function probabilities in the ALTM: Monotone decreasing functions

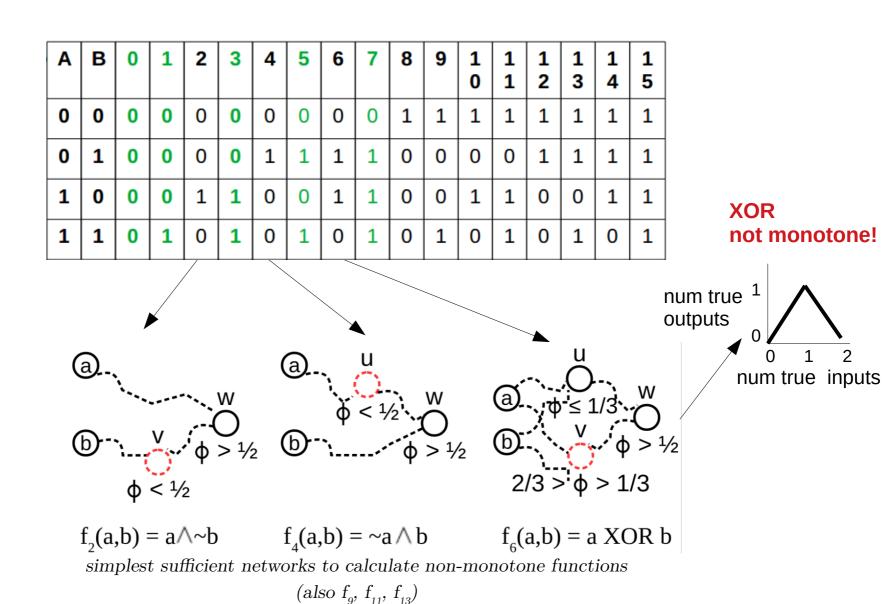
Α	В	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1 0	1 1	1 2	1 3	1 4	1 5
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1
1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1

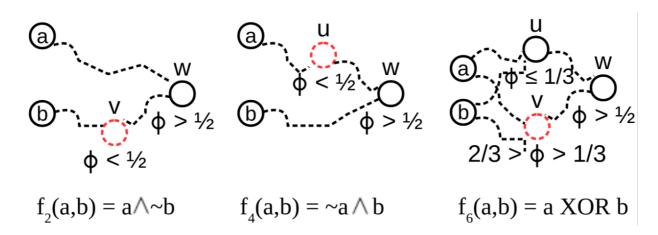
graphs for monotonic-decreasing functions $(f_8, f_{10}, f_{12}, f_{14}, f_{15})$, (NAND, NOR, ...) are similar to monotone functions (above).

Boolean function probabilities in the ALTM: Monotone decreasing functions



simplest sufficient networks to calculate the monotonic <u>decreasing</u> functions

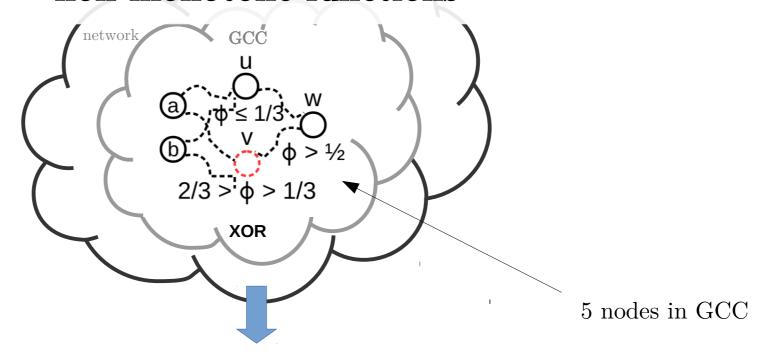






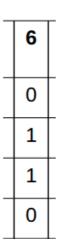
non-monotonic functions probability:

$$p(f_2) \propto p_{path}^3$$
 $p(f_4) \propto p_{path}^3$
 $p(f_6) \propto p_{path}^6$

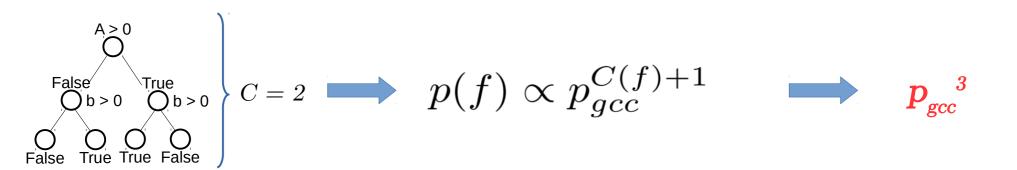


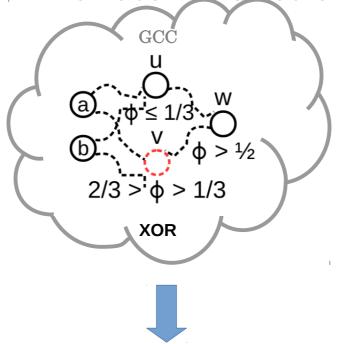
$$probability: \qquad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} p(f_6) \propto p_{path}^6
ightarrow p_{gcc}^5 \end{array}
ight.$$

Α	В
0	0
0	1
1	0
1	1

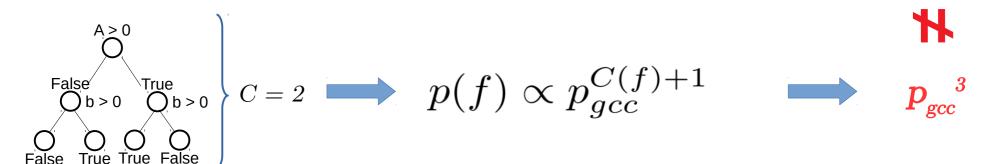


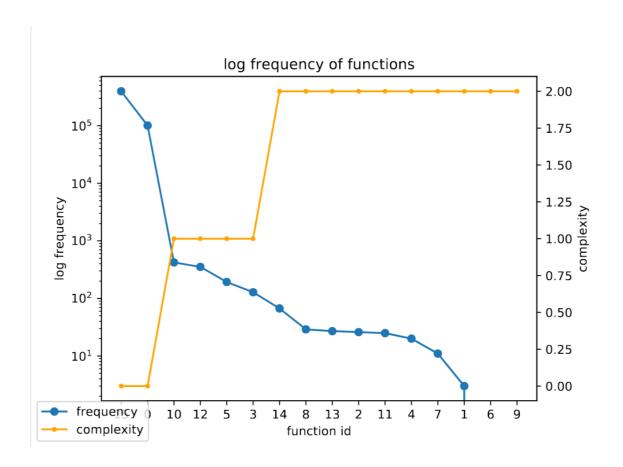
$$f_6(a,b) = a \text{ XOR } b$$





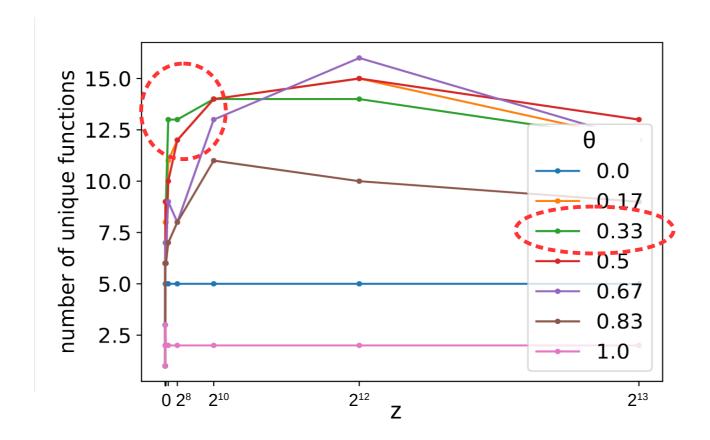
$$probability: \qquad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} p(f_6) \propto p_{path}^6
ightarrow p_{gcc}^6 \end{array}
ight.$$





Nevertheless, decision tree complexity does still inversely relate to frequency.

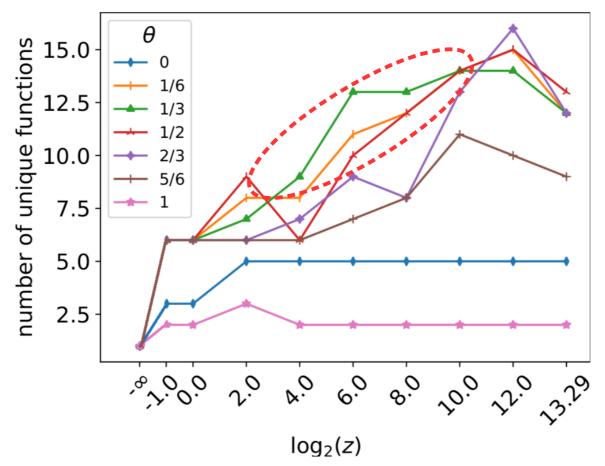
Antagonism / Inhibition ~ 1/3 Maximizes functions near criticality



 θ = 1/3 for z in [2³, 2¹⁰] maximizes number of unique functions observed

• c.f.: 'criticality hypothesis' \rightarrow information processing optimized in brain near criticality

Antagonism / Inhibition $\sim 1/3$ Maximizes functions near criticality



 θ = 1/3 for z in [2³, 2¹⁰] maximizes number of unique functions observed

- c.f. [Capano et al., 2015] \rightarrow info. processing optimized near 30% inhibition
- 30% inhibition prevalent in biology

Interchangeability of LTM Antagonism and McCulloch-Pitts Inhibition

1. Inhibition to Antagonism

A antagonistic to the input

input	B inhibits A via inhibitory	
	connection	
$\mathbf{\phi} =$	1/2	

input	A	B
0	1	0
$\int_{S} 1$	0	1

excitatory (with excitatory and inhibitory inputs,

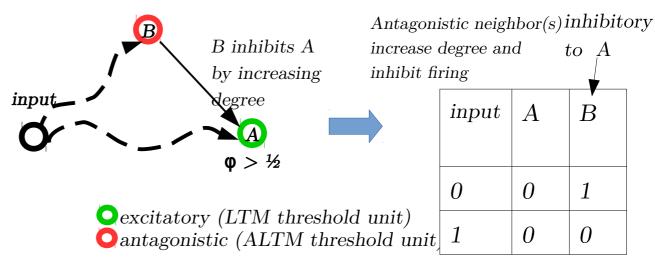
inhibitory

connected

path

2. Antagonism to Inhibition

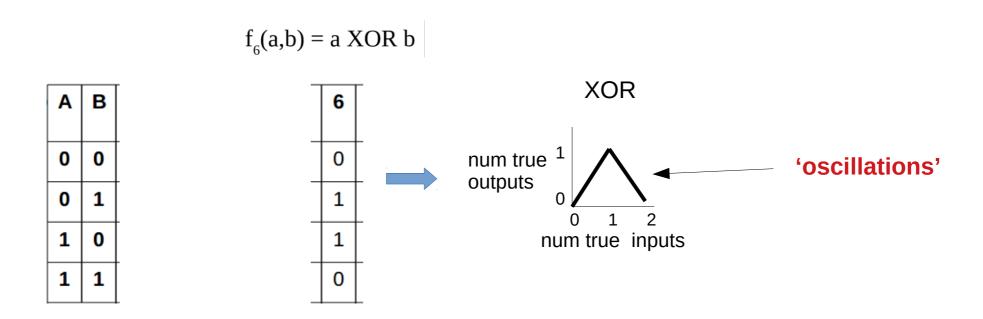
B is



Summary

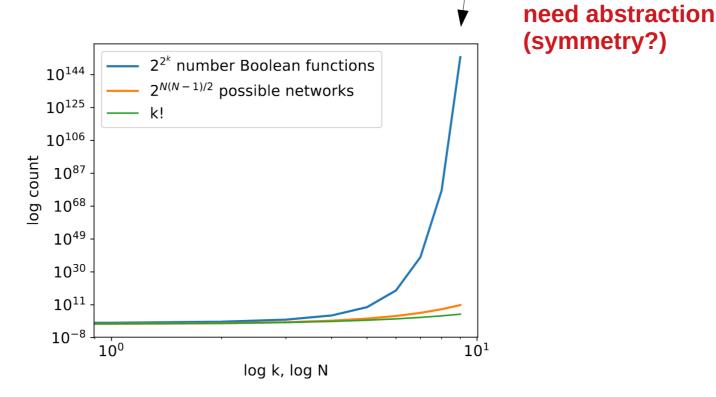
- Network cascades are percolation (<u>ubiquitous</u> and naturally occurring)
- Cascades compute logic
- sub-networks compute logic as logic motifs or automata
- Antagonism (= inhibition) yields universal computation
- Boolean function space is huge, how do large networks navigate it (learn)?
- Random networks of threshold units yield a rank ordering of complexity
 - i.e. complex Boolean functions emerge spontaneously
- Percolation lets us predict proportionality of function probabilities
- For monotone functions, there is an apparent relationship between
 - function frequency
 - decision tree complexity
 - Boolean function symmetry
- Results for 1/3 antagonism coincide with findings elsewhere and in biology.
- Symmetry-breaking in the network (formation of GCC) yields complexity of functionality

• Better complexity measures for **non-monotone functions** - Boolean Fourier analysis?

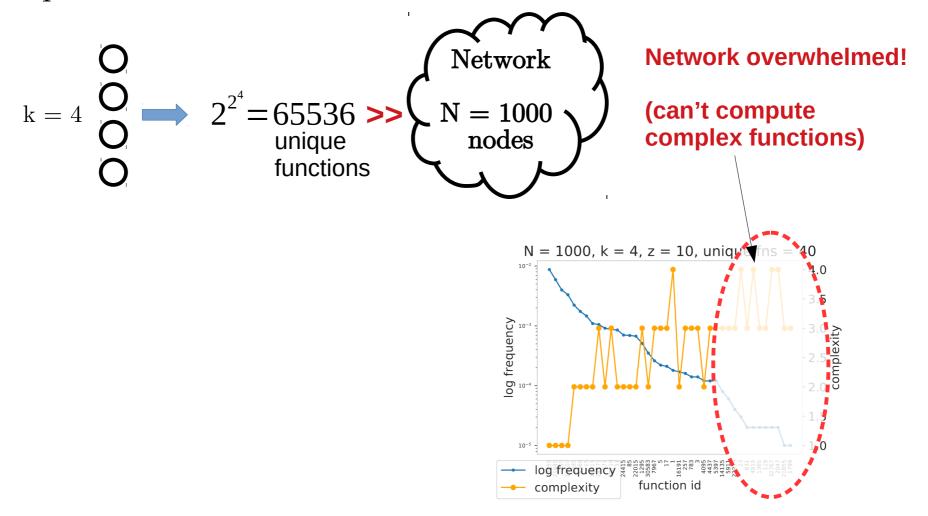


• generalize predictions to $k \gg 2$ inputs and much larger networks $(N \sim 10^9 \text{ nodes})$

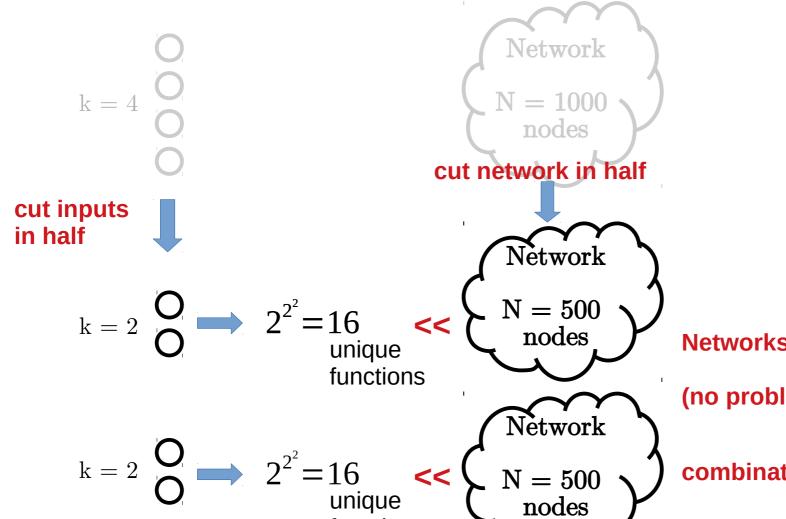
• learning in large combinatorial spaces | !!!?? far too big! \rightarrow



• modularity as related to network's complexity capacity for k inputs



• modularity as related to network's complexity capacity for k inputs



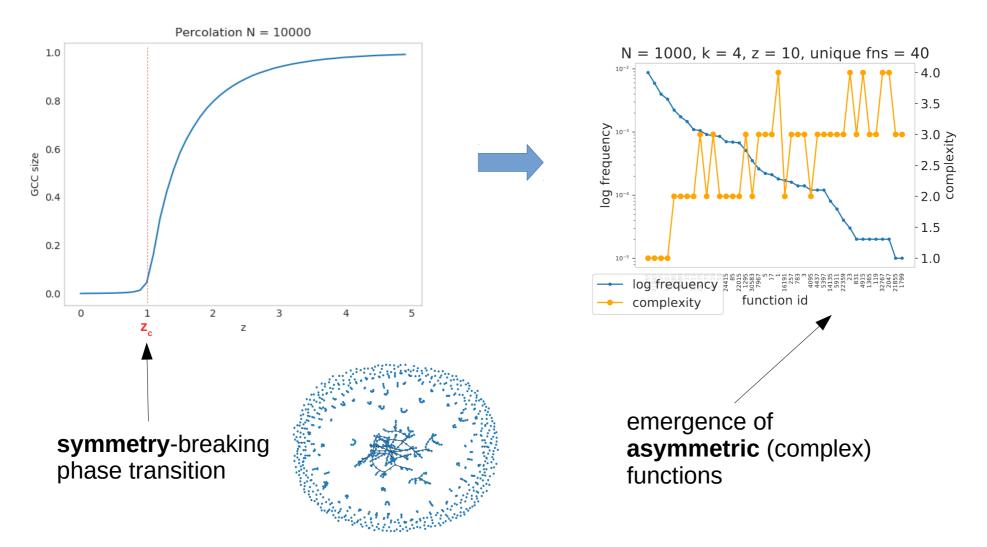
functions

Networks not overwhelmed!

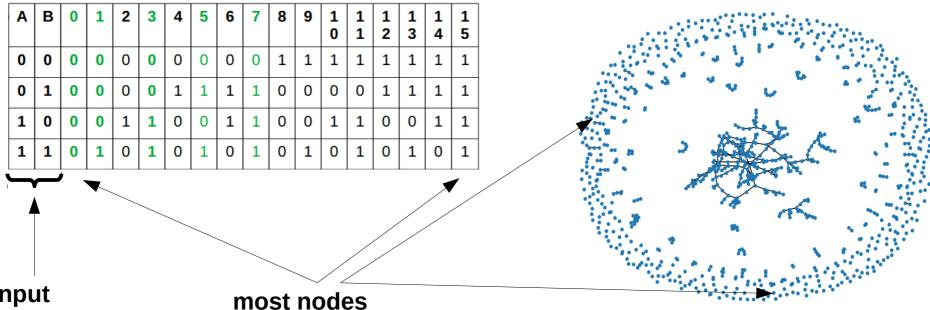
(no problem!)

combinatorics → modularity!

- symmetry of network ↔ symmetry of functions
- general theory of structure and function? (!!)



network as information engine →
general conservation law of information or complexity??
(cf. Liouville theorem – conservation of information,
Noether's theorem – symmetries correspond to conservation)

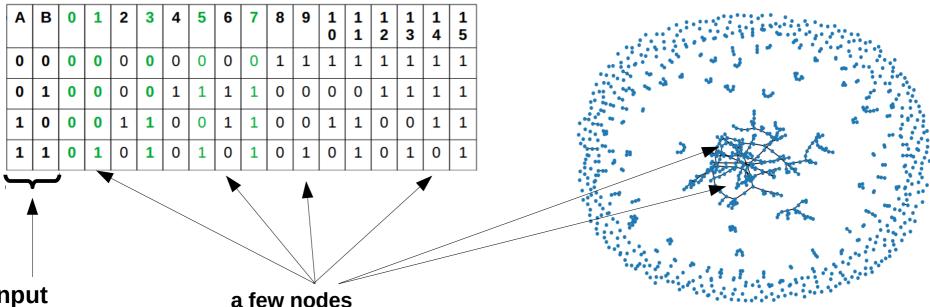


Input perturbations have complexity, information content

lose complexity (or information)

percolation: scale-invariance of component size $p(x) \sim cx^{-\beta}$

• network as information engine — general conservation law of information or complexity ?? (cf. Liouville's, Noether's theorems?)



Input perturbations have complexity, information content

a few nodes
increase complexity
or information
(contain interaction information)

recall decreasing exponential rank - ordering

percolation: scale-invariance of component size $p(x) \sim cx^{\beta}$

- information processing in terms of **entropy**
 - (cf. Lizier, Prokopenko; Beggs, Plenz et al.)

Α	В	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1 0	1 1	1 2	1 3	1 4	1 5
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1
1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1
		_															

$$T_{X o Y} = I(Y_t; X_{t-1:t-L} \mid Y_{t-1:t-L})$$

e.g. *transfer entropy*

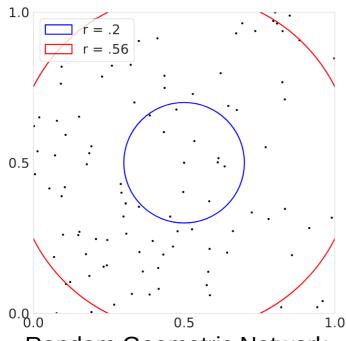
(conditional mutual entropy between inputs and outputs)

inputs

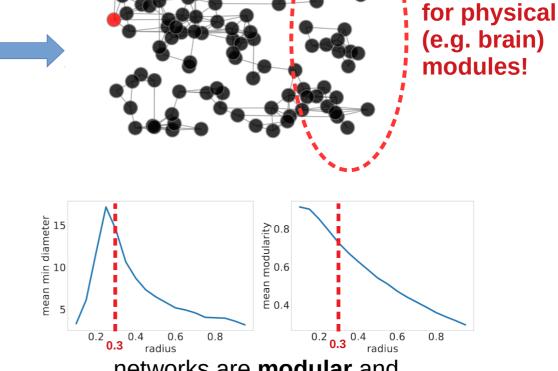
• geographic (Euclidean) constraints and other network topologies

are nodes at farthest distance most complex??

convenient

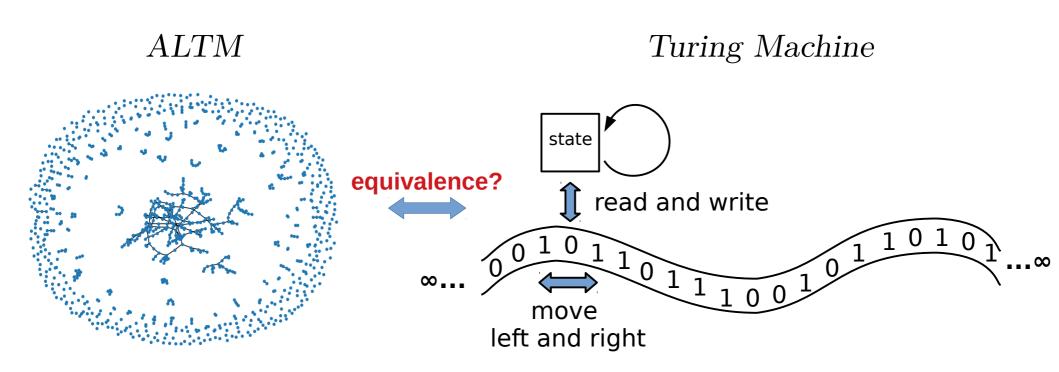


Random Geometric Network (connections are restricted by radius)



networks are **modular** and **NOT small-world** at restricted radius (e.g. radius = 0.3)

• Turing completeness



Rewire \rightarrow state dynamics

(especially near criticality)

• Consciousness [Tononi]

A	В	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1 0	1 1	1 2	1 3	1 4	1 5
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1
1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1

number of paths required for simplest graph

decision tree

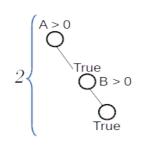
complexity

(depth of decision

tree)



 $^{\otimes}$



number of paths required

- = decision tree complexity
- = how integrative a node is
- = consciousness [Tononi]

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Thank you!

Correspondence:

g.wilkers on 21@imperial.ac.uk

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