Summary of A tutorial on the free-energy framework for modelling perception

Marco Casari

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Summary of A tutorial on the free-energy framework for modelling perception and learning by Rafal Bogacz

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University of Turin

Complex system in neuroscience, 12 December 2023



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Complex system in neuroscience, 12 December 2023

• In this presentation the main topics of the paper are presented, in the same order they appear in the paper.

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Introduction

• Predictive coding model of Rao and Ballard.

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Introduction
Introduction

1. Prior predictions are compared to stimuli and the model parameters are updated considering prediction errors, features corresponding to receptive fields in the the primary sensory cortex are learned.

. Predictive coding model of Rao and Ballard



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Introduction

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Summary of A tutorial on the free-energy framework for modelling perception and learning by Rafal Bogacz Introduction

Introduction

Predictive coding model of Rao and Ballard.
 Free-energy model of Friston.

- 1. Prior predictions are compared to stimuli and the model parameters are updated considering prediction errors, features corresponding to receptive fields in the the primary sensory cortex are learned.
- 2. Weight stimuli by their noise, learn features using their covariance, implement attentional modulation changing the variance of attended features.

Predictive coding model of Rao and Ballard.

• Free-energy model of Friston.

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Predictive coding model of Rao and Ballard.

• Free-energy model of Friston.

Hebbian plasticity.

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Introduction

1. Prior predictions are compared to stimuli and the model parameters are updated considering prediction errors, features corresponding to receptive fields in the the primary sensory cortex are learned.

. Predictive coding model of Rao and Ballard

· Hebbian plasticity

- 2. Weight stimuli by their noise, learn features using their covariance, implement attentional modulation changing the variance of attended features.
- 3. Synaptic strenght is changed proportionally to activities of pre-synaptic and post-synaptic neurons.

Introduction

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Introduction

Predictive coding model of Rao and Ballard.

- Free-energy model of Friston.
- Hebbian plasticity.
- Free energy minimization.

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Introduction

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-Introduction

. Predictive coding model of Rao and Ballard

- 1. Prior predictions are compared to stimuli and the model parameters are updated considering prediction errors, features corresponding to receptive fields in the the primary sensory cortex are learned.
- 2. Weight stimuli by their noise, learn features using their covariance, implement attentional modulation changing the variance of attended features.
- 3. Synaptic strenght is changed proportionally to activities of pre-synaptic and post-synaptic neurons.
- 4. Minimization of free energy can be seen as the base of many theories of perception.

Introduction

Working hypotheses

Local computation.

Summary of A tutorial on the free-energy framework 2023-12-10 for modelling perception and learning by Rafal Bogacz Introduction -Working hypotheses

1. The state of a neuron is determined only by the synaptic weight and the state of its input neurons.

Working hypotheses

Local computation



Introduction

Local computation.

Local plasticity.

Working hypotheses

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· Local plasticity.

Working hypotheses

- 1. The state of a neuron is determined only by the synaptic weight and the state of its input neurons.
- 2. Synaptic plasticity depends only on the activities of pre-synaptic and post-synaptic neurons.



Introduction

Local computation.

Basic neuronal computation.

Local plasticity.

Working hypotheses

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Summary of A tutorial on the free-energy framework for modelling perception and learning by Rafal Bogacz

Introduction

Working hypotheses

Local elasticity

-Working hypotheses

- 1. The state of a neuron is determined only by the synaptic weight and the state of its input neurons.
- 2. Synaptic plasticity depends only on the activities of pre-synaptic and post-synaptic neurons.
- 3. The state of a neuron is the result of the application of a monotonic function to the linear combination of states and synaptic weights of input neurons.



Single variable model

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• Feature is a scalar variable $v \in \Omega_v$.

• Stimulus is a scalar variable $u \in \Omega_u$.

Single variable model

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Summary of A tutorial on the free-energy framework for modelling perception and learning by Rafal Bogacz

-Single variable model

-Single variable model

Single variable model

1. The model describes the inference of a single variable from a single sensory input.

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Single variable model

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C l

Single variable model

- Feature is a scalar variable $v \in \Omega_v$.
- Stimulus is a scalar variable $u \in \Omega_u$.
- Relation between feature and stimulus is a differentiable function $g: \Omega_V \to \Omega_U$.

Summary of A tutorial on the free-energy framework for modelling perception and learning by Rafal Bogacz —Single variable model

- —Single variable model
- 1. The model describes the inference of a single variable from a single sensory input.

Single variable model

Relation between feature and stimulus is a differentiable

2. In general inferred variable and sensory input are related by some smooth function.



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Single variable model

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- Feature is a scalar variable $v \in \Omega_v$.
- Stimulus is a scalar variable $u \in \Omega_u$.
- Relation between feature and stimulus is a differentiable function $g: \Omega_V \to \Omega_{II}$.
- Sensory input p(u|v) is affected by gaussian noise and it has mean g(v) and variance Σ_u .

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Single variable model

-Single variable model

1. The model describes the inference of a single variable from a single sensory input.

Stimulus is a scalar variable u ∈ Ω_u.
 Relation between feature and stimulus is a differentiable.

function $g : \Omega_v \rightarrow \Omega_u$. Sensory input g(u|v) is affected by gaussian noise and it

- 2. In general inferred variable and sensory input are related by some smooth function.
- 3. Sensory input and stimulus are drafted from the same space.

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Single variable model

- Feature is a scalar variable $v \in \Omega_v$.
- Stimulus is a scalar variable $u \in \Omega_u$.
- Relation between feature and stimulus is a differentiable function $g: \Omega_V \to \Omega_U$.
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- Prior knowledge of the feature p(v) follows a gaussian distribution with mean v_p and variance Σ_p .

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Single variable model

Single variable model

1. The model describes the inference of a single variable from a single sensory input.

Stimulus is a scalar variable u ∈ Ω_u.
 Relation between feature and stimulus is a differentiable.

function $g:\Omega_v \to \Omega_o$.

• Sensory input p(u|v) is affected by gaussian noise and it has mean g(v) and variance Σ_o .

• Prior knowledge of the feature p(v) follows a gaussian distribution with mean v_o and variance Σ_o .

- 2. In general inferred variable and sensory input are related by some smooth function.
- 3. Sensory input and stimulus are drafted from the same space.
- 4. Information gained and constantly updated from previous experience.



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Single variable model

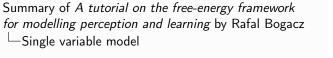
Multiple variables

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Exact solution to the inference problem

• Bayes theorem:

$$p(v|u) = \frac{p(v)p(u|v)}{p(u)} \quad . \tag{1}$$





Exact solution to the inference problem

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1. Knowledge of feature depending on a given stimulus is the posterior. Prior knowledge on the feature is the prior, distribution of stimulus is the likelihood.



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Exact solution to the inference problem

• Bayes theorem:

$$p(v|u) = \frac{p(v)p(u|v)}{p(u)} \quad . \tag{1}$$

Marginal likelihood of stimuli:

$$p(u) = \int_{\Omega_V} p(v)p(u|v) \, \mathrm{d}v \quad . \tag{2}$$

Summary of A tutorial on the free-energy framework for modelling perception and learning by Rafal Bogacz —Single variable model



Exact solution to the inference problem

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- 1. Knowledge of feature depending on a given stimulus is the posterior. Prior knowledge on the feature is the prior, distribution of stimulus is the likelihood.
- 2. In general, marginal likelihood is difficult to evaluate.



Single variable model

Exact solution to the inference problem

Bayes theorem:

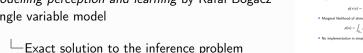
$$p(v|u) = \frac{p(v)p(u|v)}{p(u)} \quad . \tag{2}$$

Marginal likelihood of stimuli:

$$p(u) = \int_{\Omega_v} p(v)p(u|v) \, \mathrm{d}v \quad . \tag{2}$$

• No implementation in simple biological systems.

Summary of A tutorial on the free-energy framework for modelling perception and learning by Rafal Bogacz -Single variable model



Exact solution to the inference problem

- 1. Knowledge of feature depending on a given stimulus is the posterior. Prior knowledge on the feature is the prior, distribution of stimulus is the likelihood.
- 2. In general, marginal likelihood is difficult to evaluate.
- 3. Complex calculations and infinite nodes are needed to represent each value of the posterior.



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Single

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variable: model

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Approximate solution to the inference problem

• Most likely value of the feature is a scalar variable $\phi \in \Omega_{v}$.



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Summary of A tutorial on the free-energy framework for modelling perception and learning by Rafal Bogacz —Single variable model

Approximate solution to the inference problem

1. Evaluating the mode of the posterior instead of the whole function is more biologically plausible.

Approximate solution to the inference problem

Single variable model

Approximate solution to the inference problem

- Most likely value of the feature is a scalar variable $\phi \in \Omega_{V}$.
- Equivalent to minimize negative free energy with respect to the feature:

$$F(v,u) = \ln \left(p(v)p(u|v) \right) \quad . \tag{3}$$



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Summary of A tutorial on the free-energy framework for modelling perception and learning by Rafal Bogacz -Single variable model

Approximate solution to the inference problem

- 1. Evaluating the mode of the posterior instead of the whole function is more biologically plausible.
- 2. The most likely feature value is the fixed point of the gradient descent method applied to the negative free energy.

Approximate solution to the inference problem

Single variable model

Approximate solution to the inference problem

- Most likely value of the feature is a scalar variable $\phi \in \Omega_{V}$.
- Equivalent to minimize negative free energy with respect to the feature:

$$F(v,u) = \ln (p(v)p(u|v)) \quad . \tag{3}$$

Prediction errors:

$$\varepsilon_p = \frac{v - v_p}{\Sigma_p} \quad , \tag{4}$$

$$\varepsilon_u = \frac{u - g(v)}{\Sigma_u} \quad . \tag{5}$$



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Summary of A tutorial on the free-energy framework for modelling perception and learning by Rafal Bogacz -Single variable model

Approximate solution to the inference problem



- 1. Evaluating the mode of the posterior instead of the whole function is more biologically plausible.
- 2. The most likely feature value is the fixed point of the gradient descent method applied to the negative free energy.
- 3. Prediction errors are introduced as new variables to extend the dynamical system and satisfy Hebbian plasticity.

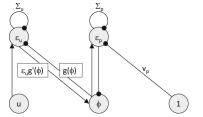


Fig. 3 from article: network implementation of the dynamical system

$$\begin{cases} \dot{\phi} = \varepsilon_{u} g'(\phi) - \varepsilon_{p} \\ \dot{\varepsilon_{p}} = \phi - v_{p} - \Sigma_{p} \varepsilon_{p} \\ \dot{\varepsilon_{u}} = u - g(\phi) - \Sigma_{u} \varepsilon_{u} \end{cases}$$
(6)

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• Note that all three hypotheses are satisfied.

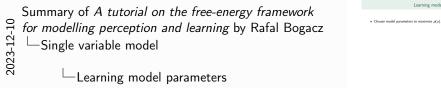
☐ Neural implementation

Neural implementation

Single variable model

Learning model parameters

• Choose model parameters to maximize p(u).



Learning model parameters

1. Model parameters are mean and variance of variables.



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Learning model parameters

- Choose model parameters to maximize p(u).
- Equivalent to maximize negative free energy with respect to parameters:

$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial v_p} = \frac{\phi - v_p}{\Sigma_p} \quad , \tag{7}$$

$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial \Sigma_p} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{(\phi - \nu_p)^2}{\Sigma_p^2} - \frac{1}{\Sigma_p} \right) \quad , \tag{8}$$

$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial \Sigma_u} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{(u - g(\phi))^2}{\Sigma_u^2} - \frac{1}{\Sigma_u} \right) \quad . \tag{9}$$

Summary of A tutorial on the free-energy framework
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Single variable model
Learning model parameters

1. Model parameters are mean and variance of variables.

* Equivalent to maintain engation free energy with respect to parameters: $\frac{\partial F}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial - v_y}{2x}, \qquad (7)$ $\frac{\partial F}{\partial x_y} = \frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{\partial - v_y}{2}\right)^2 - \frac{1}{2x}\right), \qquad (8)$ $\frac{\partial F}{\partial x_y} = \frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{\partial - v_y}{2}\right)^2 - \frac{1}{2x}\right), \qquad (9)$

Learning model parameters

- C I
- 2. The fixed point of this dynamical system exists only as sample mean over the occured events of perception.



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Learning model parameters

- Choose model parameters to maximize p(u).
- Equivalent to maximize negative free energy with respect to parameters:

$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial v_p} = \frac{\phi - v_p}{\Sigma_p} \quad , \tag{7}$$

$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial \Sigma_p} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{(\phi - \nu_p)^2}{\Sigma_p^2} - \frac{1}{\Sigma_p} \right) \quad , \tag{8}$$

$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial \Sigma_u} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{(u - g(\phi))^2}{\Sigma_u^2} - \frac{1}{\Sigma_u} \right) \quad . \tag{9}$$

Hebbian plasticity is satisfied using prediction errors.

Summary of *A tutorial on the free-energy framework* for modelling perception and learning by Rafal Bogacz —Single variable model

Learning model parameters

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• Choose modal parameters to maximize p(x).
• Equivalent to maximize negative free energy with respect to parameters. $\frac{\partial G}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial - y_x}{\partial x_y}.$ $\frac{\partial G}{\partial x_y} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{(x-y_y)^2}{x_y} - \frac{1}{x_y} \right).$ (8) $\frac{\partial G}{\partial x_y} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{(x-y)^2}{x_y} - \frac{1}{x_y} \right).$ (9)

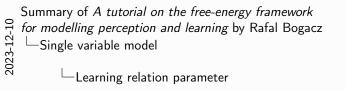
Learning model parameters

- 1. Model parameters are mean and variance of variables.
- 2. The fixed point of this dynamical system exists only as sample mean over the occured events of perception.
- 3. Without prediction errors, the computation is still local.

Learning relation parameter



$$g(v,\theta) = \theta v \quad . \tag{10}$$



1. Only one parameter is considered without loss of generality.

Learning relation parameter



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Learning relation parameter

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Linear relation:

$$g(v,\theta) = \theta v \quad . \tag{10}$$

Nonlinear relation:

$$g(v,\theta) = \theta h(v) \quad . \tag{11}$$

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Learning relation parameter



Learning relation parameter

- 1. Only one parameter is considered without loss of generality.
- 2. The nonlinearity increases the complexity of the network and partially changes Hebbian plasticity, still keeping it local.



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Learning relation parameter

• Linear relation:

$$g(v,\theta) = \theta v \quad . \tag{10}$$

Nonlinear relation:

$$g(v,\theta) = \theta h(v) \quad . \tag{11}$$

Gradient of negative free energy for learning:

$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial \theta} = \frac{u - \theta h(\phi)}{\Sigma_u} h(\phi) = \varepsilon_u h(\phi) \quad . \tag{12}$$

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Single variable model
Learning relation parameter

* Linear relations $g(r,\theta) = \theta r$. (12) * Nonlinear relations $g(r,\theta) = \theta \theta r$. (12) * Gradient of suggestive few learning: $\frac{\partial r}{\partial \theta} = \frac{\sigma \log(\alpha)}{2\pi} \log(\alpha) = \epsilon_{\alpha} \log(\alpha)$. (12)

Learning relation parameter

- 1. Only one parameter is considered without loss of generality.
- 2. The nonlinearity increases the complexity of the network and partially changes Hebbian plasticity, still keeping it local.
- 3. Same consideration of model parameters apply to the relation parameter.



Free energy framework

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Free energy framework

Free energy framework

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Learning parameters

Learning parameters

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Hierarchical structure implementation

-Multiple variables model

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Hierarchical structure implementation

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Recover local plasticity

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