



# Learning the dynamics of biological networks



Thierry Mora

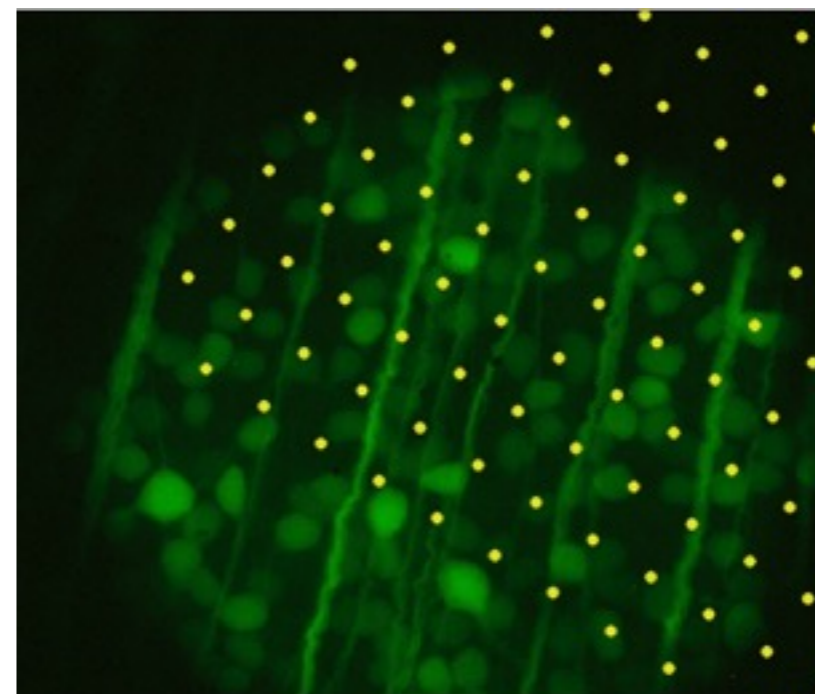
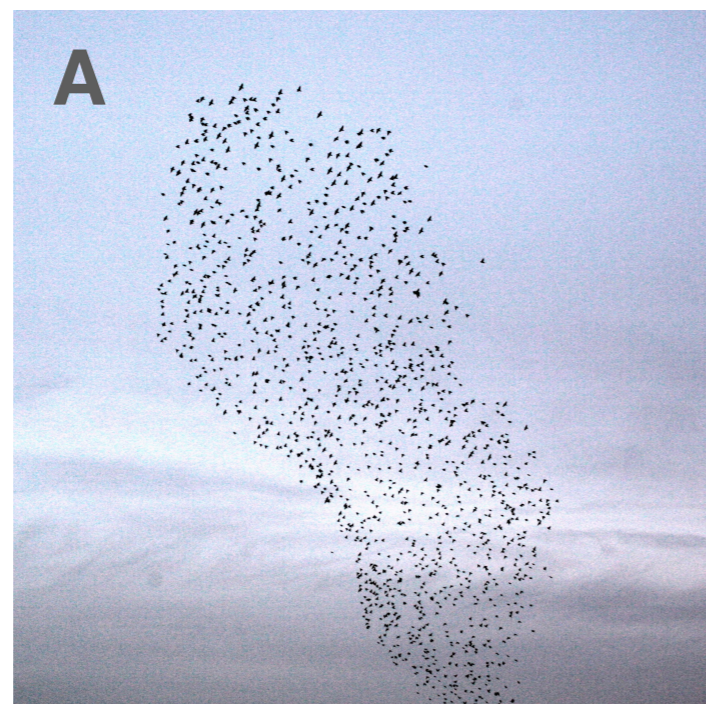
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& CNRS

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*E. Silvestri*  
*M. Viale*

Aberdeen  
University  
*F. Ginelli*



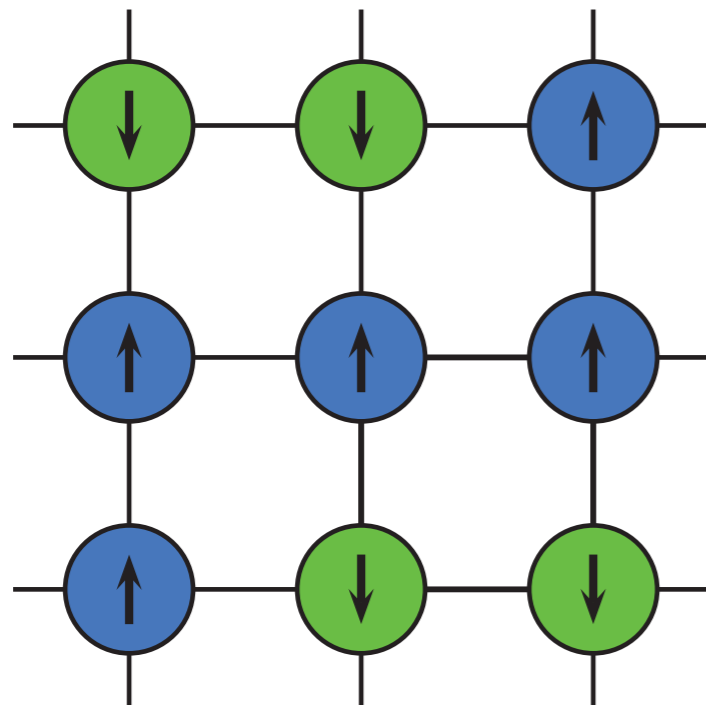
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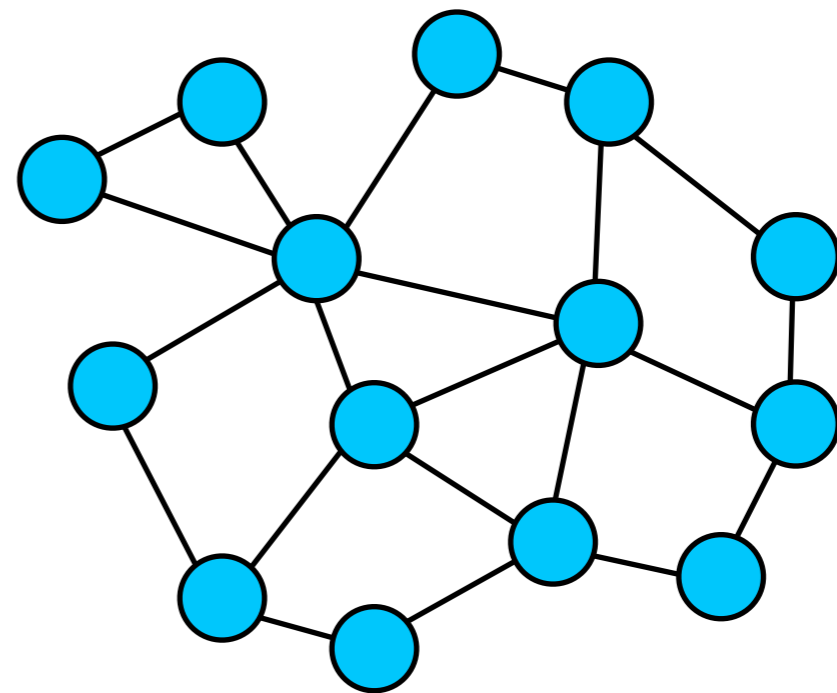
# statistical mechanics as a tool to describe correlated systems

interacting spins



spontaneous magnetization

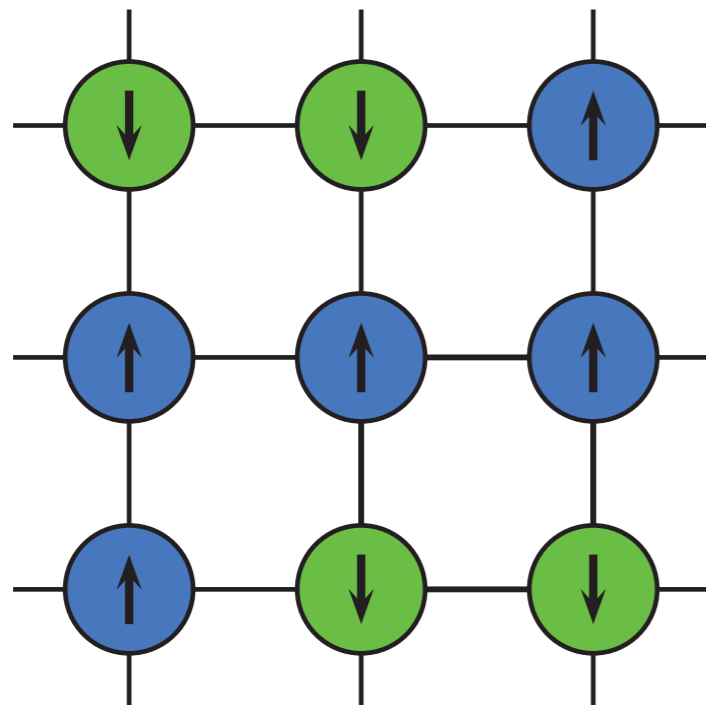
(any) interacting agents



collective behaviour

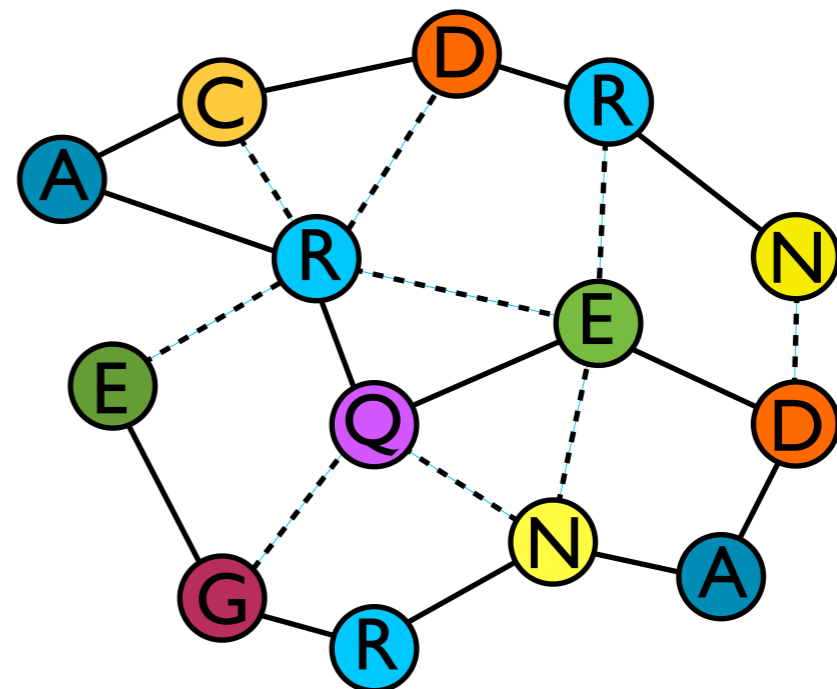
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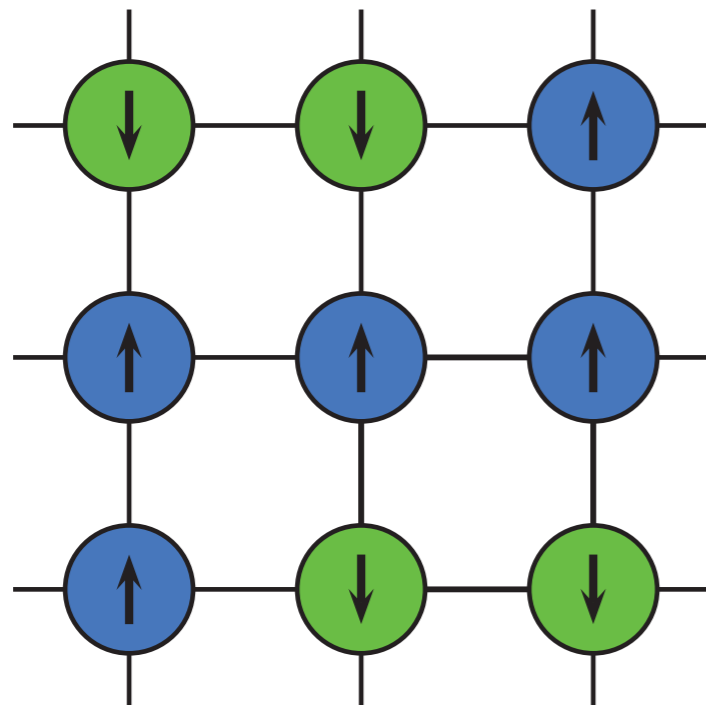
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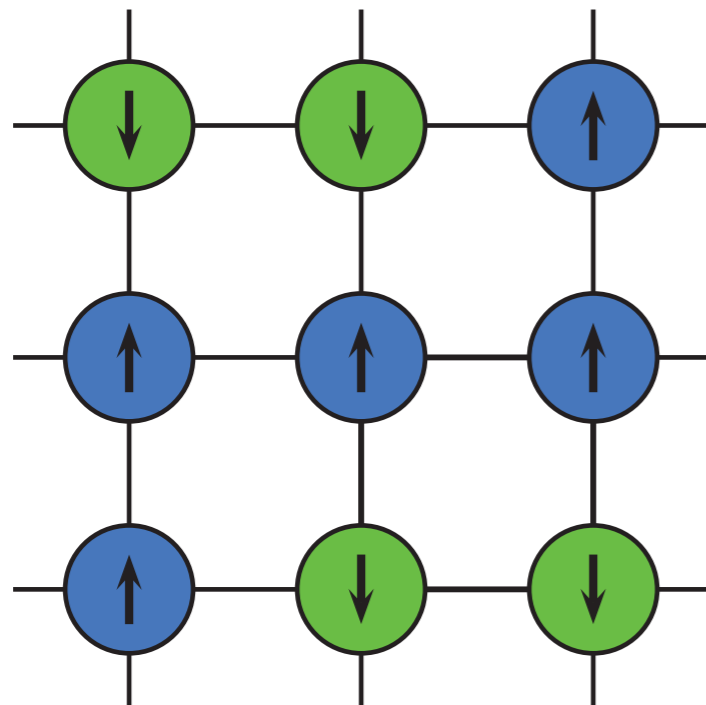
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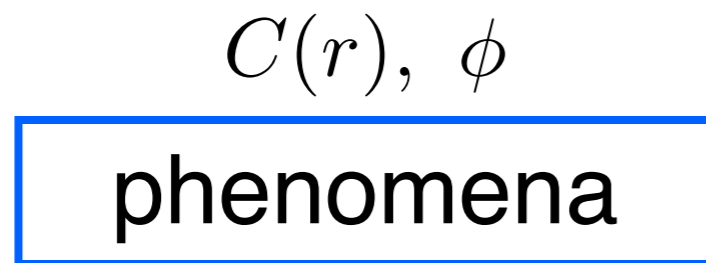
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# two modeling approaches

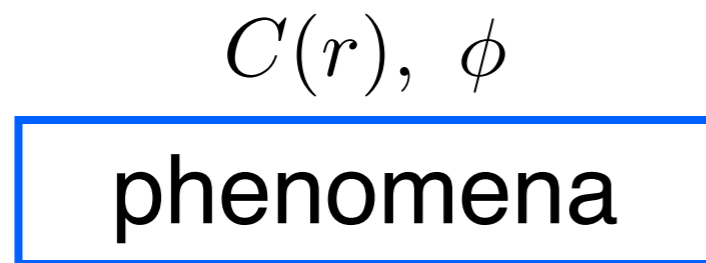
*bottom-up*



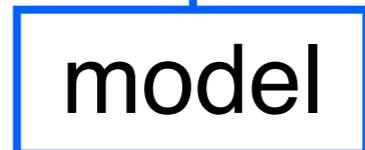
$$\mathcal{H} = - \sum_{ij} J_{ij} s_i s_j$$

# two modeling approaches

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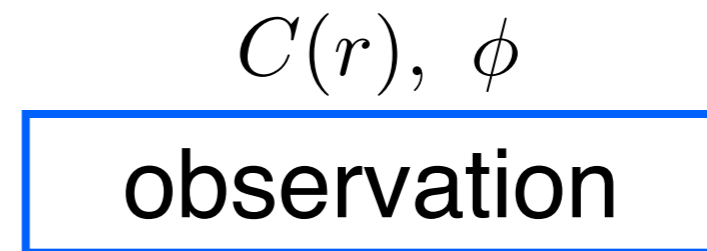


*solve*



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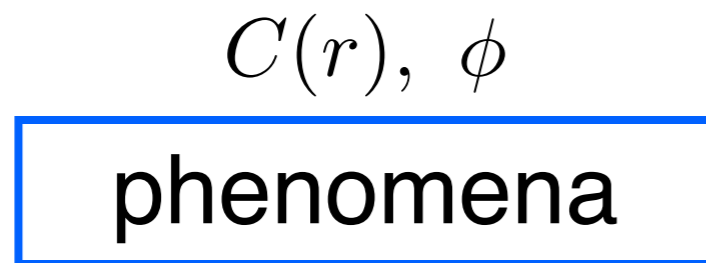
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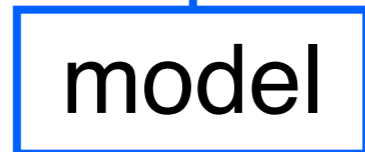
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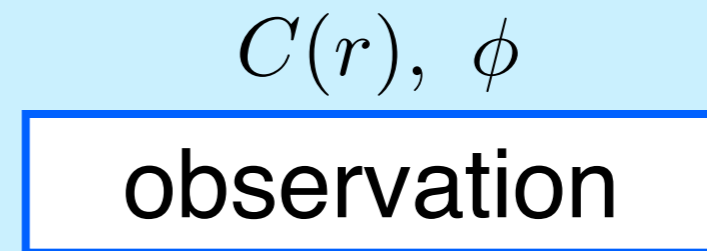


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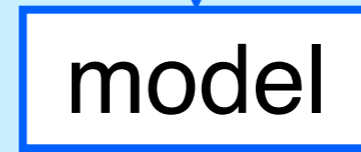
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*solve*

inverse  
problem

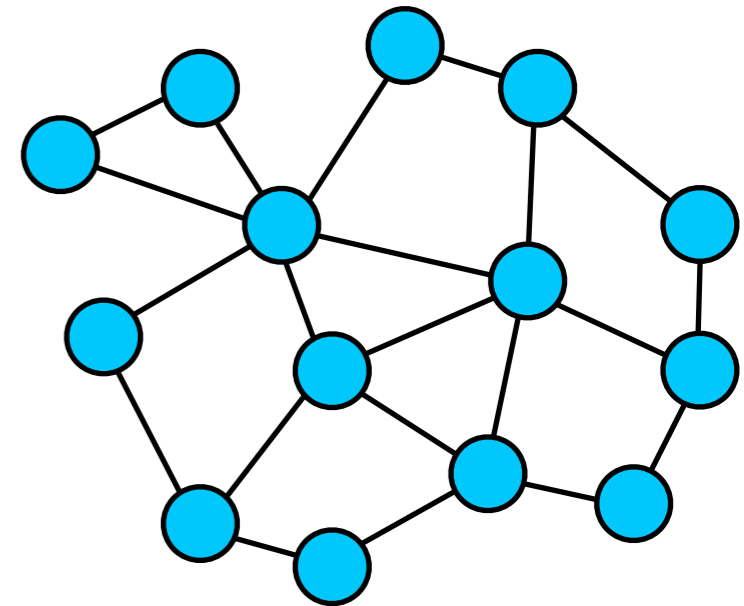


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# how to fit models to data: the maximum entropy approach

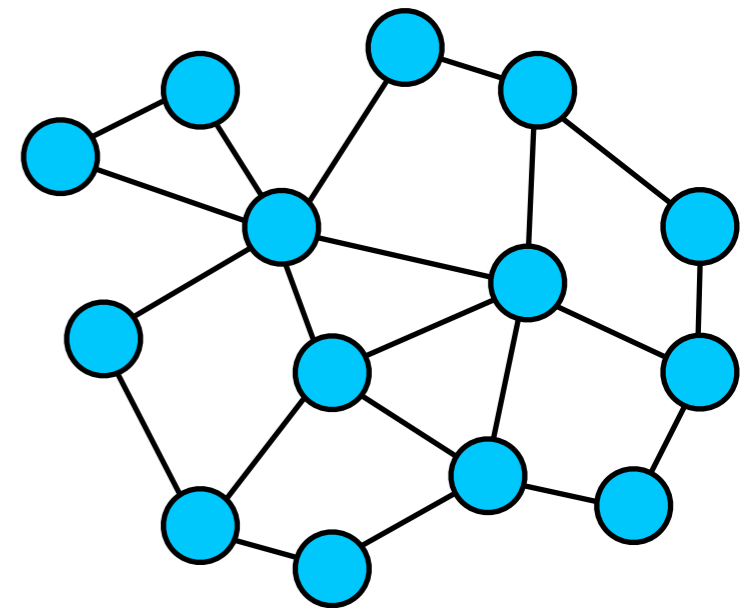
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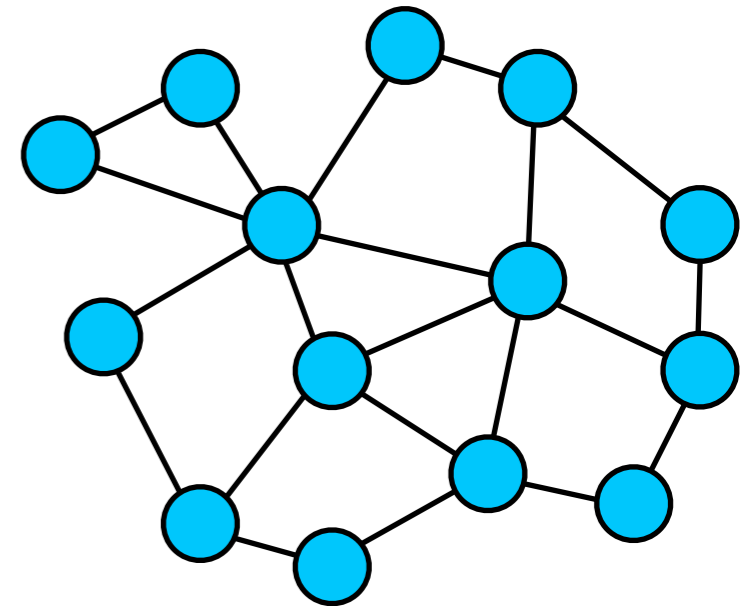


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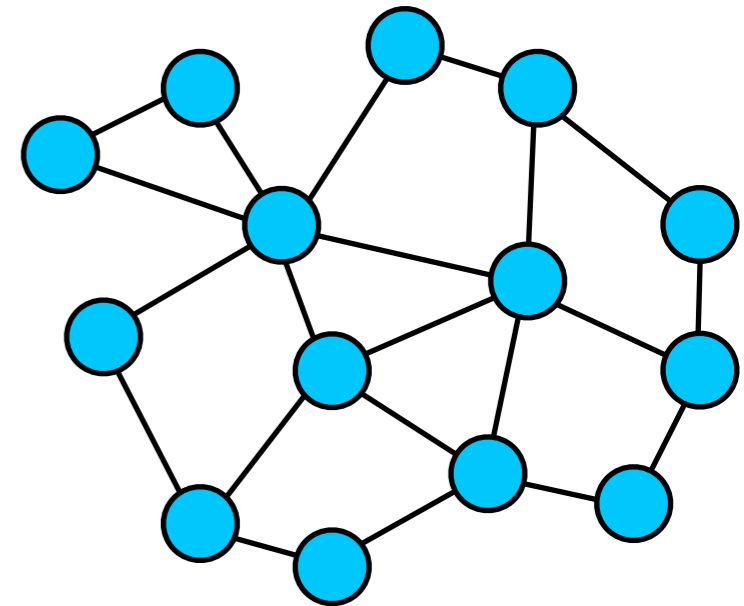
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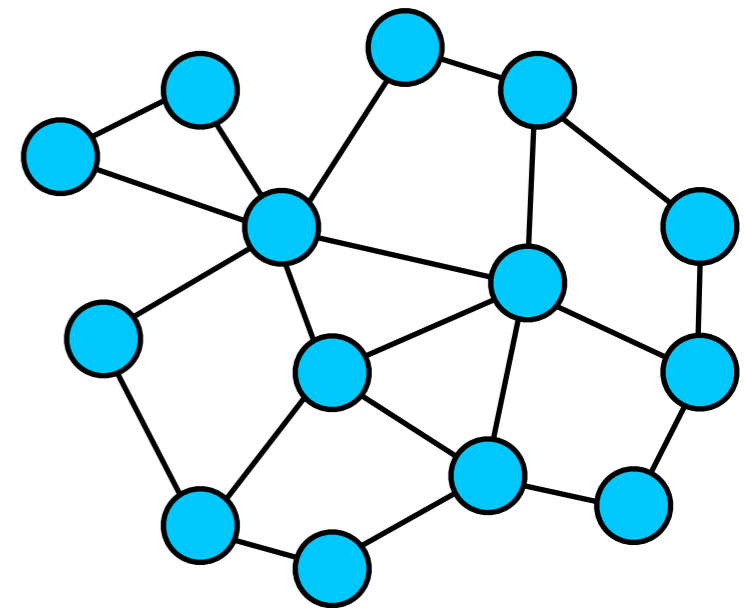
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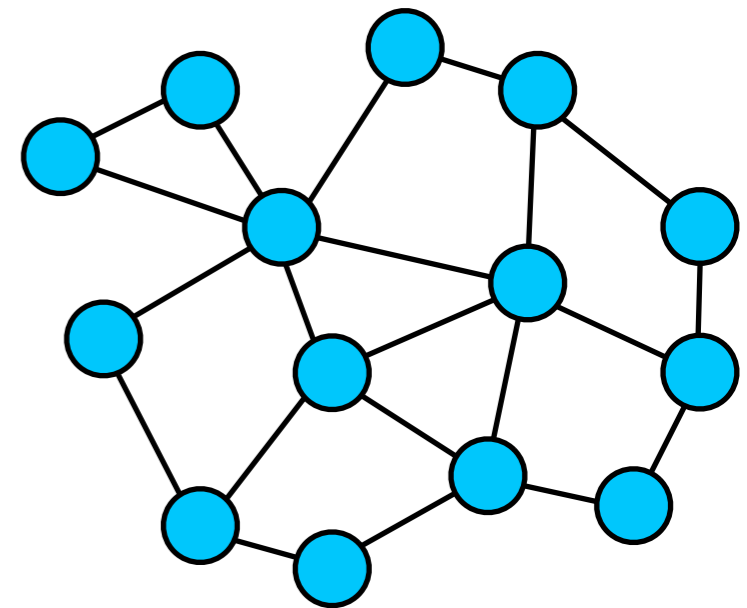
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(disordered) Ising model!



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$$\frac{\partial \log P}{\partial J_a} = 0 \Rightarrow -M \frac{\partial \log Z}{\partial J_a} + \sum_a \sum_{m=1}^M \mathcal{O}_a(\boldsymbol{\sigma}^m) = 0 \quad (\text{maximum likelihood})$$

$$\Rightarrow \langle \mathcal{O}_a(\boldsymbol{\sigma}) \rangle_{\text{model}} = \langle \mathcal{O}_a(\boldsymbol{\sigma}) \rangle_{\text{data}}$$

satisfies the constraints

# maximum entropy in biology

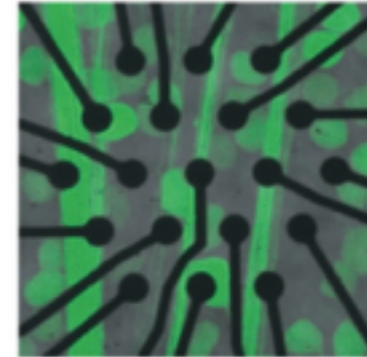
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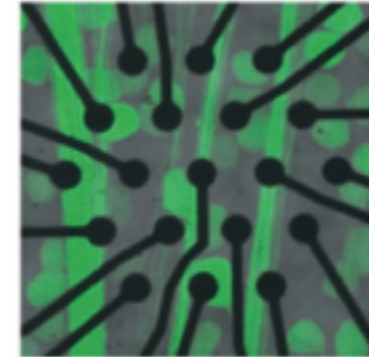
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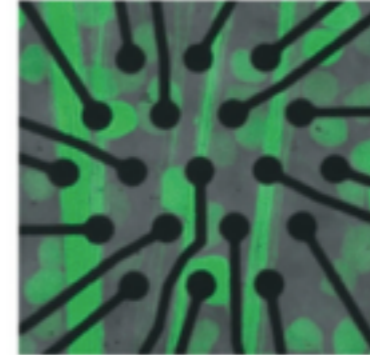
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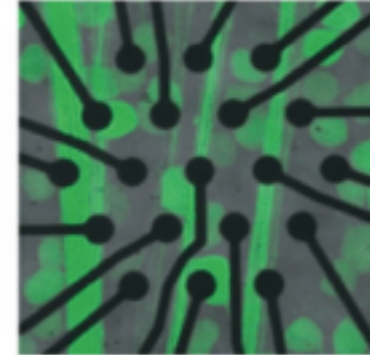
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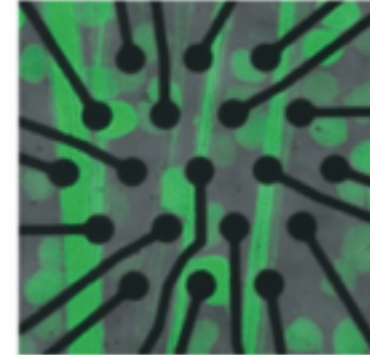
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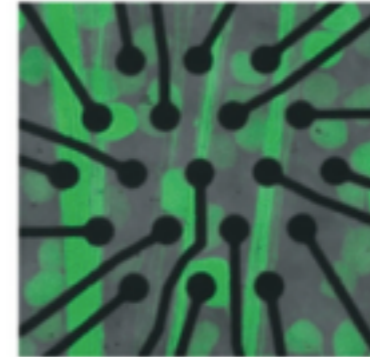
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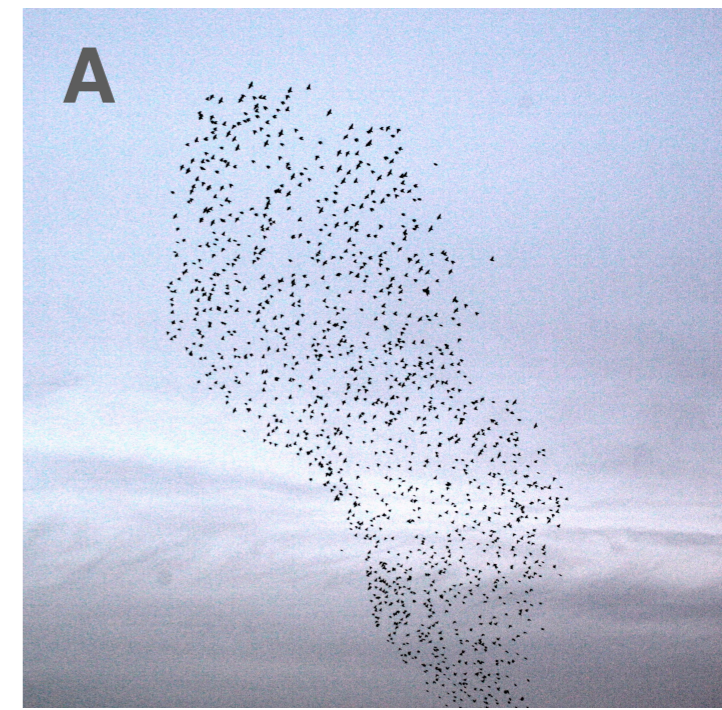
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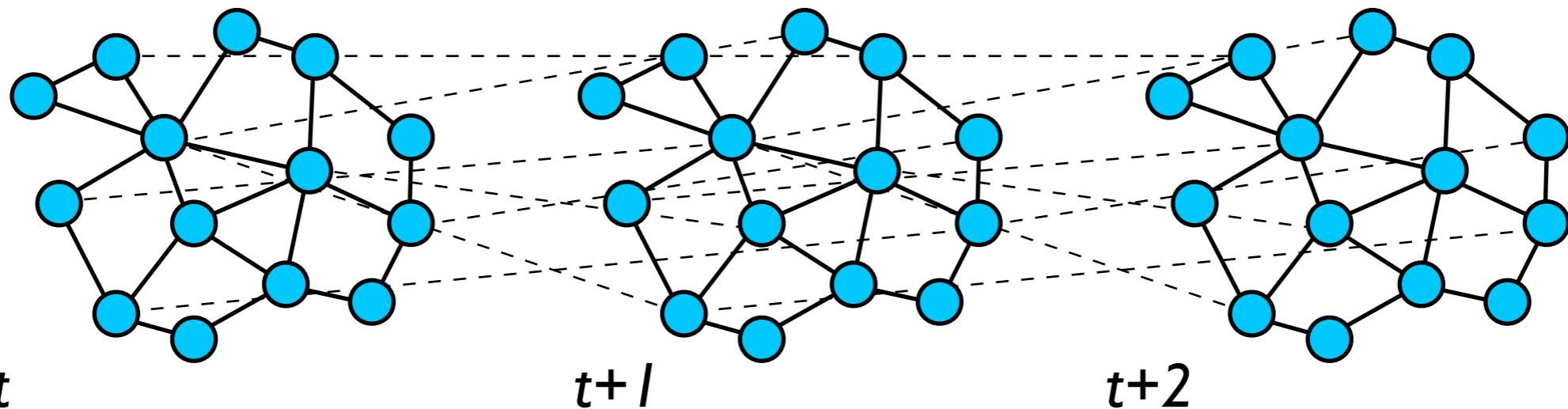


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- maximum entropy gives a “steady-state” picture.
- what about the dynamics?
- *ad hoc* dynamics such as Glauber, Metropolis may be wrong

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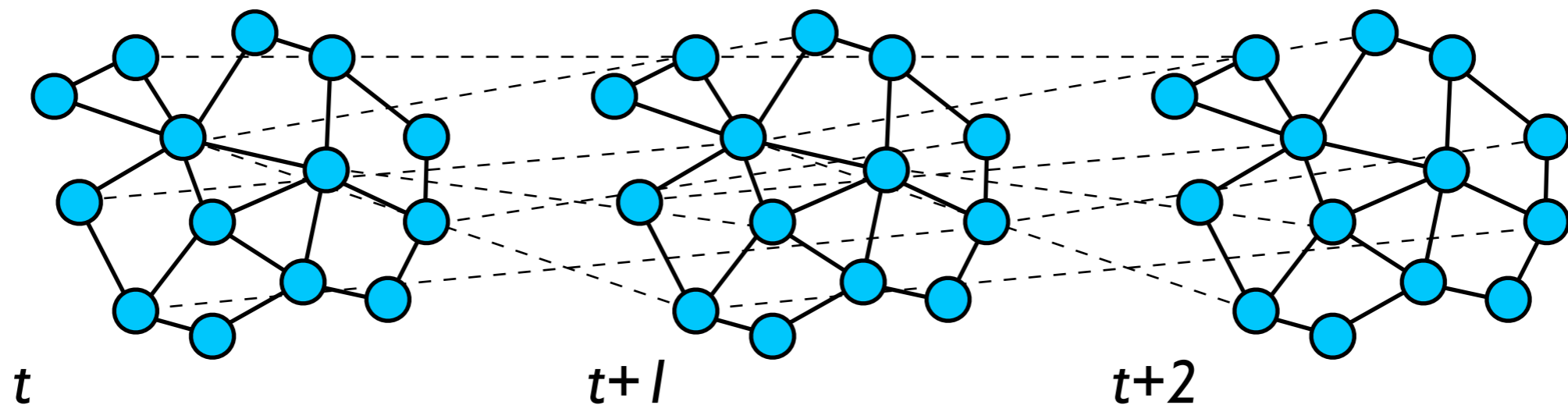
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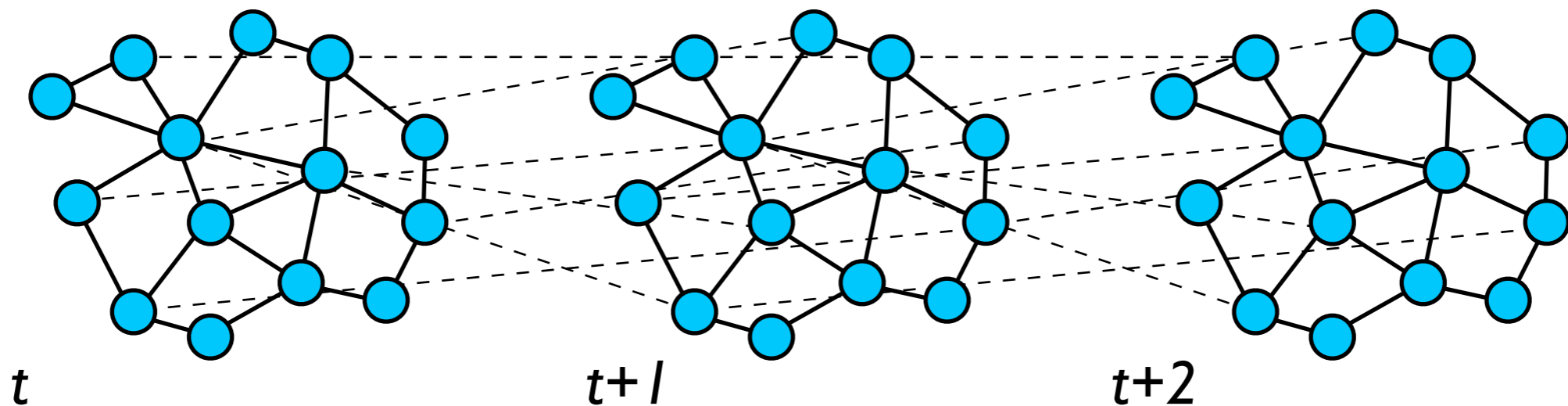
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- **not** the same as:

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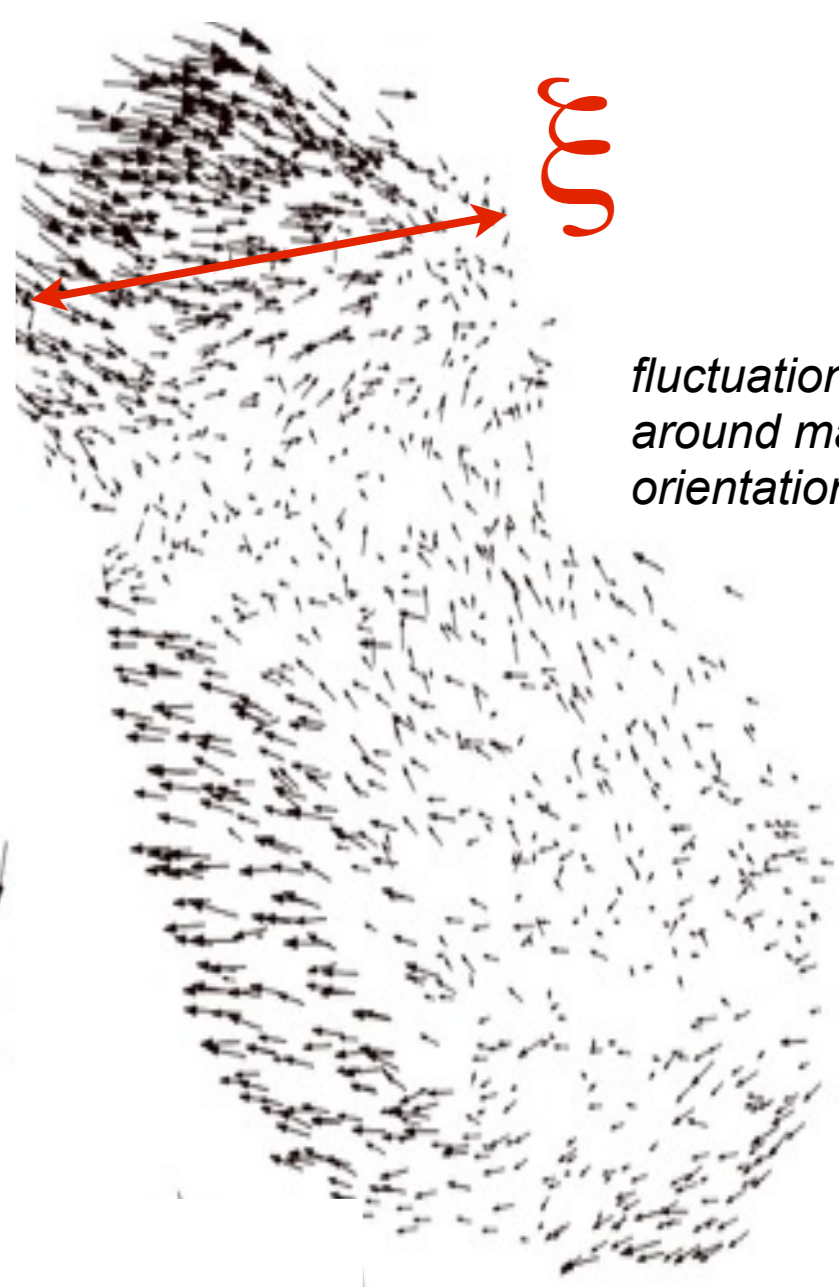
example 1: flocks of birds



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# aligned collective motion



*fluctuations  
around main  
orientation*

strong polarization

$$\phi = \left| \frac{1}{N} \sum_i \frac{\mathbf{r}_i \cdot \mathbf{v}_i}{|\mathbf{v}_i|} \right| \sim 0.95$$

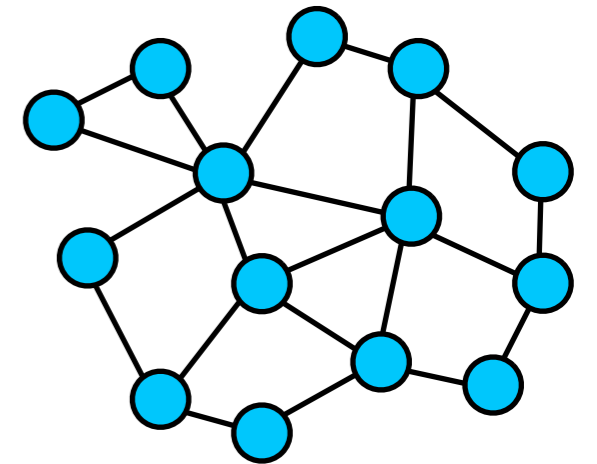
domains

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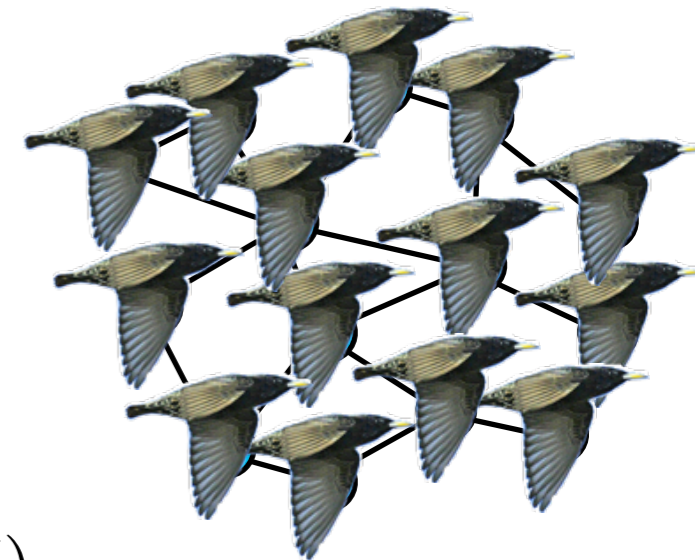
(Heisenberg model on lattice)

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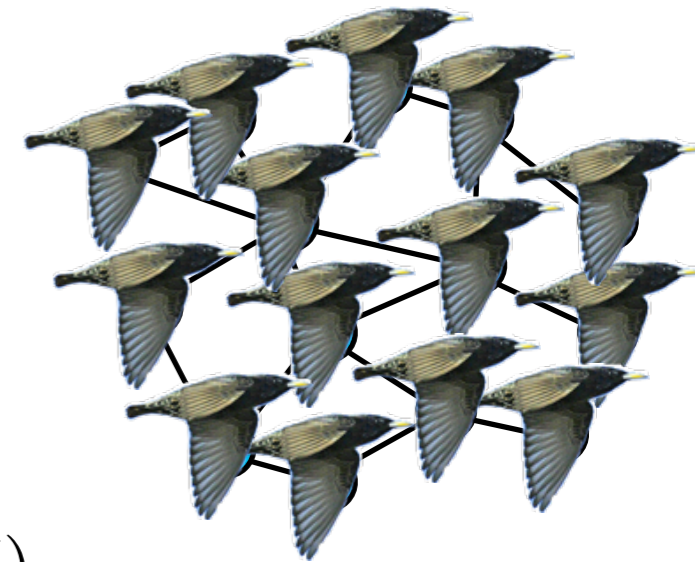
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- derives from Langevin eqn, equivalent to “social” model, similar to Vicsek’s

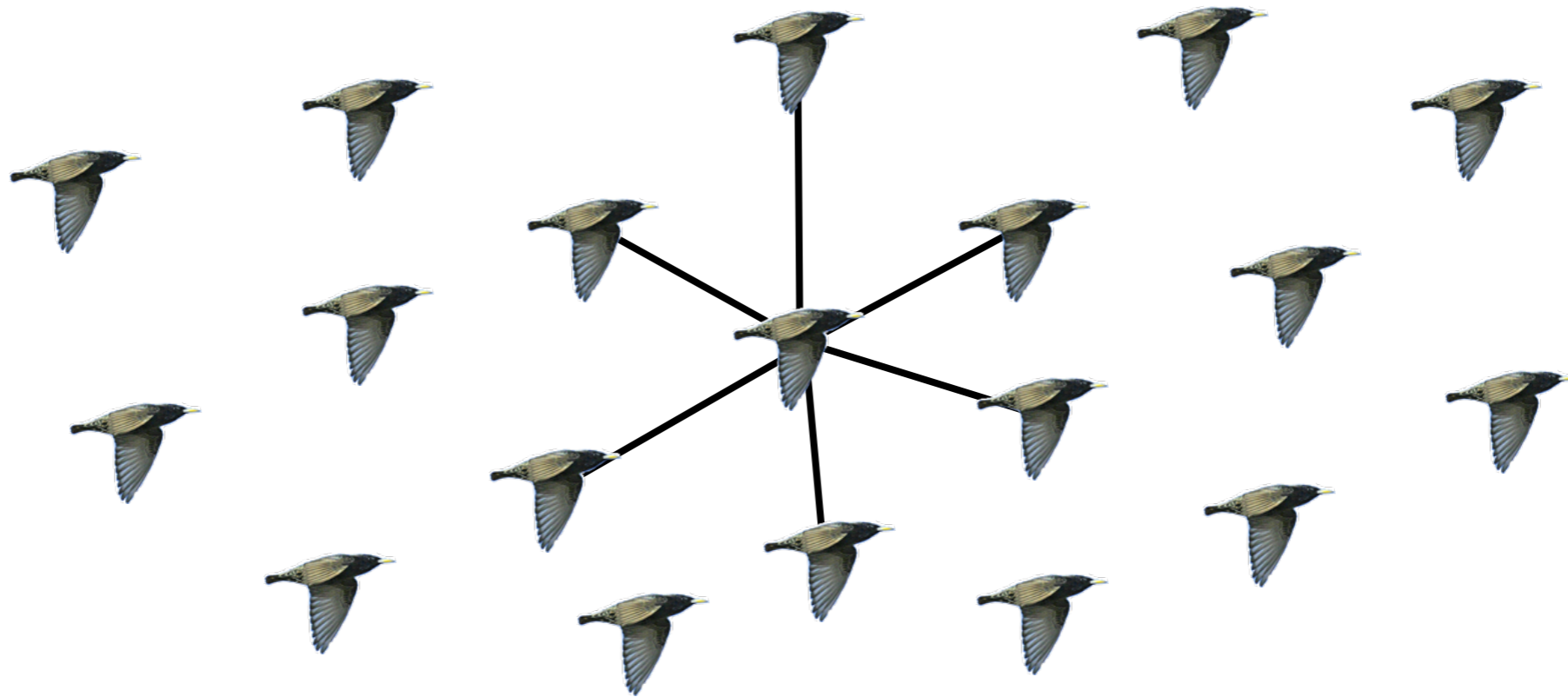
$$\frac{d\vec{s}_i}{dt} = -\frac{\partial H}{\partial \vec{s}_i} + \vec{\eta}_i(t) = \sum_{j=1}^N J_{ij} \vec{s}_j + \vec{\eta}_i(t)$$

alignment noise

(does not mean that’s the only possible dynamics, or the true one)



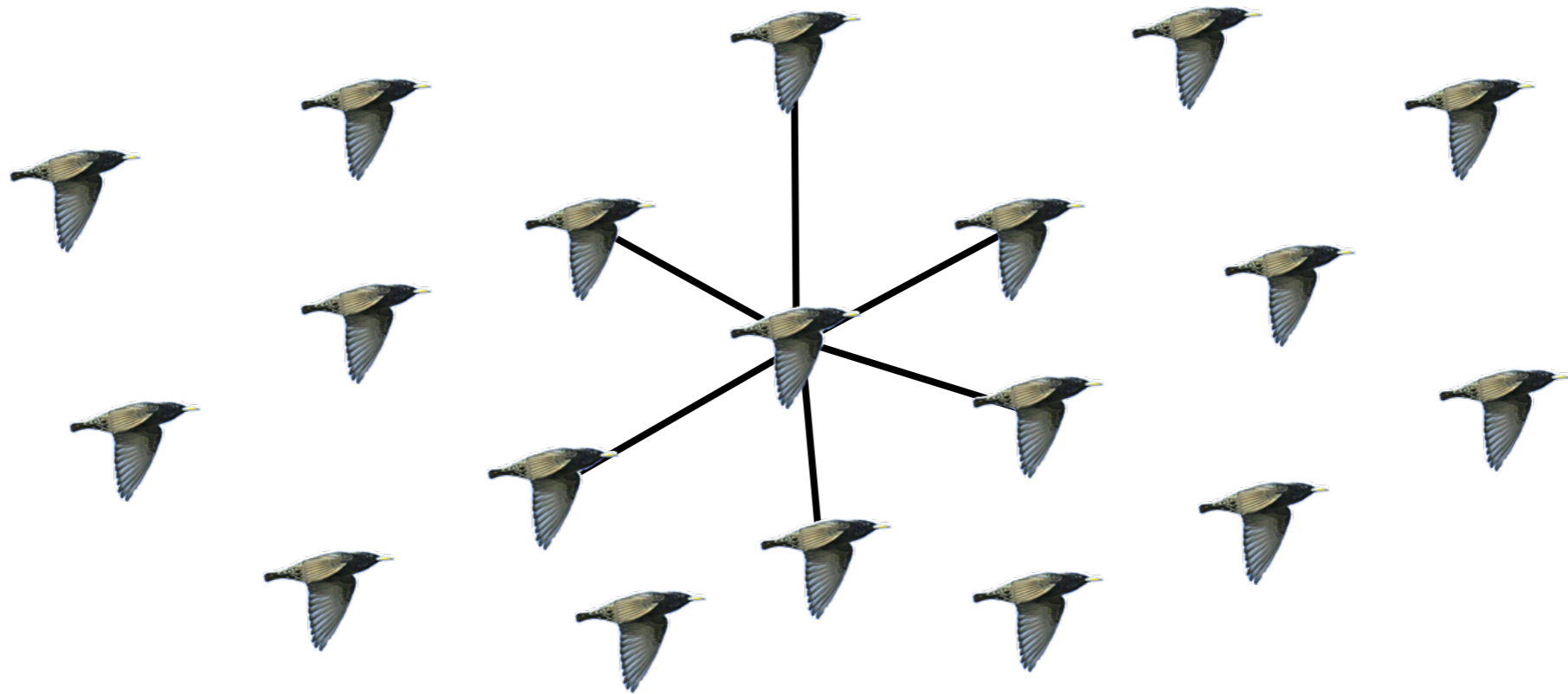
# parametrization



$$J_{ij} = \begin{cases} J & \text{if } j \text{ is one } i\text{'s } n_c \text{ first neighbors} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

then symmetrized

# parametrization



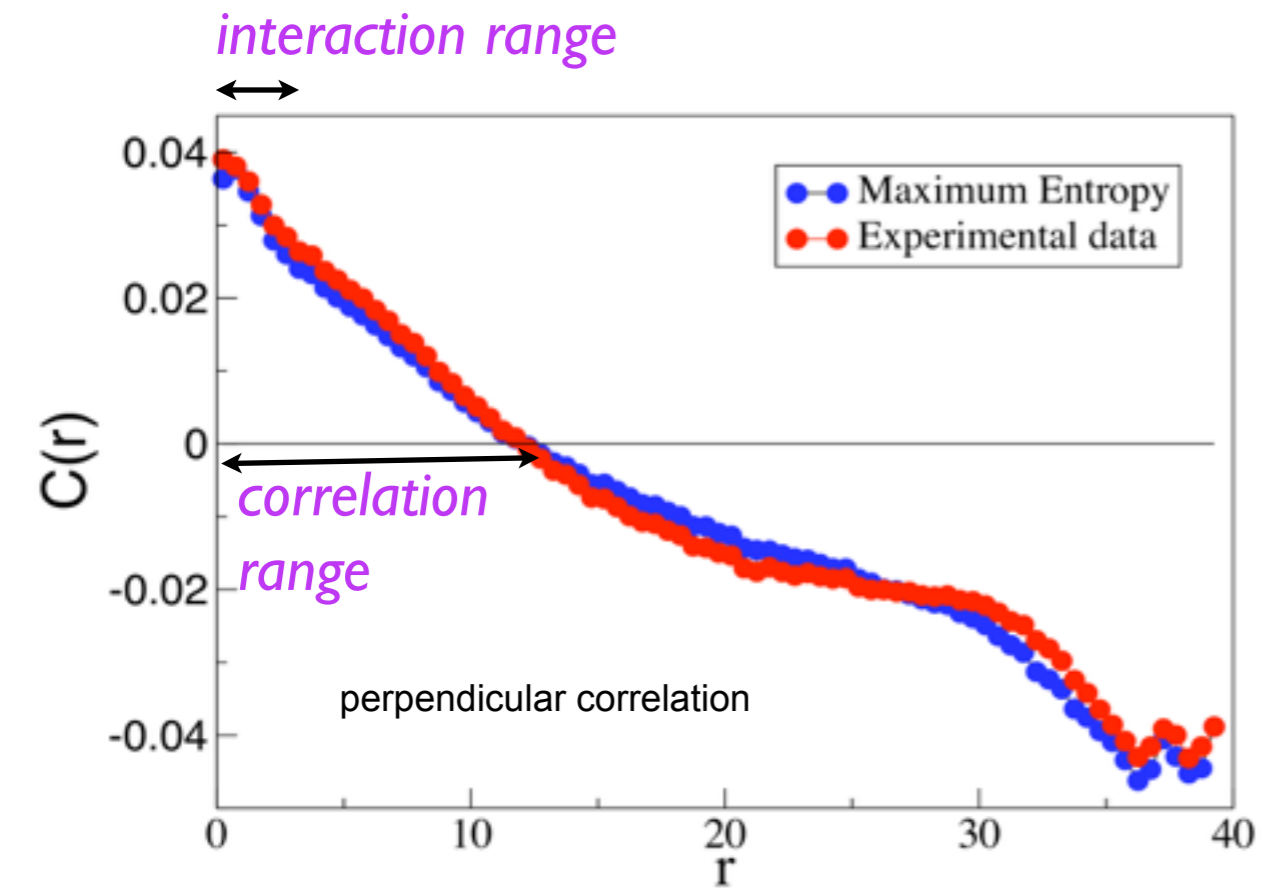
$$J_{ij} = \begin{cases} J & \text{if } j \text{ is one } i\text{'s } n_c \text{ first neighbors} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad \text{then symmetrized}$$

Equivalent to maximum entropy with constraint on

$$C_{\text{int}} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{1}{n_c} \sum_{j \in V(i)} \langle \vec{s}_i \vec{s}_j \rangle$$

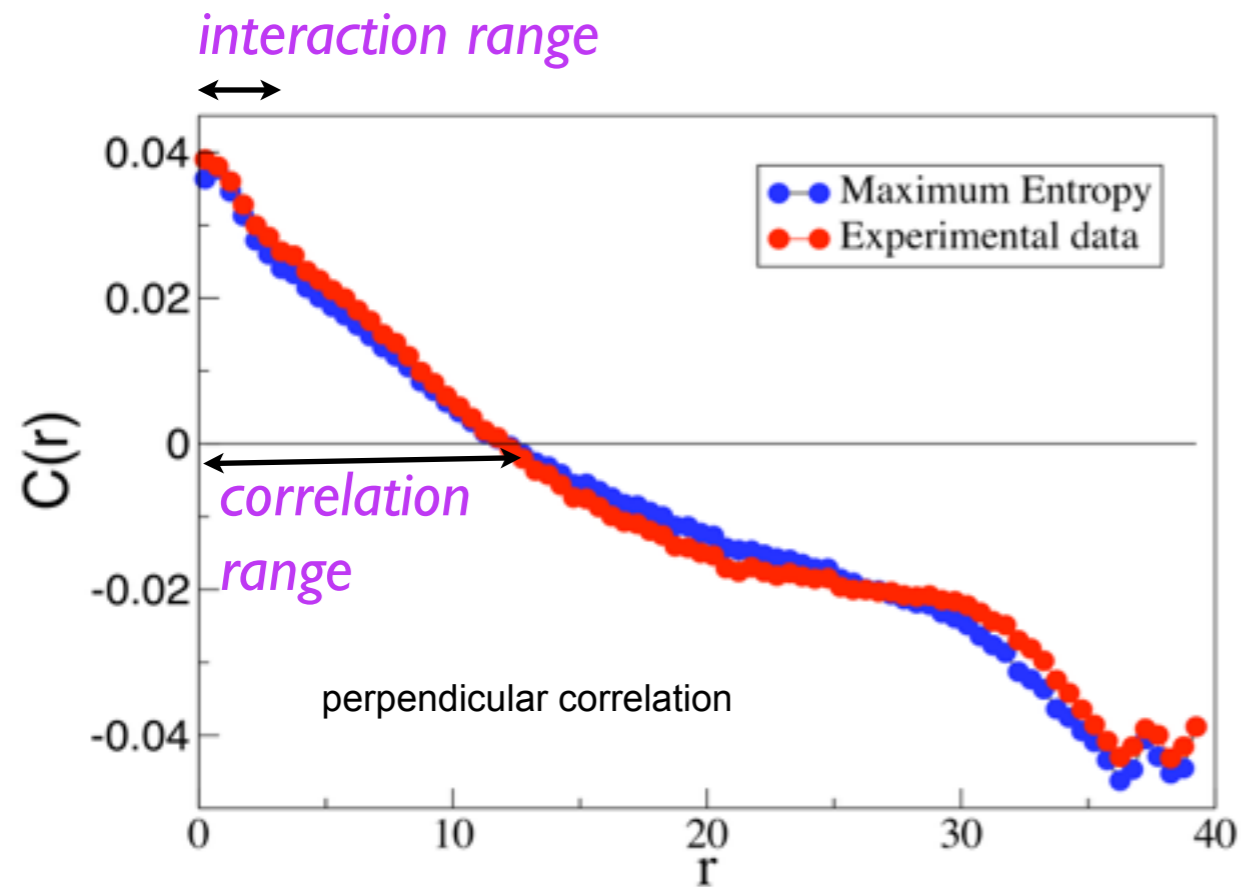
single snapshot — spatial averaging instead of ensemble averaging

# predicting correlation functions

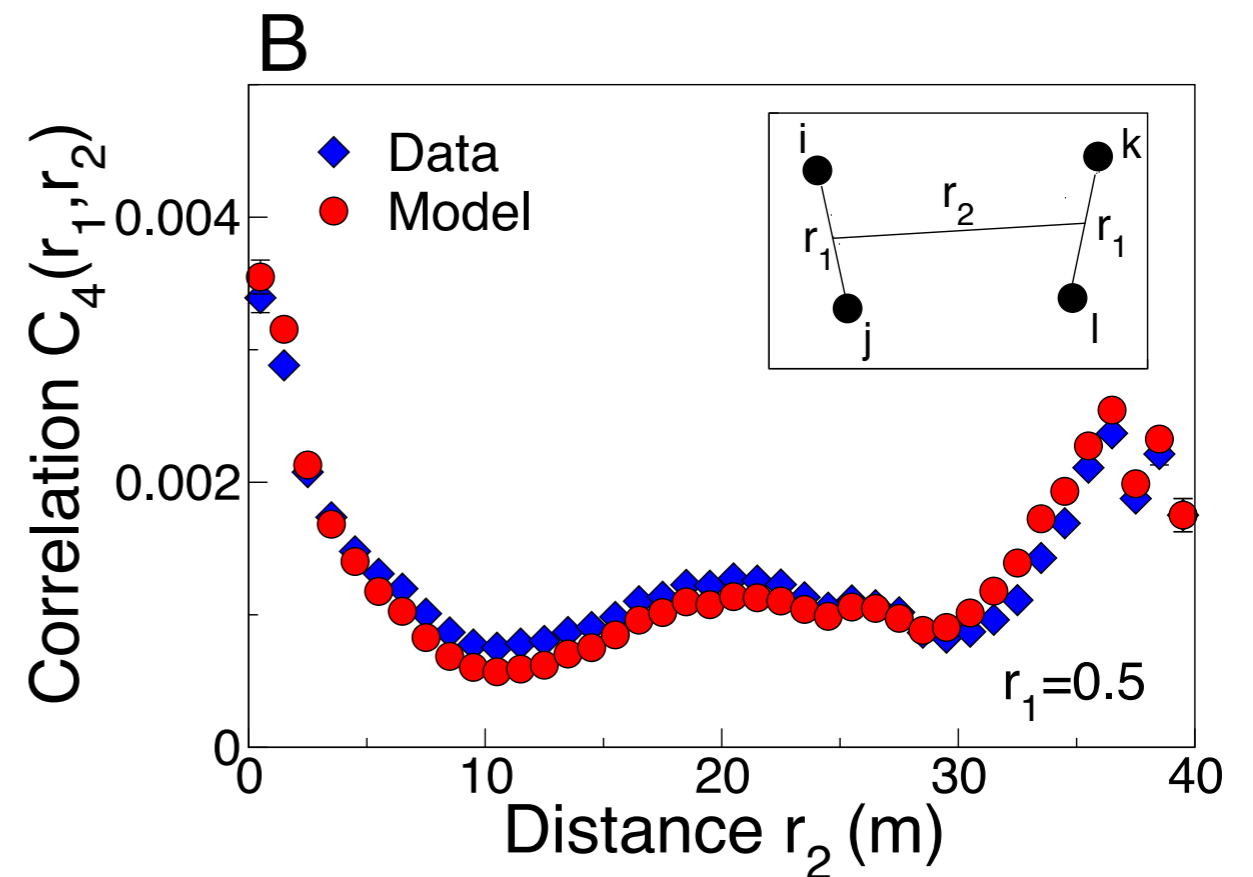


long-range order from local interactions

# predicting correlation functions



## 4-bird correlation function

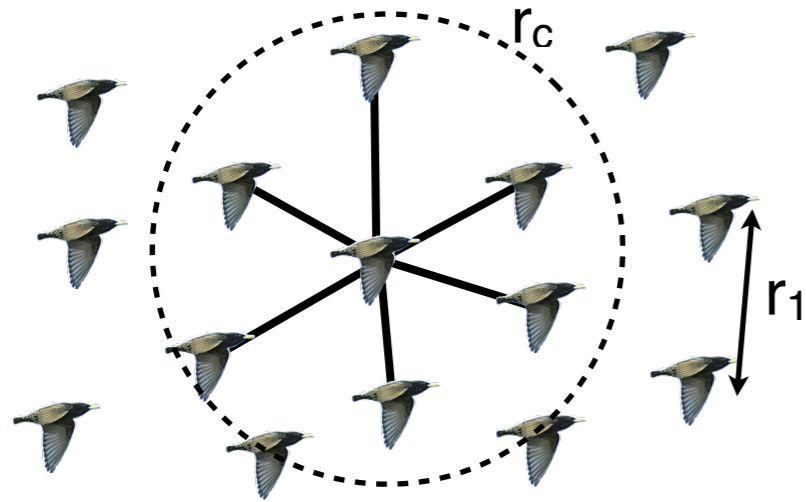


long-range order from local interactions

# interaction range

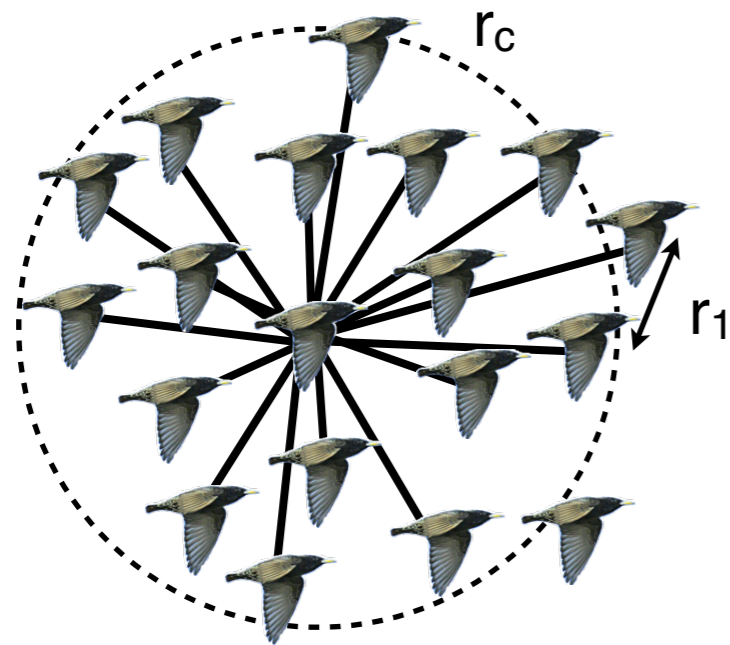
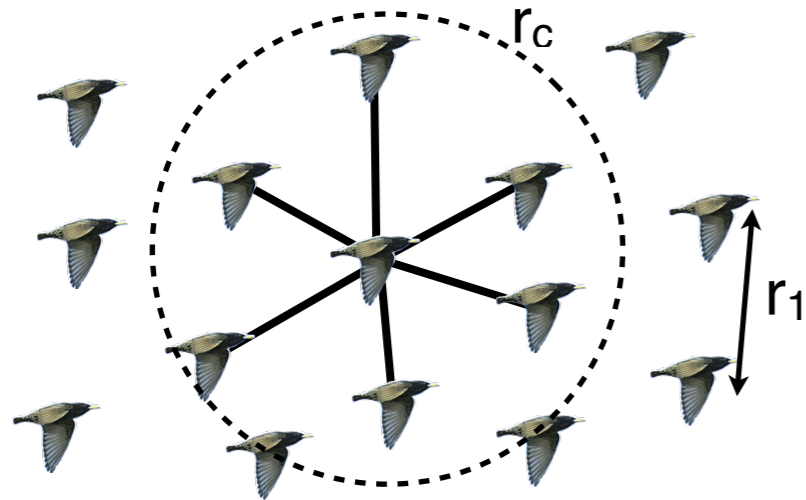
metric or topological ?

# interaction range



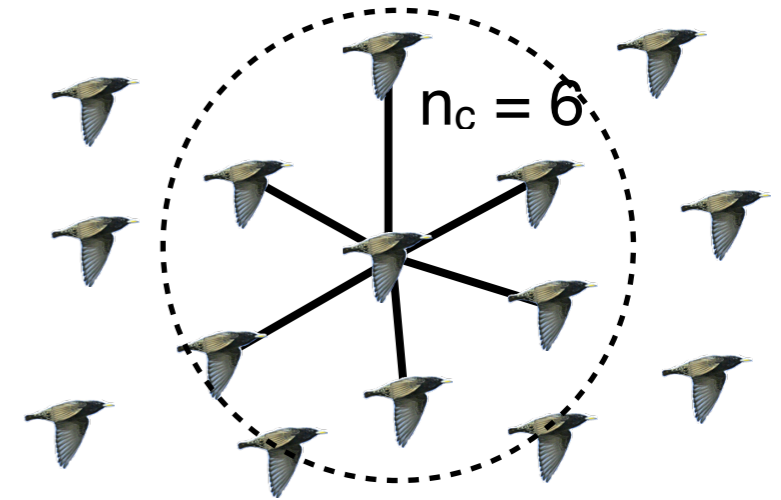
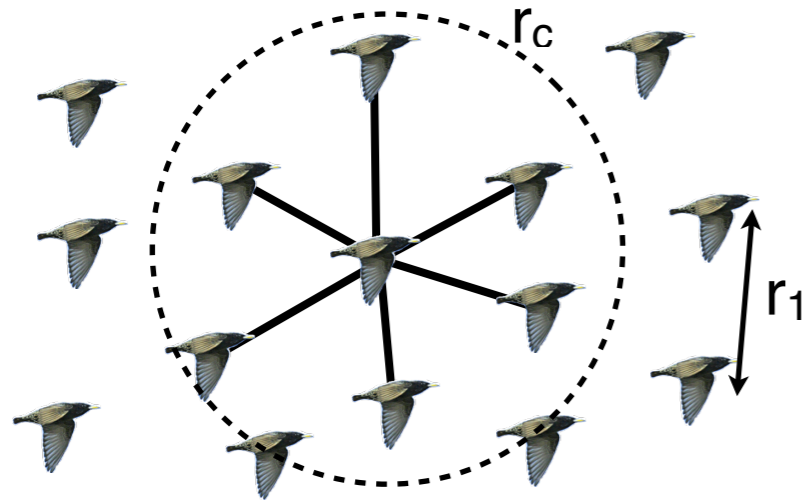
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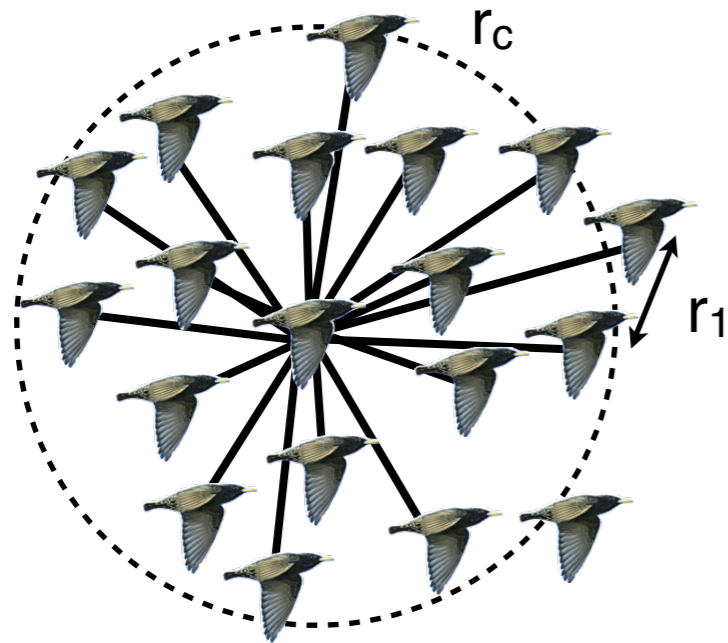


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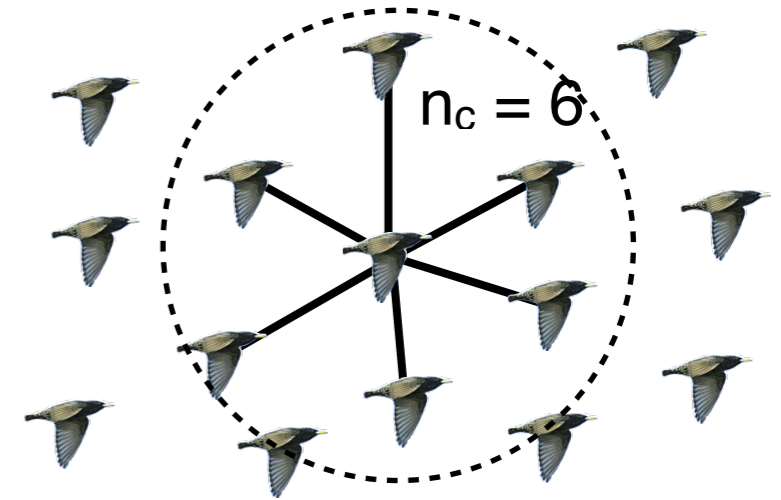
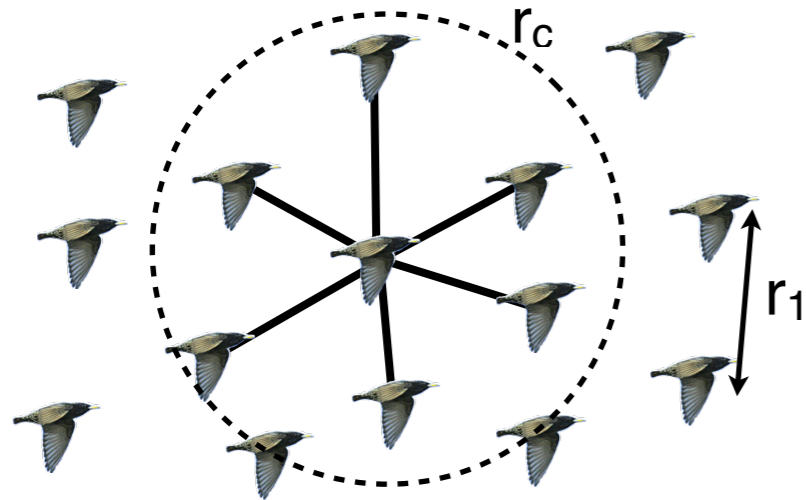


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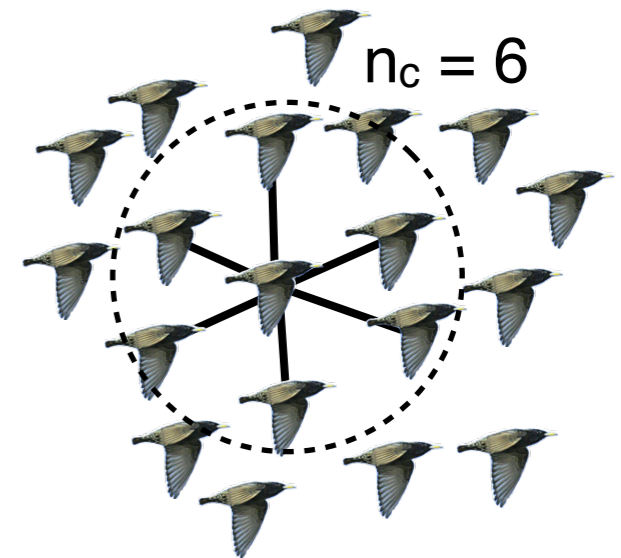
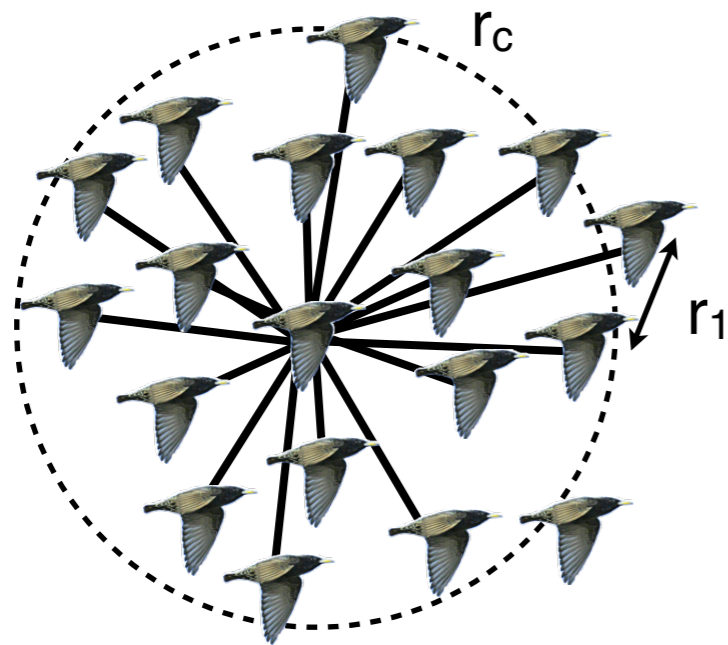




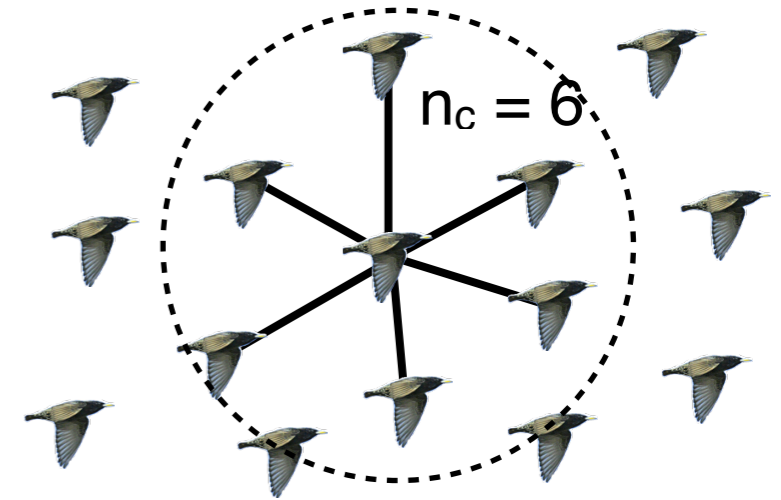
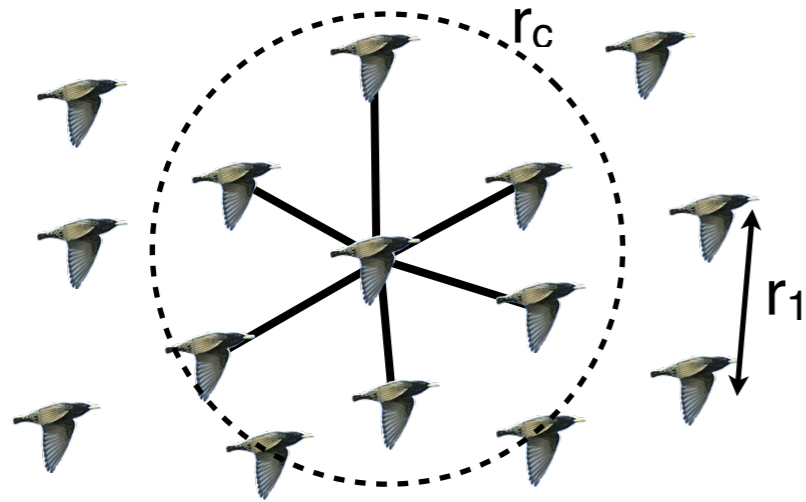
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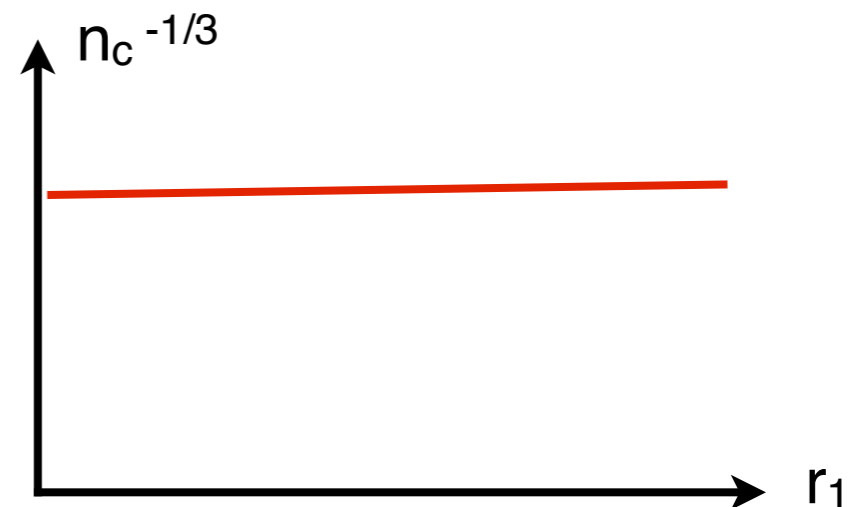
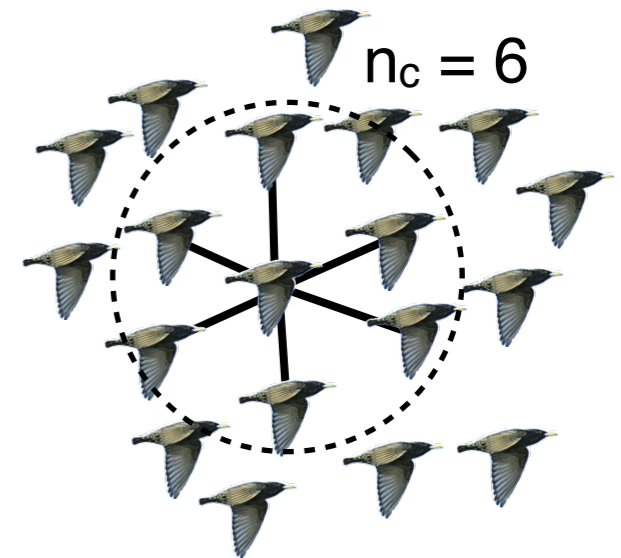
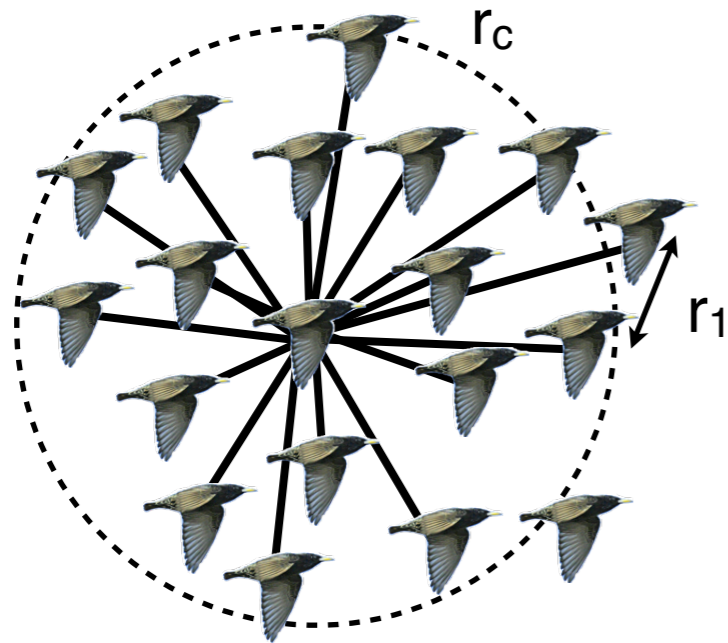
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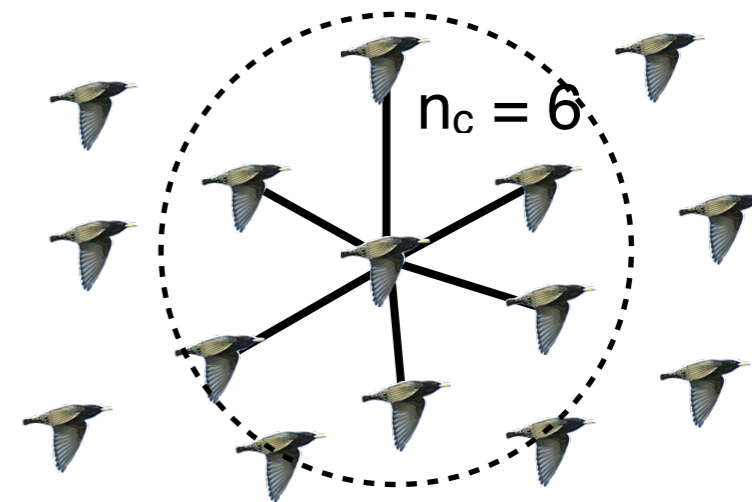
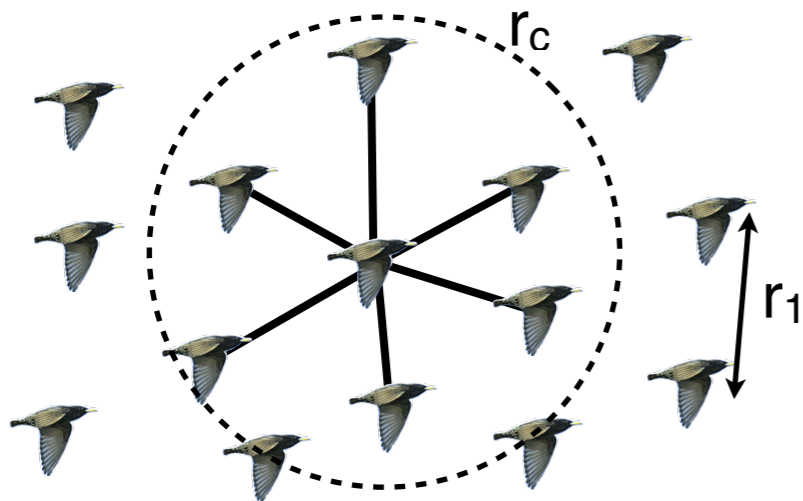
# interaction range



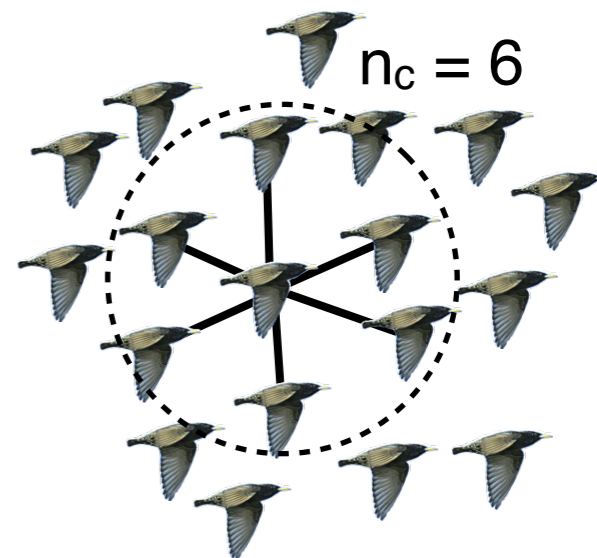
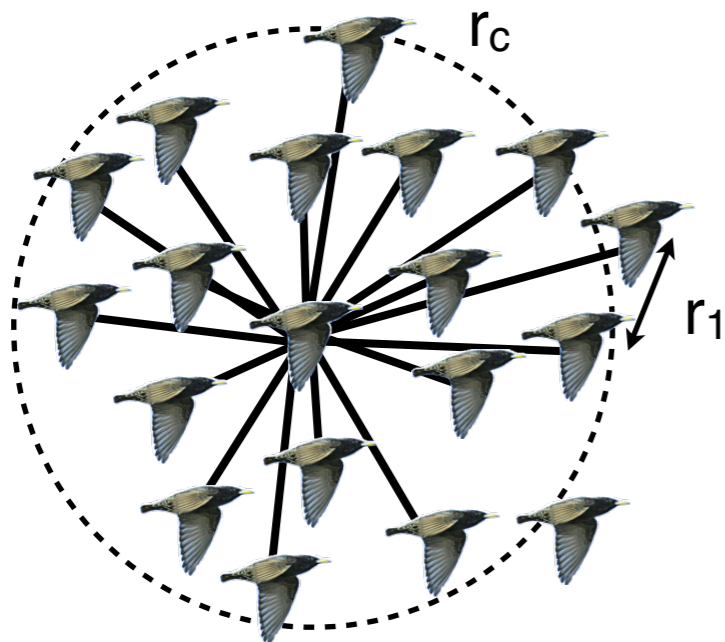
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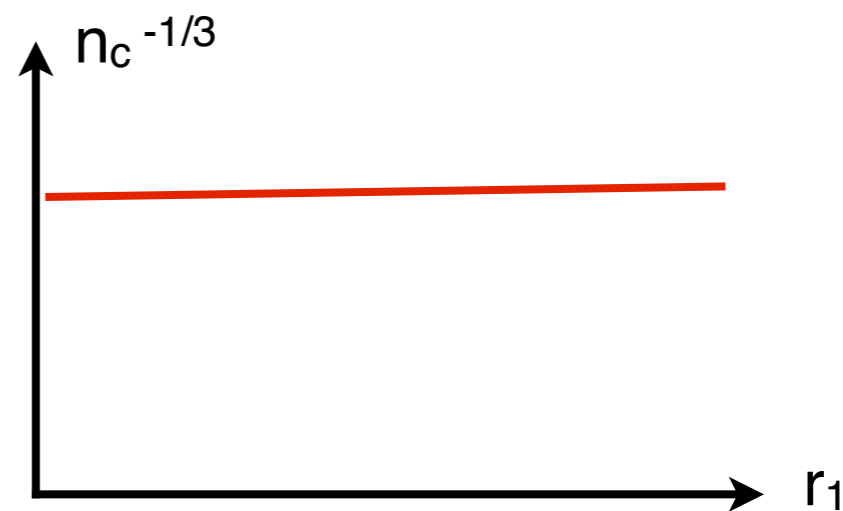
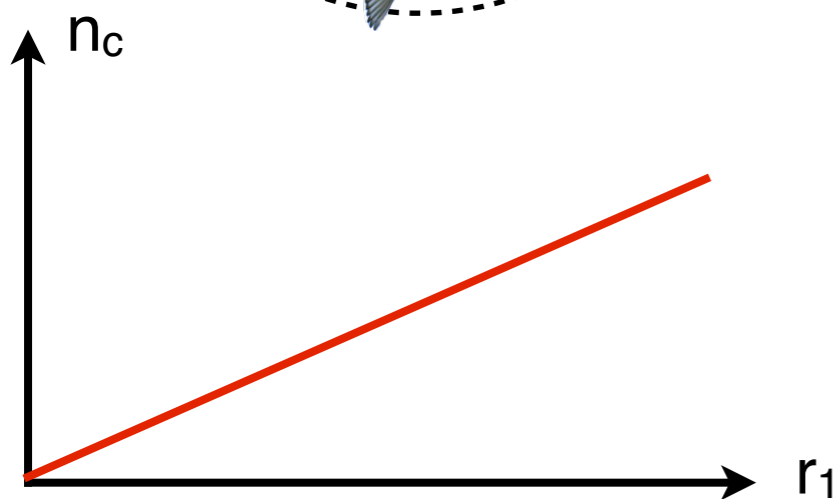
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metric or topological ?

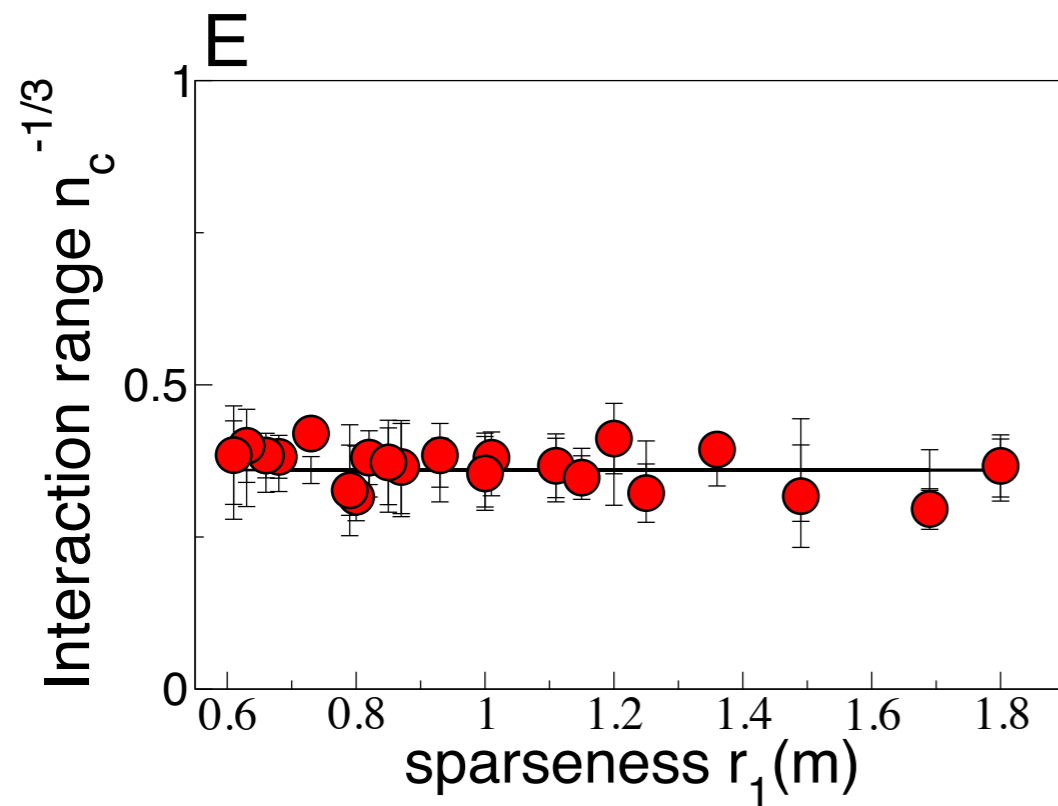


$$n_c \sim (r_c / r_1)^3$$



answer:

interaction is  
topological not metric



answer:

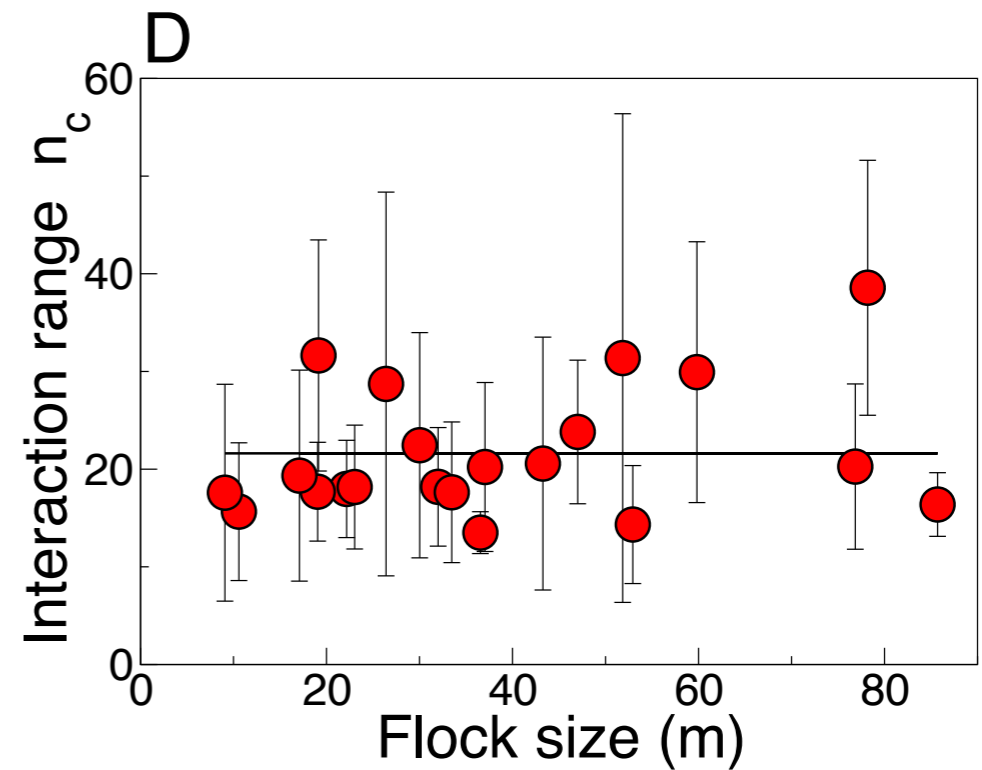
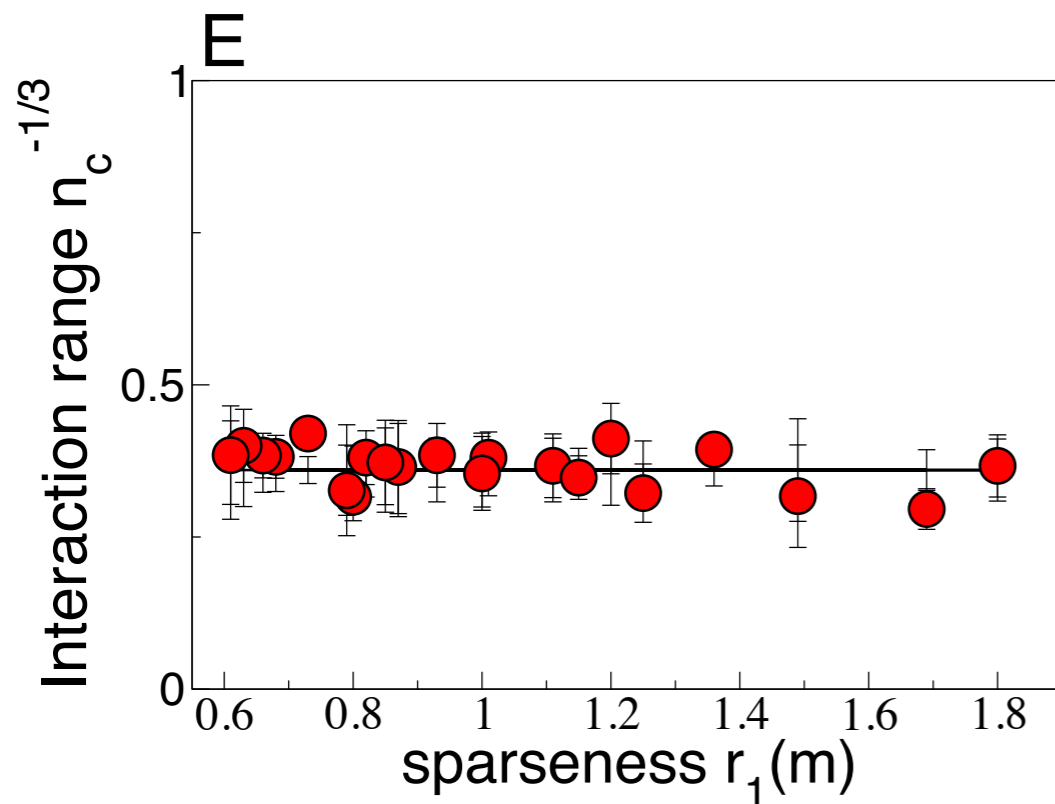
interaction is  
topological not metric

$$n_c \sim 21$$

does not depend on

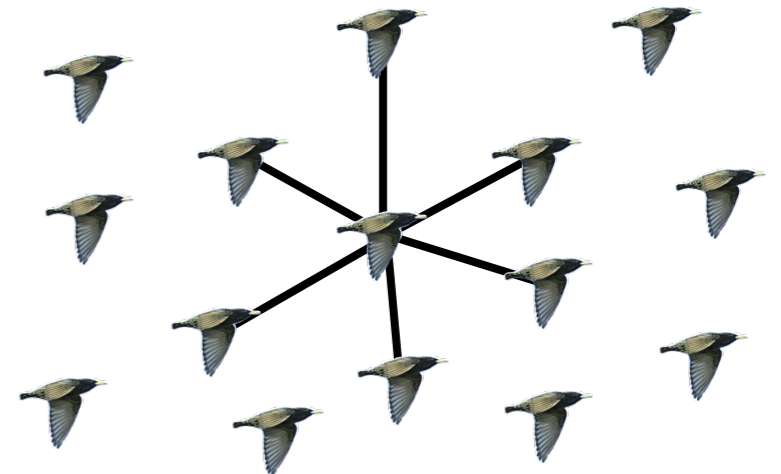
flock density

flock size



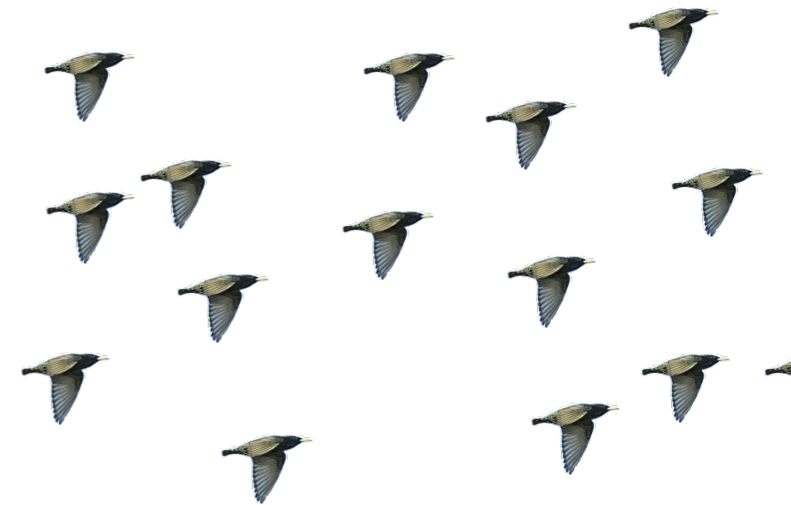
# dynamics (may) matter

- we've assumed that neighborhoods are fixed
- but birds may exchange neighbors fast



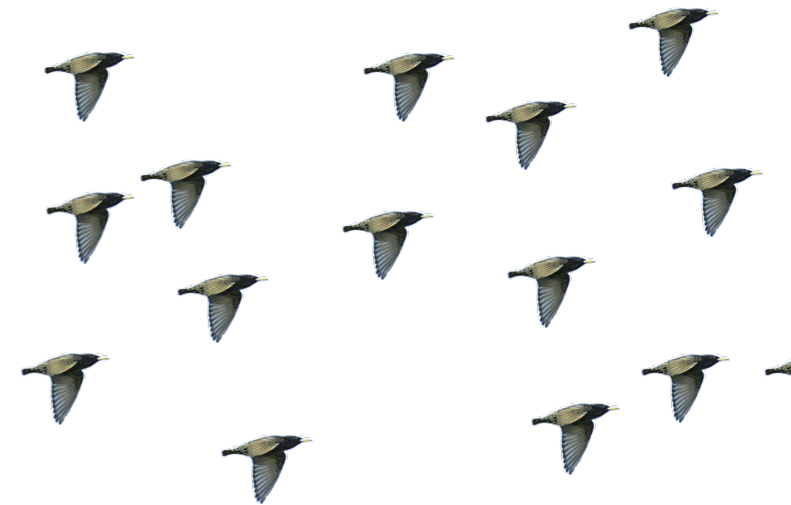
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# dynamics (may) matter

- we've assumed that neighborhoods are fixed
- but birds may exchange neighbors fast
- the *effective* number of interaction partners could be larger than the *instantaneous* one.





# dynamics (on bird orientations)

- constrain  $\langle s_i^t s_j^t \rangle$  and  $\langle s_i^t s_j^{t+1} \rangle$

$$P(s^1, \dots, s^T) = \frac{1}{\hat{Z}} \exp(-\mathcal{A})$$

“action” 
$$\mathcal{A} = -\frac{1}{2} \sum_t \sum_{i \neq j} \left( J_{ij;t}^{(1)} s_i^t s_j^t + J_{ij;t}^{(2)} s_i^{t+1} s_j^t \right)$$

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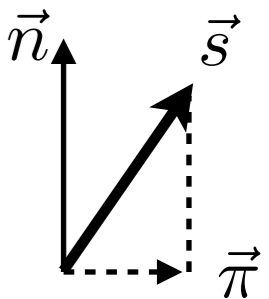
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- in spin-wave approximation, equivalent to “collective random walk”

$$\pi_i(t+1) = \sum_j M_{ij}(t) \pi_j(t) + \epsilon_i(t)$$

$$\langle \epsilon(t)^\dagger \epsilon(t') \rangle = 2(d-1) A(t)^{-1} \delta_{t,t'}$$

A and M functions of  $J^{(1)}$  and  $J^{(2)}$



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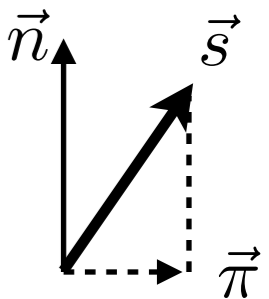
- in spin-wave approximation, equivalent to “collective random walk”

alignment strength

$$\pi_i(t+1) = (1 - J\delta t n_c)\pi_i(t) + J\delta t n_{ij}(t) + \epsilon_i(t)$$

$$\langle \epsilon_i(t) \epsilon_j(t') \rangle = 2(d-1)\delta t T \delta_{ij} \delta_{tt'}$$

temperature



Langevin equation

# inferring out-of-equilibrium behavior

- inferring  $J$ ,  $n_c$ , and a third parameter, the “temperature”  $T$

$$J n_c = \frac{1}{\delta t} \frac{C_{\text{int}} - C_s + G_s - G_{\text{int}}}{2C_{\text{int}} - C'_{\text{int}} - C_s} \quad \text{and similar eq. for } T$$

$C_s^1$	$(1/N) \sum_i (\pi_i^{t+1})^2$	$C_{\text{int}}$	$(1/N n_c) \sum_{ij} n_{ij} \pi_i^t \pi_j^t$
$C_s$	$(1/N) \sum_i (\pi_i^t)^2$	$C'_{\text{int}}$	$(1/N n_c^2) \sum_{ijk} n_{ij} n_{ik} \pi_j^t \pi_k^t$
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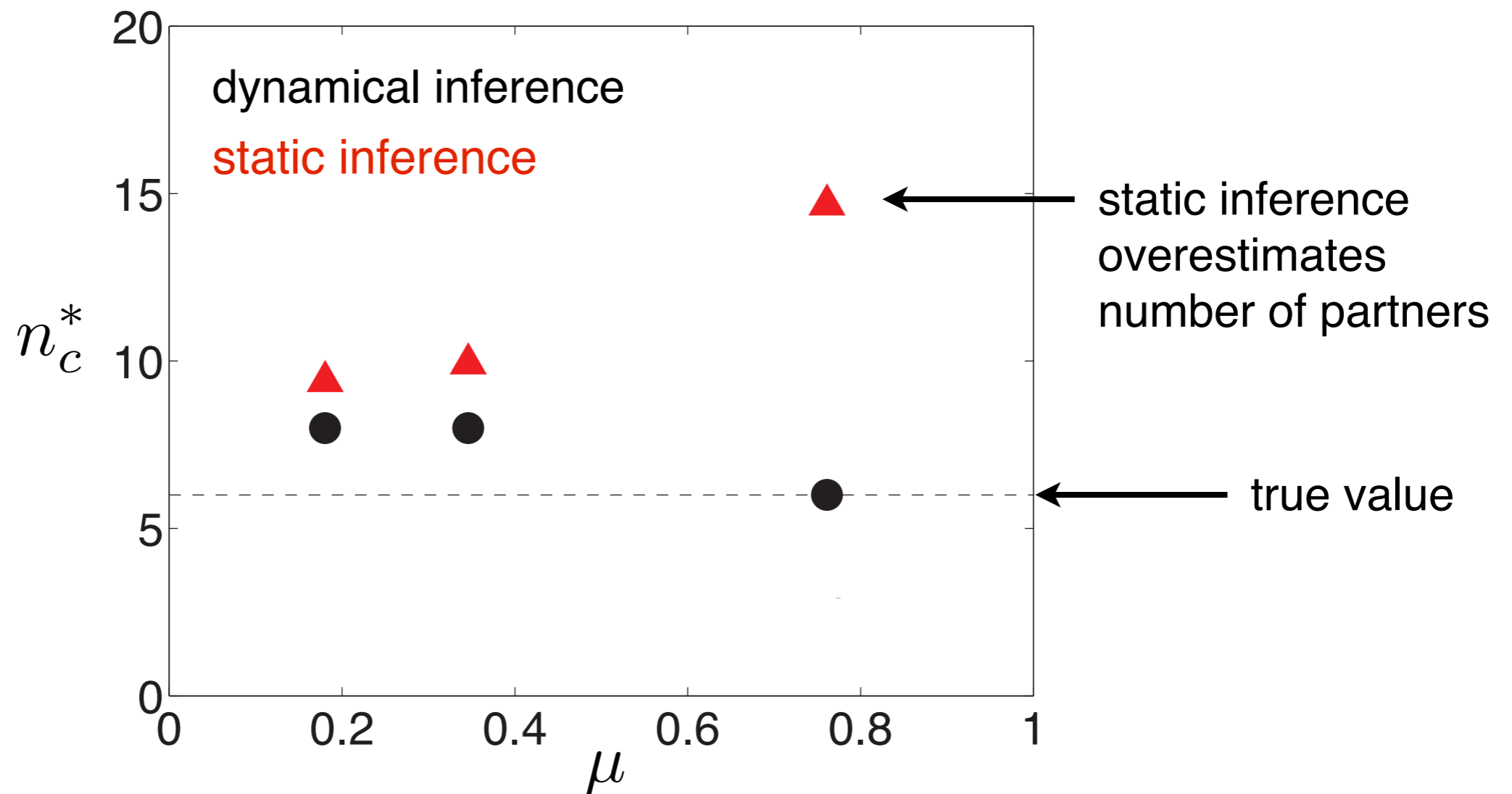
- if equilibrium – slowly evolving and symmetric  $n_{ij}$  – then

one recovers the same result as the Heisenberg model, with  $J \leftarrow J / T$

$$P(\vec{s}_1, \dots, \vec{s}_N) = \frac{1}{Z} \exp \left( \frac{J}{T} \sum_{ij} n_{ij} \vec{s}_i \vec{s}_j \right)$$

# test on simulated data

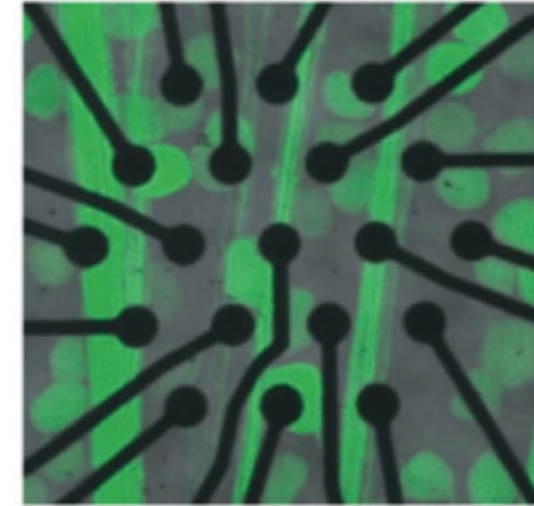
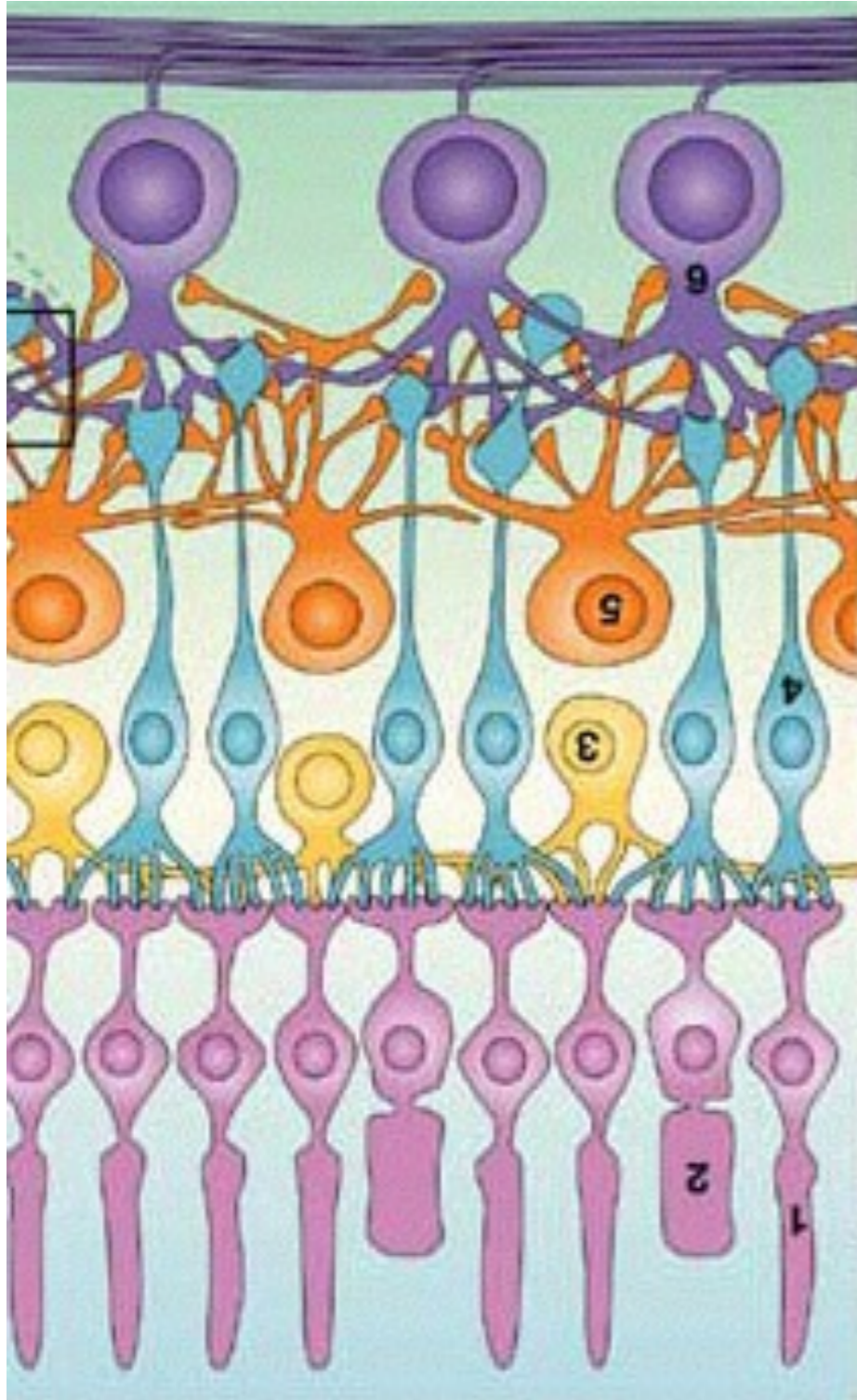
- simulation of 2D topological model with Voronoi neighbors
- $\mu$  is a parameter quantifying how fast birds change neighbors



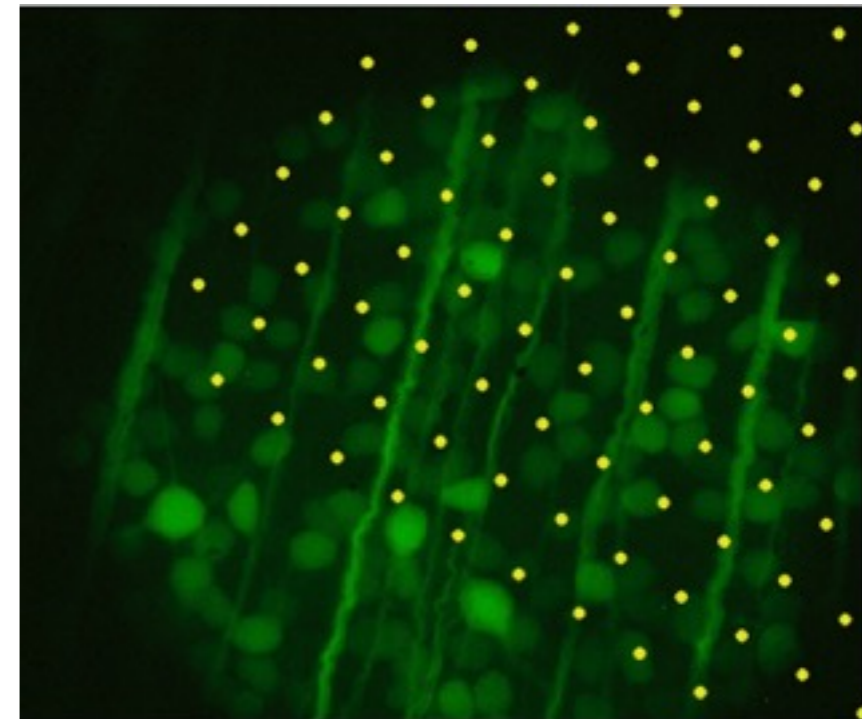
- at large  $\mu$ ,

dynamical maximum entropy works, static maximum entropy doesn't

# the retina



multi-electrode array  
recordings



# the stimulus



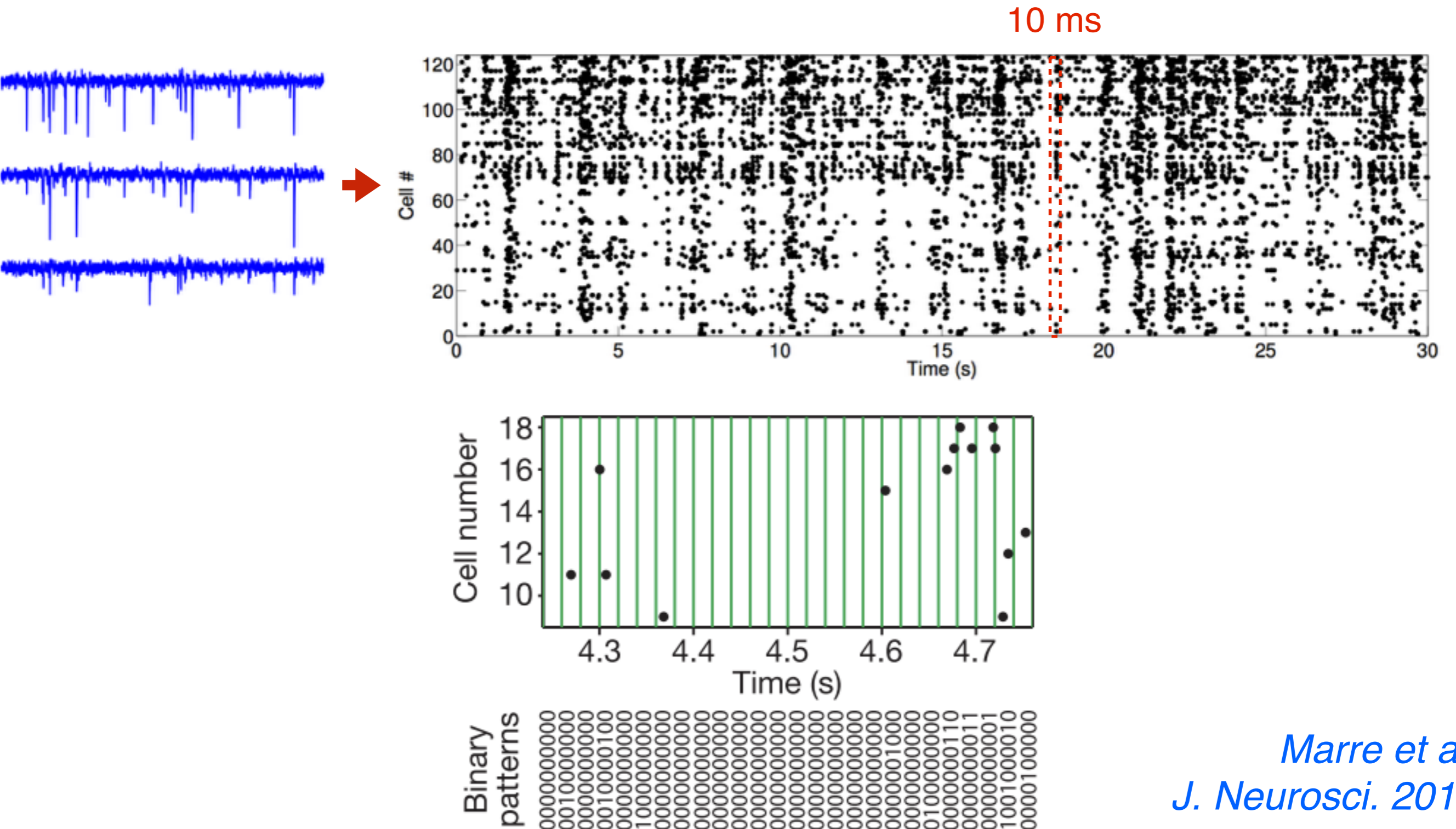


# the stimulus



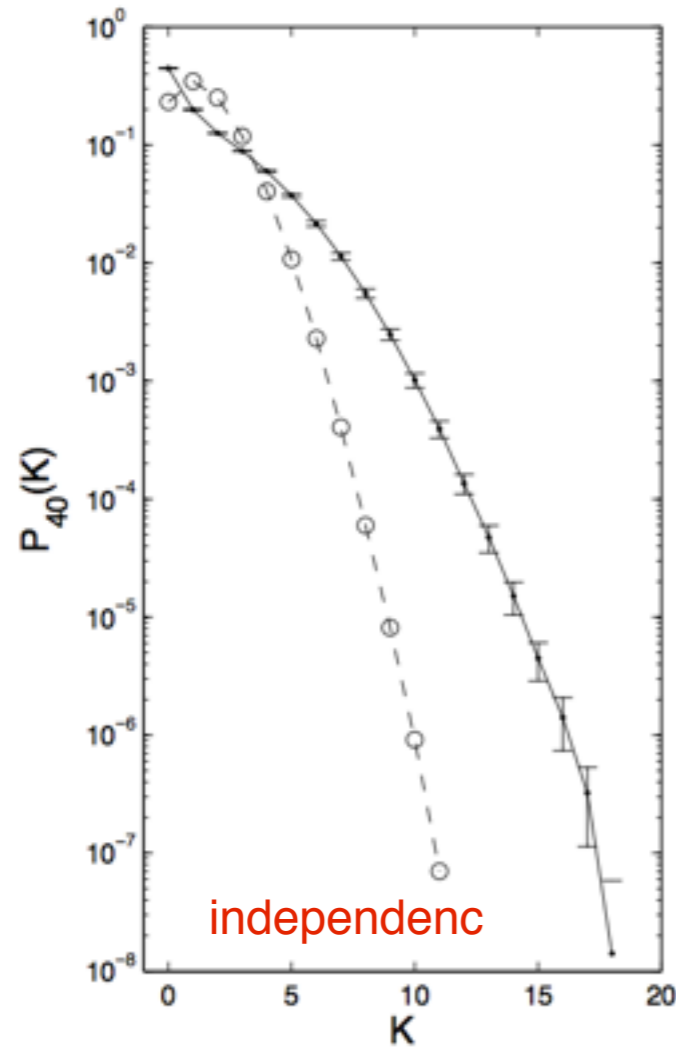
# binary neurons

- raster → binary variables  $\sigma_i = 0, 1$   $N \sim 150$  neurons

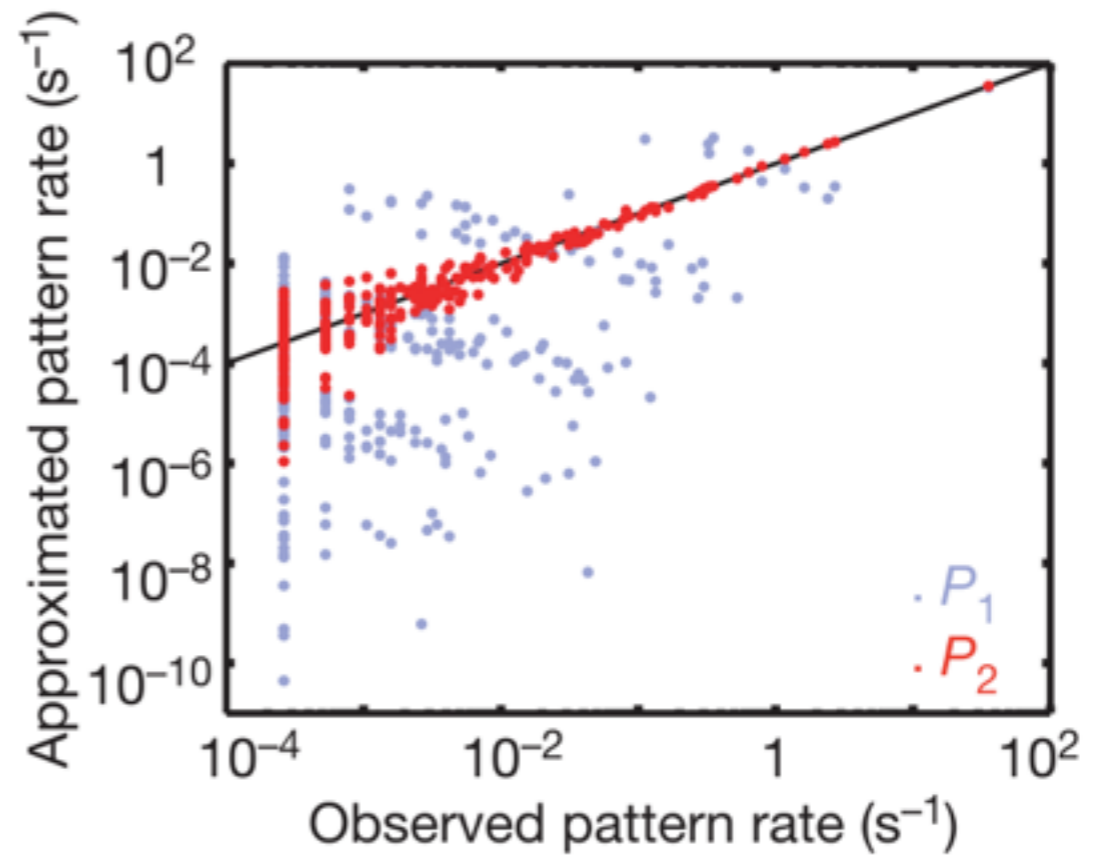


# neuron activities are correlated

*Schneidman et al, Nature 2005*



total number of spikes

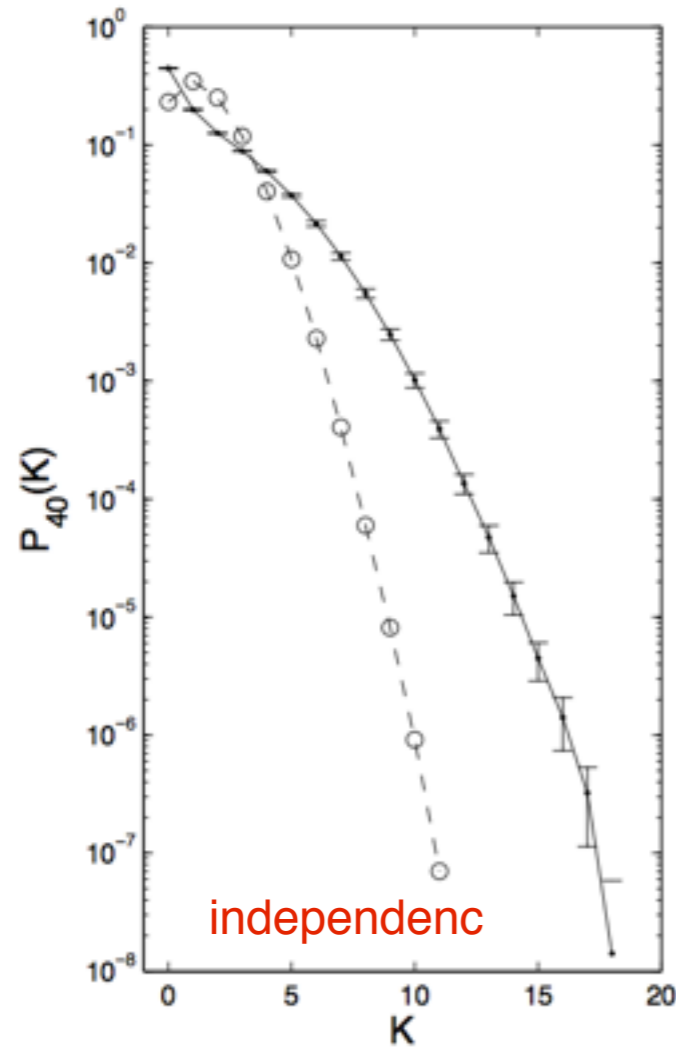


$$P_1(\boldsymbol{\sigma}) = \frac{1}{Z} e^{\sum_i h_i \sigma_i}$$

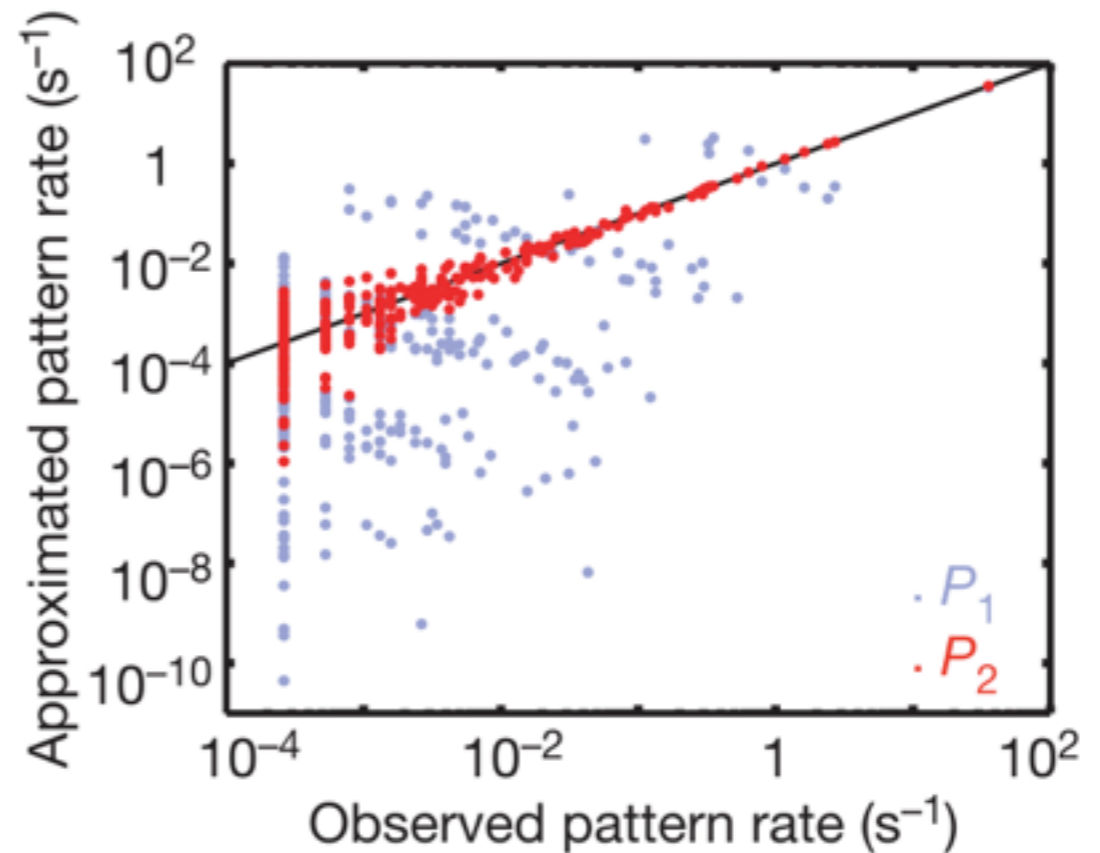
Ising model  $P_2(\boldsymbol{\sigma}) = \frac{1}{Z} e^{\sum_i h_i \sigma_i + \sum_{ij} J_{ij} \sigma_i \sigma_j}$

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goal: build the thermodynamics of this correlated system from data

# building the density of states

- evaluate  $P(\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_N)$  by modelling or by frequency counting

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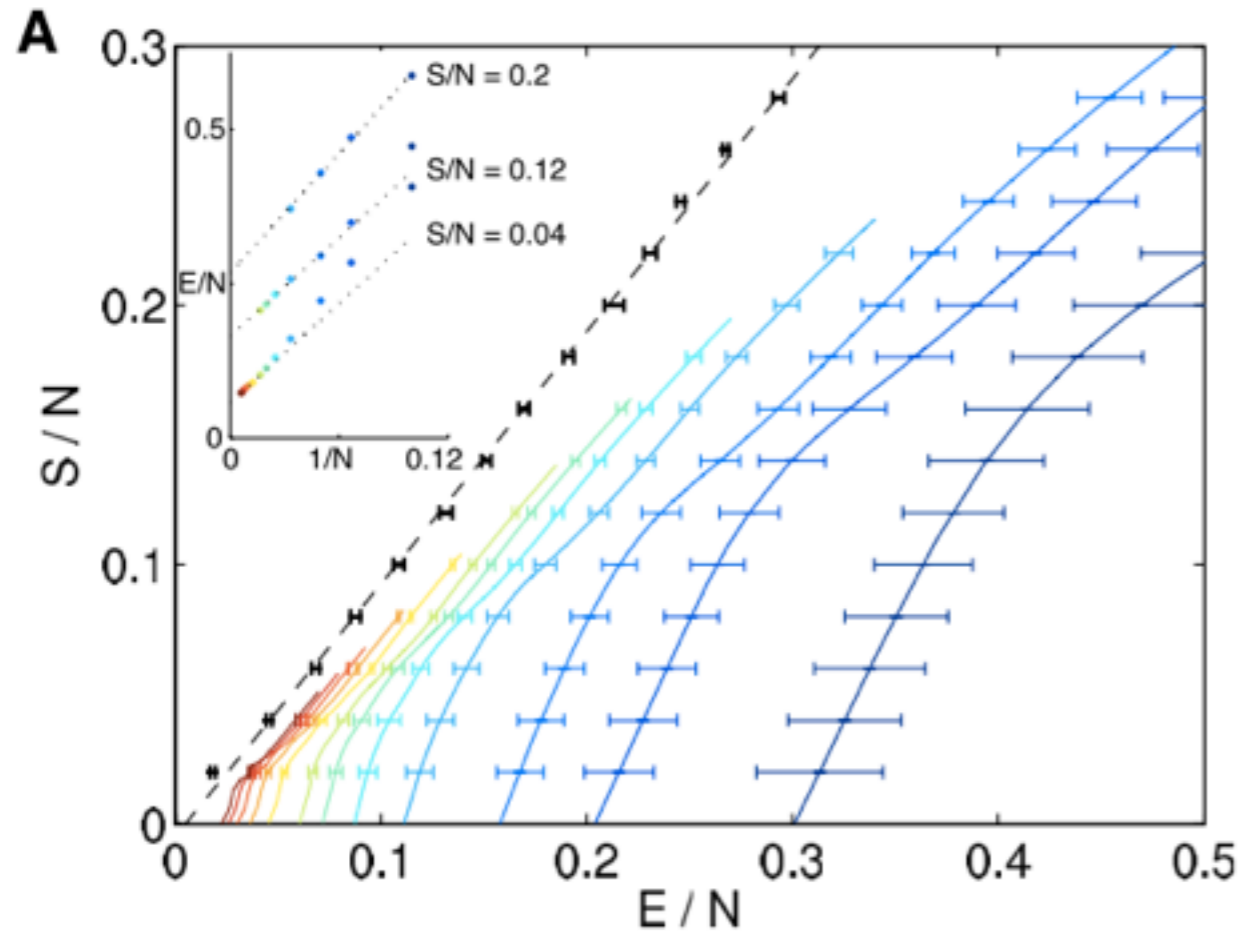
- define a **microcanonical entropy** :

$$S(E) = \log C(E)$$

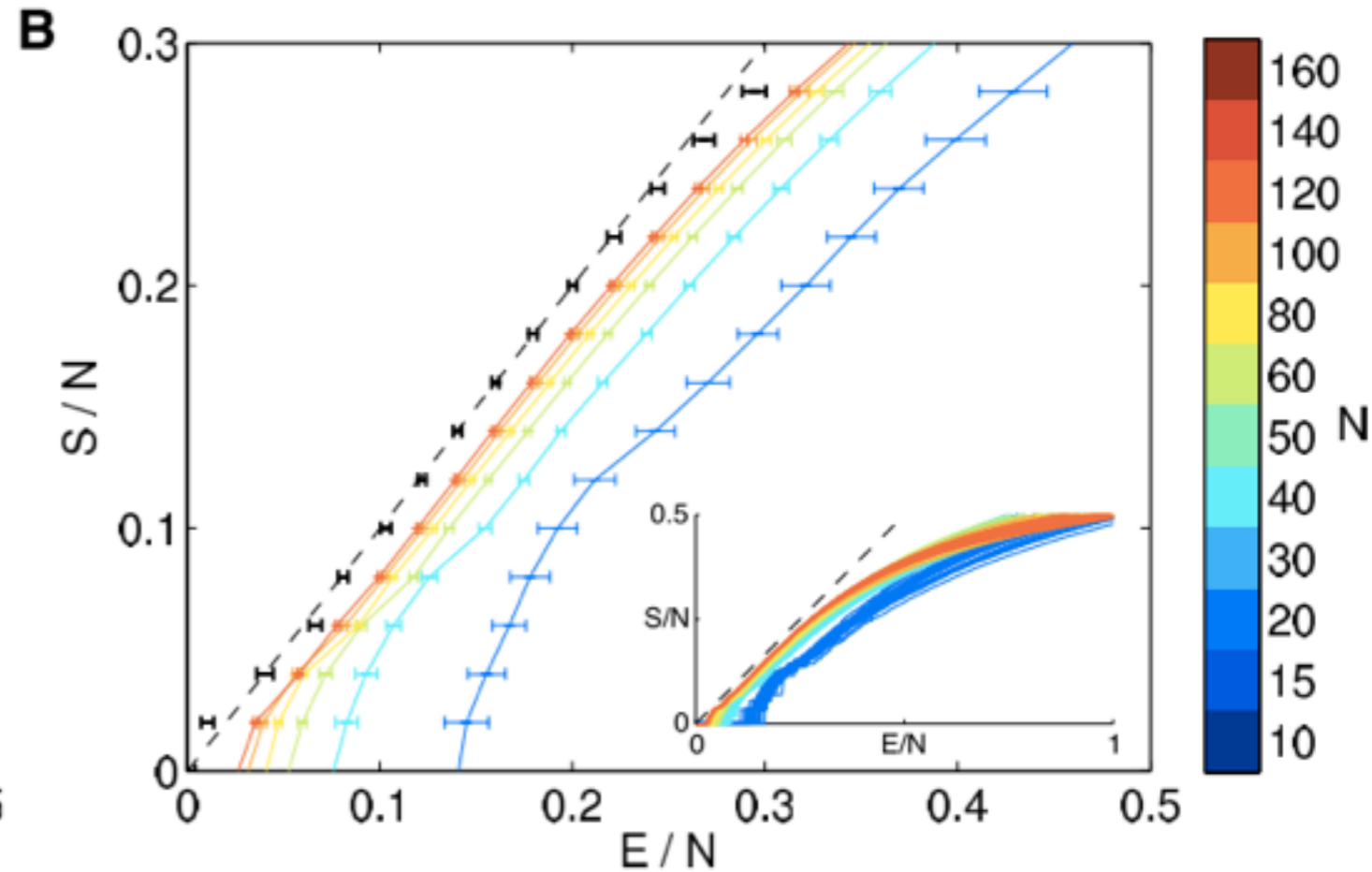


# density of states

just counting states



Maximum entropy model



(under natural movie stimulus)

# Zipf's law (interlude)

HUMAN BEHAVIOR

---

AND

THE PRINCIPLE  
OF LEAST EFFORT



*An Introduction to Human Ecology*

*by*

GEORGE KINGSLEY ZIPF, Ph.D.

Harvard University

# Zipf's law (interlude)

Probability P (E in log scale)

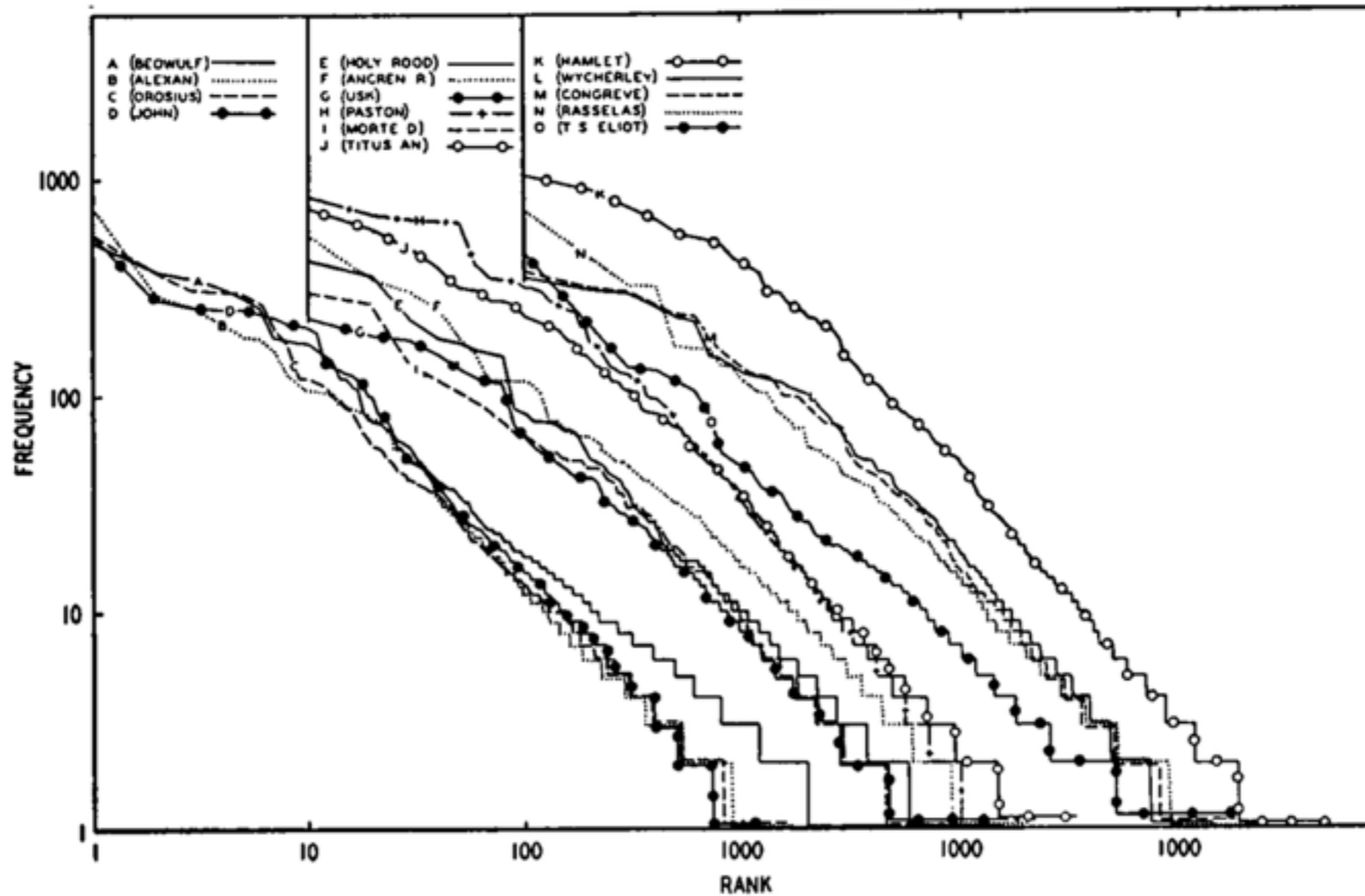


Fig. 3-14. Beowulf to T. S. Eliot. Rank-frequency distributions of the words of fifteen English writers from early Old English to the present day.

~ cumulative distribution

what does  $S(E) = E$  mean?

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*what's the probability of a given energy?*

how many states at  $E$

probability of a state at  $E$

$$P(E) \approx e^{S-E} \quad \text{constant!}$$

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*in usual thermodynamics...*

- $E$  scales with  $N$
- its fluctuations scale with  $N$

heat capacity  $C = \text{Var}(E) \sim N$

$C / N$  diverges at 2nd order transition critical point (e.g. 2D Ising model)

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*link to information theory*  $E = -\log P$  “surprise” (Shannon 1948)

- equipartition theorem (valid for independent units):  
almost all codewords we see have the same surprise  $\sim$  entropy
- basis for compression



# specific heat

let's add a spurious temperature — one direction in parameter space

$$P_T(\sigma) = \frac{1}{Z(T)} e^{-E/T} \quad C = \text{Var}_T(E/T) = \text{Var}_T(-\log P)$$

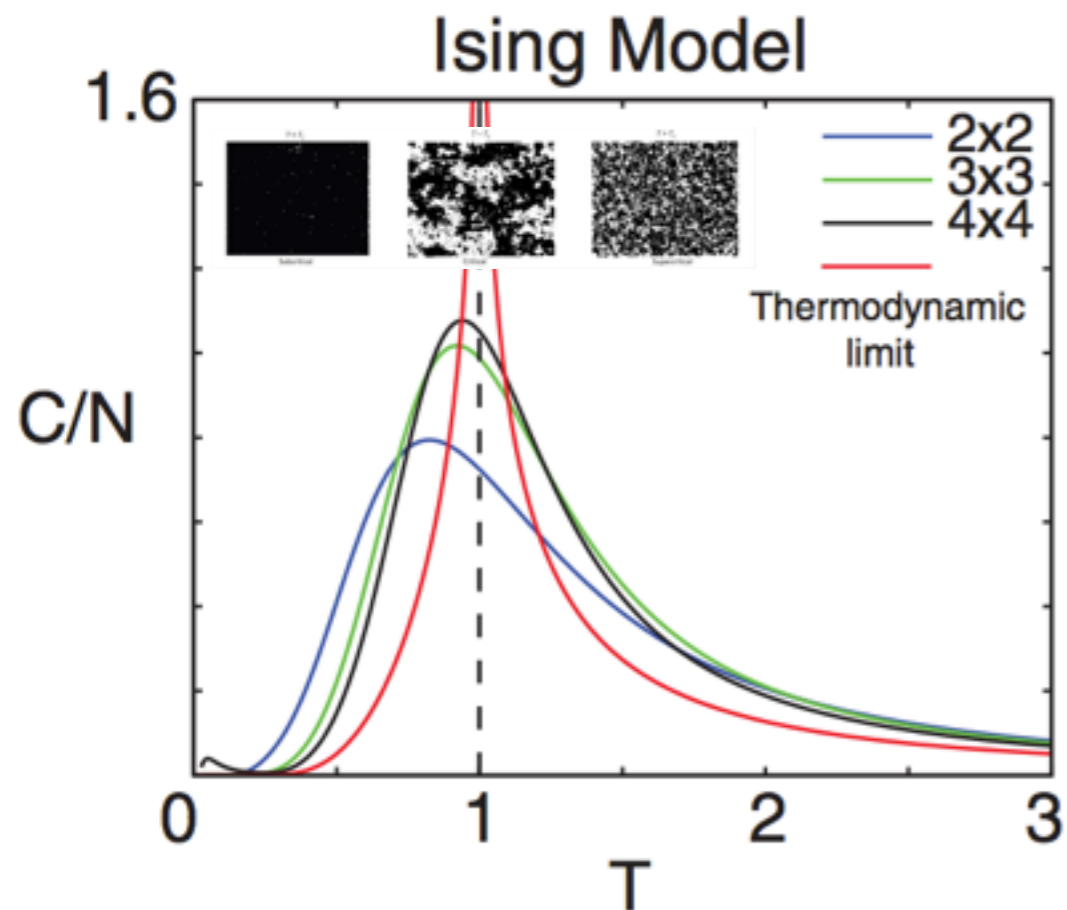
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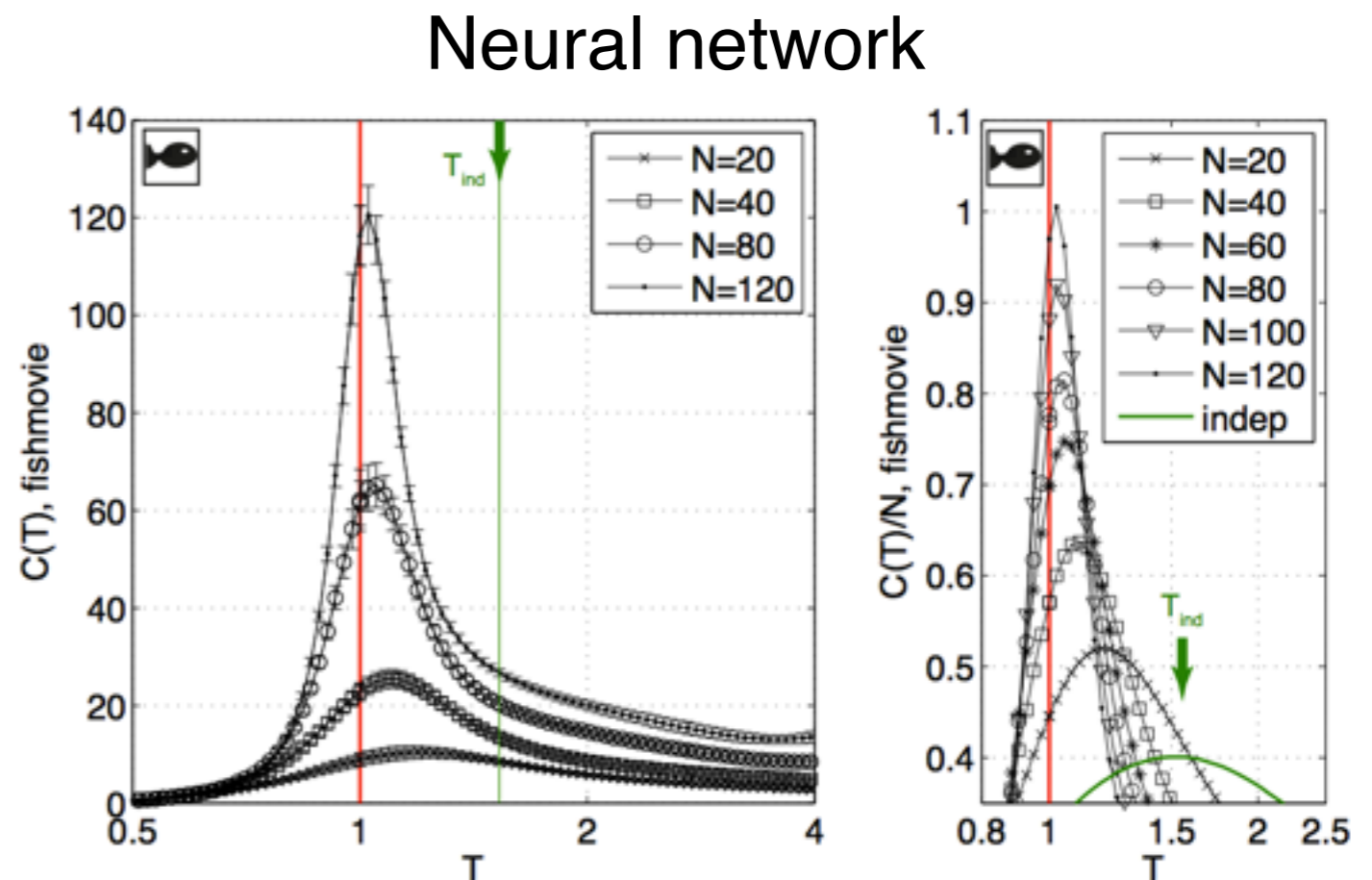
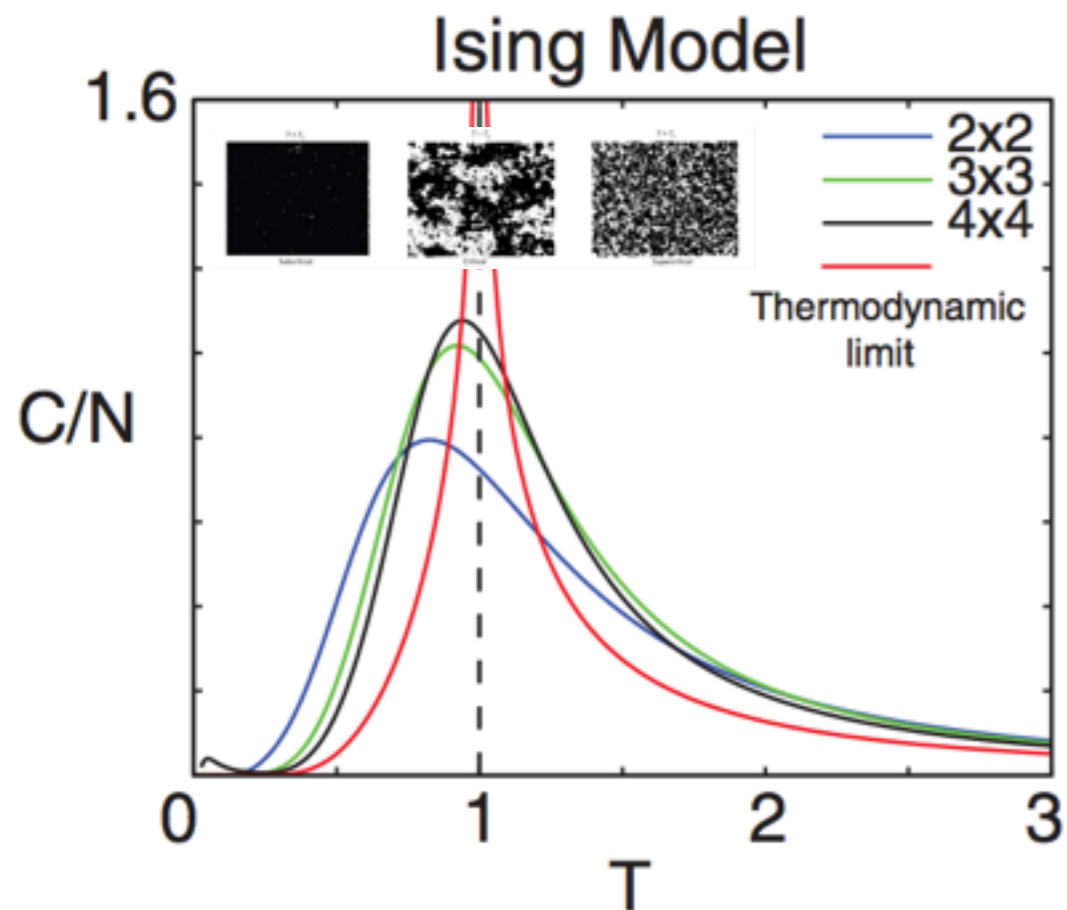


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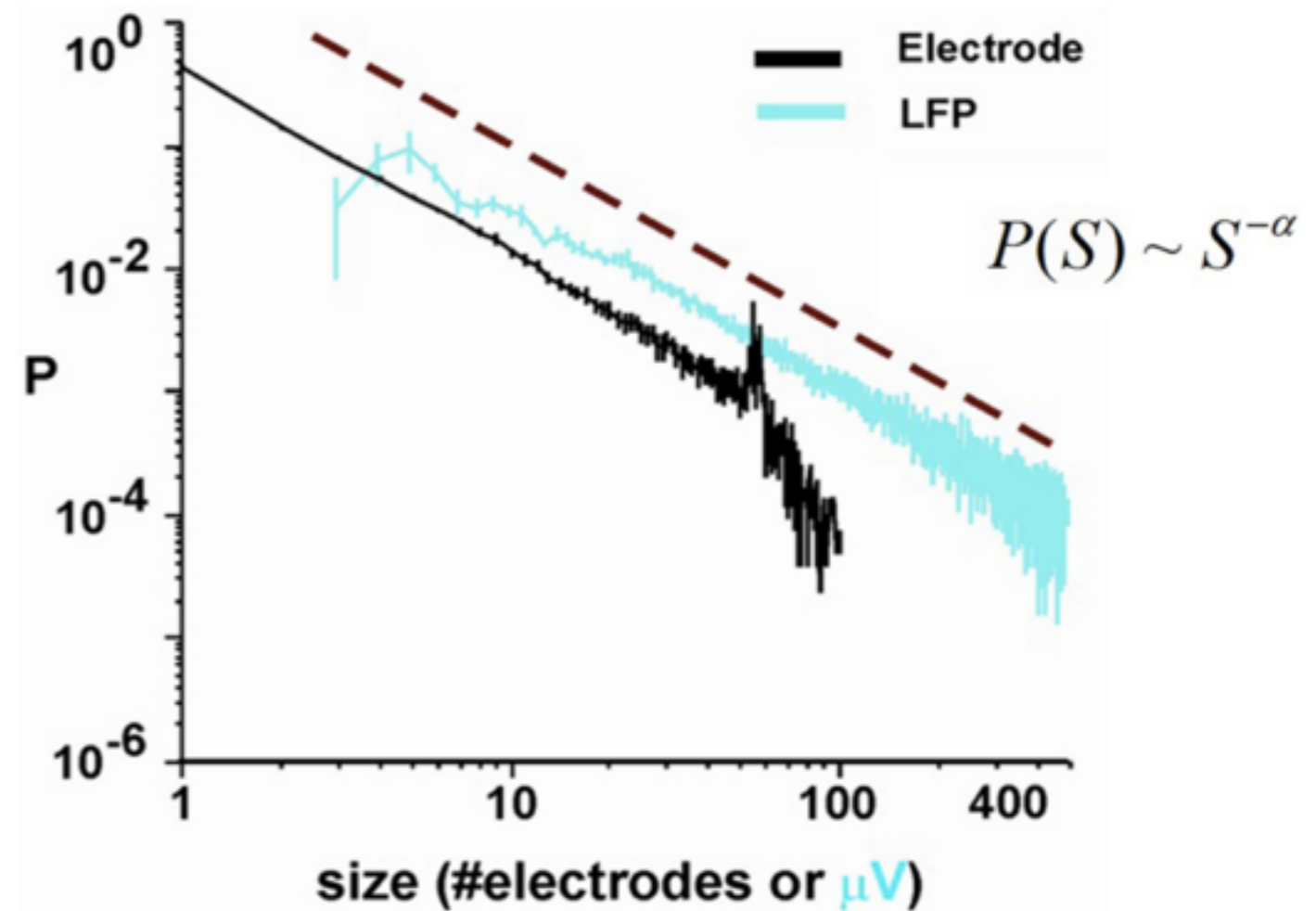
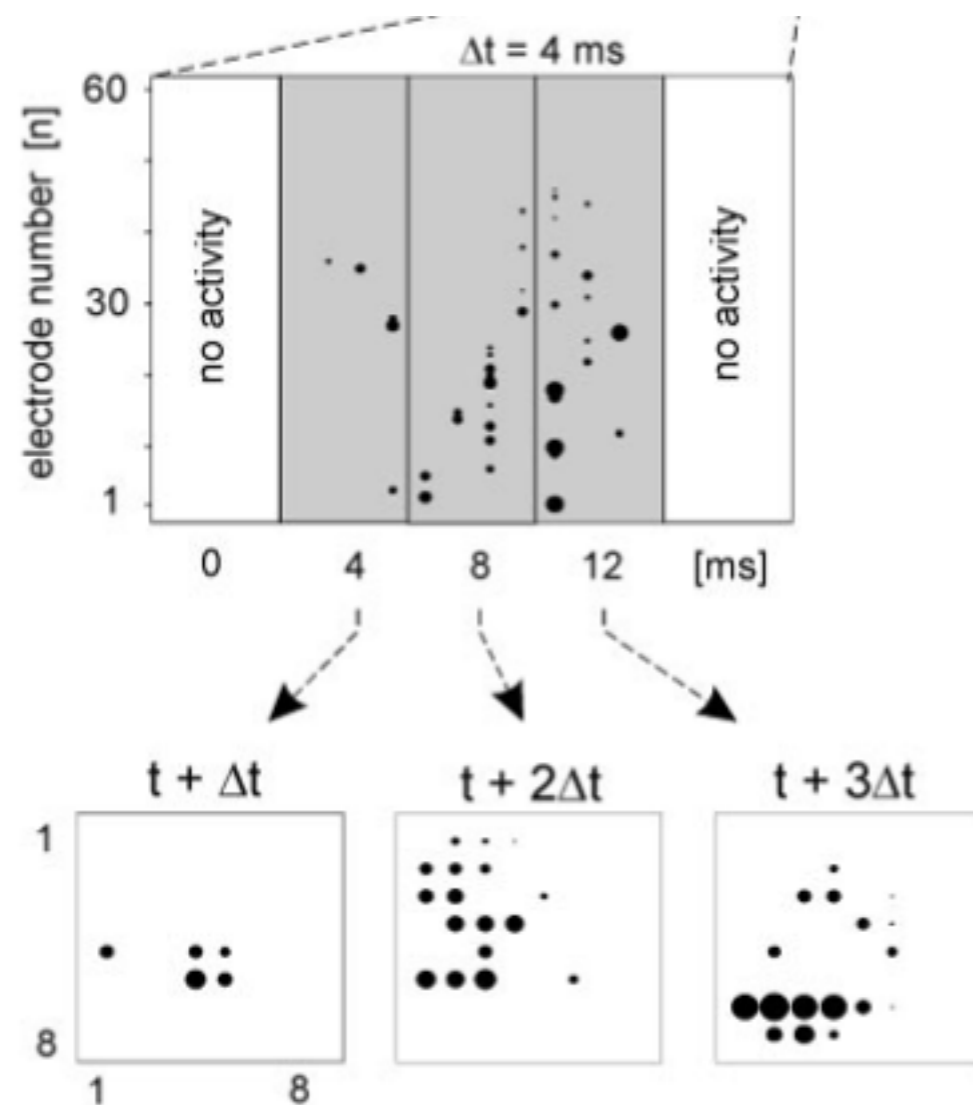
# dynamical criticality

The Journal of Neuroscience, December 3, 2003 • 23(35):11167–11177 • 11167

## Neuronal Avalanches in Neocortical Circuits

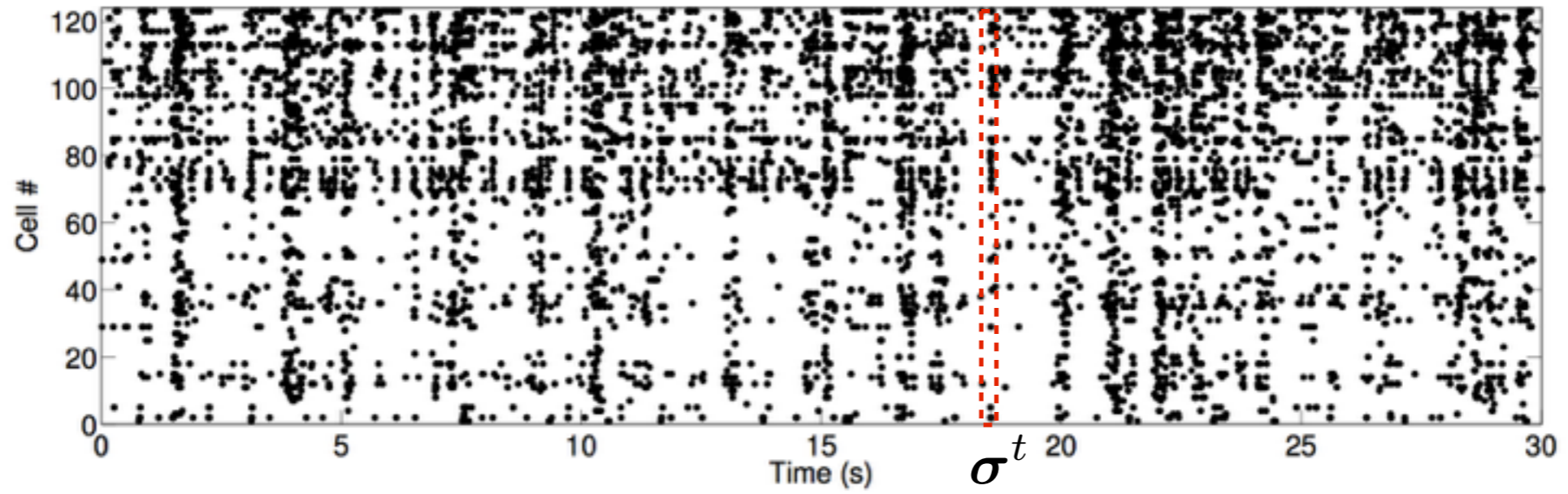
John M. Beggs and Dietmar Plenz

Unit of Neural Network Physiology, Laboratory of Systems Neuroscience, National Institute of Mental Health, Bethesda, Maryland 20892



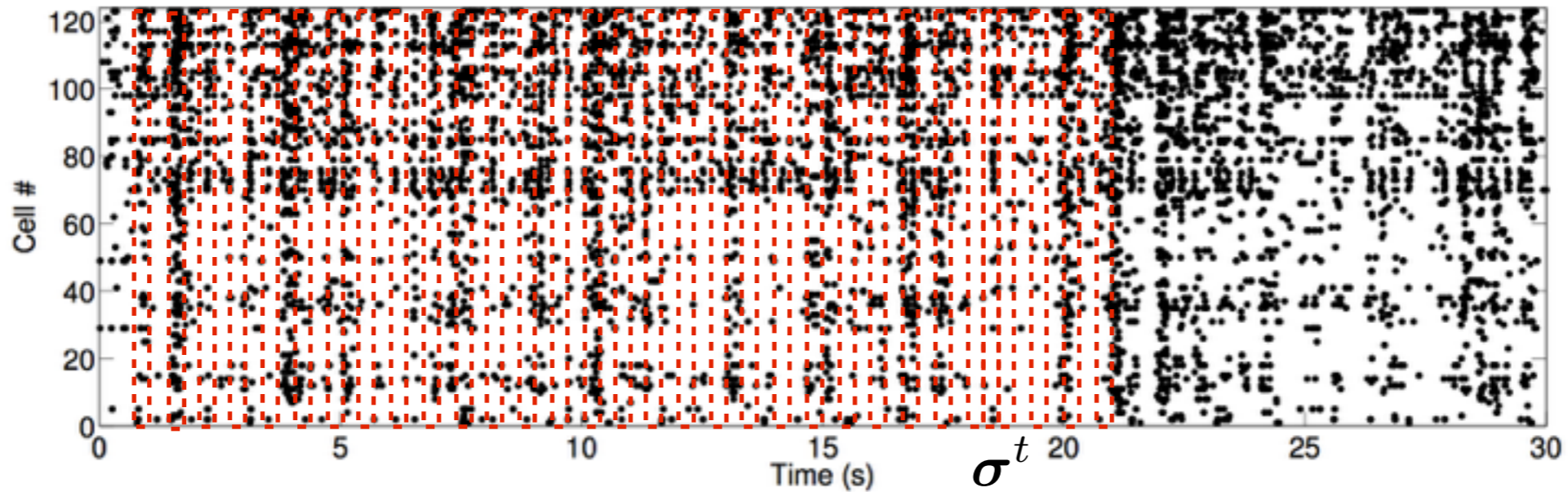
# dynamical approach

10 ms

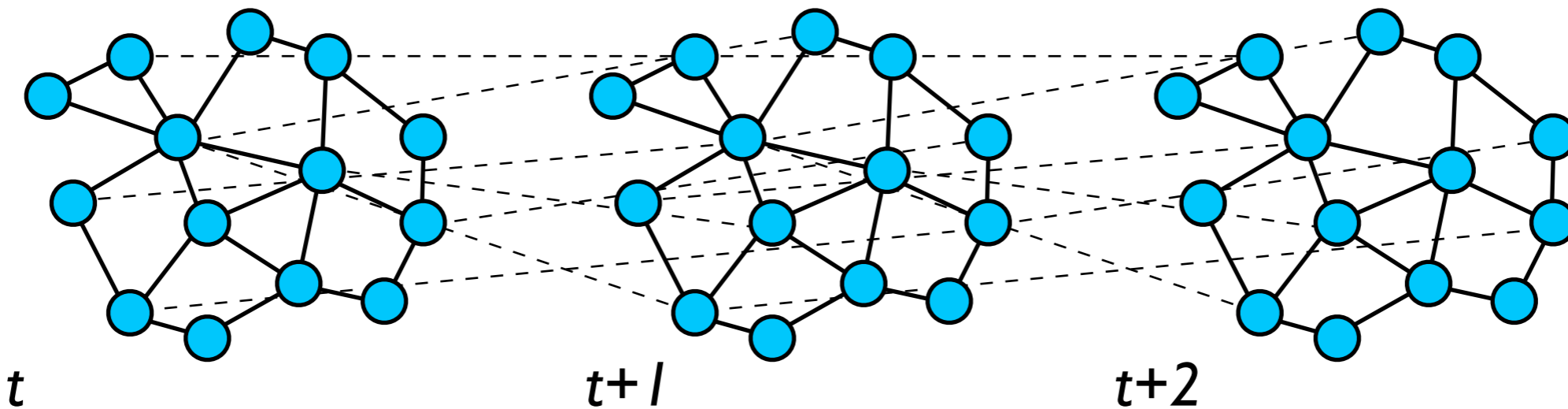


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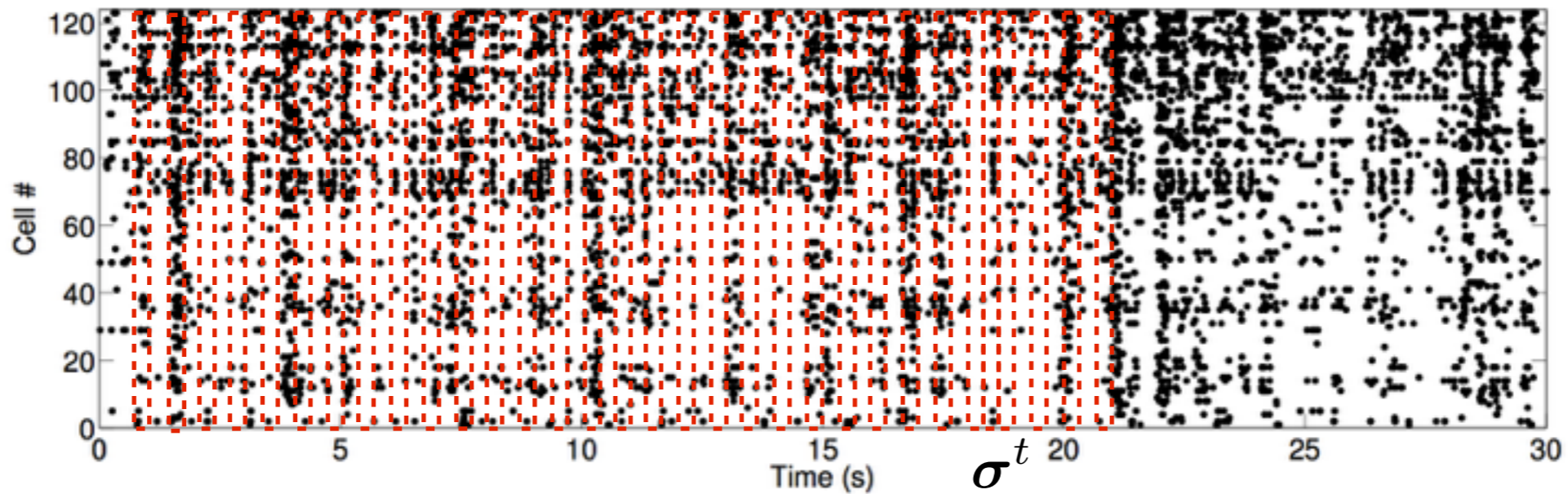


- proposal: consider statistics over trajectories  $P(\sigma^1, \dots, \sigma^L)$

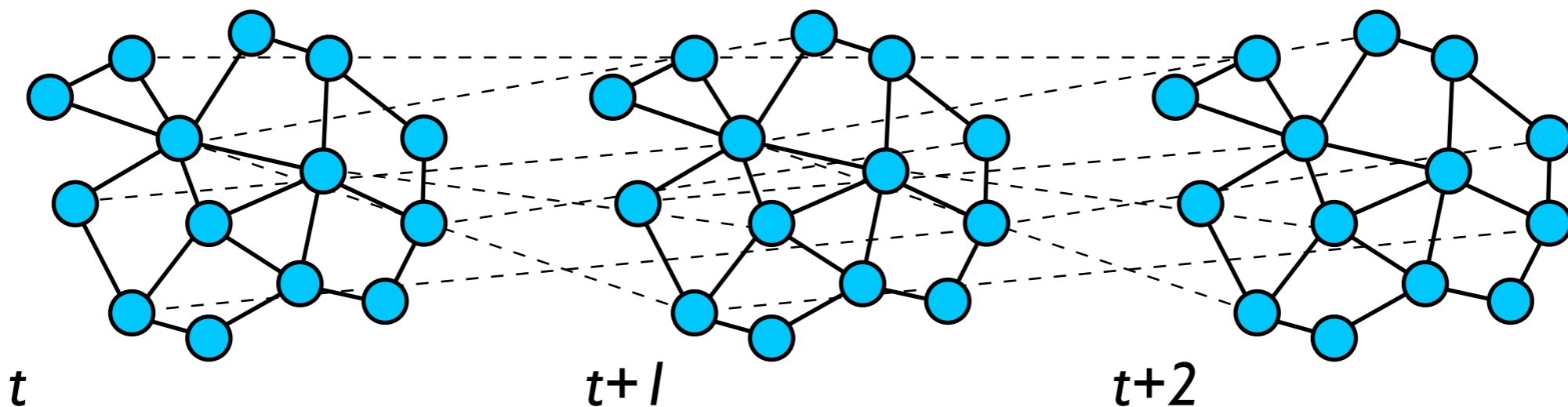


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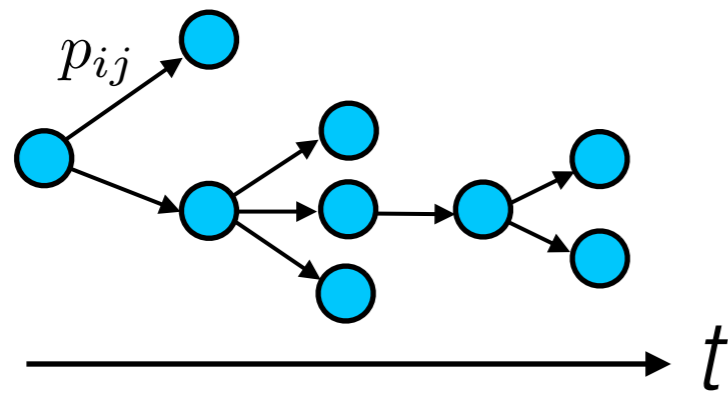


- proposal: consider statistics over trajectories  $P(\sigma^1, \dots, \sigma^L)$



- define  $E = -\log P(\{\sigma_{i,t}\})$
- calculate specific heat  $c = \frac{1}{NL} \text{Var}(E)$

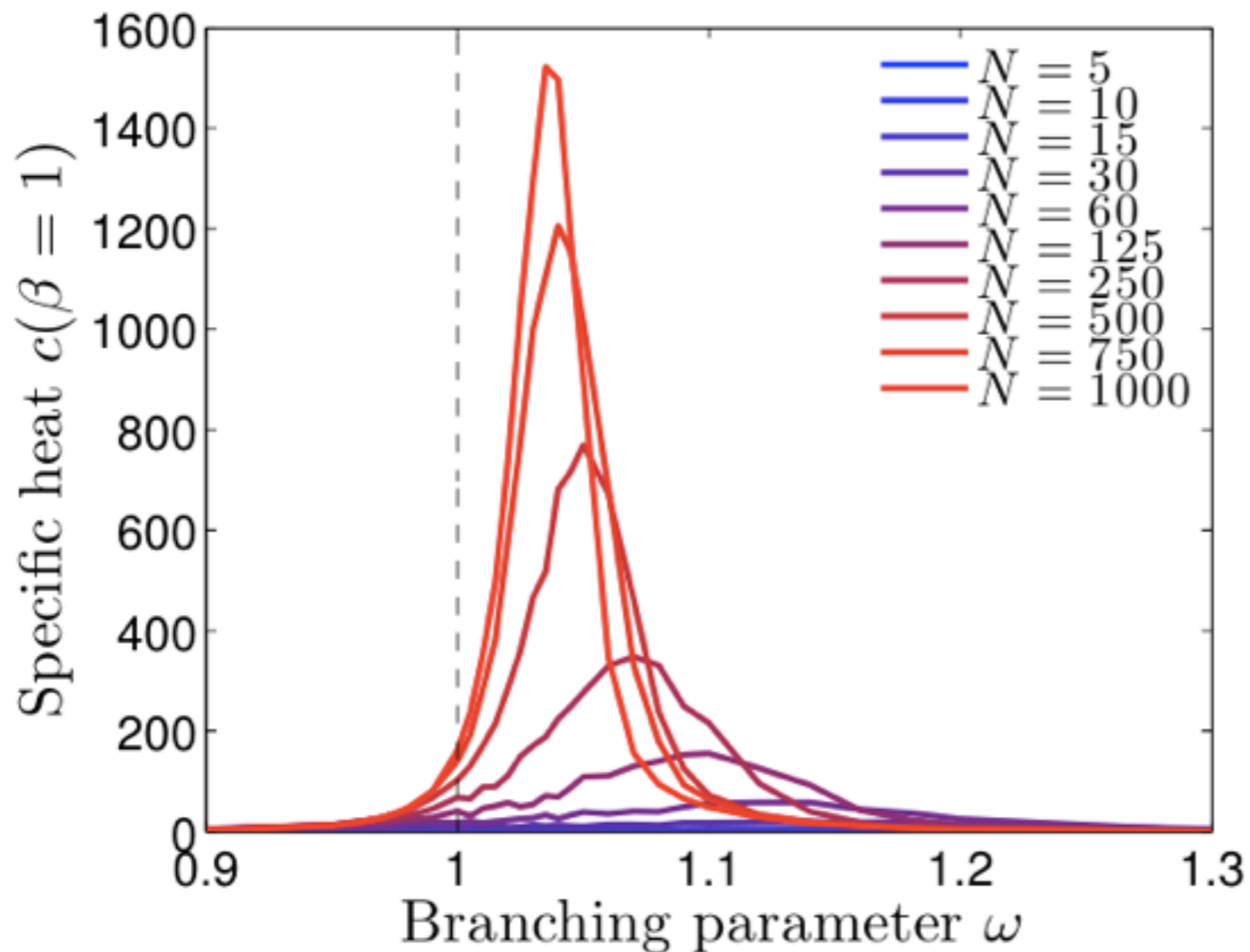
# link to dynamical criticality: branching process



$$P(\{\sigma_{i,t}\}) = \prod_t \prod_{i=1}^N p_i(t)^{\sigma_{i,t}} [1 - p_i(t)]^{1 - \sigma_{i,t}}$$

$$p_i(t) = 1 - \prod_j (1 - p_{ij})^{\sigma_{i,t-1}}$$

Beggs & Plenz 2003

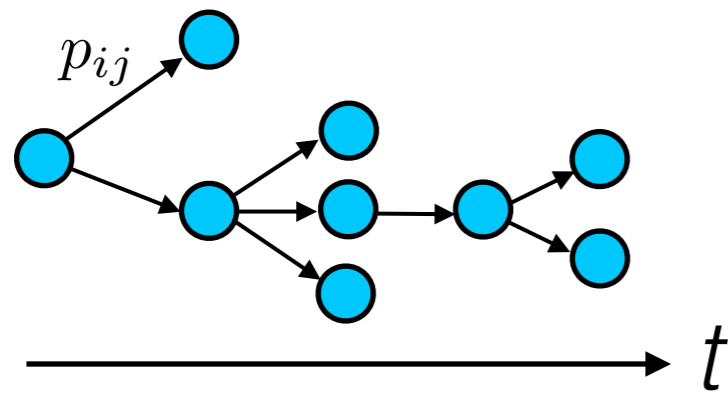


branching parameter:

$$\omega = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{ij} p_{ij}$$



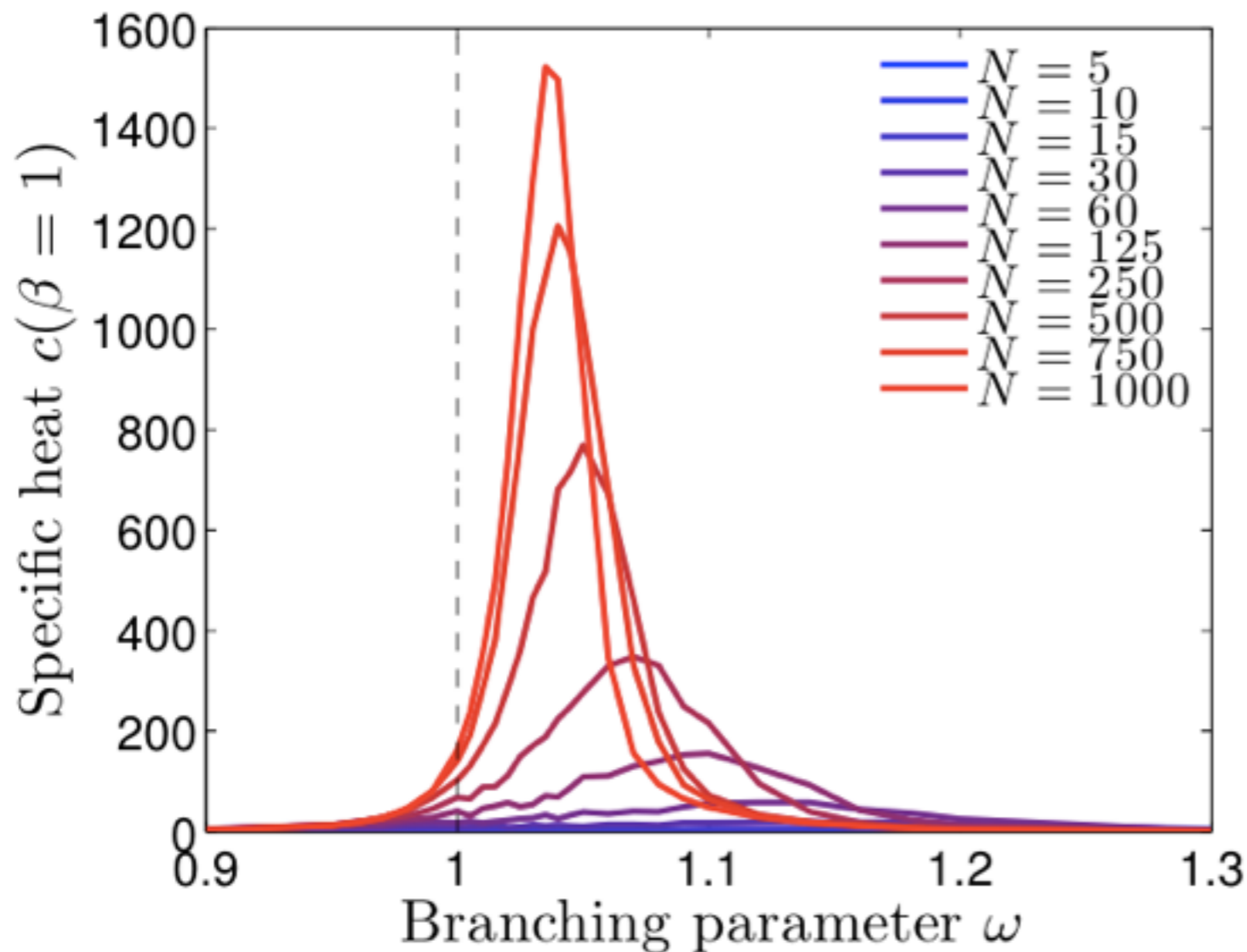
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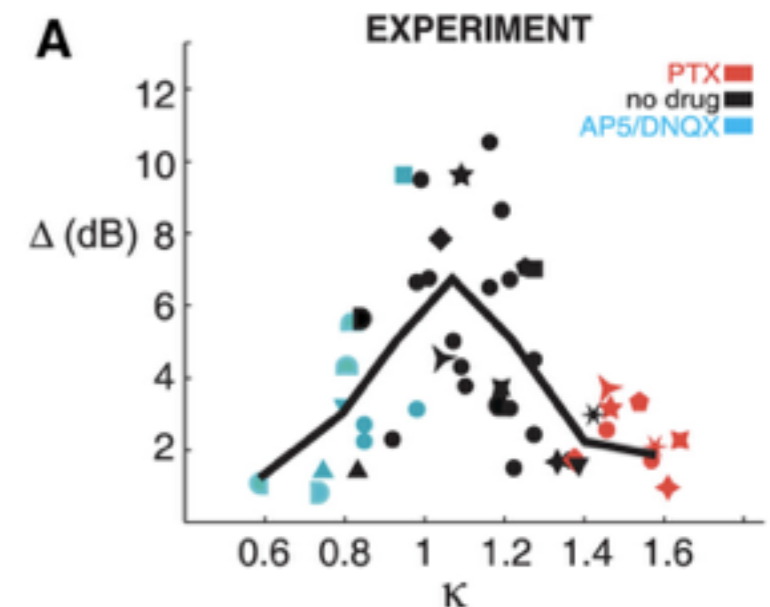
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Beggs & Plenz 2003



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Shew Yang Petermann Roy Plenz 2009

# model for multi-neuron spike trains

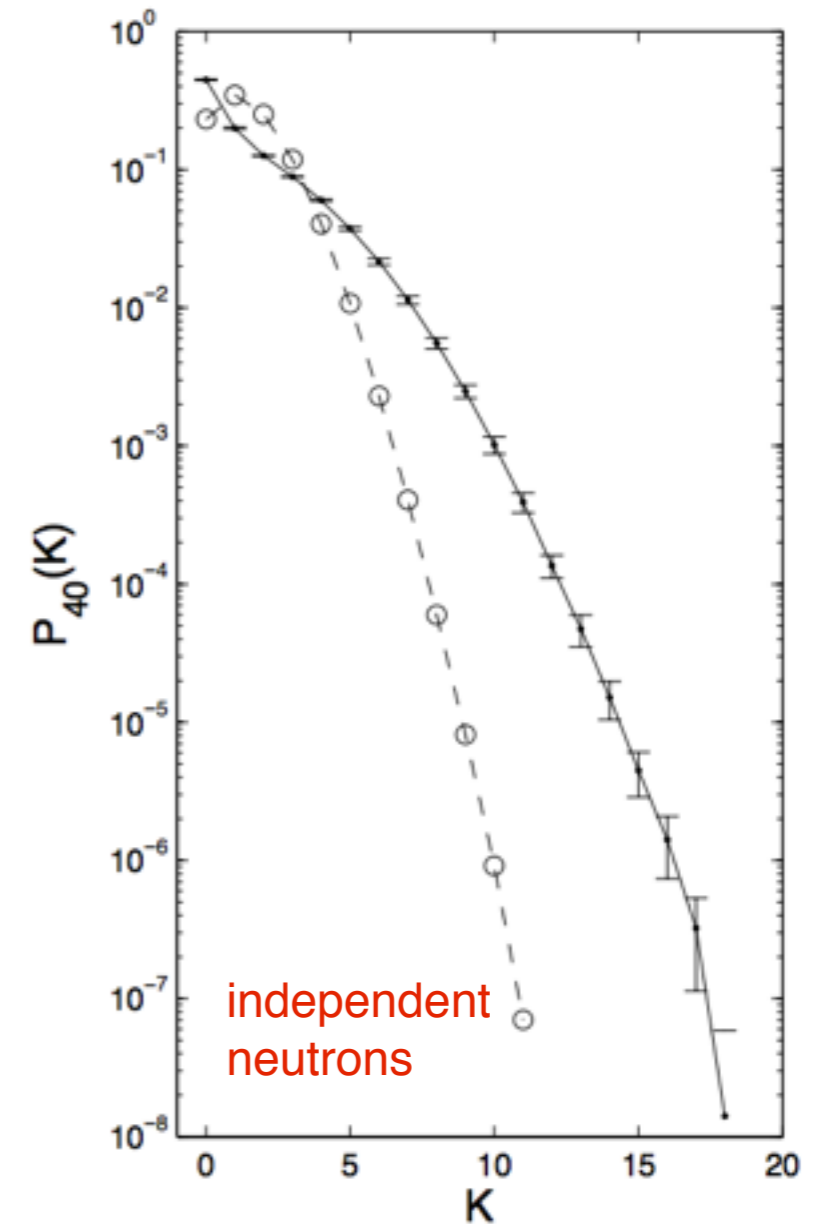
sampling  $2^N$  states is hard enough; here  $2^{N_L}$  states — we need models

*let's do something simple*

- total number of spikes  $K_t = \sum_i \sigma_{i,t}$

is informative of collective behaviour

*Tkacik Marre Mora Amodei Berry Bialek, JSTAT 2013*



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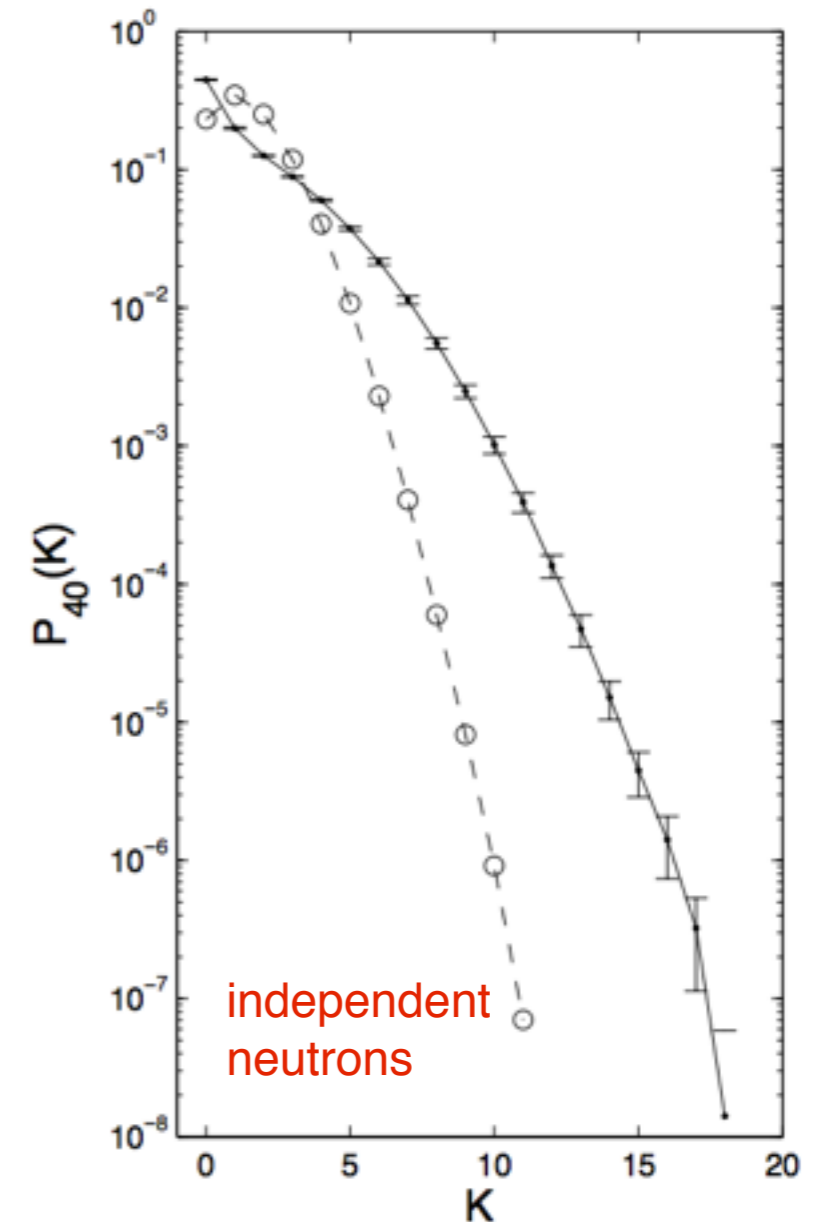
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*Tkacik Marre Mora Amodei Berry Bialek, JSTAT 2013*

- maximum entropy model with  
constrains on temporal correlations of  $K$

$$P(K_t, K_{t'}) \quad |t - t'| < v$$

⇔ all neurons behave the same



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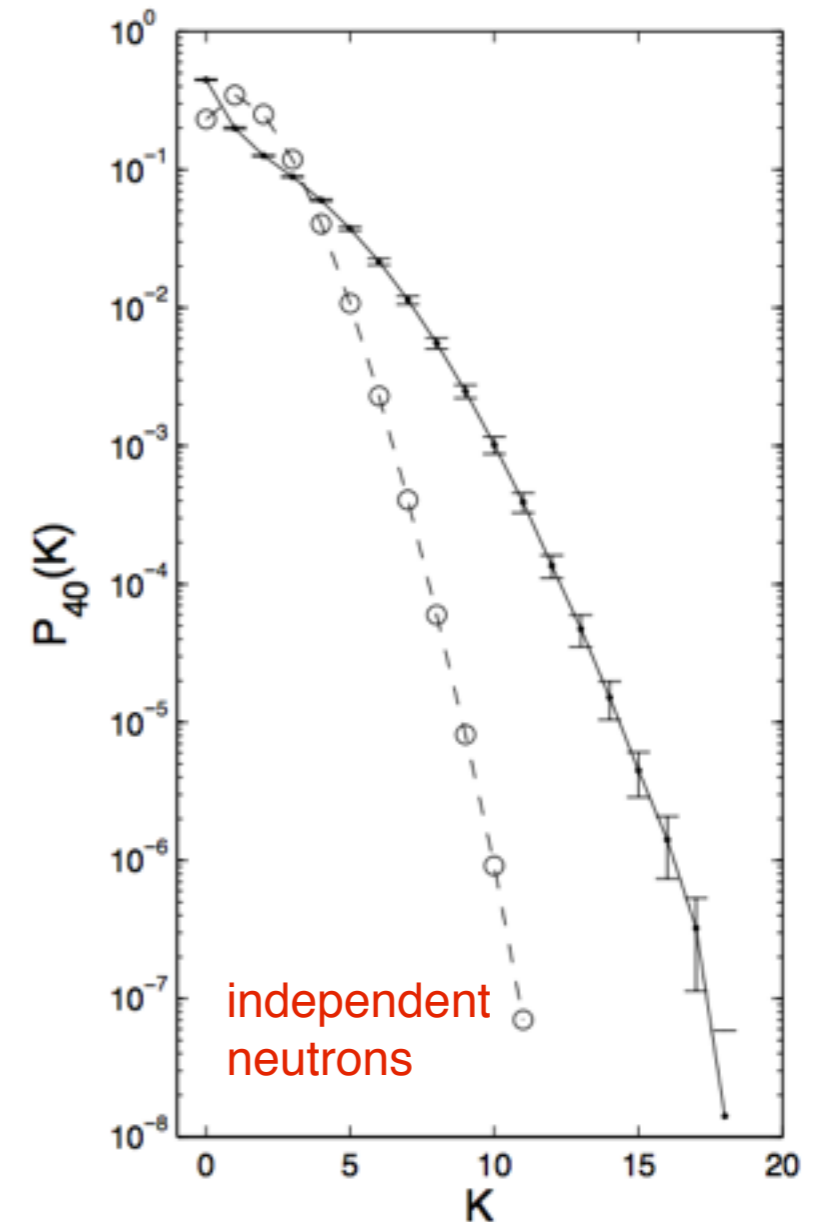
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- “Energy”

$$E = - \sum_t h(K_t) - \sum_t \sum_{u=1}^v J_u(K_t, K_{t+u})$$



# solving the problem

$$E = - \sum_t h(K_t) - \sum_t \sum_{u=1}^v J_u(K_t, K_{t+u})$$

- define a “super-variable”

$$X_t = (K_t, K_{t+1}, \dots, K_{t+v-1})$$

- now becomes a ID model

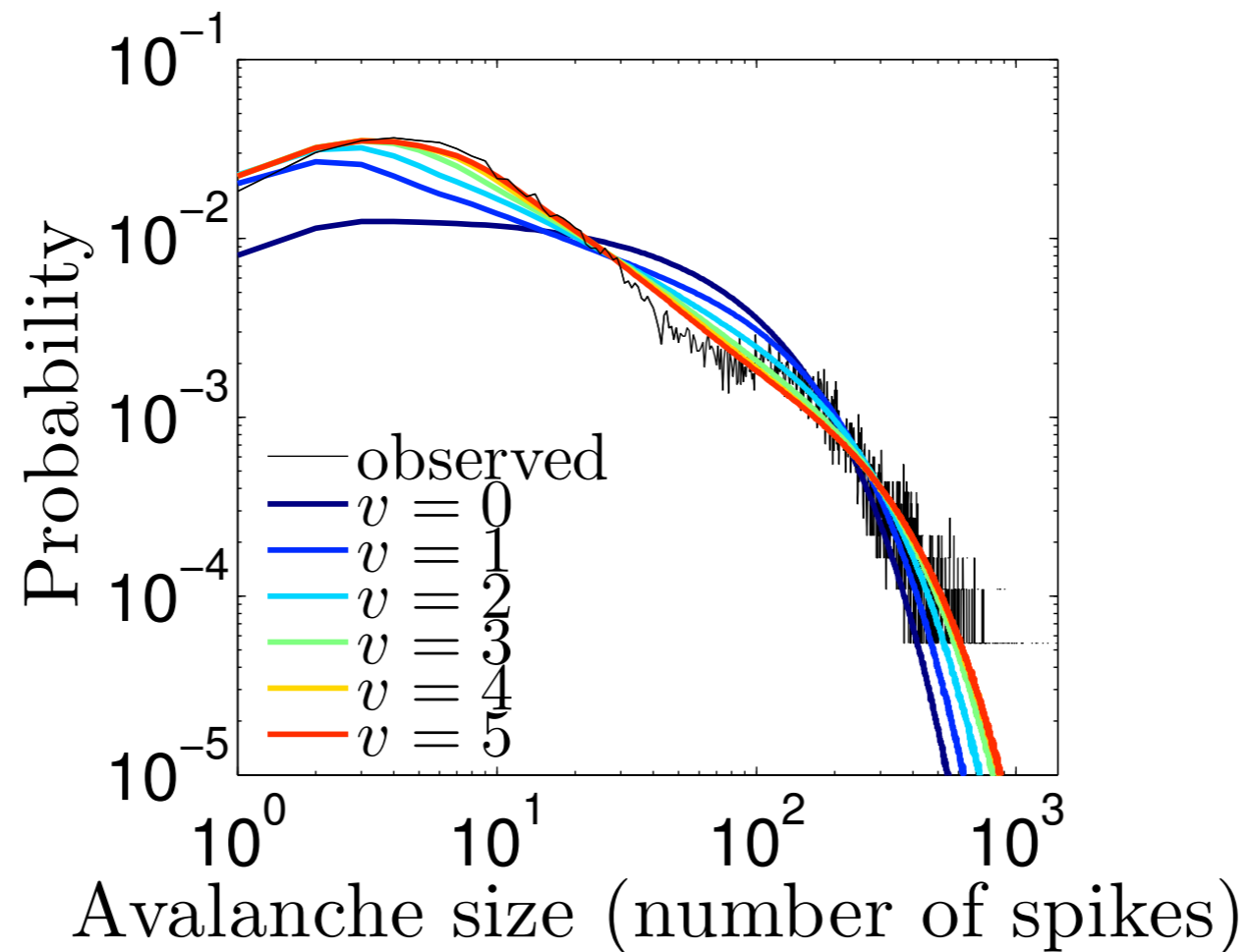
$$P(\{X_t\}) = \frac{1}{Z} \exp \left[ \sum_t H(X_t) + \sum_t W(X_t, X_{t+1}) \right]$$

- can be solved by transfer matrices

(*aka* forward backward algorithm, or belief propagation in ID)

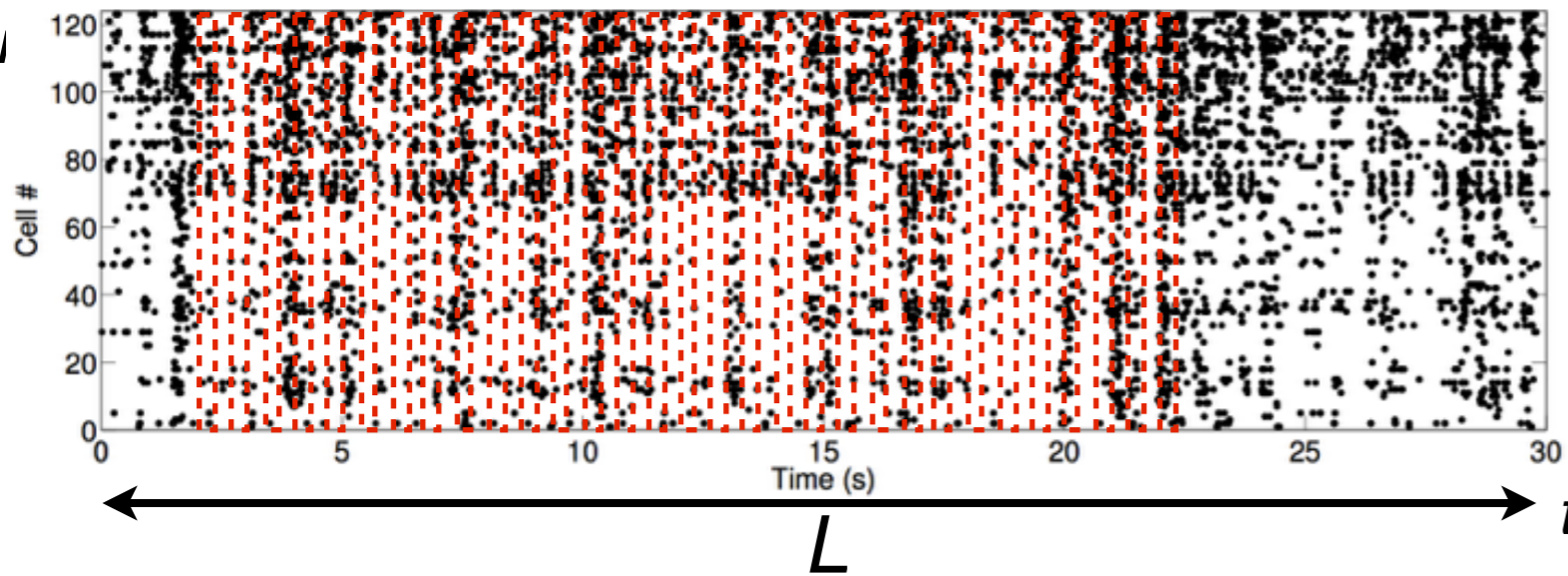


# model predicts avalanche dynamics



NB: no power laws in avalanche statistics

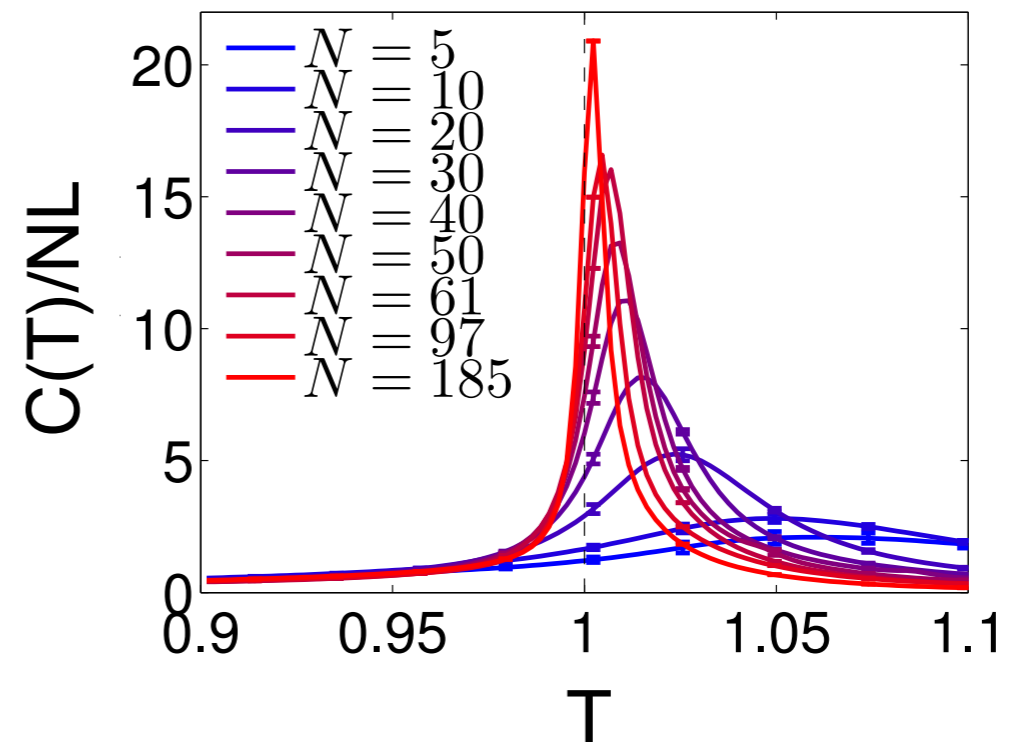
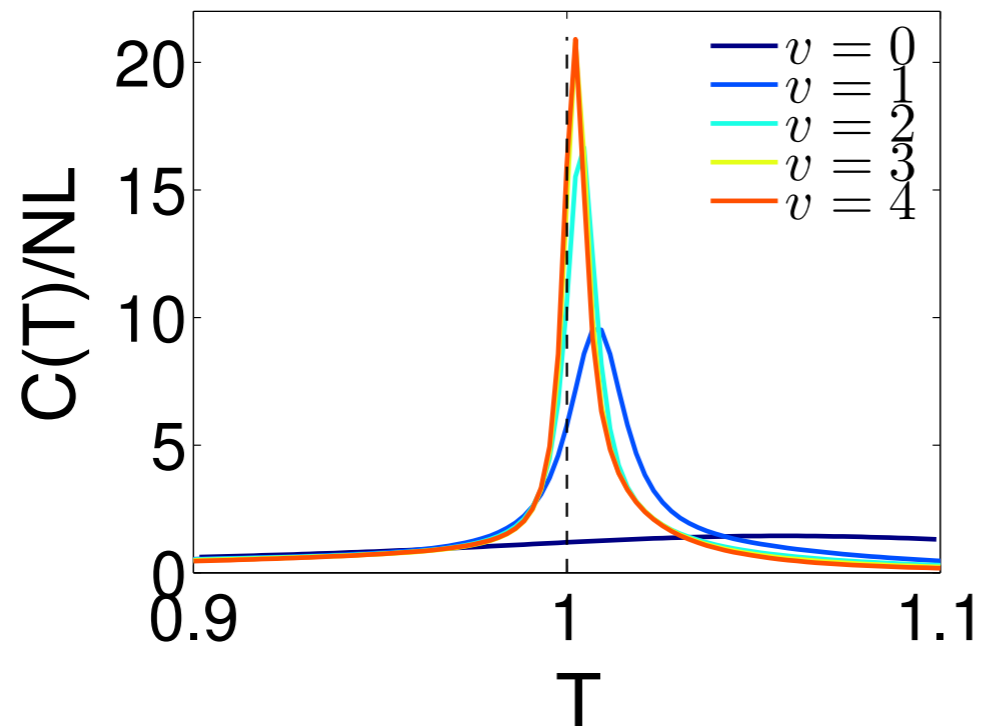
# thermodynamics of spike trains



$$E = -\log P(\{\sigma_{i,t}\})$$

$$P_T(\sigma) = \frac{1}{Z(T)} e^{-E/T}$$

$$C = \text{Var}_T(E/T)$$

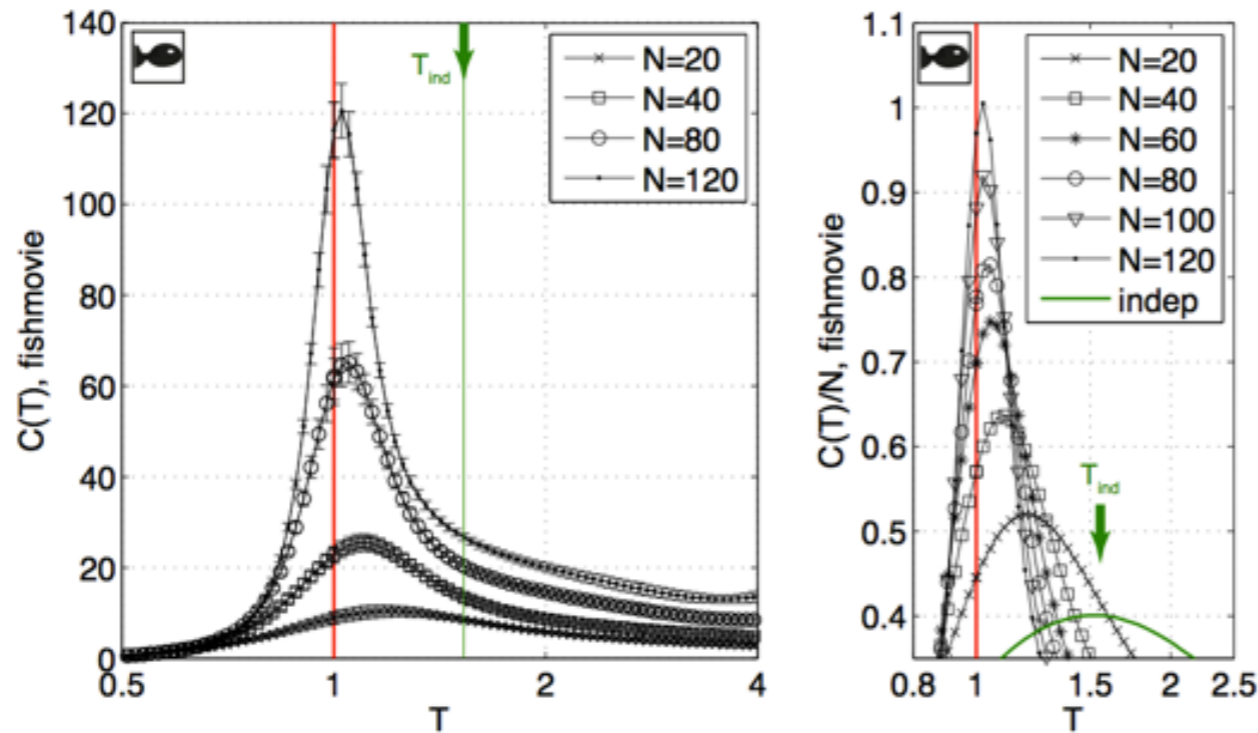


$v$  = temporal range



# thermodynamics of spike trains

static  
(salamander)

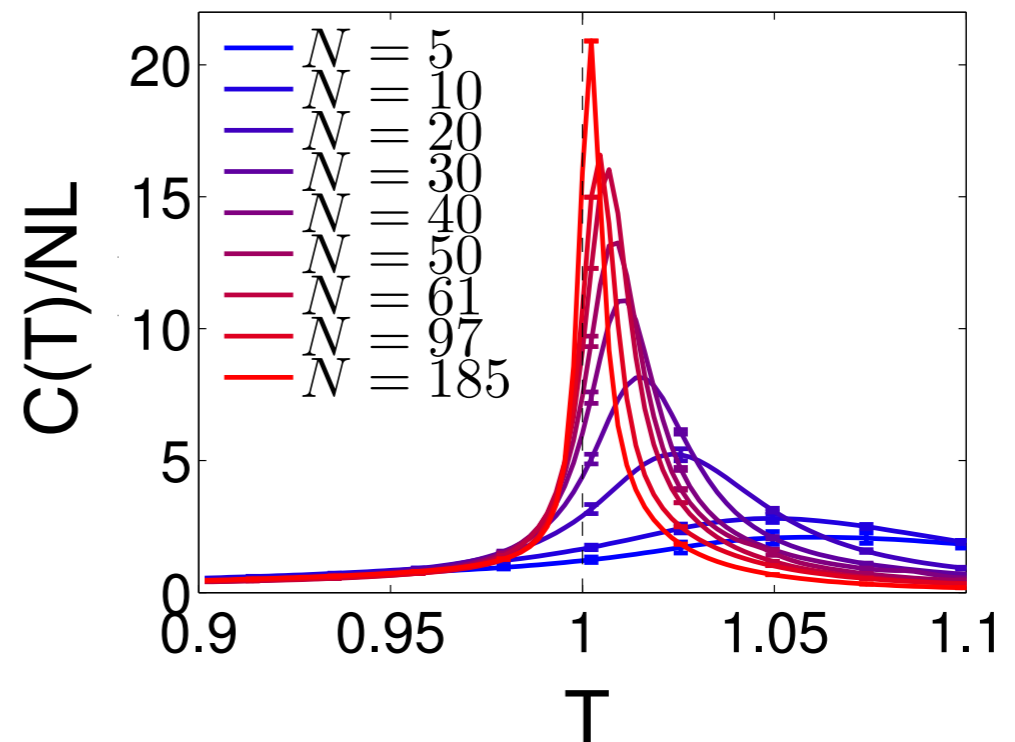
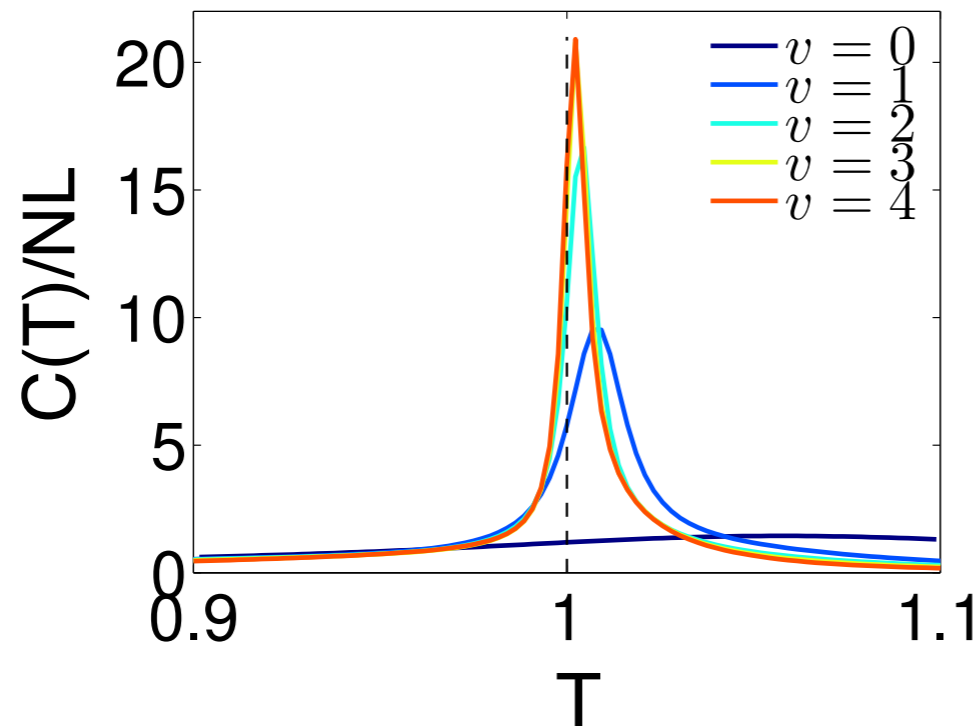


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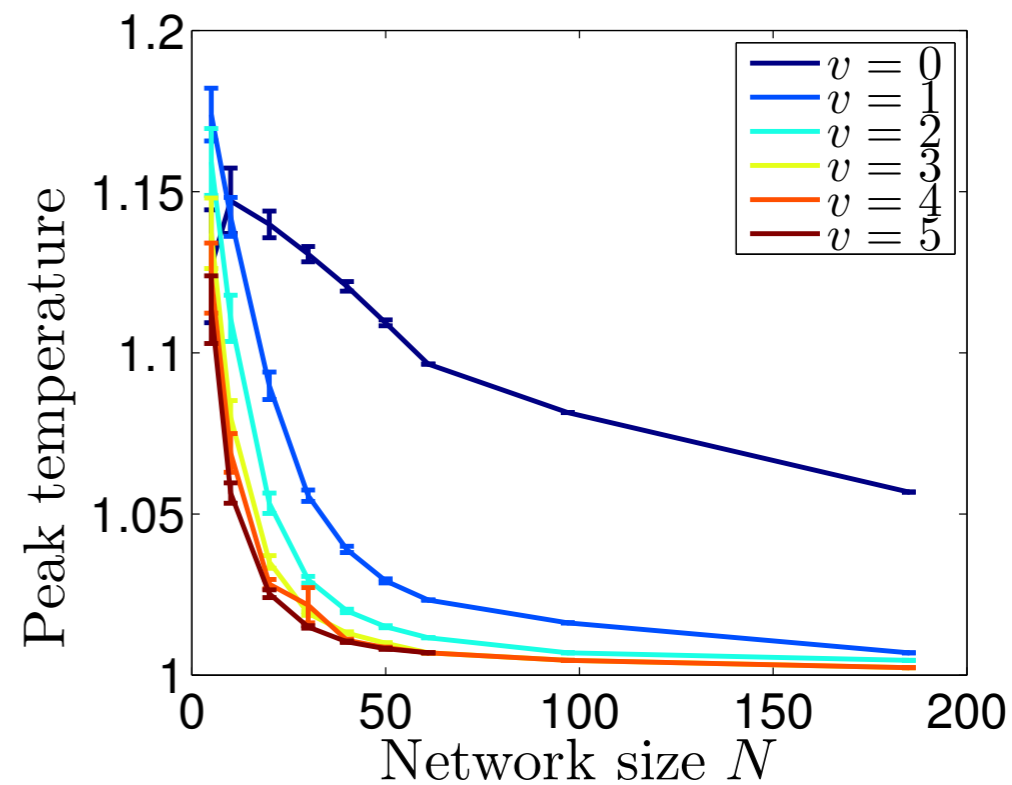
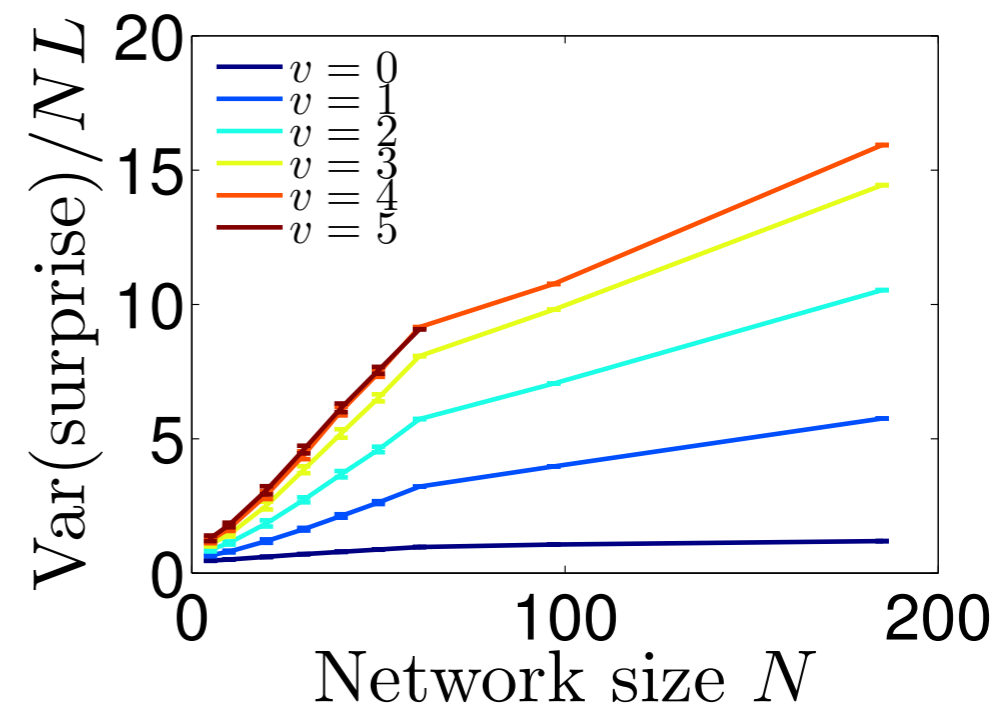
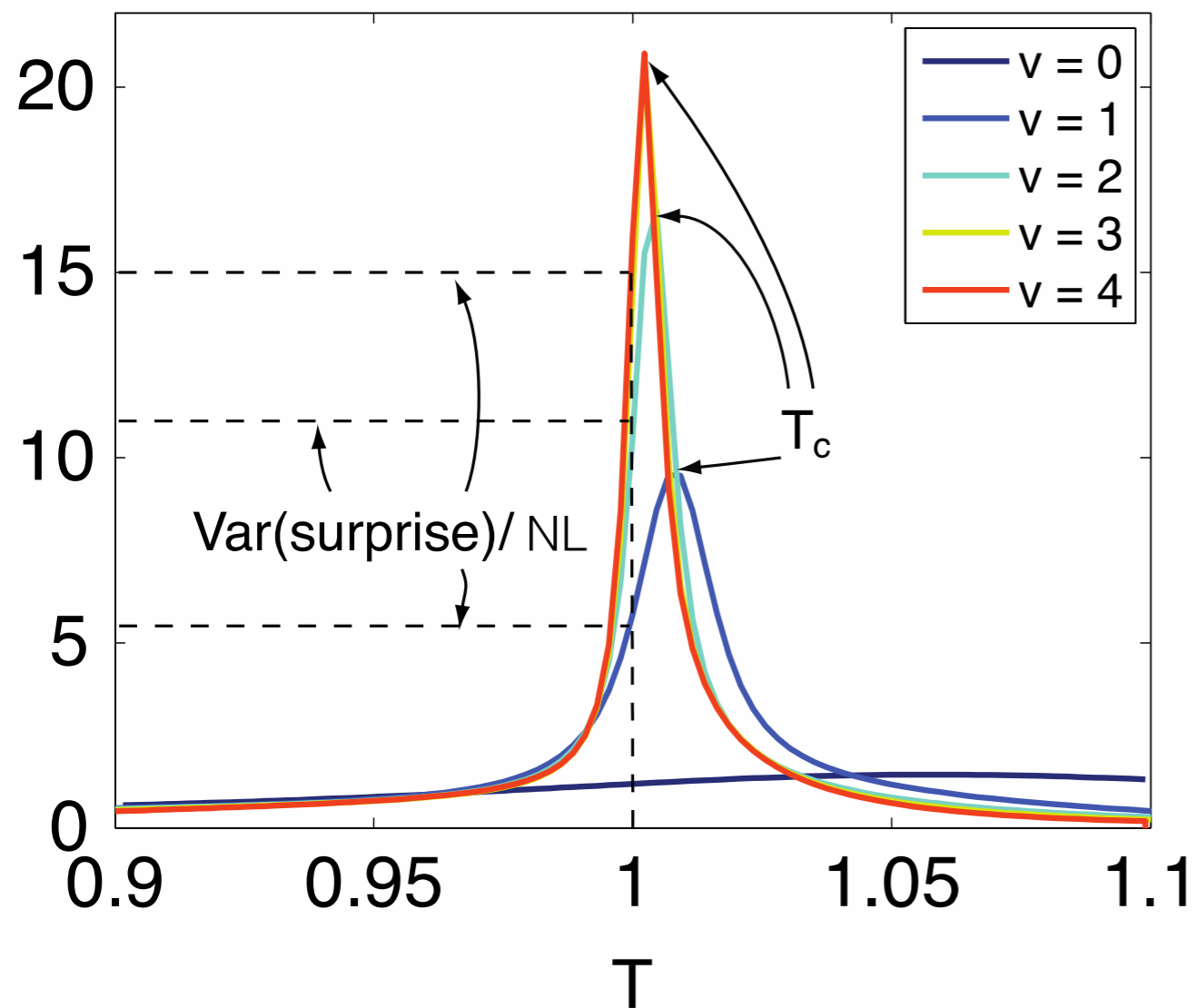
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dynamic  
(rat)



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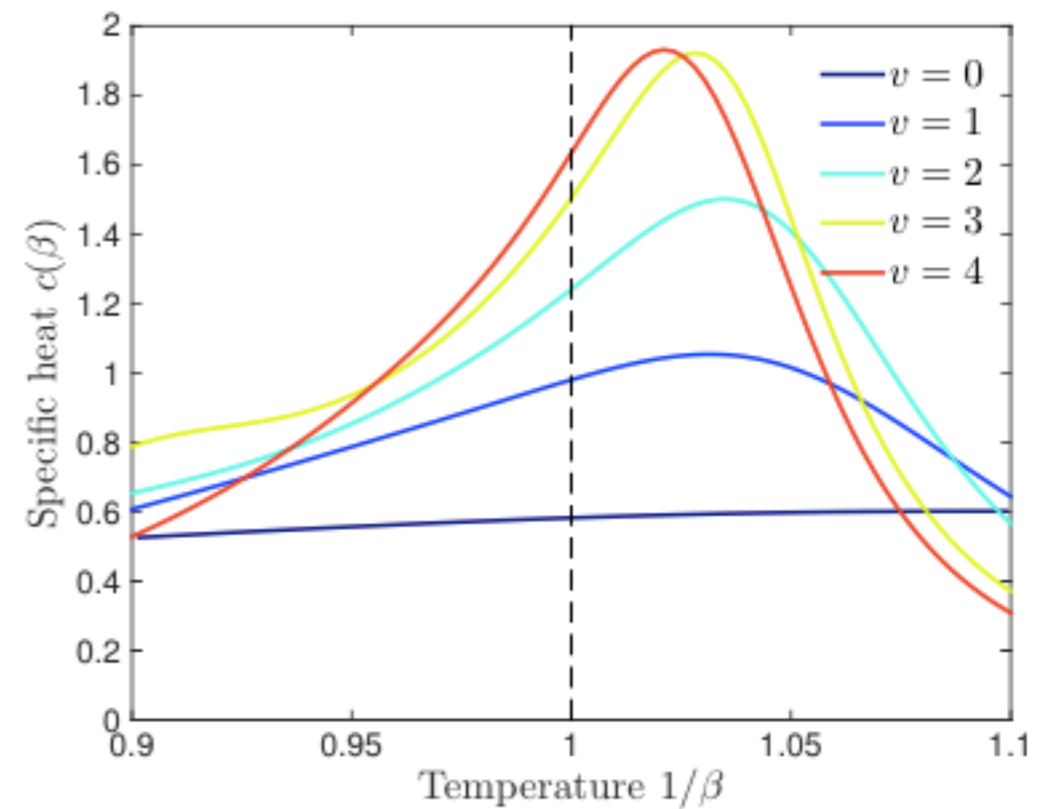
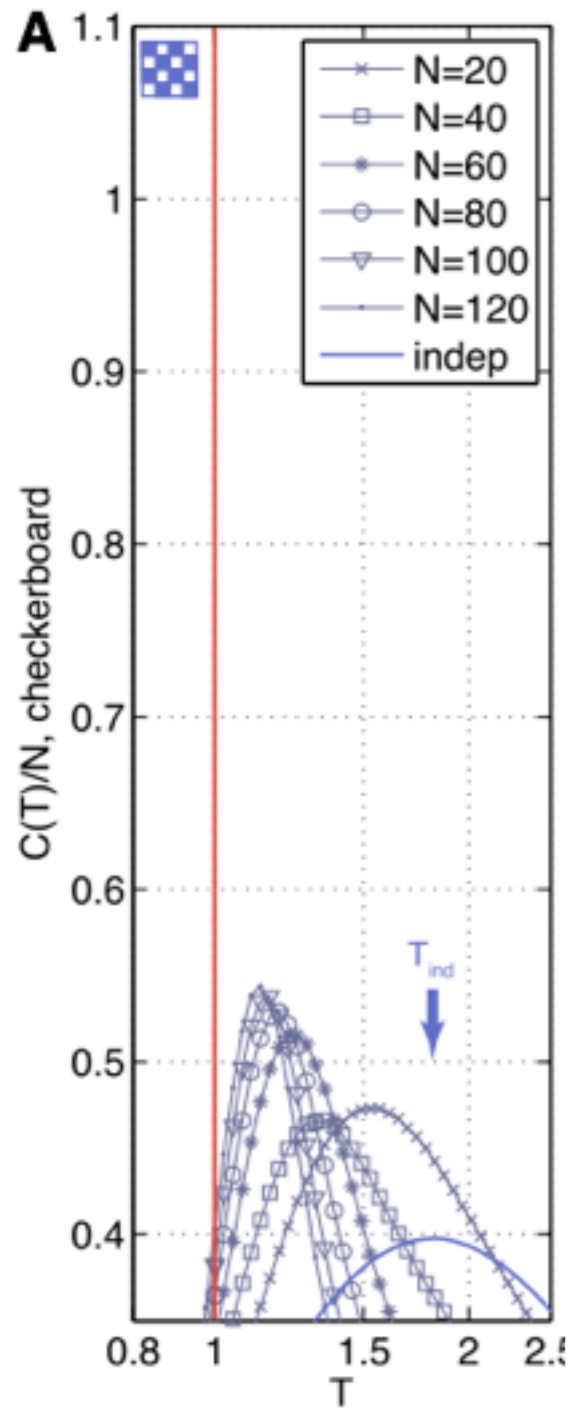
# scaling with network size



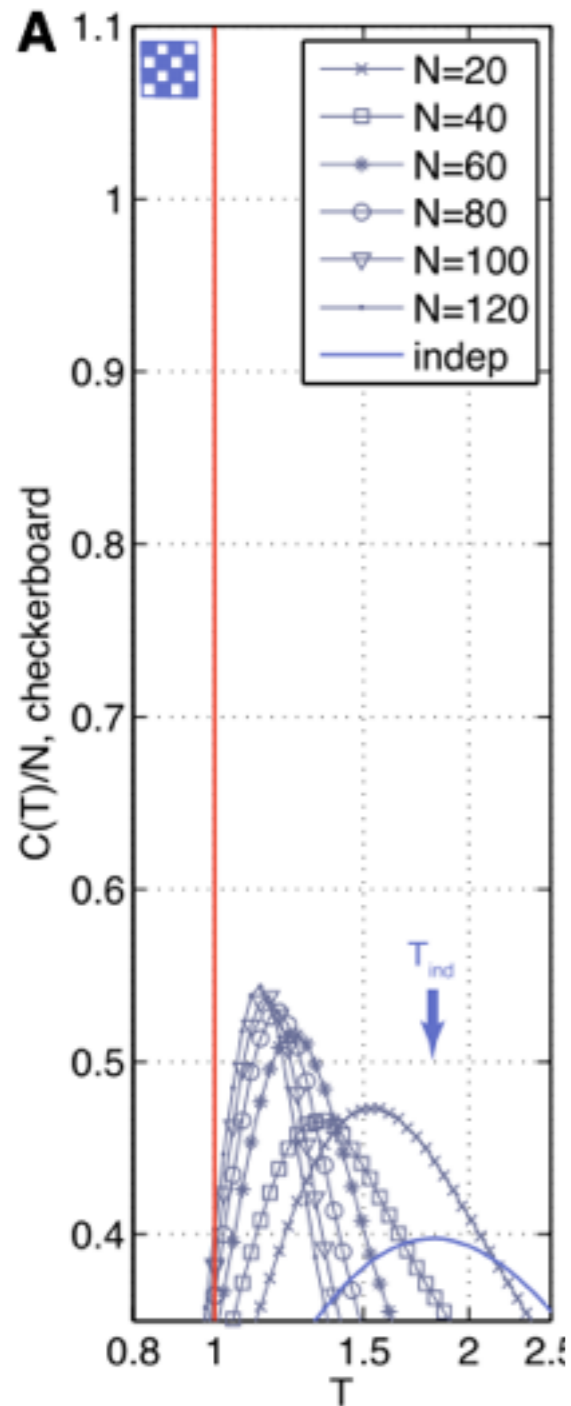
# conclusions

- **stationary** maximum entropy models may capture emergent behaviour in biological data
- but **dynamic** framework may be necessary to get parameters right
- in neural systems, **heat capacity** = useful indicator of critical properties
- critical signature enhanced by dynamical approach
- application to other biological contexts?

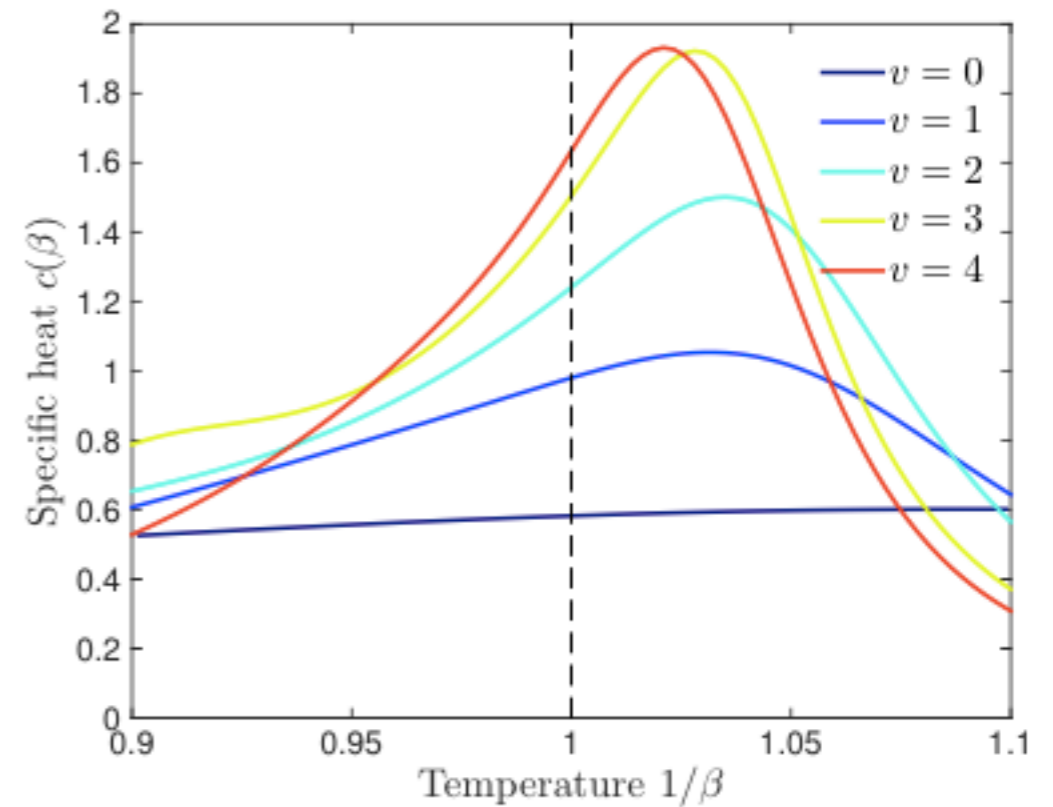
# random flickering checkerboard



# random flickering checkerboard



static  
(salamander)



dynamic  
(rat)