

Mathematicians against gene-regulatory networks

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Mathematics, King's College London

DISORDERED SYSTEMS DAYS AT KING'S COLLEGE LONDON

A workshop on disorder to celebrate Reimer Kühn

11-12 September 2023



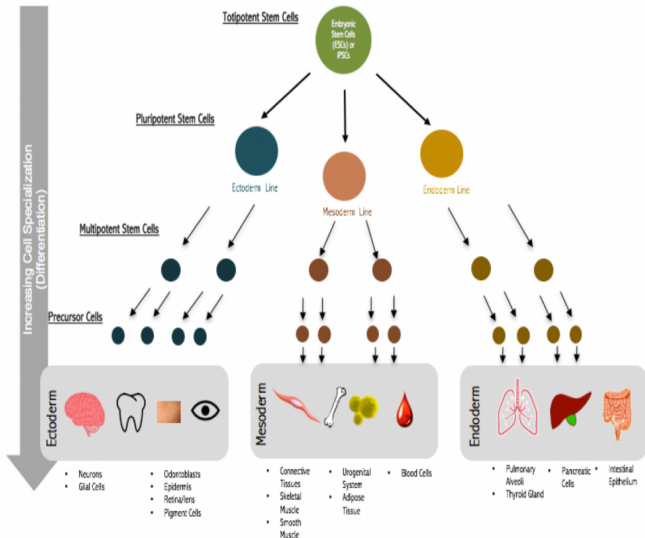
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- 2 Model inspired by neural networks
 - Model definition
 - Results
- 3 Introducing TFs: a bipartite graph model
 - Model definition
 - Percolation theory
 - Dynamics
 - One-time approximation
 - Extensions: Multi-node and self-interactions

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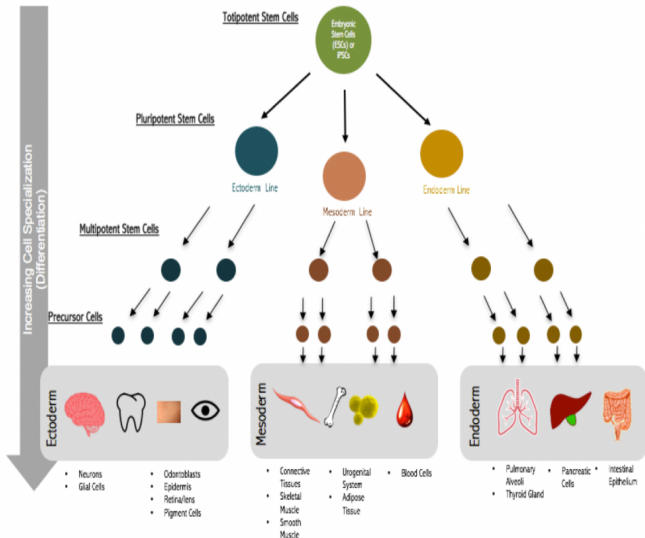
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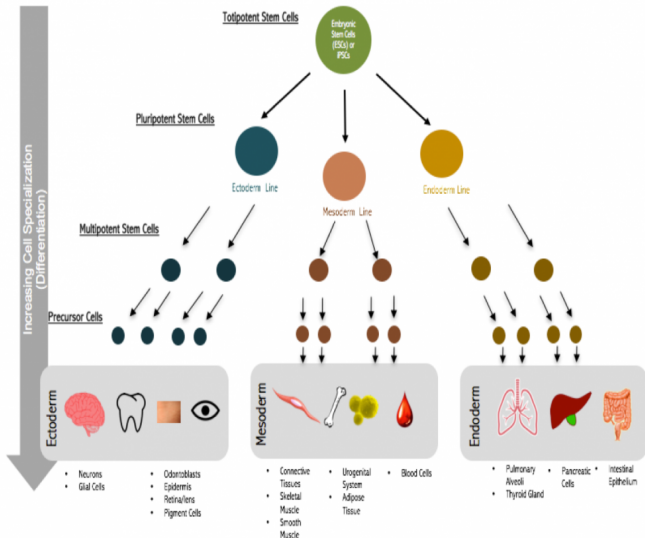
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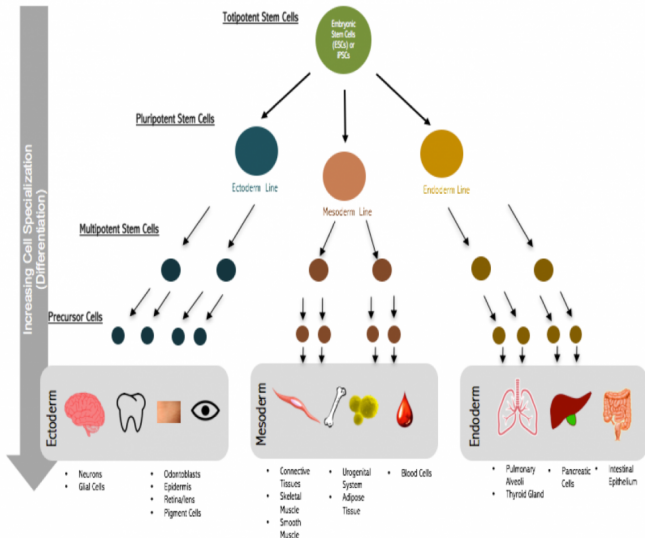
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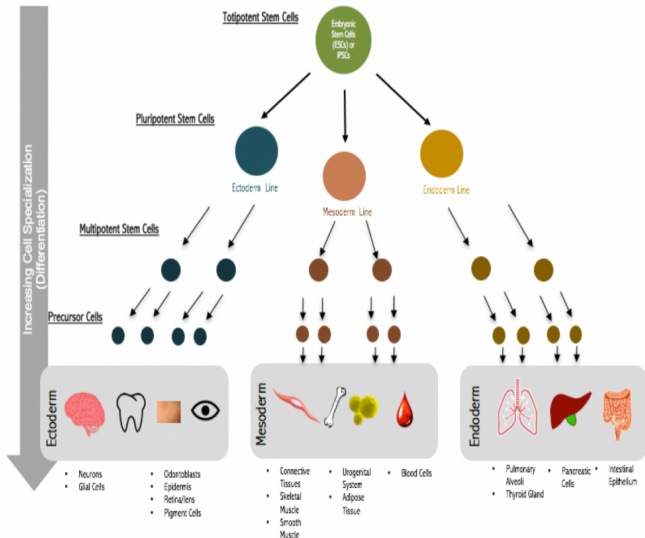
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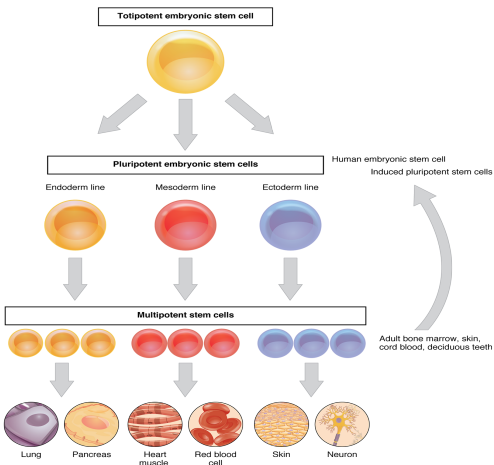
- Each cell contains the same genes, $N \sim 25000$
- Different cells express different genes
- Transcription factors (TFs) regulate expression

Cell reprogramming: Takahashi and Yamanaka (2006)

Introduce **4 TFs**, 'Yamanaka factors', into somatic cells

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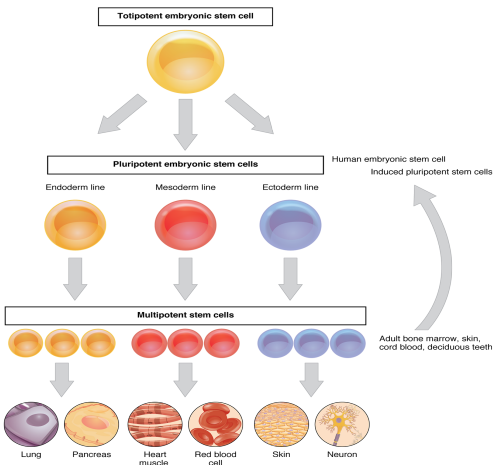
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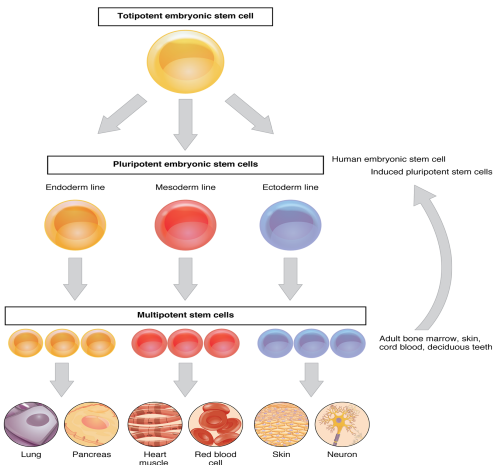
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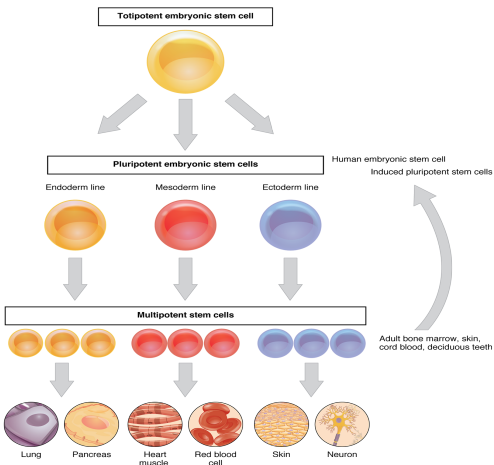


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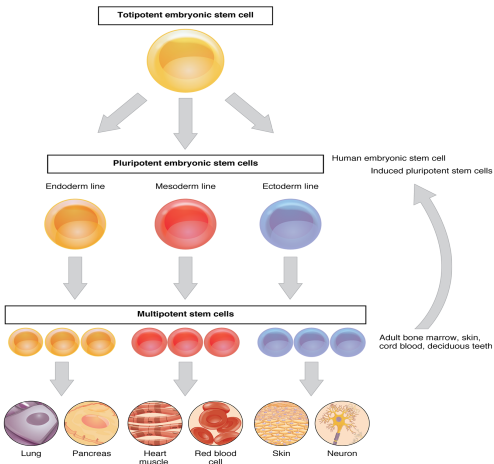


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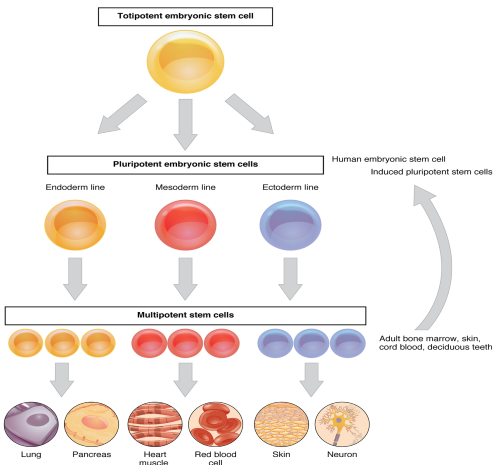
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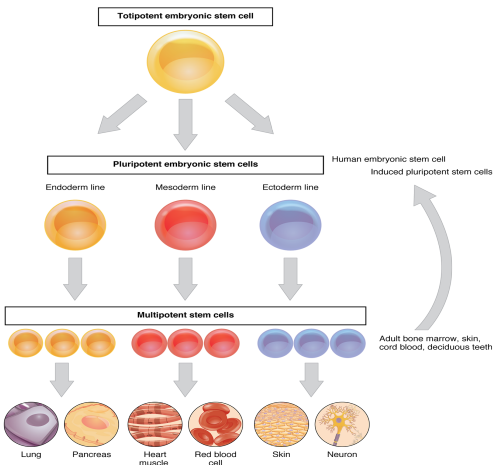
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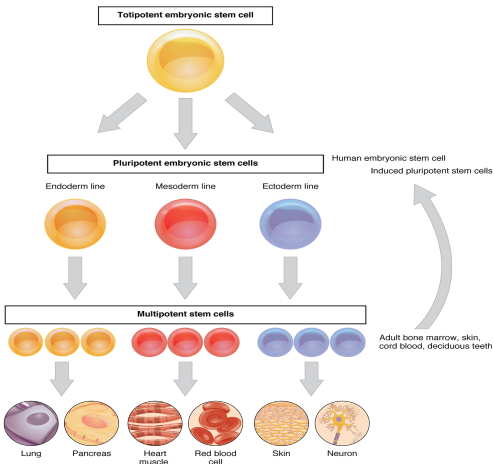
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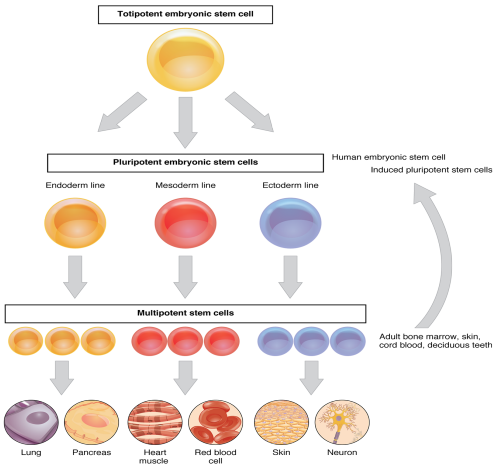
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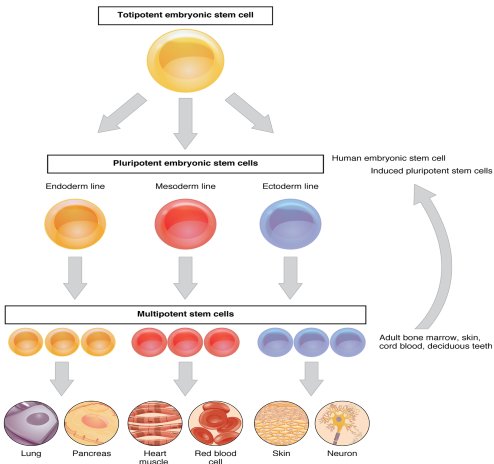
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- Idea: **cell types** are attractors of **gene dynamics**, like **memories** for **neural dynamics**..

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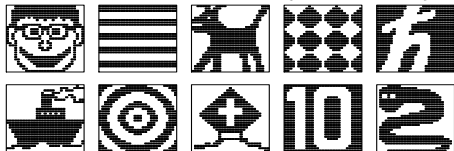
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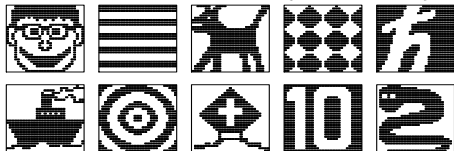
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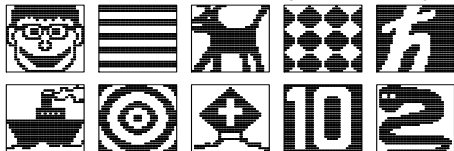
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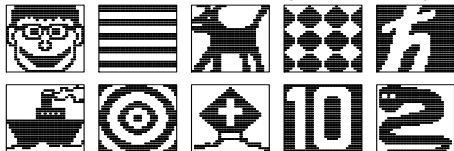
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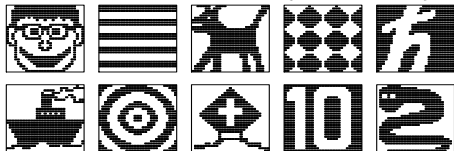
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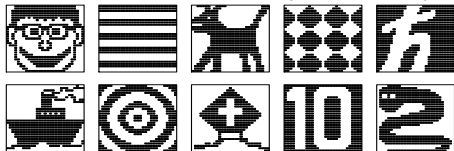
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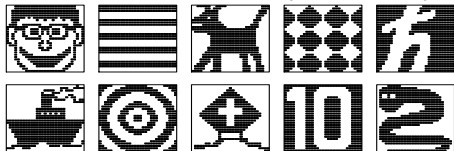
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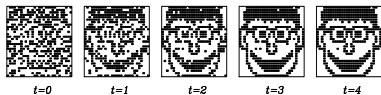
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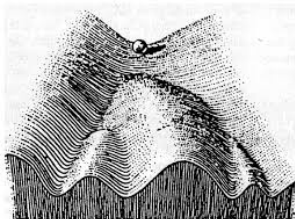
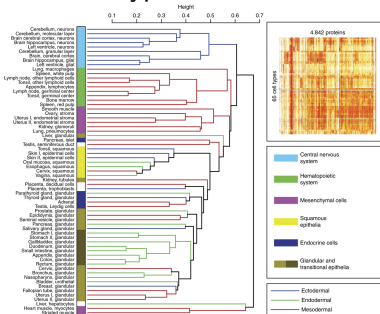
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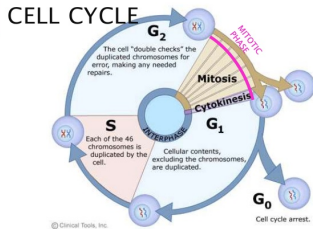
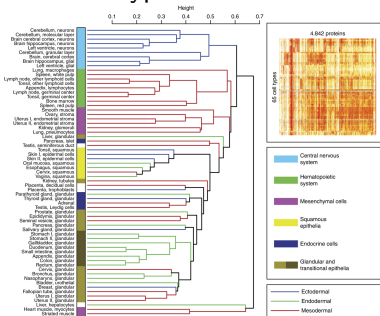
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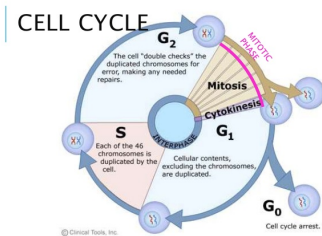
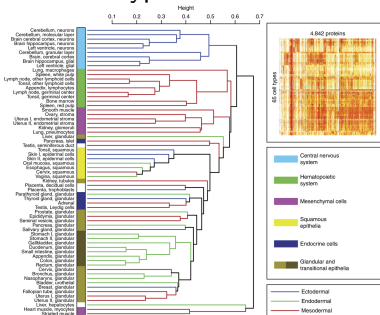
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- dynamical entities** i.e. they cycle ($G_1 \rightarrow S \rightarrow G_2 \rightarrow M \rightarrow G_1 \dots$)

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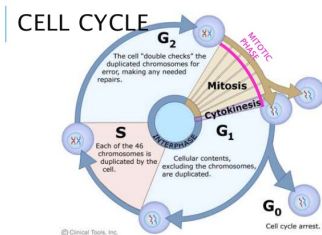
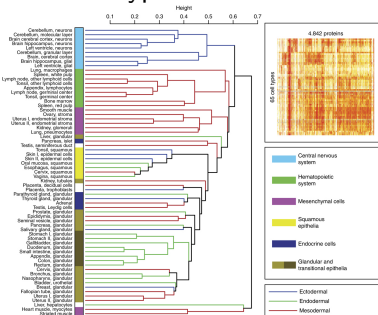
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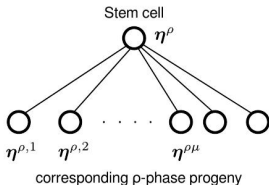
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Nature of cellular attractors

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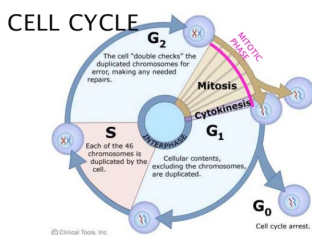
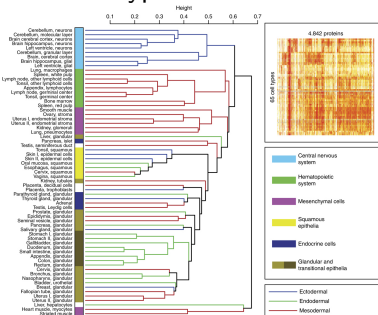


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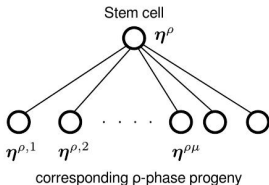


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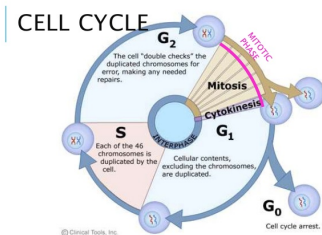
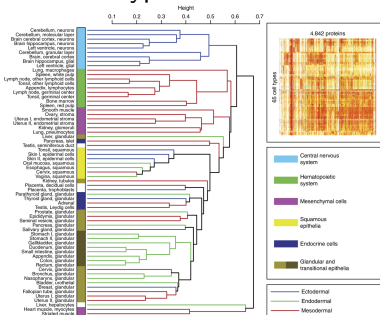


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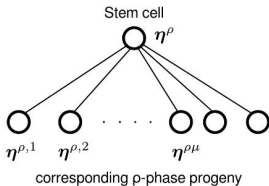


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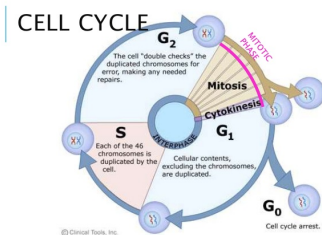
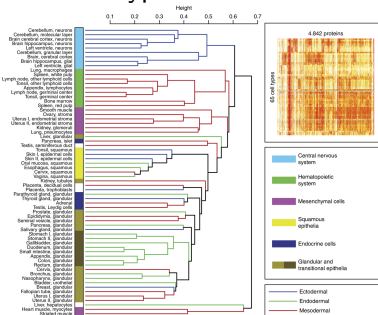
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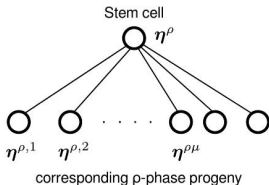
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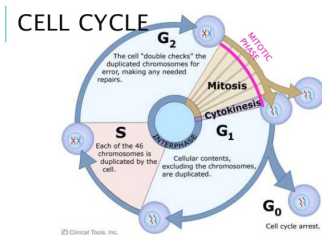
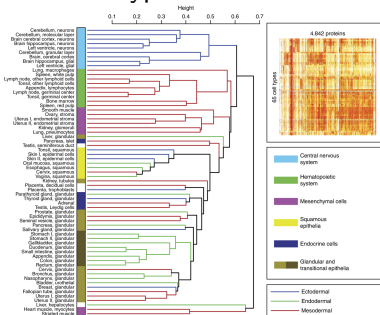
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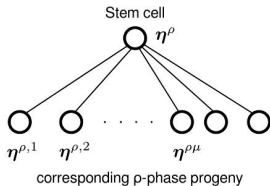
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- $\rho = \text{cell-cycle stage} \in \{1 \dots C\}$
- $\mu = \text{somatic cell type} \in \{1 \dots M\}$
- $\eta_i^\rho, \eta_i^{\rho,\mu} \in \{0, 1\}$: gene i in given cell type & phase

Inspiration from neural networks

- Sequences of patterns: $\xi^1 \rightarrow \xi^2 \rightarrow \dots \xi^P$ [Sompolinsky, Kanter (1986)]

$$J_{ij} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{\mu=1}^P \xi_i^{\mu+1} \xi_j^{\mu} \quad \text{Cycles : } \xi^{P+1} = \xi^1$$

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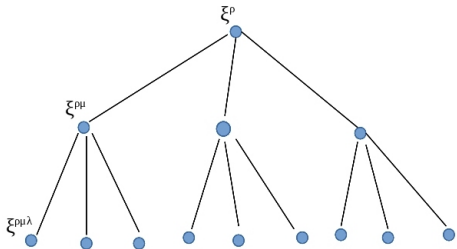
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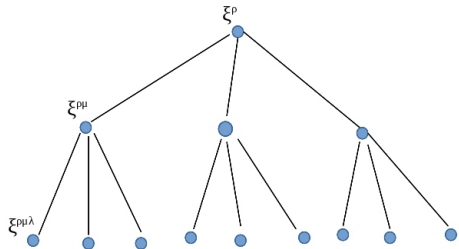


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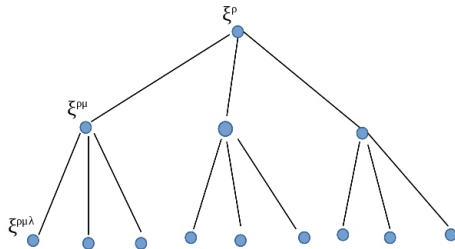
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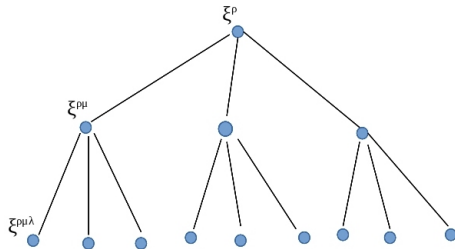
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Markov process [defn as martingale]:

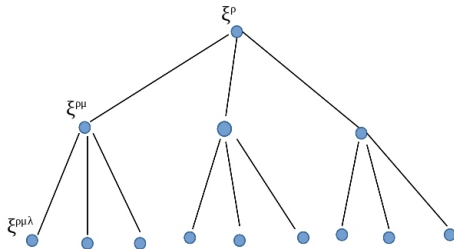
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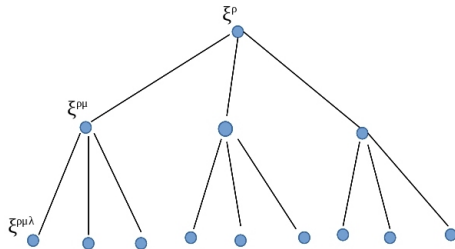
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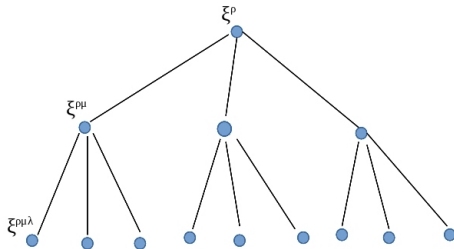
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\Rightarrow **Combine** and **adapt** to 0,1 variables.. (for a more general W)

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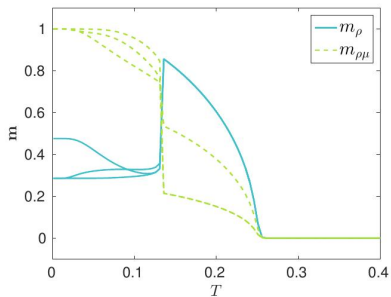
Results

get eqns. for **correlations** of \mathbf{n} with $\boldsymbol{\eta}^\rho$ (m_ρ , full) and with $\boldsymbol{\eta}^{\rho\mu}$ ($m_{\rho\mu}$, dashed). Here $\rho = 1, 2, 3$.

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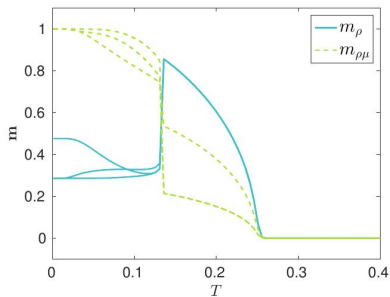
Dependence on noise level



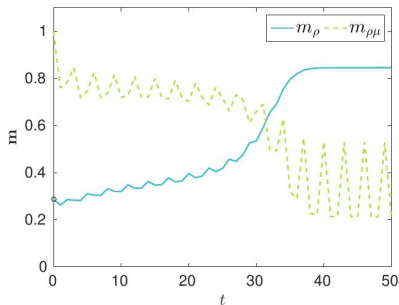
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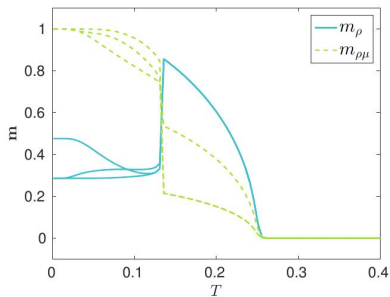
De-differentiation, $T=0.14$



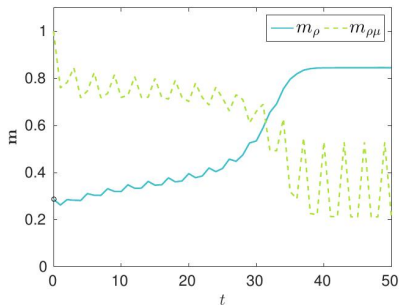
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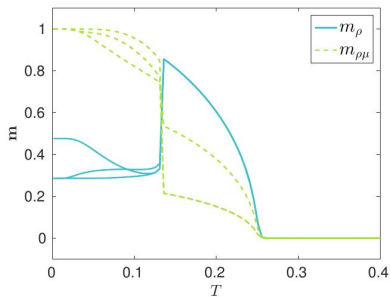
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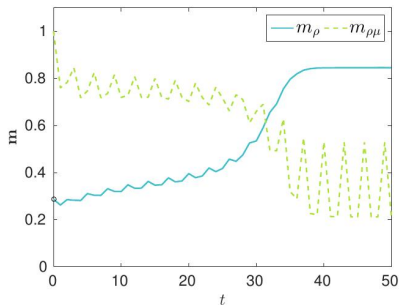
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De-differentiation, $T=0.14$



Note: de-differentiation takes $\mathcal{O}(10)$ cycles.

[R Hannam, **AA**, R Kühn, J Phys A (2017)]

Results

- Apply direct perturbation to genes to drive transition from somatic → stem cell

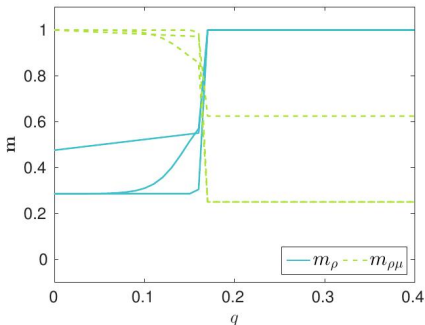
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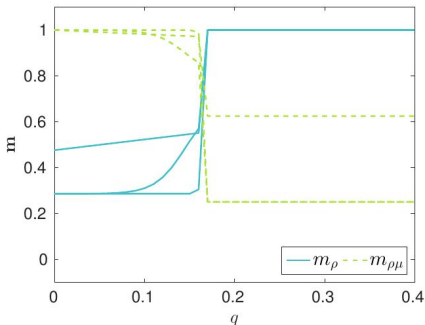
Correlations vs fraction q of perturbed genes, $T = 0.01$.



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Correlations vs fraction q of perturbed genes, $T = 0.01$.



Critical fraction of genes $q_r \in [0.1, 0.2]$ (\searrow when $T \nearrow$)

Results

- If we include in the system only **regulatory** genes:

$$N_r \simeq 0.1N \simeq 2,500 \quad \Rightarrow \quad q_r N_r \simeq 250 - 500 \text{ genes}$$

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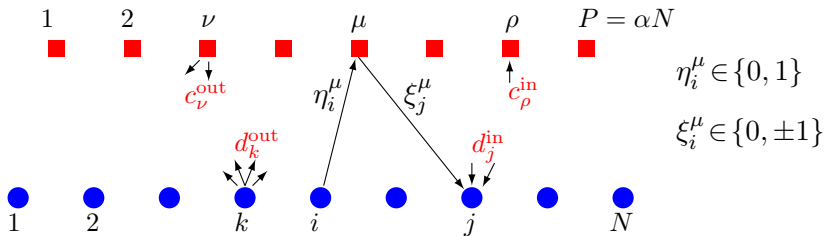
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Q: Biological grounds for interactions?

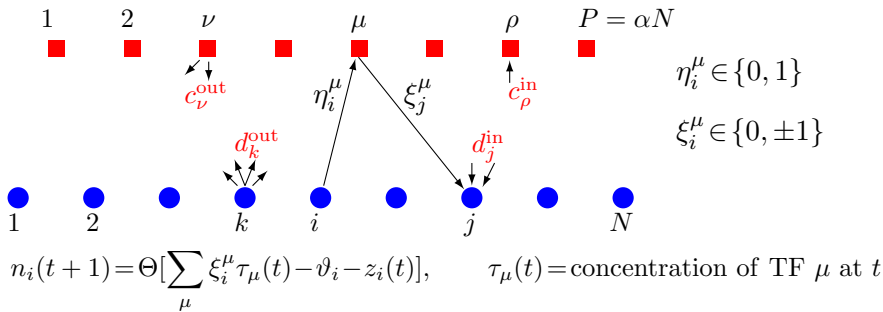
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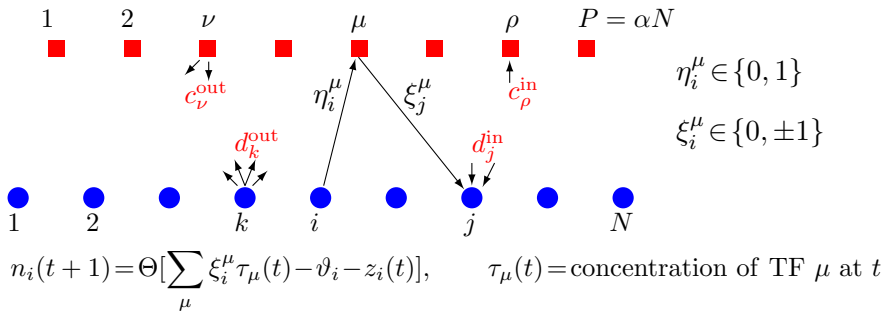
A bipartite graph approach



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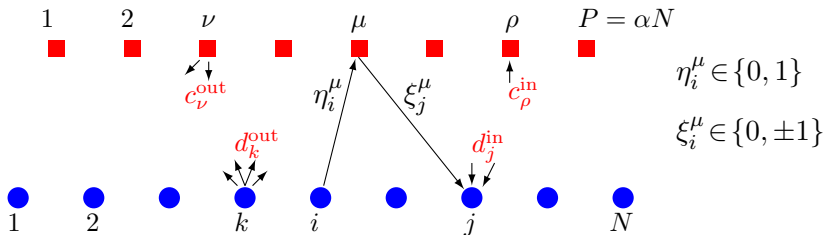


A bipartite graph approach



Different types of logic for TFs:

A bipartite graph approach



$$\eta_i^\mu \in \{0, 1\}$$

$$\xi_i^\mu \in \{0, \pm 1\}$$

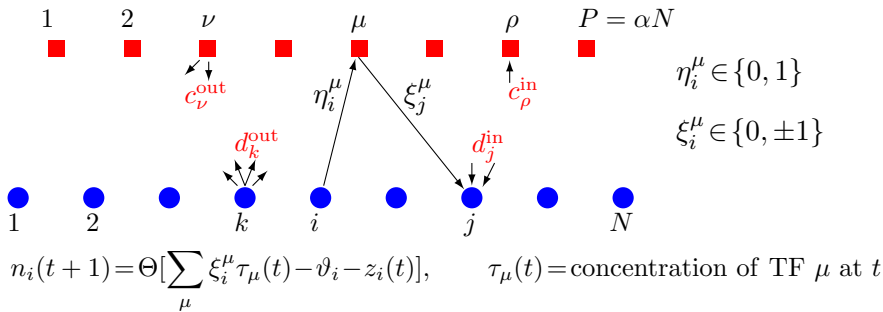
$$n_i(t+1) = \Theta\left[\sum_{\mu} \xi_i^\mu \tau_\mu(t) - \vartheta_i - z_i(t)\right], \quad \tau_\mu(t) = \text{concentration of TF } \mu \text{ at } t$$

Different types of logic for TFs:

- **AND:** TF μ 'ON' if all contributing genes 'ON'

$$\tau_\mu(t) = \prod_{j:\eta_j^\mu=1} n_j(t)$$

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Different types of logic for TFs:

- **AND:** TF μ 'ON' if all contributing genes 'ON'

$$\tau_\mu(t) = \prod_{j:\eta_j^\mu=1} n_j(t)$$

- **OR:** TF μ 'ON' if at least one contributing gene 'ON'

$$\tau_\mu(t) = \frac{1}{c_\mu^{\text{in}}} \sum_j \eta_j^\mu n_j(t)$$

Linear vs non-linear threshold dynamics

OR: linear threshold model

Linear vs non-linear threshold dynamics

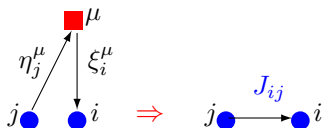
OR: linear threshold model

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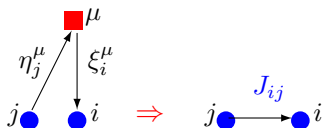
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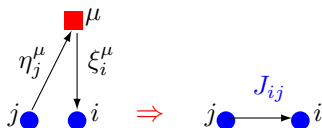
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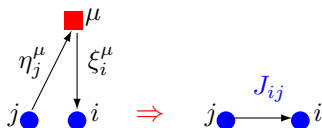
- Reminiscent of Neural networks with **sparse** patterns $\xi_i^{\mu} = 0, \pm 1$

$$J_{ij} = \sum_{\mu} \frac{\xi_i^{\mu} \xi_j^{\mu}}{c_{\mu}}$$

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OR: linear threshold model

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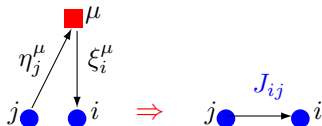
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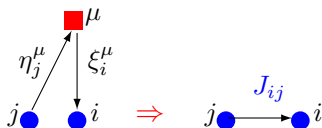
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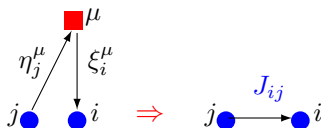
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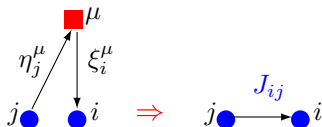
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- asymmetric **multi-node** interactions (as opposed to pairwise)

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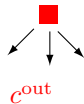
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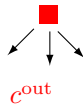
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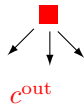
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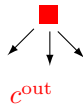
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TFs **indeed** small complexes which regulate many genes!

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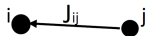
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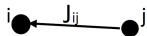
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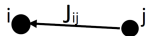


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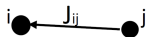
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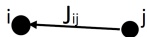
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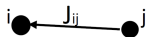
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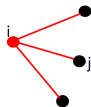


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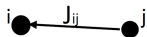
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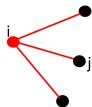


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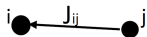


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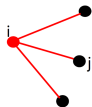


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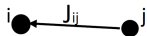


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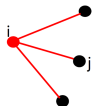


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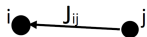
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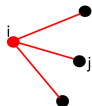


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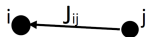
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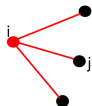


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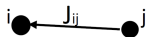
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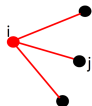


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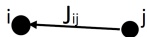
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Dynamics

- Linear threshold model

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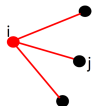


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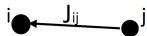
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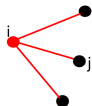


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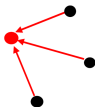
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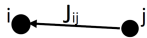


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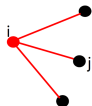


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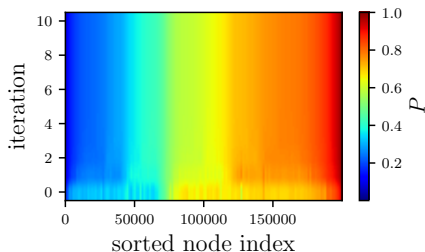
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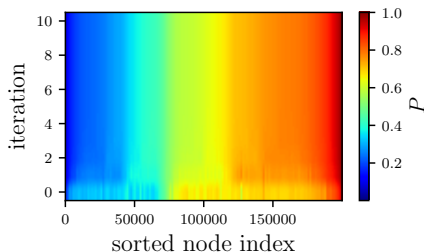
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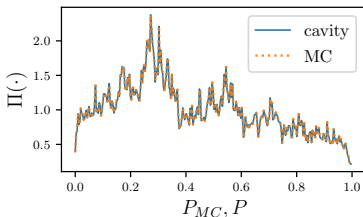
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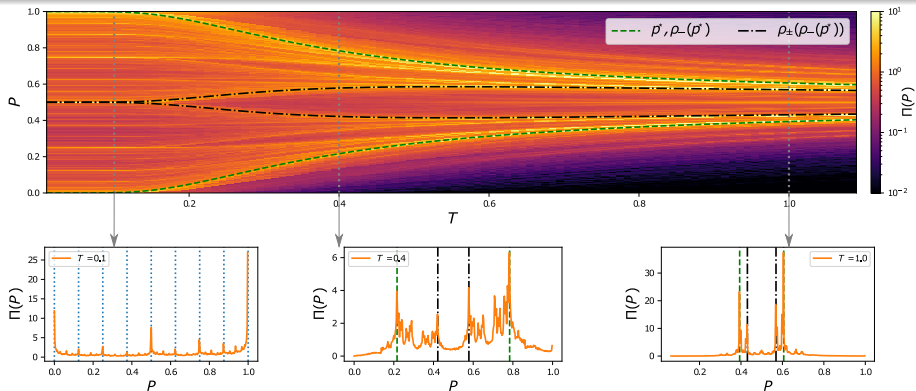
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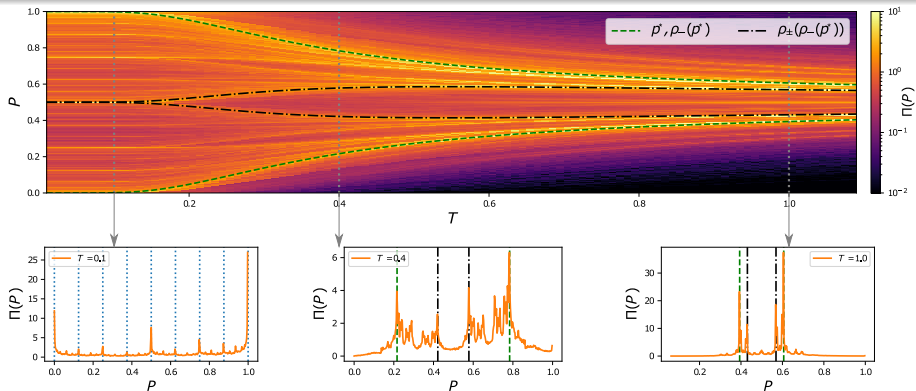
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Results $P(J_{ij} \neq 0) = \eta \delta(J_{ij} - J) + (1-\eta) \delta(J_{ij} + J), \quad \eta = 0.62$

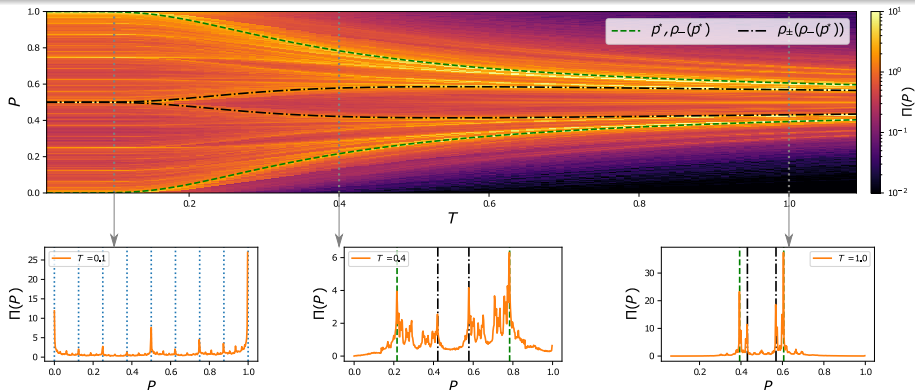


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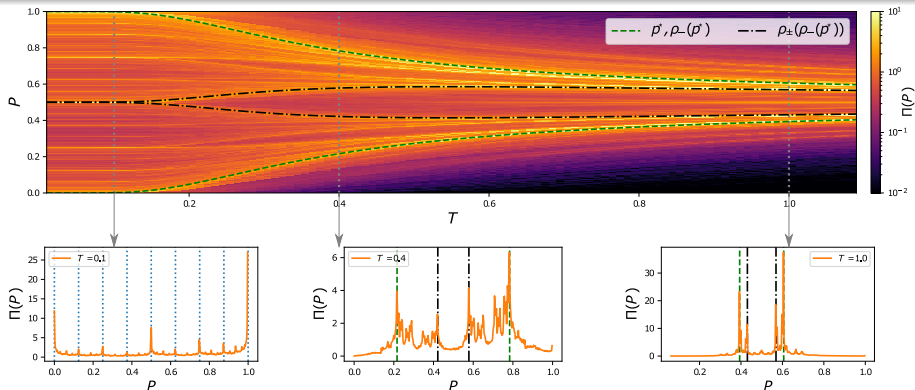
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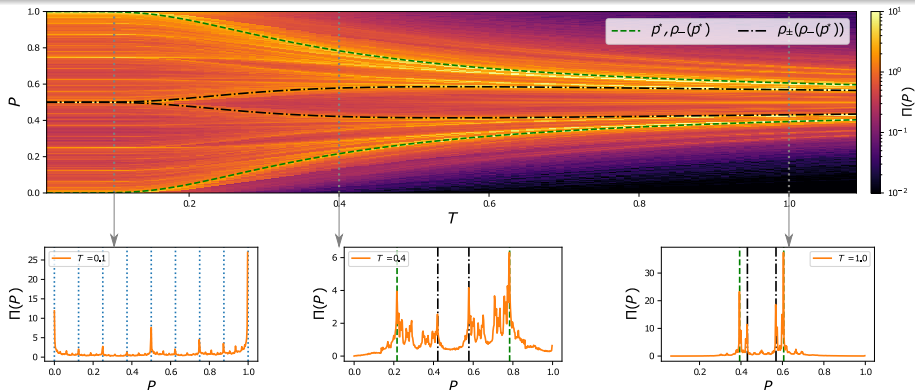
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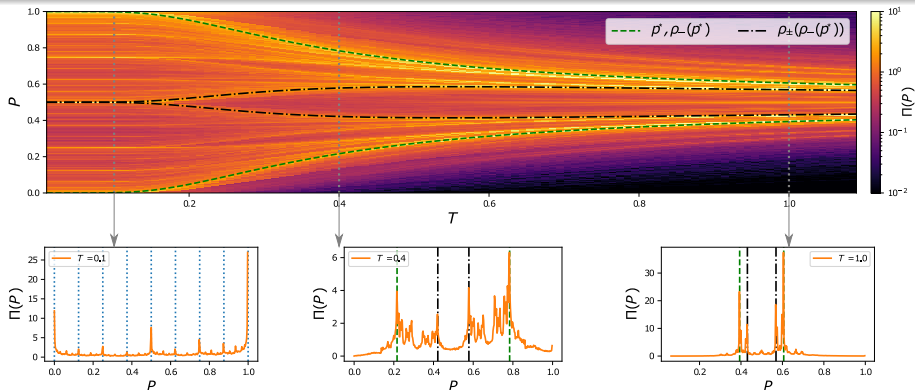


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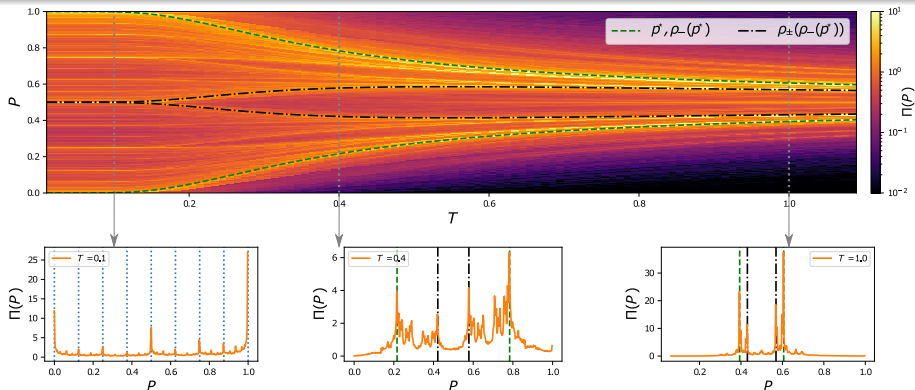
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Similar equation for $P_i(n_i^t)$.. **Both** benefit from dynamic programming!

Symmetry breaking

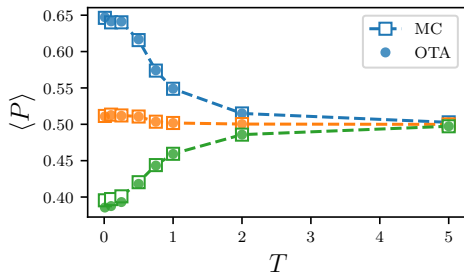
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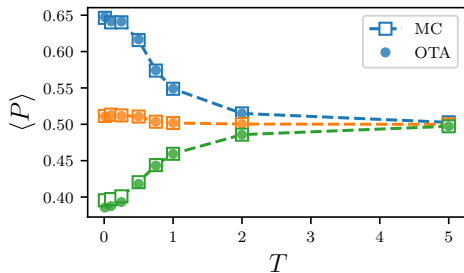
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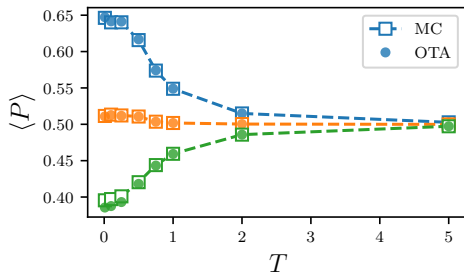
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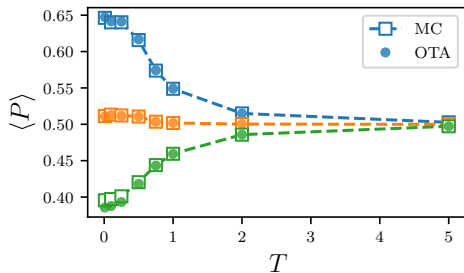
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\Rightarrow bias towards activation or quiescence \Rightarrow **Symmetry breaking**

[G Torrisi, R Kühn, **AA**, JSTAT (2022)]

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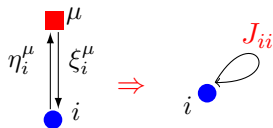
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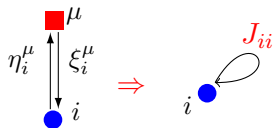
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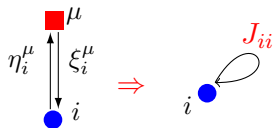
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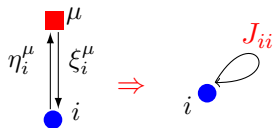


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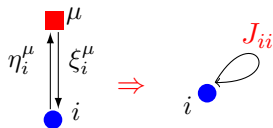


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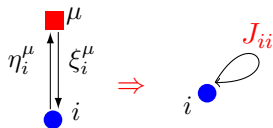


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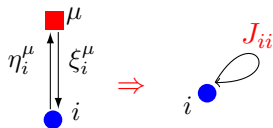


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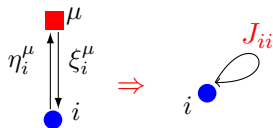
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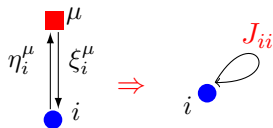
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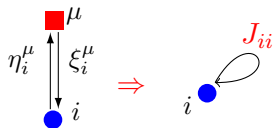
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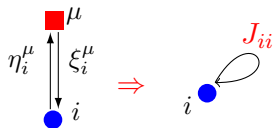
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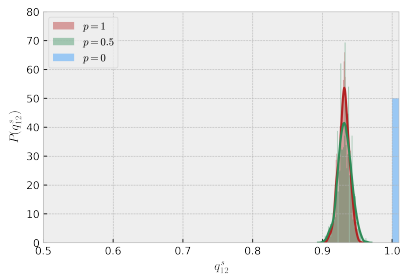
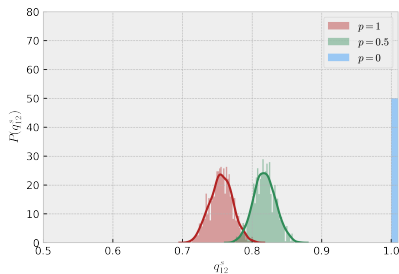
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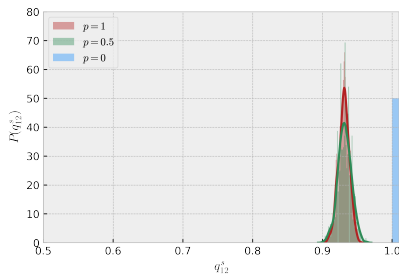
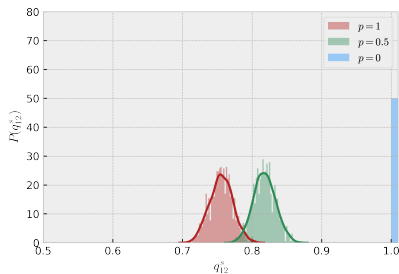
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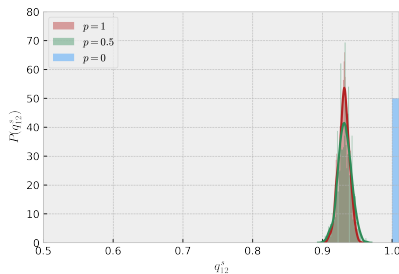
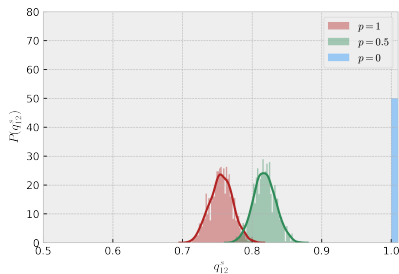
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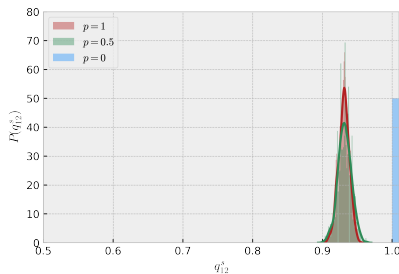
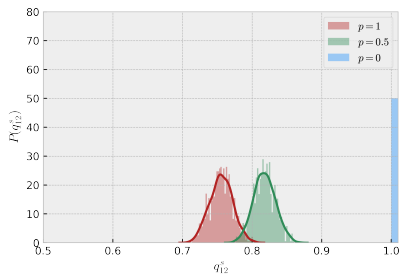


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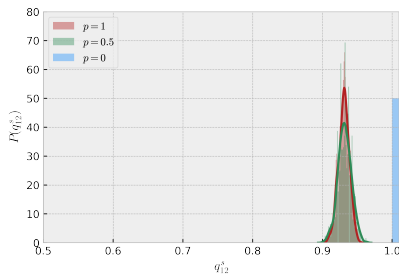
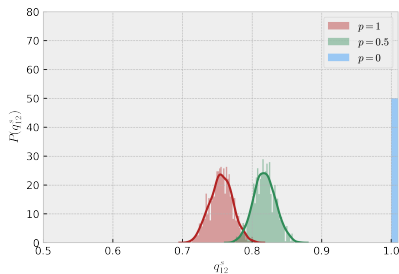
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[Hurry, Mozeika, AA, JPA (2022)]

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- Let $\partial_i = \{1, \dots, k_i\}$ and def. average over **subset** of nodes

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with **terminal boundary condition** $f_i(k_i+1, \tilde{h}) = \Phi_T(\tilde{h} - \vartheta_i)$

Dynamic programming [Torrìsi, AA, Kühn, PRE (2021)]

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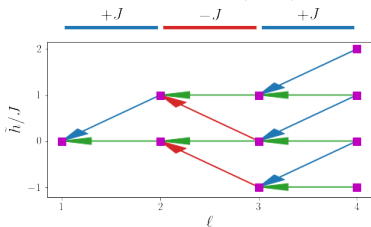
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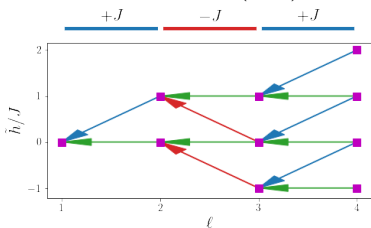


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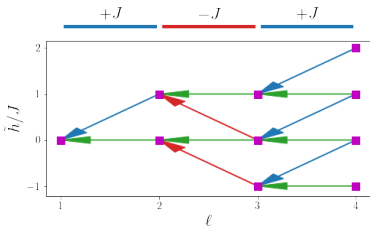
$$J_{i1} = +J; \quad J_{i2} = -J; \quad J_{i3} = +J$$

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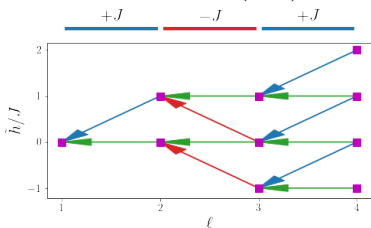
$$J_{i1} = +J; \quad J_{i2} = -J; \quad J_{i3} = +J$$

Dynamic programming [Torrise, AA, Kühn, PRE (2021)]

For $J_{ij} \in \{0, \pm J\}$:

at each ℓ , $f_i(\ell, \tilde{h})$ requires $f_i(\ell + 1, \tilde{h})$ and $f_i(\ell + 1, \tilde{h} \pm J)$

\Rightarrow evaluation of $f_i(\ell, \tilde{h})$ only required on discrete grid



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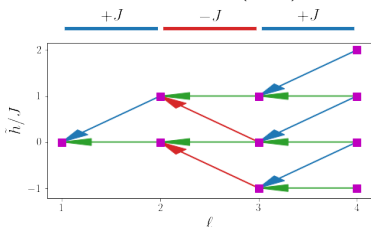
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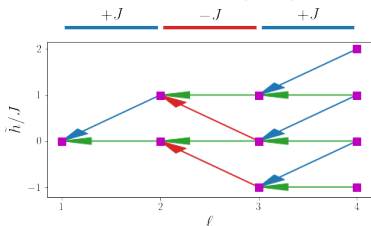
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Similar reduction for $J_{ij} \in \{-r_i J_i, \dots, -J_i, 0, J_i, \dots, s_i J_i\}$