

# Emergent dynamics from network connectivity: a minimal model

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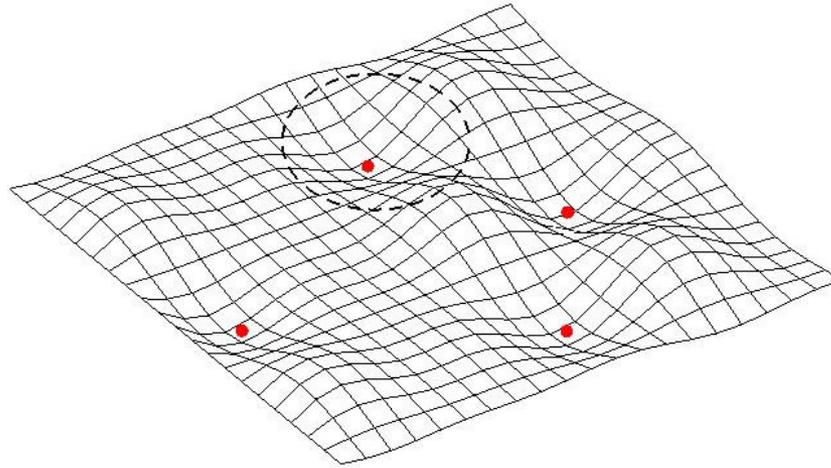
Cosyne 2018  
Mar 3 Denver, CO

Dynamic attractors in the brain

# Classical model - Hopfield networks

memory patterns  $\longleftrightarrow$  fixed point attractors

famous Hopfield result: guaranteed convergence to a fixed point for **symmetric** interaction matrix

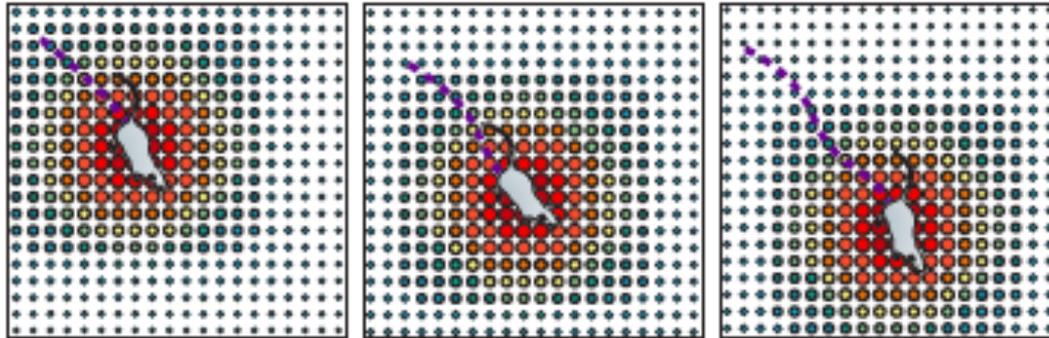


# Example: place cell activity in hippocampus

memory patterns  
(animal position)



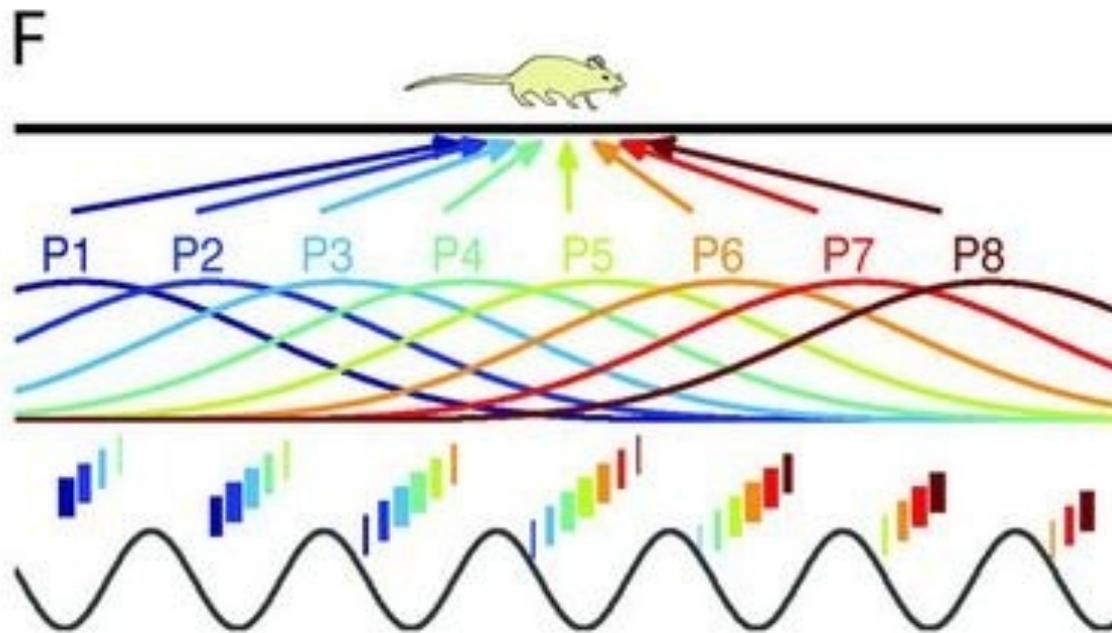
fixed point attractors  
("bump" attractors)



McNaughton et. al., Nature Rev. Neurosci. 2006  
Tsodyks & Sejnowski 1995,  
Samsonovich & McNaughton 1997

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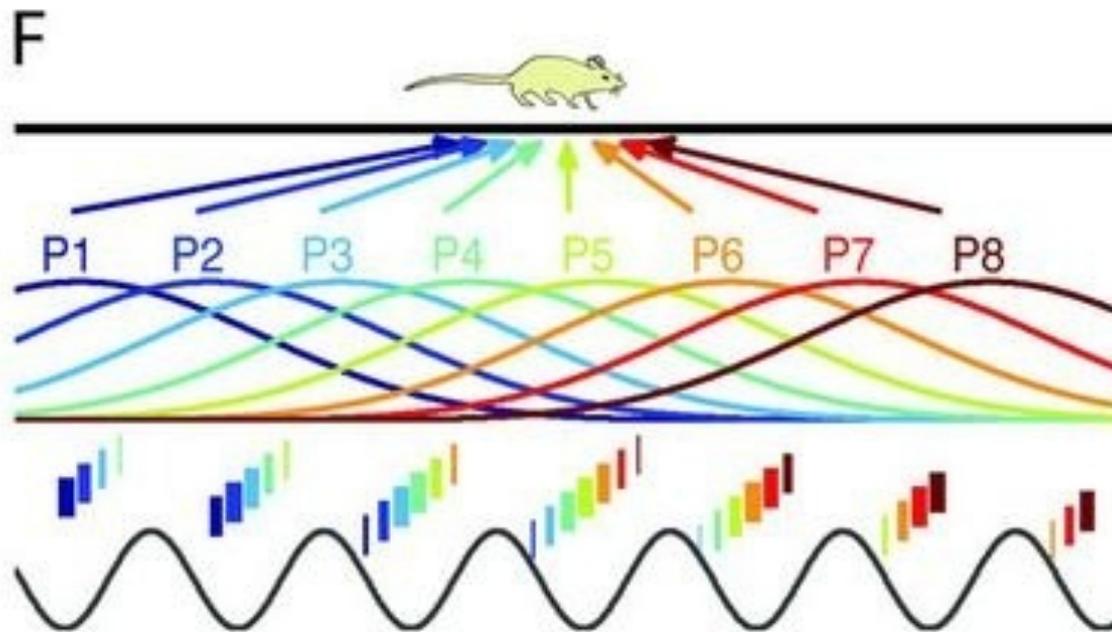
memory patterns (animal position)  $\longleftrightarrow$  fixed point attractors ("bump" attractors) ??



Individual positions do not correspond to fixed points, but sequences...

# Example: place cell activity in hippocampus

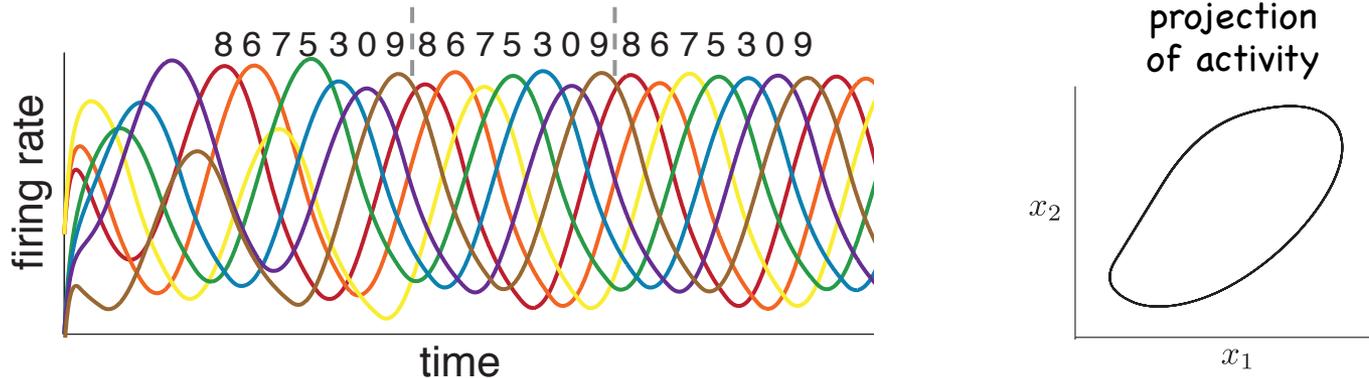
memory patterns  $\longleftrightarrow$  periodic/dynamic attractors ?  
(animal position)



Individual positions do not correspond to fixed points, but sequences...

# What other types of attractors are important for neural computation?

Example: You want to remember Jenny's phone # 867-5309



**Limit cycles** are also useful for modeling central pattern generators (CPGs) that govern respiration, locomotion, etc.

# Evidence for memories as sequential attractors (and the dangers of an overly large basin of attraction)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HNRNHgi1RzU>

What features of a network  
shape emergent dynamics?  
(e.g. dynamic attractors)

# What features of a network shape emergent dynamics? (e.g. dynamic attractors)

- complex synapses
- intrinsic neuron dynamics (timescales, channel dynamics, etc.)
- axonal delays
- cell types
- neuromodulators
- dendrites
- stochasticity of spikes
- noise (other)
- ...
- statistics of connectivity

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intrinsic neuron dynamics (timescales, channel dynamics, etc.)

axonal delays

cell types

neuromodulators

dendrites

stochasticity of spikes

noise (other)

...

statistics of connectivity

**precise pattern of connectivity** – an important biological detail!

Our goal: to understand how **precise connectivity** shapes emergent dynamics

This is hard... mathematically, it's quite challenging to predict how network structure affects dynamics unless the structure is:

statistical/random or  
very regular/geometric

Our approach: to develop a mathematical theory in a simple model

Success means: a kind of graphical calculus, where we can analyze the underlying directed graph and predict emergent attractors and sequences

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# the lab

$$\tilde{W} = -I + W$$

Defn:  $k \succ_{\sigma} j$  if  $\sum_{i \in \sigma} \tilde{W}_{ki} |s_i^{\sigma}| > \sum_{i \in \sigma} \tilde{W}_{ji} |s_i^{\sigma}|$

Comb. dom.  $k \succ_{\sigma} j$  if  $\sigma \cap \{j, k\} \neq \emptyset$  and  $Z(j)$

(1)  $i \rightarrow j \Rightarrow i \rightarrow k \quad \forall i \in \sigma \cap \{j, k\}$

(2)  $j \rightarrow k$  if  $j \in \sigma$

(3)  $k \rightarrow j$  if  $k \in \sigma$ .

Thm.  $\sigma \in \text{FP}(G) \Leftrightarrow$  (i)  $\sigma$  is dom-free, and  
(ii) for each  $k \notin \sigma$ ,  $\exists j \in \sigma$   
s.t.  $j \succ_{\sigma} k$

Cor: If  $\sigma \in \text{FP}(G)$ , then  $Z(j) = Z(k) \quad \forall j, k \in \sigma$ .

## Symmetric

Claim

If  $j, k$  receive the same inputs from  $\sigma \cap \{j, k\}$  and either  $j \leftrightarrow k$  or  $j, k$  not connected then  $S_j^{\sigma} = S_k^{\sigma}$ , and thus  $|S_j^{\sigma}| = |S_k^{\sigma}|$ .

If  $j, k, l$  s.t.  $j \rightarrow k$  and  $j \rightarrow l$  receive same inputs from rest of graph,  $S_j^{\sigma} = S_k^{\sigma} = S_l^{\sigma}$ .

General Claim: If  $\tau \subseteq \sigma$  is a subgraph of uniform in-degree, and the inputs to  $\tau$  from  $\sigma \setminus \tau$  are all the same (i.e., if  $i \in \sigma \setminus \tau$  then  $i \rightarrow j \quad \forall j \in \tau$  or  $i \rightarrow j \quad \forall j \in \tau$ ), then  $S_j^{\sigma} = S_k^{\sigma} \quad \forall j, k \in \tau$ .

## main contributors to this work:

Katie Morrison (U. of Northern Colorado)

Jesse Geneson (postdoc @ Penn State)

Chris Langdon (postdoc @ Penn State)

Caitlyn Parmelee (Keene State College)

## some other collaborators:

Anda Degeratu (Stuttgart)

Vladimir Itskov (Penn State)

Eva Pastalkova

David Rolnick (MIT)



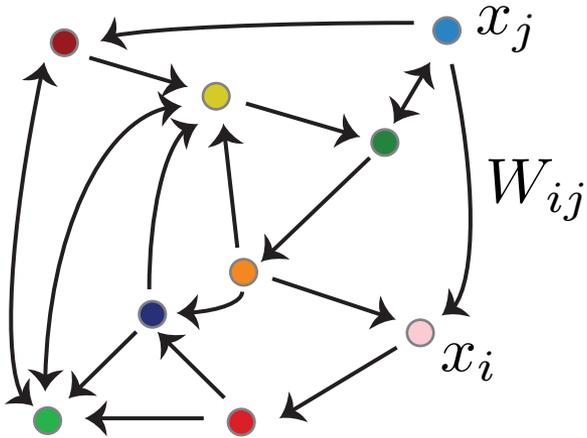
National Institutes of Health



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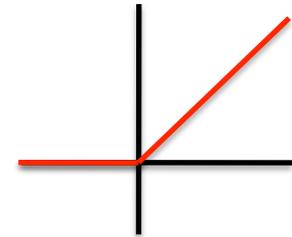
# Threshold-linear networks

# Threshold-linear networks (TLNs)



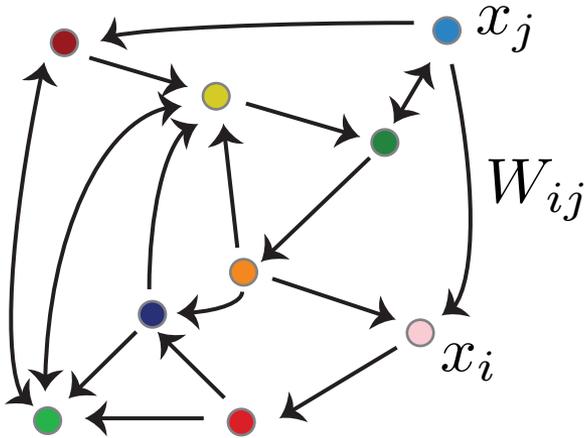
Threshold-linear dynamics

$$\frac{dx_i}{dt} = -x_i + \left[ \sum_{j=1}^n W_{ij} x_j + \theta \right]_+$$



same as ReLU (rectified linear unit) in deep learning networks

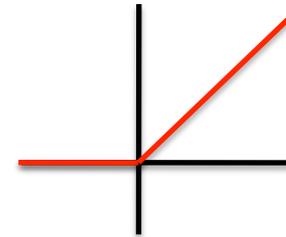
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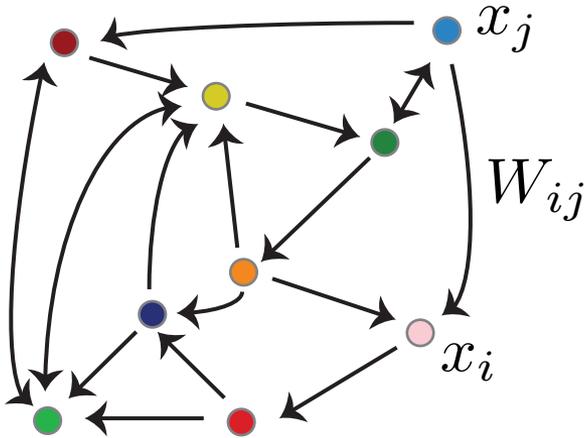
$$\frac{dx_i}{dt} = -x_i + \left[ \sum_{j=1}^n W_{ij} x_j + \theta \right]_+$$

multistability  
limit cycles  
chaos  
quasiperiodic attractors



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Threshold-linear dynamics

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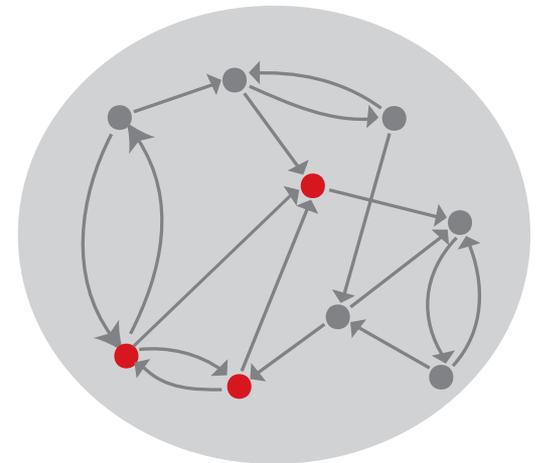
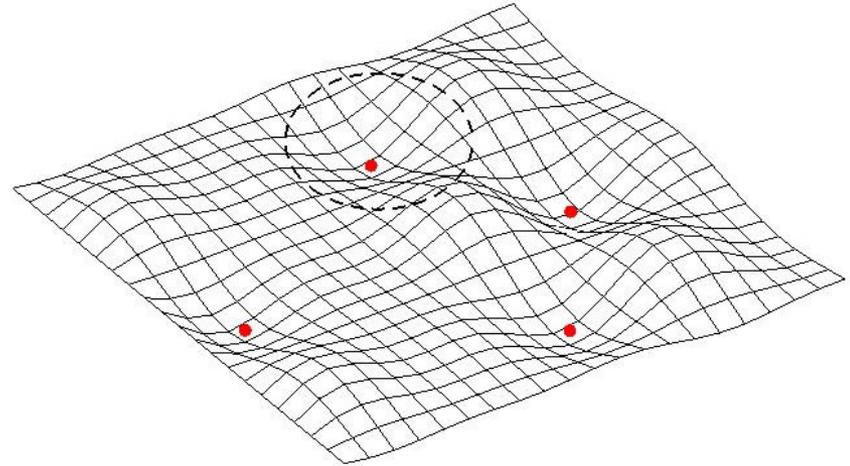
**Q:** Given  $(W, b)$ , what can we say about the dynamics?

What are the static and dynamic attractors?

# Some things we already knew about TLNs . . .

$$\frac{dx_i}{dt} = -x_i + \left[ \sum_{j=1}^n W_{ij} x_j + \theta \right]_+$$

- For **symmetric**  $W$ , they generically exhibit multistability.
- For each **support**  $\sigma \subseteq [n]$  there can be at most one fixed point.
- The fixed point is **stable** if and only if  $(-I + W)_\sigma$  is stable.
- If  **$W$  symmetric**:
  - guaranteed convergence to a fixed pt
  - theory of **permitted and forbidden sets**



# Results for TLNs with **symmetric W** (all about stable fixed points)

X. Xie, R. H. Hahnloser, and H.S. Seung. Selectively grouping neurons in recurrent networks of lateral inhibition. *Neural Computation*, 2002.

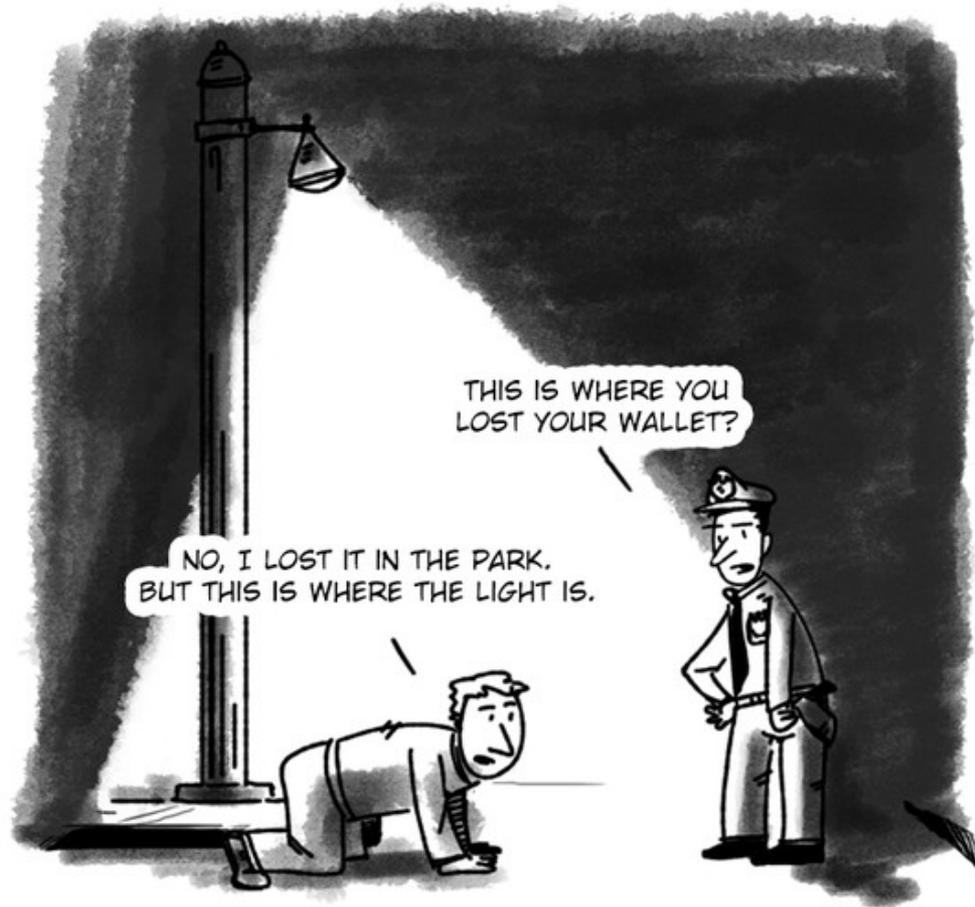
R. H. Hahnloser, H.S. Seung, and J.J. Slotine. **Permitted and forbidden sets** in symmetric threshold-linear networks. *Neural Computation*, 2003.

C. Curto, A. Degeratu, and V. Itskov. Flexible memory networks. *Bull. Math. Biol.*, 2012.

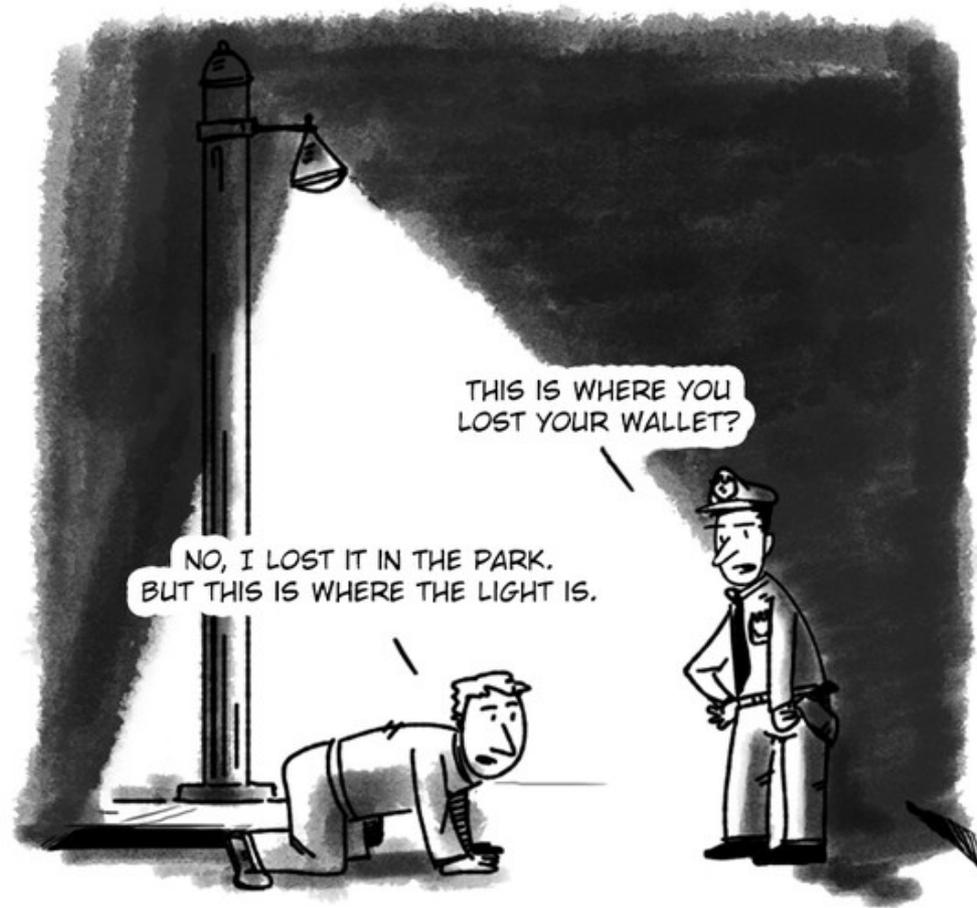
C. Curto, A. Degeratu, and V. Itskov. Encoding binary neural codes in networks of threshold-linear neurons. *Neural Computation*, 2013.

C. Curto and K. Morrison. Pattern completion in threshold-linear networks. *Neural Comp.*, 2016.

We are bored with stable fixed point –  
where do we find other kinds of dynamics?



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where do we find other kinds of dynamics?

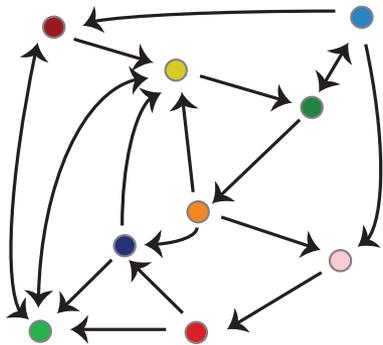


Idea: look for networks that have NO stable fixed points!

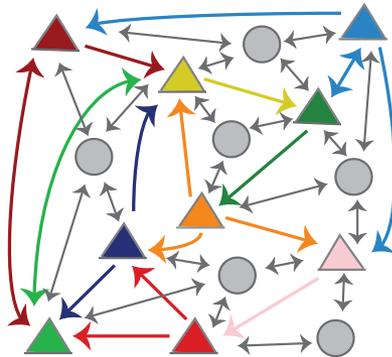
# Combinatorial threshold-linear networks

# Combinatorial Threshold-Linear Networks (CTLNs)

Directed graph G



Idea: network of excitatory and inhibitory cells



Same TLN dynamics:

$$\frac{dx_i}{dt} = -x_i + \left[ \sum_{j=1}^n W_{ij} x_j + \theta \right]_+$$

Graph G determines the matrix W

$$W_{ij} = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } i = j \\ -1 + \varepsilon & \text{if } i \leftarrow j \text{ in } G \\ -1 - \delta & \text{if } i \not\leftarrow j \text{ in } G \end{cases}$$

parameter constraints:

$$\delta > 0 \quad \theta > 0$$

$$0 < \varepsilon < \frac{\delta}{\delta + 1}$$

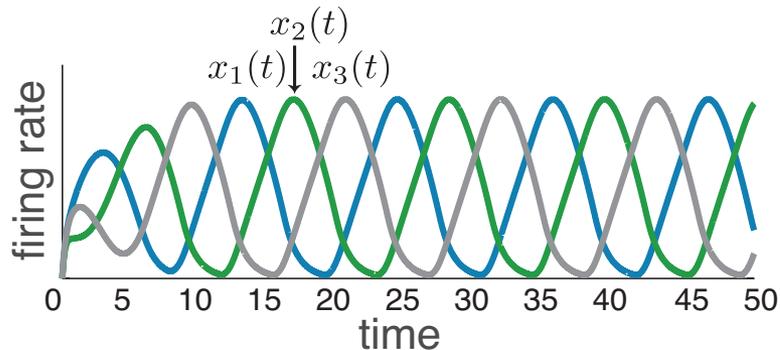
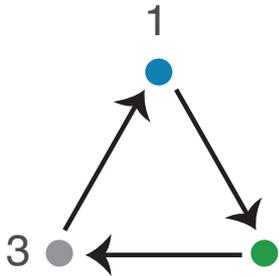
## CTLNs with no stable fixed points

Thm 1. If  $G$  is an **oriented graph with no sinks**, then the network has no stable fixed points (but bounded activity).

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Example:  
3-cycle



$$W = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 - \delta & -1 + \varepsilon \\ -1 + \varepsilon & 0 & -1 - \delta \\ -1 - \delta & -1 + \varepsilon & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

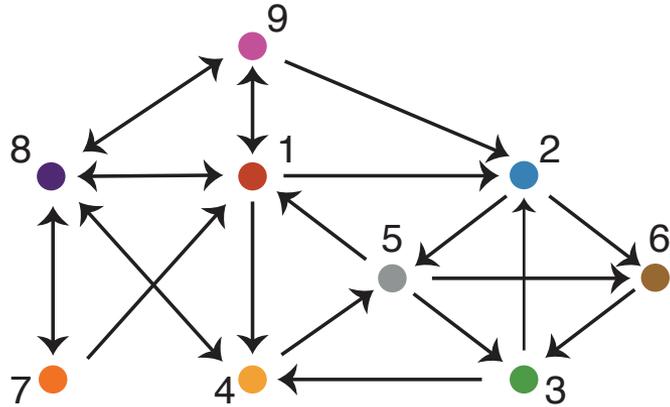
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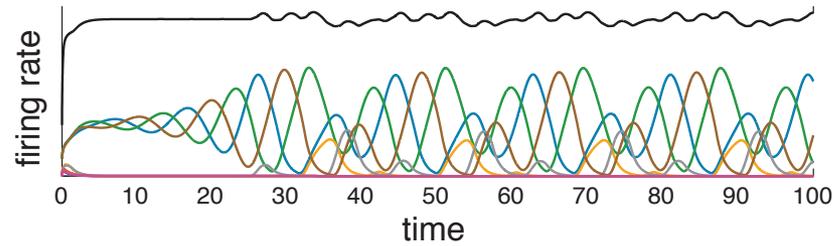
TLN dynamics:

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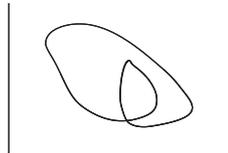
# A single network can display multiple attractors of different types



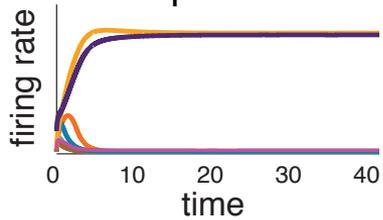
limit cycle



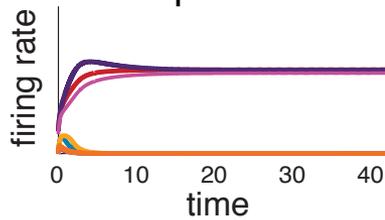
projection



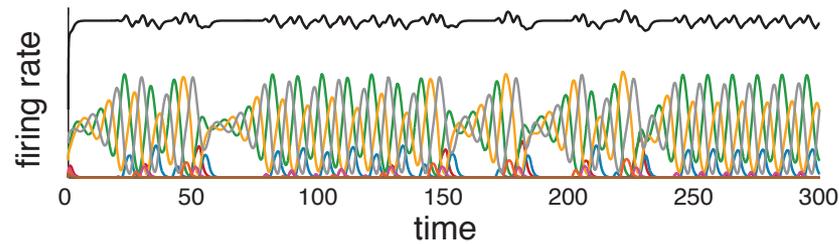
fixed point 1



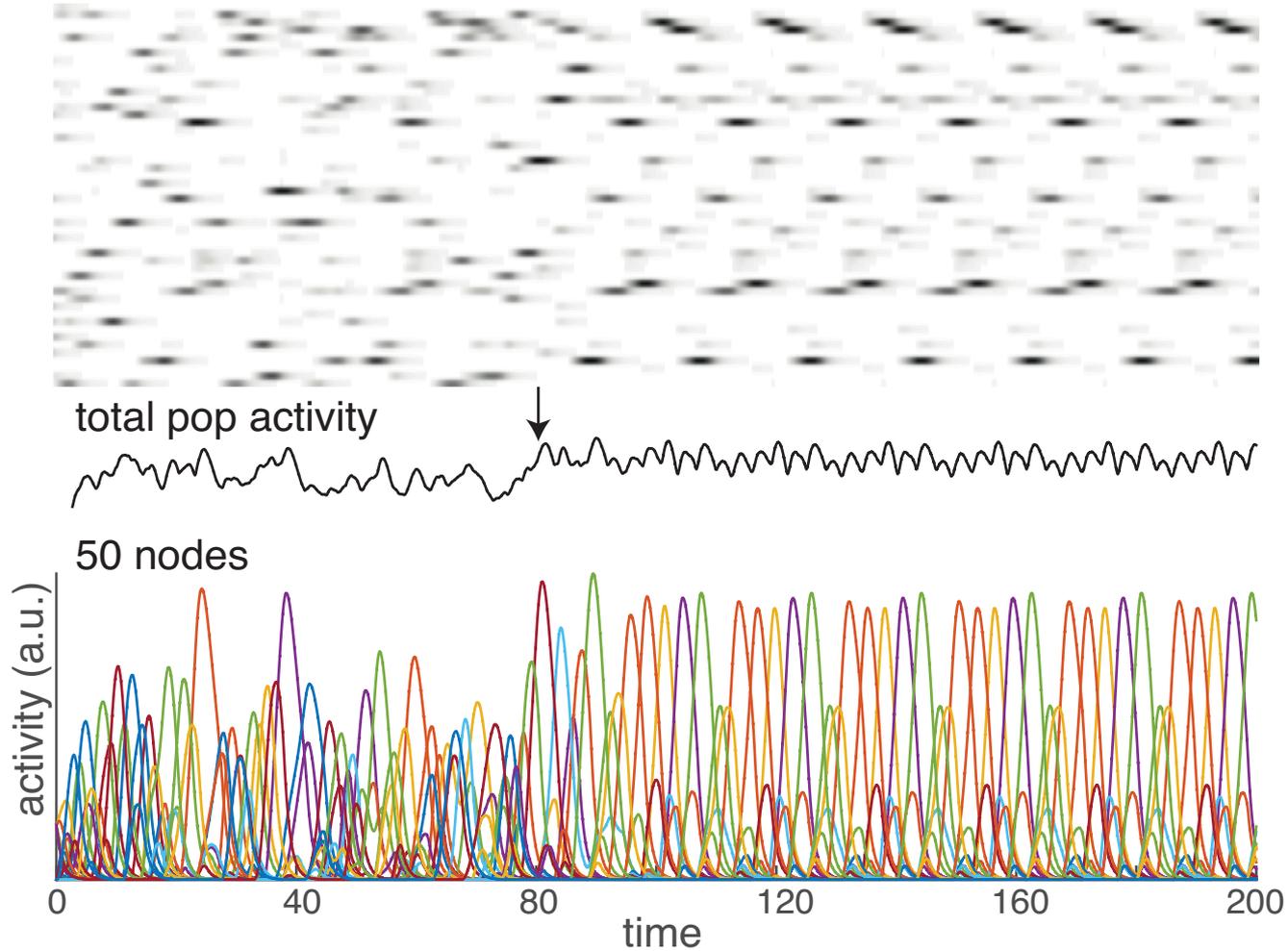
fixed point 2



chaotic attractor



# Spontaneous state transitions in large random networks with no stable fixed points

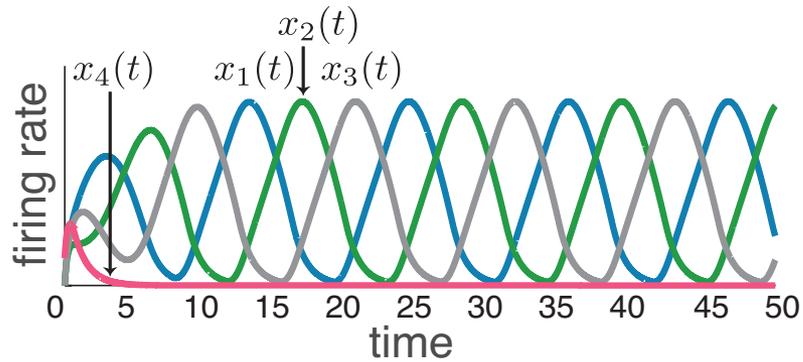
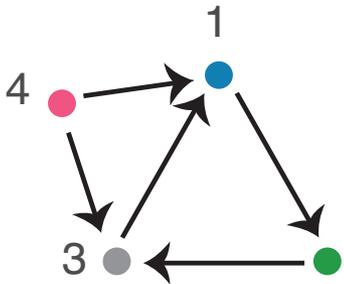
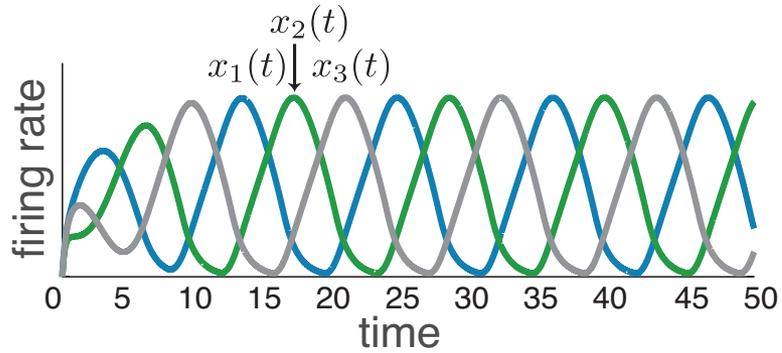
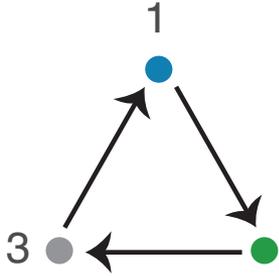


# Important Facts about CTLNs

- display a rich variety of **nonlinear dynamics**
- **mathematically tractable**
- all nodes are identical
- for fixed parameters  $\varepsilon, \delta, \theta$  , only the graph changes between networks – **isolates the role of connectivity**
- many aspects of dynamics are **invariant** under parameter changes
- **non-local properties** of connectivity may matter more than local features

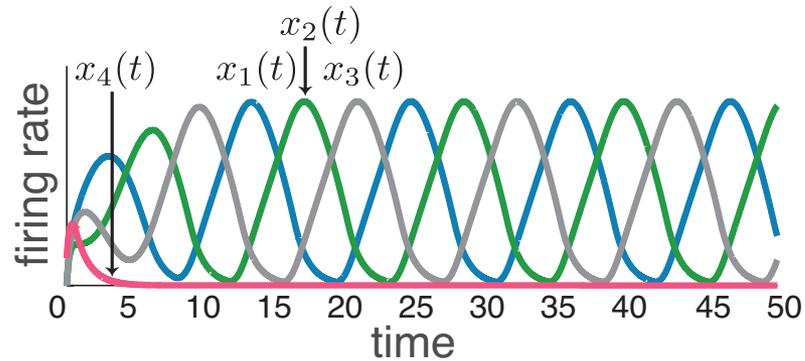
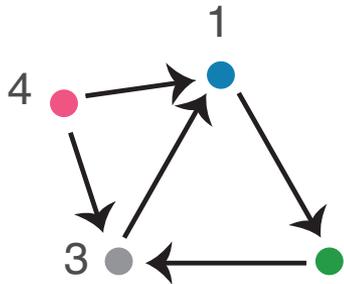
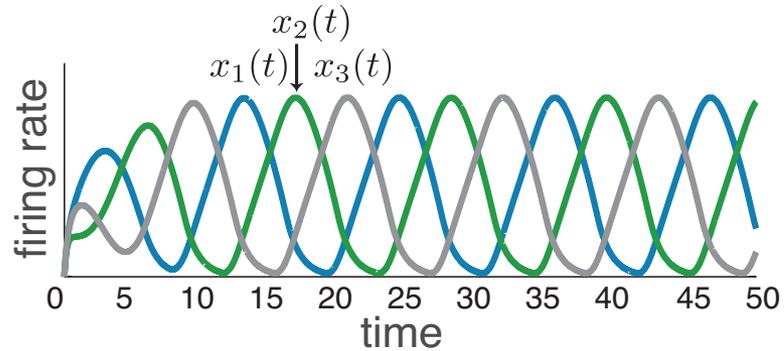
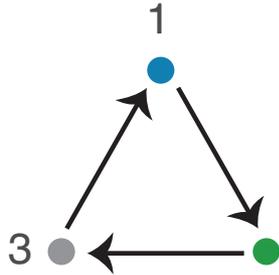
# Embedding of motif matters

Example:  
3-cycle



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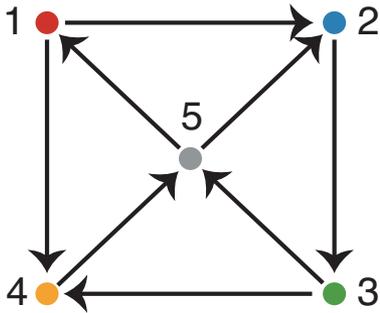
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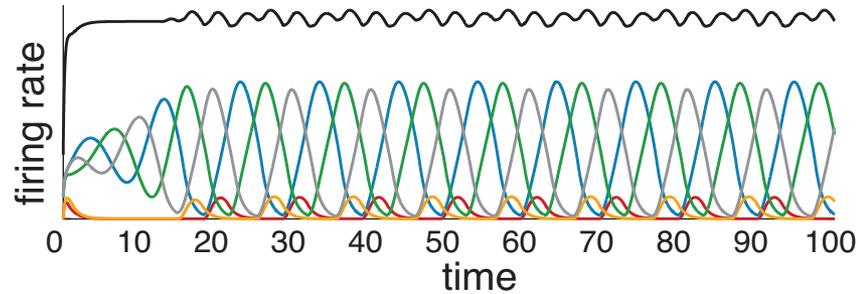
Is this a general principle, that added sources drop out of the dynamics?

# Math Puzzle #1:

Which 3-cycles of the graph give rise to limit cycles in the dynamics?

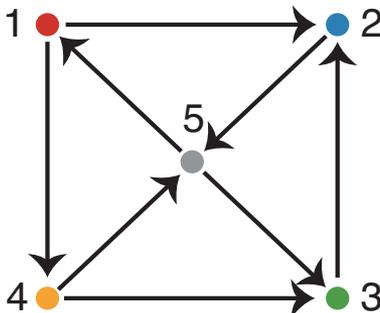


1 limit cycle

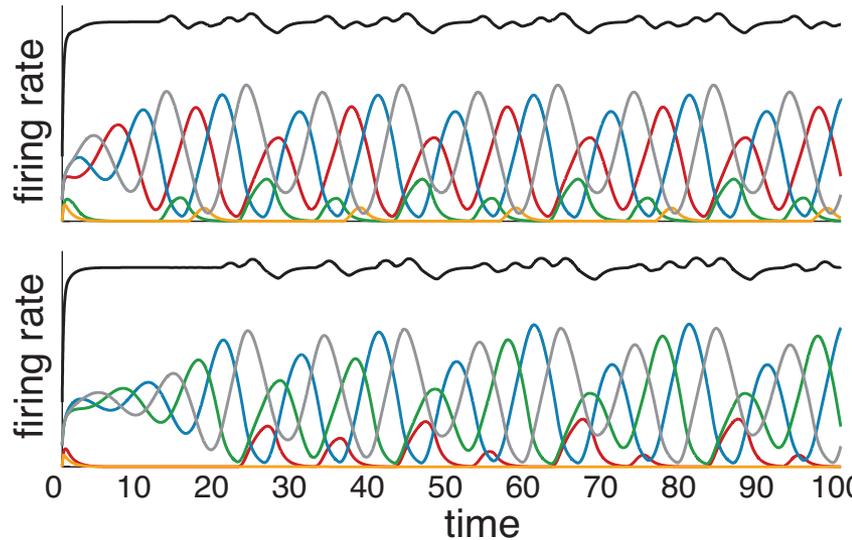


3-cycles  
235, 145

limit cycles  
235 only



2 limit cycles

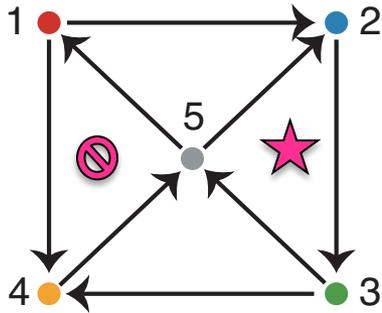


3-cycles  
125, 253, 145

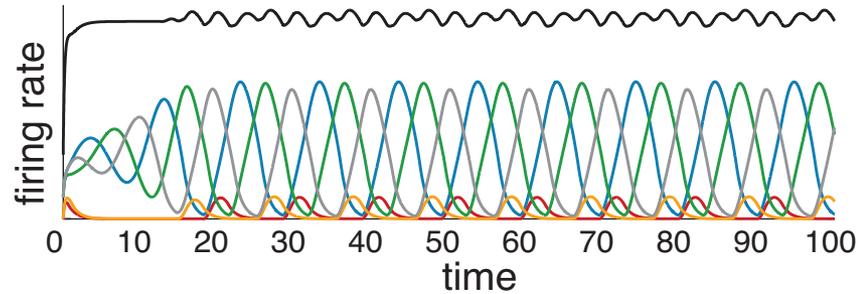
limit cycles  
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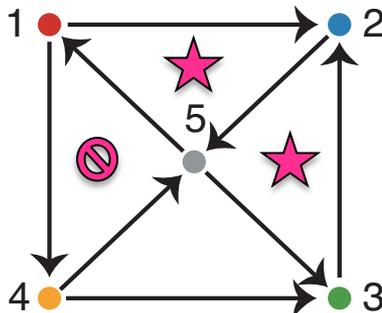


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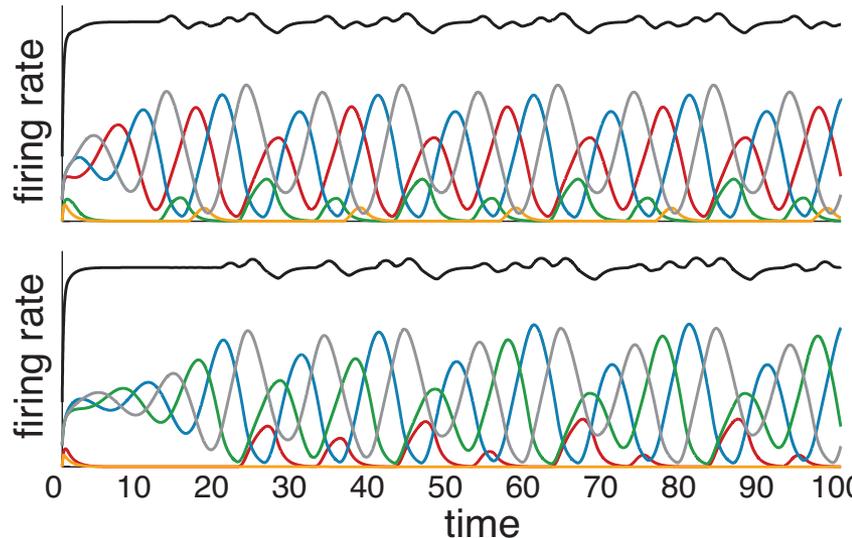


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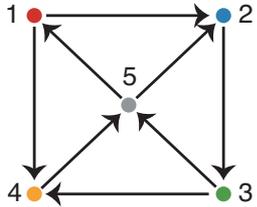


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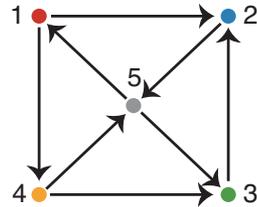
limit cycles  
125, 253 only

# 4 neural networks with matching degree sequence

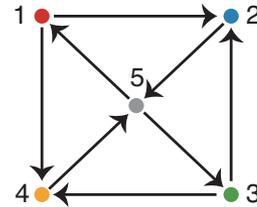
A



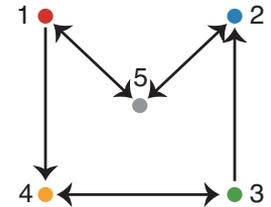
B



C



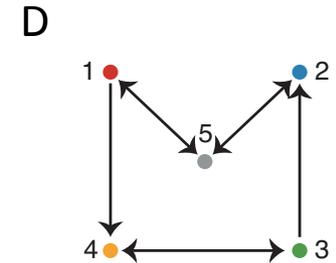
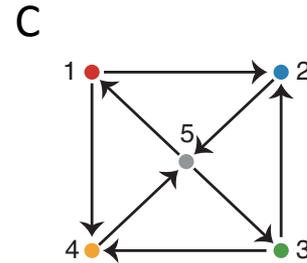
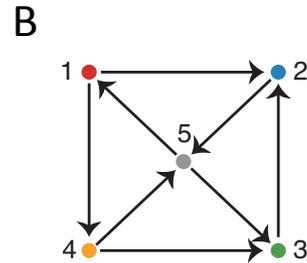
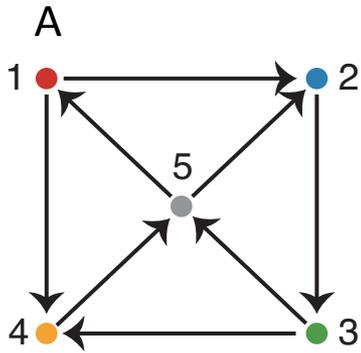
D



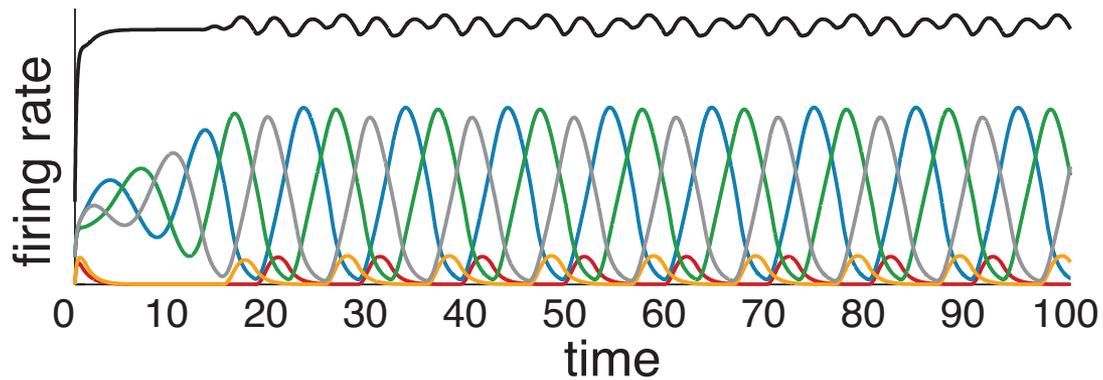
all graphs have the same  
in/out-degree sequence:  
(1,2), (1,2), (2,1), (2,1), (2,2)

The four networks are locally identical.

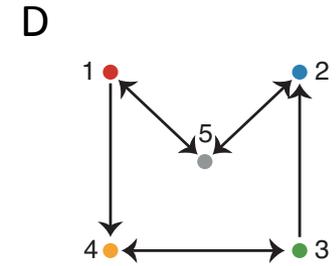
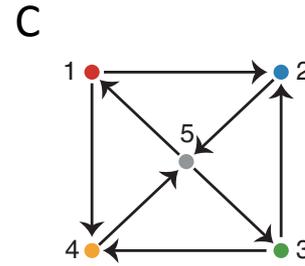
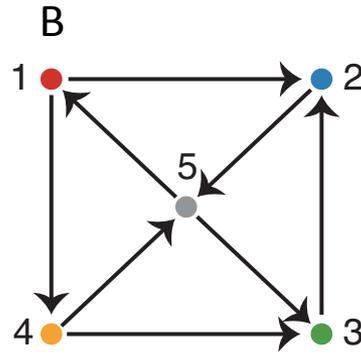
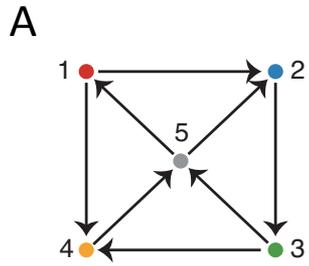
# examples of nonlinear network dynamics: **limit cycles**



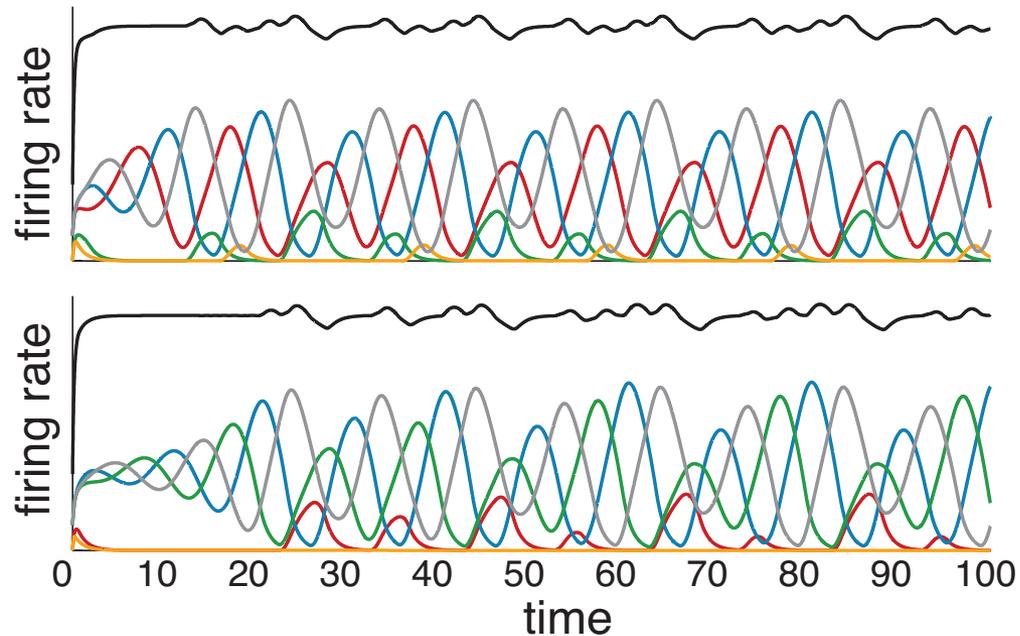
1 limit cycle



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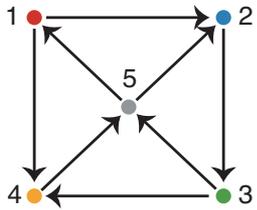


2 limit cycles

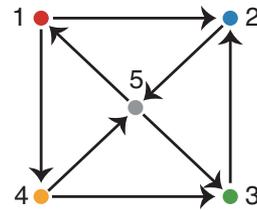


# examples of nonlinear network dynamics: **chaos**

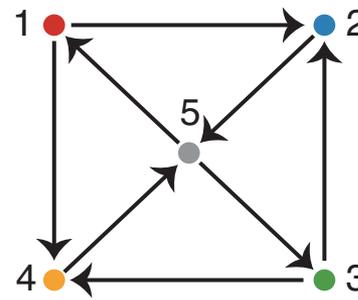
A



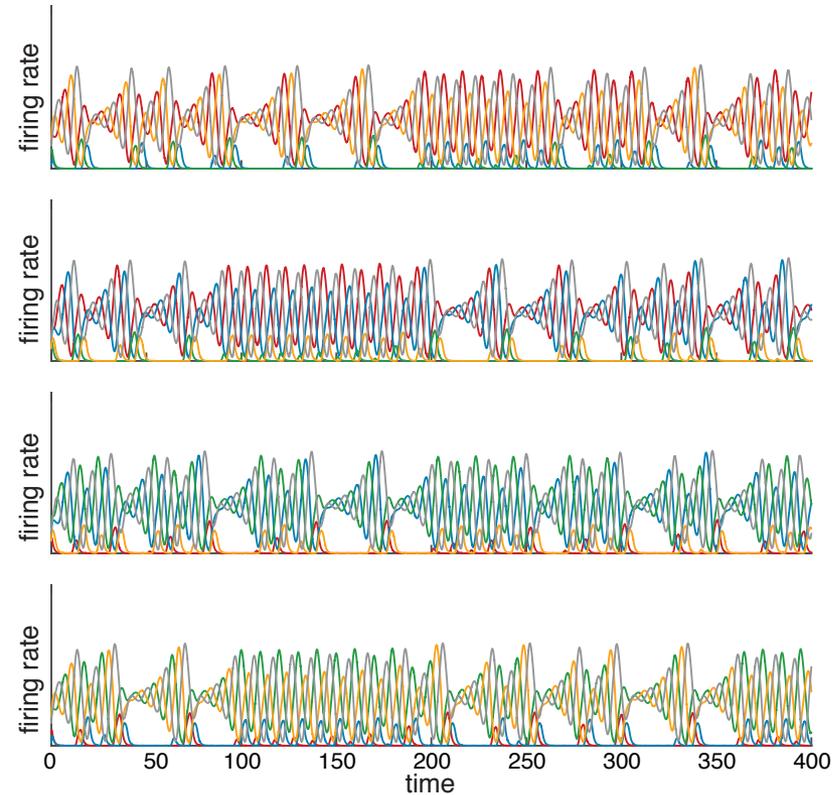
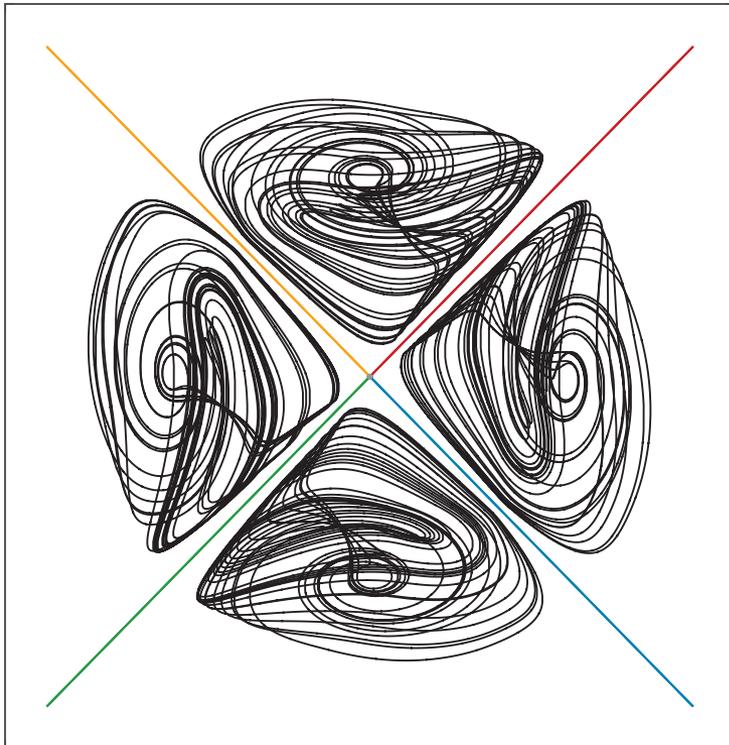
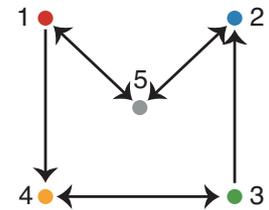
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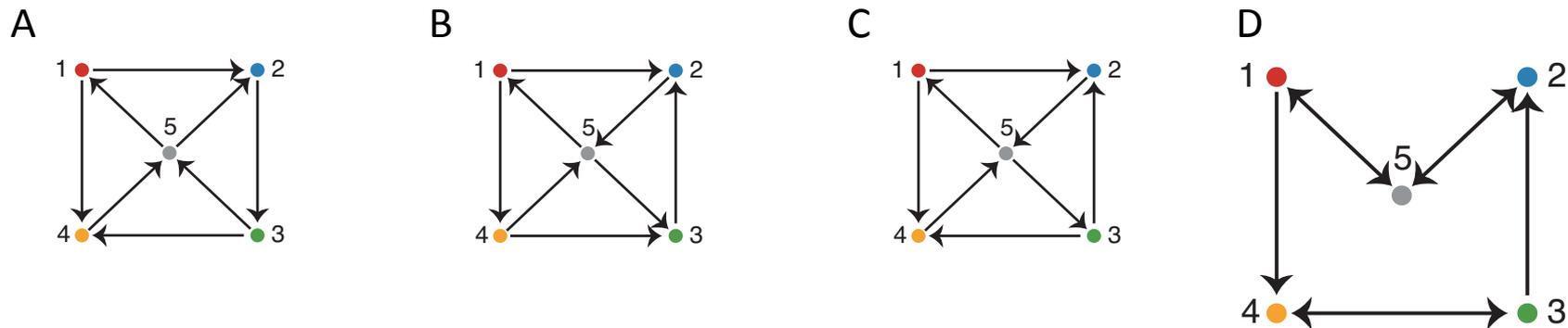
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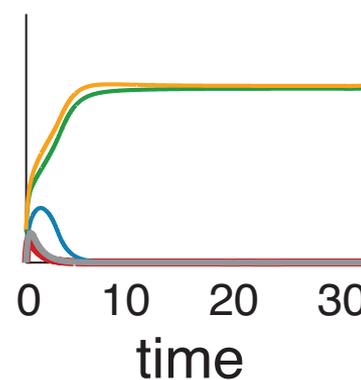
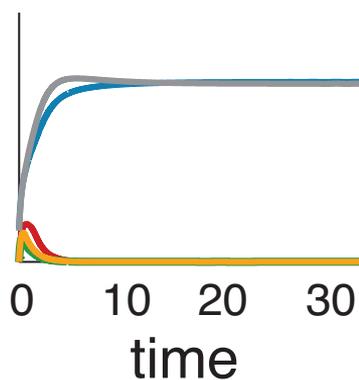
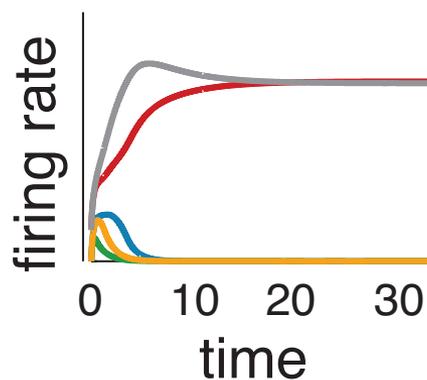
D



# examples of nonlinear network dynamics: **multistability**

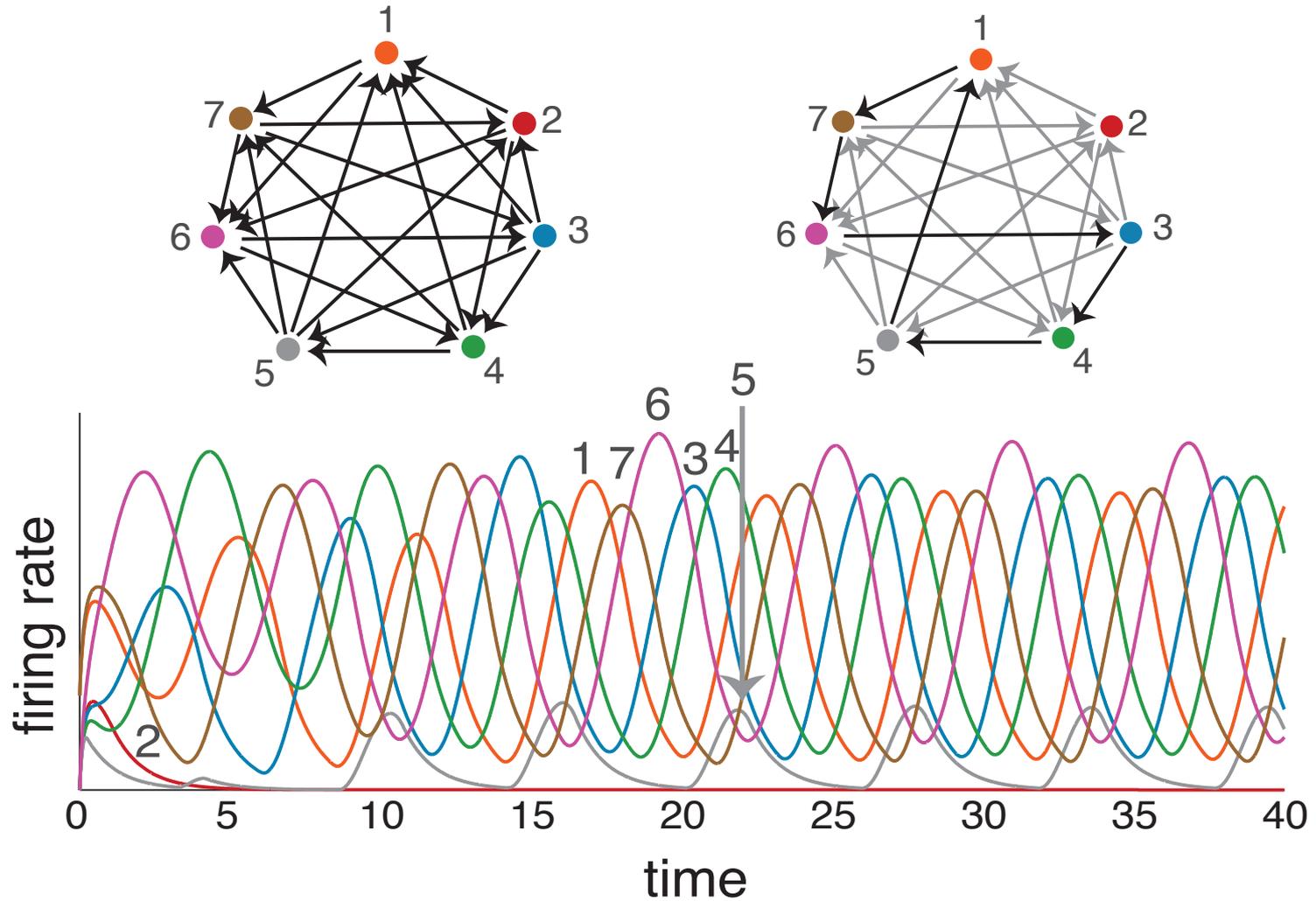


3 fixed points



## Math Puzzle #2:

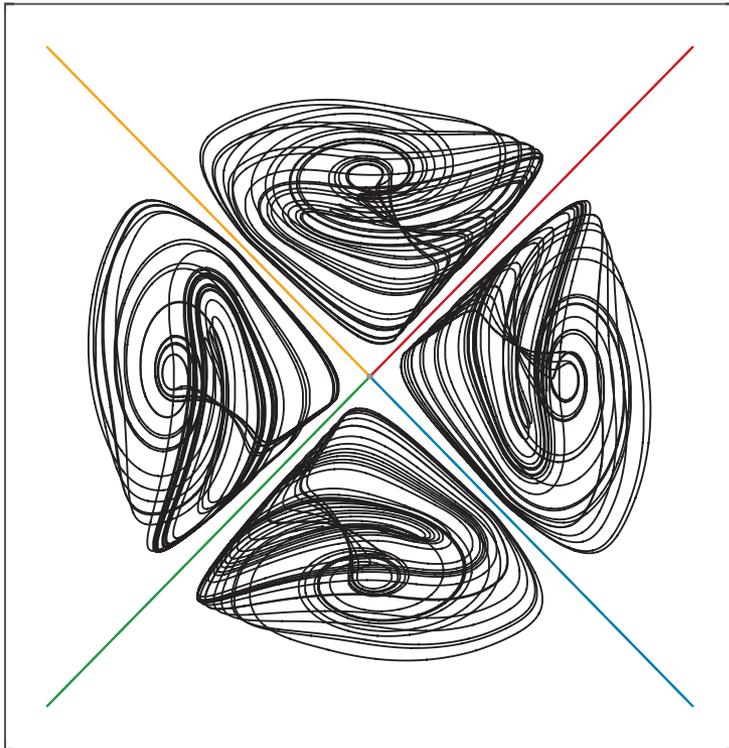
Why does the sequence 176345 emerge? Why does neuron 2 drop out?



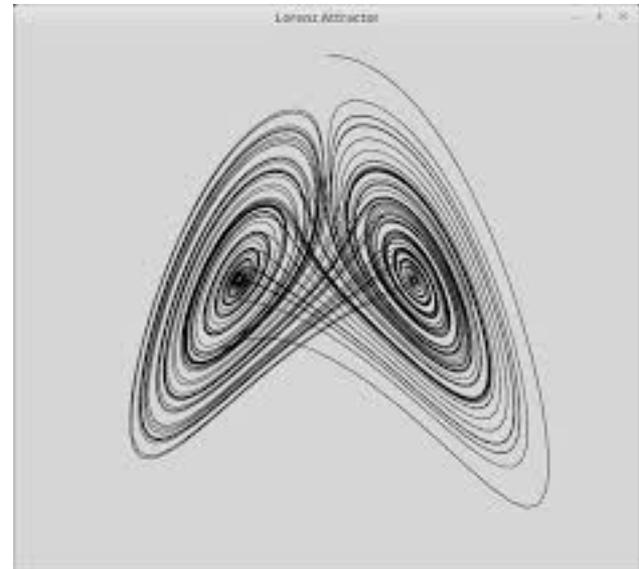
Fixed points (stable and **unstable**) of CTLNs

# unstable fixed points in chaotic attractors

baby chaos: 4 attractors

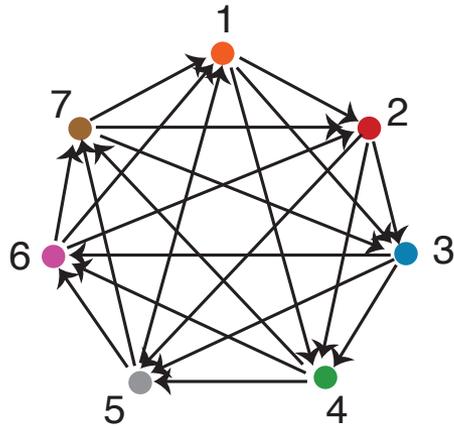


Lorenz attractor



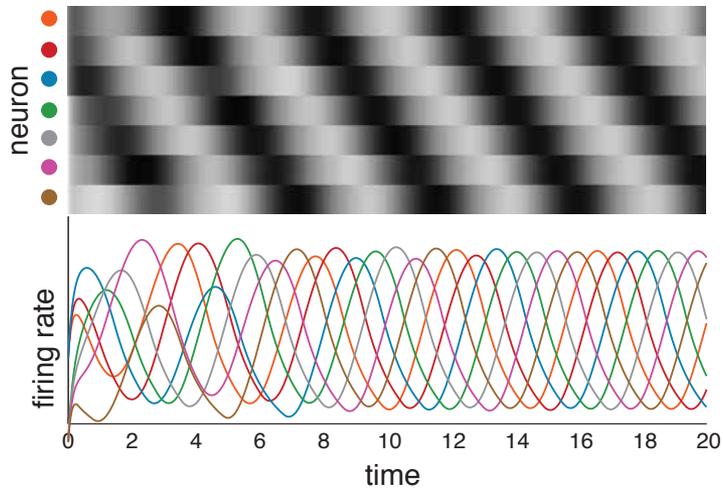
# A word of caution

1 (unstable) fixed point



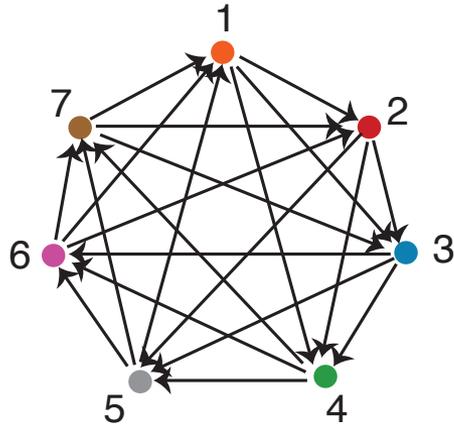
limit cycle

Sequence 1234567

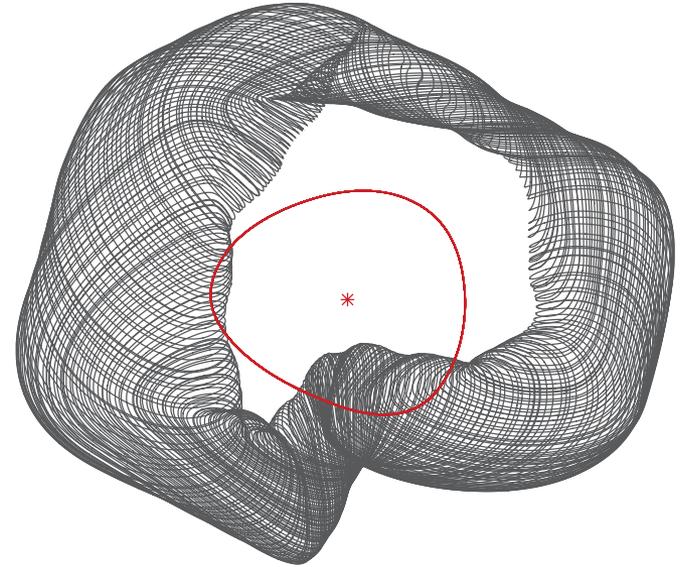


# A word of caution

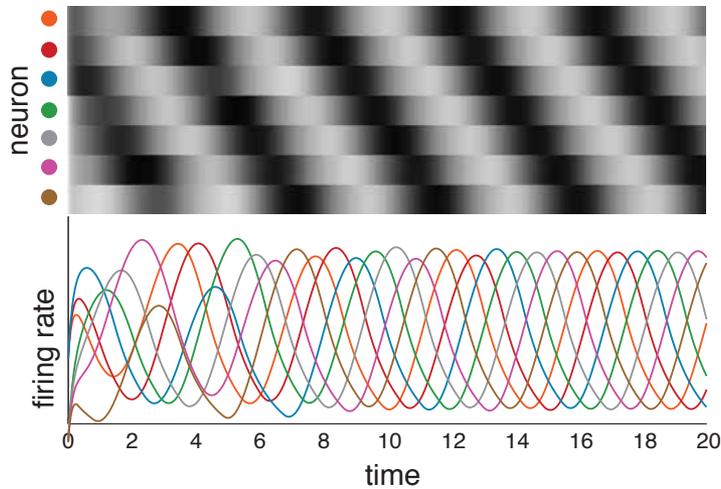
1 (unstable) fixed point



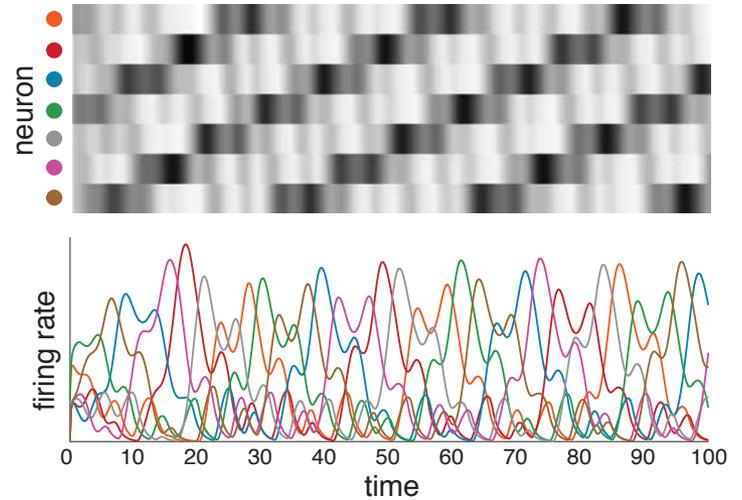
limit cycle +  
quasiperiodic  
attractor!



Sequence 1234567

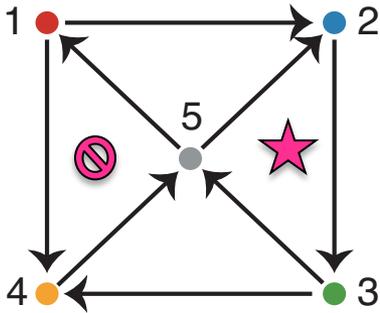


Sequence 1473625

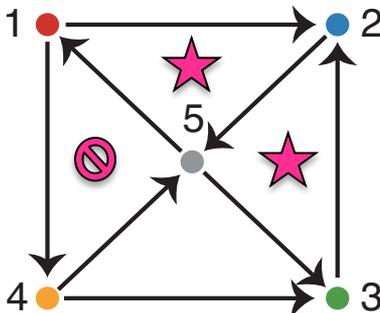


# Math Puzzle #1:

Which 3-cycles of the graph give rise to limit cycles in the dynamics?

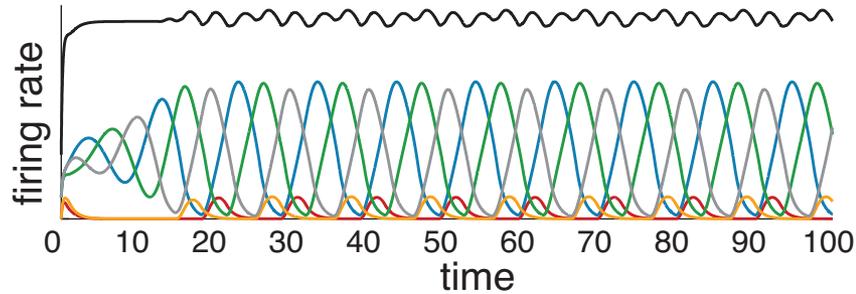


3-cycle fixed pts  
235 only



3-cycle fixed pts  
125, 253 only

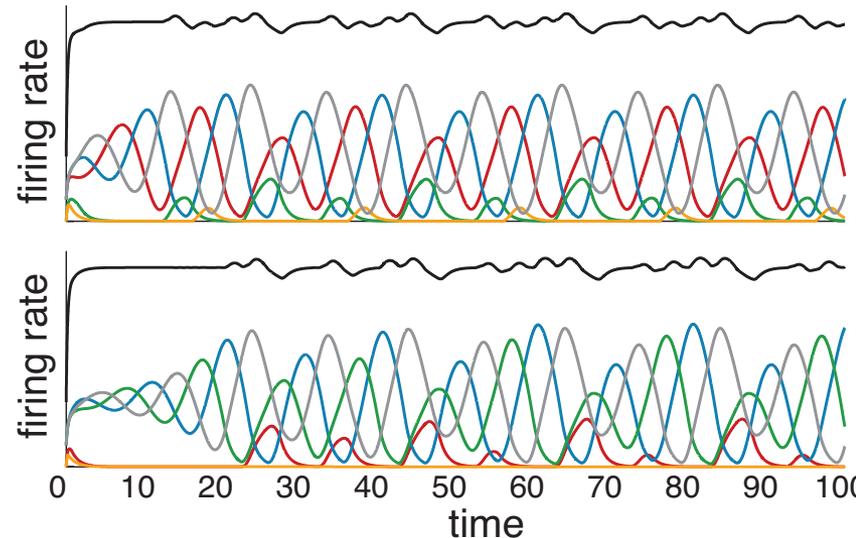
1 limit cycle



3-cycles  
235, 145

limit cycles  
235 only

2 limit cycles

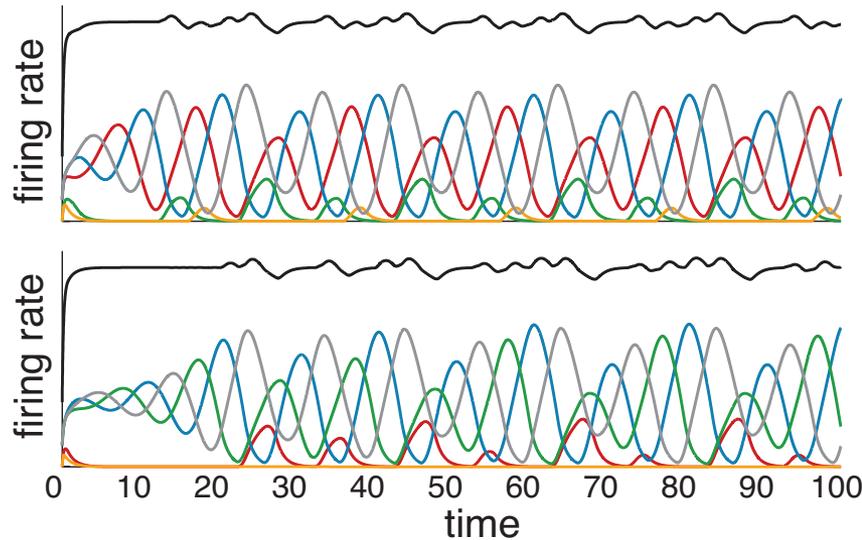
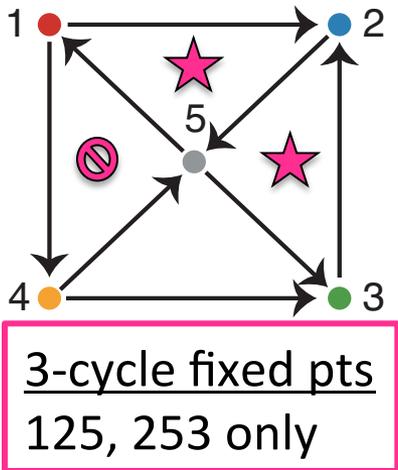
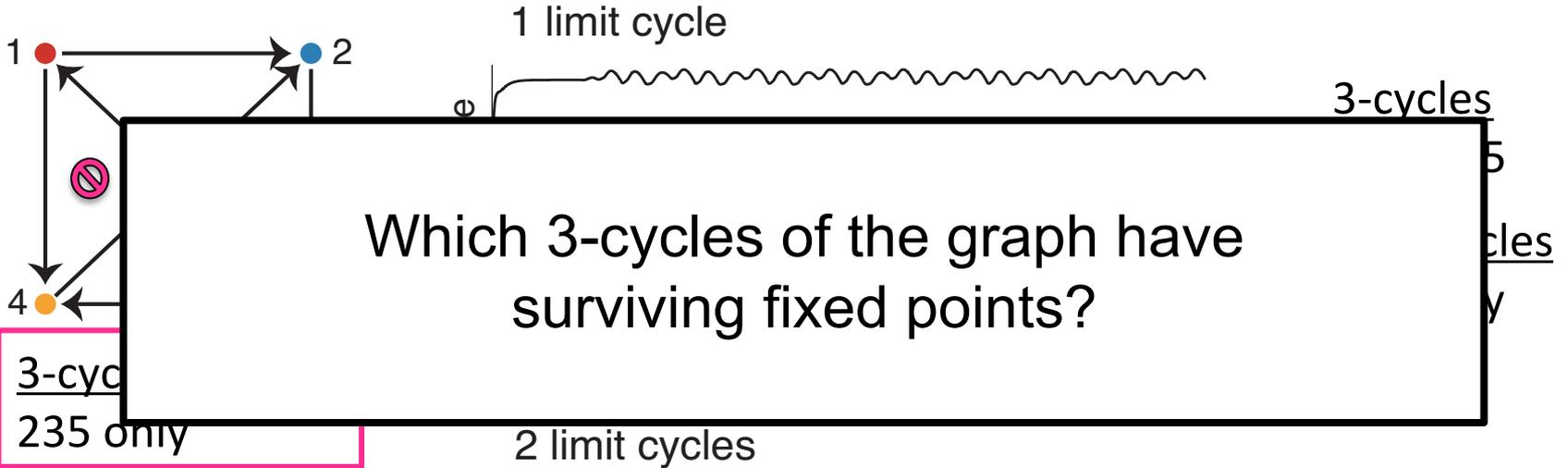


3-cycles  
125, 253, 145

limit cycles  
125, 253 only

# Math Puzzle #1:

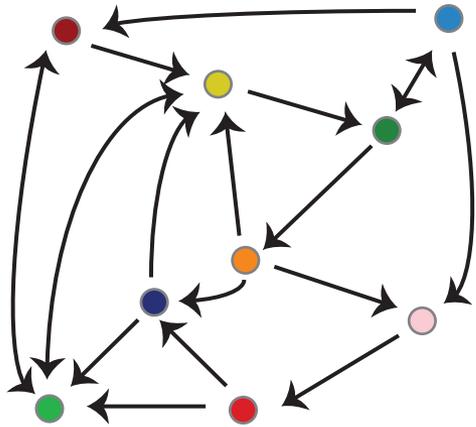
Which 3-cycles of the graph give rise to limit cycles in the dynamics?



3-cycles  
125, 253, 145

limit cycles  
125, 253 only

# Graphical analysis of fixed points of CTLNs



GOAL: Analyze the graph to predict the stable and unstable fixed points

(This gives insight into the dynamics.)

$$\text{FP}(G) = \{ \sigma \subseteq [n] \mid \sigma \text{ is a fixed point support} \}$$

$$\sigma = \text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^*) = \{i \mid x_i^* > 0\}$$

## Fixed points of CTLNs

$$\frac{dx_i}{dt} = 0 \text{ for all } i \in [n] \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \frac{dx_1}{dt} = -x_1 + \left[ \sum_{j=1}^n W_{1j} x_j + \theta \right]_+ \\ \frac{dx_2}{dt} = -x_2 + \left[ \sum_{j=1}^n W_{2j} x_j + \theta \right]_+ \\ \vdots \\ \frac{dx_n}{dt} = -x_n + \left[ \sum_{j=1}^n W_{nj} x_j + \theta \right]_+ \end{array} \right.$$

# Fixed points of CTLNs

$$\frac{dx_i}{dt} = 0 \text{ for all } i \in [n]$$

Different linear system  
of ODEs for each  $\sigma \subseteq [n]$

$$\sigma = \{i \in [n] \mid y_i > 0\}$$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \frac{dx_1}{dt} = -x_1 + \underbrace{\left[ \sum_{j=1}^n W_{1j} x_j + \theta \right]}_{y_1} \Big|_+ \\ \frac{dx_2}{dt} = -x_2 + \underbrace{\left[ \sum_{j=1}^n W_{2j} x_j + \theta \right]}_{y_2} \Big|_+ \\ \vdots \\ \frac{dx_n}{dt} = -x_n + \underbrace{\left[ \sum_{j=1}^n W_{nj} x_j + \theta \right]}_{y_n} \Big|_+ \end{array} \right.$$

# Fixed points of CTLNs

$$\frac{dx_i}{dt} = 0 \text{ for all } i \in [n] \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \frac{dx_1}{dt} = -x_1 + \underbrace{\left[ \sum_{j=1}^n W_{1j} x_j + \theta \right]}_{y_1} \Big|_+ \\ \frac{dx_2}{dt} = -x_2 + \underbrace{\left[ \sum_{j=1}^n W_{2j} x_j + \theta \right]}_{y_2} \Big|_+ \\ \vdots \\ \frac{dx_n}{dt} = -x_n + \underbrace{\left[ \sum_{j=1}^n W_{nj} x_j + \theta \right]}_{y_n} \Big|_+ \end{array} \right.$$

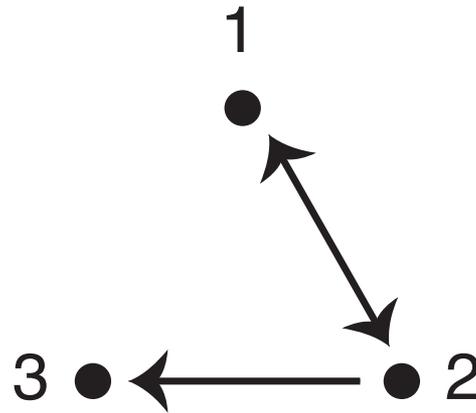
Different linear system of ODEs for each  $\sigma \subseteq [n]$

$\sigma = \{i \in [n] \mid y_i > 0\}$

Each linear system has a unique fixed point  $\mathbf{x}^*$

This is a **fixed point** of the CTLN when  $\begin{cases} x_i^* > 0 & \text{for all } i \in \sigma \\ y_k^* \leq 0 & \text{for all } k \notin \sigma \end{cases}$

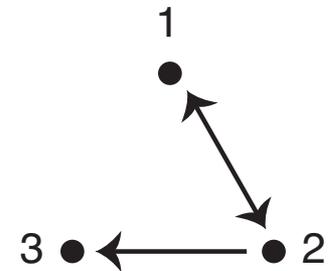
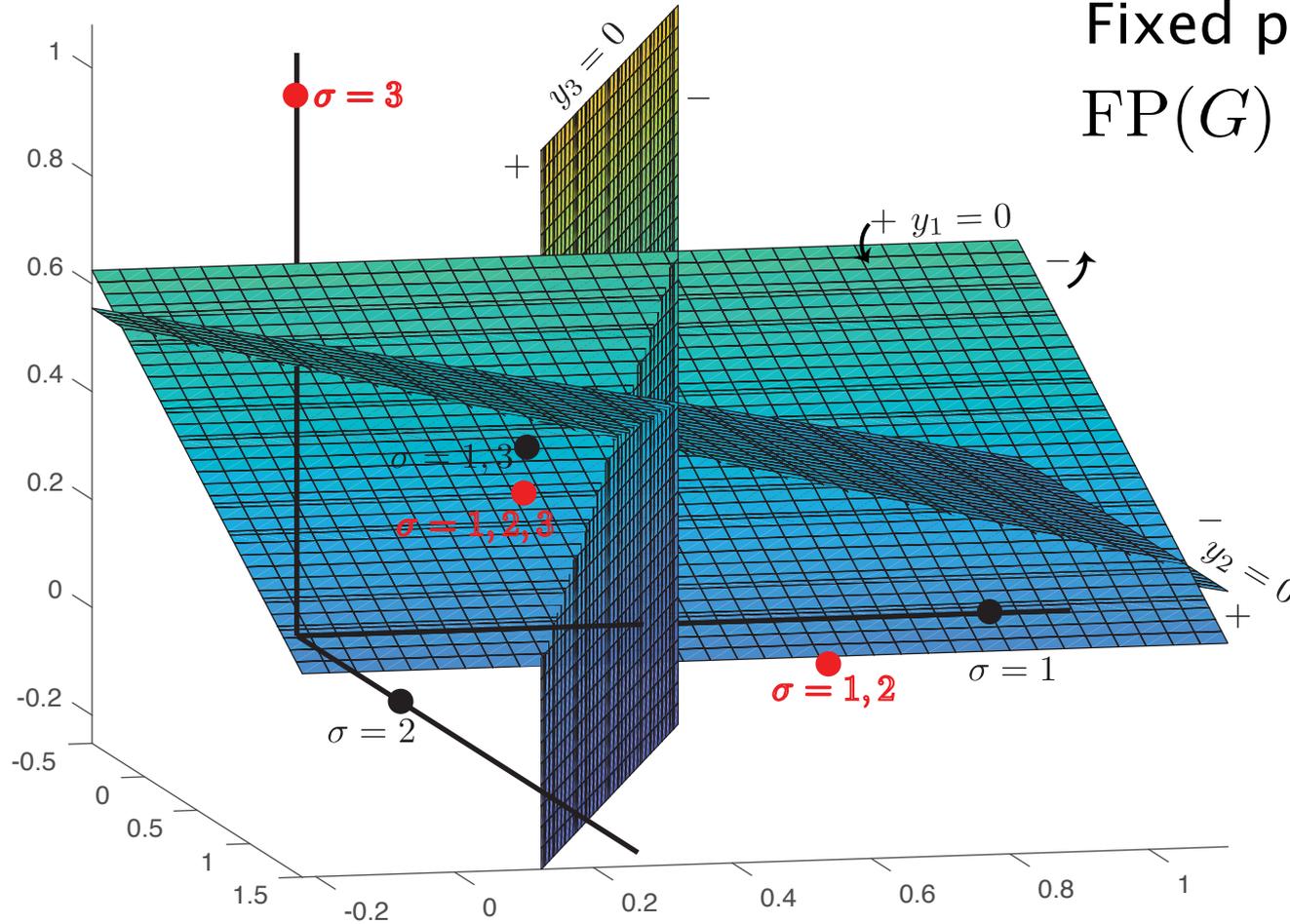
# Fixed points of example CTLN



$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dx_1}{dt} &= -x_1 + \underbrace{[(-1 + \varepsilon)x_2 + (-1 - \delta)x_3 + \theta]}_{y_1} \\ \frac{dx_2}{dt} &= -x_2 + \underbrace{[(-1 + \varepsilon)x_1 + (-1 - \delta)x_3 + \theta]}_{y_2} \\ \frac{dx_3}{dt} &= -x_3 + \underbrace{[(-1 - \delta)x_1 + (-1 + \varepsilon)x_2 + \theta]}_{y_3}\end{aligned}$$

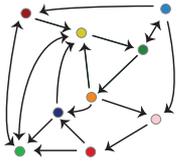
# Fixed points of example CTLN

Fixed point supports:  
 $FP(G) = \{3, 12, 123\}$



# Graph Rules

# TECHNICAL RESULTS for fixed points of TLNs

$$\frac{dx_i}{dt} = -x_i + \left[ \sum_{j=1}^n W_{ij} x_j + \theta \right] +$$


## parity

**Theorem 2.2** (parity [7]). *For any nondegenerate threshold-linear network  $(W, b)$ ,*

$$\sum_{\sigma \in \text{FP}(W, b)} \text{idx}(\sigma) = +1.$$

$$\text{idx}(\sigma) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{sgn} \det(I - W_\sigma).$$

*In particular, the total number of fixed points  $|\text{FP}(W, b)|$  is always odd.*

**Corollary 2.3.** *The number of stable fixed points in a threshold-linear network of the form (1.1) is at most  $2^{n-1}$ .*

## sign conditions

**Theorem 2.6.** *Let  $(W, b)$  be a (non-degenerate) threshold-linear network with  $W_{ij} \leq 0$  and  $b_i > 0$  for all  $i, j \in [n]$ . For any nonempty  $\sigma \subseteq [n]$ ,*

$$\sigma \in \text{FP}(W, b) \Leftrightarrow \text{sgn } s_i^\sigma = \text{sgn } s_j^\sigma = -\text{sgn } s_k^\sigma \text{ for all } i, j \in \sigma, k \notin \sigma.$$

$$s_i^\sigma \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \det((I - W_{\sigma \cup \{i\}})_i; b_{\sigma \cup \{i\}})$$

*Moreover, if  $\sigma \in \text{FP}(W, b)$  then  $\text{sgn } s_i^\sigma = \text{sgn} \det(I - W_\sigma) = \text{idx}(\sigma)$  for all  $i \in \sigma$ .*

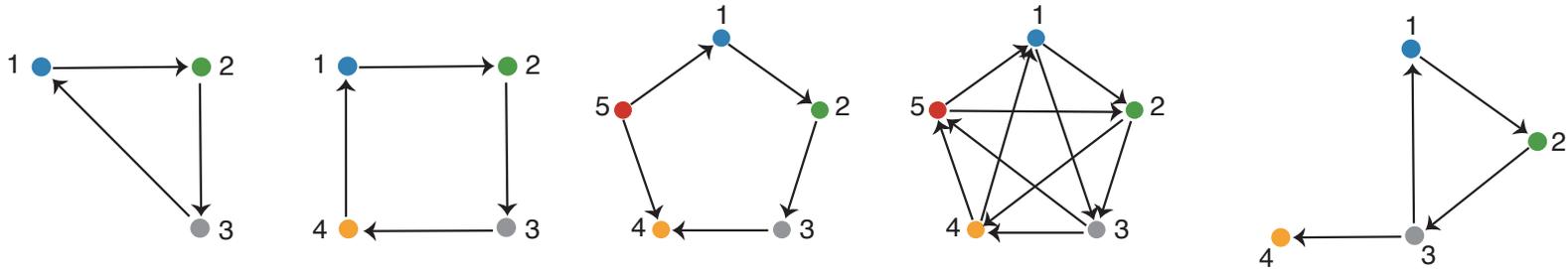
## domination

**Theorem 2.11.** *Let  $(W, \theta)$  be a threshold-linear network. Then  $\sigma \in \text{FP}(W, \theta)$  if and only if the following two conditions hold:*

- (i)  $\sigma$  is domination-free, and
- (ii) for each  $k \notin \sigma$  there exists  $j \in \sigma$  such that  $j >_\sigma k$ .

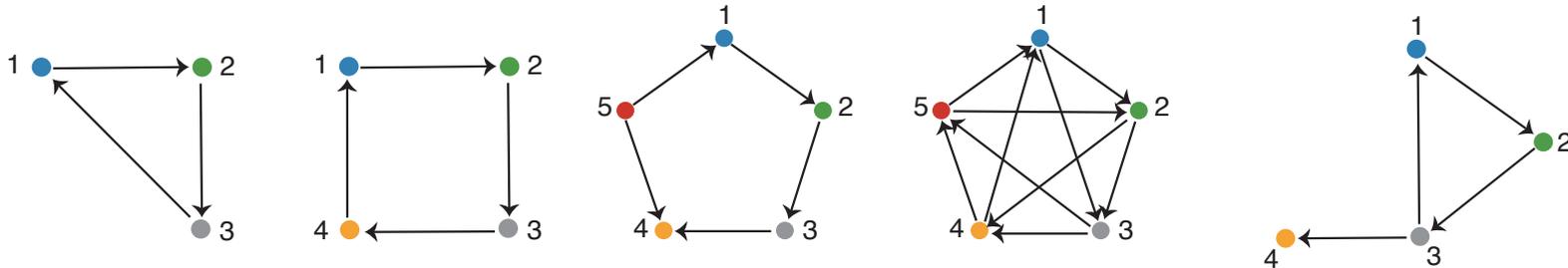
# Uniform in-degree fixed points

- If  $G$  has **uniform in-degree**, it supports a fixed point



# Uniform in-degree fixed points

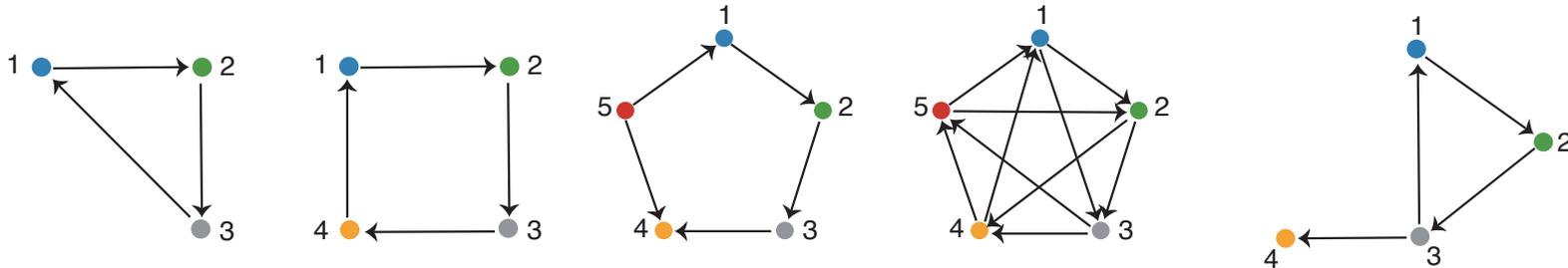
- If  $G$  has **uniform in-degree**, it supports a fixed point



- If a subgraph is a fixed point support, this fixed point may or may not **survive** to the full graph!

# Uniform in-degree fixed points

- If  $G$  has **uniform in-degree**, it supports a fixed point



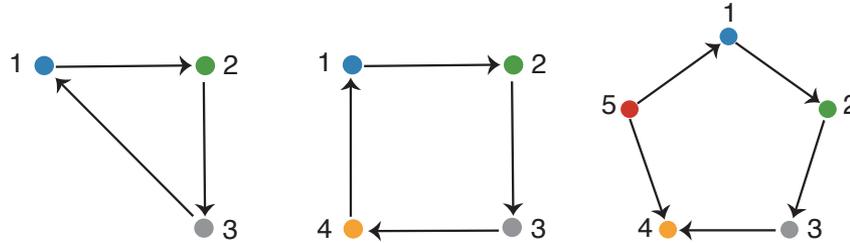
- If a subgraph is a fixed point support, this fixed point may or may not **survive** to the full graph!

Thm.  $G$  has uniform in-degree  $d$ .

Fixed points **survives**  $\iff$  no node outside  $G$  receives  $d+1$   
(or more) edges from  $G$

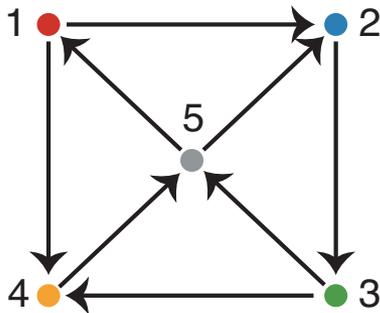
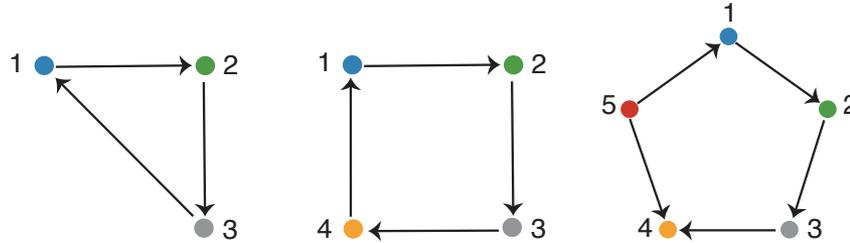
# Uniform in-degree fixed points

Corollary: Cycles (of any length) support fixed points if and only if there is no external node receiving 2 or more edges from the cycle.



# Uniform in-degree fixed points

Corollary: Cycles (of any length) support fixed points if and only if there is no external node receiving 2 or more edges from the cycle.



3-cycles  
235, 145

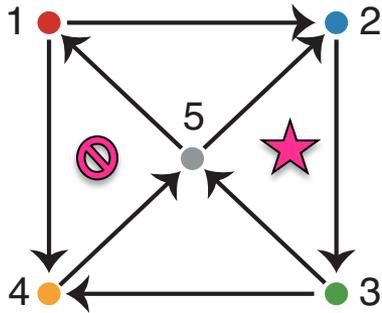
3-cycle fixed pts  
235 only

cycle 145 has an external node (2) receiving 2 edges

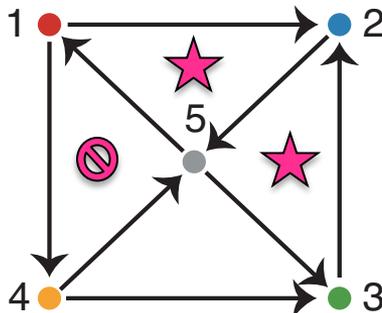
cycle 235 does not

# Solution to Math Puzzle #1

Which 3-cycles of the graph give rise to limit cycles in the dynamics?

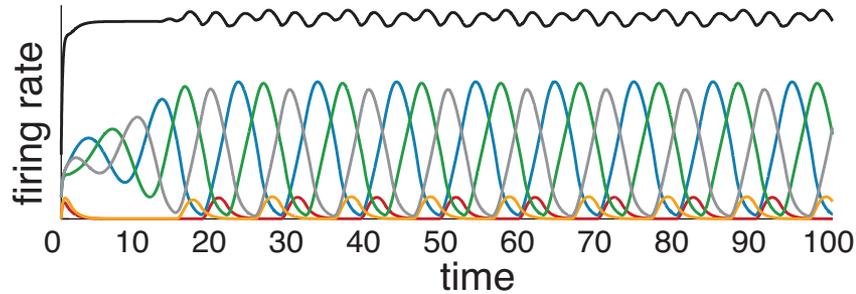


3-cycle fixed pts  
235 only



3-cycle fixed pts  
125, 253 only

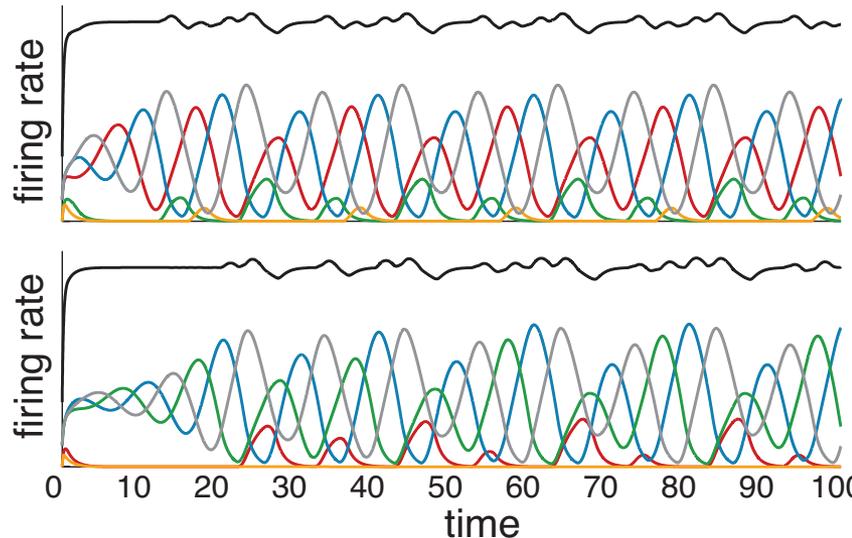
1 limit cycle



3-cycles  
235, 145

limit cycles  
235 only

2 limit cycles



3-cycles  
125, 253, 145

limit cycles  
125, 253 only

# A general principle: **domination**

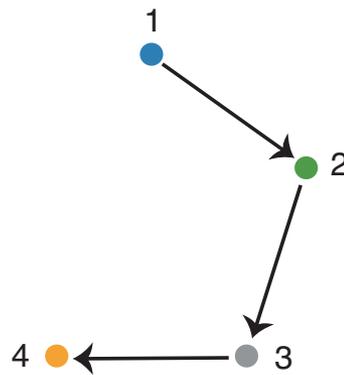
simplest version:  $j, k \in \sigma$

**k dominates j** with respect to  $\sigma$  if

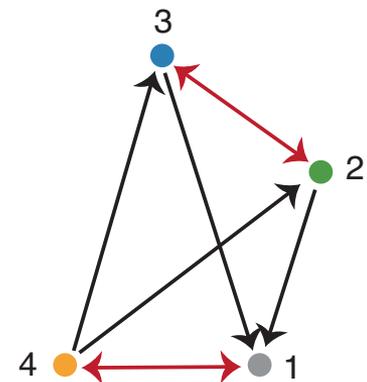
1.  $j \rightarrow k, k \not\rightarrow j$

2.  $i \rightarrow j \Rightarrow i \rightarrow k$  for each  $i \in \sigma \setminus \{j, k\}$

$$\sigma = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$$



2 dominates 1



1 dominates 2 and 3

## A general principle: domination

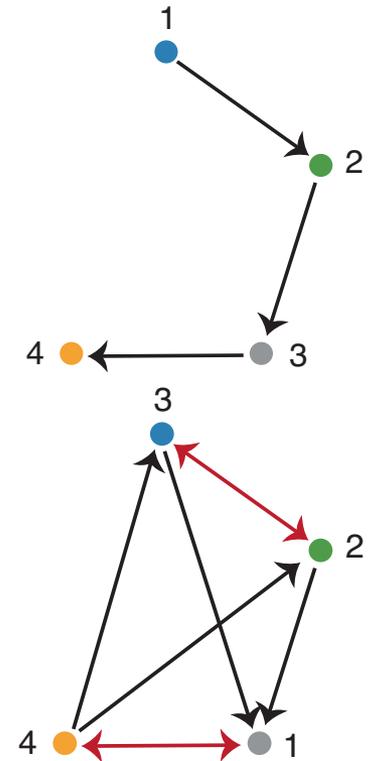
Fact: If there is domination inside  $\sigma$  then  $\sigma$  cannot be a fixed pt support.

# A general principle: **domination**

Fact: If there is domination inside  $\sigma$  then  $\sigma$  cannot be a fixed pt support.

Some consequences:

1. Fixed point supports cannot have **sources**  
– rules out paths
2. **FF graphs** cannot be fixed point supports  
(unless a union of isolated nodes)
3. **Directed cliques** cannot be fixed points supports  
(unless it's a full bidirectional clique)



# Graph rules for CTLN fixed point supports

## 1. *Uniform in-degree.*

For  $\sigma$  uniform in-degree,  $\sigma \in \text{FP}(G) \Leftrightarrow \sigma$  is target-free.

If  $\sigma$  is a target-free clique, then  $\sigma$  supports a stable fixed point.

## 2. *Domination.* Suppose $k$ dominates $j$ w.r.t. $\sigma$

(a) If  $j, k \in \sigma$ , then  $\sigma \notin \text{FP}(G)$ .

(b) If  $j \in \sigma$  and  $k \notin \sigma$ , then  $\sigma \notin \text{FP}(G)$ .

(c) If  $j \notin \sigma$  and  $k \in \sigma$ , then  $\sigma \in \text{FP}(G|_{\sigma \cup \{j\}}) \Leftrightarrow \sigma \in \text{FP}(G|_{\sigma})$ .

## 3. *Sources.*

(a) If  $i \in \sigma$  is a proper source in  $G|_{\sigma}$ , then  $\sigma \notin \text{FP}(G)$ .

(b) If  $i$  is a proper source in  $G$ , then  $\text{FP}(G) = \text{FP}(G \setminus \{i\})$ .

## 4. *Sinks.*

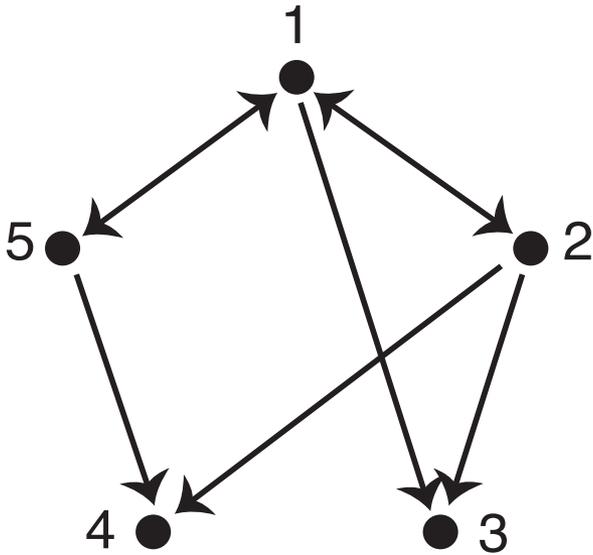
(a) A singleton  $\{i\} \in \text{FP}(G) \Leftrightarrow i$  is a sink in  $G$ .

(b) An independent set  $\sigma \in \text{FP}(G) \Leftrightarrow \sigma$  is a union of sinks.

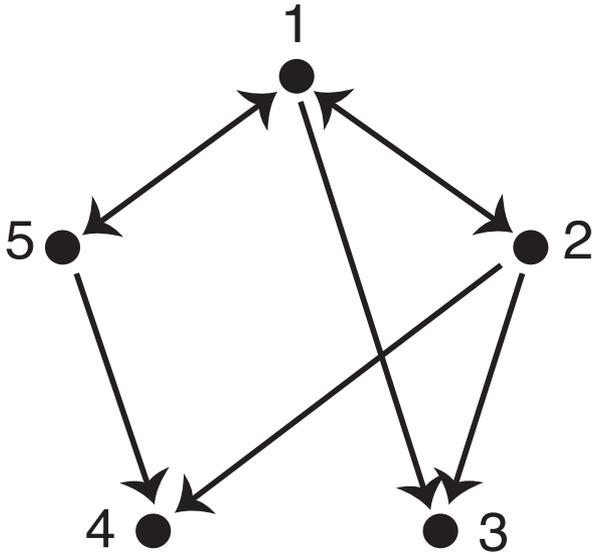
## 5. *Parity.* $|\text{FP}(G)|$ is odd.

# Finding $FP(G)$ using graph rules

Elements of  $FP(G)$



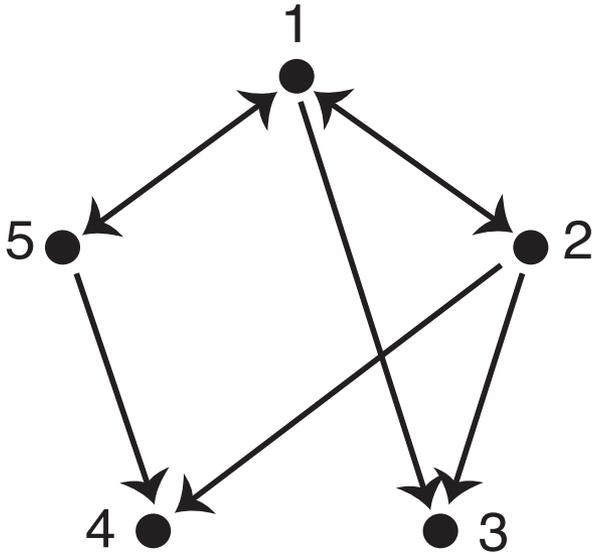
# Finding $FP(G)$ using graph rules



Elements of  $FP(G)$

$$\underline{|\sigma| = 1} : 3, 4$$

# Finding $FP(G)$ using graph rules

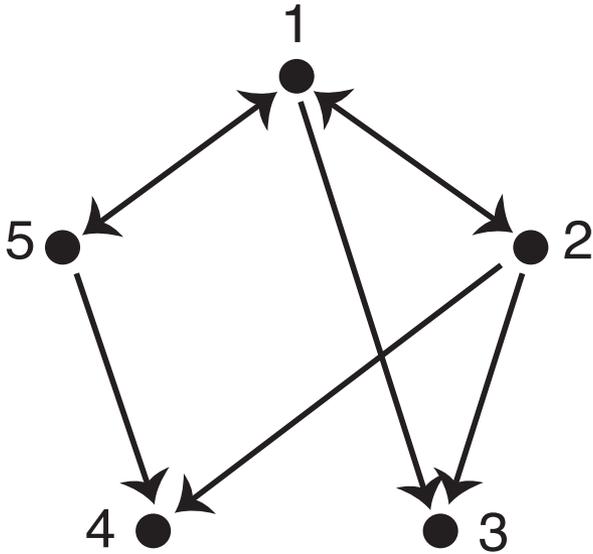


## Elements of $FP(G)$

$|\sigma| = 1$  : 3, 4

$|\sigma| = 2$  : 15, 34

# Finding $FP(G)$ using graph rules



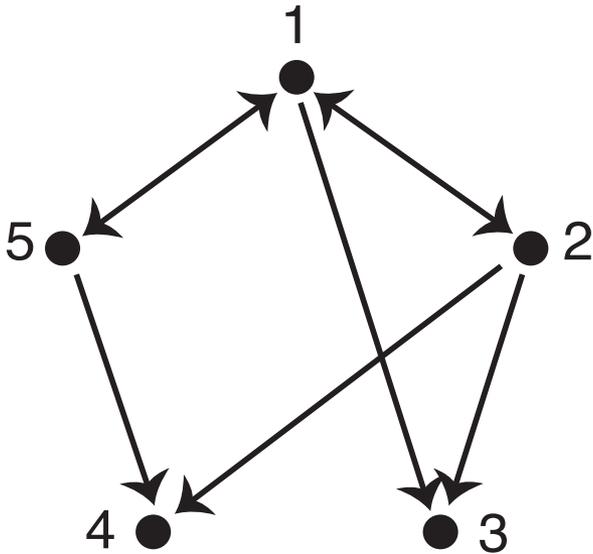
## Elements of $FP(G)$

$|\sigma| = 1$  : 3, 4

$|\sigma| = 2$  : 15, 34

$|\sigma| = 3$  : 135, 145

# Finding $FP(G)$ using graph rules



## Elements of $FP(G)$

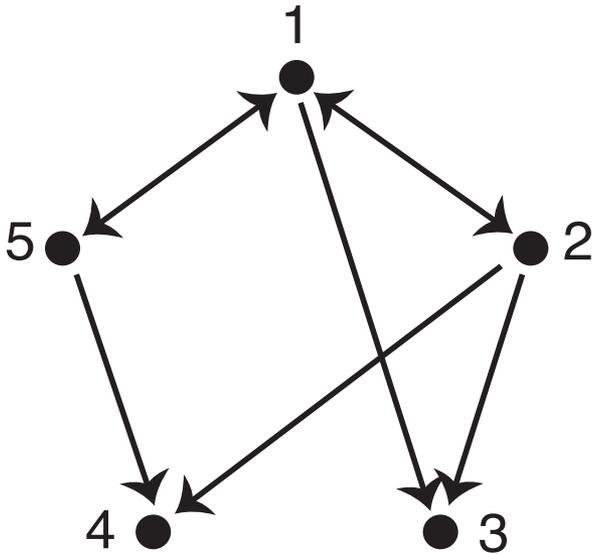
$$\underline{|\sigma| = 1} : 3, 4$$

$$\underline{|\sigma| = 2} : 15, 34$$

$$\underline{|\sigma| = 3} : 135, 145$$

$$\underline{|\sigma| = 4} : 1345$$

# Finding $FP(G)$ using graph rules



## Elements of $FP(G)$

$|\sigma| = 1$  : 3, 4

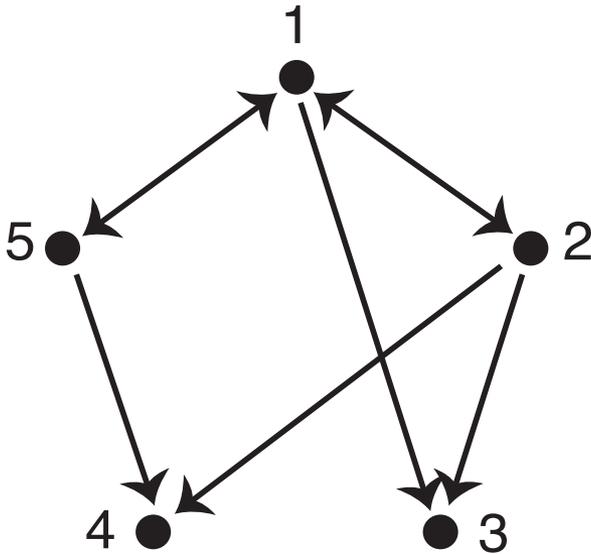
$|\sigma| = 2$  : 15, 34

$|\sigma| = 3$  : 135, 145

$|\sigma| = 4$  : 1345

$|\sigma| = 5$  : none

# Finding $FP(G)$ using graph rules



## Elements of $FP(G)$

$$\underline{|\sigma| = 1} : 3, 4$$

$$\underline{|\sigma| = 2} : 15, 34$$

$$\underline{|\sigma| = 3} : 135, 145$$

$$\underline{|\sigma| = 4} : 1345$$

$$\underline{|\sigma| = 5} : \text{none}$$

$$FP(G) = \{3, 4, 15, 34, 135, 145, 1345\}$$

Because  $FP(G)$  was obtained from graph rules, this result is **guaranteed to be parameter independent.**

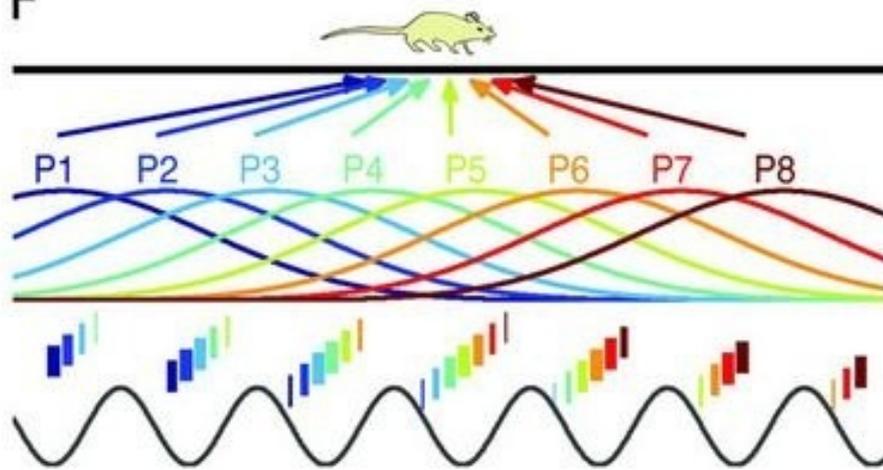
# Lessons learned from graph rules

- We found specific **motifs** that support fixed points:  
  
cycles, uniform in-degree, cliques, independent sets, etc.  
  
and we also understand their **survival rules**, depending on **how they are embedded** in a larger network.
- Motifs supporting fixed points (and attractors) are **domination-free**.
- Insights about how edges affect attractors for different motifs:
  - **edges out** of a motif affect survival
  - **edges into** a motif affect only the basins of attraction
  - adding **edges inside** a motif may or may not preserve attractors
- Everything we've proven using graph rules is automatically **parameter-independent**. Connectivity is the only thing that matters.

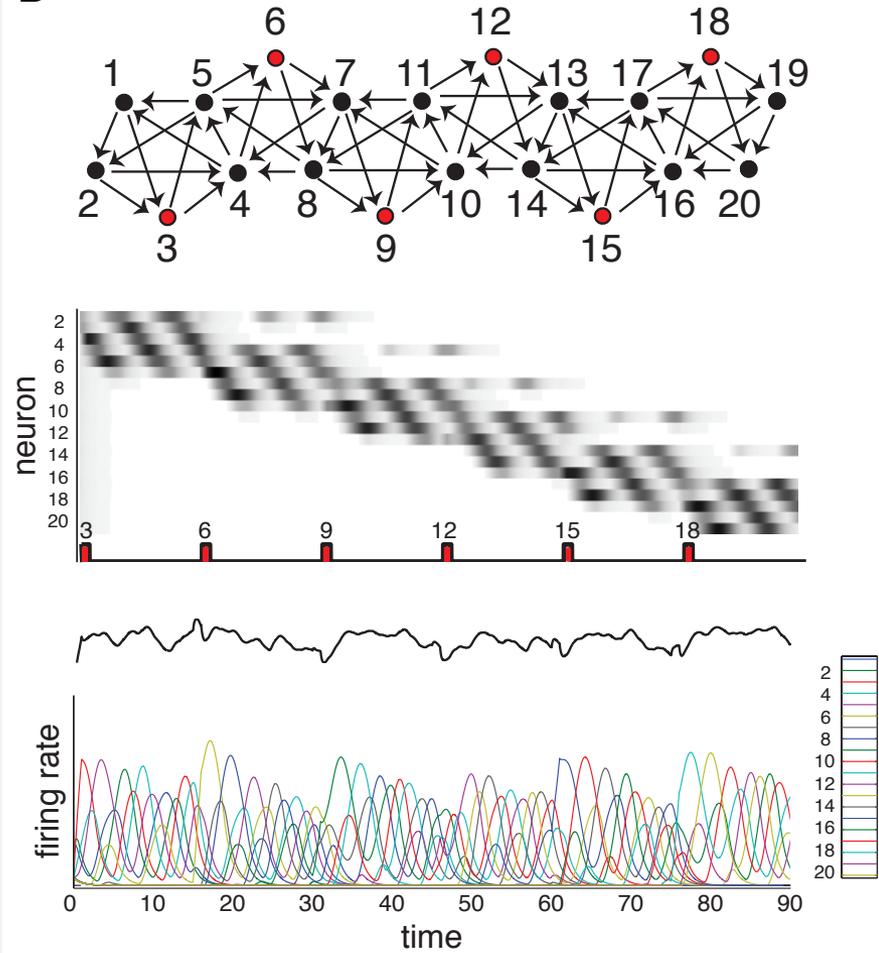
# Applications

# Patching together cyclic modules

F

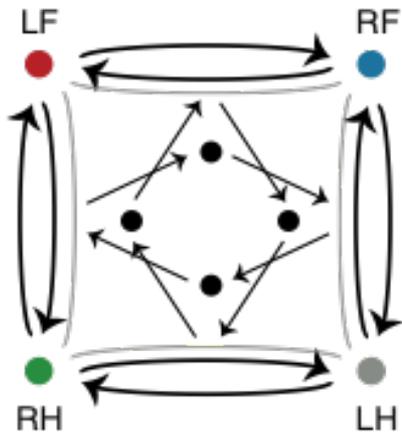


B

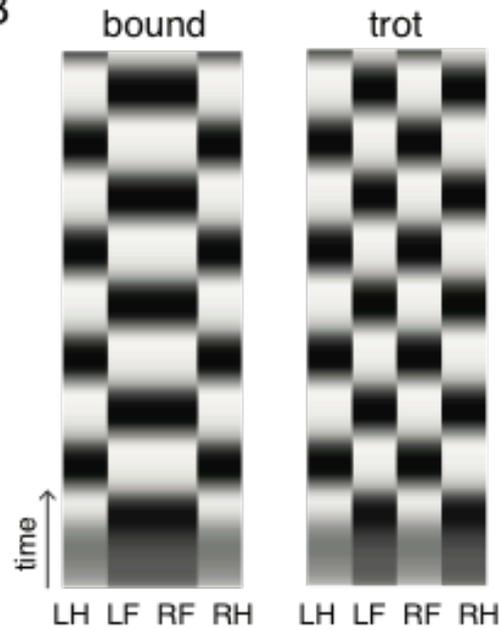


# Central Pattern Generator (CPG) quadruped motion

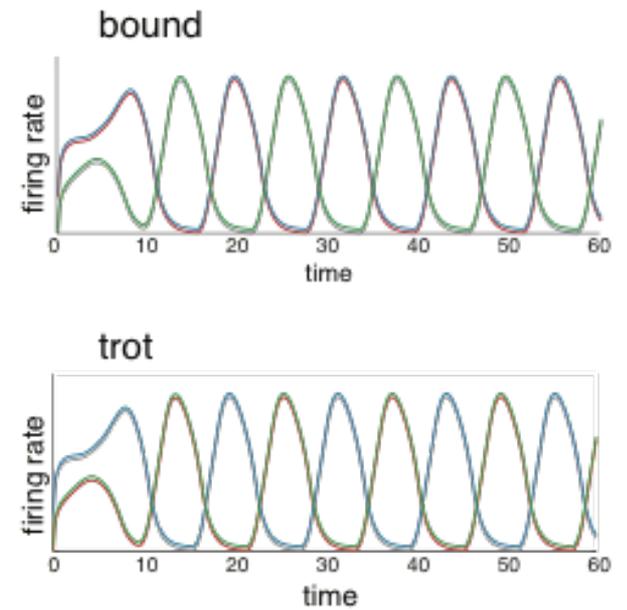
A



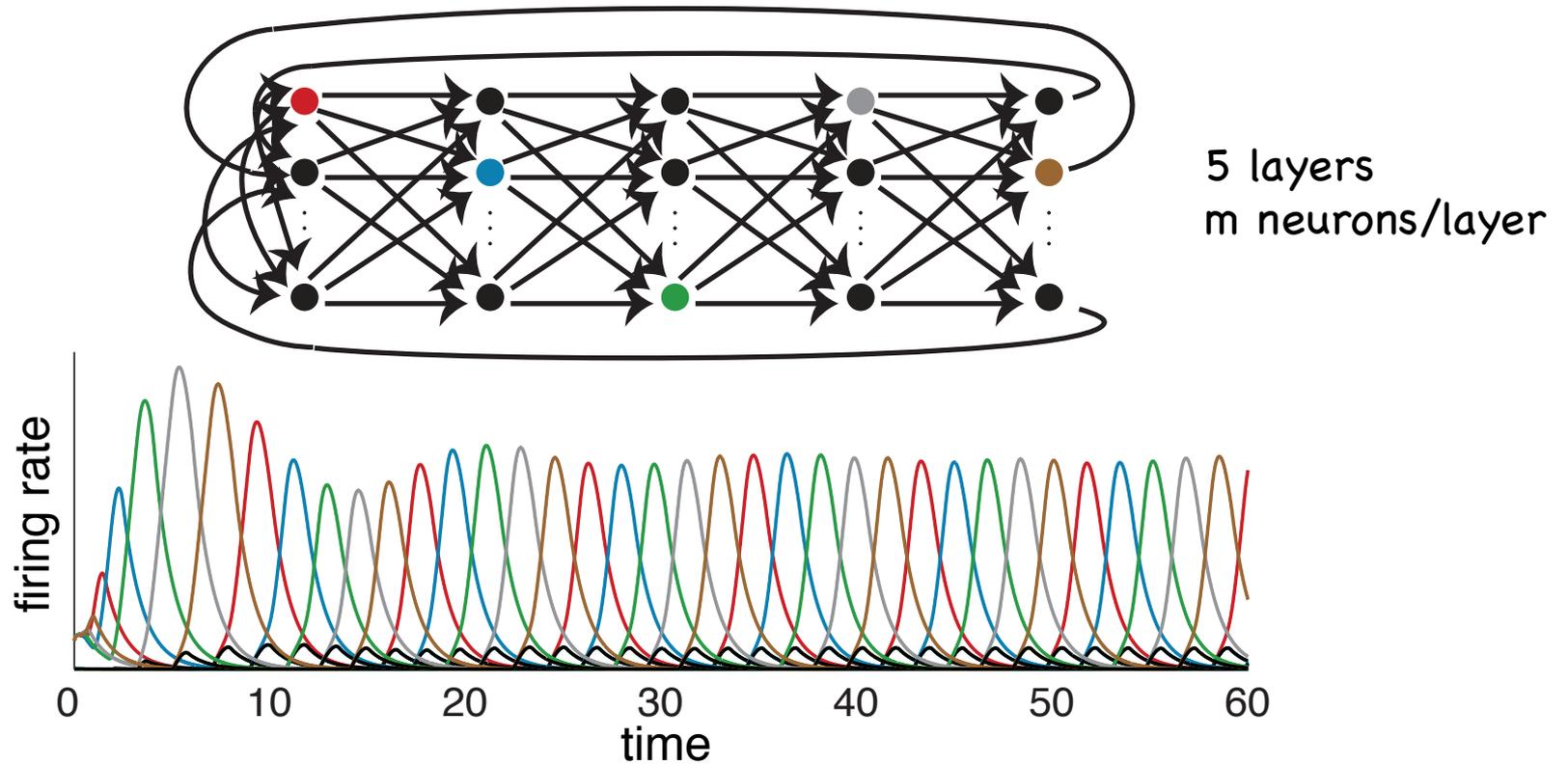
B



C

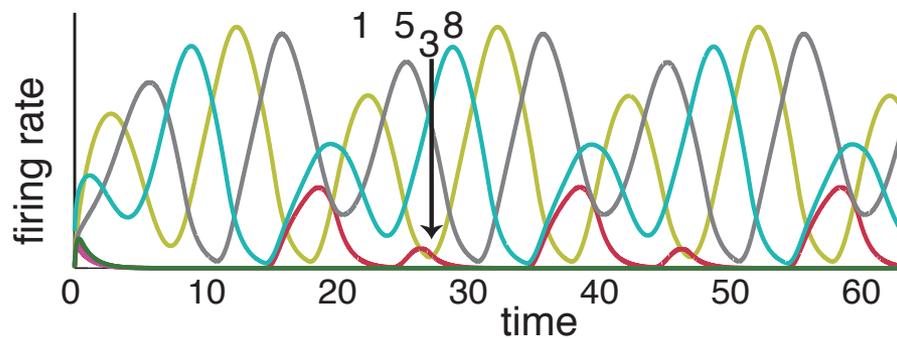
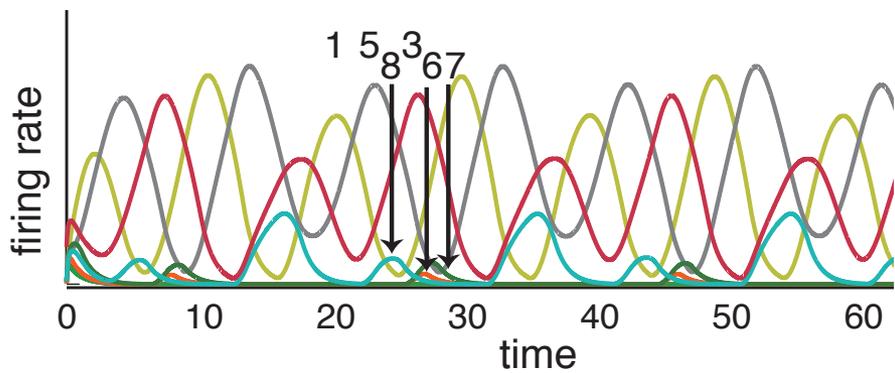
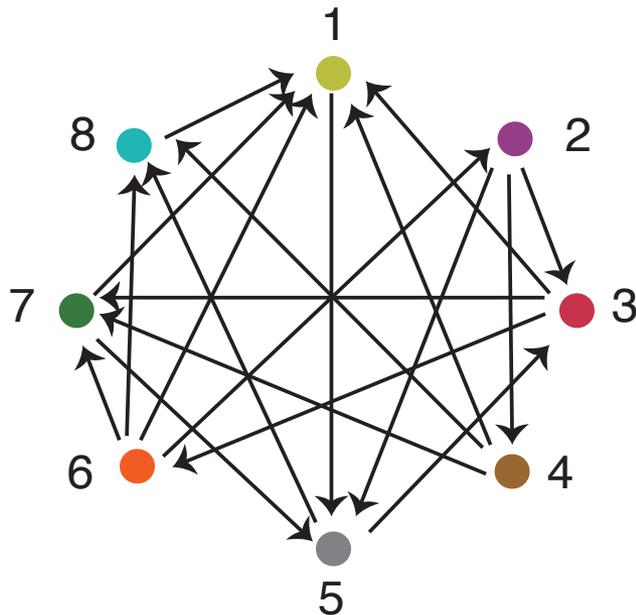


# phone number network



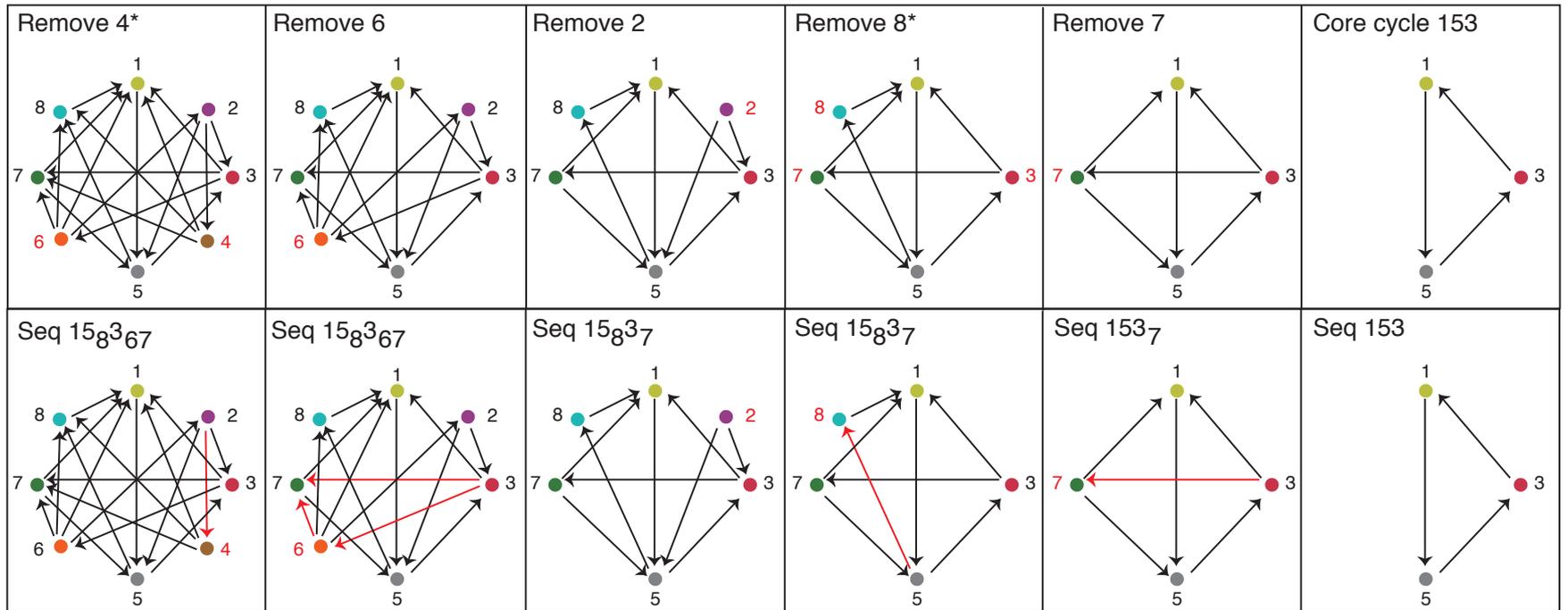
This network has  $m^5$  limit cycles, like the one above.

# Predicting sequences from graph structure



# Predicting sequences from graph structure

Decompose graph  $\longrightarrow$



**Predicted Sequence: 15<sub>8</sub> 3<sub>6</sub>7**

$\longleftarrow$  Reconstruct sequence

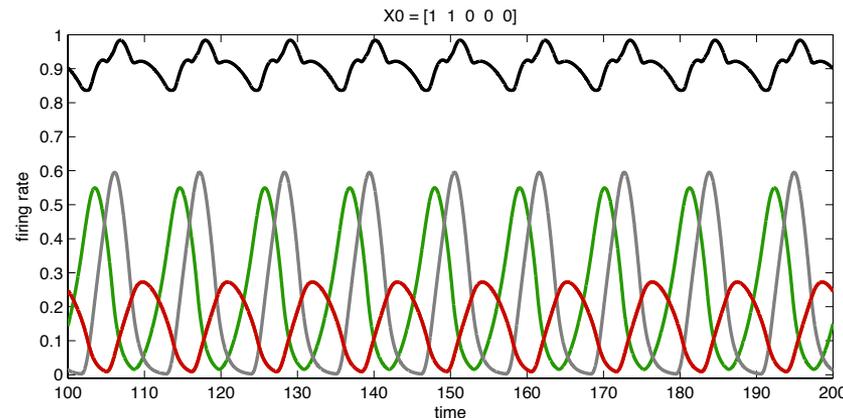
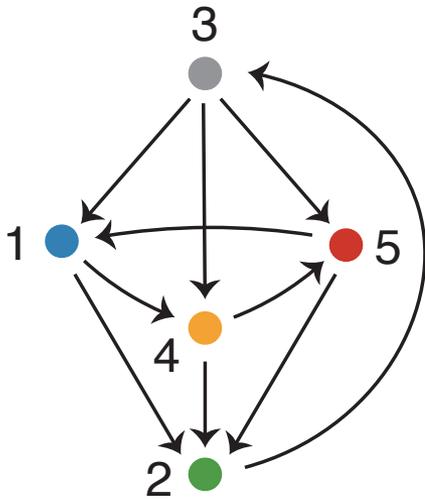
\* indicates choice for nodes. The first choice between nodes 4 & 6 does not affect the sequence. The second choice between 3, 7 & 8 would have resulted in the other observed sequence 15<sub>3</sub>8.

# Algorithm prediction results

Complete analysis of attractors of the **160** non-isomorphic graphs on  $n \leq 5$  neurons that are oriented with no sinks.

Algorithm correctly predicts the set of sequences of attractors for **156 of the 160** graphs.

Algorithm failure: unexpected synchrony – neurons 1,4,5 fire synchronously



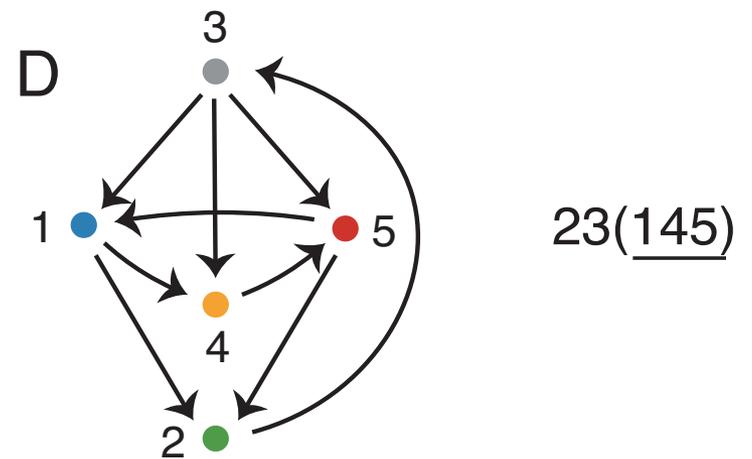
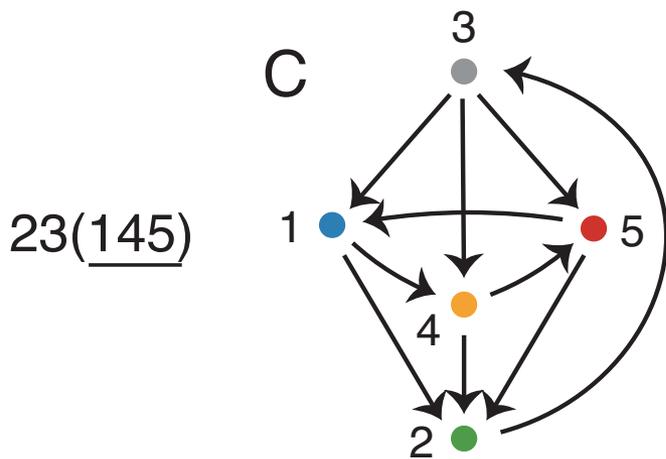
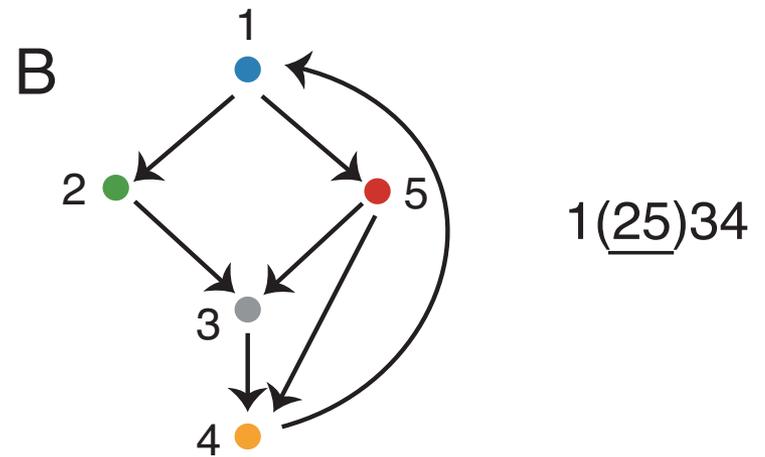
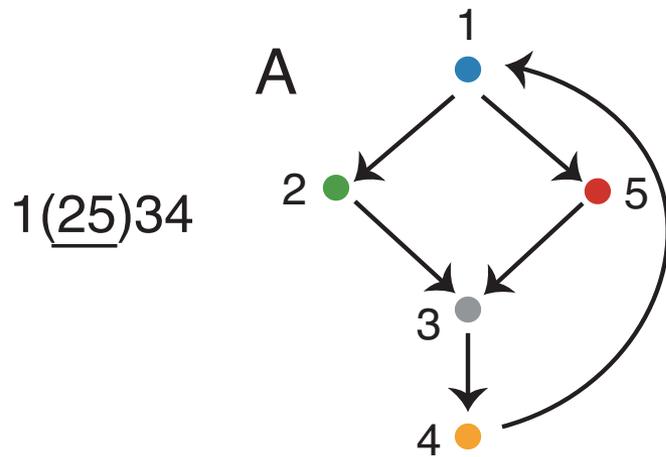
Algorithm output:

123  $\rightarrow$  1<sub>5</sub>23<sub>4</sub>

234  $\rightarrow$  23<sub>5</sub>4<sub>1</sub>

154  $\rightarrow$  1<sub>2</sub>54

# Algorithm failures and graph automorphisms



# References

## CTLN project website

<http://sites.psu.edu/mathneurolab/ctln/>

**Fixed points of threshold-linear networks**

Carina Curto, Jesse Geneson, Katherine Morrison

**contains  
proofs!**

**Predicting neural network dynamics via graphical analysis**

Katherine Morrison and Carina Curto

**book chapter/  
primer**

**Diversity of emergent dynamics in competitive threshold-linear networks:  
a preliminary report** Katherine Morrison<sup>1,2</sup>, Anda Degeratu<sup>3</sup>, Vladimir Itskov<sup>1</sup> & Carina Curto<sup>1</sup>

## In Prep

**Predicting emergent sequences from network connectivity**

Katherine Morrison, Caitlyn Parmelee, Samantha Moore, Carina Curto

# Thanks!

$$\tilde{W} = -I + W$$

Defn:  $k \succ_{\sigma} j$  if  $\sum_{i \in \sigma} \tilde{W}_{ki} |s_i^{\sigma}| > \sum_{i \in \sigma} \tilde{W}_{ji} |s_i^{\sigma}|$

Comb. dom.  $k \succ_{\sigma} j$  if  $\sigma \cap \{j, k\} \neq \emptyset$  and  $Z(j)$

(1)  $i \rightarrow j \Rightarrow i \rightarrow k \quad \forall i \in \sigma \cap \{j, k\}$

(2)  $j \rightarrow k$  if  $j \in \sigma$

(3)  $k \rightarrow j$  if  $k \in \sigma$ .

Thm.  $\sigma \in \text{FP}(G) \Leftrightarrow$  (i)  $\sigma$  is dom-free, and  
(ii) for each  $k \notin \sigma$ ,  $\exists j \in \sigma$   
s.t.  $j \succ_{\sigma} k$

Cor: If  $\sigma \in \text{FP}(G)$ , then  $Z(j) = Z(k) \quad \forall j, k \in \sigma$ .

## Symmetric

Claim

If  $j, k$  receive the same inputs from  $\sigma \cap \{j, k\}$  and either  $j \leftrightarrow k$  or  $j, k$  not connected then  $S_j^{\sigma} = S_k^{\sigma}$ , and thus  $|S_j^{\sigma}| = |S_k^{\sigma}|$ .

If  $j, k \in \sigma$  s.t.  $j \rightarrow k$  or  $k \rightarrow j$  receive same inputs from rest of graph,  $S_j^{\sigma} = S_k^{\sigma} = S_c^{\sigma}$ .

General Claim: If  $\tau \subseteq \sigma$  is a subgraph of uniform in-degree, and the inputs to  $\tau$  from  $\sigma \setminus \tau$  are all the same (i.e., if  $i \in \sigma \setminus \tau$  then  $i \rightarrow j \forall j \in \tau$  or  $i \rightarrow j \forall j \in \tau$ ), then  $S_j^{\sigma} = S_k^{\sigma} \quad \forall j, k \in \tau$ .

## main contributors to this work:

Katie Morrison (U. of Northern Colorado)

Jesse Geneson (postdoc @ Penn State)

Chris Langdon (postdoc @ Penn State)

Caitlyn Parmelee (Keene State College)

## some other collaborators:

Anda Degeratu (Stuttgart)

Vladimir Itskov (Penn State)

Eva Pastalkova

David Rolnick (MIT)



National Institutes of Health



Funding: NIH R01 EB022862, NSF DMS 1516881

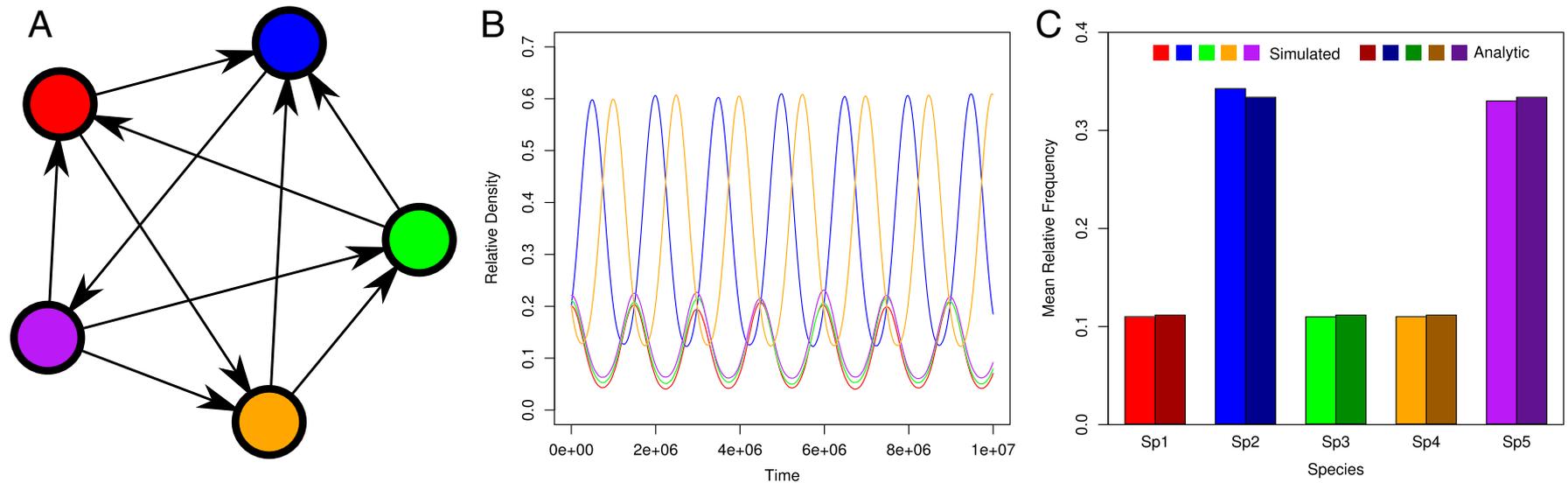


# A competitive network theory of species diversity

Stefano Allesina<sup>a,1</sup> and Jonathan M. Levine<sup>b</sup>

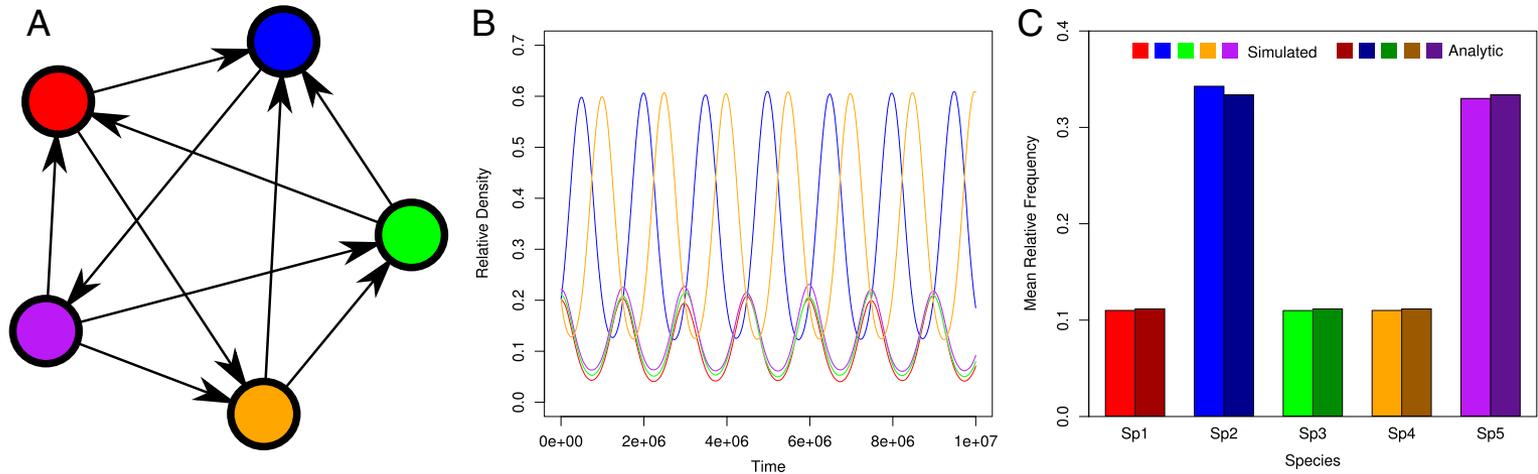
<sup>a</sup>Department of Ecology and Evolution, Computation Institute, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL 60637; and <sup>b</sup>Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Marine Biology, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA 93106

5638–5642 | PNAS | April 5, 2011 | vol. 108 | no. 14



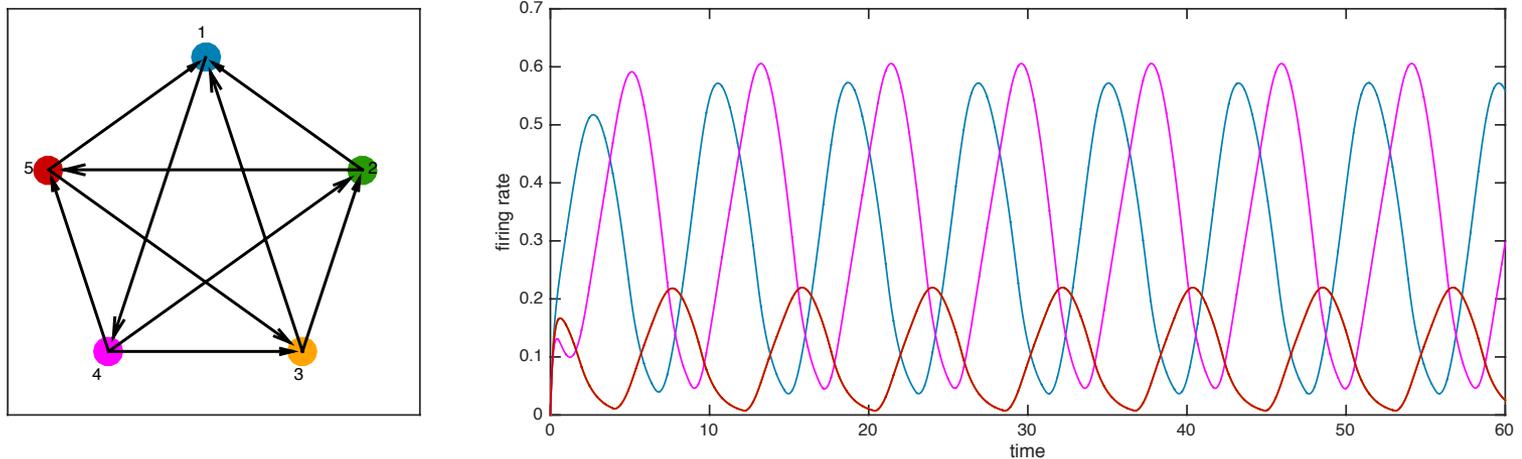
**Fig. 1.** (A) Species' competitive abilities can be represented in a tournament in which we draw an arrow from the inferior to the superior competitor for all species pairs. A tournament is a directed graph composed by  $n$  nodes (the species) connected by  $n(n-1)/2$  edges (arrows). (B) Simulations of the dynamics for the tournament. The simulation begins with 25,000 individuals assigned to species at random (with equal probability per species). At each time step, we pick two individuals at random and allow the superior to replace the individual of the inferior. We repeat these competitions  $10^7$  times, which generates relative species abundances that oscillate around a characteristic value (*SI Text*). (C) The average simulated density of each species from B (shown in lighter bars) almost exactly matches the analytic result obtained using linear programming (shown in darker bars).

# Discrete species competition model



**Fig. 1.** (A) Species' competitive abilities can be represented in a tournament in which we draw an arrow from the inferior to the superior competitor for all species pairs. A tournament is a directed graph composed by  $n$  nodes (the species) connected by  $n(n-1)/2$  edges (arrows). (B) Simulations of the dynamics for the tournament. The simulation begins with 25,000 individuals assigned to species at random (with equal probability per species). At each time step, we pick two individuals at random and allow the superior to replace the individual of the inferior. We repeat these competitions  $10^7$  times, which generates relative species abundances that oscillate around a characteristic value (SI Text). (C) The average simulated density of each species from B (shown in lighter bars) almost exactly matches the analytic result obtained using linear programming (shown in darker bars).

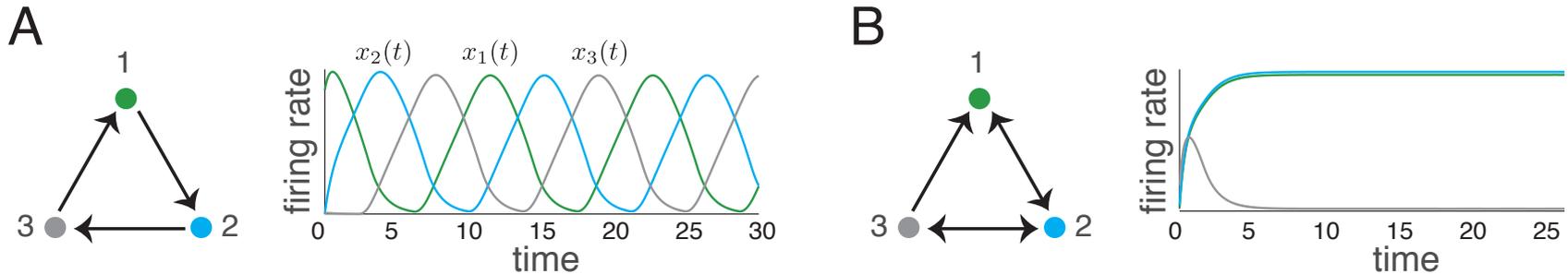
# The CTLN model



# Early facts about **stable** fixed points

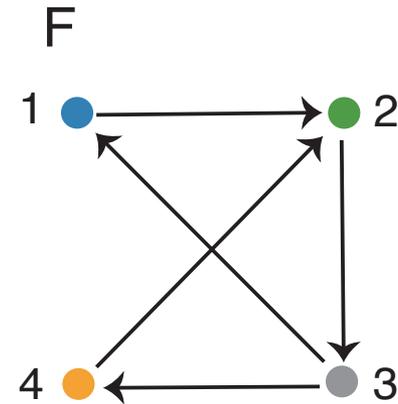
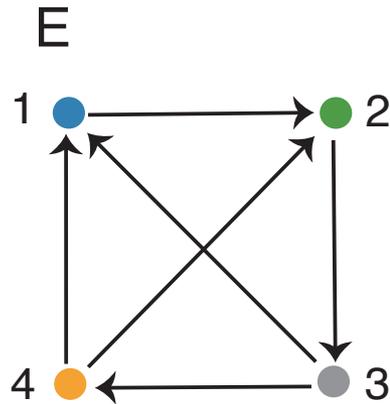
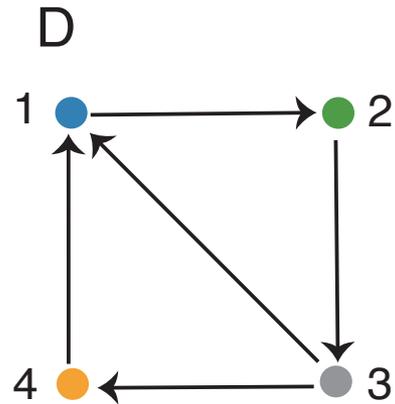
Thm 1. If  $G$  is an oriented graph with no sinks, then the network has no stable fixed points (but bounded activity).

Thm 2. For any  $G$ , a clique is the support of a stable fixed point if and only if it is a target-free clique.



# Some things we learned...

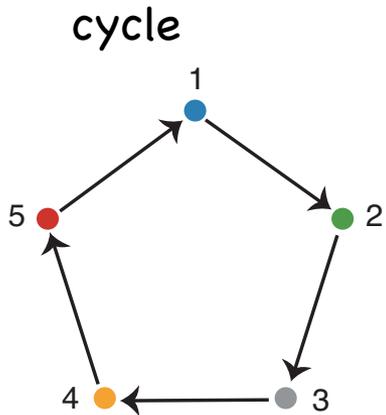
1. **3-cycles** supporting (unstable) fixed points yield attractors, while others do not.



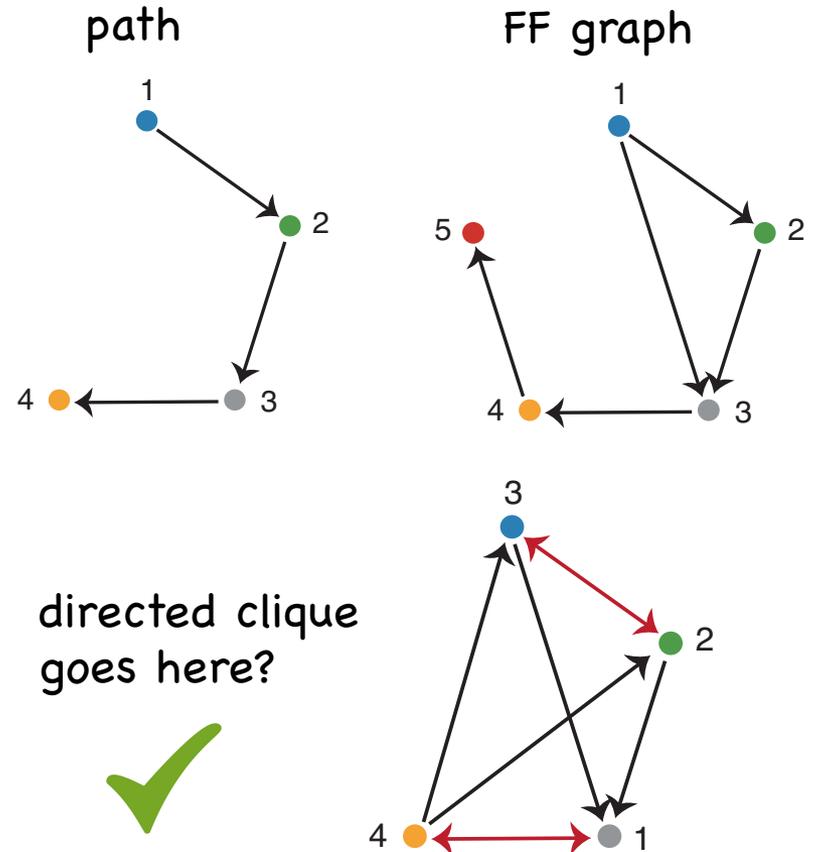
234 does not have a fixed point - nor a corresponding limit cycle!

# Recurrent vs. feedforward architecture

## Recurrent motifs (attractors)

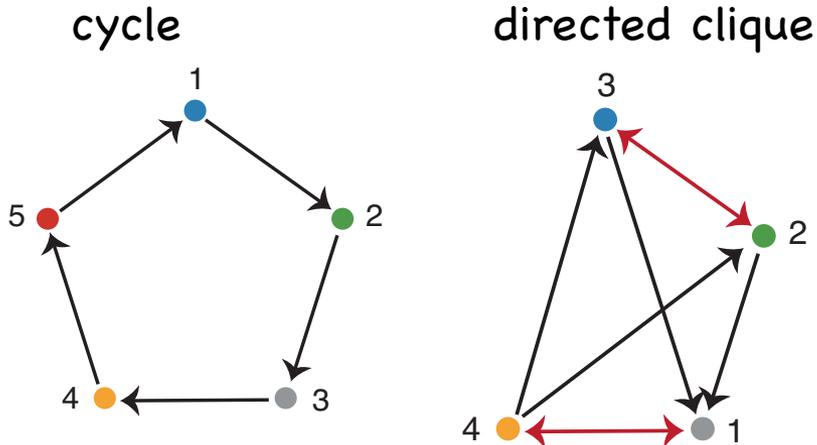


## Feedforward motifs (FF flow of information)



# Recurrent vs. feedforward architecture

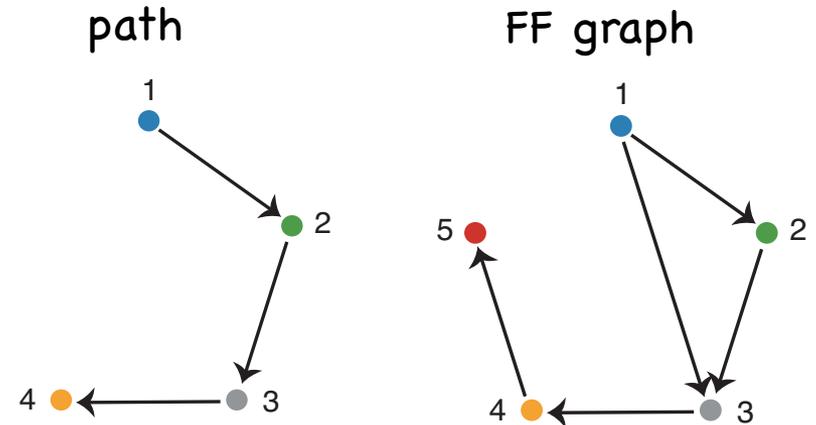
## Recurrent motifs (attractors)



directed clique: there exists an ordering on the nodes such that

$$i \rightarrow j \text{ if } i > j$$

## Feedforward motifs (FF flow of information)



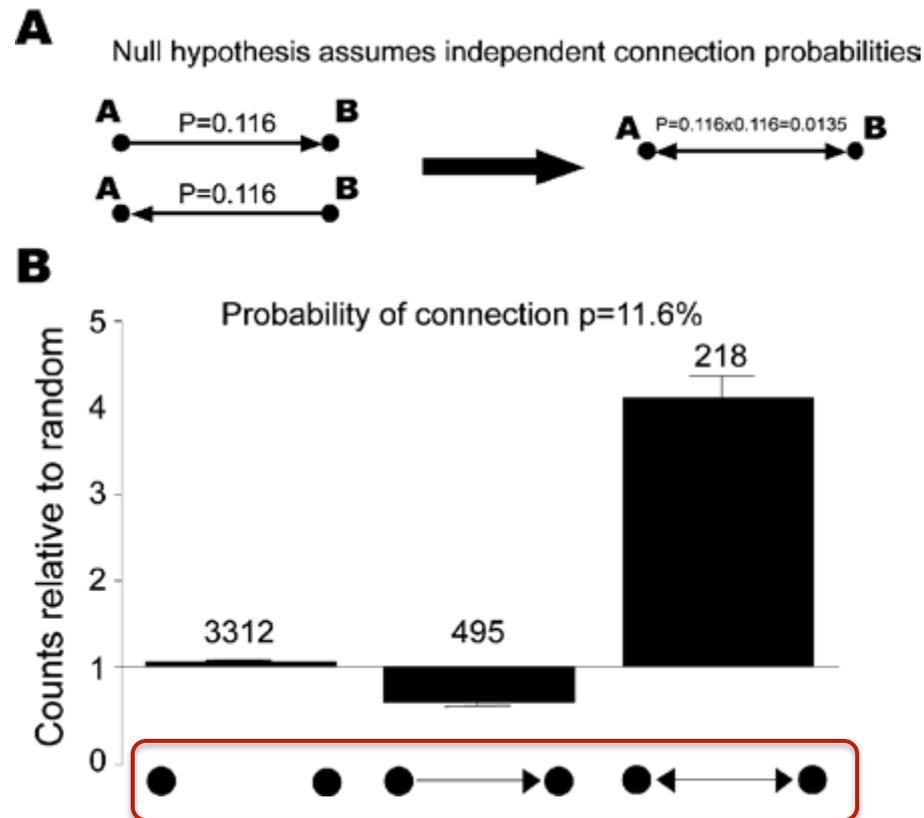
feedforward graph: there exists an ordering on the nodes such that

$$i \not\rightarrow j \text{ if } i > j$$

# Highly Nonrandom Features of Synaptic Connectivity in Local Cortical Circuits

Sen Song<sup>1</sup>, Per Jesper Sjöström<sup>2,3</sup>, Markus Reigl<sup>1</sup>, Sacha Nelson<sup>2</sup>, Dmitri B. Chklovskii<sup>1\*</sup>

- local cortical circuits
- layer 5 pyramidal neurons
- rat visual cortex
- simultaneous quadruple whole-cell recordings

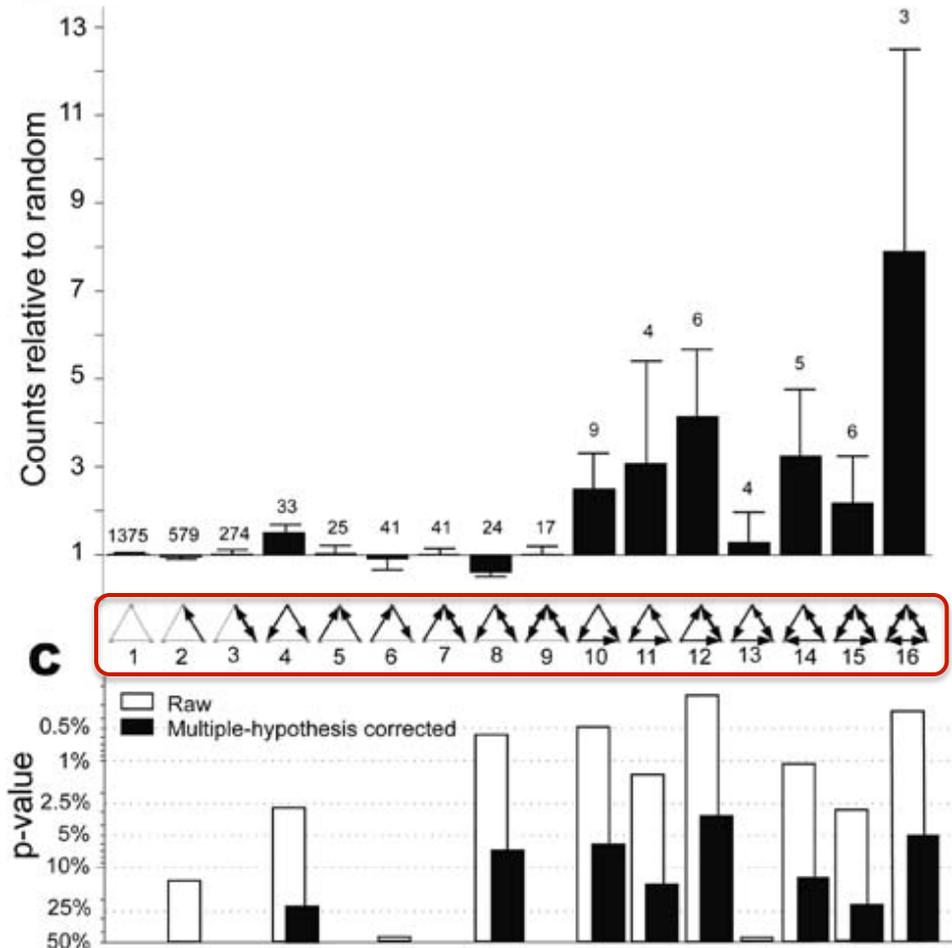


**Figure 2.** Two-Neuron Connectivity Patterns Are Nonrandom

# Highly Nonrandom Features of Synaptic Connectivity in Local Cortical Circuits

Sen Song<sup>1</sup>, Per Jesper Sjöström<sup>2,3</sup>, Markus Reigl<sup>1</sup>, Sacha Nelson<sup>2</sup>, Dmitri B. Chklovskii<sup>1\*</sup>

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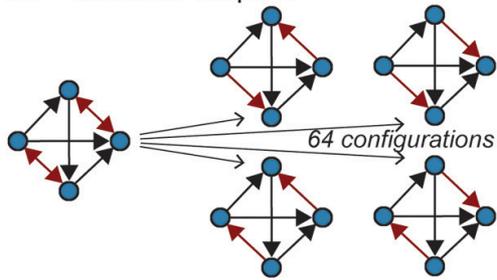


**Figure 4.** Several Three-Neuron Patterns Are Overrepresented as Compared to the Random Network

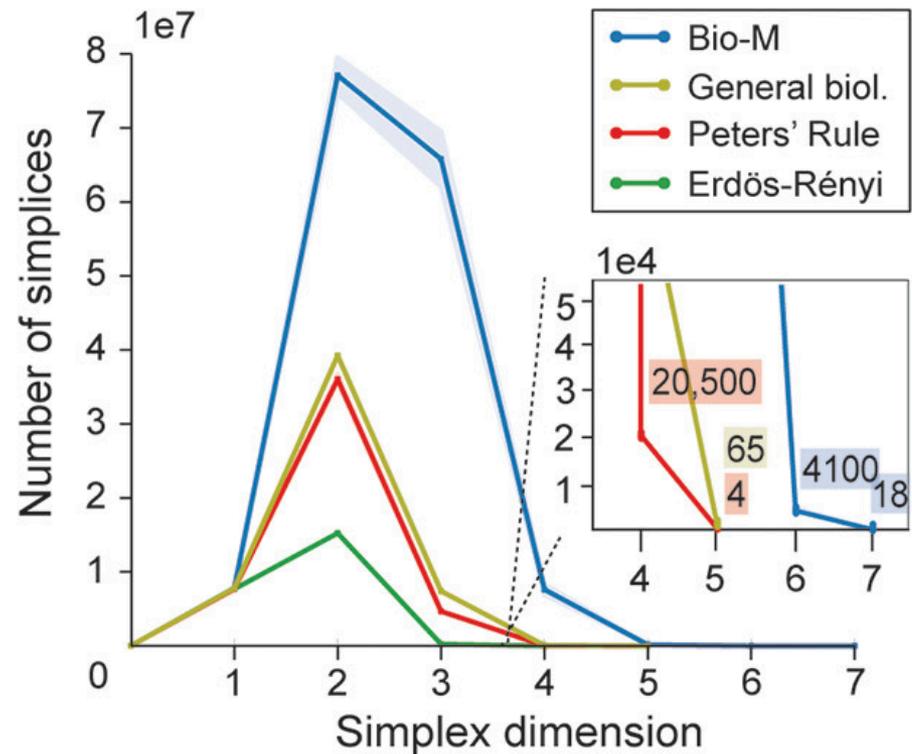
# Cliques of Neurons Bound into Cavities Provide a Missing Link between Structure and Function

Michael W. Reimann<sup>1†</sup>, Max Nolte<sup>1†</sup>, Martina Scolamiero<sup>2</sup>, Katharine Turner<sup>2</sup>, Rodrigo Perin<sup>3</sup>, Giuseppe Chindemi<sup>1</sup>, Paweł Dłotko<sup>4‡</sup>, Ran Levi<sup>5‡</sup>, Kathryn Hess<sup>2\*\*</sup> and Henry Markram<sup>1,3\*\*</sup>

**A2** Directed Cliques



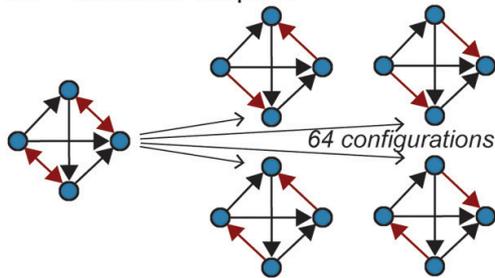
**B** Directed simplices



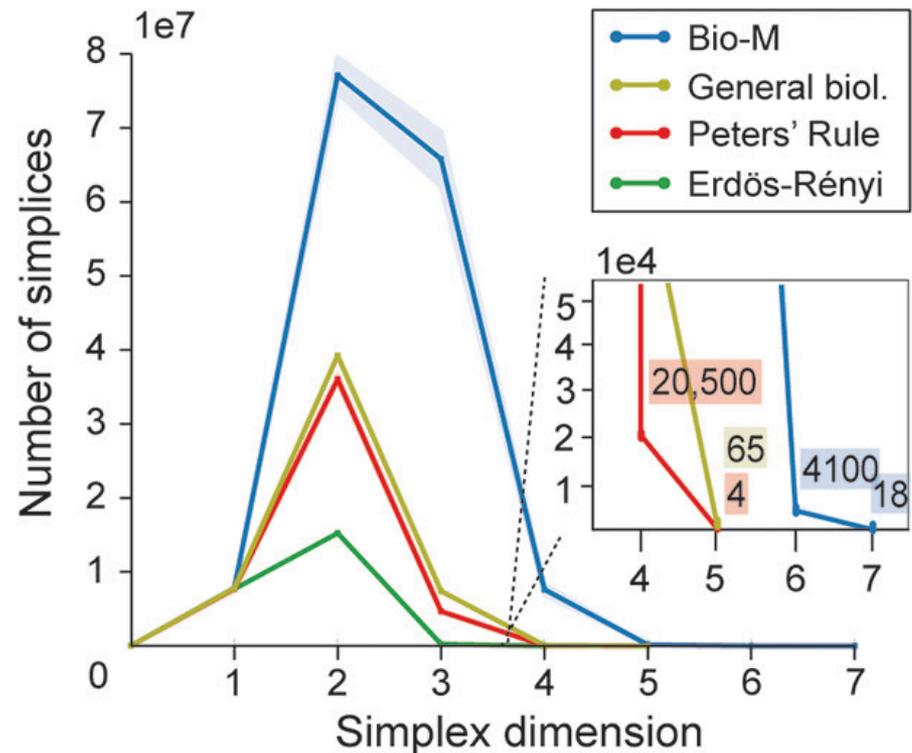
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**A2** Directed Cliques



**B** Directed simplices

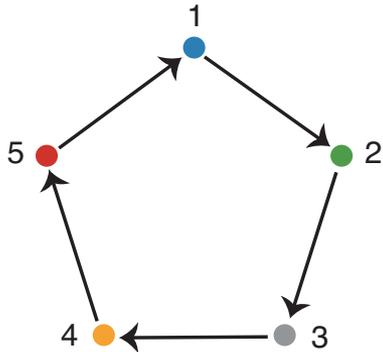


**Directed cliques** associated with “feedforward” flow of information!

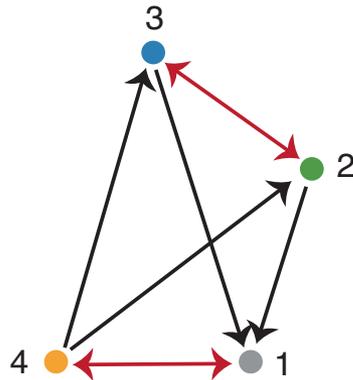
# Recurrent vs. feedforward architecture

## Recurrent motifs (attractors)

cycle



directed clique

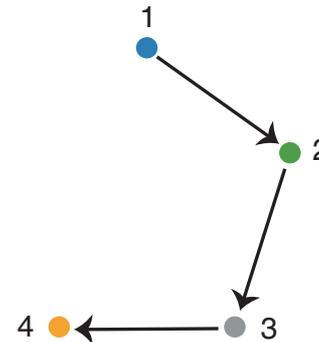


directed clique: there exists an ordering on the nodes such that

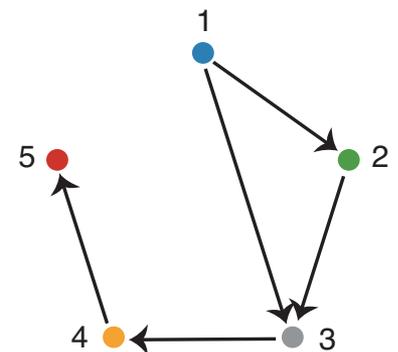
$$i \rightarrow j \text{ if } i > j$$

## Feedforward motifs (FF flow of information)

path



FF graph

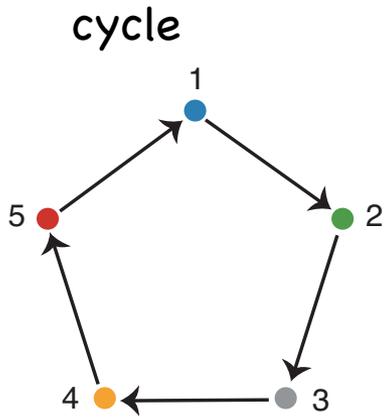


feedforward graph: there exists an ordering on the nodes such that

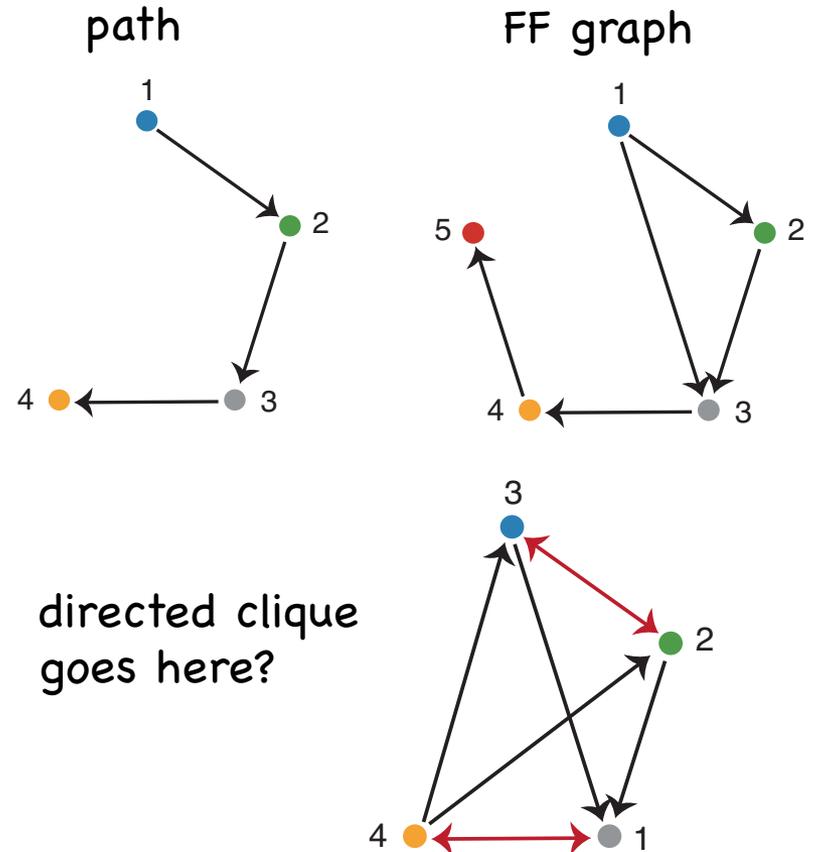
$$i \not\rightarrow j \text{ if } i > j$$

# Recurrent vs. feedforward architecture

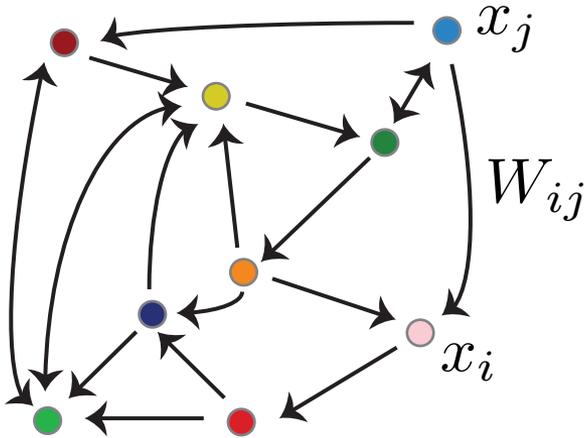
## Recurrent motifs (attractors)



## Feedforward motifs (FF flow of information)



# Fixed points/steady states/equilibria



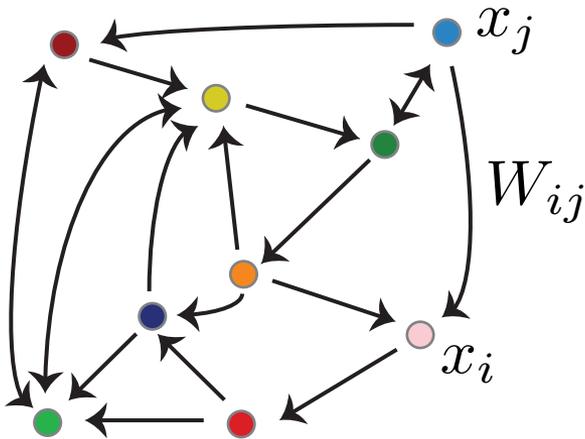
**Fixed points:**

set  $dx_i/dt = 0$  for each  $i \in [n]$

$$\frac{dx_i}{dt} = -x_i + \left[ \sum_{j=1}^n W_{ij} x_j + \theta \right]_+$$

Fixed points arise when linear fixed points lie in the “correct” chamber of the **hyperplane arrangement**.

# Fixed points/steady states/equilibria



**Fixed points:**

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Fixed points arise when linear fixed points lie in the “correct” chamber of the **hyperplane arrangement**.

There is at most one fixed point per **support** (subset of neurons):

$$\text{supp}(x) = \{i \in [n] \mid x_i > 0\}$$

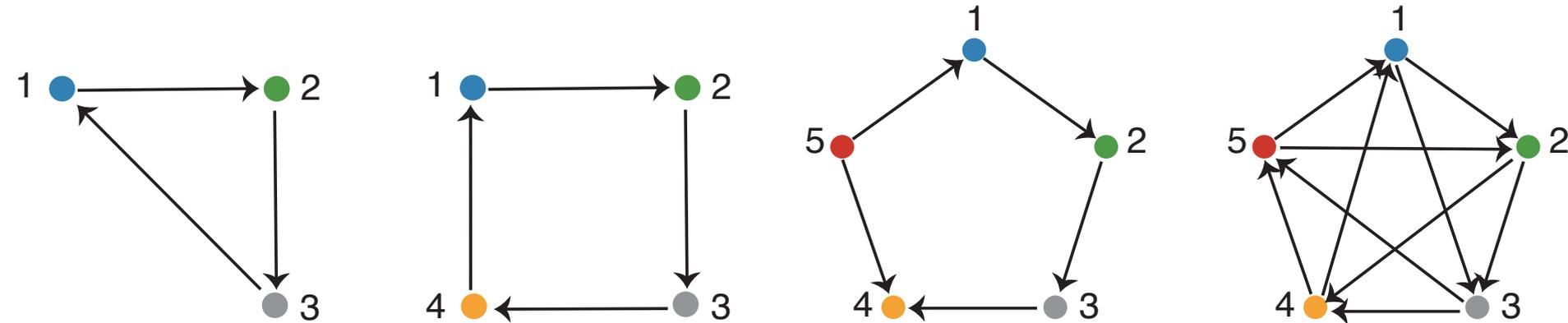
## V. Predicting emergent sequences

# Sequence prediction algorithm

1. Remove the node with **lowest in-degree** that does **not** create a sink or remove the only target of a targeted 3-cycle. When there are multiple choices **track all possible options**.

Repeat Step 1 until no more nodes can be removed.

This typically yields a **core cycle(s)**. The core cycle gives the **high-firing neurons** in the sequence.



example core cycles

# Sequence prediction algorithm

1. Remove the node with **lowest in-degree** that does **not** create a sink or remove the only target of a targeted 3-cycle. When there are multiple choices **track all possible options**.

Repeat Step 1 until no more nodes can be removed.

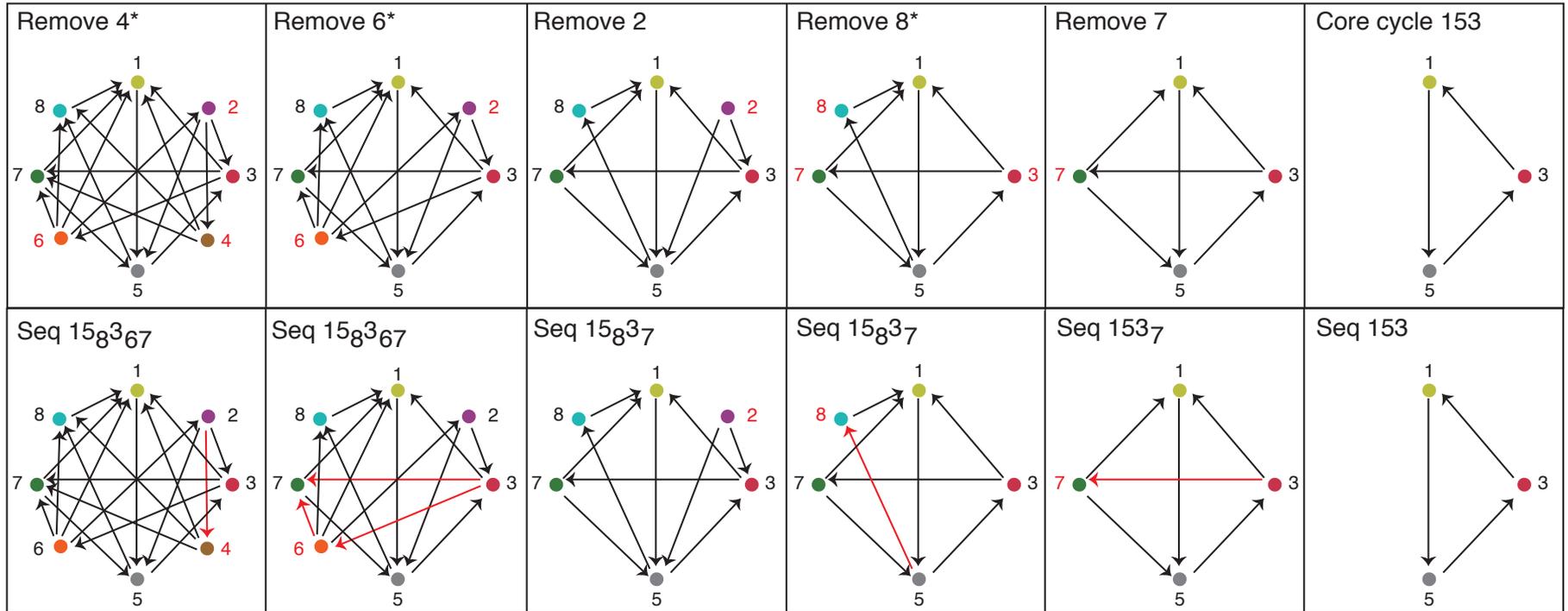
This typically yields a **core cycle(s)**. The core cycle gives the **high-firing neurons** in the sequence.

2. For each choice of removed nodes, re-insert nodes into the sequence if they **receive input from the core cycle** and insert them after the input node. These are **low-firing neurons**.

If two nodes  $i$  and  $j$  are to be inserted in the same place, check how they interact. If  $i \rightarrow j$ , then insert  $i$  before  $j$  (or vice versa). If there is no edge, then  $i$  and  $j$  will **fire synchronously** as  $(ij)$ .

# Sequence prediction algorithm

Decompose graph  $\longrightarrow$



**Predicted Sequence: 15g3<sub>6</sub>7**

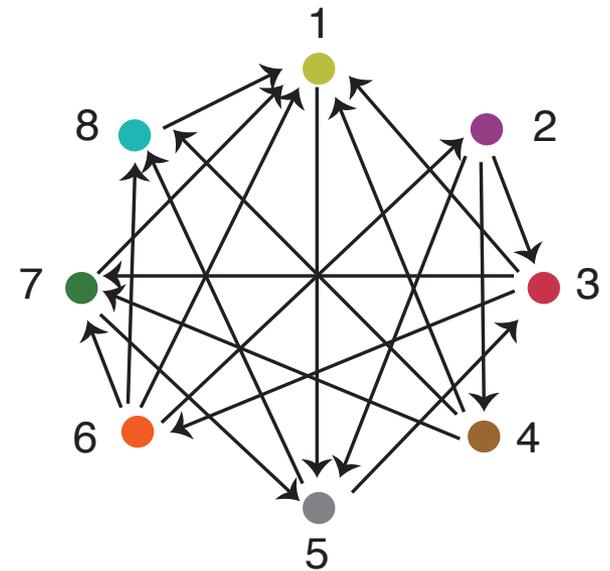
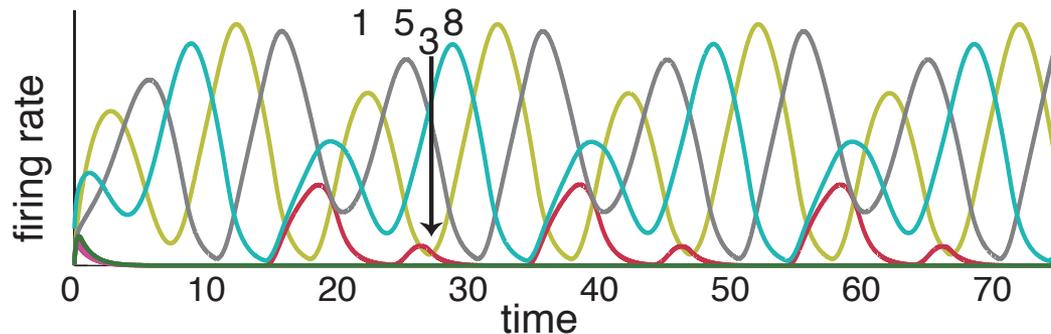
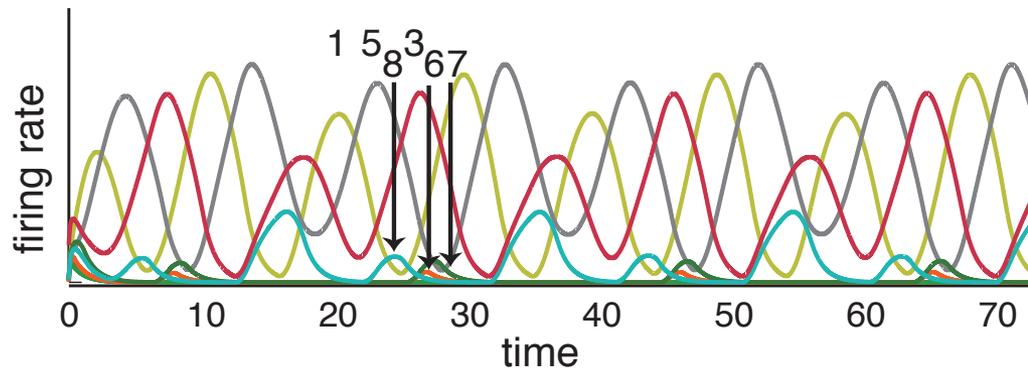
$\longleftarrow$  Reconstruct sequence

\* indicates choice for nodes. The first choice between nodes 4 & 6 does not affect the sequence. The second choice between 3, 7 & 8 would have resulted in another predicted sequence 15<sub>3</sub>8.

Predicted sequences: 15g3<sub>6</sub>7 and 15<sub>3</sub>8

# Sequence prediction algorithm

Predicted sequences:  $15_83_{67}$  and  $15_38$

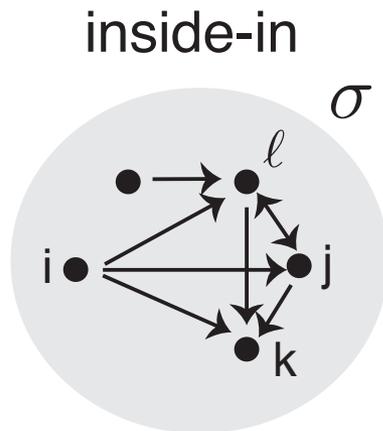


Only two attractors observed –  
sequences precisely match those predicted by algorithm!

# Domination

Definition: Given a subset  $\sigma \subseteq [n]$  and  $j \neq k$ , with both  $j \in \sigma$  and  $k \in \sigma$ , we say **k dominates j** with respect to  $\sigma$  if

1. For all  $i \in \sigma$ , if  $i \rightarrow j$  then  $i \rightarrow k$
2.  $j \rightarrow k$  and  $k \not\rightarrow j$



**k dominates j**

k does not dominate l

**j, k, l each dominate i** (because i is a source)

Thm: If there is domination inside  $\sigma$  then  $\sigma$  cannot be a fixed pt support.

# Subsets with uniform in-degree

Definition: A subset  $\sigma \subseteq [n]$  has **uniform in-degree  $d$**  if all nodes have in-degree  $d$  in the induced subgraph  $G|_\sigma$

