

Chaotic Contagion: The Idealized Hipster Effect

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Principles of Complex Systems, Vols. 1, 2, & 3D
CSYS/MATH 6701, 6713, & a pretend number,
2023–2024 | @pocsvox

Prof. Peter Sheridan Dodds | @peterdodds

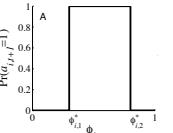
Computational Story Lab | Vermont Complex Systems Center
Santa Fe Institute | University of Vermont



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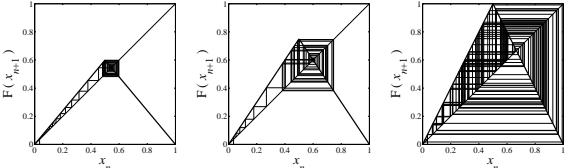
Chaotic contagion:

- ❖ What if individual response functions are not monotonic?
- ❖ Consider a simple deterministic version:
- ❖ Node i has an ‘activation threshold’ $\phi_{i,1}$
...and a ‘de-activation threshold’ $\phi_{i,2}$
- ❖ Nodes like to imitate but only up to a limit—they don’t want to be like everyone else.



The tent map

Effect of increasing r from 1 to 2.

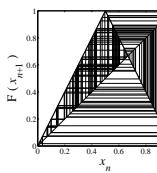


Orbit diagram:

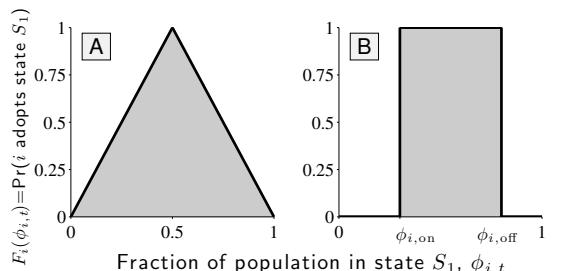
Chaotic behavior increases as map slope r is increased.

Chaotic behavior

Take $r = 2$ case:



- ❖ What happens if nodes have limited information?
- ❖ As before, allow interactions to take place on a sparse random network.
- ❖ Vary average degree $z = \langle k \rangle$, a measure of information



Outline

Chaotic Contagion
Chaos
Invariant densities

References

Chaotic Contagion on Networks:



“Limited Imitation Contagion on random networks: Chaos, universality, and unpredictability”
Dodds, Harris, and Danforth,
Phys. Rev. Lett., **110**, 158701, 2013. [1]



“Dynamical influence processes on networks: General theory and applications to social contagion”
Harris, Danforth, and Dodds,
Phys. Rev. E, **88**, 022816, 2013. [2]

A. Mandel, conference at Urbana-Champaign, 2007:

“If I was a younger man, I would have stolen this from you.”

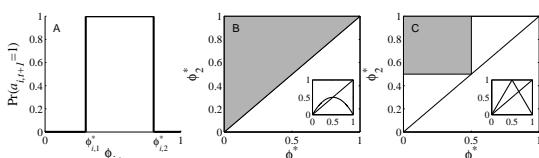
Chaotic contagion

Definition of the tent map:

$$F(x) = \begin{cases} rx & \text{for } 0 \leq x \leq \frac{1}{2}, \\ r(1-x) & \text{for } \frac{1}{2} \leq x \leq 1. \end{cases}$$

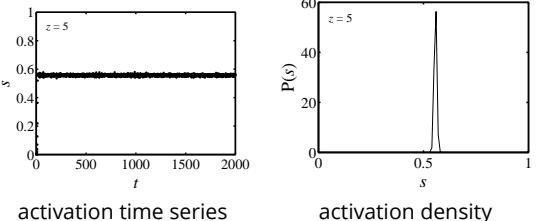
- ❖ The usual business: look at how F iteratively maps the unit interval $[0, 1]$.

Two population examples:



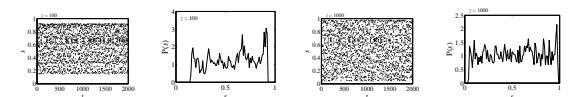
- ❖ Randomly select $(\phi_{i,1}, \phi_{i,2})$ from gray regions shown in plots B and C.
- ❖ Insets show composite response function averaged over population.
- ❖ We’ll consider plot C’s example: the tent map.

Invariant densities—stochastic response functions



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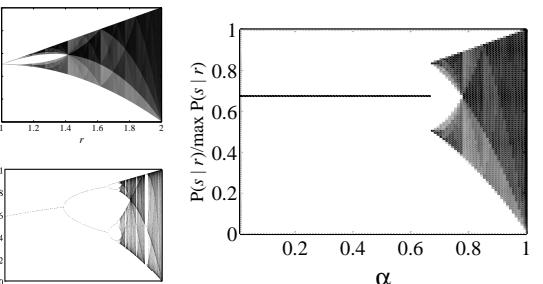
Invariant densities—stochastic response functions



Trying out higher values of $\langle k \rangle$...

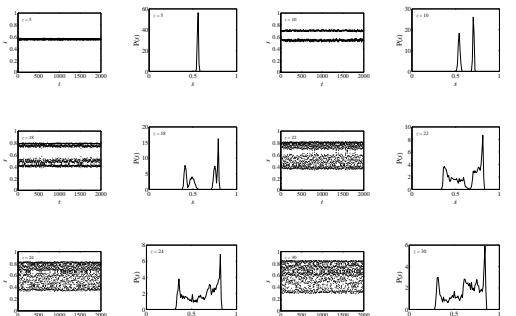
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Bifurcation diagram: Asynchronous updating



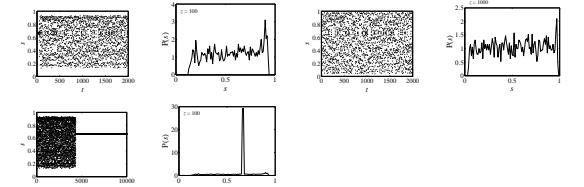
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Invariant densities—stochastic response functions



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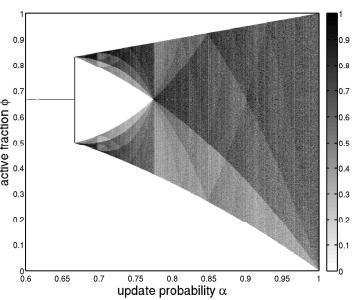
Invariant densities—deterministic response functions



Trying out higher values of $\langle k \rangle$...

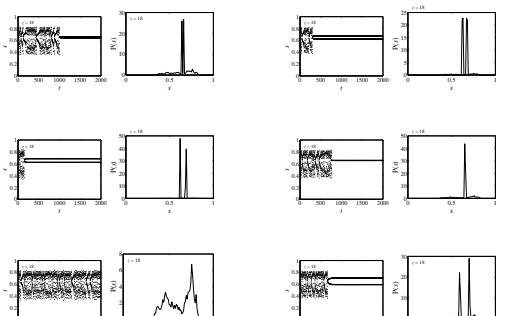
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Bifurcation diagram: Asynchronous updating



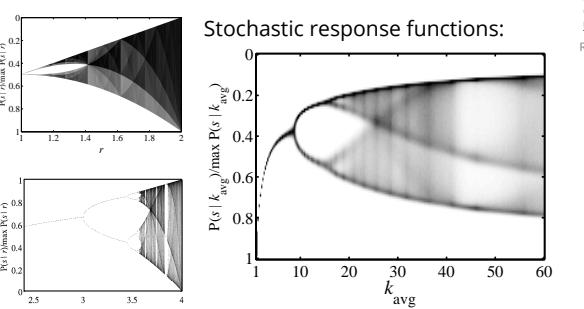
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Invariant densities—deterministic response functions for one specific network with $\langle k \rangle = 18$



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Connectivity leads to chaos:



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[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7JHrZyyq870?rel=0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7JHrZyyq870)

How the bifurcation diagram changes with increasing average degree $\langle k \rangle$ as a function of the synchronicity parameter α for the stochastic response (tent map) case.

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YDhjmFyBSn4?rel=0>

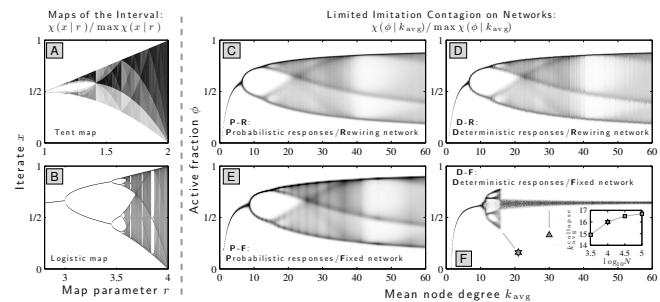
LIC dynamics on a fixed graph with fixed, deterministic response functions. Average degree = 17, update synchronicity parameter $\alpha = 1$. The dynamics exhibit transient chaotic behavior before collapsing to a period-4 orbit.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oWKt8Zj1Ccw?rel=0>

LIC dynamics on a fixed graph with a shared stochastic (tent map) response function. $\langle k \rangle = 30$, update synchronicity parameter $\alpha = 1$. The macroscopic behavior is chaotic.

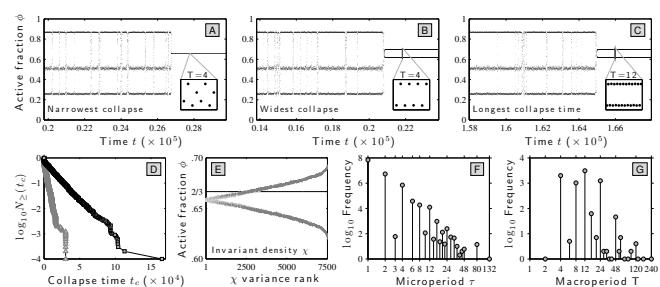
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3bo4fzp4Snw?rel=0>

LIC dynamics on a fixed graph with a shared stochastic (tent map) response function. Average degree = 6, update synchronicity parameter $\alpha = 1$. The macroscopic behavior is period-1, plus noisy fluctuations.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7UCula_ktmw?rel=0

LIC dynamics on a fixed graph with a shared stochastic (tent map) response function. Average degree = 11, update synchronicity parameter $\alpha = 1$. The macroscopic behavior is period-2, plus noisy fluctuations.



References |

- [1] P. S. Dodds, K. D. Harris, and C. M. Danforth.
Limited Imitation Contagion on random networks:
Chaos, universality, and unpredictability.
[Phys. Rev. Lett.](#), 110:158701, 2013. [pdf](#)

- [2] K. D. Harris, C. M. Danforth, and P. S. Dodds.
Dynamical influence processes on networks:
General theory and applications to social
contagion.
[Phys. Rev. E](#), 88:022816, 2013. [pdf](#)