

# 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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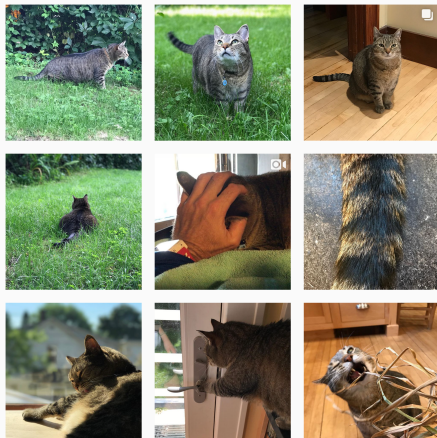
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# Chaotic Contagion on Networks:



"Limited Imitation Contagion on random networks: Chaos, universality, and unpredictability" [↗](#)

Dodds, Harris, and Danforth,  
Phys. Rev. Lett., **110**, 158701, 2013. <sup>[1]</sup>



"Dynamical influence processes on networks: General theory and applications to social contagion" [↗](#)

Harris, Danforth, and Dodds,  
Phys. Rev. E, **88**, 022816, 2013. <sup>[2]</sup>

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

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

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# Chaotic contagion:

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What if individual response functions are not monotonic?



# Chaotic contagion:

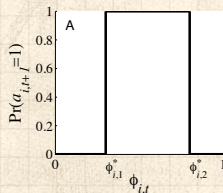
What if individual response functions are not monotonic?

Consider a simple deterministic version:

Node  $i$  has an 'activation threshold'

$$\phi_{i,1}$$

...and a 'de-activation threshold'  $\phi_{i,2}$



# Chaotic contagion:

What if individual response functions are not monotonic?

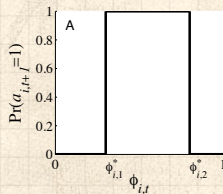
Consider a simple deterministic version:

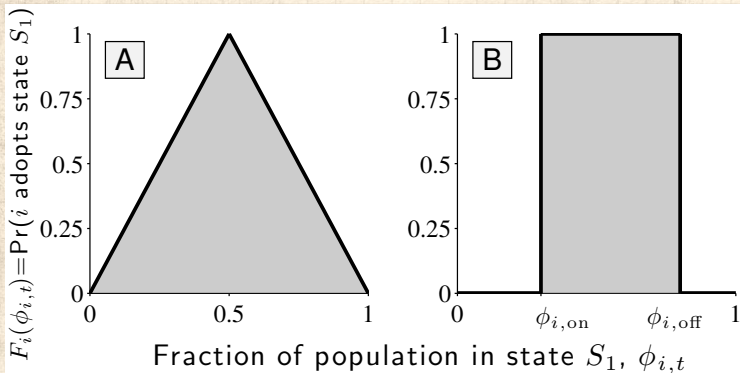
Node  $i$  has an 'activation threshold'

$$\phi_{i,1}$$

...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.





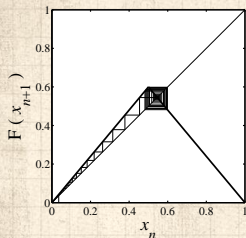
## Definition of the tent map:

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

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

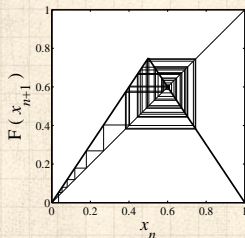
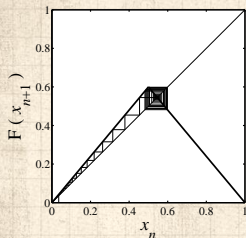
# The tent map

Effect of increasing  $r$  from 1 to 2.



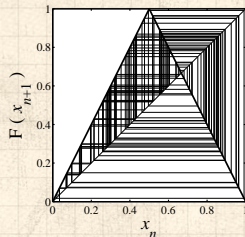
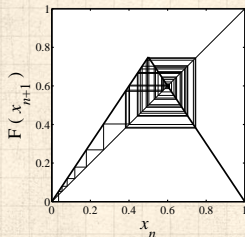
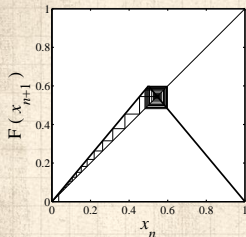
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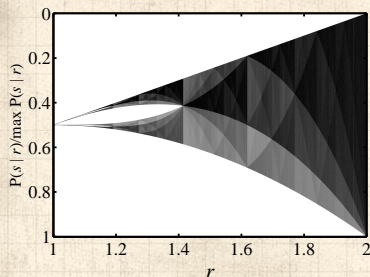
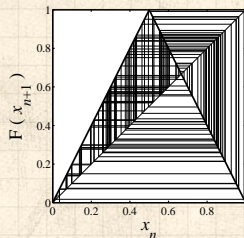
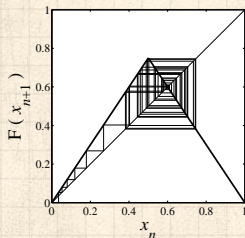
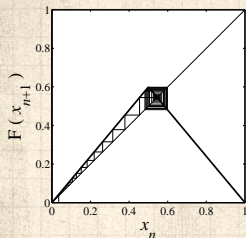
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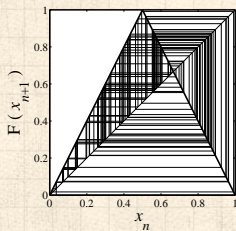
Orbit diagram:

Chaotic behavior increases  
as map slope  $r$  is  
increased.



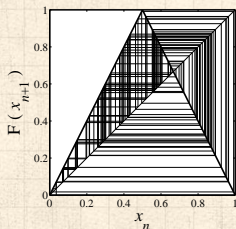
# Chaotic behavior

Take  $r = 2$  case:



# Chaotic behavior

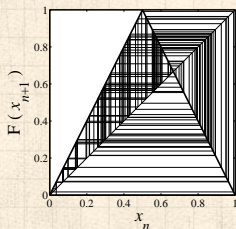
Take  $r = 2$  case:



What happens if nodes have limited information?

# Chaotic behavior

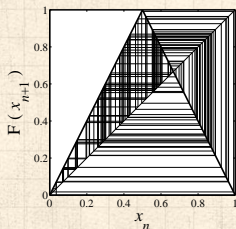
Take  $r = 2$  case:



- What happens if nodes have limited information?
- As before, allow interactions to take place on a sparse random network.

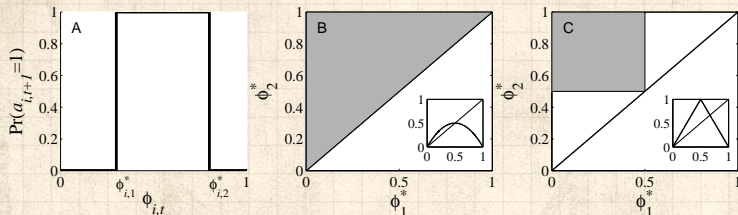
# Chaotic behavior


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

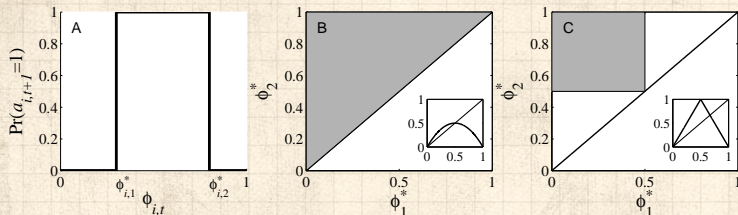
# Two population examples:



 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.

# 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](#).

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# Invariant densities—stochastic response functions

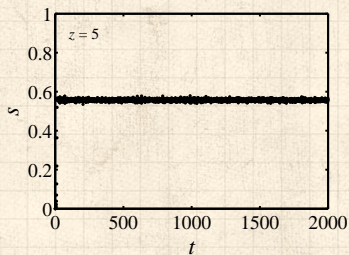
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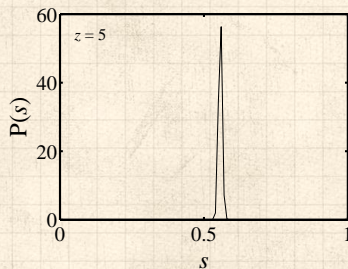
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activation time series



activation density



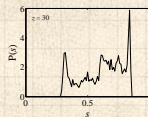
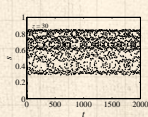
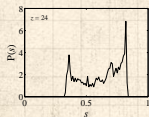
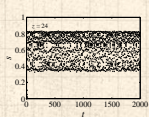
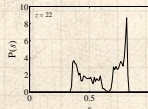
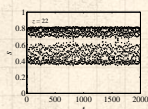
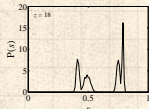
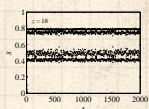
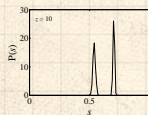
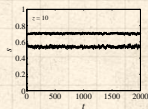
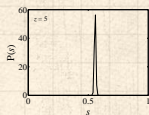
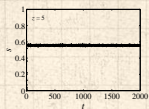
# Invariant densities—stochastic response functions

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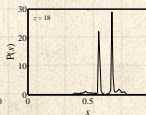
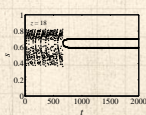
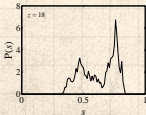
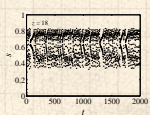
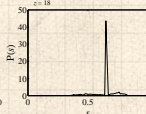
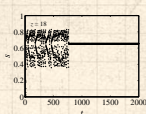
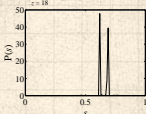
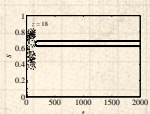
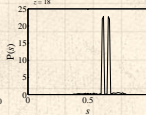
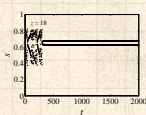
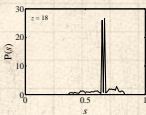
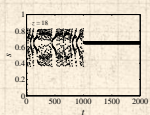
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# Invariant densities—deterministic response functions for one specific network with $\langle k \rangle = 18$



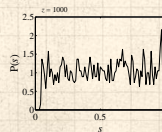
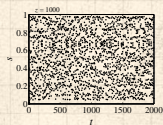
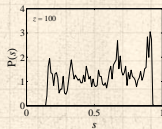
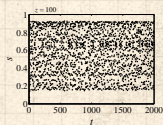
# Invariant densities—stochastic response functions

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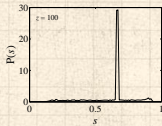
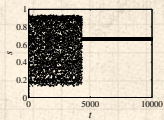
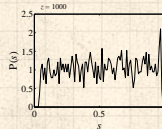
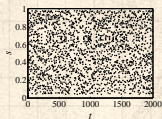
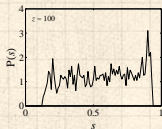
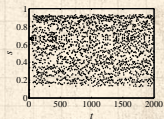
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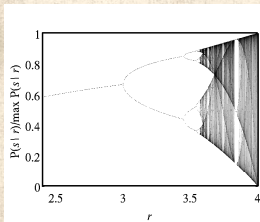
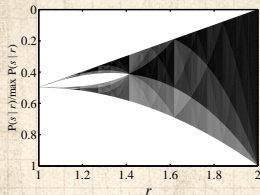
Trying out higher values of  $\langle k \rangle$ ...

# Invariant densities—deterministic response functions

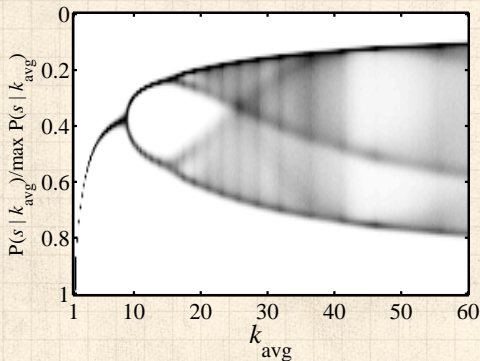


Trying out higher values of  $\langle k \rangle$ ...

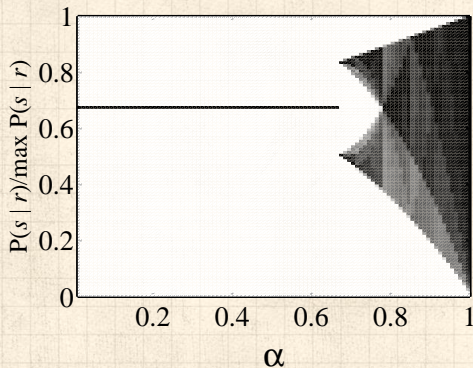
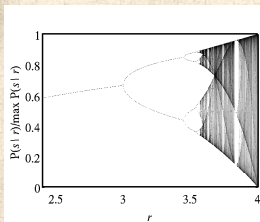
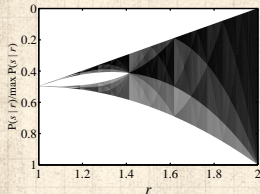
# Connectivity leads to chaos:



## Stochastic response functions:



# Bifurcation diagram: Asynchronous updating



# Bifurcation diagram: Asynchronous updating

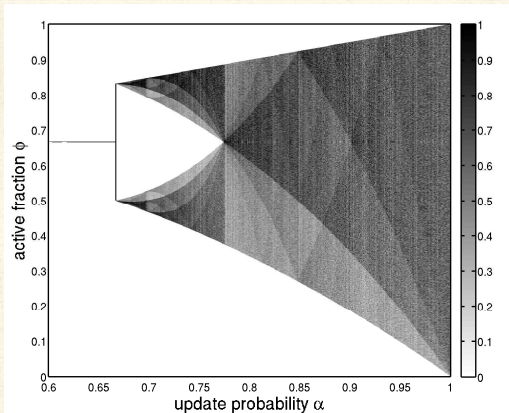



FIG. 3. Bifurcation diagram for the dense map  $\Phi(\phi; \alpha)$ , Eqn. (18). This was generated by iterating the map at 1000  $\alpha$  values between 0 and 1. The iteration was carried out with 3 random initial conditions for 10000 time steps each, discarding the first 1000. The  $\phi$ -axis contains 1000 bins and the invariant density, shown by the grayscale value, is normalized by the maximum for each  $\alpha$ . With  $\alpha < 2/3$ , all trajectories go to the fixed point at  $\phi = 2/3$ .


<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7JHrZyyq870?rel=0>


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





[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_zwK6polBvc?rel=0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_zwK6polBvc?rel=0) 

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


<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](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.

<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=AfhUlklOiOU?rel=0> 

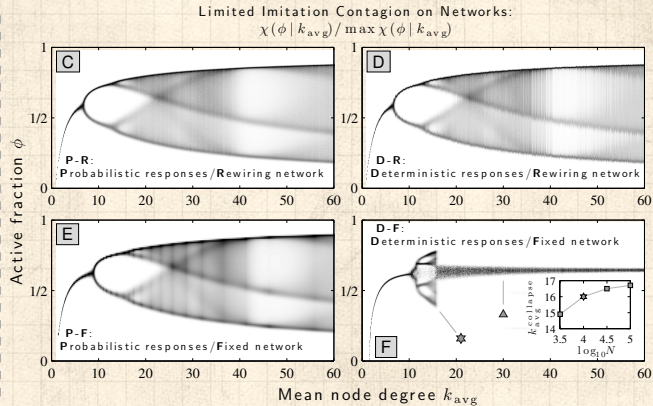
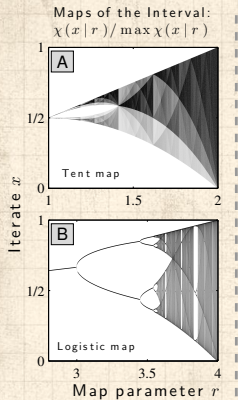
LIC dynamics on a fixed graph with fixed, deterministic response functions. Average degree = 30, update synchronicity parameter  $\alpha = 1$ . Shown are nodes which continue changing (703/1000) after the transient chaotic behavior has "collapsed."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZwY0hTstj2M?rel=0> 

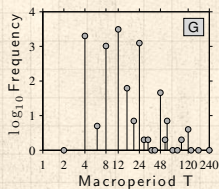
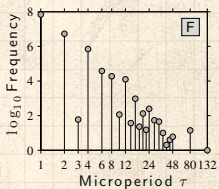
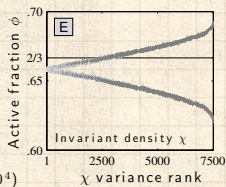
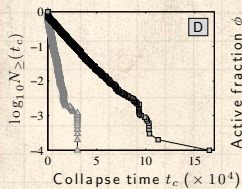
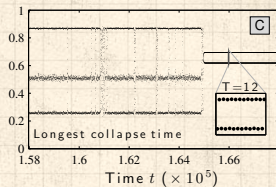
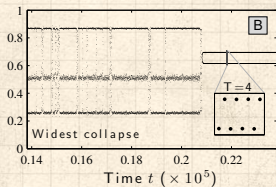
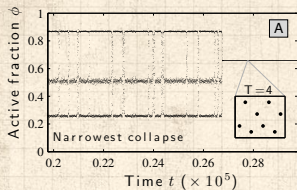
LIC dynamics on a fixed graph with fixed, deterministic response functions. Average degree = 30, update synchronicity parameter  $\alpha = 1$ . The dynamics exhibit transient chaotic behavior before collapsing to a fixed point.


<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.







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