

What are complex systems and what techniques can we use to analyze them?

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Outline

- Complex systems and data analysis
- Ordinal analysis: Lasers and neurons and climate data
- Hilbert analysis: Climate data
- Causal inference: Synthetic and climate data
- Regime transitions: laser, EEG and vegetation data
- Network analysis: Retina fundus images
- Take home messages

The Nobel Prize in Physics 2021

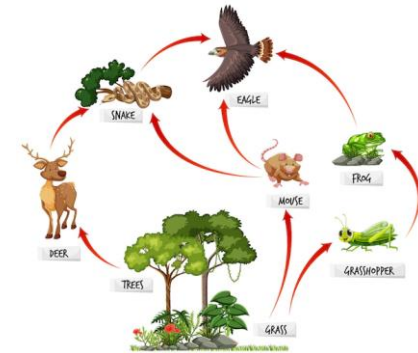
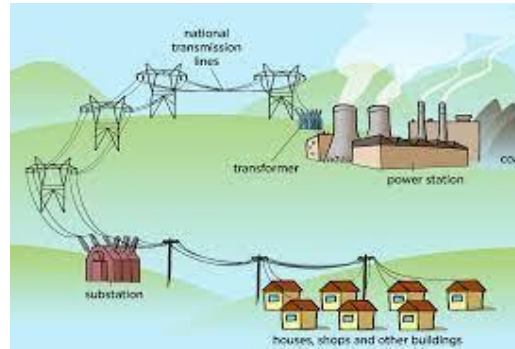
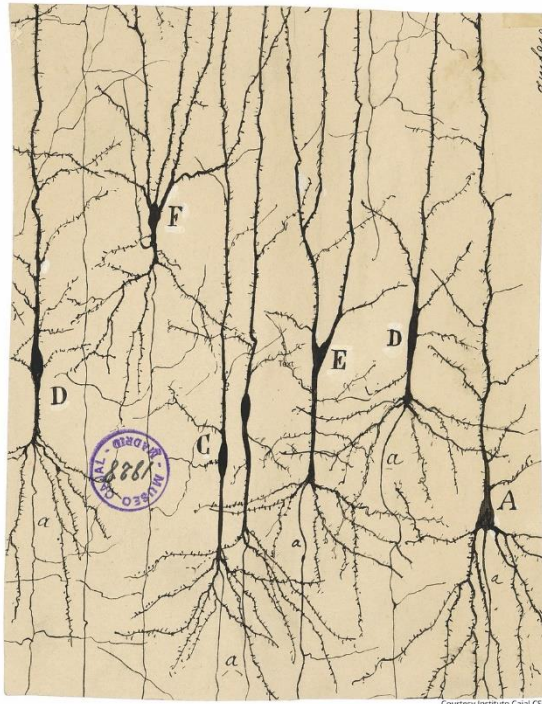


for groundbreaking contributions to our understanding of **complex systems**

½ Syukuro Manabe and Klaus Hasselmann ½ Giorgio Parisi

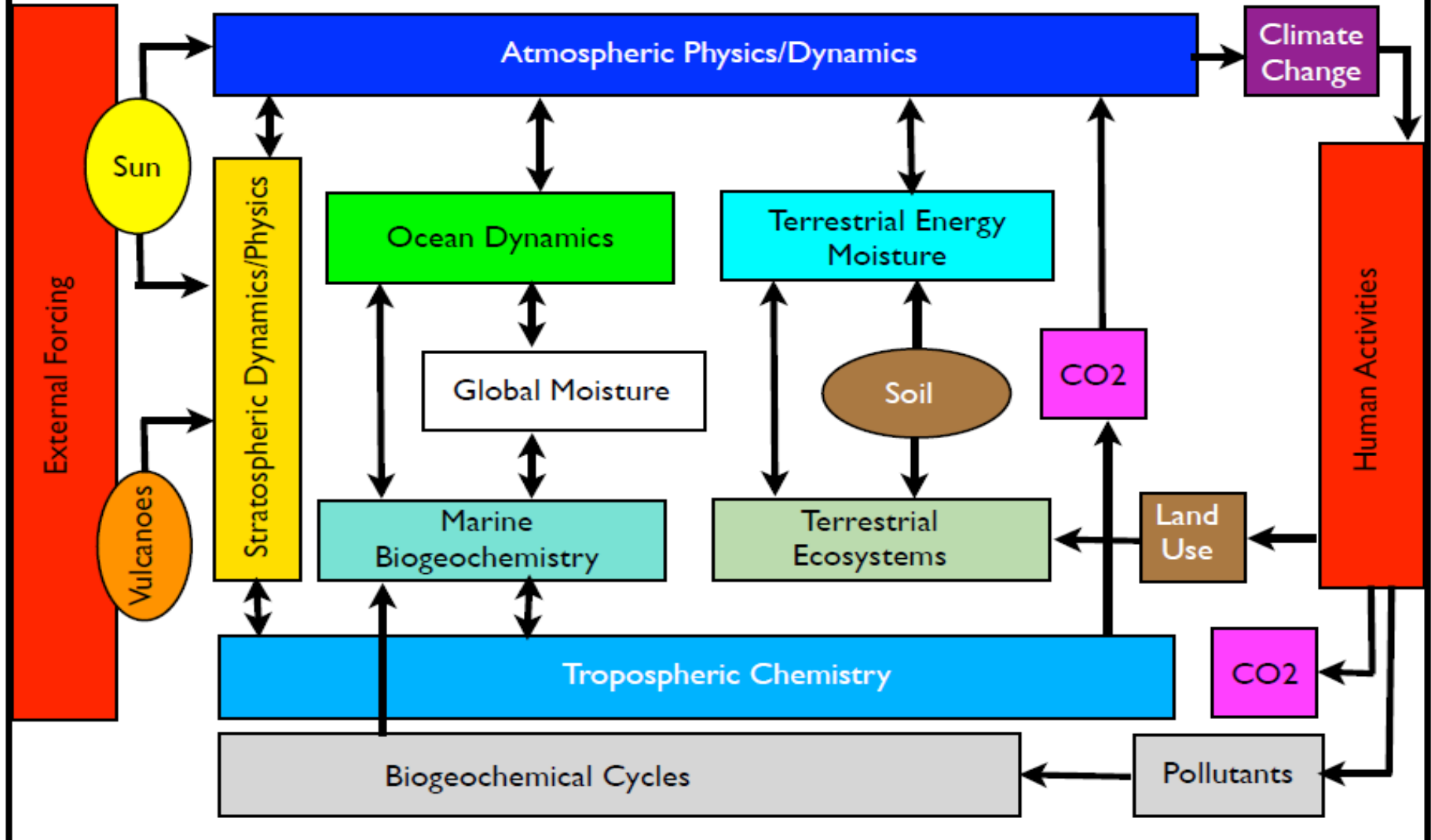
What is a complex system?

- High-dimensional, large number of interacting elements, heterogeneous structure, multiscale, memory, adaptation.
- The elements and/or the interactions are **nonlinear**.
- Often display abrupt transitions and extreme events.



G. Bianconi et al, *Complex systems in the spotlight: next steps after the 2021 Nobel Prize in Physics*, J. of Phys: Complexity 4, 010201 (2023).

The Climate System



Courtesy of Henk Dijkstra (Universidad de Utrecht)

Complex systems show “emergent” phenomena such as “synchronization”

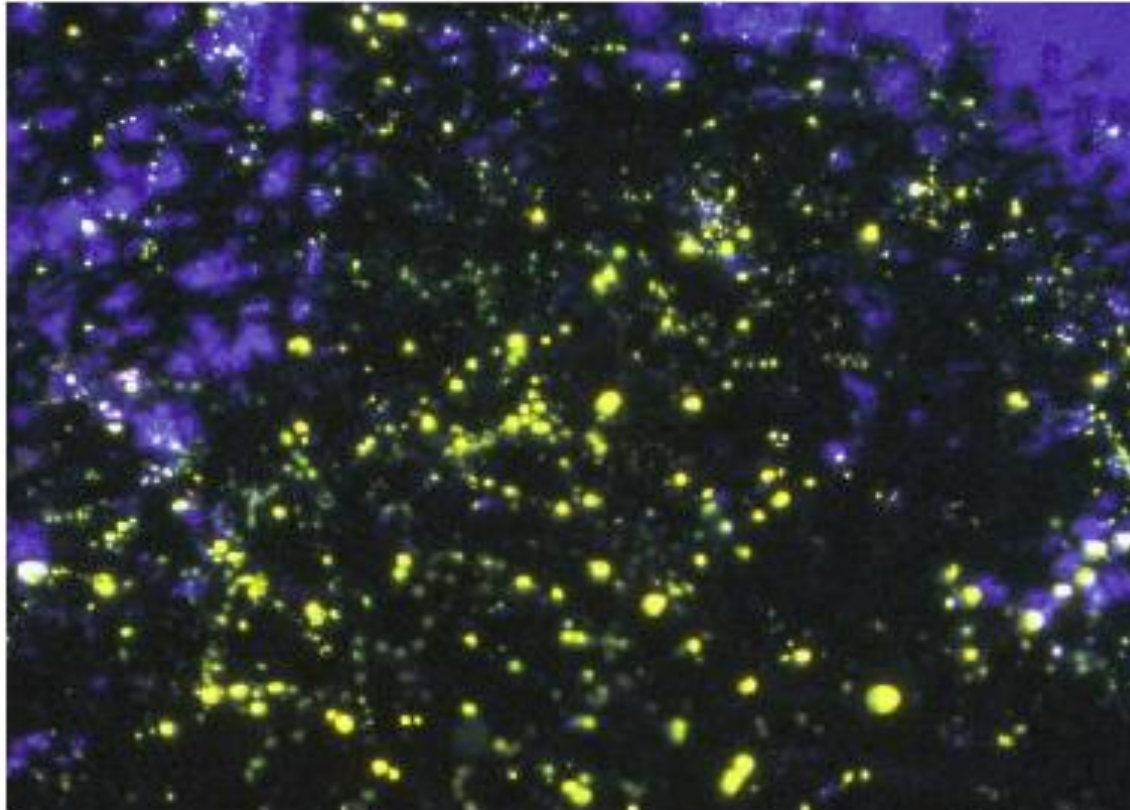


Figure 1 | Fireflies, fireflies burning bright. In the forests of the night, certain species of firefly flash in perfect synchrony — here *Pteroptyx malacca* in a mangrove apple tree in Malaysia. Kaka *et al.*² and Mancoff *et al.*³ show that the same principle can be applied to oscillators at the nanoscale.

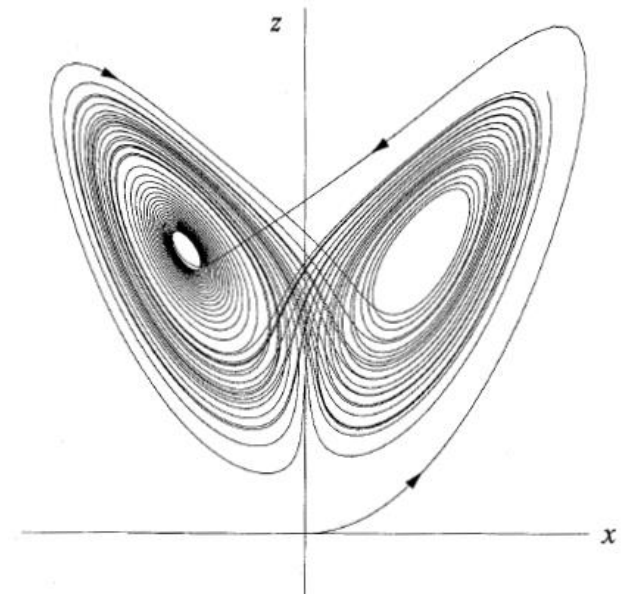
In my opinion, what is NOT a complex system:

- Any system, large or small, that is described by linear equations.
- Low dimensional nonlinear systems.

Example: Lorentz system

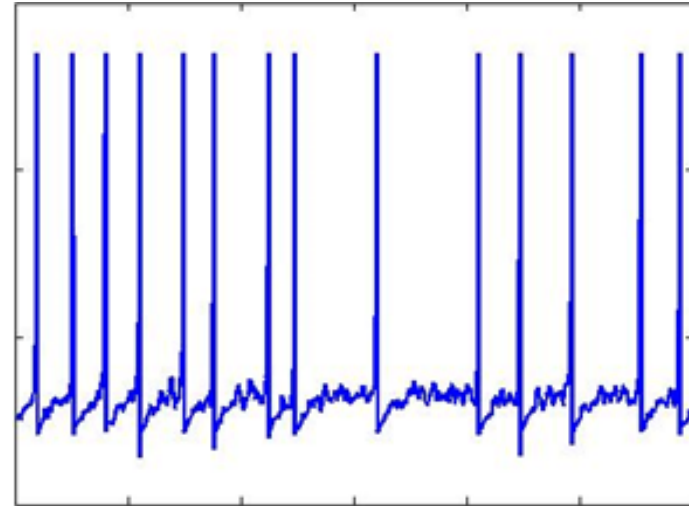
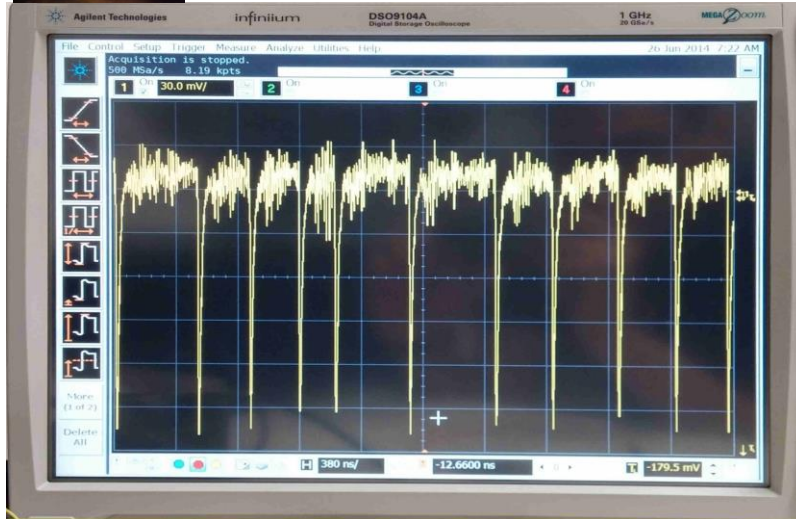
$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dx}{dt} &= -\sigma x + \sigma y, \\ \frac{dy}{dt} &= -xz + rx - y, \\ \frac{dz}{dt} &= xy - bz.\end{aligned}$$

2D projection of 3D attractor



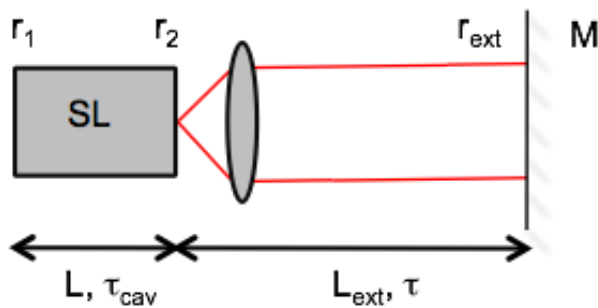
7

Data analysis methods allow to discover statistical similarities in different systems



Time 10^{-9} s

Time 10^{-3} s



(High-dimensional, Memory)

$$\varepsilon \frac{dx}{dt} = x - \frac{x^3}{3} - y,$$

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = x + a + D\xi(t).$$

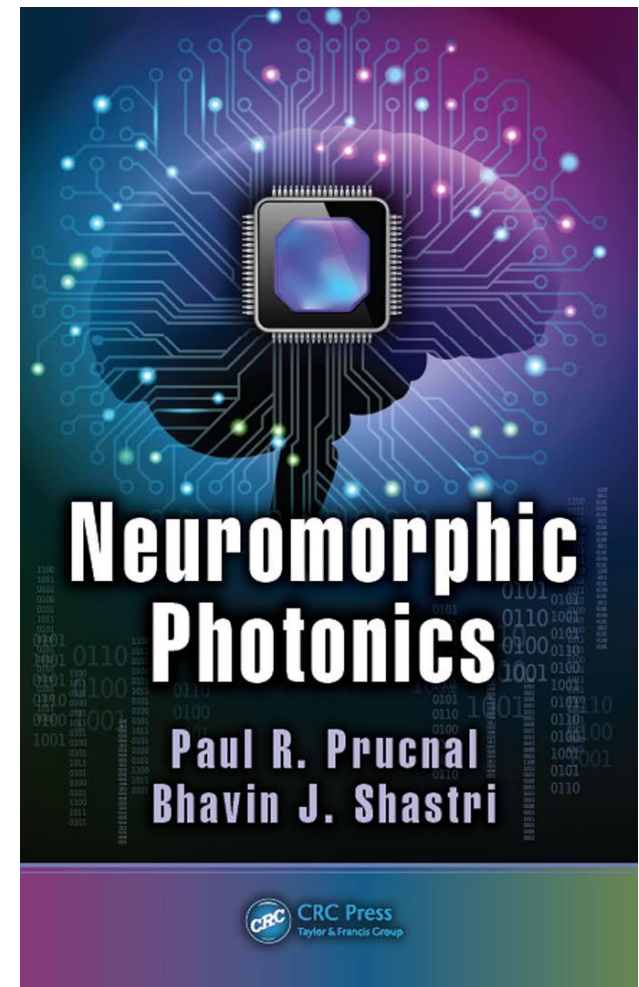
Uncovering similarities between neurons and lasers... Interesting but relevant?

- Data centers, AI systems, HPC consume huge amounts of energy.
- Big concern in the context of climate change.
- The human brain processes huge amounts of information using only 19 Watts.
- Uncovering genuine similarities between neurons and lasers will allow to develop **photonic neurons**, able to process information as real neurons do, but
 - much faster,
 - with much less energy consumption.



*European Centre for
Medium-Range Weather
Forecasts, Reading, UK*

Photonic neurons

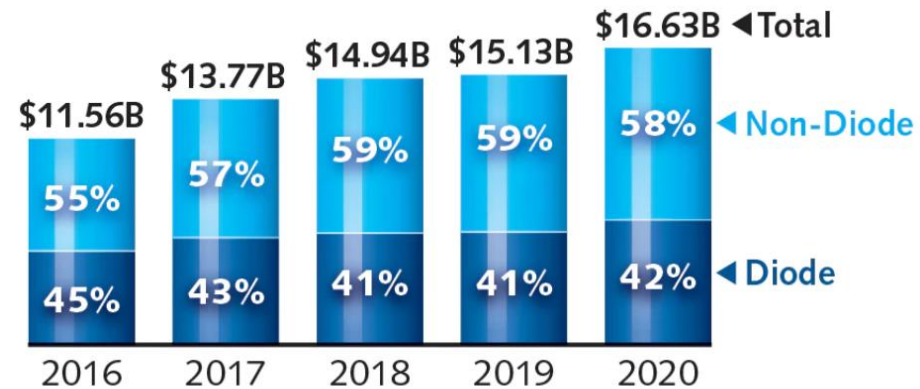


Excitable diode lasers can be artificial neurons in all-optical, ultra-fast, energy-efficient information processing systems.

Photonic neurons with diode lasers



- Inexpensive
- Compact, energy-efficient
- Emit wavelengths appropriated for telecom, Datacom and biomedical applications,
- Can be integrated in large arrays,
- Optically perturbed: Rich nonlinear dynamics



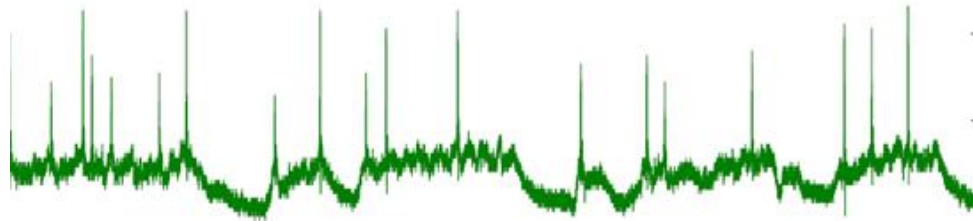
Source: Strategies Unlimited

Therefore, we want to know:

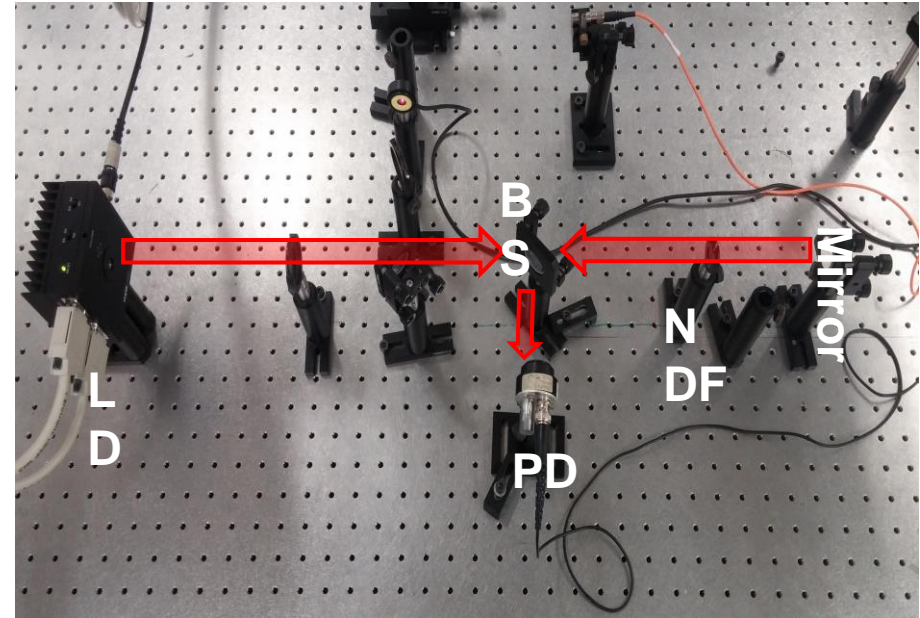
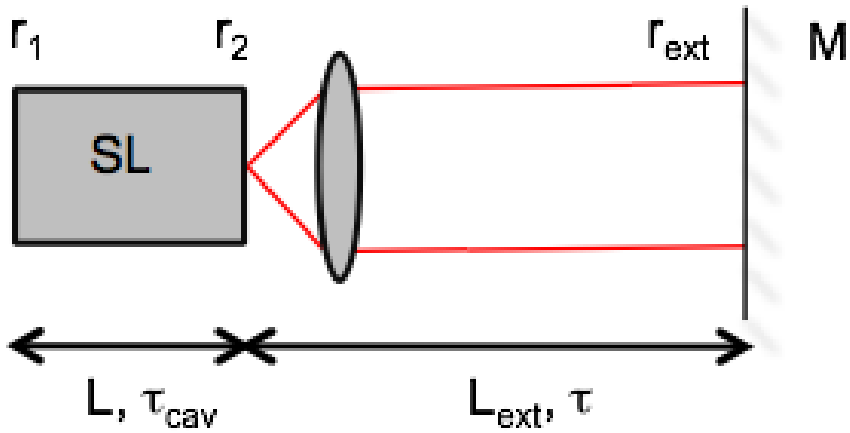
Can diode lasers mimic real neurons?

How neurons encode information of **weak** external inputs in **noisy** environments?

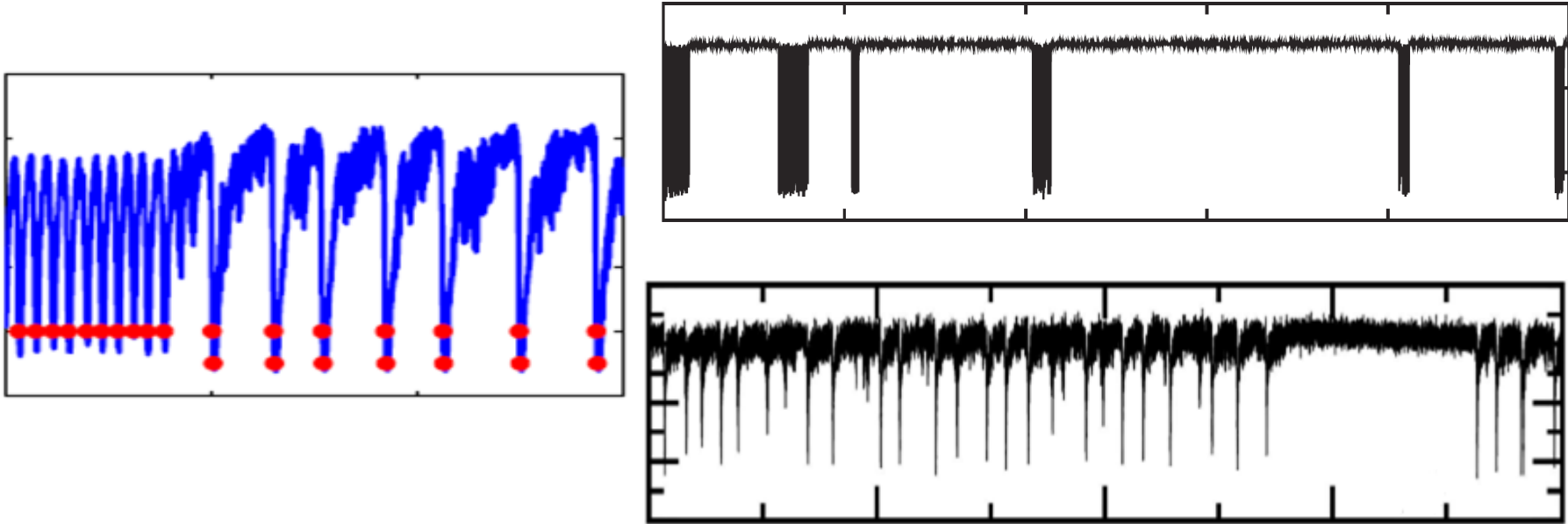
Can the neural code be used by diode lasers?



Diode laser with optical feedback



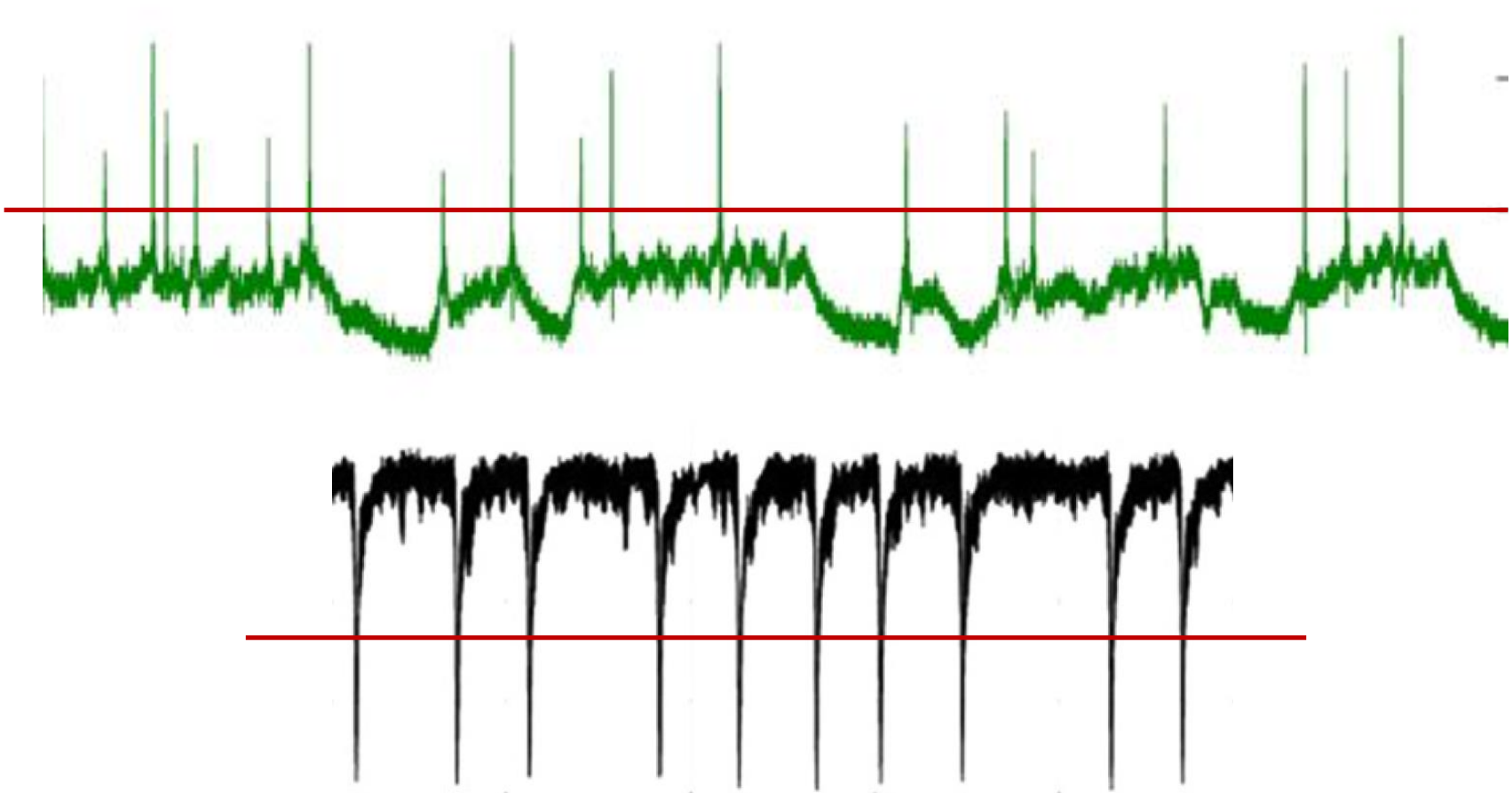
The laser dynamics: excitability, tonic spikes and bursting. Similar to real neurons?



A. Aragoneses, S. Perrone, T. Sorrentino, M. C. Torrent and C. Masoller, "*Unveiling the complex organization of recurrent patterns in spiking dynamical systems*", *Sci. Rep.* **4**, 4696 (2014).

C. Quintero-Quiroz, J. Tiana-Alsina, J. Roma, M. C. Torrent, and C. Masoller, "*Characterizing how complex optical signals emerge from noisy intensity fluctuations*", *Sci. Rep.* **6** 37510 (2016).

A threshold is used to detect the spike times \Rightarrow Sequence of inter-spike-intervals (ISIs)



With an external signal, are there statistical similarities between neuronal spikes and laser spikes?

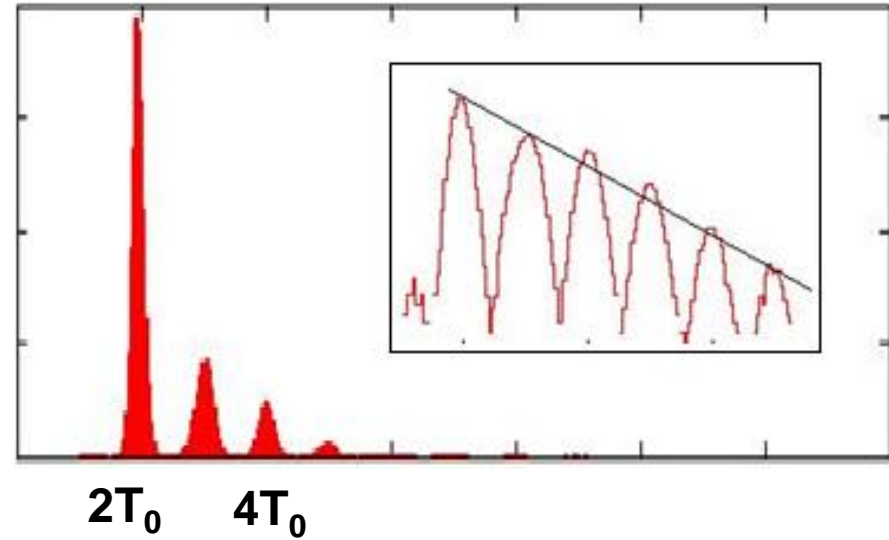
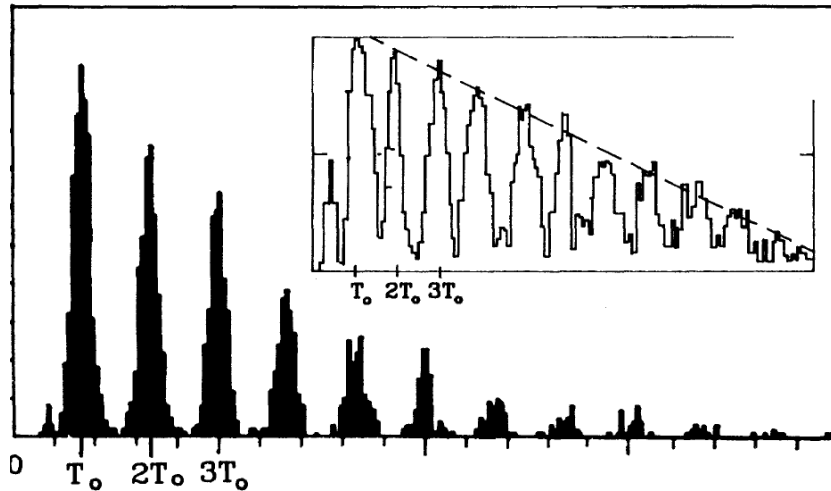


FIG. 1. (a) An experimental ISIH obtained from a single auditory nerve fiber of a squirrel monkey with a sinusoidal 80-dB sound-pressure-level stimulus of period $T_0 = 1.66$ ms applied at the ear. Note the modes at integer multiples of T_0 . Inset:

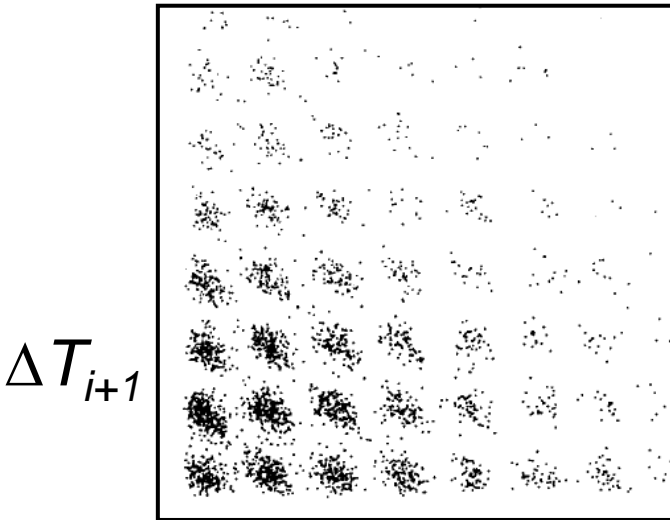
Experimental data when the laser current is modulated with a sinusoidal signal of period T_0 .

A. Longtin et al. PRL (1991)

A. Aragonese et al.
Optics Express (2014)

Return maps of inter-spike-intervals (ISIs)

Neuronal ISIs

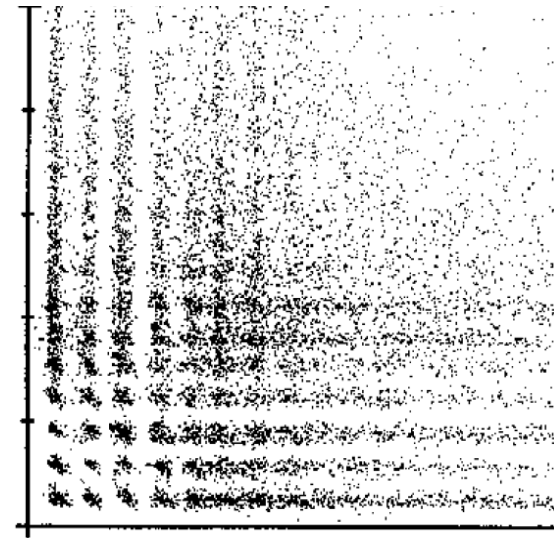


ΔT_i

A. Longtin

Int. J. Bif. Chaos (1993)

Laser ISIs



M. Giudici et al PRE (1997)

[A. Aragonese et al
Optics Express](#) (2014)

HOW TO IDENTIFY TEMPORAL ORDER?

How to characterize spike sequences?

Analysis of inter-spike-intervals -ISIs

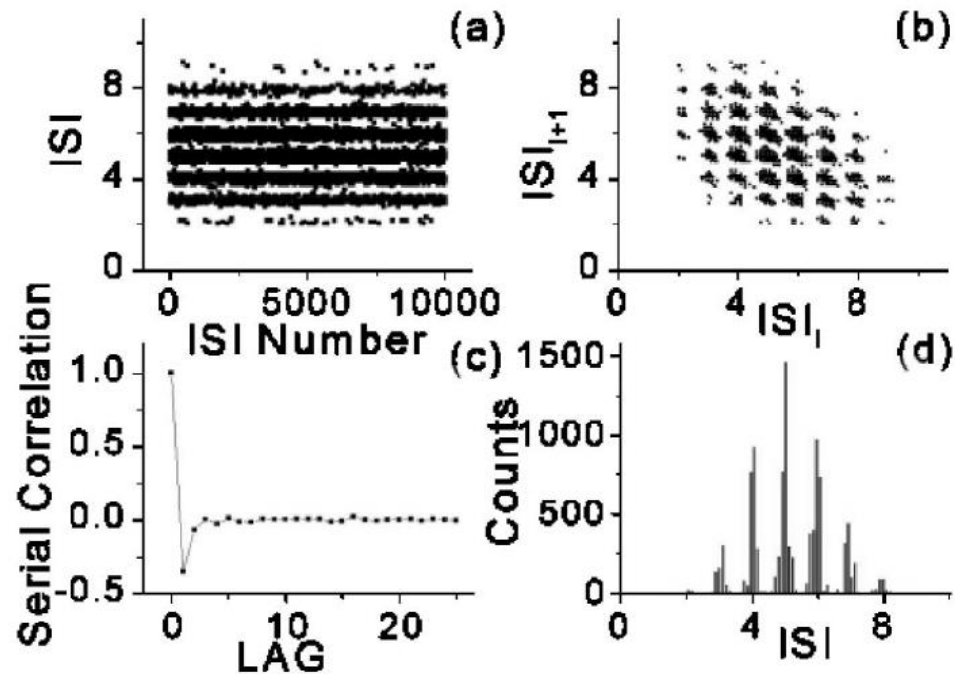
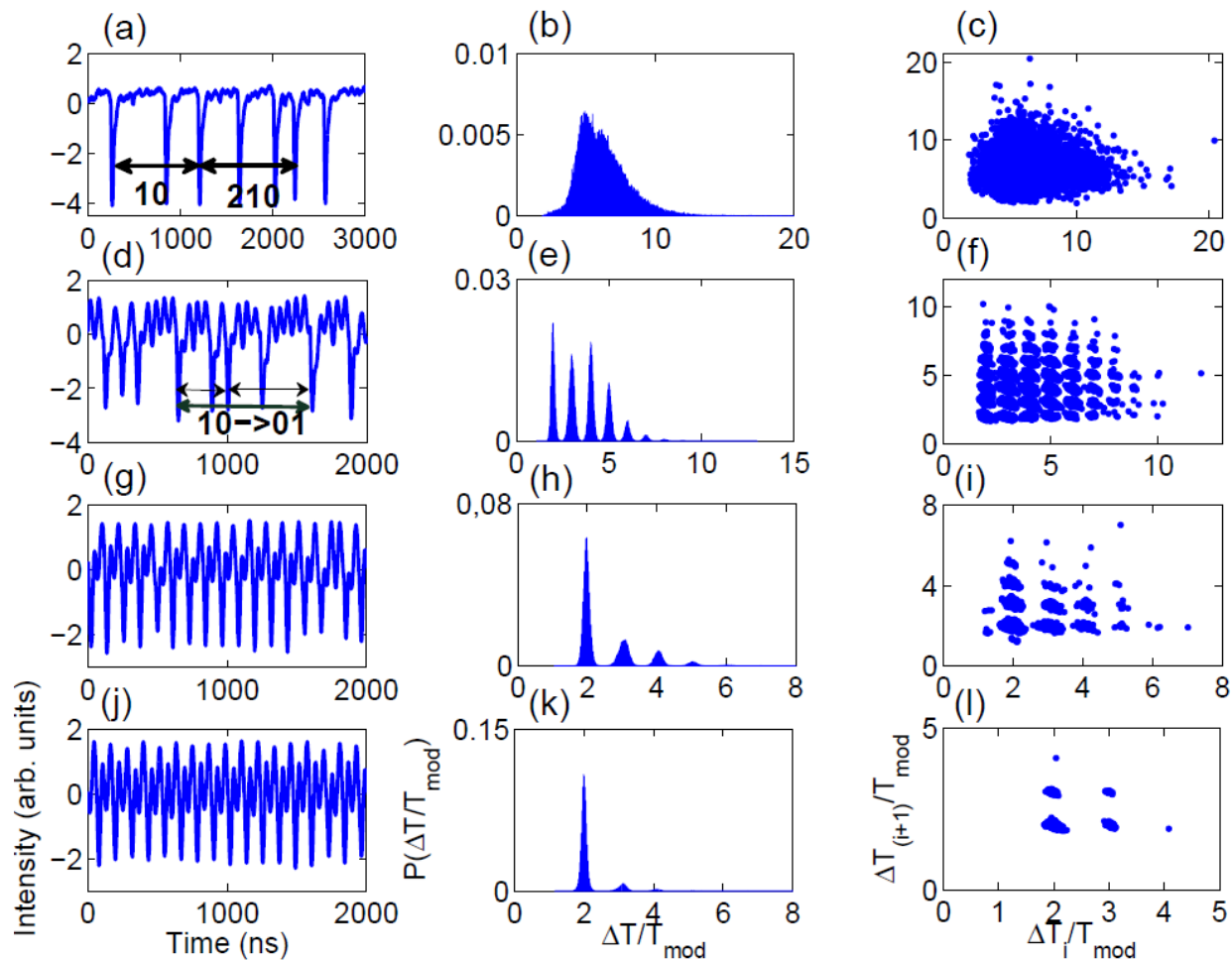


FIG. 1. Analysis of 10 000 consecutive interspike intervals from a *P*-unit of the weakly electric fish *A. Leptorhynchus* (data courtesy of Mark Nelson, Beckmann Institute, Illinois, USA; we focus on such “nonbursty” units). Time is in EOD cycles; the EOD frequency is 755 Hz. The firing rate is 145 Hz which corresponds to $P = 0.192$. (a) Raster plot of ISI duration versus ISI number, (b) return map, (c) serial correlation, and (d) histogram.

Chacron, Longtin, et. al, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* 85, 1576 (2000)

Experiments in our lab with a diode laser with feedback



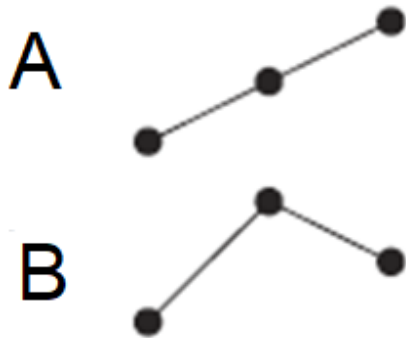
Aragoneses et al, *Optics Express* 22, 4705 (2014)

First data analysis method: ordinal analysis

$$\{\dots X_i, X_{i+1}, X_{i+2}, \dots\}$$

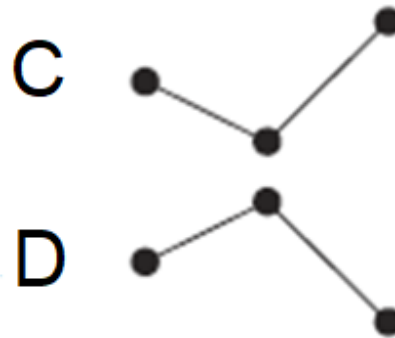
Possible order relations among three numbers (e.g., 2, 5, 7)

$\{\dots 2, 5, 7 \dots\}$



$\{\dots 2, 7, 5 \dots\}$

$\{\dots 5, 2, 7 \dots\}$



$\{\dots 5, 7, 2 \dots\}$

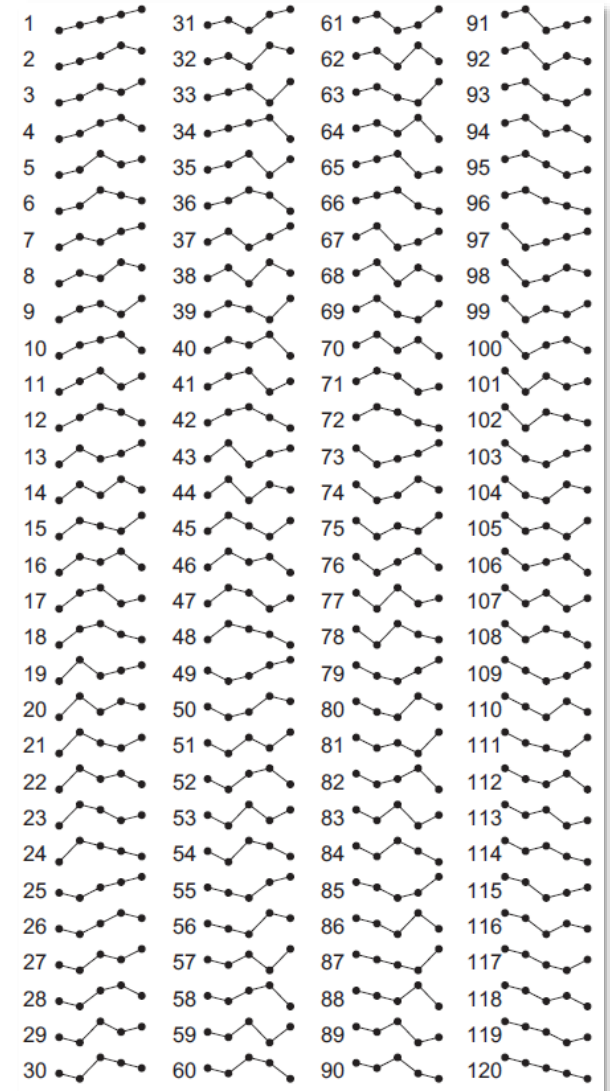
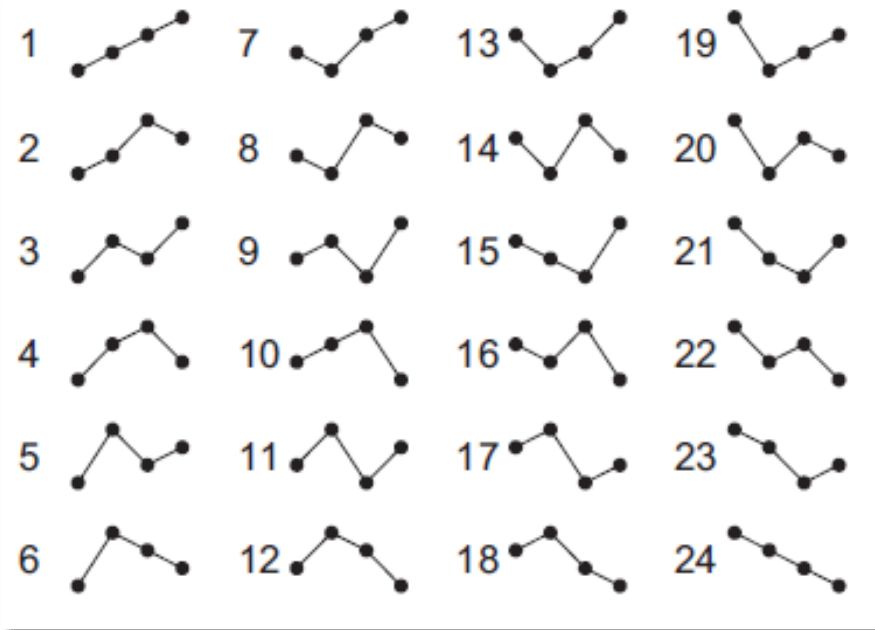
$\{\dots 7, 2, 5 \dots\}$



$\{\dots 7, 5, 2 \dots\}$

Bandt and Pompe: Phys. Rev. Lett. 2002

The number of ordinal patterns increases as D!

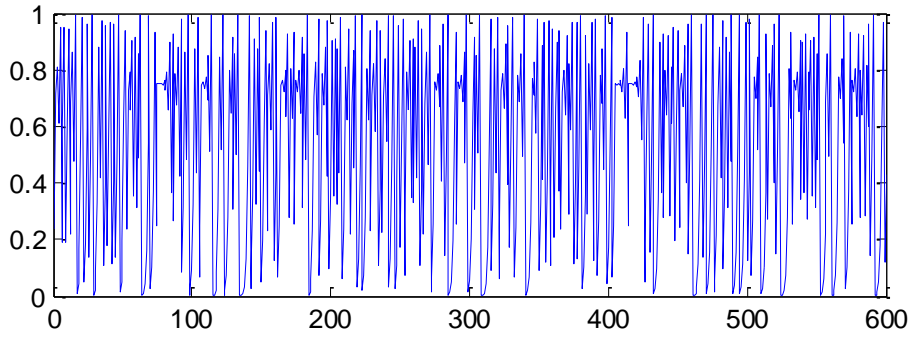


A problem for short datasets.

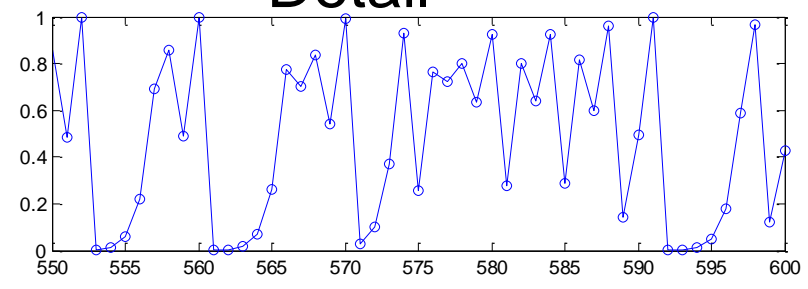
Example: chaotic time series generated with the Logistic map

$$x(i + 1) = r x(i)[1 - x(i)] \quad r=3.99$$

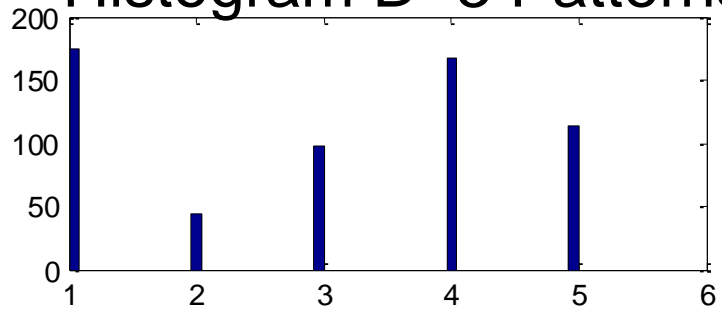
Time series



Detail

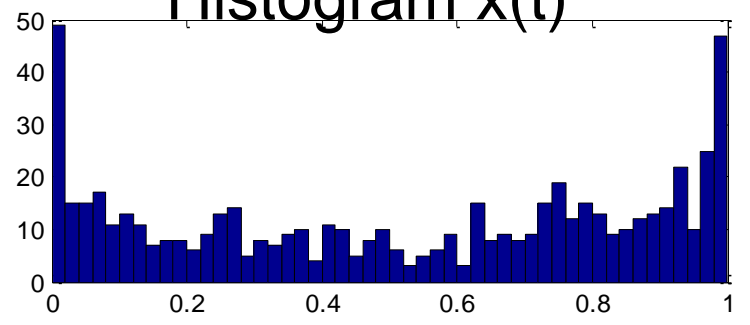


Histogram D=3 Patterns



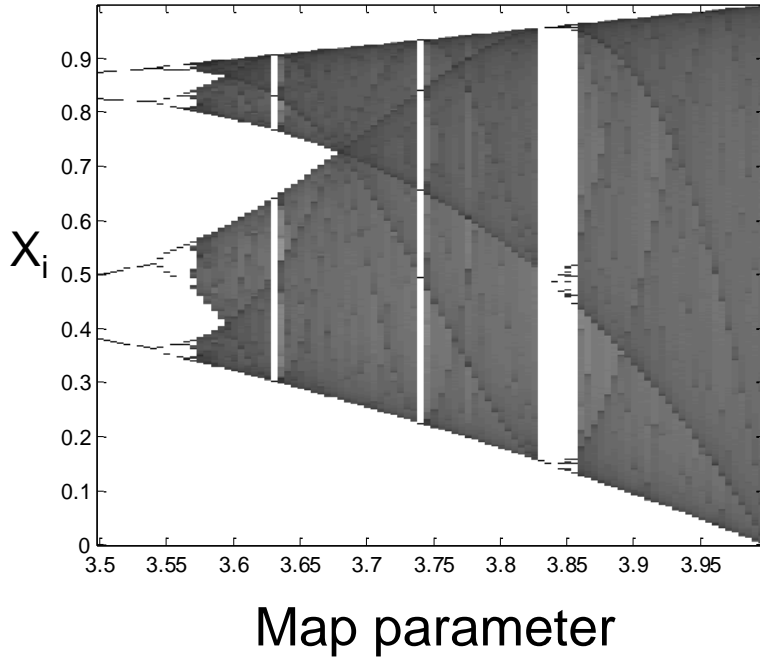
↑
forbidden

Histogram x(t)

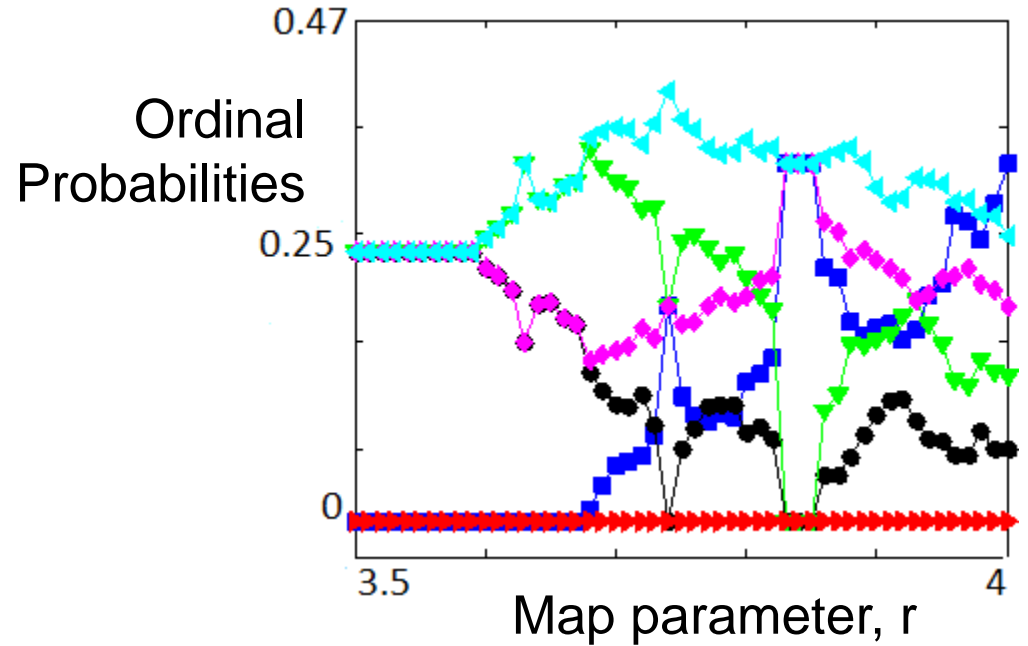


“Normal” and “Ordinal” bifurcation diagrams of the Logistic map

Normal bifurcation diagram



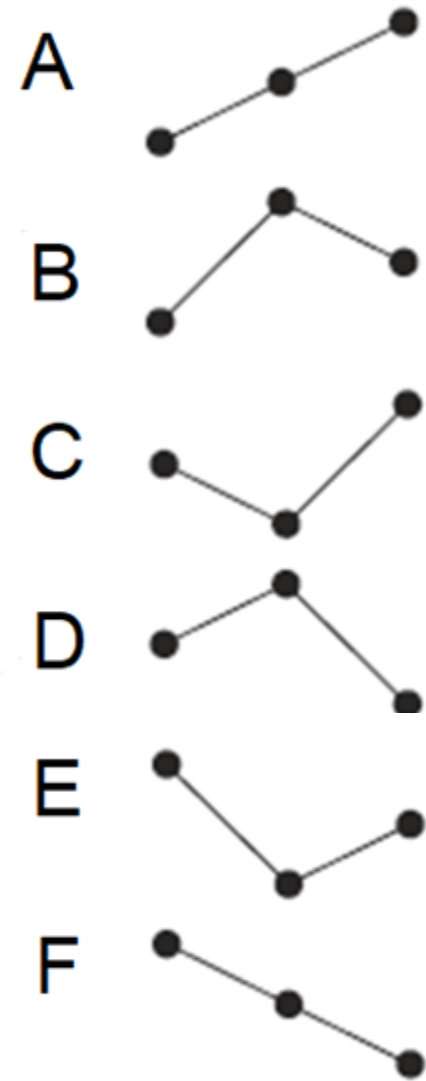
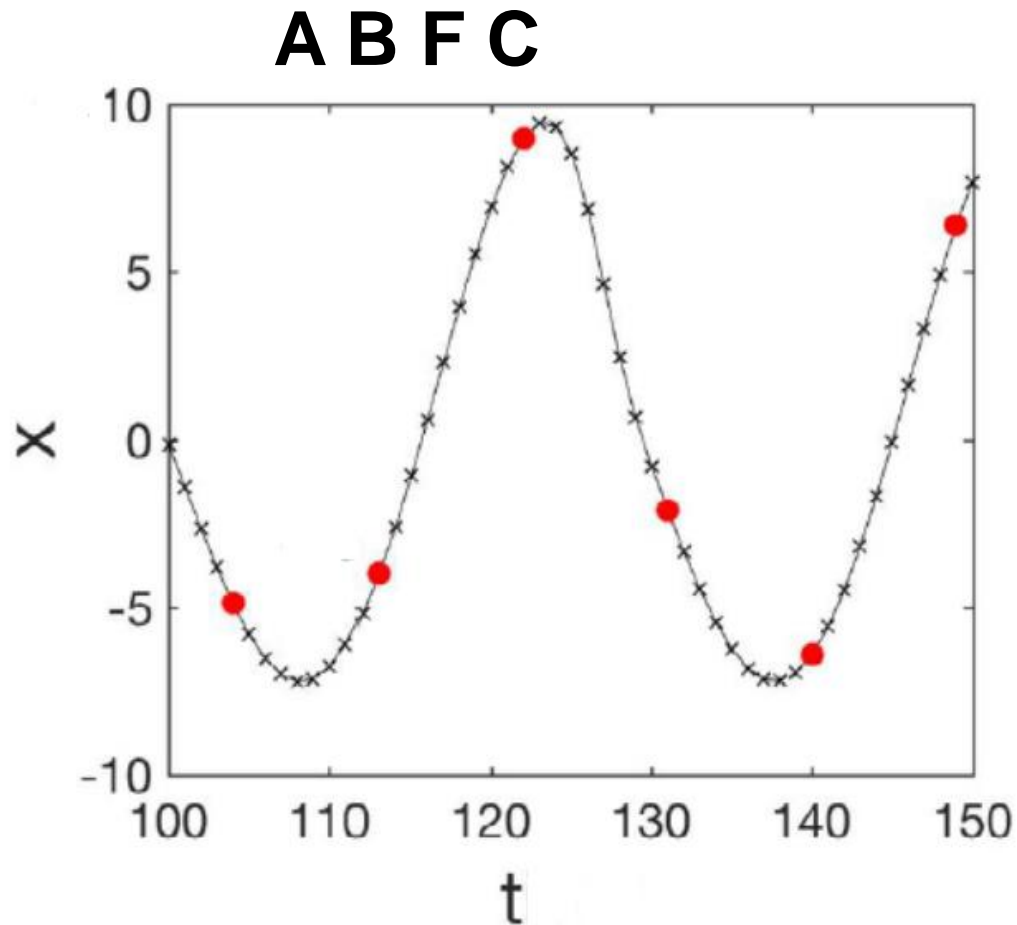
Ordinal diagram with $D=3$



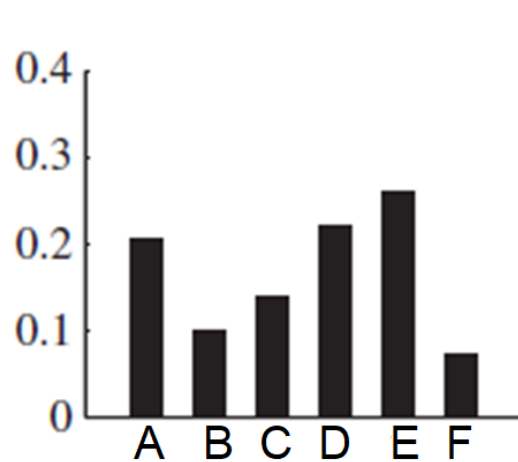
012 021 102 120 201 210

Pattern **210** is always forbidden; pattern **012** is more probable as r increases

Using the “ordinal code”, which is the message?



From a time series, by counting the different patterns, we can calculate the set of “ordinal probabilities”

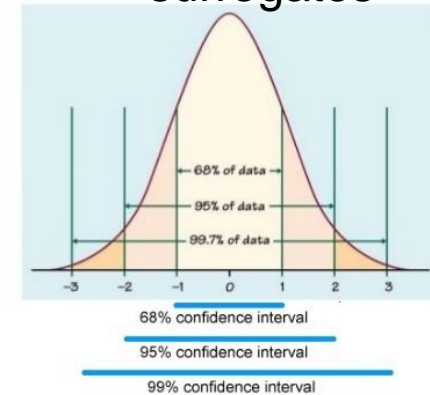


→ ?

- A. Analyze the probabilities (are differences statistically significant?)
- B. Analyse information theory measures (entropy, complexity)

$$H = -\sum_{i=1}^N p_i \ln p_i$$

Compare with surrogates



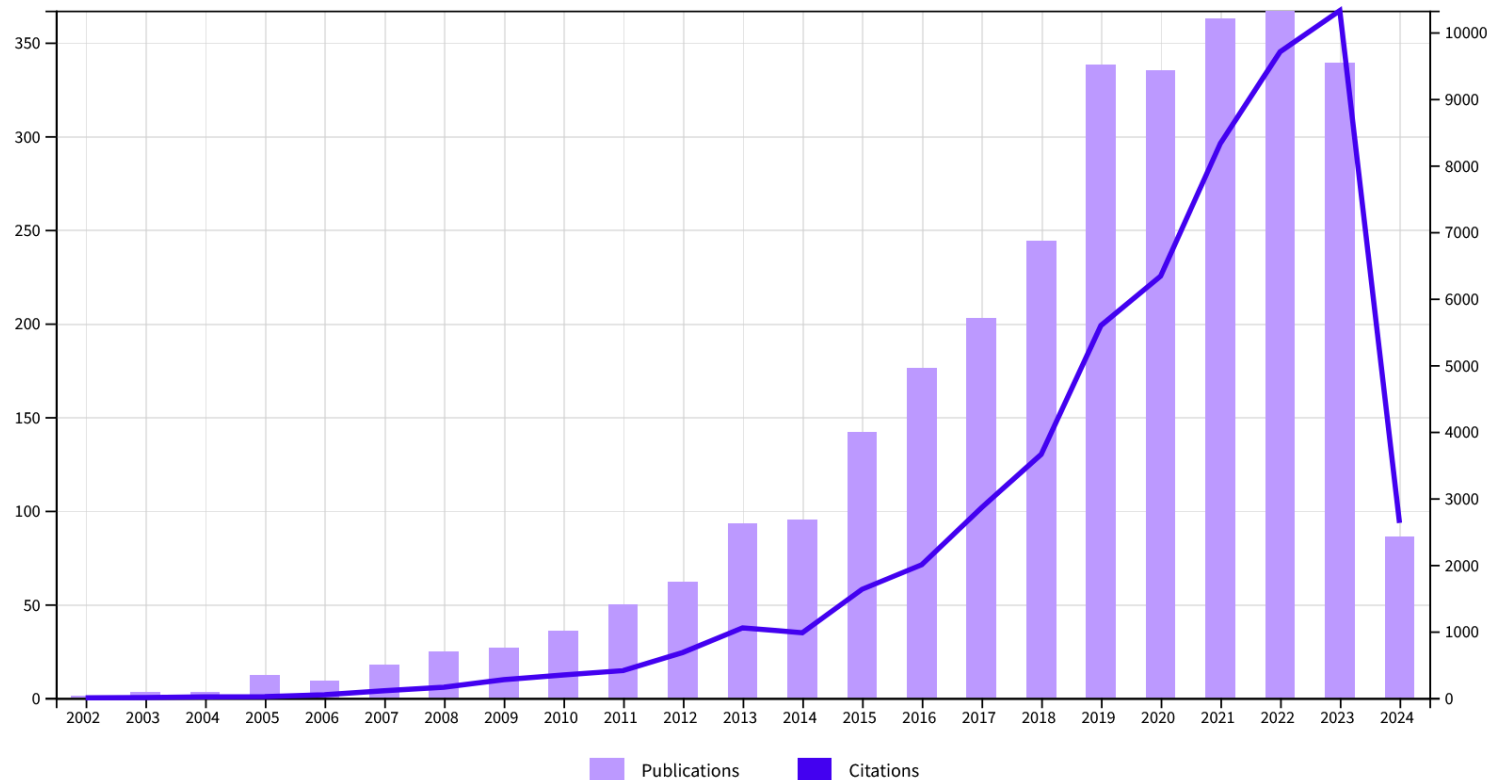
Ordinal analysis has been extensively used:

- to test if a model is good for the data,
- to fit the model's parameters,
- to classify different types of data based on similarities of probabilities of ordinal patterns.

Permutation Entropy: A Natural Complexity Measure for Time Series

Christoph Bandt and Bernd Pompe

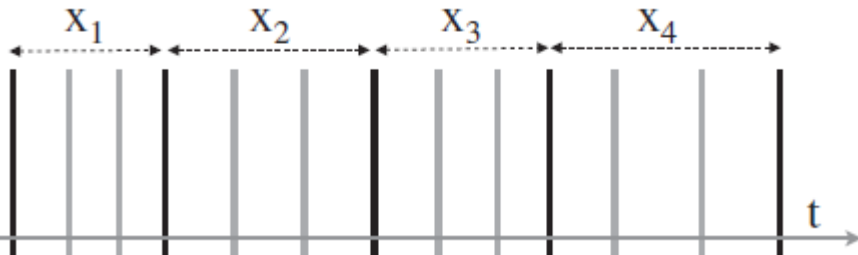
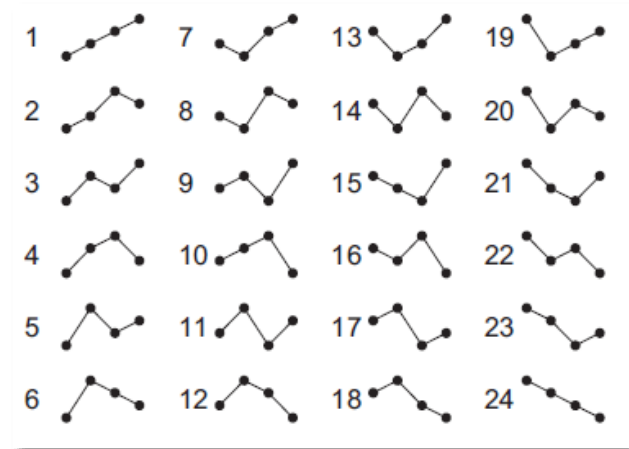
Institute of Mathematics and Institute of Physics, University of Greifswald, Greifswald, Germany
(Received 19 June 2001; revised manuscript received 20 December 2001; published 11 April 2002)



I. Leyva, J. M. Martinez, C. Masoller, O. A. Rosso, M. Zanin, “20 Years of Ordinal Patterns: Perspectives and Challenges”, EPL 138, 31001 (2022).

Software

Python and Matlab codes for computing the ordinal pattern **index** are available here: [U. Parlitz et al. Computers in Biology and Medicine 42, 319 \(2012\)](#)



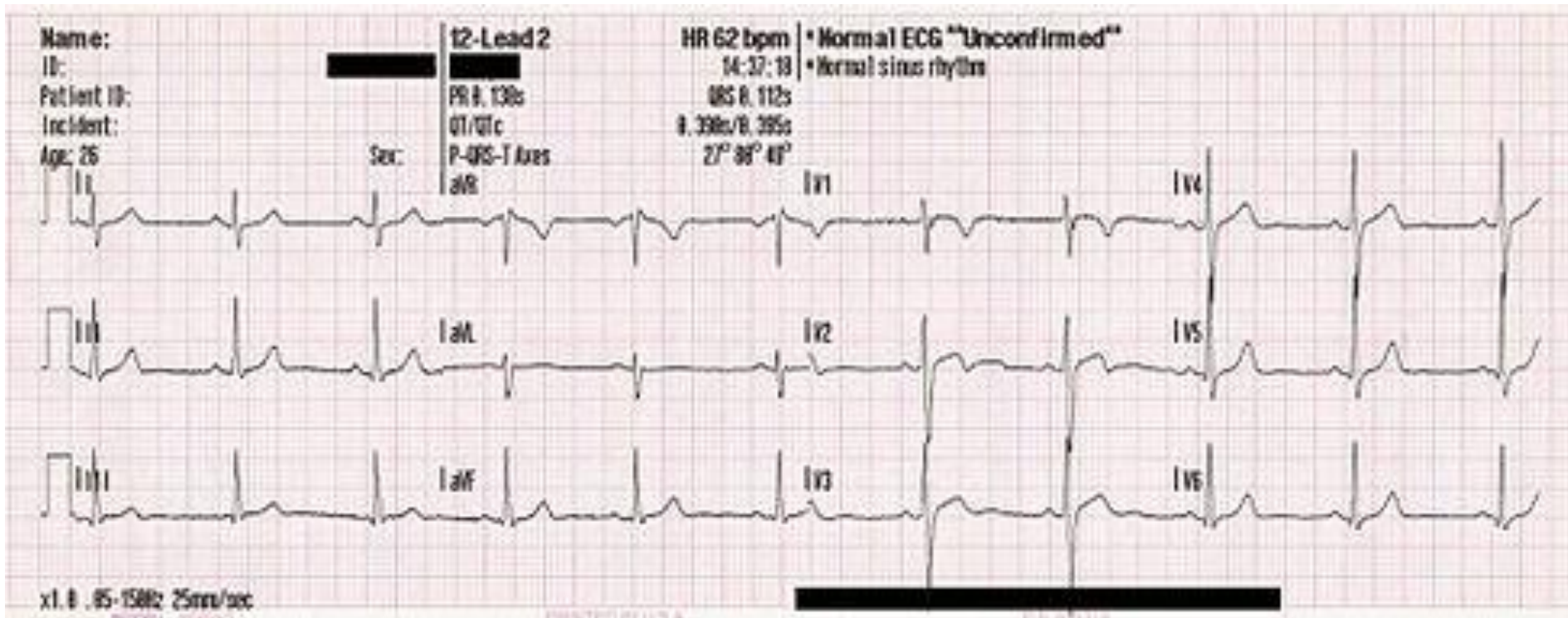
World length (wl): 4
Lag = 3 (skip 2 points)
Result:

indcs = 3

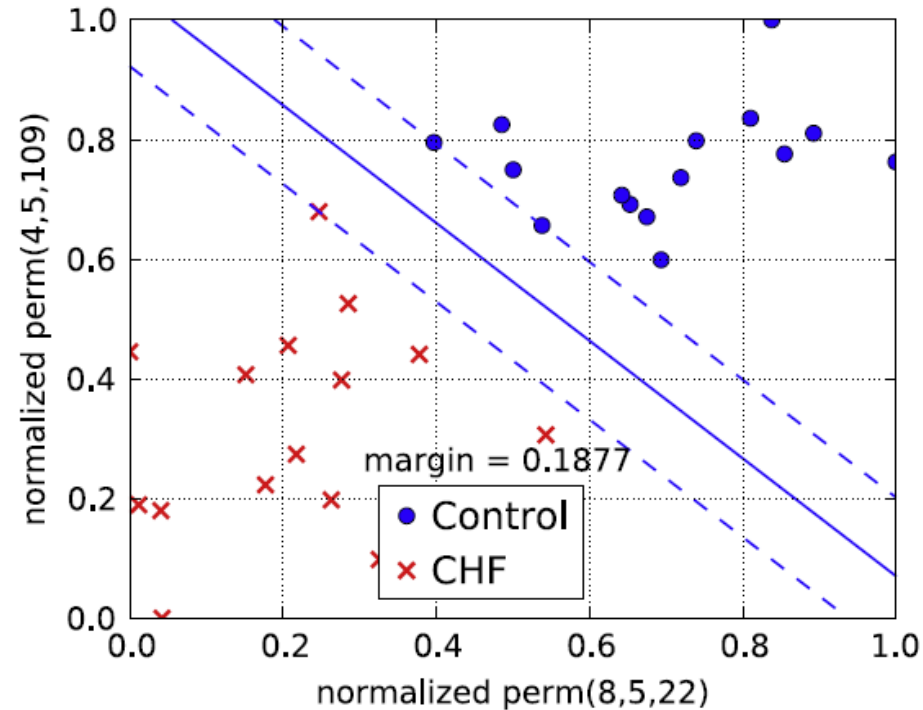
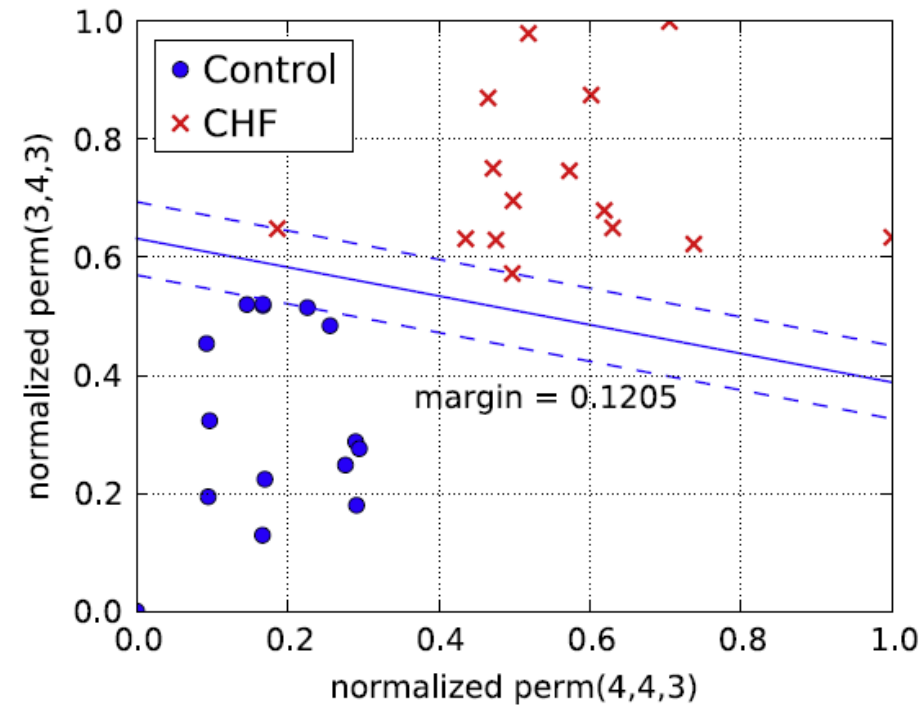
```
function indcs = perm_indices(ts, wl, lag);  
m = length(ts) - (wl - 1) * lag;  
indcs = zeros(m, 1);  
for i = 1:wl - 1;  
    st = ts(1 + (i - 1) * lag : m + (i - 1) * lag);  
    for j = i:wl - 1;  
        indcs = indcs + (st > ts(1 + j * lag : m + j * lag));  
    end  
    indcs = indcs * (wl - i);  
end  
indcs = indcs + 1;
```

Example of application.

ECG signals: analysis of time series of **inter-beat intervals**



Classifying ECG signals according to ordinal probabilities

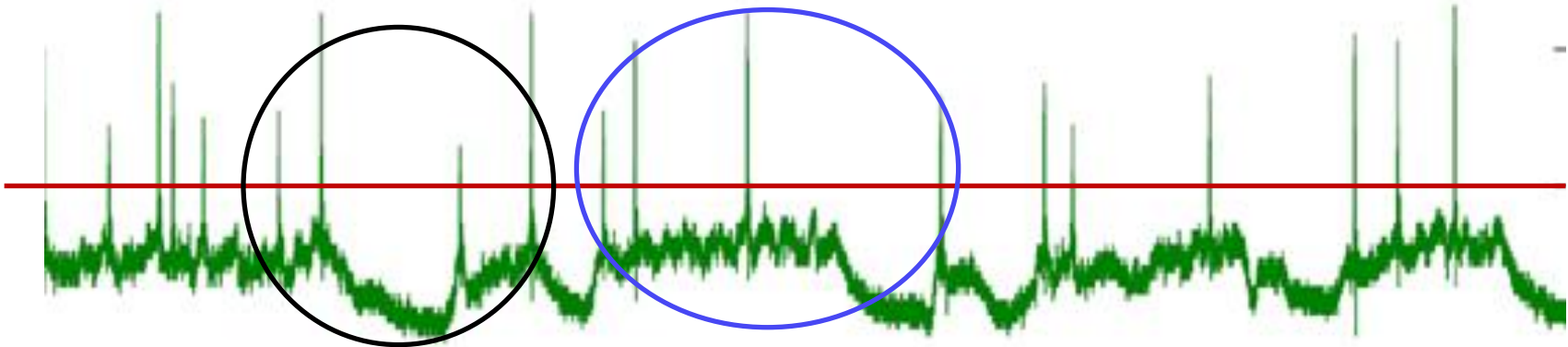


- Analysis of raw data (statistics of ordinal patterns is almost unaffected by a few extreme values)
- The probabilities are normalized with respect to the smallest and the largest value occurring in the data set.

[U. Parlitz et al. Computers in Biology and Medicine 42, 319 \(2012\)](#)

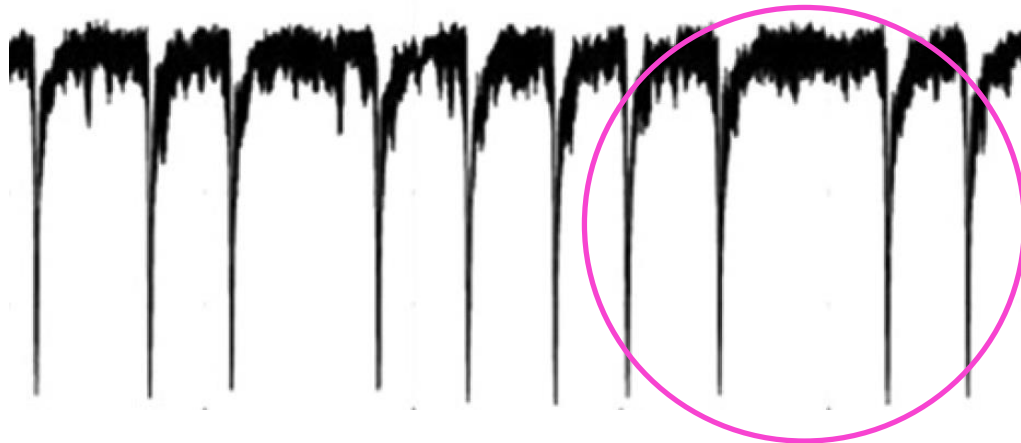
Sequence of inter-spike-intervals (ISIs) \Rightarrow sequence of ordinal patterns

D=3

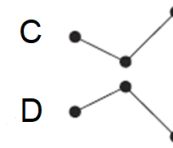
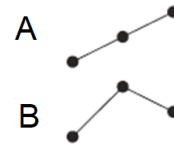


021=B

012=A



120=D

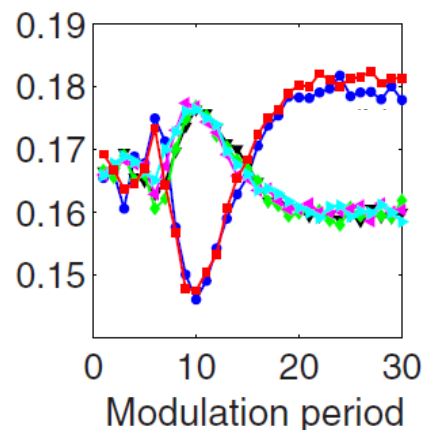
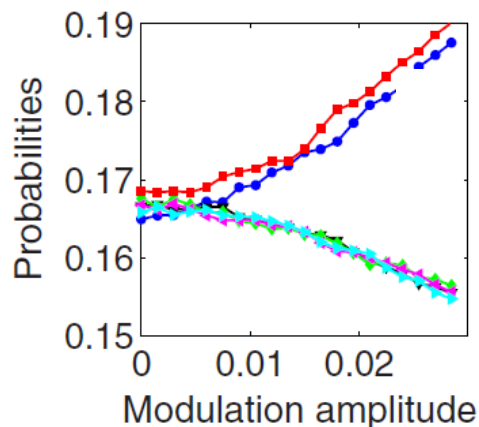


Simulations of a neural model

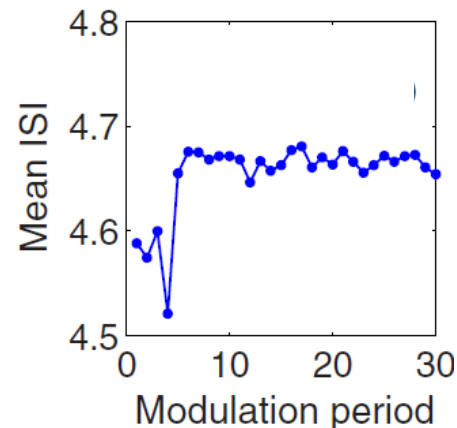
To try to understand how neurons encode and process weak inputs in noisy environments.

$$\epsilon \frac{dx}{dt} = x - \frac{x^3}{3} - y,$$
$$\frac{dy}{dt} = x + a + a_o \cos(2\pi t/T) + D\xi(t),$$

Weak, subthreshold signal

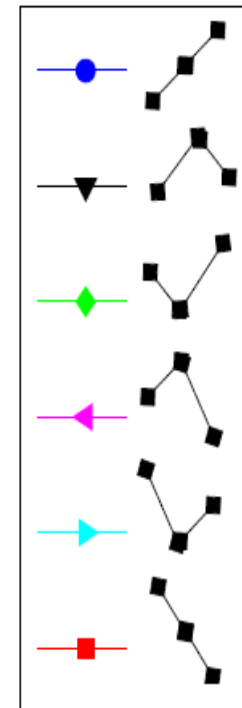
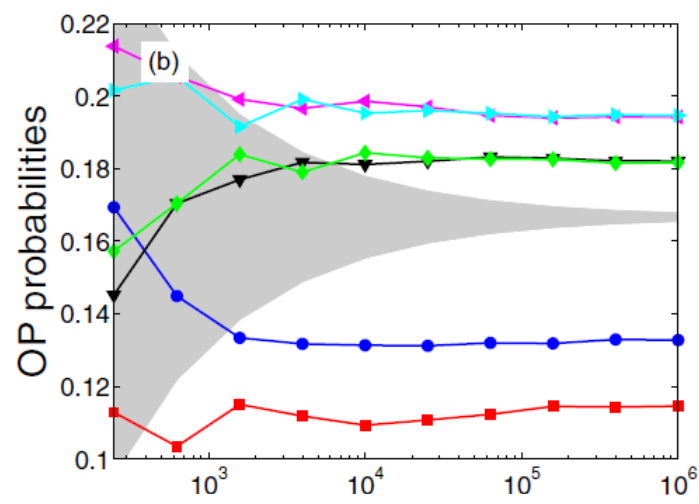
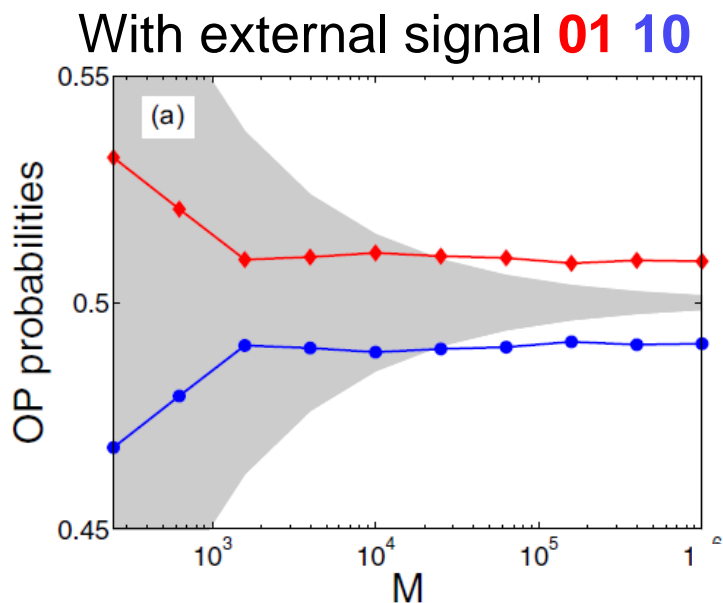


Rate coding?

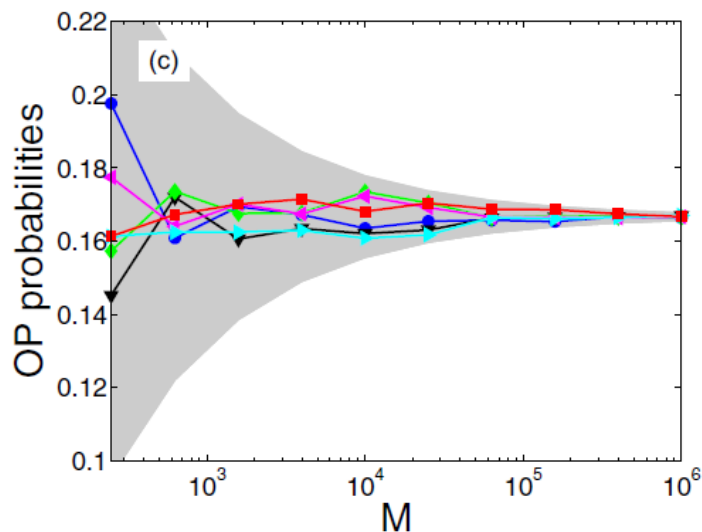


J. A. Reinoso, M. C. Torrent, and C. Masoller, “*Emergence of spike correlations in periodically forced excitable systems*”, Phys. Rev. E. 94, 032218 (2016).

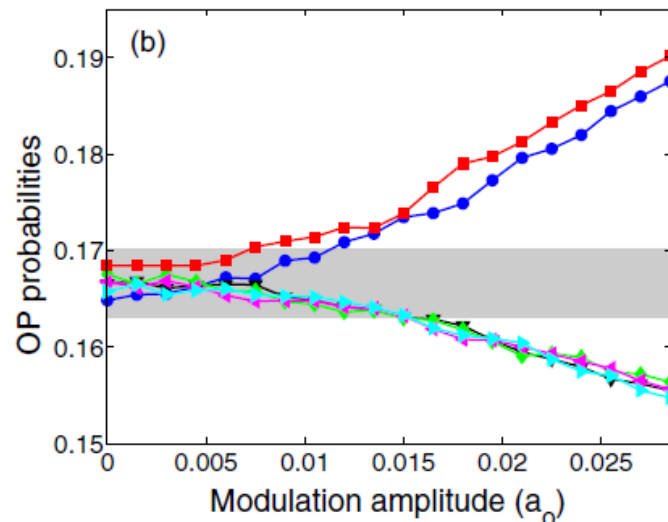
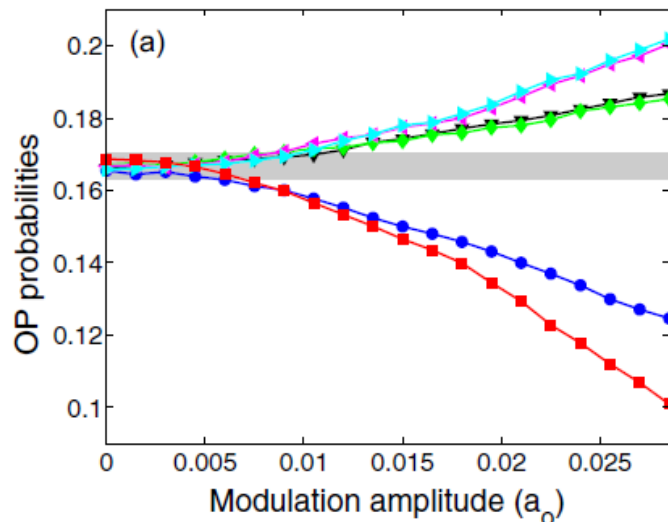
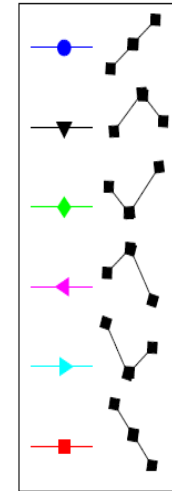
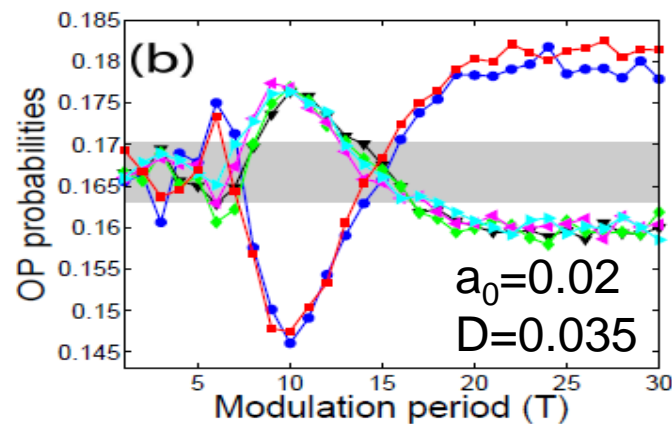
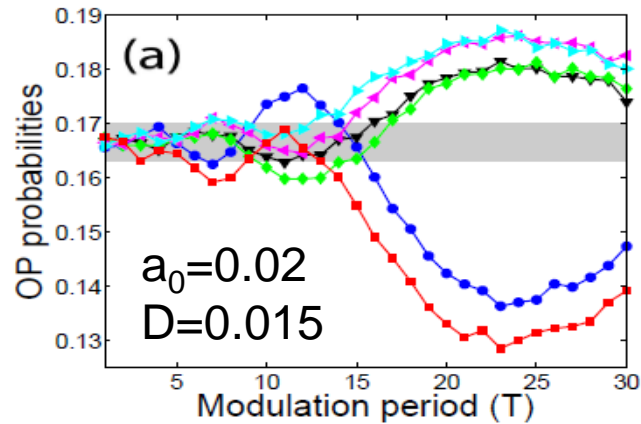
How many spikes do we need to estimate the probabilities?



Without external signal

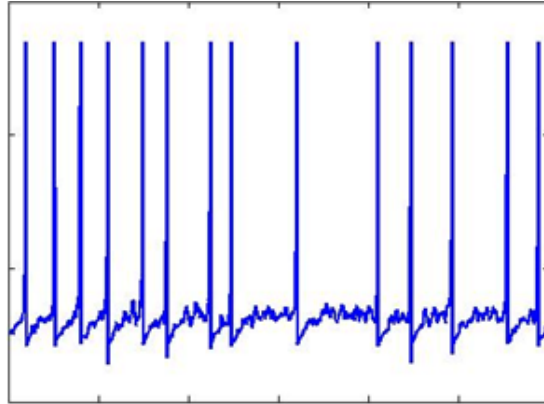


The patterns' probabilities depend not only on the period of the external signal, but also, on the level of noise.

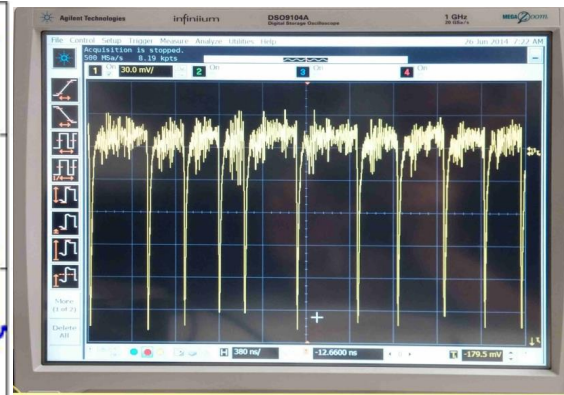


The analysis of the ordinal probabilities uncovers similarities in the ISI sequences

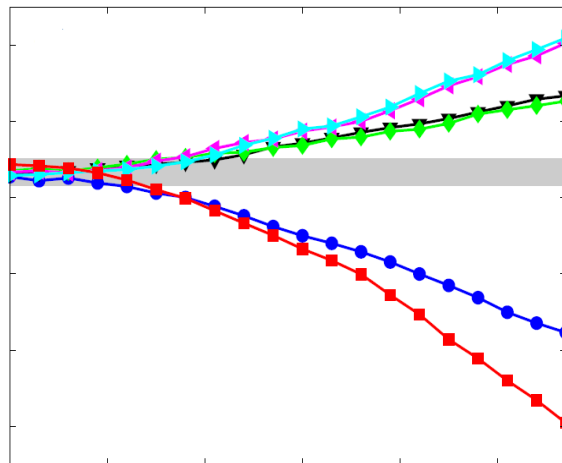
Neuron model



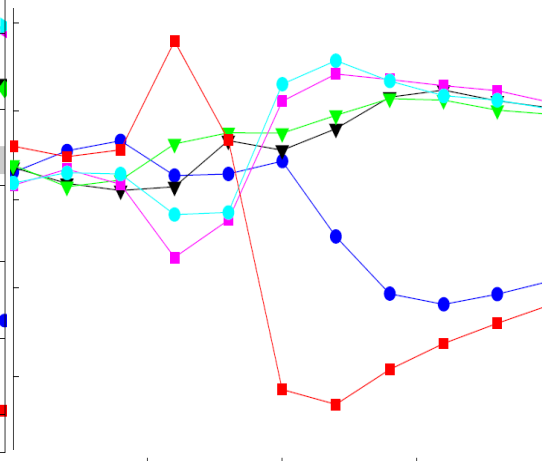
Diode laser with feedback



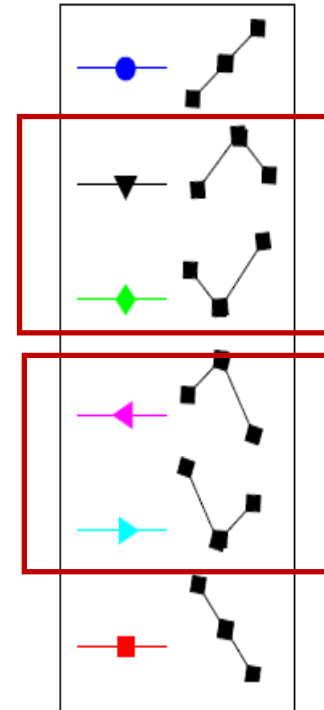
Ordinal probabilities



Modulation amplitude



Modulation amplitude



J. M. Aparicio-Reinoso et al PRE 94, 032218 (2016) A. Aragoneses et al, Sci. Rep. 4, 4696 (2014)

Single-neuron vs ensemble encoding

- Single-neuron encoding: **slow** because long spike sequences are needed to estimate the ordinal probabilities.
- Ensemble encoding: can be **fast** because, from the ISI sequences of all the neurons, few spikes per neuron can be enough to accurately estimate the probabilities.

Weak, subthreshold signal

$$\epsilon \dot{u}_i = u_i - \frac{u_i^3}{3} - v_i + a_0 \cos(2\pi t/T) + \frac{\sigma}{k_i} \sum_j^N a_{ij} (u_j - u_i) + \sqrt{2D} \xi_i(t), \quad i \neq j$$
$$\dot{v}_i = u_i + a.$$

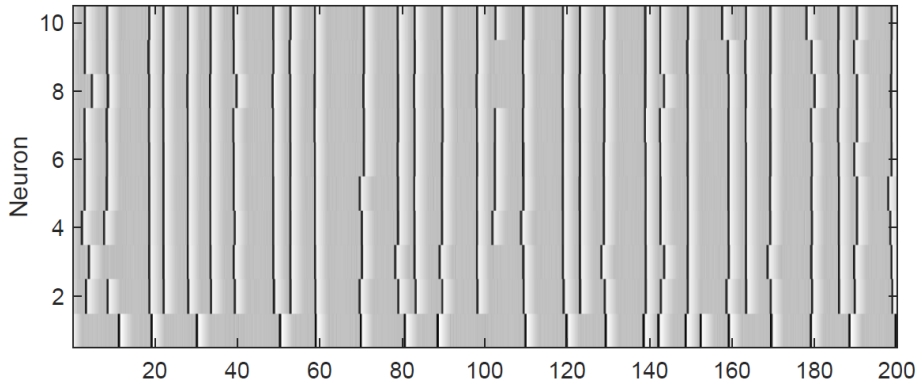
$k_i = \sum_j a_{ij}$

$a_{ij} = a_{ji} = 1$
 $a_{ij} = a_{ji} = 0$

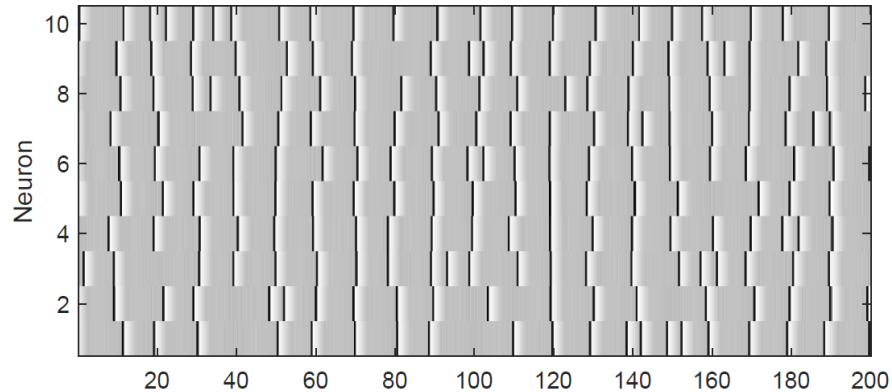
M. Masoliver and C. Masoller, “Neuronal coupling benefits the encoding of weak periodic signals in symbolic spike patterns”, Commun. Nonlinear Sci. Numer. Simulat. 88, 105023 (2020).

Spiking dynamics with/without coupling, with/without external input

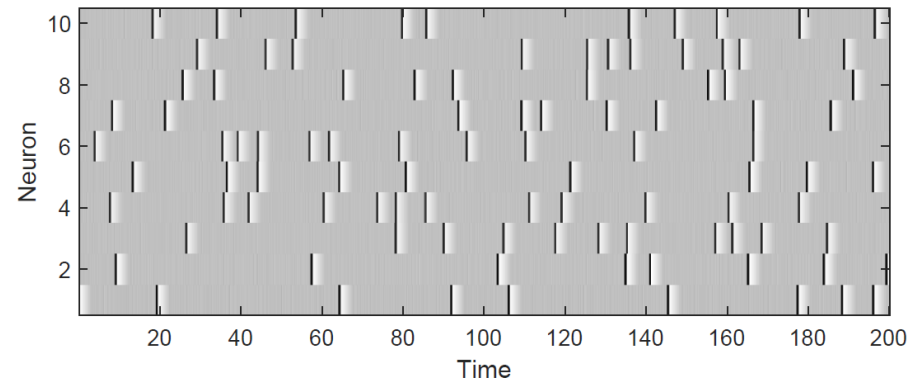
$\sigma \neq 0$
 $a \neq 0$



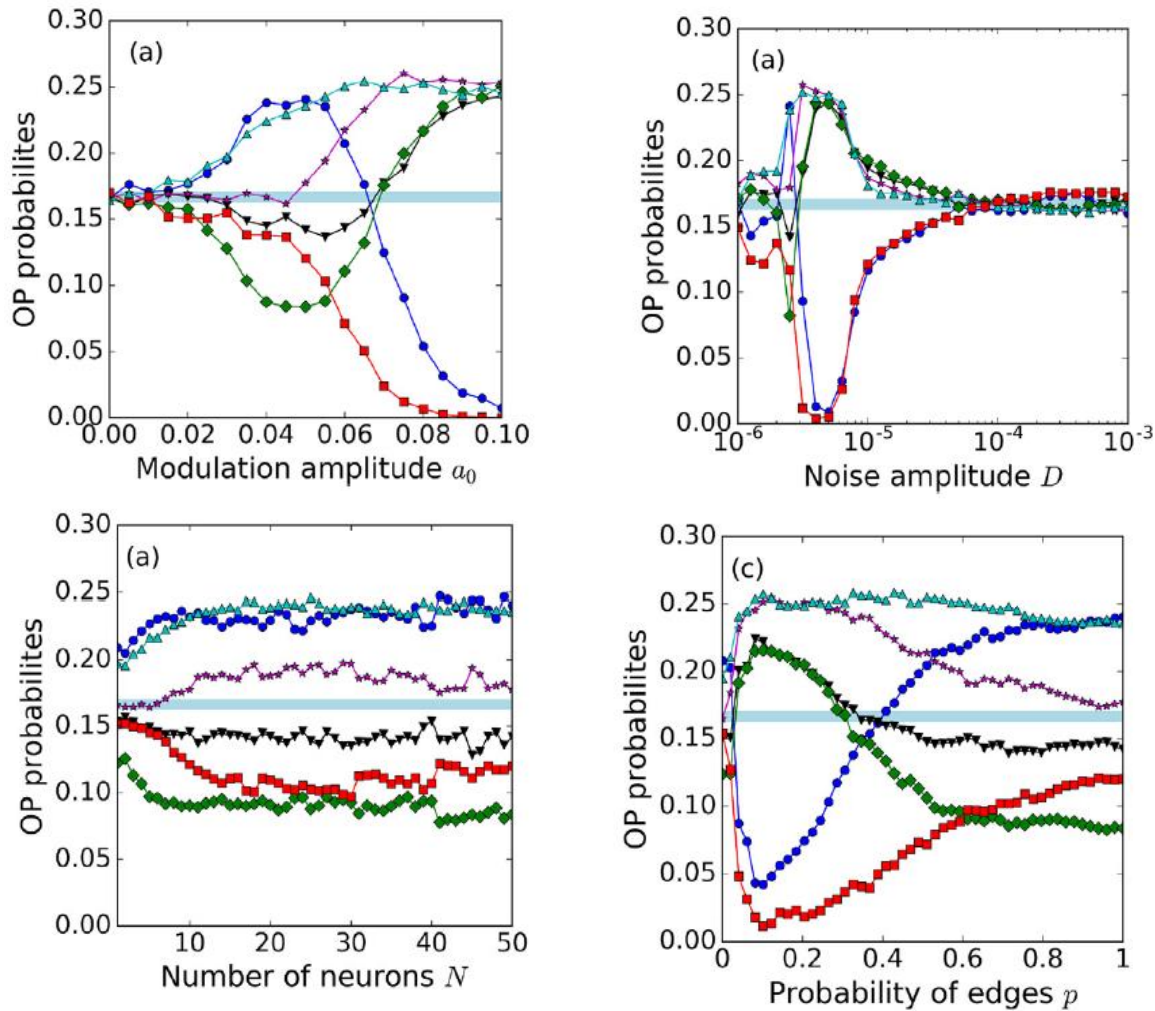
$\sigma = 0$
 $a \neq 0$



$\sigma = 0$
 $a = 0$



Ensemble encoding of a weak sinusoidal signal in the frequencies of occurrence of ordinal patterns



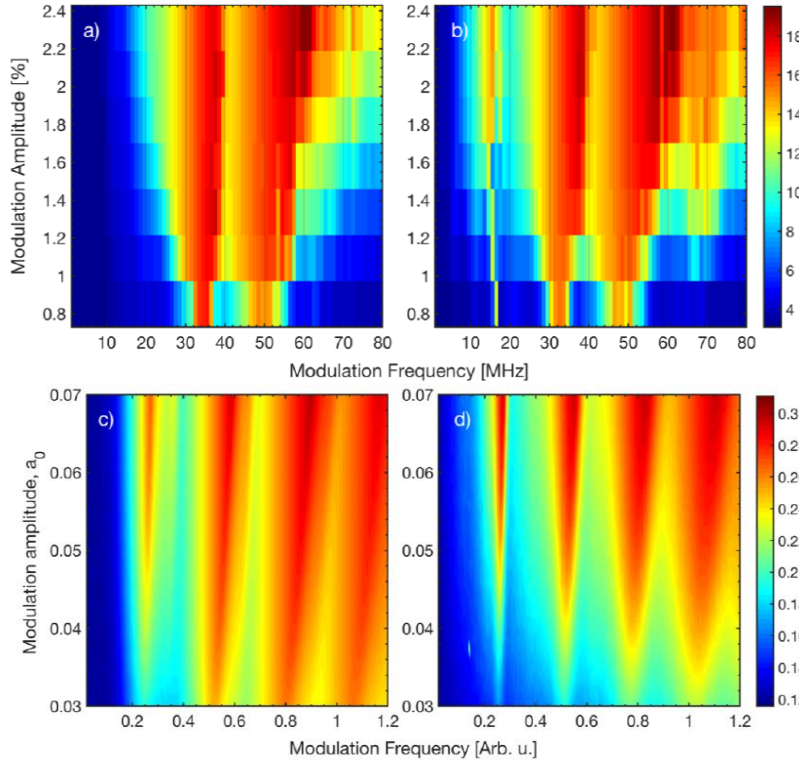
M. Masoliver and C. Masoller, Commun. Nonlinear Sci. Numer. Simulat. 88, 105023 (2020).

Laser-neuron comparison: encoding a weak periodic signal using spike rate code.

Spike rate in color code

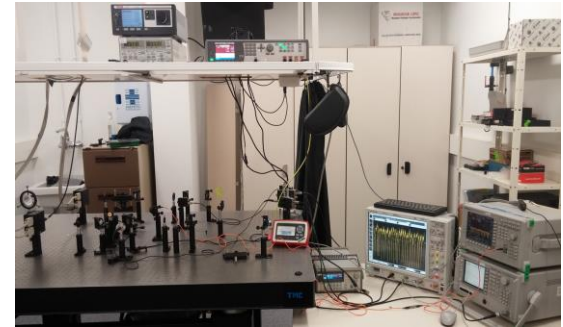
Sinusoidal

Pulsed signal



Experiments
modulating
the laser
current

Neuron
model with
the same
input signal



$$\varepsilon \frac{dx}{dt} = x - \frac{x^3}{3} - y,$$

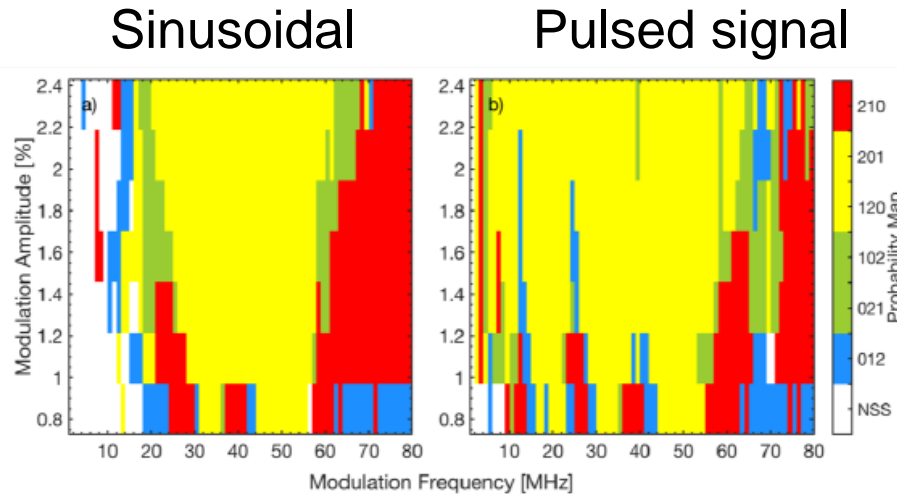
$$\frac{dy}{dt} = x + a + D\xi(t).$$

J. Tiana-Alsina, C. Quintero-Quiroz and C. Masoller, “Comparing the dynamics of periodically forced lasers and neurons”, New J. of Phys. 21, 103039 (2019).

How about the temporal code?

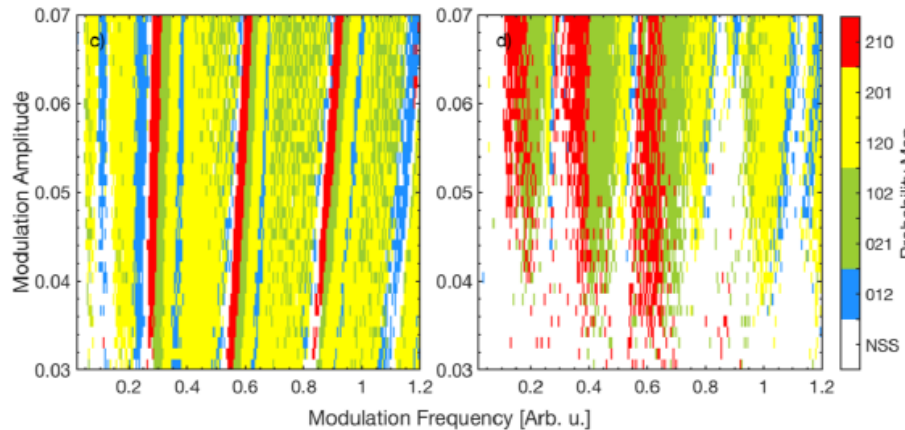
Ordinal analysis unveils differences in spike timing.

Diode
laser with
optical
feedback



**Most
probable
pattern in
color
code**

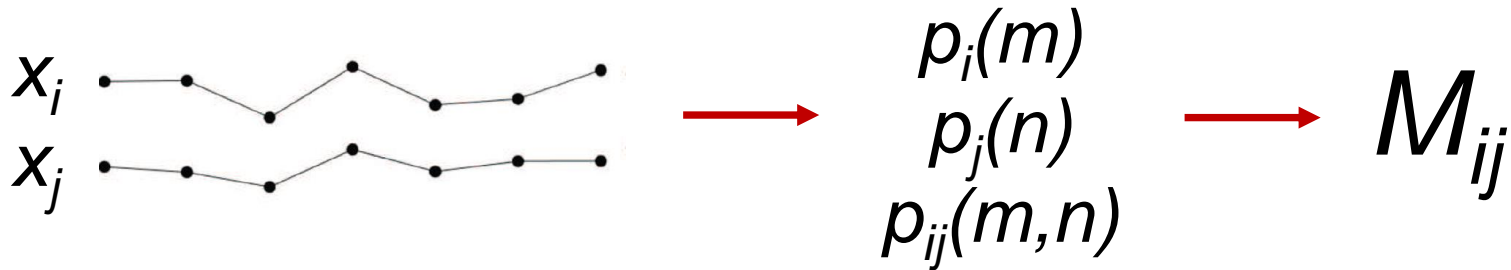
FitzHugh-
Nagumo
model



J. Tiana-Alsina, C. Quintero-Quiroz and C. Masoller, New J. of Phys. 21, 103039 (2019).

Ordinal analysis of bivariate data.

Are two time series statistically independent?



Mutual Information:
$$M_{ij} = \sum_{m,n} p_{ij}(m,n) \log \frac{p_{ij}(m,n)}{p_i(m)p_j(n)}$$

x_i, x_j statistically independent: $p_{ij} = p_i p_j \Rightarrow MI = 0$

In practice: $MI > 0 \Rightarrow$ surrogate data needed to test significance

MI is not a causal measure: $MI_{ij} = MI_{ji}$

A simple example to show that MI values are overestimated

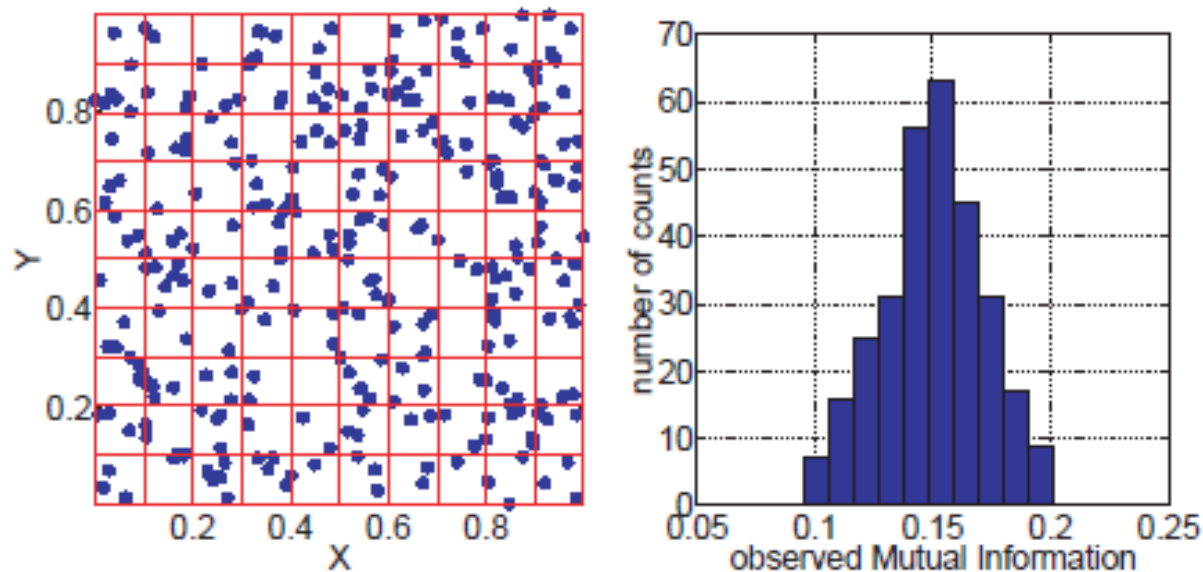


Fig. 1. Naive estimation of the mutual information for finite data. Left: The dataset consists of $N = 300$ artificially generated independent and equidistributed random numbers. The probabilities are estimated using a histogram which divides each axis into $M_x = M_y = 10$ bins. Right: The histogram of the estimated mutual information $I(X, Y)$ obtained from 300 independent realizations.

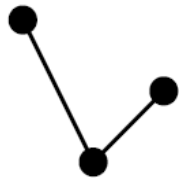
R. Steuer et al, Bioinformatics 18, suppl 2, S231 (2002).

Problem: a reliable estimation of MI requires a large amount of data.

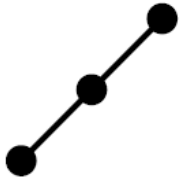
Using $D=3$ ordinal patterns (6 possible patterns, 36 possible combinations for p_{ij}) we need at least 400 data points in each time series.

Using **lagged points** to define the patterns allows to select the time scale of the analysis, very useful for seasonal data

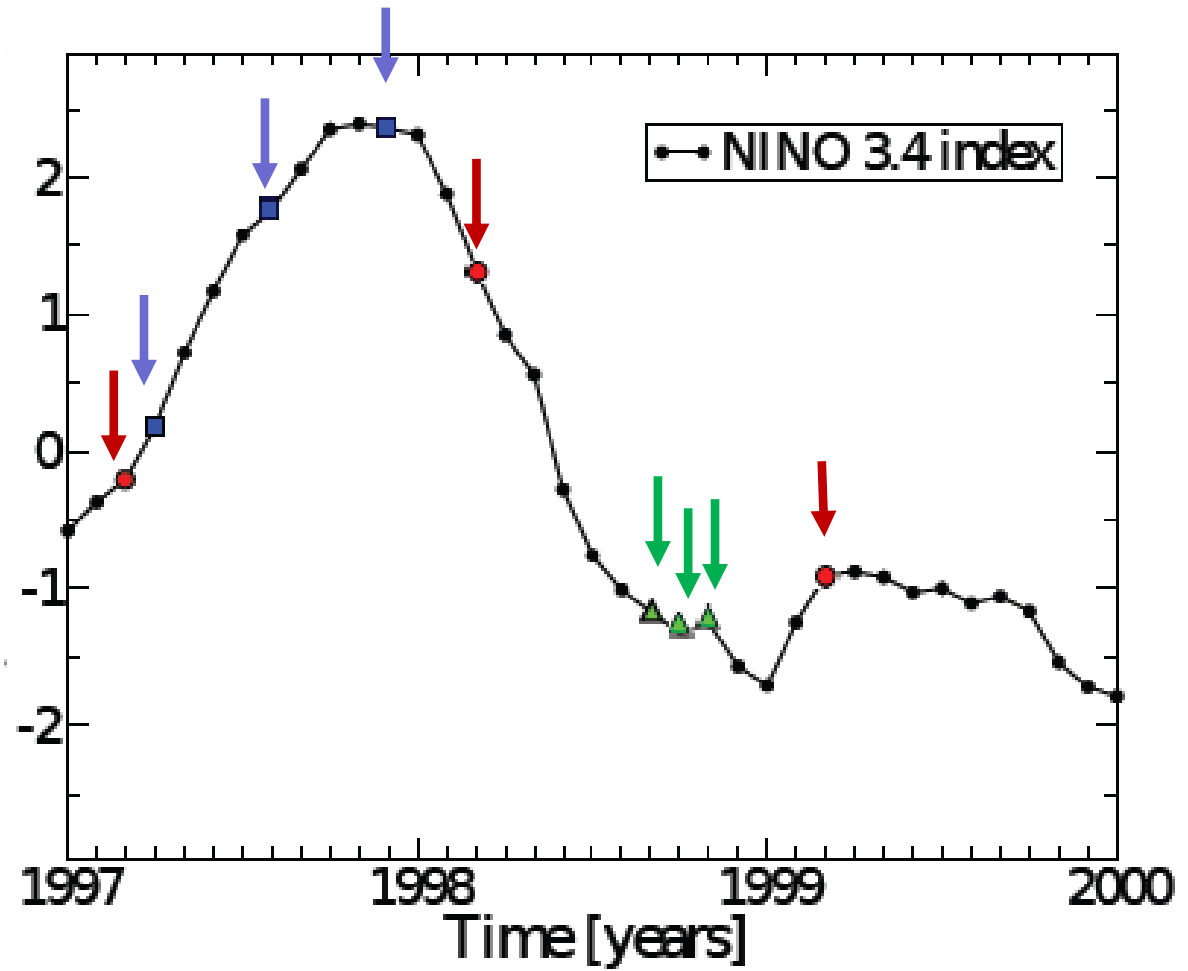
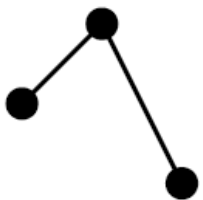
Intra-season



Intra-annual



Inter-annual



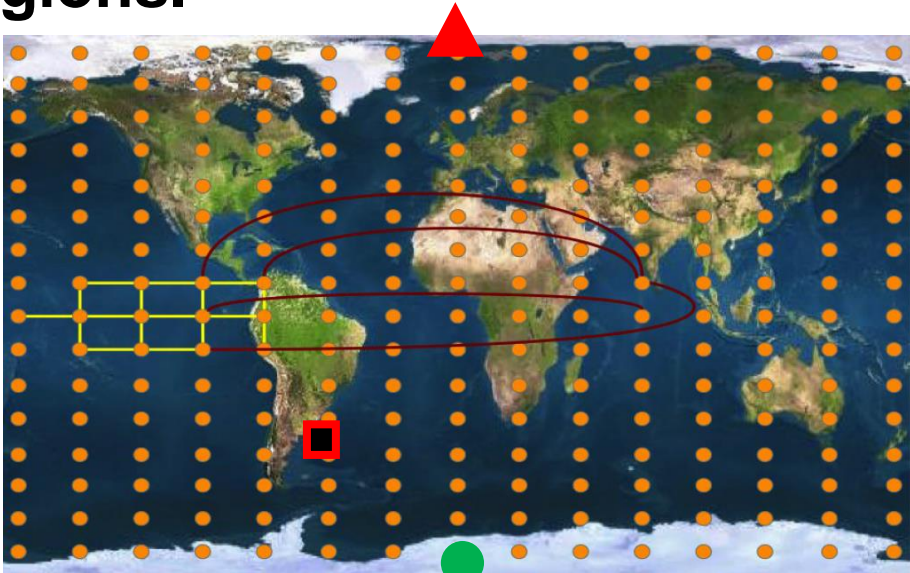
Application: analysis of surface air temperature (SAT) anomaly in two geographical regions.

Anomaly = annual solar cycle removed

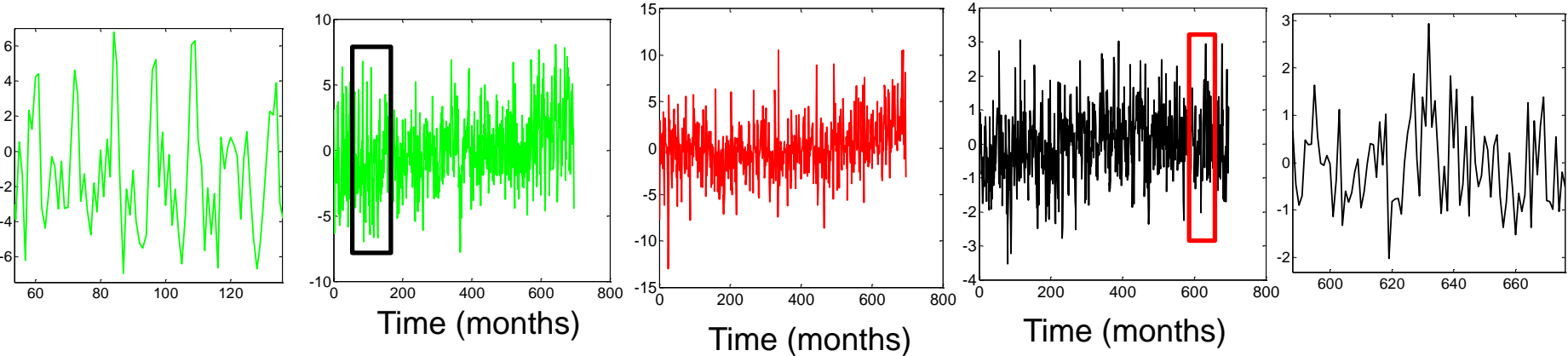
Reanalysis (data assimilation)

$2.5^\circ \times 2.5^\circ = 10226$ grid points.

In each point 696 anomaly values
(1949-2006: 58 years x 12 months)



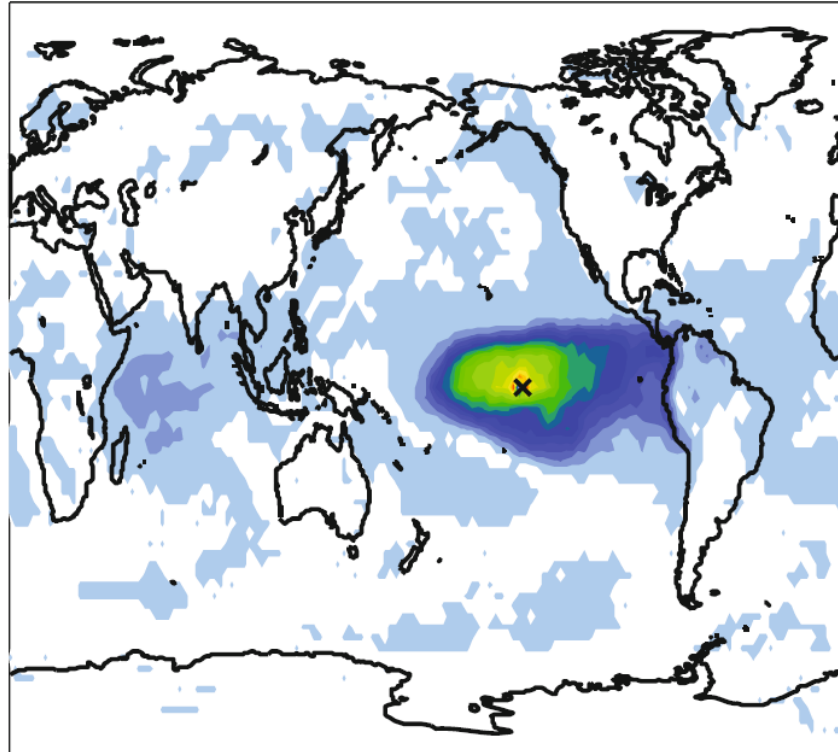
How does the data look like?



Mutual Information (color code) of SAT anomaly in El Niño region and other regions (white: MI not significant)

$$M_{ij} = \sum_{m,n} p_{ij}(m,n) \log \frac{p_{ij}(m,n)}{p_i(m)p_j(n)}$$

MI from
probabilities
of SAT
anomaly
values

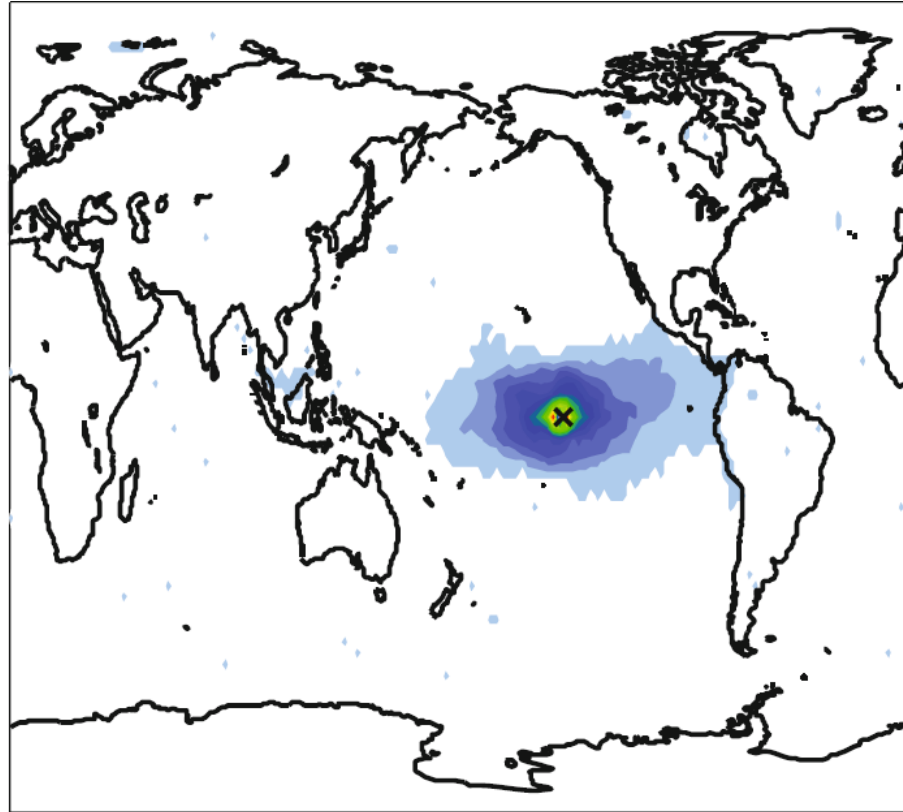


J. I. Deza, M. Barreiro, C. Masoller, “Inferring interdependencies in climate networks constructed at inter-annual, intra-season and longer time scales”, Eur. Phys. J. ST 222, 511 (2013).

Mutual Information (color code) of SAT anomaly in El Niño region and other regions (white: MI not significant)

$$M_{ij} = \sum_{m,n} p_{ij}(m,n) \log \frac{p_{ij}(m,n)}{p_i(m)p_j(n)}$$

MI from probabilities of ordinal patterns defined by values in 3 consecutive months.

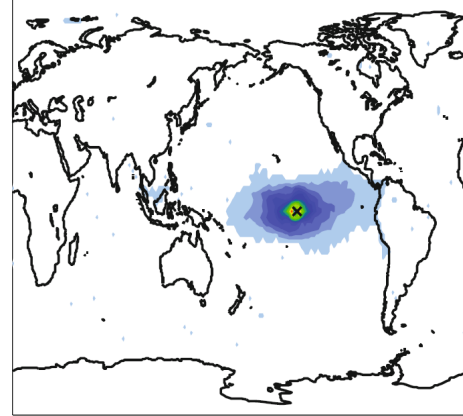
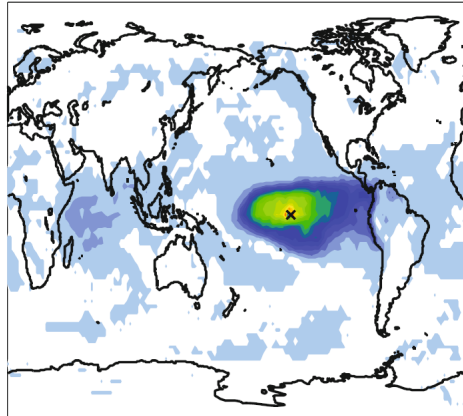


J. I. Deza, M. Barreiro, C. Masoller, “Inferring interdependencies in climate networks constructed at inter-annual, intra-season and longer time scales”, Eur. Phys. J. ST 222, 511 (2013).

Comparison

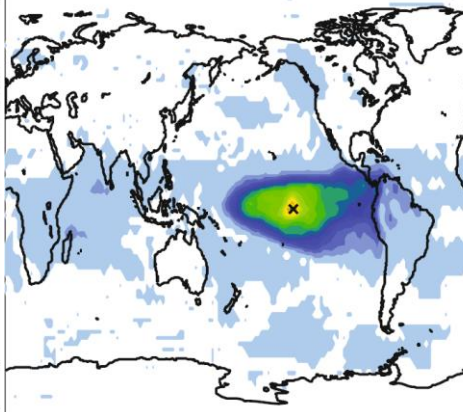
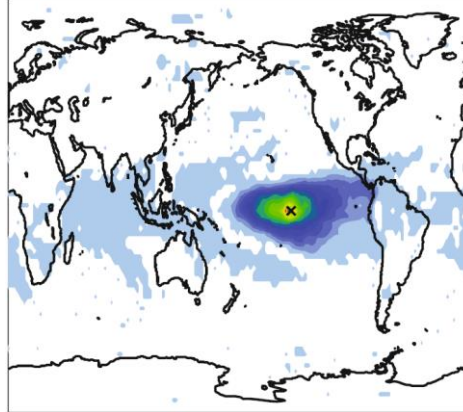
$$M_{ij} = \sum_{m,n} p_{ij}(m,n) \log \frac{p_{ij}(m,n)}{p_i(m)p_j(n)}$$

probabilities of
SAT values



probabilities of
ordinal patterns
defined by values
in 3 consecutive
months.

probabilities of
patterns defined
by 3 values in a
year.



probabilities of
patterns defined
by values in 3
consecutive
years.

J. I. Deza, M. Barreiro, C. Masoller, "Inferring interdependencies in climate networks constructed at inter-annual, intra-season and longer time scales", Eur. Phys. J. ST 222, 511 (2013).

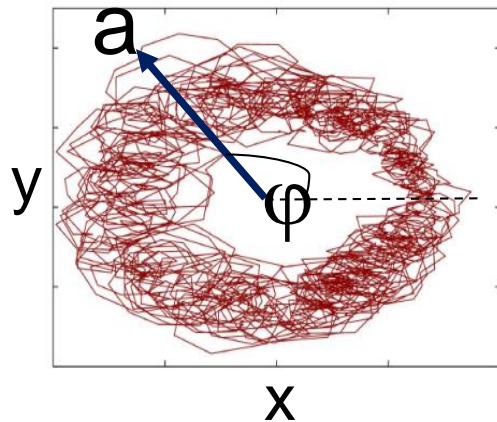
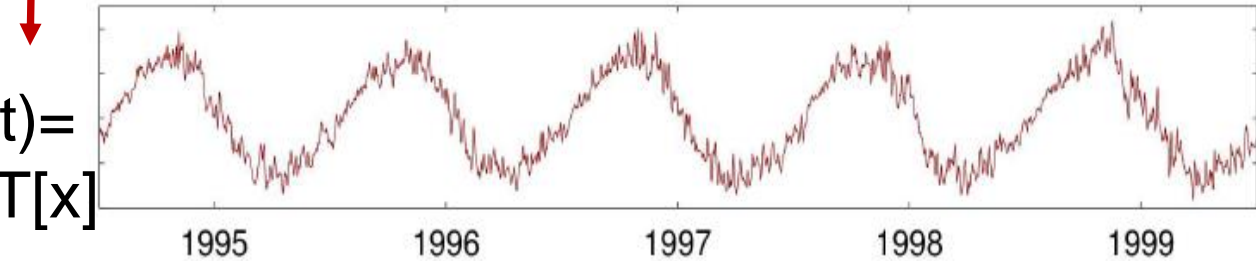
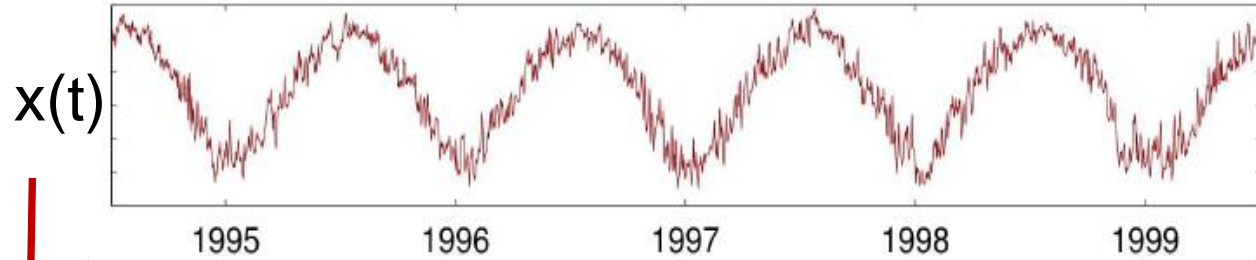
Outline

- Complex systems and time series analysis
- Ordinal analysis: Lasers and neurons and climate data
- **Hilbert analysis: Climate data**
- Causal inference: Synthetic and climate data
- Regime transitions: laser, EEG and vegetation data
- Network analysis: Retina fundus images
- Take home messages

Hilbert Transform applied to Surface Air Temperature (SAT)

SAT in a geographical region

$$\text{HT}[\sin(x)] = \cos(x)$$



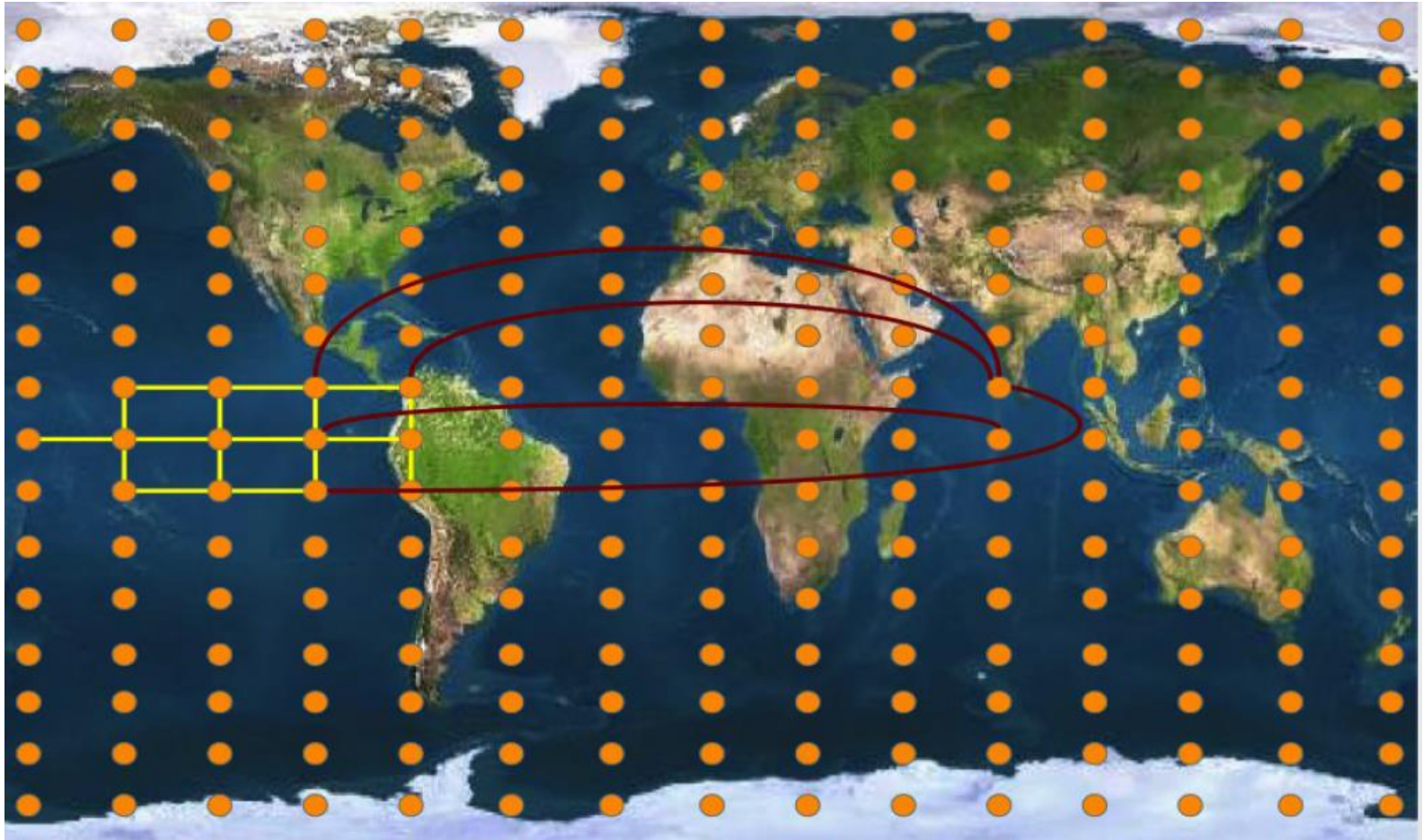
Instantaneous amplitude and phase

$$a(t) = \sqrt{[x(t)]^2 + [y(t)]^2}$$

$$\phi(t) = \arctan[y(t)/x(t)]$$

Clear physical meaning only if $x(t)$ is a narrow-band signal. Then, $a(t)$ coincides with the **envelope** of $x(t)$ and $\omega(t) = d\phi/dt$, coincides with the **main frequency** in the spectrum.

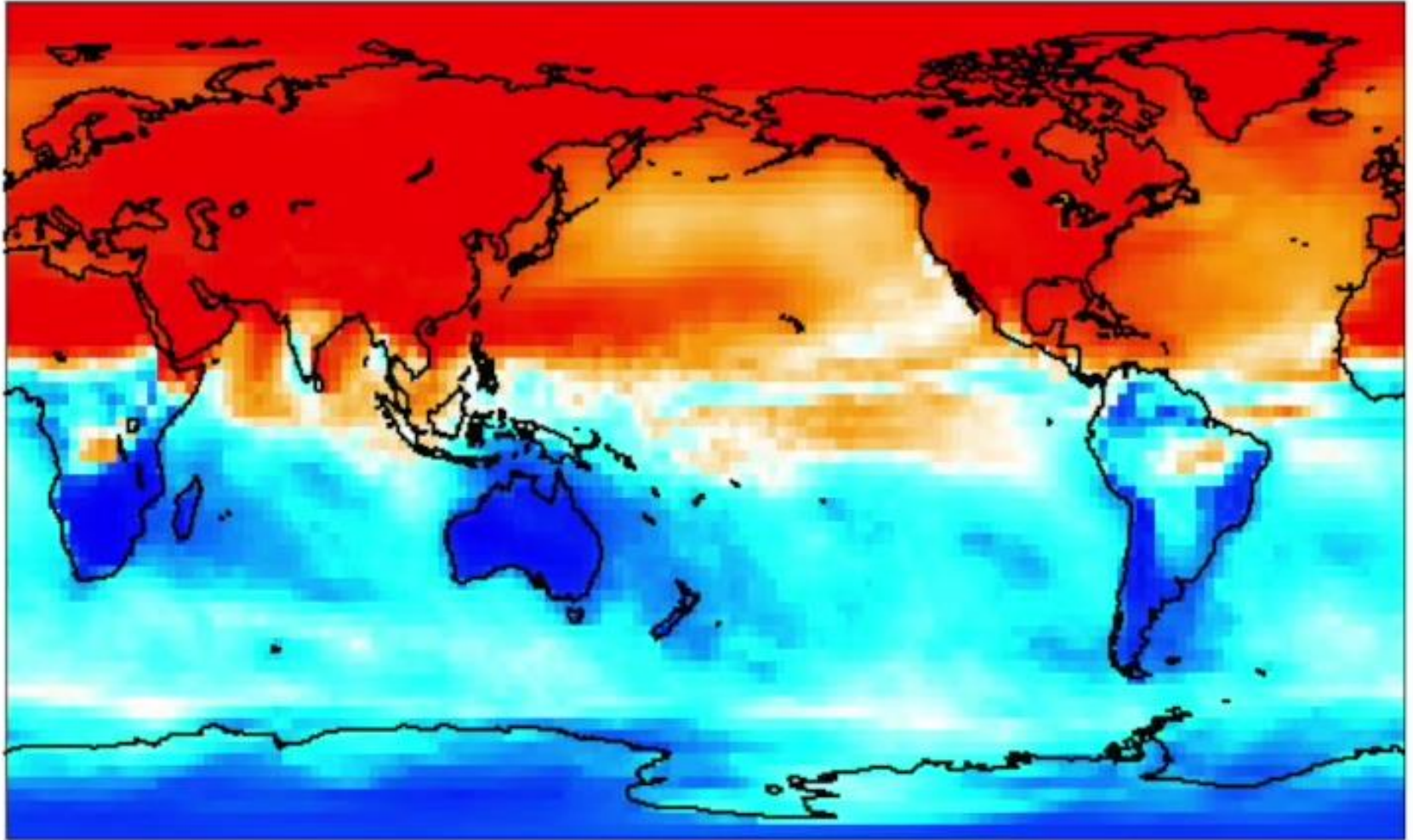
Using the HT we analyzed “re-analysis data” from the *European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts*, with high spatial and temporal resolution in the period 1979-2016



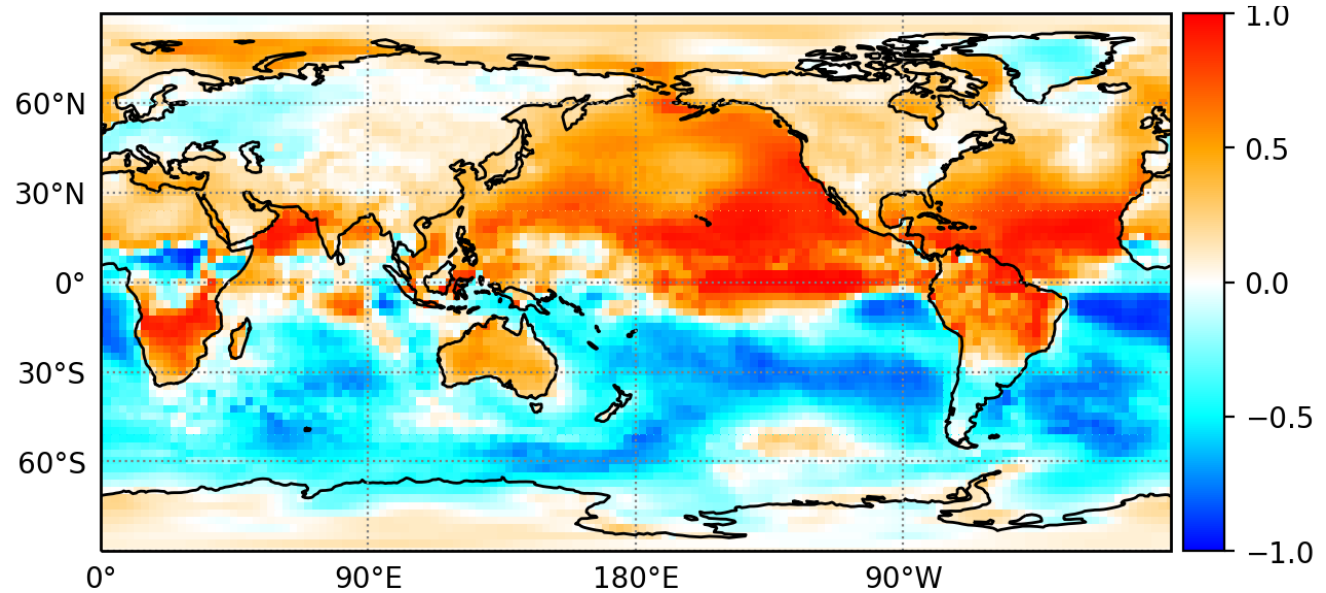
$73 \times 144 = 10\,512$ geographical sites, in each site the SAT time series has 13696 days

Average of the cosine of the Hilbert phase

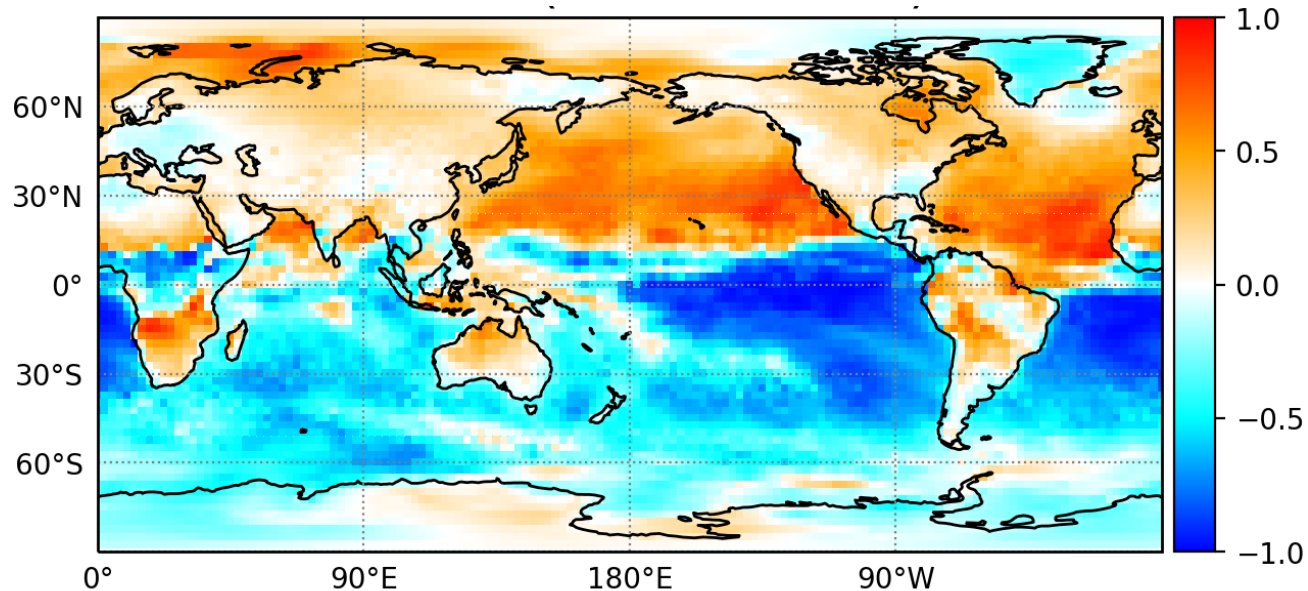
1 July



Cosine of Hilbert phase during an *El Niño* period (October 2011)



Cosine of Hilbert phase during a *La Niña* period (October 2011)

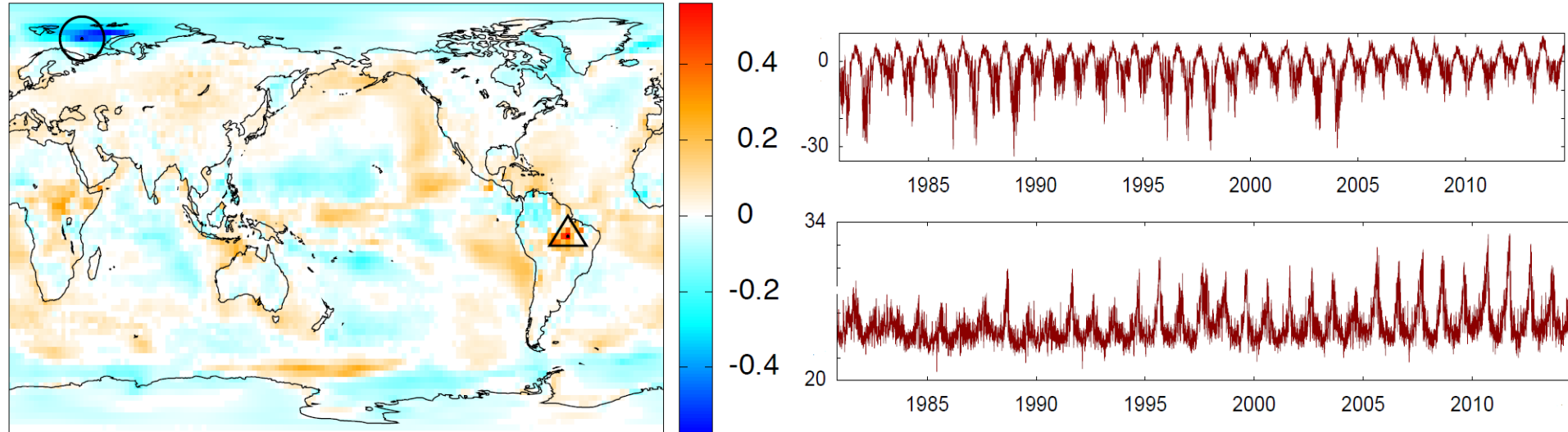


How to detect significant changes in the last 30 years?

$$\Delta a = \langle a \rangle_{2016-2007} - \langle a \rangle_{1988-1979} \quad \frac{\Delta a}{\langle a \rangle_{2016-1979}}$$

$$\text{Significant if: } \frac{\Delta a}{\langle a \rangle} \geq \langle \cdot \rangle_s + 2\sigma_s \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{\Delta a}{\langle a \rangle} \leq \langle \cdot \rangle_s - 2\sigma_s$$

with σ_s computed from 100 “surrogates”



D. A. Zappala, M. Barreiro, C. Masoller, “Quantifying changes in spatial patterns of surface air temperature dynamics over several decades”, Earth Syst. Dynam. 9, 383–391 (2018).

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Granger Causality

Hypothesis: X_1 and X_2 can be described by stationary autoregressive linear models.



Sir. Clive Granger

$$X_1(t) = \sum_{j=1}^p \text{past of } X_1 A_{11,j} X_1(t-j) + E_1(t) \text{ Residual error}$$

$$X_1(t) = \sum_{j=1}^p \text{past of } X_1 A_{11,j} X_1(t-j) + \sum_{j=1}^p \text{past of } X_2 A_{12,j} X_2(t-j) + E'_1(t) \text{ Residual error}$$

$$\text{If } \langle E'_1(t) \rangle < \langle E_1(t) \rangle \quad \longrightarrow \quad X_2 \rightarrow X_1$$

C. W. J. Granger *Investigating causal relations by econometric models and cross-spectral methods. Econometrica* 37, 424–438 (1969).

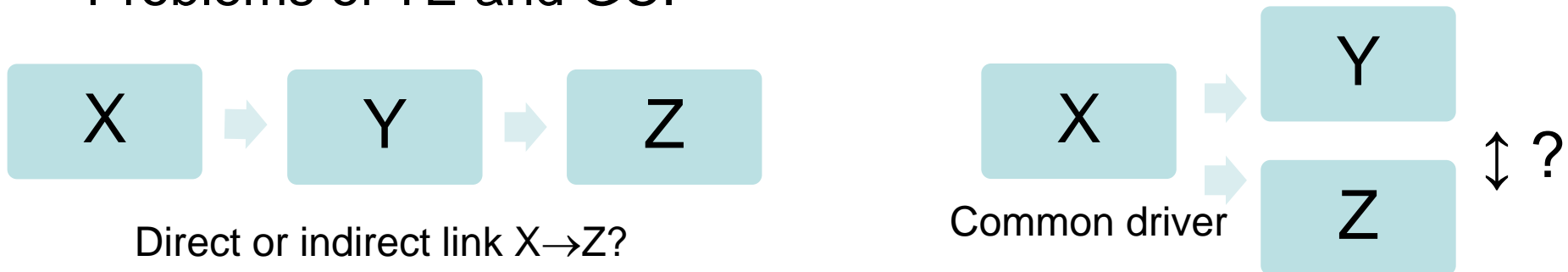
Transfer Entropy (TE)

- Measures the amount of transfer of information between two random processes.
- TE: *Conditional* Mutual Information, given the past of one of the variables.

$$TE(x,y) = MI(x, y|x_\tau)$$

$$TE(y,x) = MI(y, x|y_\tau)$$

- TE and GC are equivalent for Gaussian processes.
- Problems of TE and GC:



Thomas Schreiber, *Measuring information transfer*, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* 85, 461 (2000).

55

A “simple” solution

Use an analytical expression of the Transfer Entropy that is valid for Gaussian processes.

Does this work?

Sometimes.

Data generating processes and significance analysis

DGPs: We know whether X and Y are independent or not.

		Model		
Y	X	M0	$x_t = (0.01 + 0.5 x_{t-1}^2)^{0.5} + E_{1t}$	$y_t = 0.5 y_{t-1} + E_{2t}$
		M1		
		M2		
Y	→ X	M3	$x_t = 0.6 x_{t-1} + 0.5 y_{t-1} + E_{1t}$	$y_t = 0.5 y_{t-1} + E_{2t}$
		M4		
		M5		
		M6		
		M7		
		M8		
		M9		
		M10		
		M11		
		M12		
Y	↔ X	M13	$x_t = 0.15 x_{t-1} + 0.7 y_{t-1} + E_{1t}$	$y_t = 0.1 y_{t-1} + 0.8 x_{t-1} + E_{2t}$
		M14		

M11: two Rössler systems coupled by the first variable

Significance analysis: time-shifted surrogates (cheap for causality testing)

Quiroga et al., Phys. Rev. E 65, 041903 (2002).

Results

Power: there is causality and we find causality (True Positives)

Size: there is no causality but we find causality (False Positives)

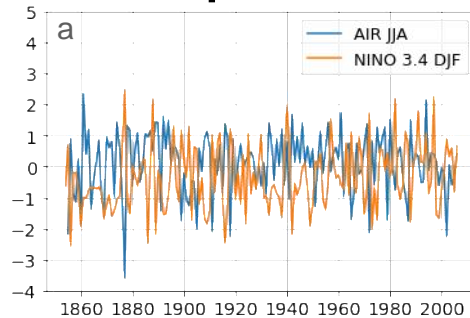
		Model	pTE					
			$Y \rightarrow X$	$X \rightarrow Y$				
$Y \quad X$	{	M0	3.8	3.9	✓			
		M1	2.3	2.6				
		M2	4.2	4.7				
$Y \rightarrow X$	{	M3	100	4.5	✓			
		M4	80.7	3.8				
		M5	100	2.2				
		M6	100	1.8				
		M7	100	2.8				
		M8	100	4.5				
		M9	100	0.1		✗		
		M10	62.6	3.1				
		M11	46.1	43.1				
		M12	99.9	1.0				
		$Y \Leftrightarrow X$	{	M13		100	100	✓
				M14		100	100	

Comparison with Granger Causality and Transfer Entropy

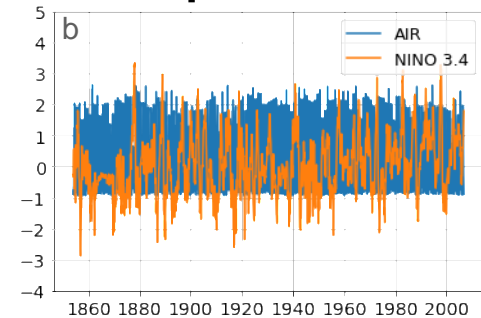
		Model	pTE		GC		TE	
			$Y \rightarrow X$	$X \rightarrow Y$	$Y \rightarrow X$	$X \rightarrow Y$	$Y \rightarrow X$	$X \rightarrow Y$
$Y \quad X$	{	M0	3.8	3.9	5.1	5.0	4.4	4.4
		M1	2.3	2.6	3.3	3.1	100	100
		M2	4.2	4.7	5.5	5.9	4.7	4.9
$Y \rightarrow X$	{	M3	100	4.5	100	4.8	70.2	5.6
		M4	80.7	3.8	84.2	4.9	96.0	4.7
		M5	100	2.2	100	3.1	100	3.8
		M6	100	1.8	100	2.8	100	4.3
		M7	100	2.8	100	3.4	100	4.0
		M8	100	4.5	100	5.6	100	100
		M9	100	0.1	100	0.1	100	100
		M10	62.6	3.1	67.3	4.3	12.2	4.5
		M11	46.1	43.1	53.1	49.8	37.8	45.0
		M12	99.9	1.0	100	0.9	100	0
$Y \Leftrightarrow X$	{	M13	100	100	100	100	100	100
		M14	100	100	100	100	100	100

Application to climate data NINO3.4 \leftrightarrow All India Rainfall

Yearly
sampled (152)



Monthly
sampled (1836)



pTE

NINO3.4 \rightarrow AIR

0.04 s

GC

NINO3.4 \rightarrow AIR

0.4 s

TE

NINO3.4 \leftrightarrow AIR

1 s

NINO3.4 \leftarrow AIR

0.5 s

NINO3.4 \leftarrow AIR

0.9 s

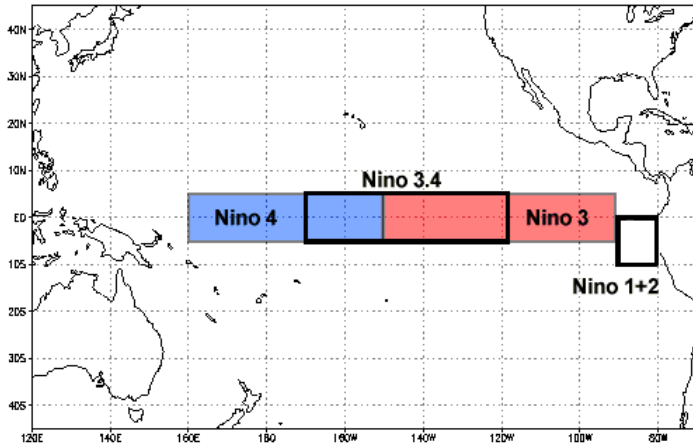
NINO3.4 \leftrightarrow AIR

40₉
3
68 s

How much time we save by using “pseudo Transfer Entropy”?

For two time-series of 500 data points (1 data point per month, 40 years):

TE: **112 ms** but pTE: **4 ms**



8000 grid points (high resolution)
⇒ 64×10^6 pairs

⇒ **829 days** (TE) vs. **29 days** (pTE).

(without “surrogate” analysis)

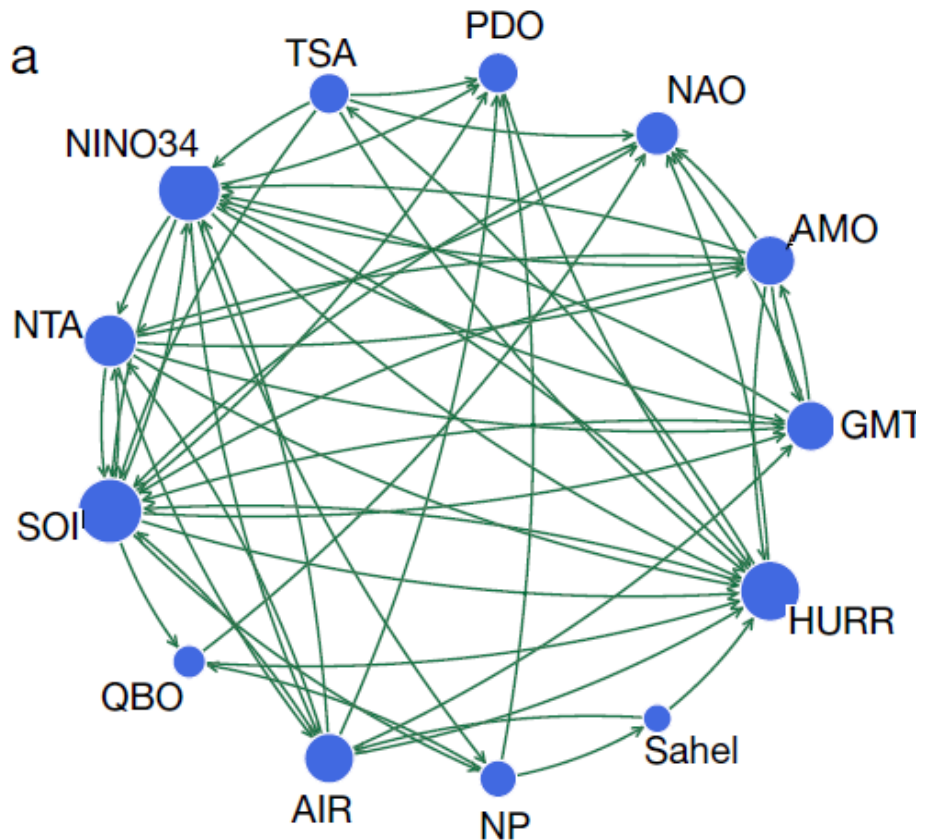
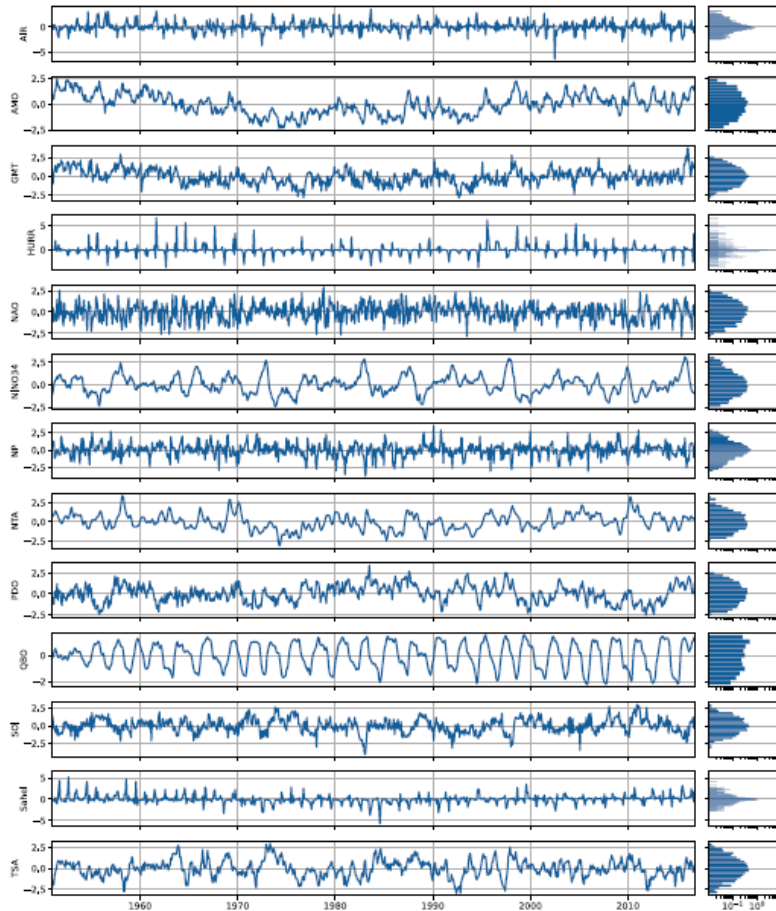
But, there is a price to pay, no “free lunch”.

<https://github.com/riccardosilini/pTE>

R. Silini and C. Masoller “*Fast and effective pseudo transfer entropy for bivariate data-driven causal inference*”, Sci. Rep. 11, 8423 (2021).

Directed network of climatic indices

Constructed using pTE with different lags

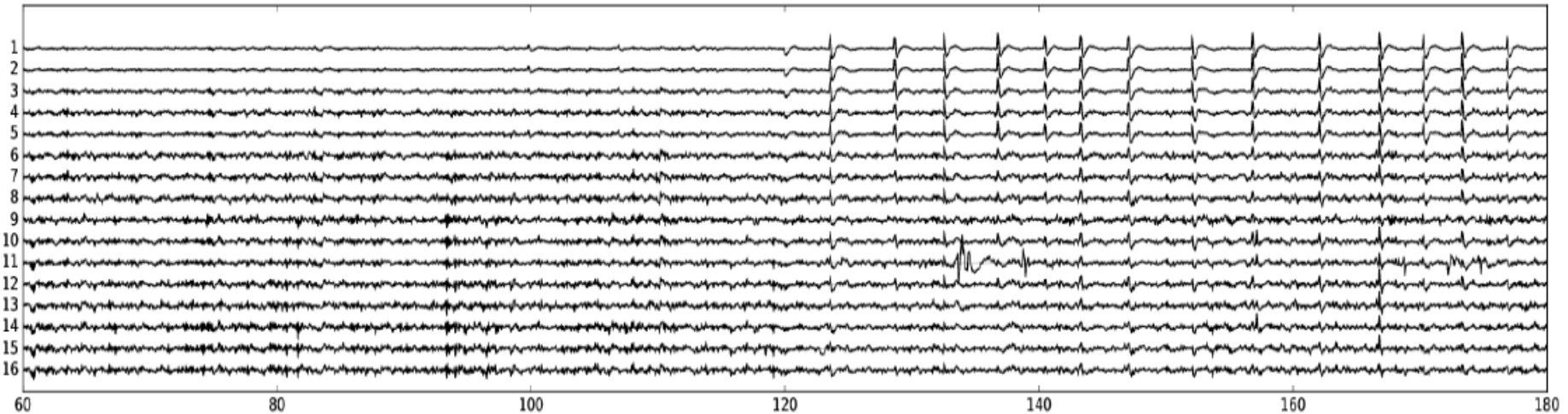
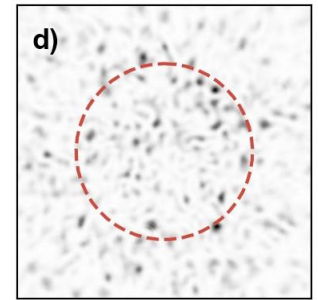
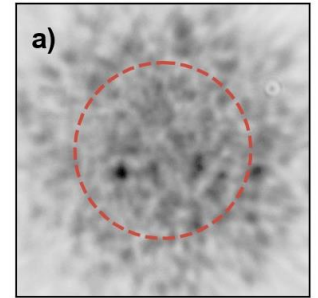
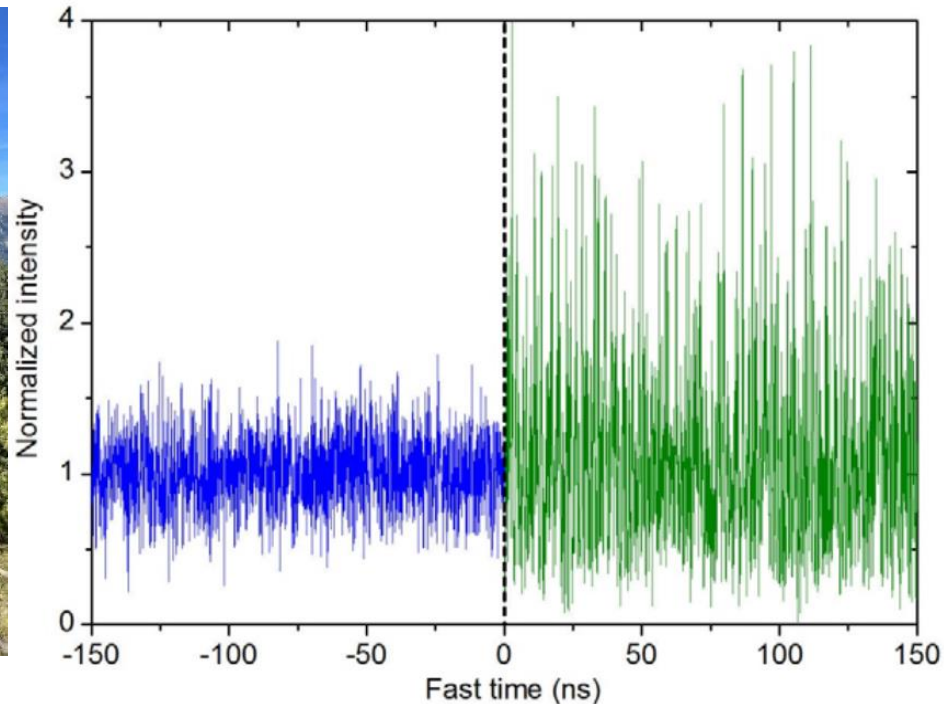


R. Silini, G. Tirabassi, M Barreiro, L. Ferranti, C. Masoller, “Assessing causal dependencies in climatic indices”, *Climate Dynamics* 10.1007/s00382-022-06562-0 (2022).

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Regime transitions in complex systems

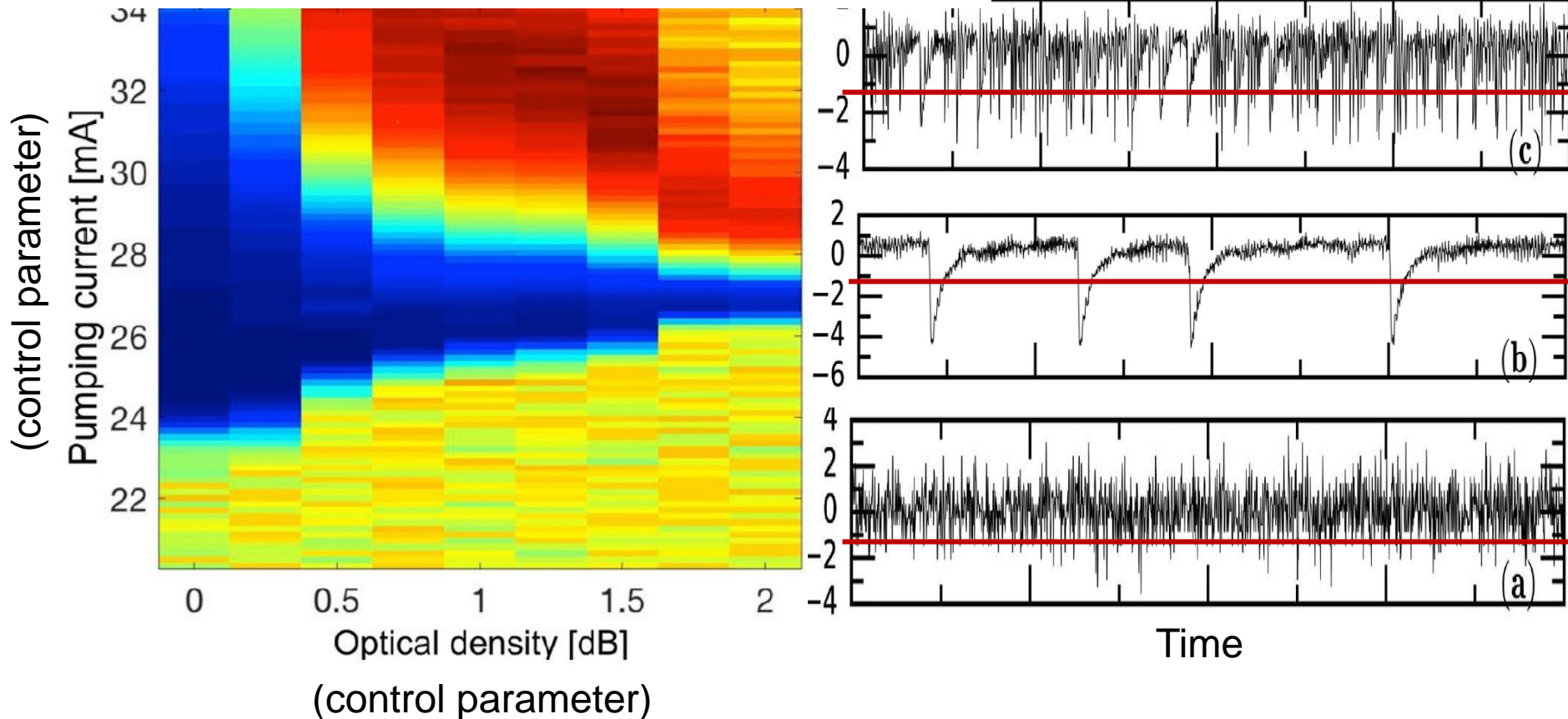


How to identify, characterize and predict regime transitions?

Counting the number of extreme values allows to distinguish different dynamical regimes

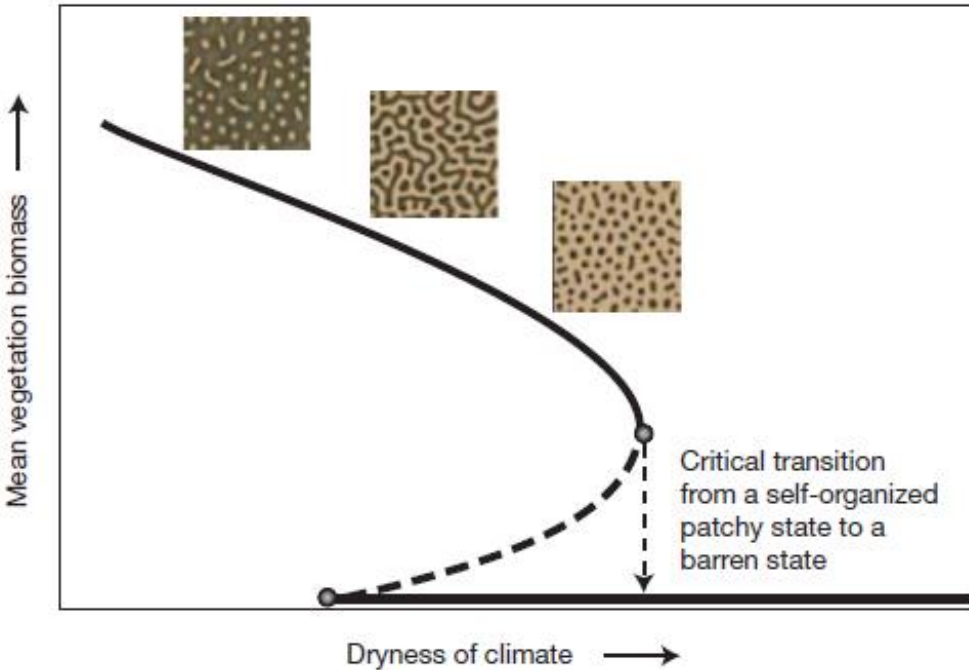
$$Z = \frac{X - \mu}{\sigma}$$

Number of events (below -1.5σ) in log scale



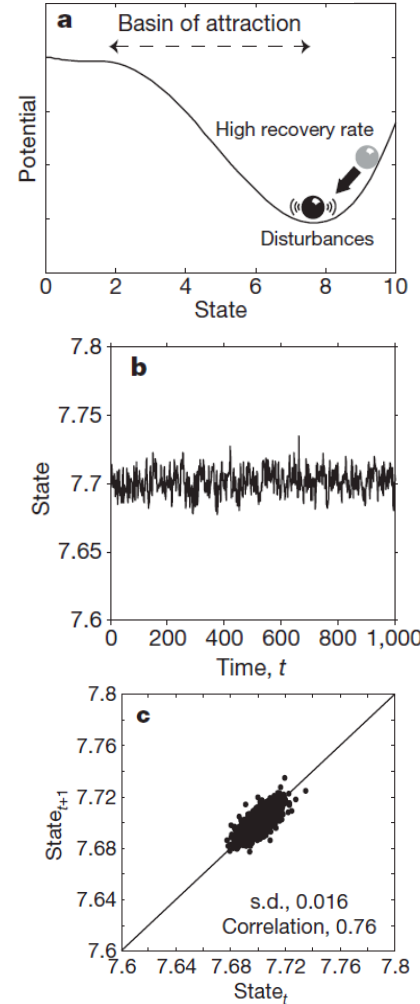
Panozzo et al, Chaos 27, 114315 (2017)

Classical indicators of approaching critical transitions

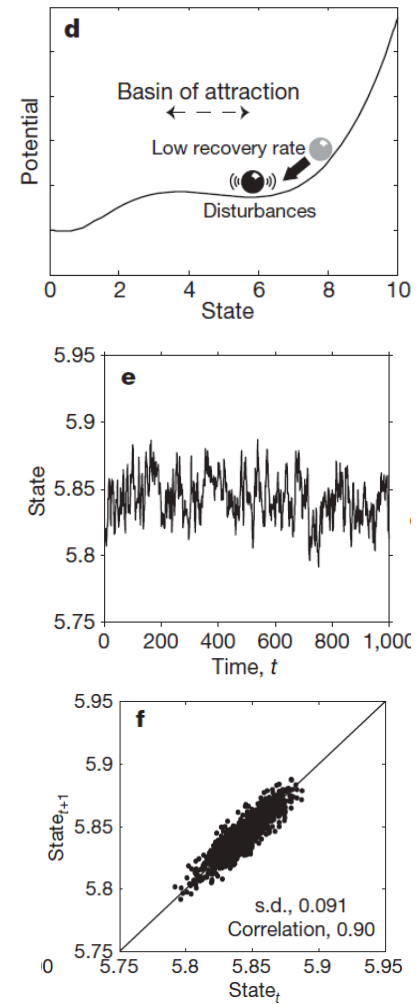


M. Scheffer et al., *Nature* 461, 53 (2009)

Far from bif.



Close to bif.



⇒ increase of variance and autocorrelation (*critical slowing down*)

Shannon entropy

$$\sum_{i=1}^N p_i = 1$$

$$H = -\sum_{i=1}^N p_i \ln p_i$$



Claude Shannon

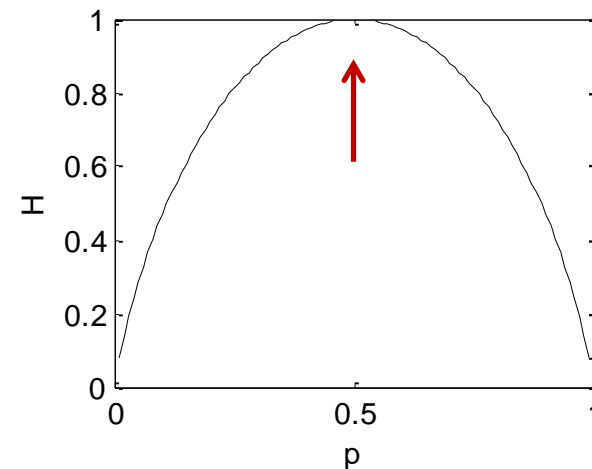
- Interpretation: “*quantity of **surprise** one should feel upon reading the result of a measurement*”.

- Example: a random variable takes values 0 or 1 with probabilities:

$$p(0) = p, \quad p(1) = 1 - p.$$

$$H = -p \ln(p) - (1 - p) \ln(1 - p).$$

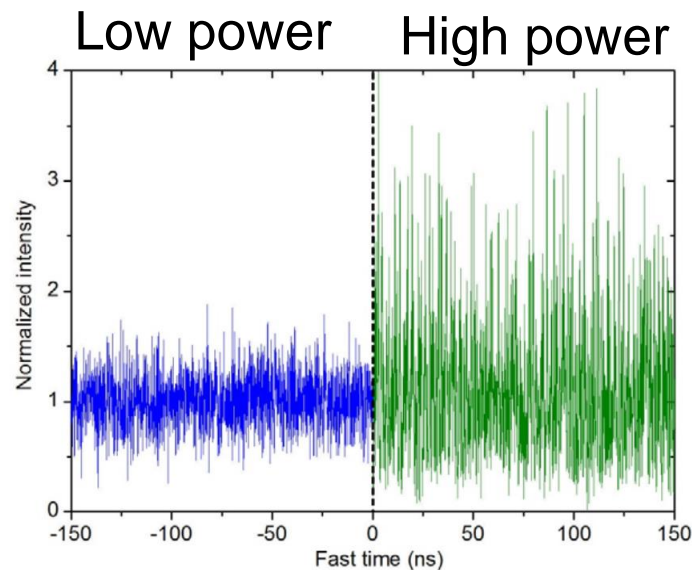
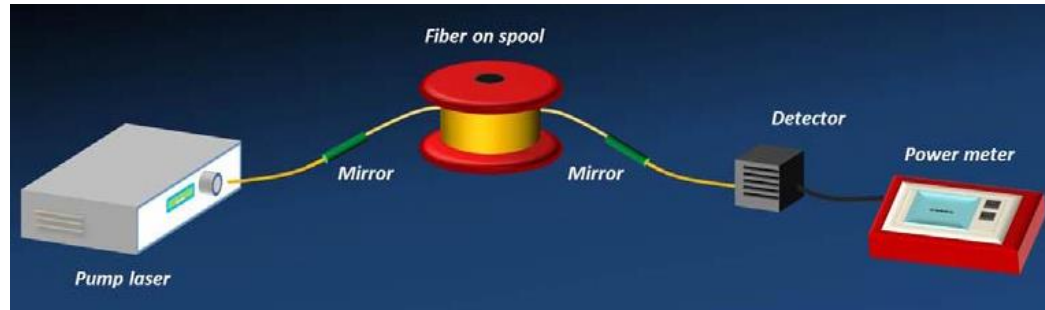
⇒ $p=0.5$: Maximum **unpredictability**.



*C. Shannon, "A Mathematical Theory of Communication",
Bell System Technical Journal. 27 (3): 379–423 (1948).
Bell System Technical Journal. 27 (4): 623–656 (1948).*

Transition laminar \rightarrow optical turbulence in a fiber laser (governing equations similar to hydrodynamics)

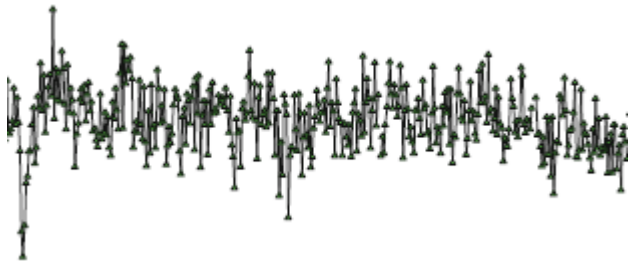
Control
parameter:
power of
pump laser



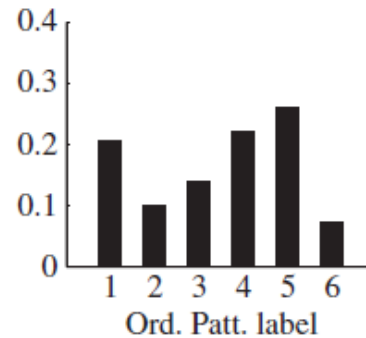
E. G. Turitsyna et. al, Nat. Photonics 7, 783 (2013).

Permutation entropy: Shannon's entropy computed from ordinal probabilities

Time series



Ordinal probabilities



Permutation entropy

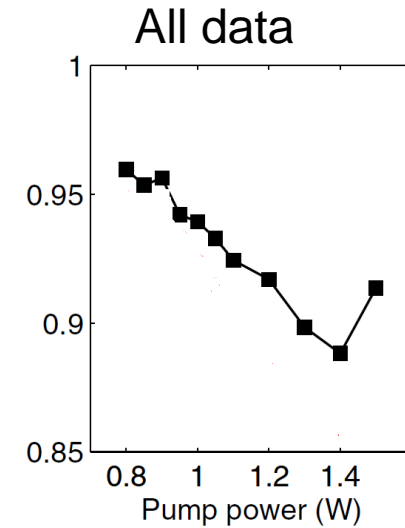
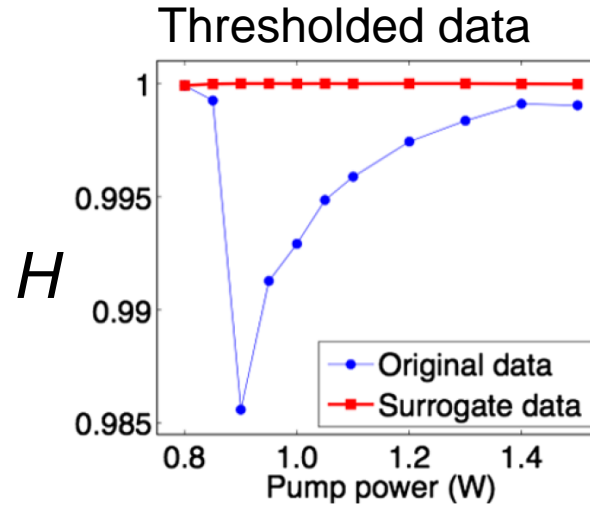
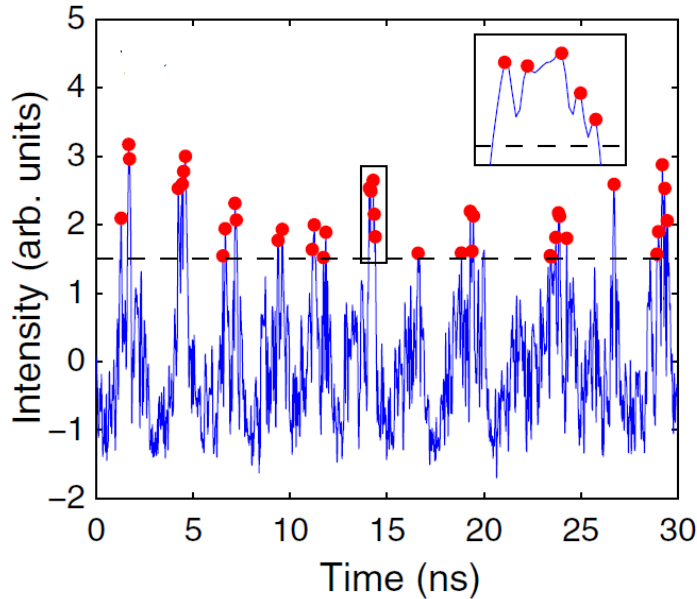
$$H = -\sum_{i=1}^N p_i \ln p_i$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^N p_i = 1$$

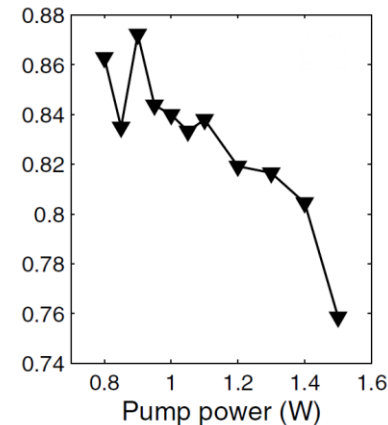


Entropy characterization of the transition

$$H = -\sum_{i=1}^N p_i \ln p_i$$

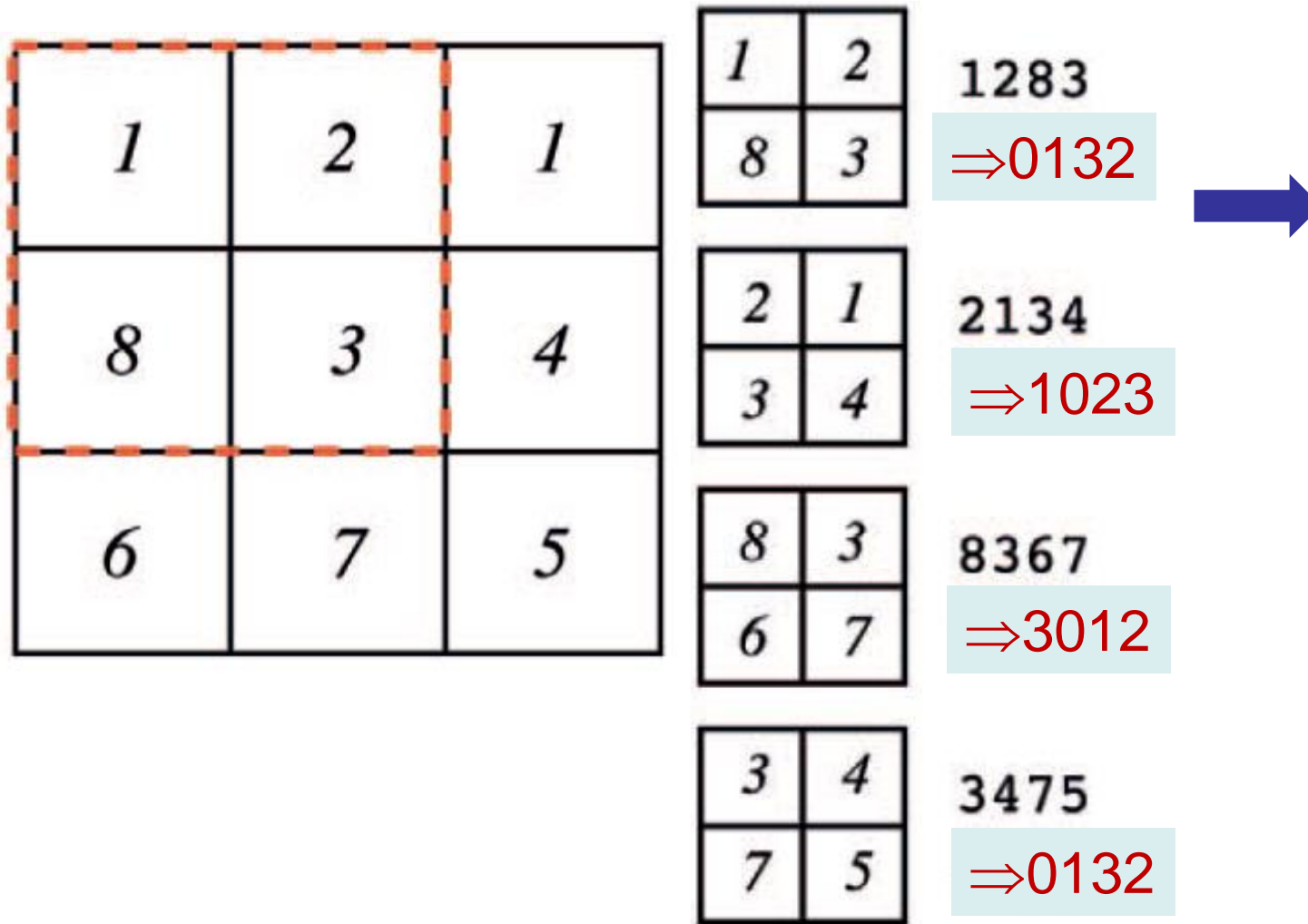


Entropy of the distribution of values. The distribution develops a tail (extreme events) and H decreases.



A. Aragonese et al., "Unveiling temporal correlations characteristic of a phase transition in the output intensity of a fiber laser", PRL 116, 033902 (2016).

Ordinal analysis of two-dimensional patterns



Spatial permutation entropy

$$H = -\sum_{i=1}^N p_i \ln p_i$$

2x2 pixels:
24 possible patterns

H. V. Ribeiro et. al, PLoS ONE 7, e40689 (2012).

The “spatial” permutation entropy was proposed to characterize 2D patterns, “textures” and images.

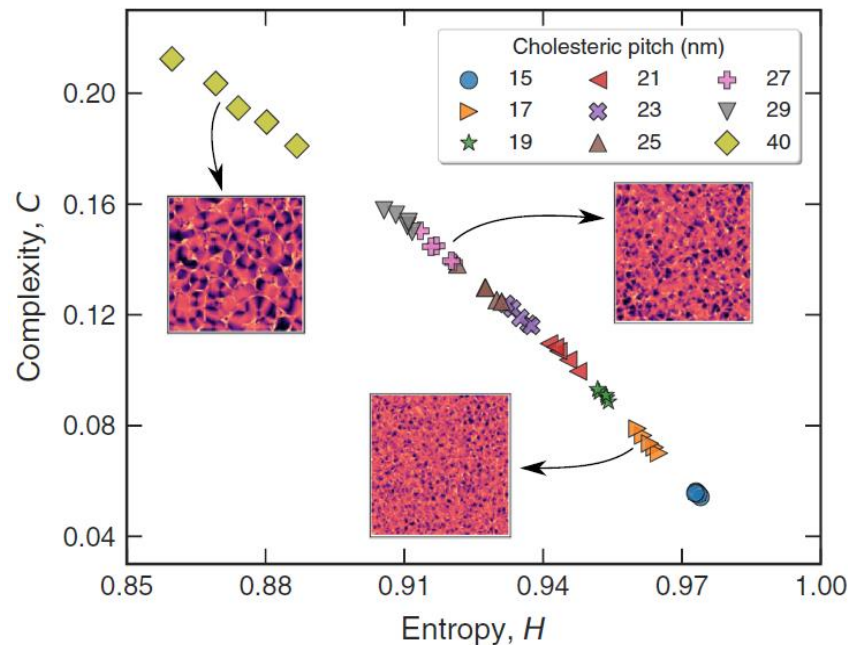
PHYSICAL REVIEW E **99**, 013311 (2019)

Estimating physical properties from liquid crystal textures via machine learning and complexity-entropy methods

H. Y. D. Sigaki,¹ R. F. de Souza,¹ R. T. de Souza,^{1,2} R. S. Zola,^{1,2,*} and H. V. Ribeiro^{1,†}

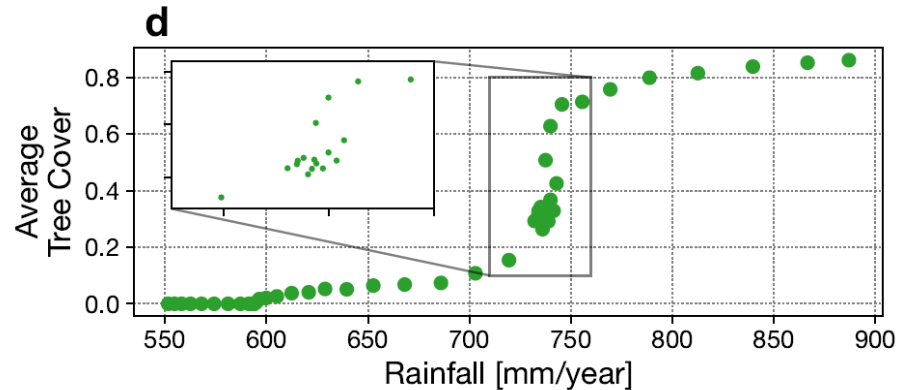
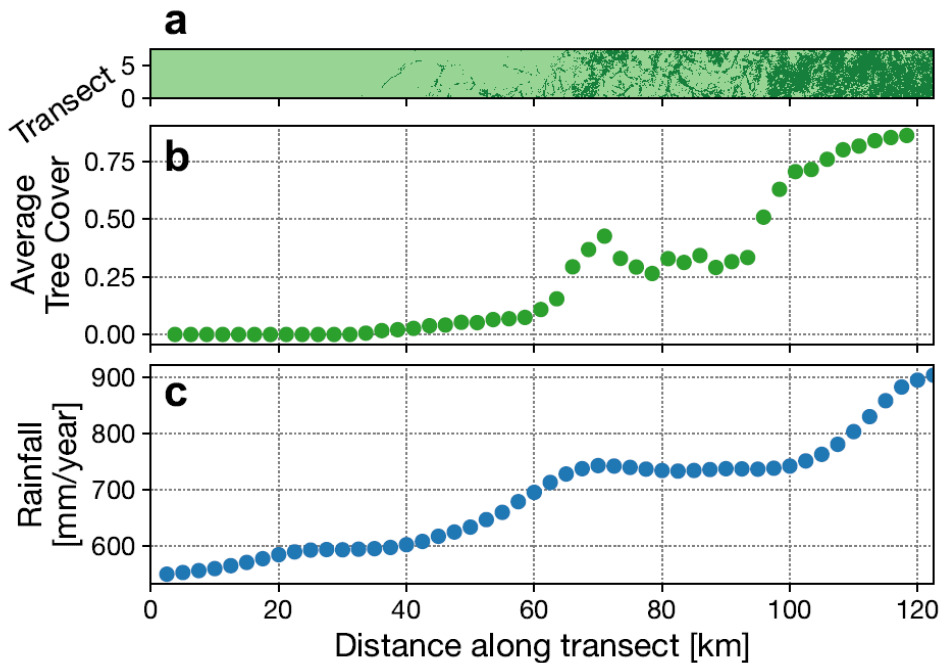
¹Departamento de Física, Universidade Estadual de Maringá, Maringá, PR 87020-900, Brazil

²Departamento de Física, Universidade Tecnológica Federal do Paraná, Apucarana, PR 86812-460, Brazil



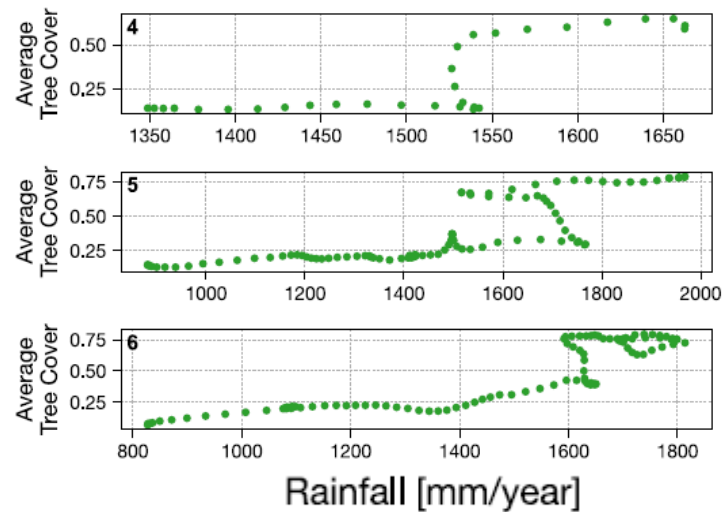
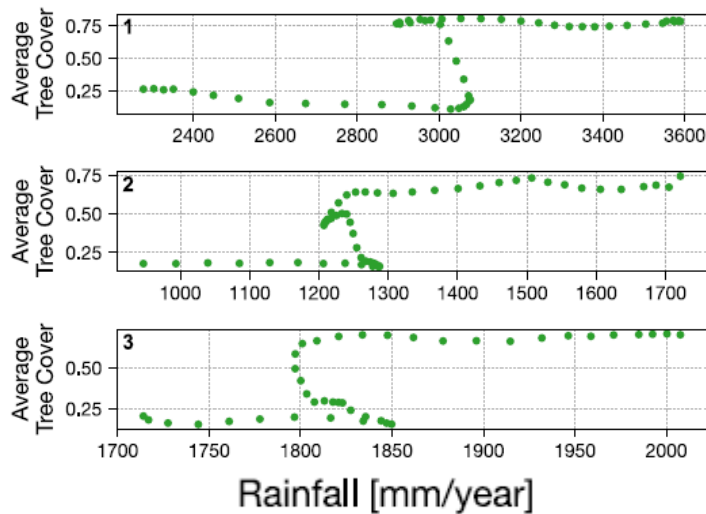
The variation of the spatial permutation entropy can give an early indicator of a vegetation transition.

High-resolution vegetation data from the Serengeti–Mara ecosystem in northern Tanzania and southern Kenya.



G. Tirabassi, C. Masoller, “Entropy-based early detection of critical transitions in spatial vegetation fields”, PNAS 120, e2215667120 (2023).

We also analyzed **low-resolution** satellite (MODIS) vegetation data, combined with data from the Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission (TRMM)



G. Tirabassi, C. Masoller, “Entropy-based early detection of critical transitions in spatial vegetation fields”, PNAS 120, e2215667120 (2023).

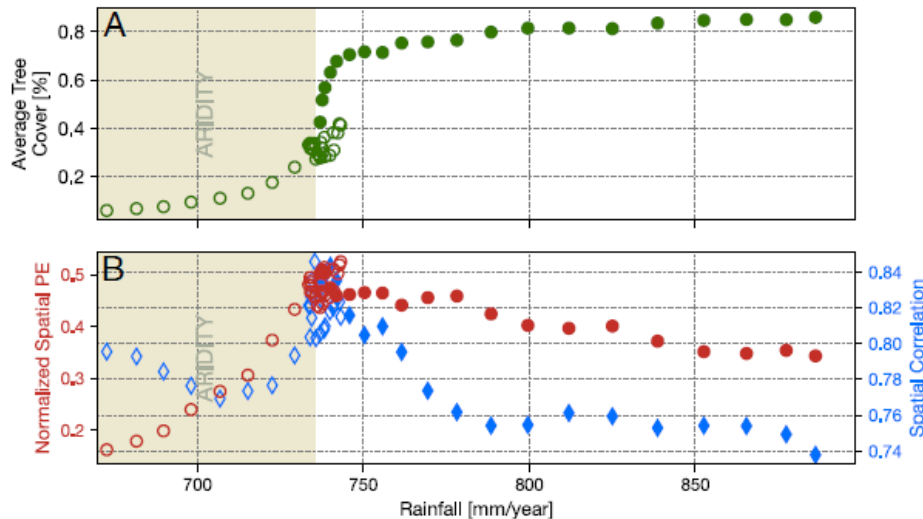
Results

Permutation entropy

(ordinal patterns defined by the values of 2x2 pixels)

$$H = -\sum_{i=1}^N p_i \ln p_i$$

High-resolution data



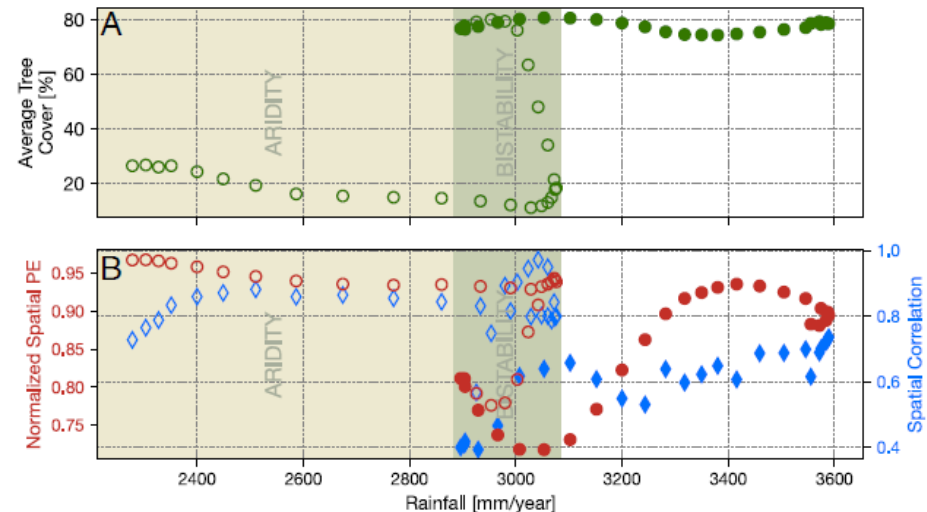
Spatial correlation

$$I = \frac{N}{\sum_i \sum_j w_{ij}} \frac{\sum_i \sum_j w_{ij} (u_i - \bar{u})(u_j - \bar{u})}{\sum_i (u_i - \bar{u})^2}$$

$w_{ij}=1$ if i, j first neighbors, else 0

Low-resolution data

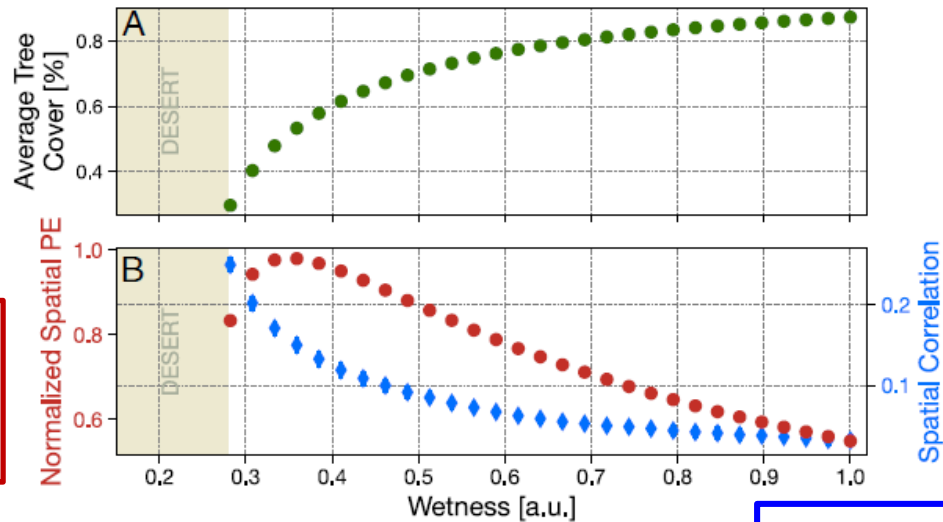
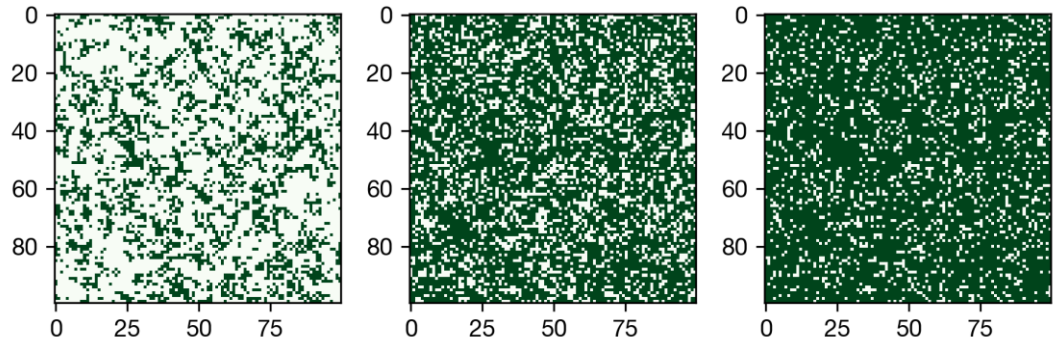
(transect 1; large variability across transects)



G. Tirabassi, C. Masoller, "Entropy-based early detection of critical transitions in spatial vegetation fields", *PNAS* 120, e2215667120 (2023).

To gain insight: simulations of vegetation models

A) Cellular automata model

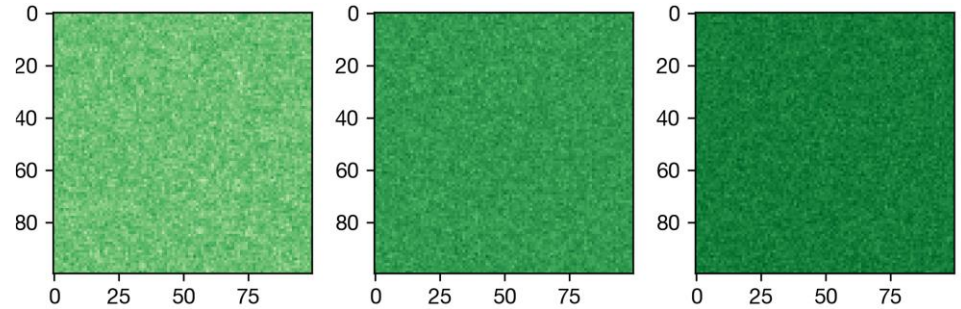


$$H = -\sum_{i=1}^N p_i \ln p_i$$

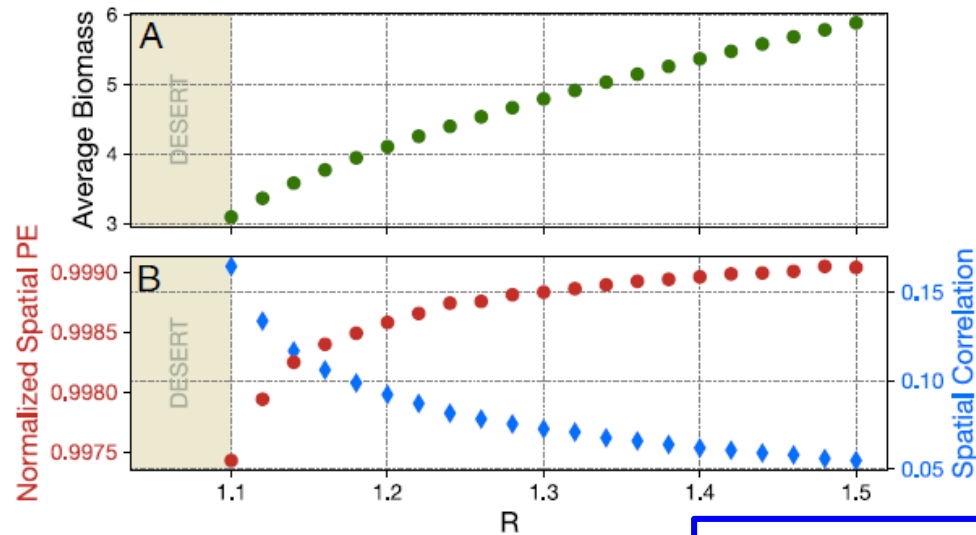
$$I = \frac{N}{\sum_i \sum_j w_{ij}} \frac{\sum_i \sum_j w_{ij} (u_i - \bar{u})(u_j - \bar{u})}{\sum_i (u_i - \bar{u})^2}$$

To gain insight: simulations of vegetation models

B) Local Positive Feedback model
(two partial differential equations)



$$H = -\sum_{i=1}^N p_i \ln p_i$$

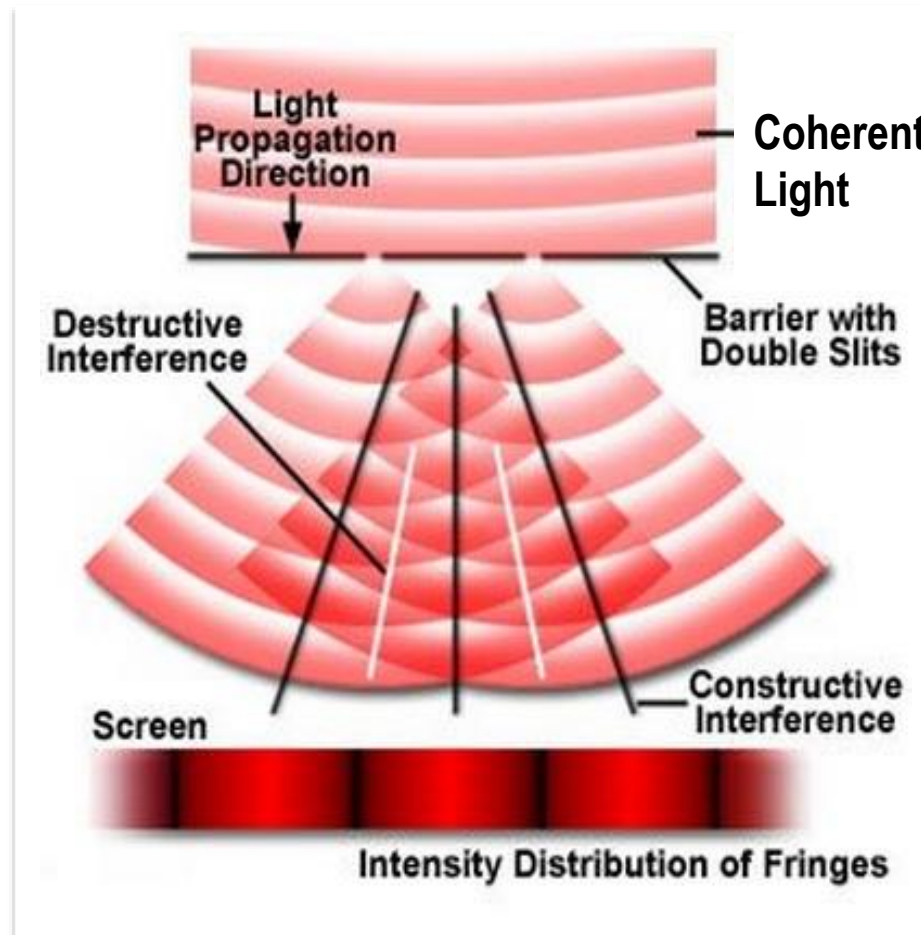


$$I = \frac{N}{\sum_i \sum_j w_{ij}} \frac{\sum_i \sum_j w_{ij} (u_i - \bar{u})(u_j - \bar{u})}{\sum_i (u_i - \bar{u})^2}$$

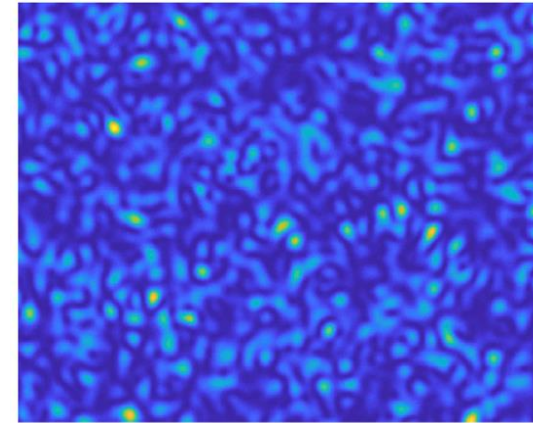
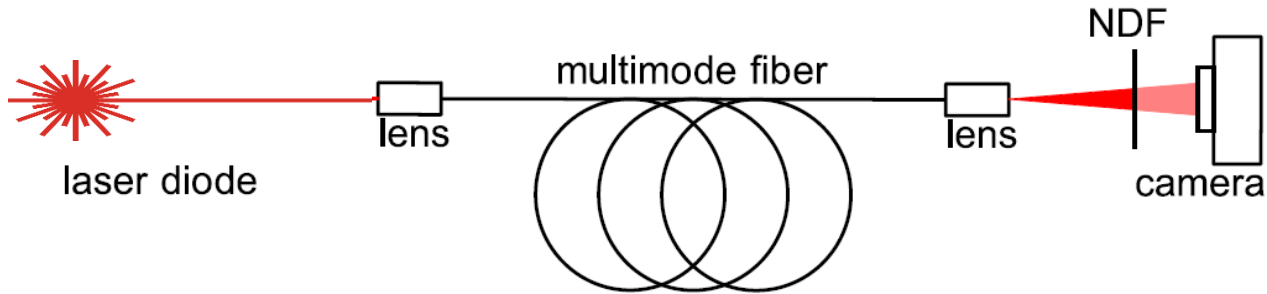
Diode laser experiments

Transition from low-coherence emission (stochastic quantum spontaneous emission) to coherent emission (laser turn-on stimulated emission).

Quick review on the interference of coherent waves



Speckle pattern: generated by random interference / scattering of coherent waves



Many applications. Two main types

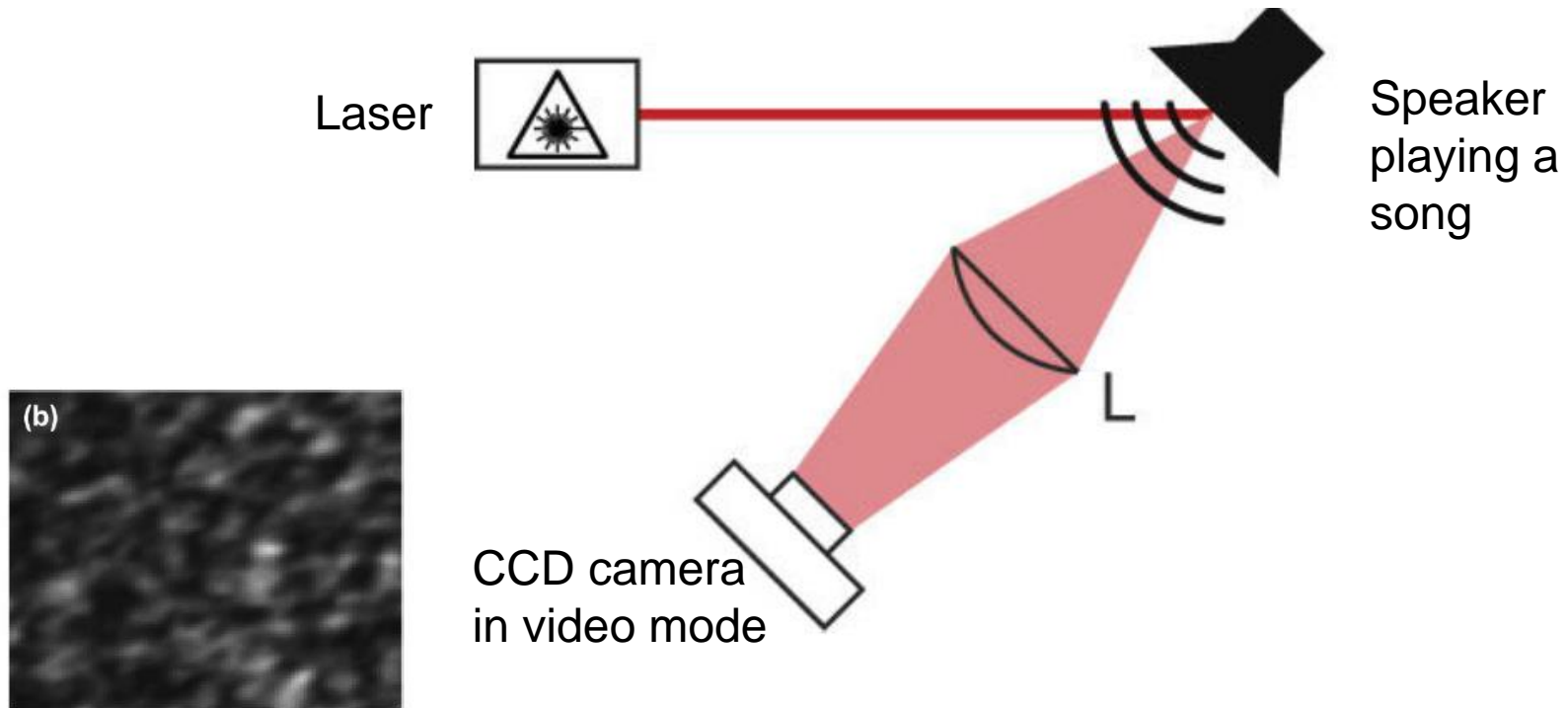
- Extract information of the light (wavemeters)
- Extract information of the medium that generates the speckle (speckle-based spectroscopy)

But

Speckle is a drawback in laser-based illumination and imaging application.

Example of application of speckle analysis in our lab

Recovery of audio signals from silent videos of speckle patterns

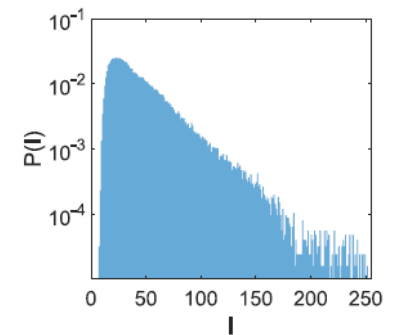
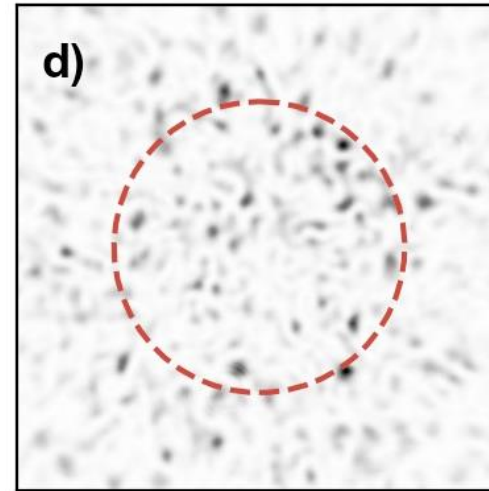
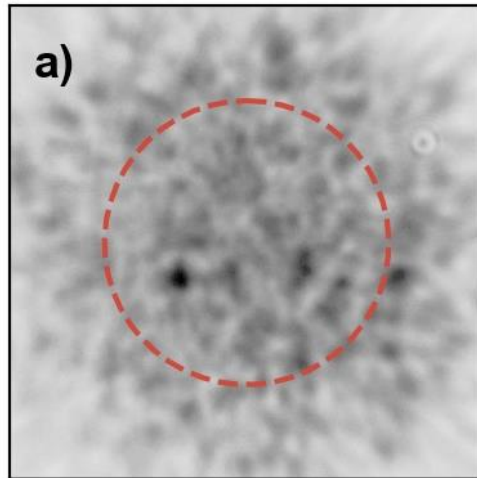
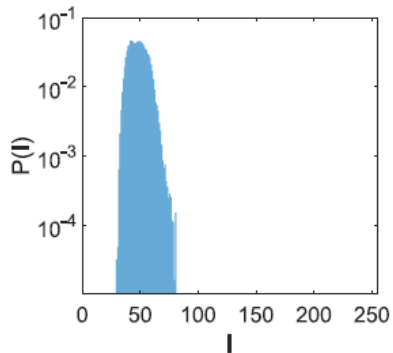


C. Barcellona, D. Halpaap, P. Amil, A. Buscarino, L. Fortuna, J. Tiana, C. Masoller, "Remote recovery of audio signals from videos of optical speckle patterns: a comparative study of signal recovery algorithms", *Opt. Exp.* 28, 8716 (2020).

Analysis of Speckle Patterns using Permutation Entropy

Below threshold

Above threshold



Quantification of speckle contrast: $SC = \sigma / \langle I \rangle$

Results

Pattern:

X X
X X

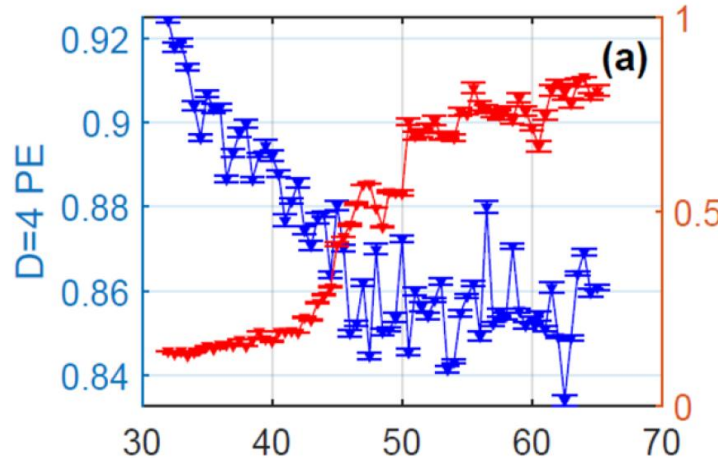
$$SC = \sigma / \langle I \rangle$$

$$H = - \sum_{i=1}^N p_i \ln p_i$$

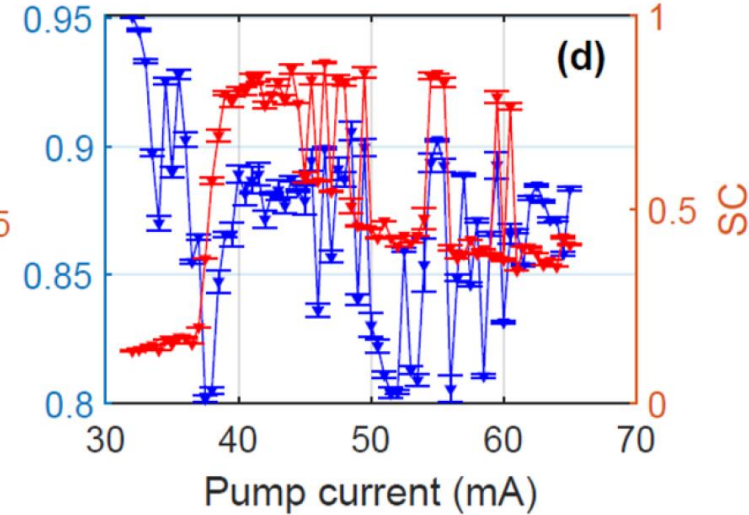
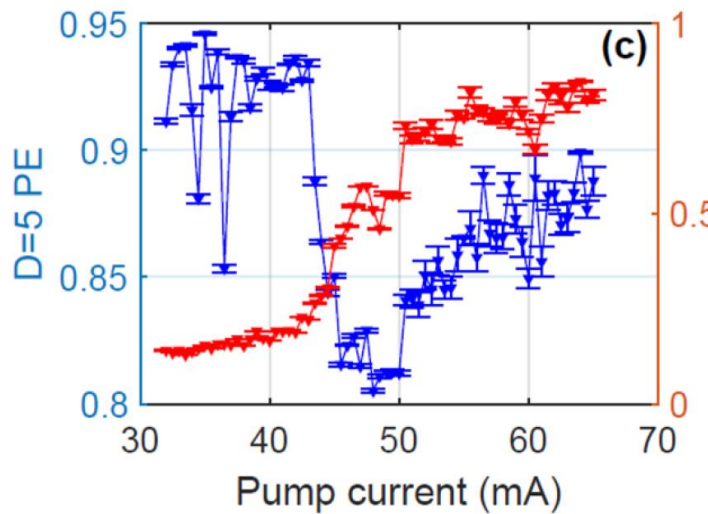
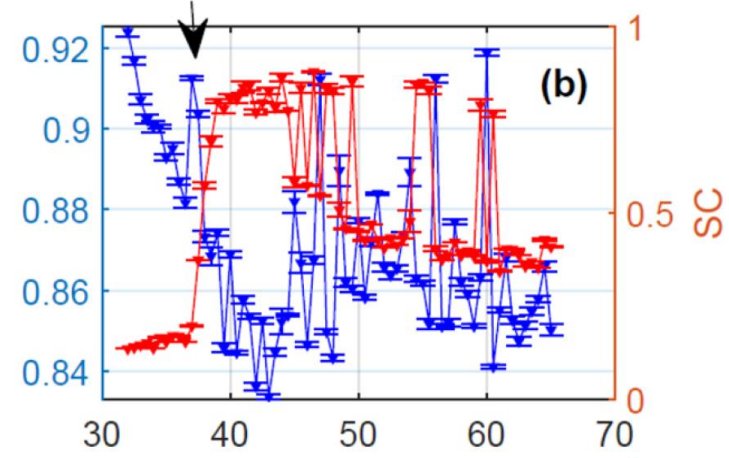
Pattern: x

X X X
X

Laser without feedback



Laser with optical feedback



G. Tirabassi et al., "Permutation entropy-based characterization of speckle patterns generated by semiconductor laser light", *APL Photonics* 8, 126112 (2023).

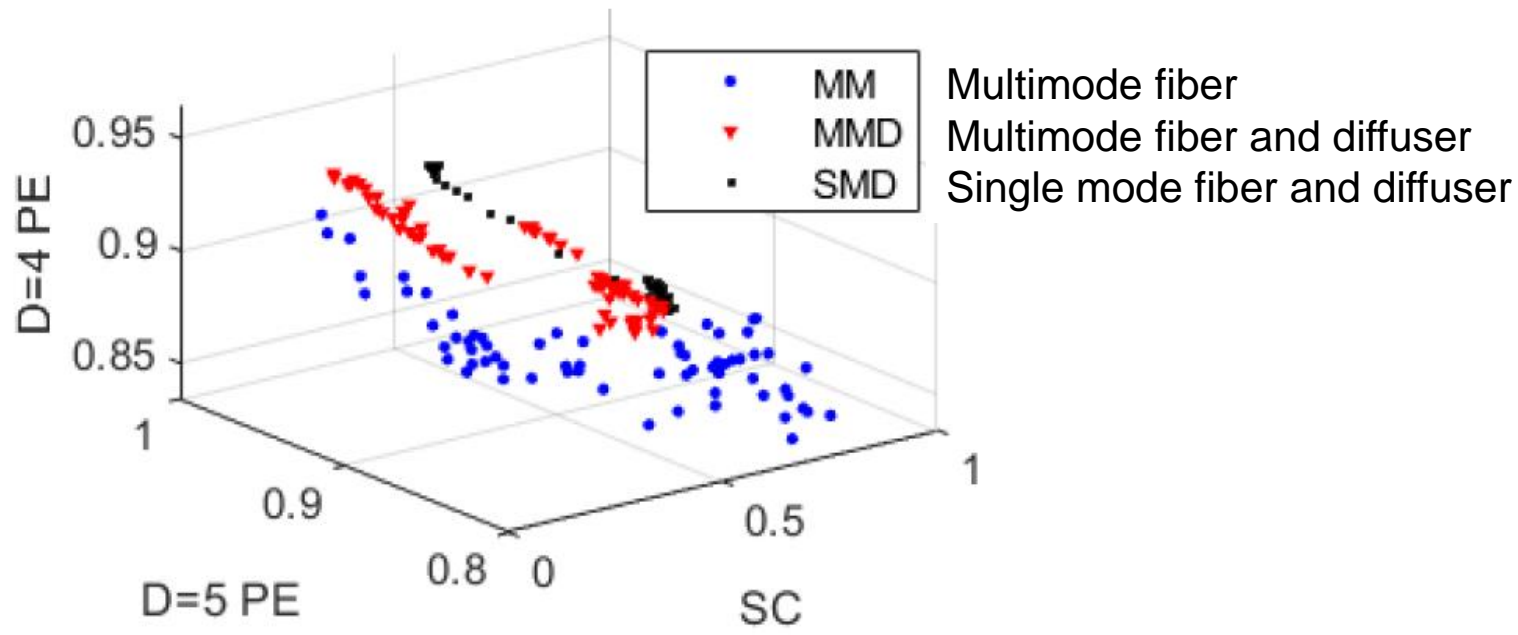
Three features allow to differentiate the speckle patterns according to the type of medium that generated the speckles

$$SC = \sigma / \langle I \rangle$$

$$H = - \sum_{i=1}^N p_i \ln p_i$$

Pattern: x x
x x

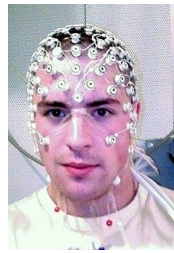
Pattern: x
x x x
x



Accuracy of a random forest classifier
 Solitary laser: 99.4 % ± 0.4 %
 Laser with optical feedback: 97.1 % ± 1.3 %

G. Tirabassi et al., "Permutation entropy-based characterization of speckle patterns generated by semiconductor laser light", *APL Photonics* 8, 126112 (2023).

Permutation Entropy analysis of EEG signals recorded from healthy subjects.



Eyes closed

Eyes open

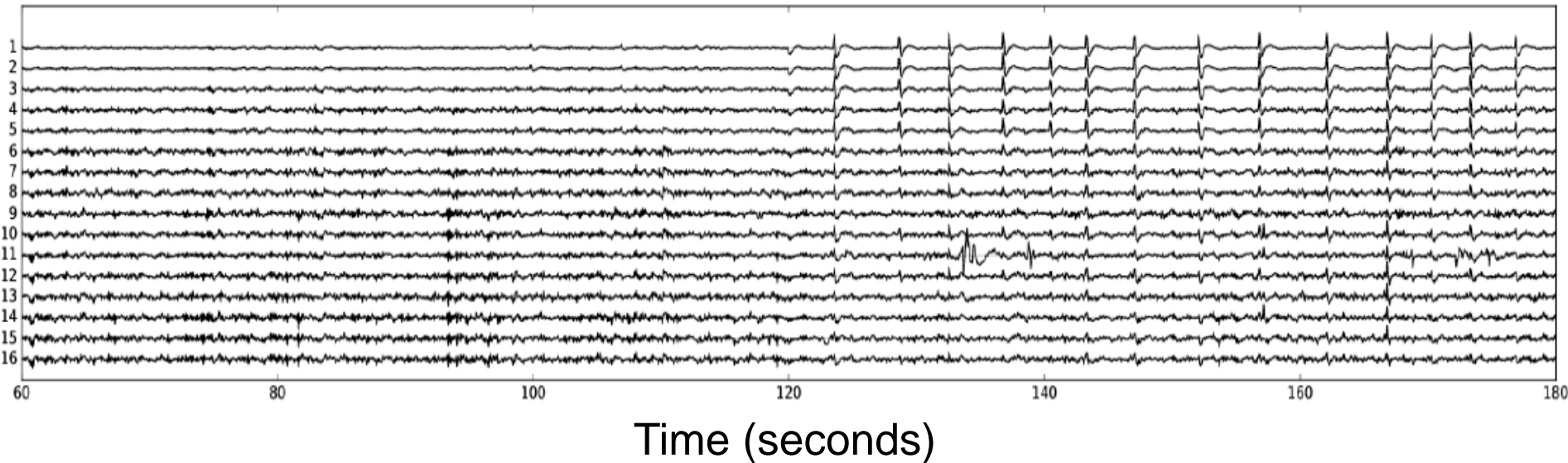


TABLE I. Description of the datasets used.

	DTS1	DTS2
Sampling rate (Hz)	256	160
Time task (seg)	120	60
Total points	30 720	9600
Number of electrodes	16	64
Number of subjects	71	109

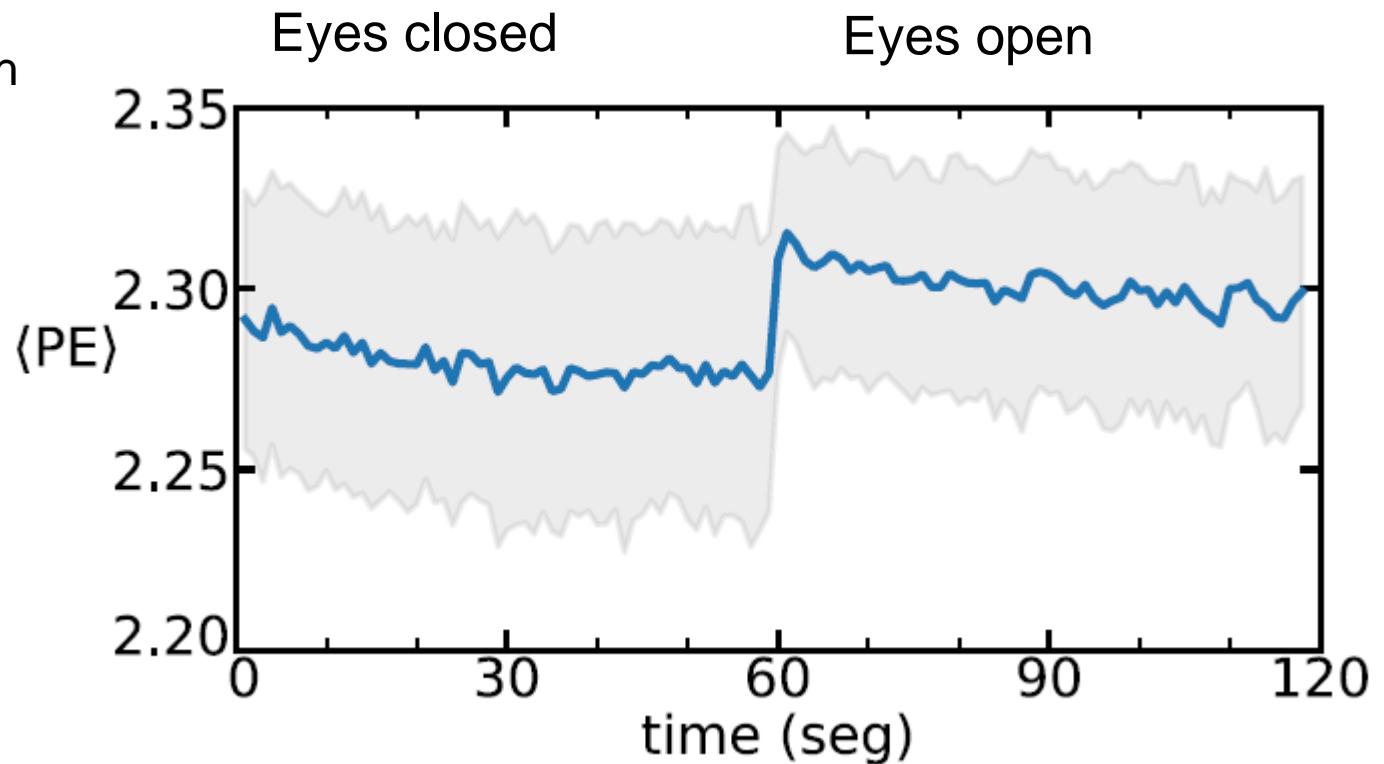
DTS1: Britbrain (Zaragoza)
DTS2: Physionet

The Permutation Entropy increases in the eyes open state

$$\langle PE \rangle = \frac{1}{N[\text{electrodes}]} \sum_i PE^i$$

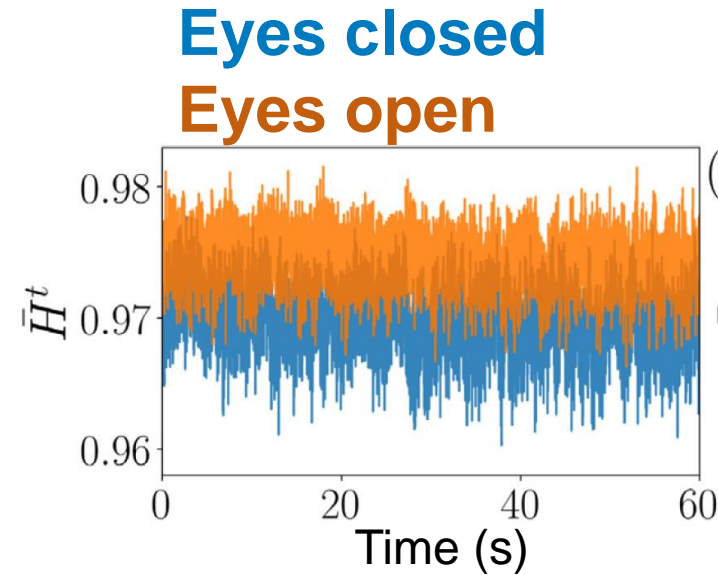
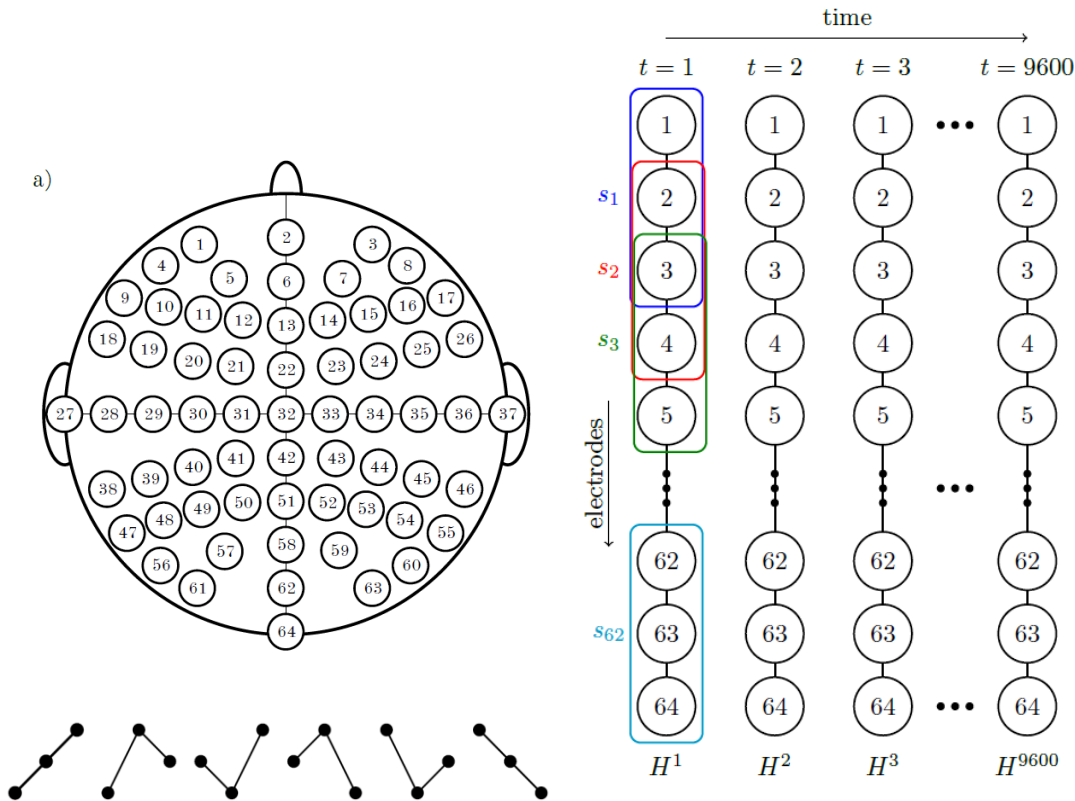
PE was calculated with patterns of length 4 (# of possible patterns 24) in time windows containing >4000 patterns

Gray region:
 σ of $\langle PE \rangle$
values
across
subjects



C. Quintero-Quiroz et al., "Differentiating resting brain states using ordinal symbolic analysis", *Chaos* 28, 106307 (2018).

Spatial approach to compute the Permutation Entropy

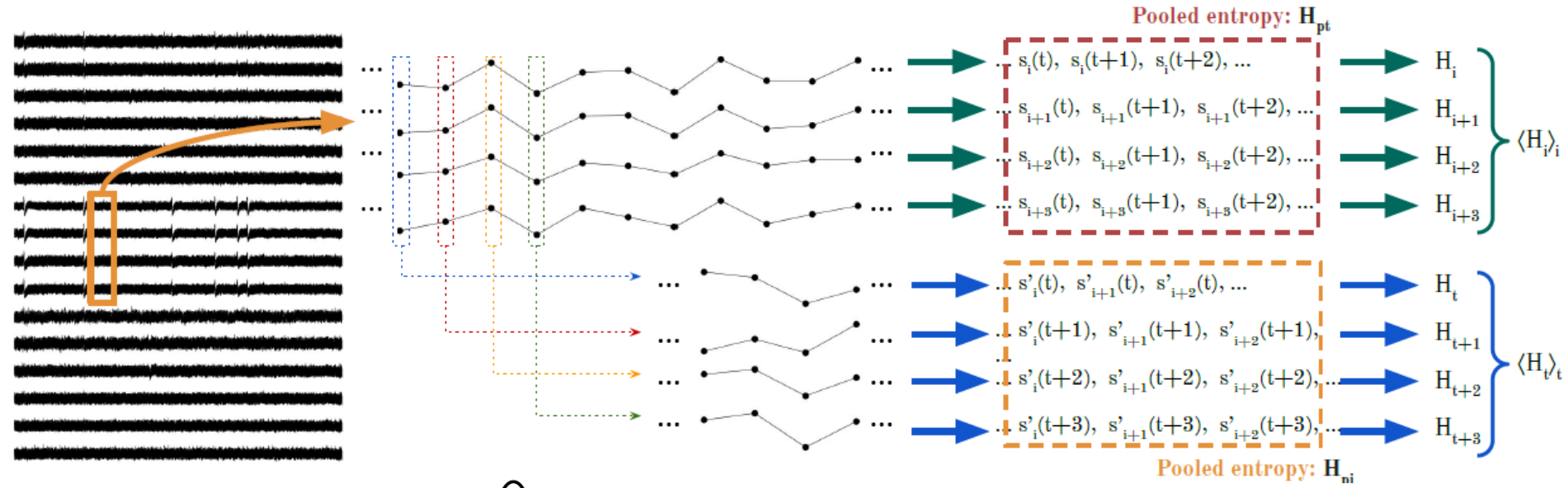


(H_t is averaged over subjects)

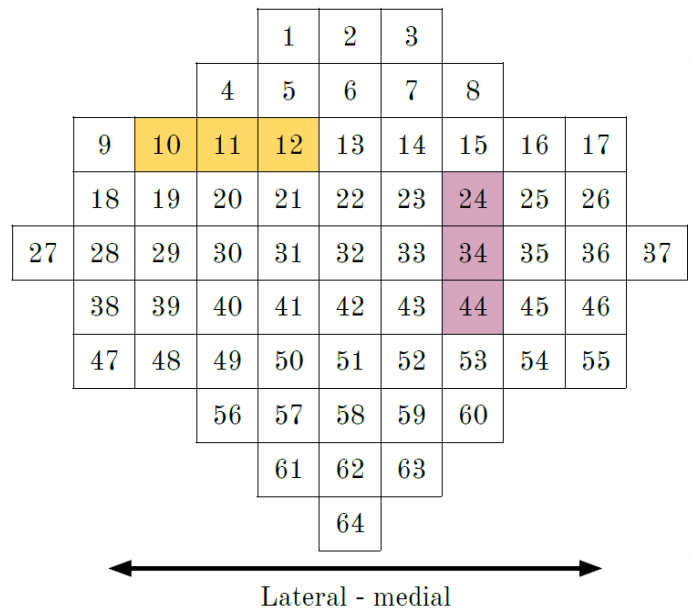
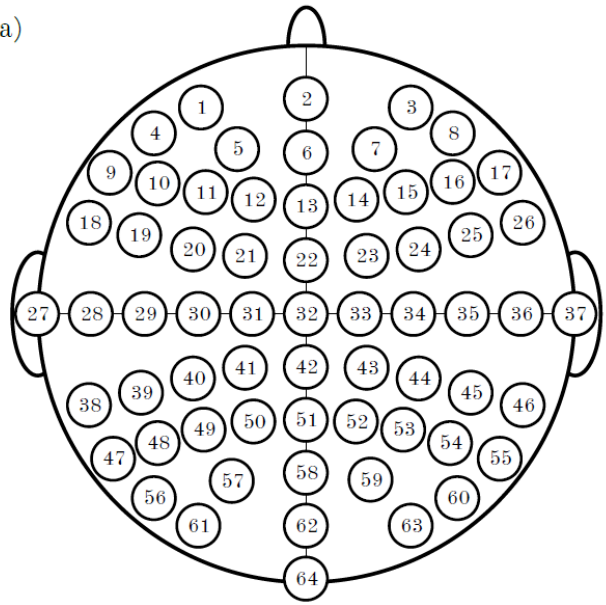
At each time: data values of 64 channels \Rightarrow 62 ordinal patterns to calculate 6 probabilities.

B. R. R. Boaretto et al, "Spatial permutation entropy distinguishes resting brain states", Chaos, Solitons & Fractals 171, 113453 (2023).

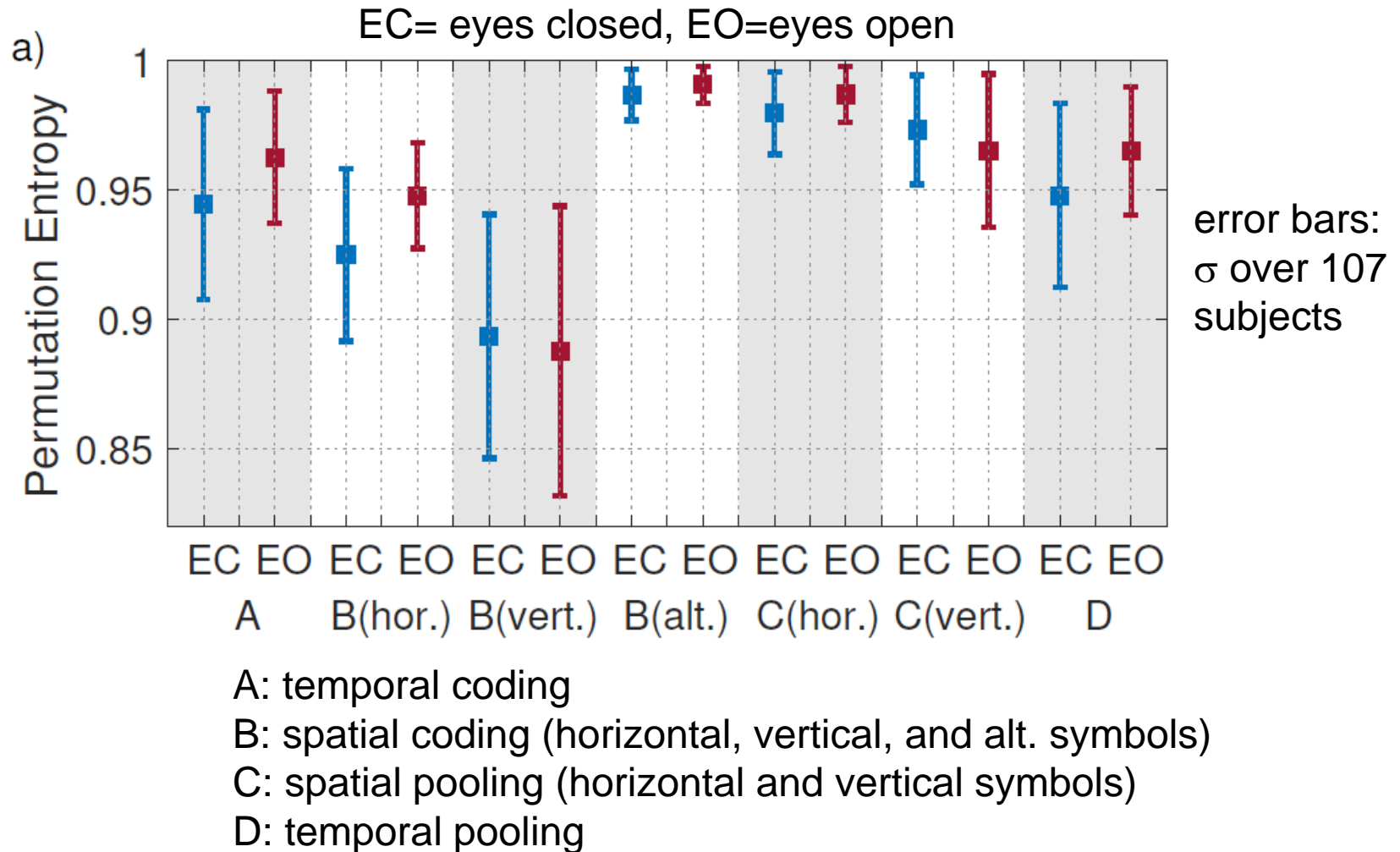
Four approaches to calculate the permutation entropy



a)



Results



J. Gancio, C. Masoller, G. Tirabassi, "Permutation entropy analysis of EEG signals for distinguishing eyes-open and eyes-closed brain states: Comparison of different approaches", Chaos 34, 043130 (2024).

Random forest classification of eyes open-eyes closed states

		Accuracy	F1 score	Precision	Recall	Specificity
Horizontal	$\langle H_t^s \rangle_t$	61 ± 7	59 ± 10	63 ± 10	57 ± 16	65 ± 16
	$\sigma(H_t^s)$	66 ± 7	65 ± 9	66 ± 9	67 ± 15	65 ± 15
	H_{pi}^s	58 ± 8	54 ± 12	61 ± 11	50 ± 16	66 ± 15
Vertical	$\langle H_t^s \rangle_t$	54 ± 9	55 ± 12	54 ± 10	59 ± 17	50 ± 15
	$\sigma(H_t^s)$	56 ± 9	59 ± 10	56 ± 9	64 ± 15	48 ± 16
	H_{pi}^s	55 ± 9	56 ± 11	55 ± 10	59 ± 17	51 ± 16
Temporal	$\langle H_i^s \rangle_i$	63 ± 8	56 ± 13	70 ± 15	49 ± 16	77 ± 15
	$\sigma(H_i^s)$	69 ± 8	66 ± 10	73 ± 12	62 ± 14	76 ± 13
	H_{pt}^s	64 ± 8	58 ± 13	72 ± 14	51 ± 16	78 ± 14

Using filtered data tends to improve the performance.

Performance is as good as that of other statistical measures.

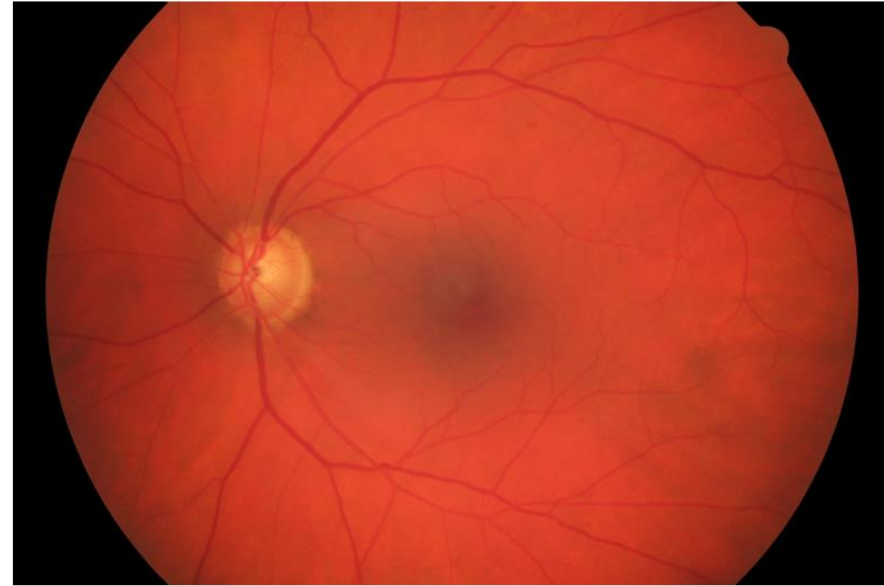
J. Gancio, C. Masoller, G. Tirabassi, "Permutation entropy analysis of EEG signals for distinguishing eyes-open and eyes-closed brain states: Comparison of different approaches", Chaos 34, 043130 (2024).

Outline

- Complex systems and time series analysis
- Ordinal analysis: Lasers and neurons and climate data
- Hilbert analysis: Climate data
- Causal inference: Synthetic and climate data
- Regime transitions: Lasers, EEG and vegetation data
- **Network analysis: Retina fundus images**
- Take home messages

Analysis of retina fundus images

- For the diagnosis of eye diseases & follow up of treatments.
- Biometric identity identification.
- Opportunity to detect other diseases (alterations in retina network may reflect alterations in other arterial systems).



BE-OPTICAL

*Advanced Biomedical Optical
Imaging and Data Analysis*



H2020-675512



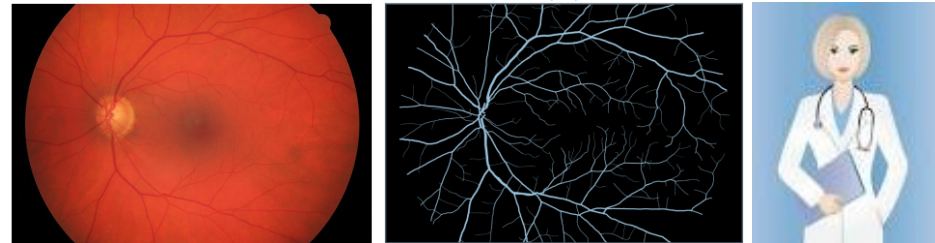
cristina.masoller@upc.edu



[@cristinamasoll1](https://twitter.com/cristinamasoll1)

Data and image analysis steps

- 45 high resolution images (3504 × 2336 pixels)
 - 15 healthy subjects
 - 15 glaucoma
 - 15 diabetic retinopathy
- For every subject we had:
 - fundus photography
 - manual segmentation done by an expert ophthalmologist.

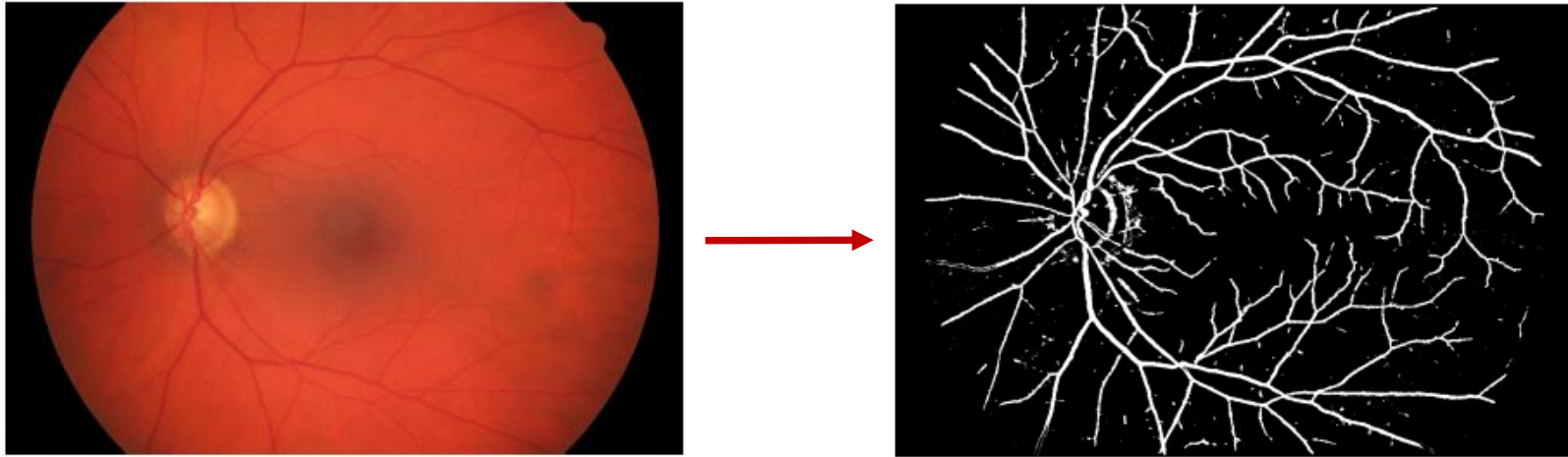


Steps:

1. Pre-process and un-supervisedly, segment the images.
2. Extract network.
3. Compare networks obtained from different images.
4. Classify the images.

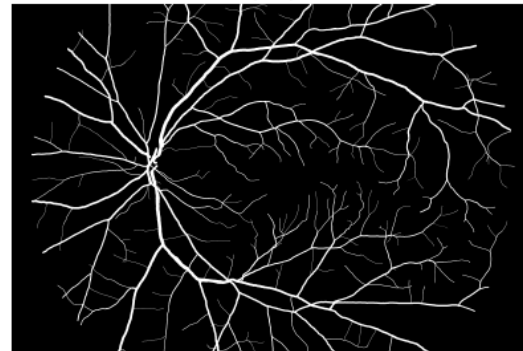
<https://www5.cs.fau.de/research/data/fundus-images/>

Step 1: Pre-process and segmentation



We adapted an *unsupervised* algorithm, originally developed for segmenting images of cultured neuronal networks.

Manual segmentation

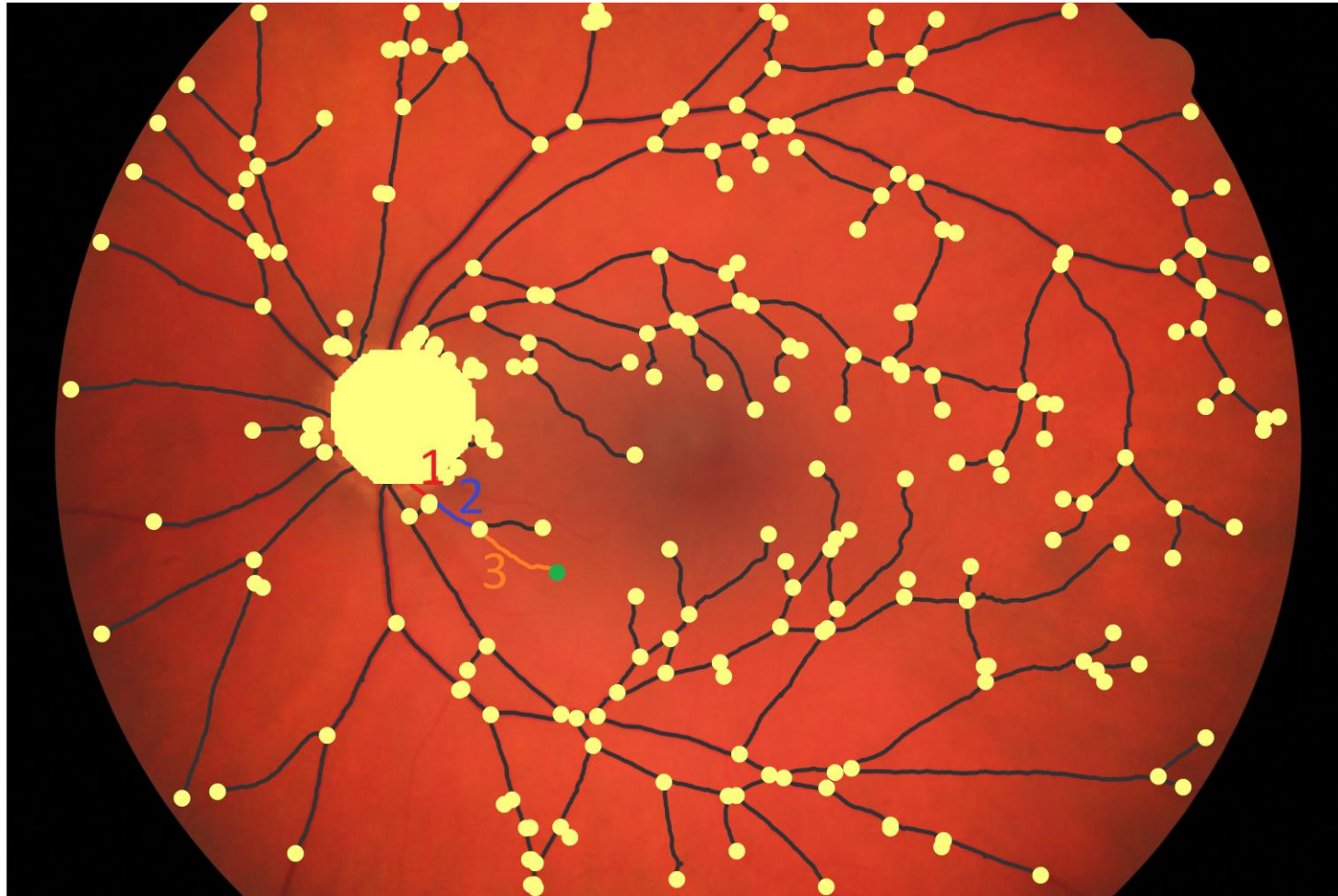


D. Santos-Sierra, I. Sendiña-Nadal, I. Leyva et al. Cytometry Part A. 87, 513 (2015).

P. Amil, F. Reyes-Manzano, L. Guzmán-Vargas, I. Sendiña-Nadal, C. Masoller, “*Network-based features for retinal fundus vessel structure analysis*”, PLoS ONE 14, e0220132 (2019).

94

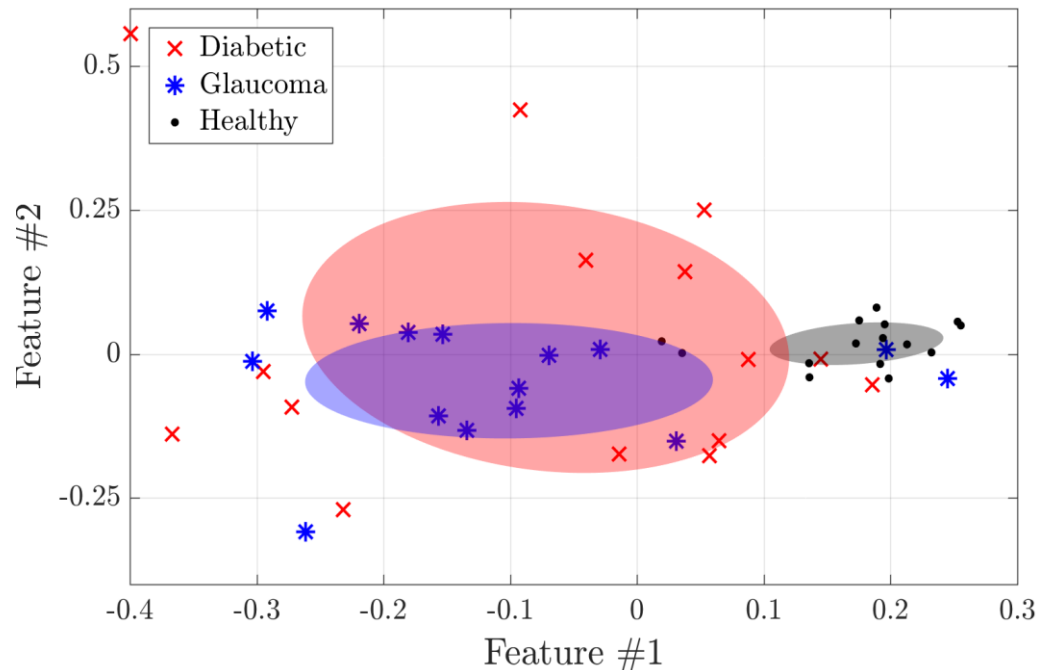
Step 2: extract the network (identification of the optical nerve, nodes and links and assign weights to the links).



Steps 3 and 4: Compare the networks extracted from different images and classify the images.

- $\{p_{i,j}\}$: distances between probability distributions that characterize the networks obtained from images i and j .
- We used nonlinear dimensionality reduction (*Isomap*) to reduce the set of 45×45 $\{p_{i,j}\}$ values to only two features.

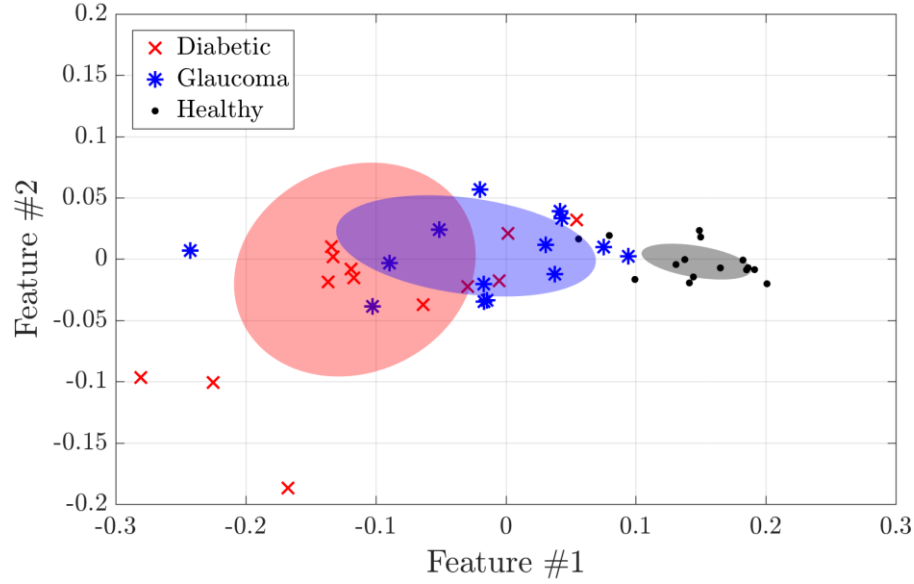
Distance distribution to the central node in the *manual* segmentation



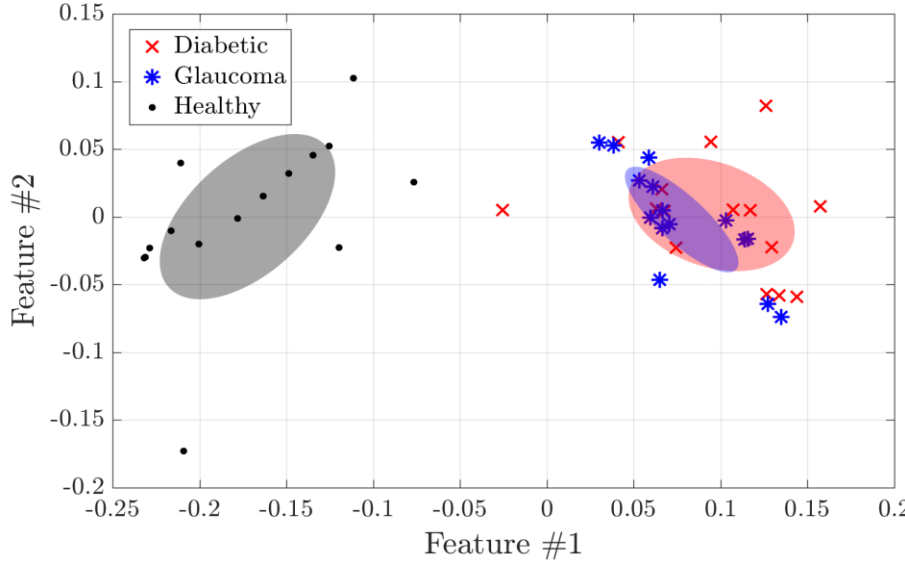
P. Amil et al, Network-based features for retinal fundus vessel structure analysis, PLoS ONE 14 e0220132 (2019).

Performance of network features in the *manual* segmentation

Distribution of weights along the shortest path to central node



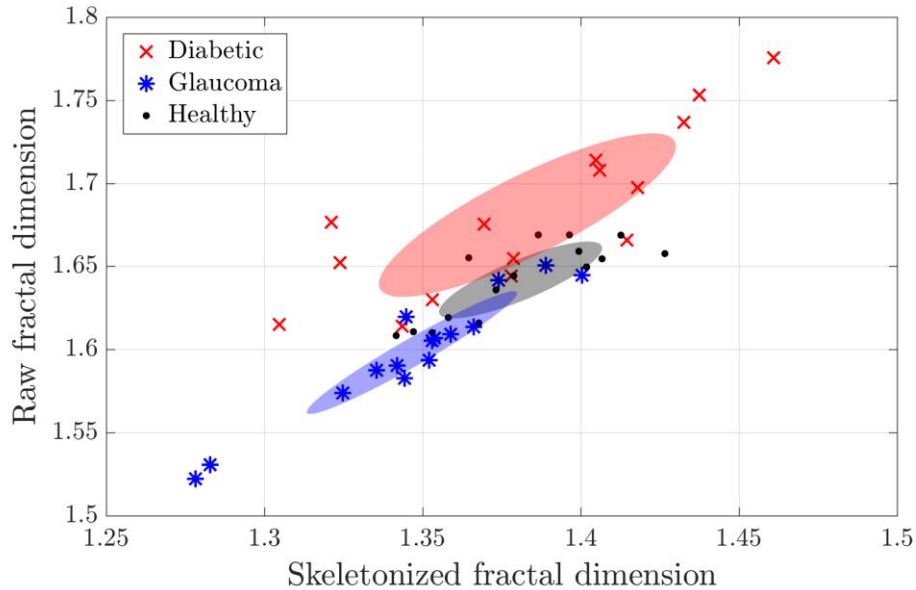
Distribution of weighted degrees



P. Amil et al, Network-based features for retinal fundus vessel structure analysis, PLoS ONE 14 e0220132 (2019).

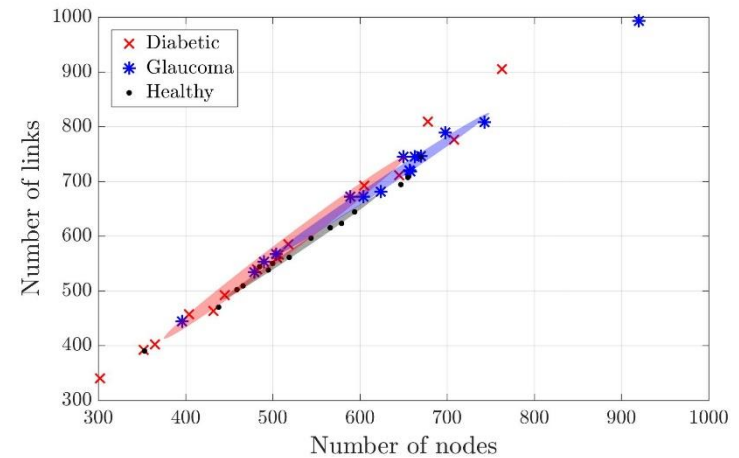
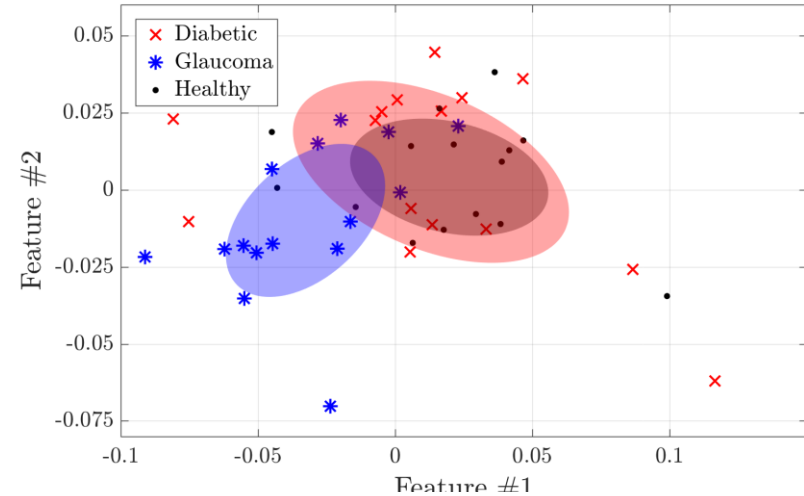
In the automated segmentation

Fractal dimension $D = \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{\log(N(\varepsilon))}{\log(1/\varepsilon)}$



Simple network features do not differentiate

Mean weight distribution along the shortest path to central node



P. Amil et al, Network-based features for retinal fundus vessel structure analysis, PLoS ONE 14 e0220132 (2019).

Outline

- Complex systems and time series analysis
- Ordinal analysis: Lasers and neurons and climate data
- Hilbert analysis: Climate data
- Causal inference: Synthetic and climate data
- Regime transitions: Lasers, EEG and vegetation data
- Network analysis: Retina fundus images
- Take home messages

- Data analysis methods allow us to uncover patterns and relationships in data, which characterize (and sometimes predict) the behavior of complex systems.
- Different methods provide *complementary* information.
- Even when the data does not meet the mathematical or algorithmic requirements, the results can give useful info.
- “Surrogate” tests are needed to determine if the numerical values are statistically significant.
- Data analysis is an interdisciplinary field -many applications.

Holger Kantz: “*Every data set bears its own difficulties: data analysis is never routine*”



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Thank you for your attention!