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The low-rank hypothesis of complex systems:
From empirical and theoretical evidence to the emergence of higher-order interactions

Vincent Thibeault, Antoine Allard, Patrick Desrosiers

May 16, 2023

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Université Laval, Québec, Canada



Complex systems : high dimension and emergent collective phenomena

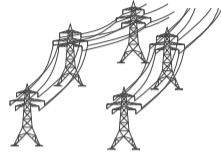
Sociological



Biological

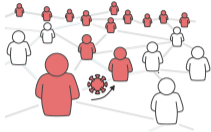


Technological



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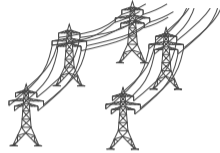
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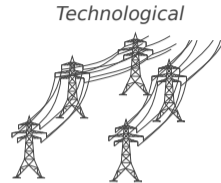
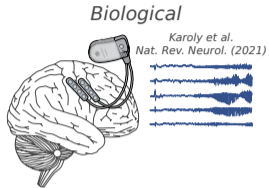
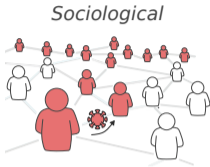
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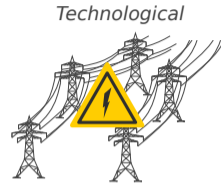
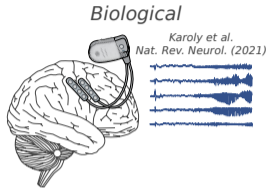
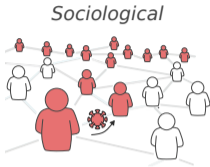
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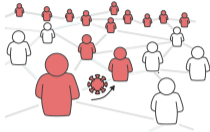


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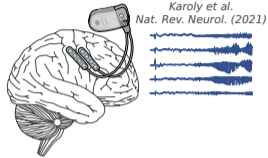


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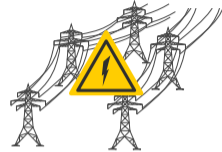
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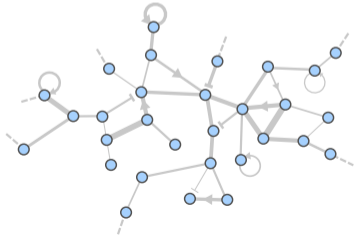


Technological



Complex network

W



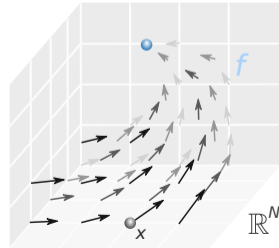
Vector field

f

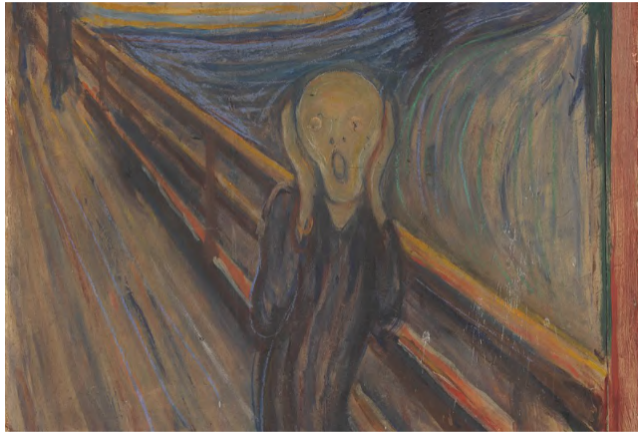


High-dimensional dynamics

$$\dot{x} = f(x; W)$$



A low-dimensional description of a high-dimensional complex system ? Paradox ?



“The Scream of Dimensionality”

review article

Simple mathematical models with very complicated dynamics

Robert M. May* *E.g. : Logistic equations*

First-order difference equations arise in many contexts in the biological, economic and social sciences. Such equations, even though simple and deterministic, can exhibit a surprising array of dynamical behaviour, from stable points, to a bifurcating hierarchy of stable cycles, to apparently random fluctuations. There are consequently many fascinating problems, some concerned with delicate mathematical aspects of the fine structure of the trajectories, and some concerned with the practical implications and applications. This is an interpretive review of them.

Statistical physics and biology

GIORGIO PARISI

The relationship between biology and physics has often been close and, at times, uneasy. During this century many physicists have moved to work in biology. Amongst the most famous are Francis

have a satisfactory formulation of the laws.

However, a knowledge of the laws that govern the behaviour of the constituent elements of the system does not necessarily imply an understanding of the

About spin-glasses:

enormous richness and complexity of such an apparently simple system. A more detailed description would take us

THE GENERAL AND LOGICAL THEORY OF AUTOMATA

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Approximation of Dynamical Systems by Continuous Time Recurrent Neural Networks

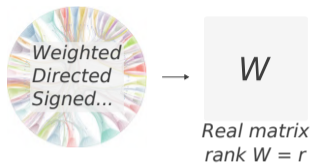
KEN-ICHI FUNAHASHI AND YUICHI NAKAMURA

Toyohashi University of Technology

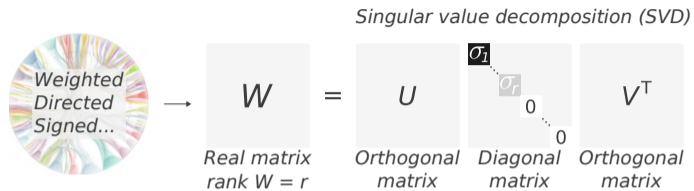
(Received 16 March 1992; revised and accepted 10 November 1992)

Abstract—*In this paper, we prove that any finite time trajectory of a given n-dimensional dynamical system can be approximately realized by the internal state of the output units of a continuous time recurrent neural network with n output units, some hidden units, and an appropriate initial condition. The essential idea of the proof is to embed*

What about the “dimensionality” of complex networks ?

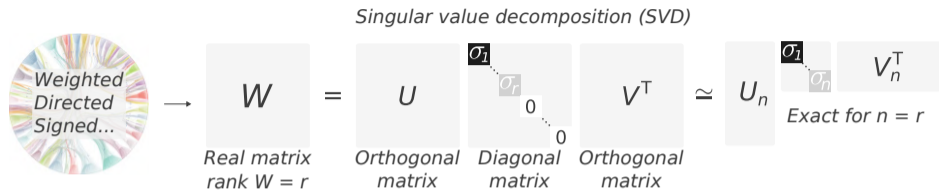


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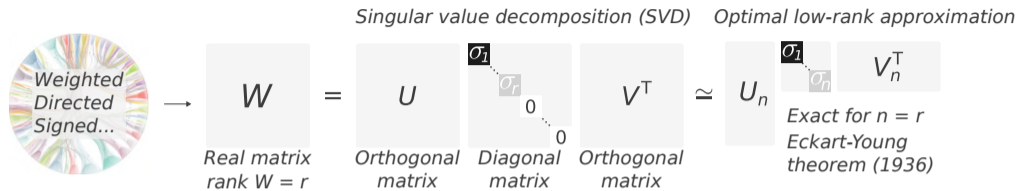
Rank r : how many singular values are not zero

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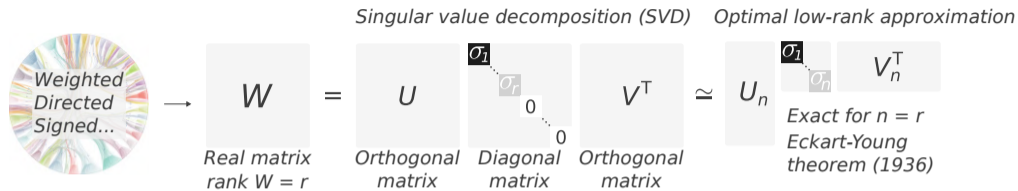
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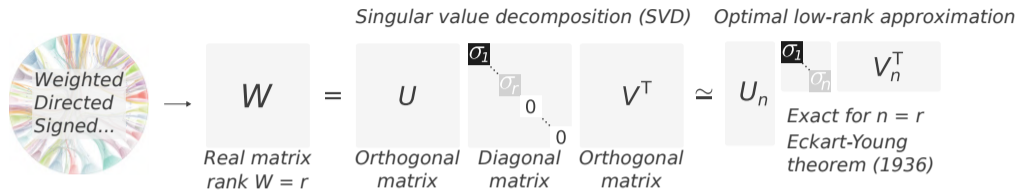


Rank r : how many singular values are not zero

Effective rank : how many singular values are significant

e.g., the stable rank is $\text{srnk}(W) = \sum_{i=1}^r \sigma_i^2 / \sigma_1^2$

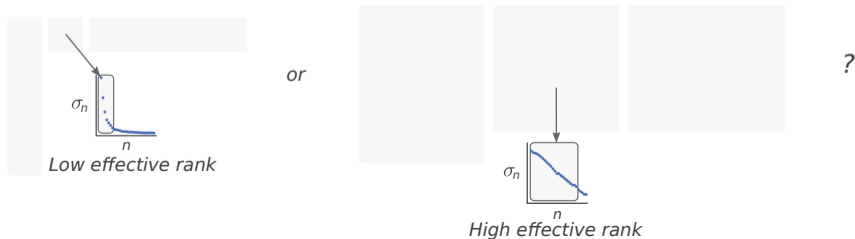
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First indicator of the low-rank hypothesis

We observe that many **random graphs** are described as

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \text{Random} & & \text{Expected weight} & & \text{Random} \\ \text{weight matrix} & & \text{matrix } \langle W \rangle & & \text{noise matrix} \\ \\ \boxed{W} & = & \Phi\left(\underbrace{\begin{array}{c} \boxed{} \quad \boxed{} \quad \boxed{} \\ \phantom{\boxed{}} \quad \phantom{\boxed{}} \quad \phantom{\boxed{}} \end{array}}_{\text{Low-rank matrix } L}\right) & + & \boxed{R} \end{array}$$

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Model	Low-rank matrix L	rank(L)	$\Phi(L)$
$\mathcal{G}(N, p)$	$Np \hat{\mathbf{1}} \hat{\mathbf{1}}^\top$	1	L
Chung-Lu	$\frac{\ \kappa\ ^2}{2M} \hat{\kappa} \hat{\kappa}^\top$	1	L

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Soft configuration*	$\mathbf{y}\bar{\mathbf{y}}^\top$	1	$\frac{L}{1-L}$
S^1 random geometric	$\frac{R^2}{\mu^2} (\bar{\kappa}_{\text{in}} \bar{\kappa}_{\text{out}}^\top) \circ \bar{\theta}$	$\leq 3^{**}$	$\frac{1}{1+L^{\beta/2}}$
\vdots	\vdots	\vdots	\vdots

* Garlaschelli, *Phys. Rev. Lett.*, 2009

** Gower, *Linear Algebra Appl.*, 1985



Hermann Weyl, Math. Ann., 1912



Ky Fan, PNAS, 1951

$$\sigma_{i+j-1}(A + B) \leq \sigma_i(A) + \sigma_j(B) \quad \forall 1 \leq i, j, i + j - 1 \leq N,$$



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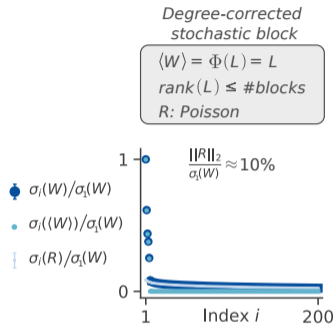
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\Downarrow

$$|\sigma_i(W) - \sigma_i(\langle W \rangle)| \leq \underbrace{\|R\|_2}_{\text{“Noise strength”}}$$

“the singular values of W cannot deviate from those of $\langle W \rangle$ more than $\|R\|_2$ ”

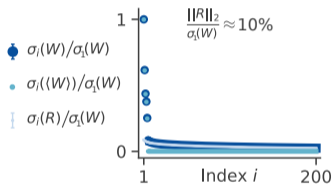
Second indicator of the low-rank hypothesis : Rapid singular value decrease



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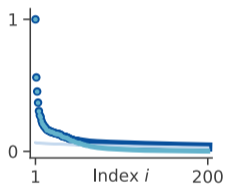
*Degree-corrected
stochastic block*

$\langle W \rangle = \Phi(L) = L$
 $\text{rank}(L) \leq \# \text{blocks}$
 R : Poisson



*Directed S^1
random geometric*

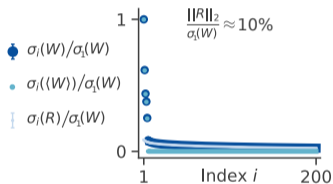
$\langle W \rangle = \Phi_{FD}(L) = \frac{1}{1 + L^{d/2}}$
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 R : Bernoulli



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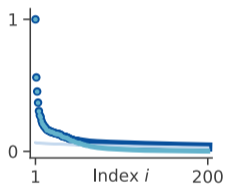
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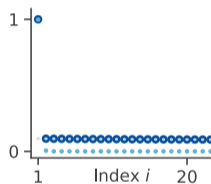
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Weighted directed
soft configuration

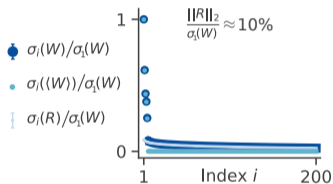
$\langle W \rangle = \Phi_{BE}(L) = \frac{L}{1-L}$
 $\text{rank}(L) = 1$
 R : Geometric



Second indicator of the low-rank hypothesis : Rapid singular value decrease

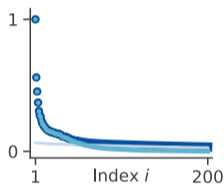
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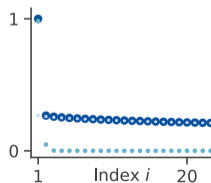
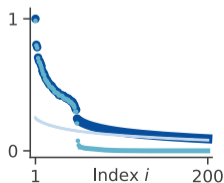
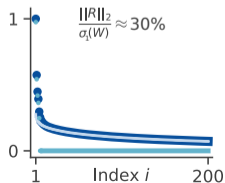
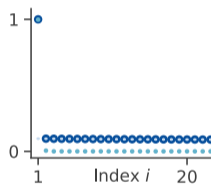
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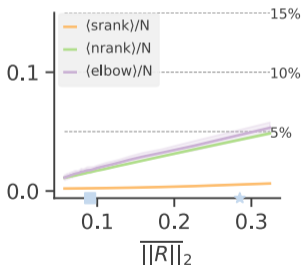


Third indicator of the low-rank hypothesis : low-effective ranks

*Degree-corrected
stochastic block*

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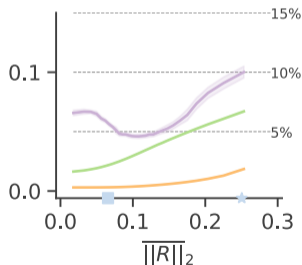
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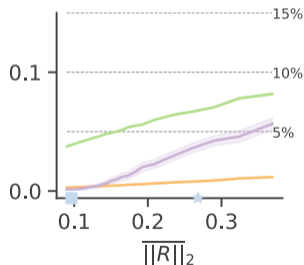
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The low-rank hypothesis

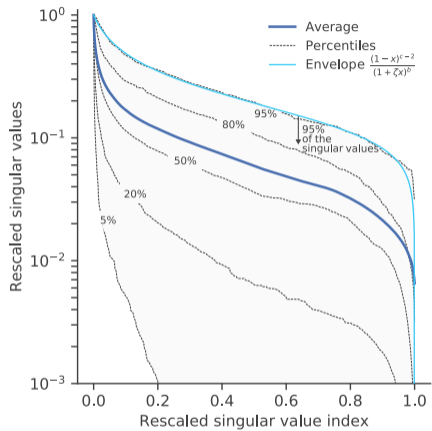
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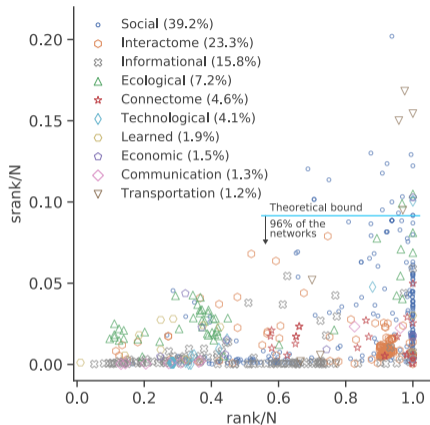
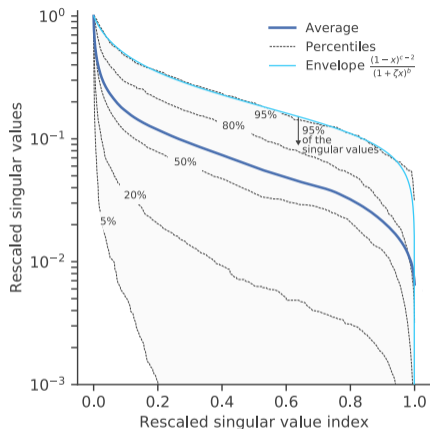
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Let's verify it for real complex networks !

Experimental verification for real networks



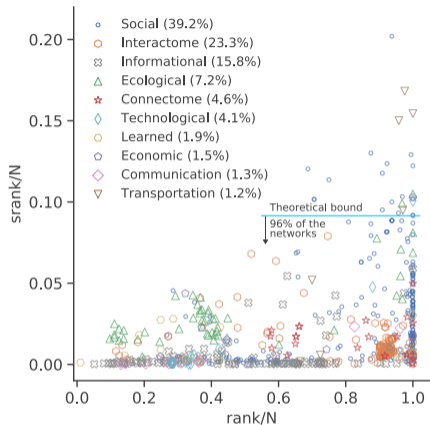
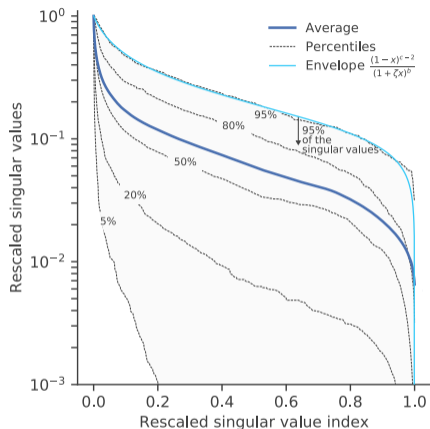
Experimental verification for real networks



Many real complex networks have low effective ranks!*

* Udell, Townsend, "Why Are Big Data Matrices Approximately Low Rank?", *SIAM J. Math. Data Sci.*, 2019

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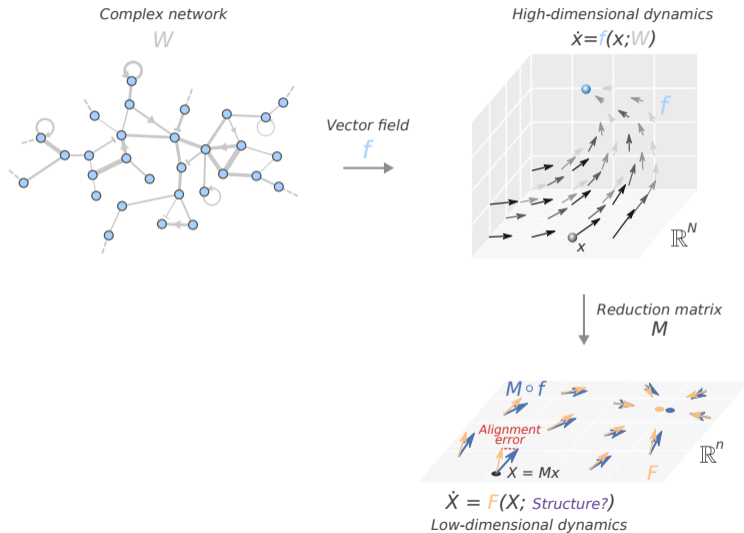


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* Udell, Townsend, "Why Are Big Data Matrices Approximately Low Rank?", *SIAM J. Math. Data Sci.*, 2019

What's the consequence for *dynamics* on these networks?

Dimension reduction of dynamical systems is about aligning vector fields.



High-dimensional dynamics : $\dot{x} = f(x)$

Low-dimensional dynamics : $\dot{X} = F(X)$ where $X = Mx$

Theorem (simplified)

The vector field F^ that minimizes the quadratic error between the projected dynamics $\dot{p} = f(p)$ with $p = M^+Mx$ and the reduced dynamics in \mathbb{R}^N $[M^+F(X)]$ is*

$$F^*(X) = Mf(M^+X).$$

Proof : Just use least-squares.

Theorem (simplified)

The alignment error $\mathcal{E}(x)$ for some $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$ is upper-bounded by

$$\mathcal{E}(x) \leq \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \left[\|V_n^\top J_x(x', y')(I - V_n V_n^\top)x\| + \sigma_{n+1} \|V_n^\top J_y(x', y')\|_2 \|x\| \right].$$

σ_i : i -th singular values of W

$M = V_n^\top$: n -truncated right singular vector matrix (justification, Eckart-Young)

J_x, J_y : Jacobian matrices evaluated at some point x', y'

n : dimension of the reduced system

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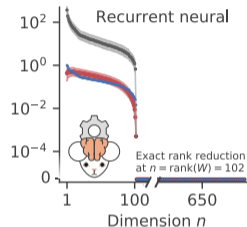
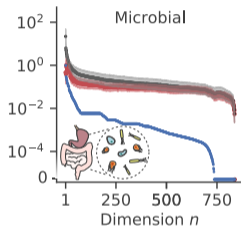
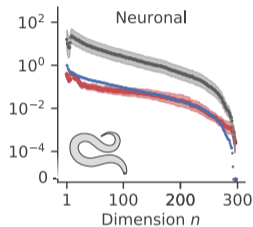
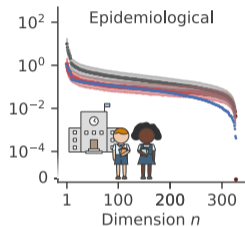
Second consequence : $J_x(x', y') = aI$ and $n \geq \text{rank}(W)$ \Rightarrow *Exact* dim. red.

Alignment error for dynamics on real complex networks

Third consequence :

Rapid singular value decreases can induce rapid alignment error decrease.

••• Average alignment error $\langle \mathcal{E} \rangle$ ••• Average upper-bound on $\mathcal{E}(x)$ ••• Rescaled singular values $\frac{\sigma_n}{\sigma_1}$

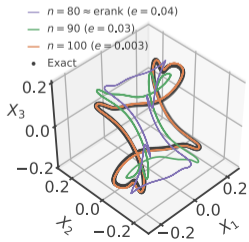
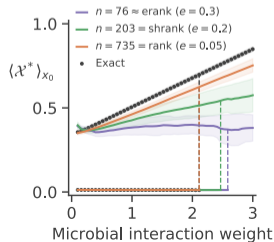
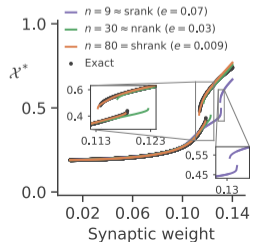
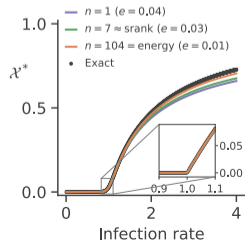
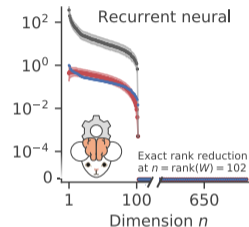
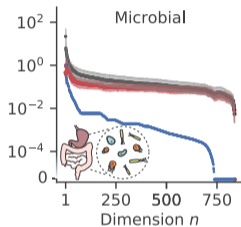
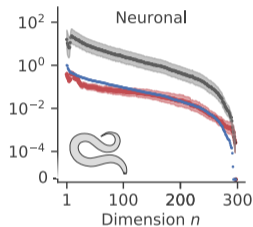
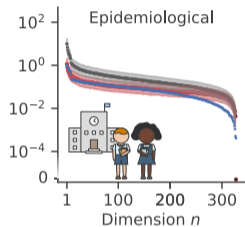


Alignment error for dynamics on real complex networks

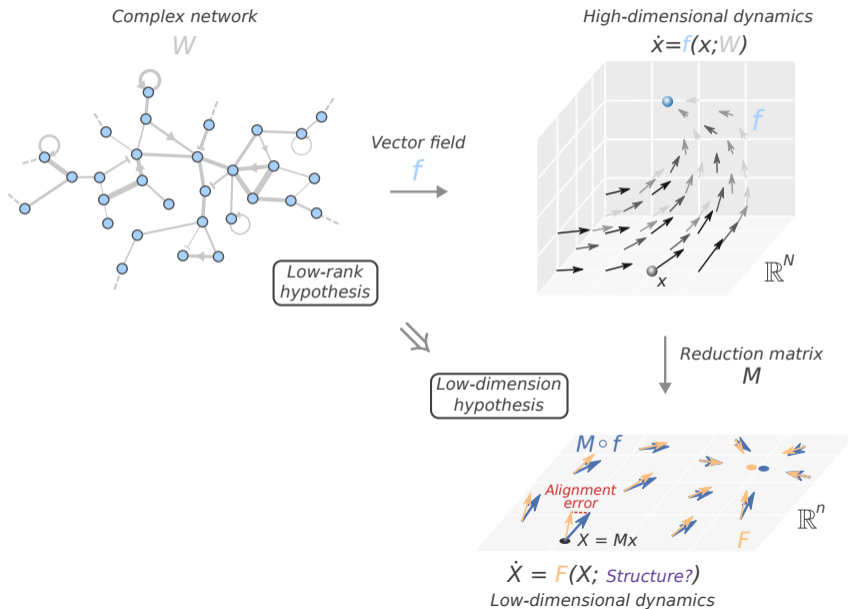
Third consequence :

Rapid singular value decreases can induce rapid alignment error decrease.

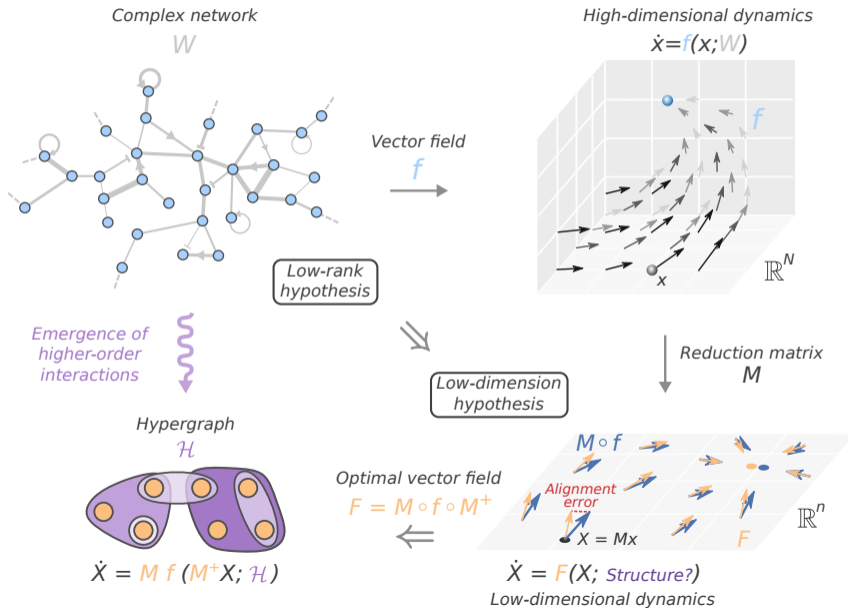
••• Average alignment error $\langle \mathcal{E} \rangle$
 ••• Average upper-bound on $\mathcal{E}(x)$
 ••• Rescaled singular values $\frac{\sigma_n}{\sigma_1}$



Induced low-dimension hypothesis



A surprise : Higher-order interactions



$$\text{QMF SIS : } \dot{x}_i = -\alpha x_i + \beta(1 - x_i) \sum_{j=1}^N W_{ij} x_j, \quad i \in \{1, \dots, N\}.$$

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Reduced QMF SIS :

$$\dot{X}_\mu = -\alpha X_\mu + \beta \sum_{\nu=1}^n \mathcal{W}_{\mu\nu}^{(2)} X_\nu - \beta \sum_{\nu, \tau=1}^n \mathcal{W}_{\mu\nu\tau}^{(3)} X_\nu X_\tau, \quad \mu \in \{1, \dots, n\}$$

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Reduced Kuramoto-Sakaguchi :

$$\dot{Z}_\mu = i \sum_{\nu=1}^n \Omega_{\mu\nu} Z_\nu + \sum_{\nu=1}^n \mathcal{W}_{\mu\nu}^{(2)} Z_\nu e^{-i\alpha} - \sum_{\alpha, \beta, \gamma=1}^n \mathcal{W}_{\mu\alpha\beta\gamma}^{(4)} Z_\alpha Z_\beta \bar{Z}_\gamma e^{i\alpha}$$

$$\mathcal{W}_{\mu\alpha\beta\gamma}^{(4)} = \sum_{j, k=1}^N M_{\mu j} M_{j\alpha}^+ M_{j\beta}^+ W_{jk} M_{k\gamma}^+.$$

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$$\mathcal{W}_{\mu\alpha\beta\gamma}^{(4)} = \sum_{j,k=1}^N M_{\mu j} M_{j\alpha}^+ M_{j\beta}^+ W_{jk} M_{k\gamma}^+.$$

The HOIs depend on the *reduction matrix* and the *nonlinearity* of the dynamics.

1. The low-rank hypothesis has been defined with three indicators along with its impacts.
2. Many real networks have rapidly decreasing singular values, leading to low *effective* ranks.
3. Alignment errors can rapidly decrease following the networks' singular values.
4. Dimension reduction can lead to the emergence of *higher-order interactions* that depends on the chosen *observables* and the *nonlinearity* of the system.

All details are in the manuscript : <https://arxiv.org/abs/2208.04848>

Some references : Valdano and Arenas, *Phys. Rev. X*, 2019

Udell and Townsend, *SIAM J. Math. Data Sci.*, 2019

Thibeault et al., *Phys. Rev. Res.*, 2020

Contact information : vincent.thibeault.1@ulaval.ca

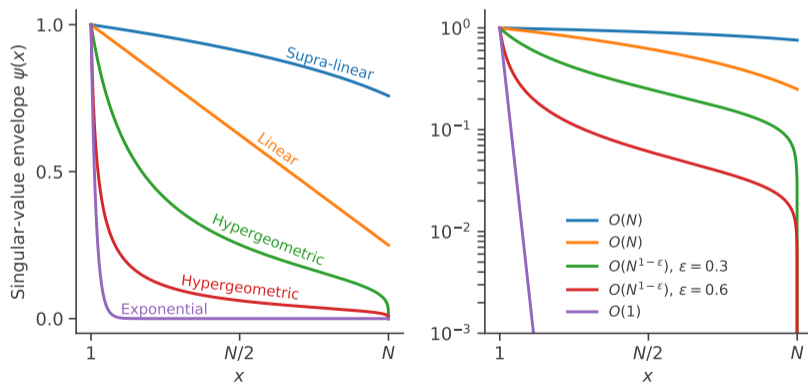
Questions ?

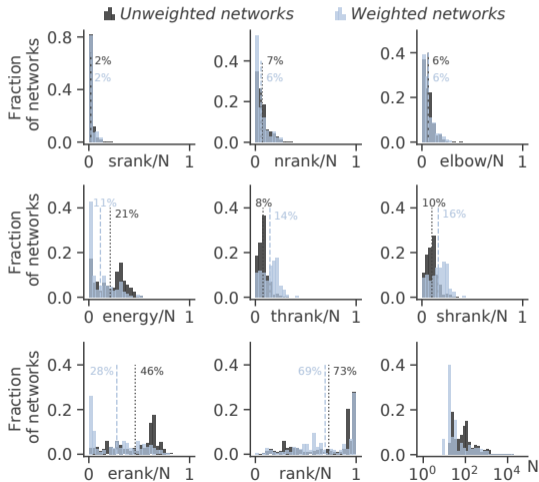
Thank you for your attention!

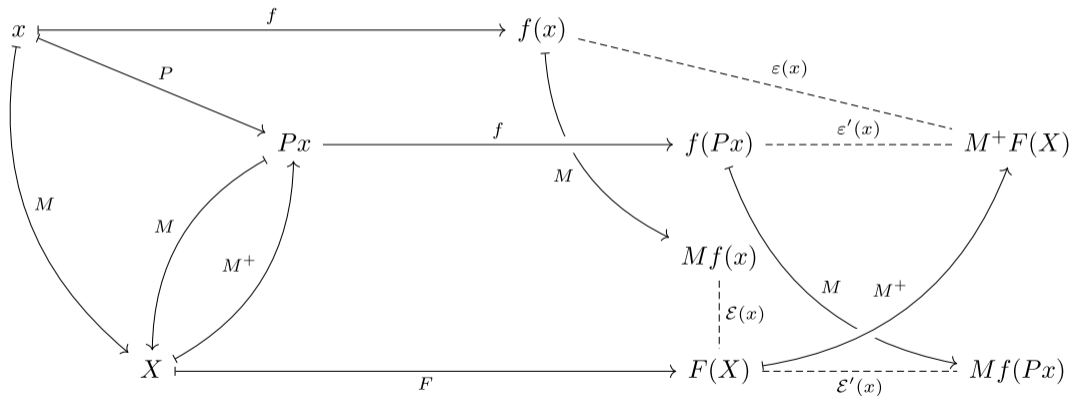


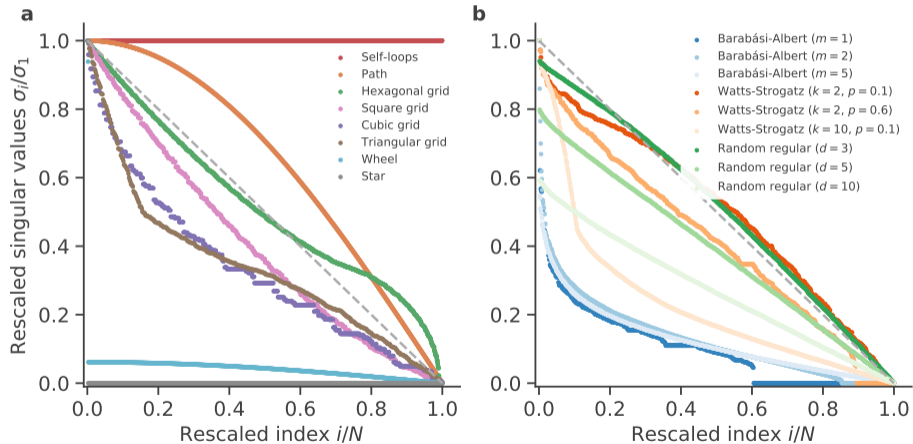
How low ? The values of the effective ranks give a graded measure for that.

Low or high ? at most a sublinear growth $O(N^{1-\epsilon})$, with $\epsilon \in (0, 1]$, as $N \rightarrow \infty$
 (valid only for growing graph models)

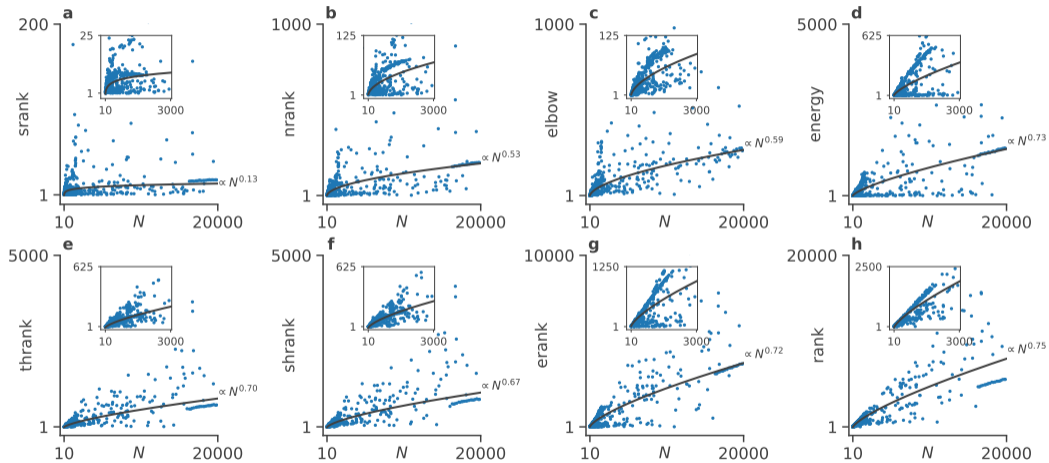




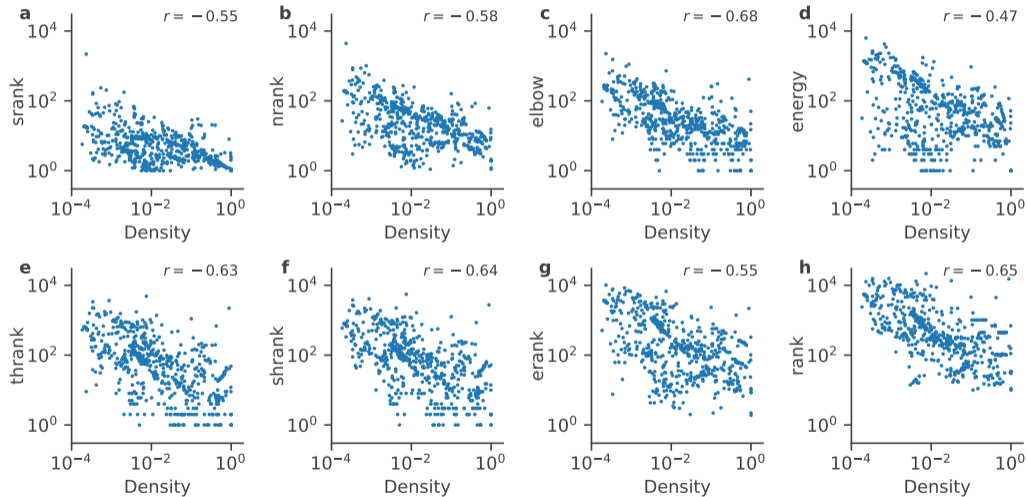




Effective ranks vs. number of vertices



Effective ranks vs. density



Theorem (Hypergeometric decrease (simplified))

Suppose that the singular values of matrix W satisfy the inequality

$$\frac{(1 - x_i)^{c^* - 2}}{(1 + \zeta^* x_i)^{b^*}} \leq \frac{\sigma_i}{\sigma_1} \leq \frac{(1 - x_i)^{c_* - 2}}{(1 + \zeta_* x_i)^{b_*}}, \quad \forall i \in \{1, \dots, N\},$$

where $x_i = (i - 1)/(N - 1)$ and for some $0 \leq b_* \leq b^*$, $2 \leq c_* \leq c^*$, $0 < \zeta_* \leq \zeta^*$.

Then,

$$\frac{N - 1}{2c^* - 3} H(b^*, c^*, \zeta^*) \leq \text{srnk}(W) \leq 1 + \frac{N - 1}{2c_* - 3} H(b_*, c_*, \zeta_*),$$

where $H(b, c, \zeta) := {}_2F_1(1, 2b; 2(c - 1); -\zeta)$, the Gaussian hypergeometric function.