introduction to systems science

lecture 11: general systems theory



introduction to systems science

evaluation

- Participation: 20%.
 - class discussion, everybody reads and discusses every paper
 - engagement in class
- Paper Presentation and Discussion: 20%
 - **SSIE501** students are assigned to papers individually or as group lead presenters and discussants
 - all students are supposed to read and participate in discussion of every paper.
 - Presenter prepares short summary of assigned paper (15 minutes)
 - no formal presentations or PowerPoint unless figures are indispensable.
 - Summary should:
 - 1) Identify the key goals of the paper (not go in detail over every section)
 - 2) What discussant liked and did not like
 - 3) What authors achieved and did not
 - 4) Any other relevant connections to other class readings and beyond.
 - ISE440 students chose one of the presented papers to participate as lead discussant
 - not to present the paper, but to comment on points 2-3) above
 - Class discussion is opened to all
 - lead discussant ensures we important paper contributions and failures are addressed
- Black Box: 60%
 - Group Project (2 parts)
 - Assignment I (25%) and Assignment II (35%)





course outlook

next readings (check brightspace)

Paper Presentation: 20%

- Present (501) and lead (501&440) the discussion of an article related to the class materials
- section 01 presents in class, section 20 (Enginet) posts videos on Brightspace (exceptions possible)
- Module 2: Systems Science
 - Discussion Set 4 (Group 4): October 22nd
 - Klir, G.J. [2001]. Facets of systems Science. Springer. Chapter 8.
 - Optional: Klir, G.J. [2001]. Facets of systems Science. Springer. Chapter 11
 - Schuster, P. (2016). The end of Moore's law: Living without an exponential increase in the efficiency of computational facilities. *Complexity*. 21(S1): 6-9. DOI 10.1002/cplx.21824.
 - Von Foerster, H., P. M. Mora and L. W. Amiot [1960]. "Doomsday: Friday, November 13, AD 2026." Science 132(3436):1291-5.

Future Modules

• See brightspace



course outlook



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course outlook

more upcoming readings (check brightspace)



Second assignment

The Black Box II: Due: November 22nd, 2024



Herbert Simon: Law discovery means only finding **pattern** in the data; whether the pattern will continue to hold for new data that are observed subsequently will be decided in the course of **testing the law**, not discovering it. The **discovery process** runs from particular facts to general laws that are somehow induced from them; the **process of testing** discoveries runs from the laws to predictions of particular facts from them [...] To explain why the patterns we extract from observations frequently lead to correct predictions (when they do) requires us to face again the problem of **induction**, and perhaps to make some hypothesis about the uniformity of nature. But that hypothesis is neither required for, nor relevant to, the theory of discovery processes. [...] By separating the question of pattern detection from the question of prediction, we can construct a **true normative theory of discovery**-a logic of discovery.

Focus on uncovering quadrants

- using data collection, descriptive patterns & statistics, and induction.
- Propose a formal model or algorithm of what each quadrant is doing.
 - Analyze, using deduction, the behavior of this algorithm.
- Maximum 20 pages!!!
 - 4 per quadrant + 4
 - Supporting information in separate file





Current step: 501

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Black Box

Questions and suggestions

- Remember "published" facts
 - Statistical behavior in Q1
 - Odd/Even behavior in Q2
 - Different regions, transition sequence, complexity in Q3/4
- Collect or request data (cite)
- Are there quadrant dependencies?
- Focus on smaller grid (mask) subsets?
- Think of neighborhoods and boundary conditions
- Move from descriptive to mechanistic models
- Induction and deduction
 - Data and reasoning
 - Given a model, are things you have never seen possible?



$$state(cell(i, j))_{t+1} = ?_t \otimes ?....$$

modelling the World

Hertzian scientific modeling paradigm



"The most direct and in a sense the most important problem which our conscious knowledge of nature should enable us to solve is the **anticipation of future events**, so that we may arrange our present affairs in accordance with such anticipation". (Hertz, 1894)

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Uncovering hierarchical organization

From genetic interaction maps (in yeast)



Jaimovich, Aet al. 2010. Modularity and directionality in genetic interaction maps.

Bioinformatics 26, no. 12 (June): i228-i236.



hypergraphs



hypergraphs

lead to different conclusions about underlying multivariate system



general-purpose study of "systems" properties of nature, technology, and society systems thinking

- Traditional disciplines
 - defined by specific discernable levels of human experience in nature and society
 - Psychology, Sociology, Political Science, Economics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, etc
- CNS, systems/computational thinking
 - General-purpose tools and universal laws
 - Search for general principles of organization
 - Produce machines and tools for all sciences
 - Disciplines are orthogonal to traditional disciplines
 - machine learning, network science, data science & analytics, dynamical systems theory, operations research, etc.
 - 2-dimensional science
 - traditional disciplines focus on experimental and observational methods for specific subject matter
 - disciplines of CNS focus on generality of their own methods to any type of data
 - Neither parallel disciplines nor general-purpose methods are sufficient to achieve *interdisciplinarity*
 - Team culture is necessary
 - E.g. Systems biology, computational biology, computational social science, etc.



general-purpose study of "systems" properties of nature, technology, and society complex networks & systems thinking

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Pescosolido, B.A. 2006. Journal of Health and Social Behavior 47: 189-208.



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general (complex) systems theory

Models of organized complexity

- Systemhood properties
 - Search for a language of generalized circuits
 - Isomorphisms of concepts, laws and models across fields
 - Minimize duplication of efforts across fields
 - Unity of science
- Not mathematics
 - Kenneth Boulding
 - "in a sense, because mathematics contains all theories it contains none; it is the language of theory, but it does not give us the content"
 - "body of systematic theoretical construction which will discuss general relationships of the empirical World".
 - "somewhere between the specific that has no meaning and the general that has no content there must be, for each purpose an at each level of abstraction, an optimum degree of generality".
 - Empirical and problem-driven
- Other relevant areas
 - Mathematical theories of control and generalized circuits
 - Information theory
 - Optimal scheduling and resource allocation (operations research, ISE)
 - dynamical systems, chaos, AI, Alife, machine learning, network science, etc.



Ludwig von Bertalanffy



Kenneth Boulding

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general systems theory

the theoretical biology component

- Systemhood properties of life
 - Search for a language of generalized circuits
 - Isomorphy of concepts, laws and models
 - Minimize duplication of efforts across fields
 - Unity of science
- Self-maintaining organization
 - Dynamics of regulation and development
 Networks of simple interacting components
 - Dynamics of self-maintenance
 Autopoiesis, auto-catalytic behavior, autonomy
- Evolutionary systems
 - Encoded production
 - Open-ended evolution
 - "leaky" systems





Stuart Kauffman

von Bertalanffy





Francisco Varela

BINGHAMTON rock

general systems theory

the theoretical biology component

Systemhood properties of life
 Search for a language of generalized circuits



• "leaky" systems





Stuart Kauffman

von Bertalanffy



Francisco Varela

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The language lives on

- Learning and cognition as information transmission
 - Brain and mind as mechanism
- Computer as prevalent analogy/model for understanding life and cognition
- Feedback has come to mean information about the outcome of any process or activity
 - No word existed previously in English to convey that concept
- Interaction and organization everywhere
 - Attention shifted from individualism and cause & effect, to circular causation and social interaction
- "Programmed" behavior
- Society and organisms as (general) systems
- Wiener's prediction of a second industrial revolution centered on communication, control, computation, information, and organization was correct
 - Abundance of technology and mass production of communication devices
 - Grew out of the ideas first reported by the cyberneticians
 - Many disciplines are an offspring of cybernetics



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The language lives on







The concepts, tools, and interdisciplinary praxis lives on Natural and INPLIT PATTERN Memories are stored When the trained network is NEURON fed with a distorted or artificial neurons in a landscape incomplete pattern, it car be likened to dropping a John Hopfield's associative memory stores NODE ball down a slope in this The brain's neural Artificial neural information in a manner similar to shaping a landscape. When the network is trained, it landscape. networks are built network is built from creates a valley in a virtual energy landscape for every saved pattern. living cells, neurons, from nodes that are with advanced internal coded with a value. SYNAPSE machinery. They can The nodes are send signals to each connected to each other through the other and, when the STRONGER STRONGER synapses. When we network is trained. learn things, the the connections connections between between nodes that SAVED PATTERN WEAKER some neurons get are active at the stronger, while others same time get get weaker. stronger, otherwise they get The ball rolls until it reaches a place 0 2 weaker. WEAKER where it is surrounded by uphills. In the same way, the network makes its way towards lower energy and finds the closest saved pattern. © Johan Jarnestad/The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences The THEF 0.000400% -CYBERNETICS Human Use MOMENT 0.000350% of Human Beings machine learning 0.000300% -0.000250% -0.000200% artificial intelligence By Norbert Wiener 0.000150% complex systems 0.000100% NALD R. KLIN data science cybernetics 0.000050% systems thinking complex networks rocha@binghamton.edu BINGHAMTON

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0.000000% -

1800

1820

1840

1860

1880

1900

1920

1940

1960

1980

2000

cybernetics and systems science

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The concepts, tools, and interdisciplinary praxis lives on

How does AlphaFold2 work?

As part of AlphaFold2's development, the AI model has been trained on all the known amino acid sequences and determined protein structures.

1. DATA ENTRY AND DATABASE SEARCHES

An amino acid sequence with unknown structure is fed into AlphaFold2, which searches databases for similar amino acid sequences and protein structures.

2. SEQUENCE ANALYSIS

The AI model aligns all the similar amino acid sequences – often from different species – and investigates which parts have been preserved during evolution.

In the next step, AlphaFold2 explores which amino acids could interact with each other in the threedimensional protein structure. Interacting amino acids co-evolve. If one is charged, the other has the opposite charge, so they are attracted to each other. If one is replaced by a water-





3. AI ANALYSIS

Using an iterative process, AlphaFold2 refines the sequence analysis and distance map. The Al model uses neural networks called transformers, which have a great capacity to identify important elements to focus on. Data about other protein structures – if they were found in step 1 – is also utilised.

4. HYPOTHETICAL STRUCTURE

AlphaFold2 puts together a puzzle of all the amino acids and tests pathways to produce a hypothetical protein structure. This is re-run through step 3. After three cycles, AlphaFold2 arrives at a particular structure. The AI model calculates the probability that different parts of this structure correspond to reality.





Next lectures

readings

Class Book

- Klir, G.J. [2001]. Facets of systems science. Springer.
- Papers and other materials
 - Module 2: Systems Science
 - Discussion Set 4 (Group 4): October 17th
 - Klir, G.J. [2001]. *Facets of systems Science*. Springer. <u>Chapter 8</u>.
 - Optional: Klir, G.J. [2001]. Facets of systems Science. Springer. <u>Chapter 11</u>
 - Schuster, P. (2016). The end of Moore's law: Living without an exponential increase in the efficiency of computational facilities. *Complexity*. 21(S1): 6-9. DOI 10.1002/cplx.21824.
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