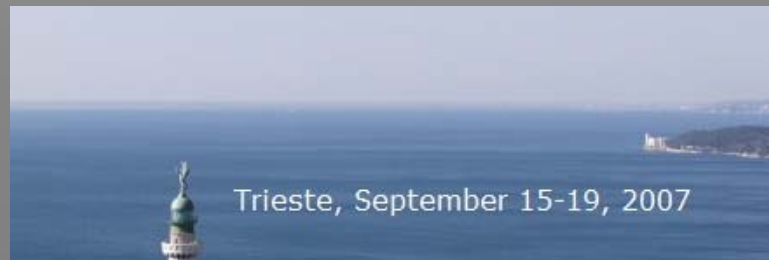


UNINFORMATIVE MEMORIES WILL PREVAIL

THE STORAGE OF CORRELATED REPRESENTATIONS
AND ITS CONSEQUENCES



Emilio Kropff
SISSA, Trieste



Semantic memory

- Tulving, 72: "the global network codifies for a **general** conceptual knowledge abstracted from a large number of individual **episodes** or **experiences**".
- Nowadays the dichotomy between **Episodic** vs **Semantic** memory is under revision. Some people think that they might be different stages of the same process.
- Embeds different kinds of information: **perceptual** <has 4 legs>, **functional** <is used for hunting>, **associative** <likes to chase cats> and **encyclopedic** <may be one of many breeds>. (DOG)

Category specific deficits

- Patients were found with a significant impairment in their knowledge about **living things** (animals + foodstuffs) as opposed to **manmade artifacts** (Warrington & Shallice, 1984).
- Heterogeneous etiology: herpes encephalitis, brain abscess, anoxia, stroke, head injury and dementia of Alzheimer type (DAT). Lesions typically include inferior parts of the **temporal lobe**.
- Impairment for nonliving has also been reported -> **double dissociation**. Current ratio: **23%** vs **77%** (Capitani, 03)

Theoretical accounts

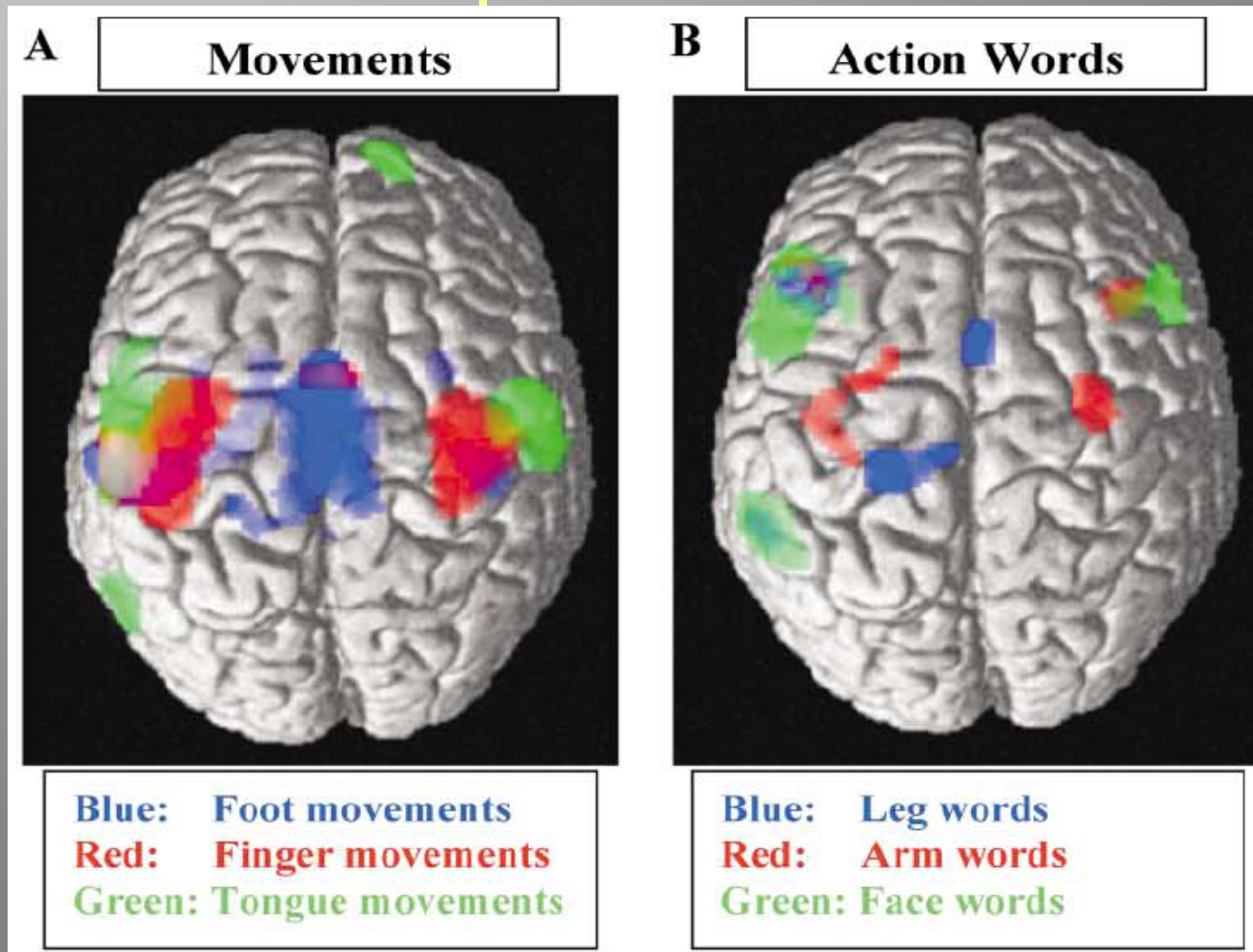
- **sensory/functional** theory (Warrington & Shallice, 84) - Representation domains depend on the type of semantic information of concepts (animals - sensory information / tools - functional properties)
- **domain-specific** hypothesis (Caramazza & Shelton, 98) - Evolution has created a semantic system that is specific for animals while tools have no evolutionary weight and are processed by a generic separated system.

Theoretical accounts

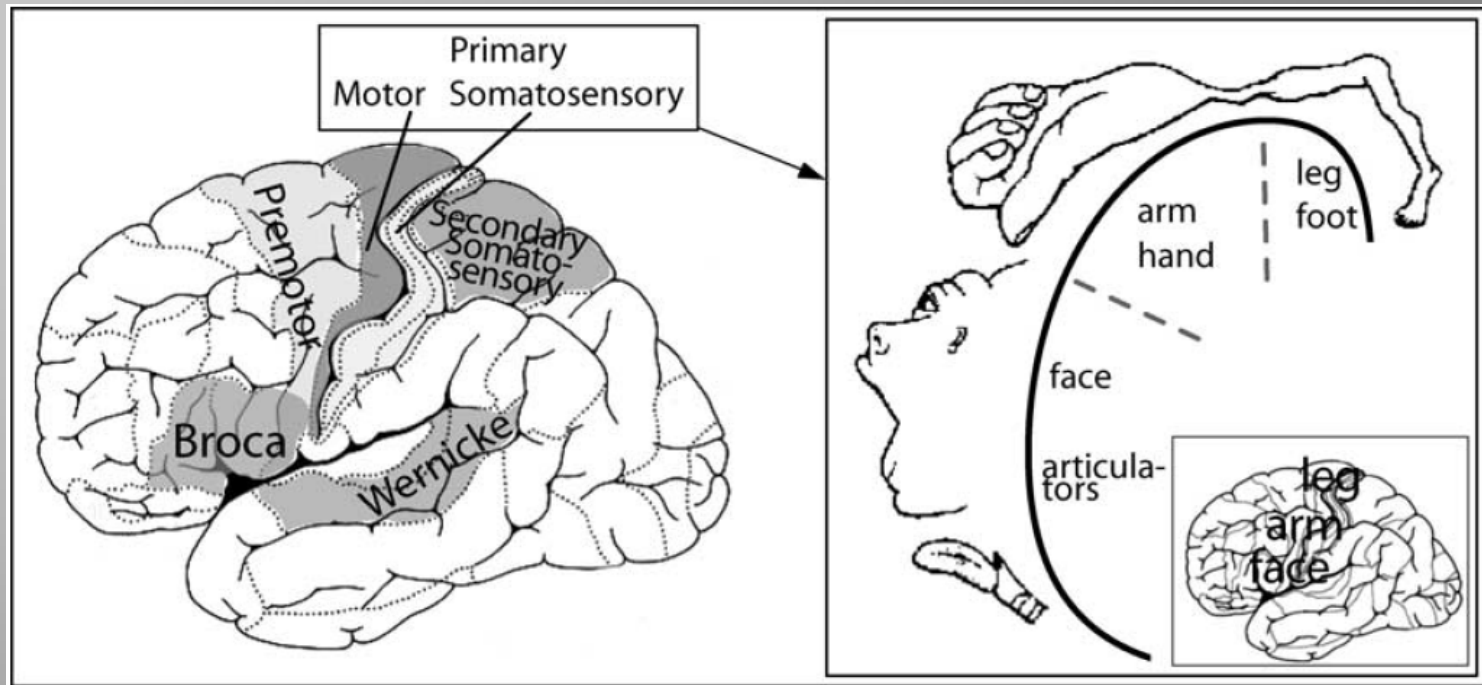
Theories concerning different measures of **correlation** between concepts:

- feature representation (McRee et al, 97) - concepts are represented by their features in an autoassociative memory. **Problems** with the storage capacity.
- conceptual structure account (Tyler & Moss, 01) - the structure of categories arises from: feature correlation, distinctive features and interactions between both.
- semantic relevance (Sartori & Lombardi, 04) - features have a relevance that is additive and depends on the whole structure of concepts. If a cue has a **total relevance** > threshold -> retrieval.

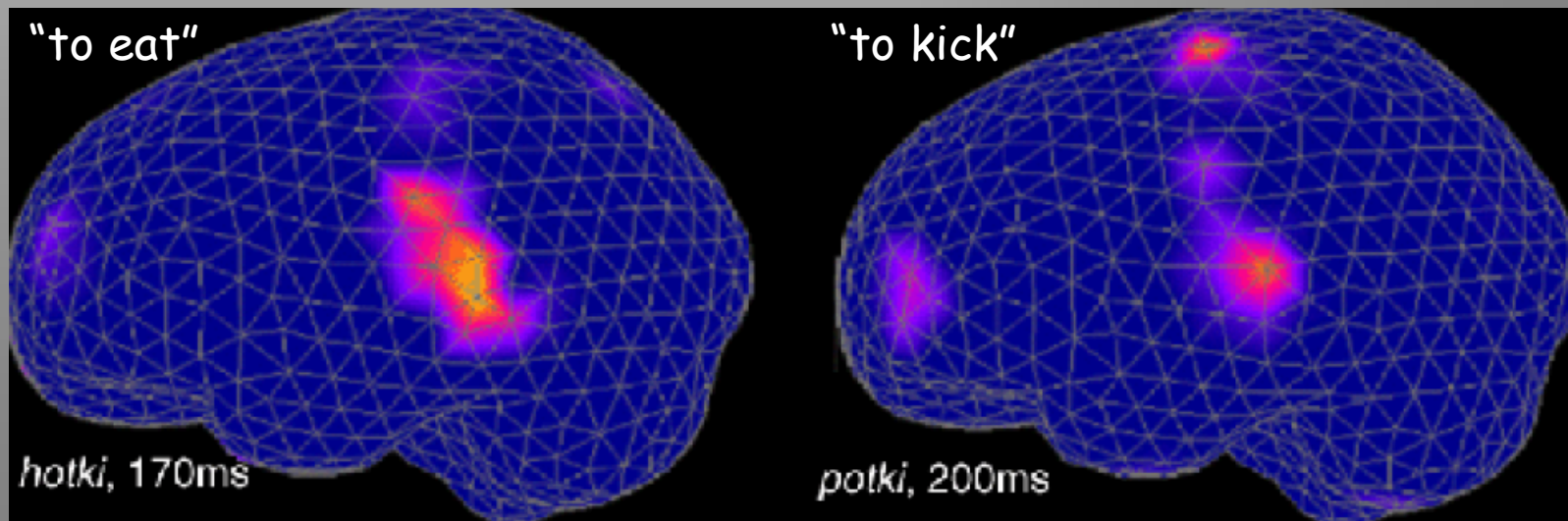
Embodied theories & Feature representation



(Pulvermuller, 04)

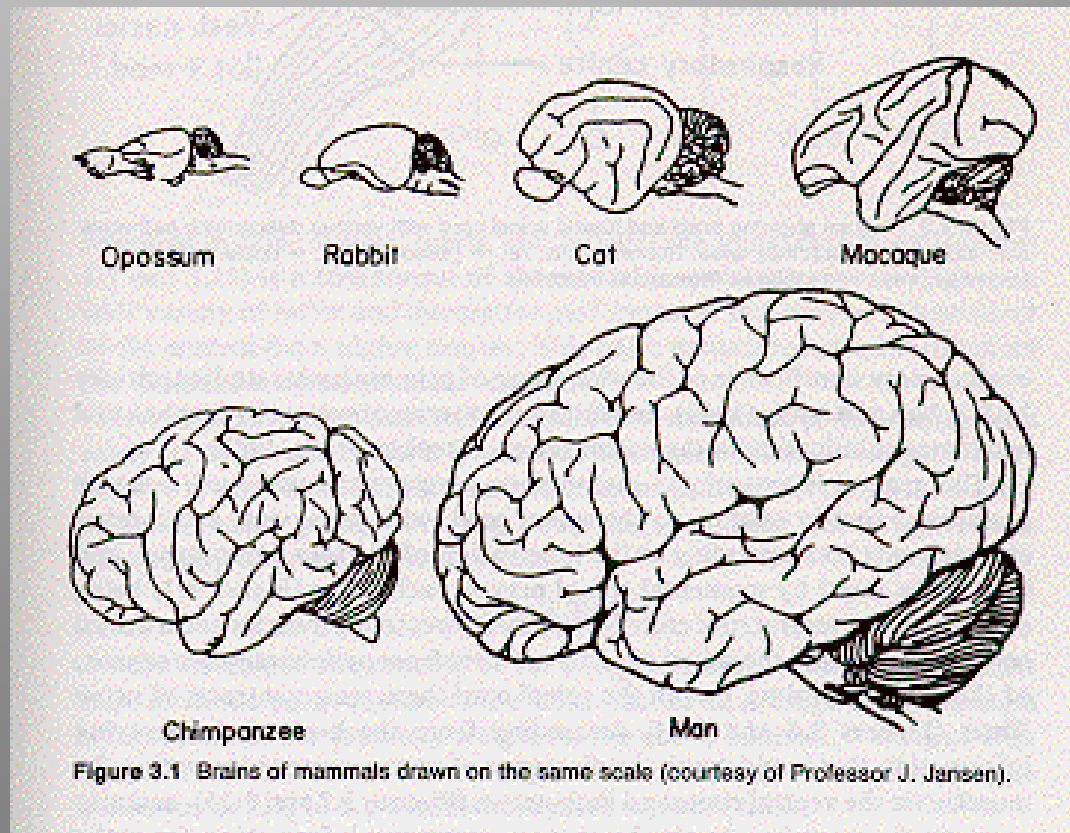


Early quasi-automatic word-evoked cortical activity.



Pulvermuller, 2003 - MCE on MEG recordings

The cerebral cortex



- 85% of human brain
- Processing of sensory information
- voluntary movement

- problem solving
- language

Cerebral cortex - Braitenberg & Schüz, 1991

of neurons \gg # of
input fibers

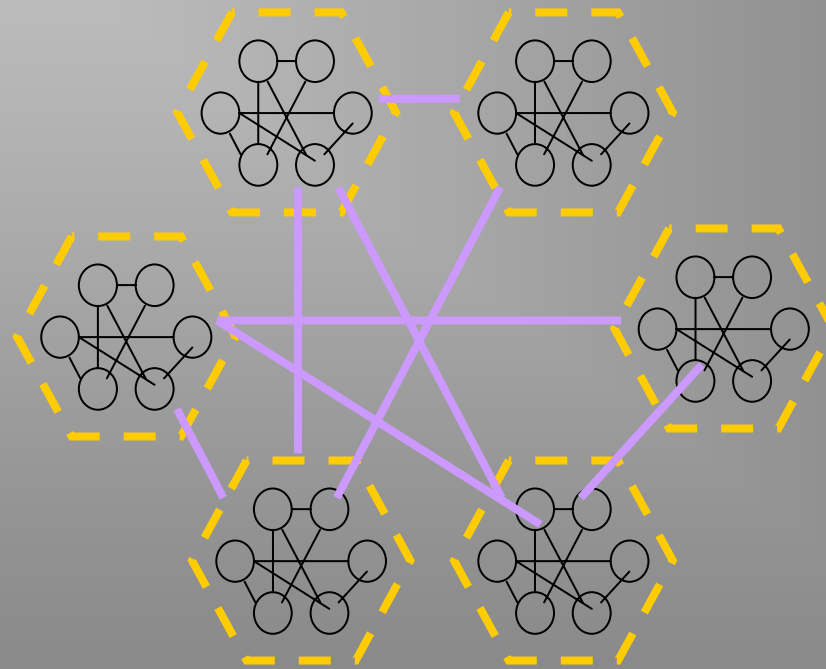
Modifiable synapses

No preferred
direction in the
connections

Mostly excitatory
synapses

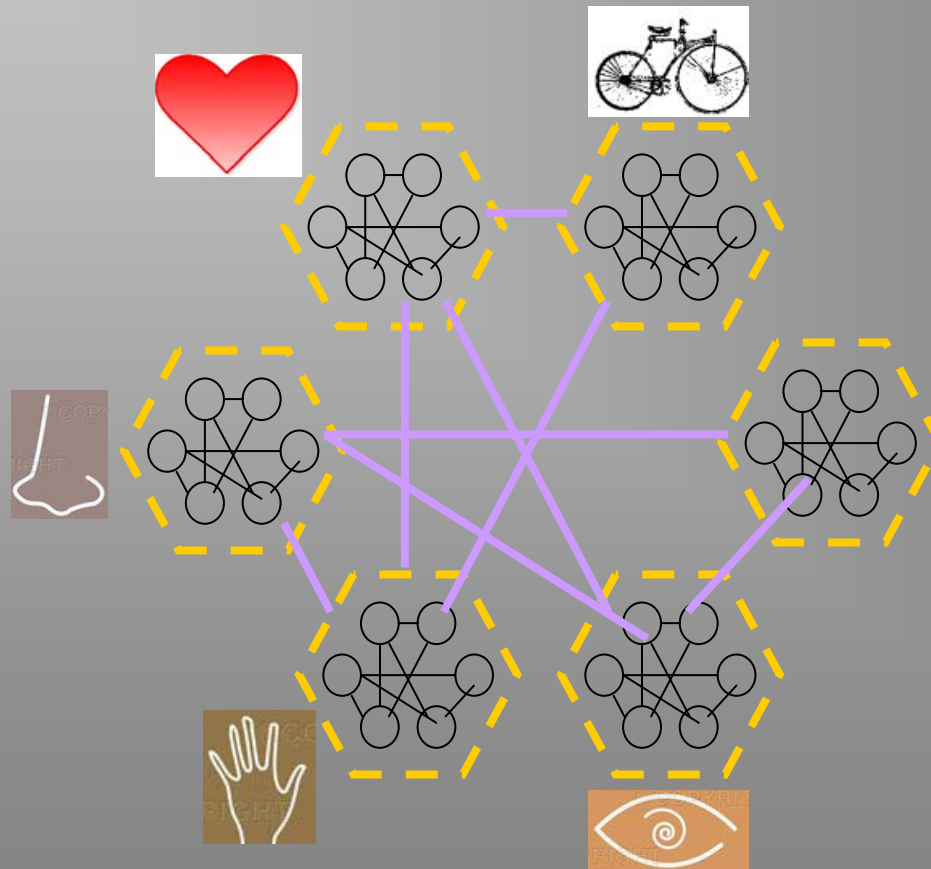
Great convergence &
divergence

Connections are very
weak

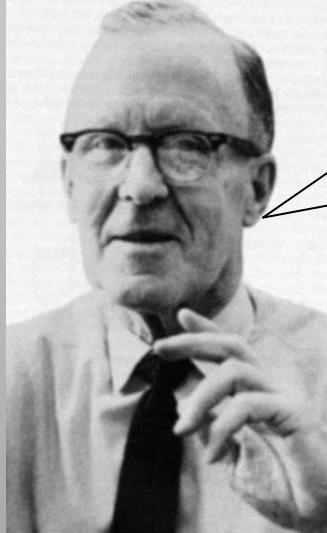


Two-level
associative
memory with
formation of
cell assemblies

Cerebral cortex - Braitenberg & Schüz, 1991

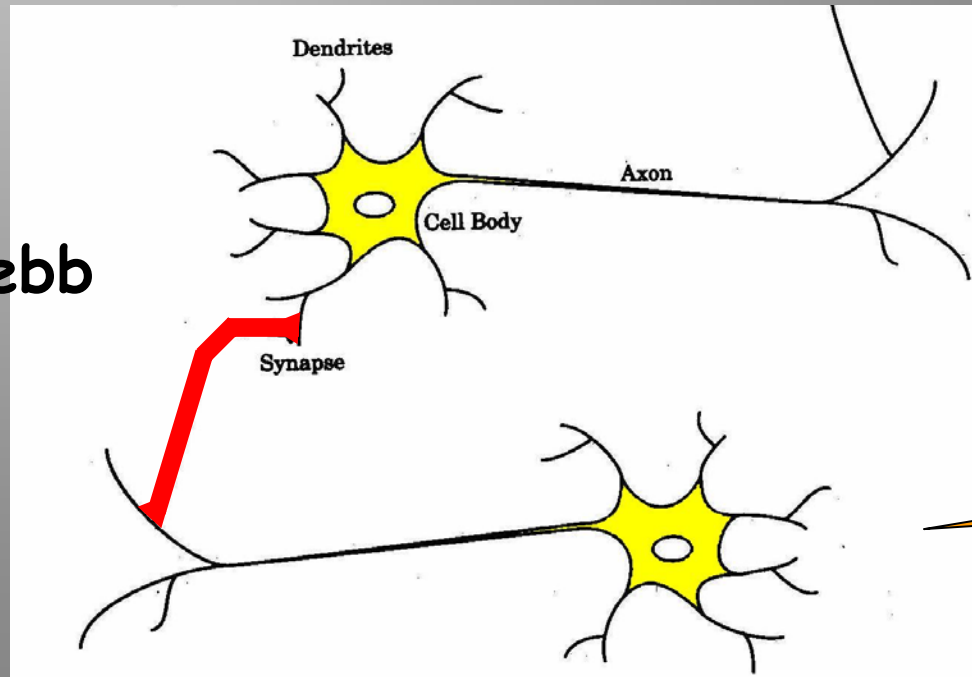


Two-level
associative
memory with
formation of
cell assemblies

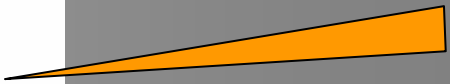
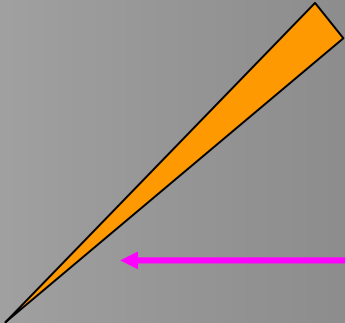


Neurons that fire together wire together

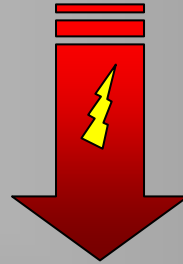
Donald O. Hebb
1904 - 1985



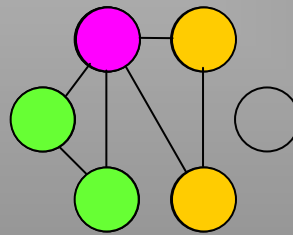
Electrodes



Auto-associative memories

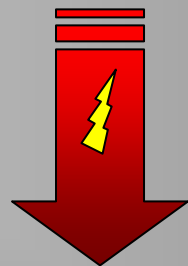


- No activity
- Pattern #1 active
- Pattern #2 active
- Pattern #3 active

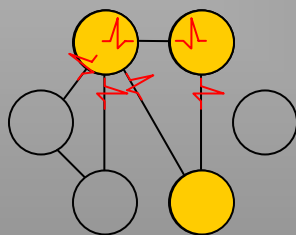


Learning !!

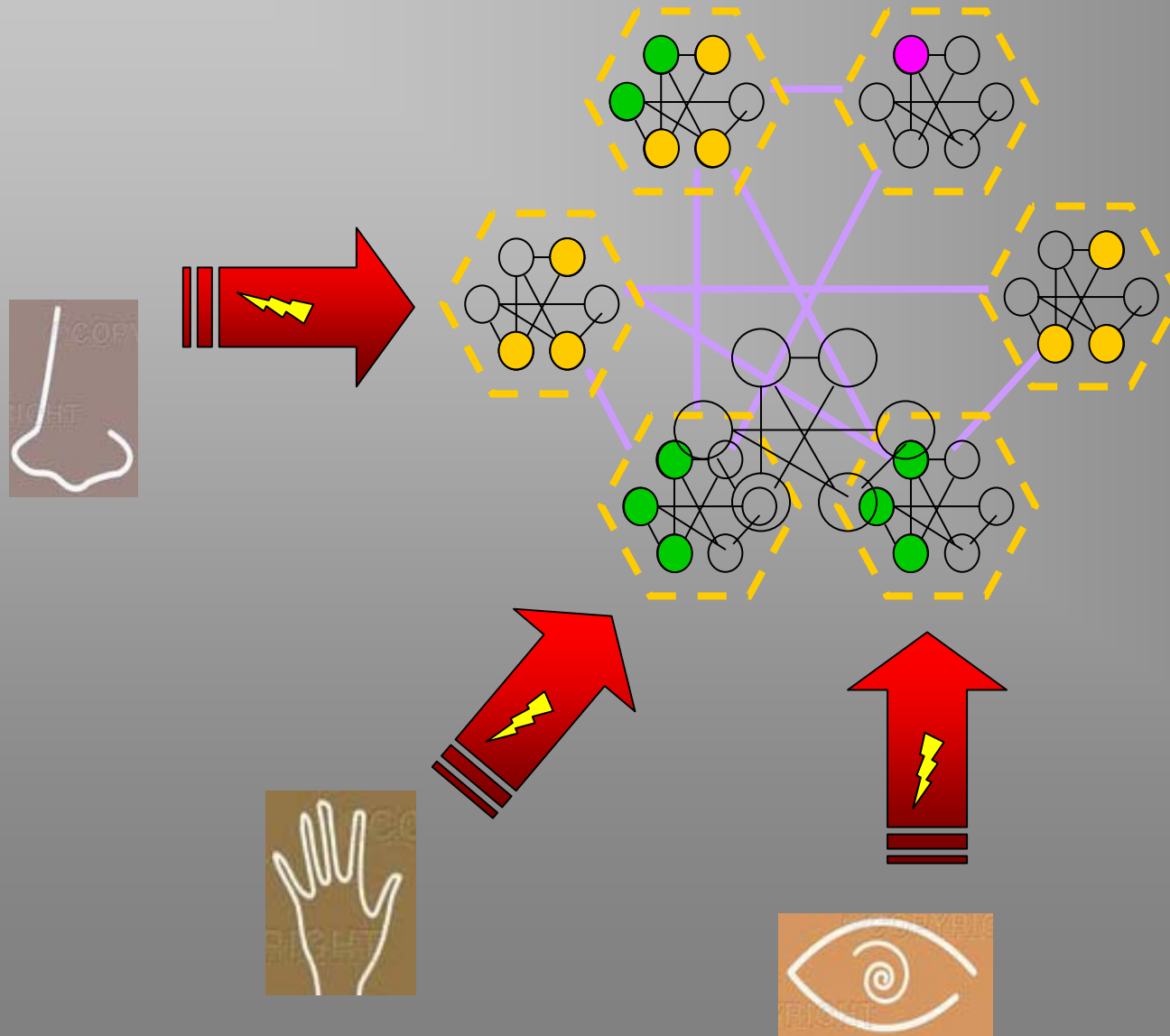
Testing the memory



- Pattern #2 active



Cerebral cortex - Braitenberg & Schüz, 1991



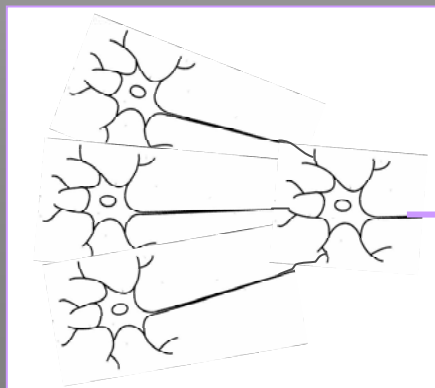
Two-level
associative
memory with
formation of
cell assemblies

Hopfield memories

- The network stores p patterns, each one characterized by a vector ξ in N dimensions, with components following:

$$P(\xi_i^\mu) = (1 - a) \delta(\xi_i^\mu) + a \delta(\xi_i^\mu - 1) \quad [i = 1 \dots N, \mu = 1 \dots p]$$

where a is the sparseness, the fraction of active neurons when the network is in an attractor state.



$$h_i = \sum_{j=0}^N J_{ij} \sigma_j - U$$

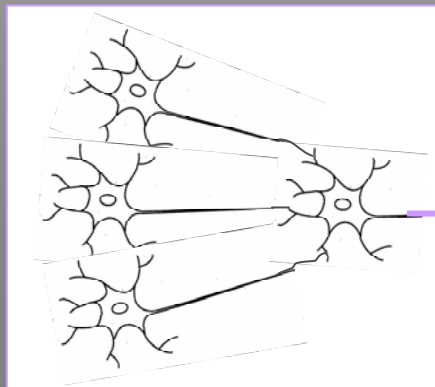
$$\sigma_i = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-\beta h_i}}$$

Hopfield memories

- U is a threshold of order 1, necessary to maintain the activity low, avoiding storage capacity collapse (Tsodyks, 89).
- β is an inverse temperature
- J_{ij} are the weights following the hebbian rule:

$$J_{ij} = \frac{C_{ij}}{C \cdot a \cdot (1 - a)} \sum_{\mu=1}^P (\xi_i^{\mu} - a) (\xi_j^{\mu} - a)$$

$$\sum_{j=1}^N C_{ij} = C$$



$$h_i = \sum_{j=0}^N J_{ij} \sigma_j - U$$

$$\sigma_i = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-\beta h_i}}$$

Hopfield memories

- If patterns are randomly correlated (Tsodyks,89),

$$p_{max} \sim \frac{C}{a \ln\left(\frac{1}{a}\right)}$$

- However, if patterns have a non-trivial structure of correlations, the storage capacity collapses.

•  ~~Lesson #1: Orthogonalize the patterns before feeding the network. (i.e. Dentate Gyrus in Hippocampus)~~

- In semantic memory correlation between stored patterns seems to play a major role.

Solution #2 ??

$$J_{ij} = \frac{1}{C a} \sum_{j=1}^N C_{ij} (\xi_i^\mu - A_i) (\xi_j^\mu - B_j)$$

$$h_i = \sum_{j=0}^N J_{ij} \sigma_j$$

$$m_i^\mu = \frac{1}{C a} \sum_{j=1}^N C_{ij} (\xi_j^\mu - B_j) \sigma_j$$

$$h_i = \sum_{\mu=1}^p \xi_i^\mu m_i^\mu = \xi_i^1 m + \sum_{\mu \neq 1} \xi_i^\mu m_i^\mu$$

$$A_i = B_i = a_i = \frac{1}{P} \sum_{\mu=1}^p \xi_i^\mu = \text{popularity}$$

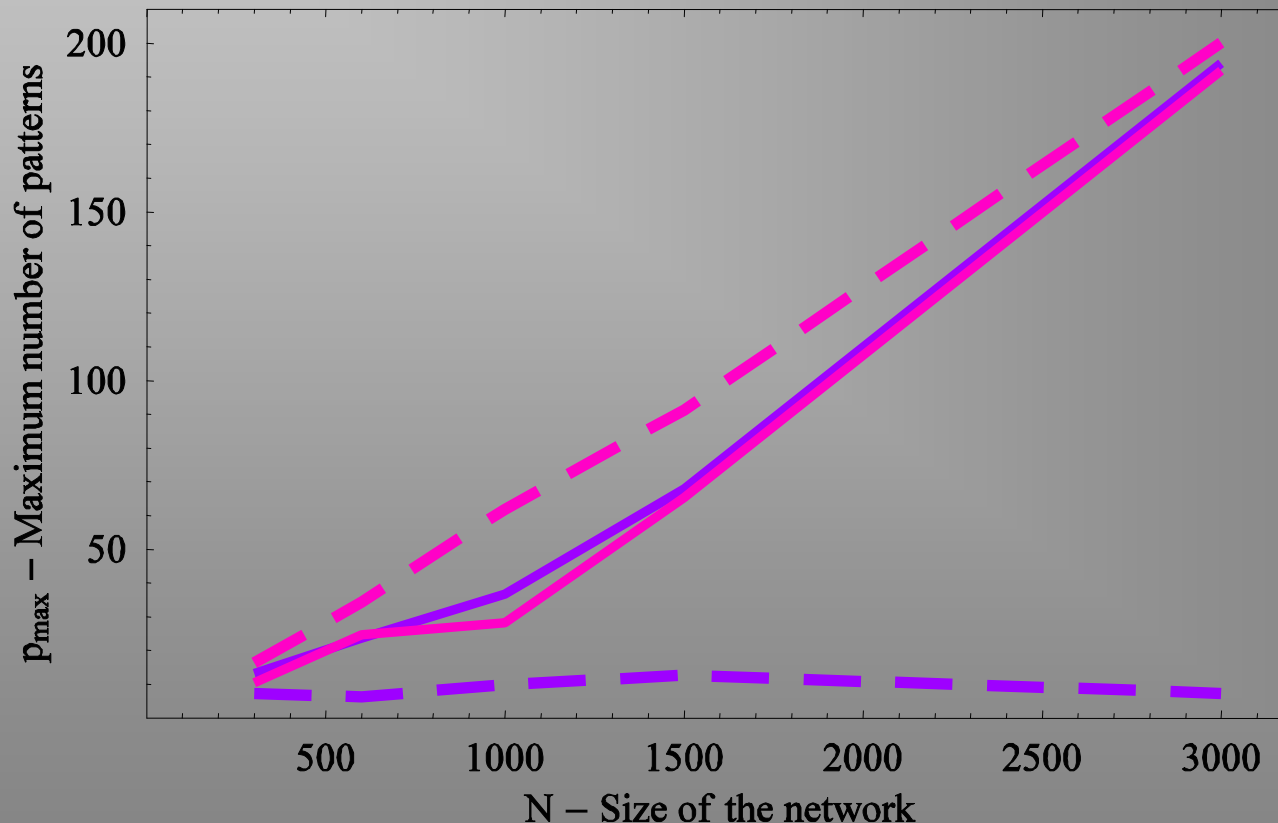
Classical result: hebbian learning supports **uncorrelated** memories

Classical result: catastrophe associated to **correlated** memories

$$J_{ij} = \sum_{\mu} (\xi_i^{\mu} - a) \cdot (\xi_j^{\mu} - a)$$

$$J_{ij} = \sum_{\mu} (\xi_i^{\mu} - a_i) \cdot (\xi_j^{\mu} - a_j)$$

popularity: $a_k = 1/p \sum_{\mu} \xi_k^{\mu}$



New result: a modification that supports **correlated** memories

New result: the performance is the same with **uncorrelated** memories

Properties with $\alpha \approx 0$, $C \approx \ln(N)$

$$h_i = \sum_{\mu=1}^p \xi_i^{\mu} m_i^{\mu} = \xi_i^1 m + \sum_{\mu \neq 1} \xi_i^{\mu} m_{\mu}$$

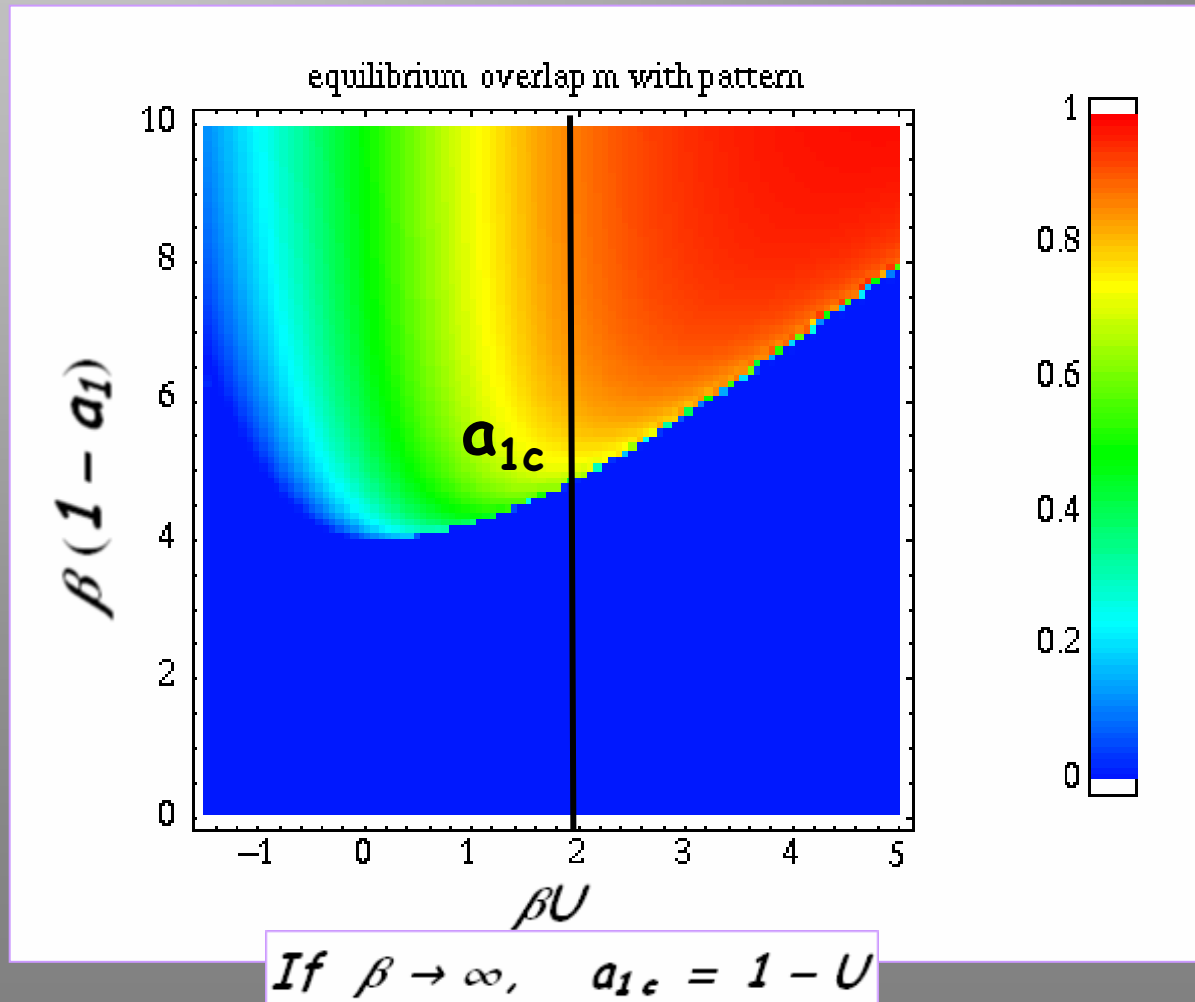
$$m = \frac{1}{N a} \sum_{j=1}^N (\xi_j^1 - a_j) \sigma_j$$

$$\sigma_i = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-\beta h_i}}$$

$$m = (1 - a_1) \left\{ \frac{1}{1 + e^{\beta(U-m)}} - \frac{1}{1 + e^{\beta U}} \right\}$$

$$a_1 = \frac{1}{N \cdot a} \sum_{\mu=1}^p \xi_j^1 a_j = \langle a_{\xi^1} \rangle = \langle \xi^1 \cdot \xi^{\mu} \rangle_{\mu}$$

Properties with $\alpha \approx 0$, $C \approx \ln(N)$



Properties with $\alpha \approx 0$, $C \approx \ln(N)$

~ Conclusions ~

- If you want to be an attractor, you should pick at least some unpopular units.
- Lowering U can make any pattern retrievable -> ATTENTION

Properties with finite α , $C \approx \ln(N)$

$$h_i = \sum_{\mu=1}^p \xi_i^{\mu} m_i^{\mu} = \xi_i^1 m + \sum_{\mu \neq 1} \xi_i^{\mu} m_i^{\mu}$$

GAUSSIAN noise (If there is independence between neurons i and j).

$$h_i \sim \xi_i^1 m + \sqrt{\alpha q a_i} z_i$$

$$q = \frac{1}{N a^2} \sum_{j=1}^N a_j (1 - a_j) \sigma_j^2$$

Properties with finite α , $C \approx \ln(N)$

$$m = \frac{1}{N \cdot \alpha} \sum_{j=1}^N (\xi_j^1 - a_j) \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{e^{-\frac{z^2}{2}}}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \theta \left(z + \frac{(m-U)}{\sqrt{\alpha \cdot q \cdot a_j}} \right) d z \frac{d z}{\sqrt{\alpha \cdot q \cdot a_j z}}$$

$$q = \frac{1}{N \cdot \alpha^2} \sum_{j=1}^N a_j (1 - a_j) \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{e^{-\frac{z^2}{2}}}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \theta \left(z + \frac{(m-U)}{\sqrt{\alpha \cdot q \cdot a_j}} \right) d z \left(\frac{d z}{a_j z} \right)^2$$

Properties with finite α , $C \approx \ln(N)$

$$m = \int_0^1 f(x) \{(1-x)\phi_1 + x\phi_0\} dx - \frac{1}{a} \int_0^1 F(x) x \phi_0 dx$$

$$q = \frac{1}{a} \int_0^1 f(x) x(1-x) \{\phi_1 - \phi_0\} dx + \frac{1}{a^2} \int_0^1 F(x) x(1-x) \phi_0 dx$$

$$\phi_k = \frac{1}{2} \left\{ 1 + \operatorname{Erf} \left(\frac{k m - U}{\sqrt{2 \alpha q x}} \right) \right\}$$

a_j follow a distribution $F(x)$

a_ξ follow a distribution $f(x)$

Properties with finite α , $C \approx \ln(N)$

$$I_f = \int_0^1 f(x) \cdot x \cdot (1-x) dx$$

$$I_F = \int_0^1 F(x) \cdot x \cdot (1-x) dx$$

- At **zero** order, $\alpha_c = (p/C)_c \sim 1/I_f$
- At **first** order, the correction depends on I_F .
The faster the distribution falls, the better the storage capacity.

Properties with finite α , $C \approx \ln(N)$

$$I_f = \int_0^1 f(x) \cdot x \cdot (1-x) dx$$

If $F(x)$ decays fast enough

$$I_F = \int_0^1 F(x) \cdot x \cdot (1-x) dx$$

$$\alpha_c \propto \frac{1}{I_f \ln\left(\frac{I_F}{a I_f}\right)}$$

... $\left[\text{If } F(x) = \delta(x-a) \rightarrow I_f = I_F = a \rightarrow \alpha_c \propto \frac{1}{a \ln\left(\frac{1}{a}\right)} \right]$

Properties with finite α , $C \approx \ln(N)$

$$I_f = \int_0^1 f(x) \cdot x \cdot (1-x) dx$$

If $F(x)$ decays fast enough

$$I_F = \int_0^1 F(x) \cdot x \cdot (1-x) dx$$

If $F(x)$ decays exponentially

If $F(x)$ decays as a power law

$$\alpha_c \propto \frac{1}{I_f \ln\left(\frac{I_F}{a I_f}\right)}$$

$$\alpha_c \propto \frac{1}{I_f \left[\ln\left(\frac{I_F}{a I_f}\right)\right]^2}$$

$$\alpha_c \propto \frac{a}{I_f \ln\left(\frac{a^{\gamma-2}}{I_f}\right)}$$

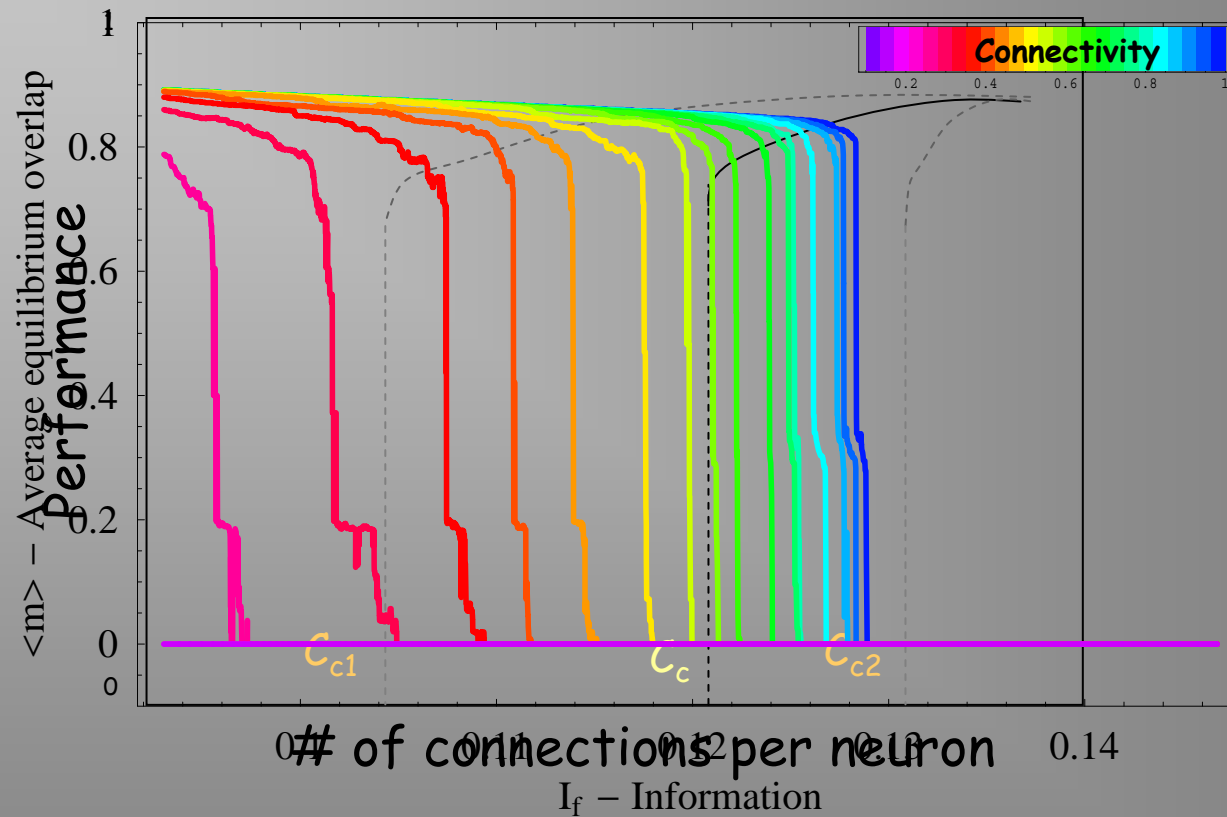
Properties with finite α , $C \approx \ln(N)$

~ Conclusions ~

- α_c depends on the retrieved pattern (selective impairment).
- A pattern is more resistant to lesioning or to forgetting if it has a smaller value of:

$$I_f = \int_0^1 f(x) \cdot x \cdot (1-x) dx$$

Storage capacity ~ fixed p



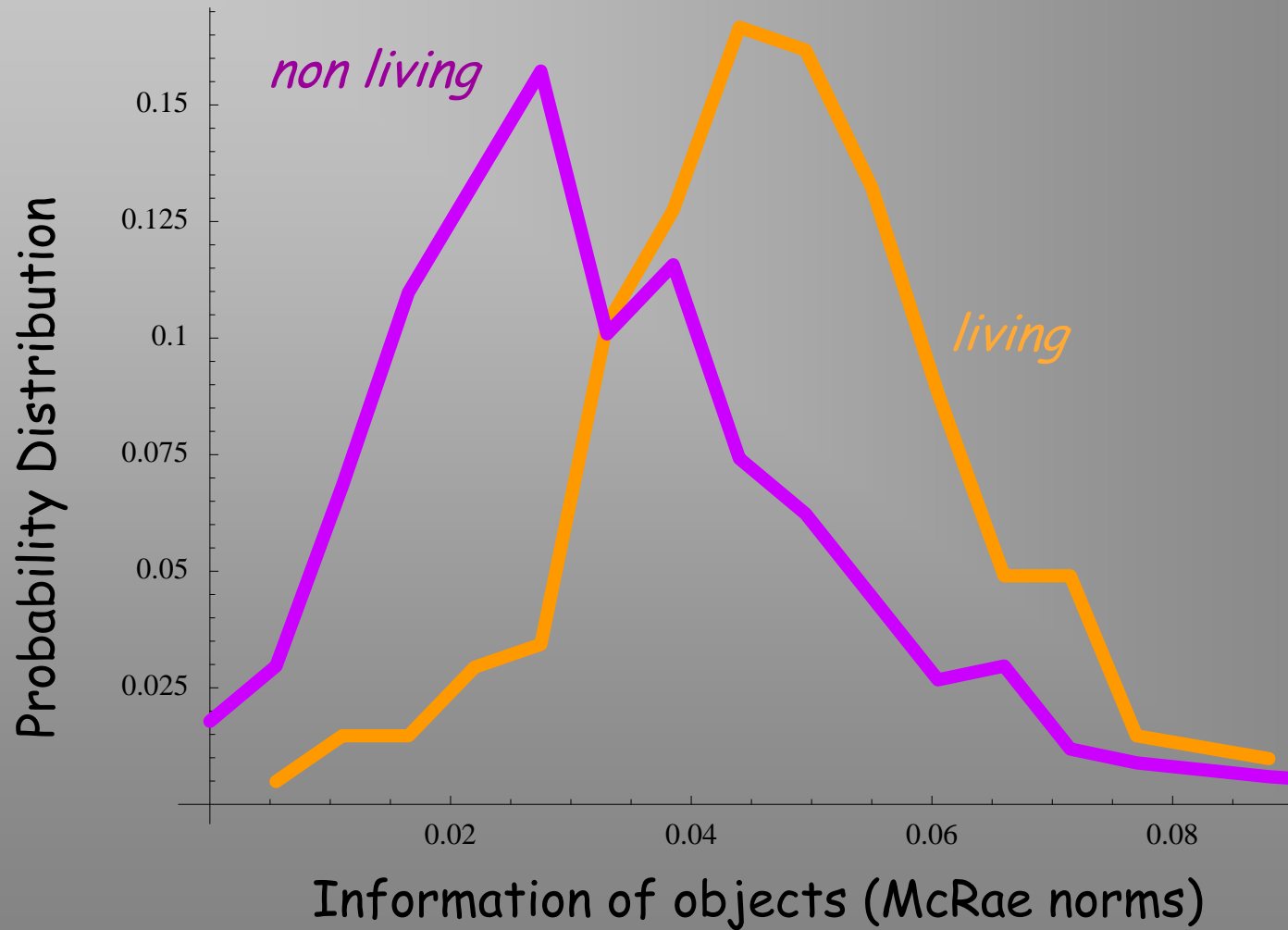
$$\text{Information} = \sum_i a_i (1 - a_i)$$

summed over active neurons in the pattern

McRae's feature norms

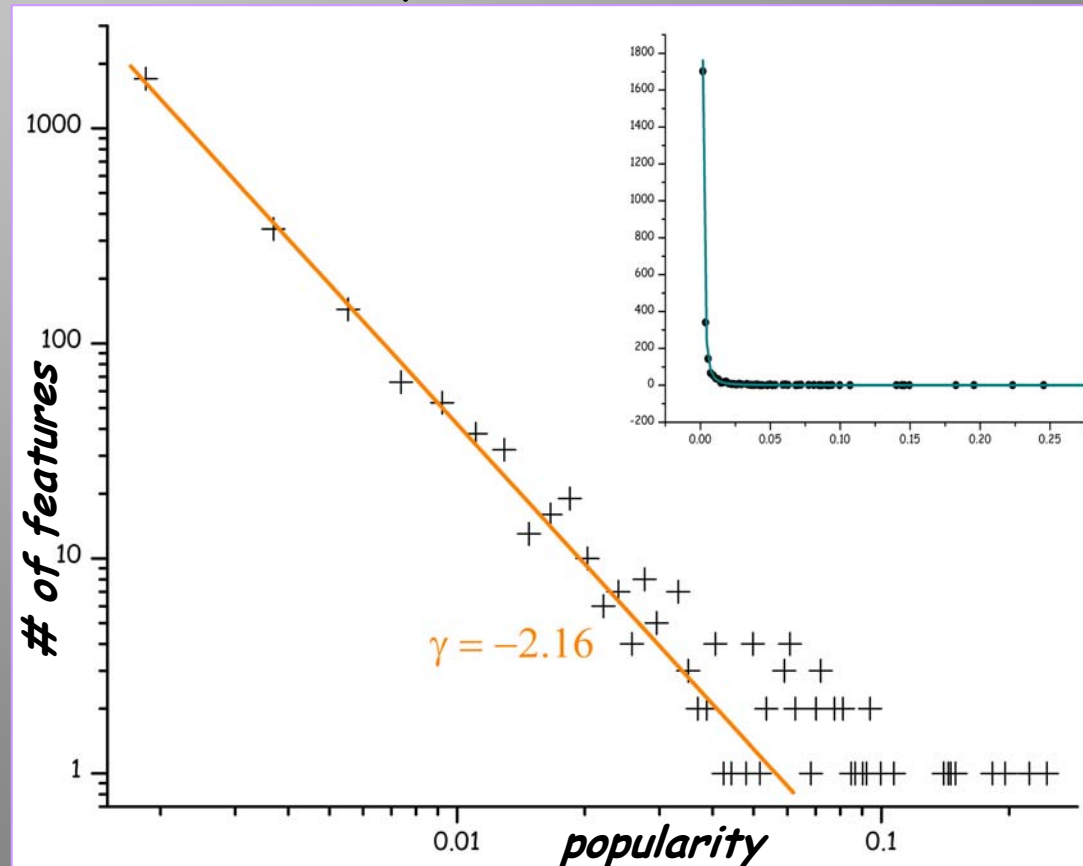
- (McRae et al, 05) - www.psychonomic.org/archive
- 541 concepts covering a wide range of living and non-living examples used in previous studies. Participants were provided with 20 unrelated concepts and asked to list at most 10 features. Recording identifying synonymous features, etc.
- "Feature norms are assumed to provide valid information not because they yield a literal record of semantic representations, but rather because such representations are used systematically by participants when generating features."

Category specific effects



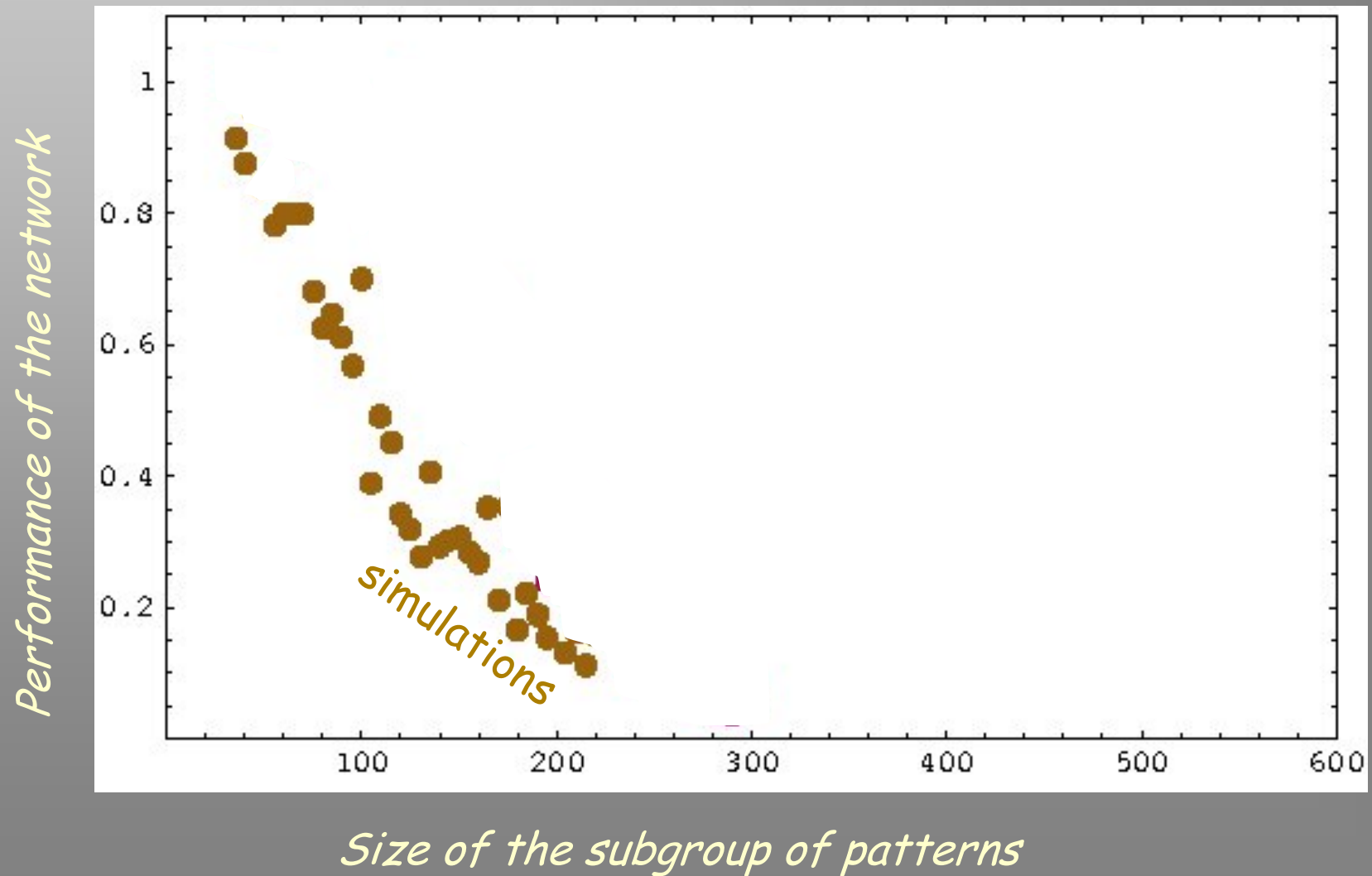
McRae's feature norms

- In the semantic memory literature, auto-associative networks are often presented as weak models. Why?



- To convince psychologists one must show an auto-associative memory that is able to store feature norms.

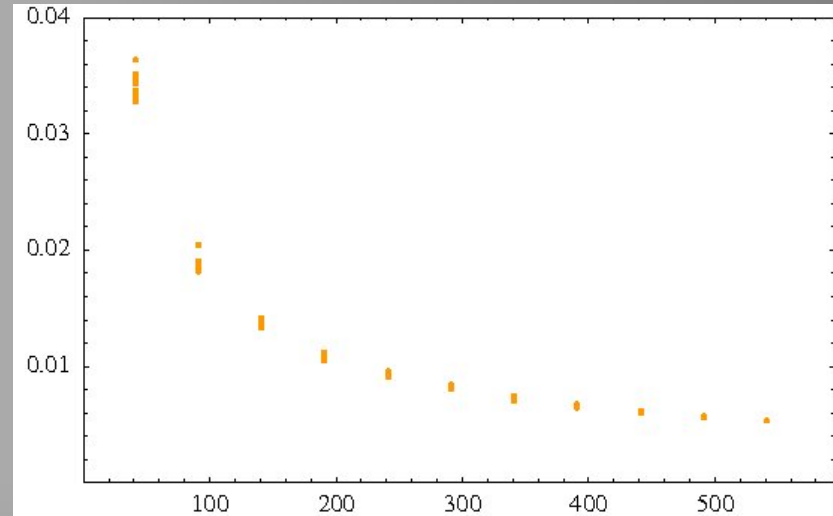
McRae's feature norms



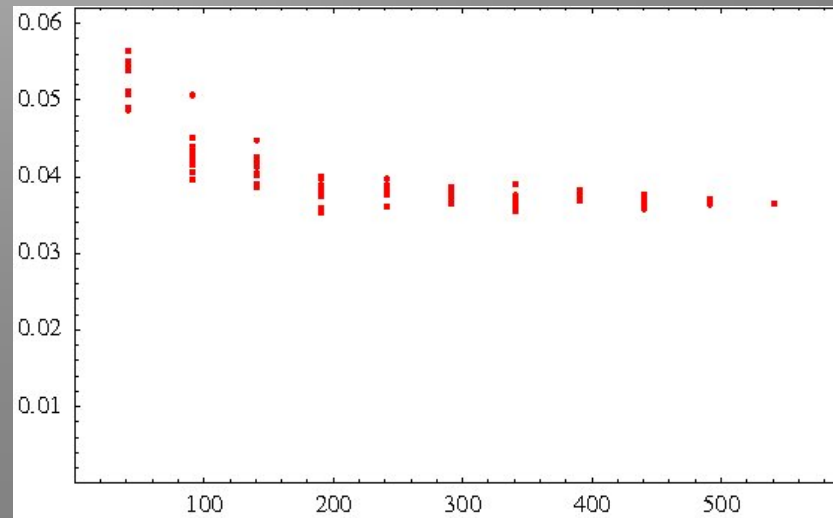
McRae's feature norms

$$\alpha_c \propto \frac{a}{I_f \ln\left(\frac{a^{\gamma-2}}{I_f}\right)}$$

a - average sparseness

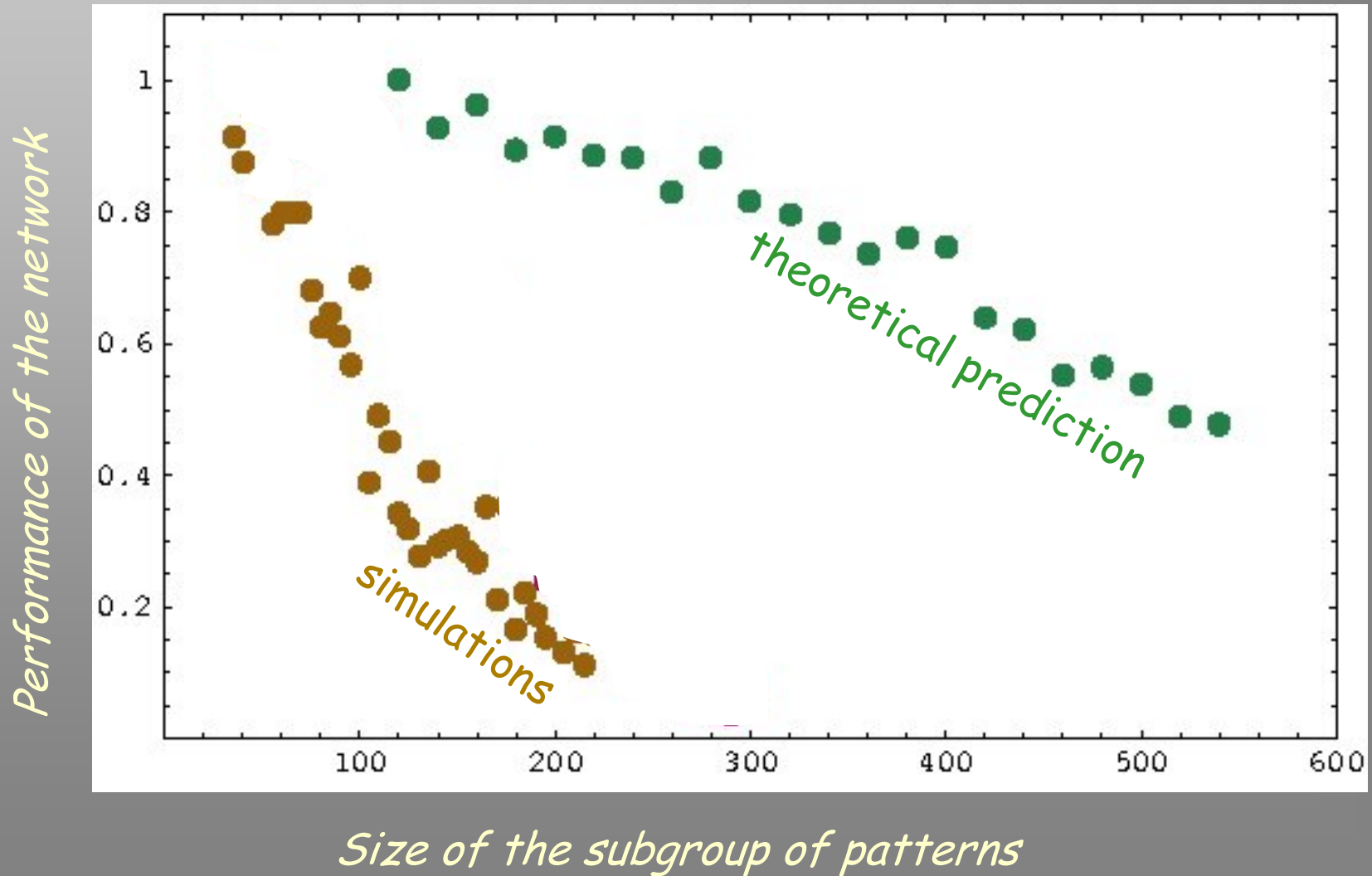


I_f - average information



Number of patterns p in the subgroup

McRae's feature norms

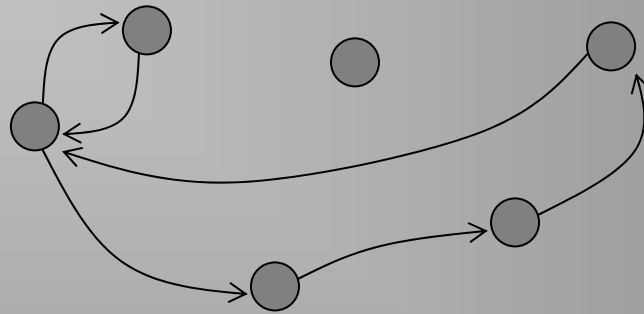


McRae's feature norms

Why the real network performs poorly?

- Independence between features is not valid (e.g: beak and wings). Is this effect strong enough? In case it is, there would be a storage capacity **collapse**.
- The system works but the approximation of **diluted** connectivity is not good.

McRae's feature norms: the full solution

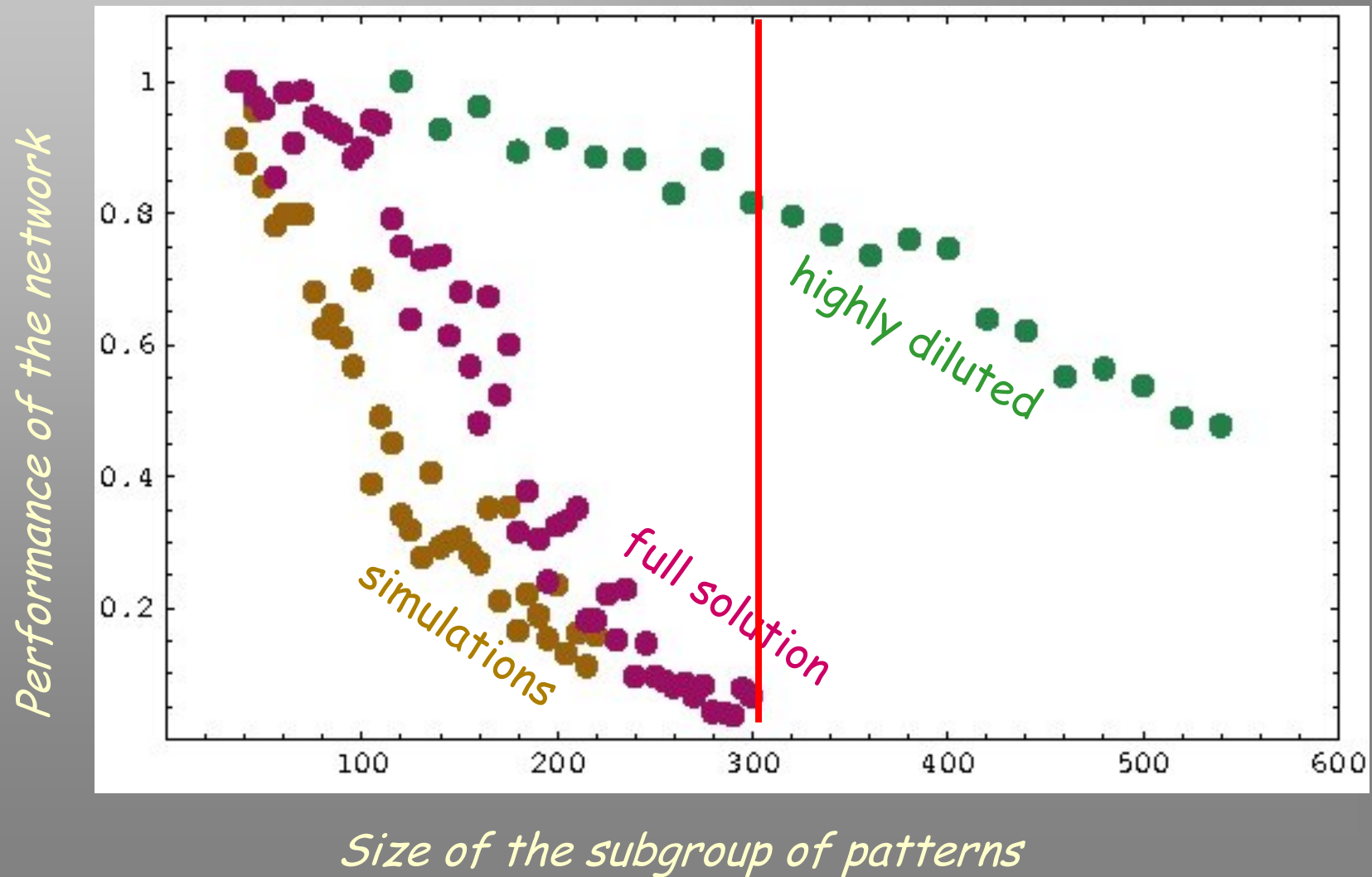


$$h_i \sim \xi_i^1 m + \sqrt{\alpha q a_i} z_i + \alpha \frac{c}{N} a_i (1 - a_i) \frac{\Omega}{1 - \Omega} \sigma_i$$

$$\phi + \phi^2 + \phi^3 + \dots$$

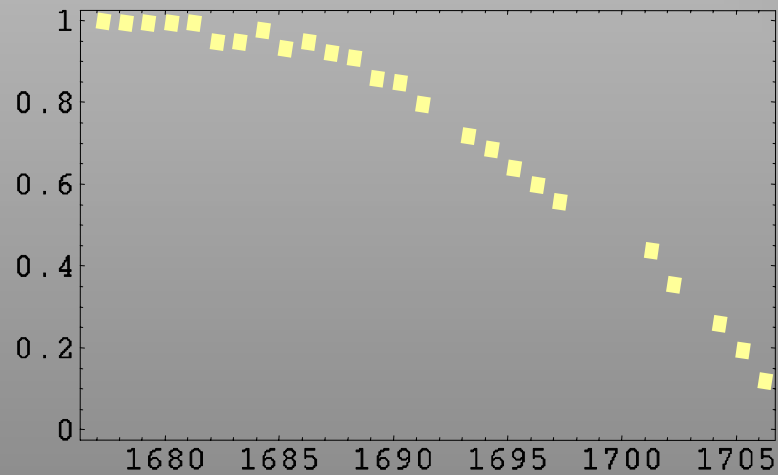
$$\Omega = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^N a_j (1 - a_j) \theta(\sigma_j)$$

McRae's feature norms: the full solution



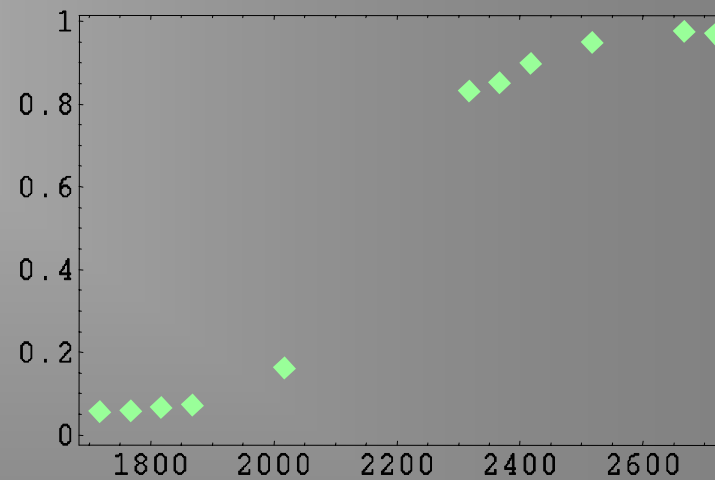
McRae's feature norms: strategies to store more patterns

1 - kill popular neurons



20 most popular over 1700

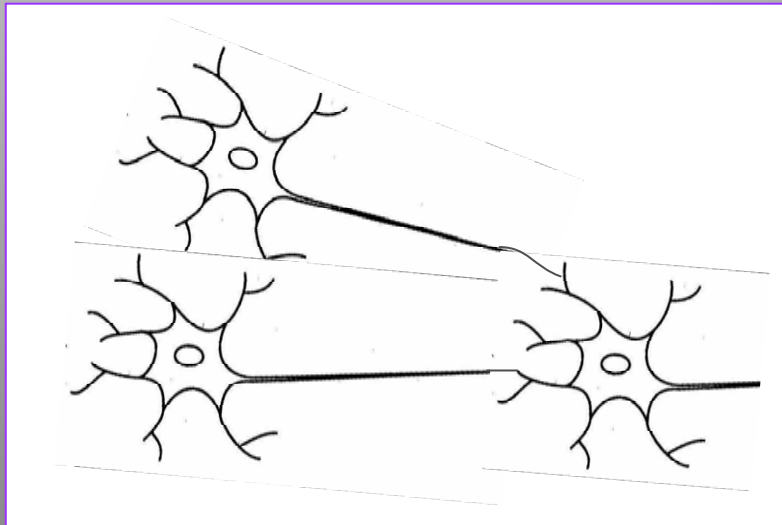
2 - add unpopular neurons



800 ~ 2.7 features per pattern

McRae's feature norms: strategies to store more patterns

3- recombination



neurons i and j have high popularity: their coincidence will be less popular. If applied massively, this principle could change the whole distribution.

4- popularity dependent connectivity



The probability of having a connection from neuron i should decrease with its popularity.

McRae's feature norms: plausibility of these strategies in the cortex

1 - kill popular neurons

2 - add unpopular neurons: thought to happen in DG to impoverish the correlation fed to the CA3 memory layer of Hippocampus.

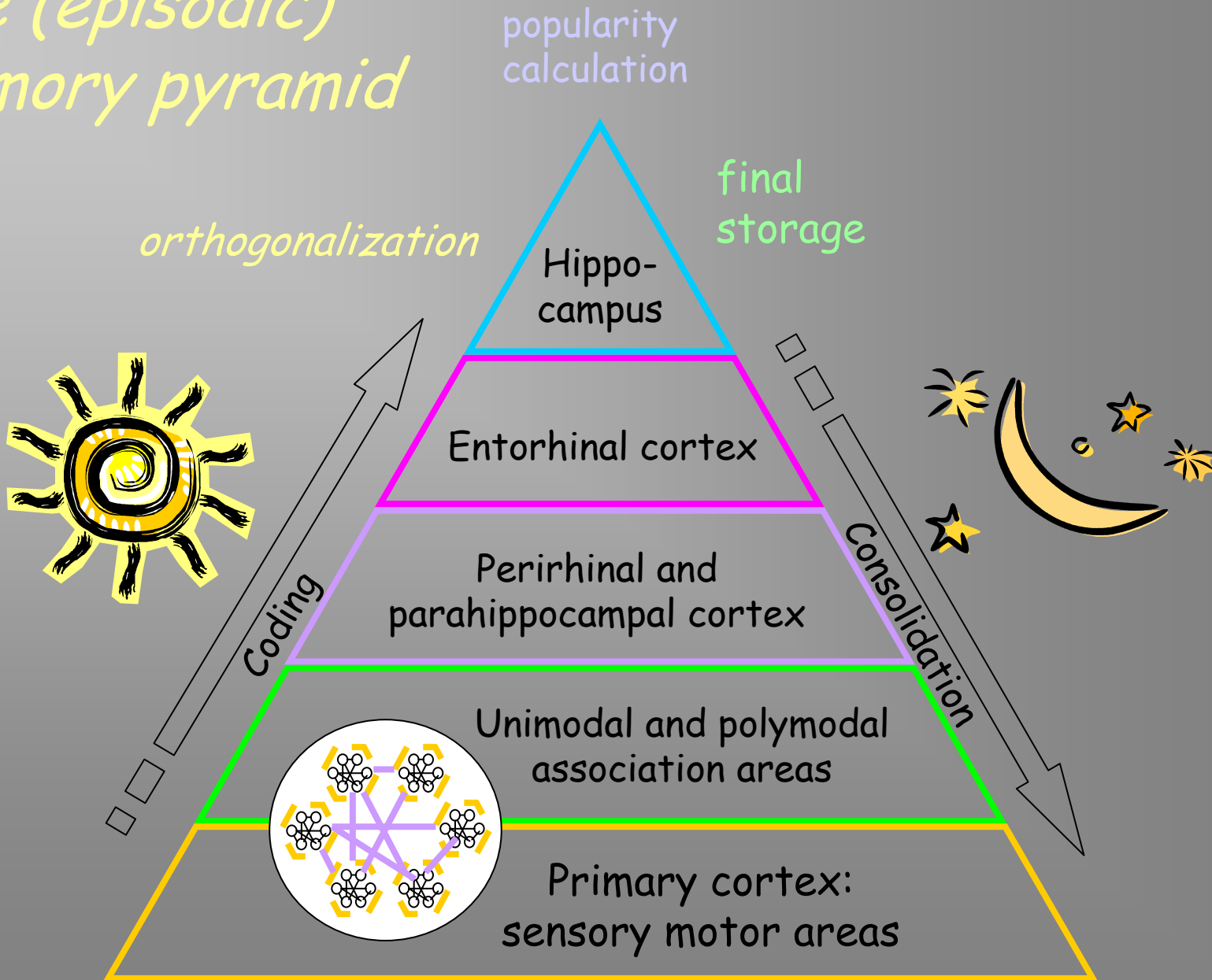
3 - recombination: found in association areas or perirhinal cortex. Could have something to do with improving storage capacity?

4 - popularity dependent connectivity

General Conclusions

- An extension of the classical autoassociative memory model permits the storage of **correlated** patterns
- This storage has side-effects: memories are **robust** inversely to the **information** they carry
- The result supports accounts of category specific **deficits** based on correlation between patterns
- Uncorrelated memories are **fast** to learn while correlated memories need an intermediate step

The (episodic) memory pyramid





Trieste, September 15-19, 2007



Thank you