

B. Stochastic Neural Networks

(in particular, the stochastic Hopfield network)

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Trapping in Local Minimum

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Escape from Local Minimum

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Escape from Local Minimum

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Motivation

- **Idea:** with low probability, go against the local field
 - move up the energy surface
 - make the “wrong” microdecision
- **Potential value for optimization:** escape from local optima
- **Potential value for associative memory:** escape from spurious states
 - because they have higher energy than imprinted states

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The Stochastic Neuron

Deterministic neuron: $s'_i = \text{sgn}(h_i)$

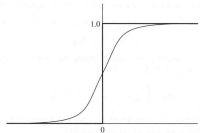
$\Pr\{s'_i = +1\} = \Theta(h_i)$
 $\Pr\{s'_i = -1\} = 1 - \Theta(h_i)$

Stochastic neuron:
 $\Pr\{s'_i = +1\} = \sigma(h_i)$
 $\Pr\{s'_i = -1\} = 1 - \sigma(h_i)$

Logistic sigmoid: $\sigma(h) = \frac{1}{1 + \exp(-2h/T)}$

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Properties of Logistic Sigmoid

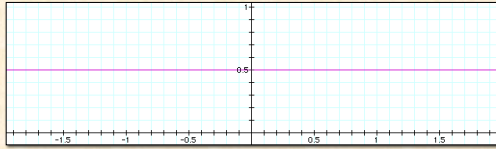


$$\sigma(h) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-2h/T}}$$

- As $h \rightarrow +\infty, \sigma(h) \rightarrow 1$
- As $h \rightarrow -\infty, \sigma(h) \rightarrow 0$
- $\sigma(0) = 1/2$

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Logistic Sigmoid With Varying T



T varying from 0.05 to ∞ ($1/T = \beta = 0, 1, 2, \dots, 20$)

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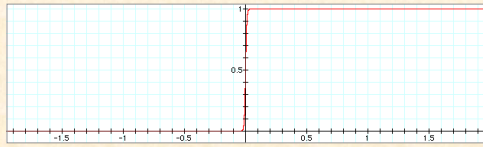
Logistic Sigmoid $T = 0.5$



Slope at origin = $1 / 2T$

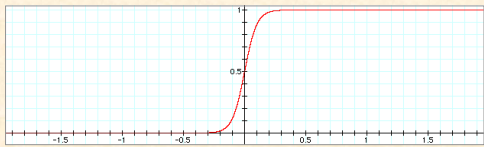
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Logistic Sigmoid $T = 0.01$



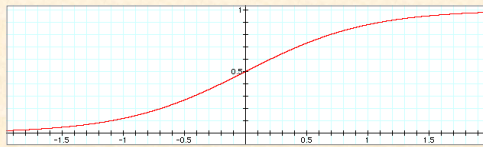
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Logistic Sigmoid $T = 0.1$

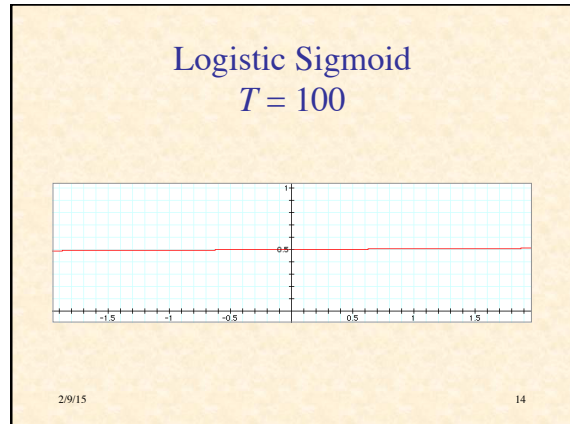
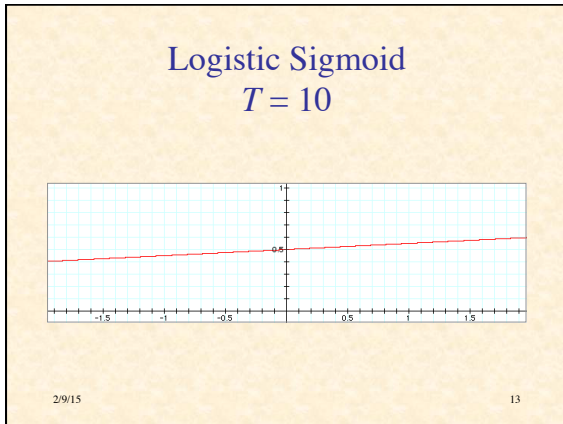


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Logistic Sigmoid $T = 1$



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- ### Pseudo-Temperature
- Temperature = measure of thermal energy (heat)
 - Thermal energy = vibrational energy of molecules
 - A source of random motion
 - Pseudo-temperature = a measure of nondirected (random) change
 - Logistic sigmoid gives same equilibrium probabilities as Boltzmann-Gibbs distribution
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Transition Probability

Recall, change in energy $\Delta E = -\Delta s_k h_k$
 $= 2s_k h_k$

$$\Pr\{s'_k = \pm 1 | s_k = \mp 1\} = \sigma(\pm h_k) = \sigma(-s_k h_k)$$

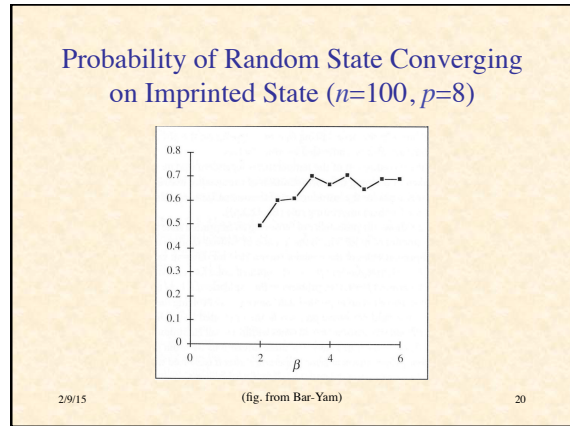
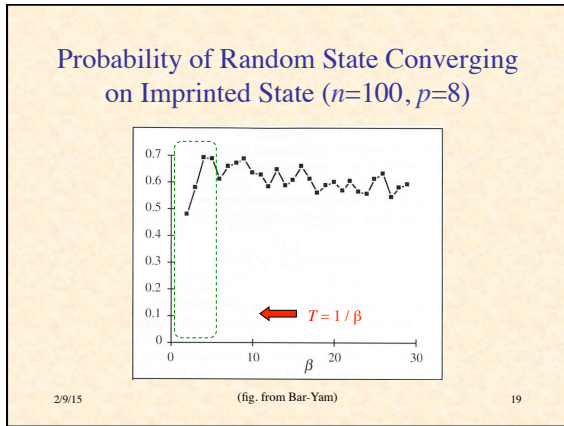
$$\Pr\{s_k \rightarrow -s_k\} = \frac{1}{1 + \exp(2s_k h_k / T)}$$

$$= \frac{1}{1 + \exp(\Delta E / T)}$$

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- ### Stability
- Are stochastic Hopfield nets stable?
 - Thermal noise prevents absolute stability
 - But with symmetric weights:
 average values $\langle s_i \rangle$ become time - invariant
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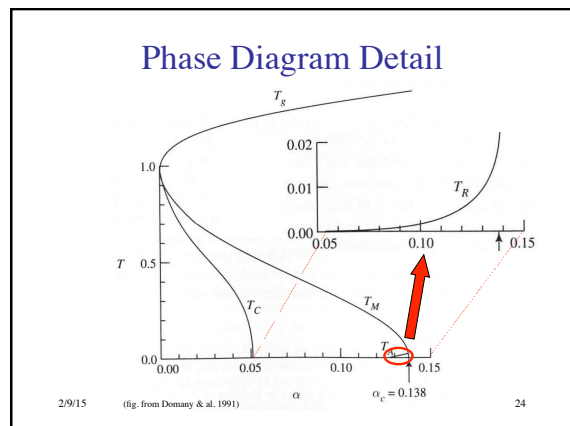
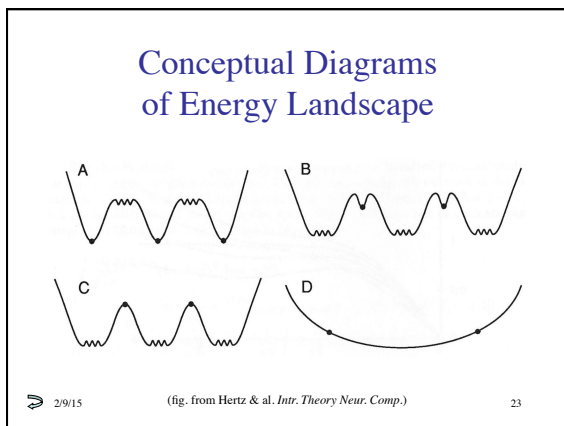
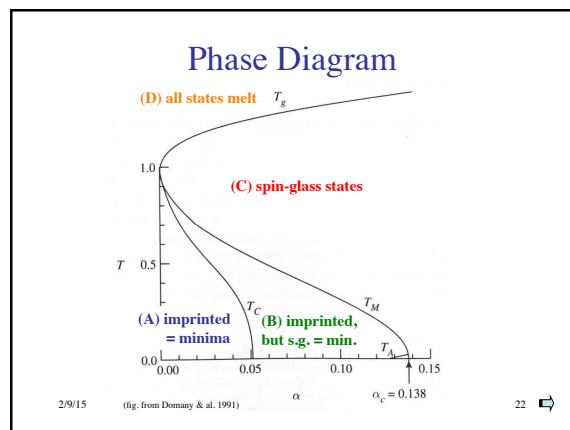
- ### Does “Thermal Noise” Improve Memory Performance?
- Experiments by Bar-Yam (pp. 316-20):
 - $n = 100$
 - $p = 8$
 - Random initial state
 - To allow convergence, after 20 cycles set $T = 0$
 - How often does it converge to an imprinted pattern?
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Analysis of Stochastic Hopfield Network

- Complete analysis by Daniel J. Amit & colleagues in mid-80s
- See D. J. Amit, *Modeling Brain Function: The World of Attractor Neural Networks*, Cambridge Univ. Press, 1989.
- The analysis is beyond the scope of this course

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Simulated Annealing

(Kirkpatrick, Gelatt & Vecchi, 1983)

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Dilemma

- In the early stages of search, we want a high temperature, so that we will explore the space and find the basins of the global minimum
- In the later stages we want a low temperature, so that we will relax into the global minimum and not wander away from it
- **Solution:** decrease the temperature gradually during search

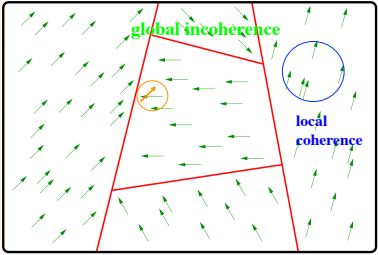
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Quenching vs. Annealing

- **Quenching:**
 - rapid cooling of a hot material
 - may result in defects & brittleness
 - local order but global disorder
 - locally low-energy, globally frustrated
- **Annealing:**
 - slow cooling (or alternate heating & cooling)
 - reaches equilibrium at each temperature
 - allows global order to emerge
 - achieves global low-energy state

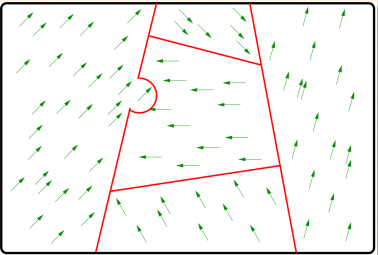
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Multiple Domains



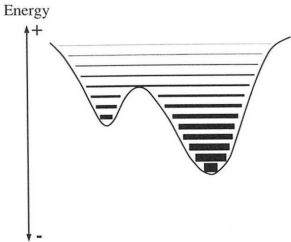
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Moving Domain Boundaries



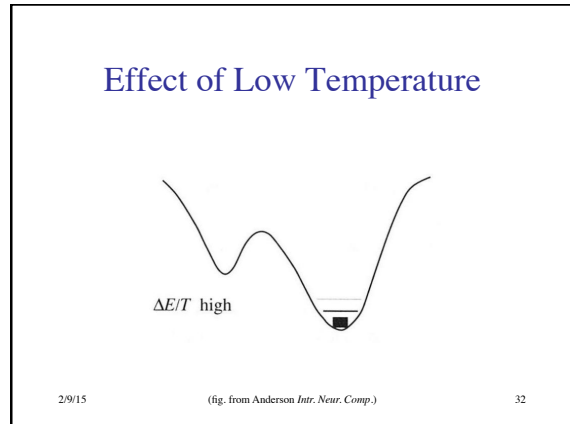
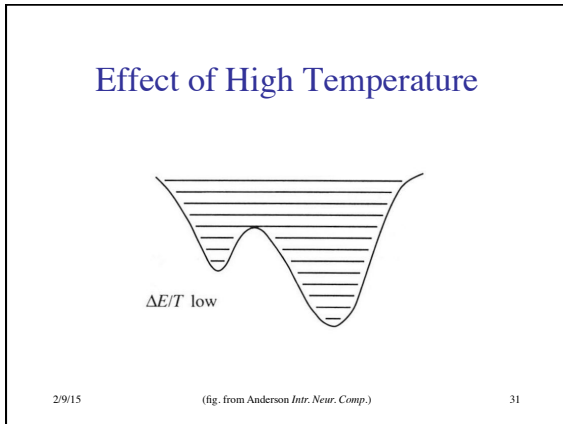
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Effect of Moderate Temperature



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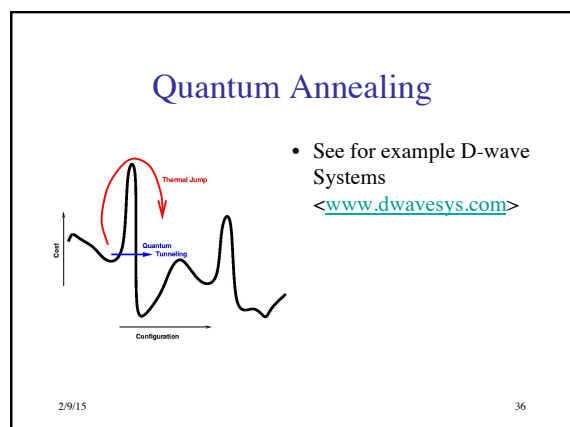
(fig. from Anderson *Intr. Neur. Comp.*)



- ### Annealing Schedule
- Controlled decrease of temperature
 - Should be sufficiently slow to allow equilibrium to be reached at each temperature
 - With sufficiently slow annealing, the global minimum will be found with probability 1
 - Design of schedules is a topic of research

- ### Typical Practical Annealing Schedule
- **Initial temperature** T_0 sufficiently high so all transitions allowed
 - **Exponential cooling:** $T_{k+1} = \alpha T_k$
 - typical $0.8 < \alpha < 0.99$
 - fixed number of trials at each temp.
 - expect at least 10 accepted transitions
 - **Final temperature:** three successive temperatures without required number of accepted transitions

- ### Summary
- Non-directed change (random motion) permits escape from local optima and spurious states
 - Pseudo-temperature can be controlled to adjust relative degree of exploration and exploitation



Hopfield Network for Task Assignment Problem

- Six tasks to be done (I, II, ..., VI)
- Six agents to do tasks (A, B, ..., F)
- They can do tasks at various rates
 - A (10, 5, 4, 6, 5, 1)
 - B (6, 4, 9, 7, 3, 2)
 - etc
- What is the optimal assignment of tasks to agents?

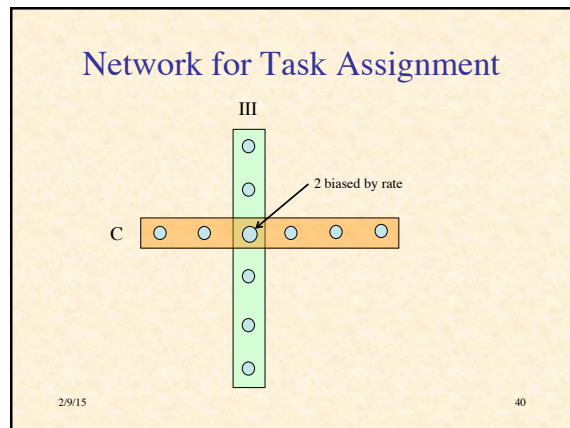
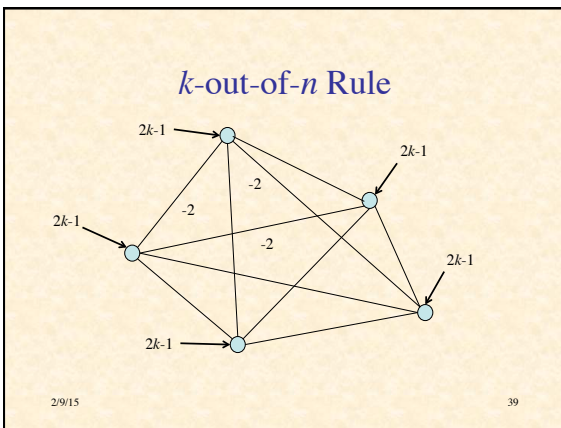
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Continuous Hopfield Net

$$\dot{U}_i = \sum_{j=1}^n T_{ij} V_j + I_i - \frac{U_i}{\tau}$$

$$V_i = \sigma(U_i) \in (0,1)$$

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NetLogo Implementation of Task Assignment Problem

[Run TaskAssignment.nlogo](#)

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