

# Hierarchical dynamics of informational patterns and decision making

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## Supplementary Material:

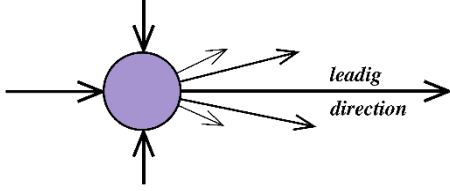


Figure S1. Illustration of a metastable state with several unstable separatrices: the system is moving with highest probability along the leading direction that corresponds to the largest positive eigenvalue  $\lambda_j$ .

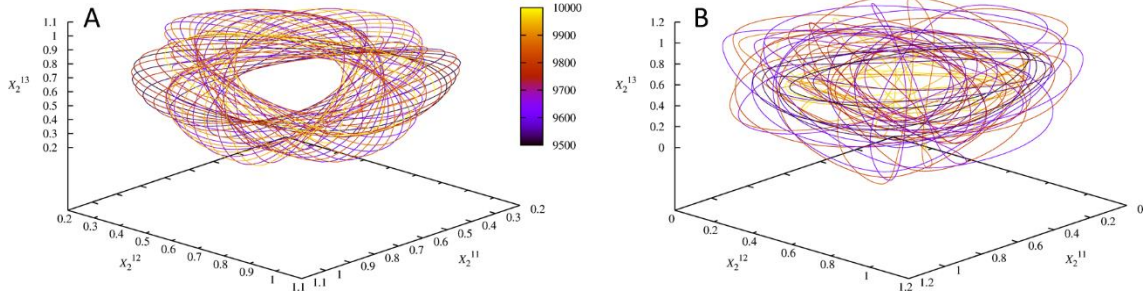


Figure S2: Projection of events  $X_2^{1m}$  in three different modalities  $m=1,2,3$  as described by equation (3.1). All parameters are specified below. Time is encoded in the color bar. Panel A: One can see the forbidden region in the center of the figure which is related to the strong ( $\xi=0.8$ ) competition between different modalities. Panel B: For weaker modality coupling values (e.g.  $\xi=0.5$ ), this forbidden region disappears.

## Model parameters

Model parameters for equations (2.3)–(2.6), Figs. 2 and 3:

$$N_{events}^k = 3; k = 1,2,3$$

$$\sigma_1^0 = 7.24, \sigma_2^0 = 5.85, \sigma_3^0 = 8.30;$$

$$\sigma_1^1 = 9.93, \sigma_2^1 = 6.0, \sigma_3^1 = 5.18; \sigma_1^2 = 7.21, \sigma_2^2 = 5.79, \sigma_3^2 = 8.41; \sigma_1^3 = 8.29, \sigma_2^3 = 7.86, \sigma_3^3 = 9.16$$

$$\rho_{ii}^k = 1; k = 0,1,2,3; i = 1,2,3$$

$$\rho_{12}^0 = \sigma_1^0 / \sigma_2^0 + 0.51; \rho_{21}^0 = \sigma_2^0 / \sigma_1^0 - 0.5; \rho_{23}^0 = \sigma_2^0 / \sigma_3^0 + 0.51;$$

$$\rho_{32}^0 = \sigma_3^0 / \sigma_2^0 - 0.5; \rho_{31}^0 = \sigma_3^0 / \sigma_1^0 + 0.51; \rho_{13}^0 = \sigma_1^0 / \sigma_3^0 - 0.5;$$

$$\rho_{12}^1 = \sigma_1^1 / \sigma_2^1 + 0.51; \rho_{21}^1 = \sigma_2^1 / \sigma_1^1 - 0.5; \rho_{23}^1 = \sigma_2^1 / \sigma_3^1 + 0.51;$$

$$\rho_{32}^1 = \sigma_3^1 / \sigma_2^1 - 0.5; \rho_{31}^1 = \sigma_3^1 / \sigma_1^1 + 0.51; \rho_{13}^1 = \sigma_1^1 / \sigma_3^1 - 0.5;$$

$$\rho_{12}^2 = \sigma_1^2 / \sigma_2^2 + 0.51; \rho_{21}^2 = \sigma_2^2 / \sigma_1^2 - 0.5; \rho_{23}^2 = \sigma_2^2 / \sigma_3^2 + 0.51;$$

$$\begin{aligned} \rho_{32}^2 &= \sigma_3^0 / \sigma_2^0 - 0.5; \rho_{31}^2 = \sigma_3^0 / \sigma_1^0 + 0.51; \rho_{13}^2 = \sigma_1^0 / \sigma_3^0 - 0.5; \\ \rho_{12}^3 &= \sigma_1^0 / \sigma_2^0 + 0.51; \rho_{21}^3 = \sigma_2^0 / \sigma_1^0 - 0.5; \rho_{23}^3 = \sigma_2^0 / \sigma_3^0 + 0.51; \\ \rho_{32}^3 &= \sigma_3^0 / \sigma_2^0 - 0.5; \rho_{31}^3 = \sigma_3^0 / \sigma_1^0 + 0.51; \rho_{13}^3 = \sigma_1^0 / \sigma_3^0 - 0.5; \\ \tau_e &= 0.899, b = 0.01, \tau_E = 0.7, \theta = 1.1, \beta = 1 \\ \xi^{11} &= 1, \xi^{12} = 1.4, \xi^{13} = 0.5; \xi^{21} = 0.5, \xi^{22} = 1, \xi^{23} = 1.4; \xi^{31} = 1.4, \xi^{32} = 0.5, \xi^{33} = 1 \end{aligned}$$

Model parameters for equations (3.1)–(3.5):

$$N_{events} = 6; k = 1, 2, 3; M = 3$$

$$\sigma_1^m = 1.73, \sigma_2^m = 1.123, \sigma_3^m = 1.301, \sigma_4^m = 1.203, \sigma_5^m = 1.458, \sigma_6^m = 1.903; m = 1, \dots, M$$

$$\rho_{ii}^{km} = 1; \forall k, m$$

$$\rho_{13}^{km} = \rho_{35}^{km} = \rho_{51}^{km} = 5.0; \rho_{46}^{km} = \rho_{24}^{km} = \rho_{62}^{km} = 2.0; \rho_{16}^{km} = \rho_{21}^{km} = \rho_{32}^{km} = \rho_{43}^{km} = \rho_{54}^{km} = \rho_{65}^{km} = 1.5; \forall k, m$$

Only  $\rho_{ji}^{km} \neq 0$  are indicated above.

$$\tau_{X_i} = 1; \tau_Y = 0.1; b' = 0.1; \theta = 0.05; \zeta_k = 0.2$$

Fig. S2A and Fig. 4b:

$$\xi_{11}^{k11} = \xi_{11}^{k12} = \xi_{11}^{k23} = \xi_{11}^{k31} = \xi_{33}^{k11} = \xi_{33}^{k12} = \xi_{33}^{k23} = \xi_{33}^{k31} = \xi_{55}^{k11} = \xi_{55}^{k12} = \xi_{55}^{k23} = \xi_{55}^{k31} = 0.8; \forall k$$

Only  $\xi_{ij}^{kml} \neq 0$  are indicated above.

Fig. S2B:

$$\xi_{11}^{k11} = \xi_{11}^{k12} = \xi_{11}^{k23} = \xi_{11}^{k31} = \xi_{33}^{k11} = \xi_{33}^{k12} = \xi_{33}^{k23} = \xi_{33}^{k31} = \xi_{55}^{k11} = \xi_{55}^{k12} = \xi_{55}^{k23} = \xi_{55}^{k31} = 0.5; \forall k$$

Only  $\xi_{ij}^{kml} \neq 0$  are indicated above.