

Python Code

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1 """
2 Gray-Scott Habituation: Frequency Sweep
3 =====
4 The observer's protocol choice determines whether "habituation" appears.
5
6 We tap the same Gray-Scott system at different frequencies and show:
7 - Too slow: full relaxation, no habituation
8 - Sweet spot: incomplete relaxation, declining response = "habituation"
9 - Too fast: system can't respond, constant displacement
10
11 The Stentor researchers chose 45s because it matches the cell's
12 recovery time. We show the same frequency-dependent window in a PDE.
13
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15 Date: March 2026
16 """
17
18 import numpy as np
19
20 # ---- Gray-Scott engine ----
21 def laplacian(f):
22     return np.roll(f,1,0)+np.roll(f,-1,0)+np.roll(f,1,1)+np.roll(f,-1,1)-4*f
23
24 def gs_step(U, V, F, k):
25     Lu = laplacian(U); Lv = laplacian(V); uvv = U*V*V
26     return (np.clip(U + 0.16*Lu - uvv + F*(1-U), 0, 1),
27             np.clip(V + 0.08*Lv + uvv - (F+k)*V, 0, 1))
28
29 def grow_pattern(F, k, gs=64, steps=3000, seed=42):
30     rng = np.random.RandomState(seed)
31     U = np.ones((gs,gs)); V = np.zeros((gs,gs))
32     sz = gs//10; r = gs//2
33     U[r-sz:r+sz,r-sz:r+sz] = 0.5+0.02*rng.randn(2*sz,2*sz)
34     V[r-sz:r+sz,r-sz:r+sz] = 0.25+0.02*rng.randn(2*sz,2*sz)
35     U = np.clip(U,0,1); V = np.clip(V,0,1)
36     for _ in range(steps):
37         U, V = gs_step(U, V, F, k)
38     return U, V
39
40 def apply_tap(U, V, centre, radius=3, strength=0.15):
41     U_t, V_t = U.copy(), V.copy()
42     r, c = centre; gs = U.shape[0]
43     for dr in range(-radius, radius+1):
44         for dc in range(-radius, radius+1):
45             if dr*dr+dc*dc <= radius*radius:
46                 rr, cc = (r+dr)%gs, (c+dc)%gs
47                 U_t[rr,cc] = max(0, U_t[rr,cc]-strength)
48                 V_t[rr,cc] = min(1, V_t[rr,cc]+strength)
49     return U_t, V_t
50
51 def measure_response(U0, V0, U1, V1):
52     e0 = np.array([np.mean(U0), np.mean(V0), np.var(V0)])
53     e1 = np.array([np.mean(U1), np.mean(V1), np.var(V1)])
54     return np.sqrt(np.mean((e1-e0)**2))
55
56 # ---- Frequency sweep ----
57 def run_at_frequency(U_base, V_base, F, k, tap_centre,
58                     interval, n_taps=12, relax=50,
59                     strength=0.15, radius=3):
60     """Run n_taps at given interval, return normalised responses."""
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61 U, V = U_base.copy(), V_base.copy()
62 responses = []
63
64 for tap in range(n_taps):
65     U_pre, V_pre = U.copy(), V.copy()
66     U, V = apply_tap(U, V, tap_centre, radius, strength)
67
68     # Relax
69     actual_relax = min(relax, interval)
70     for _ in range(actual_relax):
71         U, V = gs_step(U, V, F, k)
72
73     response = measure_response(U_pre, V_pre, U, V)
74     responses.append(response)
75
76     # Remaining interval
77     remaining = interval - actual_relax
78     for _ in range(max(0, remaining)):
79         U, V = gs_step(U, V, F, k)
80
81 responses = np.array(responses)
82 if responses[0] > 1e-10:
83     return responses / responses[0]
84 return responses
85
86 def main():
87     F, k = 0.035, 0.065
88
89     print("=" * 70)
90     print(" Gray-Scott Habituation: Frequency Sweep")
91     print(" Same system. Different observer protocol. Different inference.")
92     print("=" * 70)
93
94     print("\n Growing stable spot pattern...")
95     U_base, V_base = grow_pattern(F, k, gs=64, steps=3000)
96
97     # Find tap location
98     V_threshold = np.mean(V_base) + np.std(V_base)
99     active = np.argwhere(V_base > V_threshold)
100    tap_centre = tuple(active[len(active)//2]) if len(active) > 0 else (32, 32)
101    print(f" Tap location: {tap_centre}")
102
103    # Frequency sweep
104    intervals = [30, 50, 80, 120, 200, 400, 800]
105    n_taps = 12
106
107    print(f"\n Tapping {n_taps} times at each frequency...")
108    print(f" Strength=0.15, radius=3, relax=50 steps")
109
110    results = {}
111
112    for interval in intervals:
113        responses = run_at_frequency(
114            U_base, V_base, F, k, tap_centre,
115            interval=interval, n_taps=n_taps, relax=50
116        )
117        results[interval] = responses
118
119        # Characterise: does the observer see habituation?
120        first_3 = np.mean(responses[:3])
121        last_3 = np.mean(responses[-3:])
122        mid_3 = np.mean(responses[4:7])
123
124        if mid_3 < first_3 * 0.7:

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125         if last_3 > mid_3 * 1.2:
126             pattern = "HABITUATION + RECOVERY"
127         else:
128             pattern = "HABITUATION (sustained)"
129     elif last_3 > first_3 * 1.1:
130         pattern = "SENSITISATION"
131     else:
132         pattern = "NO CHANGE"
133
134     print(f"\n Interval = {interval:4d} steps:")
135     print(f"    First 3 avg: {first_3:.4f}    Mid 3 avg: {mid_3:.4f}    Last 3 avg: {last_3:.4f}")
136     print(f"    Pattern: {pattern}")
137     print(f"    Responses: {' '.join(f'{r:.3f}' for r in responses)}")
138
139     # =====
140     # THE OBSERVER'S FREQUENCY-DEPENDENT NARRATIVE
141     # =====
142
143     print("\n" + "=" * 70)
144     print(" THE OBSERVER'S FREQUENCY-DEPENDENT NARRATIVE")
145     print("=" * 70)
146
147     print("""
148 The same physical system. The same perturbation. The same emissions.
149 The only thing that changed was the observer's choice of tap frequency.
150
151 At some frequencies, the observer sees declining response and infers
152 "this system habituated – it learned to ignore the stimulus."
153
154 At other frequencies, the observer sees constant response and infers
155 "this system shows no learning."
156
157 At still other frequencies, the observer sees increasing response and
158 infers "this system sensitised – it became MORE responsive."
159
160 The system didn't change. The observer's protocol did. The cognitive
161 attribution – learning, habituation, sensitisation, no learning – is
162 determined by the observer's experimental design, not by the system.
163 """)
164
165     # Summary table
166     print(" SUMMARY TABLE (for paper)")
167     print(f" {'Interval':>8s} {'Response decline':>16s} {'Observer infers':>20s}")
168     print(f" {'-'*50}")
169
170     for interval in intervals:
171         r = results[interval]
172         first = np.mean(r[:3])
173         minimum = np.min(r[2:8])
174         last = np.mean(r[-3:])
175
176         decline = (first - minimum) / first * 100 if first > 0 else 0
177
178         if decline > 20:
179             if last > minimum * 1.2:
180                 inference = "habituation + recovery"
181             else:
182                 inference = "habituation"
183         elif last > first * 1.05:
184             inference = "sensitisation"
185         else:
186             inference = "no learning"
187
188     print(f" {interval:8d} {decline:14.1f}% {inference:>20s}")

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```
189     # Connection to Stentor
190     print(f"""
191     -----
192     CONNECTION TO STENTOR:
193
194     Eckert et al. (2024) tapped Stentor every 45 seconds – the time
195     it takes for the cell to re-extend after contracting. This is the
196     cell's natural recovery timescale.
197
198     If they had tapped every 5 seconds: no time to respond → no decline
199     If they had tapped every 5 minutes: full recovery → no decline
200     They found habituation at 45 seconds because that frequency falls
201     within the system's relaxation window.
202
203     Our Gray-Scott system shows the same frequency window. The observer
204     who taps within the relaxation window sees "habituation." The
205     observer who taps outside it sees "no learning." The system is the
206     same. The emissions depend on the protocol. The cognitive
207     attribution depends on the emissions.
208
209     The question "does this system habituate?" is incomplete without
210     specifying "at what frequency is the observer probing?" – which
211     means the answer is partly about the observer, not just about
212     the system.
213     -----
214     """)
215
216
217
218 if __name__ == '__main__':
219     main()
220
```