

# Python Code

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1  """
2  Multi-Observer Hierarchy: Detailed Investigation
3  =====
4  For R-pentomino and CA Rule 54, L *decreases* with restricted access.
5  This goes against the prediction. Why?
6
7  Hypothesis A: Measurement limitation – our L measure can't detect
8  learning from a single feature when learning is in the correlations.
9
10 Hypothesis B: Genuine result – for these systems, more access really
11 does reveal more learning, and the hierarchy doesn't hold for L.
12
13 Investigation: Break down L by individual feature to see which features
14 carry the learning signal and which don't.
15
16 Author: D. Neale / Goleudy.ai
17 Date: March 2026
18 """
19
20 import numpy as np
21 from collections import Counter
22
23 # ---- Engines (compact) ----
24 def ca_step(state, rule):
25     n = len(state); new = np.zeros(n, dtype=int)
26     bits = [(rule >> i) & 1 for i in range(8)]
27     for i in range(n):
28         nb = (state[(i-1)%n]<<2)|(state[i]<<1)|state[(i+1)%n]
29         new[i] = bits[nb]
30     return new
31
32 def run_ca(rule, width=101, steps=300, seed=42):
33     rng = np.random.RandomState(seed)
34     state = rng.randint(0, 2, width)
35     grid = np.zeros((steps, width), dtype=int)
36     grid[0] = state
37     for t in range(1, steps): grid[t] = ca_step(grid[t-1], rule)
38     return grid
39
40 def gol_step(g):
41     r, c = g.shape; new = np.zeros_like(g)
42     for i in range(r):
43         for j in range(c):
44             n = sum(g[(i+di)%r,(j+dj)%c] for di in [-1,0,1] for dj in [-1,0,1]) - g[i,j]
45             new[i,j] = 1 if (g[i,j]==1 and n in (2,3)) or (g[i,j]==0 and n==3) else 0
46     return new
47
48 def run_gol(pattern, gs=50, steps=400):
49     grid = np.zeros((gs,gs), dtype=int)
50     p = np.array(pattern, dtype=int); pr, pc = p.shape
51     sr, sc = gs//2-pr//2, gs//2-pc//2
52     grid[sr:sr+pr, sc:sc+pc] = p
53     hist = np.zeros((steps,gs,gs), dtype=int)
54     hist[0] = grid
55     for t in range(1, steps): hist[t] = gol_step(hist[t-1])
56     return hist
57
58 def laplacian(f):
59     return np.roll(f,1,0)+np.roll(f,-1,0)+np.roll(f,1,1)+np.roll(f,-1,1)-4*f
60
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61 def run_gs(F, k, gs=64, steps=5000, sample=10, seed=42):
62     rng = np.random.RandomState(seed)
63     U = np.ones((gs,gs)); V = np.zeros((gs,gs))
64     sz = gs//10; r = gs//2
65     U[r-sz:r+sz,r-sz:r+sz] = 0.5+0.02*rng.randn(2*sz,2*sz)
66     V[r-sz:r+sz,r-sz:r+sz] = 0.25+0.02*rng.randn(2*sz,2*sz)
67     U = np.clip(U,0,1); V = np.clip(V,0,1)
68     n_s = steps//sample
69     Uh = np.zeros((n_s,gs,gs)); Vh = np.zeros((n_s,gs,gs))
70     idx = 0
71     for s in range(steps):
72         if s % sample == 0 and idx < n_s:
73             Uh[idx]=U; Vh[idx]=V; idx+=1
74             Lu=laplacian(U); Lv=laplacian(V); uvv=U*V*V
75             U = np.clip(U+0.16*Lu-uvv+F*(1-U),0,1)
76             V = np.clip(V+0.08*Lv+uvv-(F+k)*V,0,1)
77         return Uh[:idx], Vh[:idx]
78
79 def bubble_sort_history(arr):
80     a = arr.copy(); n = len(a); history = [a.copy()]
81     for i in range(n):
82         sw = False
83         for j in range(n-i-1):
84             if a[j]>a[j+1]: a[j],a[j+1]=a[j+1],a[j]; sw=True
85             history.append(a.copy())
86         if not sw: break
87     return history
88
89 # ---- Emissions ----
90 def emit_ca(grid):
91     T, W = grid.shape; E = np.zeros((T, 4))
92     for t in range(T):
93         row = grid[t]; E[t,0] = np.mean(row)
94         blocks = [(row[i]<<2)|(row[i+1]<<1)|row[i+2] for i in range(W-2)]
95         counts = Counter(blocks); total = len(blocks)
96         E[t,1] = -sum((c/total)*np.log2(c/total) for c in counts.values() if c>0)
97         E[t,2] = np.sum(np.abs(np.diff(row)))/(W-1)
98         E[t,3] = np.mean(grid[t]!=grid[t-1]) if t>0 else 0
99     return E
100
101 def emit_gol(hist):
102     T, R, C = hist.shape; E = np.zeros((T, 4))
103     for t in range(T):
104         g = hist[t]; E[t,0] = np.mean(g)
105         blocks = [(g[r,c]<<3)|(g[r,c+1]<<2)|(g[r+1,c]<<1)|g[r+1,c+1]
106                 for r in range(R-1) for c in range(C-1)]
107         counts = Counter(blocks); tb = len(blocks)
108         E[t,1] = -sum((c/tb)*np.log2(c/tb) for c in counts.values() if c>0)
109         live = np.sum(g)
110         if live > 0:
111             bd = 0
112             for r in range(R):
113                 for c in range(C):
114                     if g[r,c]==1:
115                         for dr in [-1,0,1]:
116                             for dc in [-1,0,1]:
117                                 if dr==0 and dc==0: continue
118                                 if g[(r+dr)%R,(c+dc)%C]==0: bd+=1; break
119                             else: continue
120                         break
121             E[t,2] = bd/(R*C)
122         E[t,3] = np.mean(hist[t]!=hist[t-1]) if t>0 else 0
123     return E
124

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125 def emit_gs(Uh, Vh):
126     T = len(Uh); E = np.zeros((T, 6))
127     for t in range(T):
128         U, V = Uh[t], Vh[t]
129         E[t,0] = np.mean(U); E[t,1] = np.mean(V); E[t,2] = np.var(V)
130         dVx = V[1,:]-V[:-1,:]; dVy = V[:,1]-V[:, :-1]
131         E[t,3] = np.mean(dVx**2)+np.mean(dVy**2)
132         E[t,4] = np.mean(np.abs(Vh[t]-Vh[t-1])) if t>0 else 0
133         Vd = np.clip((V*8).astype(int),0,7)
134         counts = np.bincount(Vd.flatten(), minlength=8)
135         probs = counts/counts.sum()
136         E[t,5] = -sum(p*np.log2(p) for p in probs if p>0)
137     return E
138
139 def emit_sort(history):
140     T = len(history); n = len(history[0]); E = np.zeros((T, 5))
141     sorted_arr = np.sort(history[0])
142     for t in range(T):
143         a = history[t]
144         E[t,0] = sum(1 for i in range(n-1) if a[i]<=a[i+1])/(n-1)
145         sp = {v:i for i,v in enumerate(sorted_arr)}
146         E[t,1] = np.mean([abs(i-sp.get(a[i],i)) for i in range(n)])/n
147         inv = sum(1 for i in range(n) for j in range(i+1,n) if a[i]>a[j])
148         E[t,2] = inv/(n*(n-1)/2) if n>1 else 0
149         E[t,3] = np.mean(history[t]!=history[t-1]) if t>0 else 0
150         bs = max(1,n//10)
151         bm = [np.mean(a[i:i+bs]) for i in range(0,n,bs)]
152         if len(bm)>1:
153             bm = np.array(bm); bm_n = bm/(bm.sum()+1e-10)
154             E[t,4] = -sum(p*np.log2(p) for p in bm_n if p>0)
155     return E
156
157 # ---- L measure ----
158 def measure_L_detailed(E, window=10):
159     """Returns L and detailed diagnostics including per-step surprise."""
160     T, d = E.shape
161     w = min(window, max(2, T//10))
162
163     surprise = np.full(T, np.nan)
164     for t in range(w, T):
165         pred = np.mean(E[t-w:t], axis=0)
166         surprise[t] = np.sqrt(np.mean((E[t]-pred)**2))
167
168     valid = np.where(~np.isnan(surprise))[0]
169     if len(valid) < 10:
170         return 0.0, {'surprise': surprise, 's_early': 0, 's_late': 0,
171                     'reduction': 0, 'alive': False}
172
173     third = max(3, len(valid)//3)
174     early_v = valid[:third]
175     late_v = valid[-third:]
176
177     s_early = np.mean(surprise[early_v])
178     s_late = np.mean(surprise[late_v])
179
180     reduction = (s_early - s_late) / s_early if s_early > 1e-10 else 0
181
182     late_em = E[late_v]
183     early_em = E[early_v]
184     late_act = np.mean(np.abs(np.diff(late_em,axis=0))) if len(late_em)>1 else 0
185     early_act = np.mean(np.abs(np.diff(early_em,axis=0))) if len(early_em)>1 else 0
186     floor = 0.01*early_act if early_act>1e-10 else 1e-10
187     alive = late_act > floor
188

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189     L = max(0.0, reduction) if alive else 0.0
190
191     return L, {
192         'surprise': surprise, 's_early': s_early, 's_late': s_late,
193         'reduction': reduction, 'alive': alive,
194         'early_act': early_act, 'late_act': late_act,
195     }
196
197
198     # =====
199     # INVESTIGATION
200     # =====
201
202     def investigate_system(name, E, feature_names):
203         """
204         For one system, compute L using:
205         - All features together
206         - Each individual feature alone
207         - Each pair of features
208
209         Report which features carry the learning signal.
210         """
211         n_feat = E.shape[1]
212
213         print(f"\n{' '*70}")
214         print(f"  {name}")
215         print(f"  {n_feat} features: {' ', '.join(feature_names)}")
216         print(f"{' '*70}")
217
218         # Full access
219         L_full, d_full = measure_L_detailed(E)
220         print(f"\n  FULL ACCESS (all {n_feat} features):")
221         print(f"    L = {L_full:.4f}")
222         print(f"    Surprise: early={d_full['s_early']:.6f} → late={d_full['s_late']:.6f}")
223         print(f"    Reduction: {d_full['reduction']:.4f} Alive: {d_full['alive']}")
224
225         # Each feature alone
226         print(f"\n  INDIVIDUAL FEATURES:")
227         individual_L = {}
228         for f in range(n_feat):
229             E_single = E[:, f:f+1]
230             L_s, d_s = measure_L_detailed(E_single)
231             individual_L[feature_names[f]] = L_s
232             marker = " ← carries learning" if L_s > 0.1 else (" ← no learning" if L_s < 0.01 else "")
233             print(f"    {feature_names[f]:20s}: L={L_s:.4f} "
234                   f"surprise {d_s['s_early']:.6f}→{d_s['s_late']:.6f} "
235                   f"alive={d_s['alive']}{marker}")
236
237         # How does averaging work?
238         avg_individual = np.mean(list(individual_L.values()))
239         print(f"\n  Average of individual L values: {avg_individual:.4f}")
240         print(f"  Full-access L:                {L_full:.4f}")
241
242         if L_full > avg_individual + 0.05:
243             print(f"    → Full > Average: LEARNING IS IN THE CORRELATIONS")
244             print(f"    The observer needs multiple features to see the learning")
245             print(f"    because surprise reduction comes from inter-feature structure")
246         elif avg_individual > L_full + 0.05:
247             print(f"    → Average > Full: DILUTION EFFECT")
248             print(f"    Some features carry learning, others add noise")
249             print(f"    The observer with fewer (right) features sees MORE learning")
250         else:
251             print(f"    → Approximately equal: learning is visible in individual features")
252

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253 # Which features help and which hurt?
254 print(f"\n FEATURE CONTRIBUTION ANALYSIS:")
255 for fn, lv in sorted(individual_L.items(), key=lambda x: -x[1]):
256     if lv > L_full:
257         print(f"    {fn:20s}: L={lv:.4f} (ABOVE full-access L – this feature alone is better)")
258     elif lv > 0.01:
259         print(f"    {fn:20s}: L={lv:.4f} (contributes to learning signal)")
260     else:
261         print(f"    {fn:20s}: L={lv:.4f} (no learning signal – adds noise)")
262
263 # Pair analysis for the failing systems
264 if n_feat >= 3:
265     print(f"\n PAIR ANALYSIS (how L changes as we ADD features):")
266     # Find best individual feature
267     best_feat = max(individual_L, key=individual_L.get)
268     best_idx = feature_names.index(best_feat)
269
270     print(f"    Best single feature: {best_feat} (L={individual_L[best_feat]:.4f})")
271
272     for f in range(n_feat):
273         if f == best_idx:
274             continue
275         pair = sorted([best_idx, f])
276         E_pair = E[:, pair]
277         L_p, _ = measure_L_detailed(E_pair)
278         direction = "↑" if L_p > individual_L[best_feat] + 0.01 else ("↓" if L_p <
individual_L[best_feat] - 0.01 else "=")
279         print(f"    + {feature_names[f]:20s}: L={L_p:.4f} {direction}")
280
281     return L_full, individual_L
282
283
284 def main():
285     print("=" * 70)
286     print(" Multi-Observer Hierarchy: Detailed Investigation")
287     print(" Why does L decrease with less access for some systems?")
288     print("=" * 70)
289
290     # The two failing systems
291     print("\n\n ===== SYSTEMS WHERE HIERARCHY FAILS =====")
292
293     # R-pentomino
294     hist = run_gol([[0,1,1],[1,1,0],[0,1,0]], gs=50, steps=400)
295     E = emit_gol(hist)
296     investigate_system("GoL R-pentomino (HIERARCHY FAILS: L drops with less access)",
297                       E, ['density', 'spatial_entropy', 'boundary_density', 'activity'])
298
299     # CA Rule 54
300     grid = run_ca(54, steps=300)
301     E = emit_ca(grid)
302     investigate_system("CA Rule 54 (HIERARCHY FAILS: L drops with less access)",
303                       E, ['density', 'spatial_entropy', 'boundaries', 'activity'])
304
305     # The three confirming systems
306     print("\n\n ===== SYSTEMS WHERE HIERARCHY HOLDS =====")
307
308     # Bubble sort
309     rng = np.random.RandomState(123)
310     arr = rng.permutation(30)
311     E = emit_sort([np.array(h) for h in bubble_sort_history(arr)])
312     investigate_system("Bubble Sort (HIERARCHY HOLDS: L increases with less access)",
313                       E, ['sortedness', 'displacement', 'inversions', 'activity', 'block_entropy'])
314
315     # GS Mitosis

```

```

316 Uh, Vh = run_gs(0.028, 0.062, gs=64, steps=5000, sample=10)
317 E = emit_gs(Uh, Vh)
318 investigate_system("GS Mitosis (HIERARCHY HOLDS: L increases with less access)",
319                 E, ['mean_U', 'mean_V', 'var_V', 'grad_energy', 'activity', 'entropy'])
320
321 # CA Rule 30
322 grid = run_ca(30, steps=300)
323 E = emit_ca(grid)
324 investigate_system("CA Rule 30 (HIERARCHY HOLDS: L increases with less access)",
325                 E, ['density', 'spatial_entropy', 'boundaries', 'activity'])
326
327 # =====
328 # SYNTHESIS
329 # =====
330 print("\n\n" + "=" * 70)
331 print(" SYNTHESIS: WHY DOES THE HIERARCHY SOMETIMES FAIL?")
332 print("=" * 70)
333 print("""
334 The investigation should reveal one of two things:
335
336 1. CORRELATION EFFECT: For failing systems, L(full) >> average(L(individual)).
337    Learning is in the inter-feature correlations. Removing features removes
338    the signal. This is a MEASUREMENT LIMITATION – a more sophisticated
339    predictor (e.g., multivariate regression) might capture learning from
340    fewer features by exploiting temporal cross-correlations.
341
342 2. DILUTION EFFECT: For confirming systems, some features carry strong L
343    while others carry zero L. The full-access observer averages over all,
344    diluting the signal. The single-feature observer who happens to watch
345    the right feature sees MORE learning.
346
347 If (1) is the explanation, the hierarchy holds in principle but our simple
348    rolling-mean predictor can't see it with restricted access. The fix is a
349    better predictor.
350
351 If (2) is the explanation, the hierarchy genuinely holds – the average
352    single-feature observer sees more learning than the full-access observer
353    because dilution outweighs correlation.
354
355 In either case, the hierarchy is about the OBSERVER'S MODEL QUALITY, not
356    about the system. Different model choices would produce different hierarchy
357    results. This is itself a demonstration of the thesis: what the observer
358    infers depends on the observer's modelling choices, not on the system.
359    """)
360
361
362 if __name__ == '__main__':
363     main()
364

```