

Observation and inverse problems in coupled cell networks

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Abstract

A coupled cell network is a model for many situations such as food webs in ecosystems, cellular metabolism, economical networks... It consists in a directed graph G , each node (or cell) representing an agent of the network and each directed arrow representing which agent acts on which one. It yields a system of differential equations $\dot{x}(t) = f(x(t))$, where the component i of f depends only on the cells $x_j(t)$ for which the arrow $j \rightarrow i$ exists in G . In this paper, we investigate the observation problems in coupled cell networks: can one deduce the behaviour of the whole network (oscillations, stabilisation etc.) by observing only one of the cells? We show that the natural observation properties holds for almost all the interactions f .

KEY WORDS: coupled cell networks, observability, inverse problems, genericity, transversality theorems.

AMS SUBJECT CLASSIFICATION: 93B07, 34C25, 34H15, 92B25.

1 Introduction

The coupled cell networks.

In the recent years, the mathematical study of coupled cell networks has been quickly developing. It combines several interests: it is strongly related with applications and real phenomena, the setting is very simple and it leads to a rich class of mathematically interesting problems. A coupled cell network models a group of agents, each one interacting

with a given part of the others through differential equations. It is represented by an directed graph, each node being one of the agents and each directed arrow representing which agent acts on which one. This modelling appears in many concrete situations: networks of neurons, cellular metabolic networks, food webs in ecosystems, economic networks etc. Many good arguments for studying coupled cell networks are given in [17]. Many examples of coupled cell networks can also be found in [7] and [18] and the references therein.

The mathematical setting is the following. Let G be a directed graph with N cells linked with arrows. To the cell i , we associate a phase space X_i of finite dimension d_i , which is assumed in this paper to be the torus $(\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z})^{d_i} = \mathbb{T}^{d_i}$ (this assumption is made for sake of simplicity in our proofs, but our results also hold if X_i is a more general manifold, including $X_i = \mathbb{R}^{d_i}$, see Section 6). We set $X = X_1 \times \dots \times X_N$ and $d = d_1 + \dots + d_N$. For any $x \in X$ and any set of indices $I = \{i_1, \dots, i_k\}$, x_I denotes the image of the canonical projection of x onto $X_I = X_{i_1} \times \dots \times X_{i_k}$ (if $I = \{i\}$, we simply write x_i). We also denote by $d_I = d_{i_1} + \dots + d_{i_k}$ the dimension of X_I . For each cell i , the *direct inputs* of i is the set of cells j such that the arrow $j \rightarrow i$ belongs to G . A node j is an *indirect input* of i if there exists a sequence of arrows $j \rightarrow k_1 \rightarrow k_2 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow i$ belonging to G .

Let $\mathfrak{X}^1(X)$ be the space of the \mathcal{C}^1 -vector fields on X endowed with the usual Banach topology (see for example [12] or [1]). To simplify the notations, for any $x \in X$, we identify $T_x X$ with \mathbb{R}^d and $\mathfrak{X}^1(X)$ with $\mathcal{C}^1(X, \mathbb{R}^d)$. We introduce the subspace of all the *admissible vector fields*

$$\mathcal{C}_G = \{f \in \mathfrak{X}^1(X) , f_i \text{ depends only on the direct inputs of the cell } i\}$$

With each $f \in \mathcal{C}_G$, we associate the dynamical system $S(t)x^0 \equiv x(t)$, called *coupled cell network*, generated by the differential equation

$$\begin{cases} \dot{x}(t) = f(x(t)) , & t \in \mathbb{R} \\ x(0) = x^0 \in X \end{cases} \quad (1.1)$$

Notice that, since X is compact and f is of class \mathcal{C}^1 , the solutions of (1.1) exist for all times.

The properties of $S(t)$ may strongly depend on the structure of the directed graph G . We introduce here some definitions.

Definitions 1.1.

We say that a cell i is an observation cell if any cell j of G with $i \neq j$ is an indirect input of i .

We say that a set of cells I is an independent sub-network if I contains all its indirect inputs, i.e. if the system (1.1) restricted to the set of cells I is still an autonomous ODE.

We say that the graph G is strongly connected if any cell is an observation cell or equivalently if any cell is an indirect input of any other one.

We say that the graph G is self-dependent if any cell is a direct input of itself.

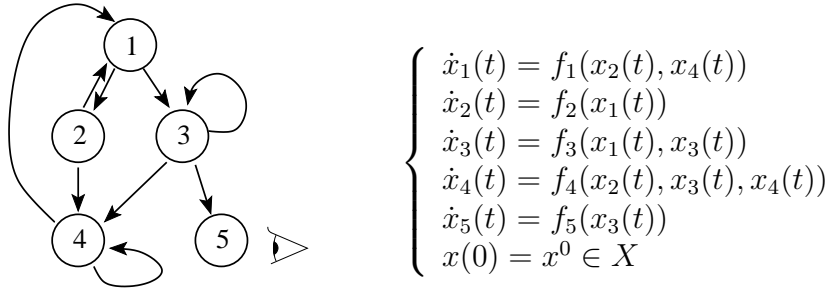


Figure 1: An example of directed graph G and the associated ordinary differential equation generating the coupled cell network dynamical system. The cell 5 is the only observation cell of the graph G . The set of cells $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ is an independent strongly connected sub-network.

We say that the graph G is dimensionally decreasing (resp. dimensionally non-increasing) if the following property holds. Let I be any non-trivial set of cells i.e. $I \neq \emptyset$ and $I \neq \{1, \dots, N\}$. Let J be its set of direct inputs. Then, the dimension d_J is larger than d_I (resp. larger or equal to d_I).

We would like to emphasise several important remarks concerning the above setting:

1) We recall that we have assumed that the phase space of each cell is a torus, when it is usually \mathbb{R}^{d_i} or a more general manifold, because the compactness of X_i and the triviality of its tangent bundle simplify the statement and the proof of several of our results. In this way, we avoid technicalities, which are not the subject of this paper. However, we underline that the results of this article are also valid for $X_i = \mathbb{R}^{d_i}$ or other manifolds, see Section 6.

2) Another difference between our notations and the usual ones is that we do not introduce a relation of equivalence between cells and arrows. This kind of relation is introduced to model symmetries as in [18]. For example, it is natural to assume that several neurons of the same type interact in the same way, that is that the functions f_i corresponding to these interactions are equal. Our purpose being to prove generic results with respect to these f_i , adding constraints of symmetry increases the difficulty of the problem. Since this paper is a first step in this subject, we have chosen to avoid this difficulty. However, adapting the results of this article to the presence of symmetries could be an interesting subject of future research.

3) A strongly connected graph is sometimes called a transitive graph or a path-connected graph. But, in graph theory, a transitive graph is a graph such that if the arrows $i \rightarrow j \rightarrow k$ exist then $i \rightarrow k$ also exists. Thus, we decided to use the term “strongly connected”, which seems to be the usual one in graph theory.

A series of observation problems.

At first sight, a coupled cell network is a simple ODE and one may wonder why it brings new

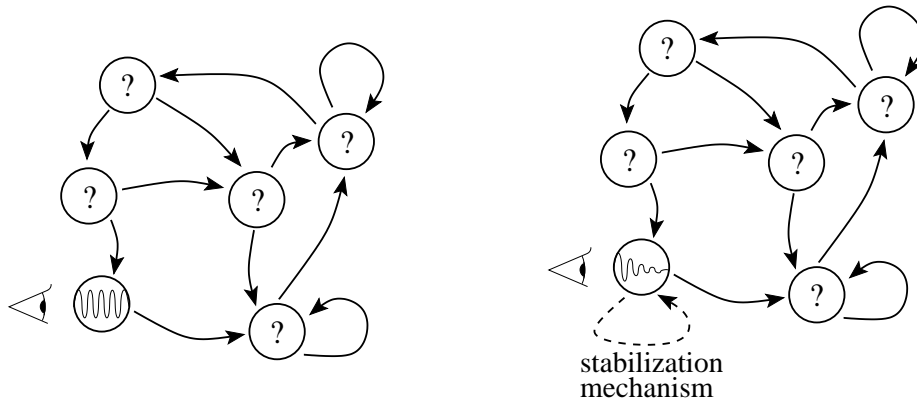


Figure 2: *Two examples of observation problems. Left, one measures the state of one cell and observes oscillation. Do the states of the other cells also oscillate? Right, assume that one has found a feedback mechanism that stabilises the observation cell. Do the other cells also stop oscillating?*

topics of research. The important characteristics of the coupled cell networks is the splitting in several cells and the constraints due to the structure of the interactions described by the graph G . This yields several classes of problems. For example, one can study the creation and the stability of patterns according to the symmetries of the network. This seems to be one of the main classes of questions, which have been studied until now (see [5], [7] and [18] as well as the many related works). Another class is the observability problems, which are the subject of this paper and has been previously tackled in [6]. Basically, one wonders if one can deduce the behaviour of the whole network only by observing one of the cells. We investigate here three problems.

Problem 1: inverse problem.

Can one distinguish two trajectories by only looking at one cell?

Problem 2: observation of oscillations.

One of the cells is oscillating with a period T , are the other cells also oscillating?

Problem 3: observation of stabilisation.

One of the cells is stabilising and converging to an equilibrium state, have the other cells the same behaviour?

These kinds of questions are natural in the context of coupled cell network modelling. For example, if one considers an economical network, it is impossible to measure the behaviour of all the economical agents. One would like to know if the measures of a small number of indices is sufficient to know if the economy is chaotic, oscillating or stable. Inverse problem are also motivated by the desire of controlling a whole network that can be observed only through a small number of parameters (as it is the case for a whole organism or an ecosystem). If one cannot distinguish two trajectories by observing a small part of

the network, then one cannot know in which state the whole network is and therefore what control one should impose.

The necessity and the meaning of generic results.

The first answer to problems 1-3 is simply “no”. Of course, there is firstly a problem with the geometry of the graph G : two cells have totally independent behaviours if they are not interacting, even indirectly. But, even with a nice strongly connected network, it is not difficult to construct particular interactions f_i such that the observation properties fail.

So, at a second time, one could be tempted to obtain a criterion on f , for which observability is possible. However, what is the usefulness of a criterion such as “these two biological parameters must have irrational ratio”? In physics, interactions have a well-known structure. But, in biology or economy, one may have no precise idea of the form of the interactions f_i . In these cases, a concrete criterion has no meaning.

In this situation, one must use the concept of generic properties. The idea is to show that for almost all the possible interactions, problems 1-3 have positive answers. Then, one believes that, when one deals with a concrete network, the observations properties surely hold for this network. In this paper, we fix a given directed graph G and by “almost all the possible interactions”, we mean a generic subset of the admissible vector fields \mathcal{C}_G . We recall that a generic subset is a subset that contains a countable intersection of dense open subsets. Since \mathcal{C}_G is a Banach space, generic subsets are dense and the use of the notion of generic subsets to characterise large subsets is well admitted.

Generic results are meaningful in network’s problems, where the functions of interactions f_i are not completely a priori determined (typically in food webs in ecosystems, in metabolic networks...), so that one can hope that the considered network is a generic one. If f is precisely determined (typically in networks following simple physical laws), a generic result is meaningless. If the interactions follow some symmetries (typically in neuronal networks), then one should prove a generic result in the class \mathcal{C}_G restricted to interactions having these symmetries.

Main results

The inverse problem, Problem 1, depends on the geometry of the network G (it is noteworthy that it is our only theorem which does not hold for any strongly connected graph). The inverse problem may fail if there are some cells on which the trajectories are constant (see the counter-example of Section 3.3). In Sections 3 and 4, we state different properties related to this inverse problem, which give a sharp idea of the cases where it may not hold. They may be summarised in the following simple statement.

Theorem 1.2. Observation of trajectories

Let G be a given directed graph. There exists a generic subset \mathfrak{G}^{traj} of \mathcal{C}_G such that for any $f \in \mathfrak{G}^{traj}$ the following property holds. Let $x(t)$ and $y(t)$ be two solutions of (1.1) and let i be an observation cell. Assume that there is a time interval (a, b) , $a < b$, such that $x_i(t) = y_i(t)$ for all $t \in (a, b)$. Then, the whole trajectories $x(t)$ and $y(t)$ coincide, except

maybe in the cells where the trajectories $x(t)$ and $y(t)$ are both constant. Moreover, if the graph G is either a self-dependent directed graph, or a dimensionally decreasing graph, then $x(t)$ and $y(t)$ coincide everywhere, even in the cells where the trajectories $x(t)$ and $y(t)$ are both constant.

The observation of oscillations stated in problem 2 is a natural problem, which has already been studied in [6]. It is proved there that, in self-dependent and strongly connected graph, hyperbolic periodic orbits have generically no constant cells. We obtain here a stronger result in several directions: no hyperbolicity of periodic orbit is needed, no self-dependence is assumed, all the cells are not only oscillating but also oscillate with the same period and the constant cells are observable only in constant solutions.

In Theorem 1.3 below, we use the following notations. We say that a function $p(t)$ is T -periodic on (a, b) if $p(t) = p(t + T)$ for any $t \in (a, b - T)$. We say that a function $p(t)$ is *exactly* T -periodic on (a, b) if $T > 0$ is the smallest number such that p is T -periodic on (a, b) .

Theorem 1.3. Observation of oscillations

Let G be a given directed graph. There exists a generic subset \mathfrak{G}^{osc} of \mathcal{C}_G such that for any $f \in \mathfrak{G}^{osc}$ the following properties hold. Let $x(t)$ be a solution of (1.1), then

- (a) if there is a cell i such that $x_i(t)$ is constant on some time interval (a, b) , then $x_i(t)$, as well as any $x_j(t)$ with j being an indirect input of the cell i , is constant on \mathbb{R} . In particular, if i is an observation cell, then $x(t)$ is an equilibrium point of (1.1).
- (b) if there is a cell i , a positive time τ and a positive period T such that $x_i(t)$ is T -periodic on some time interval $(a, a + T + \tau)$, then $x_i(t)$, as well as any $x_j(t)$ with j being an indirect input of the cell i , are T -periodic in \mathbb{R} .
- (c) if G is strongly connected and if there is a cell i where $x_i(t)$ is exactly T -periodic on some time interval $(a, a + T + \tau)$, then the whole orbit $x(t)$ and any of the $x_j(t)$ are exactly T -periodic.

Notice that Theorem 1.3 is not in contradiction with the examples of [5], even the ones which are stable with respect to perturbations of f . Indeed, we assume here no a priori symmetry for the interactions f_i .

Our last result concerns Problem 3, that is the observation of stabilisation. It is a natural problem since the stabilisation of a network is an important issue in many applications: economy, ecosystems, metabolism...

Theorem 1.4. Observation of stabilisation

Let G be a given directed graph. There exists a generic subset \mathfrak{G}^{stab} of \mathcal{C}_G such that for any $f \in \mathfrak{G}^{stab}$, the following property holds. Let $x(t)$ be a solution of (1.1) and let i be an observation cell. If $x_i(t)$ converges to a constant x_i^* when t goes to $+\infty$, then the whole trajectory $x(t)$ converges to a single equilibrium point $x^* \in X$ when t goes to $+\infty$.

We underline that, due to Theorem 1.2, the equilibrium x^* can be moreover uniquely determined by observing x_i^* if G is either a self-dependent directed graph or a dimensionally decreasing graph.

Organisation of the paper. The main tools for proving Theorems 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4 are transversality theorems. We recall the ones that we need in Section 2. In Section 3, we investigate the observation problem for equilibrium states of the network. We also prove the generic simplicity of equilibrium points, which is an interesting property by itself. The inverse problem stated in Theorem 1.2 is proved in Section 4 and, in Section 5, Theorem 1.3 and 1.4 are deduced from the previous results. Finally, we present further results in Section 6, in particular the non-compact case of $X_i = \mathbb{R}^{d_i}$ and the case of discrete networks.

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2 Geometric preliminaries

2.1 Transversality theorems

In a space X , which admits a natural measure, the notion of “almost everywhere” as sets of full measure is natural and well admitted. As soon as the space X is infinite-dimensional and has no natural measure, the meaning of “almost everywhere” is less clear. If X is a Baire space (typically a complete space), then the most used notion of “almost everywhere” is the notion of generic subsets, that are subsets of X containing a countable intersection of dense open subsets of X . A property is said to be generic in X (or with respect to $x \in X$) if it holds for all x in a generic subset of X . It is noteworthy that there are other convenient notions of “almost everywhere” in Banach spaces such as the notion of prevalence, see Section 6.

In problems involving finite-dimensional manifolds, the proofs of the genericity of a property mainly use Sard’s Theorem or theorems of transversality similar to the ones of Thom (see [14], [19] and [20]). We recall here the classical Sard-Smale Theorem (see for example [1] for a proof).

Definition 2.1. *Let \mathcal{M} and \mathcal{N} be two \mathcal{C}^1 -manifolds and let $f : \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathcal{N}$ be a \mathcal{C}^1 -map. A point $x \in \mathcal{M}$ is a regular point of f if $Df(x)$ is surjective, otherwise x is a critical point of f . A point $y \in \mathcal{N}$ is a regular value of f if any $x \in f^{-1}(y)$ is a regular point of f , otherwise y is a critical value of f .*

Theorem 2.2. A transversality Theorem

Let $r \geq 1$. Let \mathcal{M} and \mathcal{N} be two finite-dimensional \mathcal{C}^r -manifolds and let Λ be a \mathcal{C}^r Banach manifold. Let $y \in \mathcal{N}$ and let $\Phi \in \mathcal{C}^r(\mathcal{M} \times \Lambda, \mathcal{N})$. Assume that:

- (i) $r > \dim(\mathcal{M}) - \dim(\mathcal{N})$,
- (ii) for any $(x, \lambda) \in \Phi^{-1}(\{y\})$, $D\Phi(x, \lambda) : T_x\mathcal{M} \times T_\lambda\Lambda \rightarrow T_y\mathcal{N}$ is surjective,
- (iii) \mathcal{M} is separable.

Then, the set $\mathfrak{G} = \{\lambda \in \Lambda, y \text{ is a regular value of the map } x \mapsto \Phi(x, \lambda)\}$ is a generic subset of Λ .

Moreover, if $\dim(\mathcal{M}) < \dim(\mathcal{N})$, then the set \mathfrak{G} is equal to the set $\{\lambda \in \Lambda, y \text{ is not in the image of the map } x \mapsto \Phi(x, \lambda)\}$.

Smale in [16] showed that Sard's Theorem can be extended to Banach spaces by using the notion of Fredholm operators. Later, Quinn in [13] noticed that the notion of left-Fredholm operators is often sufficient.

Definition 2.3. Let X and Y be two Banach spaces. A bounded linear operator $L : X \rightarrow Y$ is a left-Fredholm operator if:

- (i) its kernel $\text{Ker}(L)$ splits in X , i.e. there exists a space X_1 such that $X = X_1 \oplus \text{Ker}(L)$ and X_1 and $\text{Ker}(L)$ are closed subspaces,
- (ii) its image $R(L)$ splits in Y , i.e. there exists a space Y_2 such that $Y = R(L) \oplus Y_2$ and both subspaces are closed,
- (iii) its kernel $\text{Ker}(L)$ is finite-dimensional.

If moreover the supplementary space Y_2 is also finite-dimensional, then L is called a Fredholm operator.

The index of L is defined by $\text{Ind}(L) = \dim(\text{Ker}(L)) - \dim(R(L))$ (which is equal to $-\infty$ if L is not a Fredholm operator).

Following Smale arguments, one can extend the classical transversality theorems, as Theorem 2.2, to Banach manifolds. There exist many different versions of this kind of theorems in Banach manifolds (often called Sard-Smale theorems), see for example [1], [8] or [15]. We will use here a version proved by Henry in [8] (see also [10], where its extension to the notion of prevalence is proved).

Theorem 2.4. Henry's Theorem

Let \mathcal{M} , Λ and \mathcal{N} be three Banach manifolds. Let $\Phi : \mathcal{M} \times \Lambda \rightarrow \mathcal{N}$ be a map of class \mathcal{C}^1 and y be a point of \mathcal{N} .

We assume that :

- (i) $\forall (x, \lambda) \in \Phi^{-1}(y)$, $D_x\Phi(x, \lambda) : T_x\mathcal{M} \rightarrow T_y(\mathcal{N})$ is a left-Fredholm operator with negative index,
- (ii) $\forall (x, \lambda) \in \Phi^{-1}(y)$, the image of the total derivative $D\Phi(x, \lambda) : T_x\mathcal{M} \times T_\lambda\Lambda \rightarrow T_y\mathcal{N}$ contains a finite-dimensional subspace Z such that $Z \cap R(D_x\Phi(x, \lambda)) = \{0\}$ and the dimension of Z is strictly larger than the one of $\text{Ker}(D_x\Phi(x, \lambda))$,

(iii) $\mathcal{M} \times \Lambda$ is separable.

Then there exists a generic subset \mathfrak{G} of Λ such that, for any $\lambda_0 \in \mathfrak{G}$, y is not in the image of the map $x \mapsto \Phi(x, \lambda_0)$. If moreover \mathcal{M} is compact, then \mathfrak{G} is an open set.

In our applications of Theorem 2.4, the operator $D_x\Phi$ can be split as $D_x\Phi = L + K$, where K a compact operator and L is a simple operator, for which Hypotheses (i) and (ii) are easily checked. Therefore, the following propositions will be useful.

Proposition 2.5. *Let X and Y be two Banach spaces. Let $L : X \rightarrow Y$ be a left-Fredholm operator and let $K \in \mathcal{L}(X, Y)$ be a compact operator. Then, $L + K$ is a left-Fredholm map with the same index as the one of L .*

The proof of Proposition 2.5 is classical, see for example [2]. To check Hypothesis (ii) of Theorem 2.4, we will use the following criterion.

Proposition 2.6. *Let $L : X \rightarrow Y$ be a left-Fredholm map and X_1 and Y_2 be as in Definition 2.3. Assume that $(z_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is an infinite free family of Y_2 . Then, for any compact operator $K : X \rightarrow Y$, there exists a finite dimensional subspace $Z = \text{span}(z_{n_1}, \dots, z_{n_p})$ such that $Z \cap R(L + K) = \{0\}$ and the dimension of Z is strictly larger than the one of $\text{Ker}(L + K)$.*

Proof: Let P be the continuous projection on $R(L)$ canonically defined by the closed splitting $Y = R(L) + Y_2$. Let K be a given compact operator. Then, PK is a compact operator and thus Proposition 2.5 shows that $L + PK$ is a left-Fredholm operator. In particular, $L + PK$ has a finite-dimensional kernel. On the other hand, $(L + PK)x = 0$ if and only if $P(L + K)x = 0$ that is that $(L + K)x$ belongs to Y_2 . Thus, $\dim(R(L + K) \cap Y_2) = \dim(\text{Ker}(L + PK)) < \infty$ and an at most finite dimensional subspace of $\text{span}(z_n)$ is included in $R(L + K)$. Hence, we can still extract a subspace Z from $\text{span}(z_n)$, with dimension as large as needed, and such that $Z \cap R(L + K) = \{0\}$. \square

Let us notice that the assumptions that the sequence (z_n) belongs to a closed complementary space of $R(L)$ and that L is left-Fredholm are important, as shown by the following examples. We set $X = Y = \ell^\infty(\mathbb{R})$ and we define $e_i \in Y$ by $e_i(n) = \delta_{i=n}$, i.e. $(e_i)_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$ is the canonical ‘‘basis’’. Proposition 2.6 does not hold for

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} L(x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots) = (x_1, 0, x_2, 0, x_3, \dots) \\ K(x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots) = (0, x_1, 0, \frac{x_2}{2}, 0, \frac{x_3}{3}, \dots) \\ z_n = e_{2n-1} + \frac{e_{2n}}{n} \end{array} \right. \quad \text{or} \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} L(x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots) = (x_1, 0, x_3, 0, x_5, \dots) \\ K(x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots) = (0, \frac{x_2}{2}, 0, \frac{x_4}{4}, 0, \frac{x_6}{6}, \dots) \\ z_n = e_{2n} \end{array} \right.$$

In the first example, $\text{span}(z_n)$ is not in a closed complementary subset of $R(L)$. In the second one, L is not left-Fredholm.

2.2 The Banach manifold of \mathcal{C}^1 -paths

In this section, we would like to discuss the different topologies of the spaces used in this paper. First, we embed \mathbb{R}^d with the supremum norm $\|\cdot\|_\infty$ and we identify the torus $X = \mathbb{T}^d$ to $(\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z})^d$ with its quotient topology. In particular, the distance $d(x, y)$ between two points x and y of \mathbb{T}^d is bounded by $1/2$. We also recall that we have identified all the tangent spaces of X to \mathbb{R}^d .

In this paper, the space of parameters Λ of Theorems 2.2 and 2.4 will always be the space of admissible vector fields \mathcal{C}_G , which is identified to a closed subspace of $\mathcal{C}^1(X, \mathbb{R}^d)$ with its natural Banach structure.

In some of our proofs, the Banach manifold \mathcal{M} of Theorem 2.4 will be the space $\mathcal{C}^1([0, \tau], X)$ of \mathcal{C}^1 -paths on X , with $\tau > 0$ a given time. Its structure of Banach manifold is as follows. Let γ be a given \mathcal{C}^1 -path. We consider a neighbourhood of γ given by

$$\mathcal{O} = \{ \beta \in \mathcal{C}^1([0, \tau], X) , \forall t \in [0, \tau] , d(\beta(t), \gamma(t)) < 1/4 \} .$$

We now use a canonical lifting φ along the path γ , mapping \mathcal{O} to an open subset \mathcal{U} of $\mathcal{C}^1(\mathbb{R}^d, \mathbb{R}^d)$. Notice that, by definition of \mathcal{O} , lifting the whole neighbourhood \mathcal{O} is possible and moreover

$$|\varphi(\gamma_i(t)) - \varphi(\beta_i(t))| = d(\gamma_i(t), \beta_i(t)) \quad (2.1)$$

for any $\beta \in \mathcal{O}$, any $t \in [0, \tau]$ and any cell i . Therefore, we can identify \mathcal{O} to \mathcal{U} , which is an open subset of a Banach space. Notice that the tangent space to $\mathcal{C}^1([0, \tau], X)$ at a path γ is simply $\mathcal{C}^1([0, \tau], \mathbb{R}^d)$.

3 Generic properties of equilibrium points

In this section, we prove several generic properties of equilibria of the ODE, i.e. singularities of the vector field f , that are points $x \in X$ such that $f(x) = 0$. These properties are interesting by themselves, but they are also important steps in proving Theorem 1.2 and 1.3.

3.1 Generic simplicity of equilibria

We say that an equilibrium point $x \in X$ is simple if the differential $Df(x)$ is surjective, which is equivalent to the injectivity of this differential. A simple equilibrium point $x \in X$ is isolated from the other equilibria, and hence there is at most a finite number of simple equilibria. Moreover, by the implicit functions theorem, simple equilibria, which are non-degenerate singularities of the vector fields, depend smoothly of small perturbations of the vector field. That is why, the simplicity of equilibria of an ODE is an important property to consider.

Proposition 3.1. *There exists an open dense set \mathfrak{G}^{simpl} of \mathcal{C}_G such that for any $f \in \mathfrak{G}^{simpl}$, all the equilibrium points of (1.1) are simple.*

Proof: The arguments of this proof are very classical and do not differ from the ones used for general ODEs, i.e. without the constraint that $f \in \mathcal{C}_G$. First, let us notice that $f \in \mathfrak{G}^{simpl}$ is equivalent to 0 being a regular value of f .

The set \mathfrak{G}^{simpl} is open. Indeed, let (f_n) be a sequence of vector fields converging to f and such that there exists $x_n \in X$ with $f_n(x_n) = 0$ and $Df_n(x_n)$ is not surjective (i.e. $f_n \notin \mathfrak{G}^{simpl}$). Since X is compact, up to extracting a subsequence, one can assume that (x_n) converges to $x \in X$. By continuity, we get that x is both an equilibrium point and a critical point of f , which shows that $f \notin \mathfrak{G}^{simpl}$.

Let us show that \mathfrak{G}^{simpl} is dense. We set $\mathcal{M} = X$, $\mathcal{N} = \mathbb{R}^d$ and $\Lambda = \mathcal{C}_G$. We consider the point $y = 0 \in \mathbb{R}^d$ and the function

$$\Phi : (x, f) \in \mathcal{M} \times \Lambda \longmapsto f(x) \in \mathbb{R}^d .$$

The function Φ is of class \mathcal{C}^1 and

$$D\Phi(x, f).(\xi, g) = D_x\Phi(x, f).\xi + D_f\Phi(x, f).g = Df(x).\xi + g(x) .$$

Since $D_x\Phi(x, f) = Df(x)$, $y = 0$ is a regular value of $x \mapsto \Phi(x, f)$ if and only if 0 is a regular value of f , i.e. $f \in \mathfrak{G}^{simpl}$. Thus, it is sufficient to check the hypotheses of Theorem 2.2 to get the genericity of \mathfrak{G}^{simpl} . We have $\dim(\mathcal{M}) - \dim(\mathcal{N}) = 0$, thus Hypothesis (i) holds. Hypothesis (iii) is satisfied since X is compact. To check Hypothesis (ii), it is sufficient to notice that, for any $x \in X$, the map $g \in \mathcal{C}_G \mapsto D_f\Phi(x, f).g = g(x)$ is surjective onto \mathbb{R}^d since any constant vector field $g \in \mathbb{R}^d$ is an admissible vector field. \square

Nota Bene: the hyperbolicity of the equilibrium points is a stronger property than simplicity. Hyperbolicity is an important concept for studying the behaviour of dynamical systems. Even, if we do not need it to prove our main results, we discuss the generic hyperbolicity of the equilibrium points of (1.1) in Section 6.

For some geometries of the network G , the differential equation (1.1) cannot admit simple equilibrium points. Thus, in these cases, Proposition 3.1 implies that (1.1) has in fact no equilibrium point.

Corollary 3.2. *Assume that there exists a set I of cells, with a set J of direct inputs, such that $d_J < d_I$ (this holds in particular if the graph G is not dimensionally non-increasing). Then, for any f belonging to \mathfrak{G}^{simpl} , the open subset of \mathcal{C}_G introduced in Proposition 3.1, the differential equation (1.1) has no equilibrium point.*

Proof: Assume that G is not dimensionally non-increasing and let I and J be such that $d_J < d_I$ and J is the set of the direct inputs of the cells of I . If x is a simple equilibrium

point of (1.1), the differential $Df(x)$ should be surjective, thus this should be a fortiori the case for the restricted map $\xi \in \mathbb{R}^d \mapsto Df_I(x).\xi \in \mathbb{R}^{d_I}$, or more precisely, omitting the unnecessary cells, the map $\xi_J \in \mathbb{R}^{d_J} \mapsto Df_I(x).\xi_J \in \mathbb{R}^{d_I}$. Obviously, this could not happen since $d_J < d_I$. Therefore, (1.1) cannot admit simple equilibrium points and thus if $f \in \mathfrak{G}^{simpl}$, then (1.1) does not have any equilibrium. \square

Corollary 3.2 applies in particular when a cell i has no input (take $I = \{i\}$) or when a cell i is the input of no other cell (take I being the whole set of cells).

3.2 Generic observability of equilibrium points

In this section, we prove property (a) of Theorem 1.3, which is a direct consequence of the following property.

Proposition 3.3. *Let i and j be two cells such that j is a direct input of i . Let $\tau > 0$ be given and let $\mathfrak{G}_{i,j,\tau}^{eq}$ be the set of all the admissible vector fields $f \in \mathcal{C}_G$ such that, if $x(t)$ is a solution of (1.1) such that $x_i(t)$ is constant on the time interval $[0, \tau]$, then $x_j(t)$ is also constant on $[0, \tau]$. Then, $\mathfrak{G}_{i,j,\tau}^{eq}$ is a generic subset of \mathcal{C}_G .*

Proof: Let $\tau > 0$, let i be a cell and let $j \neq i$ be a direct input of i . We apply Theorem 2.4 to the following setting. The set of parameters is $\Lambda = \mathcal{C}_G$, the space of the admissible vector fields. We set $\mathcal{N} = \mathcal{C}^0([0, \tau], \mathbb{R}^d)$, $y = 0$ and

$$\mathcal{M} = \{ \gamma \in \mathcal{C}^1([0, \tau], X), \gamma_i(t) \text{ is constant and } \gamma_j(t) \text{ is not constant} \} .$$

We define the function $\Phi \in \mathcal{C}^1(\mathcal{M} \times \Lambda, \mathcal{N})$ by

$$\Phi(\gamma, f) = \frac{d}{dt}\gamma(t) - f(\gamma(t)) .$$

The tangent space $T_\gamma\mathcal{M}$ is given by the functions $\omega \in \mathcal{C}^1([0, \tau], \mathbb{R}^d)$ such that $\omega_i(t)$ is constant. We have

$$D\Phi(\gamma, f).(\omega, g) = \frac{d}{dt}\omega(t) - Df(\gamma(t)).\omega(t) - g(\gamma(t)) .$$

Step 1: $D_\gamma\Phi$ is a left-Fredholm map.

The map $\omega \in T_\gamma\mathcal{M} \mapsto \frac{d}{dt}\omega \in \mathcal{C}^0([0, \tau], \mathbb{R}^d)$ is a left-Fredholm function. Indeed, its kernel is the set of the constant functions and therefore is of dimension d and admits a closed complementary set consisting in the functions of null integral. Moreover, its image is the set of functions $y(t) \in \mathcal{C}^0([0, \tau], \mathbb{R}^d)$ such that $y_i(t) \equiv 0$, and therefore is closed, and it admits an infinite-dimensional closed complementary space Y_2 , which is the space of functions $y \in \mathcal{C}^0([0, \tau], \mathbb{R}^d)$ such that $y_k(t) = 0$ if $k \neq i$. Using Ascoli's theorem, we

show that the injection $\mathcal{C}^1([0, \tau], \mathbb{R}^d)$ in $\mathcal{C}^0([0, \tau], \mathbb{R}^d)$ is compact. Since $Df(\gamma(t))$ belongs to $\mathcal{C}^0([0, \tau], \mathcal{L}(\mathbb{R}^d))$, we get that the map $\omega \in \mathcal{C}^1([0, \tau], \mathbb{R}^d) \mapsto Df(\gamma(t)).\omega \in \mathcal{C}^0([0, \tau], \mathbb{R}^d)$ is compact. Therefore, using Proposition 2.5, we obtain that $D_\gamma\Phi$ is a left-Fredholm map.

Step 2: checking Hypothesis (ii) of Theorem 2.4

We have seen that $D_\gamma\Phi$ can be written $L + K$ as in Proposition 2.6, Y_2 being the space of functions $y \in \mathcal{C}^0([0, \tau], \mathbb{R}^d)$ such that $y_k(t) = 0$ if $k \neq i$. Using Proposition 2.6, we notice that it is sufficient to exhibit a sequence of functions $(g^n) \in \mathcal{C}_G$ such that $D_f\Phi.g^n = -g^n(\gamma(t))$ compose a free family of Y_2 . By assumption, the curve γ_j is not reduced to a point of X_j . One can choose an infinite number of disjoint open sets $\mathcal{O}_j^n \subset X_j$ such that the curve $t \mapsto \gamma_j(t)$ belongs to \mathcal{O}_j^n at some time $t^n \in [0, \tau]$. Let $\chi^n \in \mathcal{C}^1(X_j, \mathbb{R})$ be bump functions with compact support in \mathcal{O}_j^n and let $\zeta \in \mathbb{R}^d$ be such that $\zeta_k = 0$ if $k \neq i$ and $\zeta_i \neq 0$. Then, the vector fields $g^n(x) = \zeta\chi^n(x_j)$ belong to \mathcal{C}_G and are such that the functions $t \mapsto g^n(\gamma(t))$ belong to Y_2 and have disjoint supports. This yields the required free family of Y_2 and shows that Hypothesis (ii) holds.

Step 3: \mathcal{M} and Λ are obviously separable

Step 4: conclusion

We can apply Theorem 2.4, which shows that there exists a generic subset of admissible vector fields $f \in \mathcal{C}_G$ such that 0 is not in the image of $\Phi(., f)$. This means that there is no solution $\gamma \in \mathcal{C}^1([0, \tau], X)$ of

$$\frac{d}{dt}\gamma(t) - f(\gamma(t)) = 0$$

such that γ_i is constant and γ_j not constant, which is exactly the statement of Proposition 3.3. \square

Proof of Property (a) of Theorem 1.3: We set $\mathfrak{G}^{eq} = \bigcap_{i,j,n} \mathfrak{G}_{i,j,1/n}^{eq}$, which is a generic subset of \mathcal{C}_G , as a countable intersection of generic subsets. Then, assume that $f \in \mathfrak{G}^{eq}$. If i is such that $x_i(t)$ is constant on some interval (a, b) , then, up to translating the time and up to reducing the time interval, one can assume that there exists n such that $x_i(t)$ is constant for $t \in [0, 1/n]$. By applying the first part of Proposition 3.3, $x_j(t)$ must be constant on $[0, 1/n]$ for any j direct input of i . Then, by recursion, we get that, on the interval $[0, 1/n]$, any indirect input of i is constant. The set I of cells containing i and all its indirect inputs is an independent sub-network and thus follows an evolution which depends only on the values of the cells of I . Therefore, the differential equation (1.1) restricted to X_I is an ODE for which the solution $x_I(t)$ is constant on $[0, 1/n]$ and hence is constant for all times $t \in \mathbb{R}$. \square

3.3 Generic inverse problem for equilibrium points

One may hope that, at least generically and for strongly connected graphs, if two equilibria coincide in one cell, then they must be equal everywhere. In fact, a surprisingly simple

counter-example exists. We look to the circular two-cell network

$$\dot{x}_1(t) = f_1(x_2(t)) \quad \dot{x}_2(t) = f_2(x_1(t)) . \quad (3.1)$$

Equilibria consist in couples (x_1, x_2) with x_1 and x_2 being singularities of the respective vector fields f_2 and f_1 . Therefore, as soon as f_2 has two singularities $x_1 \neq \tilde{x}_1$ and f_1 has one singularity x_2 , then (x_1, x_2) and (\tilde{x}_1, x_2) are both equilibria, which cannot be distinguished by observing the cell 2. In addition, if the phase spaces of both cells have the same dimension, then these singularities may be simple and thus stable with respect to small perturbations of f_1 and f_2 . Therefore, this type of counter-example exists in an open set of non-linearities.

However, the generic inverse problem holds in some situations, as shown in the next proposition.

Proposition 3.4. *Let G be either*

- (a) *a self-dependent directed graph,*
- (b) *or a dimensionally decreasing graph,*
- (c) *or a not dimensionally non-increasing graph.*

Let i_0 be an observation cell for the graph G . Then, there exists a generic set $\mathfrak{G}^{inv,eq} \subset \mathcal{C}_G$ such that, for any $f \in \mathfrak{G}^{inv,eq}$, if x and \tilde{x} are two equilibrium points of the ODE (1.1) satisfying $x_{i_0} = \tilde{x}_{i_0}$, then $x = \tilde{x}$.

Proof: First, notice that the case (c) is clearly implied by Corollary 3.2 since there is generically no equilibrium point in this case.

We use similar techniques as the ones in the proof of Proposition 3.1. Let i_0 be an observation cell and let I be a set of cells, which includes i_0 but not all the cells. We denote by $\mathfrak{G}_I^{inv,eq}$ the set of functions f such that if x and \tilde{x} are two equilibrium points of the ODE (1.1) satisfying $x_I = \tilde{x}_I$, then $x_i = \tilde{x}_i$ for at least one cell $i \notin I$. We claim that $\mathfrak{G}^{inv,eq} = \cap_I \mathfrak{G}_I^{inv,eq}$ and thus that it is sufficient to show that each $\mathfrak{G}_I^{inv,eq}$ is a generic set. Indeed, assume that $f \in \cap_I \mathfrak{G}_I^{inv,eq}$ and that x and \tilde{x} are two equilibrium points such that $x_{i_0} = \tilde{x}_{i_0}$. Let I be the set of cells i such that $x_i = \tilde{x}_i$. Notice that $i_0 \in I$ and assume that I is not the whole set of cells. Since $f \in \mathfrak{G}_I^{inv,eq}$, we should have that $x_i = \tilde{x}_i$ for at least one cell $i \notin I$, which is obviously in contradiction with the definition of I . Thus, $I = \{1, \dots, N\}$ and $x = \tilde{x}$.

We set J to be the set of cells such that all their direct inputs belong to I . We denote by I^c and J^c the complementary sets of cells. We use Theorem 2.2 with the following setting:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{M} &= \{(x, \tilde{x}) \in X^2, x_I = \tilde{x}_I \text{ and } \forall j \in I^c, x_j \neq \tilde{x}_j\}, \\ \mathcal{N} &= \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^{d_{J^c}}, y = 0 \in \mathcal{N} \text{ and } \Lambda = \mathcal{C}_G \end{aligned}$$

We consider the function

$$\Phi : (x, \tilde{x}, f) \in \mathcal{M} \times \Lambda \longmapsto (f(x), f_{J^c}(\tilde{x})) \in \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^{d_{J^c}} .$$

Let $(x, \tilde{x}, f) \in \Phi^{-1}(0)$. We have $f(x) = 0$ and $f_j(\tilde{x}) = 0$ for any $j \notin J$. If $j \in J$, any direct input of j belongs to I and therefore $f_j(\tilde{x}) = f_j(x) = 0$. Hence, x and \tilde{x} are two equilibrium points, which coincide on the cells I but differ in any cell in I^c . We claim that Hypothesis (ii) of Theorem 2.2 holds. Indeed, the map

$$g \in \mathcal{C}_G \longmapsto D_f \Phi(x, \tilde{x}, f).g = (g(x), g_{J^c}(\tilde{x}))$$

is onto $\mathbb{R}^{d+d_{J^c}}$ because, for any $j \in J^c$, \tilde{x} differs from x in at least one direct input of j and thus the value of $g_j(x)$ and $g_j(\tilde{x})$ can be chosen independently. Assume for a moment that $\dim(\mathcal{M}) < \dim(\mathcal{N})$, then Theorem 2.2 implies that, generically with respect to f , there are no equilibrium points x and \tilde{x} which coincide on I but differ on I^c , i.e. if x and \tilde{x} coincide on I , they must also coincide in at least one other cell. This proves that $\mathfrak{G}_I^{inv,eq}$ is a generic set.

It remains to show that, if the graph G satisfies either (a) or (b), then we have $\dim(\mathcal{M}) < \dim(\mathcal{N})$, that is that the dimension d_I is larger than the dimension d_J . In the case of property (b), this trivially follows from the definition of dimensionally decreasing graph since I contains all the direct input of J . Assume that G is self-dependent. Then, any cell is a direct input of itself and thus $J \subset I$. Therefore, $d_I = d_J$ if and only if $J = I$. But, this would mean that any direct input of J belongs to J and thus any indirect input of $I = J$ belongs to I . Since we assumed that I is not the whole set of cells, that I contains i_0 and that i_0 is an observation cell, this is not possible and $d_I > d_J$. \square

We believe that Proposition 3.4 is optimal that is that if G satisfies neither (a), (b) or (c), then one can find a circular sub-network in which a counter-example similar to (3.1) can be constructed.

4 Generic inverse problem

The purpose of this section is to prove the inverse problem stated in Theorem 1.2. Its proof is split into two propositions.

Proposition 4.1. *Let i be a cell, let τ be a positive number. There exists a generic subset $\mathfrak{G}_{i,\tau}^{traj,1}$ of \mathcal{C}_G such that the following property holds for any $f \in \mathfrak{G}_{i,\tau}^{traj,1}$. Let $x(t)$ and $\tilde{x}(t)$ be two solutions of (1.1). Assume that $x_i(t) = \tilde{x}_i(t)$ on the time interval $[0, \tau]$ and assume that at least one cell j being a direct input of i is such that $x_j(t)$ is not constant on $[0, \tau]$. Then, for any cell k which is a direct input of i , the curves $\{x_k(t), t \in [0, \tau]\}$ and $\{\tilde{x}_k(t), t \in [0, \tau]\}$ must cross.*

Proof: The proof of Proposition 4.1 uses Theorem 2.4 in the same way as the proof of Proposition 3.3. The set of parameters is $\Lambda = \mathcal{C}_G$. We set $\mathcal{N} = (\mathcal{C}^0([0, \tau], \mathbb{R}^d))^2$ and

$y = (0, 0)$. Let j and k be two (possibly equal) direct input cells of the cell i . We set

$$\mathcal{M} = \{(\gamma, \tilde{\gamma}) \in \mathcal{C}^1([0, \tau], X)^2, \forall t \in [0, \tau], \gamma_i(t) = \tilde{\gamma}_i(t), \\ \forall (s, t) \in [0, \tau]^2, \gamma_k(t) \neq \tilde{\gamma}_k(s) \text{ and } t \mapsto \gamma_j(t) \text{ is not constant} \},$$

We define the function $\Phi \in \mathcal{C}^1(\mathcal{M} \times \Lambda, \mathcal{N})$ by

$$\Phi(\gamma, \tilde{\gamma}, f) = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{d}{dt}\gamma(t) - f(\gamma(t)) \\ \frac{d}{dt}\tilde{\gamma}(t) - f(\tilde{\gamma}(t)) \end{pmatrix}.$$

The tangent space $T_\gamma \mathcal{M}$ is given by the $(\omega, \tilde{\omega}) \in (\mathcal{C}^1([0, \tau], \mathbb{R}^d))^2$ such that $\omega_i \equiv \tilde{\omega}_i$. We have

$$D\Phi(\gamma, f) \cdot (\omega, g) = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{d}{dt}\omega(t) - Df(\gamma(t)) \cdot \omega(t) - g(\gamma(t)) \\ \frac{d}{dt}\tilde{\omega}(t) - Df(\tilde{\gamma}(t)) \cdot \tilde{\omega}(t) - g(\tilde{\gamma}(t)) \end{pmatrix}.$$

Step 1: $D_{(\gamma, \tilde{\gamma})}\Phi$ is a left-Fredholm map.

The arguments are the same as in the proof of Proposition 3.3. We use a decomposition $D_{(\gamma, \tilde{\gamma})}\Phi = L + K$ and apply Proposition 2.5. The map L is given by $(\omega, \tilde{\omega}) \in T_\gamma \mathcal{M} \mapsto (\frac{d}{dt}\omega, \frac{d}{dt}\tilde{\omega}) \in (\mathcal{C}^0([0, \tau], \mathbb{R}^d))^2$. Its kernel is the set of the constant functions such that $\omega_i = \tilde{\omega}_i$. Its image $R(L)$ consists in the functions $(\theta, \tilde{\theta}) \in (\mathcal{C}^0([0, \tau], \mathbb{R}^d))^2$ such that $\theta_i \equiv \tilde{\theta}_i$. A closed complementary space Y_2 of $R(L)$ is given by the space of the functions $(\theta, 0) \in (\mathcal{C}^0([0, \tau], \mathbb{R}^d))^2$ such that $\theta_k \equiv 0$ except if $k = i$.

Step 2: checking Hypothesis (ii) of Theorem 2.4

Once again, the arguments are similar to the ones of the proof of Proposition 3.3. We have seen that $D_{(\gamma, \tilde{\gamma})}\Phi$ can be written $L + K$ as in Proposition 2.6. It is sufficient to exhibit a sequence of functions $(g^n) \in \mathcal{C}_G$ such that $(D_f \Phi \cdot g^n)$ composes a free family of Y_2 . By assumption, the curve $\Gamma = \{(\gamma_j(t), \gamma_k(t)), t \in [0, \tau]\} \subset X_j \times X_k$ is not reduced to a point and does not meet the curve $\tilde{\Gamma} = \{(\tilde{\gamma}_j(t), \tilde{\gamma}_k(t)), t \in [0, \tau]\}$ (if $j = k$ simply consider $\Gamma = \{\gamma_j(t)\}$ and $\tilde{\Gamma} = \{\tilde{\gamma}_j(t)\}$). We construct the suitable vector fields g^n exactly as in the proof of Proposition 3.3, introducing disjoint open sets $\mathcal{O}_{j,k}^n \subset X_j \times X_k$ which intersect the curve Γ but not the curve $\tilde{\Gamma}$.

Step 3: \mathcal{M} and Λ are obviously separable

Step 4: conclusion

We can apply Theorem 2.4, which shows that there exists a generic subset of admissible vector fields $f \in \mathcal{C}_G$ such that 0 is not in the image of $\Phi(\cdot, f)$. This means that there are no solutions $\gamma(t)$ and $\tilde{\gamma}(t)$ of (1.1) on the time interval $[0, \tau]$, being equal on the cell i , and such that $x_j(t)$ is not constant on $[0, \tau]$ and the curves $\{\gamma_k(t), t \in [0, \tau]\}$ and $\{\tilde{\gamma}_k(t), t \in [0, \tau]\}$ do not intersect. \square

In Proposition 4.1, we had to exclude the case of constant direct inputs, because we wanted to construct an infinite-dimensional complementary subspace in the second step of the proof. The case of constant direct inputs follows from Section 3.

Proposition 4.2. *Let i be a given cell, let I be the set of all its indirect inputs and assume that i does not belongs to I . Then, there exists a dense open set $\mathfrak{G}_i^{traj,2}$ of \mathcal{C}_G such that, for any $f \in \mathfrak{G}_i^{traj,2}$, the following property holds. Let $x(t)$ and $\tilde{x}(t)$ be two trajectories of (1.1) such that $x_I(t)$ and $\tilde{x}_I(t)$ are constant. If $x_i(0) = \tilde{x}_i(0)$ and $f_i(x(0)) = f_i(\tilde{x}(0))$ then $x_j(0) = \tilde{x}_j(0)$ for any j being a direct input of i .*

Proof: The set of cells I is an independent sub-network that is that the ODE (1.1) restricted to this set is another coupled cell network

$$\dot{x}_I(t) = f_I(x_I(t)) . \quad (4.1)$$

Applying Proposition 3.1 to this network, we get the existence of a dense open set $\mathfrak{G}_I^{simpl} \subset \mathcal{C}_G$ such that for any $f \in \mathfrak{G}_I^{simpl}$, there is only a finite number of equilibrium points for (4.1). Moreover, these equilibrium points are simple and so depend smoothly on f_I .

Now, since $i \notin I$, the fact that $f \in \mathfrak{G}_I^{simpl}$ does not depend on f_i . Therefore, we can easily perturb f_i so that $f_i(x_I) \neq f_i(\tilde{x}_I)$ for any couple of equilibrium points (x_I, \tilde{x}_I) of (4.1), which do not coincide on the direct inputs of i (otherwise of course $f_i(x_I) = f_i(\tilde{x}_I)$). Moreover, this property holds also for small perturbations of f since f_i and the equilibria x_I depend smoothly on f . Thus, we get a dense open set $\mathfrak{G}_i^{traj,2}$ of functions f such that if x and \tilde{x} are two trajectories, which are constant on I , then $f_i(x) = f_i(\tilde{x})$ if and only if $x_j = \tilde{x}_j$ for any j being a direct input of i . \square

Proof of Theorem 1.2: let \mathfrak{G}^{traj} be the intersection of all the previous generic subsets \mathfrak{G}^{simpl} , \mathfrak{G}^{eq} , $\mathfrak{G}^{inv,eq}$, $\mathfrak{G}_{i,1/n}^{traj,1}$ and $\mathfrak{G}_i^{traj,2}$, for all cell i and all $n \in \mathbb{N}^*$. Notice that \mathfrak{G}^{traj} is a generic subset of \mathcal{C}_G , since it is a countable intersection of generic subsets.

Assume that $f \in \mathfrak{G}^{traj}$ and that i_0 is an observation cell. Let $x(t)$ and $y(t)$ be two trajectories of (1.1) such that $x_{i_0}(t) = y_{i_0}(t)$ on some time interval (a, b) . Assume that x and y do not coincide in all the direct input cells of i_0 , we would like to obtain a contradiction. First, notice that, up to translating and restricting the interval of times, we can replace (a, b) by $[0, 1/n]$ and assume that the curves $\{x_k(t), t \in [0, 1/n]\}$ and $\{y_k(t), t \in [0, 1/n]\}$ do not cross for at least one of the direct inputs of i_0 .

First case: $x_j(t)$ or $y_j(t)$ is not constant in $[0, 1/n]$ for at least one of the direct inputs j of i_0 . Since $f \in \mathfrak{G}_{i_0,n}^{traj,1}$ applying Proposition 4.1, we obtain a contradiction.

Second case: $x_j(t)$ and $y_j(t)$ are constant in $[0, 1/n]$ for any direct input j of i_0 , and i_0 is not an indirect input of itself. Since $f \in \mathfrak{G}^{eq}$, Property (a) of Theorem 1.3 shows that $x(t)$ and $y(t)$ are constant for any indirect input of i_0 . Since $f \in \mathfrak{G}_{i_0}^{traj,2}$, Proposition 4.2 shows that $x(t)$ and $y(t)$ coincide in any direct input of i_0 , which is in contradiction with our assumption.

Third case: $x_j(t)$ and $y_j(t)$ are constant in $[0, 1/n]$ for any direct input j of i_0 , and i_0 is an indirect input of itself. Since $f \in \mathfrak{G}^{eq}$, Property (a) of Theorem 1.3 shows that $x(t)$ and $y(t)$ are constant for any cell being in the set I of the indirect inputs of i_0 . Notice that $i_0 \in I$ and

thus $x_I(t)$ and $y_I(t)$ are two equilibrium points of the independent sub-network I , which coincide on the observation cell $i_0 \in I$. Applying Proposition 3.4, we obtain that $x(t)$ and $y(t)$ coincide in I except if the graph G restricted to the set of cells I is dimensionally non-increasing and is neither a self-dependent directed graph nor a dimensionally decreasing graph. Notice that the fact that G restricted to I is dimensionally non-increasing can be omitted: if it is not the case, then Corollary 3.2 shows that there is no constant solution to (4.1) and thus $x_I(t)$ and $y_I(t)$ cannot be two equilibrium points of the independent sub-network I .

By applying the above arguments recursively, we get that $x(t)$ and $y(t)$ coincide in any cell in some interval of times $[0, 1/n]$, *except maybe if* in our recursion process, we meet the exception of the above third case. This exception may happen only if the trajectories $x(t)$ and $y(t)$ are both constant in a set of cells I and the graph G restricted to I is neither a self-dependent directed graph nor a dimensionally decreasing graph. To finish the proof of Theorem 1.2, notice that if $x(t)$ and $y(t)$ coincide in any cell in some time interval $[0, 1/n]$, then they must coincide for any time t since (1.1) is a classical ODE. \square

5 Generic observability of oscillations and stabilisation

In this section, we show that Properties (b) and (c) of Theorem 1.3 and Theorem 1.4 are straightforward consequences of the inverse problems studied in the previous sections.

Proof of Properties (b) and (c) of Theorem 1.3: Let \mathfrak{G}^{osc} be the generic set \mathfrak{G}^{traj} introduced in the proof of Theorem 1.2 and assume that $f \in \mathfrak{G}^{osc}$. Let $x(t)$ be a solution of (1.1) and assume that there is a cell i such that $x_i(t)$ is T -periodic on $(a, a + T + \tau)$. Let I be the set of indirect input cells of i . We set $y(t) = x(t + T)$. We have $x_i(t) = y_i(t)$ on $(a, a + \tau)$. Since $f \in \mathfrak{G}^{traj}$, using Theorem 1.2, we obtain that $x_I(t) = y_I(t)$ except maybe in the cells where x and y are constant. But, since $y(t) = x(t + T)$, if both are constant in time, they must be equal. To conclude, we get that $x_I(t) = y_I(t) = x_I(t + T)$ for all $t \in \mathbb{R}$, and thus any cell in I is T -periodic, which proves Property (b).

Let us show Property (c). Notice that, in Property (b), it is possible that an indirect input cell j of i is T' -periodic with $T' < T$. Therefore, if $x_i(t)$ is exactly T -periodic, it is possible that $x_j(t)$ is not exactly T -periodic but exactly T' -periodic with $T' < T$ (or even constant). However, if G is a strongly connected graph, then applying Property (b) (or (a)) to the cell j , for which i is an indirect input cell, we get that $x_i(t)$ is also exactly T' -periodic (or constant), which is of course impossible since $T \neq T'$. Therefore, if G is a strongly connected graph, then $x_j(t)$ must be also exactly T -periodic. \square

Proof of Theorem 1.4: Let \mathfrak{G}^{stab} be the generic subset \mathfrak{G}^{traj} of \mathcal{C}_G introduced in the proof of Theorem 1.2 and assume that $f \in \mathfrak{G}^{stab}$. Let $x(t)$ be a solution of (1.1) and let i

be an observation cell. Assume that $x_i(t)$ converges to a constant x_i^* when t goes to $+\infty$. The main ingredient of this proof is the classical concept of ω -limit set. We recall that the ω -limit set of $x(0)$ is defined as

$$\begin{aligned} \omega(x(0)) &= \bigcap_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \overline{\{x(t) \mid t \in [n, +\infty)\}} \\ &= \{\xi \in X \mid \text{there exists a sequence } (t_n) \text{ converging to } +\infty \text{ such that} \\ &\quad x(t_n) \text{ converges to } \xi \text{ when } n \text{ goes to } +\infty\} . \end{aligned} \tag{5.1}$$

Since X is a compact manifold, for all $x(0) \in X$, $\omega(x(0))$ is a connected and compact non-empty set. Moreover $\omega(x(0))$ is invariant by the dynamical system generated by the ODE (1.1), i.e. the ω -limit set is a union of complete trajectories of (1.1) (see for example [12]). By continuity, we know that, in our particular case, any trajectory $\xi(t)$ of $\omega(x(0))$ satisfies $\xi_i(t) = x_i^*$. By using Property (a) of Theorem 1.3, we get that $\xi(t)$ is an equilibrium point of (1.1). Since $f \in \mathfrak{G}^{simpl}$, any equilibrium is simple and hence isolated. Since $\omega(x(0))$ is connected, there is exactly one equilibrium point $\xi = x^*$ in $\omega(x(0))$. Since X is compact, this shows that $x(t)$ converges to x^* . \square

6 Discussion on further results

In this section, we state several adaptations or generalisations of our main results. They are presented as claims and their proofs are only roughly sketched. By “claims”, we mean that the results hold, but no complete proofs are given. The proofs are mutatis mutandis the same as the ones of Theorem 1.2, 1.3 or 1.4, we only give short arguments, that are, we hope, sufficiently convincing.

The non-compact case.

It is possible to adapt the main results of this paper to the non-compact case. Here, we typically choose $X_i = \mathbb{R}^{d_i}$ to fix the notations. The first problem is to define a suitable topology on the space \mathcal{C}_G of admissible vector fields, i.e. a topology on $\mathfrak{X}^1(X)$. The classical strong \mathcal{C}^1 -topology is too restrictive since it applies only on bounded functions. Therefore, one usually endow $\mathfrak{X}^1(X)$ with the Whitney topology, that is the topology generated by the neighbourhoods

$$\mathcal{O}_{f,\delta} = \{g \in \mathfrak{X}^1(X) \mid \max(\|f(x) - g(x)\|, \|Df(x) - Dg(x)\|) < \delta(x), \forall x \in X\} ,$$

where f is any function in $\mathfrak{X}^1(X)$ and where δ is any continuous positive real function on X . We refer to [4] for a complete discussion on this topology. The main issue is that $\mathfrak{X}^1(X)$ endowed with the Whitney topology is not a metrizable space and the close sets are not the sequentially closed sets. In particular, we cannot directly use Theorems 2.2 or 2.4 with $\Lambda = \mathcal{C}_G$. However, it is noteworthy that \mathcal{C}_G endowed with the Whitney topology is still a Baire space and thus generic subsets are dense subsets.

A second issue is the global existence of solutions of the differential equation (1.1). In order to ensure it, we restrict the class of vector fields to

$$\tilde{\mathcal{C}}_G = \{ f \in \mathcal{C}_G, \exists M > 0, \forall x \in X, \|x\| \geq M \Rightarrow \langle f(x)|x \rangle < 0 \} .$$

If $f \in \tilde{\mathcal{C}}_G$, any solution $x(t)$ of (1.1) exists for all $t \geq 0$ and eventually belongs to the ball $B_X(0, M)$. In particular, the ω -limit set defined by (5.1) is non-empty.

Claim 6.1. *There exists a generic subset $\tilde{\mathfrak{G}}$ of $\tilde{\mathcal{C}}_G$ such that, for any $f \in \tilde{\mathfrak{G}}$, all the observation properties stated in Theorems 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4 hold.*

Sketch of proof: Since we cannot apply Theorems 2.2 or 2.4 with $\Lambda = \tilde{\mathcal{C}}_G$, we use the following strategy, which has now become classical:

- split the manifold X in compact subsets,
- consider the desired property in each of these compact subsets and show that it is open,
- prove the density by applying a transversality theorem in an open subset of X containing the compact subset.

To give an example, let us explain how we adapt Proposition 3.1. We cover X by a countable union of closed balls $\bar{B}_X(0, n)$. We introduce the set $\tilde{\mathfrak{G}}_n^{simpl}$ consisting in functions $f \in \tilde{\mathcal{C}}_G$ such that any equilibrium point e of (1.1) satisfying $e \in \bar{B}_X(0, n)$ is simple. Arguing as in the proof of Proposition 3.1, we show that $\tilde{\mathfrak{G}}_n^{simpl}$ is open in $\tilde{\mathcal{C}}_G$. To be able to use Theorem 2.2, we introduce the space Λ of admissible vector fields $g \in \mathcal{C}_G$ being compactly supported in $\bar{B}_X(0, n+1)$. Notice that Λ is a Banach space endowed with the classical strong \mathcal{C}^1 -topology. Then, we set $\mathcal{M} = B_X(0, n+1)$, $\mathcal{N} = \mathbb{R}^d$, $y = 0 \in \mathbb{R}^d$ and

$$\Phi : (x, g) \in \mathcal{M} \times \Lambda \longmapsto (f + g)(x) \in \mathbb{R}^d .$$

Using the same arguments as in the proof of Proposition 3.1, we show that there exists a generic set of \mathcal{C}_G such that any equilibrium e of (1.1) with $\|e\| < n+1$ is simple. Then notice that, if g is close to zero in Λ , then $f + g$ is close to f in $\tilde{\mathcal{C}}_G$. As a consequence, we can perturb f such that any equilibrium e of (1.1) with $\|e\| < n+1$ is simple, and a fortiori this shows that $\tilde{\mathfrak{G}}_n^{simpl}$ is dense. Finally $\tilde{\mathfrak{G}}^{simpl} = \bigcap_n \tilde{\mathfrak{G}}_n^{simpl}$ is a generic subset of $\tilde{\mathcal{C}}_G$. \square

General manifolds.

Assume that for each cell i , X_i is a compact \mathcal{C}^2 -manifold of dimension d_i .

The first problem occurs when one would like to define a network with a graph which is not self-dependent. Indeed, it may be abusive to assume that a vector field $f_i(x)$ in a cell i does not depend on x_i since $f_i(x) \in T_{x_i}X_i$. In fact, to define a vector field f_i which is independent of i , one has to be able to introduce a notion of constant vector fields on X_i . In the cases of $X_i = \mathbb{T}^{d_i}$ or of $X_i = \mathbb{R}^{d_i}$ as above, we have identified each $T_{x_i}X_i$ to \mathbb{R}^{d_i} ,

which enables us to define a notion of constant vector field (even if we have not explicitly mentioned this, the concept is natural). If X_i is a $2n$ -dimensional sphere, then any concept of constant vector field will be irrelevant since any continuous vector field must vanish. A suitable notion of constant vector fields would be to assume that X_i is a parallelizable manifold, i.e. that there exist d_i vector fields ξ_1, \dots, ξ_{d_i} such that for each $x_i \in X_i$, $(\xi_k(x_i))$ is a basis of $T_{x_i}X_i$, and then to define constant vector fields as linear combinations of the ξ_k . The spaces \mathbb{R}^{d_i} , the tori, the sphere S^3 and their products are parallelizable manifolds. However, except these ones, there is no other natural examples. For this reason, if one deals with general manifolds, it is natural to assume that the graph G is self-dependent.

Except for the problem of self-dependency, our results can be extended to general compact manifolds.

Claim 6.2. *Assume that each X_i is a compact \mathcal{C}^2 -manifold and assume that G is a self-dependent graph. Then, Theorems 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4 hold.*

Sketch of proof: When trying to repeat the proofs of these theorems in the framework of general manifolds, the main difficulty is to deal with global abstract setting for manifolds. The following questions arise. How to define abstractly and properly the Banach manifold of \mathcal{C}^1 -paths on X ? How to check the surjectivity of a functional $D\Phi$, whose image is now included in the space $T(TX)$? A simple way to overcome these difficulties is to work in local coordinates. We consider the canonical product manifold structure for $X = X_1 \times \dots \times X_N$. In this way the charts are not mixing the coordinates of the different cells of the network. Let us simply give an example of how we have to modify our propositions. The statement of Proposition 3.3 becomes

Let i and j be two cells such that j is a direct input of i . Let $\tau > 0$ be given and let (U, α) be a chart of an atlas \mathcal{U} . Let $\mathfrak{G}_{i,j,\tau,U}^{eq}$ be the set of all the admissible vector fields $f \in \mathcal{C}_G$ such that, if $x(t)$ is a solution of (1.1) such that $x_i(t)$ belongs to U for all $t \in [0, \tau]$ and is constant on this interval, then $x_j(t)$ is also constant on $[0, \tau]$. Then, $\mathfrak{G}_{i,j,\tau,U}^{eq}$ is a generic subset of \mathcal{C}_G .

The proof is the same as the one of Proposition 3.3, except that we now work in the local chart U and consider the space

$$\mathcal{M} = \{ \gamma \in \mathcal{C}^1([0, \tau], \alpha(U)), \gamma_i(t) \text{ is constant and } \gamma_j(t) \text{ is not constant} \}$$

and the function

$$\Phi(\gamma, f) = \frac{d}{dt} \gamma(t) - D\alpha(\alpha^{-1}(\gamma(t))).f(\alpha^{-1}(\gamma(t))) .$$

Since the manifolds X_i are covered by a finite number of charts, we recover our global results by intersecting the sets $\mathfrak{G}_{i,j,\tau,U}^{eq}$, which have been locally obtained. \square

Of course, we could even state our results in the framework of non-compact general manifolds by mixing Claims 6.1 and 6.2.

Prevalent results.

In this paper, we used the genericity to give a meaning to the notion of “almost everywhere”. It is noteworthy that it is not the only notion of “almost everywhere” in Banach spaces. Except the habits, there is no real reason to give more importance to genericity in comparison to other natural notions of “almost everywhere”. In particular, the prevalence has recently attracted much attention.

Let X be a Banach space. Christensen in [3] introduced the notion of Haar-nul set: a Borel set B of X is said *Haar-nul* if there exists a finite non-negative measure $\mu \neq 0$ with compact support such that for all $x \in X$, $\mu(x + B) = 0$. More generally, any set $B \subset X$ is said Haar-nul if it is contained in a Haar-nul Borel set. Let U be an open subset of X . A set $P \subset U$ is said *prevalent* in U if $U \setminus P$ is a Haar-nul set of X . The notion of prevalence first appeared in the work of Hunt, Sauer and Yorke [9], where it is proved that prevalent sets are dense and that a countable intersection of prevalent sets is prevalent. It is interesting to see that, in finite-dimensional spaces, prevalent sets are exactly the sets of full Lebesgue measure (see [9]). We refer to [11] for a review on prevalence.

We proved in [10] that, if Λ is an open subset of a Banach space, then in the transversality theorems, Theorems 2.2 and 2.4, the set \mathfrak{G} is not only generic but also prevalent. Thus, we obtain the following generalisation of our main results.

Claim 6.3. *Any generic subset appearing in Theorems 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4, as well as in the other results of this paper, is not only a generic subset of \mathcal{C}_G but also a prevalent subset.*

The discrete-time case: cellular automata.

Instead of considering the time-continuous dynamical system generated by the ODE (1.1), we could also study the discrete-time model

$$x^0 \in X, \quad x^{n+1} = f(x^n) \quad f \in \mathcal{C}_G. \quad (6.1)$$

The discrete-time model is also meaningful for applications. If the cells form a grid and if the direct inputs are exactly the neighbouring cells of each cell, then we get a usual cellular automaton. The observation problems stated in this paper are obviously transposed into the discrete-time model.

Claim 6.4. *Let G be a given graph. There exists a time $K \in \mathbb{N}$ depending on G and the dimension d of the phase space X such that:*

- *Theorem 1.4 holds,*
- *Theorem 1.2 holds as soon as the time interval (a, b) satisfies $b - a \geq K$,*
- *Theorem 1.3 holds as soon as $b - a \geq K$ and $\tau \geq K$.*

Sketch of proof: In the continuous-time model, as soon as we have considered a non-constant trajectory in some interval of times, we get an infinite-dimensional space of freedom, as one can see in the proof of Proposition 3.3 for example. There, we may have used Theorem 2.4 with Z infinite-dimensional in Hypothesis (ii). The difficulty with the discrete-time model is that this is no longer possible. Exactly as in the proof of Proposition 3.4, we have to be careful in counting the dimension. By using techniques similar to the ones of Proposition 3.4, we can however adapt the results of this paper into the frame of the discrete-time model (6.1). The time K is basically equal to dD where d is the dimension of X and D is the diameter of the graph, i.e. the larger distance between one cell and one of its indirect inputs. \square

Generic hyperbolicity of equilibrium points.

In Proposition 3.1, we proved the generic simplicity of equilibrium points. We could wish to go further by proving the generic hyperbolicity of equilibrium points. We recall that an equilibrium e is hyperbolic if $Df(e)$ has no spectrum on the vertical line $i\mathbb{R}$. The hyperbolicity of an equilibrium point e implies that the flow near e is qualitatively the same as the one of the linear equation $\dot{x}(t) = Df(e).x(t)$, see [12]. In classical ODEs, the hyperbolicity of equilibrium points is generic. However, it is not always the case in coupled cell networks. Indeed, consider the simple counter-example (3.1) with $X_1 = X_2 = \mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z}$. It is not difficult to construct f such that there exists an equilibrium $e = (e_1, e_2)$, which is simple and satisfies $f'_1(e_2)f'_2(e_1) < 0$. Notice that the existence of such an equilibrium holds in a small neighbourhood of f . Since

$$Df(e) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & f'_1(e_2) \\ f'_2(e_1) & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

has $\pm i\sqrt{|f'_1(e_2)f'_2(e_1)|}$ for eigenvalues, such an equilibrium is never hyperbolic.

Fortunately, we can at least show the generic hyperbolicity of equilibrium points in the meaningful case of self-dependent graph.

Claim 6.5. *Assume that G is a self-dependent graph. Then, there exists an open dense set \mathfrak{G}^{hyp} of \mathcal{C}_G such that for any $f \in \mathfrak{G}^{hyp}$, all the equilibrium points of (1.1) are hyperbolic.*

Sketch of proof: We recall that a simple (resp. hyperbolic) equilibrium depends smoothly of f and remains simple (resp. hyperbolic) for small perturbations of f . Thus, the set \mathfrak{G}^{hyp} is open and it remains to prove its density. Let $f \in \mathcal{C}_G$. Up to perturb it, we can assume that f belongs to \mathfrak{G}^{simpl} , the open dense set of Proposition 3.1. Then, there is at most a finite number of equilibrium points of (1.1). It is sufficient to understand how to make a simple equilibrium point e hyperbolic by perturbing f , since then we can apply several times the same type of perturbations to make, one by one, all the equilibria of f hyperbolic. Notice that, if e is a simple equilibrium, then e is an hyperbolic equilibrium of (1.1)

for \tilde{f} being close to f and satisfying $\tilde{f}(e) = f(e) = 0$ and $D\tilde{f} = Df + \varepsilon Id$. The final central argument is that such a perturbation of f , consisting in perturbing the differential by a homothety, is possible in the class \mathcal{C}_G of admissible vector fields if and only if G is self-dependent. \square

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