# Simulating the Evolution of Regulatory Networks 

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(1) Regulatory networks

## (2) Simulated evolution

(3) Rare events

## Regulatory networks



## Artificial life is difficult

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## So I made a toy

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## Agents, their job, \& their brains



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$A[8] \geq 1 \Rightarrow \operatorname{inc} A[3], \operatorname{dec} A[5]$

## (1) Regulatory networks

## (2) Simulated evolution

## Selection-mutation processes



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## Punctuated equilibrium



## Perfect solution



## Time for last innovation



## (1) Regulatory networks

## (2) Simulated evolution

## (3) Rare events

## Waiting for a rare event

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## Waiting for a rare event

- Time steps $t=0,1,2, \ldots$
- All independent
- Waiting for a rare event
- $q=$ probability that it happens each time step
- $q$ is small, think $1 / 100$
- When does it first happen?


## Waiting for a rare event

- $\mathbf{P}($ happens at this step $)=q$


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- $\mathbf{P}($ first happens at $t=2)=$ ?


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- $\mathbf{P}($ first happens at $t=2)=(1-q)^{2} q$


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- $\mathbf{P}($ first happens at $t=1)=(1-q) q$
- $\mathbf{P}($ first happens at $t=2)=(1-q)^{2} q$
- $\mathbf{P}($ first happens at $t)=(1-q)^{t} q$
- Doesn't happen on steps $0,1, \ldots t-1$
- Does happen on step $t$


## Geometric distribution

$$
\begin{aligned}
& f(t)=\mathbf{P}(\text { first happens at } t) \\
& f(t)=(1-q)^{t} q
\end{aligned}
$$



## Geometric distribution

$$
\begin{aligned}
f(t) & =(1-q)^{t} q \\
\ln (f(t)) & =\ln \left((1-q)^{t} q\right)=t \ln (1-q)+\ln (q)
\end{aligned}
$$



## Time for last innovation




## Conclusion

- Distribution of time for last innovation isn't geometric
- Biased toward smaller times
- More likely to happen shortly after next-to-last innovation
- Some kind of memory effect?


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