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Article

Keywords: Reservoir computing, implementations of RC, reduce reservoir size, edge computing

Posted Date: July 15th, 2020

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.21203/rs.3.rs-40208/v1>

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Model-Size Reduction for Reservoir Computing by Concatenating Internal States Through Time

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July 6, 2020

Abstract

Reservoir computing (RC) is a machine learning algorithm that can learn complex time series from data very rapidly based on the use of high-dimensional dynamical systems, such as random networks of neurons, called “reservoirs.” To implement RC in edge computing, it is highly important to reduce the amount of computational resources that RC requires. In this study, we propose methods that reduce the size of the reservoir by inputting the past or drifting states of the reservoir to the output layer at the current time step. To elucidate the mechanism of model-size reduction, the proposed methods are analyzed based on information processing capacity proposed by Dambre *et al.* (2012). In addition, we evaluate the effectiveness of the proposed methods on time-series prediction tasks: the generalized Hénon-map and NARMA. On these tasks, we found that the proposed methods were able to reduce the size of the reservoir up to one tenth without a substantial increase in regression error.

Efficiently processing time-series data is important for various tasks, such as time-series forecasting, anomaly detection, natural language processing, and system control. Recently, machine-learning approaches for these tasks have attracted much attention of researchers and engineers because they not only require little domain knowledge but also often perform better than traditional approaches. In particular, machine-learning models that employ recurrent neural networks, such as long short-term memory, have achieved great success in natural language processing and speech recognition [1], and their fields of applications continue to expand. However, the standard learning algorithms for recurrent neural networks, which include backpropagation through time [2] and its variants [3], require large computational resources. These computational burdens often hinder real-world applications, especially when computing is performed near end users. Such computing is called “edge computing,” and characterized by limited computational power and limited battery capacity.

Reservoir computing (RC) is a machine-learning algorithm that aims to reduce the computational resources required for predicting time series without reducing accuracy. As shown in Fig. 1, a typical RC consists of three parts: an input layer, a “reservoir” layer where neurons are randomly connected, and an output layer [4, 5]. Because only the weights between the reservoir layer and the output layer are trained while the other weights remain fixed, the learning process of RC is much faster than that of backpropagation through time [6, 7, 8]. Therefore, RC is expected to be a lightweight machine-learning algorithm that enables machine learning in edge computing [9].

The RC training is fast and accurate. In addition, RC has shown high performance on various time-series forecasting tasks; examples include chaotic time-series [10, 11, 12], weather [13], wind-power generation [14],

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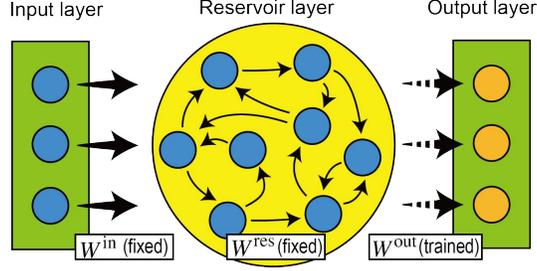


Figure 1: **Typical RC architecture.** The reservoir layer consists of randomly connected neurons. The connections between the input and reservoir layer W^{in} and connections within the reservoir layer W^{res} are fixed (solid arrows), whereas the output weights W^{out} are trained (dashed arrows).

42 and finance [15]. Moreover, the range of applications of RC has extended into control engineering [16, 17]
 43 and video processing [18, 19, 20].

44 To develop the applications of RC in edge computing, its hardware implementation must be improved to
 45 enhance its computational speed and energy efficiency. For realizing such efficient hardware implementation,
 46 variants of RC models, some of which employ delay-feedback systems [21], simple network topologies such as
 47 ring-topology and delay lines [22, 23, 24], and billiard systems [25], have been proposed. Efficient hardware
 48 based on these variants have been implemented using field programmable integrated circuits (FPGAs) [26,
 49 27, 28, 29]. Moreover, numerous types of implementation employing physical systems, such as photonics
 50 [30, 31, 32], spintronics [33], mechanical oscillators [34], and analog integrated electronic circuits [35, 36],
 51 have been demonstrated [37]. Although these implementations have exhibited the superiority of RC in
 52 computational speed and energy efficiency, the maximum size of the reservoir and, in turn, the forecasting
 53 accuracy, is limited by the physical size of the hardware.

54 In this study, we propose three methods that reduce the size of the reservoir without any performance
 55 impairment. The three methods share the concept that the number of the effective dimension of the reservoir
 56 is increased by allowing additional connections from the reservoir layer at multiple time steps to the output
 57 layer at the current time step. We analyze the mechanism of the proposed methods based on the *information*
 58 *processing capacity* (IPC) proposed by Dambre *et al.* [38]. We also demonstrate how the proposed methods
 59 reduce the size of the reservoir in the generalized Hénon-map and NARMA tasks.

60 Results

61 RC framework.

62 In the mathematical representation of RC, four vector variables are defined as follows: $\mathbf{u}(t) \in \mathbb{R}^{N^{\text{in}}}$ for the
 63 inputs, $\mathbf{x}(t) \in \mathbb{R}^{N^{\text{res}}}$ for the states of the reservoir, $\mathbf{y}(t) \in \mathbb{R}^{N^{\text{out}}}$ for the outputs, and $\mathbf{y}^{\text{tc}}(t) \in \mathbb{R}^{N^{\text{out}}}$ for the
 64 teaching signals. The constants N^{in} , N^{res} , and N^{out} are the dimensions of the inputs, states of the reservoir,
 65 and outputs, respectively. The updates of the reservoir states are given by

$$\mathbf{x}(t) = \tanh(W^{\text{res}}\mathbf{x}(t-1) + W^{\text{in}}\mathbf{u}(t)), \quad (1)$$

66 where $W^{\text{in}} \in \mathbb{R}^{N^{\text{res}} \times N^{\text{in}}}$ is a weight matrix representing the connections from the neurons in the input layer
 67 to those in the reservoir layer. Its elements are independently drawn from uniform distribution $U(-\rho^{\text{in}}, \rho^{\text{in}})$,
 68 where ρ^{in} is a positive constant. Another weight matrix $W^{\text{res}} \in \mathbb{R}^{N^{\text{res}} \times N^{\text{res}}}$ represents the connections among
 69 the neurons in the reservoir layer. Its elements are initialized by drawing values from uniform distribution
 70 $U(-1, 1)$ and subsequently divided by a positive value to ensure that the spectral radius of W^{res} is ρ^{res} . Note
 71 that elements in matrices W^{in} and W^{res} are fixed to the initialized values. The outputs are obtained by

$$\mathbf{y}(t) = W^{\text{out}}\mathbf{x}(t), \quad (2)$$

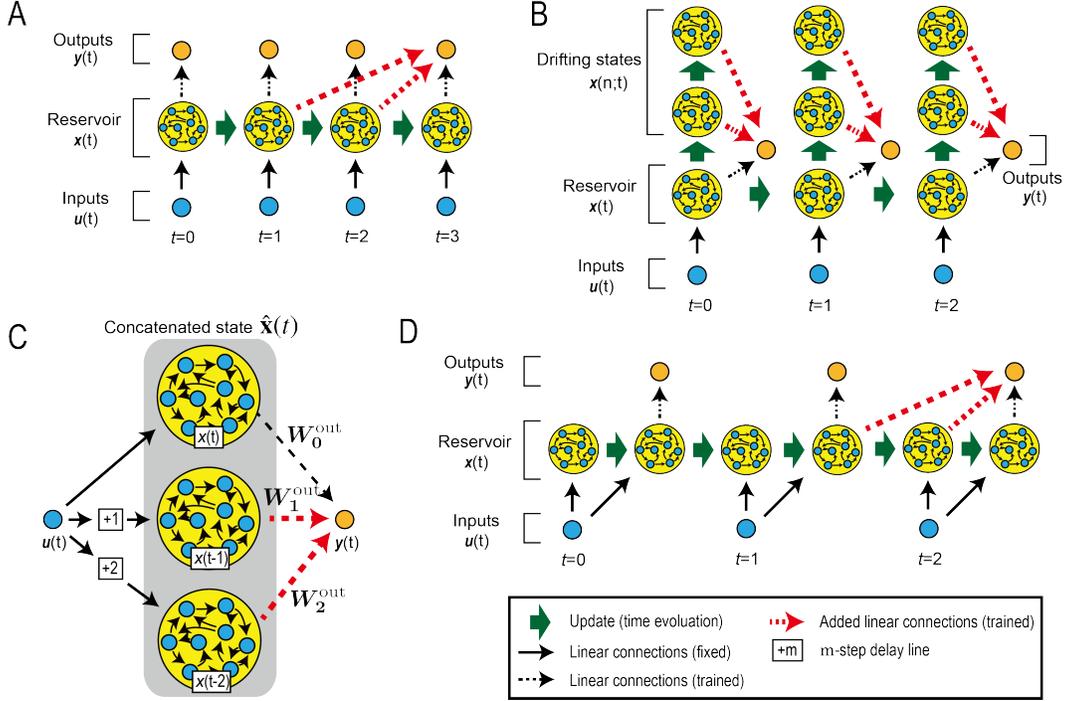


Figure 2: **Schematics of the proposed methods.** A. Delay-state concatenation when the number of additional connections P is two and the unit of delay Q is one. B. Drift-state concatenation when P is two and Q is one. C. Another view of delay-state concatenation. The reservoir consists of three identical dynamical systems and delay lines. The added dynamical systems have $+1$ delay lines and $+2$ delay lines, respectively. D. Delay-state concatenation with one transient state when P is two and Q is one.

72 where $W^{\text{out}} \in \mathbb{R}^{N^{\text{out}} \times N^{\text{res}}}$ is a weight matrix representing connections from the neurons in the reservoir layer
 73 to those in the output layer. The output weight matrix W^{out} is trained in the offline learning process of RC
 74 by using the pseudoinverse (see Methods sections).

75 Proposed methods.

76 We propose three methods that modify the connections between the reservoir and output layers. We call these
 77 three methods (i) *delay-state concatenation*, (ii) *drift-state concatenation*, and (iii) *delay-state concatenation*
 78 *with transient states*. These methods share the idea that the number of the effective dimension of the
 79 reservoir is increased by allowing additional connections from the reservoir layer at multiple time steps to
 80 the output layer at the current time step. For the delay-state concatenation and delay-state concatenation
 81 with transient states, additional connections are formed from the past states of the reservoir layer to the
 82 current output layer, as illustrated in Figs. 2 A and D. On the other hand, for the drift-state concatenation,
 83 additional connections are formed from newly introduced states of the reservoir, called drifting states, to the
 84 current output layer, as illustrated in Fig. 2 B. The drifting states are obtained by updating the current
 85 states of the reservoir layer without input signals. In what follows, we mathematically formulate these three
 86 proposed methods.

87 First, we formulate the delay-state concatenation with concatenated states of the reservoir given by

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}(t) := \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{x}(t) \\ \mathbf{x}(t-Q) \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{x}(t-PQ) \end{pmatrix}. \quad (3)$$

88 Note that $\mathbf{x}(t)$ is a column vector and the number of neurons in the reservoir does not change. A positive
 89 integer Q represents the unit of delays. Another positive integer P represents the number of past states that
 90 are concatenated to the current states. The outputs are obtained with the concatenated states $\hat{\mathbf{x}}(t)$ and the
 91 corresponding output-weight matrix \hat{W}^{out} as follows:

$$\hat{W}^{\text{out}} := (W_0^{\text{out}} \ W_1^{\text{out}} \ \dots \ W_P^{\text{out}}), \quad (4)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{y}(t) &= \sum_{i=0}^P W_i^{\text{out}} \mathbf{x}(t - iQ) \\ &= \hat{W}^{\text{out}} \hat{\mathbf{x}}(t). \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

92 Here, $\hat{\mathbf{x}}(t)$ and \hat{W}^{out} are defined in $\mathbb{R}^{(P+1)N^{\text{res}}}$ and $\mathbb{R}^{N^{\text{out}} \times (P+1)N^{\text{res}}}$, respectively. Figure 2 A shows a
 93 schematic of this method illustrating the prediction of $\mathbf{y}(3)$ when $Q = 1$ and $P = 2$. One can see that
 94 there are additional connections from the past states of the reservoirs $\mathbf{x}(1)$ and $\mathbf{x}(2)$ to output $\mathbf{y}(3)$, as
 95 indicated by red dashed arrows. From a different point of view, this model can be illustrated using the
 96 concatenated states of the reservoir $\hat{\mathbf{x}}(t)$, as in Fig. 2 C, where the reservoir consists of three identical
 97 smaller reservoirs, each with a different time delay of 0, 1, and 2 from the inputs. Evidently, the effective
 98 dimension of the concatenated reservoir is three times larger than that of the original reservoir. Because
 99 the learning performance is enhanced by using a larger reservoir [7], the proposed method should be able to
 100 increase the computing capability without needing to add neurons in the reservoir.

101 Second, we formulate drift-state concatenation, as illustrated in Fig. 2 B by introducing the drifting
 102 states of the reservoir given by

$$\mathbf{x}^{\text{drift}}(t'; t) = \begin{cases} \tanh(W^{\text{drift}} \mathbf{x}(t)), & (\text{if } t' = 1), \\ \tanh(W^{\text{drift}} \mathbf{x}^{\text{drift}}(t' - 1; t)), & (\text{if } t' \geq 2), \end{cases} \quad (6)$$

103 where $\mathbf{x}^{\text{drift}}(t'; t)$ represents the drifting states of the reservoir and t' is the time step after the current time
 104 step t . Using the drifting states, we redefine the concatenated states of the reservoir and the corresponding
 105 output matrix as follows:

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}(t) := \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{x}(t) \\ \mathbf{x}^{\text{drift}}(1; t) \\ \mathbf{x}^{\text{drift}}(2; t) \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{x}^{\text{drift}}(P; t) \end{pmatrix}, \quad (7)$$

$$\hat{W}^{\text{out}} := (W_0^{\text{out}} \ W_1^{\text{out}} \ \dots \ W_P^{\text{out}}), \quad (8)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{y}(t) &= W_0^{\text{out}} \mathbf{x}(t) + \sum_{i=1}^P W_i^{\text{out}} \mathbf{x}^{\text{drift}}(i; t) \\ &= \hat{W}^{\text{out}} \hat{\mathbf{x}}(t). \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

106 Here, W^{drift} is a matrix representing the connections within the reservoir to obtain the drifting states,
 107 and its elements are drawn from uniform distribution $U(-1, 1)$ divided by a positive value to ensure that
 108 the spectral radius of W^{drift} is ρ^{drift} .

109 Third, delay-state concatenation with transient states introduces transient states to the delay-state con-
 110 catenation, as illustrated in Fig. 2 D where the states of the reservoir update twice (so it has one transient
 111 state) during the inputs and the outputs update once (see Methods section).

112 Although we have shown that the proposed methods can increase the effective dimension of the reservoir
 113 without adding neurons, one potential drawback of the methods is the cost of the memory required to
 114 store the past reservoir states. Delay-state concatenation is very memory efficient. To carry out RC with
 115 delay-state concatenation, the terms

$$W_0^{\text{out}} \mathbf{x}(t), \ W_1^{\text{out}} \mathbf{x}(t), \dots, \text{ and } W_P^{\text{out}} \mathbf{x}(t) \quad (10)$$

116 are computed and stored in memory at time step t . The dimensions of these vectors are all N^{out} . The vector
 117 $W_i^{\text{out}}\mathbf{x}(t)$ must be stored until they are used for calculating the outputs at time steps $t+iQ$. Therefore, the
 118 total memory cost is obtained as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} & N^{\text{out}} + (Q+1)N^{\text{out}} + (2Q+1)N^{\text{out}} + \dots + (PQ+1)N^{\text{out}} \\ &= \frac{(P+1)(PQ+2)N^{\text{out}}}{2}. \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

119 It should be noted that this method increases the effective dimension of the reservoir state by a factor of
 120 $(P+1)$, but the number of the neurons in the reservoir is not increased. If the number of neurons is increased
 121 by $(P+1)$ times, the additional memory cost to store the reservoir states becomes PN^{res} . For moderate
 122 numbers of P and Q (typically less than 5), the memory cost for the proposed method given by Eq. 11 is
 123 much less than PN^{res} because $N^{\text{out}} \ll N^{\text{res}}$ for typical RC applications. The memory required to store the
 124 weights within the reservoir is also reduced from $(PN^{\text{res}})^2 + PN^{\text{out}}$ to $(N^{\text{res}})^2 + PN^{\text{res}}N^{\text{out}}$ in the same way
 125 given that the reservoir is fully connected. Therefore, delay-state concatenation can increase the dimensions
 126 of the reservoir more efficiently than by simply increasing the number of neurons in the reservoir.

127 Quantitative analysis based on IPC.

128 Before benchmarking the proposed RC, we quantitatively analyze the learning capacity of the RC to elucidate
 129 how the proposed methods work.

130 The *memory capacity* (MC) is a performance measure commonly used in the RC research community
 131 [39]. The MC represents how precisely the RC system can reproduce the past inputs. A number of studies
 132 have shown that the MC is theoretically bounded by the number of neurons in the reservoir, and the MC
 133 can reach this bound in some situations [40, 23, 24]. Boedecker *et al.* [41] evaluated the MC at the edge of
 134 chaos, which is a region in the model parameter space where RC is stable but near to unstable. Farkaš *et*
 135 *al.* [42] have evaluated the MC for various model parameters. Ganguli *et al.* [43] extended the concept of
 136 MC using Fischer information. However, the MC does not evaluate how well RC processes information in a
 137 nonlinear way. Because many tasks in the real world targeted by RC are nonlinear problems, the MC is not
 138 a suitable measure for analyzing the proposed methods in this sense. Therefore, to elucidate the mechanism
 139 of the methods proposed in this study, we employed another criterion [38] called the information processing
 140 capacity (IPC), which handles nonlinear tasks.

141 The IPC is a measure that integrates both memory and information processing performance. By employ-
 142 ing an orthogonal basis set that spans the Hilbert space, one IPC can be obtained from one corresponding
 143 basis. The IPC can be interpreted as a quantity that represents not only how well the network can memorize
 144 past inputs but also how precisely the network can convert inputs into the target outputs in a nonlinear
 145 manner given the basis set. Dambre *et al.* [38] showed that the total IPC C^{total} , which is a sum of all
 146 IPCs, is identical to the number of neurons in the reservoir, provided (I) the inputs are independent and
 147 identically distributed (*i.i.d.*), (II) the fading memory condition is satisfied, and (III) all the neurons are
 148 linearly independent (see Theorem 7 and its proof in [38]). By analyzing the IPCs, one can obtain a large
 149 amount of information about how RC processes input data. For example, the degree of nonlinearity of the
 150 information processing carried out in RC can be analyzed by calculating multi-order IPCs. The k th-order
 151 IPC $C^{k\text{th}}$ is defined as the sum of the IPCs corresponding to the subset of a basis with k th-order nonlinearity.
 152 Based on the IPC, informative results such as the memory–nonlinearity tradeoff have been obtained [38].
 153 Therefore, using the IPC, we can analyze how RC stores and processes information in the reservoir as well
 154 as how the proposed methods affect the way information is processed.

155 We calculated the IPCs for the standard RC and for RC with the proposed methods (see Methods
 156 section). Figure 3 shows the IPCs when $N^{\text{res}} = 12$ and $N^{\text{res}} = 24$ for various values of ρ^{in} and ρ^{res} . Note
 157 that only odd-order IPCs were observed because of the symmetry. In each setting, we calculated the IPCs
 158 for the standard RC (left columns), those for the RC with delay-state concatenation with $P = Q = 1$ (center
 159 columns), and those for the RC with drift-state concatenation with $P = Q = 1$ (right columns). One can
 160 find that the value of $C^{\text{total}}/(P+1)$ almost reaches the number of neurons N^{res} in reservoir except when
 161 $\rho^{\text{res}} = 1.05$. This result indicates that the proposed methods actually increase the total IPC by $(P+1)$
 162 times. The observed lower values of the total IPCs for the case of $\rho^{\text{res}} = 1.05$ can be attributed to the
 163 failure-of-fading-memory condition. In the RC research community, it is well known that the dynamics of

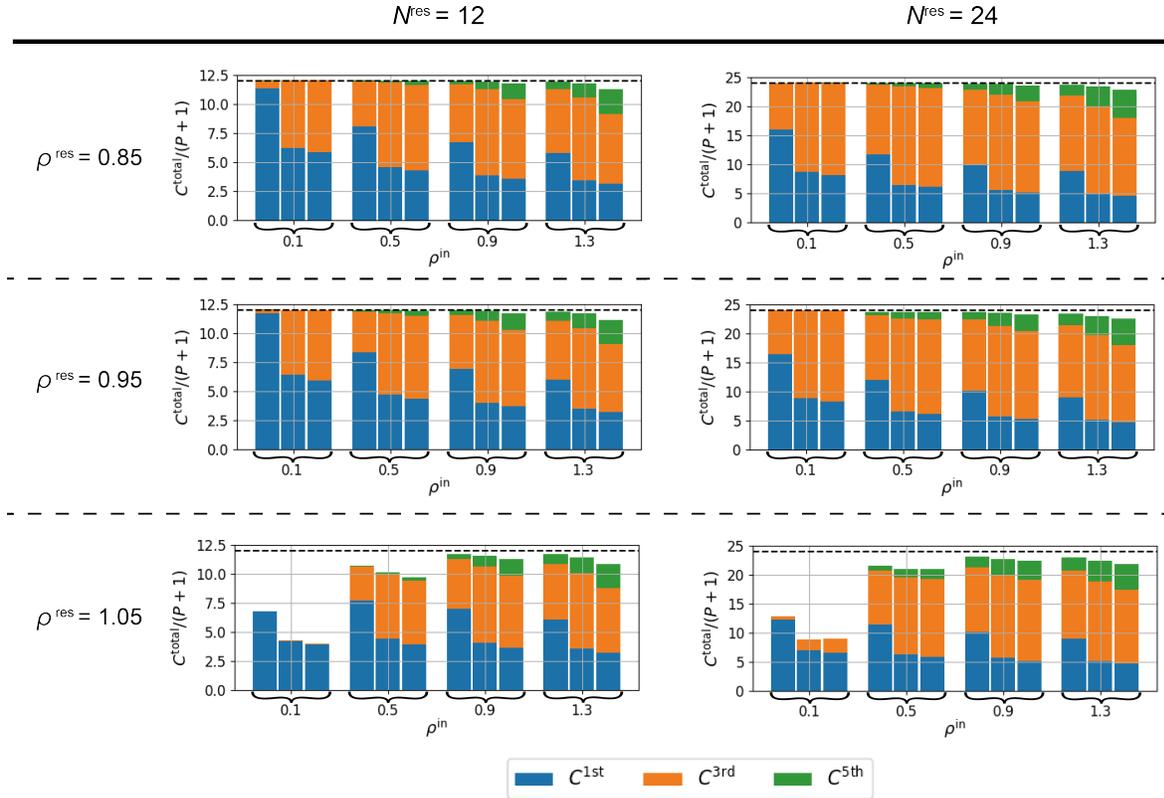


Figure 3: **Analysis of information processing capacities (IPCs)**. IPCs of standard RC and RC with the proposed methods for various values of input weight strength ρ^{in} and spectral radius ρ^{res} . The left and right panels show the results for $N^{\text{res}} = 12$ and $N^{\text{res}} = 24$, respectively. The dashed horizontal line within each subgraph represents the value of N^{res} . For each value of ρ^{in} , the left column presents the standard RC with $P = 0$, the center column presents delay-state concatenation with $P = Q = 1$, and the right column presents drift-state concatenation with $P = Q = 1$.

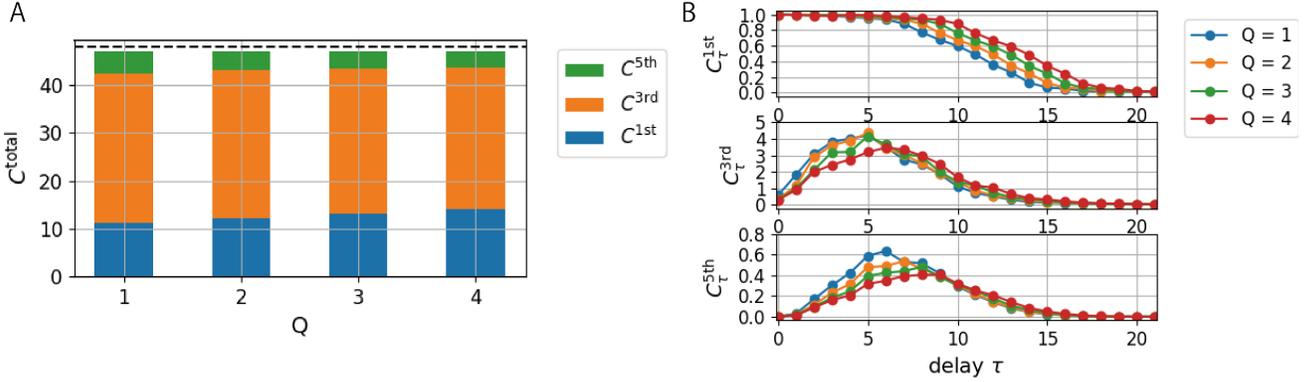


Figure 4: **Q -dependence of IPCs.** (A) IPCs of the RC with delay-state concatenation for various values of Q . (B) Delay structures of the IPCs for various values of Q . From top to bottom, the first-, third-, and fifth-order IPCs are shown. The parameters are set as follows: $N^{\text{res}} = 24$, $\rho^{\text{in}} = 0.9$, $\rho^{\text{res}} = 0.95$, and $P = 1$.

RC is more likely to be chaotic when ρ^{res} increases (typically occurring when ρ^{res} is larger than 1) [44], and this corresponds to the failure of fading memory. For all cases, as ρ^{in} increases, the third-order IPC C^{3rd} and the fifth-order IPC C^{5th} tend to increase, which reflects the increase in nonlinearity in the reservoir [38] given the selected basis set. Note that as ρ^{in} increases, the total IPC C_{total} tends to decrease, which is attributed to increases in the importance of higher-order IPCs (e.g., seventh-order and ninth-order IPCs).

In Fig. 4 (A), we show the IPCs for delay-state concatenation with $P = 1$ for several values of the unit of delay Q . As Q increases, the first-order IPC increases as well. This result may be trivial because RC with large Q can access the past states of the reservoir, rendering the reproduction of the past inputs easy. To investigate the effects of the unit of delay Q on IPCs, we decomposed the k th-order IPC $C^{k\text{th}}$ into components in terms of their delay such as $C_0^{k\text{th}}$, $C_1^{k\text{th}}$, and $C_2^{k\text{th}}$, which correspond to a different subset of the basis. Figure 4 (b) shows the distributions of the delay components for four values of Q under the same experimental conditions. As the values of Q increase, the distribution tends to shift to the right (larger delays) for each order of IPC. This fact indicates that, as demonstrated in the subsequent section, one can tune RC models by adjusting the value of Q according to the delay structure of the target tasks.

Next, for various values of P , we show the IPCs in Fig. 5 (A) for delay-state concatenation, drift-state concatenation, and delay-state concatenation with one transient state. For all three proposed methods, the contributions of higher-order IPCs tend to be dominant in the total IPCs as P increases. In Fig. 5 (B), we show the delay structures of the IPCs. Note that to clarify how the distributions of the delay structure change as the value of P changes, we used the normalized IPC $C_{\tau}^{n\text{th}} / (P + 1) \sum_{\tau} C_{\tau}^{n\text{th}}$. The top panels in Fig. 5 (B) show that, as P increases, the distribution of the delay structure of the IPCs for delay-state concatenation tends to shift to the right (larger delays). Conversely, in the middle panels, the IPCs for drift-state concatenation do not change significantly. These results may be explained as follows: the increase in P for delay-state concatenation increases the memory of past inputs because of the additional connections from the past states of the reservoir, whereas the increase in P for drift-state concatenation does not increase the memory of the past inputs because drifting states are obtained from the current states of the reservoir. The bottom panels of this figure show that the distribution of IPCs for delay-state concatenation with one transient state tends to shift to larger delays as P increases. However, the delays in this distribution are smaller than the delays in the distribution obtained using delay-state concatenation. This difference may stem from the fact that the information of past states stored in the reservoir is more likely to be thrown away and to be replaced with that of more recent states in delay-state concatenation with one transient state because the RC model in this case carries out nonlinear transformation twice for each input (see Fig. 2 D).

Here, we present a short summary of the above experiments. We have numerically shown that the total IPCs divided by $P + 1$ are almost independent of the values of Q and P , which is consistent with the theory in Ref. [38]. Furthermore, we have found that the importance among IPC components and the delay structure

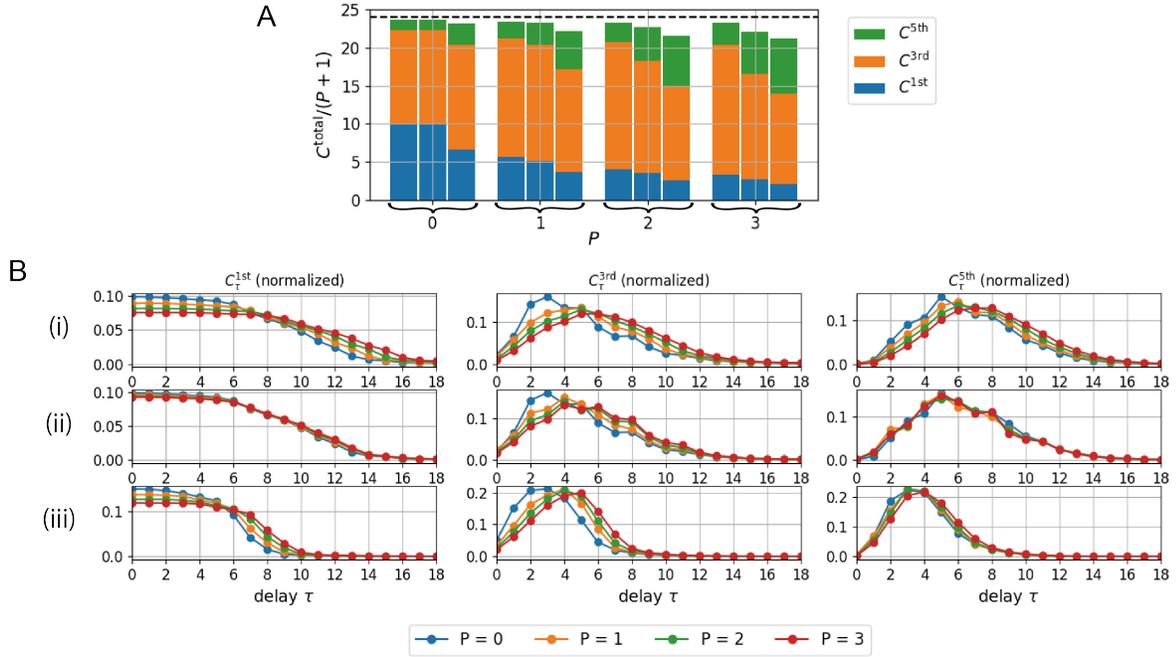


Figure 5: **P -dependence of IPCs.** (A) IPCs with the proposed methods for various values of P . Left columns: IPCs for delay-state concatenation, center columns: IPCs for drift-state concatenation, and right columns: IPCs for delay-state concatenation with one transient state. (B) Comparison of the delay structures of the IPCs for the three proposed methods. Top panels (i): delay structures for delay-state concatenation, middle panels (ii): delay structures for drift-state concatenation, and bottom panels (iii): delay structures for delay-state concatenation with one transient state. To highlight the difference in the distribution of the delay structures, the IPCs for each order are normalized. From left to right, the first-, third-, and fifth-order IPCs are shown. The parameters are set as follows: $N^{\text{res}} = 24$, $\rho^{\text{in}} = 0.9$, $\rho^{\text{res}} = 0.95$, and $Q = 1$.

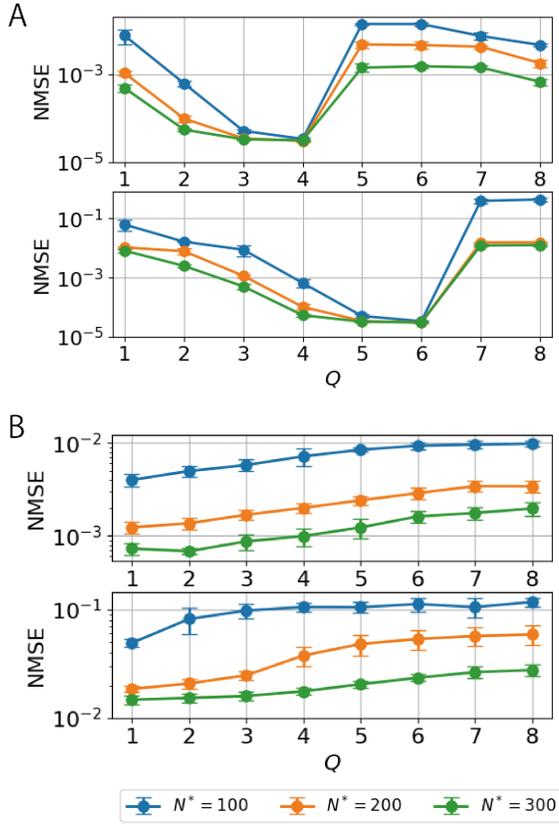


Figure 6: Q -dependence of the learning performance. (A) NMSE for a sixth-order Hénon-map task (the upper panel) and for an eighth-order Hénon-map task (the lower panel) for various values of Q with $P = 1$. (B) NMSE for NARMA5 (the upper panel) task and for NARMA10 (the lower panel) task for various values of Q with $P = 1$. Error bars show the standard deviation of the results of 10 trials.

198 of IPCs can be modified by selecting the values of Q and P . These findings indicate that the learning
 199 performance on real-world tasks may be enhanced by selecting appropriate values of Q and P adjusted to a
 200 target task with a specific temporal structure.

201 Effectiveness on Complex Data.

202 Although we have shown that the proposed methods can increase the IPCs efficiently, the conditions assumed
 203 above are not always guaranteed in real-world applications; for example, inputs may not be drawn from *i.i.d.*
 204 data, and neurons in the reservoir may not be linearly independent. Therefore, the IPCs are just a guide that
 205 help us understand the mechanisms of the proposed methods. In this section, to evaluate the effectiveness
 206 of the proposed methods on complex data, we applied them to two prediction tasks: generalized Hénon-map
 207 tasks and NARMA tasks (see Eq. 24 and Eq. 25 in Methods section). In the following experiments, the
 208 dimensions of the reservoir are approximately given by an integer N^* , and the actual number of neurons in
 209 the reservoir is given by $N^{\text{res}} = \lfloor N^*/(P + 1) \rfloor$, where $\lfloor m \rfloor := \max\{q \in \mathbb{Z} | q \leq m\}$. We optimized the model
 210 parameters, ρ^{in} , ρ^{res} , and ρ^{drift} with Bayesian optimization [45, 46].

211 We first investigated the effects of the value of Q in the delay-state concatenation method. Figure 6 (a)
 212 shows the normalized mean-squared errors (NMSEs) for the sixth-order and eighth-order Hénon-map tasks
 213 for various values of Q with $P = 1$. As the value of Q increases, the NMSE first decreases, but abruptly

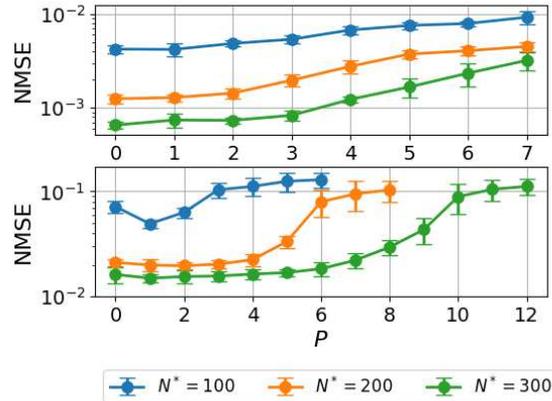


Figure 7: **P -dependence of the learning performance.** NMSEs for the NARMA5 (the top panel) and NARMA10 (the bottom panel) tasks with delay-state concatenation as functions of P for various values of N^* . Error bars show the standard deviation of the results of 10 trials.

214 increases when Q is larger than 4 in the sixth-order Hénon-map and larger than 6 in the eighth-order
 215 Hénon-map. Considering the fact that to predict the output, the m th-order Hénon-map has two informative
 216 inputs at the m th and $(m - 1)$ th previous steps, these increases in performance are reasonable because a
 217 RC system with the appropriate values of Q can possess the information needed from past inputs. We also
 218 note that similar results were obtained recently in [47]. In contrast, the NMSE monotonically increases as
 219 the value of Q increases for NARMA5 and NARMA10, as shown in Fig. 6 (b). These results imply that
 220 simply adjusting the value of Q is not effective for tasks such as NARMA5 and NARMA10 with complicated
 221 temporal structures.

222 We next investigated the effects of the value of P for the NARMA tasks in which adjusting the value of
 223 Q was not effective. Figure 7 shows the NMSE against the values of P for the NARMA5 task (the top panel)
 224 and NARMA10 task (the bottom panel) for three settings of N^* . Note that N^* is fixed as P is varied to
 225 ensure that the size of reservoir N^{res} reduces to approximately $1/(P + 1)$ times as P varies. We found that
 226 the NMSEs were almost constant up to specific values of P . For example, for the case of the NARMA10
 227 task with $N^* = 300$, the NMSE was almost constant up to $P = 5$, indicating that the number of neurons in
 228 the reservoir can be reduced from 300 to 50 without impairing performance.

229 Finally, we compared the proposed methods, delay-state concatenation with and without one transient
 230 state, and drift-state concatenation on the NARMA10 task. Figure 8 shows the NMSE as functions of
 231 P values with $N^* = 200$ and 300 for the proposed methods. We found that the NMSEs for delay-state
 232 concatenation with one transient state and drift-state concatenation were lower than those for delay-state
 233 concatenation when P was larger than 7. For the NARMA10 task, inputs more than 10 steps in the past are
 234 not very informative for predicting one step forward. The lack of information in the past steps may explain
 235 the increase in NMSE for delay-state concatenation when P is larger than 7. The observed lower NMSEs for
 236 delay-state concatenation with one transient state and drift-state concatenation are also reasonable because
 237 (I) the former method uses the past states of the reservoir, which contain more recent input information for
 238 the same value of P (see Fig. 2 D), and (II) the latter method uses the states of the reservoir, which contain
 239 current input information.

240 Discussion

241 In this study, we proposed three methods to reduce the size of an RC reservoir without impairing performance.

242 To elucidate the mechanism of the proposed methods, we analyzed the IPC. We found that the value

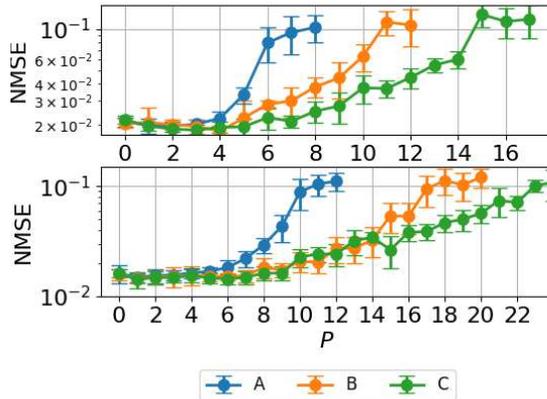


Figure 8: **Comparison of the proposed methods.** Results of regression performance on the NARMA10 task for various values of P with $N^* = 200$ (the top panel) and $N^* = 300$ (the bottom panel) for (A) delay-state concatenation, (B) delay-state concatenation with one transient state, and (C) drift-state concatenation. Error bars show the standard deviation of the results of 10 trials.

243 of the total IPCs almost reaches $N^{\text{res}}(P + 1)$ using the proposed methods, whereas the importance of their
 244 components (the first-, third-, and fifth-order IPCs) changes drastically. We also found that the delay
 245 structures of the IPCs depend on the value of Q and P . To investigate the applicability of the proposed
 246 methods on complex data, we presented the experimental results on generalized Hénon-map and NARMA
 247 tasks. We found that when the target task has a relatively simple temporal structure, as demonstrated
 248 with the Hénon-map tasks, selecting an appropriate value of Q enhances the performance substantially. In
 249 contrast, when the target task contains complex temporal structure, as demonstrated in the NARMA tasks,
 250 adjusting the value of Q does not enhance the performance. However, in those cases, we found that increasing
 251 the value of P can reduce the size of the reservoir without impairing performance. We have demonstrated
 252 that the number of neurons in the reservoir can be reduced by up to one tenth in the NMARMA10 task.

253 Here, we briefly note the relationship between our work and the most relevant previous work [47]. In
 254 [47], the authors proposed a method that is similar to delay-state concatenation. Their proposed model
 255 corresponds to the case when the number of additional connected past states is one (i.e., $P = 1$). They
 256 observed that performance enhancement depends on the value of Q , as we showed in this paper. However,
 257 to the best of our knowledge, the dependence of the performance on the value of P has not been reported.
 258 In addition, the other two proposed methods, drift-state concatenation and delay-state concatenation with
 259 transient states, are introduced for the first time in this paper. Moreover, the authors of [47] explained the
 260 mechanism of their proposed method in terms of the delayed embedding theorem [48]. In contrast, we have
 261 provided a more intuitive explanation based on the IPC [38].

262 Because the proposed methods do not assume a specific topology for the reservoir, they can readily be
 263 implemented in FPGAs and physical reservoir systems, such as photonic reservoirs [37]. Therefore, the
 264 proposed methods could be an important set of techniques that facilitates the introduction of RC in edge
 265 computing.

266 **Methods**

267 **Training output weights.**

268 The training procedures are the same as those for standard RC models [7]. The output weights are trained
269 by minimizing

$$\sum_{t=1}^T \|\mathbf{y}(t) - \mathbf{y}^{\text{tc}}(t)\|_2^2. \quad (12)$$

270 Adding a regularization term $\|\hat{W}^{\text{out}}\|_2^2$ did not improve the performance in our case.

271 **Delay-state concatenation with transient states.**

272 We inserted transient states in the RC system with delay-state concatenation as follows:

$$\mathbf{x}(t) = \tanh \left(W^{\text{res}} \mathbf{x}(t-1) + W^{\text{in}} \mathbf{u} \left(\left\lfloor \frac{t}{N^{\text{tran}} + 1} \right\rfloor \right) \right), \quad (13)$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}(t) = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{x}(t) \\ \mathbf{x}(t-Q) \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{x}(t-QP) \end{pmatrix}, \quad (14)$$

$$\mathbf{y}(t) = W^{\text{out}} \hat{\mathbf{x}}((N^{\text{tran}} + 1)t + N^{\text{tran}}), \quad (15)$$

273 where N^{tran} is the number of inserted transient states.

274 **IPC.**

275 Following the same procedure given in [38], the IPCs are calculated as follows: The total IPC is defined as

$$C^{\text{total}} = \sum_{\{d_i\}} C(\{d_i\}), \quad (16)$$

276 where C^{total} is the total IPC and $C(\{d_i\})$ is the IPC for a basis represented with a list $\{d_i\} = \{d_0, d_1, \dots\}$.
277 The list represents an orthogonal basis in Hilbert space. We employed the following Legendre polynomials
278 as the orthogonal basis:

$$y_{\{d_i\}}(t) = \prod_{i=0}^{\tau_{\text{max}}} P_{d_i}(u(t-i)), \quad (17)$$

279 where $P_{d_i}(\cdot)$ is the d_i th-order Legendre polynomial and $u(t)$ is drawn from uniform distribution on $[-1, 1]$.
280 A constant τ_{max} is the maximum delay, which must be large enough to converge the calculation. In our
281 simulations, we set τ_{max} to 50 for $\rho^{\text{in}} = 0.1$ and to 25, otherwise. Then, the IPC $C(\{d_i\})$ can be calculated
282 as

$$C(\{d_i\}) = 1 - \frac{\langle |y(t) - y_{\{d_i\}}(t)|^2 \rangle}{\langle |y(t) - \langle y(t) \rangle|^2 \rangle}, \quad (18)$$

283 where $\langle x(t) \rangle := \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T x(t)$. We set the simulation steps T to 10^6 in all experiments. To avoid overestima-
284 tion, the value of $C(\{d_i\})$ was set to zero when the value is less than threshold of $7N^{\text{res}}(P+1) \times 10^{-5}$.

285

We define the k th-order IPCs as

$$C^{k\text{th}} = \sum_{\{d_i\} \in \Gamma^k} C(\{d_i\}), \quad (19)$$

$$\Gamma^k = \left\{ \{d_i\} \left| \sum_{i=0}^{\tau_{\max}} d_i = k \right. \right\}. \quad (20)$$

286

The k th-order IPC was decomposed into components corresponding to a subset of a basis whose maximum delay is τ as follows:

287

$$C^{k\text{th}} = \sum_{\tau=0}^{\tau_{\max}} C_{\tau}^{k\text{th}}, \quad (21)$$

$$C_{\tau}^{k\text{th}} = \sum_{\{d_i\} \in \Gamma_{\tau}^k} C(X, \{d_i\}), \quad (22)$$

$$\Gamma_{\tau}^k = \left\{ \{d_i\} \left| \sum_{i=0}^{\tau_{\max}} d_i = k, \max\{i | d_i \geq 1\} = \tau \right. \right\}. \quad (23)$$

288

Dataset.

289

The m th-order generalized Hénon-map [49] is given by

$$y^{\text{tc}}(t) = 1.76 - y^{\text{tc}}(t - m + 1)^2 - 0.1y^{\text{tc}}(t - m) + \sigma(t) \quad (m \geq 2), \quad (24)$$

290

where σ is Gaussian noise with zero mean and standard deviation of 0.05. The inputs and outputs of the RC are the time series of an n -dimensional generalized Hénon-map. The task is to predict one step forward $y(t + 1)$ with past inputs $y(t), y(t - 1), \dots$. The NARMA time series is obtained with a nonlinear auto-regressive moving average as follows:

291

292

293

$$y^{\text{tc}}(t) = 0.3y^{\text{tc}}(t - 1) + 0.05y^{\text{tc}}(t - 1) \sum_{i=1}^m y^{\text{tc}}(t - i) + 1.5s(t - 9)s(t) + 0.1, \quad (25)$$

294

where $s(t)$ is drawn from uniform distribution of $[0, 0.5]$. The NARMA5 and NARMA10 time series correspond to the case when $m = 5$ and $m = 10$, respectively. The inputs of the RC are $s(t)$. The task is to predict $y(t)$ from the inputs $s(t)$.

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For both tasks, we used 2,000 steps as a training dataset and used 3,000 steps as a test dataset. We removed the first 200 steps (free run) both during the training and test phases to avoid the effects of the initial conditions in the reservoirs [7]. We evaluated the performance based on the normalized mean-squared error (NMSE) during the test phase following:

$$\text{NMSE} = \frac{\langle |y(t) - y^{\text{tc}}(t)|^2 \rangle}{\langle |y(t) - \langle y(t) \rangle|^2 \rangle}, \quad (26)$$

301

where $\langle x(t) \rangle = \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T x(t)$. We averaged the NMSEs over 10 trials. For each iteration, the dataset and connection matrix of the reservoir were generated using their corresponding probabilistic distributions.

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Data availability.

304

All data are generated with computer code.

305

Computer code.

306

Computer code is available from the corresponding author on request.

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424 Acknowledgment

425 The authors would like to thank Makoto Ikeda, Hiromitsu Awano, and Gouhei Tanaka for the fruitful
426 discussion. This work was partially supported by the “Brain-Morphic AI to Resolve Social Issues” project
427 at UTokyo, the NEC Corporation, and AMED (JP20dm0307009).

428 Author contributions

429 All the authors designed the research. Y.S performed all simulations, and all the authors confirmed the
430 theory. Further, they all wrote the paper.

⁴³¹ **Competing interests**

⁴³² Y.S., K.M., and K.A. have applied for a patent related to the proposed methods (Japanese Patent Application
⁴³³ No. 2019-206438). The remaining author has no conflict of interest to declare.

Figures

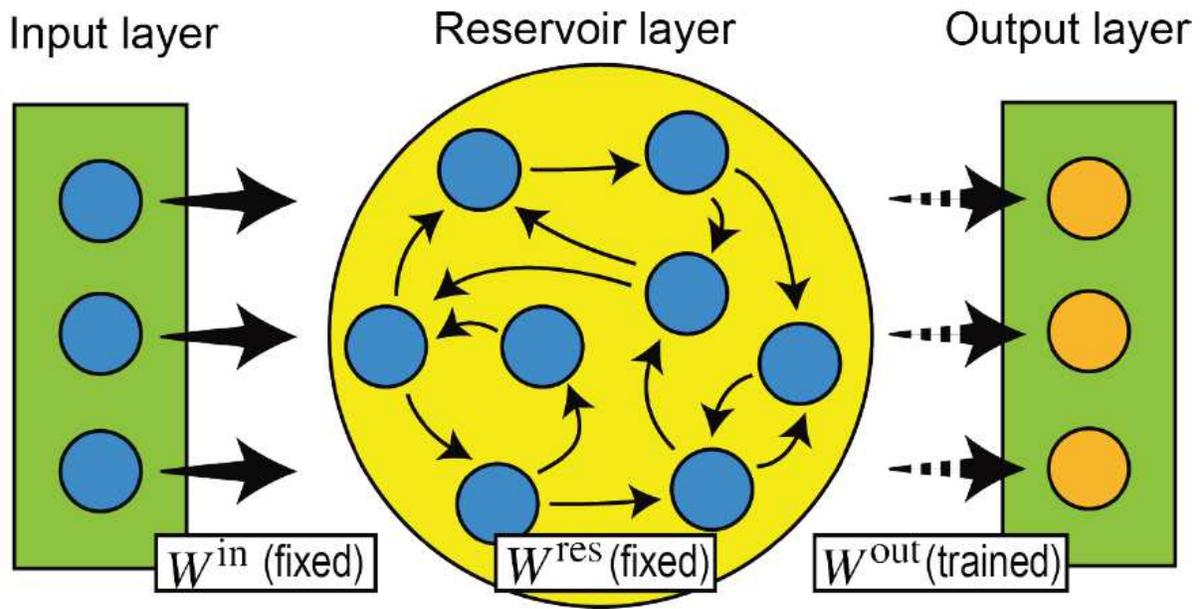


Figure 1

Typical RC architecture. The reservoir layer consists of randomly connected neurons. The connections between the input and reservoir layer W^{in} and connections within the reservoir layer W^{res} are fixed (solid arrows), whereas the output weights W^{out} are trained (dashed arrows).

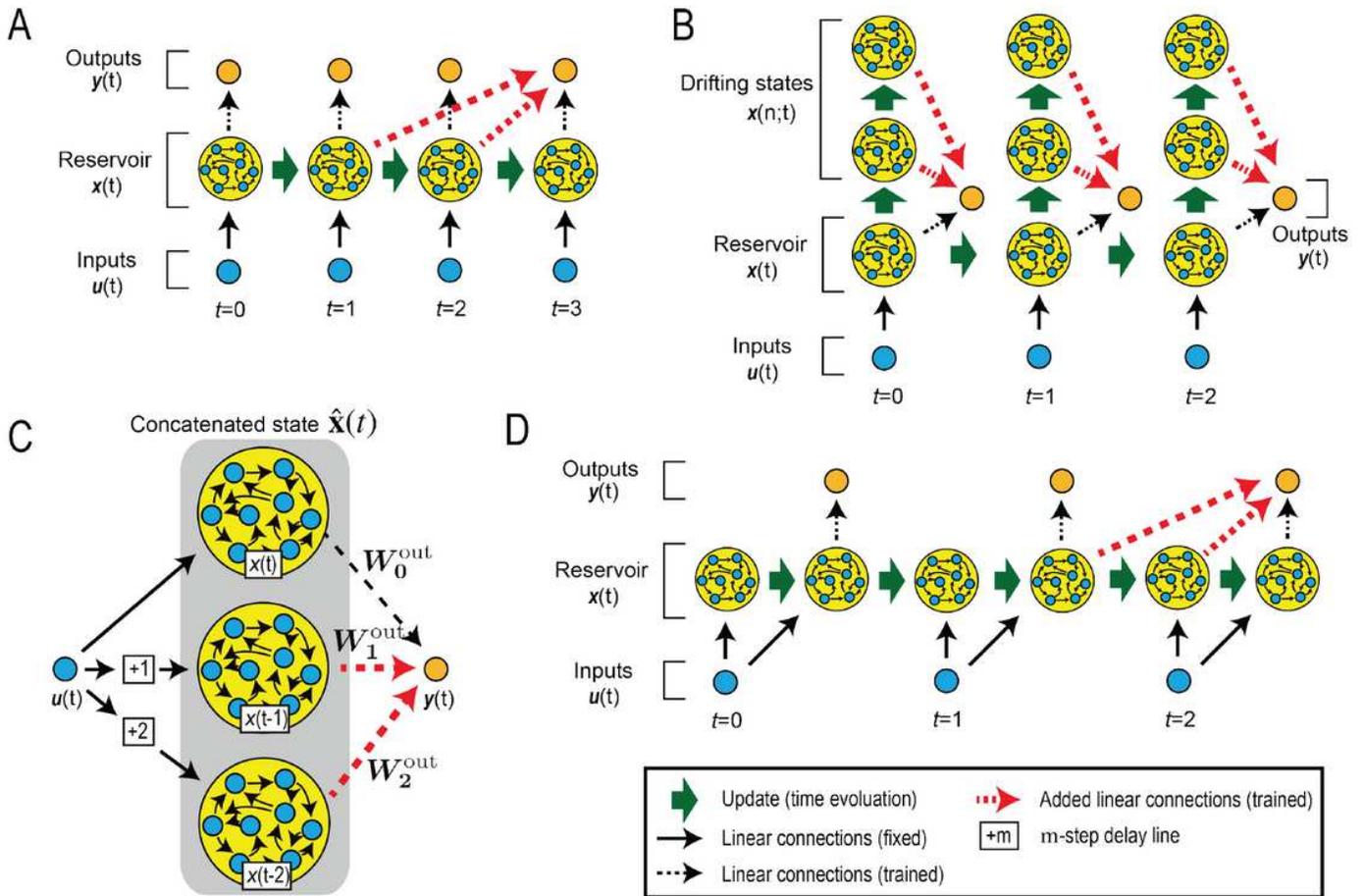


Figure 2

Schematics of the proposed methods. A. Delay-state concatenation when the number of additional connections P is two and the unit of delay Q is one. B. Drift-state concatenation when P is two and Q is one. C. Another view of delay-state concatenation. The reservoir consists of three identical dynamical systems and delay lines. The added dynamical systems have $+1$ delay lines and $+2$ delay lines, respectively. D. Delay-state concatenation with one transient state when P is two and Q is one.

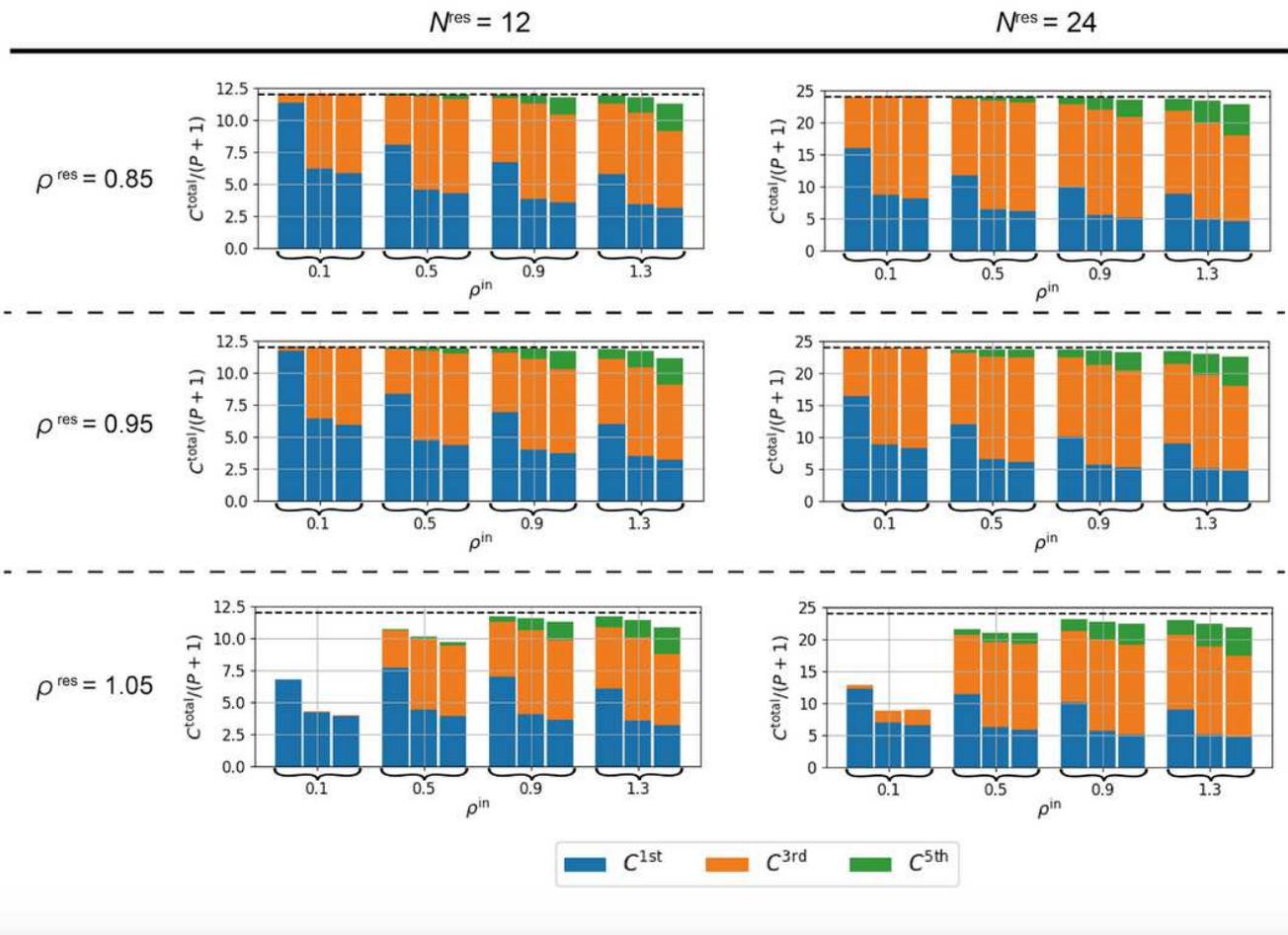


Figure 3

Analysis of information processing capacities (IPCs). IPCs of standard RC and RC with the proposed methods for various values of input weight strength ρ^{in} and spectral radius ρ^{res} . The left and right panels show the results for $N_{\text{res}} = 12$ and $N_{\text{res}} = 24$, respectively. The dashed horizontal line within each subgraph represents the value of N_{res} . For each value of ρ^{in} , the left column presents the standard RC with $P = 0$, the center column presents delay-state concatenation with $P = Q = 1$, and the right column presents drift-state concatenation with $P = Q = 1$.

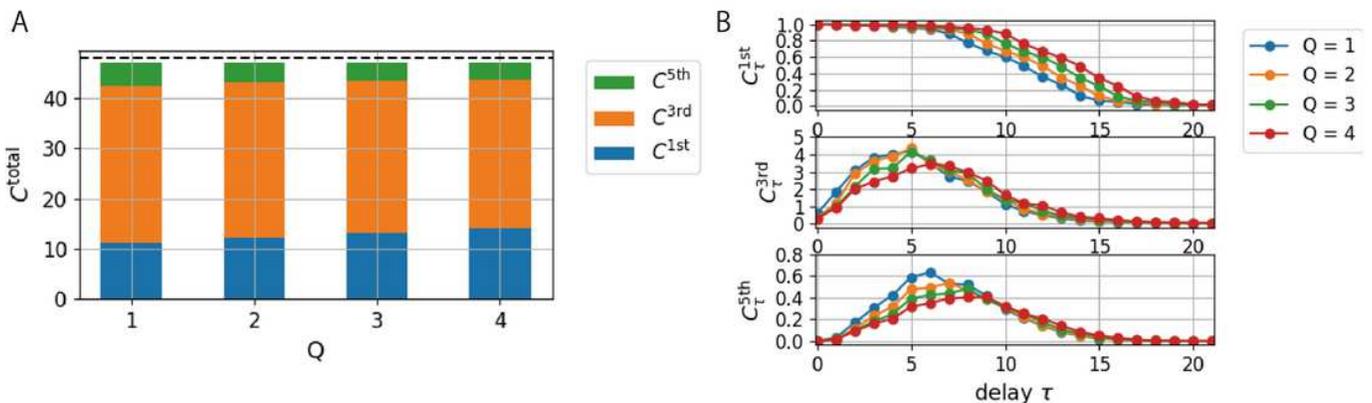


Figure 4

Q-dependence of IPCs. (A) IPCs of the RC with delay-state concatenation for various values of Q. (B) Delay structures of the IPCs for various values of Q. From top to bottom, the first-, third-, and fifth-order IPCs are shown. The parameters are set as follows: $N_{res} = 24$, $pin = 0.9$, $pres = 0.95$, and $P = 1$.

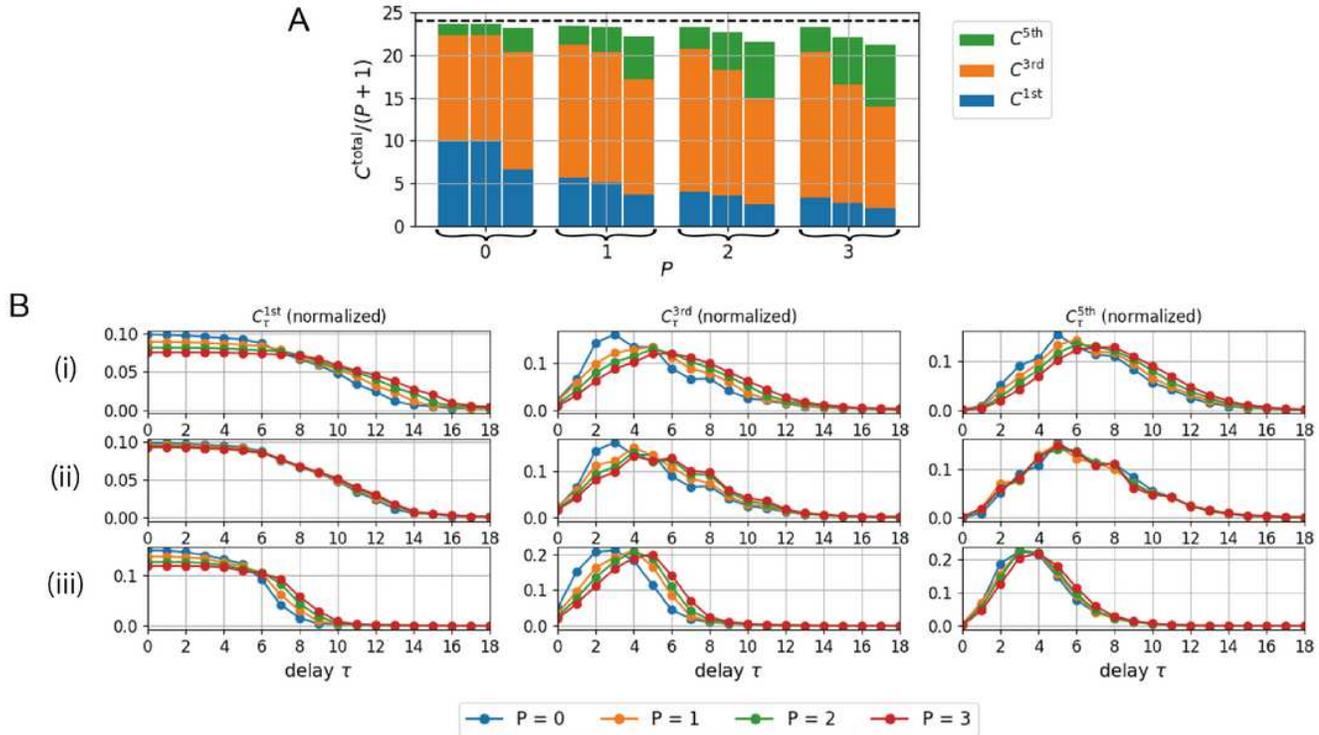


Figure 5

P-dependence of IPCs. (A) IPCs with the proposed methods for various values of P. Left columns: IPCs for delay-state concatenation, center columns: IPCs for drift-state concatenation, and right columns: IPCs for delay-state concatenation with one transient state. (B) Comparison of the delay structures of the IPCs for the three proposed methods. Top panels (i): delay structures for delay-state concatenation, middle panels (ii): delay structures for drift-state concatenation, and bottom panels (iii): delay structures for delay-state concatenation with one transient state. To highlight the difference in the distribution of the delay structures, the IPCs for each order are normalized. From left to right, the first-, third-, and fifth-order IPCs are shown. The parameters are set as follows: $N_{res} = 24$, $pin = 0.9$, $pres = 0.95$, and $Q = 1$.

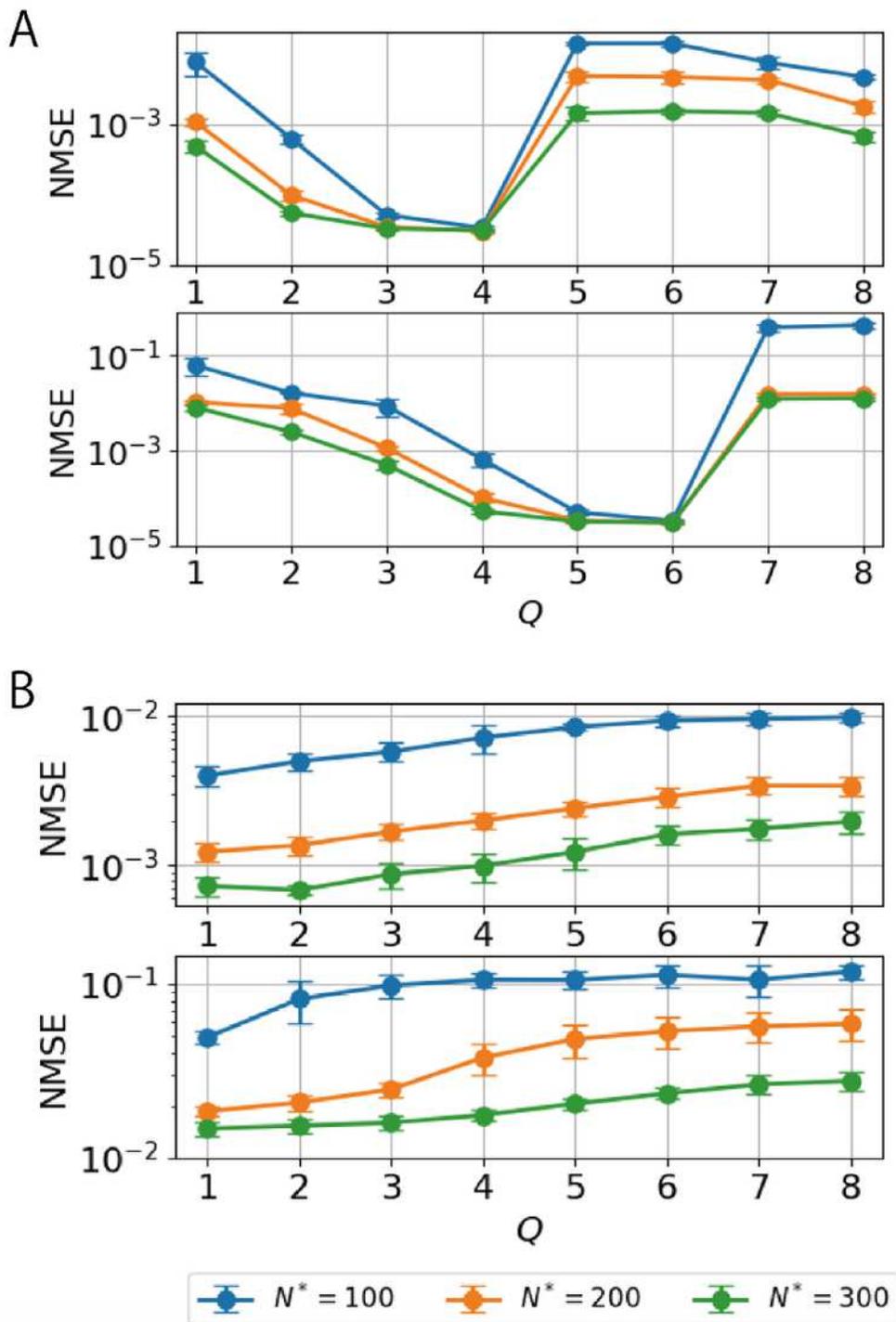


Figure 6

Q-dependence of the learning performance. (A) NMSE for a sixth-order Hénon-map task (the upper panel) and for an eighth-order Hénon-map task (the lower panel) for various values of Q with P = 1. (B) NMSE for NARMA5 (the upper panel) task and for NARMA10 (the lower panel) task for various values of Q with P = 1. Error bars show the standard deviation of the results of 10 trials.

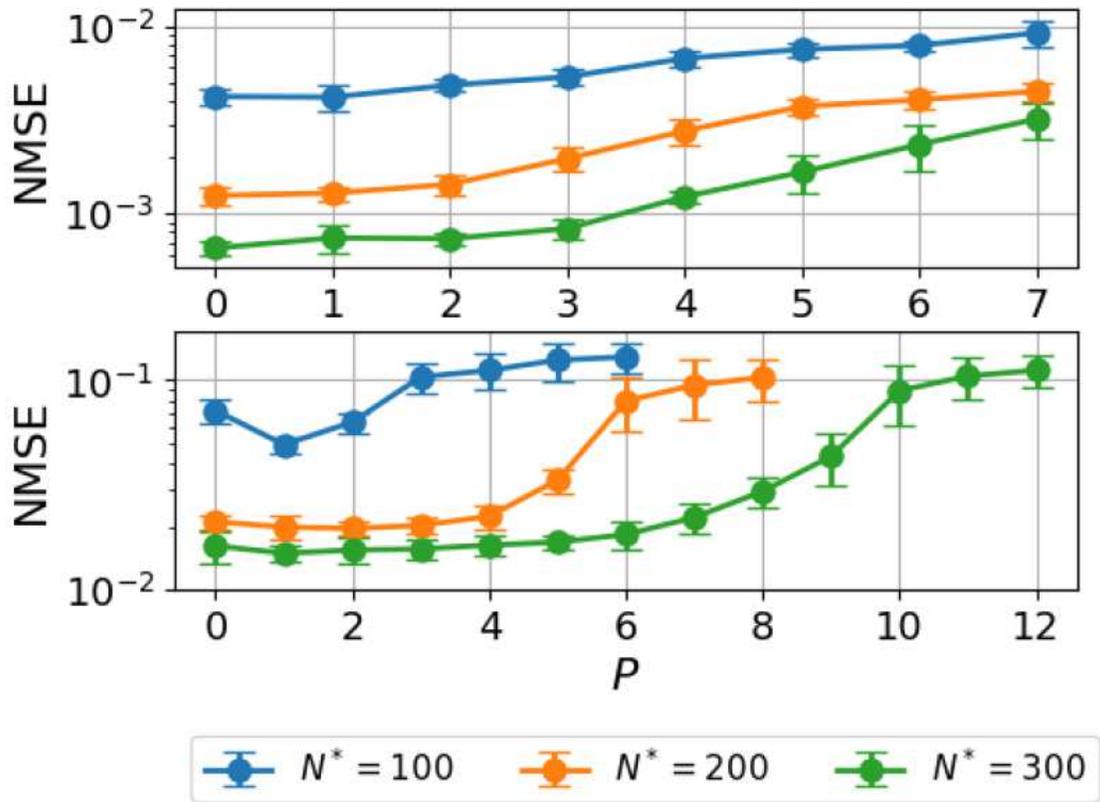


Figure 7

P-dependence of the learning performance. NMSEs for the NARMA5 (the top panel) and NARMA10 (the bottom panel) tasks with delay-state concatenation as functions of P for various values of N^* . Error bars show the standard deviation of the results of 10 trials.

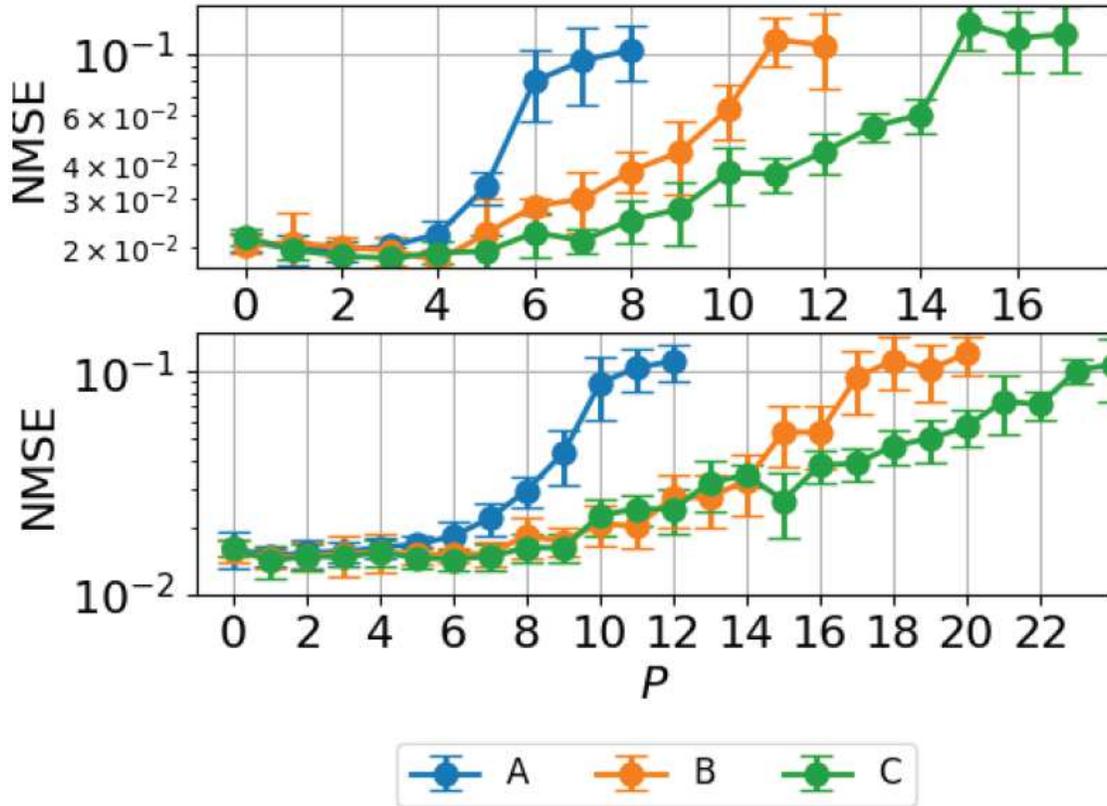


Figure 8

Comparison of the proposed methods. Results of regression performance on the NARMA10 task for various values of P with $N^* = 200$ (the top panel) and $N^* = 300$ (the bottom panel) for (A) delay-state concatenation, (B) delay-state concatenation with one transient state, and (C) drift-state concatenation. Error bars show the standard deviation of the results of 10 trials.