**MA665: Introduction to Modeling and Data Analysis in Neuroscience (Fall 2019)**

**Instructor:** Mark Kramer (mak@math.bu.edu)

**Course Hours:** September 3, 2019 – October 24, 2019 [7 weeks]

Tuesday & Thursday, 12:30-1:45 PM, CAS 330

**Office Hours:** Math & Stats Room 224 by appointment

**Textbook:** None

**Course Website:**      https://github.com/Mark-Kramer/BU-MA665-MA666

**Prerequisites:** Graduate standing or consent of instructor.

This course is intended to introduce neuroscience graduate students to mathematical concepts in neuroscience. We will use experimental observations in neuroscience to motivate the study of mathematics, both to quantify the observed data and build computational models. The course will focus on five fundamental topics in mathematical neuroscience, with emphasis on quantifying neurophysiological time series and developing mathematical models of the activity observed. An important component of the course is an introduction to scientific computing. Completing the material in this course will provide you with the minimum requirements for an introduction to a subset of topics in computational neuroscience.

**Course goals**

To introduce mathematical concepts encountered in neuroscience research and more advanced neuroscience graduate courses. To teach basic programming skills. To think about neuroscience in quantitative ways.

**Course requirements**

The main requirement in this course is effort. I expect your full effort during our course meetings, and outside of the course, to meet the course objectives. As part of this course, you will work together in teams of 3. We’ll establish those teams during the first week of MA665. You will work with your team to complete a series of challenges in this course.

**Grades**

To earn an A in MA665, your team must complete challenges in five topics:

* Programming proficiency
* The integrate and fire neuron, and its extensions
* The Hodgkin-Huxley neuron
* The evoked response potential, and bootstrap resampling
* The power spectrum

We will begin each challenge in class. Challenge questions will include: basic facts, conceptual questions, and practical programming implementation. Upon completion of a challenge, I will select a team to present their results. The class and I will ask questions of the team and selected team members. Please do your best to answer each question. If your team successfully answers each question, then your team completes the challenge. You may continue to investigate a challenge after our in-course discussion, and present the results at a later time (in class or during office hours).

**Schedule**

Please begin with Topic 1, and progress in the order of topics. Our goal is to complete all 5 topics by the end of MA665. I recommend viewing online lectures and completing readings outside of class. We will discuss the challenges and your questions during class.

**Suggested Course Schedule**

Readings: These papers provide a general context and motivation for the application of mathematics and statistics to problems in neuroscience. Please read these papers at your leisure during the next 7 weeks.

* Gerstner, W., Sprekeler, H., & Deco, G. (2012). *Theory and simulation in neuroscience*. Science, 338(6103), 60–65.
* Marder, E. (2015). *Understanding brains: details, intuition, and big data*. PloS Biology, 13(5), e1002147
* Churchland, A. K., & Abbott, L. F. (2016). *Conceptual and technical advances define a key moment for theoretical neuroscience*. Nature Neuroscience, *19*(3), 348–349.

Advanced Reading: This paper provides a big-picture discussion of computational neuroscience and related topics. Important ideas to consider for your future career in neuroscience.

* Brain 2025: A Scientific Vision, 2014

Depressing reading:

* *Saving Science: Science isn’t self-correcting, it’s self-destructing*. Daniel Sarewitz, 2016.
* Button, K., et al (2013). *Power failure: why small sample size undermines the reliability of neuroscience.* Nature Reviews Neuroscience, 14(5), 365–376.

**Topic 1**

Sept 3: Introduction

Sept 5,10: Programming Proficiency

**Topic 2**

Sept 12: Class discussion: The integrate and fire neuron, and its extensions

Sept 17,19: Conceptual and computer challenges

**Topic 3**

Sept 24: Class discussion: The Hodgkin-Huxley neuron

Sept 26, Oct 1: Conceptual and computer challenges

**Topic 4**

Oct 3: Class discussion: The event-related potential

Oct 8,10: Conceptual and computer challenges: The event-related potential

**Topic 5**

Oct 17: Class discussion: The power spectrum

Oct 22,24: Conceptual and computer challenges: The power spectrum

**MA666: Advanced Modeling and Data Analysis in Neuroscience (Fall 2019)**

**Instructor:** Mark Kramer (mak@math.bu.edu)

**Course Hours:** October 29, 2019 – December 10, 2019 [7 weeks]

Tuesday & Thursday, 12:30-1:45 PM, CAS 330

**Office Hours:** Math & Stats Room 224 by appointment

**Textbook:** None

**Course Website:**https://github.com/Mark-Kramer/BU-MA665-MA666

**Prerequisites:** Graduate standing or consent of instructor.

**Course goals**

The goal of this course is further study of topics in computational neuroscience. We will continue to focus on three broad areas of computational neuroscience: (1) computer programming, (2) data analysis, (3) modeling. You are encouraged to continue working in teams.

**Course requirements**

The main requirement in this course is effort. I expect your full effort during our course meetings, and outside of the course, to meet the course objectives. As part of this course, you may work together in teams of 3. You will work with your team to complete a series of challenges related to the topics in computational neuroscience.

**Grades**

To earn an A, the general requirements are: attend lectures and labs, complete all assigned challenge problems; provide feedback on the GitHub repository.

**Schedule (tentative)**

**Topic 6**

Oct 29: Class discussion: The coherence

Oct 31,Nov 5: Conceptual and computer challenges: The coherence

**Topic 7**

Nov 7: Class discussion: Cross-frequency coupling

Nov 12,14: Conceptual and computer challenges: Cross-frequency coupling

**Topic 8**

Nov 19: Class discussion: Spike-field coherence

Nov 21, 26: Conceptual and computer challenges: Spike-field coherence

**Topic 9**

Dec 3: Class discussion: ING and PING

Dec 5, 10: Conceptual and computer challenges: ING and PING

**Topic 9 (Alternative)**

Dec 3: Class discussion: Networks in neuroscience

Dec 5, 10: Conceptual and computer challenges: Networks in neuroscience