

Neurovascular Unit Model

Documentation for Code “OO-NVU Version 2.0”

A merged NVC model of a neuron, astrocyte, smooth muscle cell,
endothelial cell and the mechanical vessel response.

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May 21, 2015

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1 Release notes

1.1 Changes to the previous version

This is where changes should be listed.

1.2 Corrections

A mistake was discovered in NVU1.0 for the equation used to describe the K^+ concentration in the synaptic cleft. The original equation subtracted the change in astrocytic K^+ concentration from the K^+ influx from the neuron. This was incorrect since not all channels lead from the astrocyte to the synaptic cleft. The BK-channel describes the flux from the astrocyte to the perivascular space, and therefore this flux was added to the equation. Fortunately, this mistake led to very small changes, and it did not significantly change the model outcomes. Figure 1 shows the old and the corrected results for the flux through the BK-channel, and it is clear that they practically overlap.

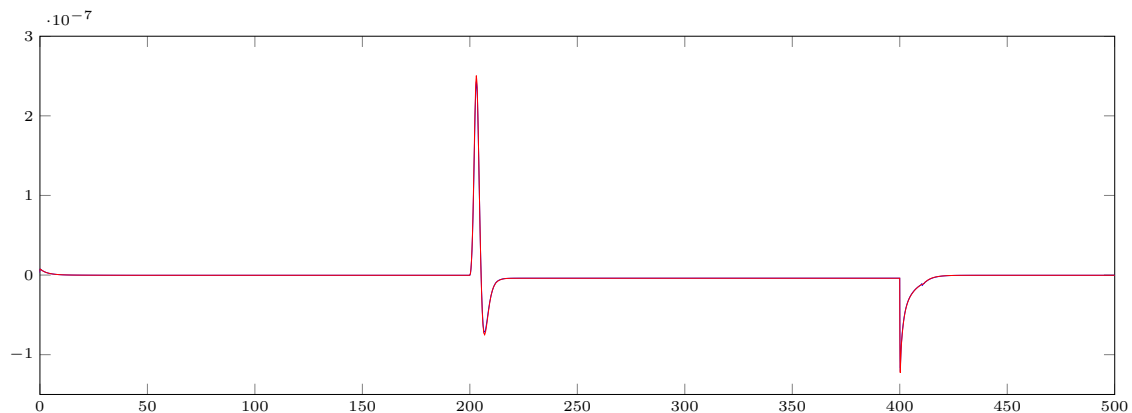


Figure 1: The flux through the BK-channel in μM m/s for the old (blue) and corrected (red) simulation

2 Code Structure

Kon's text and structure chart to go here.

3 Introduction

3.1 Neurovascular Unit

The cerebral cortex, a highly complex component of the human brain and part of the grey matter (*substantia grisea*), mainly consists of neurons (NEs), unmyelinated axons and glial cells such as astrocytes (ACs). It forms the outer layer of *cerebrum* and *cerebellum* and is veined with capillary blood vessels that provide the brain tissue with glucose and oxygen (Shipp [9]). These arterioles are surrounded by endothelial cells (ECs) that form a thin layer on the interior surface of arterioles (*intima*). The outer layer of the arteriole consists of smooth muscle cells (SMCs), which are aligned in circumferential direction. They define the contractile unit of the vessel and regulate its diameter by contraction and dilation.

A neurovascular unit (NVU) defined in this research includes one cell of each of the described types and is graphically pictured in Figure 3.

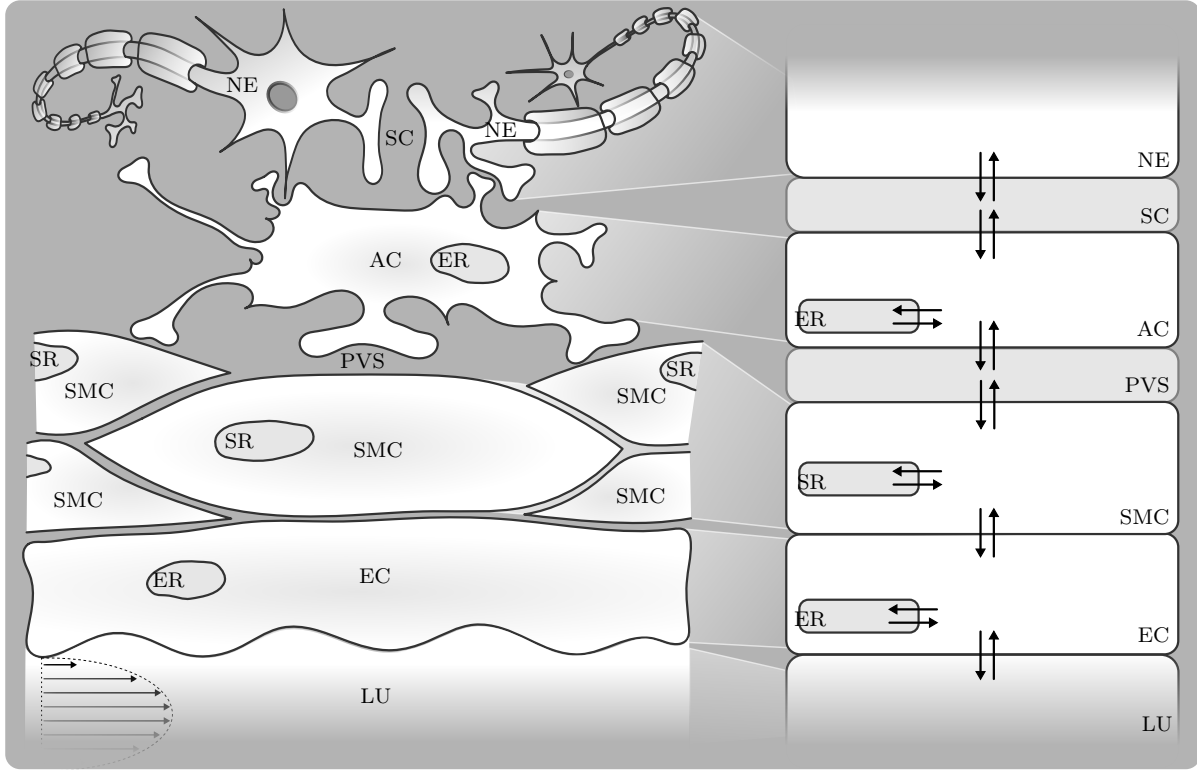


Figure 2: **Overview of different cells and domains that form a neurovascular unit.** NE - Neuron, SC - Synaptic Cleft, AC - Astrocyte, ER - Endoplasmic Reticulum, PVS - Perivascular Space, SMC - Smooth Muscle Cell, SR - Sarcoplasmic Reticulum, EC - Endothelial Cell, LU - Lumen with indicated blood flow. Intercellular communication via the exchange of ions is indicated by arrows.

Each of the cell types and the spaces in between play an important role within the process of neurovascular coupling (NVC, see Section 3.2). The synaptic cleft (SC) is the space between an axon terminal and dendrite of two different NEs in which neurotransmitters are released. It is enclosed by the star-shaped AC that can take up released neurotransmitters. Protoplasmic ACs are polarized cells which can temporarily buffer extracellular K^+ , which is one of the key mechanisms within NVC. The astrocytic endoplasmatic reticulum (ER), an isolated space in the cytosol, contains IP_3 -sensitive Ca^{2+} channels, which can release Ca^{2+} -ions into the cytosol. The perivascular space (PVS) is located between the end feet of an AC and the arteriole. In the PVS, ion exchange occurs between the arterial wall and the AC. The ECs form a monolayer on the luminal side of the vessel in which all cells are aligned in the direction of the flow. It prevents passive diffusion of bigger molecules, while small ones, such as O_2 , Ca^{2+} or IP_3 , can pass through. It also functions as an active organ sensing wall shear stress which plays an important role in the NO-mediated pathway. Together with the SMC layer the endothelium forms the blood brain barrier (BBB), the physical frontier between brain tissue and blood vessel. SMC contraction occurs by actin and myosin filaments forming cross-bridges. The rate of contraction is dependent on the SMC cytosolic Ca^{2+} concentration.

3.2 Neurovascular Coupling

Neurovascular coupling (NVC), or functional hyperaemia, describes the local vasodilation and -contraction due to neuronal activation. The change in the vessel diameter (vasoreactivity) controls the blood flow and thereby the cerebral supply of oxygen and glucose.

Each cell type plays an important specific role during the process of NVC. Communication between cells is based on an exchange of ions through pumps and channels. These ion fluxes contribute to changes in cytosolic and intercellular species concentration and cell membrane potentials.

There are several pathways that can lead to vasocontraction or -dilation and are mediated by different signalling molecules, such as K^+ , Ca^{2+} , EET, NO and 20-HETE. Neurotransmitters are released by the NE into the SC and can bind to receptors on dendrites of other neurons and astrocytes. This leads to a cascade of chemical reactions and the opening and closing of ion channels which influences the fluxes and concentrations.

3.3 Mathematical Approach

The physiological models are based on a set of differential equations that describe the mass conservation of ions and molecules passing from one cell or domain to another. The simulations describe time-dependent ion fluxes and changes in membrane potential modelled by reaction rates that describe the kinetics which are physiologically validated by experimental data from the literature. This approach assumes homogeneous behaviour of a variable in a certain subdomain i.e. the spatial gradient of a variable in every subdomain is negligible.

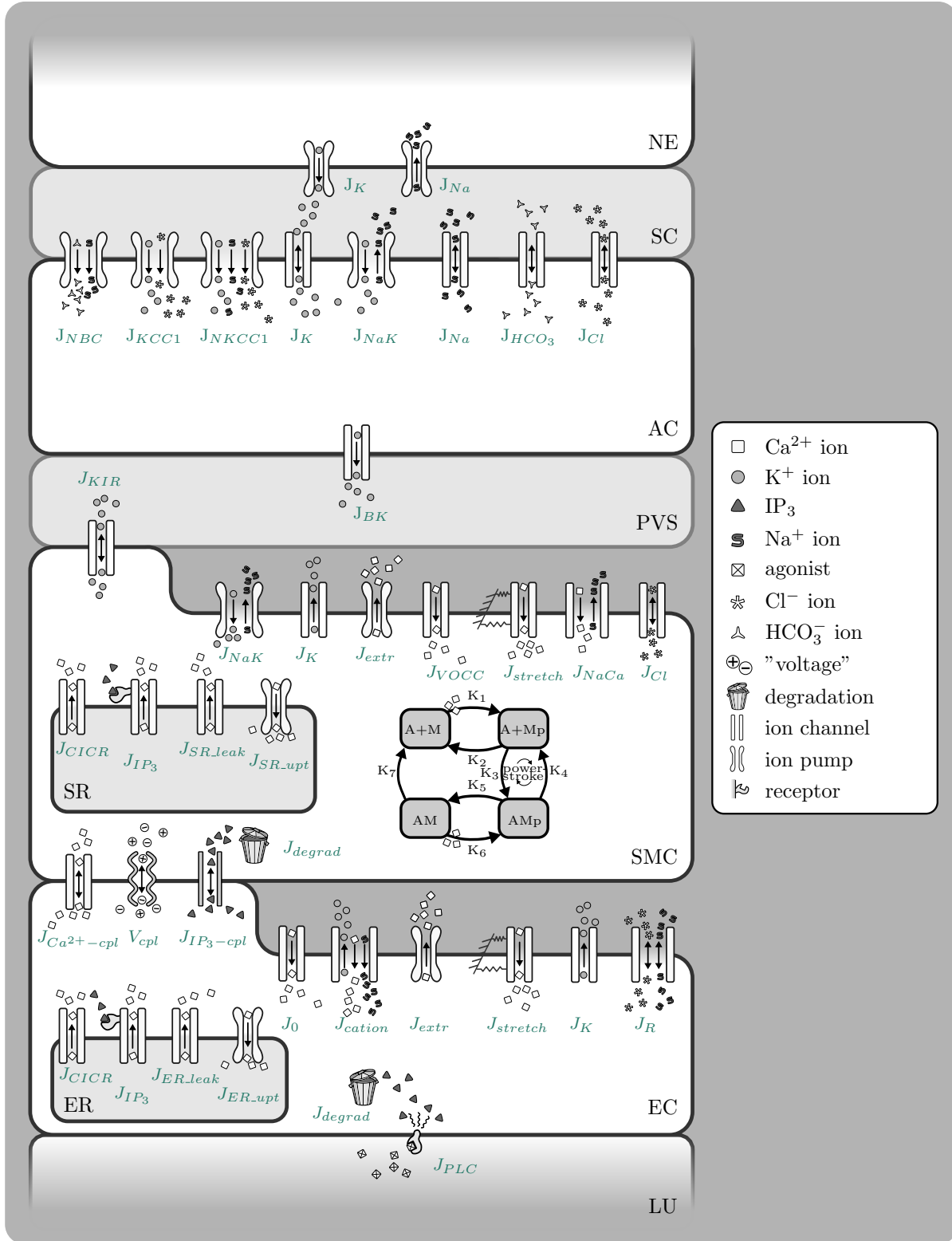


Figure 3: **Overview of model.** NE - Neuron, SC - Synaptic Cleft, AC - Astrocyte, ER - Endoplasmic Reticulum, PVS - Perivascular Space, SMC - Smooth Muscle Cell, SR - Sarcoplasmic Reticulum, EC - Endothelial Cell, LU - Lumen.

4 Results

4.1 OO-NVU 2.0

Potassium input signal (figure 4)

At the top the neuronal K^+ input signal is shown. This input signal is pumped into the SC by the NE. As a result of that, there is more K^+ taken up by the AC in the beginning of the input pulse, and released at the end of the input pulse. In the second graph the membrane potential of the AC is shown over time. When the K^+ concentration in the SC is increased the membrane voltage depolarises and when the K^+ concentration in the SC decreases the membrane potential repolarises again. In the third graph the fluxes into the PVS are shown. In blue the flux by the astrocytic BK channel, and in green the flux by the KIR channel in the SMC is shown. The drop in the middle of the KIR flux is caused because the SMC becomes in a oscillatory state and therefore the efflux by the KIR channel follows the Ca^{2+} waves inside the SMC. The bottom figure shows the K^+ concentration in the PVS.

Neurovascular Coupling Overview (figure 5)

This figure describes the main pathway from the synaptic cleft to the radius change. It starts with a K^+ concentration in the synaptic cleft, followed by the flux trough the BK-channel determined in the astrocyte, leading to an increased K^+ concentration in the perivascular space. This causes an increased K^+ influx trough the KIR channel, changing the membrane voltage of the SMC. The Ca^{2+} flux through the VOCC increases, decreasing the Ca^{2+} concentration in the SMC and thereby inducing vasodilation.

AC State Variables (figure 6)

The graphs display the concentrations of K^+ , Ca^{2+} , Cl and HCO_3 in the astrocyte and K^+ in the SC and PVS. These concentrations, together with the membrane voltage contribute to the opening of the BK-channel in their own way. The open state of the BK channel determines the potassium flux from the astrocyte to the perivascular spcace, where it induces vascular contraction.

AC Fluxes (figure 7)

All ion fluxes that enter or leave the astrocyte.

SMC EC State Variables and Coupling (figure 8)

The graphs in this figure shows the solutions of the differential equations of the SMC and EC, including the intracellular Ca^{2+} concentration, the IP_3 concentration, the sarcoplasmic (SMC) or endoplasmic (EC) Ca^{2+} concentration, the membrane voltage and the coupling fluxes between EC and SMC.

SMC Fluxes (figure 9)

In these figures the coupling and the fluxes in the SMC are shown. When one of the fluxes is negative, it means that the direction of the flux is in the opposite than it is defined in the equations. These figures show that when the neuronal signal is given, the VOCC closes and that the SMC contracts.

EC Fluxes (figure 10)

All ion fluxes that enter or leave the EC.

Contraction Model and Radius (figure 11)

In this figure the fraction of the four states (M, Mp, AMp, AM) of myosin in the SMC are shown at the top. At the bottom left the fraction of attached cross bridged myosin (the sum of AM and AMp) is shown. And at the bottom right the radius is plotted over time. The increase in vessel diameter is in the expected order of magnitude.

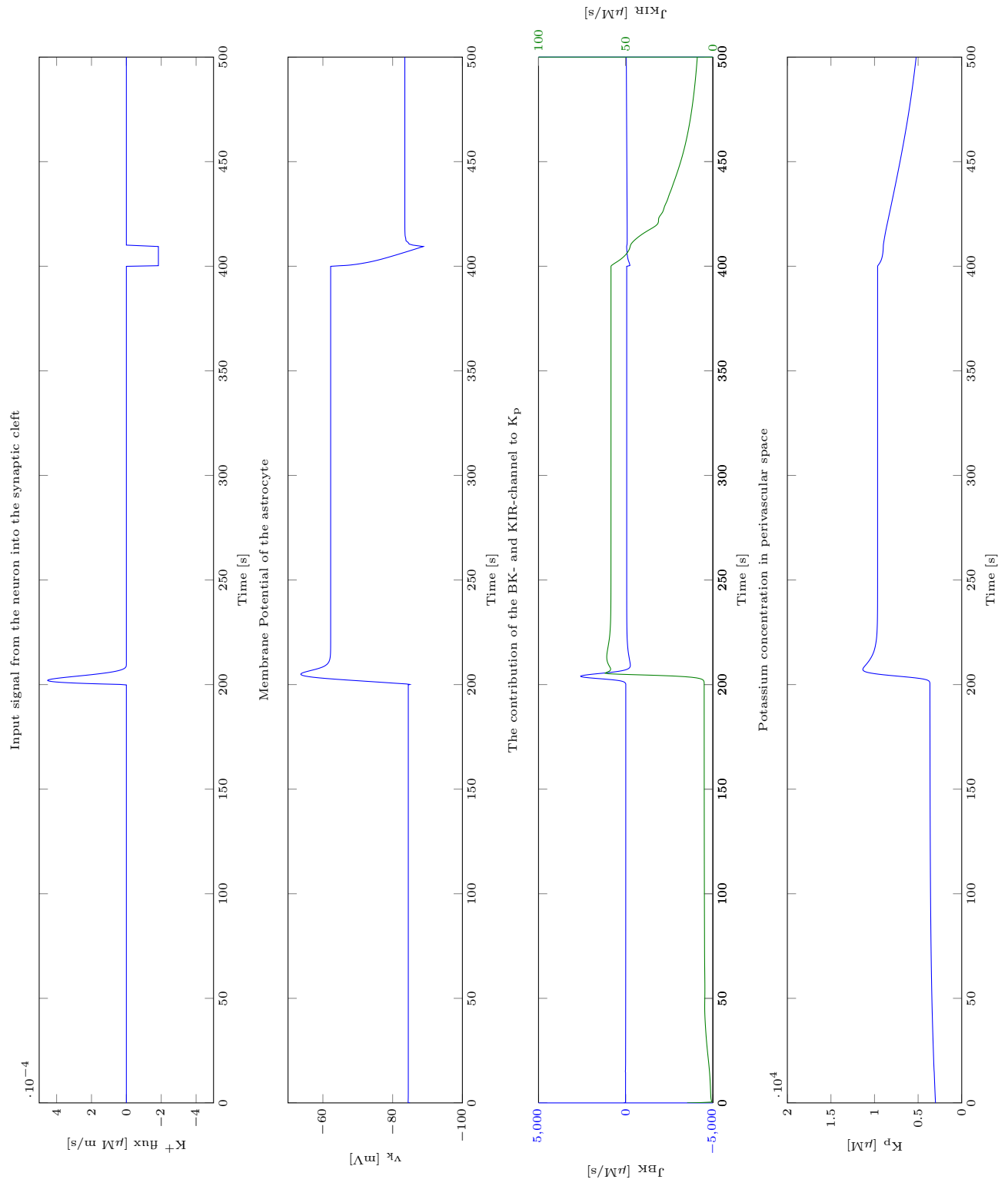


Figure 4: The input signal.

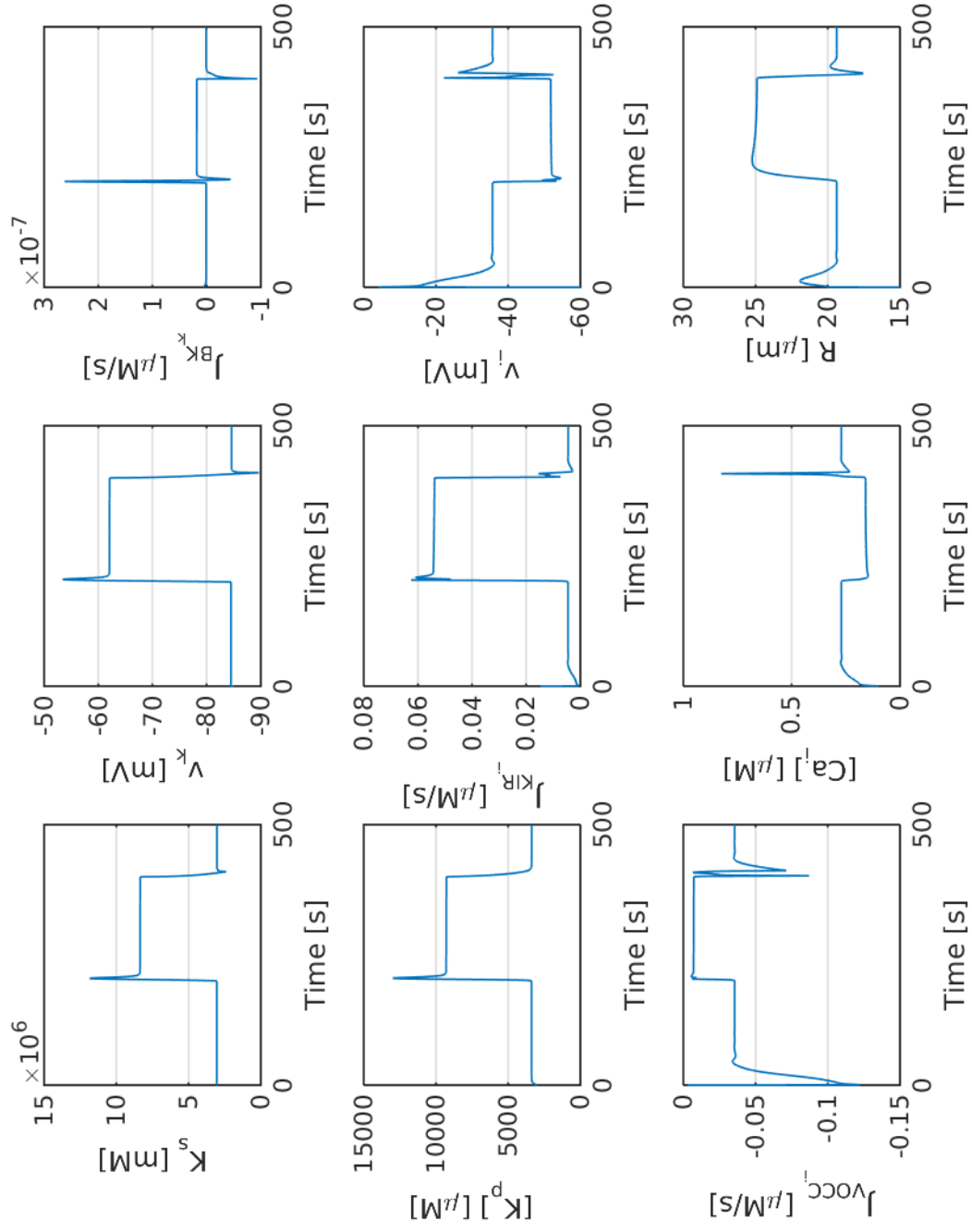


Figure 5: Neurovascular Coupling Overview.

AC State Variables.png

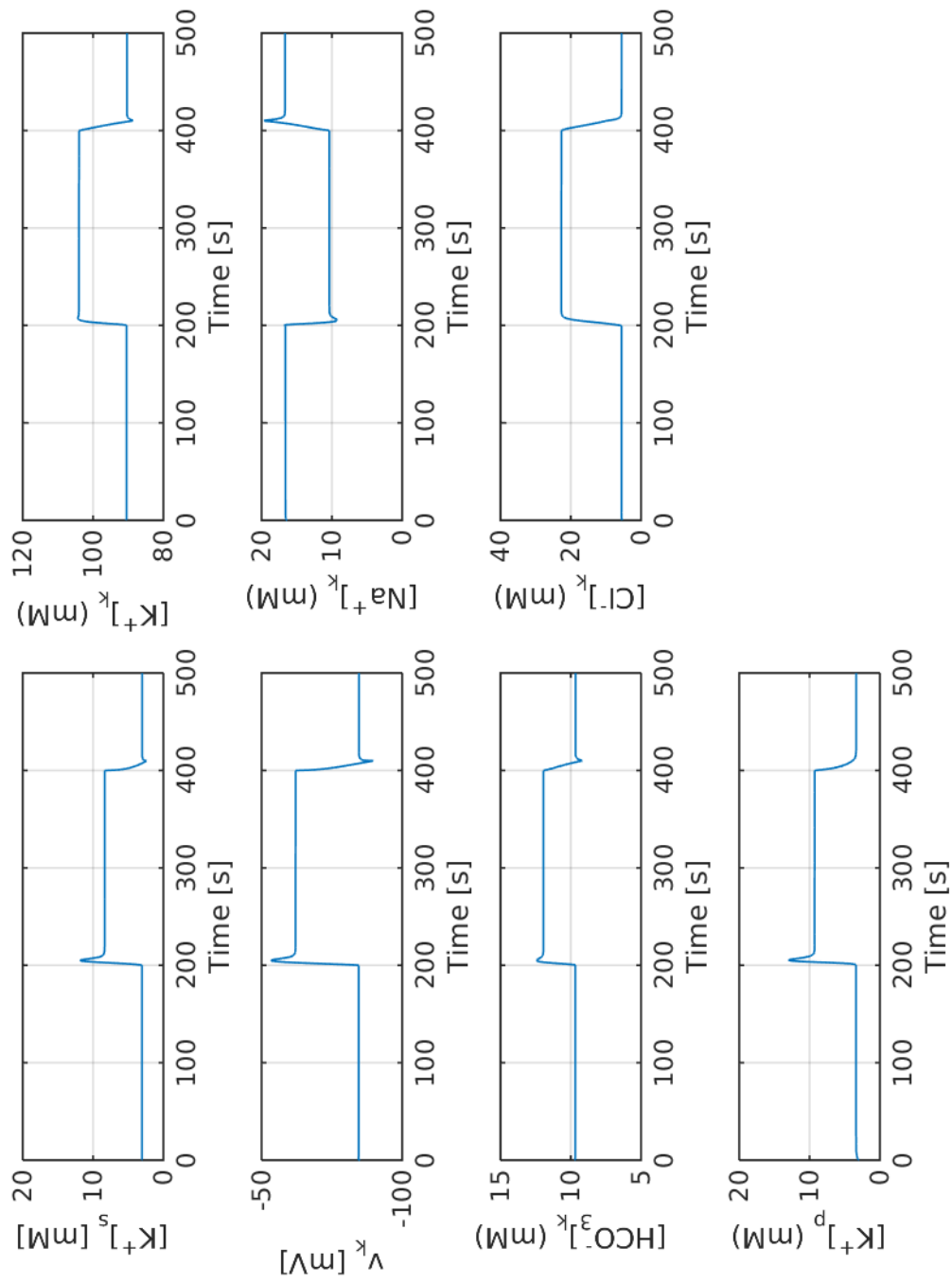


Figure 6: AC State Variables.

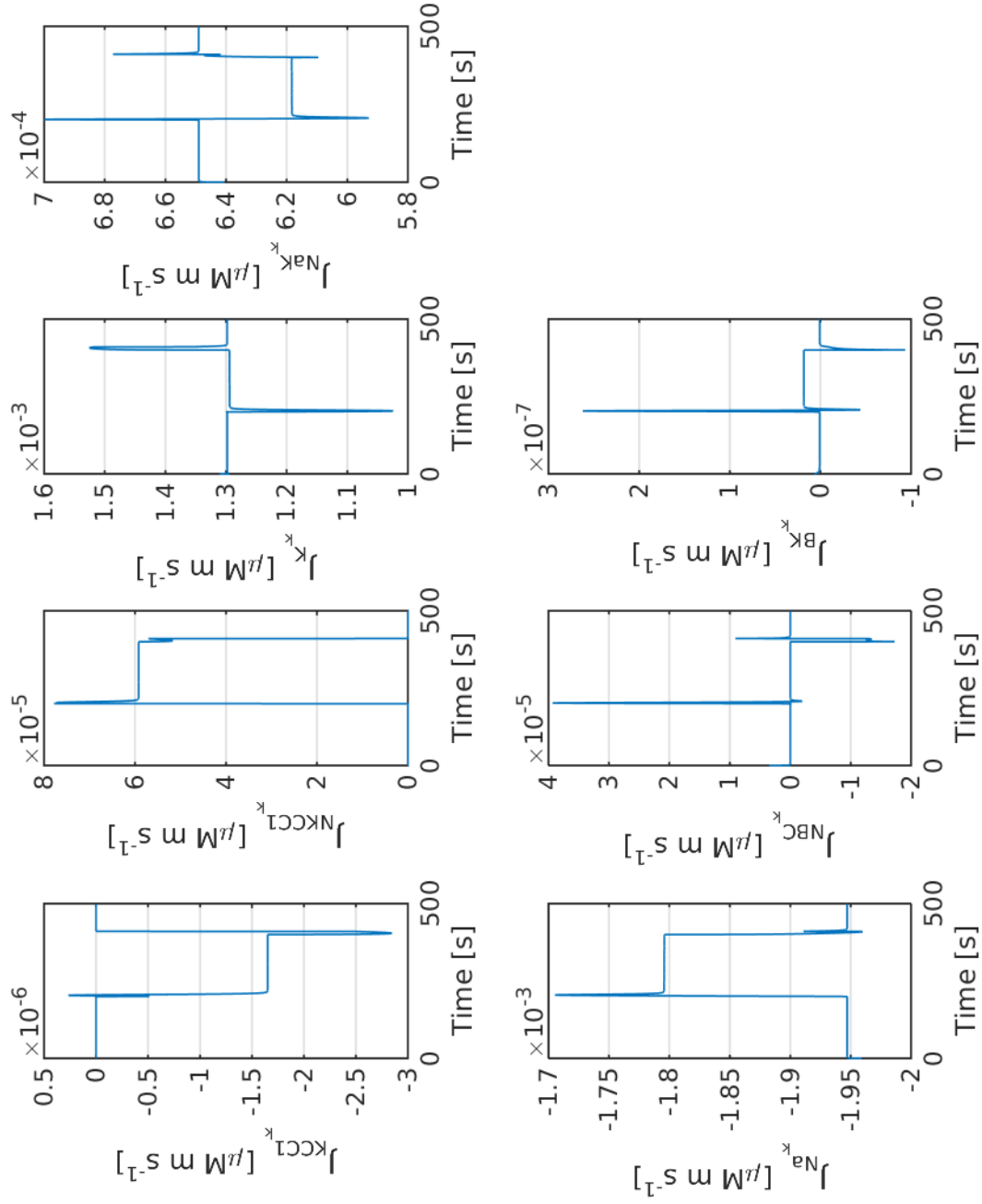


Figure 7: AC Fluxes.

SMC EC State Variables and Coupling.png

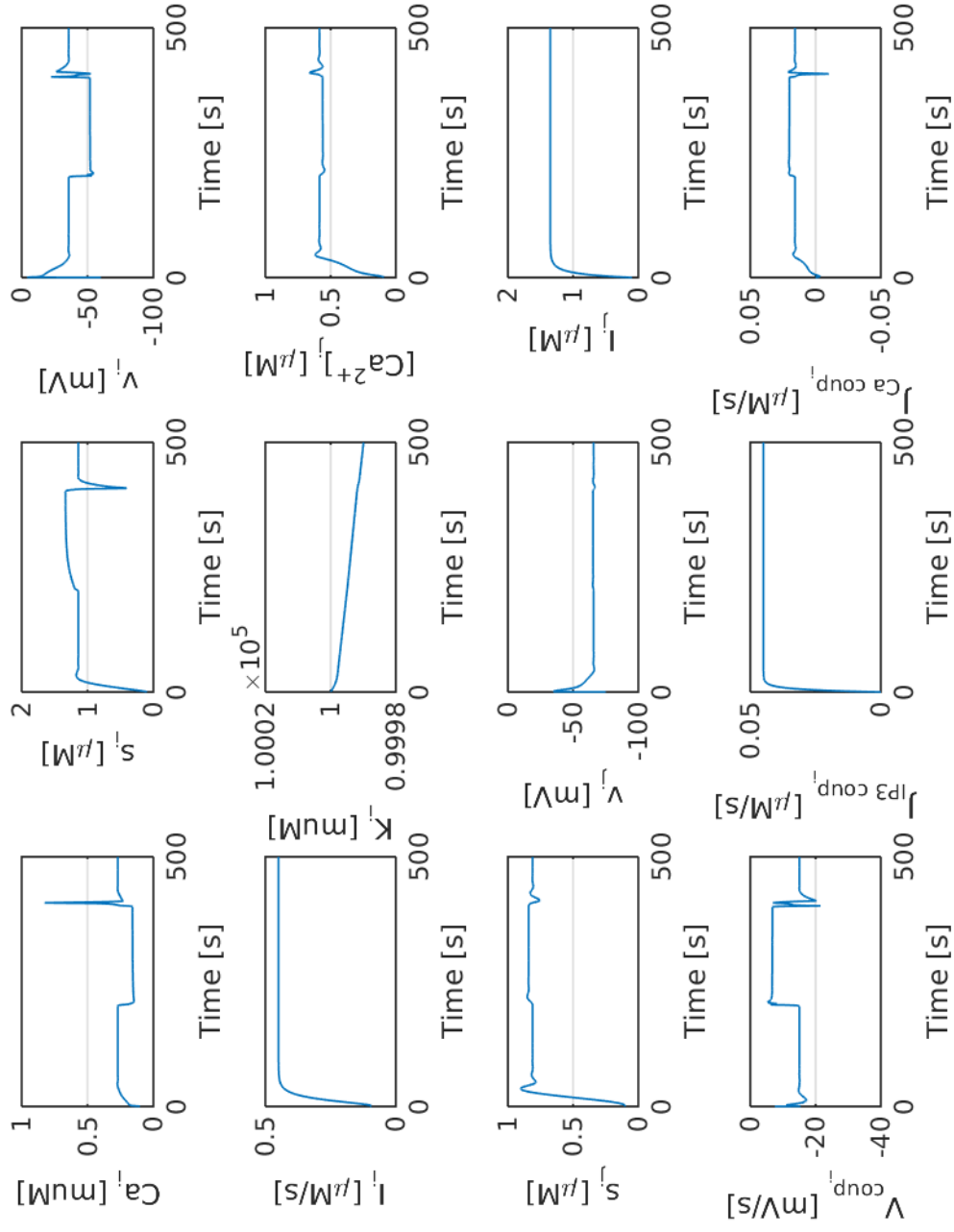


Figure 8: SMC EC State Variables and Coupling.

SMC Fluxes.png

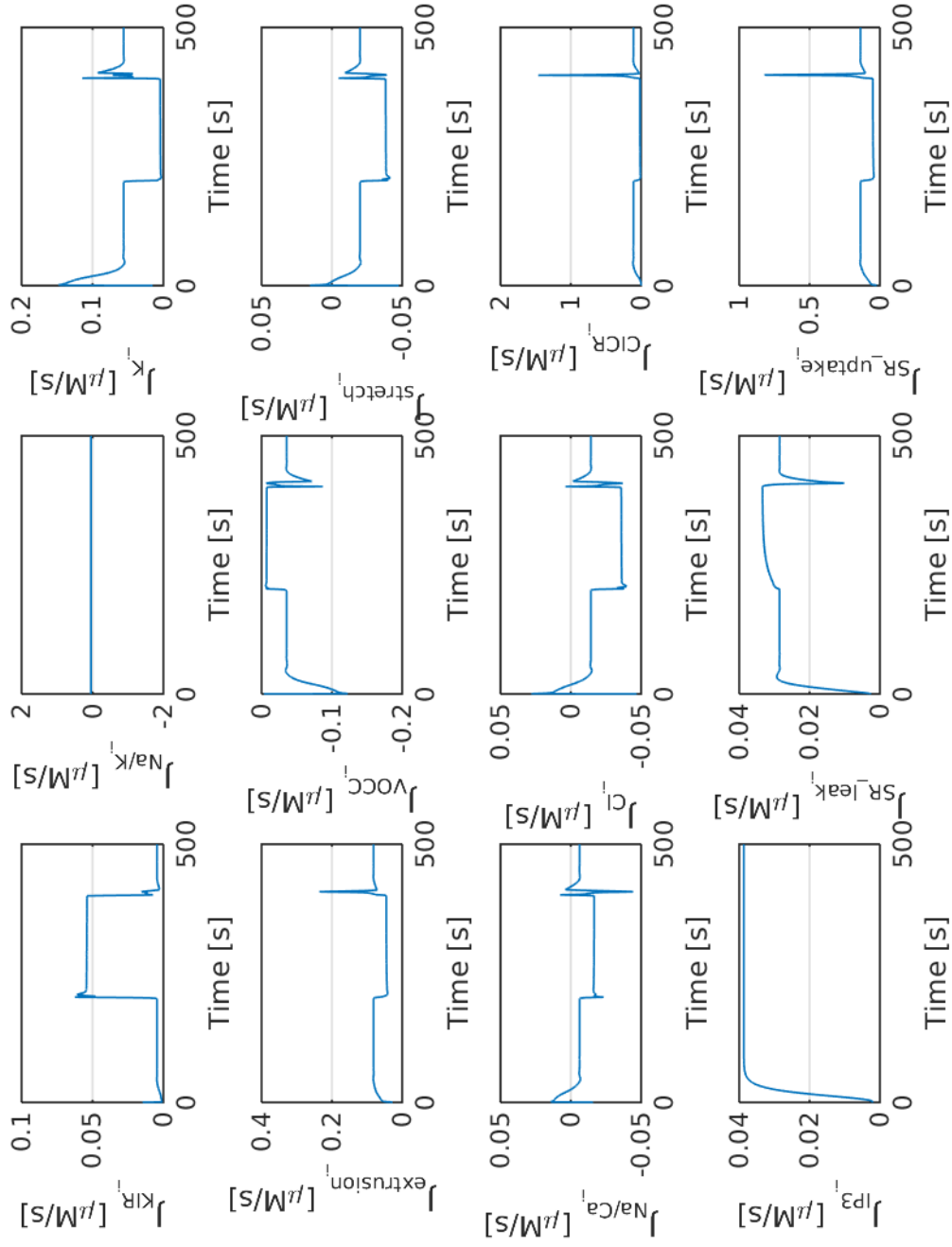


Figure 9: SMC Fluxes.

EC Fluxes.png

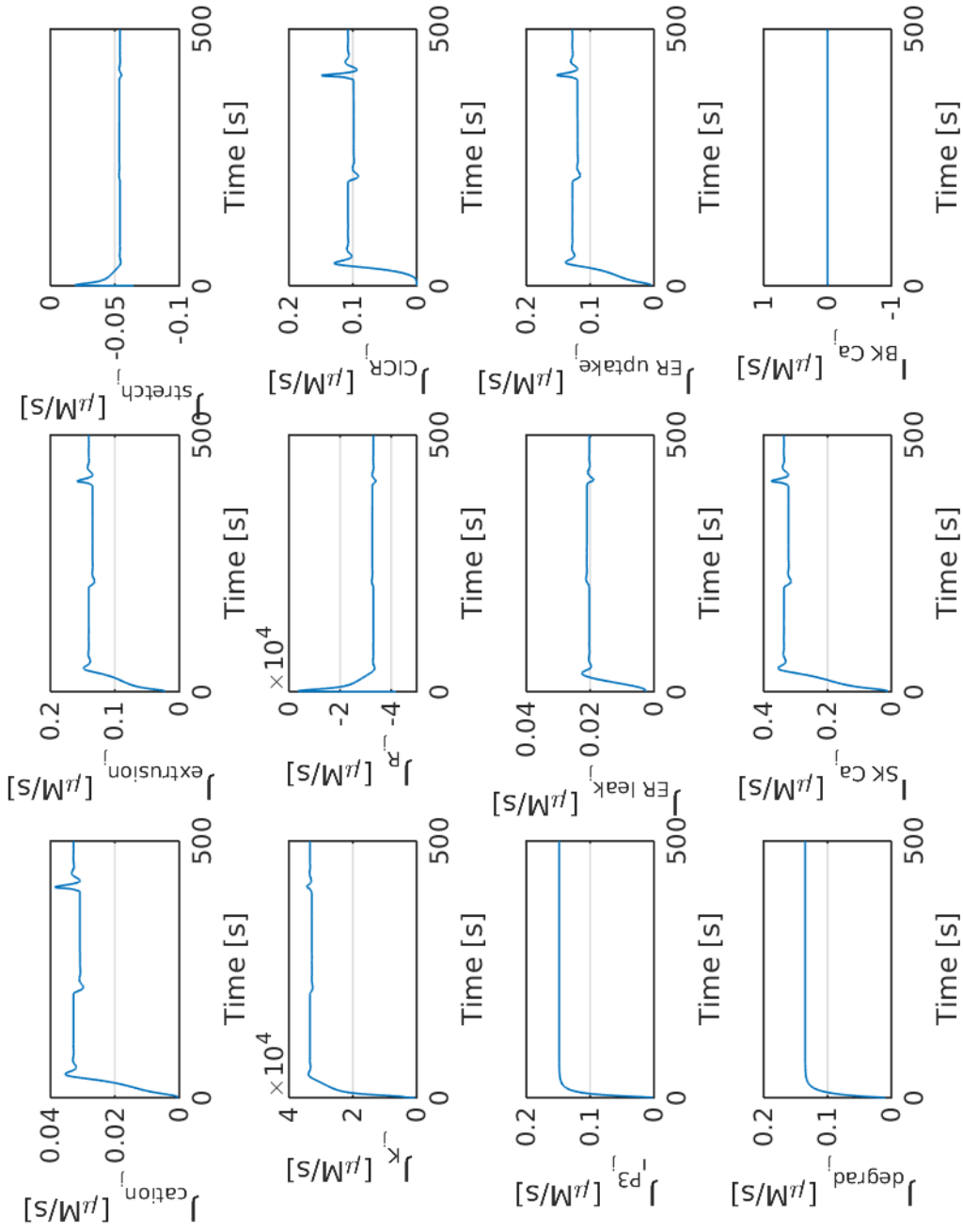


Figure 10: EC Fluxes.

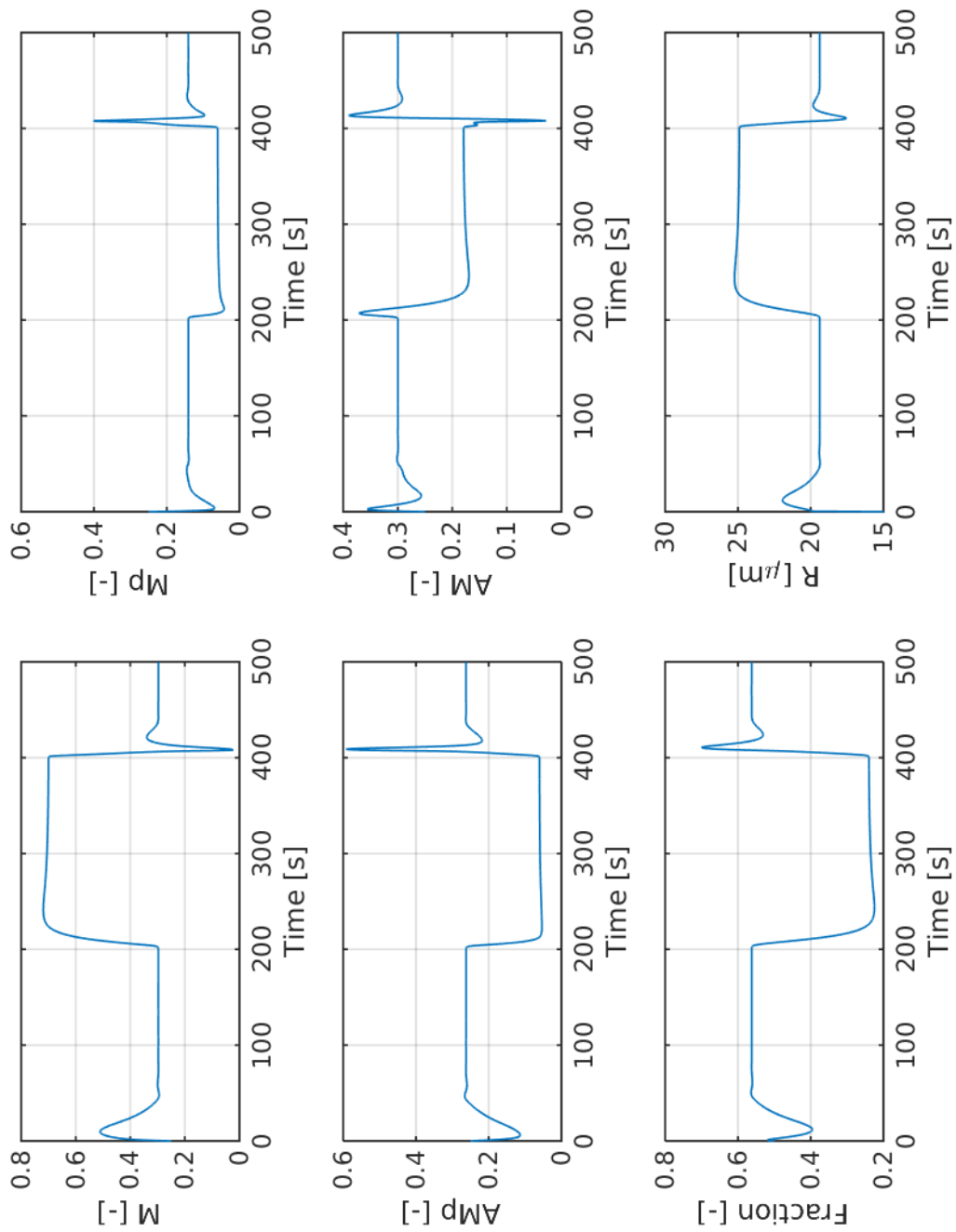


Figure 11: Contraction Model and Radius.

5 Equations

Some units need to be corrected in this documentation!

5.1 The Neuron and Astrocyte Model

Input signals

Neuronal K^+ input signal (-):

For $t < t_0$ and $t > t_3$:

$$f(t) = 0 \quad (1)$$

For $t_0 \leq t \leq t_1$:

$$f(t) = F_{input} \frac{(\alpha + \beta - 1)!}{(\alpha - 1)!(\beta - 1)!} \left(\frac{1 - (t - t_0)}{\Delta t} \right)^{\beta-1} \left(\frac{t - t_0}{\Delta t} \right)^{\alpha-1} \quad (2)$$

For $t_1 \leq t \leq t_2$:

$$f(t) = 0 \quad (3)$$

For $t_2 \leq t \leq t_3$:

$$f(t) = -F_{input} \quad (4)$$

t_0	Start of neuronal pulse	200 s	
t_1	End of neuronal pulse	210 s	
t_2	Start of back-buffering	230 s	
t_3	End of back-buffering	240 s	
F_{input}	Amplitude scaling factor	2.5	
α	Gamma distribution constant	2	ME ¹
β	Gamma distribution constant	5	ME
Δt	Time-scaling factor	10 s	

Scaling

AC volume-area ratio (in m):

$$\frac{dR_k}{dt} = L_p(Na_k + K_k + Cl_k + HCO_{3k} - Na_s - K_s - Cl_s - HCO_{3s} + \frac{X_k}{R_k}) \quad (5)$$

SC volume-surface ratio (in m):

$$R_s = R_{tot} - R_k \quad (6)$$

¹Model Estimation

L_p	Total water permeability per unit area of the astrocyte	$2.1 \times 10^{-9} \text{ m} \mu\text{M}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$	[8]
X_k	Number of negatively charged impermeable ions trapped within the astrocyte divided by the astrocyte membrane area	$12.41 \times 10^{-3} \text{ } \mu\text{M m}$	[8]
R_{tot}	Total volume surface ratio AC+SC	$8.79 \times 10^{-8} \text{ m}$	[8]

Conservation Equations

Synaptic Cleft

K^+ concentration in the SC (times the SC volume-area ratio R_s ; in $\mu\text{M m}$):

$$\frac{dN_{K_s}}{dt} = k_C f(t) - \frac{dN_{K_k}}{dt} - J_{BK_k} \quad (7)$$

Na^+ concentration in the SC (times the SC volume-area ratio R_s ; in $\mu\text{M m}$):

$$\frac{dN_{Na_s}}{dt} = -k_C f(t) - \frac{dN_{Na_k}}{dt} \quad (8)$$

HCO_3^- concentration in the SC (times the SC volume-area ratio R_s ; in $\mu\text{M m}$):

$$\frac{dN_{HCO_{3s}}}{dt} = -\frac{dN_{HCO_{3k}}}{dt} \quad (9)$$

k_C	Input scaling parameter	$7.35 \times 10^{-5} \text{ } \mu\text{M m s}^{-1}$	[8]
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Astrocyte

K^+ concentration in the AC (times the AC volume-area ratio R_k ; in $\mu\text{M m}$):

$$\frac{dN_{K_k}}{dt} = -J_{K_k} + 2J_{NaK_k} + J_{NKCC1_k} + J_{KCC1_k} - J_{BK_k} \quad (10)$$

Na^+ concentration in the AC (times the AC volume-area ratio R_k ; in $\mu\text{M m}$):

$$\frac{dN_{Na_k}}{dt} = -J_{Na_k} - 3J_{NaK_k} + J_{NKCC1_k} + J_{NBC_k} \quad (11)$$

HCO_3^- concentration in the AC (times the AC volume-area ratio R_k ; in $\mu\text{M m}$):

$$\frac{dN_{HCO_{3k}}}{dt} = 2J_{NBC_k} \quad (12)$$

Cl^- concentration in the AC (times the AC volume-area ratio R_k ; in $\mu\text{M m}$):

$$\frac{dN_{Cl_k}}{dt} = \frac{dN_{Na_k}}{dt} + \frac{dN_{K_k}}{dt} - \frac{dN_{HCO_{3k}}}{dt} \quad (13)$$

Open probability of the BK channel (non-dim.):

$$\frac{dw_k}{dt} = \phi_w (w_\infty - w_k) \quad (14)$$

Perivascular Space

K⁺ concentration in the PVS (in μM):

$$\frac{dK_p}{dt} = \frac{J_{BK_k}}{R_k R_{pa}} + \frac{J_{KIR_i}}{R_{ps}} \quad (15)$$

R_{pa}	Volume ratio of PVS to AC	10^{-3} [-]	[7]
R_{ps}	Volume ratio of PVS to SMC	10^{-3} [-]	[7]

Fluxes

K⁺ flux (times the AC volume-area ratio R_k ; in $\mu\text{M m s}^{-1}$):

$$J_{K_k} = \frac{g_{K_k}}{F} (v_k - E_{K_k}) \quad (16)$$

Na⁺ flux (times the AC volume-area ratio R_k ; in $\mu\text{M m s}^{-1}$):

$$J_{Na_k} = \frac{g_{Na_k}}{F} (v_k - E_{Na_k}) \quad (17)$$

Na⁺ and HCO₃ flux through the NBC channel (times the AC volume-area ratio R_k ; in $\mu\text{M m s}^{-1}$):

$$J_{NBC_k} = \frac{g_{NBC_k}}{F} (v_k - E_{NBC_k}) \quad (18)$$

Cl and K⁺ flux through the KCC1 channel (times the AC volume-area ratio R_k ; in $\mu\text{M m s}^{-1}$):

$$J_{KCC1_k} = C_{input} \frac{g_{KCC1_k}}{F} \frac{R_g T}{F} \ln \left(\frac{K_s Cl_s}{K_k Cl_k} \right) \quad (19)$$

Na⁺, K⁺ and Cl flux through the NKCC1 channel (times the AC volume-area ratio R_k ; in $\mu\text{M m s}^{-1}$):

$$J_{NKCC1_k} = C_{input} \frac{g_{NKCC1_k}}{F} \frac{R_g T}{F} \ln \left(\frac{Na_s K_s Cl_s^2}{Na_k K_k Cl_k^2} \right) \quad (20)$$

Flux through the sodium potassium pump (times the AC volume-area ratio R_k ; in $\mu\text{M m s}^{-1}$):

$$J_{NaK_k} = J_{NaK_{max}} \frac{Na_k^{1.5}}{Na_k^{1.5} + K_{Na_k}^{1.5}} \frac{K_s}{K_s + K_{K_s}} \quad (21)$$

K⁺ flux through the BK channel (times the AC volume-area ratio R_k ; in $\mu\text{M m s}^{-1}$):

$$J_{BK_k} = \frac{g_{BK_k}}{F} w_k (v_k - E_{BK_k}) \quad (22)$$

F	Faraday's constant	$9.649 \times 10^4 \text{ C mol}^{-1}$	
R_g	Gas constant	$8.315 \text{ J mol}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}$	
T	Temperature	300 K	
g_{K_k}	Specific ion conductance of potassium	$40 \times 10^3 \text{ } \Omega^{-1} \text{ m}^{-2}$	[8]
g_{Na_k}	Specific ion conductance of sodium	$1.314 \times 10^3 \text{ } \Omega^{-1} \text{ m}^{-2}$	[8]
g_{NBC_k}	Specific ion conductance of the NBC cotransporter	$7.57 \times 10^2 \text{ } \Omega^{-1} \text{ m}^{-2}$	[8]
g_{KCC1_k}	Specific ion conductance of the KCC1 cotransporter	$10 \text{ } \Omega^{-1} \text{ m}^{-2}$	[8]
g_{NKCC1_k}	Specific ion conductance of the NKCC1 cotransporter	$55.4 \text{ } \Omega^{-1} \text{ m}^{-2}$	[8]
$J_{NaK_{max}}$	Maximum flux through the NaKATPase pump	$1.42 \times 10^{-3} \text{ } \mu \text{Mms}^{-1}$	[8]
g_{BK_k}	Specific ion conductance of the BK channel	$1.16 \times 10^3 \text{ } \Omega^{-1} \text{ m}^{-2}$	[2]
C_{input}	Block function to switch the channel on and off	0 ; 1 [-]	
K_{Na_k}	Michaelis-Menten constant	$10^4 \text{ } \mu \text{M}$	
K_{K_s}	Michaelis-Menten constant	$1.5 \times 10^3 \text{ } \mu \text{M}$	

Additional Equations

Synaptic Cleft

Cl concentration (times the SC volume-area ratio R_s ; in $\mu \text{M m}$):

$$N_{Cl_s} = N_{Na_s} + N_{K_s} - N_{HCO_{3s}} \quad (23)$$

Astrocyte

Membrane voltage of the AC (V):

$$v_k = \frac{g_{Na_k} E_{Na_k} + g_{K_k} E_{K_k} + g_{Cl_k} E_{Cl_k} + g_{NBC_k} E_{NBC_k} + g_{BK_k} w_k E_{BK_k} - J_{NaK_k} F \times 10^3}{g_{Na_k} + g_{K_k} + g_{Cl_k} + g_{NBC_k} + g_{BK_k} w_k} \quad (24)$$

Nernst potential for the potassium channel (in mV):

$$E_{K_k} = \frac{R_g T}{z_K F} \ln \left(\frac{K_s}{K_k} \right) \quad (25)$$

Nernst potential for the sodium channel (in mV):

$$E_{Na_k} = \frac{R_g T}{z_{Na} F} \ln \left(\frac{Na_s}{Na_k} \right) \quad (26)$$

Nernst potential for the chloride channel (in mV):

$$E_{Cl_k} = \frac{R_g T}{z_{Cl} F} \ln \left(\frac{Cl_s}{Cl_k} \right) \quad (27)$$

Nernst potential for the NBC channel (in mV):

$$E_{NBC_k} = \frac{R_g T}{z_{NBC} F} \ln \left(\frac{Na_s HCO_{3s}^2}{Na_k HCO_{3k}^2} \right) \quad (28)$$

Nernst potential for the BK channel (in mV):

$$E_{BK_k} = \frac{R_g T}{z_K F} \ln \left(\frac{K_p}{K_k} \right) \quad (29)$$

Equilibrium state BK-channel (-):

$$w_\infty = 0.5 \left(1 + \tanh \left(\frac{v_k + v_6}{v_4} \right) \right) \quad (30)$$

Time constant associated with the opening of BK channels (in s^{-1}):

$$\phi_w = \psi_w \cosh \left(\frac{v_k + v_6}{2v_4} \right) \quad (31)$$

g_{Cl_k}	Specific ion conductance of chloride	$0.879 \Omega^{-1} \text{m}^{-2}$	[8]
z_K	Valence of a potassium ion	1	
z_{Na}	Valence of a sodium ion	1	
z_{Cl}	Valence of a chloride ion	-1	
z_{NBC}	Effective valence of the NBC cotransporter complex	-1	
v_6	Voltage associated with the opening of half the population	22 mV	[2]
v_4	A measure of the spread of the distribution of the open probability of the BK channel	14.5 mV	[2]
ψ_w	A characteristic time for the open probability of the BK channel	$2.664 s^{-1}$	[2]

5.2 The Smooth Muscle Cell and Endothelial Cell Model

Conservation Equations

Smooth muscle cell

Cytosolic $[Ca^{2+}]$ in the SMC (in μM):

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d[Ca^{2+}]_i}{dt} = & J_{IP3i} - J_{SR_{uptake_i}} + J_{CICR_i} - J_{extrusion_i} + J_{SR_{leak_i}} \dots \\ & - J_{VOCC_i} + J_{Na/Ca_i} + 0.1 J_{stretch_i} + J_{Ca^{2+}-coupling_i}^{SMC-EC} \end{aligned} \quad (32)$$

$[Ca^{2+}]$ in the SR of the SMC (in μM):

$$\frac{d[\widehat{Ca}^{2+}]_i}{dt} = J_{SR_{uptake_i}} - J_{CICR_i} - J_{SR_{leak_i}} \quad (33)$$

Membrane potential of the SMC (in mV):

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dv_i}{dt} = & \gamma_i (-J_{Na/K_i} - J_{Cl_i} - 2J_{VOCC_i} - J_{Na/Ca_i} - J_{K_i} \dots \\ & - J_{stretch_i} - J_{KIR_i}) + V_{coupling_i}^{SMC-EC} \end{aligned} \quad (34)$$

Open state probability of calcium-activated potassium channels (dim.less):

$$\frac{dw_i}{dt} = \lambda_i (K_{act_i} - w_i) \quad (35)$$

IP₃ concentration on the SMC (in μM):

$$\frac{d[IP_3]_i}{dt} = J_{IP_3-coupling_i}^{SMC-EC} - J_{degrad_i} \quad (36)$$

K⁺ concentration in the SMC (in μM):

$$\frac{d[K_i^+]}{dt} = J_{Na/K_i} - J_{KIR_i} - J_{K_i} \quad (37)$$

γ_i	Change in membrane potential by a scaling factor	1970 mV μM^{-1}	[5]
λ_i	Rate constant for opening	45.0 s ⁻¹	[5]

Endothelial cell

Cytosolic Ca²⁺ concentration in the EC (in μM):

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d[Ca^{2+}]_j}{dt} = & J_{IP_3j} - J_{ERuptake_j} + J_{CICR_j} - J_{extrusion_j} \dots \\ & + J_{ERleak_j} + J_{cation_j} + J_{0j} + J_{stretch_j} - J_{Ca^{2+}-coupling_j}^{SMC-EC} \end{aligned} \quad (38)$$

Ca²⁺ concentration in the ER in the EC (in μM):

$$\frac{d[\widehat{Ca}^{2+}]_j}{dt} = J_{ERuptake_j} - J_{CICR_j} - J_{ERleak_j} \quad (39)$$

Membrane potential of the EC (in mV):

$$\frac{dv_j}{dt} = -\frac{1}{C_{m_j}}(J_{K_j} + J_{R_j}) + V_{coupling_j}^{SMC-EC} \quad (40)$$

IP₃ concentration of the EC (in μM):

$$\frac{d[IP_3]_j}{dt} = J_{EC,IP_3} - J_{degrad_j} - J_{IP_3-coupling_j}^{SMC-EC} \quad (41)$$

C_{m_j}	Membrane capacitance	25.8 pF	[5]
J_{EC,IP_3}	IP ₃ production rate	0.18 or 0.4 $\mu\text{M s}^{-1}$	[5]
J_{0_j}	leak		
F_i	Maximal rate of activation-dependent calcium influx	0.23 $\mu\text{M s}^{-1}$	[5]
K_{ri}	Half-saturation constant for agonist-dependent calcium entry	1 μM	[5]

Fluxes

Smooth muscle cell

Release of calcium from IP₃ sensitive stores in the SMC (in $\mu\text{M s}^{-1}$):

$$J_{IP_{3i}} = F_i \frac{[IP_3]_i^2}{K_{ri}^2 + [IP_3]_i^2} \quad (42)$$

Uptake of calcium into the sarcoplasmic reticulum (in $\mu\text{M s}^{-1}$):

$$J_{SR_{uptake_i}} = B_i \frac{[Ca^{2+}]_i^2}{c_{bi}^2 + [Ca^{2+}]_i^2} \quad (43)$$

B_i	SR uptake rate constant	2.025 $\mu\text{M s}^{-1}$	[5]
c_{bi}	Half-point of the SR ATPase activation sigmoidal	1.0 μM	[5]

Calcium-induced calcium release (CICR; in $\mu\text{M s}^{-1}$):

$$J_{CICR_i} = C_i \frac{[\widehat{Ca}^{2+}]_i^2}{s_{ci}^2 + [\widehat{Ca}^{2+}]_i^2} \frac{[Ca^{2+}]_i^4}{c_{ci}^4 + [Ca^{2+}]_i^4} \quad (44)$$

C_i	CICR rate constant	55 $\mu\text{M s}^{-1}$	[5]
s_{ci}	Half-point of the CICR Ca ²⁺ efflux sigmoidal	2.0 μM	[5]
c_{ci}	Half-point of the CICR activation sigmoidal	0.9 μM	[5]

Calcium extrusion by Ca²⁺-ATPase pumps (in $\mu\text{M s}^{-1}$):

$$J_{extrusion_i} = D_i [Ca^{2+}]_i \left(1 + \frac{v_i - v_d}{R_{di}} \right) \quad (45)$$

Leak current from the SR (in $\mu\text{M s}^{-1}$):

$$J_{SR_{leak_i}} = L_i [\widehat{Ca}^{2+}]_i \quad (46)$$

D_i	Rate constant for Ca^{2+} extrusion by the ATPase pump	0.24 s^{-1}	[5]
v_d	Intercept of voltage dependence of extrusion ATPase	-100.0 mV	[5]
R_{di}	Slope of voltage dependence of extrusion ATPase.	250.0 mV	[5]
L_i	Leak from SR rate constant	0.025 s^{-1}	[5]

Calcium influx through VOCCs (in $\mu\text{M s}^{-1}$):

$$J_{VOCC_i} = G_{Cai} \frac{v_i - v_{Ca_{1i}}}{1 + \exp(-(v_i - v_{Ca_{2i}}) / R_{Cai})} \quad (47)$$

G_{Cai}	Whole-cell conductance for VOCCs	$1.29 \times 10^{-3} \mu\text{M mV}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$	[5]
$v_{Ca_{1i}}$	Reversal potential for VOCCs	100.0 mV	[5]
$v_{Ca_{2i}}$	Half-point of the VOCC activation sigmoidal	-24.0 mV	[5]
R_{Cai}	Maximum slope of the VOCC activation sigmoidal	8.5 mV	[5]

Flux of calcium exchanging with sodium in the $\text{Na}^+\text{Ca}^{2+}$ exchange (in $\mu\text{M s}^{-1}$):

$$J_{\text{Na/Ca}_i} = G_{\text{Na/Ca}_i} \frac{[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i}{[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i + c_{\text{Na/Ca}_i}} (v_i - v_{\text{Na/Ca}_i}) \quad (48)$$

$G_{\text{Na/Ca}_i}$	Whole-cell conductance for $\text{Na}^+/\text{Ca}^{2+}$ exchange	$3.16 \times 10^{-3} \mu\text{M mV}^{-1}\text{s}^{-1}$	[5]
$c_{\text{Na/Ca}_i}$	Half-point for activation of $\text{Na}^+/\text{Ca}^{2+}$ exchange by Ca^{2+}	0.5 μM	[5]
$v_{\text{Na/Ca}_i}$	Reversal potential for the $\text{Na}^+/\text{Ca}^{2+}$ exchanger	-30.0 mV	[5]

Calcium flux through the stretch-activated channels in the SMC (in $\mu\text{M s}^{-1}$):

$$J_{\text{stretch}_i} = \frac{G_{\text{stretch}}}{1 + \exp\left(-\alpha_{\text{stretch}}\left(\frac{\Delta p R}{h} - \sigma_0\right)\right)} (v_i - E_{\text{SAC}}) \quad (49)$$

G_{stretch}	Whole cell conductance for SACs	$6.1 \times 10^{-3} \mu\text{M mV}^{-1}\text{s}^{-1}$	[5]
α_{stretch}	Slope of stress dependence of the SAC activation sigmoidal	$7.4 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mmHg}^{-1}$	[5]
Δp	Pressure difference	30 mmHg	ME
σ_0	Half-point of the SAC activation sigmoidal	500 mmHg	[5]
E_{SAC}	Reversal potential for SACs	-18 mV	[5]

Flux through the sodium potassium pump (in $\mu\text{M s}^{-1}$):

$$J_{\text{Na/K}_i} = F_{\text{Na/K}_i} \quad (50)$$

$F_{\text{Na/K}_i}$	Rate of the potassium influx by the sodium potassium pump	$4.32 \times 10^{-2} \mu\text{M s}^{-1}$	[5]
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Chloride flux through the chloride channel (in $\mu\text{M s}^{-1}$):

$$J_{\text{Cl}_i} = G_{\text{Cl}_i} (v_i - v_{\text{Cl}_i}) \quad (51)$$

G_{Cl_i}	Whole-cell conductance for Cl^- current	$1.34 \times 10^{-3} \mu\text{M mV}^{-1}\text{s}^{-1}$	[5]
v_{Cl_i}	Reversal potential for Cl^- channels.	-25.0 mV	[5]

Potassium flux through potassium channel (in $\mu\text{M s}^{-1}$):

$$J_{\text{K}_i} = G_{\text{K}_i} w_i (v_i - v_{\text{K}_i}) \quad (52)$$

G_{Ki}	Whole-cell conductance for K^+ efflux.	$4.46 \times 10^{-3} \mu M \text{ mV}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$	[5]
v_{Ki}	Nernst potential	-94 mV	[5]
F_{KIR_i}	Scaling factor of potassium efflux through the KIR channel	750 mV μM^{-1}	[2]

Flux through KIR channels in the SMC (in $\mu M \text{ s}^{-1}$):

$$J_{KIR_i} = \frac{F_{KIR_i} g_{KIR_i}}{\gamma_i} (v_i - v_{KIR_i}) \quad (53)$$

IP₃ degradation (in $\mu M \text{ s}^{-1}$):

$$J_{degrad_i} = k_{di} I_i \quad (54)$$

k_{di}	Rate constant of IP ₃ degradation	0.1 s^{-1}	[5]
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Endothelial cell

Release of calcium from IP₃-sensitive stores in the EC (in $\mu M \text{ s}^{-1}$):

$$J_{IP_3j} = F_j \frac{[IP_3]_j^2}{K_{rj}^2 + [IP_3]_j^2} \quad (55)$$

F_j	Maximal rate of activation-dependent calcium influx	0.23 $\mu M \text{ s}^{-1}$	[5]
K_{rj}	Half-saturation constant for agonist-dependent calcium entry	1 μM	[5]

Uptake of calcium into the endoplasmic reticulum (in $\mu M \text{ s}^{-1}$):

$$J_{ER_{uptake_j}} = B_j \frac{[Ca^{2+}]_j^2}{c_{bj}^2 + [Ca^{2+}]_j^2} \quad (56)$$

B_j	ER uptake rate constant	0.5 $\mu M \text{ s}^{-1}$	[5]
c_{bj}	Half-point of the SR ATPase activation sigmoidal	1.0 μM	[5]

Calcium-induced calcium release (CICR; in $\mu M \text{ s}^{-1}$):

$$J_{CICR_j} = C_j \frac{[\widehat{Ca}^{2+}]_j^2}{s_{cj}^2 + [\widehat{Ca}^{2+}]_j^2} \frac{[Ca^{2+}]_j^4}{c_{cj}^4 + [Ca^{2+}]_j^4} \quad (57)$$

C_j	CICR rate constant	$5 \mu\text{M s}^{-1}$	[5]
s_{cj}	Half-point of the CICR Ca^{2+} efflux sigmoidal	$2.0 \mu\text{M}$	[5]
c_{cj}	Half-point of the CICR activation sigmoidal	$0.9 \mu\text{M}$	[5]

Calcium extrusion by Ca^{2+} -ATPase pumps (in $\mu\text{M s}^{-1}$):

$$J_{extrusion_j} = D_j[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_j \quad (58)$$

D_j	Rate constant for Ca^{2+} extrusion by the ATPase pump	0.24 s^{-1}	[6]
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Calcium flux through the stretch-activated channels in the EC (in $\mu\text{M s}^{-1}$):

$$J_{stretch_j} = \frac{G_{stretch}}{1 + e^{-\alpha_{stretch}(\sigma - \sigma_0)}} (v_j - E_{SAC}) = \frac{G_{stretch}}{1 + e^{-\alpha_{stretch}(\frac{\Delta p R}{h} - \sigma_0)}} (v_j - E_{SAC}) \quad (59)$$

$G_{stretch}$	The whole cell conductance for SACs	$6.1 \times 10^{-3} \mu\text{M mV}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$	[5]
$\alpha_{stretch}$	Slope of stress dependence of the SAC activation sigmoidal	$7.4 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mmHg}^{-1}$	[5]
Δp	Pressure difference	30 mmHg	ME
σ_0	Half-point of the SAC activation sigmoidal	500 mmHg	[5]
E_{SAC}	The reversal potential for SACs	-18 mV	[5]

Leak current from the ER (in $\mu\text{M s}^{-1}$):

$$J_{ERleak_j} = L_j[\widehat{\text{Ca}}^{2+}]_j \quad (60)$$

L_j	Rate constant for Ca^{2+} leak from the ER	0.025 s^{-1}	[5]
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Calcium influx through nonselective cation channels (in $\mu\text{M s}^{-1}$):

$$J_{cation_j} = G_{cat_j}(E_{Ca_j} - v_j) \frac{1}{2} \left(1 + \tanh \left(\frac{\log_{10}[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_j - m_{3cat_j}}{m_{4cat_j}} \right) \right) \quad (61)$$

Potassium efflux through the J_{BKCa_j} channel and the J_{SKCa_j} channel (in $\mu\text{M s}^{-1}$):

$$J_{K_j} = G_{tot_j}(v_j - v_{K_j}) (J_{BKCa_j} + J_{SKCa_j}) \quad (62)$$

G_{catj}	Whole-cell cation channel conductivity	$6.6 \times 10^{-4} \mu\text{M mV}^{-1}\text{s}^{-1}$	[5]
E_{Ca_j}	Ca^{2+} equilibrium potential	50 mV	[5]
m_{3catj}	Model constant	-0.18 μM	[5]
m_{4catj}	Model constant	0.37 μM	[5]
G_{totj}	Total potassium channel conductivity.	6927 pS	[5]
v_{Kj}	K^+ equilibrium potential	-80.0 mV	[5]

Potassium efflux through the $J_{BK_{Ca_j}}$ channel (in $\mu\text{M s}^{-1}$):

$$J_{BK_{Ca_j}} = 0.2 \left(1 + \tanh \left(\frac{(\log_{10}[Ca^{2+}]_j - c)(v_j - b_j) - a_{1j}}{m_{3bj}(v_j + a_{2j}(\log_{10}[Ca^{2+}]_j - c) - b_j)^2 + m_{4bj}} \right) \right) \quad (63)$$

Potassium efflux through the $J_{SK_{Ca_j}}$ channel (in $\mu\text{M s}^{-1}$):

$$J_{SK_{Ca_j}} = 0.3 \left(1 + \tanh \left(\frac{\log_{10}[Ca^{2+}]_j - m_{3sj}}{m_{4sj}} \right) \right) \quad (64)$$

c	Model constant, further explanation see reference	-0.4 μM	[5]
b_j	Model constant, further explanation see reference	-80.8 mV	[5]
a_{1j}	Model constant, further explanation see reference	53.3 $\mu\text{M mV}$	[5]
a_{2j}	Model constant, further explanation see reference	53.3 $\text{mV}\mu\text{M}^{-1}$	[5]
m_{3bj}	Model constant, further explanation see reference	$1.32 \times 10^{-3} \mu\text{M mV}^{-1}$	[5]
m_{4bj}	Model constant, further explanation see reference	0.30 $\mu\text{M mV}$	[5]
m_{3sj}	Model constant, further explanation see reference	-0.28 μM	[5]
m_{4sj}	Model constant, further explanation see reference	0.389 μM	[5]

Residual current regrouping chloride and sodium current flux (in $\mu\text{M s}^{-1}$):

$$J_{R_j} = G_{R_j}(v_j - v_{restj}) \quad (65)$$

G_{R_j}	Residual current conductivity	955 pS	[5]
v_{restj}	Membrane resting potential	-31.1 mV	[5]

IP_3 degradation (in $\mu\text{M s}^{-1}$):

$$J_{degrad_j} = k_{dj}[\text{IP}_3]_j \quad (66)$$

k_{dj}	Rate constant of IP_3 degradation	0.1 s^{-1}	[5]
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Coupling

Heterocellular electrical coupling between SMCs and ECs (in mV s^{-1}):

$$V_{coupling_i}^{SMC-EC} = -G_{coup}(v_i - v_j) \quad (67)$$

Heterocellular IP_3 coupling between SMCs and ECs (in $\mu\text{M s}^{-1}$):

$$J_{IP_3-coupling_i}^{SMC-EC} = -P_{IP_3}([IP_3]_i - [IP_3]_j) \quad (68)$$

Calcium coupling with EC (in $\mu\text{M s}^{-1}$):

$$J_{Ca^{2+}-coupling_i}^{SMC-EC} = -P_{Ca^{2+}}([Ca^{2+}]_i - [Ca^{2+}]_j) \quad (69)$$

G_{coup}	Heterocellular electrical coupling coefficient	0.5 s^{-1}	ME
P_{IP_3}	Heterocellular IP_3 coupling coefficient	0.05 s^{-1}	[5]
$P_{Ca^{2+}}$	Heterocellular $P_{Ca^{2+}}$ coupling coefficient	0.05 s^{-1}	[5]

Additional Equations

Equilibrium distribution of open channel states for the voltage and calcium activated potassium channels (dimensionless):

$$K_{act_i} = \frac{([Ca^{2+}]_i + c_{wi})^2}{([Ca^{2+}]_i + c_{wi})^2 + \beta_i \exp(-([v_i - v_{Ca_{3i}}] / R_{Ki}))} \quad (70)$$

Nernst potential of the KIR channel in the SMC (in mV):

$$v_{KIR_i} = z_1 K_p - z_2 \quad (71)$$

Conductance of KIR channel (in $\mu\text{M mV}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$):

$$g_{KIR_i} = \exp(z_5 v_i + z_3 K_p - z_4) \quad (72)$$

5.3 The Contraction Model

Fraction of free phosphorylated cross-bridges (dimensionless):

$$\frac{d[Mp]}{dt} = K_4[AMp] + K_1[M] - (K_2 + K_3)[Mp] \quad (73)$$

c_{wi}	Translation factor for Ca^{2+} dependence of K_{Ca} channel activation sigmoidal.	0.0 μM	[5]
β_i	Translation factor for membrane potential dependence of K_{Ca} channel activation sigmoidal.	0.13 μM^2	[5]
$v_{Ca_{3i}}$	Half-point for the K_{Ca} channel activation sigmoidal.	-27 mV	[5]
R_{Ki}	Maximum slope of the K_{Ca} activation sigmoidal.	12 mV	[5]
z_1	Model estimation for membrane voltage KIR channel	$4.5 \times 10^3 \text{ mV} \mu\text{M}^{-1}$	[1]
z_2	Model estimation for membrane voltage KIR channel	112 mV	[1]
z_3	Model estimation for the KIR channel conductance	$4.2 \times 10^2 \text{ mV}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$	[1]
z_4	Model estimation for the KIR channel conductance	$12.6 \mu\text{M mV}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$	[1]
z_5	Model estimation for the KIR channel conductance	$-7.4 \times 10^{-2} \mu\text{M mV}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$	[1]

Fraction of attached phosphorylated cross-bridges (dimensionless):

$$\frac{d[AMp]}{dt} = K_3[Mp] + K_6[AM] - (K_4 + K_5)[AMp] \quad (74)$$

Fraction of attached dephosphorylated cross-bridges (dimensionless):

$$\frac{d[AM]}{dt} = K_5[AMp] - (K_7 + K_6)[AM] \quad (75)$$

Fraction of free non-phosphorylated cross-bridges (dimensionless):

$$[M] = 1 - [AM] - [AMp] - [Mp] \quad (76)$$

Rate constants that represent phosphorylation of M to Mp and of AM to AMp by the active myosin light chain kinase (MLCK), respectively (in s^{-1}):

$$K_1 = K_6 = \gamma_{cross}[Ca^{2+}]_i^{n_{cross}} \quad (77)$$

K_2	Rate constant for dephosphorylation (of Mp to M) by myosin light-chain phosphatase (MLCP)	0.5 s^{-1}	[4]
K_3	Rate constants representing the attachment/detachment of fast cycling phosphorylated crossbridges	0.4 s^{-1}	[4]
K_4	Rate constants representing the attachment/detachment of fast cycling phosphorylated crossbridges	0.1 s^{-1}	[4]
K_5	Rate constant for dephosphorylation (of AMp to AM) by myosin light-chain phosphatase (MLCP)	0.5 s^{-1}	[4]
K_7	Rate constant for latch-bridge detachment	0.1 s^{-1}	[4]
γ_{cross}	Sensitivity of the contractile apparatus to calcium	17 $\mu\text{M}^{-3} \text{s}^{-1}$	[6]
n_{cross}	Fraction constant of the phosphorylation crossbridge	3 [-]	[6]

5.4 The Mechanical Model

Wall thickness of the vessel (in μm):

$$h = 0.1R \quad (78)$$

Fraction of attached myosin cross-bridges (dimensionless):

$$F_r = [AM_p] + [AM] \quad (79)$$

Vessel radius (in m):

$$\frac{dR}{dt} = \frac{R_{0_{pas}}}{\eta} \left(\frac{RP_T}{h} - E(F_r) \frac{R - R_0(F_r)}{R_0(F_r)} \right) \quad (80)$$

with:

$$E(F_r) = E_{pas} + F_r (E_{act} - E_{pas}) \quad (81)$$

$$R_0(F_r) = R_{0_{pas}} + F_r(\alpha - 1)R_{0_{pas}} \quad (82)$$

η	viscosity	10^4 Pa s	[5]
$R_{0_{pas}}$	Radius of the vessel when passive and no stress is applied	20 μm	ME
P_T	Transmural pressure	4×10^3 Pa	ME
E_{pas}	Young's moduli for the passive vessel	66×10^3 Pa	[3]
E_{act}	Additional component of the Young's moduli when vessel is active	167×10^3 Pa	[3]
α	Scaling factor initial radius	0.6	[3]

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