

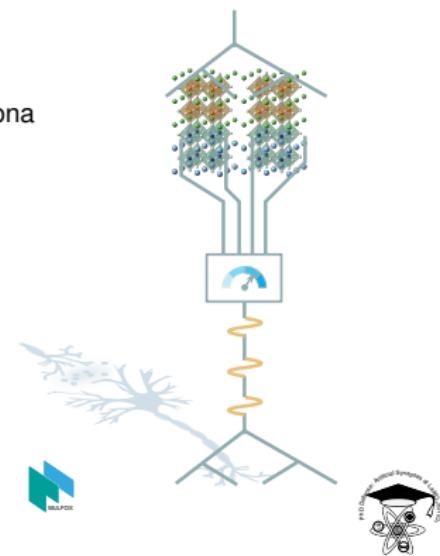
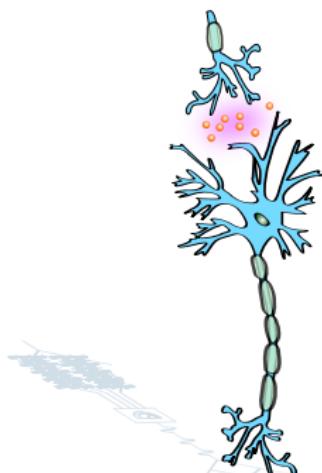
# Artificial Synapses based on the Photoconductance of LaAlO<sub>3</sub>/SrTiO<sub>3</sub> Quantum Wells

Yu CHEN

Institut de Ciència de Materials de Barcelona  
(ICMAB-CSIC)

Supervisor: Dr. Gervasi HERRANZ

14th November 2019

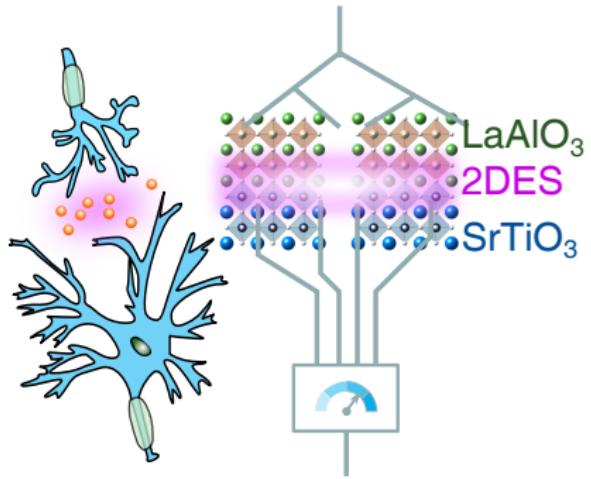


# Outline

- 1** Introduction: Neuromorphic computation
- 2** Methods: Fabrication and Characterization
- 3** Observations: Persistent Photoconductance, Photocarrier accumulation & depletion
- 4** Interpretation: Theoretical Models
- 5** Applications: Cognitive tasks in artificial network
- 6** Outlook and Perspectives: artificial vision
- 7** Conclusion

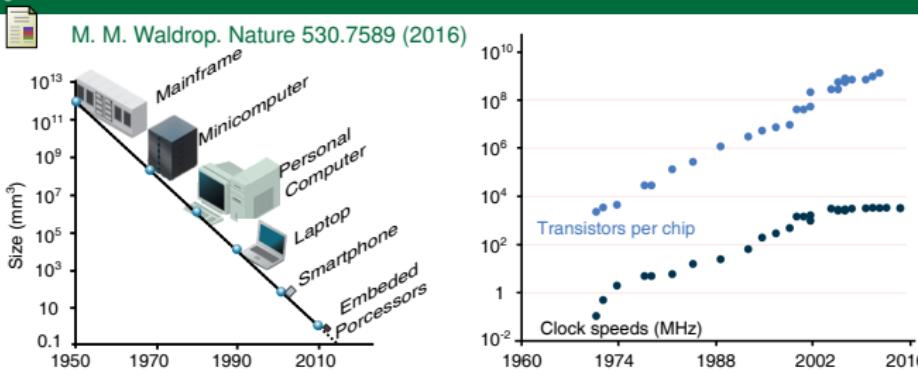


## Introduction: Neuromorphic computation



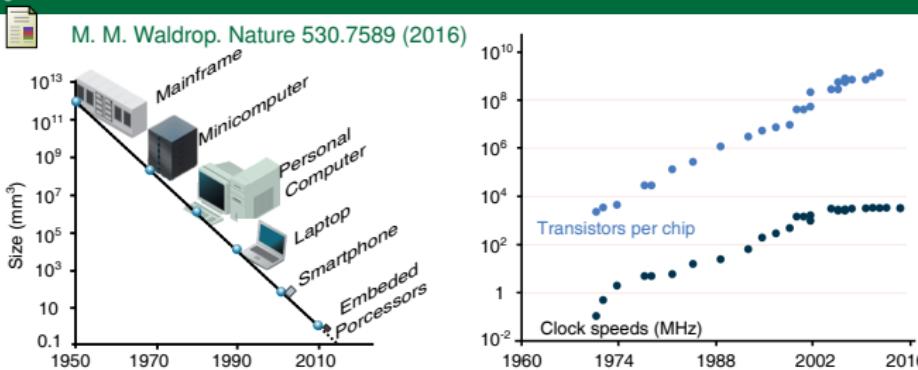
# Background

CMOS Downscaling Limitations within Von Neumann architecture



# Background

CMOS Downscaling Limitations within Von Neumann architecture

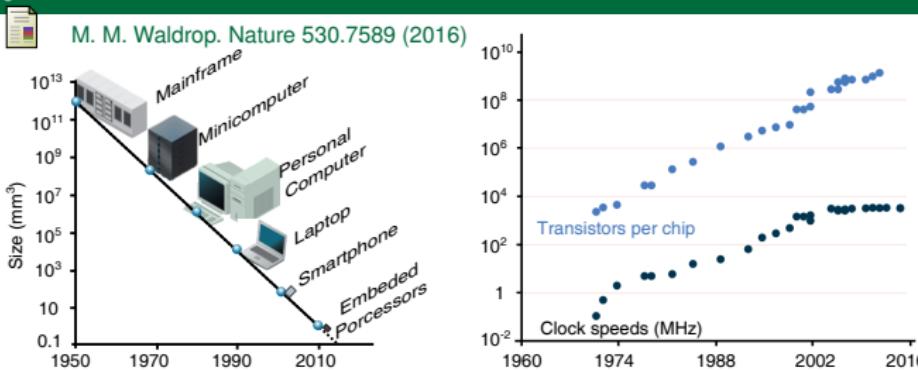


■ Thermal wall



# Background

CMOS Downscaling Limitations within Von Neumann architecture

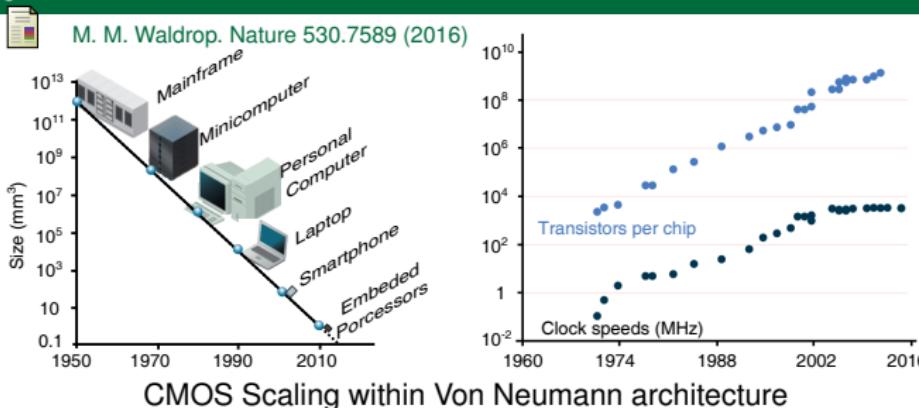


- Thermal wall
- Memory wall



# Background

CMOS Downscaling Limitations within Von Neumann architecture

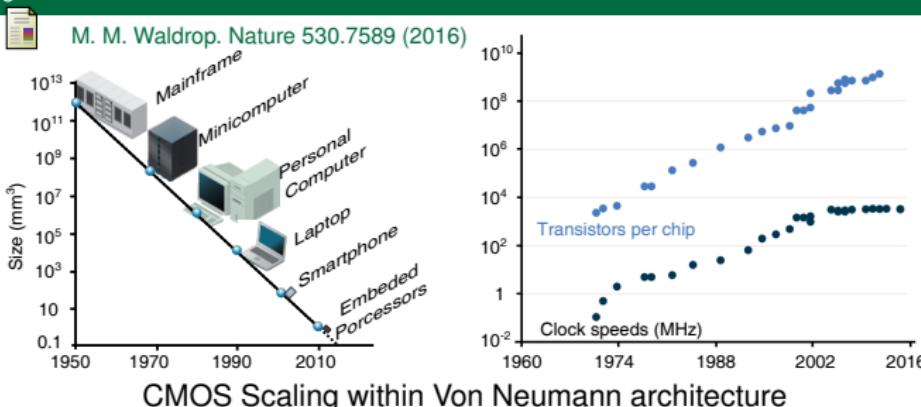


- Thermal wall
- Memory wall

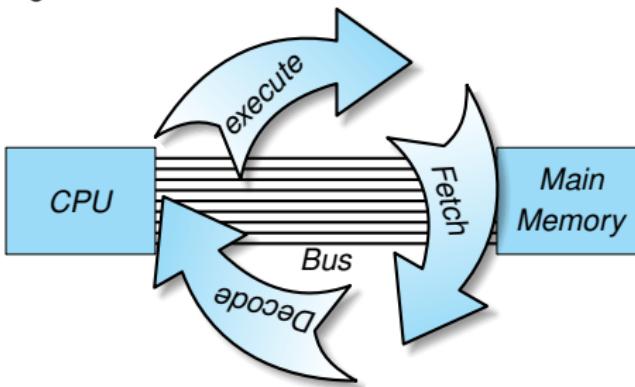


# Background

CMOS Downscaling Limitations within Von Neumann architecture



- Thermal wall
  - Memory wall
- How can we overcome the Von Neumann bottleneck?

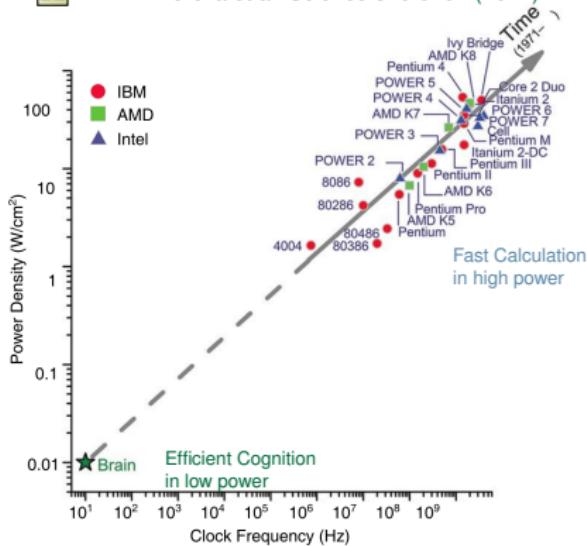


# Background

Brain-inspired Neuromorphics beyond Von Neumann architecture



P. A. Merolla et al. Science 345.6197 (2014)



Sequential and centralized Von Neumann architecture of today's computer

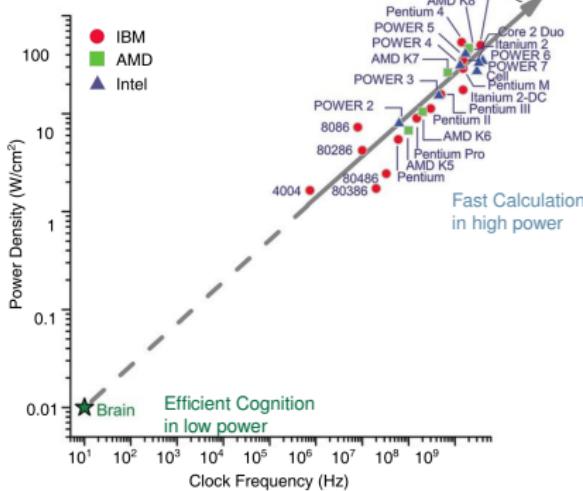


# Background

Brain-inspired Neuromorphics beyond Von Neumann architecture



P. A. Merolla et al. Science 345.6197 (2014)

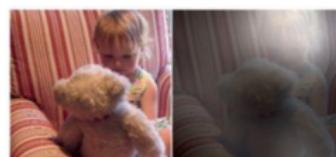


LeCun, Y. et al. Nature 521, 436444 (2015).



A woman is throwing a **frisbee** in a park.

A **dog** is standing on a hardwood floor.



A little **girl** sitting on a bed with a **teddy bear**.



A **stop sign** is on a road.

Sequential and centralized Von Neumann architecture of today's computer

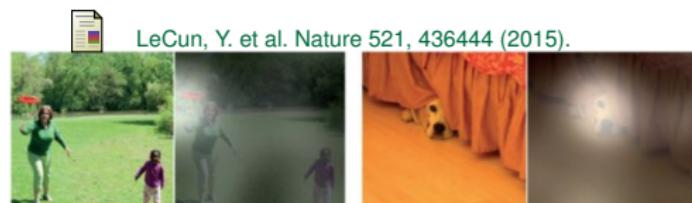
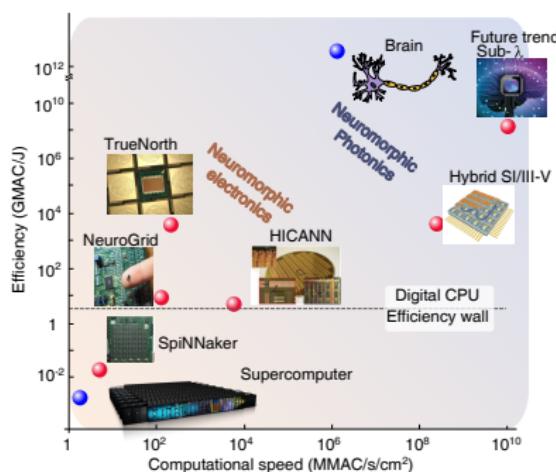


# Background

Brain-inspired Neuromorphics beyond Von Neumann architecture



T. Ferreira de Lima et al. Nanophotonics 6.3(2017)

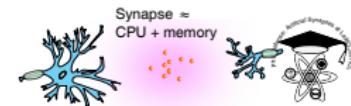


A woman is throwing a **frisbee** in a park. A **dog** is standing on a hardwood floor.



A little **girl** sitting on a bed with a **teddy bear**. A **stop** sign is on a road.

Neuromorphic hardware platforms based on the spiking neural networks

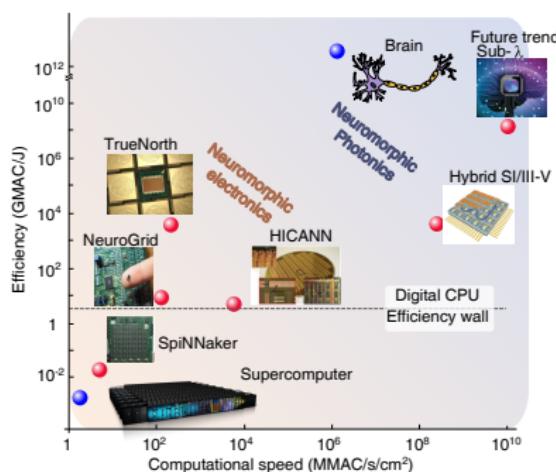


# Background

Brain-inspired Neuromorphics beyond Von Neumann architecture



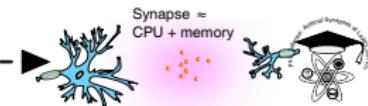
T. Ferreira de Lima et al. Nanophotonics 6.3(2017)



Neuromorphic hardware platforms based on the spiking neural networks

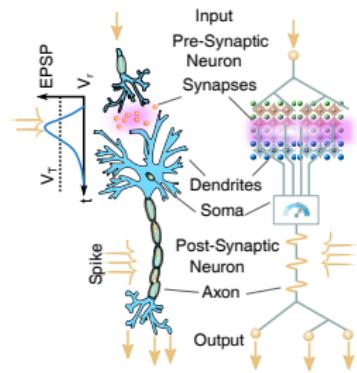


How do the Neuromorphic devices work?  
Spiking Neural Networks



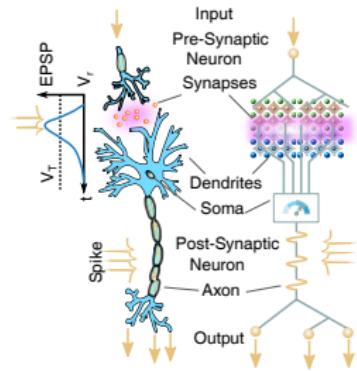
# Spiking neural networks

Towards neuromorphic computational architectures



# Spiking neural networks

Towards neuromorphic computational architectures

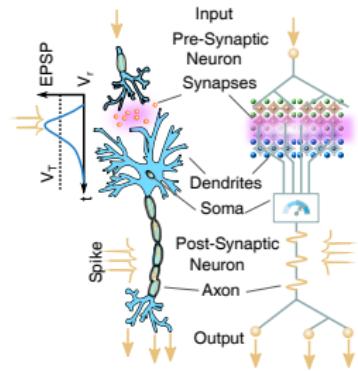


## 1 Synaptic plasticity



# Spiking neural networks

Towards neuromorphic computational architectures

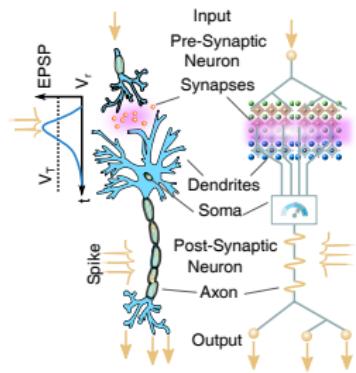


- 1 Synaptic plasticity
- 2 Threshold selectivity



# Spiking neural networks

Towards neuromorphic computational architectures



- 1 Synaptic plasticity
- 2 Threshold selectivity
- 3 Spiking programmability

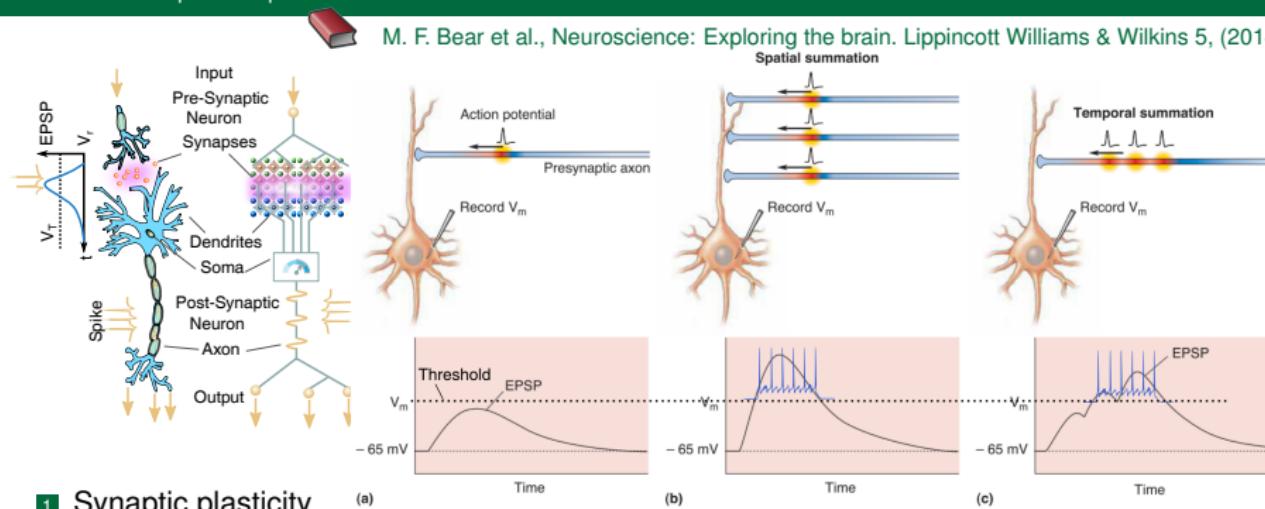


# Spiking neural networks

Towards neuromorphic computational architectures



M. F. Bear et al., Neuroscience: Exploring the brain. Lippincott Williams & Wilkins 5, (2014).



- 1 Synaptic plasticity
- 2 Threshold selectivity
- 3 Spiking programmability

Figure: Summation of excitation postsynaptic potential (EPSP)

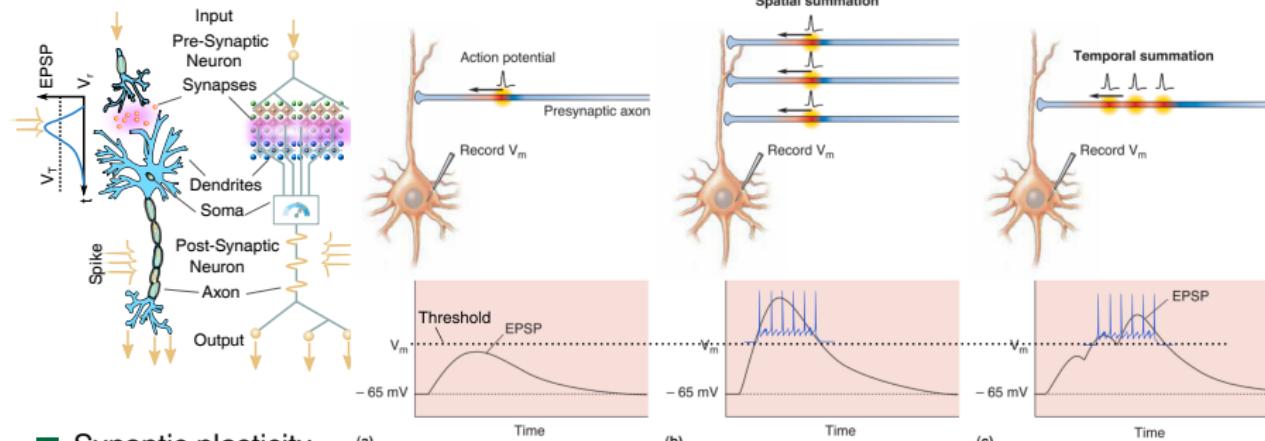


# Spiking neural networks

Towards neuromorphic computational architectures



M. F. Bear et al., Neuroscience: Exploring the brain. Lippincott Williams & Wilkins 5, (2014).



- 1 Synaptic plasticity
- 2 Threshold selectivity
- 3 Spiking programmability
- 4 Stimuli summability

Figure: Summation of excitation postsynaptic potential (EPSP)

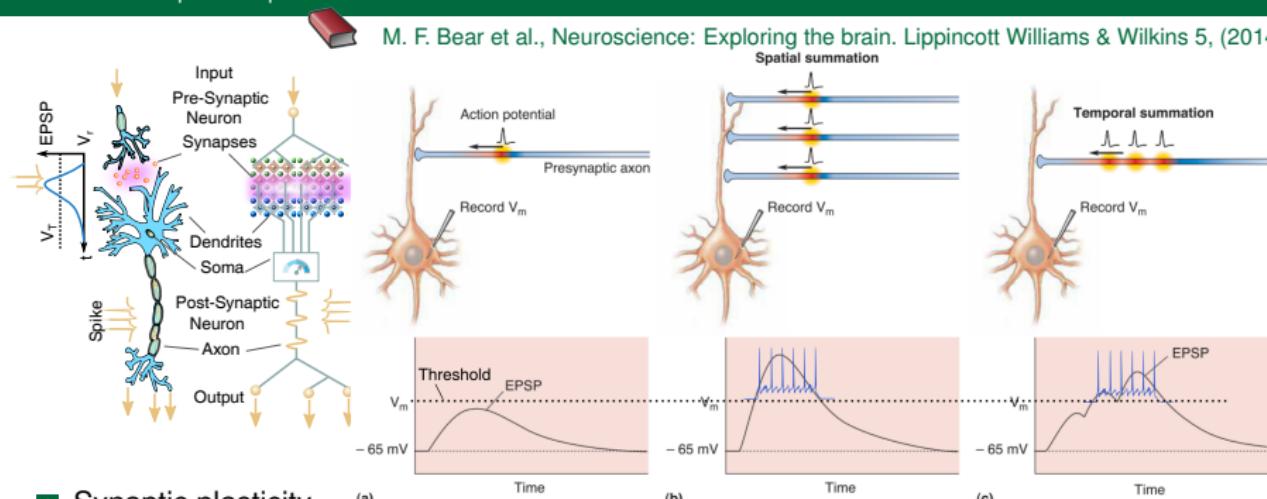


# Spiking neural networks

Towards neuromorphic computational architectures



M. F. Bear et al., Neuroscience: Exploring the brain. Lippincott Williams & Wilkins 5, (2014).



- 1 Synaptic plasticity
- 2 Threshold selectivity
- 3 Spiking programmability
- 4 Stimuli summability

Figure: Summation of excitation postsynaptic potential (EPSP)

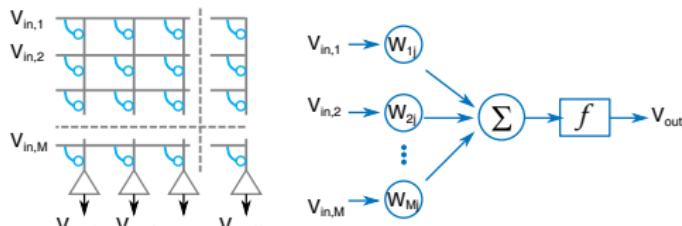


Figure: Artificial neural network and accumulating weight operation

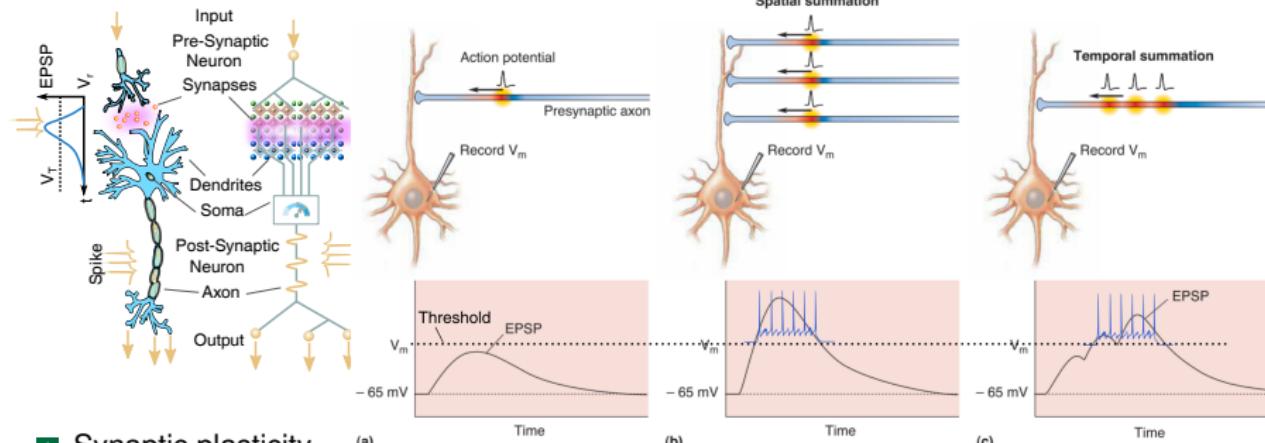


# Spiking neural networks

Towards neuromorphic computational architectures



M. F. Bear et al., Neuroscience: Exploring the brain. Lippincott Williams & Wilkins 5, (2014).



- 1 Synaptic plasticity
- 2 Threshold selectivity
- 3 Spiking programmability
- 4 Stimuli summability

How can synaptic plasticity be used to set learning rule?

Figure: Summation of excitation postsynaptic potential (EPSP)

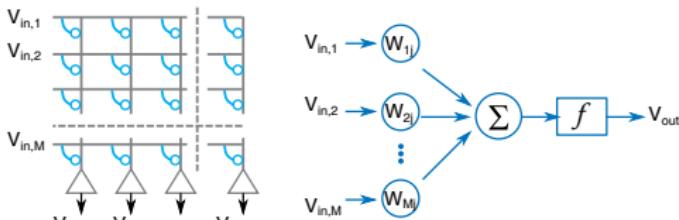
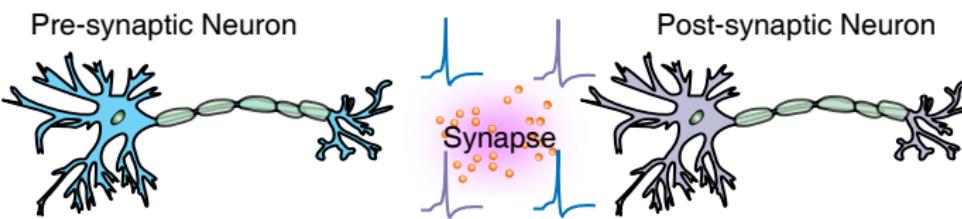


Figure: Artificial neural network and accumulating weight operation

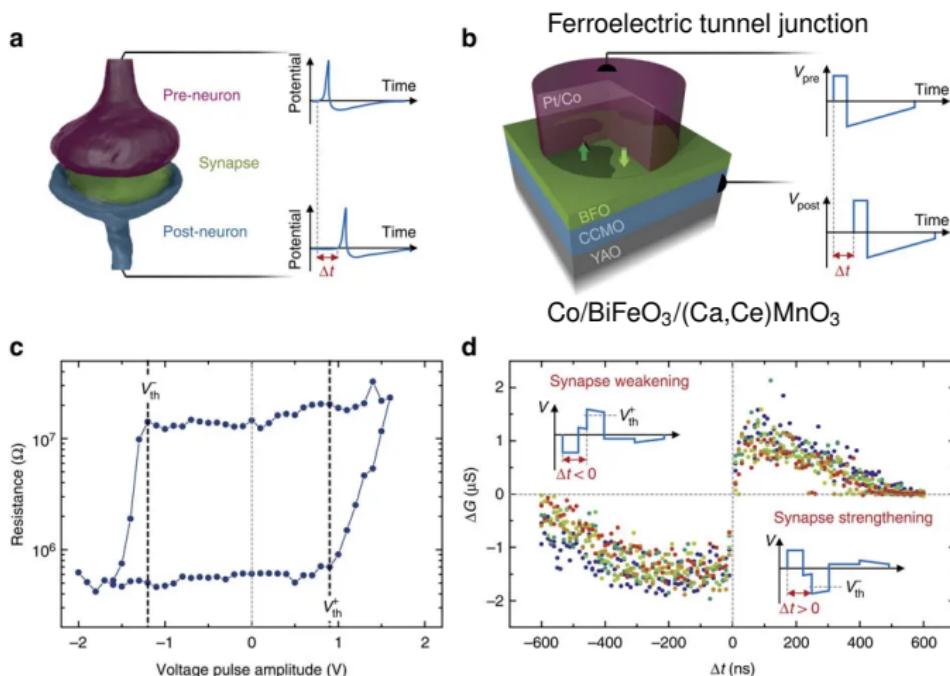


# Spike-timing dependent plasticity (STDP)

Leaning--" Timing is Everything "



# STDP replication in physical systems: memristors



S. Boyn et al., Learning through ferroelectric domain dynamics in solid-state synapses, *Nature Communications*, 14736 (2017)



# From electric stimuli to optical stimuli

Memristors: STDP with Electric Input

Achieving STDP from electric stimuli to optical stimuli?



# From electric stimuli to optical stimuli

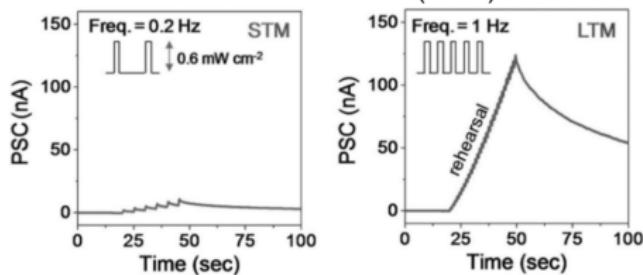
Memristors: STDP with Electric Input

Achieving STDP from electric stimuli to optical stimuli?



M. Lee et al. Advanced Materials 29.28 (2017)

Artificial Synapses based on Persistent Photoconductance (PPC)



Indium gallium zinc oxide (IGZO)

- Synaptic plasticity
- Cumulative response



# From electric stimuli to optical stimuli

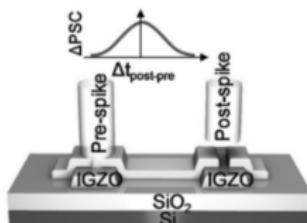
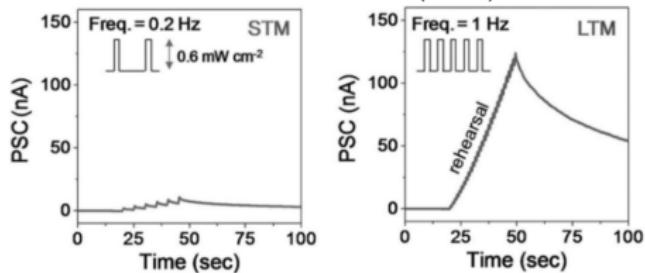
Memristors: STDP with Electric Input

Achieving STDP from electric stimuli to optical stimuli?

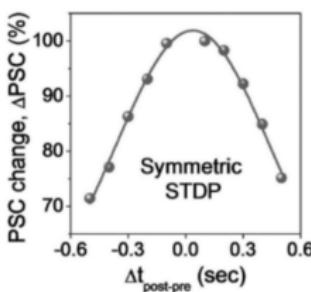


M. Lee et al. Advanced Materials 29.28 (2017)

## Artificial Synapses based on Persistent Photoconductance (PPC)



Presynaptic neuron →  
Postsynaptic neuron →  
→ Δt ←



Indium gallium zinc oxide (IGZO)

- Synaptic plasticity
- Cumulative response
- Symmetric STDP



# From electric stimuli to optical stimuli

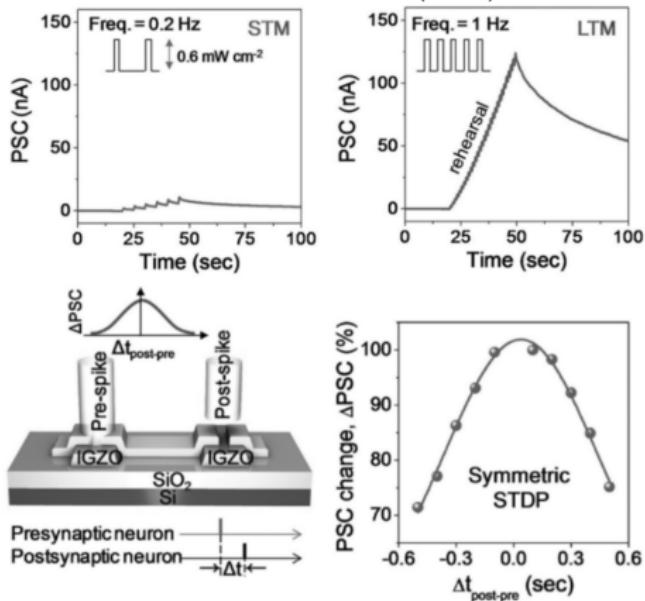
Memristors: STDP with Electric Input

Achieving STDP from electric stimuli to optical stimuli?



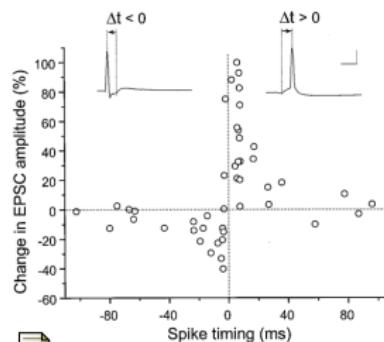
M. Lee et al. Advanced Materials 29.28 (2017)

## Artificial Synapses based on Persistent Photoconductance (PPC)



Indium gallium zinc oxide (IGZO)

- Synaptic plasticity
- Cumulative response
- Symmetric STDP



G.-q. Bi et al. The Journal of Neuroscience 18.24 (1998)



# From electric stimuli to optical stimuli

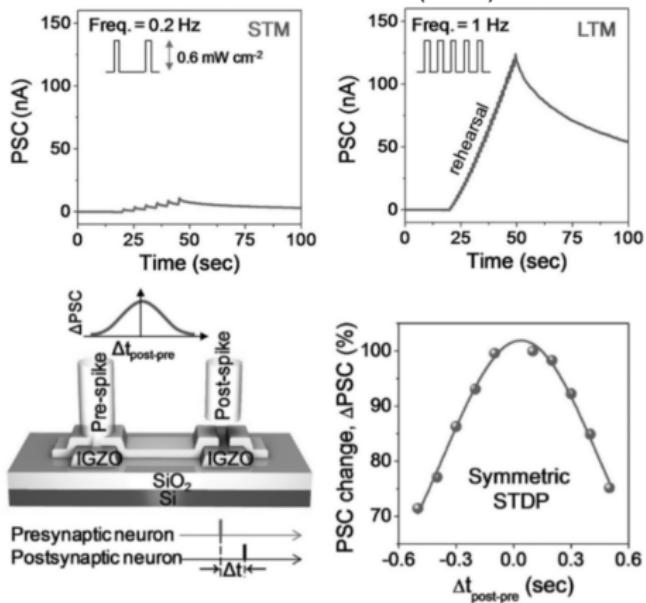
Memristors: STDP with Electric Input

Achieving STDP from electric stimuli to optical stimuli?



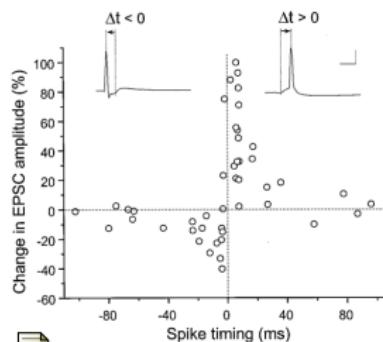
M. Lee et al. Advanced Materials 29.28 (2017)

## Artificial Synapses based on Persistent Photoconductance (PPC)



Indium gallium zinc oxide (IGZO)

- Synaptic plasticity
- Cumulative response
- Symmetric STDP

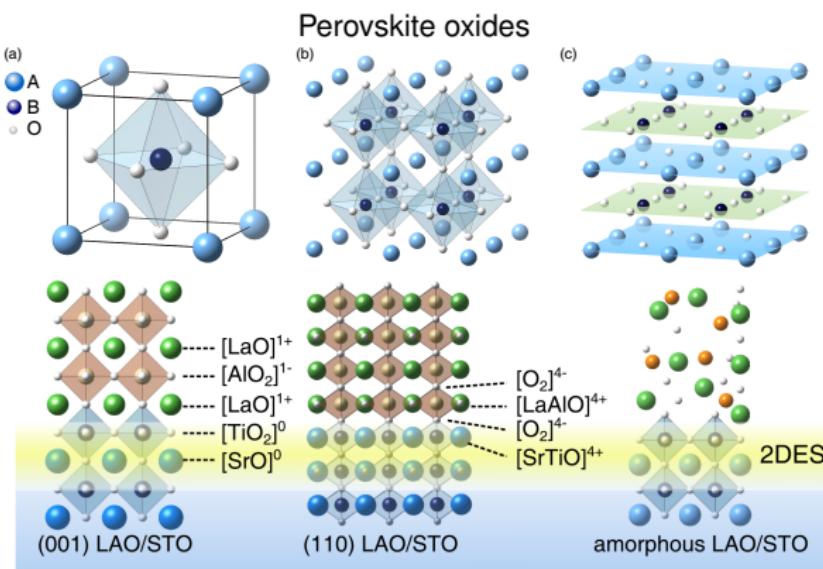


G.-q. Bi et al. The Journal of Neuroscience 18.24 (1998)

**Q:** Can we implement asymmetric STDP with optical input?  
**A:** Photocarrier accumulation → Depletion



# LaAlO<sub>3</sub>/SrTiO<sub>3</sub> interfaces



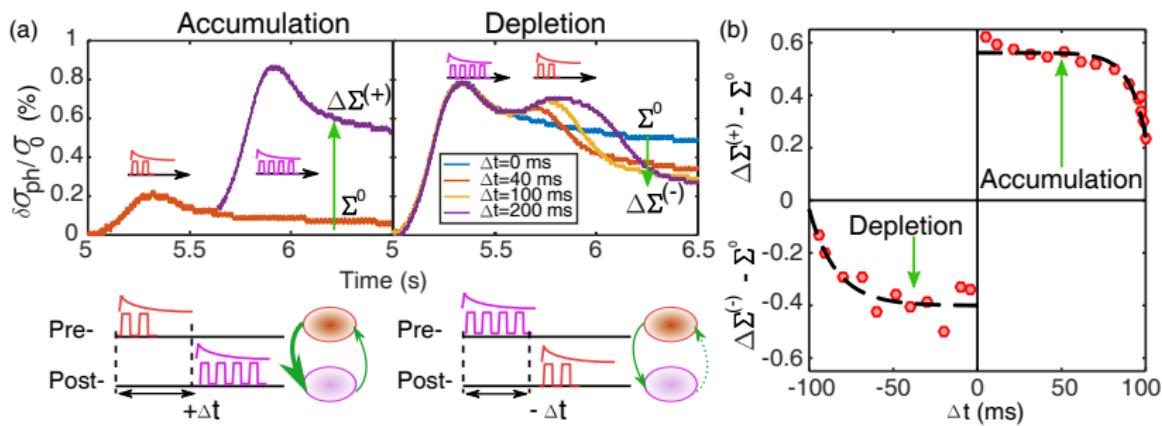
- 2D Superconductivity
- Strong Rashba Spin-Orbit fields
- Persistent Photoconductance (PPC)



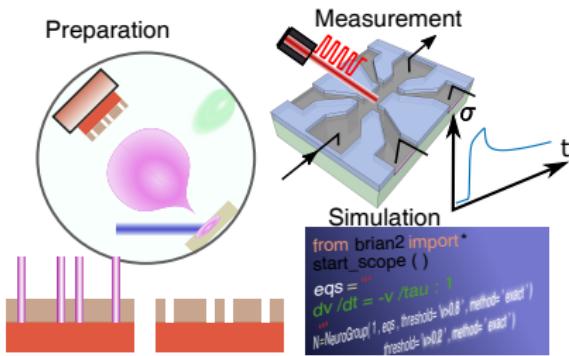
# Asymmetric Persistent Photoconductance

Wavelength-dependent time-correlated photoresponse

Excitatory and inhibitory synapses with optic inputs

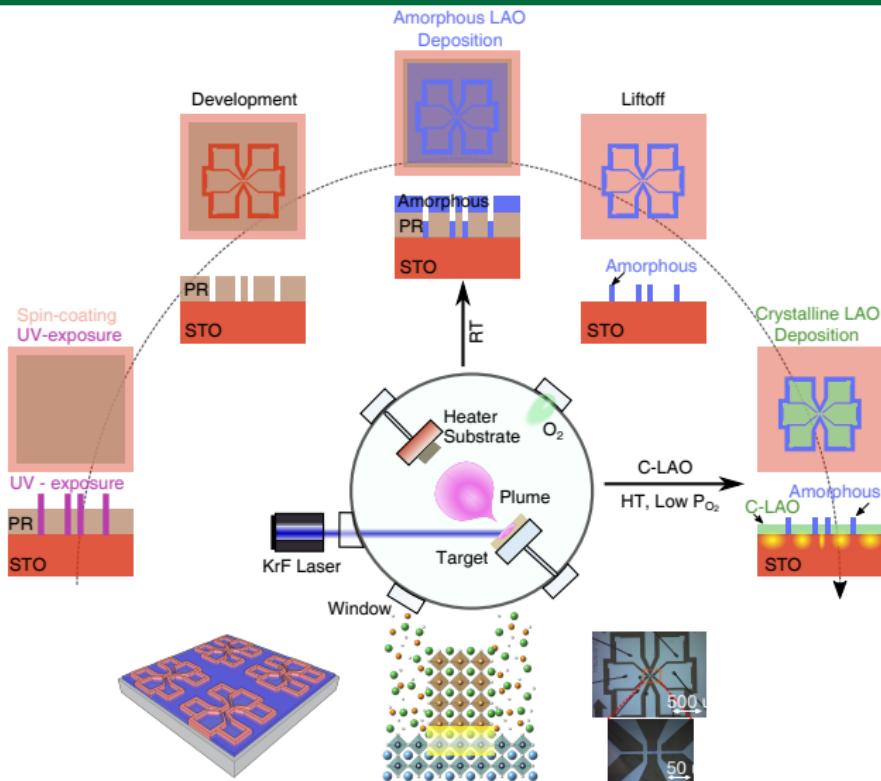


## Methods: Fabrication and Characterization

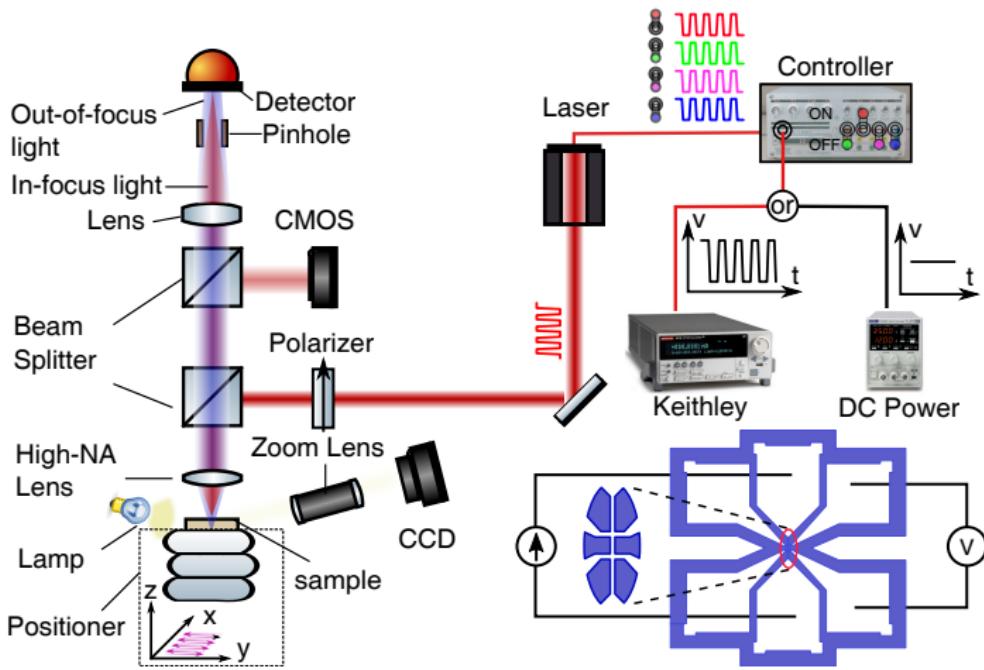


# Sample Fabrications

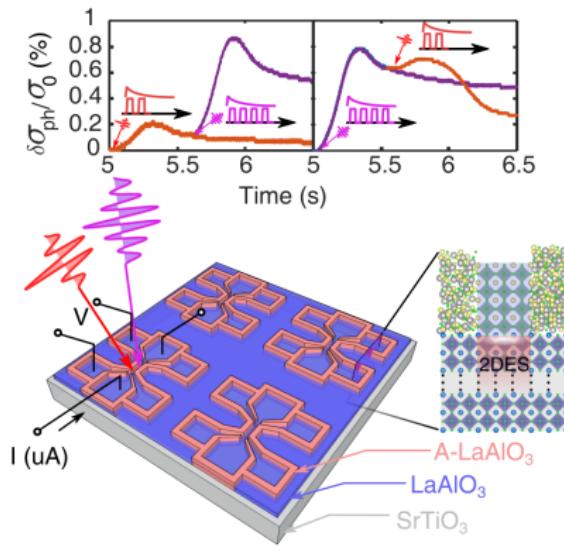
Optical lithography and pulsed laser deposition (PLD)



# Electric Transport Measurements under illumination

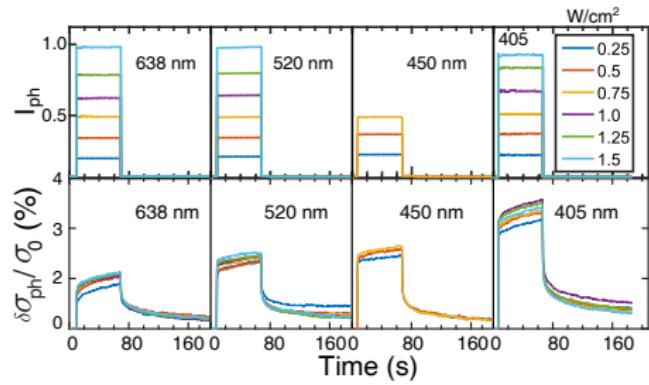
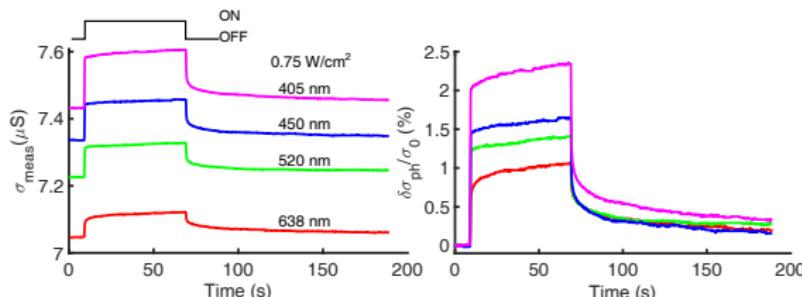
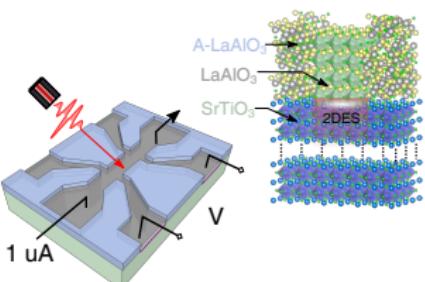


## Observations: Persistent Photoconductance, Photocarrier accumulation & depletion



# Persistent Photoconductance (PPC)

depends on the wavelength and Light power density



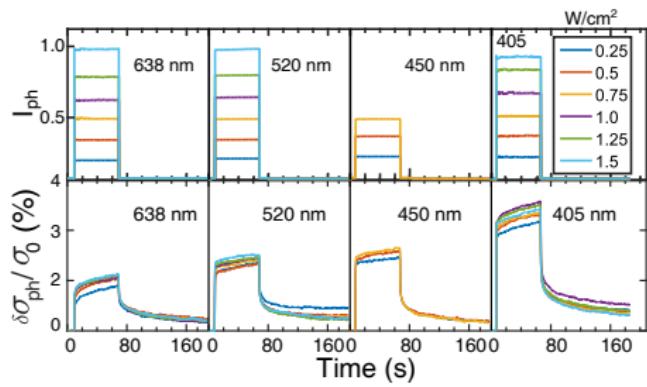
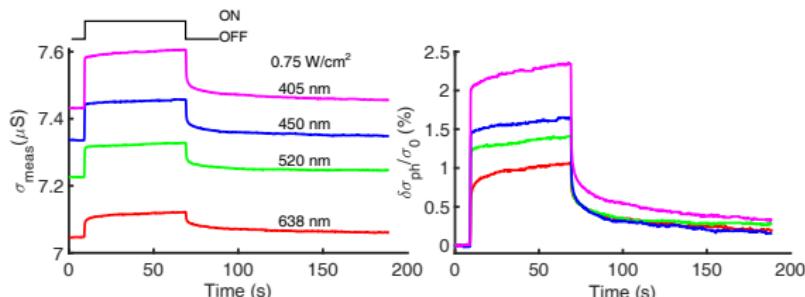
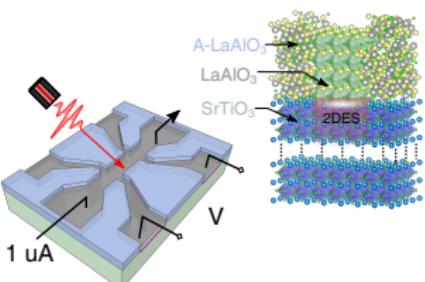
Response to **single pulse** with timescale of seconds

- Wavelength
- Light power density



# Persistent Photoconductance (PPC)

depends on the wavelength and Light power density



Response to **single pulse** with timescale of seconds

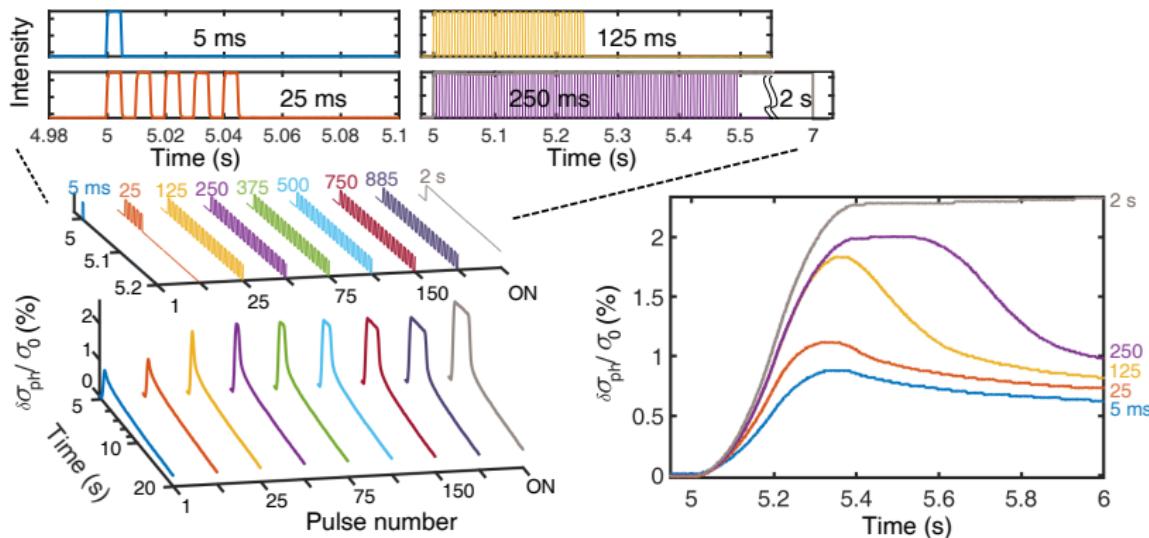
- Wavelength
- Light power density

Plasticity: Modulation with illumination cumulated time of **multiple pulses**



# Plastic PPC depending on the cumulated time

under illumination with violet ( $\lambda = 405nm$ ) light pulses

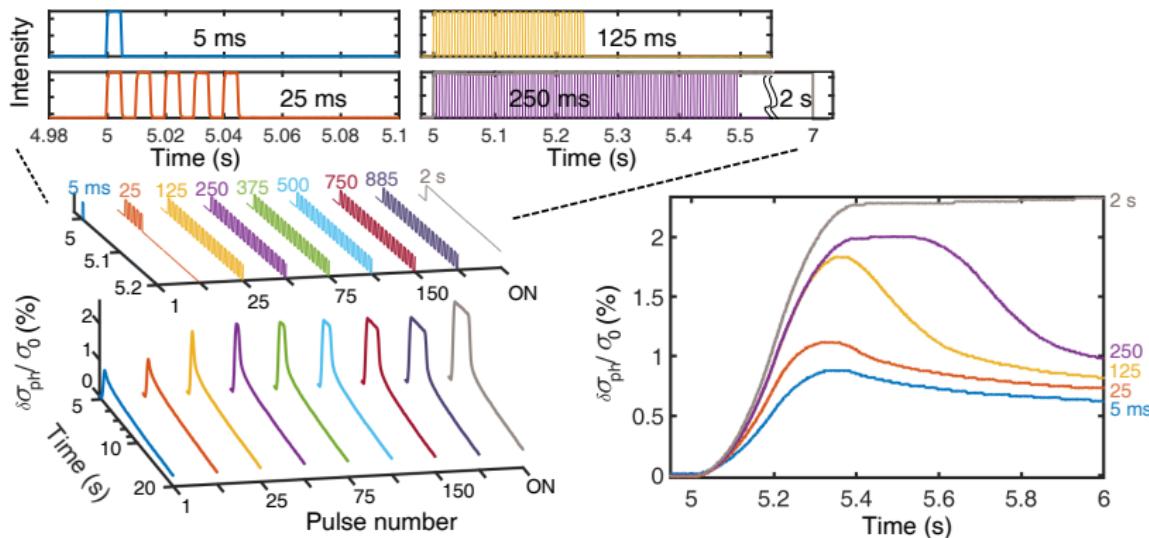


Plasticity in cumulated time → Photo-induced **Accumulation**:



# Plastic PPC depending on the cumulated time

under illumination with violet ( $\lambda = 405nm$ ) light pulses

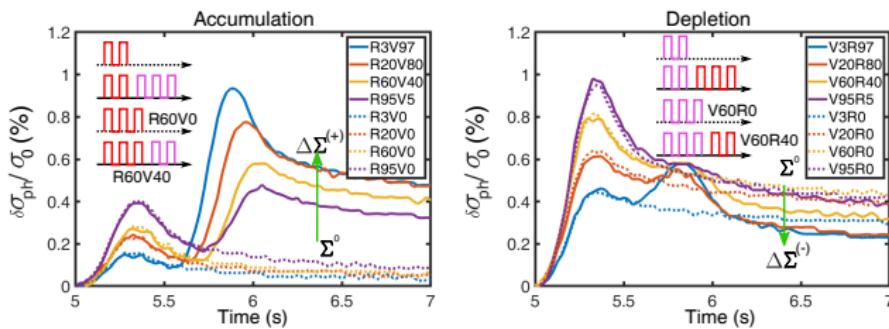


Plasticity in cumulated time → Photo-induced **Accumulation**:  
How can we achieve the **Depletion**?



# Asymmetric photoresponse

to a pair of pulses with shot- & long- wavelength

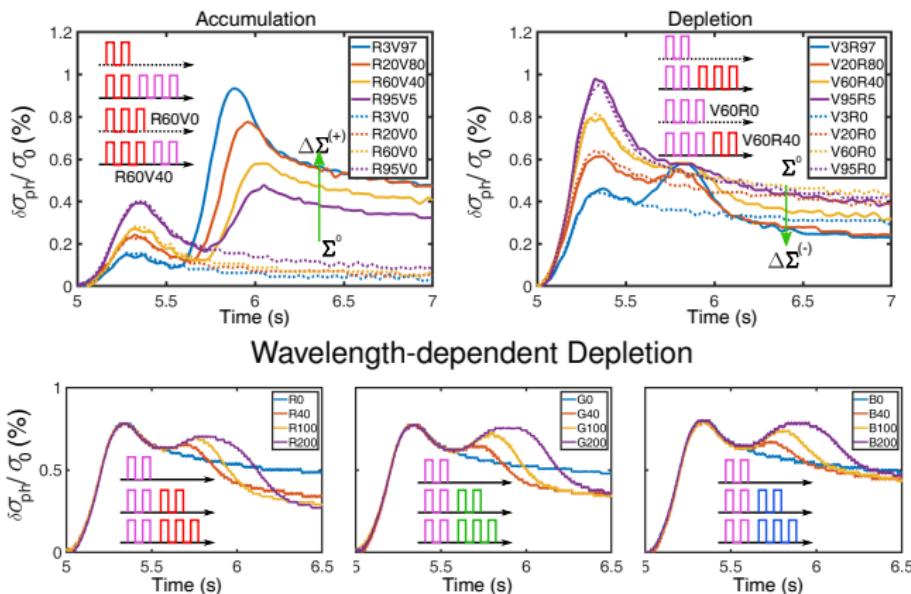


- Plasticity modulated with Cumulated time
- Time order of optical pulses matters



# Asymmetric photoresponse

to a pair of pulses with short- & long- wavelength

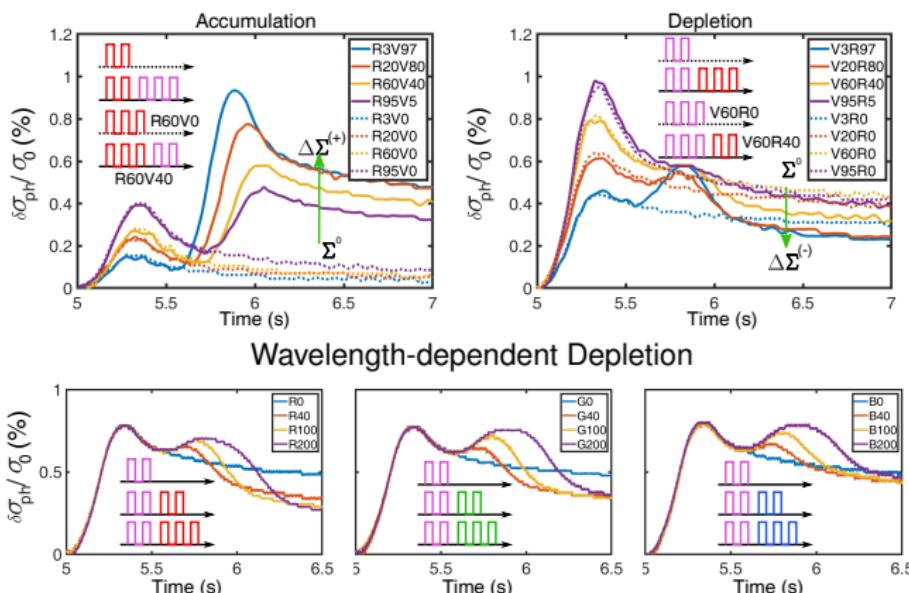


- Plasticity modulated with Cumulated time
- Time order of optical pulses matters



# Asymmetric photoresponse

to a pair of pulses with short- & long- wavelength



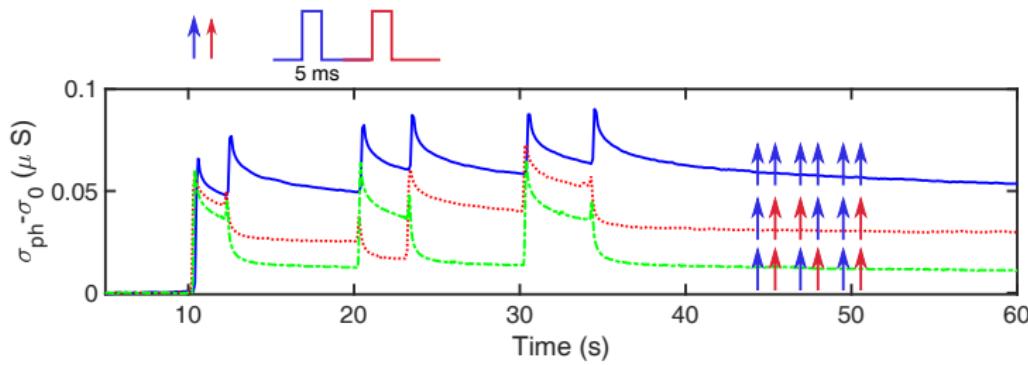
- Plasticity modulated with Cumulated time
- Time order of optical pulses matters

A pair of pulses of Long- and short wavelength → Several pairs of pulses?



# Wavelength-sensitive STDP Plasticity

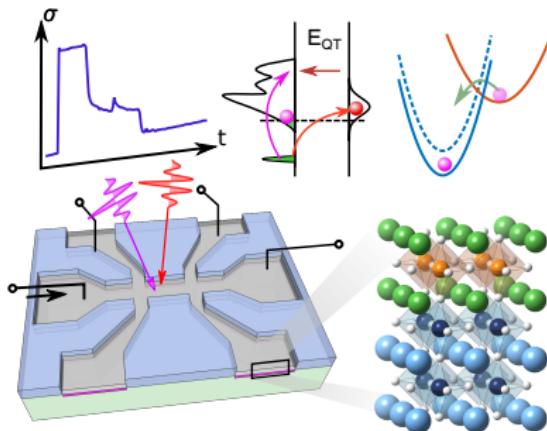
through pairs of optical pulses



- Time order matters
- Excitatory and inhibitory synapses



## Interpretation: Theoretical Models



# Photoinduced tunable carrier accumulation

Photo-excitation process, DX center, Large-lattice relaxation model [1,2]

The relevant Density of State (DOS):

**Quantum well (QW):** Linear combination of atomic orbitals (LCAO) model<sup>[3]</sup> + Wedge model<sup>[4]</sup>

**DX Ground state ( $C_0$ ):** Deep-level transient spectroscopy (DLTS, Dr. Laurence Mechlin @ CNRS - GREYC Caen)

**DX excited state ( $C_1$ ):** Fano-Anderson model<sup>[5]</sup>.



[3] T. Wolfram et al. Electronic and Optical Properties of D -Band Perovskites. Cambridge University Press, 2006.



[4] A. F. Santander-Syro et al. Nature 469.7329 (2011)



[5] G. D. Mahan. Many-particle physics. Springer Science (2013).



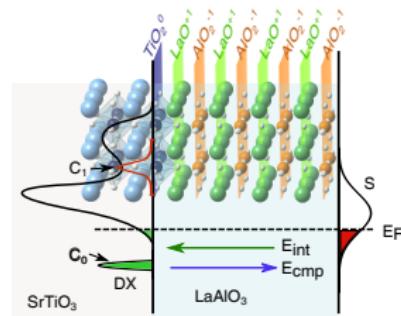
[1] D. V. Lang et al. Phys. Rev. L 39.10 (1977)



[2] C. H. Henry et al. Phys. Rev. B 15.2 (1977)

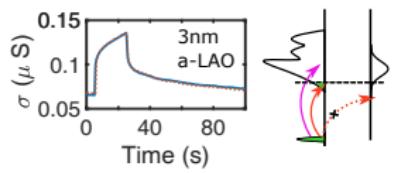
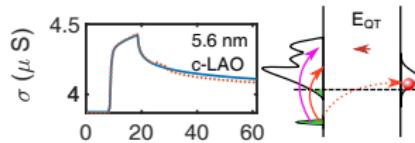
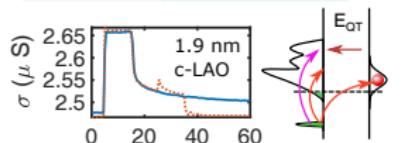
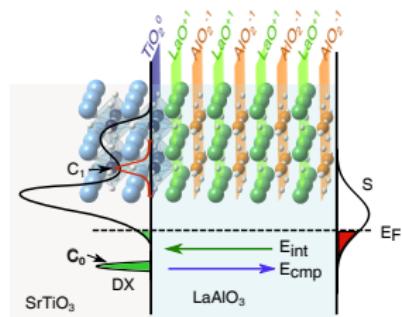
# Photoinduced tunable carrier depletion

Quantum tunneling assisted by long-wavelength



# Photoinduced tunable carrier depletion

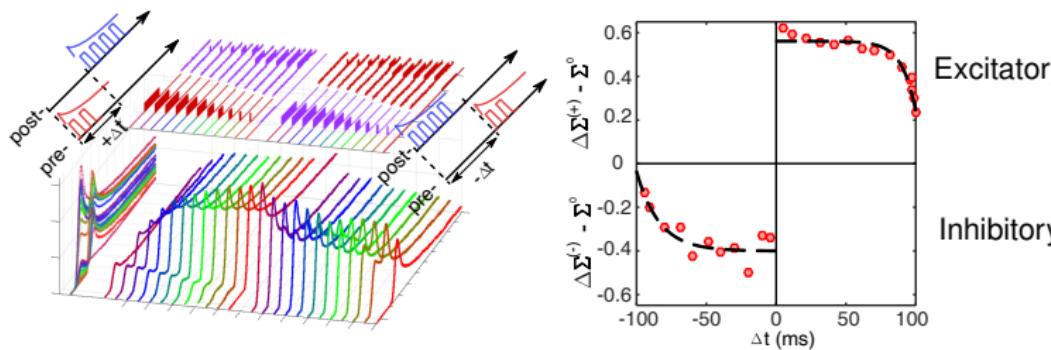
Quantum tunneling assisted by long-wavelength



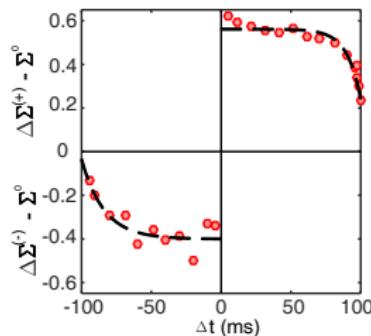
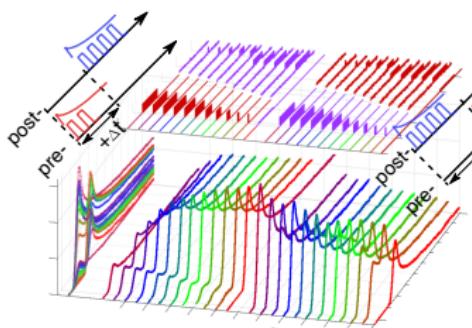
## Applications: Cognitive tasks in artificial network



# Unsupervised learning based on STDP

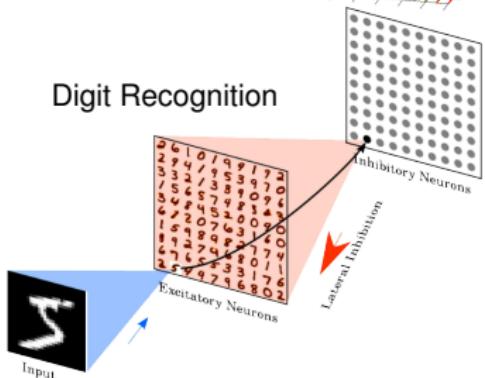


# Unsupervised learning based on STDP



Excitatory  
Inhibitory

## Digit Recognition

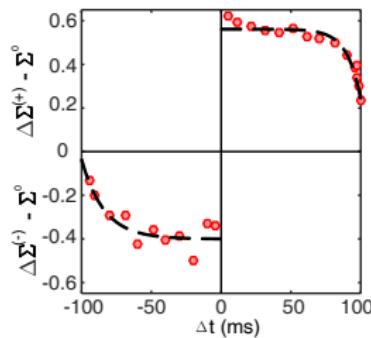
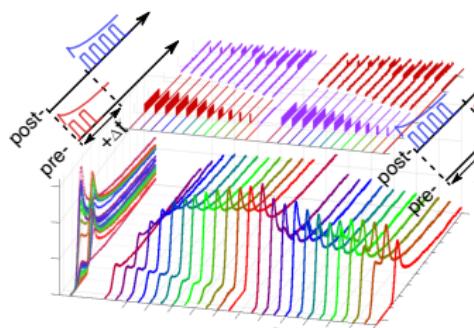


Diehl, P. U. et al. Front. Comput. Neurosci. 9, 19 (2015)

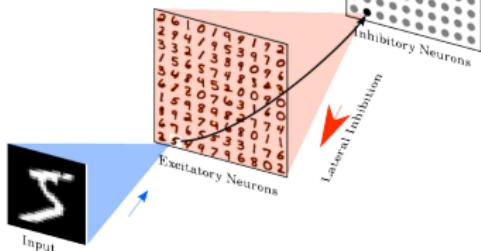
@ Institute of Neuroinformatics, ETH Zurich



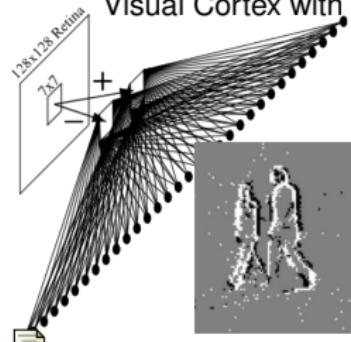
# Unsupervised learning based on STDP



Digit Recognition



Visual Cortex with Memristors



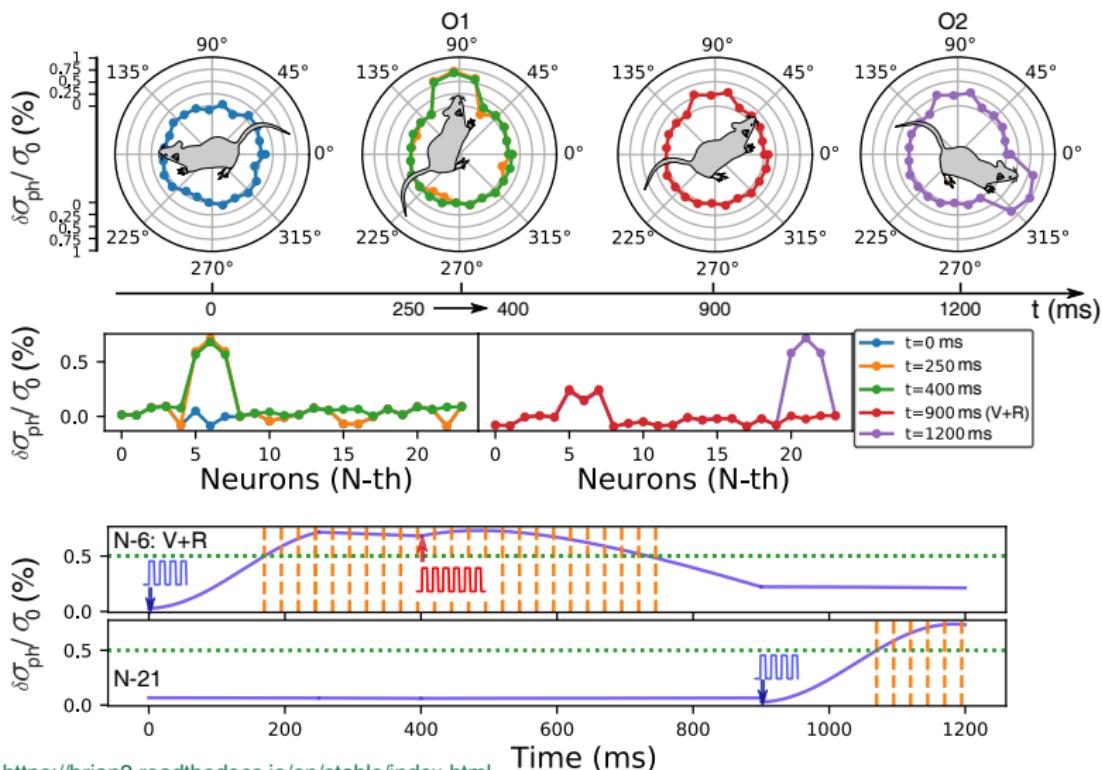
Diehl, P. U. et al. Front. Comput. Neurosci. 9, 19 (2015)  
@ Institute of Neuroinformatics, ETH Zurich

Zamarreño-Ramos, C. et al. Front. Neurosci. 5, 102 (2011) @ IMSE-CNM-CSIC, Sevilla

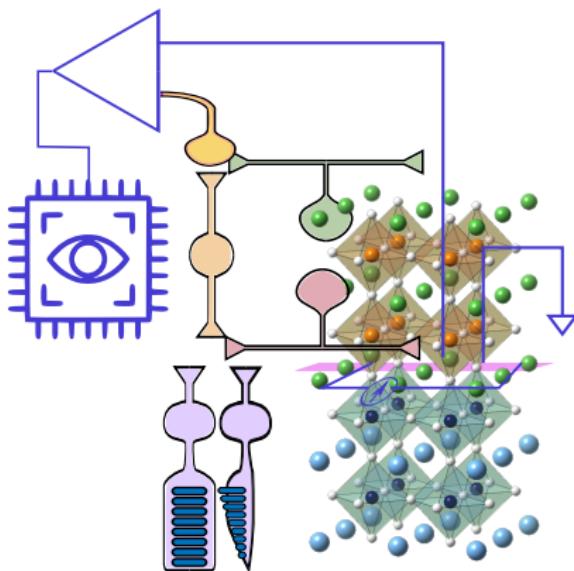


# Cognitive Map Simulated by Brian Simulator

Attractor map model for head direction

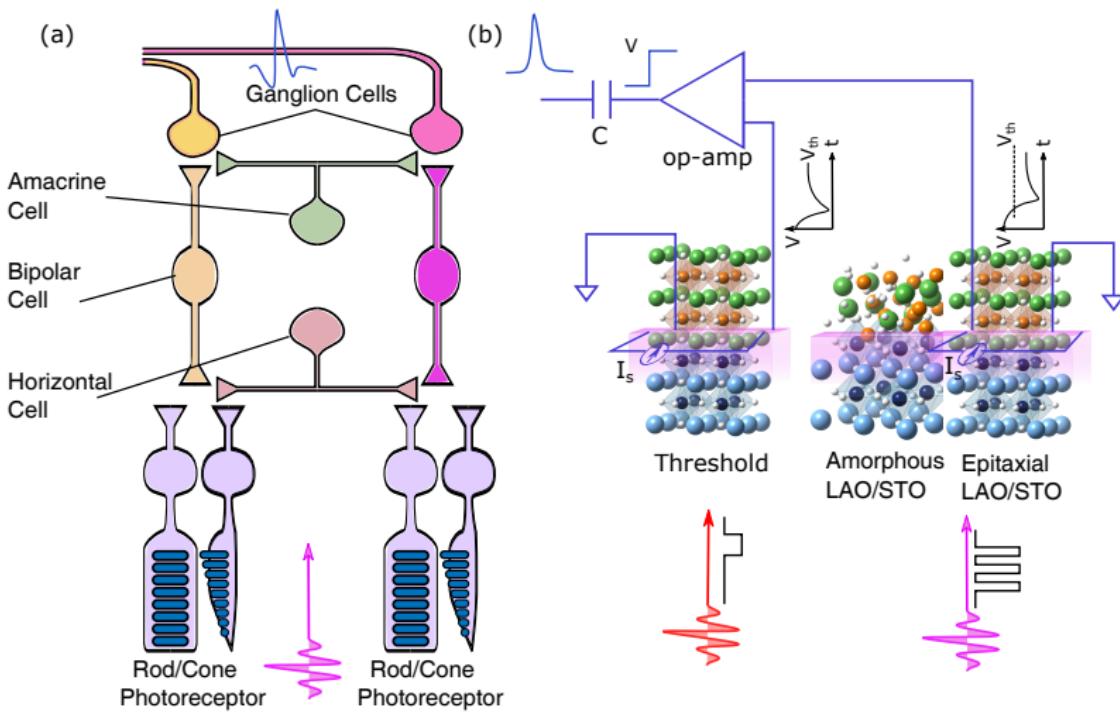


## Outlook and Perspectives: artificial vision

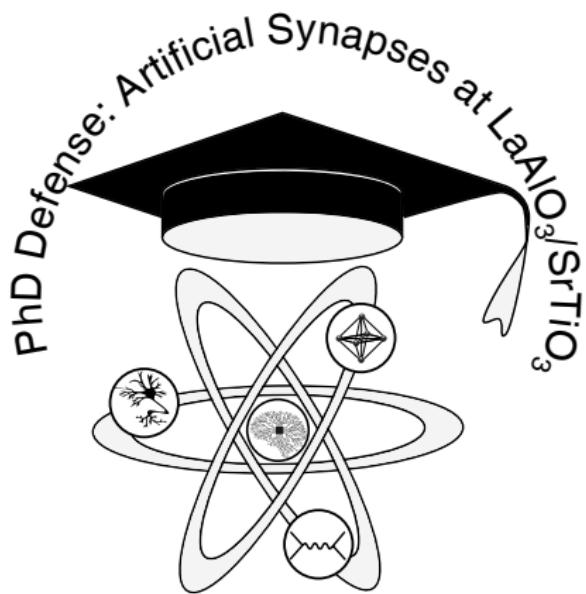


# Towards optical neurons

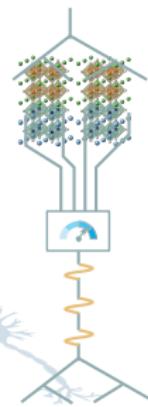
Artificial vision inspired by retina



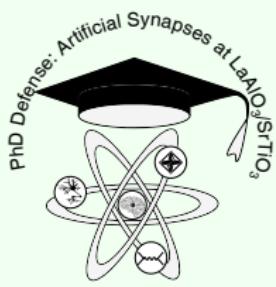
## Conclusion



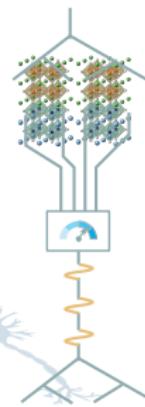
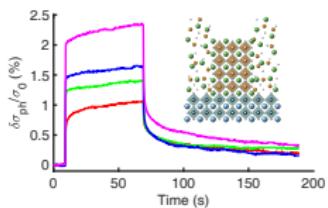
# The Ending, The Beginning...



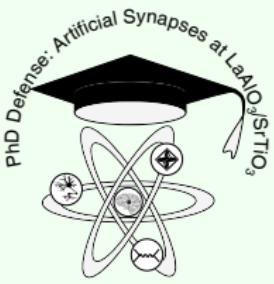
## Conclusion



# The Ending, The Beginning...

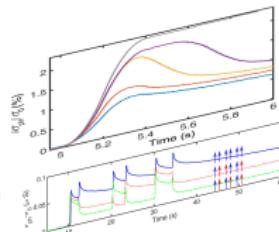
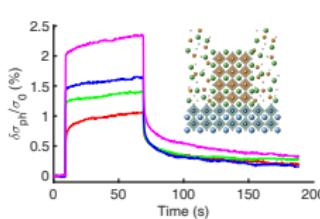


## Conclusion

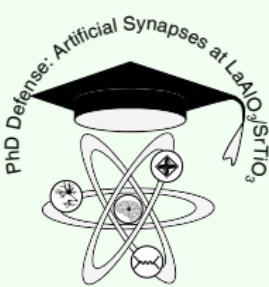


- Persistent photoconductance of epitaxial  $\text{LaAlO}_3/\text{SrTiO}_3$

# The Ending, The Beginning...

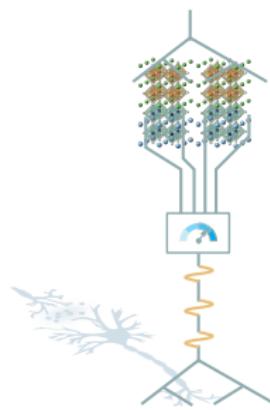
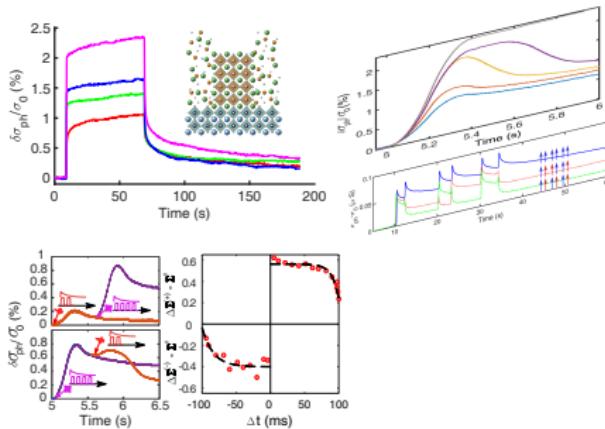
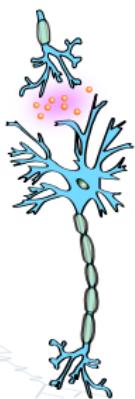


## Conclusion

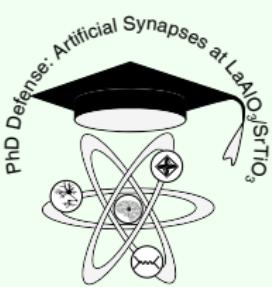


- Persistent photoconductance of epitaxial  $\text{LaAlO}_3/\text{SrTiO}_3$
- Plastic PPC modulated by wavelength, power density, illumination cumulated time, pairs of short-/long-wavelength pulses

# The Ending, The Beginning...

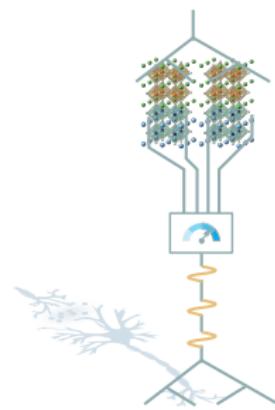
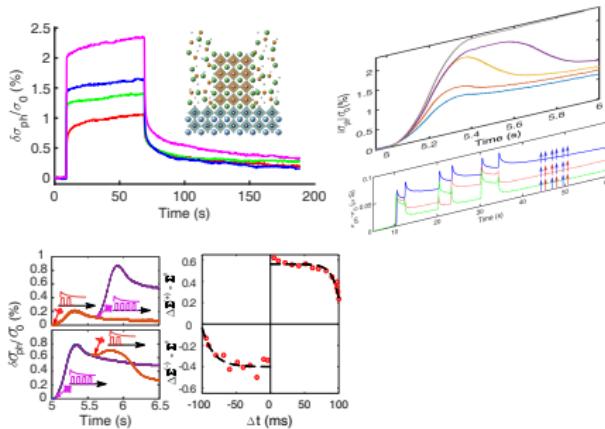
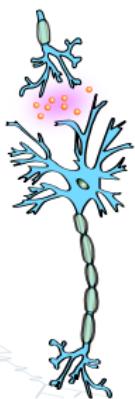


## Conclusion

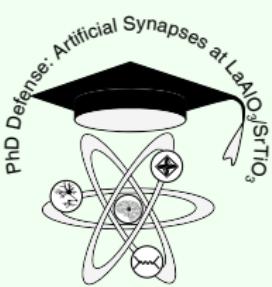


- Persistent photoconductance of epitaxial  $\text{LaAlO}_3/\text{SrTiO}_3$
- Plastic PPC modulated by wavelength, power density, illumination cumulated time, pairs of short-/long-wavelength pulses
- Artificial synapses with Optical STDP

# The Ending, The Beginning...

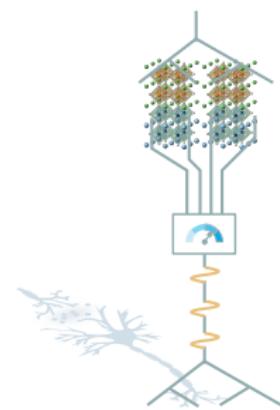
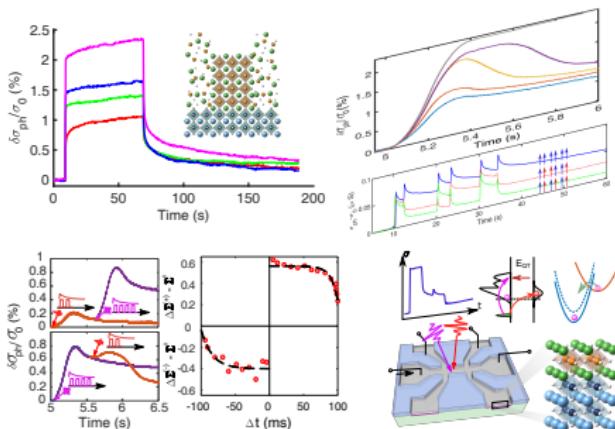
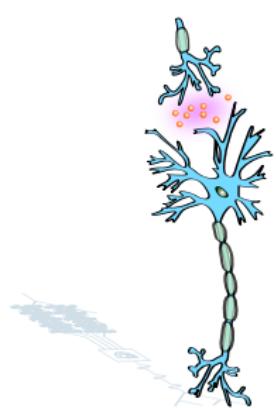


## Conclusion

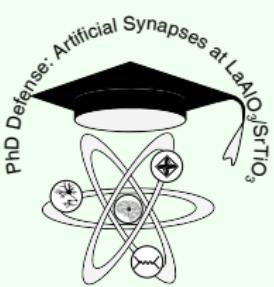


- Persistent photoconductance of epitaxial  $\text{LaAlO}_3/\text{SrTiO}_3$
- Plastic PPC modulated by wavelength, power density, illumination cumulated time, pairs of short-/long-wavelength pulses
- Artificial synapses with Optical STDP
- Carrier accumulation/depletion → Excitatory/ Inhibitory Synapses

# The Ending, The Beginning...

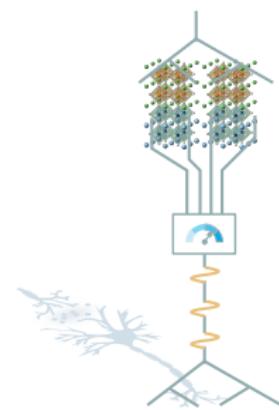
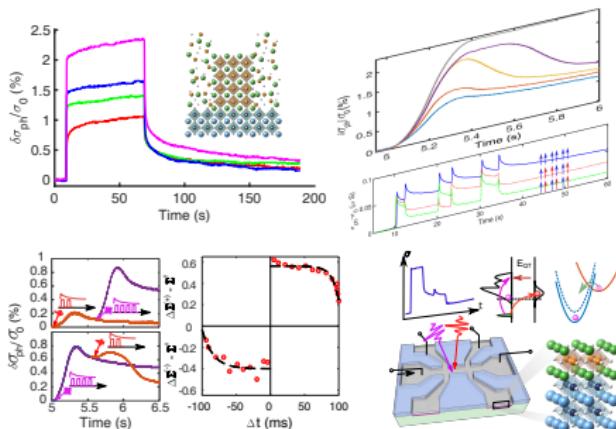
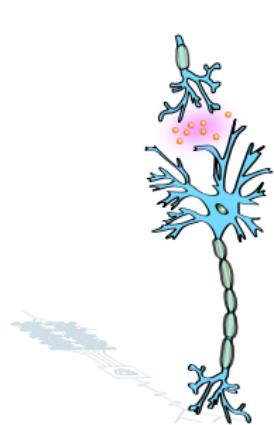


## Conclusion

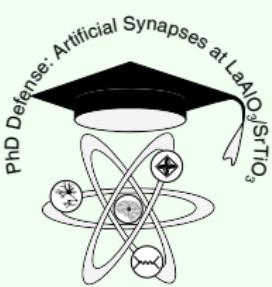


- Persistent photoconductance of epitaxial  $\text{LaAlO}_3/\text{SrTiO}_3$
- Plastic PPC modulated by wavelength, power density, illumination cumulated time, pairs of short-/long-wavelength pulses
- Artificial synapses with Optical STDP
- Carrier accumulation/depletion → Excitatory/ Inhibitory Synapses
- Physical model: DX-centers, Photoexcitation, Quantum tunneling

# The Ending, The Beginning...



## Conclusion



- Persistent photoconductance of epitaxial  $\text{LaAlO}_3/\text{SrTiO}_3$
- Plastic PPC modulated by wavelength, power density, illumination cumulated time, pairs of short-/long-wavelength pulses
- Artificial synapses with Optical STDP
- Carrier accumulation/depletion → Excitatory/ Inhibitory Synapses
- Physical model: DX-centers, Photoexcitation, Quantum tunneling
- Applications: Cognitive task, Artificial vision

# Acknowledgement

## Supporting Organizations

- CSC



- ICMAB



- MULFOX group



## Amazing Group mates

- Dr.Vassil Skumryev, Dr. Nico Dix, Dr. Fanmao Liu, Dr. Mendi Qian, Dr. Jike Lyu, Dr. Mateusz Ścigaj
- Yunwei Sheng, Xiao Long, Tingfeng Song, Jiahui Jia, Huan Tan
- Saúl Estandía, Mathieu Mirjolet, Milena Sulzbach
- ...

## Main Collaborations

- Supervisor: Dr. Gervasi Herranz
- PLD Growth: Dr. Florencio Sánchez, Raúl Solanas
- Training & discussions: Dr. Blai Casals, Dr. Rafael Cicheler, Dr. Mikko Kataja
- Scientific benefits: Prof. Josep Fontcuberta, Dr. Ignasi Fina
- Collaborations: Dr. Laurence Mechlin (CNRS - GREYC Caen, Deep-Level Transient Spectroscopy), Dr. Mariona Coll (ALD), Dr. Jaume Gazquez (STEM), Dr. Bernat Bozzo Closas (Hall-effect)

## Technical support

- Cleanroom: Luigi Morrone, Marta Gerbolés Gibert, Marta Riba
- XRD: Anna Crespi