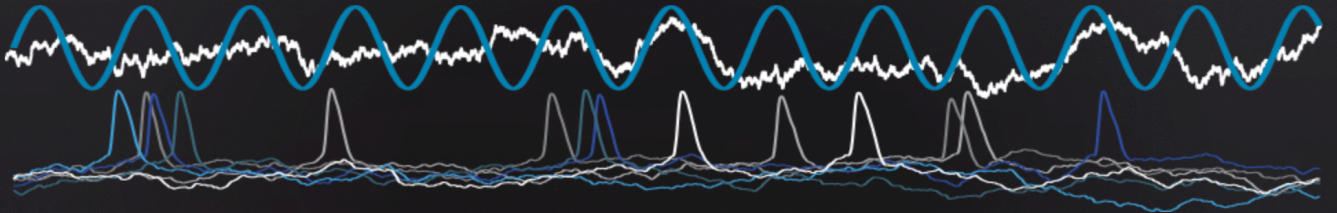


PRINCIPLES OF COMPUTATIONAL NEUROSCIENCE



AN INTRODUCTORY COURSE OFFERED TO
(UNDER)GRAD NEUROSCIENCES STUDENTS AT UNITS AND SISSA, TRIESTE (ITALY).

Michele GIUGLIANO

Mean field description of synaptic transmission

Even simpler models
of synaptic transmission:

“mean-field” descriptions
(*firing rate* models)

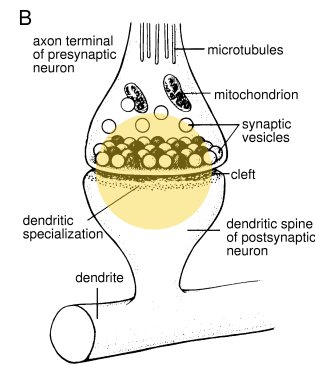
current-driven model synapse

$$I_{syn} \approx \bar{I} O(t)$$

$$\bar{I} = \bar{g}_{syn} (E_{syn} - \langle V_m \rangle)$$

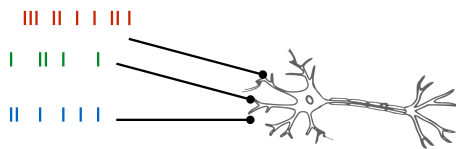
$$\frac{dI_{syn}}{dt} \approx -\beta I_{syn} + W \sum_k \delta(t - t_k)$$

$$W = \bar{g} \alpha T_{max}$$



TOTAL [current-driven] synaptic input

$$C \frac{dV}{dt} = \dots + I_{syn_1} + I_{syn_2} + I_{syn_3}$$

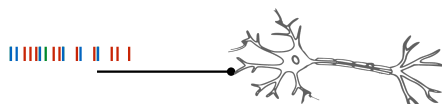


$$\frac{dI_{syn_1}}{dt} \approx -\beta I_{syn_1} + W_1 \sum_{k_1} \delta(t - t_{k_1})$$

$$\frac{dI_{syn_2}}{dt} \approx -\beta I_{syn_2} + W_2 \sum_{k_2} \delta(t - t_{k_2})$$

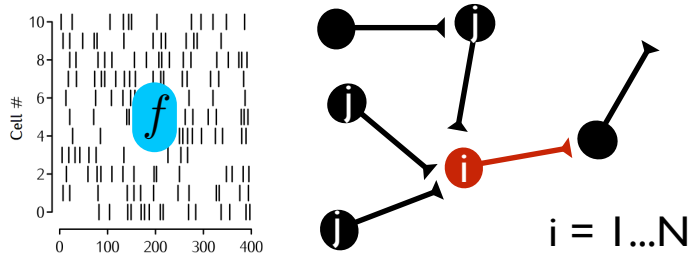
$$\frac{dI_{syn_3}}{dt} \approx -\beta I_{syn_3} + W_3 \sum_{k_3} \delta(t - t_{k_3})$$

$$\frac{d(I_{syn})}{dt} \approx -\beta(I_{syn}) +$$



$$+ \sum_{m=1}^3 W_m \sum_{k_m} \delta(t - t_{k_m})$$

Large [feed-forward] network of neurons



$$\frac{dI_{syn\ i}}{dt} \approx -\beta I_{syn\ i} + \sum_j C_{ij} W_{ij} \sum_{k_j} \delta(t - t_{k_j})$$

- each neuron has identical [intrinsic] parameters...
- each neuron fires independently from each other...
- each one firing asynchronously, irregularly [Poisson], $\sim f$

“Mean-field” approximation:
*neurons are indistinguishable and
share the same **average** synaptic input*

$$\frac{dI_{syn\ i}}{dt} \approx -\beta I_{syn\ i} + \sum_j C_{ij} W_{ij} \sum_{k_j} \delta(t - t_{k_j})$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \langle I_{syn} \rangle \approx -\beta \langle I_{syn} \rangle + \langle \sum_j \sum_j \dots \rangle$$

$$\langle C_{ij} W_{ij} \sum_{k_j} \delta(t - t_{k_j}) \rangle = ??$$

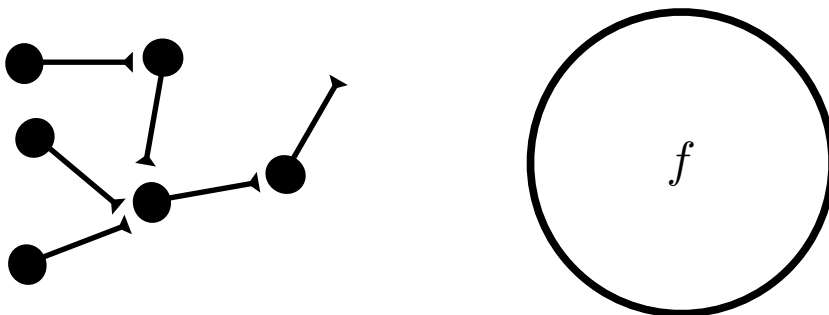
If feed-forward, easy!
 If recurrent, ... ???

“Mean-field” approximation:
*neurons are indistinguishable and
share the same average synaptic input*

$$\langle C_{ij} \rangle \langle W_{ij} \rangle \langle \sum_{k_j} \delta(t - t_{k_j}) \rangle = c w f$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \langle I_{syn} \rangle \approx -\beta \langle I_{syn} \rangle + N c w f$$

- each neuron has identical [intrinsic] parameters...
- each neuron fires independently from each other...
- each one firing asynchronously, irregularly [Poisson], $\sim f$

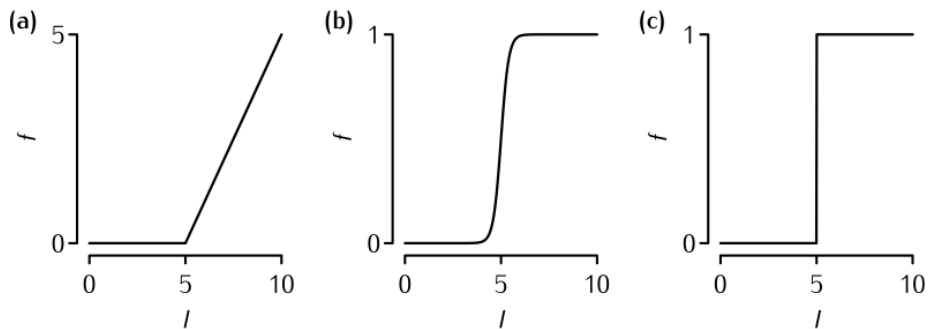


$$\frac{d}{dt} \langle I_{syn} \rangle \approx -\beta \langle I_{syn} \rangle + N c w f$$

$$f = F(I_{syn})$$

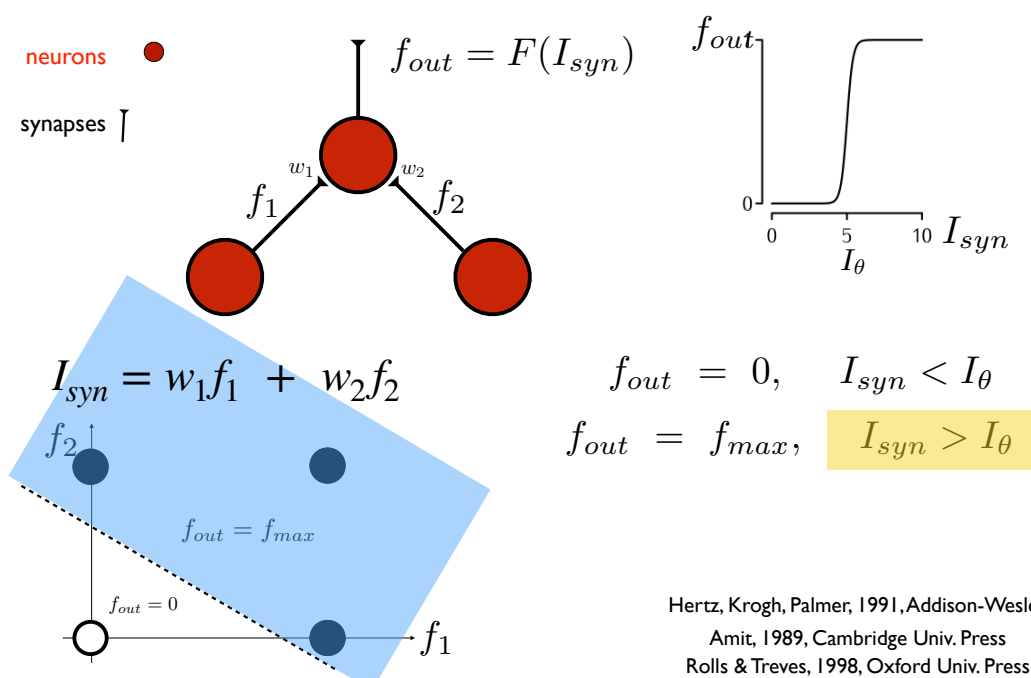
Rate models [large populations]

$$f_i = F(I_{syn_i})$$



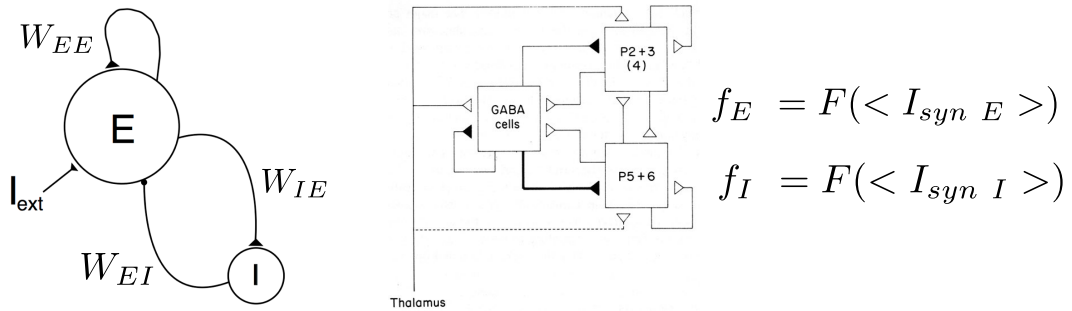
from Sterratt et al., 2011

Rate models for the description of a **feedforward** cortical circuit



Hertz, Krogh, Palmer, 1991, Addison-Wesley
Amit, 1989, Cambridge Univ. Press
Rolls & Treves, 1998, Oxford Univ. Press

Rate models for the description of a (cortical column) **recurrent** circuit?



$$\frac{d}{dt} \langle I_{syn \ E} \rangle \approx -\beta_E \langle I_{syn \ E} \rangle + N_E c_{EE} w_{EE} f_E - N_I c_{EI} w_{EI} f_I + I_{ext}$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \langle I_{syn \ I} \rangle \approx -\beta_I \langle I_{syn \ I} \rangle + N_E c_{IE} w_{IE} f_E$$

Douglas & Martin, 1991