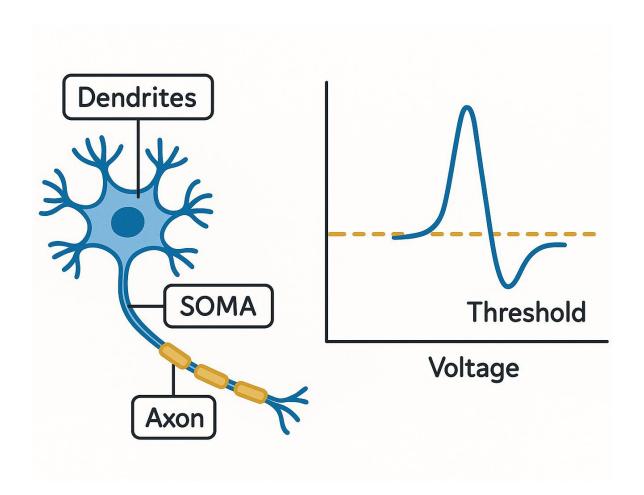
From Python Programming Basics to Neuron Simulation

Dr. Sahil Sharma, PhD

Postdoctoral Researcher

ISRC, Ulster University

Why this is cool?



Biological View → Electrical Analogy

- •Neuron receives input via dendrites.
- •Soma integrates the incoming signals over time.
- •If input is strong enough, the neuron **fires** (spike sent through axon).

LIF Model Abstraction

- •The neuron acts like a **leaky capacitor**:
 - Capacitor (C) stores voltage (membrane potential).
 - Resistor (gL) leaks voltage over time.

✓ Voltage Behavior (Right Graph)

- •Input causes voltage to rise.
- •If voltage crosses the **Threshold**:
 - A spike is generated.
 - Voltage resets (back to baseline).

LIF: Leaky Integrate and Fire

Core Python Datatypes

Type Example Description
int 10 Whole numbers, positive or negative
float 3.14 Decimal numbers
bool True, False Boolean values
str "Hello" Text (string of characters)

10 3.14 (Hello) Integer Float String Boolean (True)

Python Collections (Container Types)

Type	Example	Description
list	[1, 2, 3]	Ordered, mutable sequence
tuple	(1, 2, 3)	Ordered, immutable sequence
dict	{"key": "value"}	Key-value pairs
set	{1, 2, 3}	Unordered, unique elements

Making Decisions with Python

 Conditionals: if age < 18: print("Minor") elif age == 18: print("Exactly 18!") else: print("Adult") Loops: repeat actions easily for i in range(5): print(i)

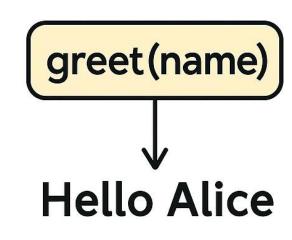
Functions and Classes

Function example:

def greet(name):
return "Hello " + name

Class example:

class Dog: def bark(self): return "Woof!"





NumPy and Matplotlib

NumPy = fast math with arrays

import numpy as np np.mean([1,2,3,4,5]) \rightarrow 3.0

- Matplotlib = easy plots
 - Example: sine wave plot

Leaky Integrate-and-Fire Neuron

The **Leaky Integrate-and-Fire neuron** is a simple model used to explain how neurons behave electrically. It helps us understand how neurons "decide" when to send a signal (a spike).

The RC Circuit Analogy

Imagine a neuron like an **electrical circuit**:

- Battery/Input Current
- •This represents the electrical input (like a stimulus).
- Capacitor (C) Stores charge
- •Think of this as the **membrane of the neuron** that stores voltage (membrane potential).
- Resistor (gL) Leak conductance
- •This represents how the **membrane leaks charge** over time. It's why it's called a "leaky" neuron.
- → Together, this RC (Resistor-Capacitor) circuit builds up voltage as input current comes in, but also slowly leaks it.

Voltage Over Time

Imagine watching the **voltage inside the neuron** over time:

- The curve rises as input charges the capacitor.
- Once the voltage crosses a **threshold** (dashed line), the neuron "**fires**" a sharp spike occurs (the neuron sends a signal).
- Then it resets back to a low value (baseline) ready for the next input.

Summary: What Happens?

- **1.Input comes in** → capacitor charges → voltage rises.
- 2. Voltage leaks slowly due to resistor.
- 3. If voltage crosses the threshold, the neuron fires a spike.
- 4. Then, it **resets** and starts again.

Python Code for Leaky Integrate-and-Fire Neuron