

# Modelling intracellular cascades and neural plasticity

Simula summer school

27.6.2018

Tuomo Mäki-Marttunen

# Outline

- Brief introduction to LTP/LTD
- Modeling approaches
- Formulation of the mass-action laws
- Simulation in NEURON's RxD extension

# Background

- W. James (1890): a modern perspective for the problem of plasticity
- S.R. y Cajal (1894): formation of new connections needed for learning
- Hebb's rule (1949): “neurons that fire together wire together”
- Bliss & Lomø (1973): LTP discovered
- Ito et al. (1982): LTD discovered
- Bhalla & Yiengar (1999): Unified modeling framework for many underlying pathways

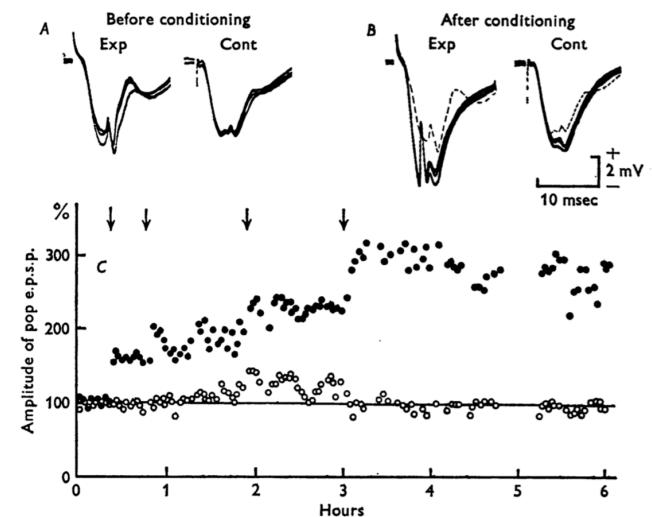
*J. Physiol.* (1973), **232**, pp. 331–356  
With 12 text-figures  
Printed in Great Britain

331

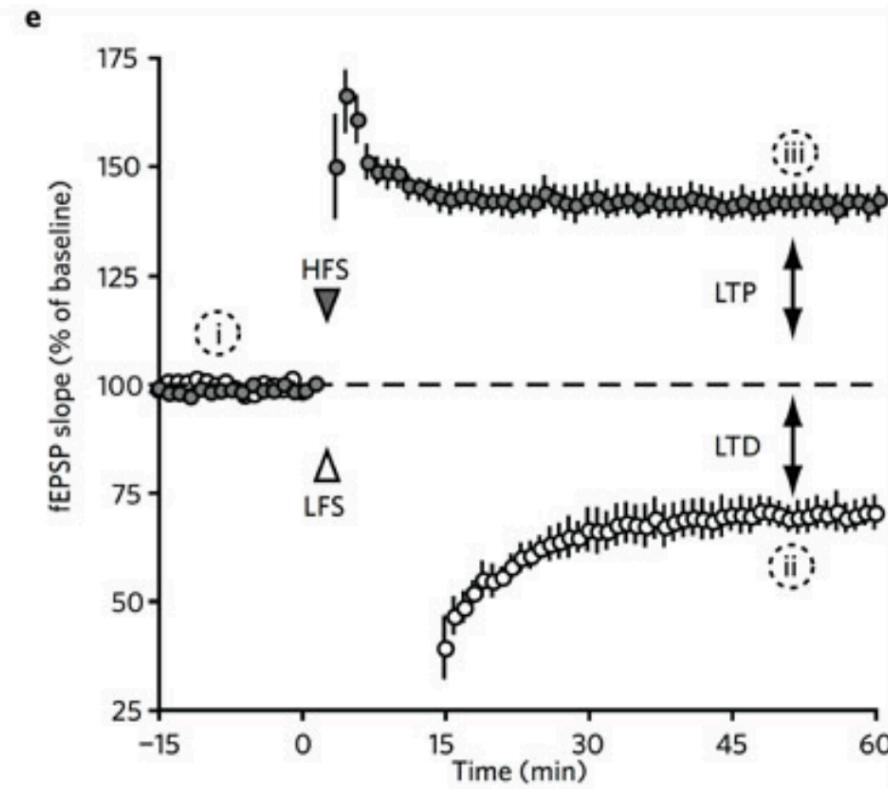
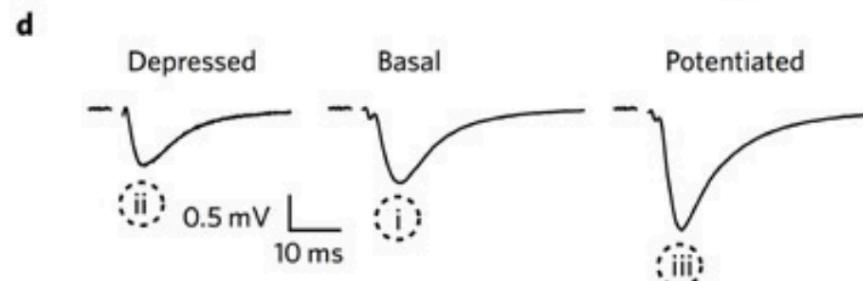
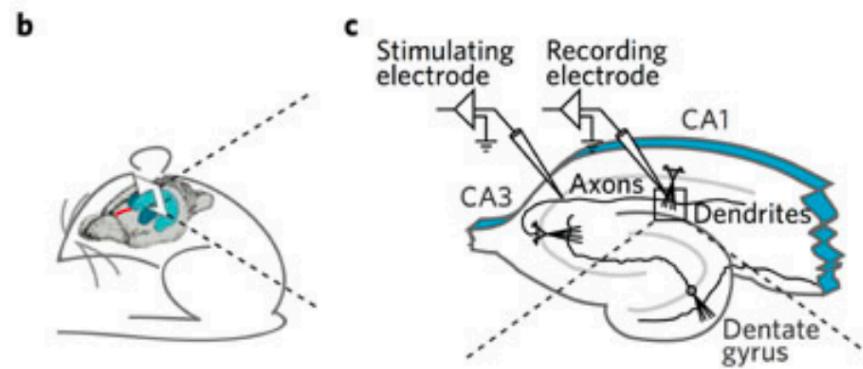
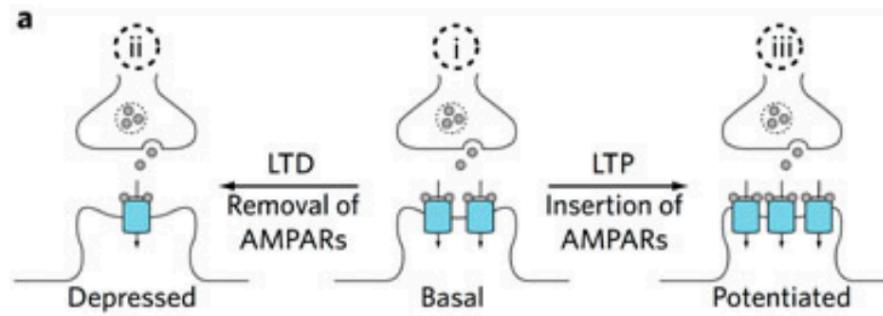
LONG-LASTING POTENTIATION  
OF SYNAPTIC TRANSMISSION IN THE DENTATE AREA  
OF THE ANAESTHETIZED RABBIT FOLLOWING  
STIMULATION OF THE PERFORANT PATH

By T. V. P. BLISS AND T. LØMO  
*From the National Institute for Medical Research, Mill Hill,  
London NW7 1AA and the Institute of Neurophysiology,  
University of Oslo, Norway*

(Received 12 February 1973)



# Long-term synaptic plasticity

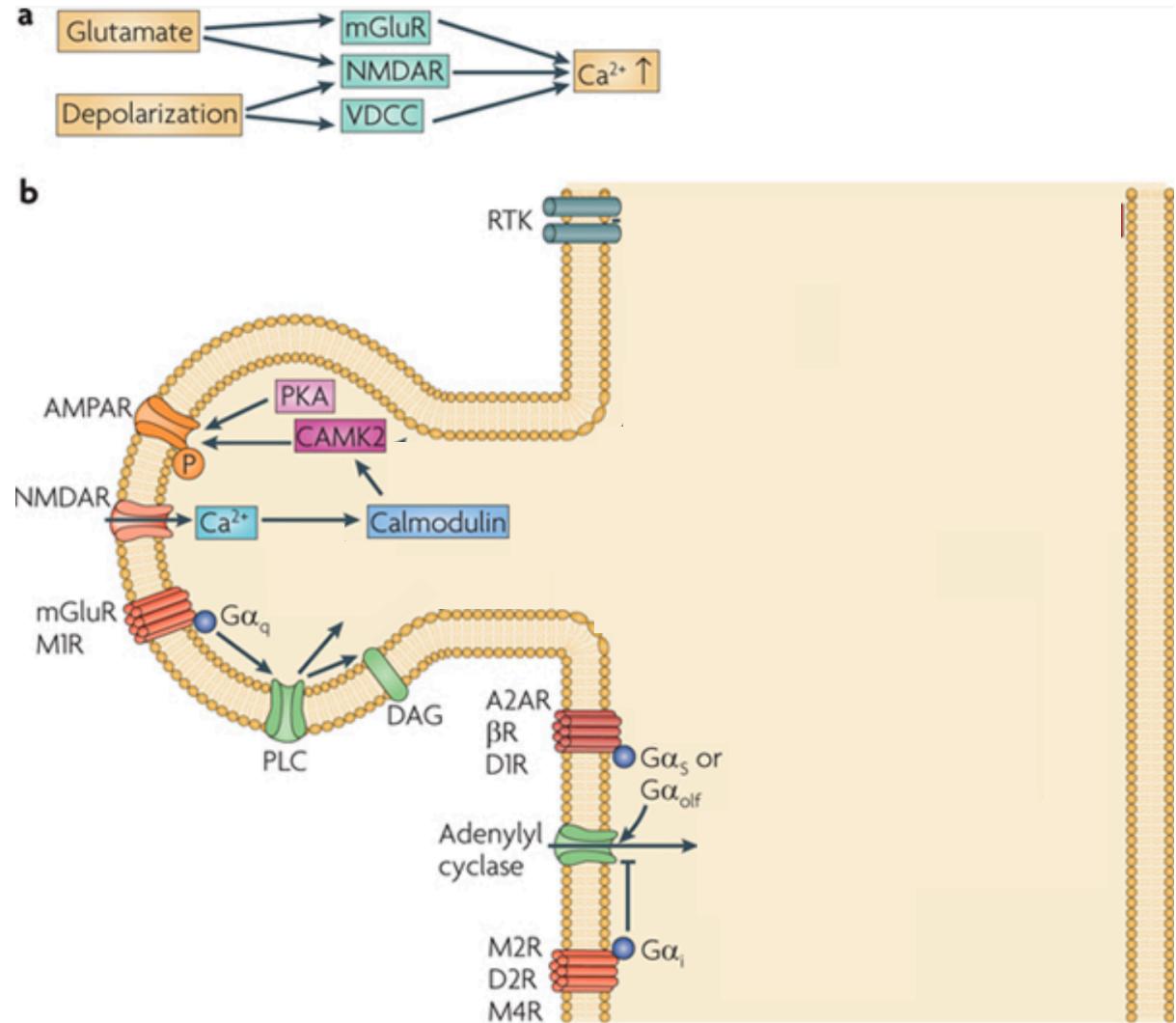


[Fleming, J. J., & England, P. M. (2010). AMPA receptors and synaptic plasticity: a chemist's perspective. *Nature chemical biology*, 6(2), 89-97.]

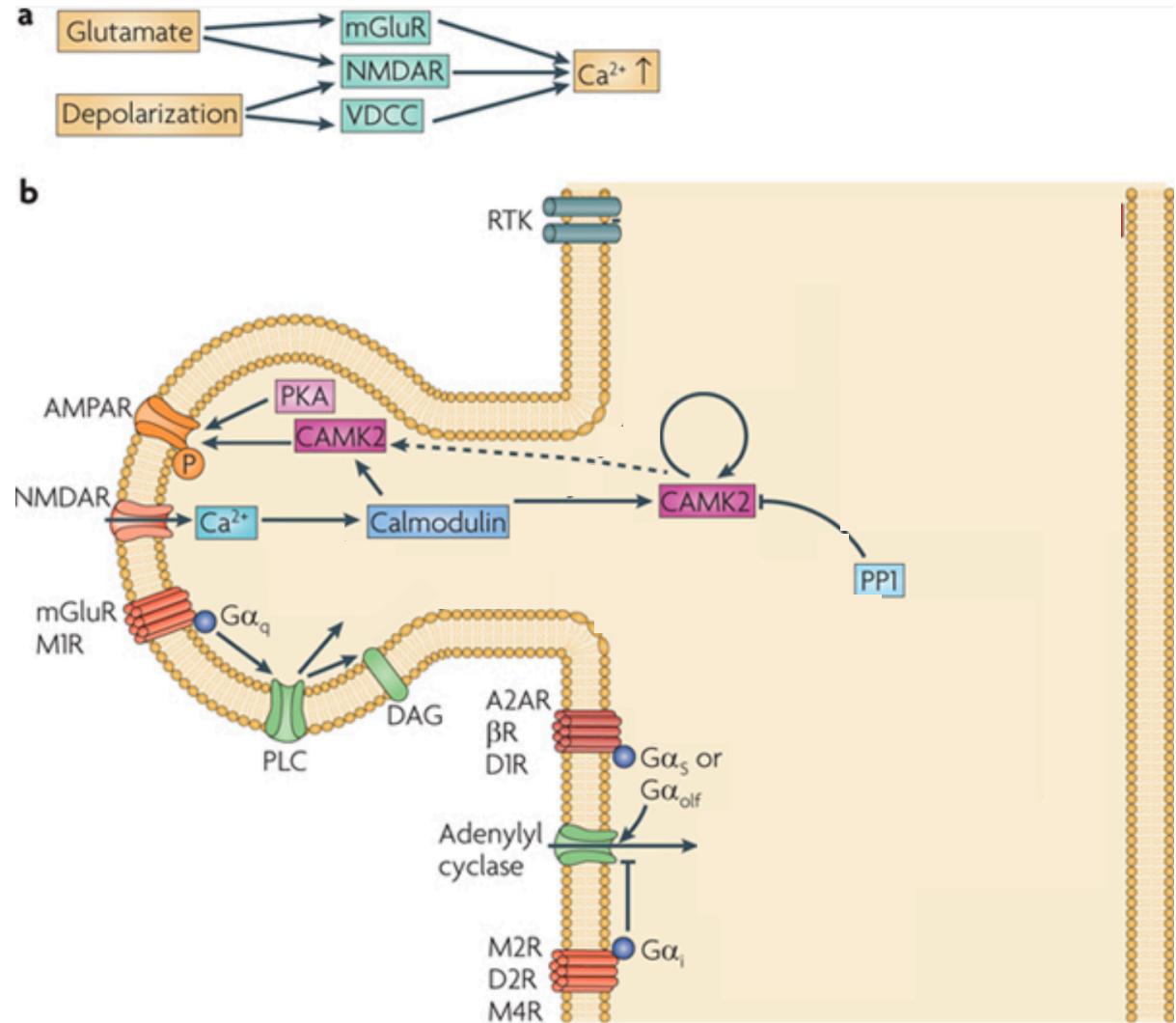
# Long-term synaptic plasticity: cellular mechanisms



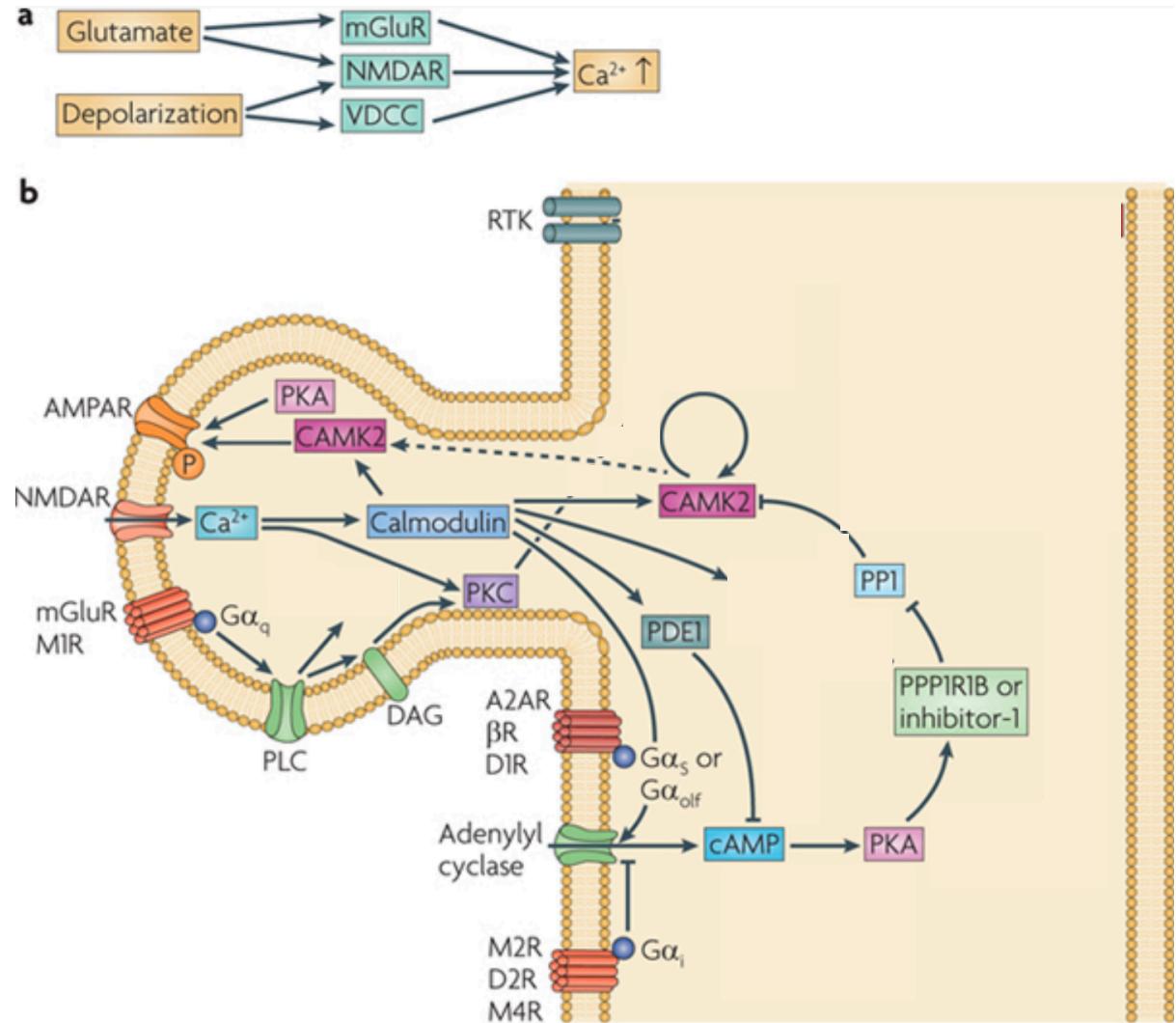
# Long-term synaptic plasticity: cellular mechanisms



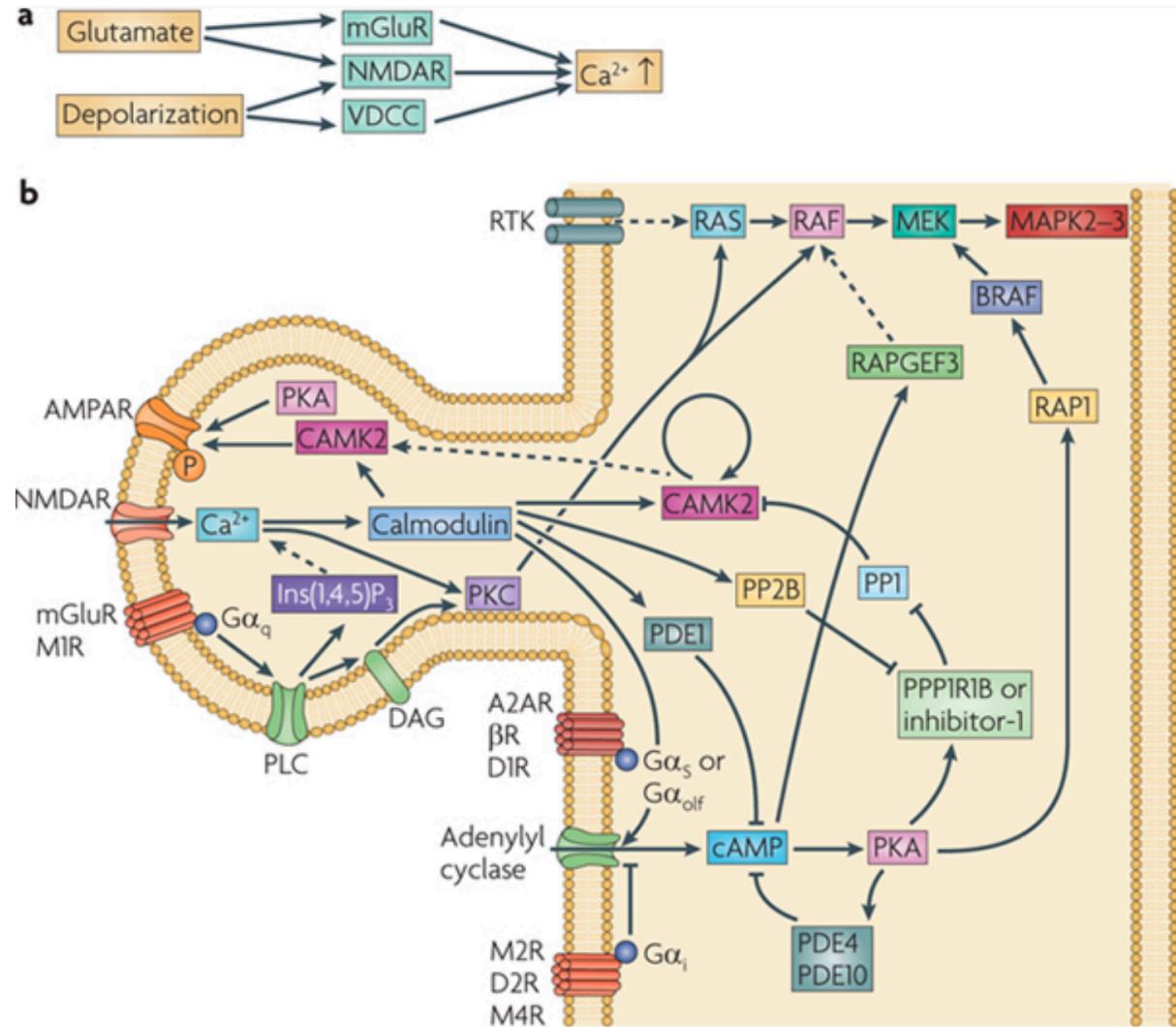
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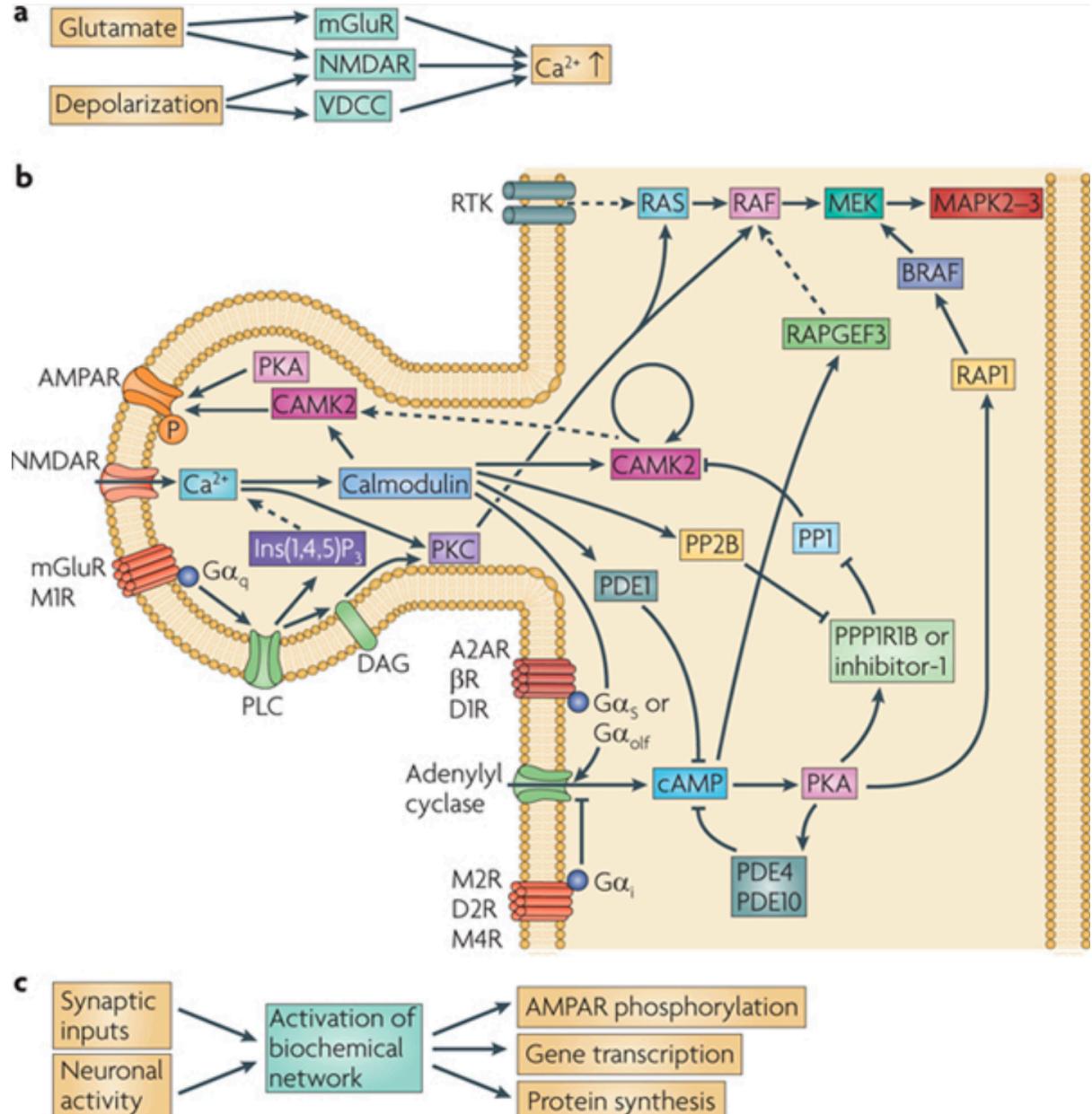
# Long-term synaptic plasticity: cellular mechanisms



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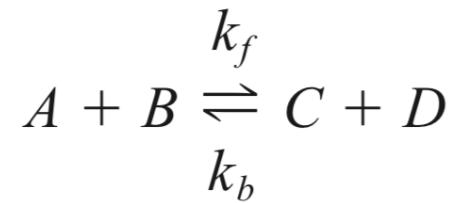
# Long-term synaptic plasticity: cellular mechanisms



[Kotaleski, J. H., & Blackwell, K. T. (2010). Modelling the molecular mechanisms of synaptic plasticity using systems biology approaches. *Nature Reviews Neuroscience*, 11(4), 239-251.]

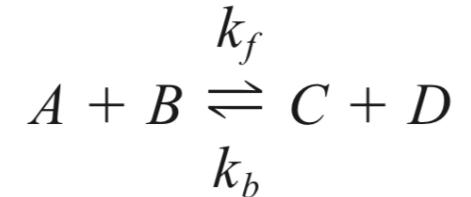
# Modeling approaches

- Almost all models based on the law of mass action
- Deterministic models:  $d[A]/dt = k_b[C][D] - k_f[A][B]$
- Stochastic models
  - Gillespie's algorithm and its variants: at each iteration, sample the type and time of the next reaction in each voxel
  - Particle-based models: simulate movement of each particle separately, apply reactions when collisions



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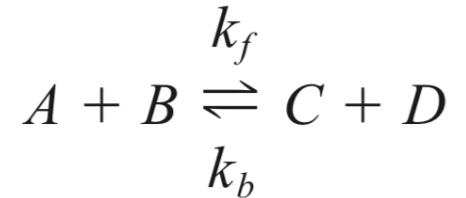
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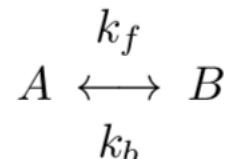
- Particle-based models: simulate movement of each particle separately, apply reactions when collisions **MCell**

# Challenges

- Model construction
  - Reaction rates usually cannot be fitted to data from the modeled system
  - Difficult to determine the concentrations of the species
  - Large variability in the reproduced phenomena
- Model simulation
  - Multiple spatial and temporal scales
  - Model interaction with HH-type models often not considered

# Differential equations from reactions

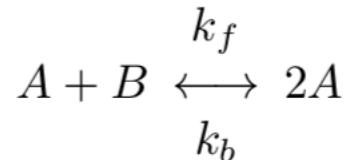
- Which of these diff. equations describes the following reaction?



- 1)  $\frac{d[A]}{dt} = k_b[B], \frac{d[B]}{dt} = k_f[A]$
- 2)  $\frac{d[A]}{dt} = \frac{k_f}{k_b} \frac{[A]}{[B]}, \frac{d[B]}{dt} = \frac{k_b}{k_f} \frac{[B]}{[A]}$
- 3)  $\frac{d[A]}{dt} = k_f[A] - k_b[B], \frac{d[B]}{dt} = k_b[B] - k_f[A]$
- 4)  $\frac{d[A]}{dt} = -k_f[A] + k_b[B], \frac{d[B]}{dt} = k_f[A] - k_b[B]$

# Differential equations from reactions

- Which of these diff. equations describes the following reaction?



1)  $\frac{d[A]}{dt} = k_f[A][B] - 2k_b[A]^2, \frac{d[B]}{dt} = -k_f[A][B]$

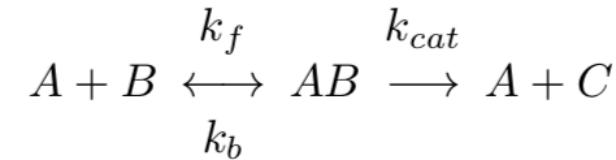
2)  $\frac{d[A]}{dt} = \frac{1}{2}k_f[A][B] - k_b[A]^2, \frac{d[B]}{dt} = -k_f[A][B]$

3)  $\frac{d[A]}{dt} = k_f[A][B] - k_b[A]^2, \frac{d[B]}{dt} = -k_f[A][B]$

4)  $\frac{d[A]}{dt} = 2k_f[A][B] - k_b[A]^2, \frac{d[B]}{dt} = -k_f[A][B]$

# Differential equations from reactions

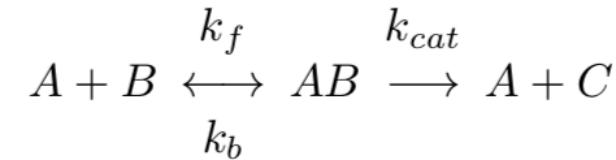
- Which of these diff. equations describes the following reaction?



- 1)  $\frac{d[A]}{dt} = -k_f[A][B] + k_b[AB] + k_{cat}[AB]$ ,  $\frac{d[B]}{dt} = -k_f[A][B]$ ,  $\frac{d[AB]}{dt} = k_f[A][B] - k_{cat}[AB]$ ,  $\frac{d[C]}{dt} = k_{cat}[AB]$
- 2)  $\frac{d[A]}{dt} = -k_f[A][B] + k_b[AB] + k_{cat}[AB]$ ,  $\frac{d[B]}{dt} = -k_f[A][B] + k_b[AB]$ ,  $\frac{d[AB]}{dt} = k_f[A][B] - k_b[AB] - k_{cat}[AB]$ ,  $\frac{d[C]}{dt} = k_{cat}[AB]$
- 3)  $\frac{d[A]}{dt} = k_b[AB] + k_{cat}[AB]$ ,  $\frac{d[B]}{dt} = k_b[AB]$ ,  $\frac{d[AB]}{dt} = k_f[A][B] - k_{cat}[AB]$ ,  $\frac{d[C]}{dt} = k_{cat}[AB]$
- 4)  $\frac{d[A]}{dt} = -k_f[A][B] + k_b[AB] + k_{cat}[AB]$ ,  $\frac{d[B]}{dt} = -k_f[A][B] + k_b[AB]$ ,  $\frac{d[AB]}{dt} = -k_b[AB] + k_{cat}[A][C]$ ,  $\frac{d[C]}{dt} = k_{cat}[A][C]$

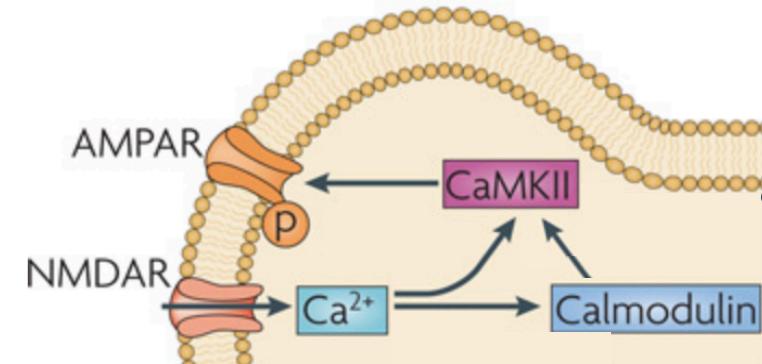
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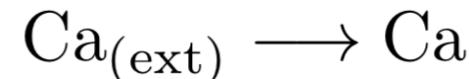


2)  $\frac{d[A]}{dt} = -k_f[A][B] + k_b[AB] + k_{cat}[AB]$ ,  $\frac{d[B]}{dt} = -k_f[A][B] + k_b[AB]$ ,  $\frac{d[AB]}{dt} = k_f[A][B] - k_b[AB] - k_{cat}[AB]$ ,  $\frac{d[C]}{dt} = k_{cat}[AB]$

# Mass action law in LTP – CaMKII model



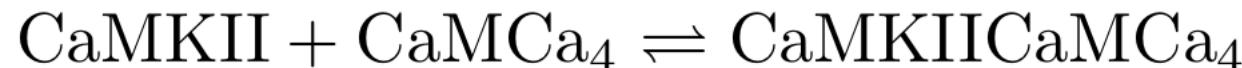
- $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  enters through NMDA channels



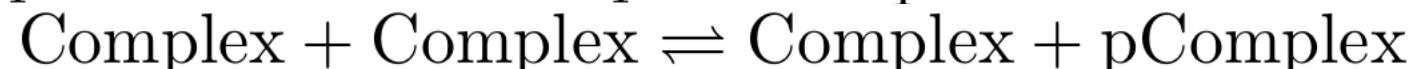
- $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  binds with calmodulin



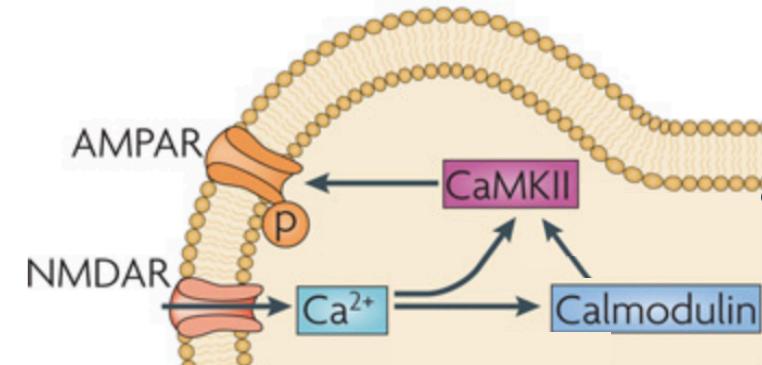
- $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ -bound calmodulin binds to CaMKII



- Calmodulin-bound CaMKII is autophosphorylated



# Mass action law in LTP – CaMKII model



- Phosphorylated calmodulin-bound CaMKII phosphorylates AMPA receptors

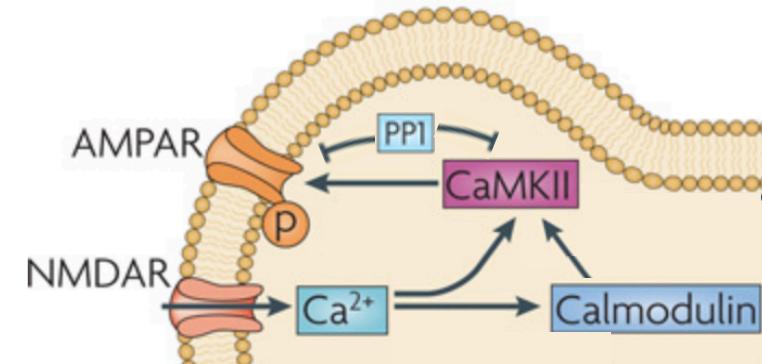


- Phosphorylated AMPA receptors have higher ion-channel conductance and are more easily inserted to the membrane

Jędrzejewska-Szmek, Joanna, et al. "β-adrenergic signaling broadly contributes to LTP induction." *PLoS computational biology* 13.7 (2017): e1005657.

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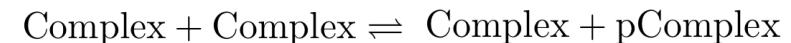
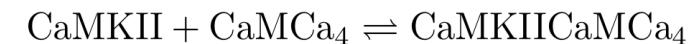
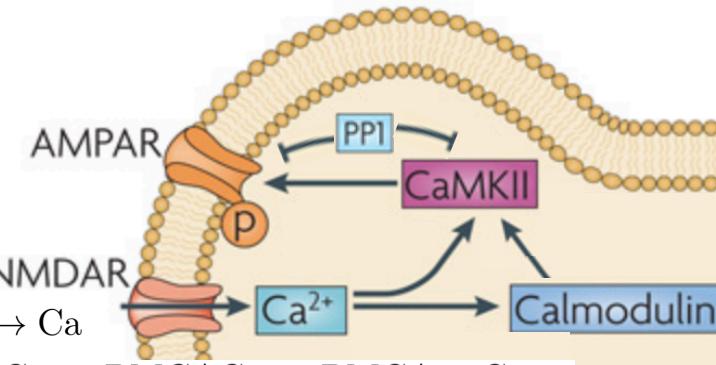
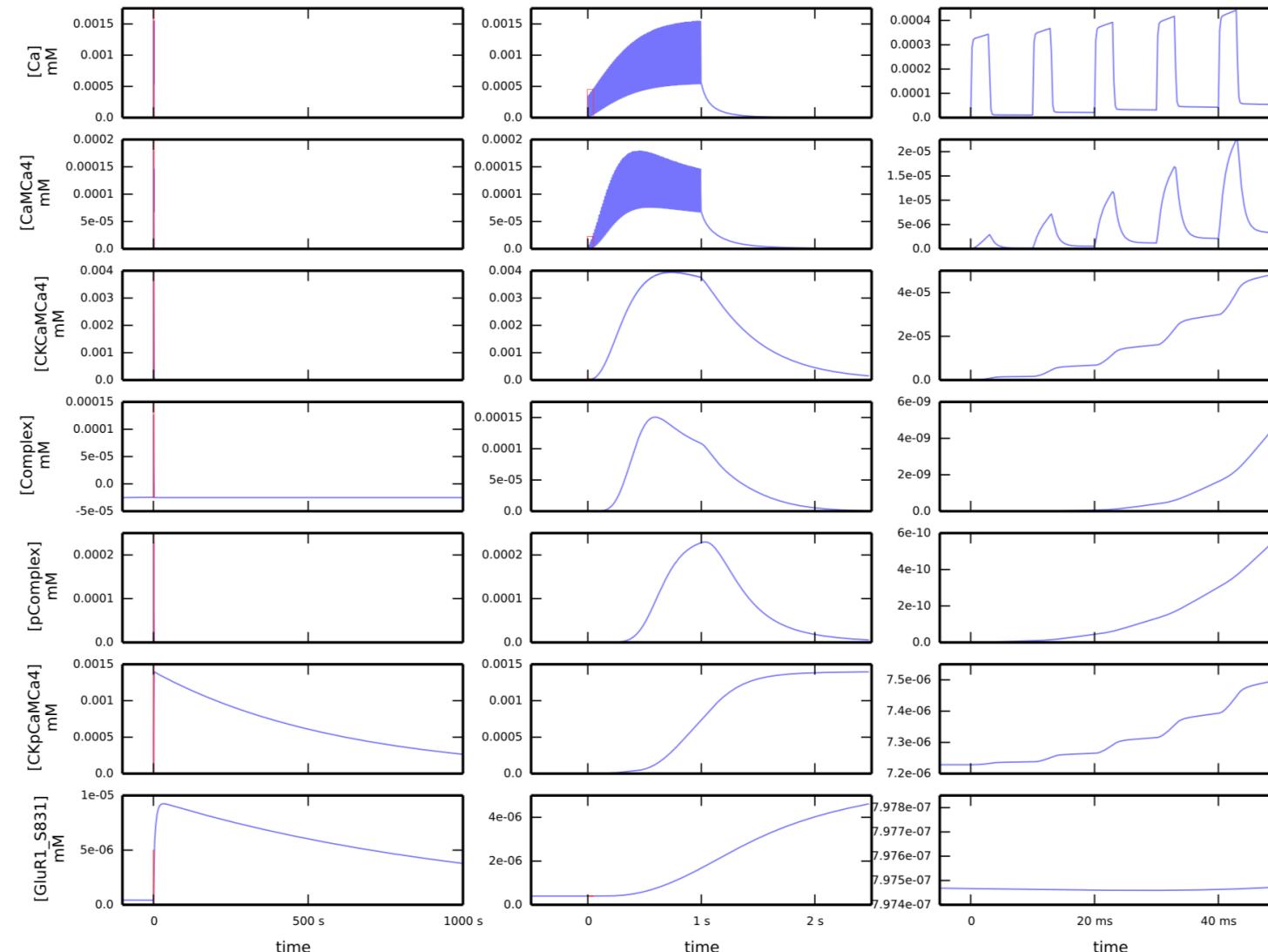
- Phosphorylated AMPA receptors have higher ion-channel conductance and are more easily inserted to the membrane
- AMPA receptors are dephosphorylated by phosphatases such as PP1



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# Mass action law in LTP – CaMKII model



# Examples for NEURON's RxD extension

```
from neuron import h, rxd
import time
from pylab import *

h.load_file('stdrun.hoc')

dend = h.Section()
r = rxd.Region(h.allsec())

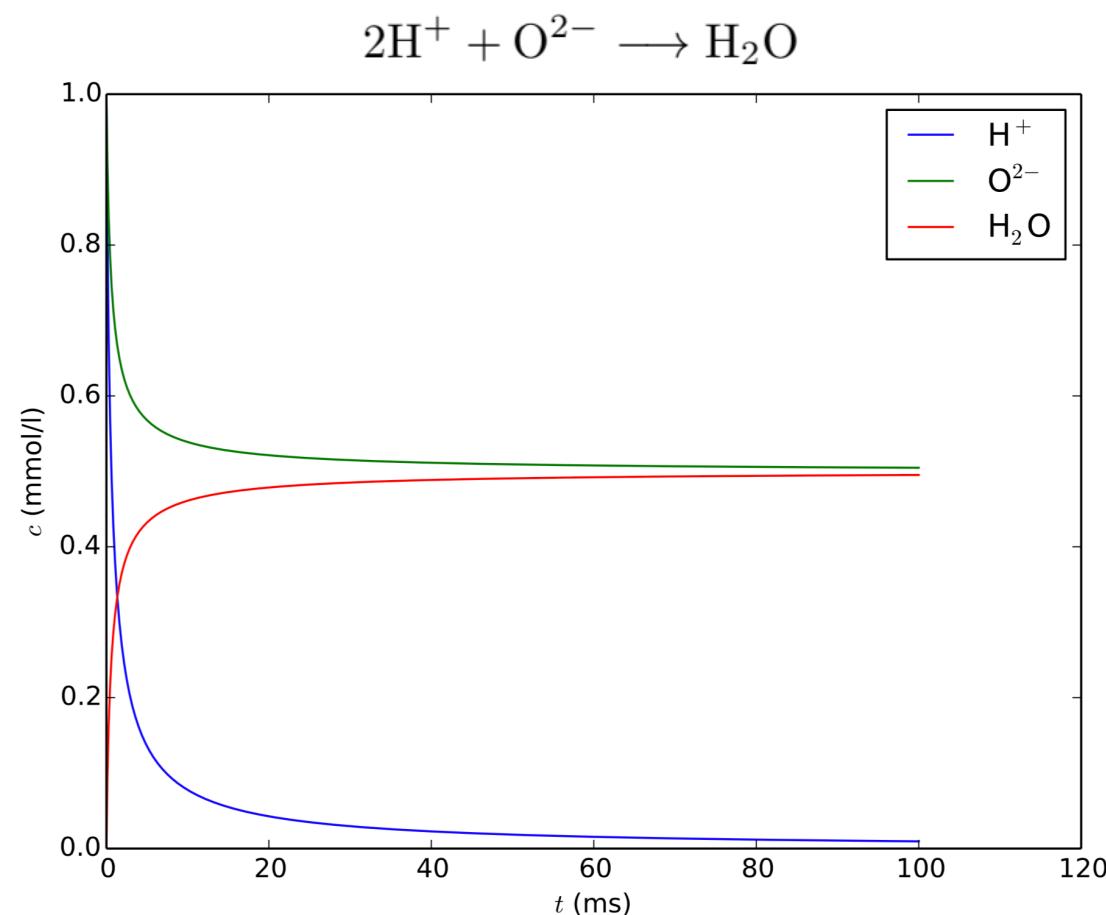
hydrogen = rxd.Species(r, name='hydrogen', charge=1, initial=1)
oxygen = rxd.Species(r, name='oxygen', charge=-2, initial=1)
water = rxd.Species(r, name='water', charge=0, initial=0)

reaction = rxd.Reaction(2 * hydrogen + oxygen > water, 1)

vec_t = h.Vector()
vec_H = h.Vector()
vec_O = h.Vector()
vec_H2O = h.Vector()
vec_t.record(h._ref_t)
vec_H.record(hydrogen.nodes(dend)(0.5)[0],_ref_concentration)
vec_O.record(oxygen.nodes(dend)(0.5)[0],_ref_concentration)
vec_H2O.record(water.nodes(dend)(0.5)[0],_ref_concentration)

h.initialize()
timenow = time.time()
h.continuerun(100)
print('Simulation done in '+str(time.time()-timenow)+' seconds')

f,ax = subplots(1,1)
ax.plot(array(vec_t),array(vec_H),label='H$^+$')
ax.plot(array(vec_t),array(vec_O),label='O$^{2-}$')
ax.plot(array(vec_t),array(vec_H2O),label='H$^{}_2$O')
ax.legend()
ax.set_xlabel('$t$ (ms)')
ax.set_ylabel('$c$ (nmol/l)')
f.savefig('H2O.eps')
```



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water = rxd.Species(r, name='water', charge=0, initial=0)

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```

Load python libraries  
Load standard hoc functions that may be useful  
Create a compartment called 'dend'  
Create a region where reactions occur (include all sections, i.e. dend)  
Create species for region r. Set initial concentrations 1 mM ( $H^+$ ),  
1 mM ( $O^{2-}$ ), and 0 mM ( $H_2O$ )  
Create reaction  $2H^+ + O^{2-} \rightarrow H_2O$  with rate constant 1 (mM)<sup>2</sup>/ms

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ax.plot(array(vec_t),array(vec_H2O),label='H2O')
ax.legend()
ax.set_xlabel('$t$ (ms)')
ax.set_ylabel('$c$ (mmol/l)')

f.savefig('H2O.eps')
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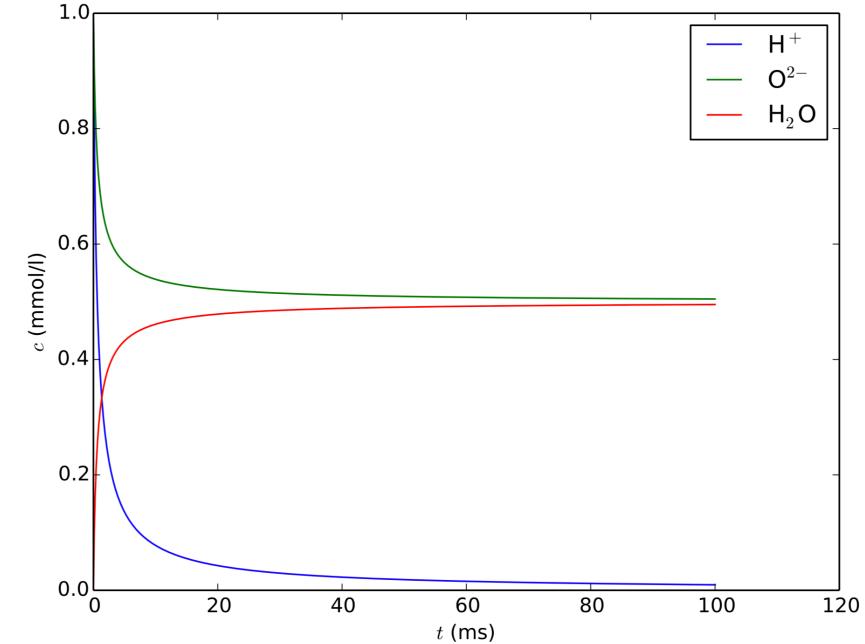
>Create NEURON vectors

Record to the time to vector vec\_t

Record the concentrations of  $[H^+]$ ,  $[O^{2-}]$ , and  $[H_2O]$

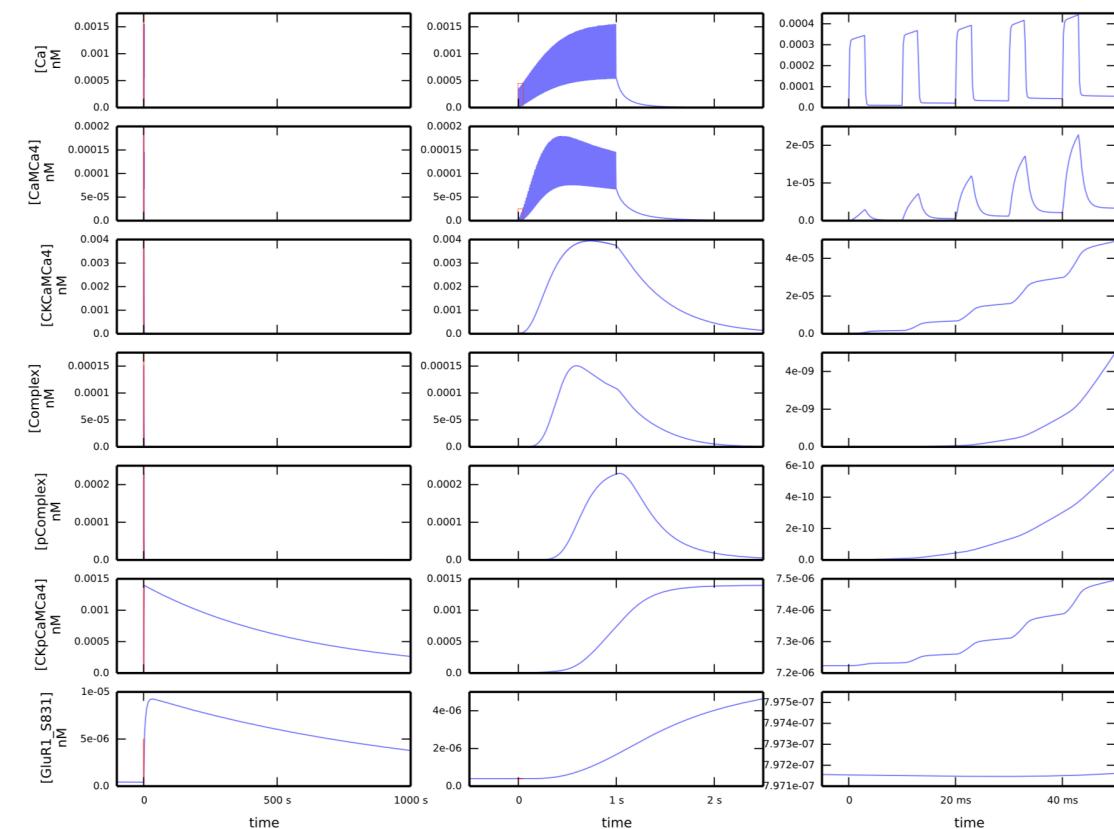
Initialize, set the timer and run for 100 ms

Create an axis, plot the figure and print it into an eps file



# Examples for NEURON's RxD extension

The figure displays a 4x6 grid of plots showing the concentration of various calcium species over time. The rows represent different calcium species:  $[Ca]$ ,  $[CaMCA_2]$ ,  $[CKCaMCA_4]$ ,  $[Complex]$ ,  $[pComplex]$ , and  $[GluR1\_S831]$ . The columns represent time intervals: 0-1000 s, 0-1 s, 0-2 s, and 0-40 ms. The plots show initial transients followed by sustained oscillations at higher time scales.

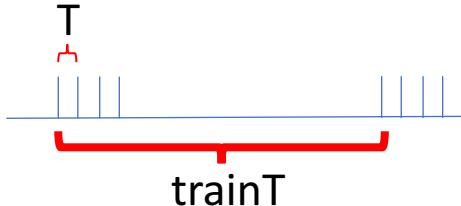


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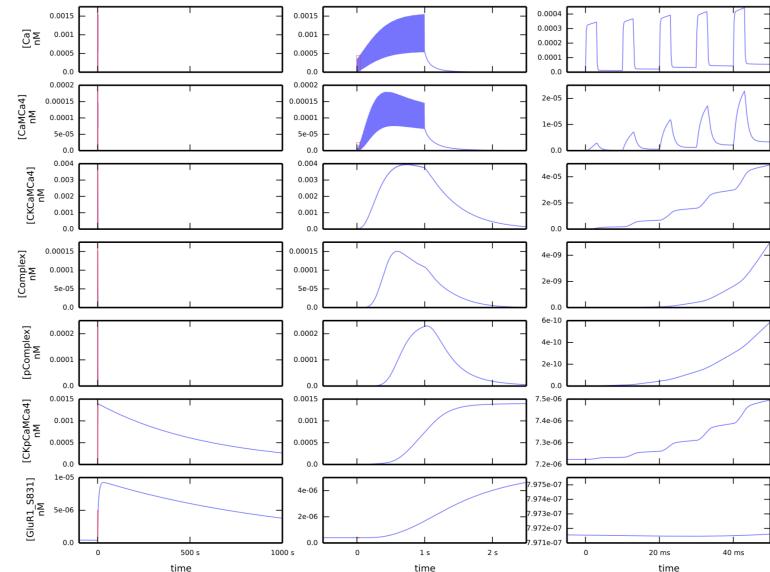
```
Ca_flux_rate = rxd.Parameter(cyt, initial=0)
reaction_Ca_flux = rxd.Rate(spec_Ca, Ca_flux_rate)
```



T



```
T = 1000./Ca_input_freq
tnew = 0
for itrain in range(0,Ntrains):
    for istim in range(0,Ca_input_N):
        tnew = Ca_input_onset + istim*T + trainT*itrain
        h.cvode.event(tnew, lambda: set_param(Ca_flux_rate, Ca_input_flux/6.022e23/my_volume*1e3))
        h.cvode.event(tnew+Ca_input_dur, lambda: set_param(Ca_flux_rate, 0))
```



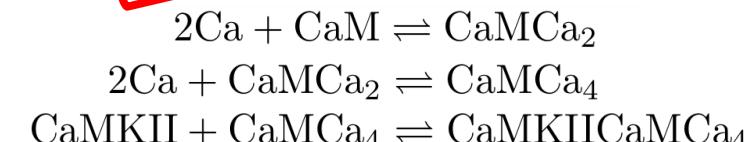
```
reaction000 = rxd.Reaction(spec_Ca + spec_pmca <> spec_pmcaCa, 50.0, 0.007)
reaction001 = rxd.Reaction(spec_pmcaCa > spec_pmca + spec_CaOut, 0.0035)
reaction002 = rxd.Reaction(spec_Ca + spec_ncx <> spec_ncxCa, 16.8, 0.0112)
reaction003 = rxd.Reaction(spec_ncxCa > spec_ncx + spec_CaOut, 0.0056)
reaction004 = rxd.Reaction(spec_CaOut + spec_Leak <> spec_CaOutLeak, 1.5, 0.0011)
reaction005 = rxd.Reaction(spec_CaOutLeak > spec_Ca + spec_Leak, 0.0011)
```

}  $\rightarrow \text{PMCA} + \text{Ca} \rightleftharpoons \text{PMCACa} \rightarrow \text{PMCA} + \text{Ca}_{\text{out}}$

}  $\rightarrow \text{ncx} + \text{Ca} \rightleftharpoons \text{ncxCa} \rightarrow \text{ncx} + \text{Ca}_{\text{out}}$

}  $\rightarrow \text{Ca}_{\text{out}} + \text{Leak} \rightleftharpoons \text{Ca}_{\text{out}}\text{Leak} \rightarrow \text{Ca} + \text{Leak}$

```
reaction067 = rxd.Reaction(spec_CaM + spec_Ca*2 <> spec_CaMCa2, 6.0*spec_CaM*spec_Ca, 0.0091*spec_CaMCa2, custom_dynamics=True)
reaction068 = rxd.Reaction(spec_CaMCa2 + spec_Ca*2 <> spec_CaMCa4, 100.0*spec_CaMCa2*spec_Ca, 1.0*spec_CaMCa4, custom_dynamics=True)
reaction075 = rxd.Reaction(spec_CaMCa4 + spec_CK <> spec_CKCaMCa4, 10.0, 0.003)
```



Python3: <> replaced by !=