

Non-invertibility of basal ganglia network calls for new biomarkers

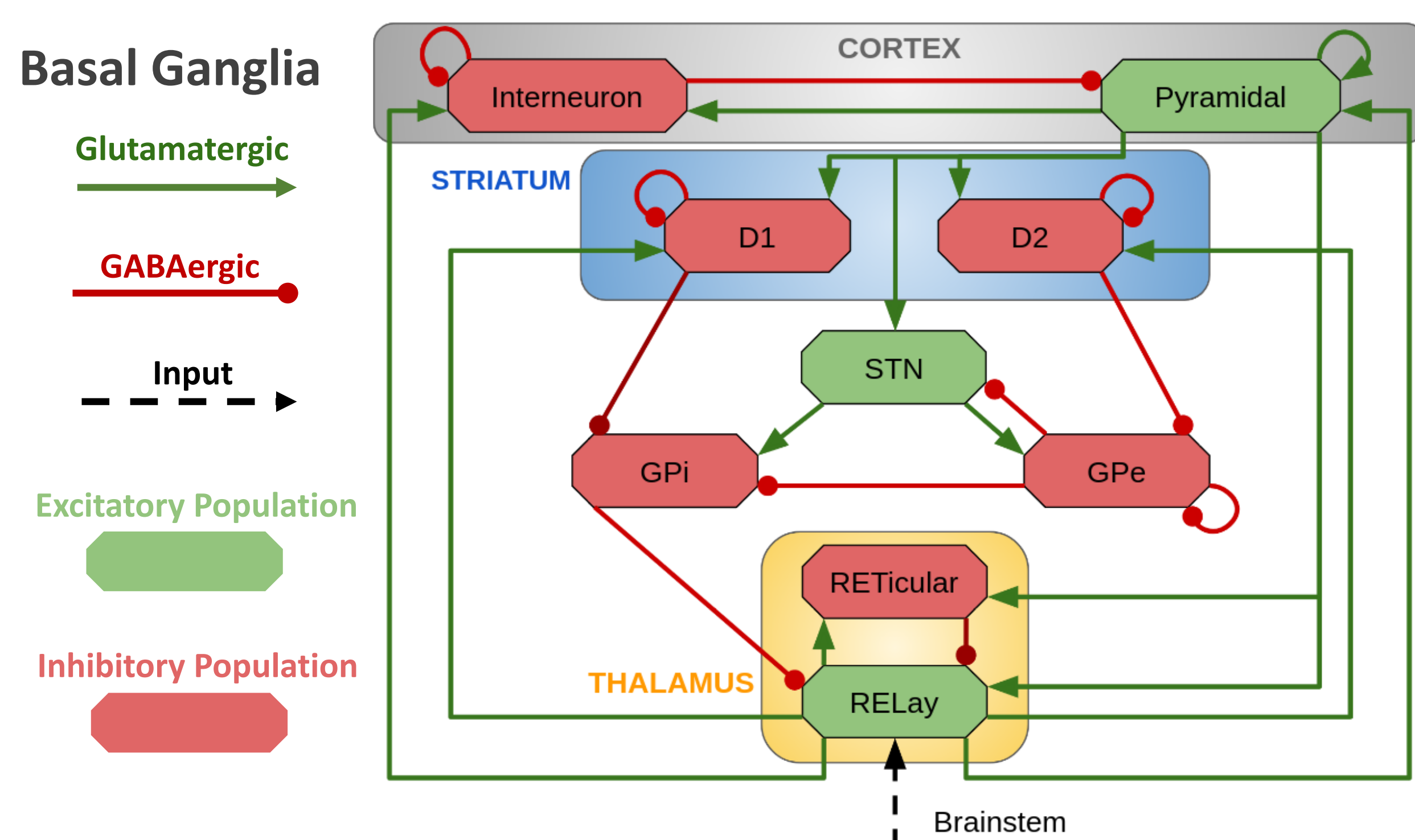
Arash Golmohammadi¹, Jan Philipp Payonk¹, Timon Merk⁴, Wolf-Julian Neumann⁴, Ursula van Rienen^{1,2,3}, Revathi Appali^{1,3}

¹ Institute of General Electrical Engineering, Faculty of Computer Science and Electrical Engineering, University of Rostock, Rostock, Germany | ² Department Life, Light & Matter, University of Rostock, Rostock, Germany | ³ Department Ageing of Individuals and Society, University of Rostock, Rostock, Germany | ⁴ Movement Disorder and Neuromodulation Unit, Department of Neurology, Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Berlin, Germany

INTRODUCTION

- Motivated by the role of synaptic processing in the basal ganglia, we explored the effect of the temporal synaptic characteristics on a parkinsonian biomarker.
- We demonstrate that one biomarker is not enough to determine the complete state of the brain.

MODEL



Mean-field model

Solved for voltage $V_k(t)$ and field $\phi_k(\mathbf{r}, t)$ for each population k

$$\tau_r \tau_d \frac{d^2 V_k}{dt^2} + (\tau_r + \tau_d) \frac{dV_k}{dt} + V_k = \sum_i v_{ki} \phi_i(t - \delta_{ki}) + I_k^{ext}$$

$$\frac{1}{\gamma_a^2} \frac{\partial^2 \phi_k}{\partial t^2} + \frac{1}{\gamma_a} \frac{\partial \phi_k}{\partial t} + \phi_k - r_a^2 \nabla^2 \phi_k = \frac{Q_k^{\max}}{1 + \exp\left[-\frac{V_k - \theta_k}{r_k}\right]}$$

- Synaptic rise time τ_r and somatic decay time τ_d
- Axonal pulse attenuation: damping rate γ_a
- Sigmoidal activation function: threshold θ_k , steepness r_k , maximum firing rate of Q_k^{\max}
- Noise-free input I_k^{ext} from brainstem to k =thalamus
- Spatially homogeneous neural field ($r_a^2 \nabla^2 \phi_k = 0$)
- No axonal delay ($\delta_{ki} = 0$)

Healthy state

- Set according to the physiological steady-state firing rates [1,2]

Parkinsonian state

- Unbalancing the direct/indirect pathways [4]
- Lower striatal thresholds \rightarrow lower striatal signal-to-noise ratio [5]
- Weaker GPe-GPe link \rightarrow Enhancing enkephalin release [6]
- Weaker intracortical links \rightarrow mesocortical dopamine loss [7]

Study

- Effect of synaptic-somatic temporal interaction
- Vary the time scale (τ_d) on the emergence of *excess beta activity*

RESULTS

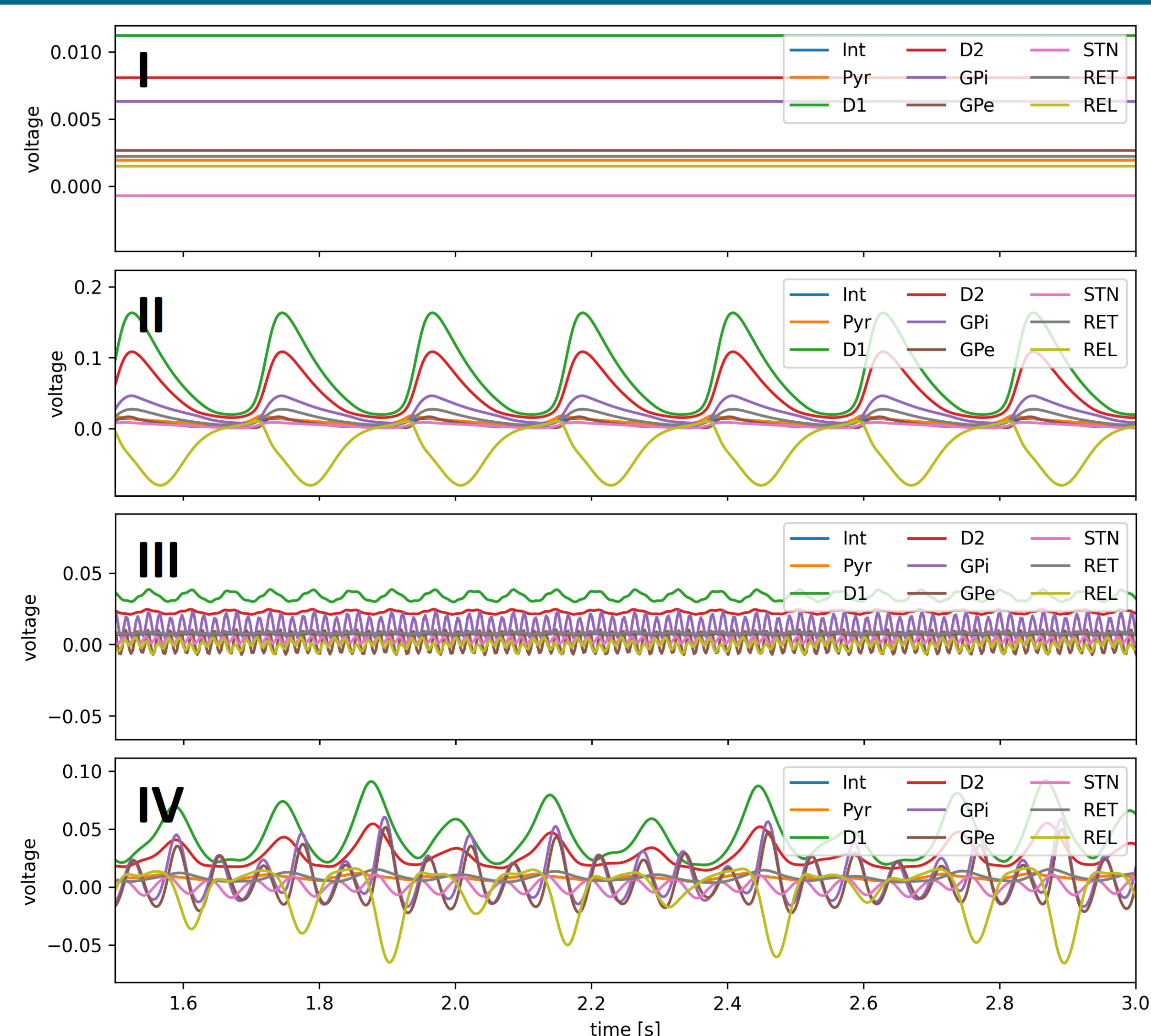


Figure 1: Canonical response types of the model

RESULTS

- Model exhibits dynamically different response types (Fig.1)
 - I. Stationary steady-state \rightarrow [1,2], this work
 - II. Uni-modal oscillation \rightarrow [3], this work
 - III. Multi-modal oscillations \rightarrow this work
 - V. Chaotic \rightarrow this work

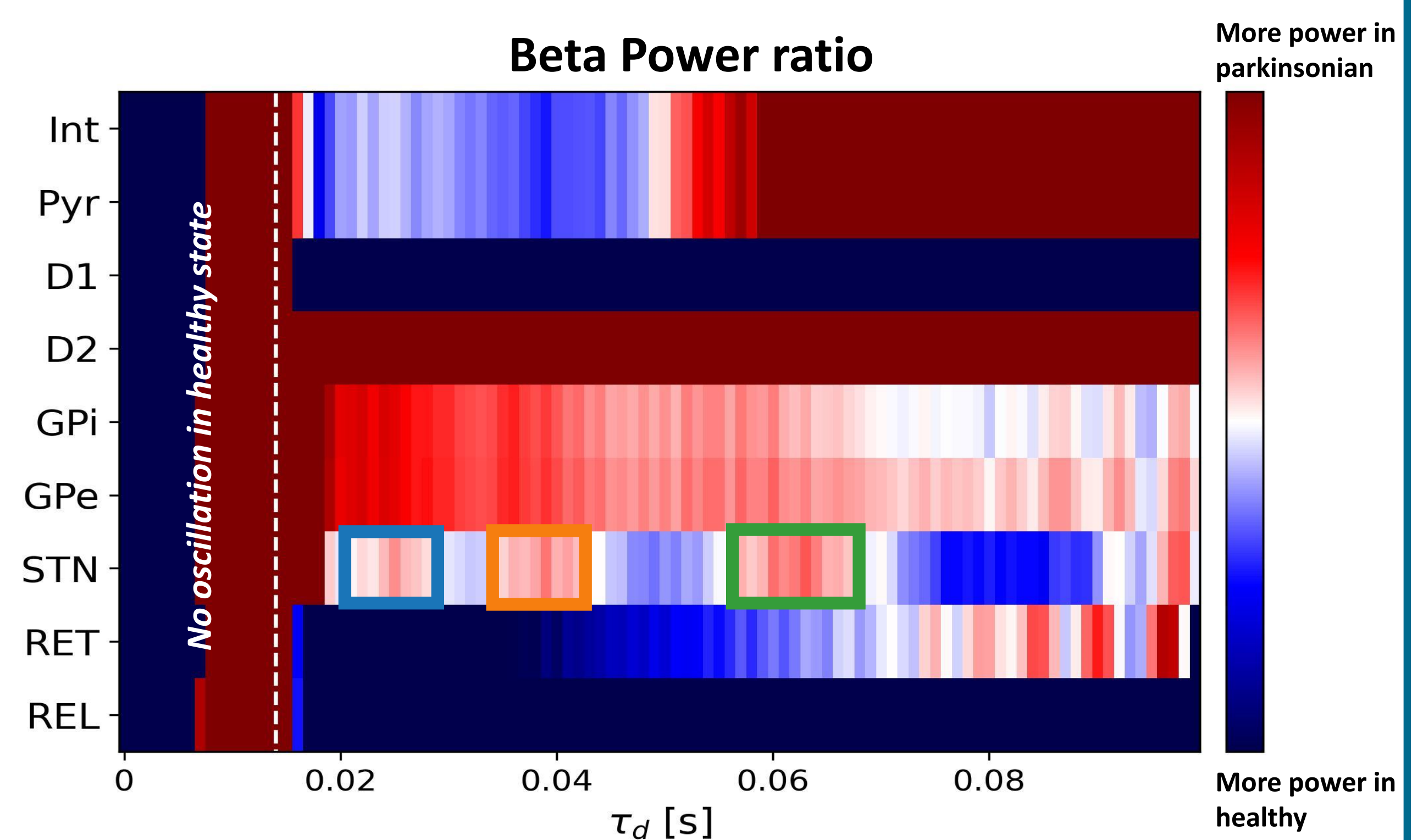


Figure 2: Multitude of P-conformal parameter regions. Some STN windows are marked in blue, orange and green

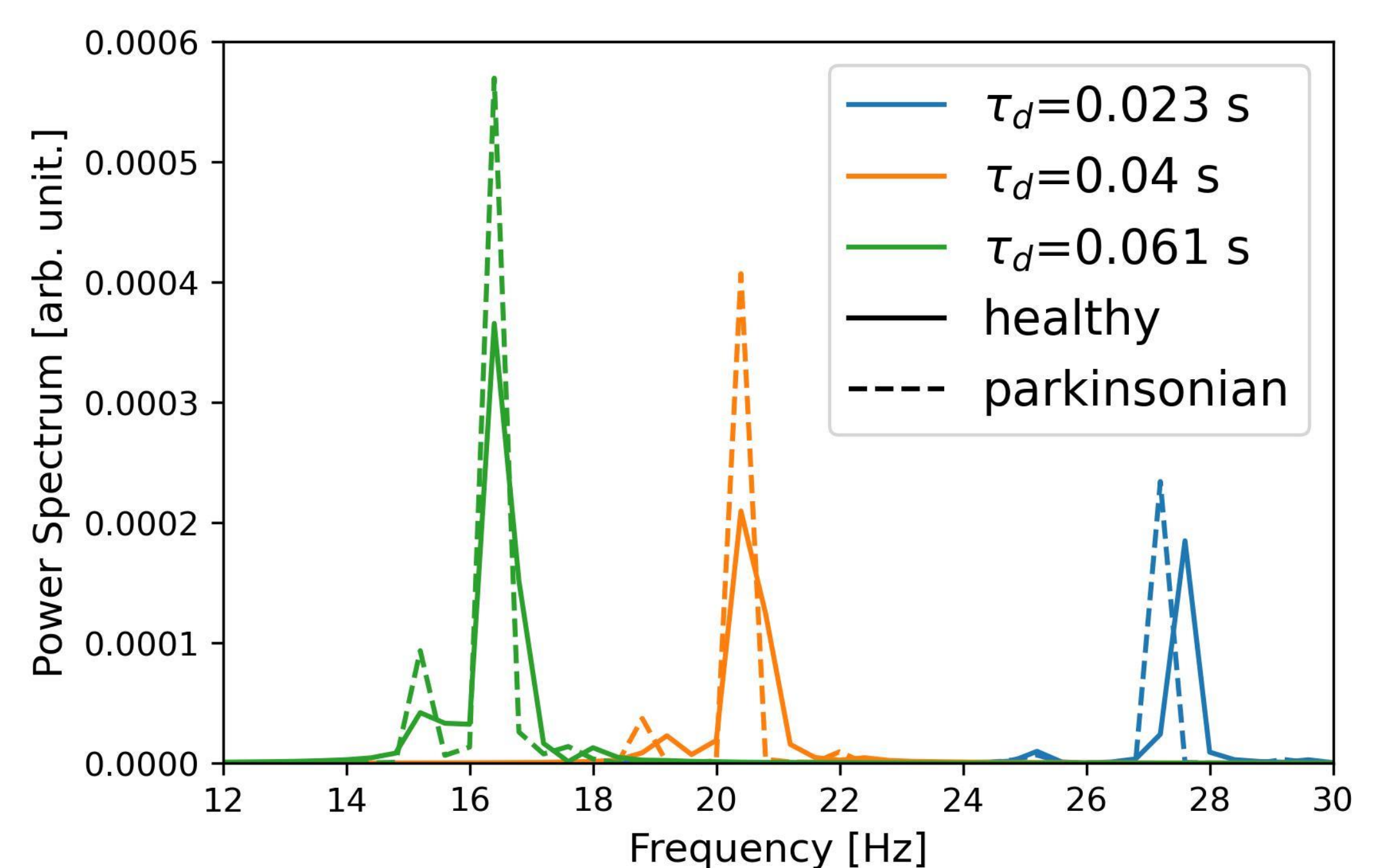


Figure 3: STN power spectral density of the windows marked in Fig. 2 in beta frequency range

DISCUSSION

- Synaptic temporal characteristics are detrimental for exhibition or absence of parkinsonian-like responses
- Computational models discern p-conformal configurations
- Such discrimination should be compared with new biomarkers or brain recordings

CONCLUSION

- Flexible computational model of the basal ganglia
- Varieties of dynamical responses depending on the “hidden” parameters
- Multitudes of distinguishable “p-conformal” parameter sets
- Network is non-invertible with few biomarkers
- Augmentation with EEG/ECOG/LFP is a must for an entire brain state specification

FUTURE WORK

- Implementing the axonal delays
- Explore DBS-like and noisy inputs to the populations
- Use EEG/ECOG recordings and Bayesian inversion

This work was funded by DFG CRC 295 RETUNE (424778381).

References:

- van Albada, S. J., Robinson, P. A., 2009. Mean-field modeling of the basal ganglia-thalamocortical system. I: Firing rates in healthy and parkinsonian states. *J. Theor. Biol.*, 257(4), 642–663.
- van Albada, S. J., Gray, R. T., Drysdale, P. M., Robinson, P. A., 2009. Mean-field modeling of the basal ganglia-thalamocortical system. II: Dynamics of parkinsonian oscillations. *J. Theor. Biol.*, 257(4), 664–688.
- Müller, E. J., Robinson, P. A., 2018. Quantitative theory of deep brain stimulation of the subthalamic nucleus for the suppression of pathological rhythms in Parkinson's disease. *PLoS Comput. Biol.*, 14(5), e1006217.
- Albin, R., Young, A., Penney, J., 1989. The functional anatomy of basal ganglia disorders. *Trends Neurosci.*, 12, 366–375.
- Leblois, A., Boraud, T., Meissner, W., Bergman, H., Hansel, D., 2006. Competition between feedback loops underlies normal and pathological dynamics in the basal ganglia. *J. Neurosci.*, 26, 3567–3583.
- Terman, D., Rubin, J., Yew, A., Wilson, C., 2002. Activity patterns in a model for the subthalamic nucleus of the basal ganglia. *J. Neurosci.*, 22, 2963–2976.
- Thurley, K., Senn, W., Lüscher, H.-R., 2008. Dopamine increases the gain of the input-output response of rat prefrontal pyramidal neurons. *J. Neurophysiol.*, 99, 2985–2997.



Link to the repository



Link to the poster