

morris_lecar_1981

November 14, 2025

1 The Morris Lecar Model

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[2]: from numpy import tanh, cosh, linspace, arange
      from matplotlib.pyplot import subplots
      from scipy.integrate import solve_ivp
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[8]: class MorrisLecar:
      """
      Morris-Lecar (1981) with original parameters from
      "Voltage oscillations in the barnacle giant muscle fiber"
      """

      def __init__(self):
          # Original parameters
          self.C = 20.0      # F/cm2 (membrane capacitance)
          self.g_Ca = 4.4    # mS/cm2 (calcium conductance)
          self.g_K = 8.0     # mS/cm2 (potassium conductance)
          self.g_L = 2.0     # mS/cm2 (leak conductance)
          self.E_Ca = 120.0  # mV (calcium reversal potential)
          self.E_K = -84.0   # mV (potassium reversal potential)
          self.E_L = -60.0   # mV (leak reversal potential)

          # Voltage-dependent parameters
          self.V1 = -1.2     # mV (Note: it's -1.2, not +1.2)
          self.V2 = 18.0     # mV
          self.V3 = 2.0      # mV
          self.V4 = 30.0     # mV
          self.phi = 0.04    # temperature scaling factor

      def m_inf(self, V):
          """Steady-state activation for calcium channel"""
          return 0.5 * (1 + tanh((V - self.V1) / self.V2))

      def w_inf(self, V):
          """Steady-state activation for potassium channel"""
          return 0.5 * (1 + tanh((V - self.V3) / self.V4))
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def tau_w(self, V):
    """Time constant for potassium channel activation"""
    return 1 / (self.phi * cosh((V - self.V3) / (2 * self.V4)))

def system(self, t, variables, I_app):
    """System of differential equations for solve_ivp"""
    V, w = variables

    # Handle both constant and time-varying current
    if callable(I_app):
        current = I_app(t)
    else:
        current = I_app

    # Current calculations
    I_Ca = self.g_Ca * self.m_inf(V) * (V - self.E_Ca)
    I_K = self.g_K * w * (V - self.E_K)
    I_L = self.g_L * (V - self.E_L)

    # Differential equations
    dV_dt = (current - I_Ca - I_K - I_L) / self.C
    dw_dt = self.phi * (self.w_inf(V) - w) / self.tau_w(V)

    return [dV_dt, dw_dt]

def simulate(self, I_app, duration=1000, dt=0.1, V0=-60.0, w0=0.01):
    """Run simulation with applied current"""
    t_span = (0, duration)
    t_eval = arange(0, duration, dt)
    y0 = [V0, w0]

    solution = solve_ivp(self.system, t_span, y0, args=(I_app,),
                          t_eval=t_eval, method='RK45', rtol=1e-6)

    return solution.t, solution.y[0], solution.y[1]

# Example
def main():
    ml = MorrisLecar()

    # Different applied currents
    currents = [40, 60, 100] # A/cm² [40, 60, 100]
    duration = 5000 # ms
    dt = 0.1 # ms

    fig, axes = subplots(2, 2, figsize=(12, 10))

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for i, I_app in enumerate(currents):
    t, V, w = ml.simulate(I_app, duration, dt)

    # Voltage trace
    axes[0,0].plot(t, V, label=f'I_app = {I_app} A/cm²')
    axes[0,0].set_ylabel('Membrane Potential (mV)')
    axes[0,0].set_xlabel('Time (ms)')
    axes[0,0].set_title('Voltage Traces')
    axes[0,0].legend()
    axes[0,0].grid(True)

    # Phase portrait
    axes[0,1].plot(V, w, label=f'I_app = {I_app}')
    axes[0,1].set_xlabel('V (mV)')
    axes[0,1].set_ylabel('w')
    axes[0,1].set_title('Phase Portrait')
    axes[0,1].legend()
    axes[0,1].grid(True)

    # Potassium gating variable
    axes[1,0].plot(t, w, label=f'I_app = {I_app}')
    axes[1,0].set_ylabel('w (K activation)')
    axes[1,0].set_xlabel('Time (ms)')
    axes[1,0].set_title('Potassium Gating Variable')
    axes[1,0].legend()
    axes[1,0].grid(True)

    # Steady-state functions
    V_range = linspace(-80, 80, 200)
    m_inf_vals = ml.m_inf(V_range)
    w_inf_vals = ml.w_inf(V_range)
    tau_w_vals = ml.tau_w(V_range)

    axes[1,1].plot(V_range, m_inf_vals, 'r-', label='m_inf(V)')
    axes[1,1].plot(V_range, w_inf_vals, 'b-', label='w_inf(V)')
    # axes[1,1].plot(V_range, tau_w_vals, 'k-', label='w_inf(V)')

    axes[1,1].set_xlabel('V (mV)')
    axes[1,1].set_ylabel('Steady-state value')
    axes[1,1].set_title('Steady-state Functions')
    axes[1,1].legend()
    axes[1,1].grid(True)

fig.tight_layout()

# Print parameters for verification

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print("Morris-Lecar Model Parameters (Original 1981):")
print(f"C = {ml.C} F/cm2")
print(f"g_Ca = {ml.g_Ca} mS/cm2")
print(f"g_K = {ml.g_K} mS/cm2")
print(f"g_L = {ml.g_L} mS/cm2")
print(f"E_Ca = {ml.E_Ca} mV")
print(f"E_K = {ml.E_K} mV")
print(f"E_L = {ml.E_L} mV")
print(f"V1 = {ml.V1} mV")
print(f"V2 = {ml.V2} mV")
print(f"V3 = {ml.V3} mV")
print(f"V4 = {ml.V4} mV")
print(f"phi = {ml.phi}")

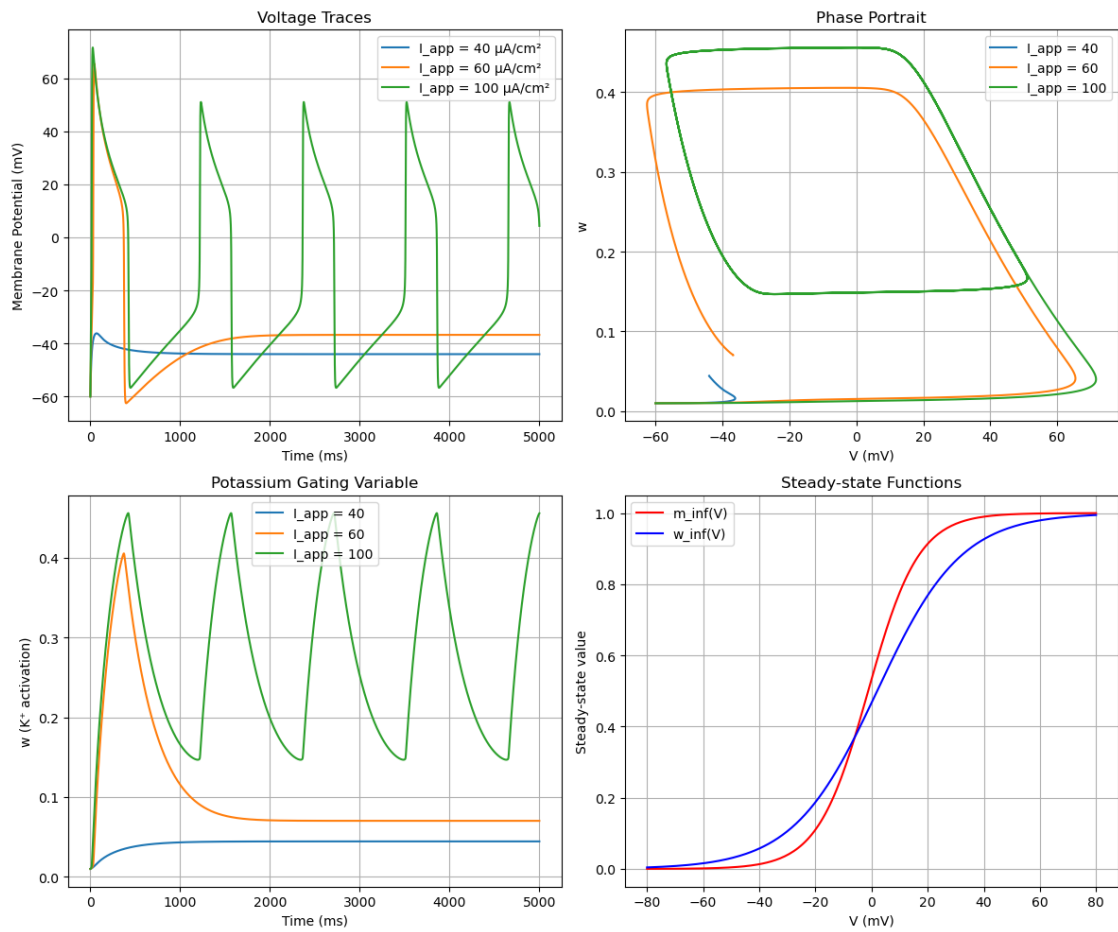
if __name__ == "__main__":

    main()

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Morris-Lecar Model Parameters (Original 1981):

C = 20.0 F/cm²
 g_Ca = 4.4 mS/cm²
 g_K = 8.0 mS/cm²
 g_L = 2.0 mS/cm²
 E_Ca = 120.0 mV
 E_K = -84.0 mV
 E_L = -60.0 mV
 V1 = -1.2 mV
 V2 = 18.0 mV
 V3 = 2.0 mV
 V4 = 30.0 mV
 phi = 0.04



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