

## Spiking Neural Networks

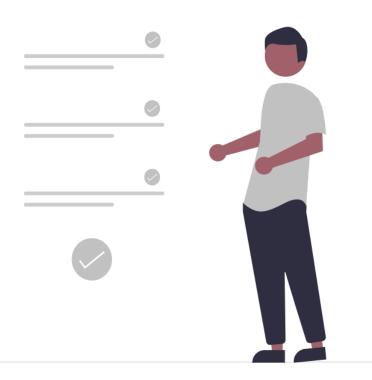
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## Index

## Biological Neurons & Simulations

- 0.1.1 Phases of a Spiking neuron
- 0.1.2 Neurons in Biology
- 0.1.3 Ions, Channels & Pumps
- 0.1.4 Hodgkin-Huxley Model
- 0.1.5 Neurons as Dynamical Systems
- 0.1.6 Integrate-And-Fire Models
- 0.1.7 Reduction of Multidimensional Models
- 0.1.8 Simulating Neurons & the Use of Simulink







## Biological Neurons & Simulations

#### **Main References:**

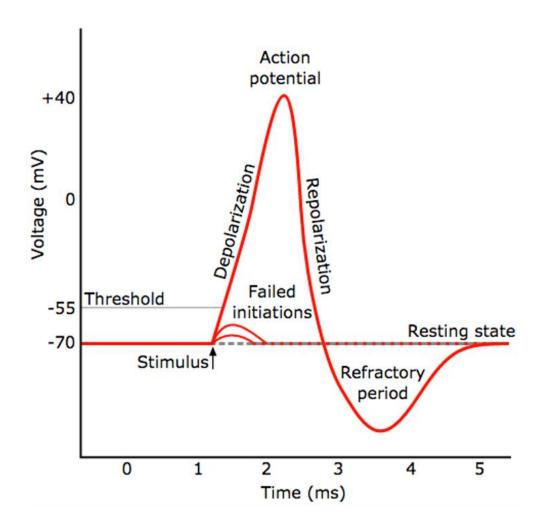
Basic Neural Units of the Brain: Neurons, Synapses and Action Potential, Jiawei Zhang, Information Fusion and Mining Laboratory, University of California, Davis

Dynamical Systems in Neuroscience: The Geometry of Excitability and Bursting, Eugene M. Izhikevich, The Neuroscience Institute

**Simple Model of Spiking Neurons**, Eugene M. Izhikevich, in IEEE Transactions on Neural Networks, vol. 14, no. 6, pp. 1569-1572, Nov. 2003



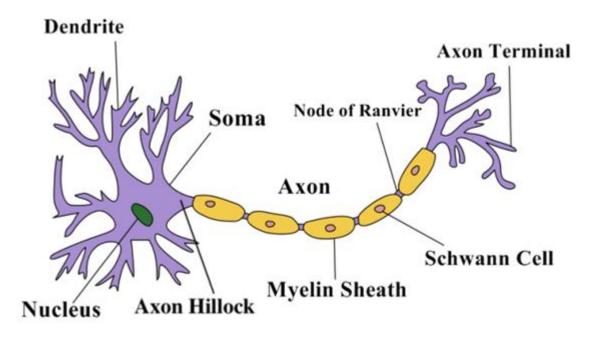
## Phases of a Spiking Neuron





### **Neurons**

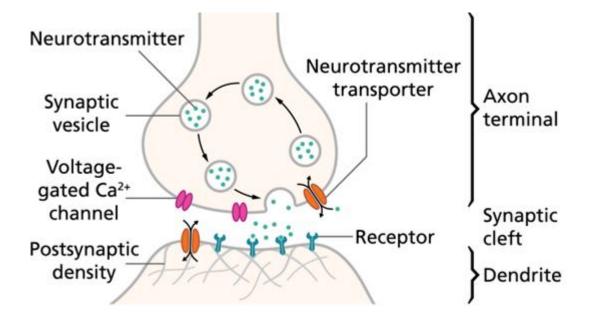
A neuron is an electrically excitable cell that processes and transmits information by electro-chemical signaling. Each neuron may be connected to 10 thousand other neurons, passing signals to each other via 1000 trillion synaptic connections ( $\equiv$  computer with 1 trillion bits/s processor).





## **Axon Terminals & Dendrites**

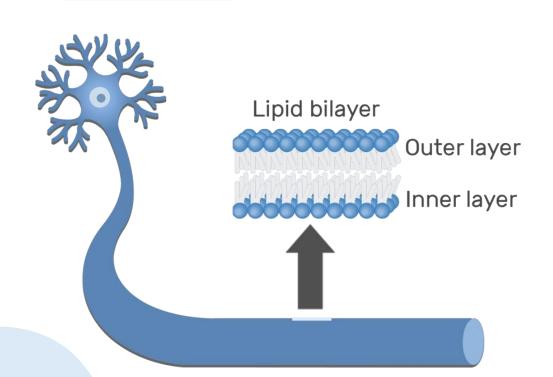
The process of a spike being fired and then received by another neuron takes less than 2ms

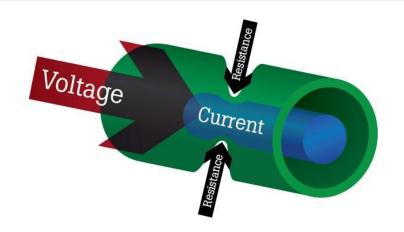


This is called a "synapse"

## B I C O C C A

### Membrane Structure

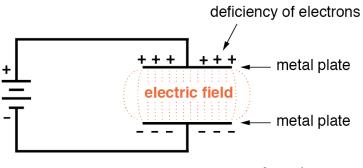




Every animal cell is enclosed in a **plasma membrane**, which has the structure of a **lipid bilayer**. This membrane has high **electrical resistivity** due to the lipid molecules.

A membrane works as a combined **resistance** and **capacitance**.

**Capacitance** arises from the fact that the bilayer is so thin that an accumulation of charged particles on one side gives rise to an electrical force that pulls oppositely charged particles toward the other side.

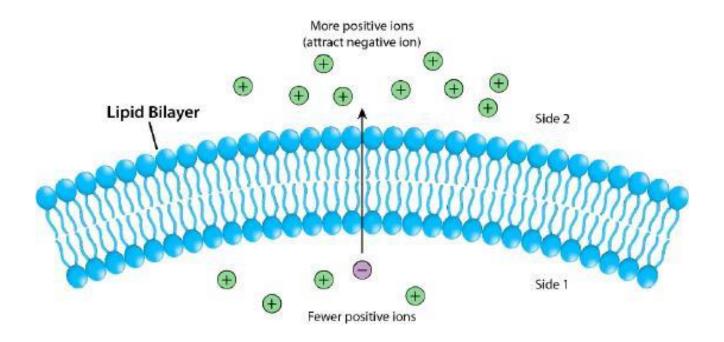


excess free electrons



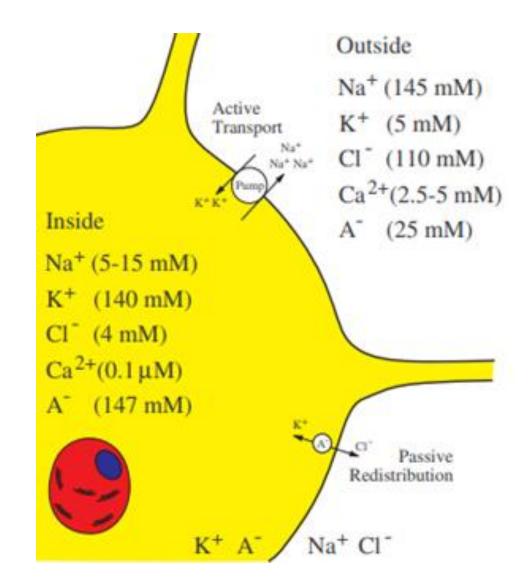
## The Importancy of Ions:

Every neuron maintains a **voltage gradient** across its membrane, due to the differences in ions of **Sodium** (**Na**<sup>+</sup>), **Potassium** (**K**<sup>+</sup>), **Chloride** (**Cl**<sup>-</sup>) and **Calcium** (**Ca**<sup>2+</sup>) on the sides of the membrane. If the voltage changes significantly, an **electro-chemical** pulse is fired.



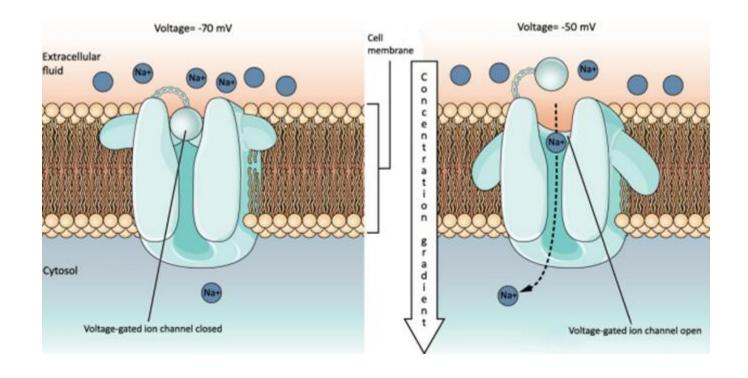


## Redistribution of Ions



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## Ion Channels

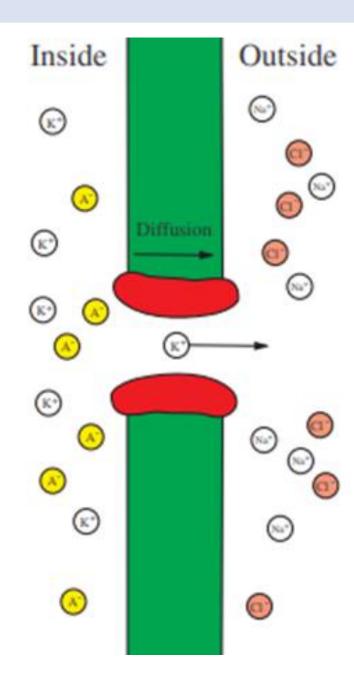


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## **Nernst Potentials**

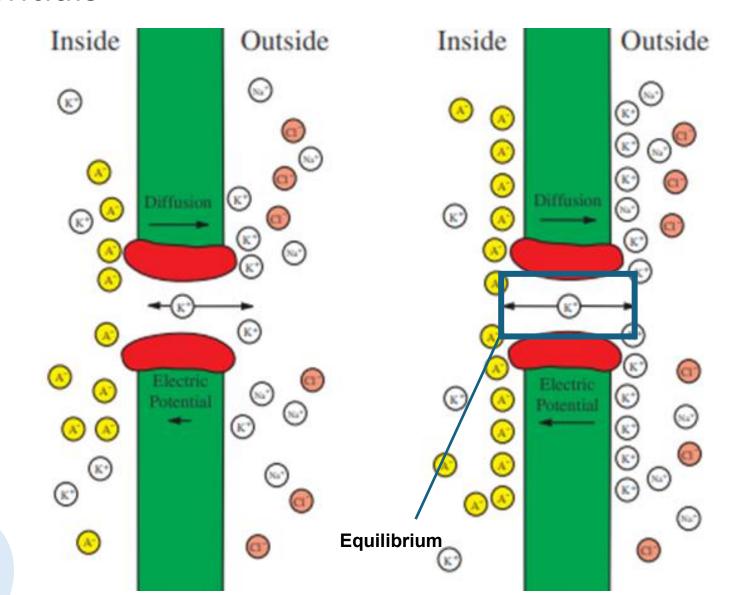
We have **two driving forces** for ions in the channels: **concentration** gradients and **electric potential** gradients.

First, the ions diffuse down the concentration gradient.



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## **Nernst Potentials**





### **Nernst Potentials**

$$E_{\text{ion}} = \frac{RT}{zF} \ln \frac{[\text{Ion}]_{\text{out}}}{[\text{Ion}]_{\text{in}}},$$

#### Where:

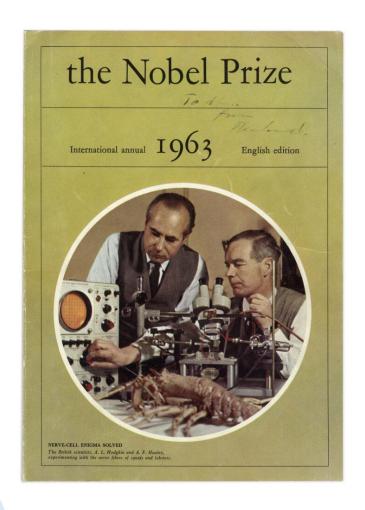
- [lon]<sub>in</sub> and [lon]<sub>out</sub> are concentrations of the ions inside and outside of the cell.
- R is the universal gas constant (0,315 mJ / (K°\*Mol))
- T is the temperature in degrees Kelvin
- F is Faraday's constant (96480 coulombs/Mol)
- z is the valance of the ion (z = 1 for Na<sup>+</sup> and K<sup>+</sup>, z = -1 for Cl<sup>-</sup>, and z = 2 for Ca<sup>2+</sup>).

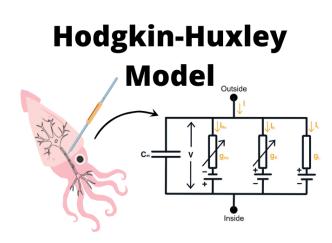
#### Example:

$$E_{\rm ion} \approx 62 \log \frac{[\rm Ion]_{\rm out}}{[\rm Ion]_{\rm in}}$$
 (mV)

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## The Hodgkin-Huxley Model







extracellular space

## The Hodgkin-Huxley Model

The giant squid axons membranes carry only two currents: **transient** Na+ and **persistent** K+.

 $\dot{h} = \alpha_h(V)(1-h) - \beta_h(V)h ,$ 

$$\frac{dQ}{dt} = C\frac{dV}{dt}$$

$$\frac{I_{\text{Na}}}{\hat{g}_{\text{Na}}} = C\frac{I_{\text{Na}}}{\hat{g}_{\text{Na}}} = C\frac{I_{\text{Na$$

ionic

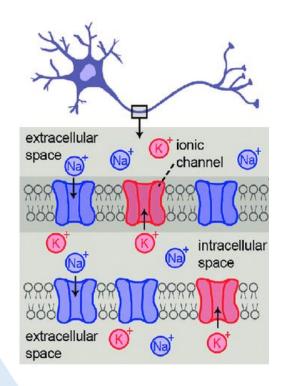
, channel 🔞

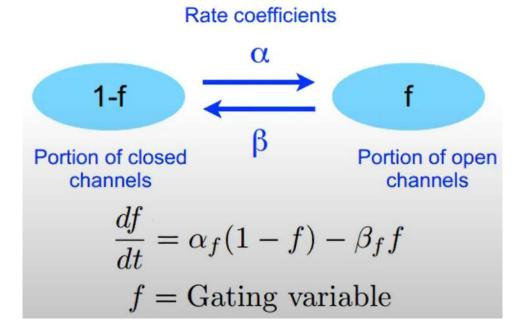
extracellular

space



## Gating Variables





**f**: fraction of open channels (gating variable, it depends on V and t)

a: rate at which closedchannels open (depends on V)

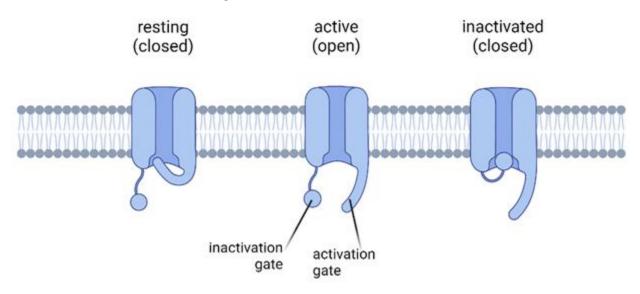
**β**: rate at which open channels close (depends on V)



## Gating Variables

We're going to have **gating variables** for the potassium activation gates (n), sodium activation (m), and sodium inactivation (h).

#### Channels look like this:



Potassium channels do not have inactivation gates.



## Potassium Activation Variable

Maximum conductivity with all gates open —

$$g_K(V,t)$$

(n = 1)

We can write an expression for the conductivity of this ion as

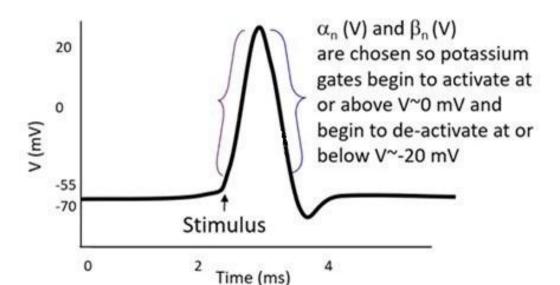
$$g_K = \bar{g}_K \ n^4(V, t)$$

Four activation gates result in <u>fourth power</u> for gating variable n

And then assume a simple first order kinetic behavior of the gating variable *n* 

$$\frac{dn}{dt} = \alpha_n(V)(1-n) - \beta_n(V)n$$

(same as previous slide, with f now called n)



Ref.: A Quantitative Description of Membrane Current and its Application to Conduction and Excitation in Nerve, Hodgkin and Huxley, 1952



## Sodium Gating Variables

Inactivation corresponds to value h=0, giving  $g_{Na} = 0$ 

$$g_{Na}(V,t)$$

$$g_{Na} = \bar{g}_{Na} \, m^3(V,t) \, h(V,t)$$

for which we write a similar ordinary differential equation

$$\frac{dh}{dt} = \alpha_h(V)(1-h) - \beta_h(V)h$$

One inactivation gate results in <u>first power</u> for gating variable h

The ODE for the activation variable will be:

$$\frac{dm}{dt} = \alpha_m(V)(1-m) - \beta_m(V)m$$



## **Sodium Gating Variables**

Ref.: Sodium channel, Wikipedia

| Action Potential | Membrane Potential | Target Potential | Gate's Target State         | Neuron's Target State        |
|------------------|--------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Resting          | -70 mV             | -55 mV           | $Deactivated \to Activated$ | Polarized                    |
| Rising           | −55 mV             | 0 mV             | Activated                   | Polarized → Depolarized      |
| Rising           | 0 mV               | +30 mV           | Activated → Inactivated     | Depolarized                  |
| Falling          | +30 mV             | 0 mV             | Inactivated                 | Depolarized → Repolarized    |
| Falling          | 0 mV               | -70 mV           | Inactivated                 | Repolarized                  |
| Undershot        | -70 mV             | -75 mV           | Inactivated → Deactivated   | Repolarized → Hyperpolarized |
| Rebounding       | -75 mV             | -70 mV           | Deactivated                 | Hyperpolarized → Polarized   |

$$C \dot{V} = I - \overbrace{g_{K} n^{4} (V - E_{K})}^{I_{K}} - \overbrace{g_{Na} m^{3} h(V - E_{Na})}^{I_{Na}} - \overbrace{g_{L} (V - E_{L})}^{I_{L}}$$

$$\dot{n} = \alpha_{n}(V)(1 - n) - \beta_{n}(V)n$$

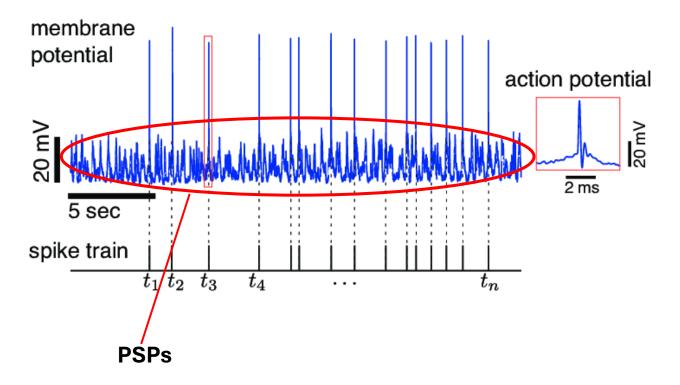
$$\dot{m} = \alpha_{m}(V)(1 - m) - \beta_{m}(V)m$$

$$\dot{h} = \alpha_{h}(V)(1 - h) - \beta_{h}(V)h$$



## Spike Train

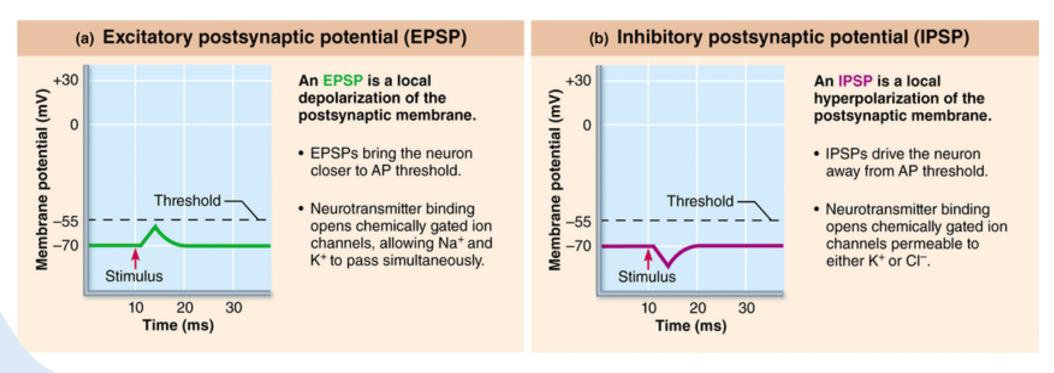
The temporal sequence of spikes generated by a neuron is called "**spike train**":





## Postsynaptic Potential (PSPs)

Synaptic currents produce changes in the **postsynaptic** neurons. These changes are called **postsynaptic potentials** (PSPs).

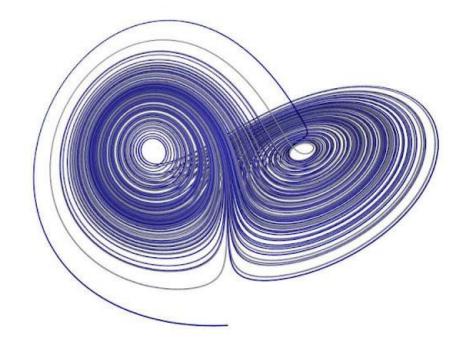


Ref.: Characterizing Neurotransmitter Receptor Activation with a Perturbation Based Decomposition Method, Stephen Jue



## Neurons as Dynamical Systems

A dynamical system consists of a set of variables that describe its **state**, and a law that describes the **evolution** of the state with time.





### The State

Dynamical System = states + evolution

The state of **most** models is usually described by the membrane potential V, and the activation (**recovery**) variable n, of the **persistent** K<sup>+</sup> current (2D). The activation (**excitation**) variable of the **transient** Na<sup>+</sup> current is a function of V, so it's not a separate variable.

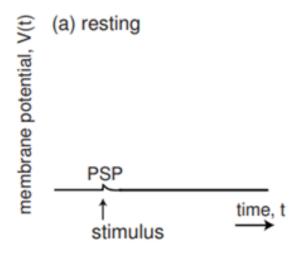
What about the **evolution law?** 

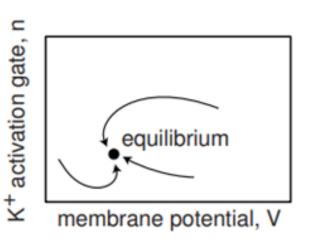


### Non-Excitable Phase Portrait

Studying the **phase portrait** of a system, we obtain the qualitative description of the dynamics of that system.

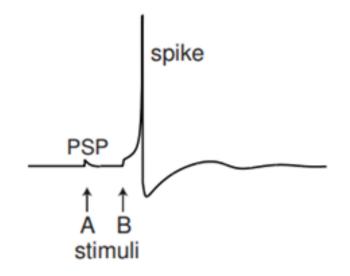
The evolution is a trajectory (V(t), n(t)) on the  $V \times n$  - plane. The trajectories in the figure are **attracted** to the **stable equilibrium**.

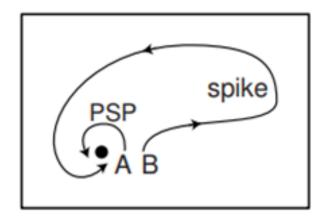




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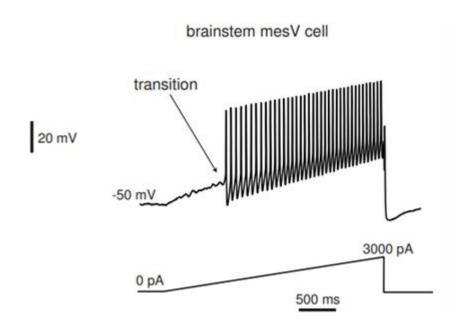
## **Excitable Phase Portrait**

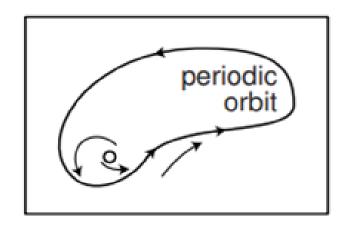






## **Bifurcations**



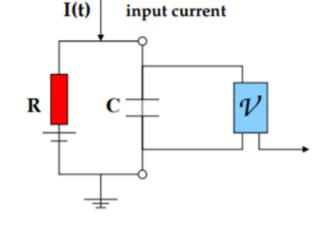


From a dynamical systems POV, the transition from resting to tonic spiking, corresponds to a **bifurcation** of the neuron dynamics, that is, a **qualitative** change of the phase portrait.



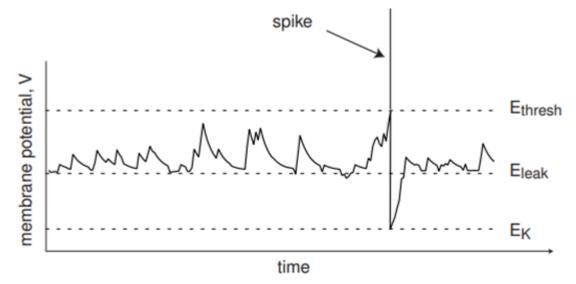
## Leaky-Integrate-And-Fire (LIF) Model

The leaky integrate-and-fire model (Lapicque, 1907) is an idealization of a neuron having an Ohmic leakage current and voltage-gated currents that are completely deactivated at rest.



The subthreshold behavior can be described by the linear differential equation:

$$C\dot{V} = I - \underbrace{Ghmic leakage}_{Gleak},$$



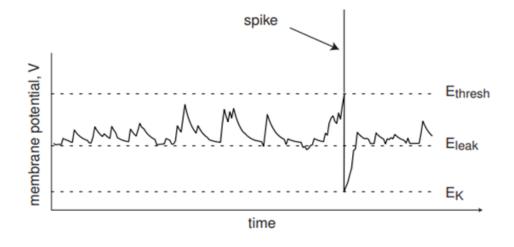


## Leaky-Integrate-And-Fire (LIF) Model

After appropriate scaling, the LIF model can be written as:

$$\dot{v} = b - v$$
, if  $v = 1$ , then  $v \leftarrow 0$ ,

The resting state is v = b, the threshold is v = 1, and the reset value is v = 0. The neuron is excitable when b < 1 and fires periodic spikes when b > 1.





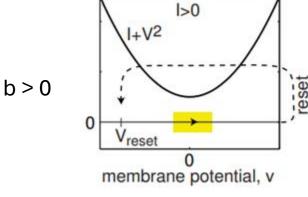
## Quadratic-Integrate-And-Fire (QIF) Model

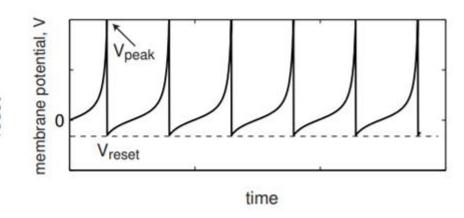
Replacing –v, in LIF, with  $+v^2$ , we obtain the quadratic integrate-and-fire model:

$$\dot{v} = b + v^2$$
, if  $v = v_{\text{peak}}$ , then  $v \leftarrow v_{\text{reset}}$ ,

We can normalize  $v_{peak} = 1$  (all-or-none spike)

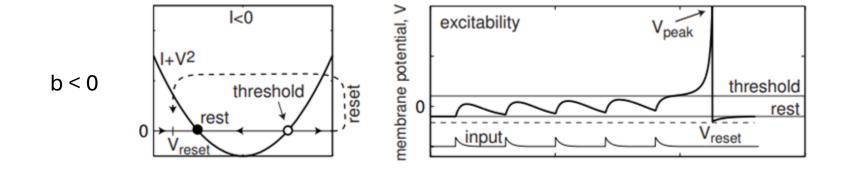
 $b + v^2$  is the topological normal form for the previous bifurcation and resetting v, captures the recurrence we have with tonic spiking.





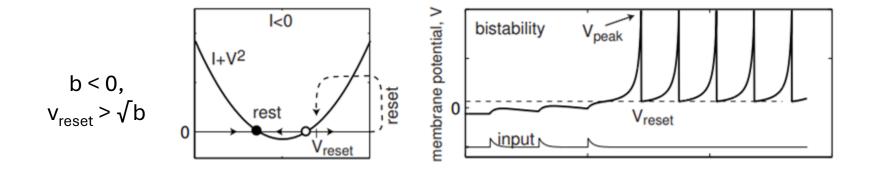


## Quadratic-Integrate-And-Fire (QIF) Model





## Quadratic-Integrate-And-Fire (QIF) Model



#### **Conclusions on the QIF:**

Unlike the LIF, this is a "real" **Integrator**, it has a **dynamic threshold**, and it generates spikes with **latencies**.

What about **Resonators**?



## Reduction of Multi-Dimensional Models

Using biophysically accurate Hodgkin-Huxley models is **computationally prohibitive**. Using an integrate-and-fire model is computationally **effective**, but incapable of producing rich dynamics exhibited by real neurons.

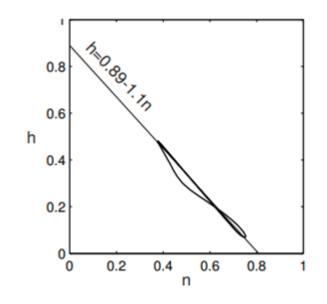
Can we reduce any Hodgkin-Huxley-type model?



## Simple 2D Reduction of the HH Model

A simulation, by Krinskii and Kokoz (1973) has shown that there is a relationship between n and h.

One dimension, h, is already gone.



(n, h) - plane

If we also assume that the activation of the Na<sup>+</sup> current is instantaneous (m =  $\alpha$  / ( $\alpha$  +  $\beta$ )), then we can remove m.



## **Resulting 2D Model**

$$C\dot{V} = I - \overbrace{g_{\mathrm{K}}n^{4}(V - E_{\mathrm{K}})}^{I_{\mathrm{K}}} - \overbrace{g_{\mathrm{Na}}m_{\infty}^{3}(V)(0.89 - 1.1n)(V - E_{\mathrm{Na}})}^{I_{\mathrm{Na}}} - \overbrace{g_{\mathrm{L}}(V - E_{\mathrm{L}})}^{I_{\mathrm{L}}},$$

$$\dot{n} = (n_{\infty}(V) - n)/\tau_{n}(V),$$

$$\dot{m} = (m_{\infty}(V) - n)/\tau_{n}(V),$$

$$\dot{m} = (m_{\infty}(V) - m)/\tau_{m}(V),$$

$$\vdots$$

$$n_{\infty} = \alpha_{n}/(\alpha_{n} + \beta_{n}), \qquad \tau_{n} = 1/(\alpha_{n} + \beta_{n}),$$

$$m_{\infty} = \alpha_{m}/(\alpha_{m} + \beta_{m}), \qquad \tau_{m} = 1/(\alpha_{m} + \beta_{m}),$$

This model's solutions agree quantitatively and qualitatively, to those of the original 4D one.



## Simple 2D Reduction - Revamped

In cases involving **large-scale simulations**, the shape of the spike is less important than the subthreshold dynamics. Thus, we can simplify most models into:

$$\dot{v} = I + v^2 - u$$
 if  $v \ge 1$ , then  $\dot{u} = a(bv - u)$   $v \leftarrow c, u \leftarrow u + d$ 

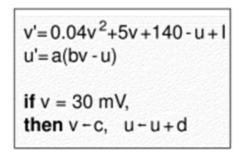
Depending on the values of **a** and **b**, the neuron can be an **Integrator** or a **Resonator**.

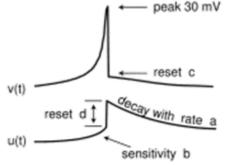
**a** is the recovery time constant. When  $\mathbf{b} \leq \mathbf{0}$ , the model acts as the **QIF** model. The **sign of b** determines whether **u** is an **amplifying** (b < 0) or a **resonant** (b > 0) variable, so **Rebound Spikes** are **possible**.

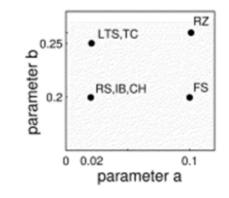


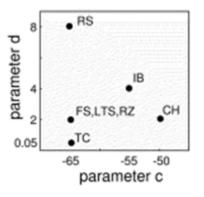
#### Simulating Neurons & Simulink

The most popular simulation of mammalian neurons is the **Izhikevich's model**, a scaled version of the previous reduction. We are going to show how it reproduces the behaviors of known types of (not only) cortical neurons.



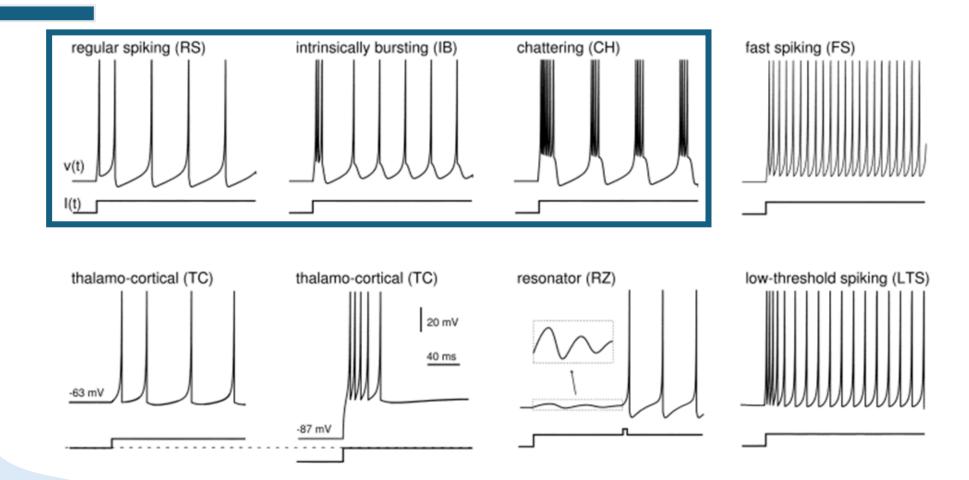






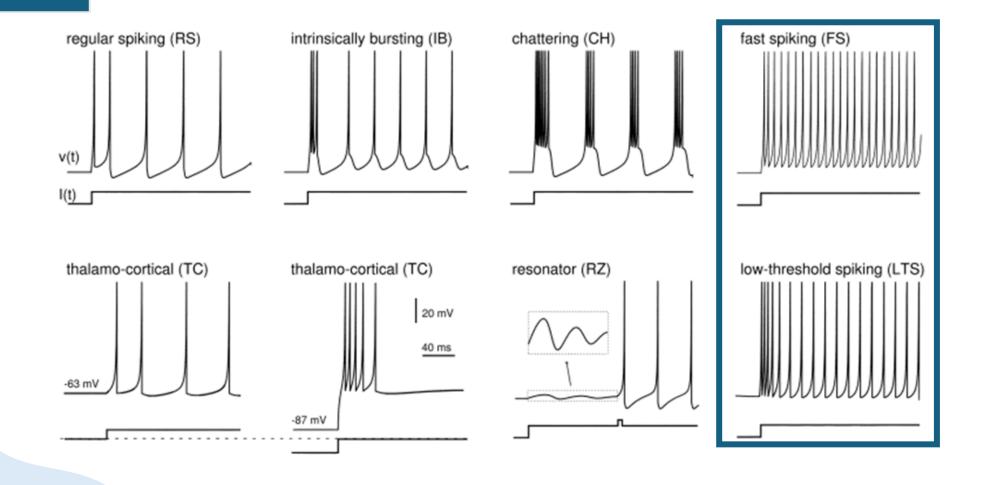


#### Izhikevich's Model: Cortical Excitatory Neurons



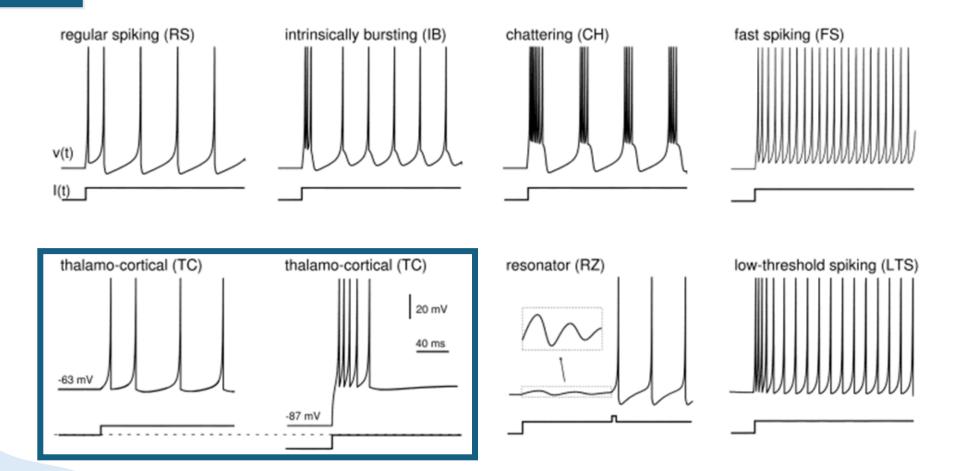


#### Izhikevich's Model: Inhibitory Cortical Neurons



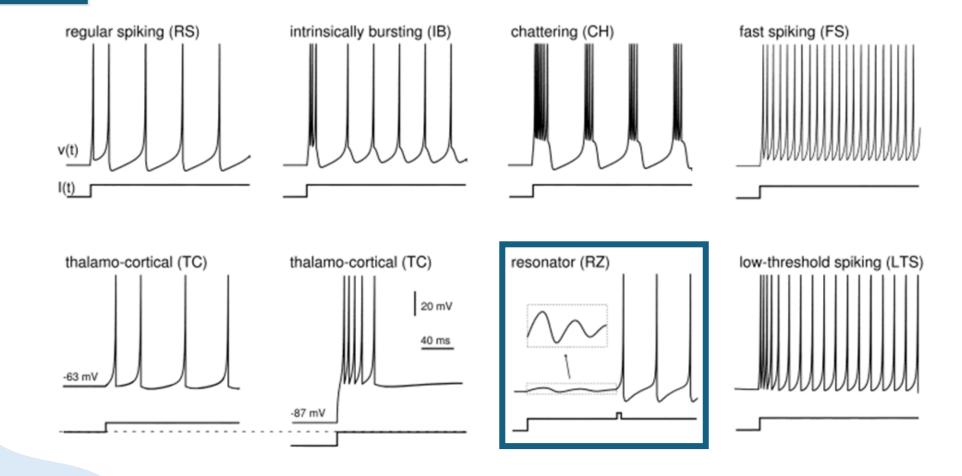


#### Izhikevich's Model: Thalamo-Cortical Neurons





#### Izhikevich's Model: Resonators





#### Izhikevich's Model: Resonator Code

```
# Liste per salvare i risultati
v_trace = []
u_trace = []
```

```
# Parametri del modello di Izhikevich per il neurone Resonator
a = 0.1
b = 0.26
c = -60
d = -1
# Condizioni iniziali
v = -62 # Potenziale di membrana iniziale (mV)
u = b * v # Valore iniziale di u
# Simulazione
tau = 0.25 # Passo temporale (ms)
time = np.arange(0, 400, tau) # Tempo totale di simulazione (ms)
I = np.zeros(len(time)) # Corrente di ingresso
# Definizione degli impulsi di corrente
T1 = time[-1] / 10
T2 = T1 + 20
T3 = 0.7 * time[-1]
T4 = T3 + 40
for i, t in enumerate(time):
    if (T1 < t < T1 + 4) or (T2 < t < T2 + 4) or (T3 < t < T3 + 4) or (T4 < t < T4 + 4):
        I[i] = 0.65
```



#### Izhikevich's Model: Code

```
for i, t in enumerate(time):
    v_trace.append(v)
    u_trace.append(u)
    # Equazioni differenziali
    v = v + tau * (0.04 * v**2 + 5 * v + 140 - u + I[i])
    u = u + tau * a * (b * v - u)
    # Reset del potenziale e del valore di u
    if v > 30:
        v_trace[-1] = 30 # Salva il picco
        v = c
        u += d
```

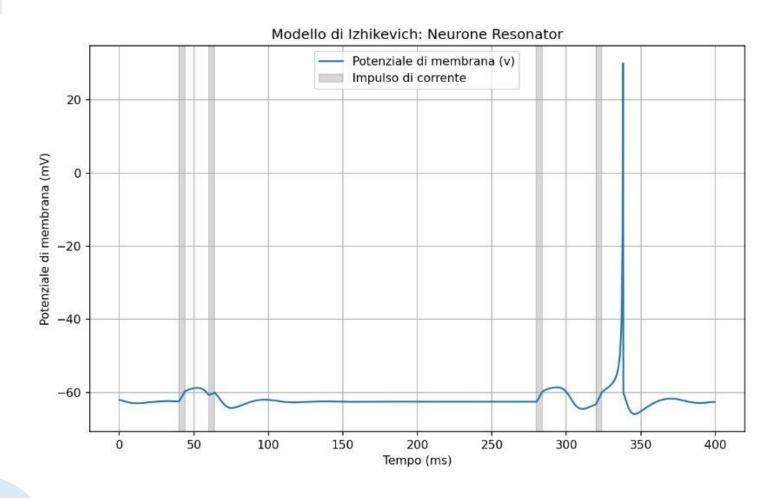
#### Euler's Explicit Method:

$$v(t+ au) = v(t) + au \cdot rac{dv}{dt}$$

$$u(t+ au) = u(t) + au \cdot rac{du}{dt}$$



#### Izhikevich's Model: Results Plot





### Pulse-Coupled Neural Networks (PCNN):

```
PCNN

S = (S_{ij})

If "j" fires, V_i += S_{ii}
```

Izhikevich's Equations

```
Ne = 800
Ni = 200
re = np.random.rand(Ne)
ri = np.random.rand(Ni)
a = np.r_{0.02*np.ones(Ne), 0.02+0.08*ri}
b = np.r [0.2*np.ones(Ne), 0.25-0.05*ri]
c = np.r_[-65+15*re**2, -65*np.ones(Ni)]
d = np.r_[8-6*re**2, 2*np.ones(Ni)]
S = np.c_[0.5*np.random.rand(Ne+Ni, Ne), -np.random.rand(Ne+Ni, Ni)]
v = -65*np.ones(Ne+Ni)
                                #Initial values of v.
u = b*v
                                #Initial values of u.
firings = np.zeros((0,2))
for t in range(1000):
                                #Stimulation of 1000 ms
    I = np.r_[5*np.random.randn(Ne), 2*np.random.randn(Ni)] #Thalamic input
    fired = np.where(v >= 30)[0] # Indices of spikes
    if len(fired) != 0:
        firings = np.vstack((firings, np.c_[t+0*fired, fired]))
        v[fired] = c[fired]
        u[fired] = u[fired] + d[fired]
        I = I + S[:, fired].sum(1)
    v = v+0.5*(0.04*v**2+5*v+140-u+I)
    v = v+0.5*(0.04*v**2+5*v+140-u+I)
    u = u+a*(b*v-u)
plot.plot(firings[:, 0], firings[:, 1], ".")
plot.title("Izhikevich's simple neuron network model")
plot.show()
```

Let i be the neuron index:

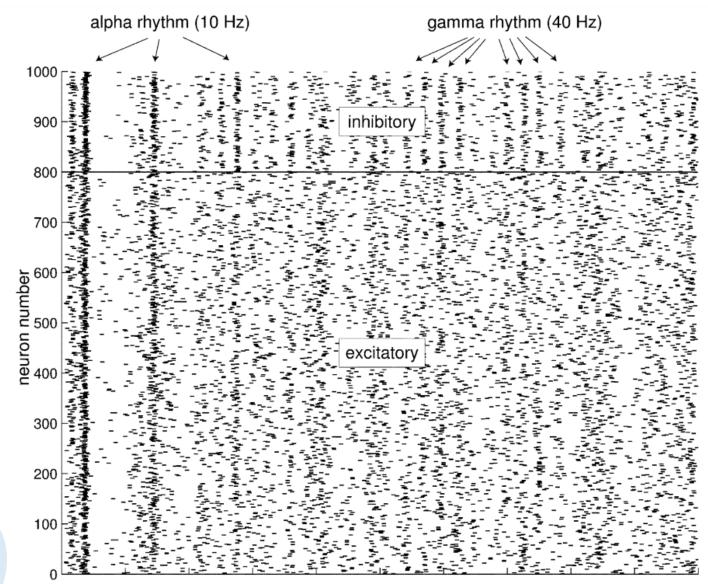
excitatory cell  $(a_i, b_i) = (0.02, 0.2)$ and  $(c_i, d_i) = (-65, 8) + (15, -6)*re_i^2$ 

Where  $re_i$ , and  $ri_j$ , are  $\in [0,1]$ , uniformly distributed.

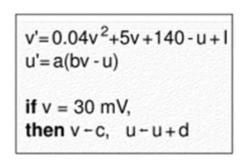
Similarly, each inhibitory cell has  $(a_i, b_i) = (0.02, 0.25) + (0.08, -0.05)*ri_i$  and  $(c_i, d_i) = (-65, 2)$ .

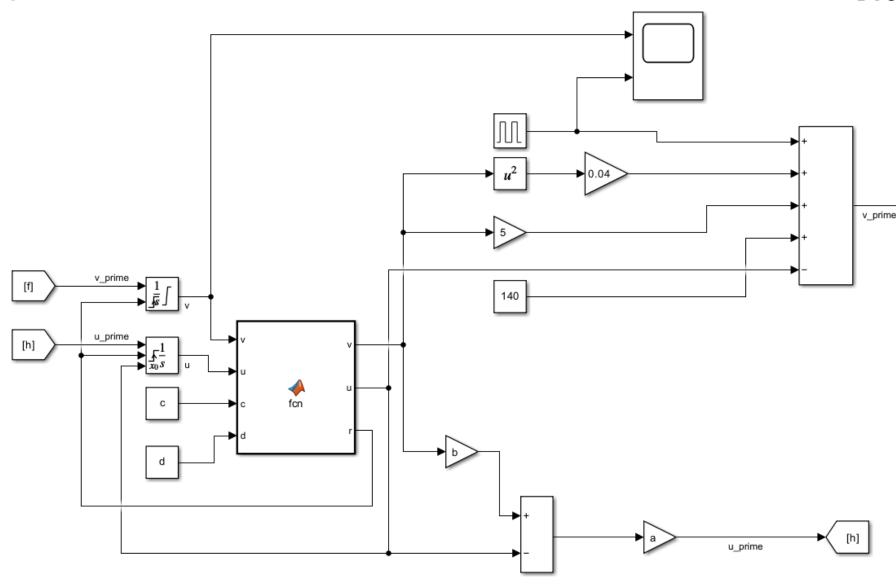


#### Pulse-Coupled Neural Networks (PCNN):









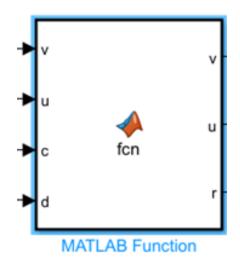


```
v'=0.04v^2+5v+140-u+1

u'=a(bv-u)

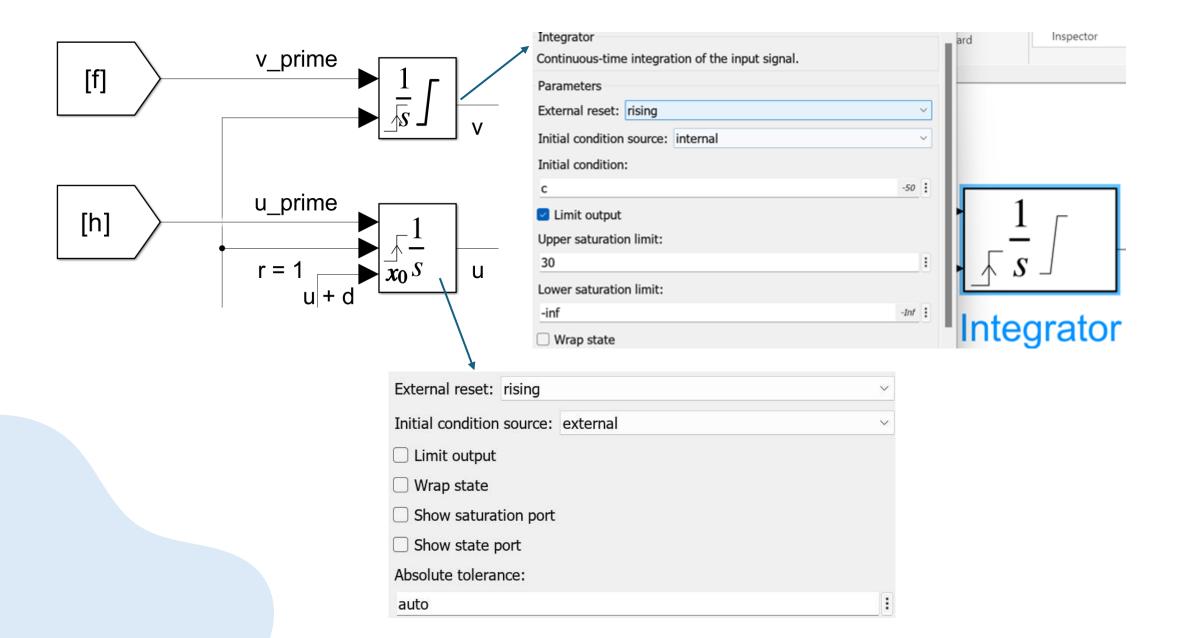
if v = 30 mV,

then v-c, u-u+d
```



```
function [v, u, r] = fcn(v, u, c, d)

if v >= 30
    v = c;
    u = u + d;
    r = 1;
else
    r = 0;
end
```

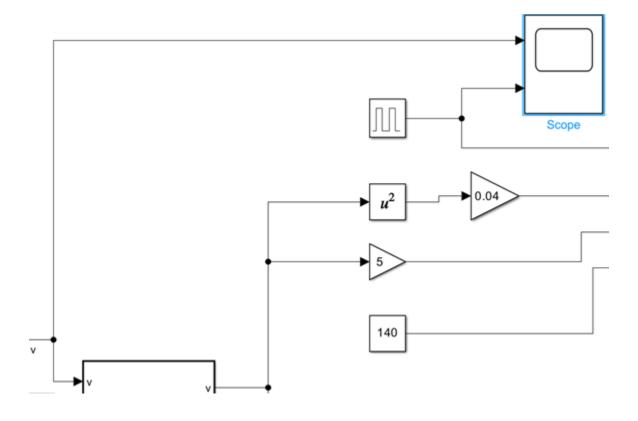




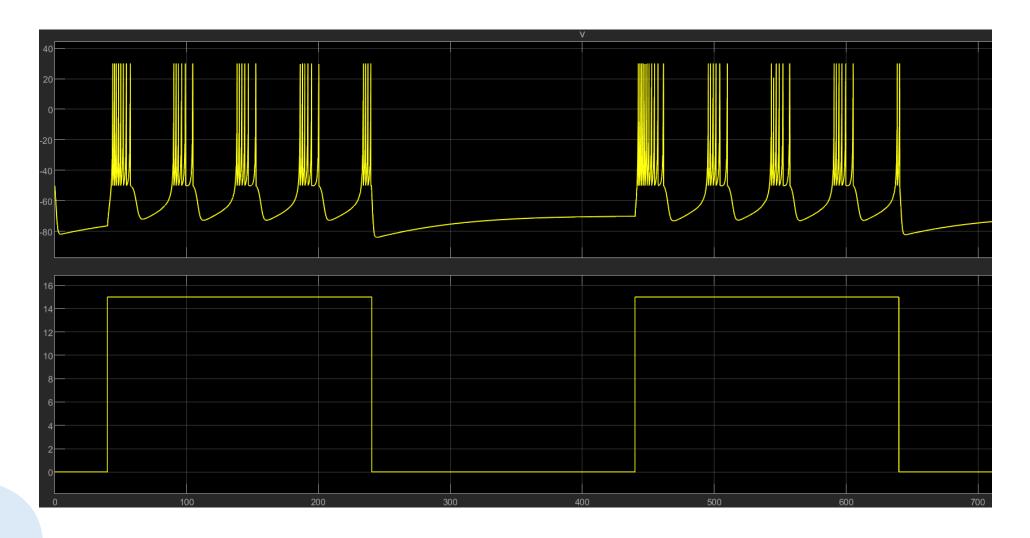


#### **%%** Parameter setting











## **EXTRA SLIDES:**



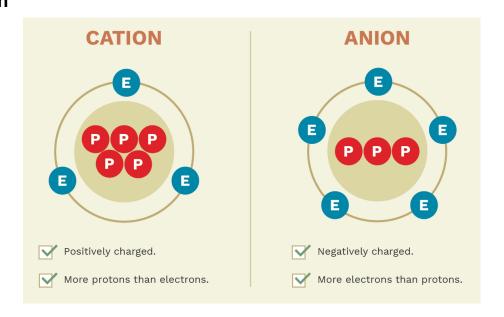


#### The Importancy of Ions:

Every neuron maintains a **voltage gradient** across its membrane, due to the differences in ions of **Sodium** (Na<sup>+</sup>), **Potassium** (K<sup>+</sup>) **Chloride** (CI<sup>-</sup>) and **Calcium** (Ca<sup>2+</sup>) in the cell. If the voltage changes significantly, an **electro-chemical** pulse, the **spike**, is fired.

Monovalent Cations Monovalent Anion Divalent Cation

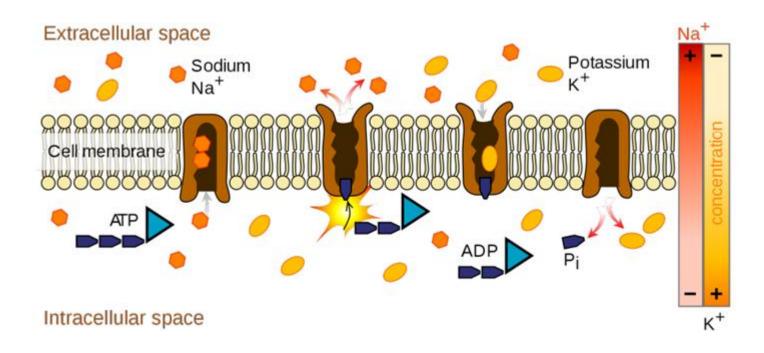
capable of bonding with a single hydrogen atom or another element equivalent to it.





#### The Sodium-Potassium Pump

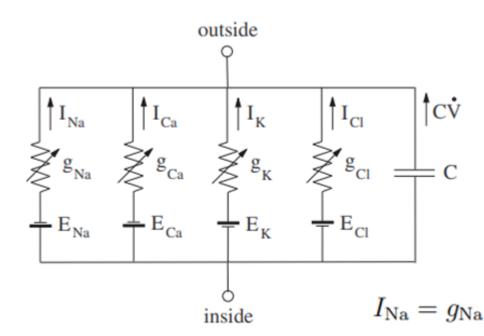
Ion pumps maintain the gradient, but spikes involve mainly the use of ion channels. If the ion pumps are turned off, the axon can still fire 100k spikes before their amplitudes begin to decay.



We also have the sodium-calcium exchanger pump, which counteracts the sodium-potassium one.

# B I C O C C A ONALIMITATION ONALIM

#### **Equivalent Circuit**



Let V be the **membrane potential** and  $E_{Na}$ ,  $E_{Ca}$ ,  $E_{K}$ , and  $E_{Cl}$  the **Nernst** Potentials. If  $V = E_{K}$ , then the net K<sup>+</sup> current,  $I_{K}$  ( $\mu$ A/cm2), is zero.

$$I_{K} = g_{K} \left( V - E_{K} \right) ,$$

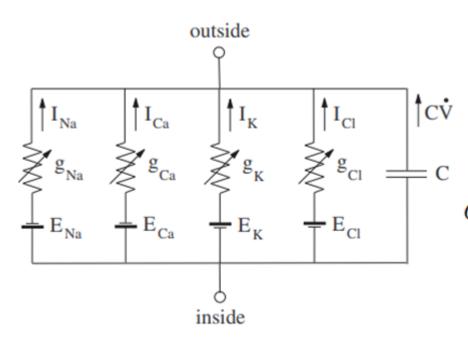
Similarly we can write:

$$I_{\text{Na}} = g_{\text{Na}} (V - E_{\text{Na}}) , \qquad I_{\text{Ca}} = g_{\text{Ca}} (V - E_{\text{Ca}}) , \qquad I_{\text{Cl}} = g_{\text{Cl}} (V - E_{\text{Cl}}) ,$$

And according to Kirchhoff's law: 
$$I = C\dot{V} + I_{\mathrm{Na}} + I_{\mathrm{Ca}} + I_{\mathrm{K}} + I_{\mathrm{Cl}} \; ,$$

# B I C O C C A

#### **Equivalent Circuits**



But we could also write:

$$C\dot{V} = I - I_{\text{Na}} - I_{\text{Ca}} - I_{\text{K}} - I_{\text{Cl}}$$

Or equivalently

$$C\dot{V} = I - g_{\text{Na}} (V - E_{\text{Na}}) - g_{\text{Ca}} (V - E_{\text{Ca}}) - g_{\text{K}} (V - E_{\text{K}}) - g_{\text{Cl}} (V - E_{\text{Cl}})$$
.

If there are no additional sources, like a synaptic or an injected current, then I = 0. This is the **resting state**, the **resting potential** is bounded by the **equilibrium** potentials:

$$E_{\rm K} < E_{\rm Cl} < V_{\rm (at rest)} < E_{\rm Na} < E_{\rm Ca}$$



#### Common Values For HH Model

The capacitance is usually C  $\approx$  1.0  $\mu$ F/cm<sup>2</sup> in the squid axon

**Typical Maximum Conductances:** 

$$\bar{g}_{\rm K} = 36 \text{ mS/cm}^2$$
,  $\bar{g}_{\rm Na} = 120 \text{ mS/cm}^2$ ,  $g_{\rm L} = 0.3 \text{ mS/cm}^2$ .

Typical Alpha & Beta Values:

$$\alpha_n(V) = 0.01 \frac{10 - V}{\exp(\frac{10 - V}{10}) - 1},$$

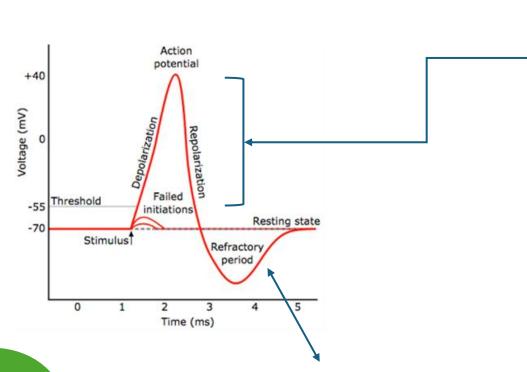
$$\beta_n(V) = 0.125 \exp\left(\frac{-V}{80}\right), \qquad \alpha_h(V) = 0.07 \exp\left(\frac{-V}{20}\right),$$

$$\alpha_m(V) = 0.1 \frac{25 - V}{\exp(\frac{25 - V}{10}) - 1}, \qquad \beta_h(V) = \frac{1}{\exp(\frac{30 - V}{10}) + 1}.$$

$$\beta_m(V) = 4 \exp\left(\frac{-V}{18}\right),$$



#### Summarizing



After a spike is fired, there is a negative shift, called **after-hyperpolarization** or **undershoot**.

Voltage-Gated **Sodium** channels **rapidly open** when the potential increases to the **threshold** voltage, depolarizing the membrane.

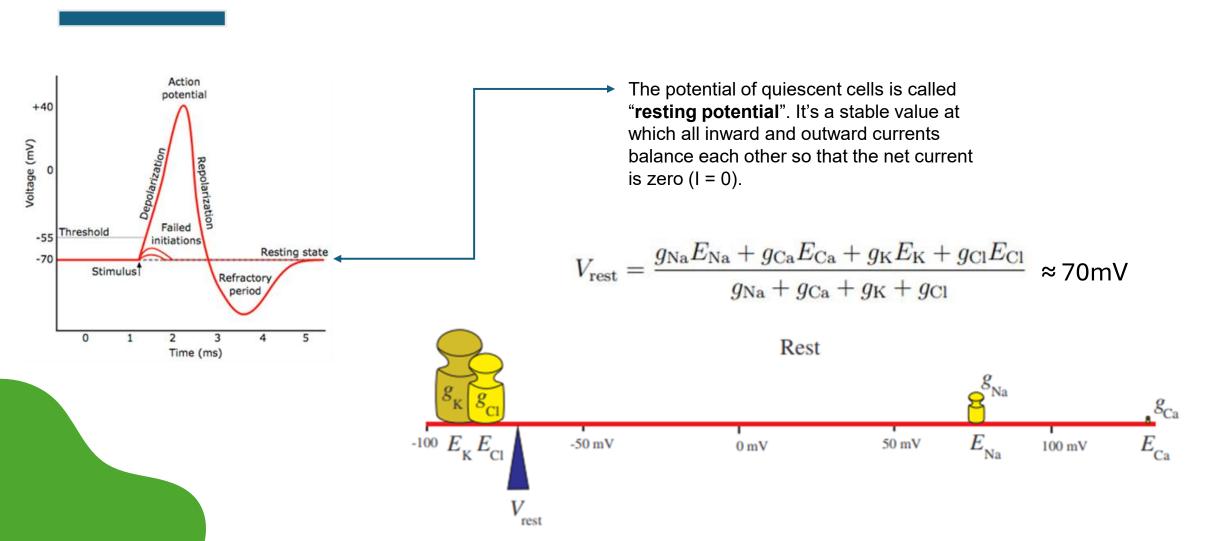
This causes more channels to open, until they are all open, causing the polarity of the membrane to **reverse**.

Then sodium channels **inactivate**, in turn, potassium channels activate. The outward current of potassium helps resetting the gradient to the resting state.

Threshold  $\in$  [-55, -40] mV



#### The Resting Potential

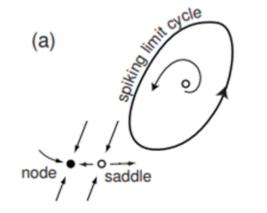


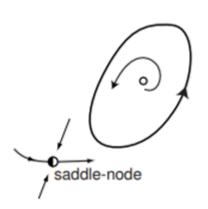


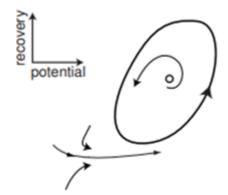
#### Types of Bifurcations

The type of bifurcation depends on the neuron's physiology and determines its excitable properties. There are four major types of bifurcations: Saddle Node, Saddle-Node on Invariant Circle, Subcritical Andronov-Hopf Bifurcation, Supercritical Andronov-Hopf Bifurcation

#### Saddle Node Bifurcation:

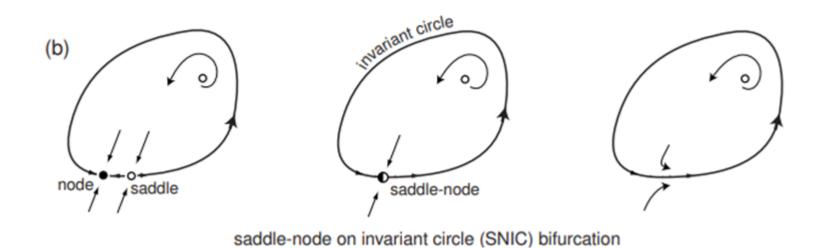






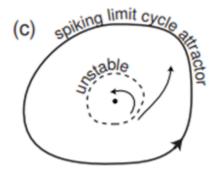
# BICOCCA BICOCCA ONALIMITATION ONA

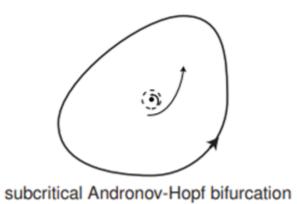
#### Types of Bifurcations

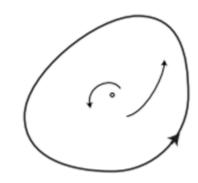




#### Types of Bifurcations





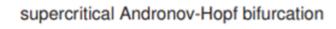


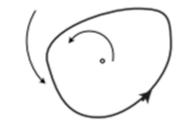
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#### **Neurons Classification**

coexistence of resting and spiking states

|                           |                    | YES (bistable)               | NO<br>(monostable)              |
|---------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| subthreshold oscillations | NO<br>(integrator) | saddle-node                  | saddle-node on invariant circle |
|                           | YES<br>(resonator) | subcritical<br>Andronov-Hopf | supercritical<br>Andronov-Hopf  |



#### Izhikevich's Own Interactive Tool:

