

# BrainScaleS Workshop

4th HBP School

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# Introduction

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# Analog Neuromorphic Hardware

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observations



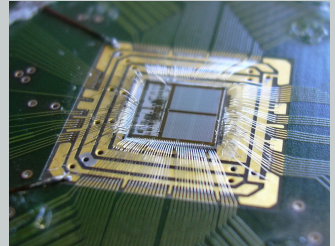
2

mathematical model

$$C \frac{dV}{dt} = -g_L(V - E_L) + I_{\text{syn}}(t)$$

3

hardware realization



# Roadmap

2004

## Spikey

- single chip system
- 384 LIF neurons

2010

## HICANN

- 180 nm CMOS
- 512 AdEx neurons

2015

## 20 Wafer System

- 4 million neurons
- 0.9 billion synapses

2017

## HICANN DLS

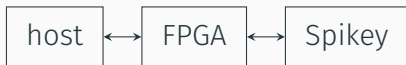
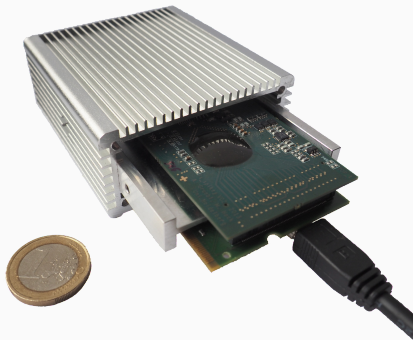
- 65 nm CMOS
- PPU:  
integrated processing unit for advanced plasticity

2022

## 500 Wafer System

- 500 million neurons
- 130 billion synapses

# System overview



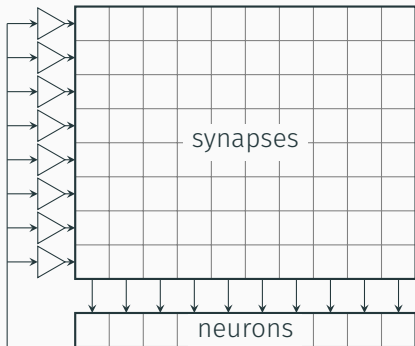
## Field-programmable gate array:

- reconfigurable logic gates
- experiment control and communication

## Spikey:

- 384 neurons,  $384 \times 256$  synapses
- speedup of  $10^4$

# The analog core



## Synapses:

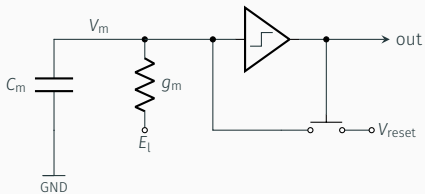
- 4 bit weights (0...15)
- STDP and STP

## Neurons:

- Leaky-integrate-and-fire model (LIF)
- analog parameters can be configured freely

# Leaky-integrate-and-fire neurons

$$C_m \frac{dV_m}{dt} = -g_l(V_m - E_l) + I_{\text{syn}} + I_{\text{ext}}$$



## Working with Spikey

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<https://neuralensemble.org/docs/PyNN/0.7/api/api-0.7.html>

Look out for:

- `pynn.Population`
- `pynn.Projection`
- `pynn.*Connector`

# Creating (groups of) neurons

Create *populations* of neurons:

```
params = {  
    "v_thresh": -60.0  
}  
neurons = pynn.Population(42, pynn.IF_facets_hardware1, cellparams=params)
```

Get a list of default neuron parameters:

```
print pynn.IF_facets_hardware1.default_parameters
```

# Generating stimuli

Create a stimulus from a spike train:

```
spike_train = np.arange(10.0, 101.0, 10.0)
stimulus = pynn.Population(1, pynn.SpikeSourceArray, {"spike_times": spike_train})
```

There is also a Poisson spike source:

```
poisson_params = {
    "start": 10.0,
    "duration": 100.0,
    "rate": 5.0
}
stimulus = pynn.Population(1, pynn.SpikeSourcePoisson, poisson_params)
```

# Synaptic connections

Connect all pre-synaptic to all post-synaptic neurons:

```
weight = 15 * pynn.minExcWeight()  
conn = pynn.AllToAllConnector(weights=weight)  
proj = pynn.Projection(pre, post, conn)
```

Specify connections in a list:

```
conn = pynn.FromListConnector([(7, 13, w, d), (42, 0, w, d)])
```

Other connectors (look at specification):

FixedNumberPreConnector

FixedNumberPostConnector

FixedProbabilityConnector

# Recording observables

## Spike times:

```
neurons.record()  
...  
spikes = neurons.getSpikes()
```

## *Analog* membrane traces:

```
pynn.record_v(neurons[0], "")
```

- only *one* analog-to-digital converter (ADC)  
→ one can record a single neuron at a time

## Tasks

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## Task 1: a single neuron



- create a spike source
- create a single LIF neuron
- connect these two populations with maximum weight
- record spikes and the membrane trace of the stimulated neuron

1. vary the synaptic weight and observe the membrane trace
2. play around with the inter-spike interval of the stimulating spike train
3. observe how the PSPs stack up and eventually cause the neuron to fire

## Task 2: passing spikes

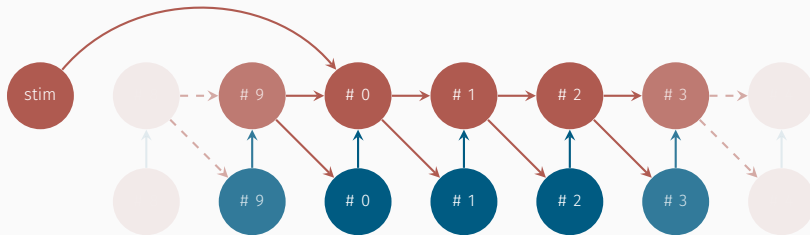


- extend the network by adding another neuron
- record and plot the spikes of both neurons

1. think about different possibilities of creating and connecting the neurons
2. check that the stimulation is passed to the second neuron



## Task 3: a closed synfire chain



- create ten excitatory and ten inhibitory **populations** of neurons and connect them as depicted
- create a transient stimulus to the zeroth excitatory population
- record and plot the spikes of the neurons
- record the membrane potential of a neuron of your choice

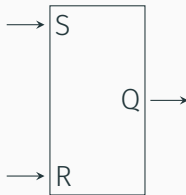
## Task 3: a closed synfire chain

1. evaluate the stability of the chain by tweaking the weight parameters
2. what happens if you disconnect the inhibitory neurons?
3. modify the chain length

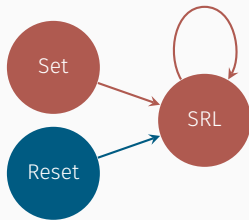
## Task 4: a neural SR latch

Think about how to create a simple SR latch (set/reset latch).

S	R	Q
0	0	no change
0	1	Q = 0, reset state
1	0	Q = 1, set state
1	1	undefined



## Task 4: a neural SR latch



- create a population of latch neurons and project them onto themselves
- create a transient excitatory and a transient inhibitory stimulus to the latch neurons
- set the stimuli such that the latch is switched on and off consecutively
- record and plot the spikes of the neurons
- record the membrane potential of a latch neuron