

Double exponential synaptic implementation note

Double-exponential implementation for synapse with rise time constant as τ_r and decay time constant as τ_d , and the equation for synaptic current is $I = g(E - V)$ where the equilibrium potential E is also constant. x sort of represents an "activation" variable of the synapse. The problem with this is: if the network is connected more than once with the synapses of the same dynamics and time constant, the number of equations would scale by a factor of $O(n^2)$, in which n is the number of neurons. And the x term would also be sort of complicated to integrate into the equation as well.

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dg}{dt} &= z & \alpha &= k_n \left(\frac{1}{\tau_r} - \frac{1}{\tau_d} \right) & k_n &= \frac{1}{h(t_{peak})} \quad (\text{normz factor}) \\ \frac{dz}{dt} &= \alpha x + \beta z + \gamma g & \beta &= - \left(\frac{1}{\tau_r} + \frac{1}{\tau_d} \right) & h(t) &= e^{-t/\tau_d} - e^{-t/\tau_r} \\ x &= g_{max} \sum_k \delta(t - t_k) & \gamma &= -\frac{1}{\tau_r \tau_d} & t_{peak} &= \tau_r \tau_d \cdot \frac{\ln \tau_d - \ln \tau_r}{\tau_d - \tau_r} \end{aligned}$$

So during updating the ODE of the synaptic conductance for the **same type of synapse** (meaning the same time constants and equilibrium potential, hence same constants in dz/dt), here's what we could do that can result in only keeping exactly n variables (actually $2n$ counting g and z) and hence can generalize for any connectivity pattern of this type of synapse in the network.

Consider knowing what the effects of the network to neuron i , we just need to know the summation of each conductance (since $E - V$ is constant). And we consider all conductances sum linearly, in other words, $I_{syn}(t, i) = \sum_j g_{ij}(t) \times (E - V_i)$, where $g_{ij}(t)$ is the conductance of the synapse from neuron j to neuron i at time t , and $g_{ii} = 0$ (doesn't actually matter). The equations for each synapse become:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dg_{ij}}{dt} &= z_{ij} & G_{ij} &: \text{max conductance of synapse from } j \text{ to } i \\ \frac{dz_{ij}}{dt} &= \alpha x_{ij} + \beta z_{ij} + \gamma g_{ij} & t^{(j)} &: \text{spike (or delayed activation) from neuron } j \\ x_{ij} &= G_{ij} \sum_k \delta(t - t_k^{(j)}) \end{aligned}$$

However, for simplicity and for the sake of implementation, we wouldn't need to keep track of all the spikes, just whether it spikes (or activates the synapse with a delay) of the last time step, so for the current time step:

$$x_{ij} = G_{ij} \delta_j \quad \delta_j : \text{whether } j \text{ sends out activation in the last time step}$$

Again, since (we assume) the conductances add linearly, we can define:

$$\begin{aligned} g_i &= \sum_j g_{ij} & I_{syn}(t, i) &= \sum_j g_{ij}(t) \times (E - V_i) \\ z_i &= \sum_j z_{ij} & &= g_i(t) \times (E - V_i) \end{aligned}$$

Effectively that makes:

(the derivative notation from here on assumes for numerical integration like $a[m] = a[m-1] + da \times dt$, instead of "continuous" derivative)

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dg_i}{dt} &= z_i \\ \frac{dz_i}{dt} &= \alpha X_i + \beta z_i + \gamma g_i \\ X_i &= \sum_j G_{ij} \delta_j \end{aligned}$$

Now we consider for a vector of received synaptic conductance for the network (below for implementation in MATLAB using matrix/vector notation):

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{d\vec{g}}{dt} &= \vec{z} & \vec{g}_{n \times 1} &= [g_1, g_2, \dots, g_n]^T \\
\frac{d\vec{z}}{dt} &= \alpha \mathbf{X} + \beta \vec{z} + \gamma \vec{g} & \vec{z}_{n \times 1} &= [z_1, z_2, \dots, z_n]^T \\
\mathbf{X} &= \mathbf{G} \times \vec{\delta} \quad (\text{matrix multiplication}) & \mathbf{G}_{n \times n} &: \text{conductance matrix, (i,j): from j to i} \\
& & \vec{\delta}_{n \times 1} &: \text{column vector of network activation in last time bin}
\end{aligned}$$

Below are notes for the equations describing double exponential synapse. The impulse function should take a form of $h(t) = k_n * (e^{-t/\tau_d} - e^{-t/\tau_r})$, where $\tau_d > \tau_r$ with some normalization factor k_n . To find k_n , we can just simply set $\frac{dh}{dt} = 0$, in which t_{peak} could be found (above), hence k_n .
The Laplace transform of $h(t)$ hence is

$$H(s) = k_n \left(\frac{1}{s + \frac{1}{\tau_d}} - \frac{1}{s + \frac{1}{\tau_r}} \right)$$

And for the activation term $x(t)$, $X(s)$ and synaptic conductance term $g(t)$, $G(s)$ we have $G(s) = H(s)X(s)$. That makes:

$$\tau_d \tau_r \ddot{g} + (\tau_d + \tau_r) \dot{g} + g = k_n (\tau_d + \tau_r) x$$

When we decouple the 2nd derivative with $z = \dot{g}$, we have the first set of equations.