脑启发人工智能导论 Introduction to Brain-Inspired Artificial Intelligence

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神经编码主要算法 Neuronal Coding Algorithms



感知神经元: 物理感知

- 大脑依赖感知神经元把外界刺激转换成脉冲信息
- 感知神经元起着重用的信息转换作用,类似于 Analog-to-Digital (AD) 转换

RECEPTIVE FIELDS, BINOCULAR INTERACTION AND FUNCTIONAL ARCHITECTURE IN THE CAT'S VISUAL CORTEX

By D. H. HUBEL AND T. N. WIESEL
From the Neurophysiolo y Laboratory, Department of Pharmacology
Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts, U.S.A.

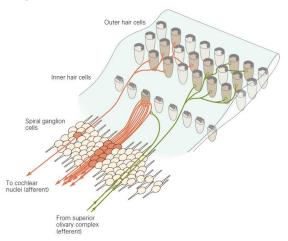
(Received 31 July 1961)

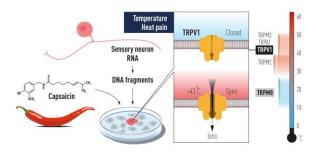
What chearly distinguishes cerebral cortex from other parts of the untral nervous system is the great diversity of its cell types and interconnexions. It would be astonishing if such a structure did not profoundly modify the response patterns of fibres coming into it. In the cat's visual ortex, the receptive field arrangements of single cells suggest that there is needed a degree of complexity far exceeding anything yet seen at lower

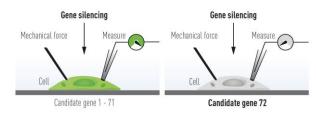












1981 Nobel in Physiology or Medicine

视觉

听觉

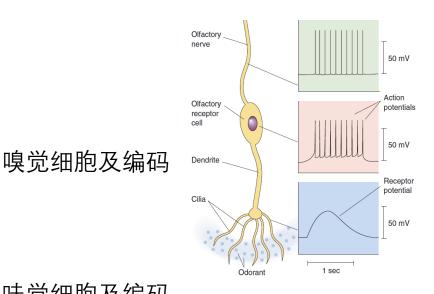


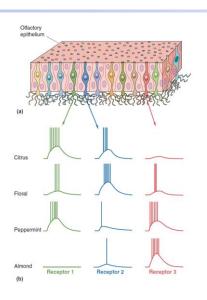
温度和压力/触 觉

2021 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine

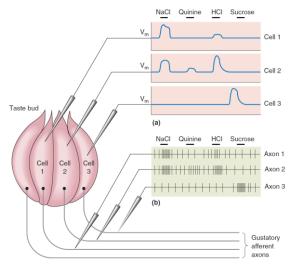


感知神经元: 化学感知

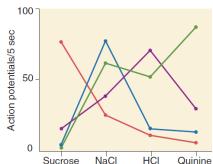




味觉细胞及编码

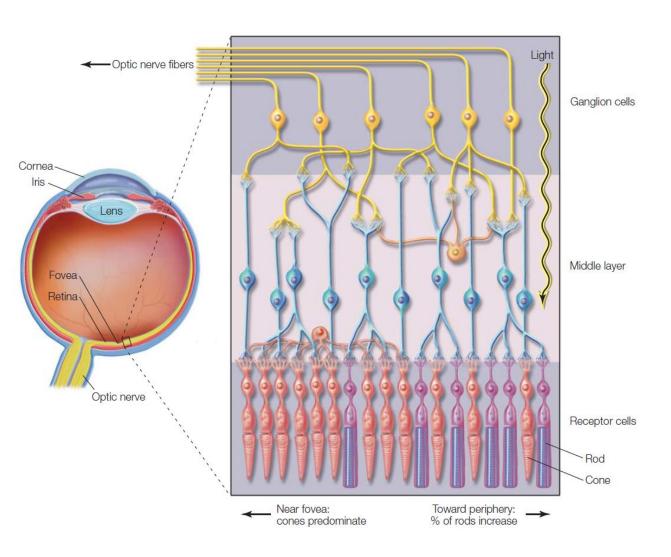


Taste responsiveness of taste cells and gustatory axons. Three different cells were exposed to salt (NaCl), bitter (quinine), sour (HCI), and sweet (sucrose) stimuli, and their membrane potential was recorded with electrodes. Notice the different sensitivities of the three cells.



Action potential firing rates of four different primary gustatory nerve axons in a rat. The taste stimuli were sweet (sucrose), salt (NaCl), sour (HCl), and bitter (quinine).

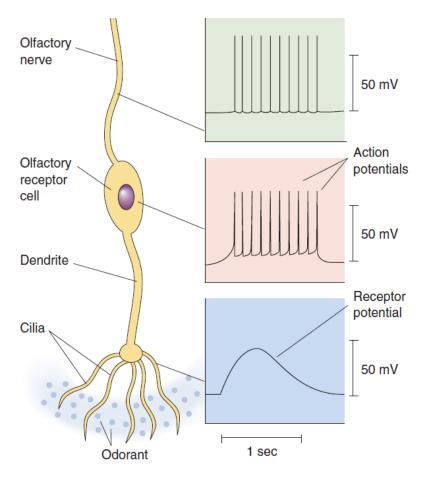
Sensory theory: Vision



There are two types of receptor cells: rods and cones. The output of the receptor cells is processed in the middle layer of the retina and then relayed to the central nervous system via the optic nerve, the axons of the ganglion cells.



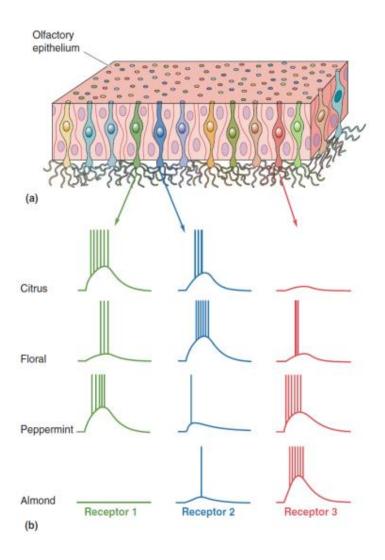
Olfactory Neuron



Voltage recordings from an olfactory receptor cell during stimulation. Odorants generate a slow receptor potential in the cilia; the receptor potential propagates down the dendrite and triggers a series of action potentials within the soma of the olfactory receptor cell. Finally, the action potentials (but not the receptor potential) propagate continuously down the olfactory nerve axon.



Olfactory Neuron Encoding



Broad tuning of single olfactory receptor cells.

- (a) Each receptor cell expresses a single olfactory receptor protein (here coded by cell color), and different cells are randomly scattered within a region of the epithelium.
- **(b)** Microelectrode recordings from three different cells show that each one responds to many different odors, but with differing preferences. By measuring responses from all three cells, each of the four odors can be clearly distinguished

Mixed Representation:

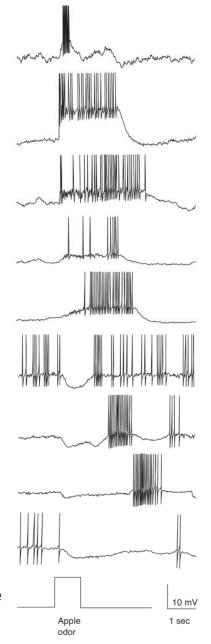
- Neuron responds to multiple features
- Each neuron involves in multiple information representation
- It implies population coding.



Olfactory Neuron Encoding

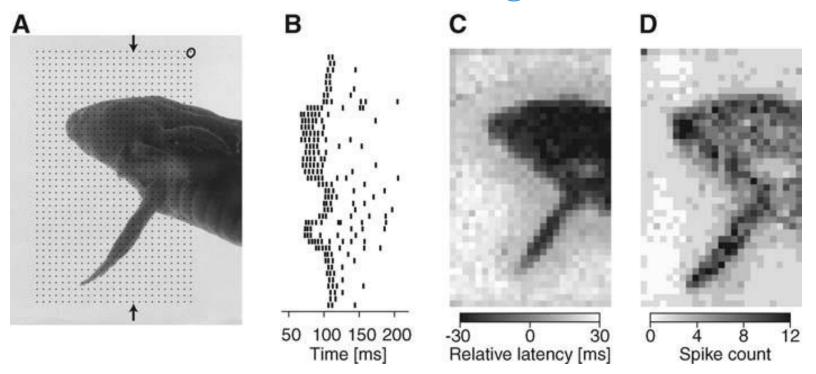
- From the temporal patterns of spiking are essential features of olfactory coding. Compared to many sounds and sights, odors are inherently slow stimuli, so the rapid timing of action potentials does not need to be used to encode the timing of odors. Temporal coding, which depends on the timing of spikes, might instead encode the quality of odors
- The loss of synchronous spiking was associated with a loss of the bees' ability to discriminate between similar odors, although not between broad categories of odors. The implication is that the bee analyzes an odor not only by keeping track of which olfactory neurons fire, but also by when they fire. It will be very interesting to see whether similar processes occur in a mammalian olfactory system.

Temporal spiking patterns. The odor of apple produces a range of temporal spiking patterns in nine olfactory neurons. (These recordings are from neurons in the antenna lobe of a locust.)





Neural Encoding



Responses of a fast OFF ganglion cell to a flashed natural image.(A) Photograph of a swimming salamander larva projected on the retina. (B) Spike trains of the ganglion cell for receptive-field locations along the column marked by the arrows in (A). (C) Gray-scale plot of the differential spike latency. (D) Corresponding gray-scale plot of the spike counts.

(Gollishc et al, Science, 2008)



时间编码

生物能够对快速变化的刺激进行迅速响应(如视觉皮层、视网膜感光细胞、外侧膝状核),其响应精准度达到毫秒级。因此提出时间编码理论。

首次脉冲发放时间编码

Time-to-First-Spike

□ 定义:

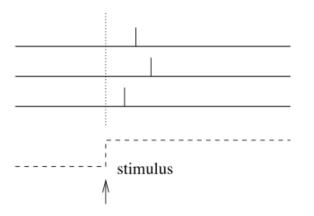
● 信息被编码在刺激开始和第一个脉冲的延迟内

□ 生物依据:

● 一个新刺激的大部分信息在神经元响应的前20或50毫秒 内传达

□编码特点:

- 在眼睛飞快扫视后,视网膜上的光受体会收到新的视觉 输入
- 对每个神经元来说,第一个脉冲的时间包含了关于新刺激的所有信息
- 每个神经元对每个刺激传输一个脉冲

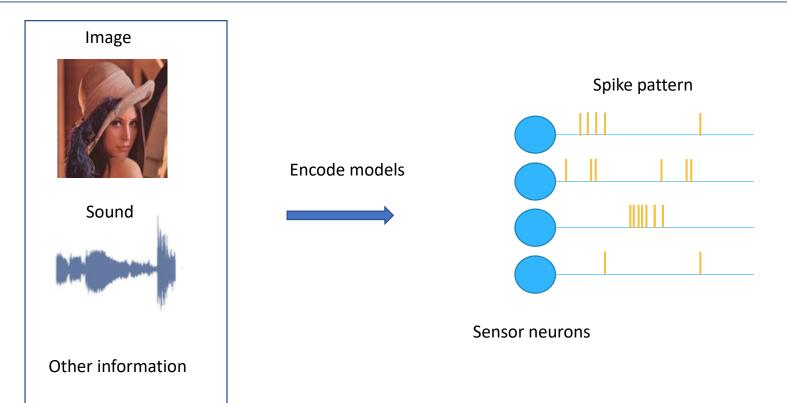


用脉冲时间传递信息, 而不是脉冲数量



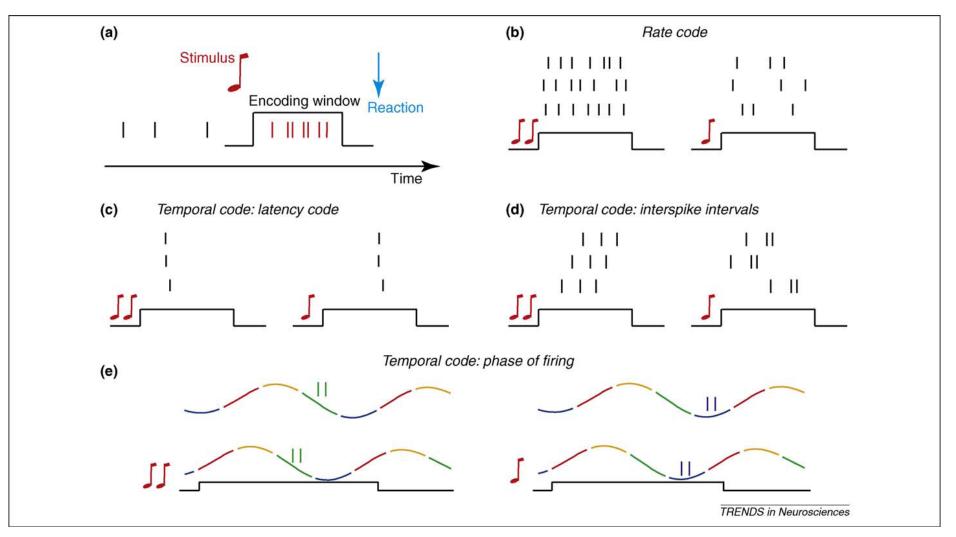
How to Encode?

- > By designing biological models
- Directly deriving from mathematical models such as statistics or probability





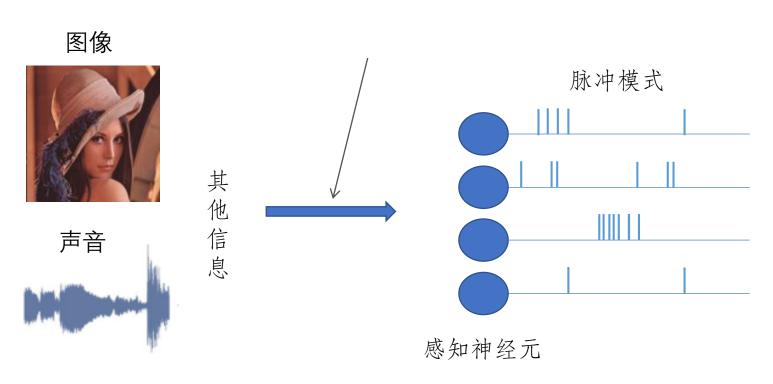
Spike Based Encoding



Various Encoding Methods, different spike train codes different feature. Ref: Panzeri et al, Trends in Neuroscience, 2010

怎样研究脉冲编码?

通过对**生物模型**进行建模,或者直接从**统计或概率等数学模型**出发,构建编码算法。

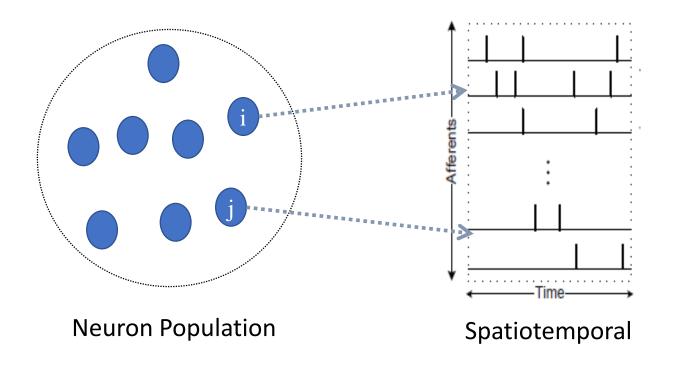


脉冲编码的研究方向:根据应用场景,设计其他形式的信息以脉冲模式进行表达,以便脉冲神经网络更好地学习。



Spiking Neural Activities

Population of neurons – **Spatiotemporal pattern**

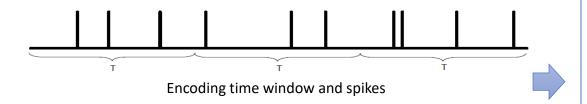




Coding Schemes - Rate Coding

Assume that information about the stimulus is contained in the firing rate of the neuron. Use firing rates to describe the properties of all types of sensory or cortical neurons.

✓ Set an encoding time window and count the number of spikes within it.



✓ The temporal average of spike times is defined as the mean firing rate by the following equation:

$$r = \frac{n_{sp}}{T} = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T s(t)dt$$

Advantage:

relative easy to measure firing rates experimentally.

Disadvantage:

neglects all the information possibly contained in the exact timing of the spikes.

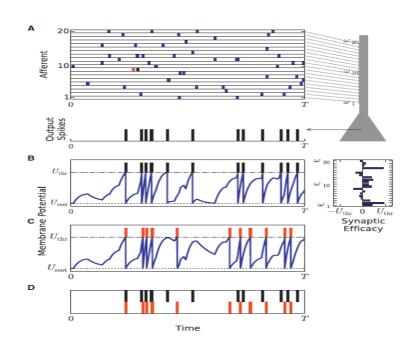


Coding Schemes - Temporal Coding

Recent studies have found that the temporal resolution of the neural code is on a millisecond time scale, indicating that precise spike timing is a significant element in neural coding.

- In order to specify the timing of each spike, we use <u>Dirac function</u> to describe spikes.
- Then a cluster of spikes or a spike train, is in the form of the following equation:

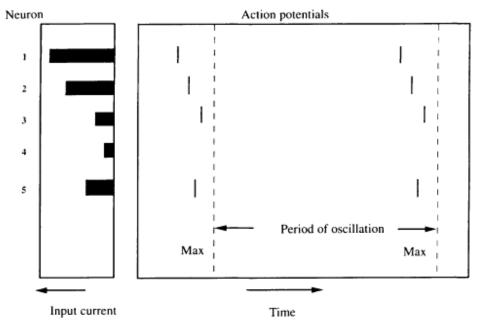
A cluster of spike train



Simulation: precise timings of spikes



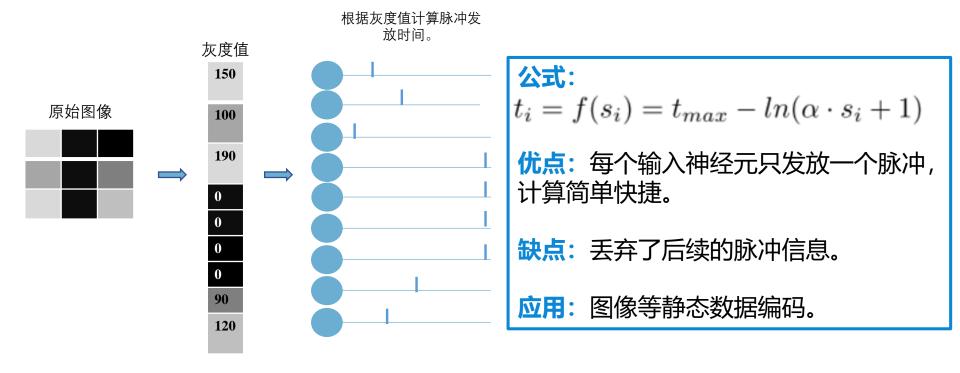
Coding Schemes - Latency Coding



- The latency of neural response is determined by the intensity of stimulus.
- The larger intensity of stimulus is, the earlier the neuron fires.



编码方法一:时滞编码



时滞编码 (latency coding) : 越强的外部刺激,会促使感知神经元越早产生脉冲。

Ponulak, F., & Kasinski, A. (2011). Introduction to spiking neural networks: Information processing, learning and applications. Acta Neurobiologiae Experimentalis, 71(4), 409–33.



编码方法一:时滞编码

简化版的实现方式是

t(i) = T-ceil(T*(input(i)/max_num))+1

编码的周期为T; ceil是取上界的函数; input(i)是第i个神

经元的输入;

150

100

190

120

22

37

max num是所有输入中的最大值

如果输入如左1图所示

假定T=100

 $max_num = 190$

意味着第i个神经元 在T-ceil(T*(input(i)/max_num))+1 处发放脉冲。所以发放的时间如左图2所示,第4-7个神 经元不发放脉冲



编码方法一: 时滞编码

```
150 22

100 48

190 1

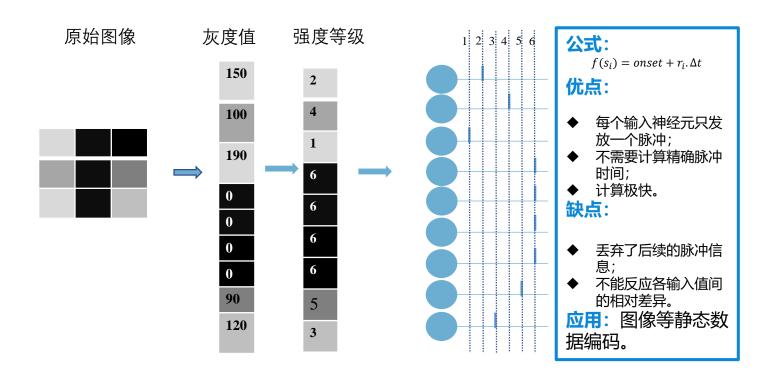
0 /
0 /
0 /
0 /
90 53

120 37
```

```
% 时滞编码函数定义
function[spike_trains] =
generate_latency_spikes(input,scalor,n,T)
spike trains = zeros(T,n);
max num=max(max(input));
for i=1:n
  if input(i) \sim = 0
    spike trains(T-ceil(T*(input(i)/max num))+1,i) = 1;
  end
end
end
```



编码方法二:等级排序编码

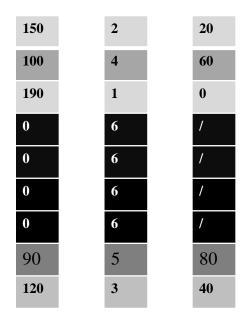


等级排序编码(rank-order coding):哺乳动物能够对图像进行极快地分类,原因是视觉皮层细胞能将外界刺激强度分配不同的脉冲时间。

Delorme, A., Perrinet, L., & Thorpe, S. J. (2001). Networks of integrate-and-fire neurons using Rank Order Coding B: Spike timing dependent plasticity and emergence of orientation selectivity. Neurocomputing, 38–40, 539–545.



编码方法二:等级排序编码



灰度值 强度等级 发放时间

```
% 等级排序编码函数定义
function[spike_trains] = generate_order_spikes(input,scalor,n,T)
unique_input=unique(input);
unique_input=unique_input(unique_input~=0);
sorted_input=sort(unique_input, descend');
[index_m,index_n]=size(unique_input);
interval=T/(index_m*index_n);
spike_trains = zeros(T,n);
for i=1:n
    if(input(i)~=0)

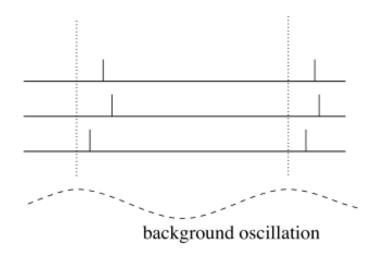
spike_trains(int32(interval*(find(sorted_input==input(i)))),i) = 1;
    end
end
end
```

如果输入如左1图所示假定T=100; 除去0排序后共5个强度等级,所以interval=T/5=20意味着第i个神经元在int32(interval*(find(sorted_input==input(i))))处发放脉冲,所以发放的时间如左3图所示。实际效果中输入为0时于100处发放脉冲和不发放脉冲是一样的。



时间编码

相位编码



□定义:

● 将神经元的振荡作为内部参考信号进行编码,神经元脉冲序列可以 编码脉冲相位相对于背景振荡的信息。

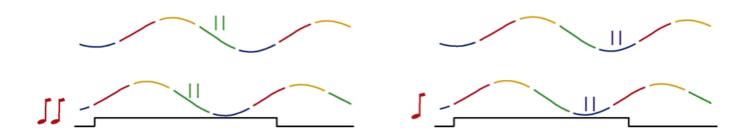
□ 生物依据:

● 大鼠海马体振荡过程中的脉冲相位传递了关于动物空间位置的信息, 但是这些信息不能被神经元脉冲发放速率所完全解释



Coding Schemes - Phase Coding

Assign different phases to spikes and the capacity of spikes increase with the additional phase information.



Advantage:

- Using the biological mechanism of SMO
- Compress the spatial information of spike patterns

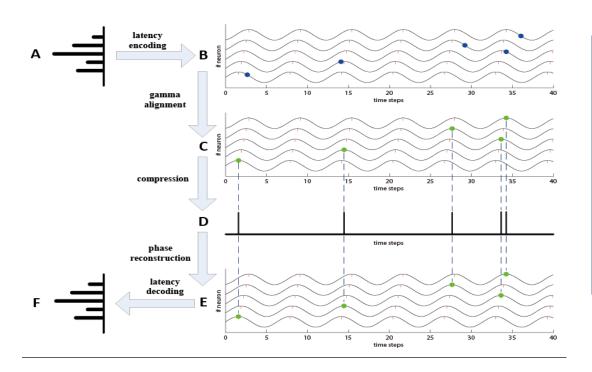
Application:

◆ Compression or reconstruction



Coding Schemes – Latency&phase Coding

Latency-phase coding with a combination of latency coding and phase coding



- Visual information carried by the intensities is converted into the latencies of spikes.
- The spikes are assigned with phase information according to their corresponding oscillations.
- After latency encoding and alignment operation, the spikes is generated at peaks of the subthreshold oscillations.

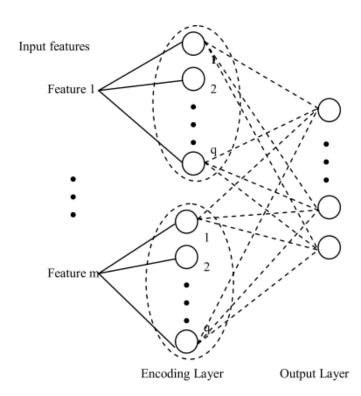
Encoding & decoding scheme.

- (A) Original stimuli. (B) Latency-encoded pattern. (C) Latency-phase encoded pattern.
- (D) Compressed spike train. (E)Reconstructed pattern. (F) Decoded stimuli



Coding Schemes - Population Coding

Represent stimuli by using by the joint activities of a group of neurons rather than single neurons.



Feed-forward SNN with adaptive output layer

Advantage:

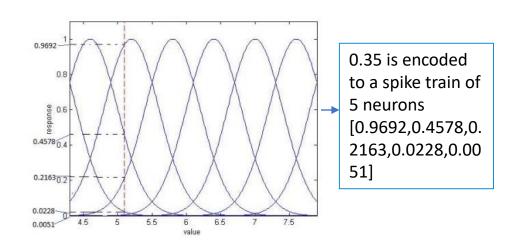
- Reflect the input stimuli into a high dimensional space
- Avoid disastrous results from the damage to single cells

Disadvantage:

Increase the computation

Application:

Improve the robustness of the model



Encoding of a real-valued feature of 5.1 using eight Gaussian receptive fields neurons

编码方法四: 群体编码

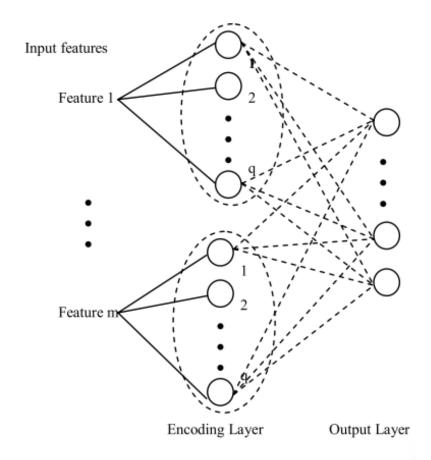


Fig. 3. Feed-forward SNN with adaptive output layer.

群体编码 (population coding):

生物研究表明,大脑接收到的图像或声音的特征由一组神经元的联合活动表示,而非单个神经元。

优点:

- ◆ 可扩展编码维度;
- ◆ 可提升鲁棒性。

缺点:

计算量提升

应用:

适用于提升模型的鲁棒性



编码方法四: 群体编码

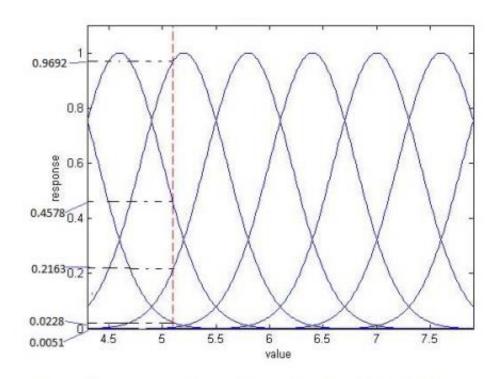


Fig. 1. Encoding of a real-valued feature of 5.1 using eight Gaussian receptive fields neurons.

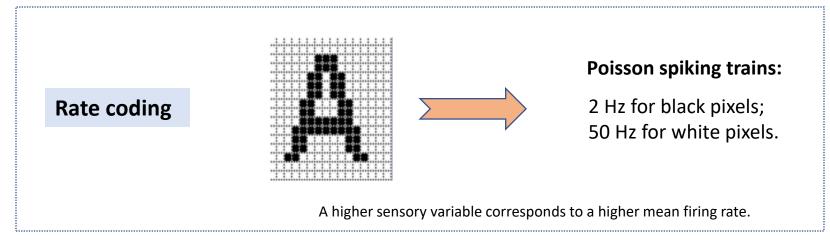
eg.高斯感受野群体编码机制:一个值为5.1的特征会被编码为[0.9692,0.4578,0.2163,0.0228,0.0051],这些数值代表5个神经元的脉冲发放时间。

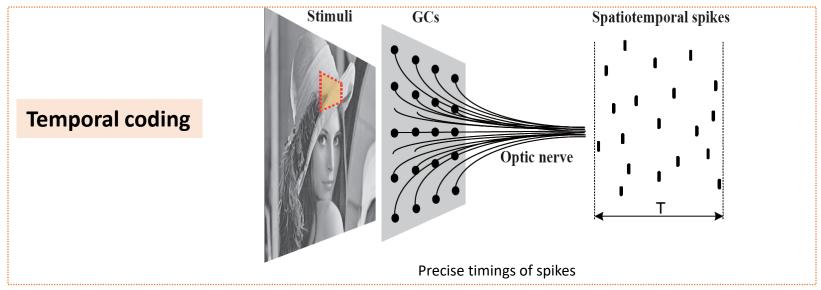
编码方法总结

- ◆ 脉冲编码:将其他形式的信息编码进脉冲模式的时空属性中。
- ◆目标:以脉冲模式表达信息的主要特征,使脉冲神经网络更好地学习。
- ◆ 选用策略: 针对不同的应用领域有不同的编码方案,
 - a.对于**感知类任务**,通常从生物机制出发,构建数学模型,如**时滞编码、** 等级排序编码。
 - b.一些编码方法是**通用**的,可适用于多数任务,以提升性能,如**相位编码、 群体编码。**
 - c.也可直接使用**数学方法**进行编码,如稀疏编码、统计方法。



Encoding Models (e.g. in retina)







脉冲频率编码 (平均率)

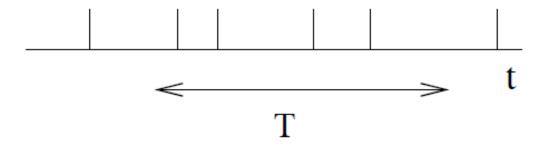


- □ 频率编码是一类使用神经元平均脉冲发放频率来编码信息的脉冲编码 算法。此类算法通常基于**时间窗内的脉冲发放个数与实数值成正比**的 准则将连续刺激强度编码到离散脉冲模式的频率特征中。
- □ 由于频率编码生成的脉冲序列一定程度上保留了原始输入的实数值, 且实现简单,因而被现有的**深度脉冲神经网络**广泛采用。
- □ 目前主要有三种频率编码定义方式:
 - □ 基于脉冲计数的频率编码
 - □ 基于脉冲密度的频率编码
 - □ 基于群体活动的频率编码



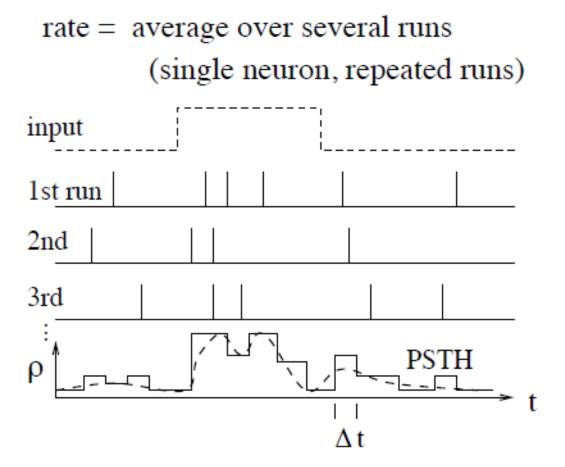
□基于脉冲计数的频率编码

rate = average over time (single neuron, single run)





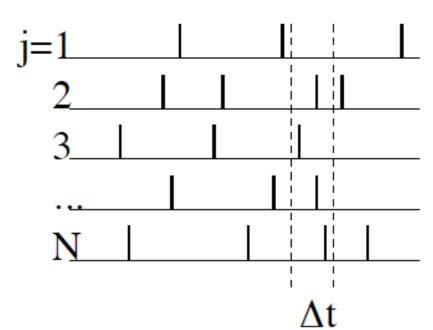
□基于脉冲密度的频率编码

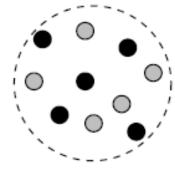




□基于群体活动的频率编码

rate = average over pool of equivalent neurons (several neurons, single run)





activity
$$A = \frac{1}{\Delta t} \frac{n_{act}(t; t + \Delta t)}{N}$$



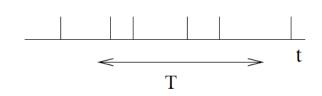
基于脉冲计数的频率编码

Rate as a Spike Count (Average over Time)

□ 定义: 时间窗内的脉冲个数除以时间窗的长度T

$$v = \frac{n_{sp}}{T}$$

rate = average over time (single neuron, single run)



□ 生物依据:

- 肌肉纺锤体中的拉伸受体((Adrian, 1926)。受体神经元发出的脉冲数量随着施加到 肌肉上的力增加而增加。
- 水蛭的触觉感受器(Kandel and Schwartz, 1991)。触摸刺激越强,在500毫秒的刺激 周期内出现的脉冲就越多。

□ 缺点:

● 行为实验的响应时间通常过短,无法进行长时间的平均

□ 适用情况:

● 刺激持续发生或者缓慢变化,且系统不要求快速响应。

生物发现:

飞虫飞行时接收到新的刺激,可以在30-40ms内改变飞行方向。 分析:

这极短的时间不足以完成脉冲计数和对时间窗求平均的操作,飞虫必须在突触后神经元接收到1-2个脉冲时就作出响应。



基于脉冲密度的频率编码

Rate as a Spike Density (Average over Several Runs)

- □ 定义: 对单个神经元重复刺激多次,用PSTH(响应
- □ 优点:
 - 与记录一个有N个神经元的群体在一次刺激后的响应相比()后文基于群体活动的频率编码方法),记录一个神经元在N章 重复刺激后的响应在实际实验中易于实现。

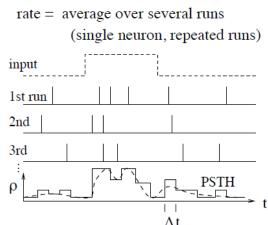


- 这种编码方式不适合大脑中的神经元快速解码
- □ 适用情况:
 - 平稳刺激或时间依赖性刺激

PSTH(Peri-Stimulus-Time Histogram)是对脉冲发放时间的直方图统计,常被用于可视化与外部刺激或事件有关的神经元脉冲发放速率随时间的变化关系。PSTH统计通常应用于多次生物实验产生的脉冲串中,其计算公式如下:

$$\rho(t) = \frac{1}{\Delta t} \frac{n_k(t; t + \Delta t)}{K}$$

PSTH作为一种脉冲密度求解方法,能够很好地评价神经元活动。



生物发现:

自然界中青蛙捕捉苍蝇的现象,

分析:

青蛙捕捉苍蝇时,不能等待苍蝇重复地 按相同路径飞几次后再行动。青蛙只能 在苍蝇飞过一次后就行动,因此这种编 码方法是不适合大脑中的神经元所解码 的。



基于群体活动的频率编码

Rate as a Population Activity (Average over Several Neurons)

□ 生物依据:

● 许多神经元有相似的特征(相同的输入输出连接), 并对相同的刺激作出反应。

$$A(t) = \frac{1}{\Delta t} \frac{n_{act}(t; t + \Delta t)}{N} = \frac{1}{\Delta t} \frac{\int_{t}^{t + \Delta t} \sum_{j} \sum_{f} \delta(t - t_{j}^{(f)}) dt}{N}$$

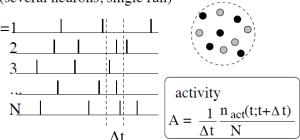
□ 优点:

- 可以反映瞬时变化。
- 群体活动不会受到单个神经元层面时间 平均的发射速率的影响。

□ 缺点:

- 前提条件:在形式上要求具有相同连接的同质神经元群体不符合实际,真实的群体总会在内部参数和连接模式上有一定程度的异质性。
- 解决方法:对异质性群体,计算公式修改为 群体内的加权平均,即异质群体加权平均。

rate = average over pool of equivalent neurons (several neurons, single run)



示例: 群体向量编码

$$x^{est}(t) = \frac{\int_{t}^{t+\Delta t} \sum_{j} \sum_{f} x_{j} \delta(t - t_{j}^{(f)}) dt}{\int_{t}^{t+\Delta t} \sum_{j} \sum_{f} \delta(t - t_{j}^{(f)}) dt}$$

假设学习对刺激x响应的神经元群体。神经元i发放的脉冲记作输入向量x_i,,当接收到新刺激时,许多神经元将被同时激活,而刺激的位置可以从加权群体平均中估计。

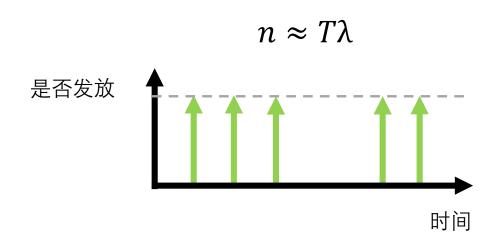
脉冲频率编码(泊松频率)



- □ 脉冲发放频率,也被称为脉冲发放速率,在不同的 文献中有不同的含义,如在单个神经元发放时间窗 内平均或者对多次生物实验进行平均。类似的,时 间窗在离散的模型中通常指时间步的数量,在连续 的模型中通常指实际仿真时长。
- □ 由于频率编码生成的脉冲序列一定程度上保留了原始输入的实数值,且实现简单,因此基于脉冲计数的频率编码被现有的深度脉冲神经网络广泛采用,尤其是用于解决图像处理任务。



✓ 频率编码是一类使用神经元**平均脉冲发放频率**来编码信息的脉冲编码算法。通常**基于时间窗内的脉冲发放 个数与刺激强度成正比**的准则将连续刺激强度编码到 离散脉冲模式的频率特征中



其中, 脉冲发放频率 v 等于时间窗内的脉冲个数 n 除以时间窗的长度 T, 近似于连续刺激强度 λ 。



图像频率编码:

- □ 将图像的原始像素值与脉冲神经元的脉冲发放频率建立对 应关系,每个像素点的像素值都用一个脉冲神经元来编码,
- □ 图像像素值越大,对应脉冲神经元在一定时间窗口内发放的脉冲个数就越多。
- □目前主要有泊松编码和均匀编码两种图像频率编码方法



◆ 泊松编码

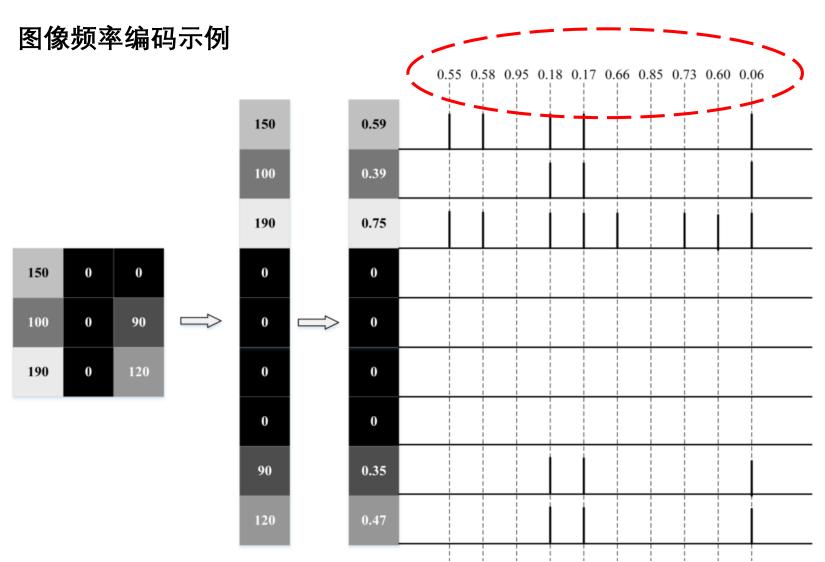
研究表明,脉冲神经元对于两次相同强度的外界刺激,其生成的脉冲序列仍然具有一定的差异性,即生物神经元脉冲序列的发放符合**泊松过程(poisson** process),在固定时间窗 T 内,脉冲发放次数 n 服从泊松分布:

$$P(n=k) = \frac{\lambda^k}{k!} e^{-\lambda} \qquad \sharp \oplus \quad \lambda = \frac{n}{T}$$

泊松编码通过模拟泊松过程建立外界刺激和脉冲发放速率 λ 之间的正比关系生成随机脉冲模式。实践上通常产生脉冲发放次数n 服从二项分布的脉冲序列逼近泊松过程

$$rand() < c\lambda$$

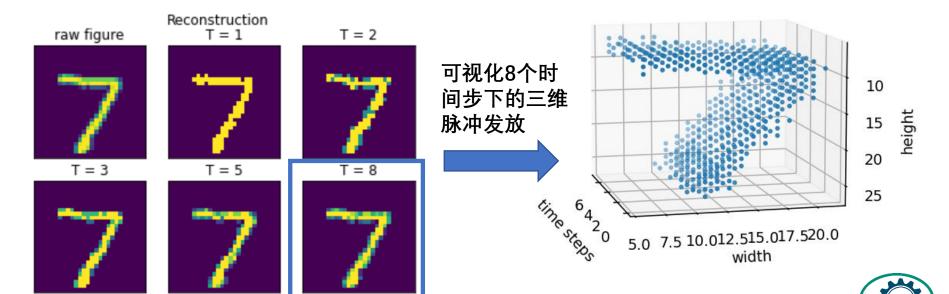
rand() 表示 [0,1] 均匀分布所生成的随机数,c 为归一化常数以限制神经元饱和的脉冲发放频率(一般设为1), λ 表示归一化为 [0,1] 后的输入像素值。在时间窗 T 内的每个时间点 t,都会随机生成一个符合均匀分布的数值,满足不等式的位置都会发放脉冲。



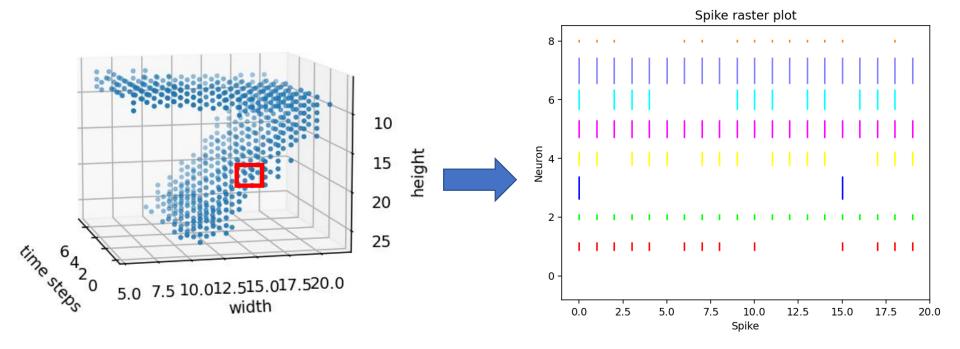


◆ 泊松编码

```
labels = ['raw figure']
Tlist = [1, 2, 3, 5, 8]
imgs = [X]
spikes = []
for i,T in enumerate(Tlist):
    spikes.append(torch.stack([ torch.rand_like(X)<=X for t in range(T) ]).float() )
    imgs.append(spikes[-1].mean(axis=0).numpy())
    imgs[-1] /= imgs[-1].max()
    labels.append('T = '+ str(T))</pre>
```



◆ 泊松编码



时间步增加到20,可视化一个 3x3的感受野



◆ 泊松编码

此外,符合泊松分布的脉冲序列还可以根据泊松过程的平稳独立增量特性通过计算脉冲间隔(Interspike interval, ISI), 即两个脉冲发放时间的间隔来生成。我们可以通过下式生成脉冲间隔,其服从参数为 λ 的指数分布:

$$I = \frac{-ln(rand())}{\lambda}$$

其中 I 为当前脉冲与下一个脉冲的时间间隔。通过计算 I,得到下一个脉冲的发放时间,用这种方式产生脉冲序列同样符合泊松过程。相比于在离散时间步下的二项分布逼近的方法,这种方法更适用于连续时间下的泊松脉冲生成



脉冲信号分析方法 Spike Signal Analysis



脉冲信号分析方法

目前,大量的神经科学实验已经验证了大脑并不是单纯的使用速率编码对外界环境进行感知,推断,预测和行为,因此发展基于脉冲模式精细时间结构的分析手段对于理解大脑内蕴的编码方式和鲁棒、高效、稀疏的脉冲编码算法设计是至关重要的。

更宽泛的说,理解脉冲模式中内蕴的感知和决策信息并发展与之相关的脉冲编码分析方法既是计算神经科学社区研究的重要主题,也是类脑计算领域评估编码方法的基础。

- □PSTH(Peri-Stimulus-Time Histogram)
- □STA(Spike-triggered average)



PSTH

- □ PSTH(Peri-Stimulus-Time Histogram)是对脉冲发放时间的直方图统 计,常被用于可视化与外部刺激或事件有关的神经元脉冲发放速率 随时间的变化关系。
- **PSTH**统计通常应用于多次生物实验产生的脉冲序列,其计算公式如下: $\rho(t) = \frac{1}{\Delta t} \frac{n_k(t; t + \Delta t)}{\sqrt{K}}$ 实验次数
- □ 其中, Δt 为统计的时间间隔长度, $n_k(t;t+\Delta t)$ 则表示在时间窗 $[t;t+\Delta t]$ 内使用相同刺激多次生物实验下记录的脉冲发放次数的总和。K为实验次数。
- □ PSTH作为一种**脉冲密度**求解方法,能够很好地评价神经元活动。



Peri-Stimulus-Time Histogram

Trial Based PSTH

The spike density that is an average over several runs of the experiment

rate = average over several runs

(single neuron, repeated runs)

input

1st run

2nd

3rd

PSTH

PSTH

 Δt

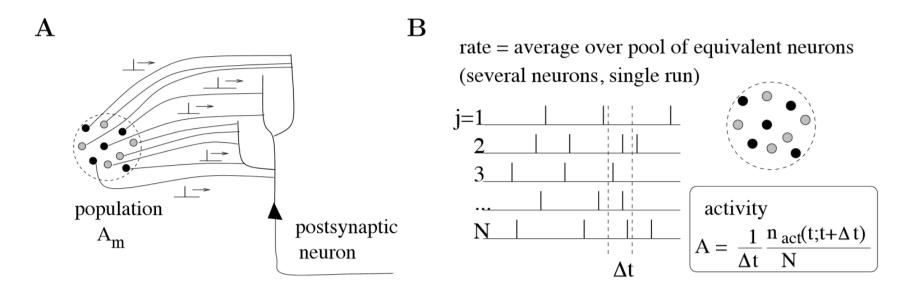
spike density
in PSTH
$$\rho = \frac{1}{\Delta t} \frac{1}{K} n_{K}(t; t+\Delta t)$$



Peri-Stimulus-Time Histogram

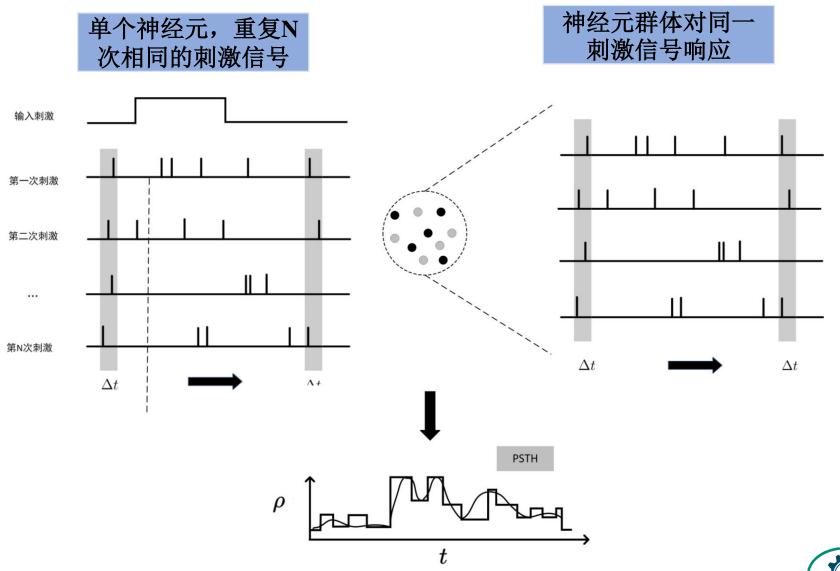
Population Based PSTH

The fraction of neurons that are active in a short interval $[t,t+\Delta t]$ divided by Δt .





PSTH





PSTH代码实现

- 代码实现主要包括三个函数
- \square get_Tmax2(ptn)
 - 计算ptn的最大脉冲发放时间
- □ getPSTH(ptn,T_size,windowlen)
 - 计算ptn的PSTH
- □ plotPSTH(PSTH,winlen)
 - 画出PSTH

函数的具体实现,输入,以及返回值解释如下



getPSTH函数

```
function PSTH_neurons=getPSTH(ptn,T_size,windowlen)
%Compute the Peri-Stimulus-Time Histogram
    nAfferents = length(ptn);
    PSTH_neurons = zeros(nAfferents,ceil(T_size/windowlen));
    for iaf = 1:nAfferents
        for ispike = ptn {1,iaf}
            idx = ceil(ispike/windowlen);
            PSTH_neurons(iaf,idx) = PSTH_neurons(iaf,idx) + 1;
        end
        end
end
```

input:

ptn: input single spike pattern, which is cell array, cell(i)= the i-th spike train T_size : the maximum spiking time of the input spike pattern (or the time window for observation) windowlen: windowlen is the parameter Δt to get PSTH return:

PSTH_neurons: the raw PSTH sequences for different neurons, which need to call sum(PSTH_neurons) for the real PSTHs.

get Tmax2函数

```
function Tmax = get Tmax2(ptn)
%compute the maximum spiking time of the ptn
  [nPtns,nAfferents] = size(ptn);
  Tmax = zeros(nPtns, 1);
  for iptn = 1:nPtns
    tmp = zeros(1,nAfferents);
    for iaff = 1:nAfferents
       if ~isempty(ptn{iptn,iaff})
         tmp(iaff) = max(ptn{iptn,iaff});
       end
    end
    Tmax(iptn) = max(tmp);
  end
end
    input:
```

ptn: a batch input of spike patterns in cell matrix form, with the shape nPtns*nNeurons

return:

Tmax: the maximum spiking times



plotPSTH函数

```
function plotPSTH(PSTH,winlen)
%plot the PSTH
   nSamples = size(PSTH,2);
   x = 1:1:nSamples;
   x = x*(winlen);
   plot(x,sum(PSTH)./winlen./size(PSTH,1));
end
```

input:

PSTH: the raw PSTH to plot PSTH



PSTH示例

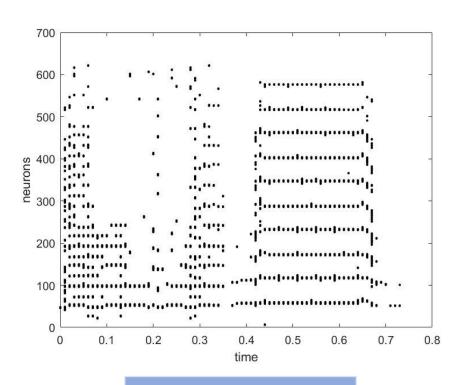
参数设置:

ptn: RWCP数据集中horn类别的脉冲模式图

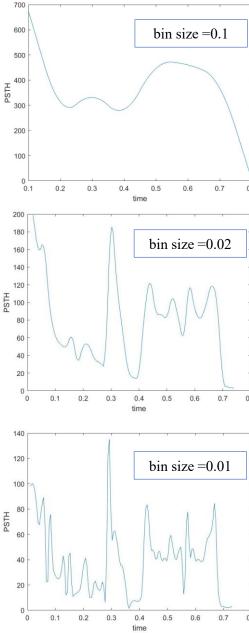
神经元数量(nAfferents): 750

T_size:get_Tmax2(ptn);

右图为不同bin size的计算结果



脉冲模式图



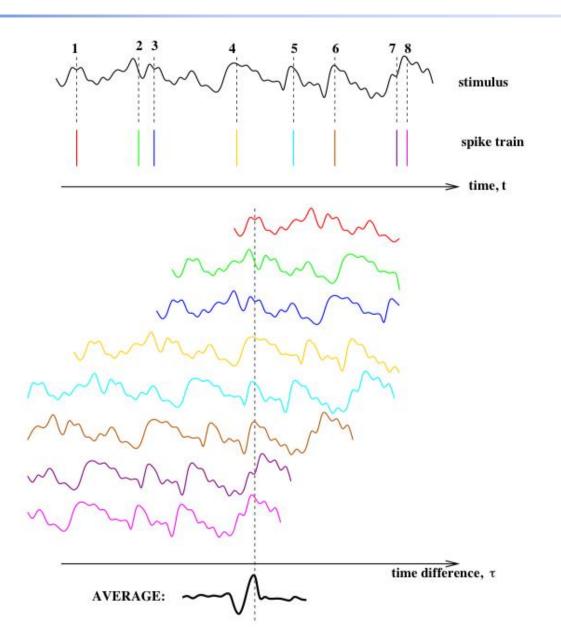


STA (Spike-triggered average)

- □ STA是一种利用神经元在响应时变刺激时发出的脉冲来描述神经元 反应特性的工具。
- □ STA核心思想是通过计算脉冲发放前的一定时间窗内输入刺激的平均, 从而估计造成该脉冲发放的原因。
- □ STA提供了对神经元线性感受野的估计,通常用于电生理数据分析。 当刺激分布为球对称时(如高斯白噪声),STA可以提供对神经元感 受野的无偏估计。
- □ STA不仅可以用于表征视网膜神经节细胞、外侧膝状核中的神经元和 纹状皮层中的简单细胞,而且可以用来估计线性-非线性-泊松(LNP) 级联模型的线性阶段。
- □ STA也被用在金融领域可以识别出在类似的价格变化(即事件)之前 是否出现了一致的模式,从而在未来对其做出反应。

STA (Spike-triggered average)

□ STA核心思想 是通过计算脉 冲发放前的一 定时间窗内输 入刺激的平均, 从而估计造成 该脉冲发放的 原因。





STA的计算步骤

- 1. 记录脉冲串 $S(t) = \{t_1, t_2, \dots t_n\}$ 与其对应的输入刺激I(t)
- 2. 对每个脉冲 t_i ,将其[t_i - Δt_i]之间的刺激强度分入对应的 bin(桶)内。例如,假设存在一个脉冲 t_i = 5.7s ,那么在4.9s时刻的输入刺激分入 0.8s的桶内,而在5.4s时刻的刺激则分入–0.3s的桶内。
- 3. 对STA桶内进行刺激强度求和并除以脉冲数进行平均,即

$$STA(t) = \frac{\sum_{i} I(t_i - \Delta t: t_i)}{n},$$

其中 $I(t_i - \Delta t; t_i)$ 表示 t_i 时刻前一个时长为 Δt 的时间窗下的输入刺激向量,n表示脉冲数量。



STA关键代码实现

```
function sta = compute_sta(stim, sp_train, t)
    % Compute the spike-triggered average from a stimulus and spike-train.
    sta = zeros(1, t);
    sp_time = t + find(sp_train(t+1: size(sp_train, 2)) ~= 0);
    n_spikes = size(sp_time, 2);
    for i = 1: n_spikes
        tmp = stim(sp_time(i) - t: sp_time(i)-1);
        sta = sta + tmp;
    end
    sta = sta / n_spikes;
end
```

input:

stim: a 1*num_timestep matrix for of real-value stimulussp_train: a binary 1*num_timestep matrix of spike train in which 1 indicates spike and 0 for silencet: number of time step for computing STA

return:

sta: Spike-Triggered Average, a.k.a STA, for t timesteps before spike

```
%gengrate the stim and response
nPoints = 10000; % number of points in stimulus (stim) and response (resp)
stim = randn (1, nPoints); % stim is random noise drawn from a normal distribution
resp = stim > 2;
resp = [zeros(1,100),resp(1:end-100)];
%plot the stim and response
figure(1),plot ( stim (1:1000) )
line ([1, 1000], [2, 2], 'LineStyle', '--', 'color', 'k')
ylabel ('Stimulus values'), title ('Stimulus')
xlabel('time step');
figure(2), plot (resp (1:1000), 'r')
ylabel ('Spikes'), title ('Response')
xlabel('time step');
%compute the sta
t=300;
sp train=resp;
sta=compute sta(stim, sp train, t);
%plot the sta
figure(3), plot (sta, 'b');
ylabel ('STA'), title ('STA')
xlabel('time step');
% save the data
save('STAdata','stim','sp train','sta');
```

main.m



STA示例

刺激stim为高斯白噪声,设置阈值为2,如图1。 当stim超过2时,作出响应,从而得到响应脉 冲序列resp,为了模拟真实系统中的延迟,在 resp前增加100个时间步,如图2。

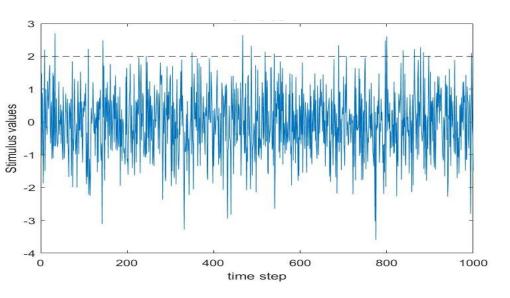


Figure 1:Stimulus

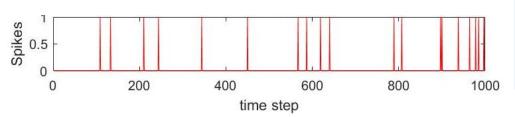


Figure 2:Response

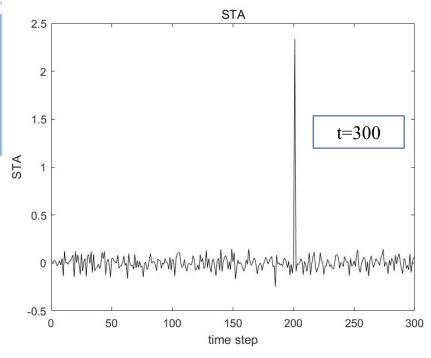


Figure 3:STA

计算STA时,设置t=300,即记录脉冲发放前最后300个时间步的脉冲格式。但由于resp序列前增加了100个时间步,因此STA图中,脉冲发射时间为300-100=200时间步,如图3。

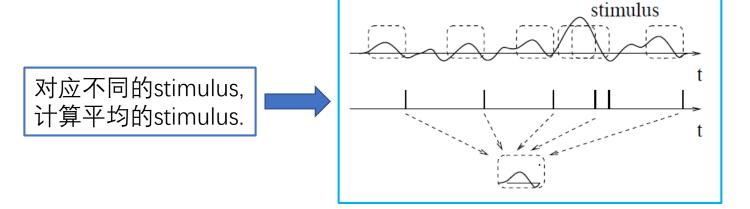


Stimulus Reconstruction

■ Reverse Correlation: average of the input (**stimulus**) under the condition of **an identical response**.

In contrast

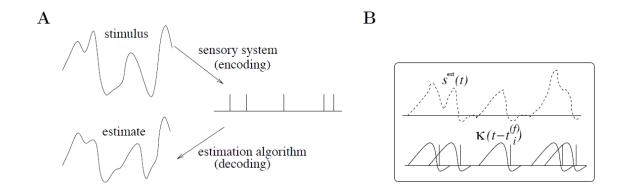
■ PSTH: averages the neuron's **response** over several trials with **the same stimulus**.



Reverse correlation technique (schematic). The stimulus in the top trace has caused the spike train shown immediately below. The time course of the stimulus just before the spikes (dashed boxes) has been averaged to yield the typical time course (bottom).



Stimulus Reconstruction



Reconstruction of a stimulus (schematic). A. A stimulus evokes a spike train of a neuron. The time course of the stimulus may be estimated from the spike $train_{\circ}$ B. In the framework of linear stimulus reconstruction, the estimation sest(t) (dashed) is the sum of the contributions κ (solid lines) of all spikes.

激励的线性估计(A linear estimation of the stimulus):

线性重构公式
$$\longrightarrow$$
 $s^{\text{est}}(t) = \sum_{f=1}^{n} \kappa(t - t^{(f)})$.



采用脉冲编码还是频率编码?

■ 采用Spike Coding 还是 Rate Coding?

时间t的频率可以由脉冲序列估计, 时间窗K(τ):

$$\nu(t) = \frac{\int K(\tau) S(t - \tau) d\tau}{\int K(\tau) d\tau}$$

For a rectangular time window $K(\tau) = 1$ for $-T/2 < \tau < T/2$ and zero otherwise. 对于矩形时间窗K,上面公式就简化为脉冲频率计算公式:

$$\nu(t) = \frac{\int K(\tau) S(t - \tau) d\tau}{\int K(\tau) d\tau} \qquad \qquad \nu = \frac{n_{\rm sp}(T)}{T}$$

对于任意时间窗函数,积分后变为

$$\nu(t) = c \sum_{f=1}^{n} K(t - t^{(f)})$$
 $s^{\text{est}}(t) = \sum_{f=1}^{n} \kappa(t - t^{(f)}).$

上述公式等价于信号的线性重构公式。



采用脉冲编码还是频率编码?

□ 基于群组的频率编码,可以快速对激励进行反应,因而和快速时序信息处理一致;而基于spike count的平均率编码,不具备快速时序信息编码能力。

□ 如果信号重构的高阶项包含信息

$$s^{\text{est}}(t) = \sum_{f} \kappa_1(t - t^{(f)}) + \sum_{f, f'} \kappa_2(t - t^{(f)}, t - t^{(f')}) + \dots$$

□ 脉冲编码需要具备比激励信号更精确的时序结构!



采用脉冲编码还是频率编码?

- □ 如果所有的信息都包含在频率编码中,那采用频率编码的模型 是有效的; 比如人工神经网络;
- □ 如果输入信息是静态的,脉冲神经元可以简化成频率神经元模型 (Rate Neuron Models)。



