



Problem 1: The inhibition-stabilized network (ISN).

1a. Now for a steady-state input perturbation  $\delta i$ , write down the equation for the steady-state response  $\delta r$ .

Answer: the equation can be written as  $T(1 - J)^{-1} \frac{d}{dt} \delta r = -\delta r + \delta i(1 - J)^{-1}$ . Solving by exponential:

$$\delta r(t) = \delta i(1 - J)^{-1} + (\delta r(0) - \delta i(1 - J)^{-1}) e^{\frac{-t}{T(1-J)^{-1}}} \text{ At steady state, } t \rightarrow \infty, \delta r = -(J - 1)^{-1} \delta i.$$

1b. Show that, for a stable fixed point, if a perturbation is given only to the I cells ( $\delta i \propto [0 \ 1]$ ), the steady-state response is “paradoxical” (response to a positive input is negative; response to a negative input is positive) if and only if  $j_{EE} > 1$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Answer: } \delta r &= \frac{1}{\text{Det}(J-I)} \begin{bmatrix} -j_{II} - 1 & j_{EI} \\ -j_{IE} & j_{EE} - 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \delta i \end{bmatrix} \\ &= -\frac{\delta i}{\text{Det}(J-I)} \begin{bmatrix} j_{EI} \\ j_{EE} - 1 \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

To let the term  $-\frac{\delta i}{\text{Det}(J-I)}$  determines the paradoxical sign of  $\delta r$  (i.e. when  $\delta i > 0$ ,  $\delta r < 0$  and vice versa.),  $j_{EE} - 1 > 0$ , thus  $j_{EE} > 1$ .

1c. Show that  $j_{EE} > 1$  is precisely the condition that the E subpopulation alone is unstable: that is, if  $r_I$  were a fixed constant, fixed to its steady state value, so that the only dynamics were the E equation with the fixed  $r_I$ , then the fixed point would be unstable.

Answer:  $\text{Det}(J - I) = -(j_{EE} - 1)(j_{II} + 1) + j_{EI}j_{IE}$ . For  $\text{Det}(J-I) > 0$ ,  $(j_{EE} - 1) < \frac{j_{EI}j_{IE}}{(j_{II}+1)}$ . When  $r_I$  is fixed, this means that the excitatory population can no longer affect the inhibitory population, thus  $j_{IE} = 0$ . For the population to be stable,  $j_{EE} - 1 < 0$ , or  $j_{EE} < 1$ . Thus, if  $j_{EE} > 1$ , then  $\text{Det}(J - I) < 0$ , and the system becomes unstable.

2a. For the I nullcline, compute its slope,  $dr_I/dr_E$ ; you should find that it is given by  $\frac{j_{IE}}{1+j_{II}}$ . This means that the nullcline always has positive slope.

Answer: Compute the I nucline  $T \frac{dr_I}{dt} = -r_I + j_{IE}r_E - j_{II}r_I + i_I$ .

$$\text{Set } \frac{dr_I}{dt} = 0, \text{ then } r_I = \frac{j_{IE}}{1+j_{II}} r_E - \frac{i_I}{1+j_{II}}.$$

$$\text{Thus the slope is } \frac{j_{IE}}{1+j_{II}}.$$

2b. Now for the E nullcline, compute the inverse of its slope,  $dr_E/dr_I$ ; you should find that this inverse slope is  $\frac{j_{EI}}{j_{EE}-1}$ . This means that the slope is positive if the E subnetwork is unstable, and negative if the E subnetwork is stable.

Answer: Compute the E nullcline  $T \frac{dr_E}{dt} = -r_E + j_{EE}r_E - j_{EI}r_I + i_E$ .

$$\text{Set } \frac{dr_E}{dt} = 0, \text{ then } r_E = \frac{j_{EI}}{j_{EE}-1}r_I - \frac{i_E}{j_{EE}-1}.$$

$$\text{Thus the slope is } \frac{j_{EI}}{j_{EE}-1}.$$

2c. Show that the condition that  $\text{Det}(J - 1) > 0$ , which is necessary for stability, is equivalent to the I nullcline having a larger slope than the E nullcline. So for a fixed point to be stable, it is necessary that the I nullcline have a larger slope than the E nullcline at their crossing that defines the fixed point.

Answer: The I nullcline has a positive slope and is always stable, but for E nullcline it needs a negative slope to be stable. Thus, the I nullcline will always have a larger slope than the E nullcline. For

$$\frac{j_{EI}}{j_{EE}-1} < 0, \text{ it requires } j_{EE} - 1 < 0, \text{ thus } j_{EE} < 1. \text{ This is the same condition for } \text{Det}(J - 1) > 0.$$

2d. Graph two versions of the nullclines. Answer: see below.

2e. Now, suppose you add a positive input to the I cells. Show that the resulting change in the I nullcline is to reduce  $r_E$  by the same amount for any given  $r_I$ , that is, to move the I nullcline leftward.

Answer: When input current is zero, the I nullcline is effectively  $r_I = \frac{j_{IE}}{1+j_{II}}r_E$ . With positive input current, the I nullcline becomes  $r_I = \frac{j_{IE}}{1+j_{II}}r_E + \frac{i_I}{1+j_{II}}$ . Thus, the curve shifts upwards, and for a sinusoidal curve, that's the same as shifting leftwards.

2d. Show on the plot that, for a stable fixed point, if the network is an ISN, the result is to decrease both  $r_E$  and  $r_I$  in moving to the new fixed point; while for a non-ISN, the result is to decrease  $r_E$  but increase  $r_I$ .

Answer: As shown below by the position of the new fixed point,  $r_E$  is reduced for both cases, but ISN has smaller  $r_I$ , while non-ISN has bigger  $r_I$ .

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In [547]: import numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt

# ISN
# creating fake data that looks like nullclines
t = np.arange(0,1,0.001)
rI = 3*np.cos(np.pi*1*t+np.pi) +3
rE = - np.sin(np.pi*2.5*t-np.pi/4) +3

rI2 = 3*np.cos(np.pi*1*(t+0.06)+np.pi) +3

# find new fix point by looking for interception
idx = np.argwhere(np.diff(np.sign(rI2 - rE)) != 0).reshape(-1) + 0

plt.plot(t,rI,'b')
plt.plot(t,rE,'r')
plt.plot(t,rI2,'b--')
plt.plot(0.5, 3, 'o', mfc='none', mew = 1.5) #initial fixed point
plt.plot(t[idx], rI2[idx], 'o', mfc='none', mew = 1.5, mec = '0.3') # fixed po
int with input current

#Draw the arrows indicating the direction of flow in the different regions of
the nullcline plane

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plt.arrow(0.6, 3.8, 0.2, 1, head_width=0.02, head_length=0.1, fc='k', ec='k',
linestyle=':')
plt.arrow(0.4, 2.2, -0.2, -1, head_width=0.02, head_length=0.1, fc='k',
ec='k', linestyle=':')
plt.arrow(0.25, 4.2, 0.2, -1, head_width=0.02, head_length=0.1, fc='k',
ec='k', linestyle=':')
plt.arrow(0.75, 1.8, -0.2, 1, head_width=0.02, head_length=0.1, fc='k',
ec='k', linestyle=':')

# plotting to show: in negative-sloping regions of the E nullcline, if rI is kept fixed, small perturbations off the E nullcline will flow back to the nullcline;
plt.arrow(0, 3, 0.07, 0, head_width=0.2, head_length=0.01, fc='k', ec='k')
plt.arrow(0.21, 3, -0.07, 0, head_width=0.2, head_length=0.01, fc='k', ec='k')
# plotting to show: while in positive-sloping regions, it will flow away.
plt.arrow(0.45, 2.7, -0.07, 0, head_width=0.2, head_length=0.01, fc='k',
ec='k')
plt.arrow(0.55, 3.3, 0.07, 0, head_width=0.2, head_length=0.01, fc='k',
ec='k')

# plot the dynamic path
## Dear TA: I'm not sure how to plot arcs, so I made straight arrows. Please imagine the green arrows linked with curved corners.
plt.arrow(0.5, 3, 0.15, 1.25, head_width=0.02, head_length=0.1, fc='g', ec='g')
)
plt.arrow(0.65, 4.25, -0.11, -0, head_width=0.1, head_length=0.02, fc='g',
ec='g')
plt.arrow(0.65-0.12, 4.25, -0.18, -2, head_width=0.02, head_length=0.1,
fc='g', ec='g')

plt.xlim([0,1.0])
plt.xlabel('rE')
plt.ylabel('rI')
plt.title('ISN')
plt.legend(['I-nullcline', 'E-nullcline', 'I-nullcline with input'], loc='best')
plt.show()

# non-ISN
plt.figure()
# creating fake data that looks like nullclines
t = np.arange(0,1,0.001)
rI = 3*np.cos(np.pi*1*t+np.pi) +3
rE = -3*(t-0.5) +3

rI2 = 3*np.cos(np.pi*1*(t+0.06)+np.pi) +3 # shifted inhibitory nullcline if current is injected into the inhibitory cells.

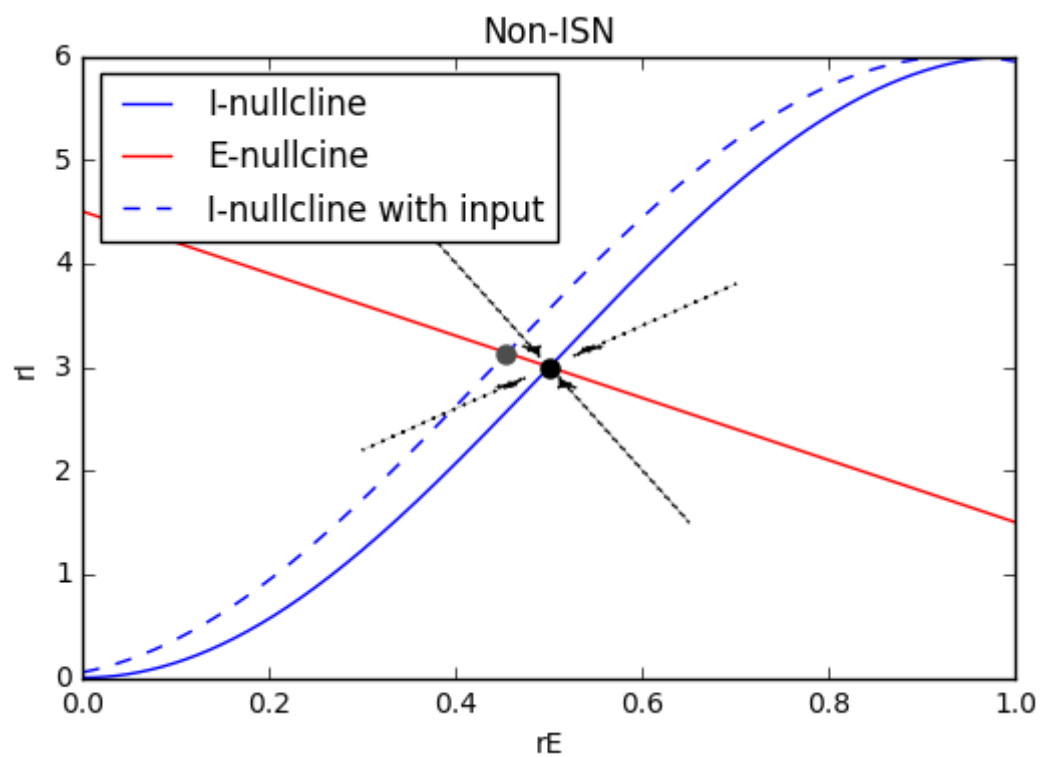
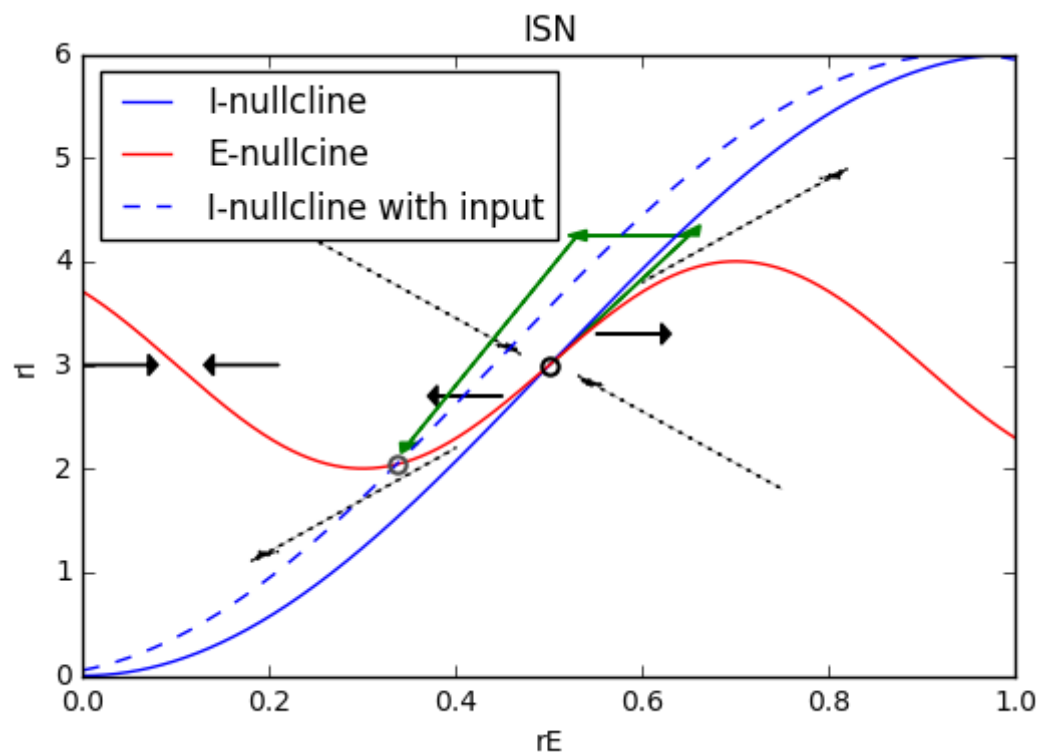
# find new fix point by looking for interception
idx = np.argwhere(np.diff(np.sign(rI2 - rE)) != 0).reshape(-1) + 0

plt.plot(t,rI,'b')
plt.plot(t,rE,'r')
plt.plot(t,rI2,'b--')
plt.plot(0.5, 3, 'ko', mew = 1.5) # initial fixed point
plt.plot(t[idx], rI2[idx], 'o', mfc= '0.3', mew = 1.5, mec = '0.3') # fixed

```

*point with input current*

```
#Draw the arrows indicating the direction of flow in the different regions of  
the nullcline plane  
plt.arrow(0.7, 3.8, -0.15, -0.6, head_width=0.02, head_length=0.1, fc='k',  
ec='k', linestyle=':')  
plt.arrow(0.3, 2.2, 0.15, 0.6, head_width=0.02, head_length=0.1, fc='k',  
ec='k', linestyle=':')  
plt.arrow(0.35, 4.5, 0.13, -1.3, head_width=0.02, head_length=0.1, fc='k',  
ec='k', linestyle=':')  
plt.arrow(0.65, 1.5, -0.13, 1.3, head_width=0.02, head_length=0.1, fc='k',  
ec='k', linestyle=':')  
  
plt.xlim([0,1.0])  
plt.xlabel('rE')  
plt.ylabel('rI')  
plt.title('Non-ISN')  
plt.legend(['I-nullcline', 'E-nullcline', 'I-nullcline with input'], loc='best')  
plt.show()
```



## Problem 2: Non-normal dynamics

2a. Verify that the (unnormalized) eigenvectors are  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$  with eigenvalue  $\lambda_1 = -x$ , and  $\begin{bmatrix} \frac{w_1+x}{w_2} \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$  eigenvalue  $\lambda_2 = w_1 - w_2$ .

Answer:  $T \frac{d}{dt} r = -r + W r + i$ . For Eigen value  $\lambda$ ,  $W r = \lambda r$ .  $(W - \lambda I) r = 0$ . If  $(W - \lambda I)$  is invertible, then there's no solution. Thus  $(W - \lambda I)$  needs to be non-invertible, i.e.  $\det(W - \lambda I) = 0$ .

$$\lambda = \frac{w_1 - w_2 - x \pm \sqrt{(w_1 - (w_2 + x))^2 - 4(w_1 w_2 - w_1 x + w_2 w_1 + w_2 x)}}{2}. \lambda = \frac{w_1 - w_2 - x \pm (w_2 - w_1 - x)}{2}, \lambda_1 = -x, \lambda_2 = w_1 - w_2.$$

$$\lambda_1 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -x \\ -x \end{bmatrix}. W \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} w_1 - (w_1 + x) \\ w_2 - (w_2 + x) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -x \\ -x \end{bmatrix}. \text{Verified}$$

$$\lambda_2 \begin{bmatrix} \frac{w_1+x}{w_2} \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{(w_1+x)(w_1-w_2)}{w_2} \\ (w_1 - w_2) \end{bmatrix}. W \begin{bmatrix} \frac{w_1+x}{w_2} \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{(w_1+x)w_1}{w_2} - (w_1 + x) \\ \frac{(w_1+x)w_2}{w_2} - (w_2 + x) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{(w_1+x)(w_1-w_2)}{w_2} \\ (w_1 - w_2) \end{bmatrix}. \text{Verified}$$

2b. Schur transformation. We'll choose our (normalized) Schur basis vectors to be  $s_1 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ , and a vector orthogonal to it,  $s_2 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$ . Since the component of a vector along an orthonormal basis vector is just

$$\text{given by the dot product of the vector with the basis vector, show that } r \text{ has components } \begin{bmatrix} r_1 \\ r_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{r_E + r_I}{\sqrt{2}} \\ \frac{r_E - r_I}{\sqrt{2}} \end{bmatrix} \text{ in}$$

the  $s_1, s_2$  basis, that is, the components  $r_1$  and  $r_2$  represent the sum and difference of E and I activities, respectively.

$$\text{Answer: } r = (r_E \ r_I), \ r_1 = r \cdot s_1 = (r_E \ r_I) \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \frac{r_E + r_I}{\sqrt{2}}$$

$$r_2 = r \cdot s_2 = (r_E \ r_I) \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} = \frac{r_E - r_I}{\sqrt{2}}.$$

$$\text{Thus, } \begin{bmatrix} r_1 \\ r_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{r_E + r_I}{\sqrt{2}} \\ \frac{r_E - r_I}{\sqrt{2}} \end{bmatrix}$$

2c. You already know that  $W s_1 = -x s_1$ . Show that  $W s_2 = (w_1 + w_2 + x) s_1 + (w_1 - w_2) s_2$ .

Answer:

$$W s_2 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} w_1 + w_1 + x \\ w_2 + w_2 + x \end{bmatrix} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} w_1 + w_2 + x + (w_1 - w_2) \\ w_1 + w_2 + x - (w_1 - w_2) \end{bmatrix} = (w_1 + w_2 + x) s_1 + (w_1 - w_2) s_2.$$

2d. Show this also in the  $r_E, r_I$  basis: if  $w_{FF} = w_1 + w_2 + x = 0$ , then the matrix  $W$  in this basis becomes a symmetric matrix,  $W = W^T$ , and therefore is normal; and the eigenvectors become orthogonal, i.e. the second eigenvector becomes  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ .



Answer: if  $w_F F = w_1 + w_2 + x = 0$ , then  $W = \begin{bmatrix} w_1 & -(w_1 + x) \\ w_2 & -(w_2 + x) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} w_1 & w_2 \\ w_2 & w_1 \end{bmatrix} = W^T$ . Shown.

2e. Solve the linear dynamics  $\tau \frac{d}{dt} r = -r + W r + i$  for constant  $i$  in the  $s_1, s_2$  basis. You will have to first solve for  $r_2(t)$ , then solve for  $r_1(t)$  with  $w_{FF} r_2(t)$  as one of the inputs.

Answer:

$$\tau \frac{d}{dt} r_2 = -r_2 + W r_2 + i_2 = -r_2 + \lambda_2 r_2 + i_2.$$

$$\frac{\tau}{1-\lambda_2} \frac{d}{dt} r_2 = -r_2 + \frac{i_2}{1-\lambda_2}.$$

$$\text{Solving the equation : } r_2(t) = \frac{i_2}{1-\lambda_2} + (r_2(0) - \frac{i_2}{1-\lambda_2}) e^{-\frac{(1-\lambda_2)t}{\tau}} = r_2(0) e^{-\frac{(1-\lambda_2)t}{\tau}} + \frac{i_2}{1-\lambda_2} (1 - e^{-\frac{(1-\lambda_2)t}{\tau}})$$

$$\tau \frac{d}{dt} r_1 = -r_1 + W r_1 + i_1 = -r_1 + \lambda_1 r_1 + w_{FF} r_2 + i_1.$$

$$\frac{\tau}{1-\lambda_1} \frac{d}{dt} r_1 = -r_1 + \frac{w_{FF} r_2 + i_1}{1-\lambda_1}.$$

$$\text{Solving the equation : } r_1(t) = \frac{w_{FF} r_2(t) + i_1}{1-\lambda_1} + (r_1(0) - \frac{w_{FF} r_2(t) + i_1}{1-\lambda_1}) e^{-\frac{(1-\lambda_1)t}{\tau}} = r_1(0) e^{-\frac{(1-\lambda_1)t}{\tau}} + \frac{w_{FF} r_2(t) + i_1}{1-\lambda_1} (1 - e^{-\frac{(1-\lambda_1)t}{\tau}})$$

$$\text{Substitute } r_2(t) \text{ into the equation : } r_1(t) = r_1(0) e^{-\frac{(1-\lambda_1)t}{\tau}} + \frac{i_1 + w_{FF} i_2}{(1-\lambda_2)(1-\lambda_1)} (1 - e^{-\frac{(1-\lambda_1)t}{\tau}}) + w_{FF} (r_2(0) - \frac{i_2}{1-\lambda_2}) (1 - e^{-\frac{(1-\lambda_2)t}{\tau}})$$

2e: Graph the function  $\frac{e^{-\frac{(1-\lambda_1)t}{\tau}} - e^{-\frac{(1-\lambda_2)t}{\tau}}}{\lambda_1 - \lambda_2}$  for some choice of  $\lambda_1$  and  $\lambda_2$  as real numbers less than 1 (they can be negative).

Answer: see below

Dear TA, I stopped here as the rest is optional.