

Modelling and controlling complex dynamics in cardiac networks

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Outline

- data driven modelling in cardiac research
- transient chaos in cardiac arrhythmias
- termination of spatio temporal chaos and defibrillation

Data driven modelling in cardiac research

includes:

- data driven prediction of future evolution (e.g., membrane voltages, mechanical motion)

Iterated Forecasting of $u(t)$



good for 5 spiral rotations

S. Herzog et al., Frontiers in Appl. Math. and Statistics 4, 60 (2018)

Data driven modelling in cardiac research

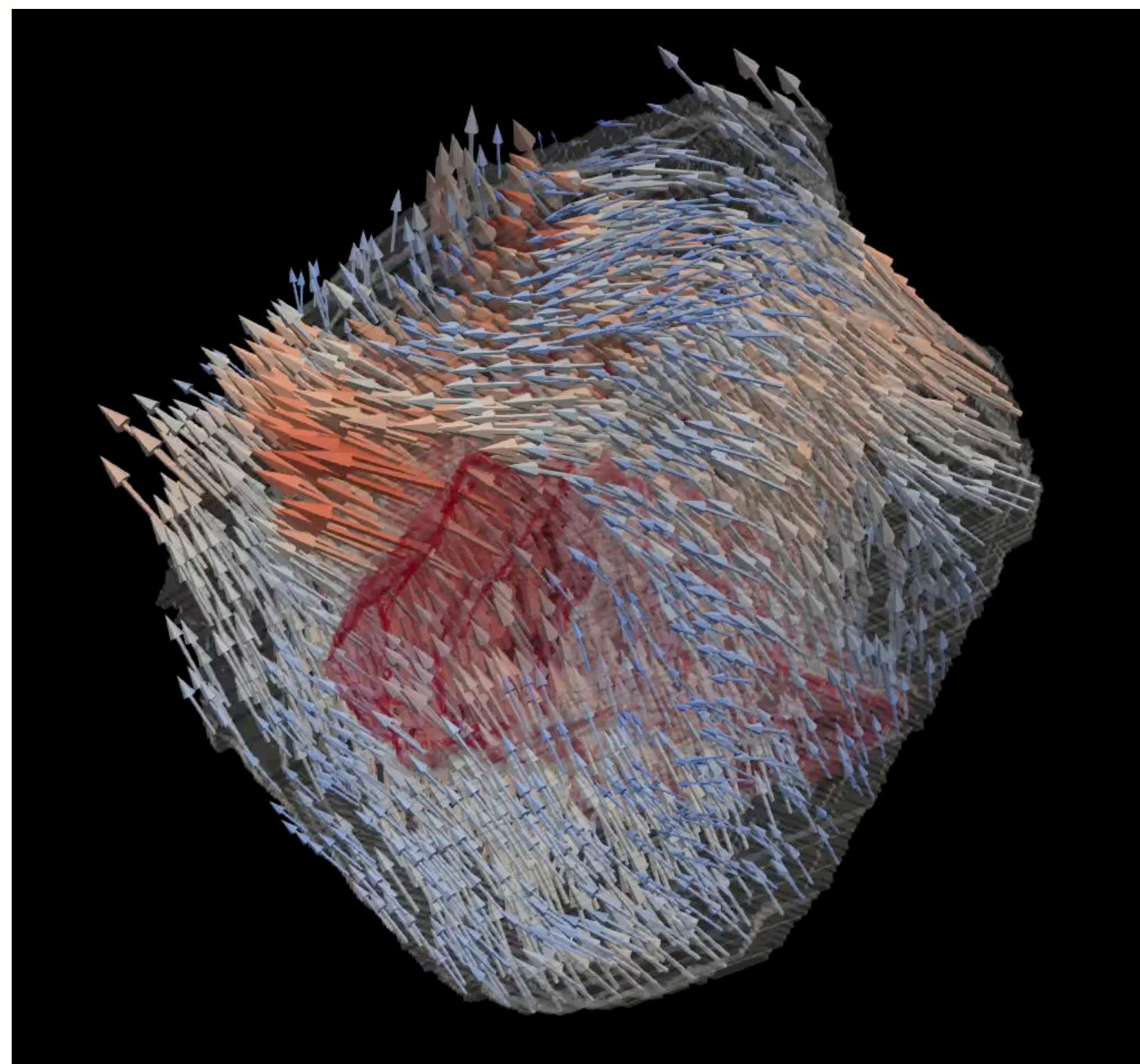
includes:

- data driven **prediction of future evolution** (e.g., membrane voltages, mechanical motion)
- extraction of **relevant features** from (noisy) raw data
(S. Herzog et al., Frontiers Appl. Math. Stat. 6 (2021))
- **classification** (e.g., time series, images, evolution of patterns and shapes)
- **cross estimation of observables that are difficult to measure directly from available data**

Measurement Modalities

mechanical motion

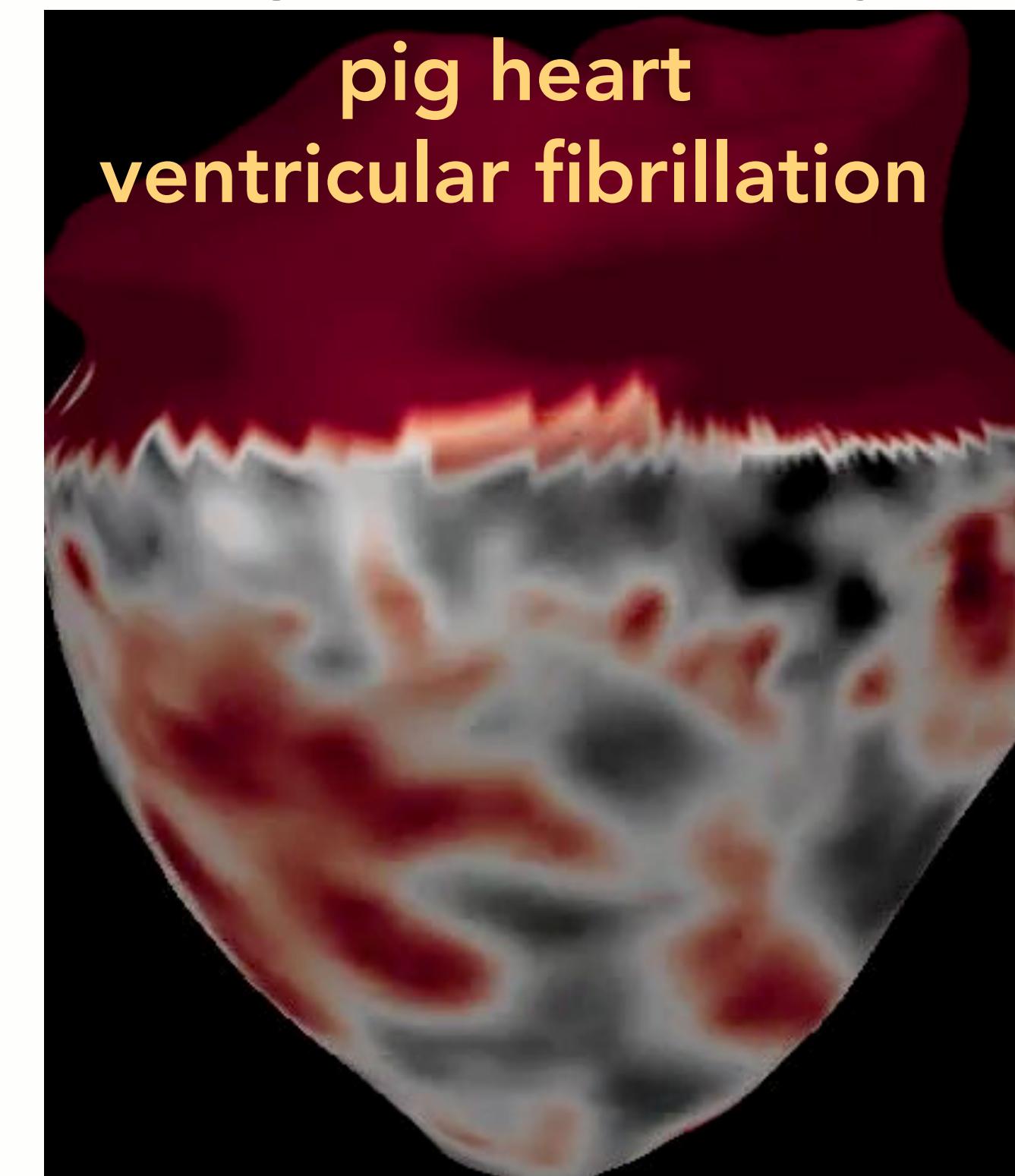
4D ultrasound



- real-time MRI
- multi-camera systems*

electrical excitation

voltage sensitive dyes*

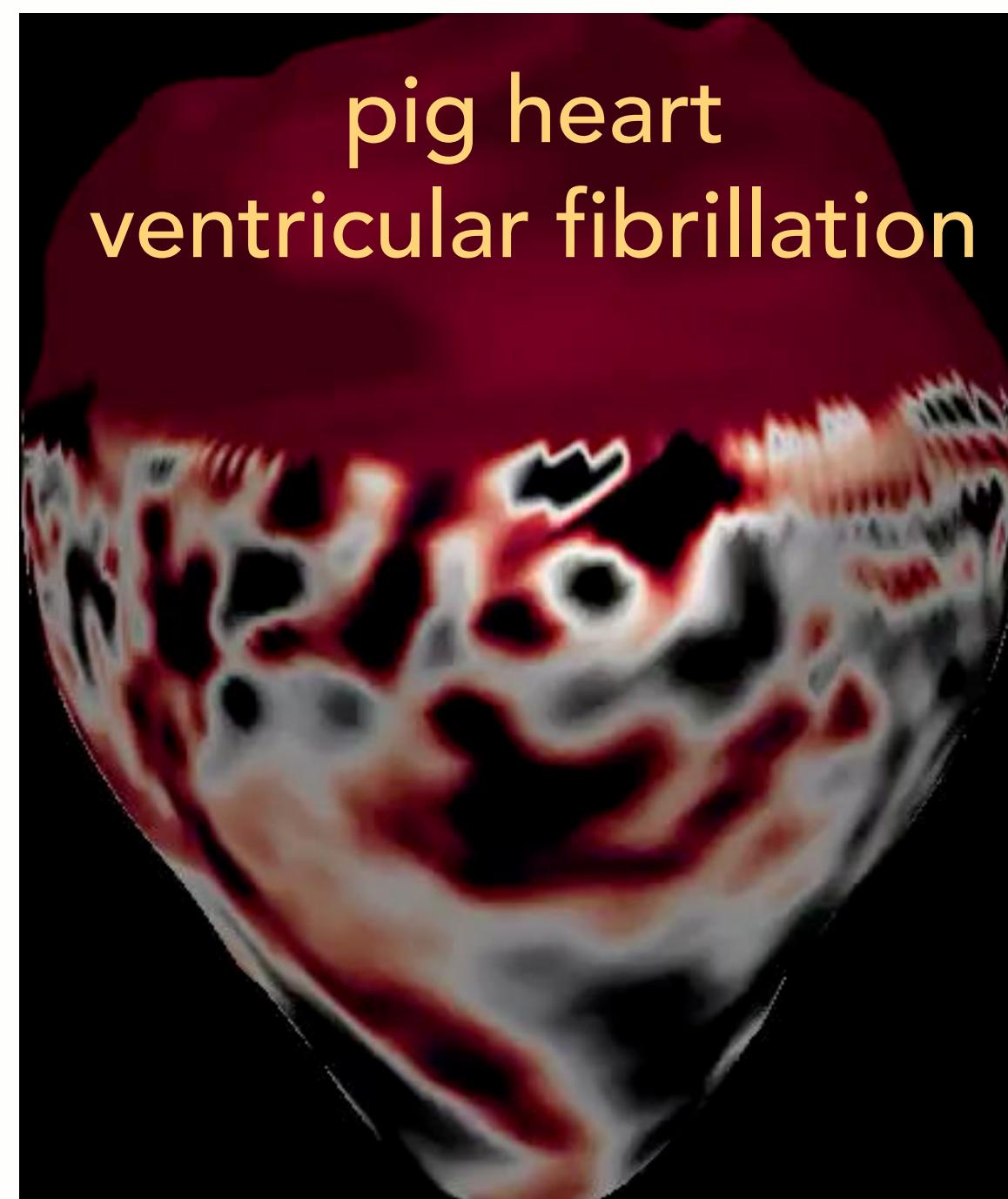


- multichannel - ECG

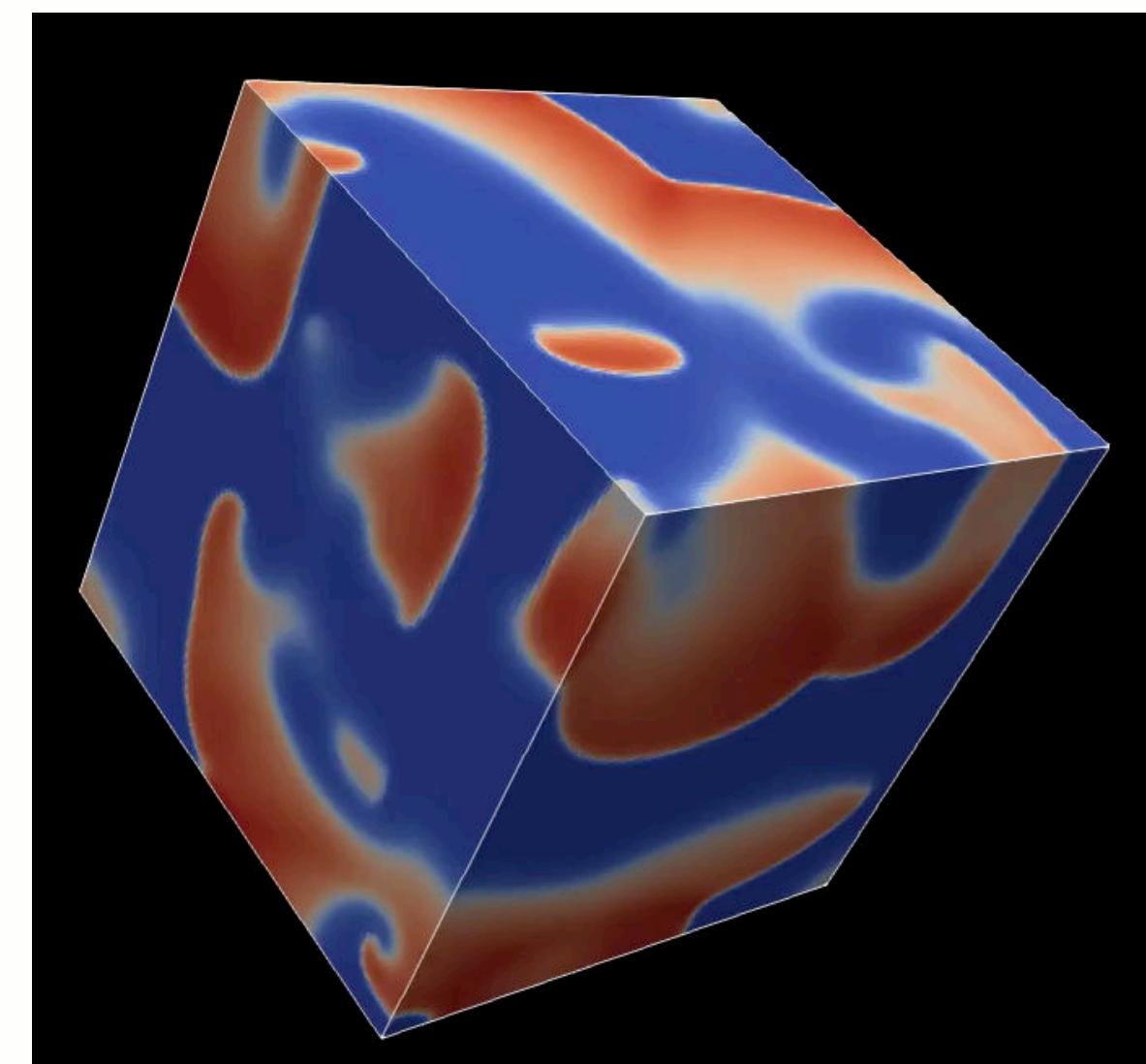
*surface only!

From the surface into the depth

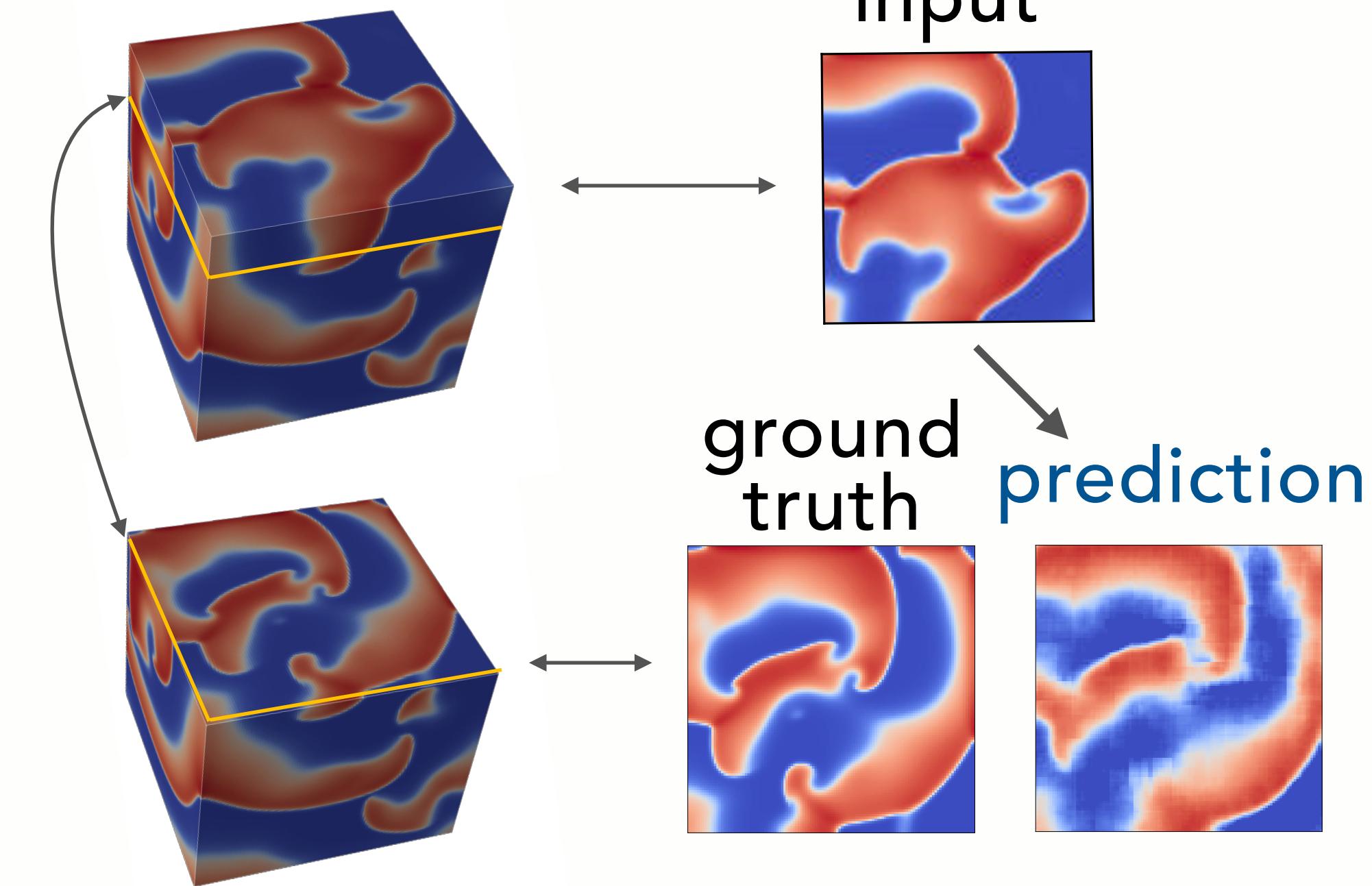
optical mapping using voltage sensitive dyes provides electrical excitation waves only on the surface of the heart



simulation of a 3D excitable medium



predict activity in deeper layers using
Convolutional Neural Network



Inga Kottlarz

Data Driven Modeling

From Surface To Depth

3D Barkley model

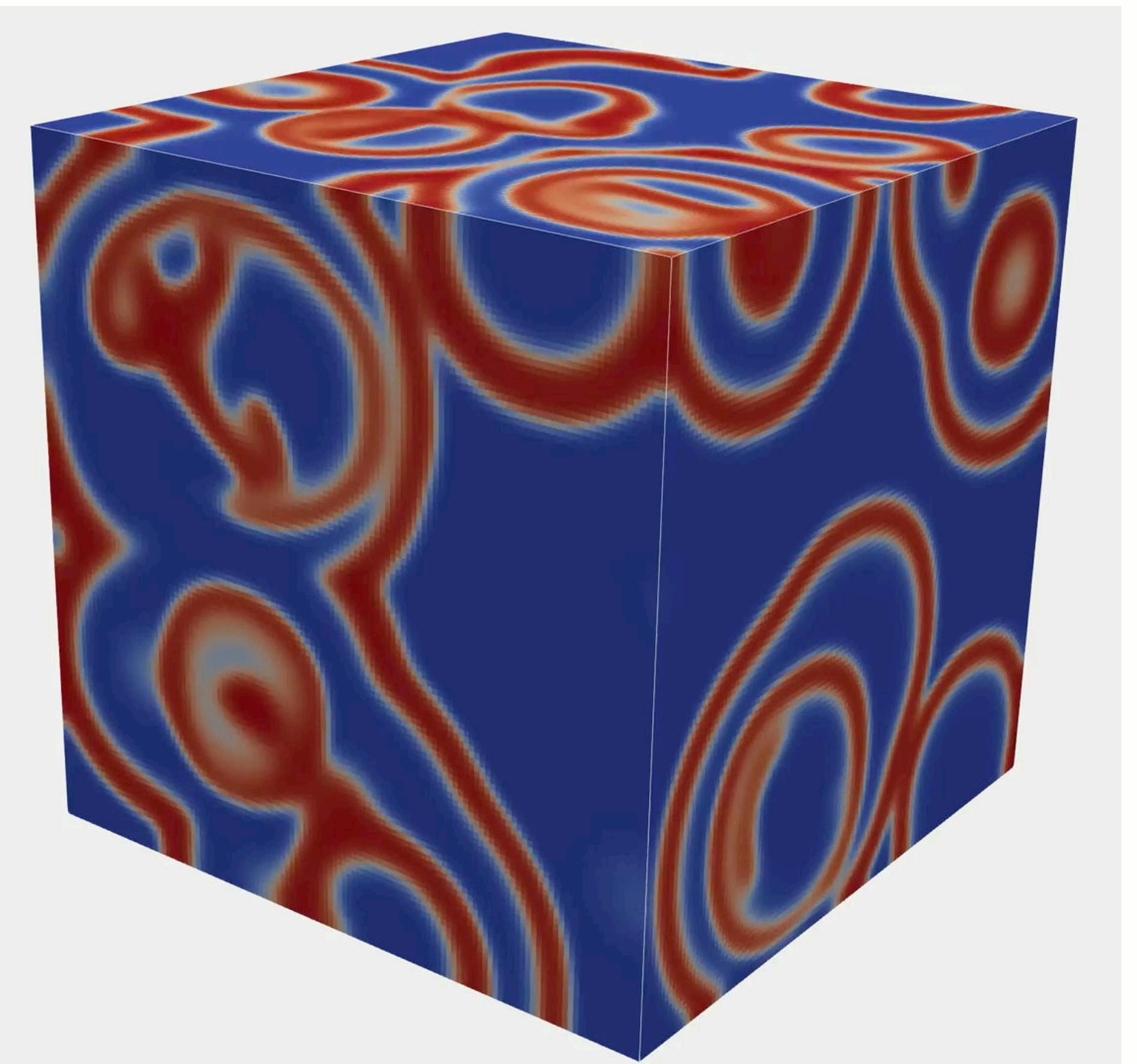
$$\frac{du}{dt} = D\nabla^2 u + \frac{1}{\varepsilon}u(1-u)\left(u - \frac{v+b}{a}\right)$$

$$\frac{dv}{dt} = u^3 - v$$

$$a = 0.75 \quad b = 0.06 \quad \varepsilon = 0.08 \quad D = 0.02$$

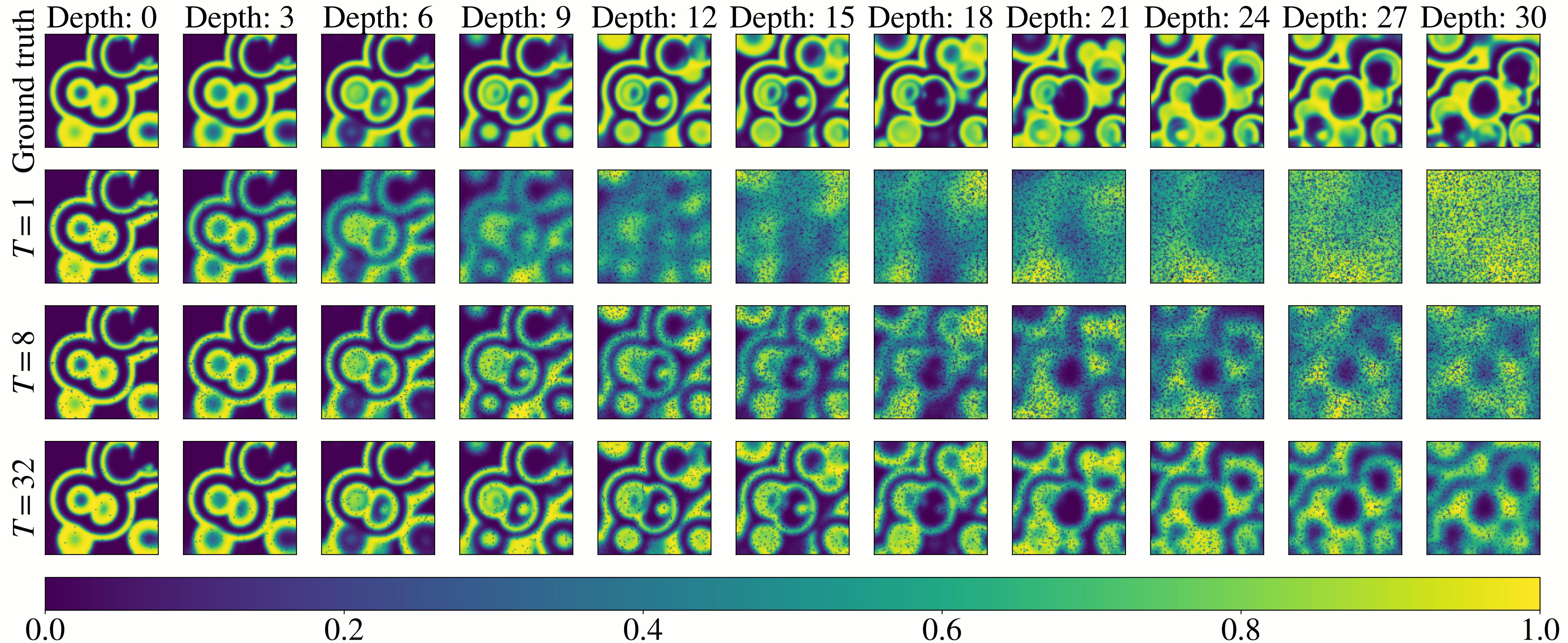
grid: $120 \times 120 \times 120$

**predict deeper layers from data at surface
using convolutional neural networks**



Inga Kottlarz

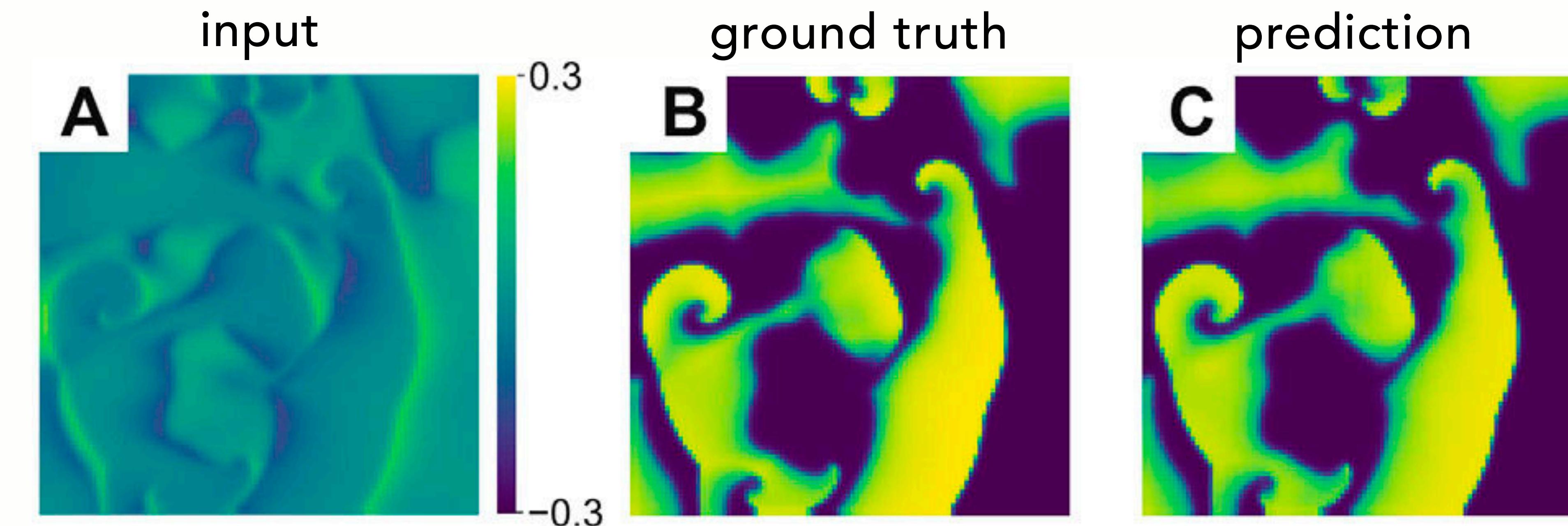
Reconstructions with different input lengths $T \in \{1, 8, 32\}$



Sebastian Herzog

Electrical excitation from mechanical deformation

mechanical deformation → electrical excitation



Data generated by a conceptual electro-mechanical model (BOCF model driving a mass-spring system)
Convolutional Auto-encoder provides better results than Reservoir Computing)

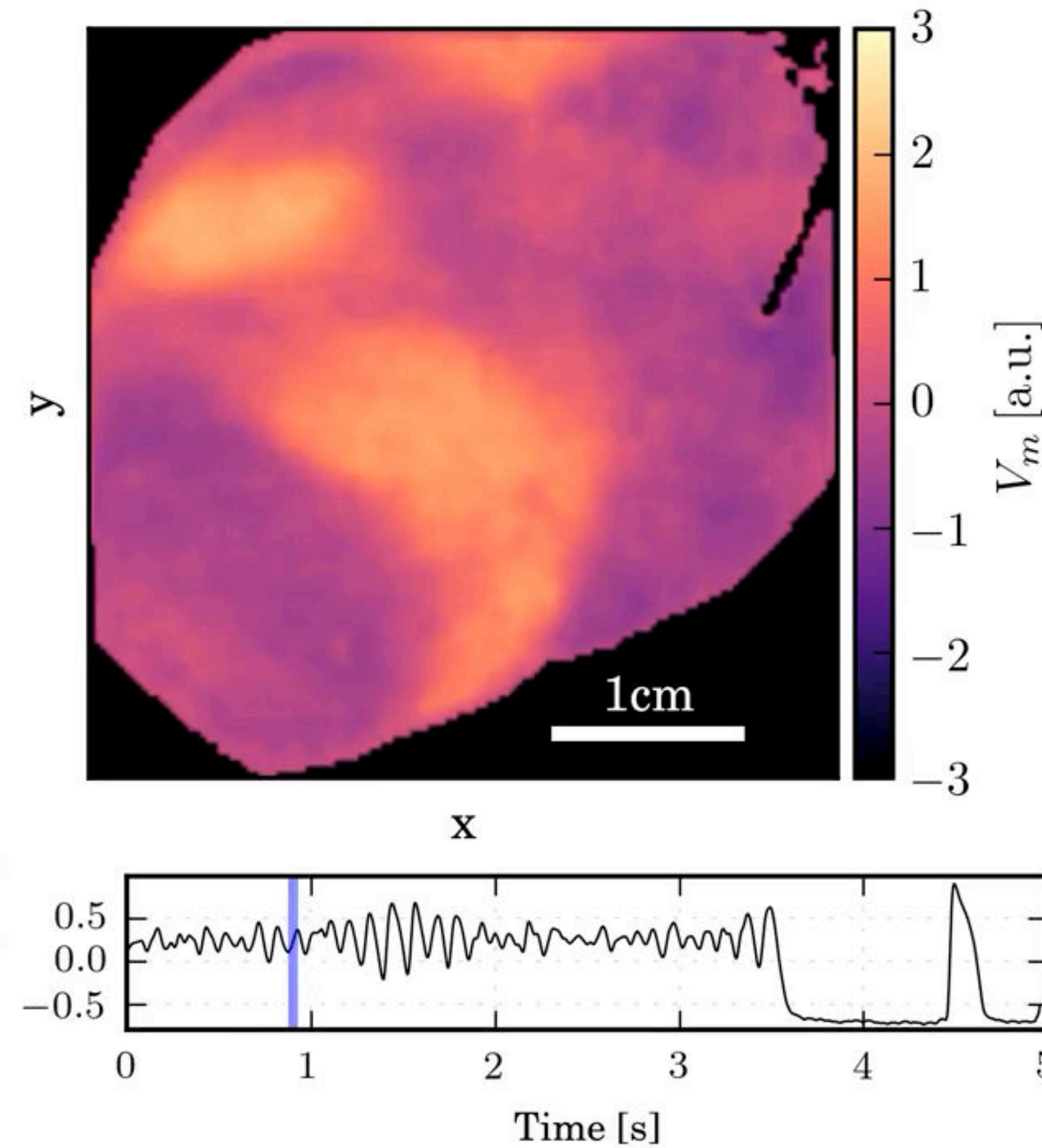
S. Herzog et al., Frontiers Appl. Math. Stat. 6 (2021)

Transient Chaos in Cardiac Arrhythmias

Transient Scroll Wave Dynamics during Ventricular Fibrillation

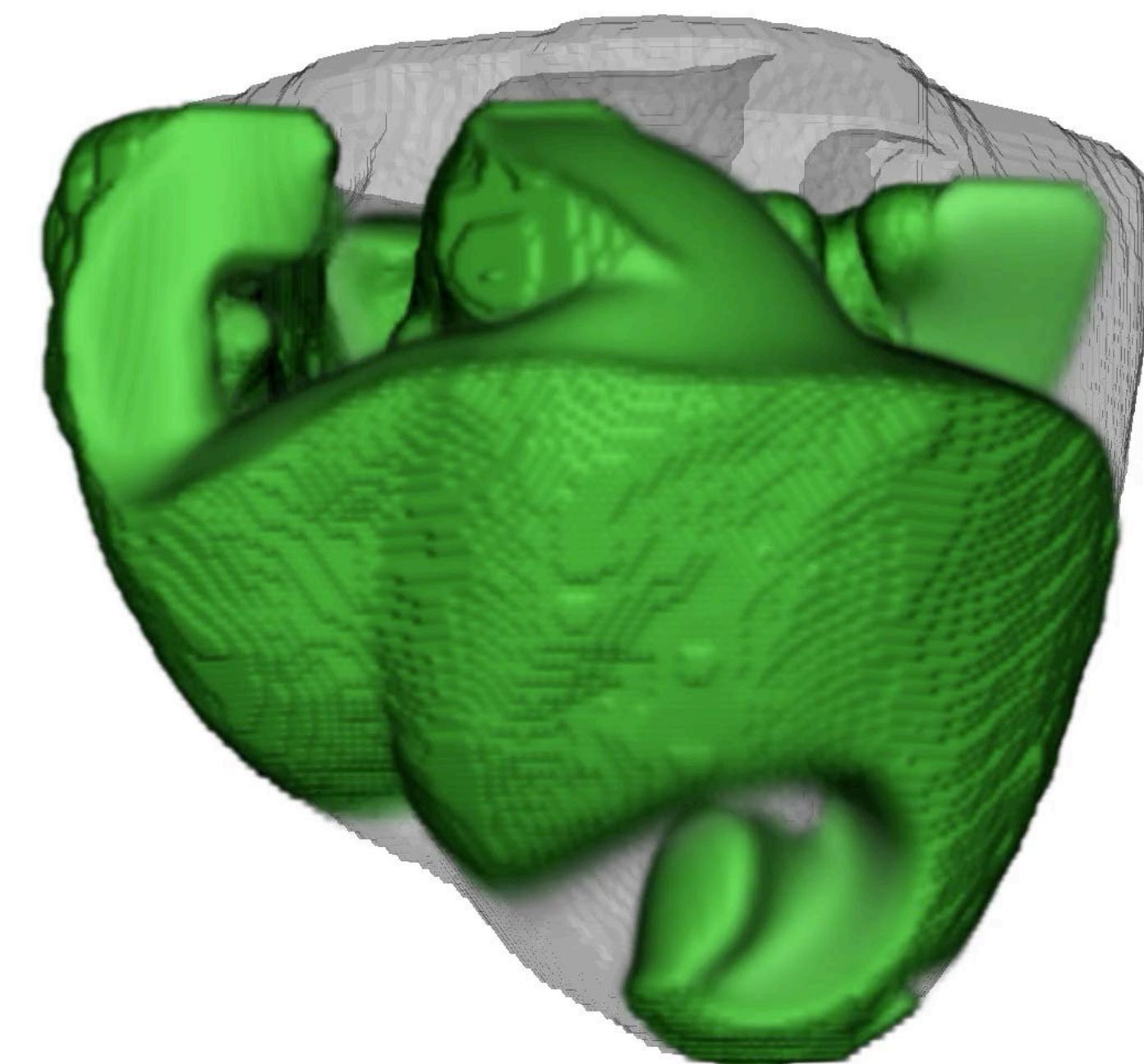
Experiment

Optical mapping
of a rabbit heart



Sebastian Berg
Daniel Hornung
Marion Kunze

Simulation
in a rabbit heart geometry



Thomas Lilienkamp

Transient Chaos

Simulation using the Fenton-Karma model

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \nabla \cdot \underline{\mathbf{D}} \nabla u - I_{Ion}(u, \mathbf{h})/C_m$$

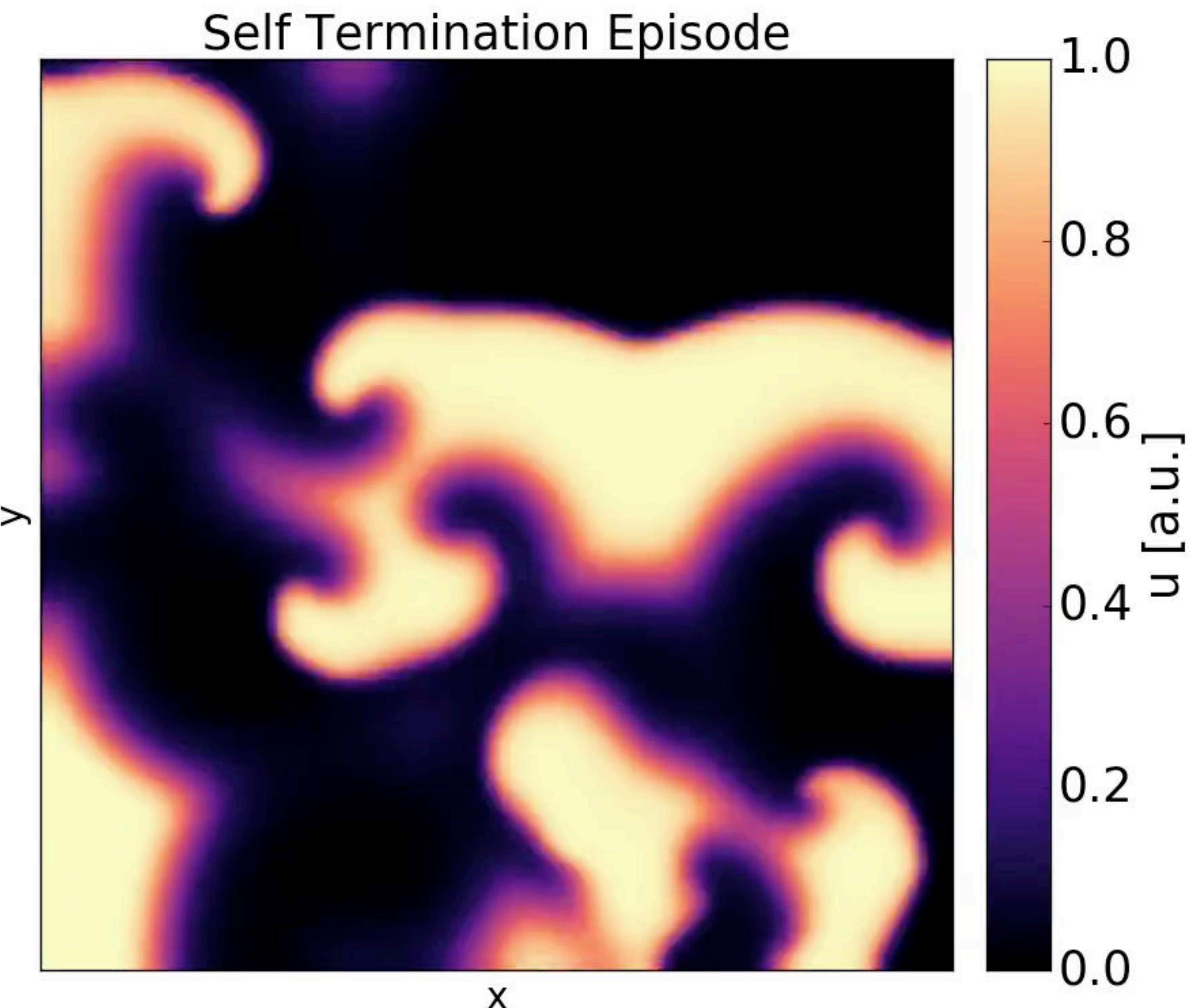
$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{h}}{\partial t} = \mathbf{g}(u, \mathbf{h})$$

gating variables $\mathbf{h} = (v, w)$

average transient lifetime increases exponentially with system size

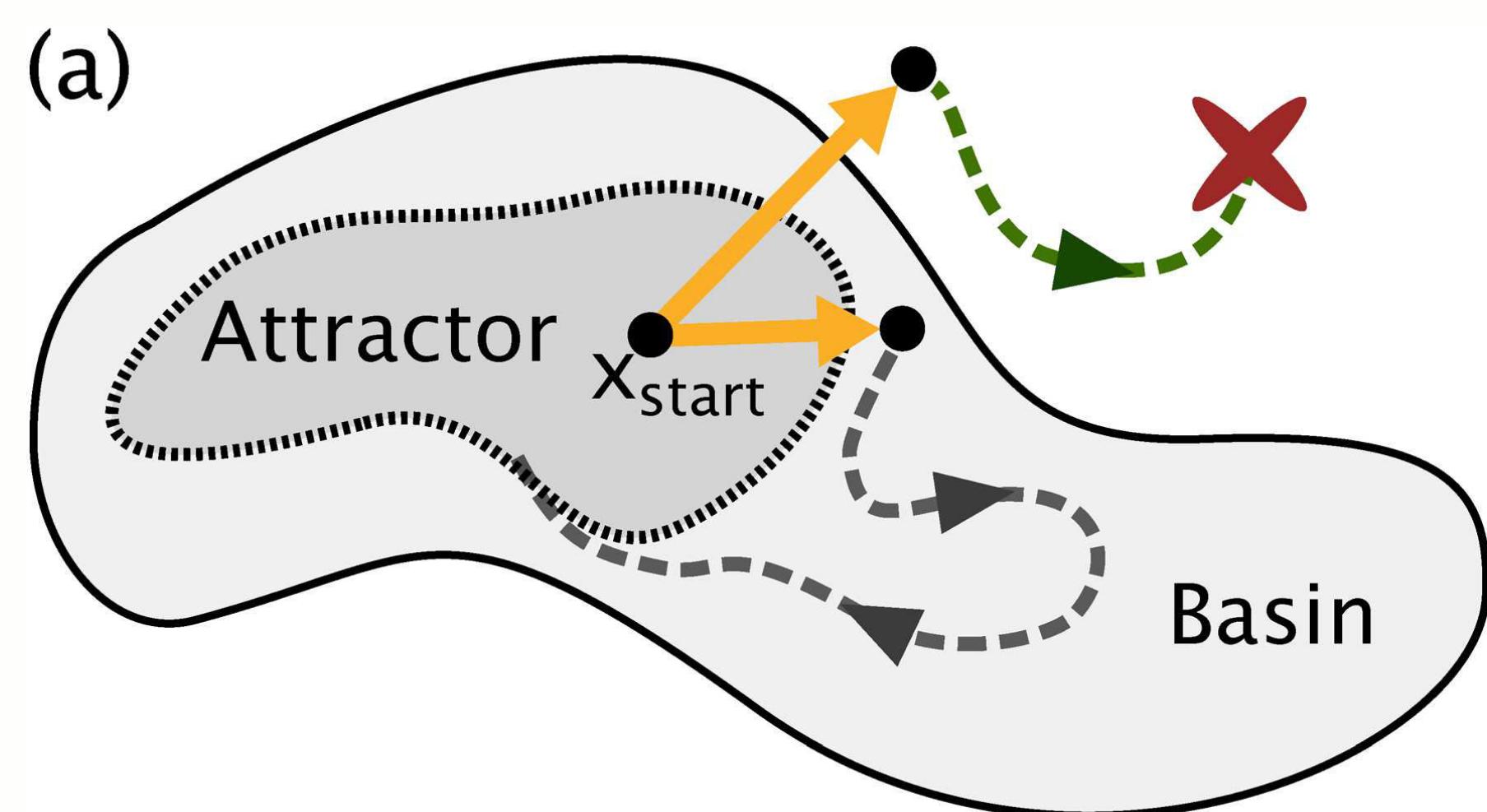
T. Lilienkamp et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 119 (2017)

T. Lilienkamp and U. Parlitz, Phys. Rev. Lett. 120 (2018)



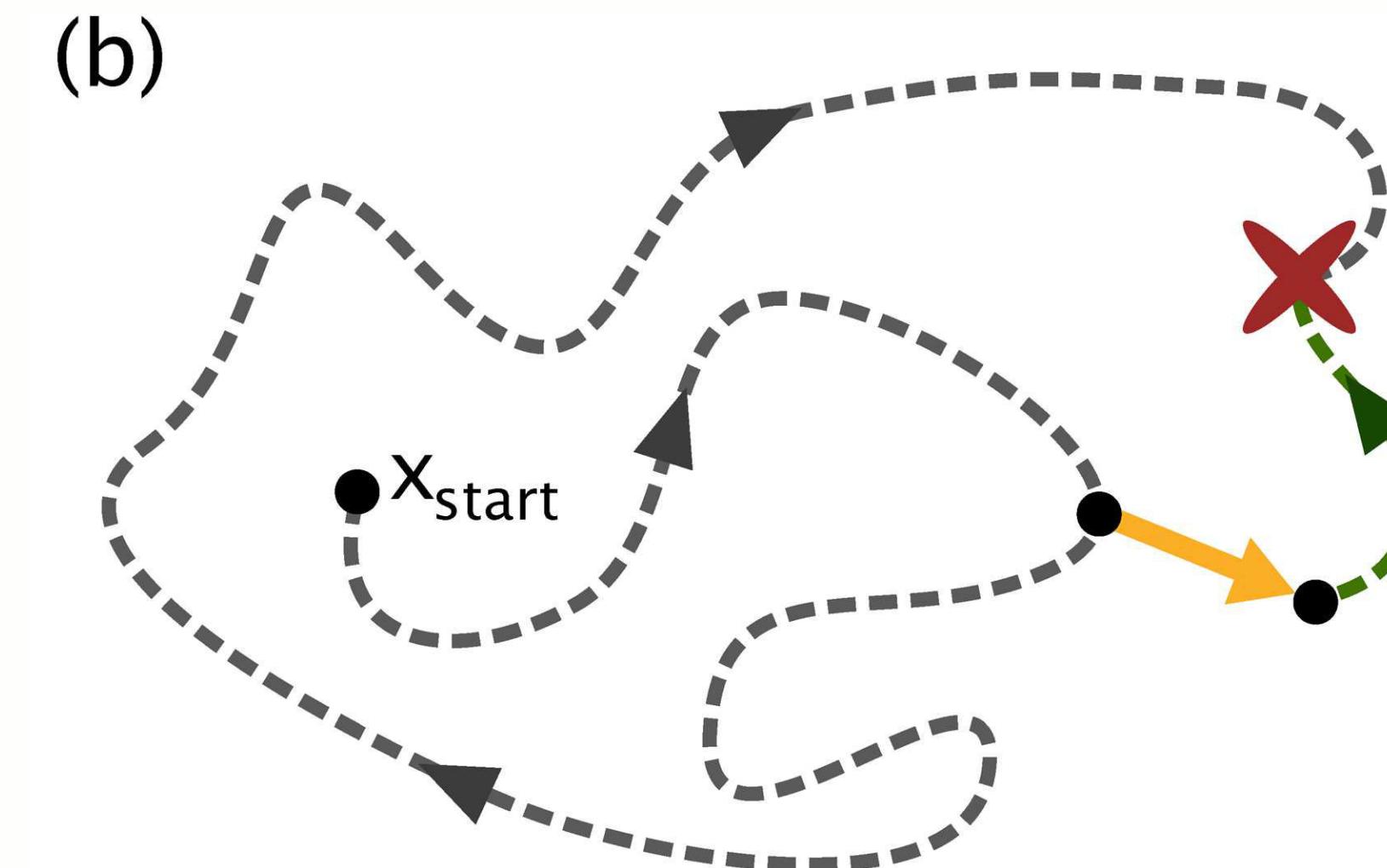
Potential Implications of Transient Chaos for Defibrillation

Persistent chaos vs. Transient chaos



Desired State:

control: kick state into basin of
another attractor
minimal perturbation strength required



Perturbations: Trajectories:

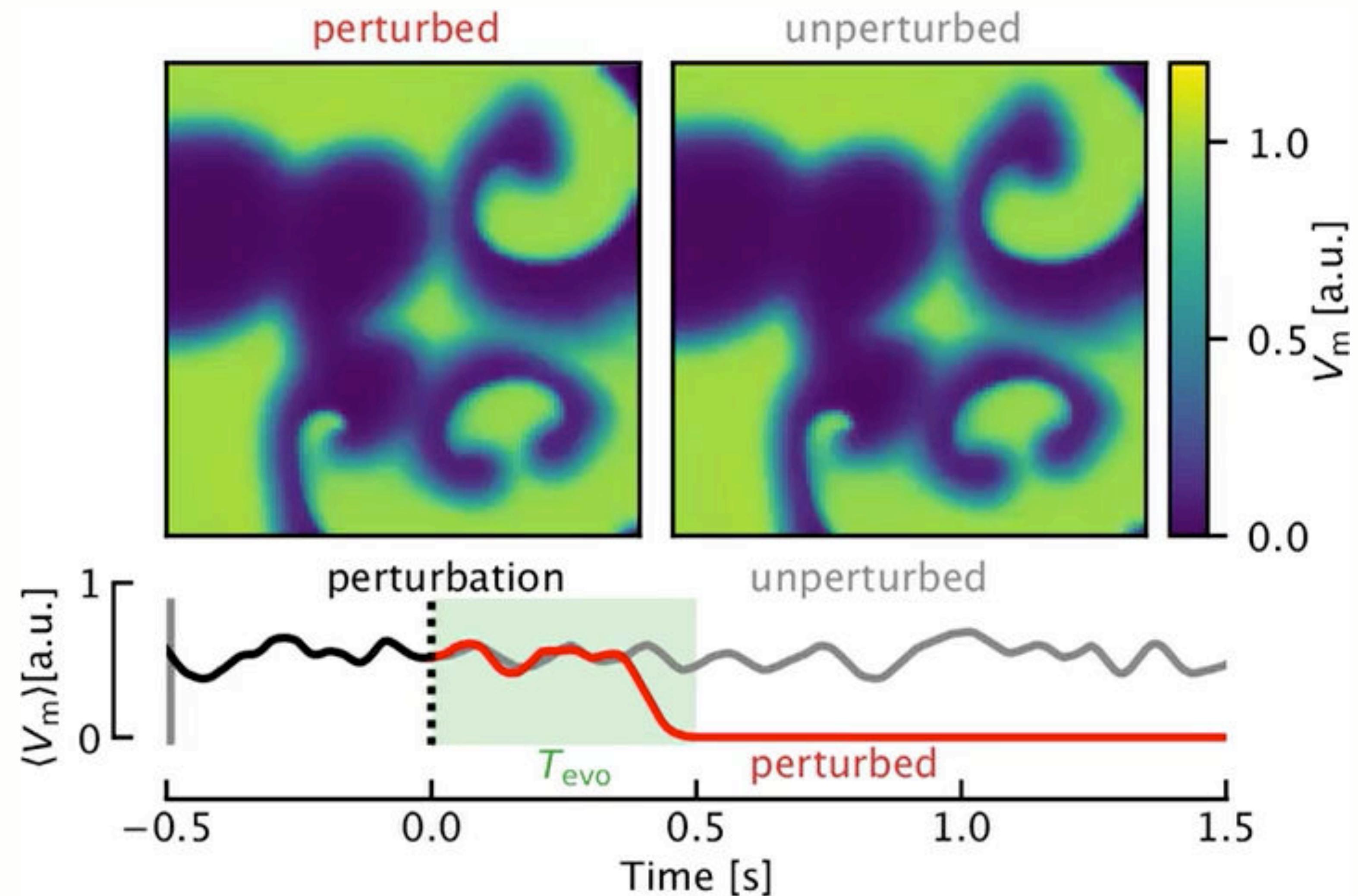
kick state to neighbouring orbit with
(much) shorter transient time
can be achieved with (very) small perturbations

Controlling Transient Chaos

Terminating spiral wave chaos a with few single perturbations

Fenton-Karma model

$T_{\text{evo}} = 500 \text{ ms}$



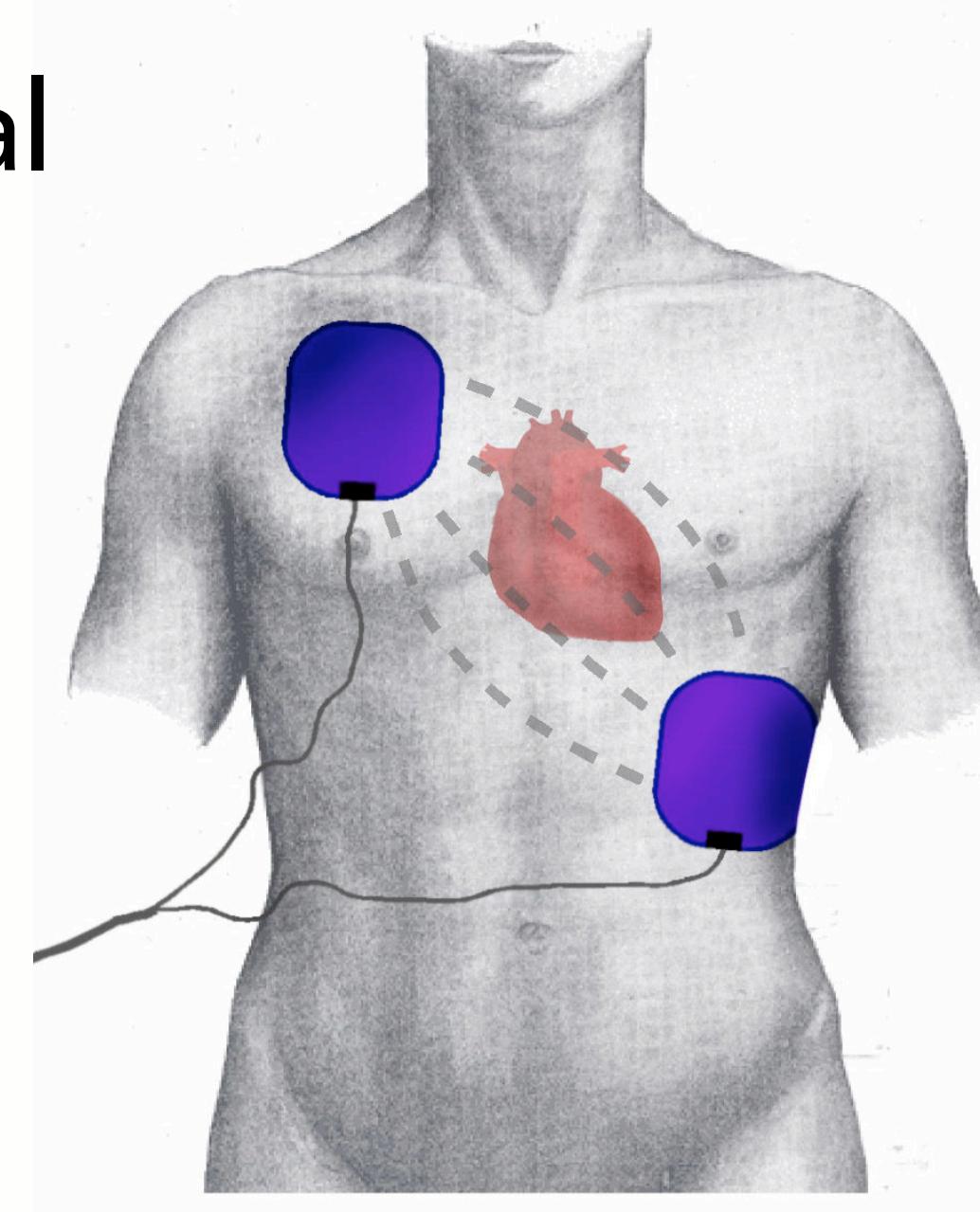
T. Lilienkamp and U. Parlitz,
Chaos 30, 051108 (2020)

Terminating Cardiac Arrhythmias (Defibrillation)

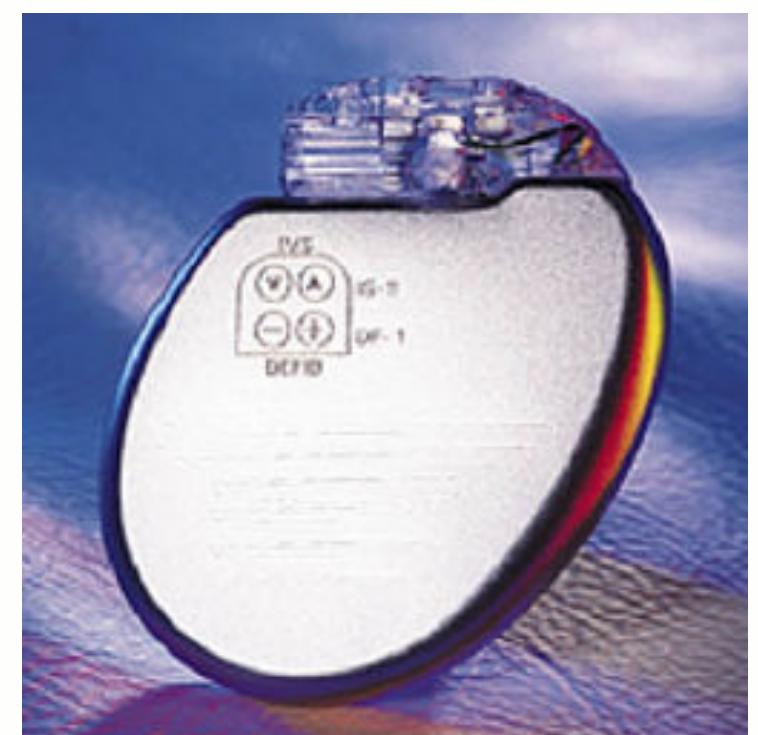
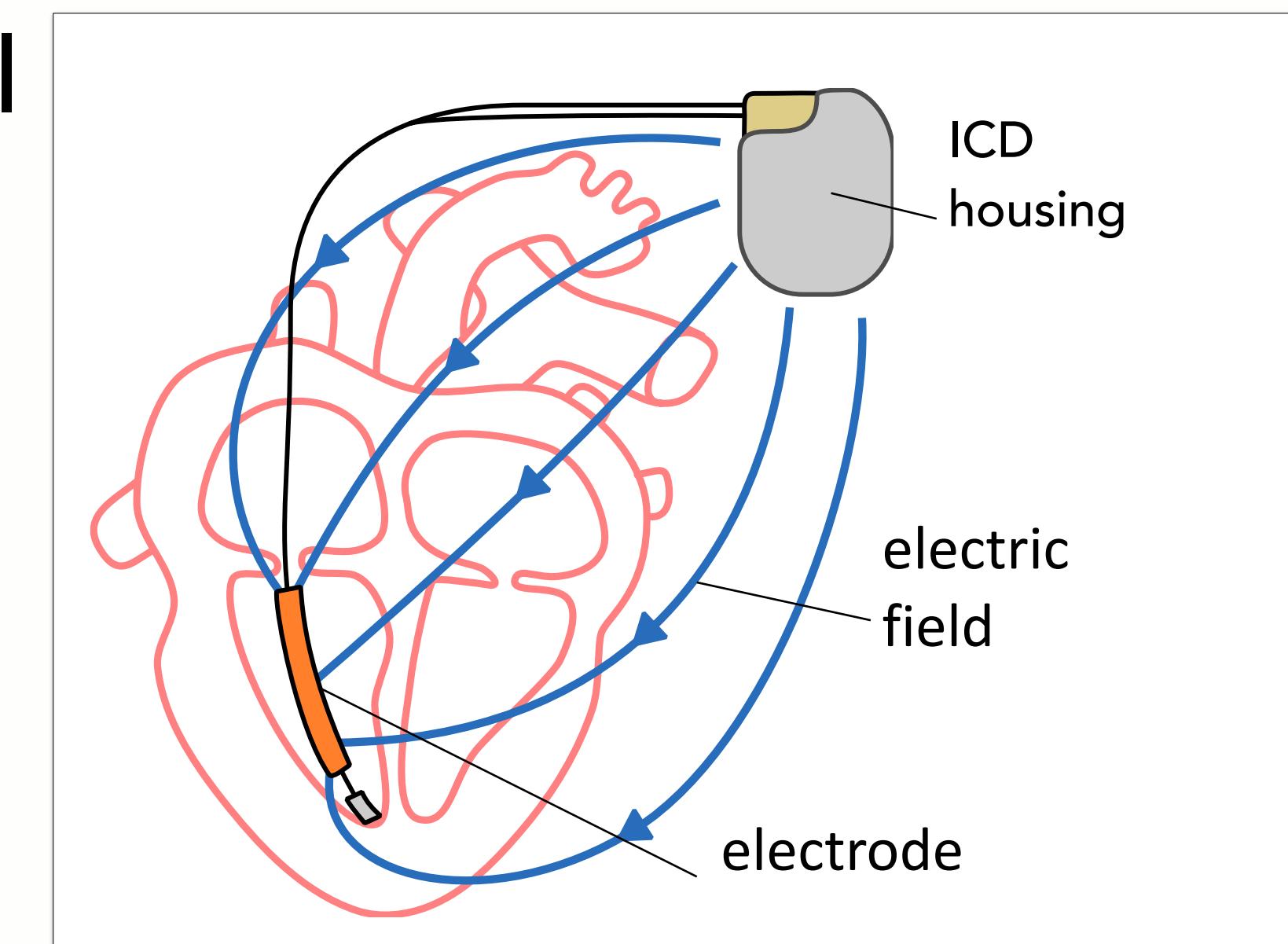
Defibrillation

Principle: Reset electrical activity of all cells by synchronous excitation

external



internal



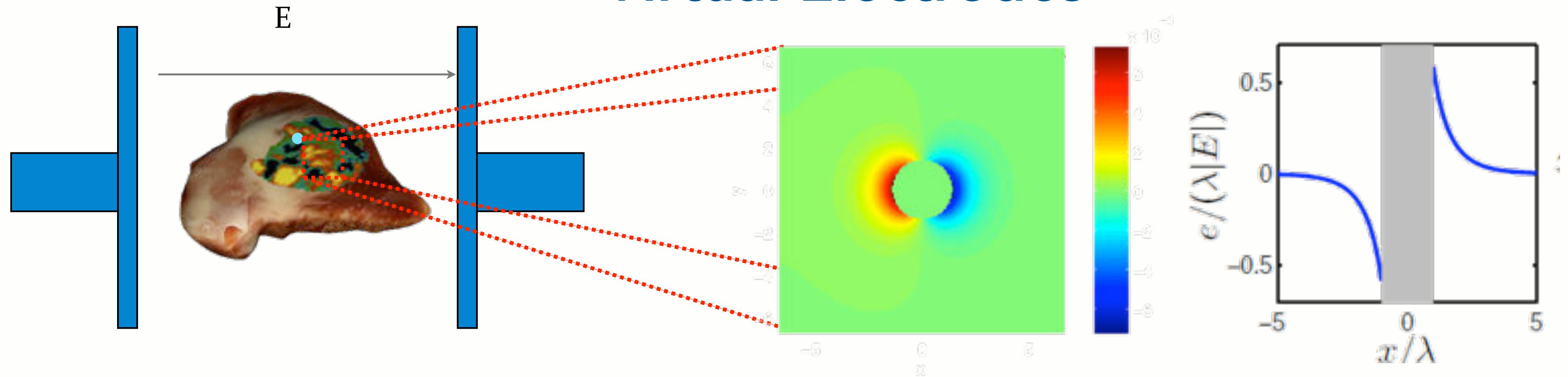
Electric shocks: energy 360J (external) 40 J (internal) 1000 V 30 A 12 ms

Severe side effects: tissue damage - traumatic pain

G.P. Walcott et al., Resuscitation 59, 59-70 (2003)

Terminating Cardiac Arrhythmias

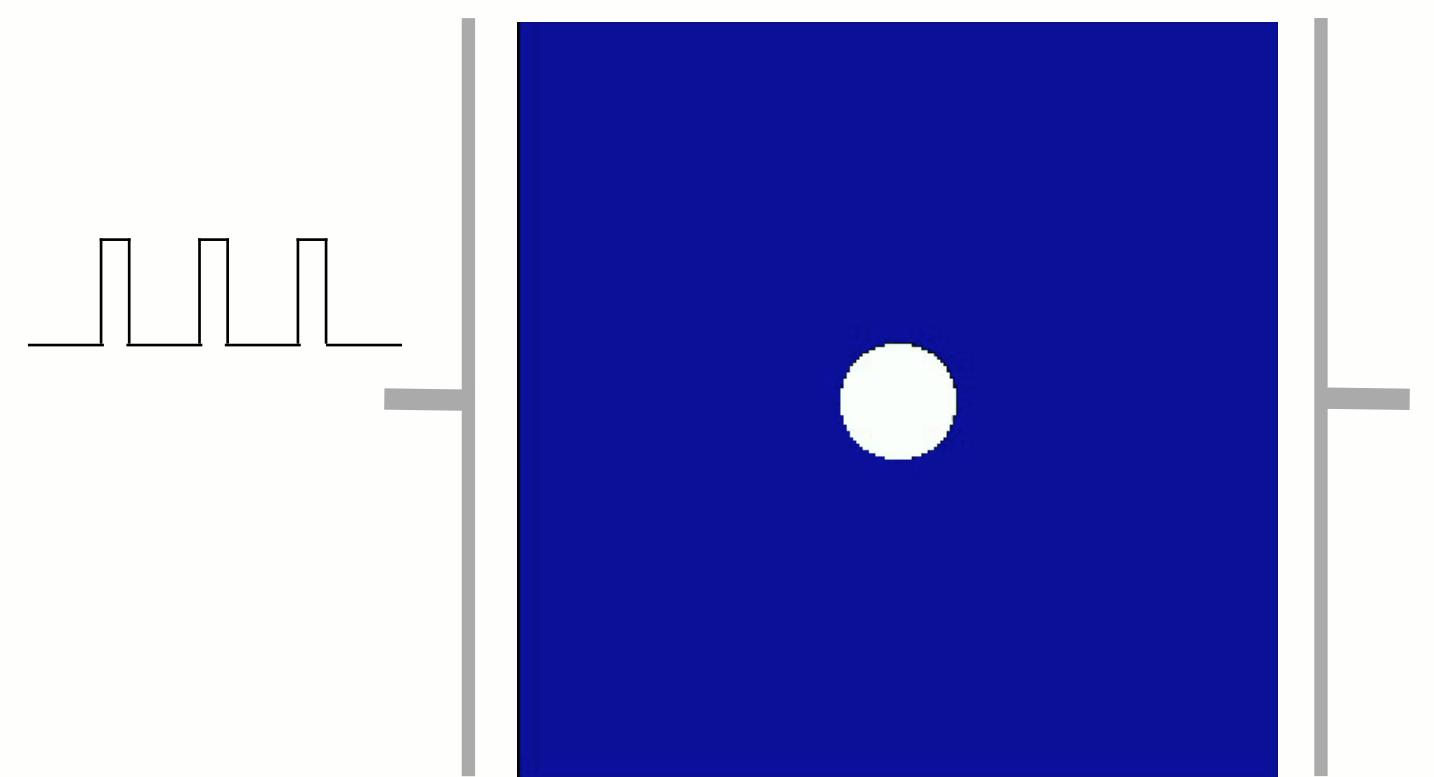
Virtual Electrodes



Blood vessels, scars, fatty tissue

- are obstacles to electrical conduction
- may act as **virtual electrodes**

Super-threshold depolarization leads to **wave emission**
if a short **rectangular electric field pulse** is applied.



A. Pumir and V. Krinsky, J. Theor. Biol. 199, 311 (1999); P. Bittihn et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 109, 118106 (2012)

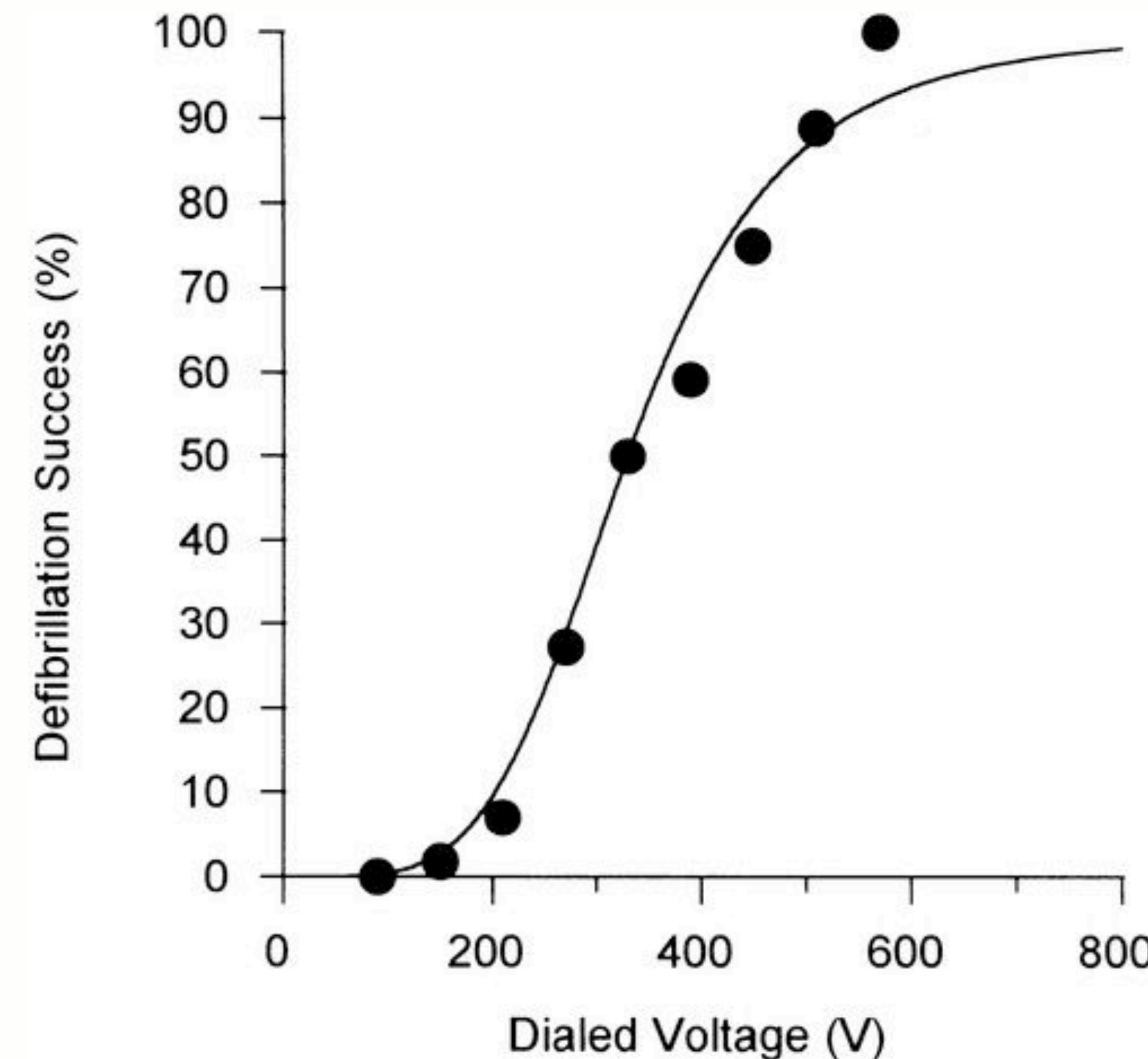
Terminating Cardiac Arrhythmias

Termination with a single electrical pulse - conventional defibrillation

Probability of defibrillation
versus shock voltage for
273 shocks in 23 hearts

sigmoid dose-response curve

from: K.F. Kwaku and S.M. Dillon,
Circulation Research 79, 957–973 (1996)

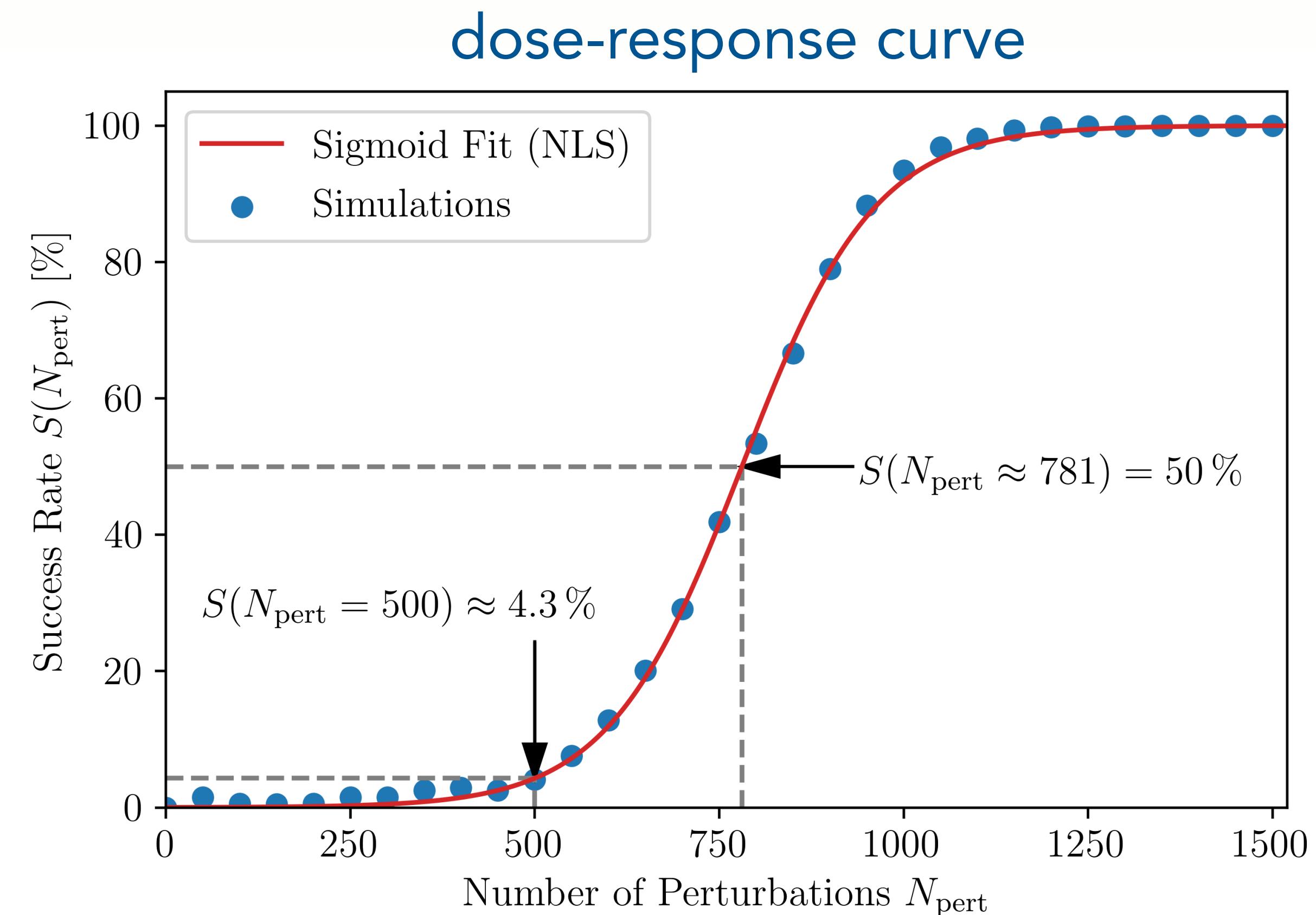


Terminating Cardiac Arrhythmias

Pulse timing matters

simulation study with virtual electrodes simulated by local current injection

- 50 random configurations of N_{pert} perturbations sites acting like virtual electrodes
- 20 realisations (initial conditions)
- compute average success rate from 1000 examples for different numbers N_{pert} of activated virtual electrodes
- larger N_{pert} corresponds to higher field strengths of applied pulses



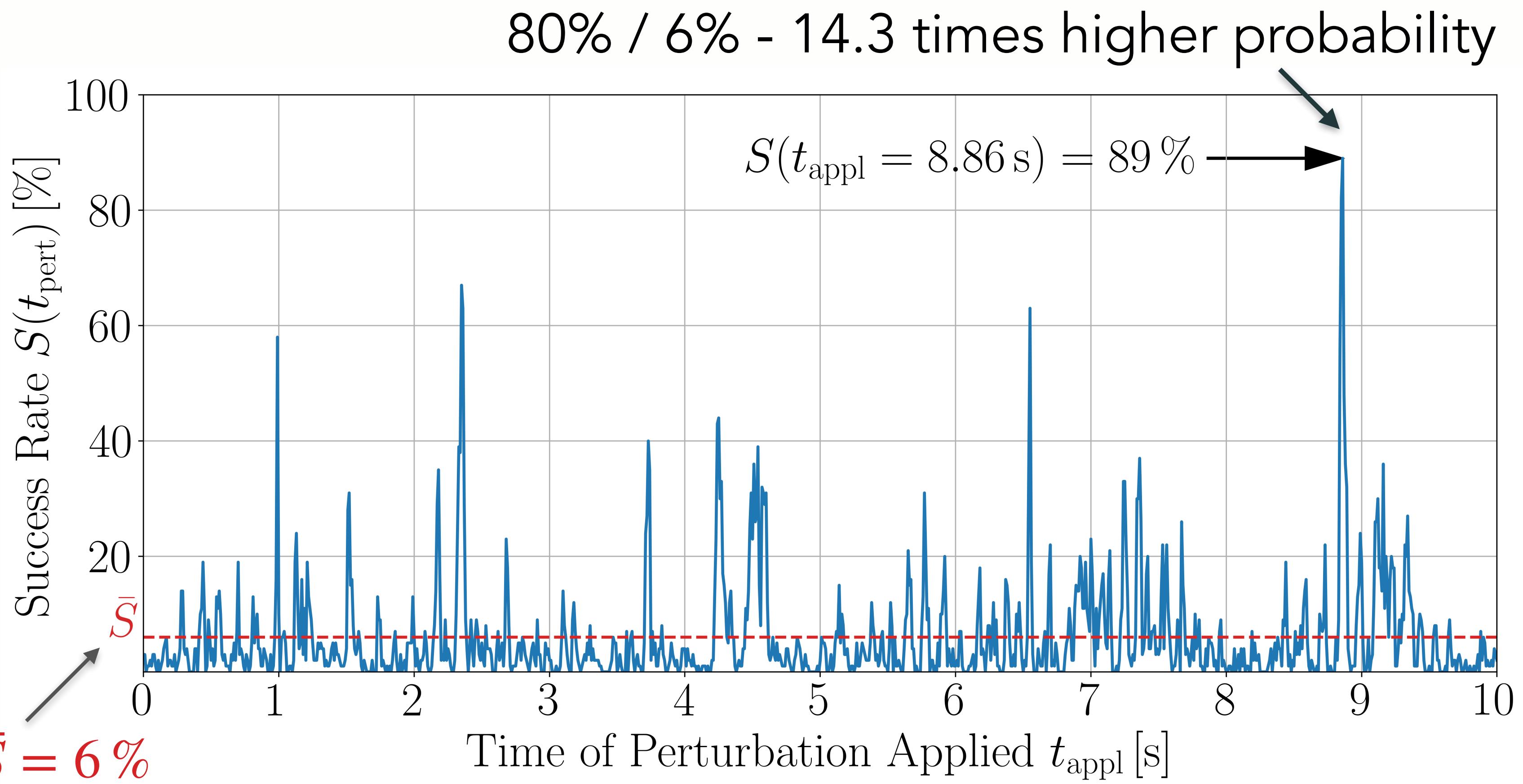
Terminating Cardiac Arrhythmias

Success of termination attempts strongly depends on current state of the system
(i.e., time when pulse is applied)

average success rate of
100 different configurations of
 $N_{\text{pert}} = 500$ perturbations
independently applied
every 10 ms

perturbation was
successful if there are no
phase singularities left
after 500ms

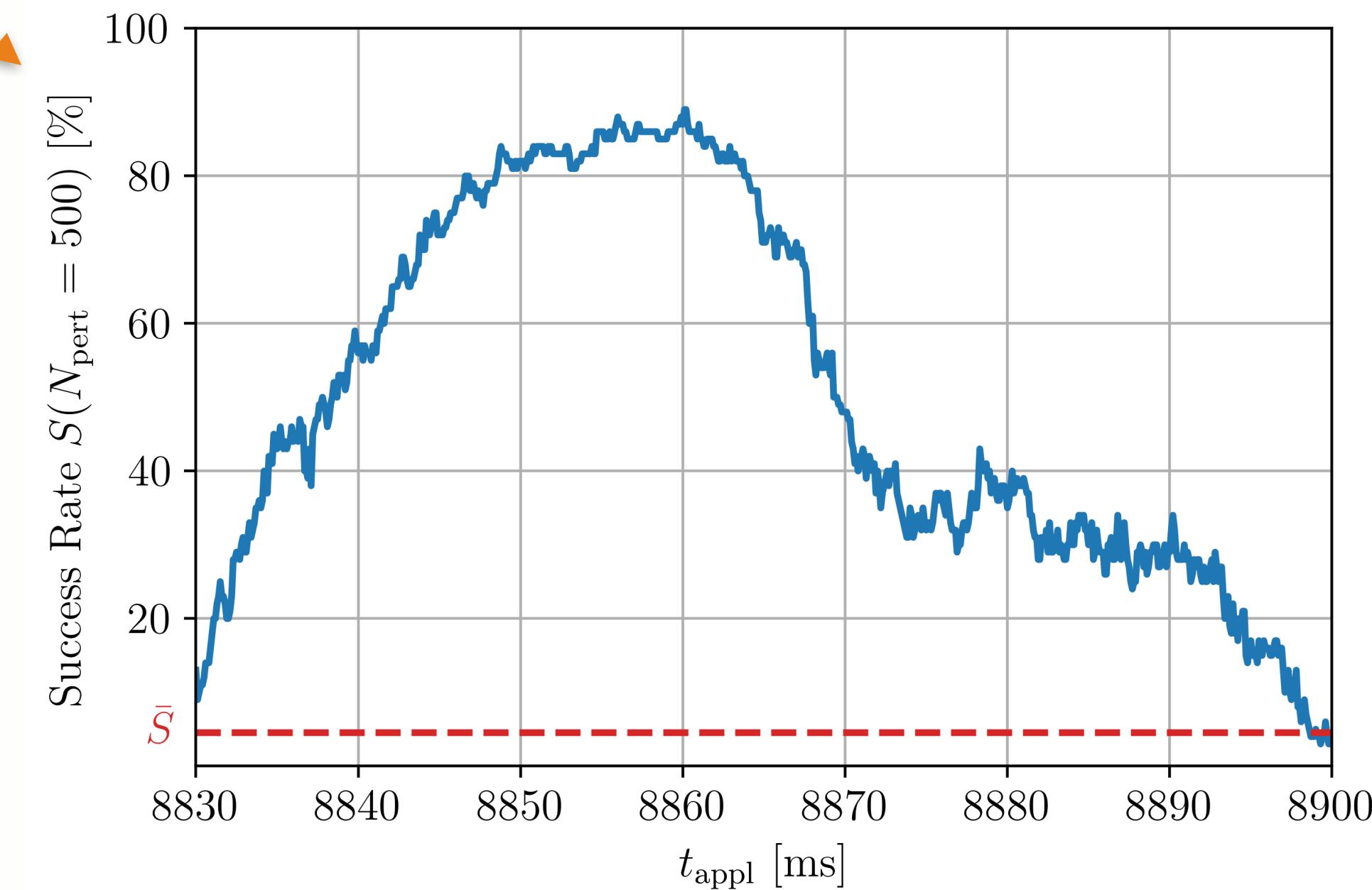
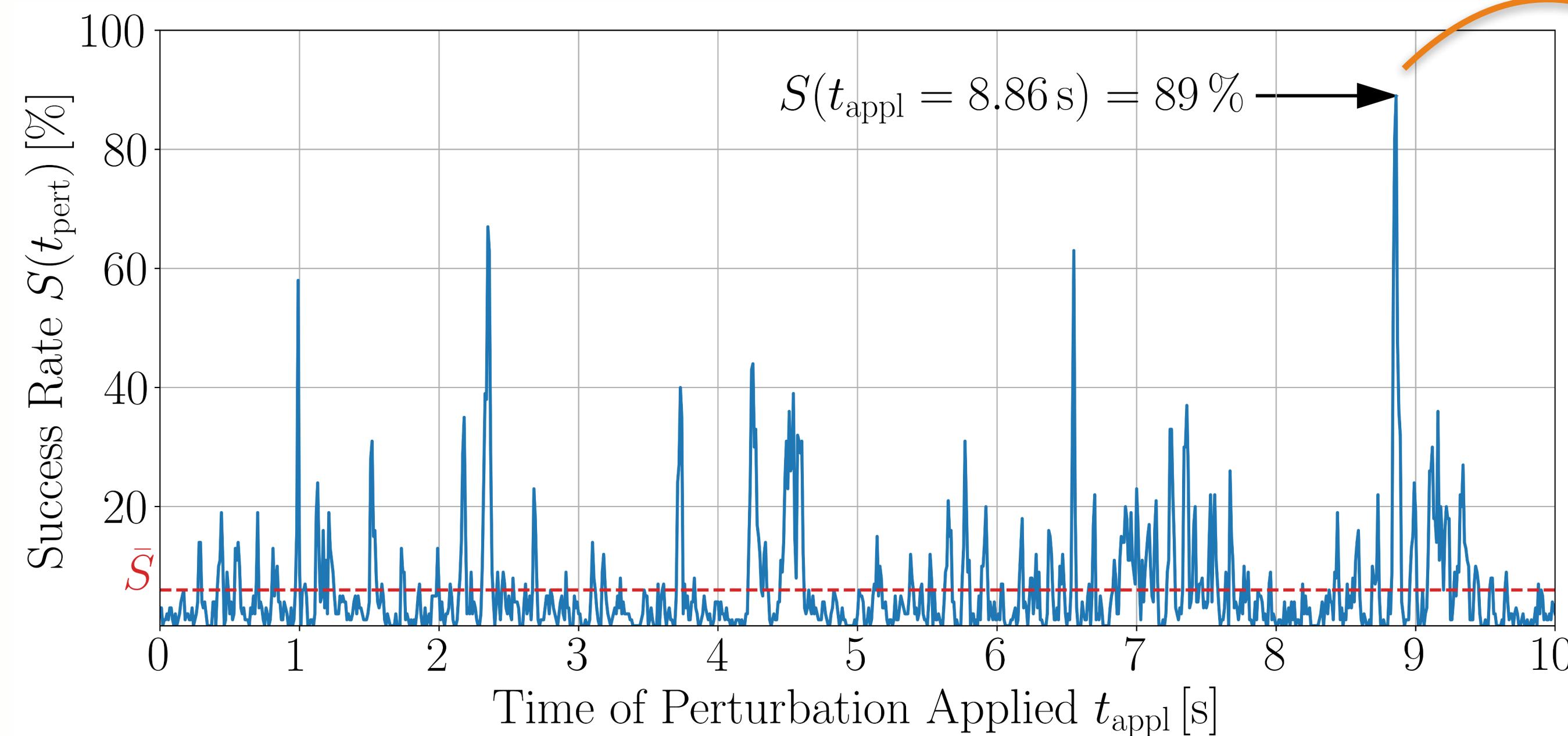
average success rate $\bar{S} = 6\%$



Terminating Cardiac Arrhythmias

Width of the peaks

$N_{\text{pert}} = 500$ perturbation sites (~ virtual electrodes)



There are **short windows in time** where the termination of chaos (~ fibrillation) is possible with **low N_{pert}** (~ low energy).

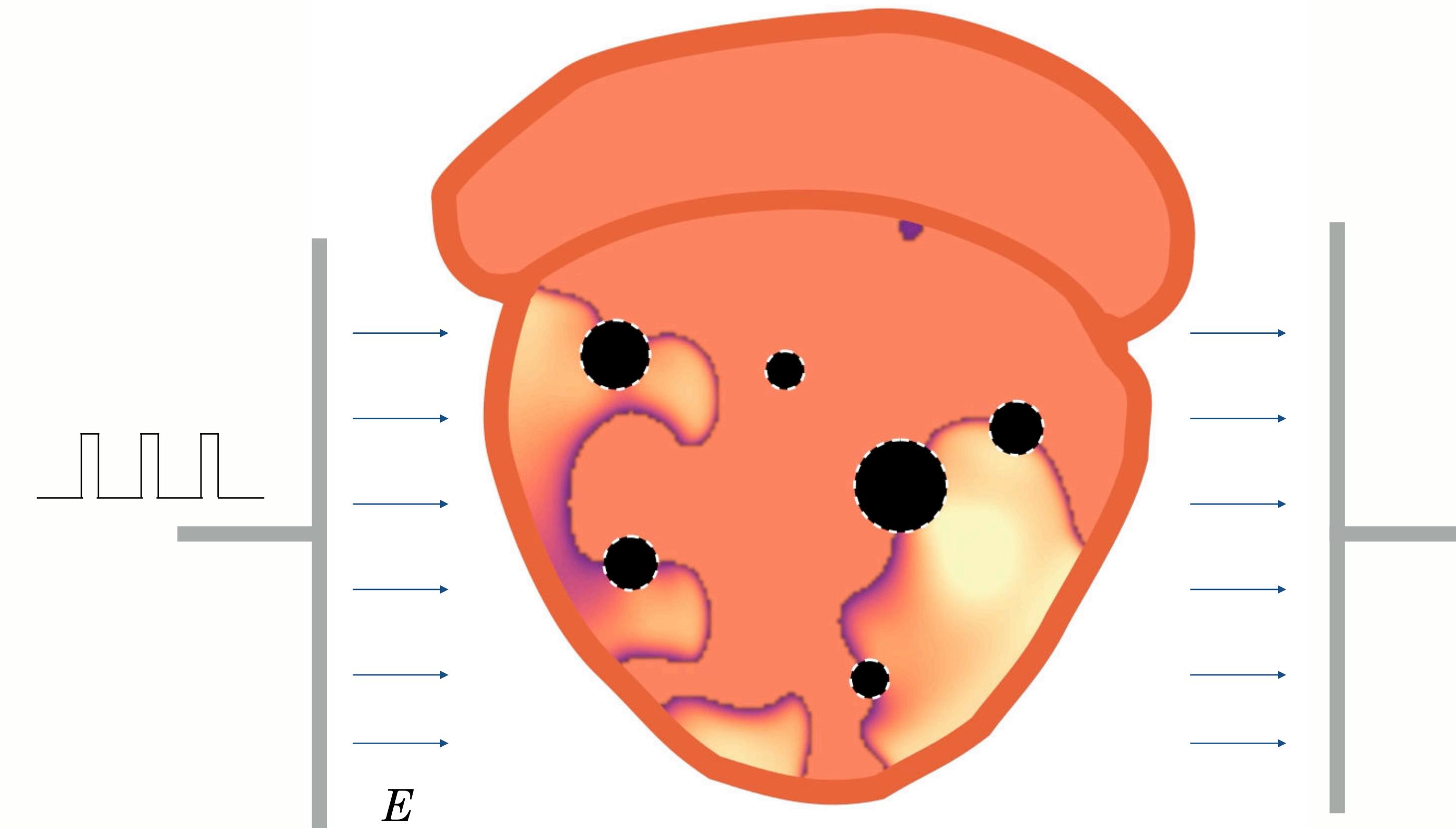
Challenge: Detect these windows using information from observable time series, only!

Terminating Cardiac Arrhythmias

**Terminate with a sequence of (weak) pulses
instead of a single strong shock**

Terminating Cardiac Arrhythmias

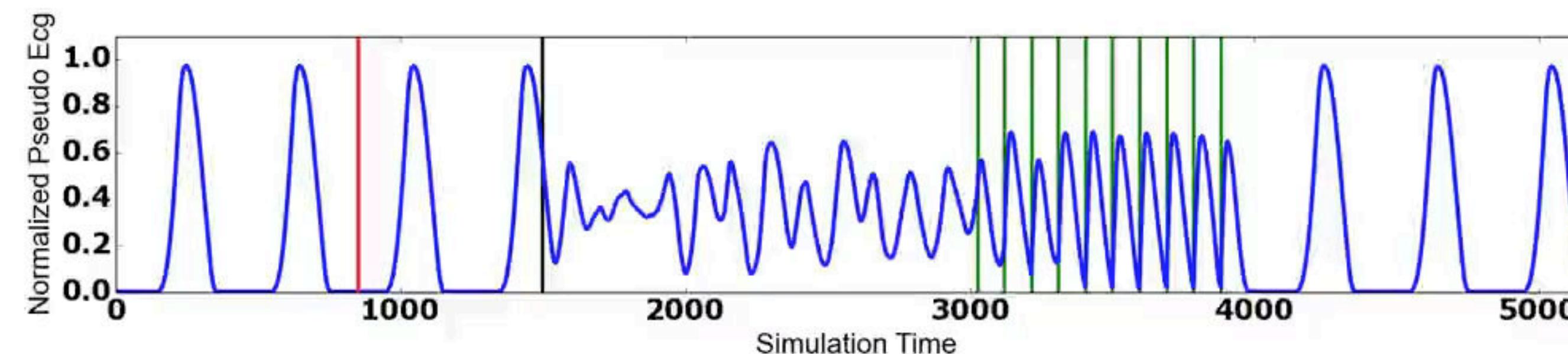
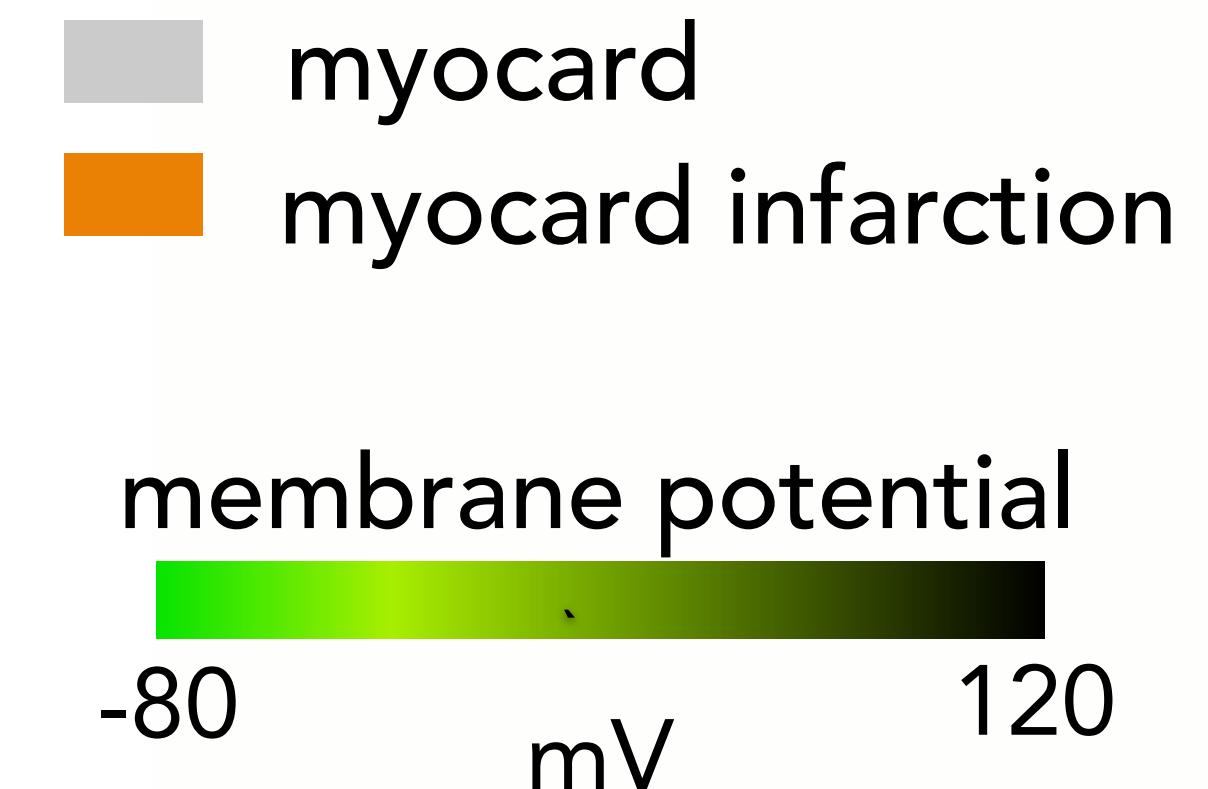
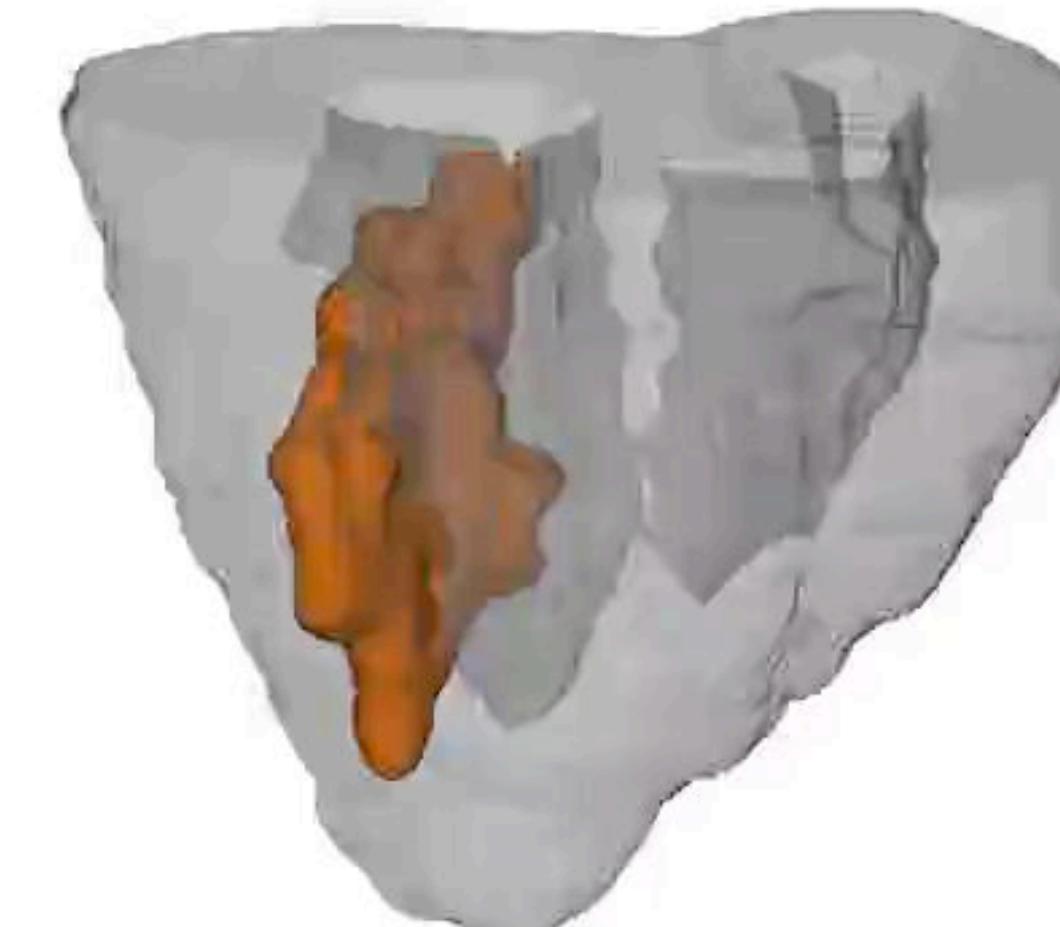
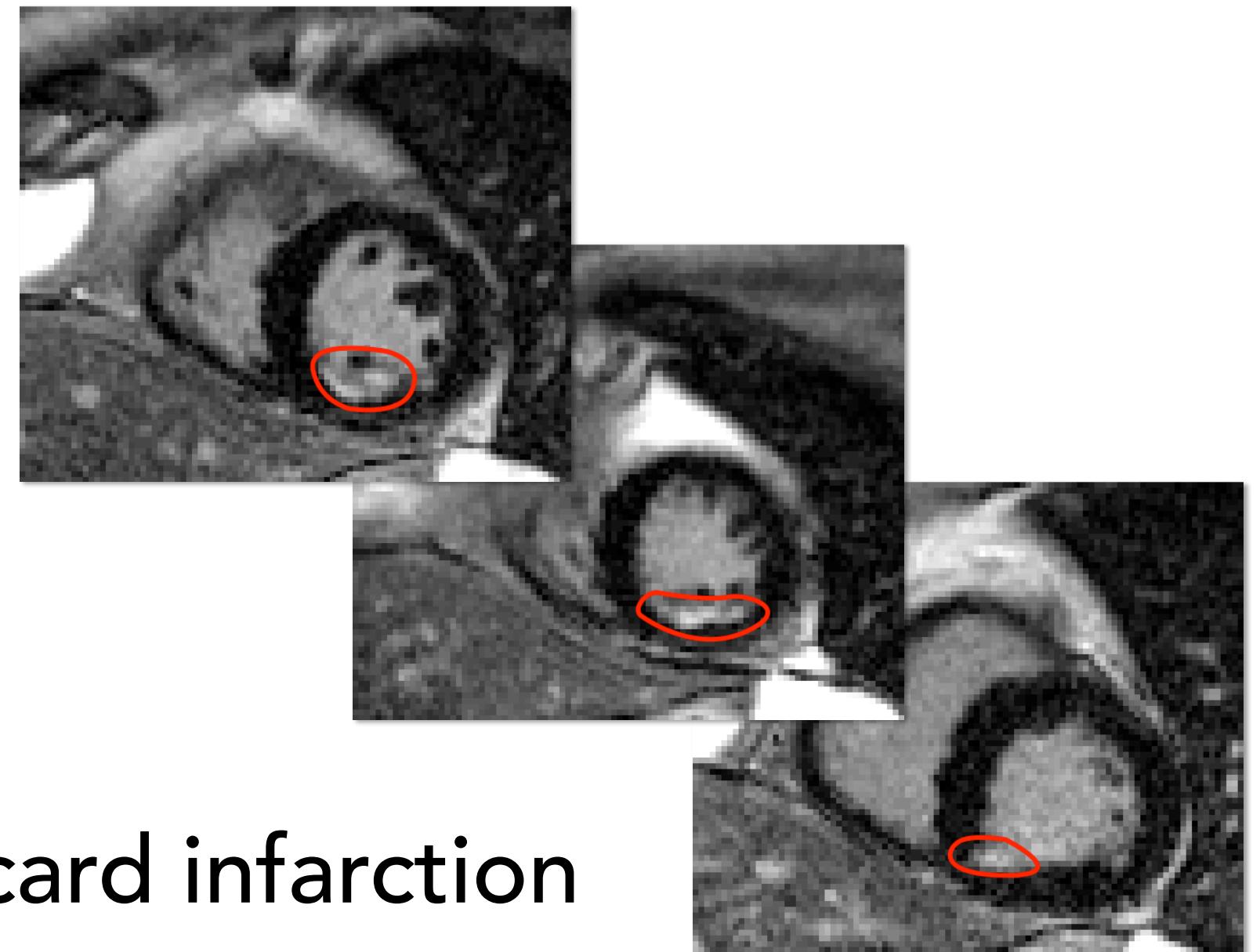
Recruiting Networks of Virtual Electrodes for Terminating Cardiac Arrhythmias



Animation: T. Lilienkamp

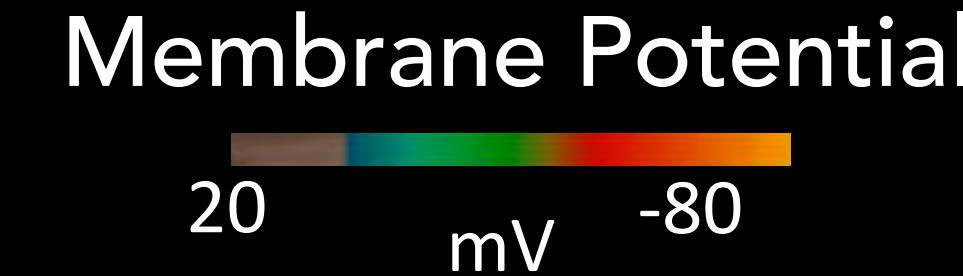
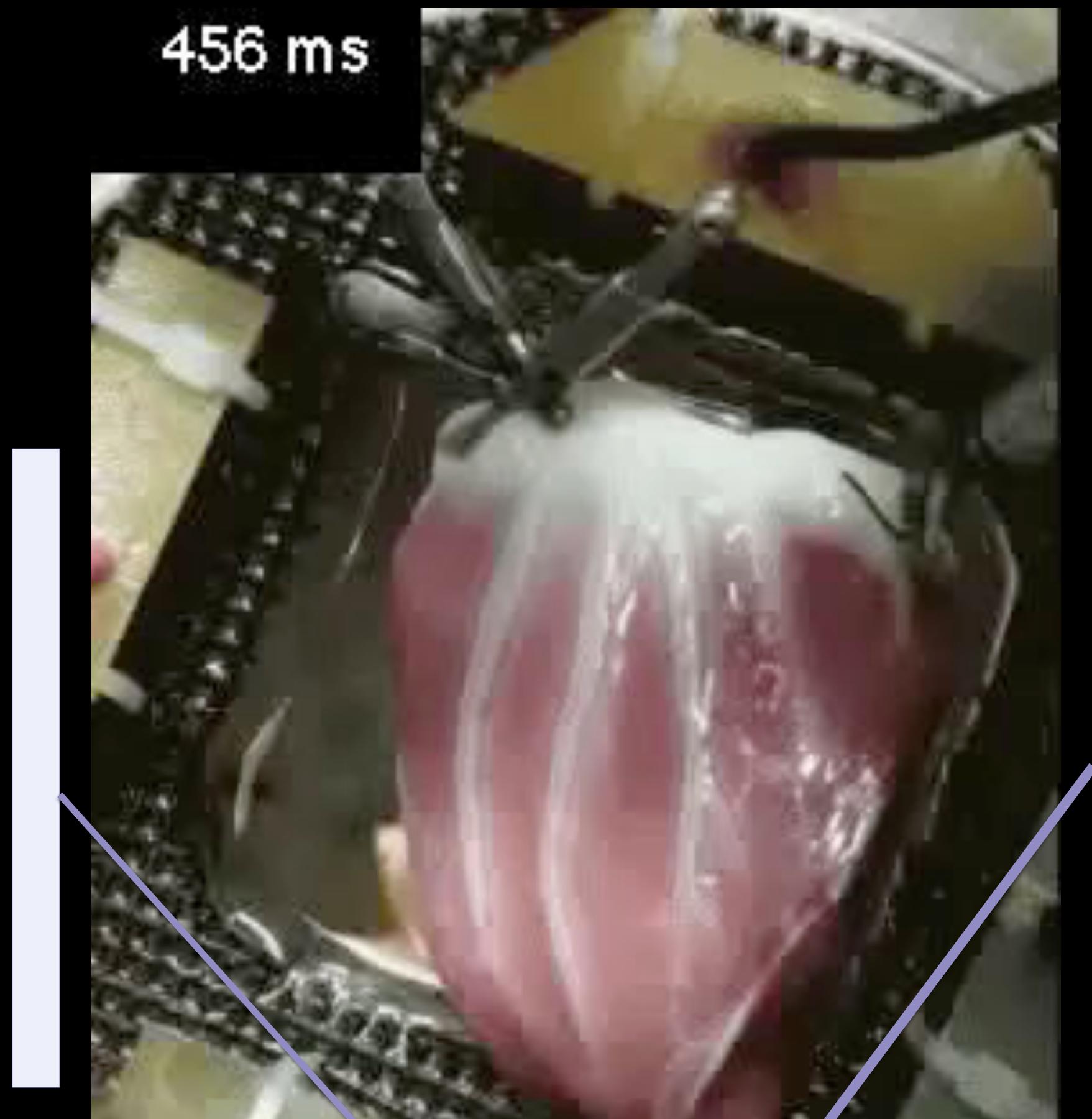
Terminating Cardiac Arrhythmias

Simulation using a MRT-based heart model

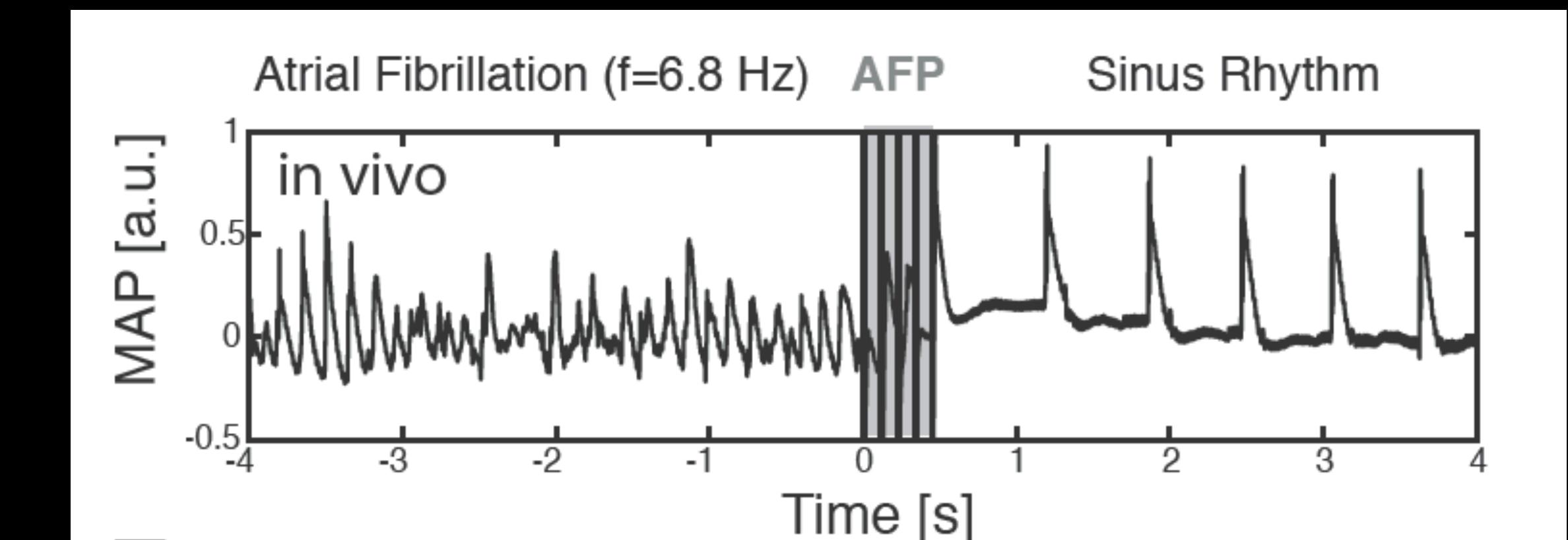


T. Lilienkamp

Low-Energy Anti-Fibrillation Pacing (LEAP)



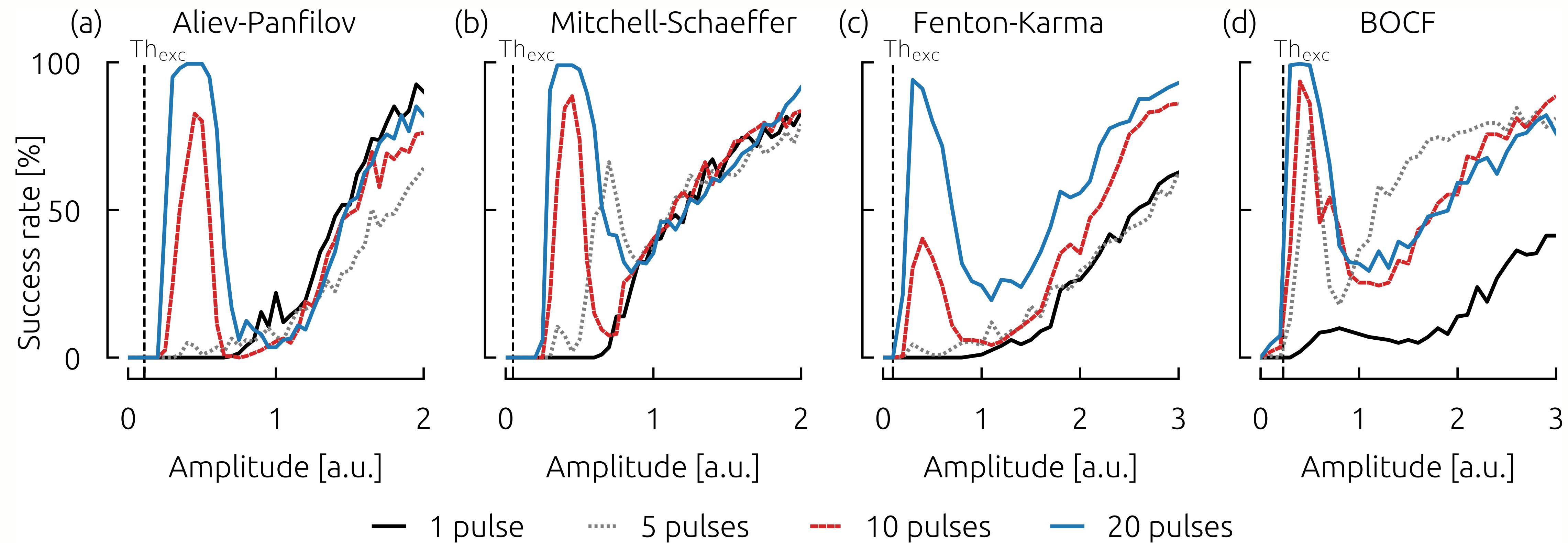
N = 5 low energy pulses
E = 1.4 V/cm
dt = 90 ms



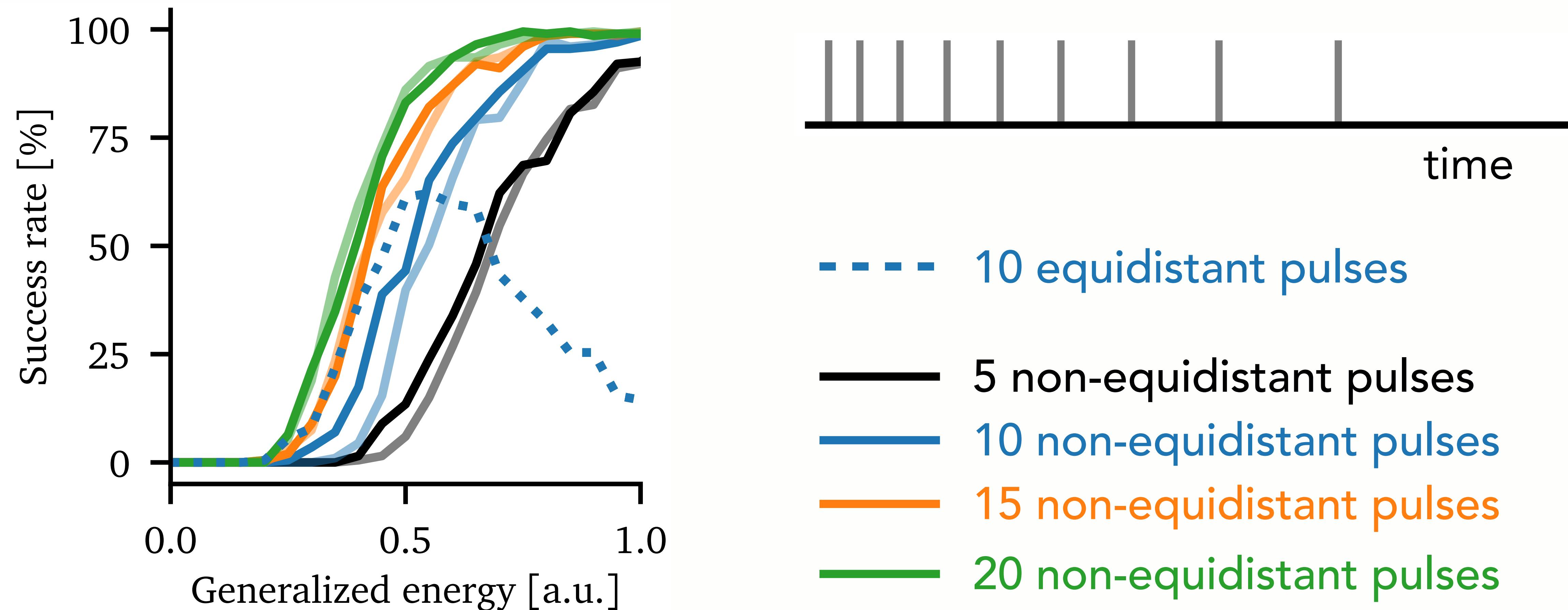
S. Luther et al., Nature 475, 235 (2011)

Terminating Cardiac Arrhythmias

Using sequences of pulses may result in non-monotonous dose-response curves and a peak of high termination probability at low pacing energy



Use non-equidistant pulse sequences: Deceleration Control



Summary

- data driven modelling is a promising approach to predict excitable cardiac dynamics and to reconstruct quantities that are difficult observe directly
- complex cardiac dynamics can be governed by transient chaos
- simulation results indicate that pulse timing is crucial for efficient termination of arrhythmic activity
- (decelerated) pulse sequences of low energy may provide an alternative for defibrillation avoiding strong shocks with adverse side effects

Acknowledgement

Collaboration and support of Stefan Luther, Thomas Lilienkamp, Sebastian Herzog, Alexander Schlemmer, all members of the Research Group Biomedical Physics at the Max Planck Institute for Dynamics and Self-Organization, Göttingen, our clinical partners at the University Medical Center Göttingen (UMG), and many other colleagues and friends is gratefully acknowledged.



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Thank you!