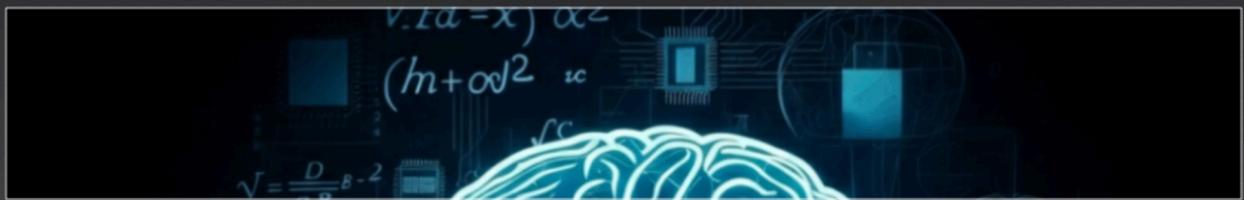


MODELLING NEURAL SYSTEMS



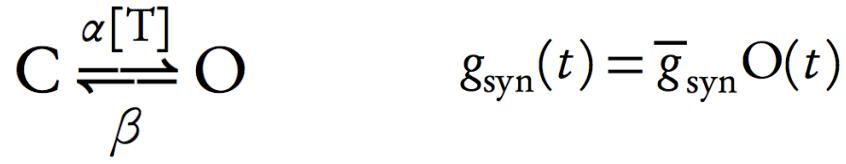
COMPUTATIONAL MODELLING OF NEURONS AND MICROCIRCUITS

Prof. Ing. Michele GIUGLIANO, PhD
Firing Rate Models

Plan for the day

- Simplified models of networks: mean-field hypothesis
- Recurrent excitation as a mechanism to amplify
- Recurrent excitation as a mechanism to change equilibria
- Feedback inhibition as a mechanism for rate oscillations
- Intrinsic cell properties: additional contributing mechanisms for (sparse) rate oscillations

Chemical synaptic transmission
 [unidirectional, fast, with “sign”]
 model of a ionotropic receptor



$$\frac{dO(t)}{dt} = -\beta O + \alpha [T] C$$

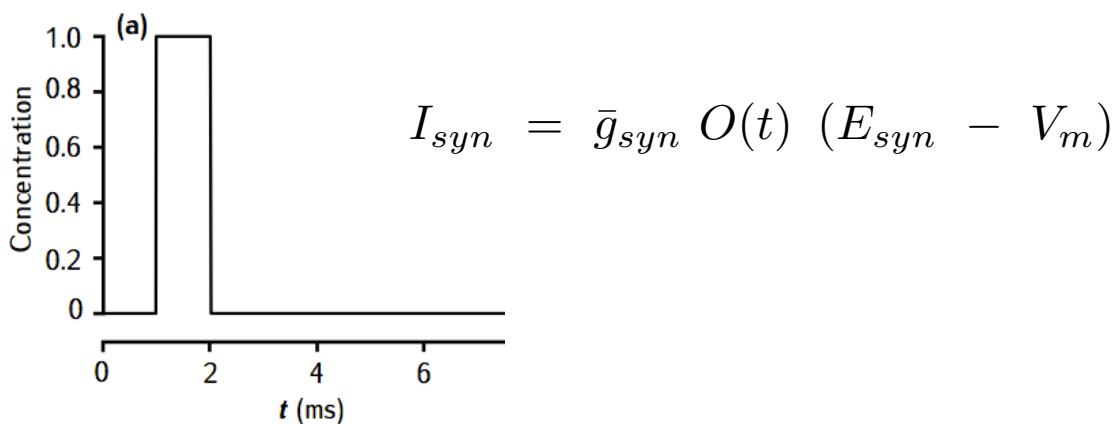
$$\frac{dC(t)}{dt} = +\beta O - \alpha [T] C$$

$$O(t) + C(t) = 1$$

Destexhe et al. [1994]

$$\frac{dO}{dt} = \frac{O_\infty - O}{\tau_O} \quad O_\infty = \frac{\alpha T(t)}{\alpha T(t) + \beta}$$

$$\tau_O = \frac{1}{\alpha T(t) + \beta}$$



from Sterratt et al., 2011

Chemical synaptic transmission
simplified description of [a population of] ionotropic receptors



$$\frac{dO(t)}{dt} = -\beta O + \alpha [T] C$$

$$\frac{dO}{dt} = -\beta O + \alpha T_{max}(1 - O) \sum_k \delta(t - t_k)$$

$$\frac{dO}{dt} \approx -\beta O + \alpha T_{max} \sum_k \delta(t - t_k)$$

Even simpler models
of synaptic transmission:

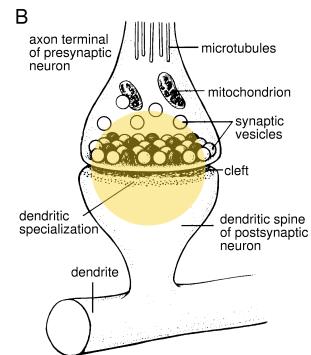
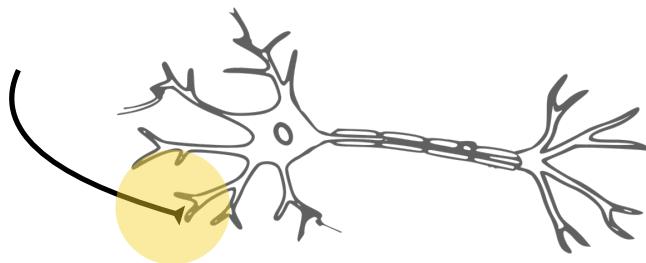
“mean-field” descriptions
(firing rate models)

current-driven model synapse

$$I_{syn} \approx \bar{I} O(t) \quad \bar{I} = \bar{g}_{syn} (E_{syn} - < V_m >)$$

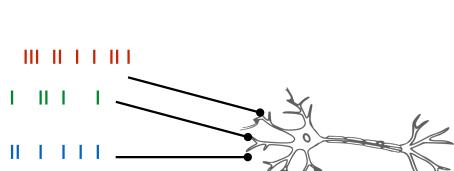
$$\frac{dI_{syn}}{dt} \approx -\beta I_{syn} + W \sum_k \delta(t - t_k)$$

$$W = \bar{g}\alpha T_{max}$$



TOTAL [current-driven] synaptic input

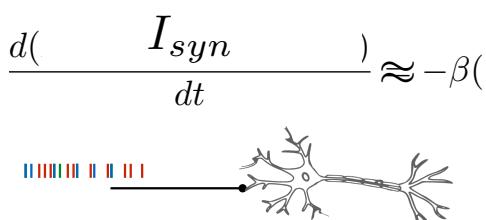
$$C \frac{dV}{dt} = \dots + I_{syn_1} + I_{syn_2} + I_{syn_3}$$



$$\frac{dI_{syn_1}}{dt} \approx -\beta I_{syn_1} + W_1 \sum_{k_1} \delta(t - t_{k_1})$$

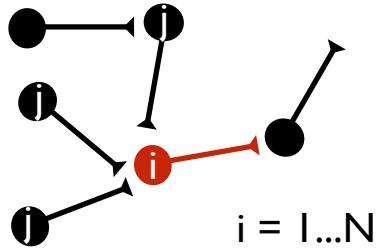
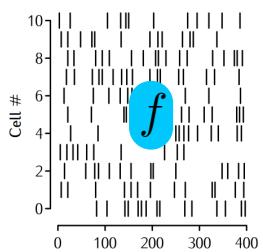
$$\frac{dI_{syn_2}}{dt} \approx -\beta I_{syn_2} + W_2 \sum_{k_2} \delta(t - t_{k_2})$$

$$\frac{dI_{syn_3}}{dt} \approx -\beta I_{syn_3} + W_3 \sum_{k_3} \delta(t - t_{k_3})$$



$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d(\frac{I_{syn}}{dt})}{dt} \approx -\beta (\frac{I_{syn}}{dt}) + \\ + \sum_{m=1}^3 W_m \sum_{k_m} \delta(t - t_{k_m}) \end{aligned}$$

Large [feed-forward] network of neurons



$$\frac{dI_{syn\ i}}{dt} \approx -\beta I_{syn\ i} + \sum_j C_{ij} W_{ij} \sum_{k_j} \delta(t - t_{k_j})$$

- each neuron has identical [intrinsic] parameters...
- each neuron fires independently from each other...
- each one firing asynchronously, irregularly [Poisson], $\sim f$

“Mean-field” approximation:
 neurons are *indistinguishable* and
 share the same **average** synaptic input

$$\frac{dI_{syn\ i}}{dt} \approx -\beta I_{syn\ i} + \sum_j C_{ij} W_{ij} \sum_{k_j} \delta(t - t_{k_j})$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \langle I_{syn} \rangle \approx -\beta \langle I_{syn} \rangle + \sum_j \sum_j \dots >$$

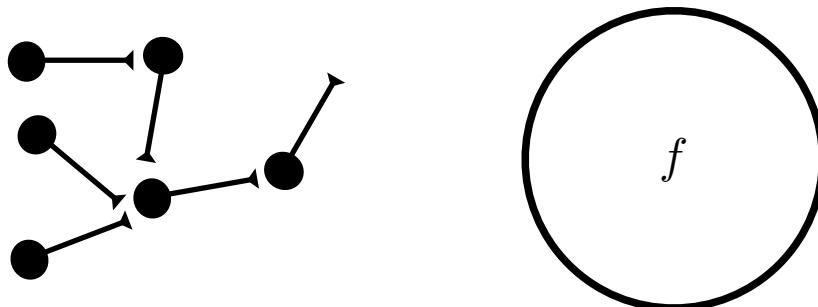
$$\langle C_{ij} W_{ij} \sum_{k_j} \delta(t - t_{k_j}) \rangle = ?? \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{If feed-forward, easy!} \\ \text{If recurrent, ... ??!} \end{array}$$

“Mean-field” approximation:
 neurons are indistinguishable and
 share the same average synaptic input

$$\langle C_{ij} \rangle \langle W_{ij} \rangle \langle \sum_{k_j} \delta(t - t_{k_j}) \rangle = c w f$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \langle I_{syn} \rangle \approx -\beta \langle I_{syn} \rangle + N c w f$$

- each neuron has identical [intrinsic] parameters...
- each neuron fires independently from each other...
- each one firing asynchronously, irregularly [Poisson], $\sim f$

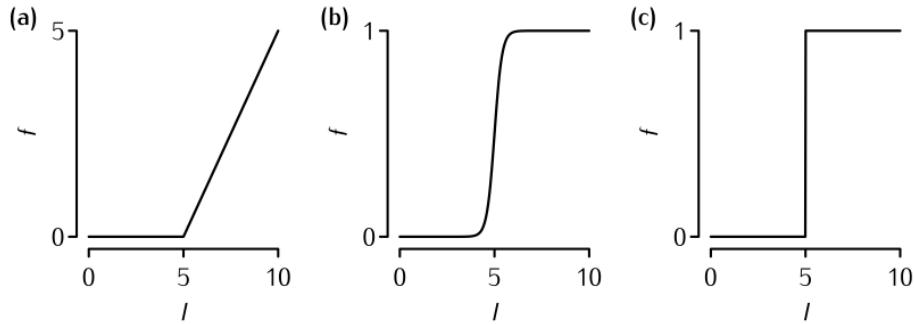


$$\frac{d}{dt} \langle I_{syn} \rangle \approx -\beta \langle I_{syn} \rangle + N c w f$$

$$f = F(I_{syn})$$

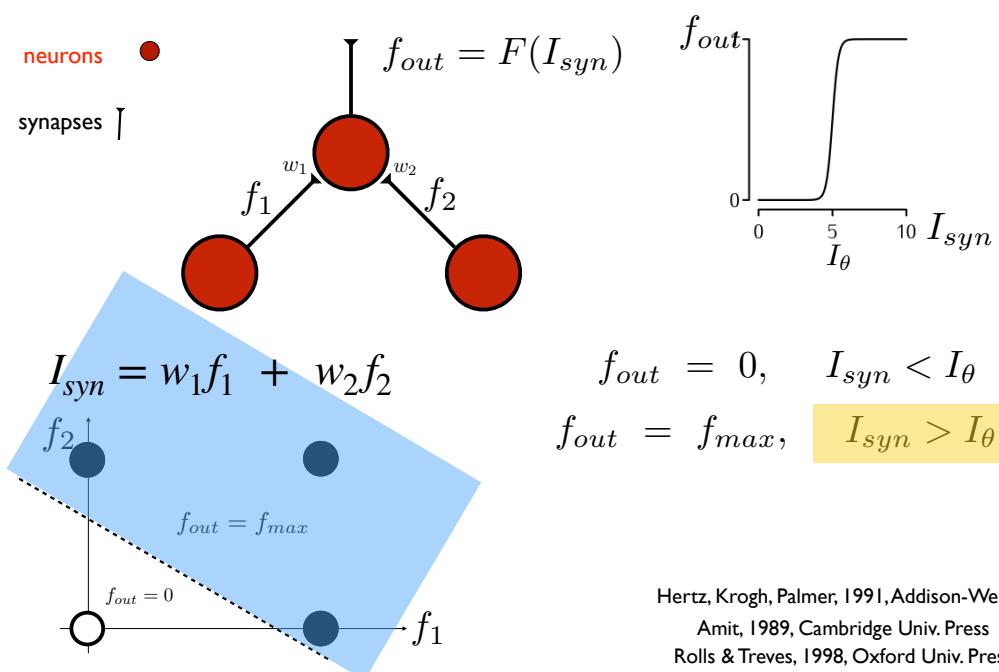
Rate models [large populations]

$$f_i = F(I_{syn_i})$$

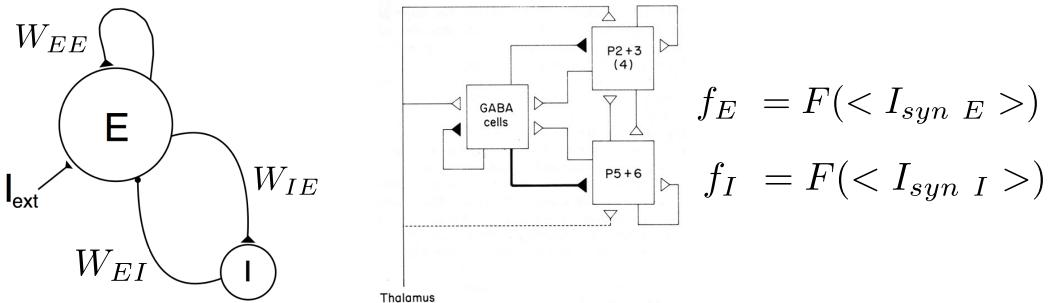


from Sterratt et al., 2011

Rate models for the description of a **feedforward** cortical circuit



Rate models for the description of a (cortical column) **recurrent** circuit?



$$\frac{d}{dt} \langle I_{syn} E \rangle \approx -\beta_E \langle I_{syn} E \rangle + N_E c_{EE} w_{EE} f_E - N_I c_{EI} w_{EI} f_I + I_{ext}$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \langle I_{syn} I \rangle \approx -\beta_I \langle I_{syn} I \rangle + N_E c_{IE} w_{IE} f_E$$

Douglas & Martin, 1991

$$\frac{d}{dt} \langle I_{syn} \rangle \approx -\beta \langle I_{syn} \rangle + N c w f$$

$$f = F(I_{syn})$$

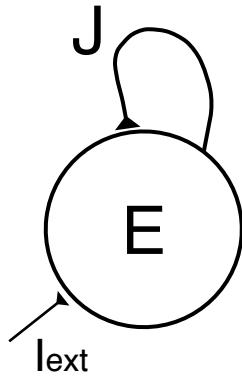
$$\tau \frac{dh}{dt} = -h + J E$$

$$E = F(h)$$

$$\boxed{\tau = \frac{1}{\beta}}$$

$$\boxed{J = N c w \frac{1}{\beta}}$$

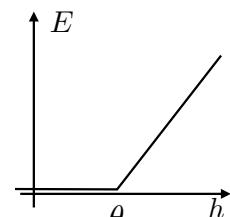
Rate model describing a single
large population of excitatory neurons
recurrently connected



$$\tau \dot{h} = -h + J E + I_{ext}$$

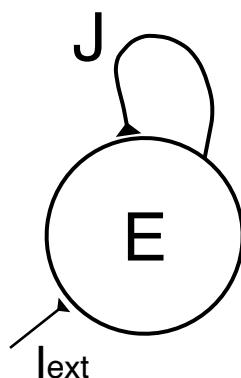
$$E = [\alpha (h - \theta)]_+$$

$$\begin{aligned}[x]_+ &= x && \text{for } x > 0 \\ [x]_+ &= 0 && \text{for } x < 0\end{aligned}$$

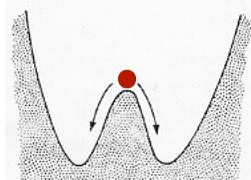


see e.g. Abbott & Dayan, 2000

What do we learn on recurrent networks
using (mean-field) rate models?



- amplification of steady-state responses
- slowing down of *reaction times*
- altering of *equilibria*



“Amplification” by recurrent excitation (i.e., positive feedback)

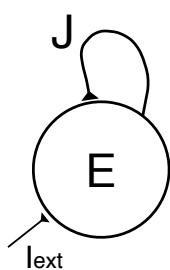
$$h > \theta$$

$$\tau \dot{h} = -h + J\alpha(h - \theta) + I_{ext}$$

$$\tau \dot{h} = -(1 - J\alpha)h + I_{ext} - J\alpha\theta$$

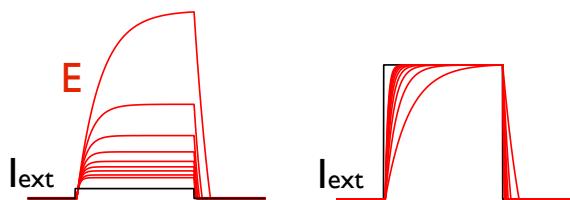
$$\begin{aligned}\dot{h} &= \frac{h_\infty - h}{\tau_h} & h_\infty &= \frac{I_{ext} - J\alpha\theta}{1 - J\alpha} \\ E &= [\alpha(h - \theta)]_+ & \tau_h &= \frac{\tau}{1 - J\alpha}\end{aligned}$$

Recurrent excitation (i.e., positive feedback)



- amplifies steady-state responses
- slows down the reaction times
- alters equilibrium points

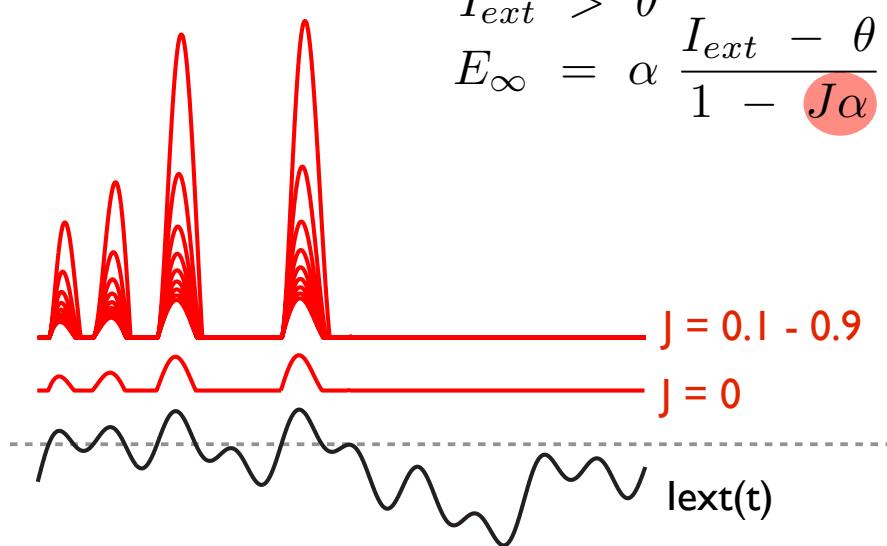
$$\tau \dot{h} = -h + J E + I_{ext}$$



$$\begin{aligned}h_\infty &= \frac{I_{ext} - J\alpha\theta}{1 - J\alpha} \\ \tau_h &= \frac{\tau}{1 - J\alpha}\end{aligned}$$

Amplification by recurrent excitation (i.e., positive feedback)

$$I_{ext} > \theta \\ E_\infty = \alpha \frac{I_{ext} - \theta}{1 - J\alpha}$$

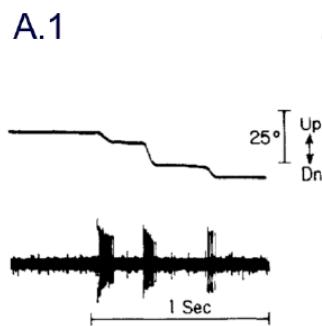


“Temporal integration”

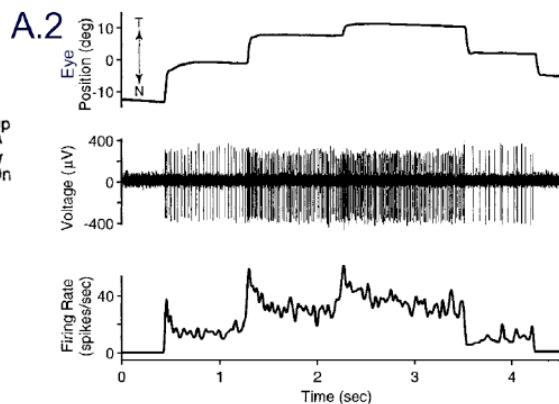
Oculomotor system

Brainstem nuclei neurons encode (eye-velocity) motor commands for saccades as APs bursts. Neurons downstream fire tonically during fixations to maintain the eye muscles' tension and, thereby, the eye position stable.

A **neural “integrator” was hypothesised**, in order to explain how transient inputs as in A.1 result in sustained responses as in A.2. It is not yet known whether it is implemented with network mechanisms or single-cell properties (e.g. complicated extra ion-channels)...



Kaneko et al., 1981
Goldman et al., 2007



“Temporal integration” by recurrent excitation
(i.e., finely-tuned positive feedback)

$$h > \theta$$

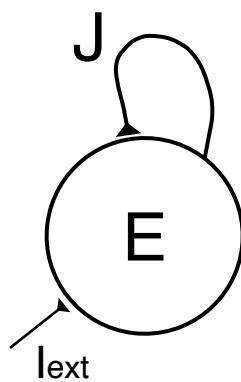
$$\tau \dot{h} = -h + J \alpha (h - \theta) + I_{ext}$$

$$\tau \dot{h} = -(1 - J \alpha) h + I_{ext} - J \alpha \theta$$

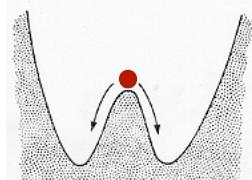
$$J = \alpha^{-1} \quad \tau \dot{h} = I_{ext} - \theta$$

$$h(t) = h(0) + \int_0^t I_{ext}(t') - \theta dt'$$

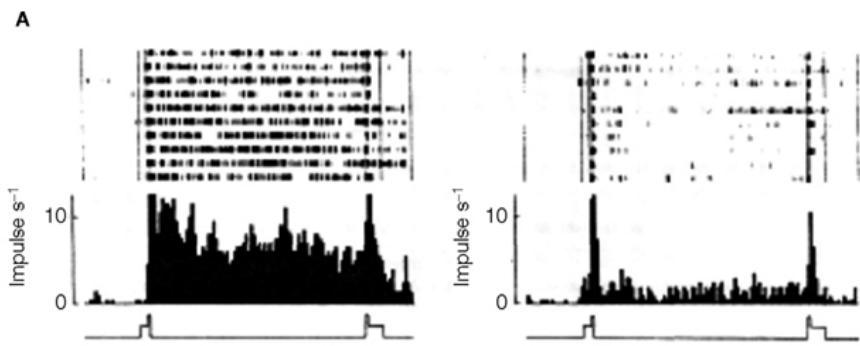
What do we learn on recurrent networks
using (mean-field) rate models?



- amplification of steady-state responses
- slowing down of *reaction times*
- altering of *equilibria*

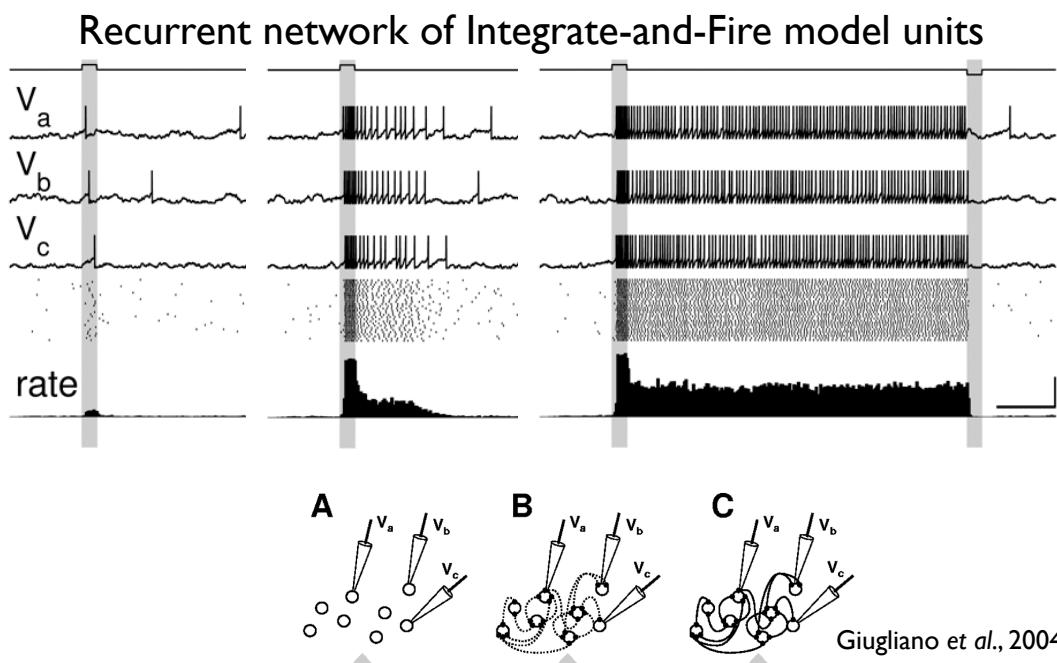


“Persistent activity” in the primate Infero-temporal cortex, during delay match-to-sample tasks

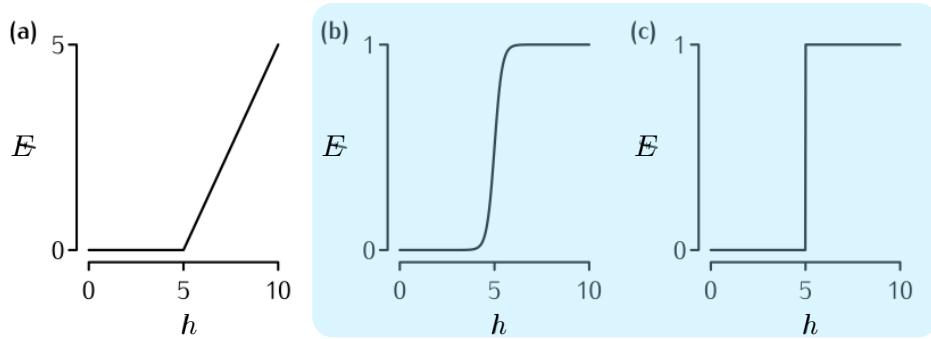


Miyashita, 1988

“Persistent activity” with a recurrent population of excitatory neurons



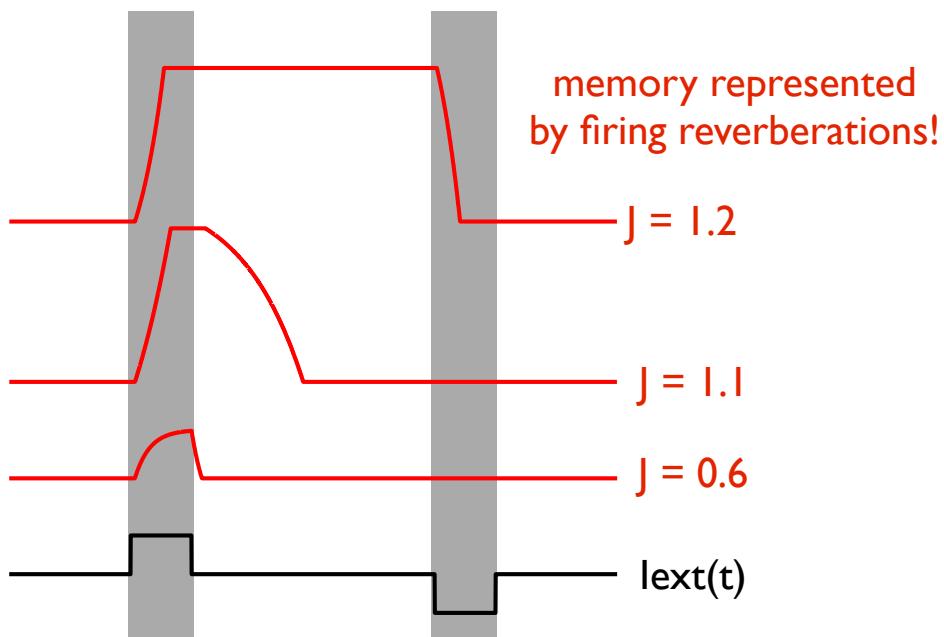
“Persistent activity” with a recurrent population of excitatory neurons



It is only possible with “saturating f-I” curve
(or with short-term depressing synapses...)

from Sterratt et al., 2011

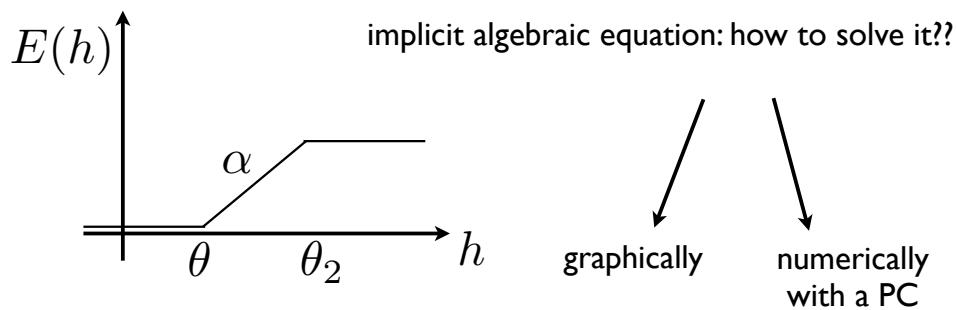
“Persistent activity” with a recurrent population of excitatory neurons



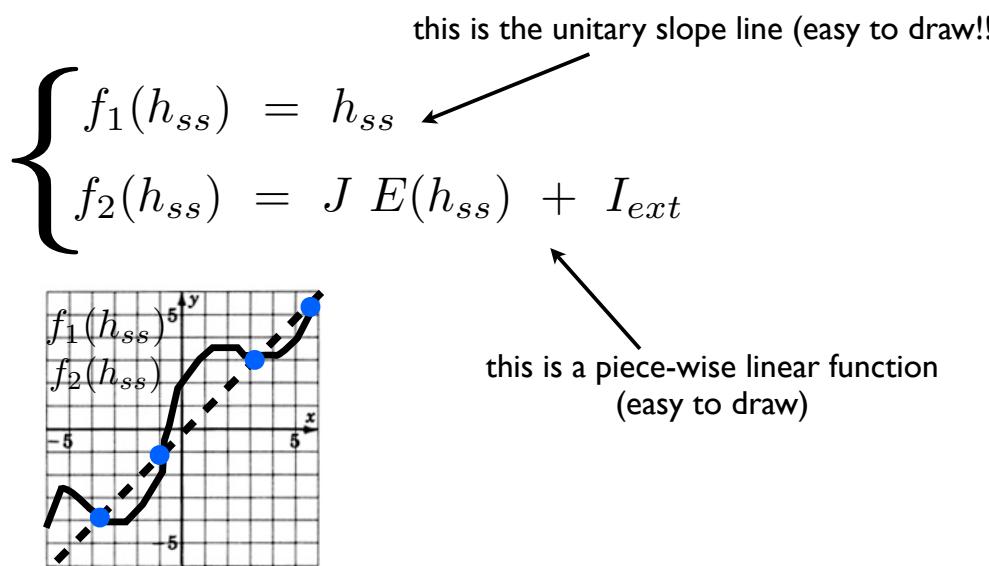
Analysis of the equilibrium points (i.e. steady-states or fixed-points)

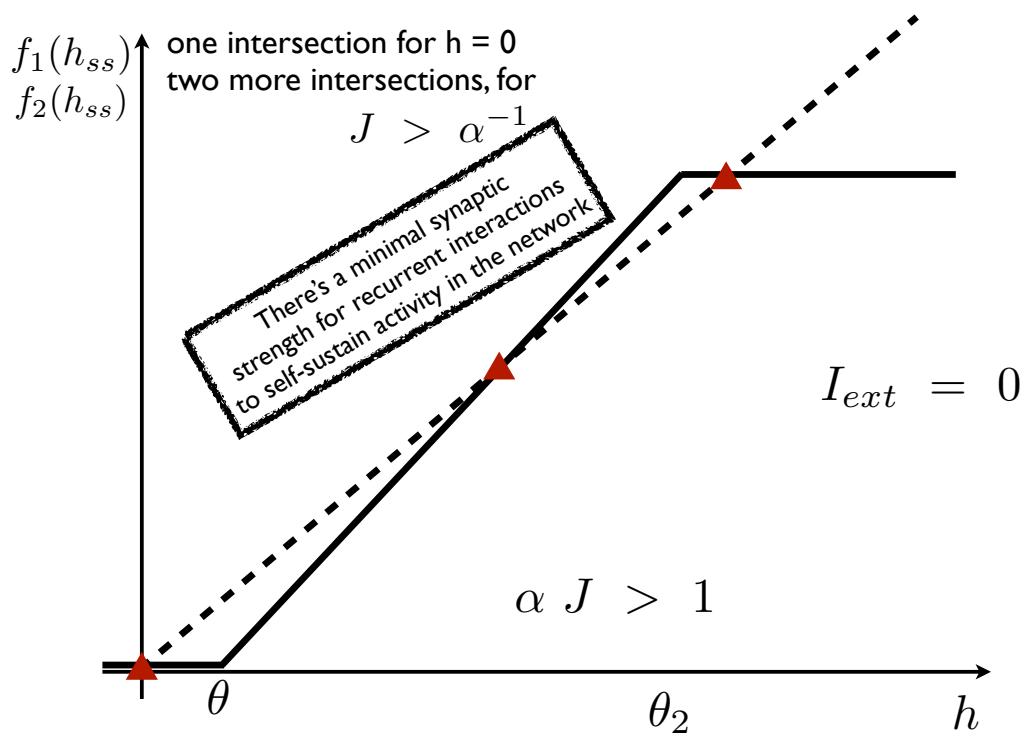
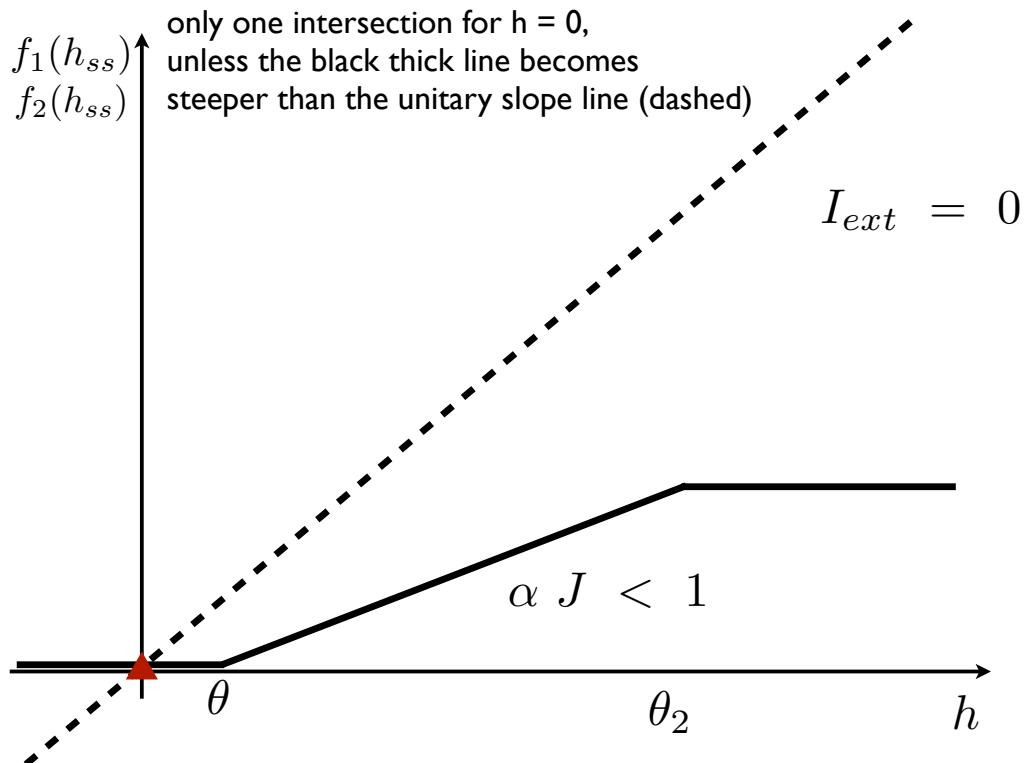
$$\tau \dot{h} = -h + J E + I_{ext}$$

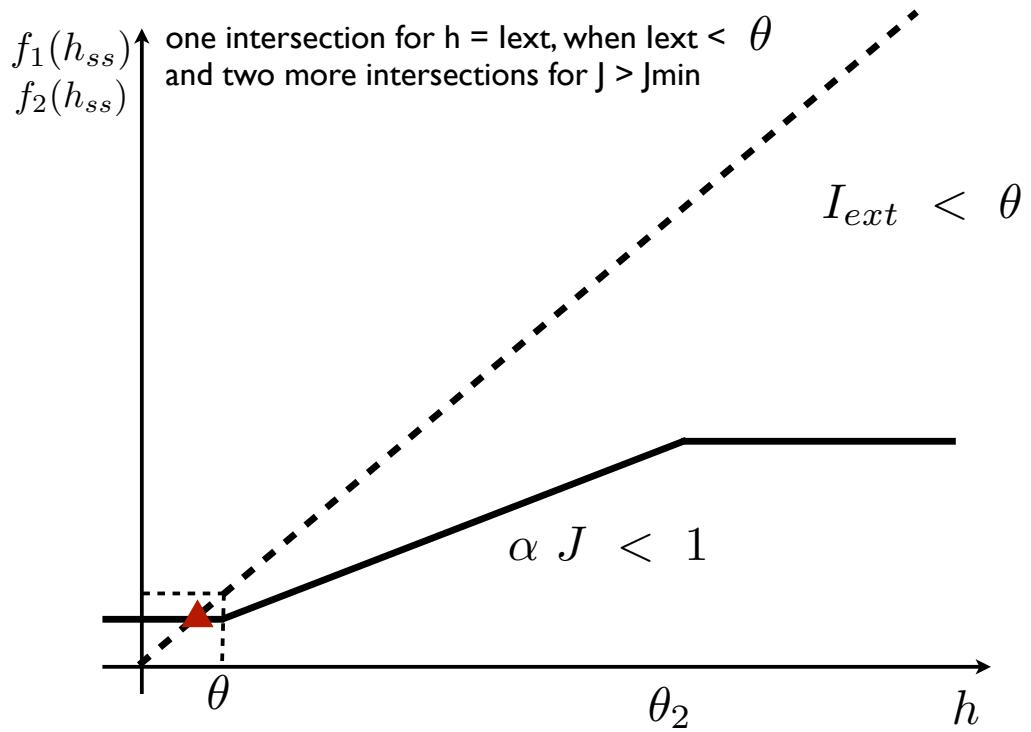
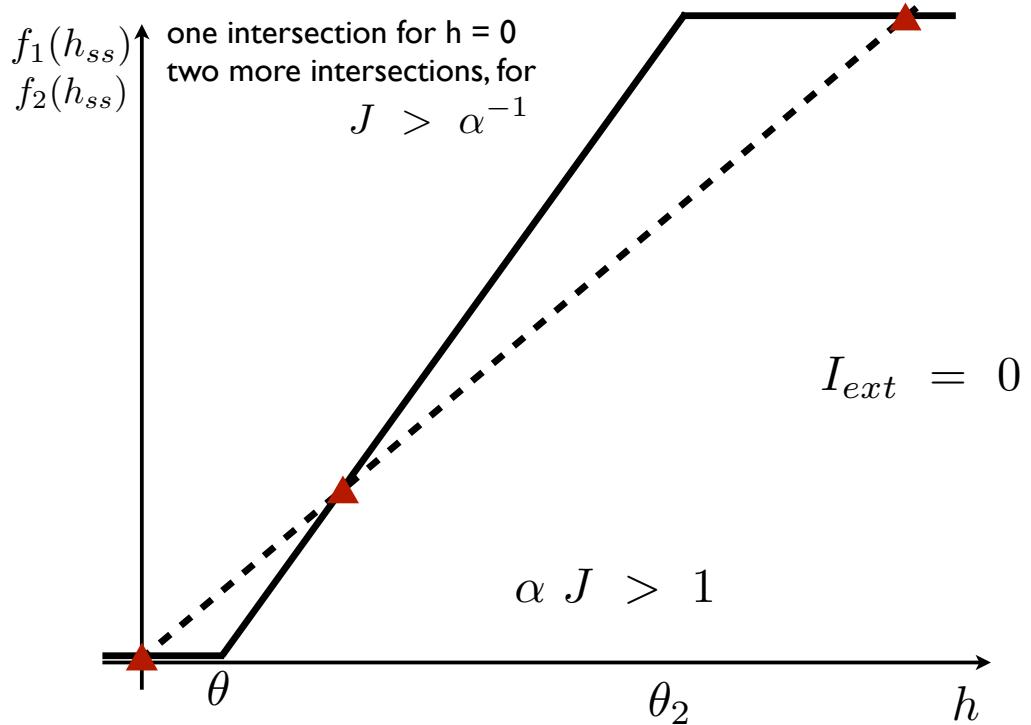
$$\dot{h}_{ss} = 0 \quad h_{ss} = J E(h_{ss}) + I_{ext}$$

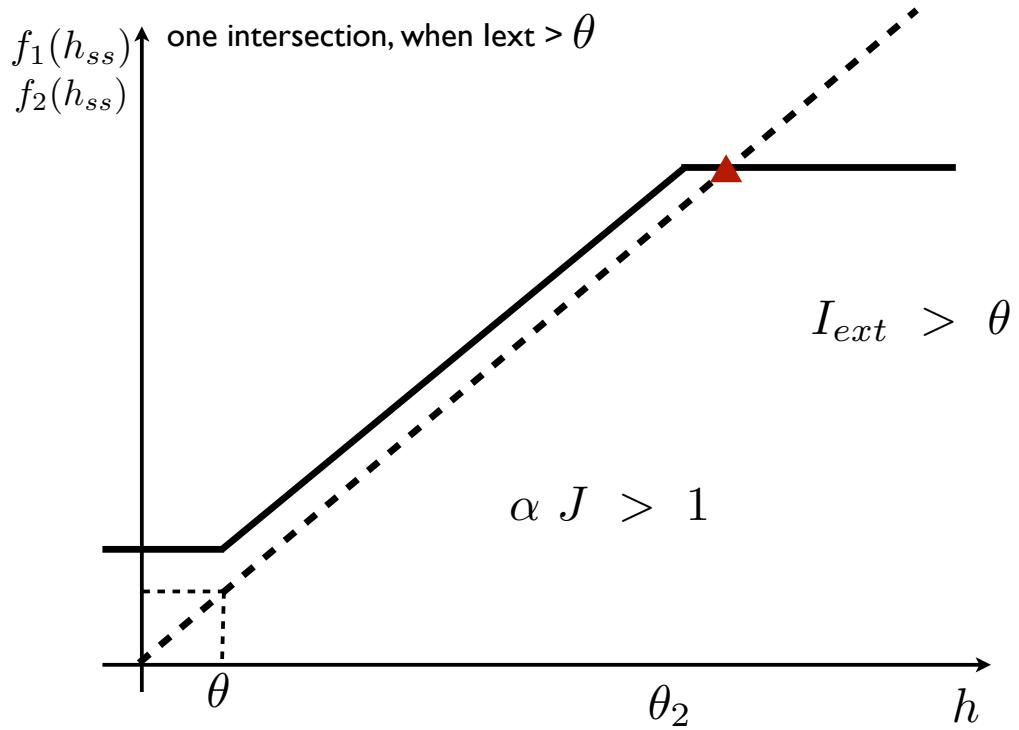
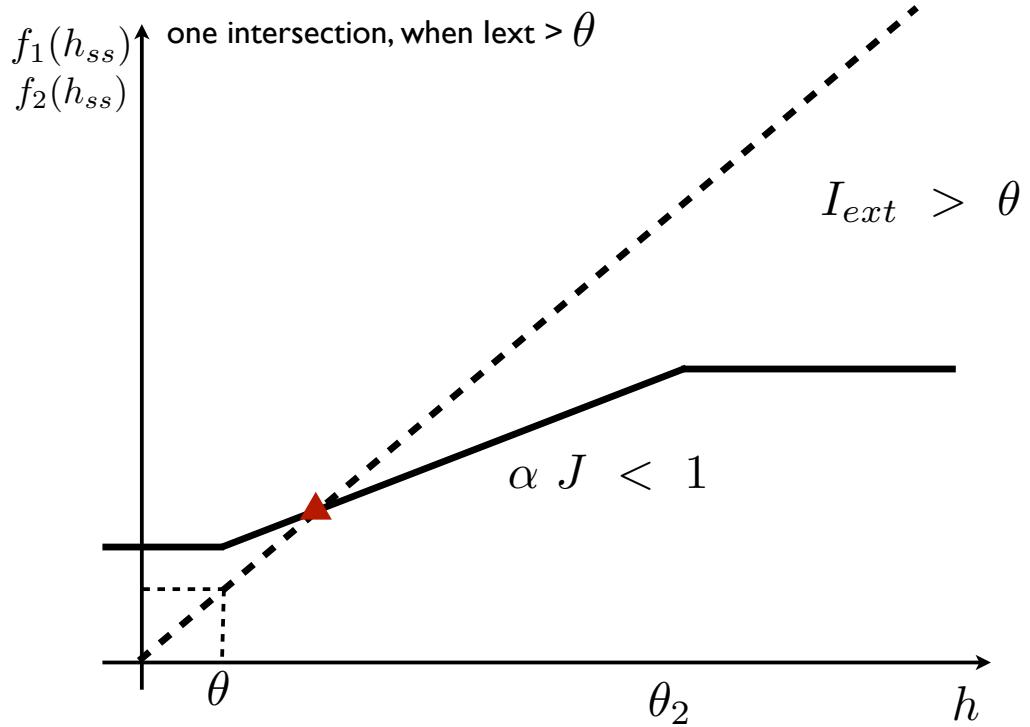


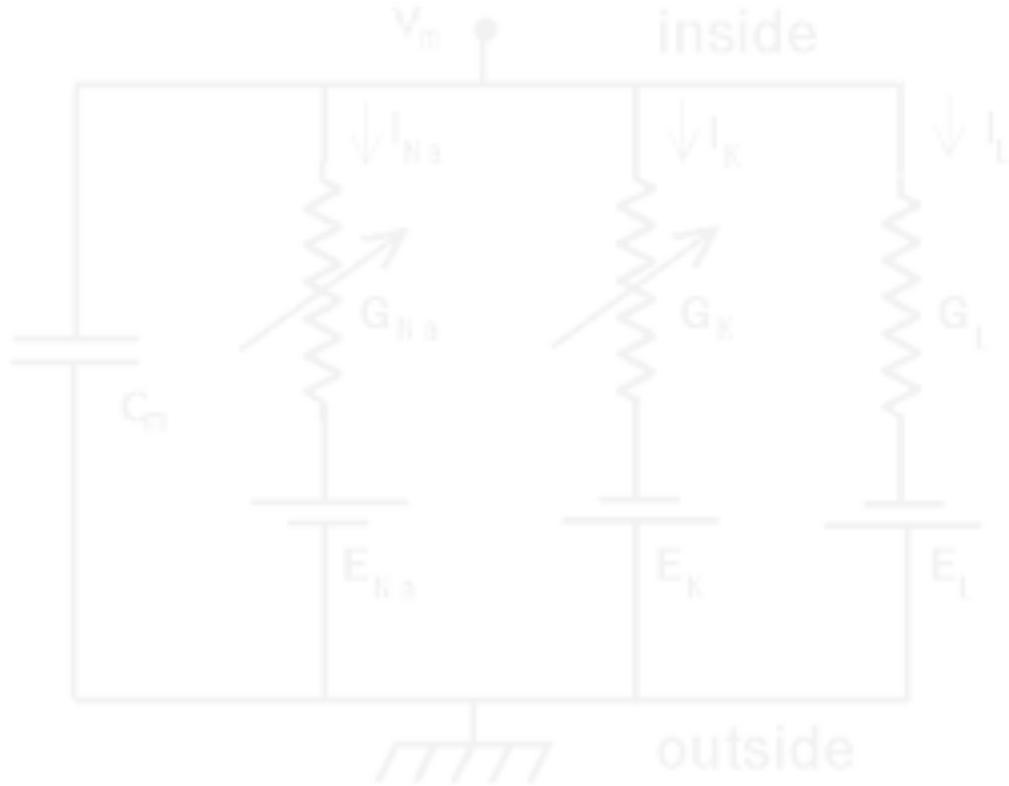
$$h_{ss} = J E(h_{ss}) + I_{ext}$$



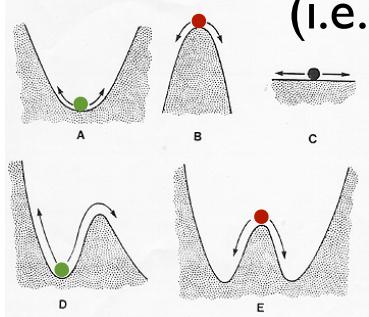








Analysis of the stability of the equilibria (i.e. **stable** or **unstable**)

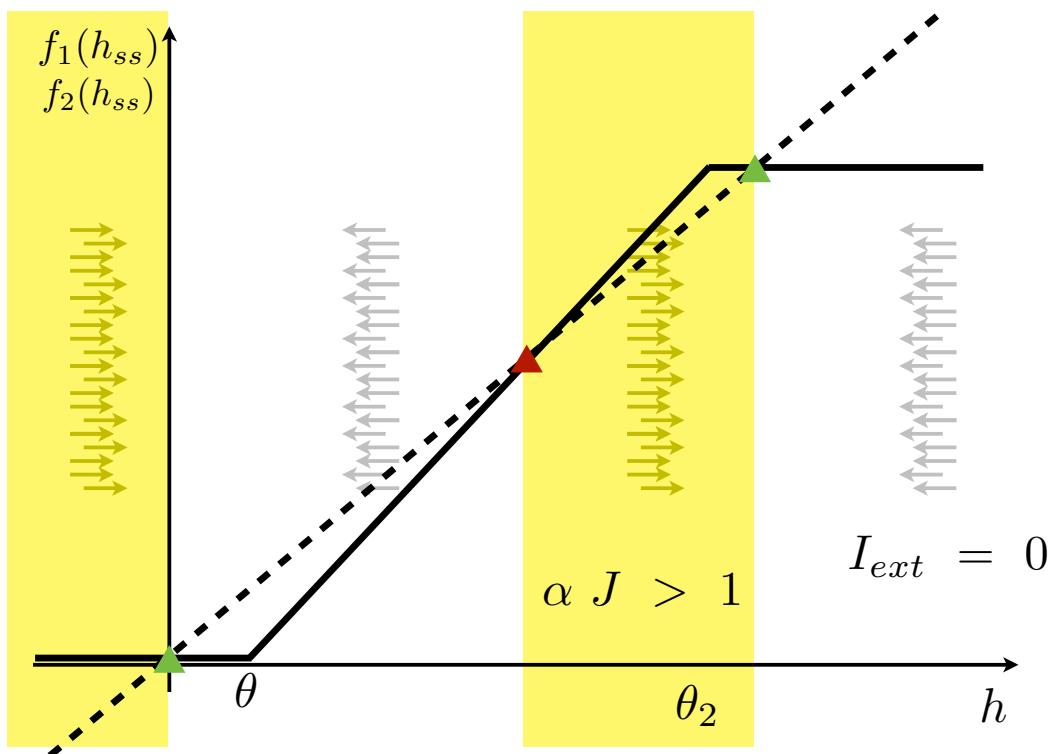
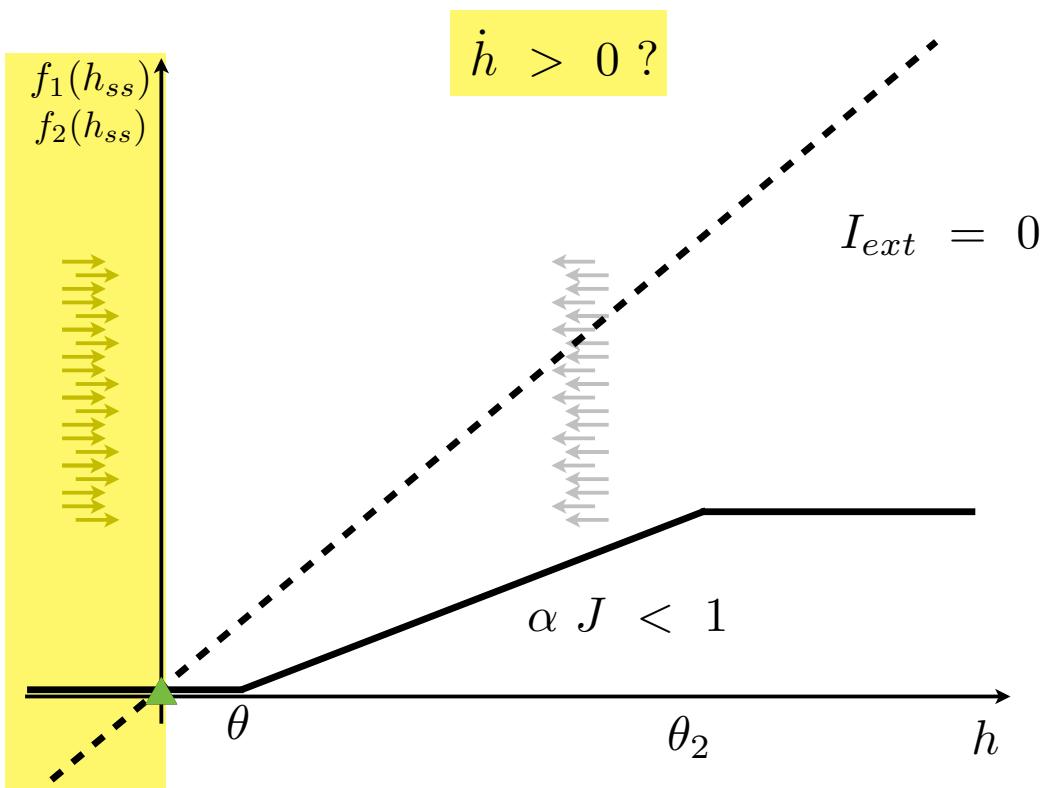


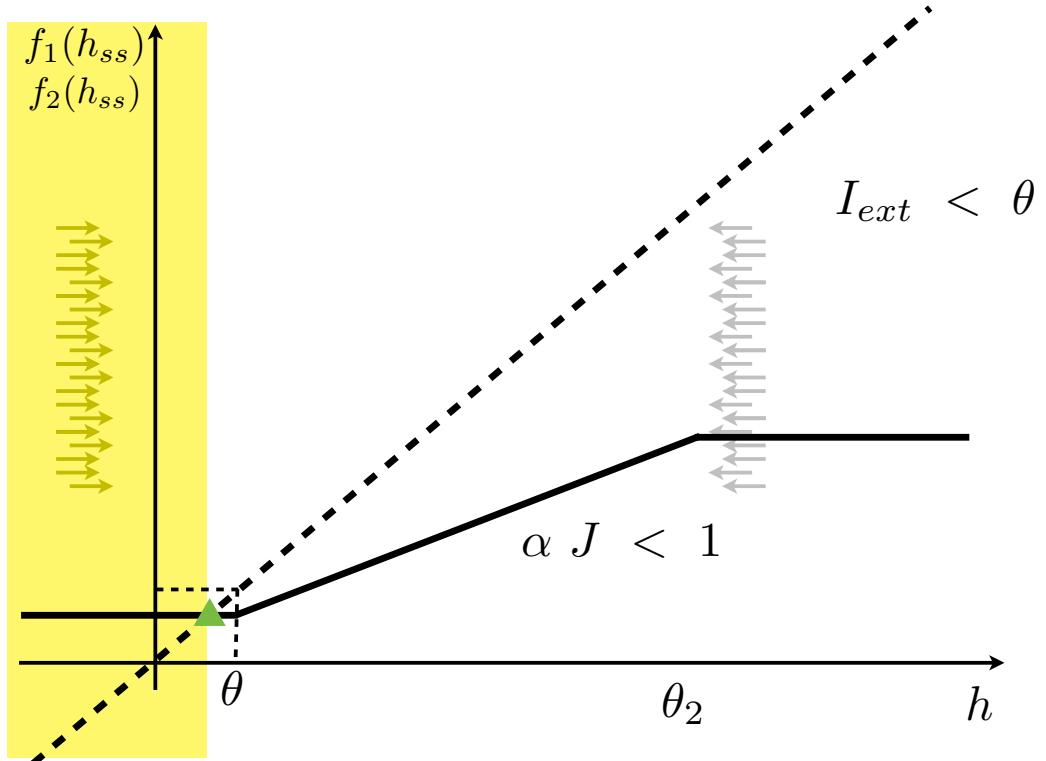
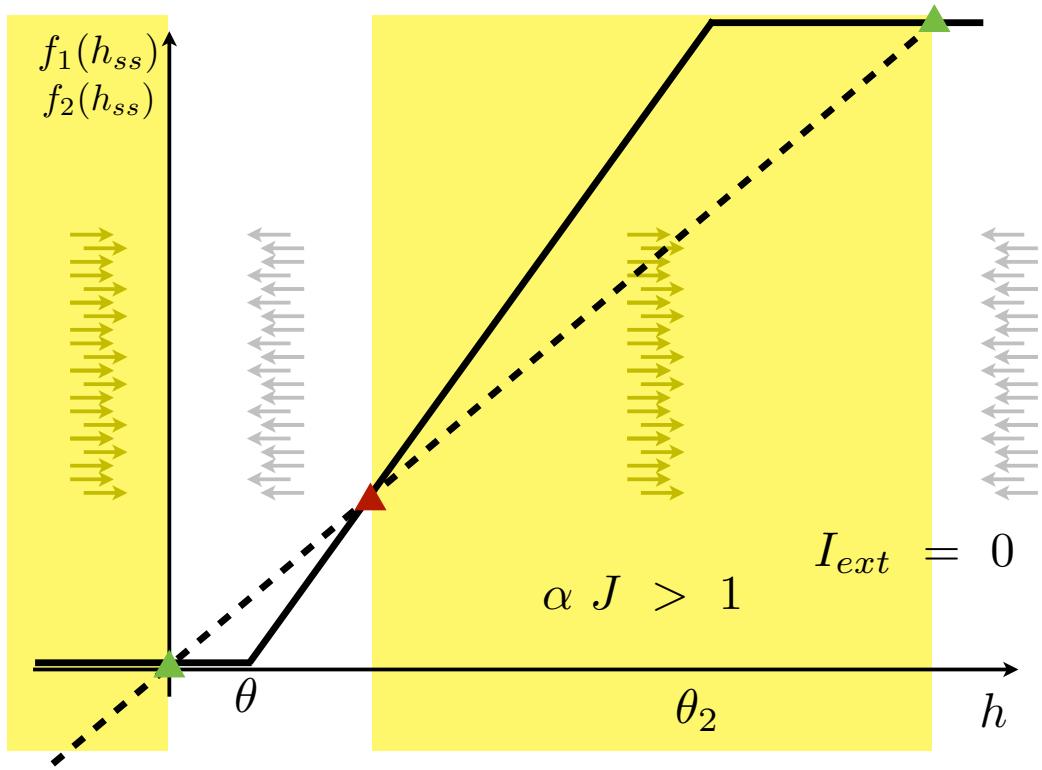
$$\tau \dot{h} = -h + J E + I_{ext}$$

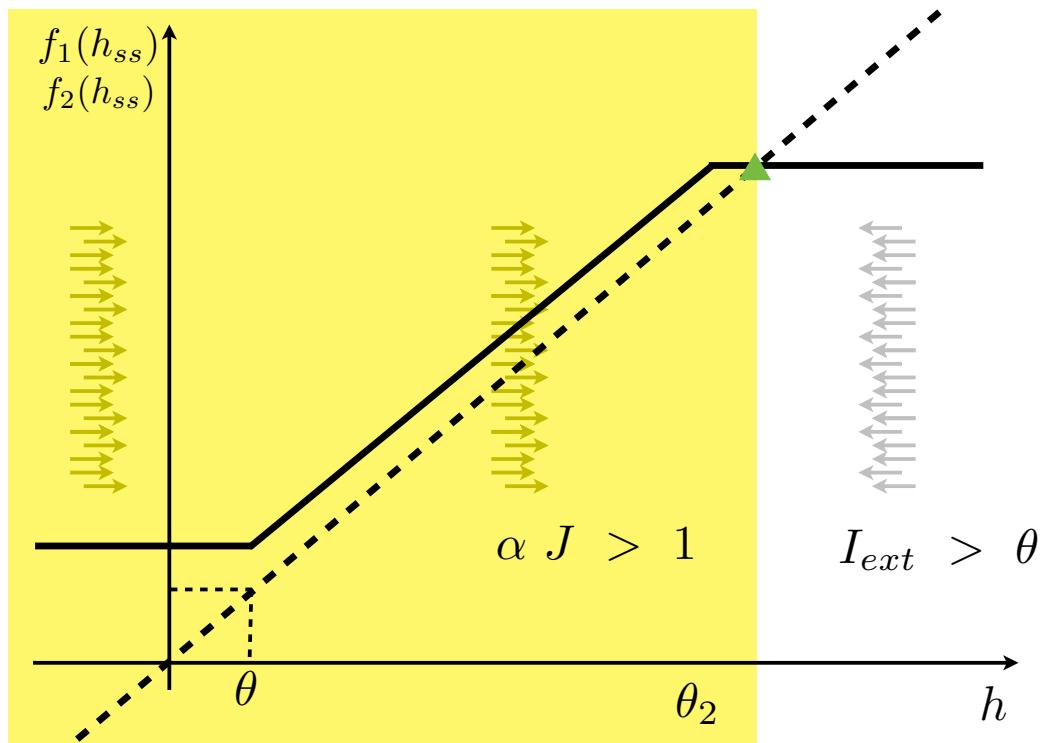
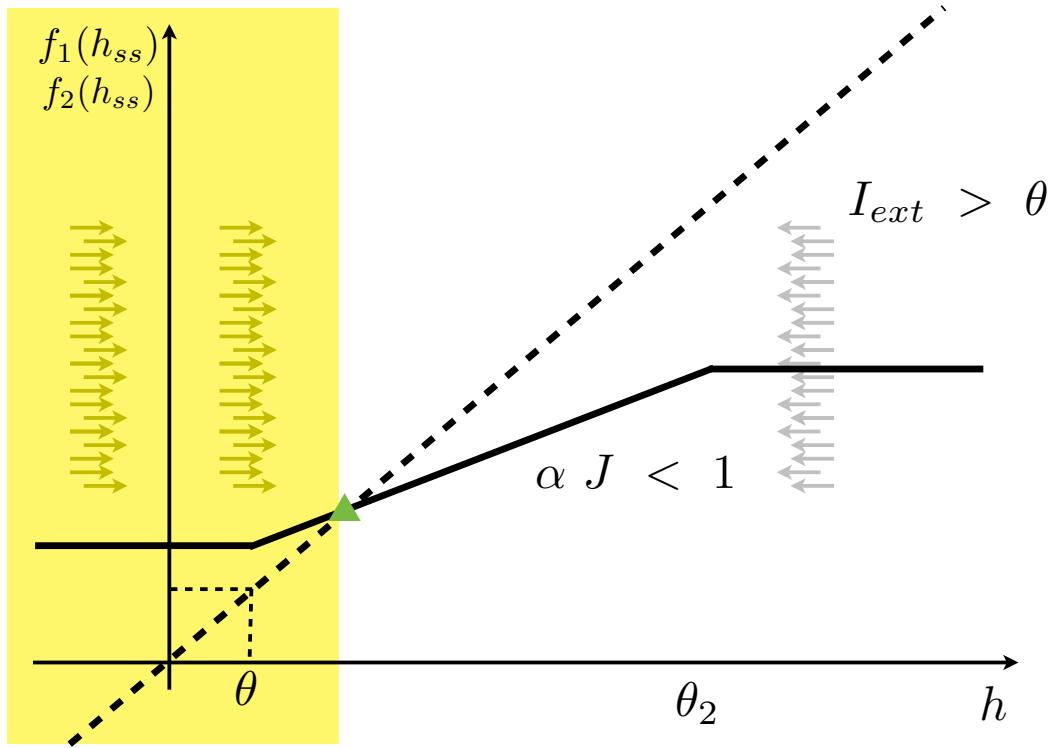
$$\dot{h} > 0 ? \quad h < J E(h_{ss}) + I_{ext}$$

implicit algebraic inequality: how to solve it??

graphically

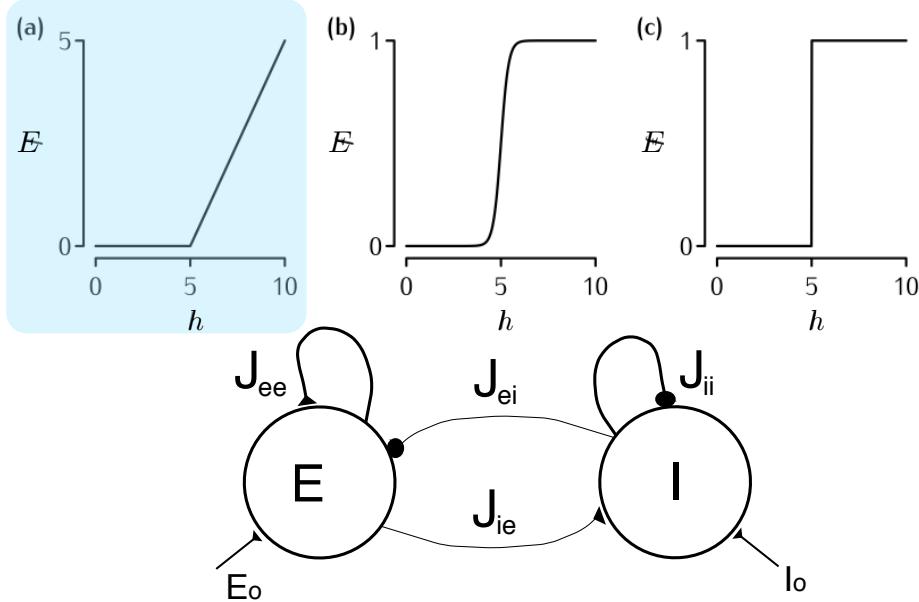




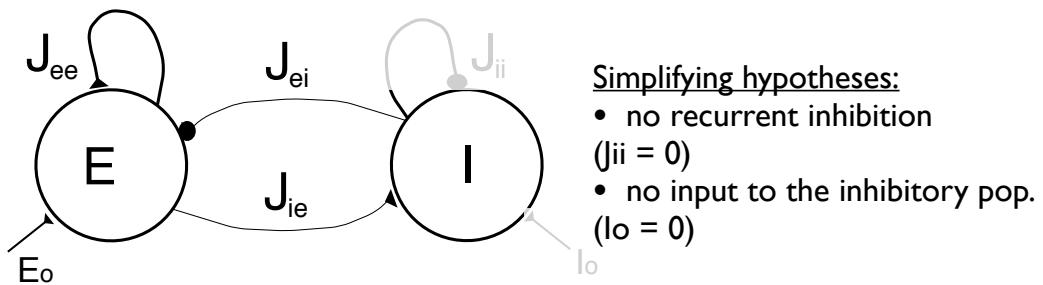


“Persistent activity” with two populations of excitatory and inhibitory neurons

No “saturating f-I” curve is necessary...



“Persistent activity” with two populations of excitatory and inhibitory neurons



$$\tau_e \dot{h}_e = -h_e + J_{ee} E - J_{ei} I + E_0$$

$$\tau_i \dot{h}_i = -h_i + J_{ie} E$$

$$E = [\alpha_e (h_e - \theta_e)]_+ \text{ and } I = [\alpha_i (h_i - \theta_i)]_+$$

Analysis of the equilibrium points (i.e. steady-states of fixed-points)

$$\tau_e \dot{h}_e = -h_e + J_{ee} E - J_{ei} I + E_0$$

$$\tau_i \dot{h}_i = -h_i + J_{ie} E$$

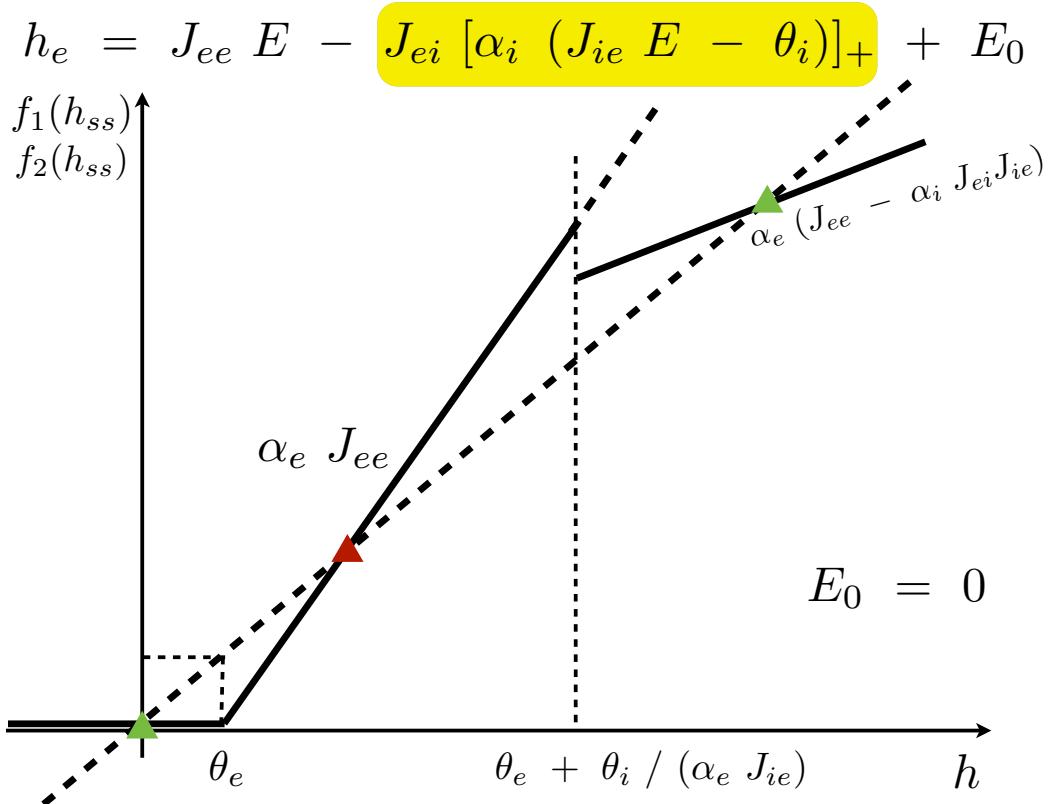
$$E = [\alpha_e (h_e - \theta_e)]_+ \text{ and } I = [\alpha_i (h_i - \theta_i)]_+$$

$$\dot{h}_e = \dot{h}_i = 0$$

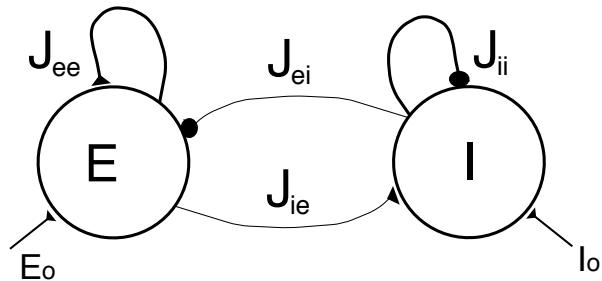
$$h_e = J_{ee} E - J_{ei} I + E_0$$

$$h_i = J_{ie} E$$

$$h_e = J_{ee} E - J_{ei} [\alpha_i (J_{ie} E - \theta_i)]_+ + E_0$$



“Oscillations” with two populations of excitatory and inhibitory neurons



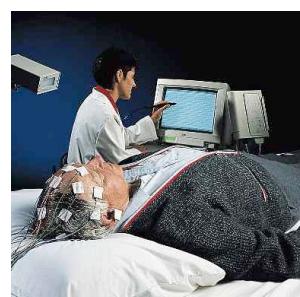
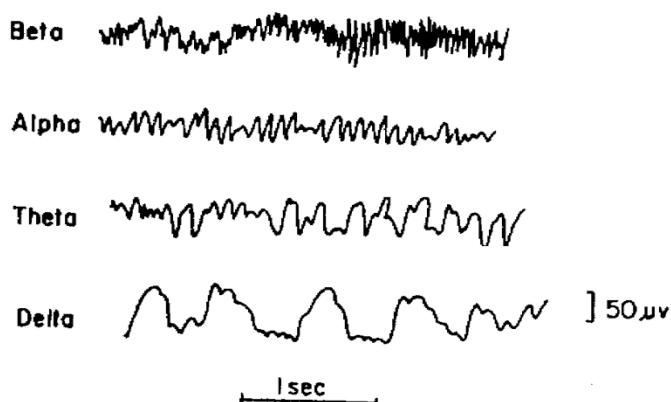
$$\begin{aligned}\tau_e \dot{h}_e &= -h_e + J_{ee} E - J_{ei} I + E_0 \\ \tau_i \dot{h}_i &= -h_i + J_{ie} E - J_{ii} I + I_0\end{aligned}$$

$$E = [\alpha_e (h_e - \theta_e)]_+ \text{ and } I = [\alpha_i (h_i - \theta_i)]_+$$

“Oscillations” in cortical networks
revealed by EEG (electroencephalography)



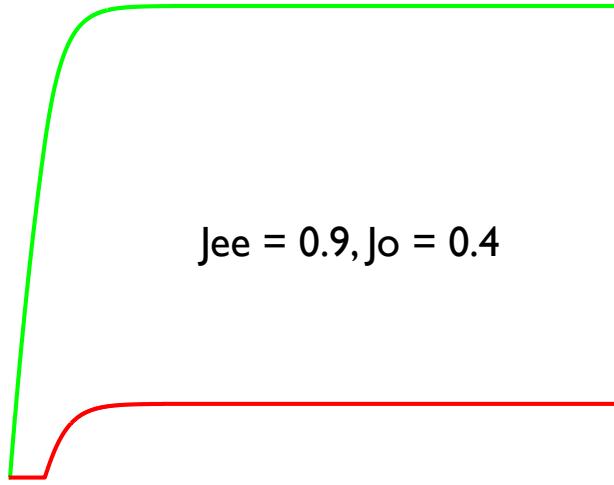
First EEG recorded by Hans Berger, circa 1928.



from Sabbatini, online

$$\begin{aligned}
 J_{ii} &= 0 \\
 \tau_e &= \tau_i \\
 J_{ie} &= J_{ei} = J_o \\
 \alpha_e &= \alpha_i = 1 \\
 \theta_e &= \theta_i
 \end{aligned}$$

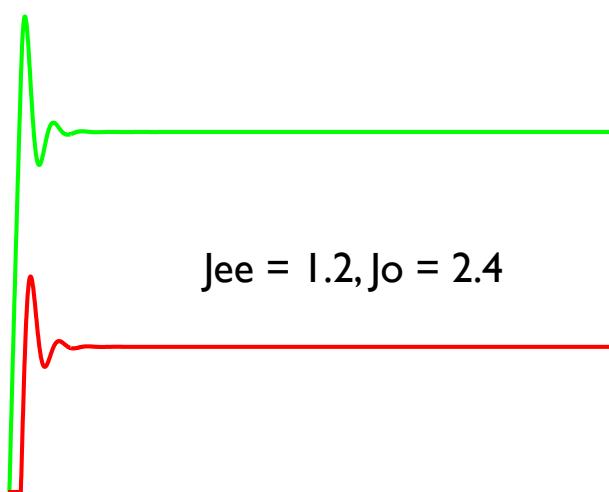
$J_{ee} = 0.9, J_o = 0.4$



“Oscillations” with two populations of excitatory and inhibitory neurons

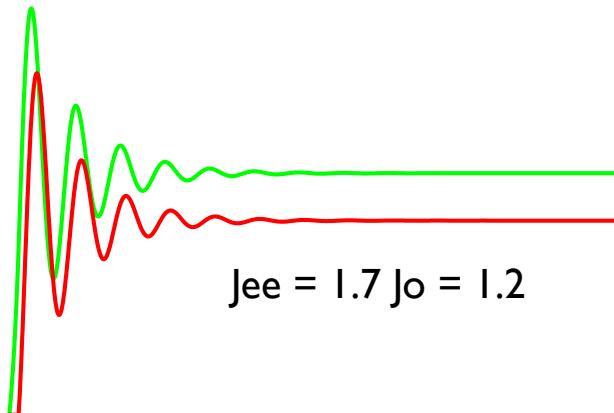
$$\begin{aligned}
 J_{ii} &= 0 \\
 \tau_e &= \tau_i \\
 J_{ie} &= J_{ei} = J_o \\
 \alpha_e &= \alpha_i = 1 \\
 \theta_e &= \theta_i
 \end{aligned}$$

$J_{ee} = 1.2, J_o = 2.4$



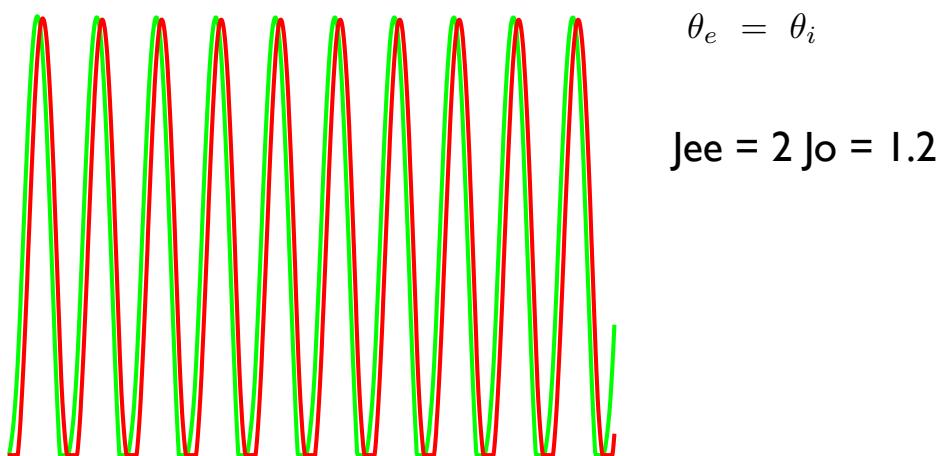
“Oscillations” with two populations of excitatory and inhibitory neurons

$$\begin{aligned} J_{ii} &= 0 \\ \tau_e &= \tau_i \\ J_{ie} &= J_{ei} = J_o \\ \alpha_e &= \alpha_i = 1 \\ \theta_e &= \theta_i \end{aligned}$$



“Oscillations” with two populations of excitatory and inhibitory neurons

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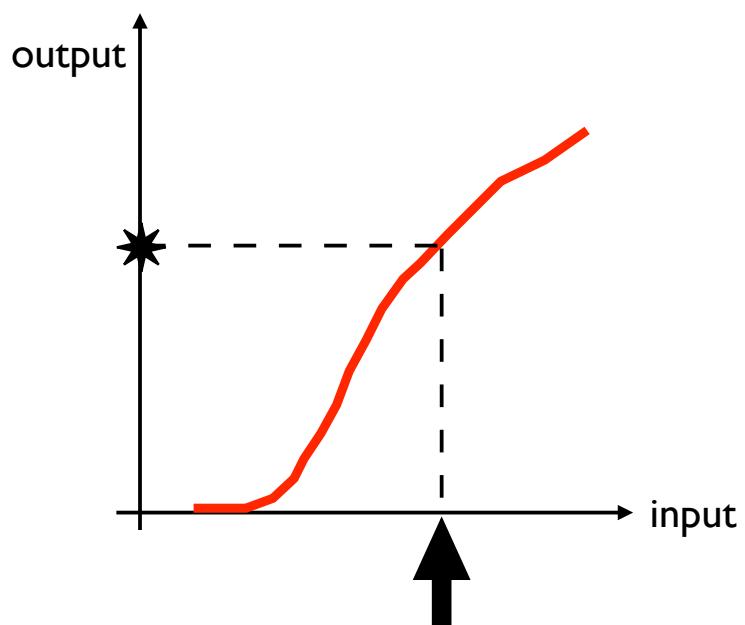


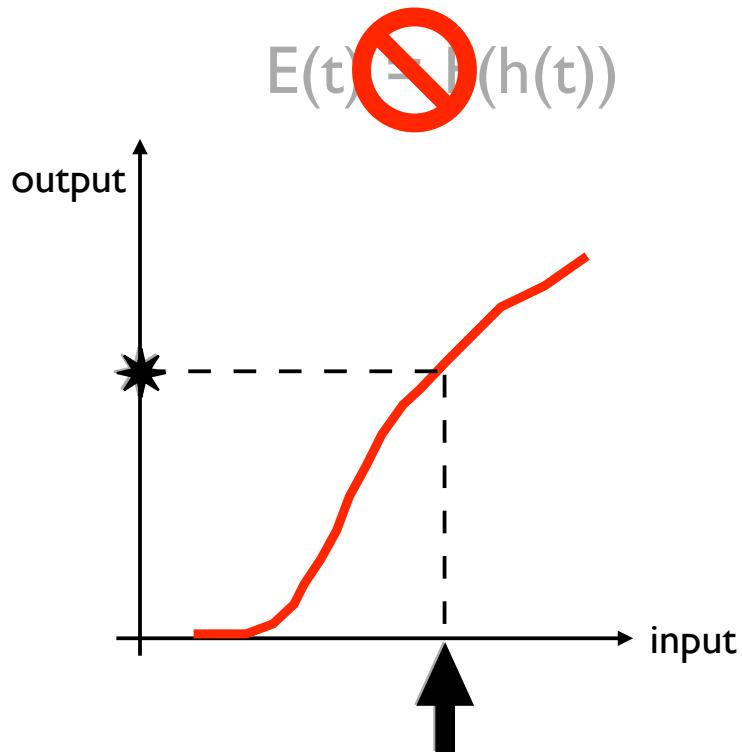
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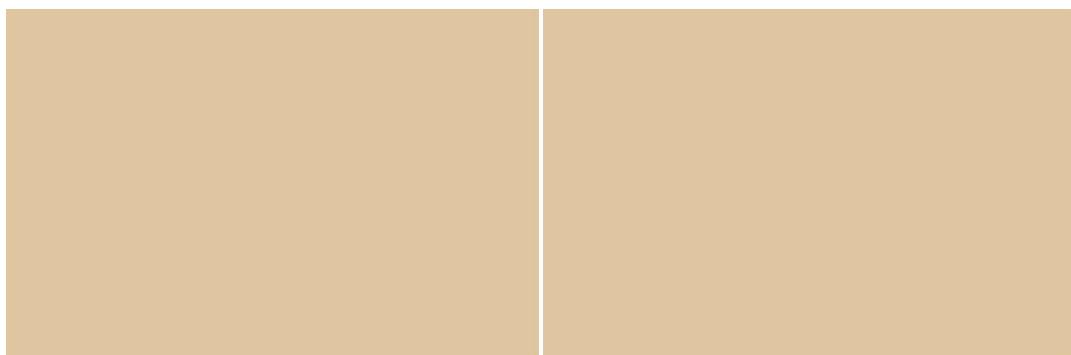


$$E = F(h)$$

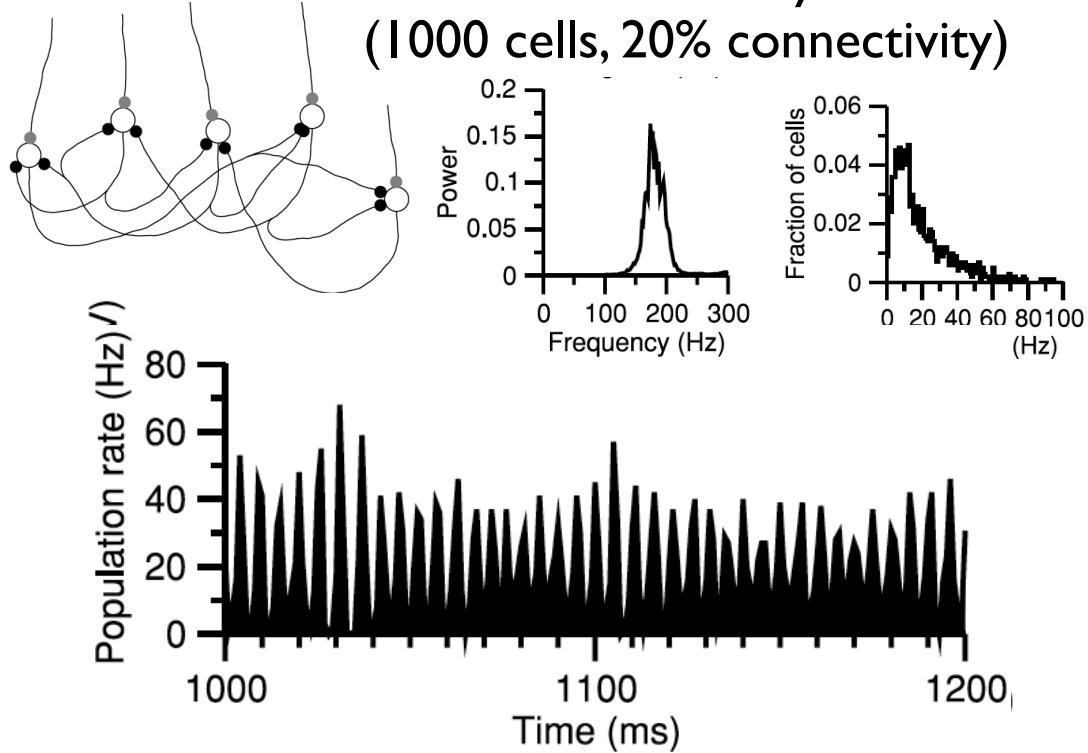




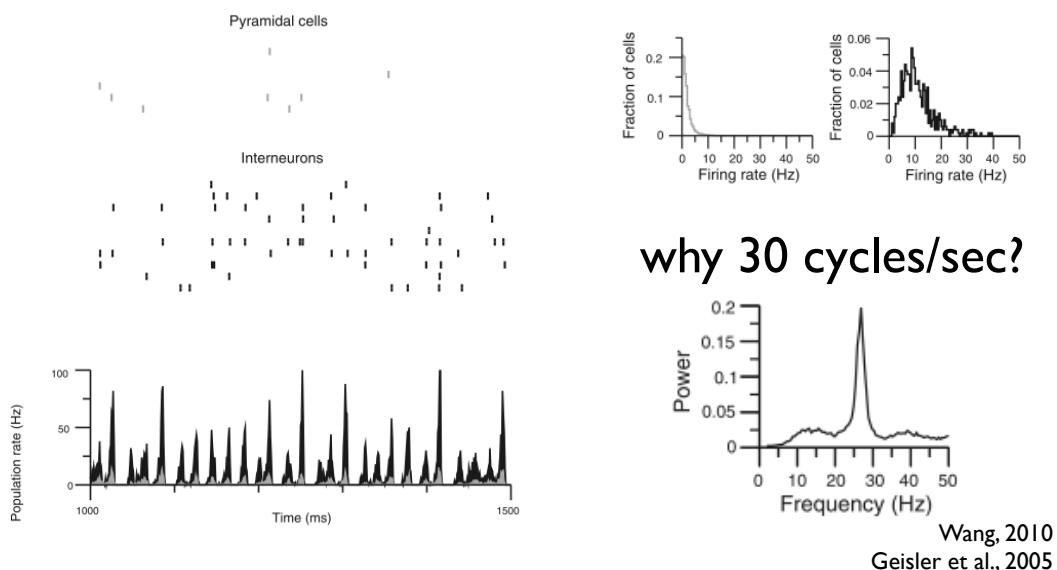
Mechanical, electrical, chemical, hydraulic
physical systems have common
properties of inertia and tend to
attenuate and delay quick changes
(e.g. Newton's laws)



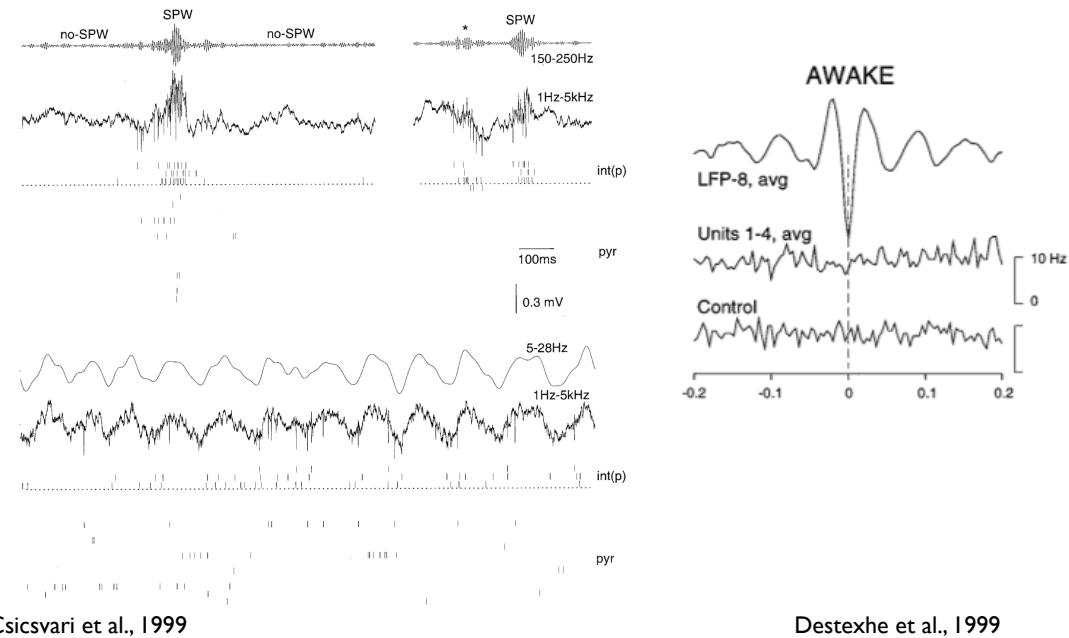
recurrent network of inhibitory IF neurons (1000 cells, 20% connectivity)



Coherent (fast) rhythms do emerge as a destabilisation of the asynchronous state: how?



Sparsely synchronised network oscillations: coherent LFP fast oscillations, irregular & slow firing



Global oscillations in neuronal networks, with irregular firing

LFP oscillations (from 2 to 200 Hz) *in vivo*, several areas

cerebellum: ~200Hz LFP oscillations in the Purkinje Cell layer
(Adrian, 1935; Isole et al., 2002; de Solages et al., 2008)

rat hippocampus: gamma 40–80Hz LFP rhythm (free movement, R.E.M.)
sharp-wave LFP ripples 200Hz (immobility, quiet sleep)
(Bragin et al. 1995; Buzsaki et al. 1992; Csicsvari et al. 1999b; Siapas and Wilson 1998)

primates cortex: often LFP has rhythmic component, but simultaneous spike trains appear irregular, with no clear-cut oscillation
(Fries et al. 2001; Logothetis et al. 2001).

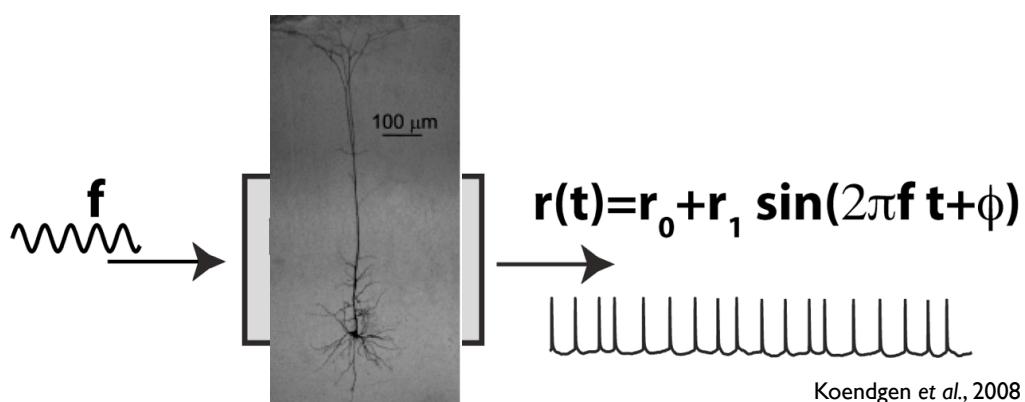
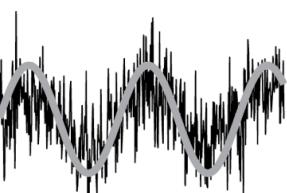
- Single-cell discharge rates < LFP oscillation frequency
- Rhythmicity not apparent in the raw spike trains of individual cells
- Single-cell behaves differently from the population activity during fast oscillations.

Brunel & Hakim (1999), Neural Computation 11, 1621–71
Geisler et al (2005), J Neurophysiol 94(6), 4344–61
Brunel & Wang (2003), J Neurophysiol 90, 415–30

Sparsely synchronised network oscillations

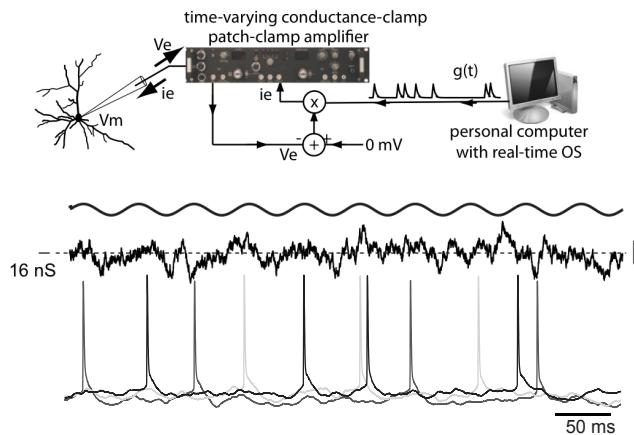
Interplay among Synaptic Kinetics, Delays, Filtering, & Connectivity **and Intrinsic Neuronal Dynamics**

The dynamical response properties of cortical neurons: by Fourier Analysis!



Koendgen et al., 2008

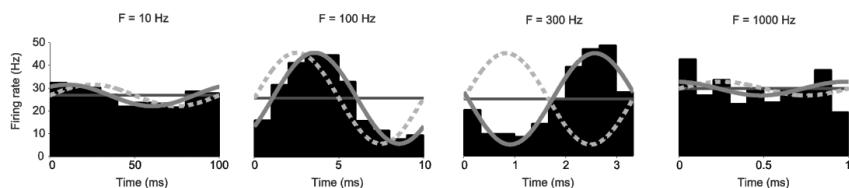
$$\Phi_{cell}(f) = ?, \quad r_1(f) = ?$$



$$g_0 + g_1 \sin(2\pi f t + \Phi_{syn}(f)) + n(t)$$

$$\sum_k \delta(t - t_k)$$

$$r(t) = r_0 + r_1(f) \sin(2\pi f t - \Phi_{syn}(f) - \Phi_{cell}(f))$$

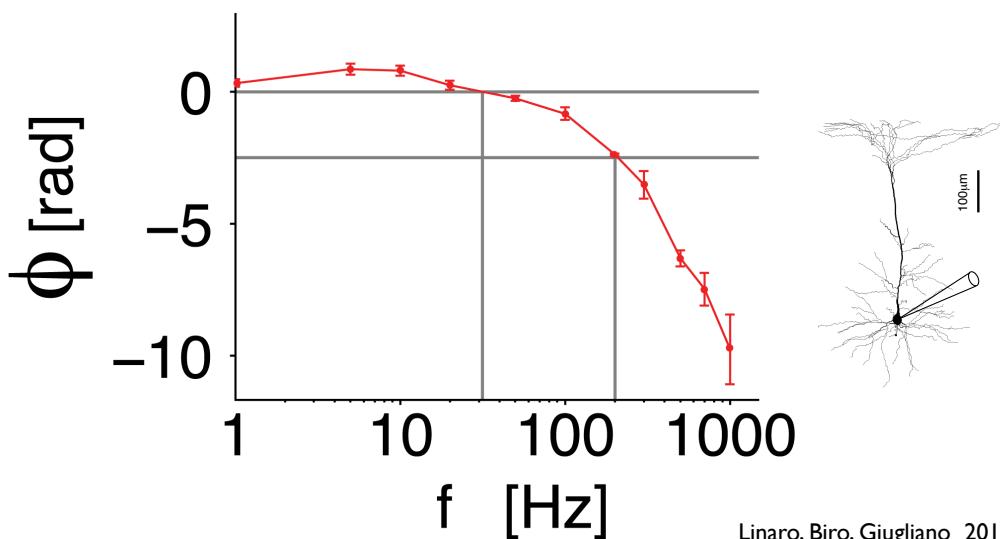


Linaro, Couto, Giugliano, 2014 J. Neurosci. Methods

Linaro, Biro, Giugliano 2017

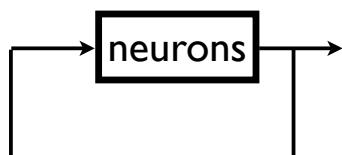
$$\Phi_{cell}(f)$$

Phase of
the dynamical response of a pyramidal neuron
during ~ 20 spks/sec, low background noise



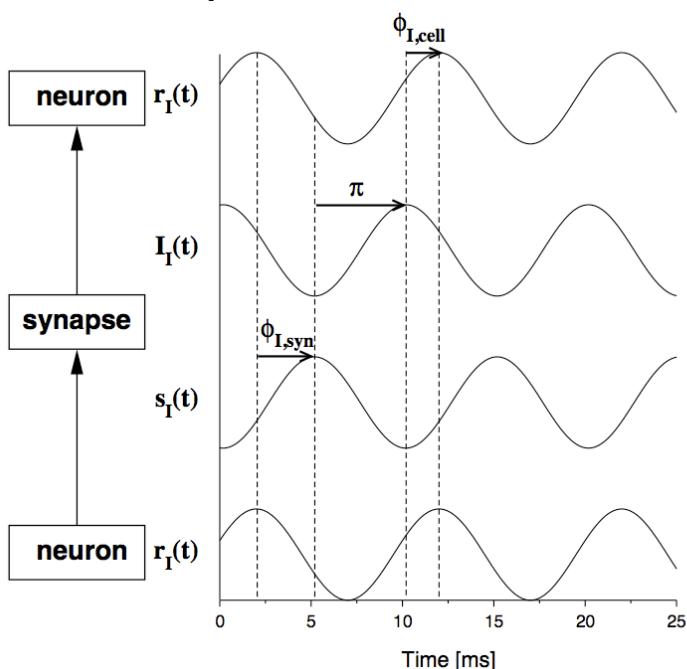
Linaro, Biro, Giugliano 2017

Oscillations in the global firing rate,
if they occur, they occur at a self-consistent frequency



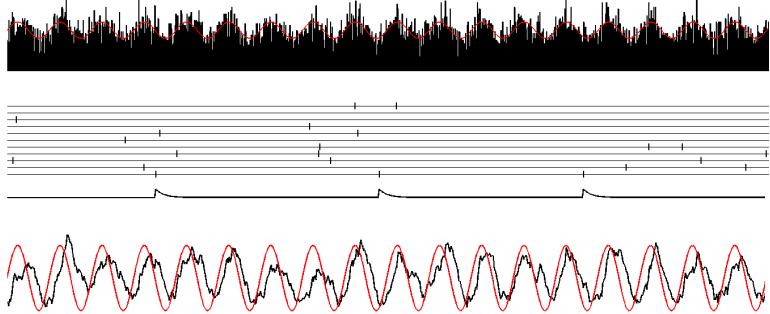
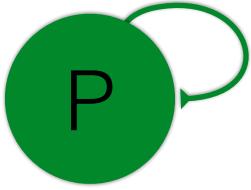
Brunel & Hakim (1999), Neural Computation 11, 1621–71
Geisler et al (2005), J Neurophysiol 94(6), 4344-61
Brunel & Wang (2003), J Neurophysiol 90, 415–30

Oscillations in the global firing rate,
if they occur, they occur at a self-consistent frequency



Geisler et al., 2005
Furhmann et al., 2003

$$r(t) = r_0 + r_1 \sin(2\pi f t)$$

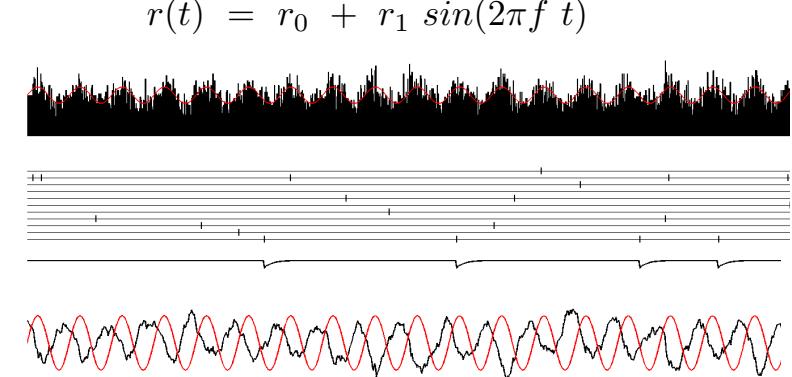
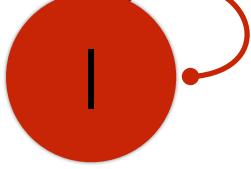


$$I_{syn}(t) = I_0 + I_1 \sin(2\pi f t - \Phi_{syn}(f)) + n(t)$$

$$r(t) = r_0 + r_1(f) \sin(2\pi f t - \Phi_{syn}(f) - \Phi_{cell}(f))$$

$$\Phi_{syn}(f) + \Phi_{cell}(f) = 0$$

Wang, 2010
Geisler et al., 2005



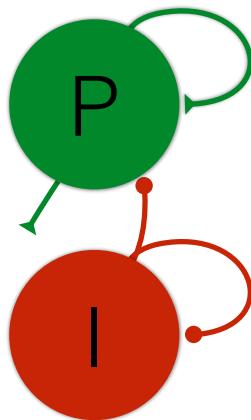
$$r(t) = r_0 + r_1 \sin(2\pi f t)$$

$$I_{syn}(t) = I_0 + I_1 \sin(2\pi f t - \Phi_{syn}(f) - \pi) + n(t)$$

$$r(t) = r_0 + r_1(f) \sin(2\pi f t - \Phi_{syn}(f) - \pi - \Phi_{cell}(f))$$

$$\Phi_{syn}(f) + \Phi_{cell}(f) = -\pi$$

Wang, 2010
Geisler et al., 2005



$$r_E(t) = r_{E0} + r_{E1} \sin(2\pi ft)$$

$$r_I(t) = r_{I0} + r_{I1} \sin(2\pi ft)$$

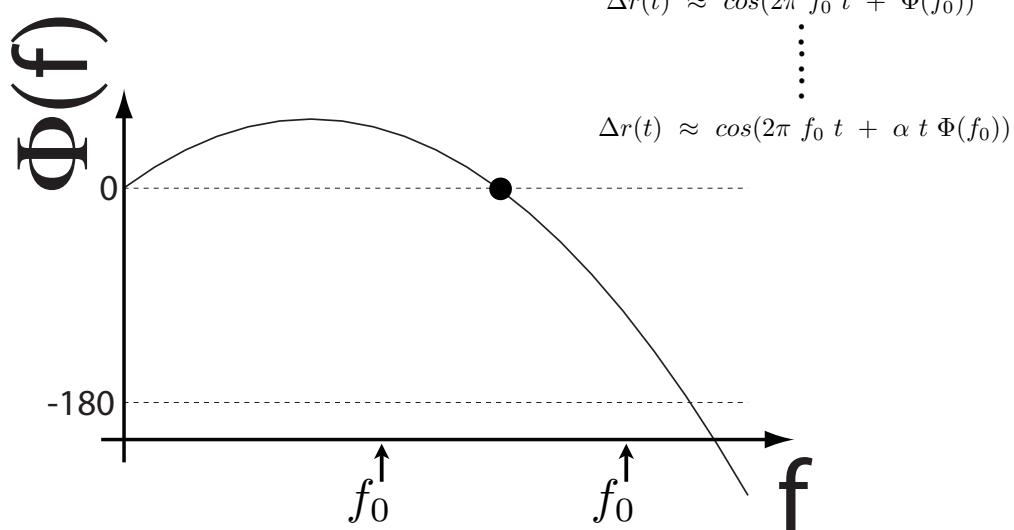
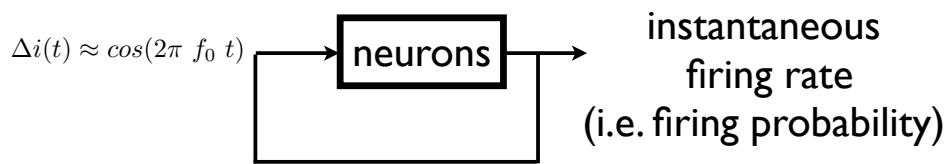
$$I_{syn}(t) = I_0 + I_{E1} \sin(2\pi ft - \Phi_{Esyn}(f)) + I_{I1} \sin(2\pi ft - \Phi_{Isyn}(f) - \pi) + n(t)$$

$$I_{syn}(t) = I_0 + I_1 \sin(2\pi ft - \frac{\Phi_{Esyn}(f) + \Phi_{Isyn}(f) + \pi}{2}) + n(t)$$

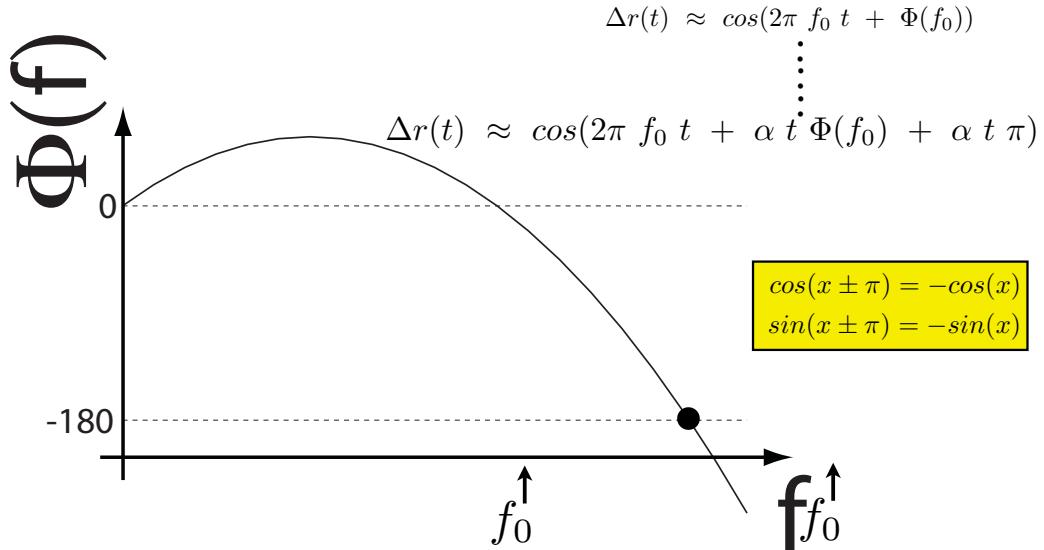
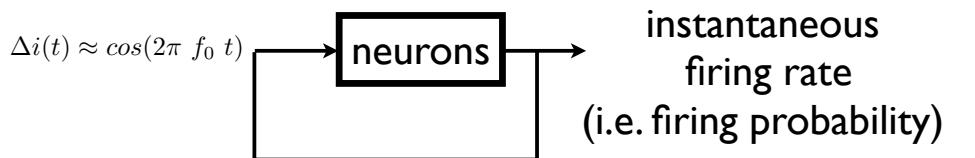
$$\frac{\Phi_{Esyn}(f) + \Phi_{Isyn}(f) + \pi}{2} - \Phi_{cellE}(f) = 0$$

Wang, 2010
Geisler et al., 2005

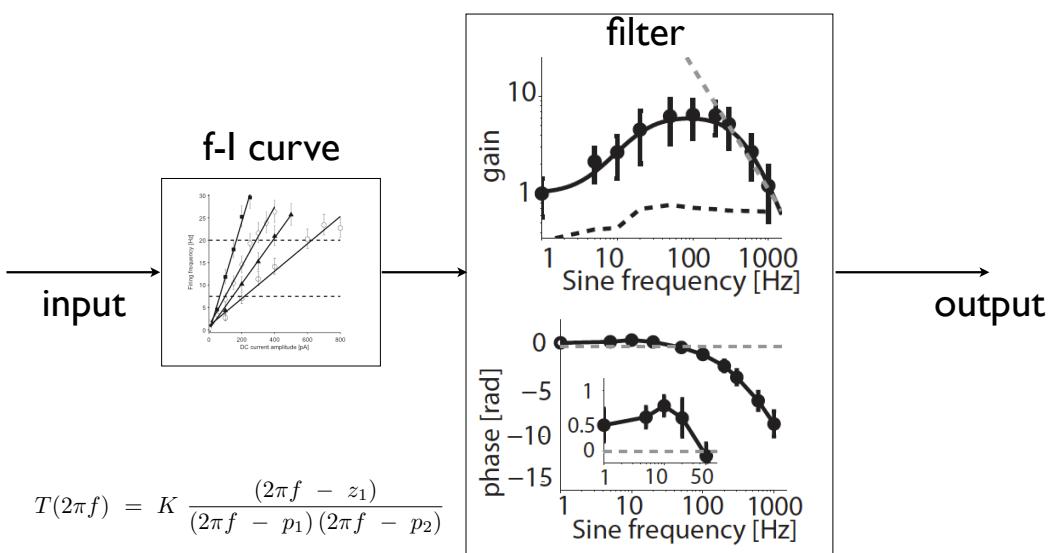
recurrent network of excitatory neurons



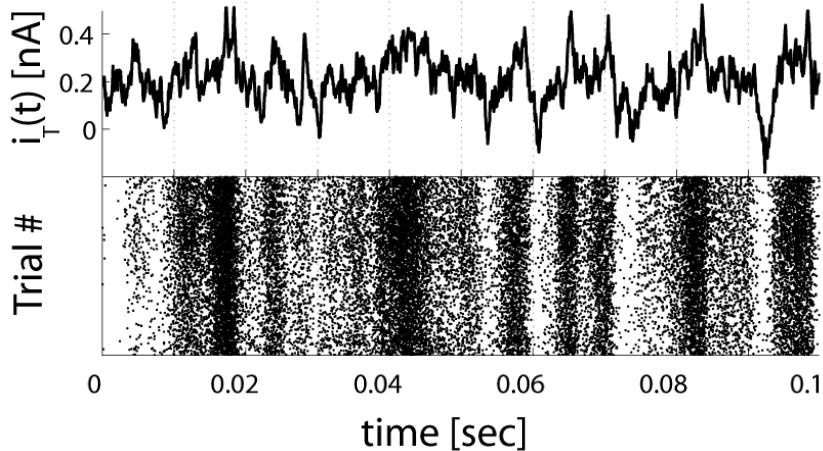
recurrent network of *inhibitory* neurons



Significance of linear response properties



Significance of linear response properties

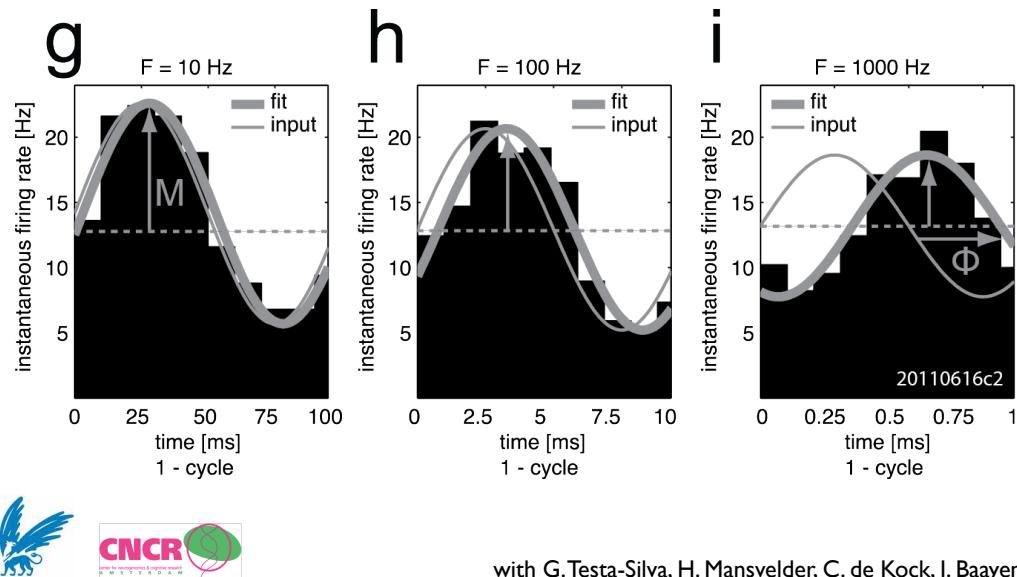


Köndgen et al., 2008, Cereb Cortex

- **A novel exp. description of excitability is imperative for predicting rhythms & reaction times;**
- the **phase** is roughly **independent** across conditions;
- the **magnitude** reveals to be **band-pass, with high cut-off frequency** (~200Hz), despite (capacitive) inertia or low firing rates;
- **background** uncorrelated firing does not speed up arbitrarily neuronal responses, but may boost existing (limited) bandwidth;
- **firing rate** may suppress, not extend, neuronal bandwidth;
- the dynamical properties account, to a large extent, for the neuronal response upon foreground broad-band inputs;

Human cortical neurons

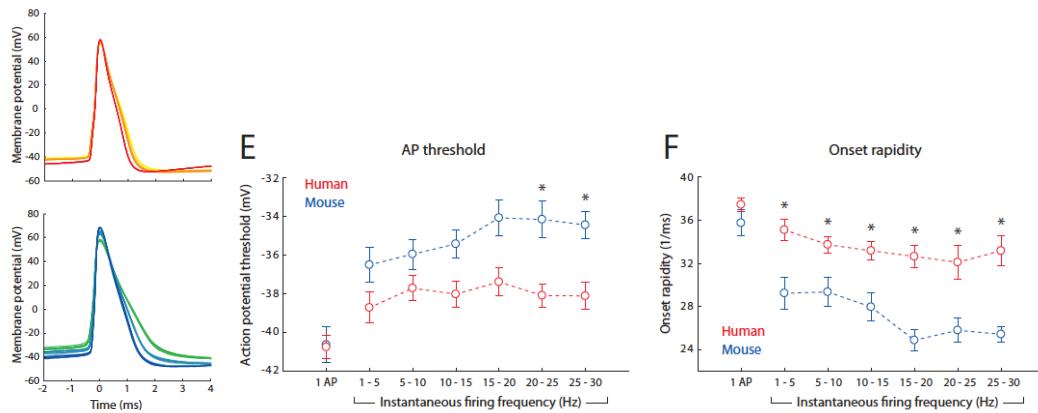
even faster in relying downstream
ultra fast-varying temporal information



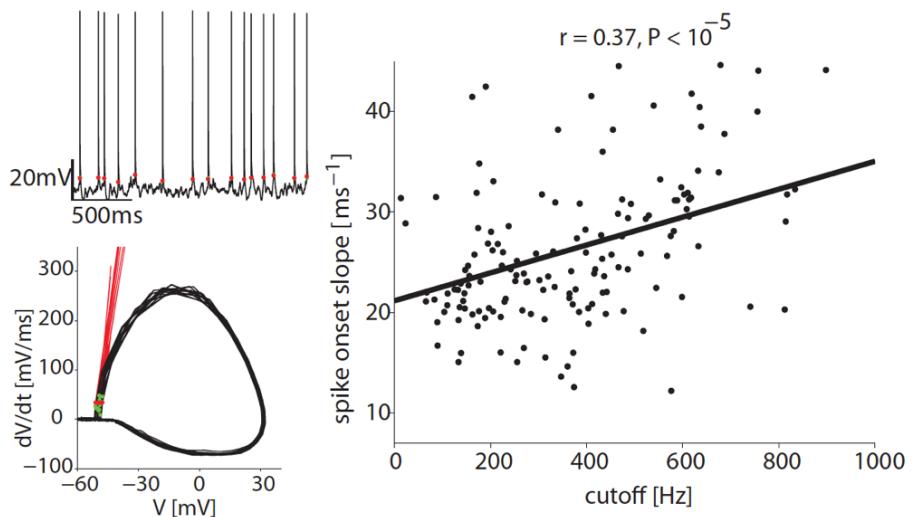
Human cortical neurons
(from “healthy” tissue, Medial Temporal Lobe surgery)



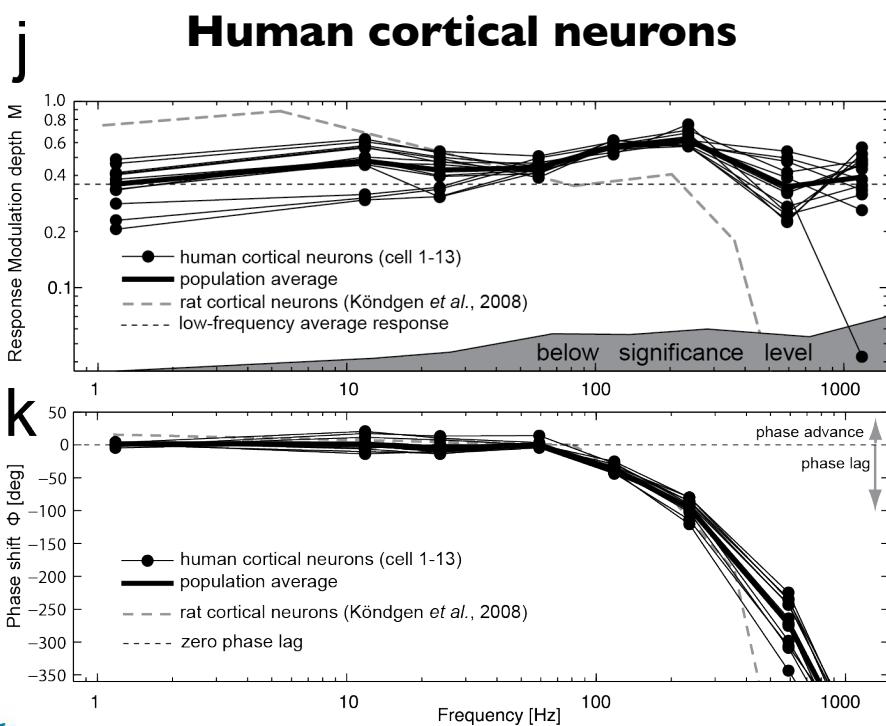
G. Testa-Silva



Does the cut-off frequency relates to AP speed-onset? (and it is independent on the stimulation protocol)



Biro, Linaro, Giugliano et al., in preparation
Naundorf et al., 2005; McCormick et al., 2007; Yu et al., 2008



with G. Testa-Silva, H. Mansvelder, C. de Kock, J. Baayen