

# 260-2015-09-18-neurophys-II

Rick Gilmore

2015-09-17 12:18:26

# Just for fun

Ode to the Brain! by Symphony of Science



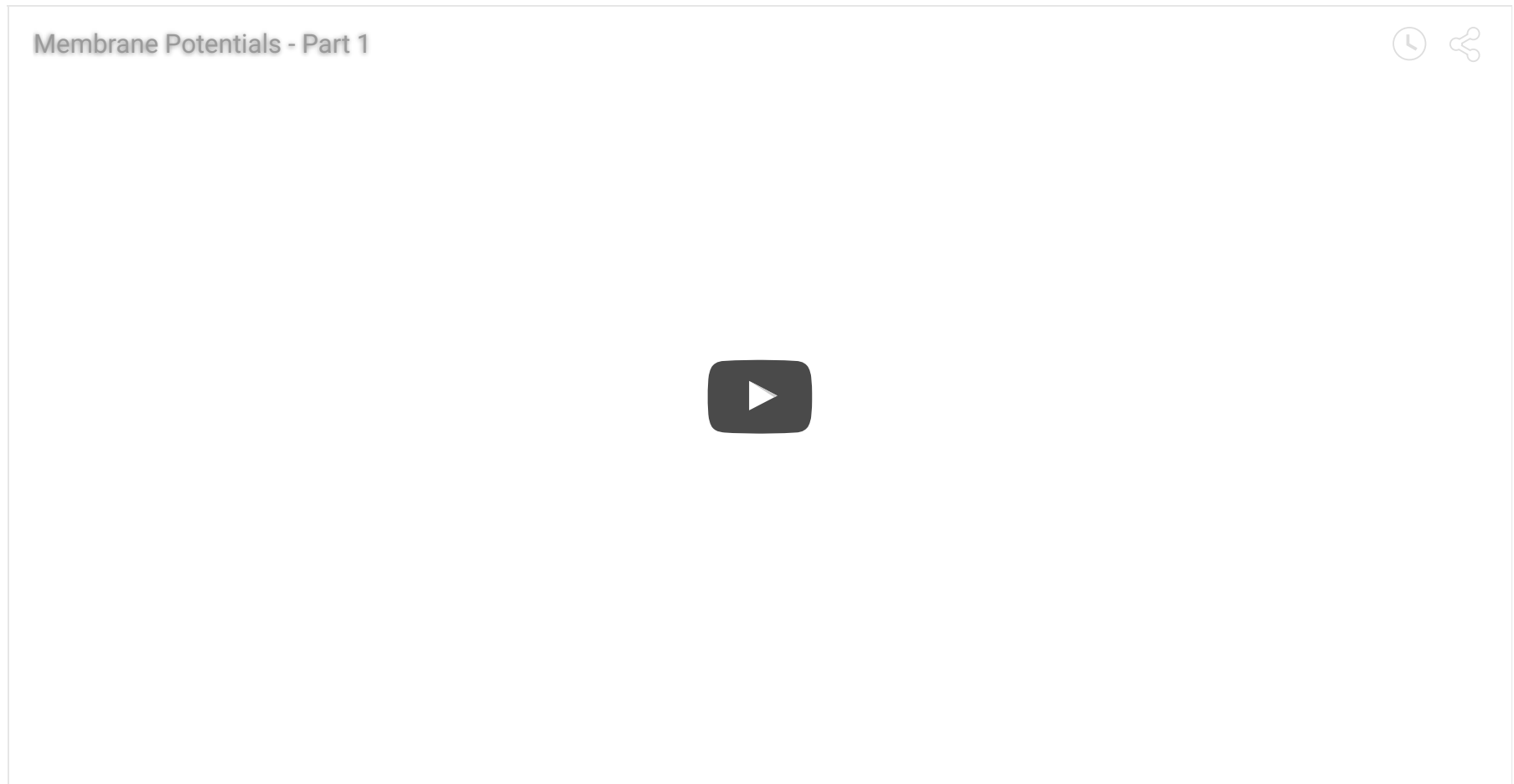
# Announcements

- Exam 1 review on Monday, 9/21
- **No class** on Wednesday, 9/23
- Exam 1 on Friday, 9/25

# Today's Topics

- The Action Potential

# Video summary of resting potential



5/38

# Question

- Where is  $\text{Na}^+$  concentration  $[\text{Na}^+]$  highest?
  - Inside
  - Outside

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  - Inside
  - **Outside**

# Question

- The force of diffusion will tend to push  $\text{Na}^+$ 
  - Inward
  - Outward



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  - **Outward**

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- The force of diffusion will tend to push  $K^+$ 
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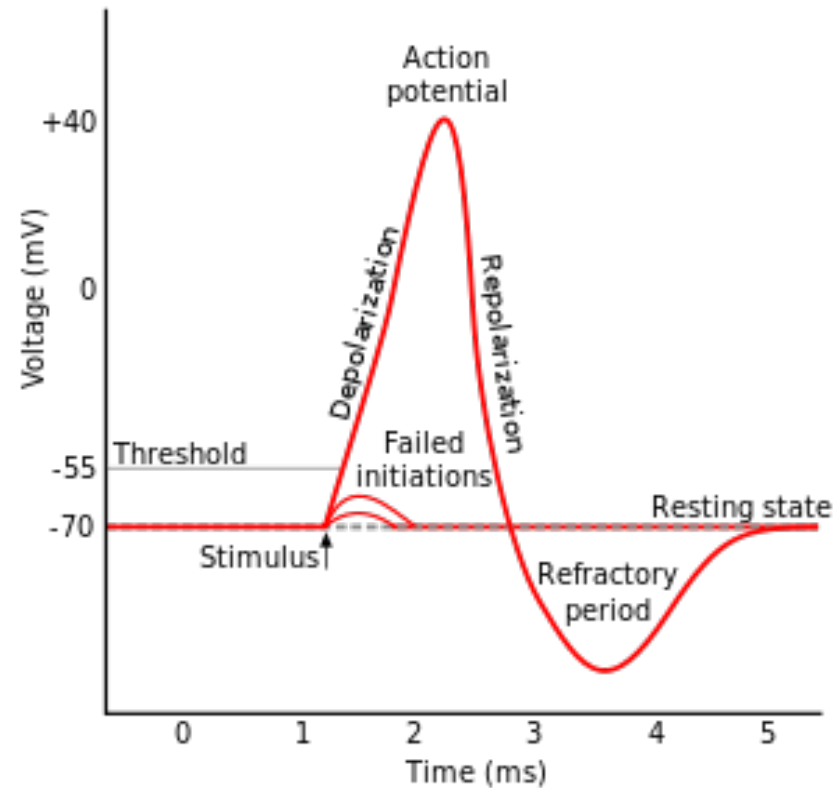
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# Action potential



[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/4/4a/Action\\_potential.svg/300px-Action\\_potential.svg.png](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/4/4a/Action_potential.svg/300px-Action_potential.svg.png)

16/38



# Action potential

- Threshold of excitation
- Increase (rising phase/depolarization)
- Peak
  - at positive voltage
- Decline (falling phase/repolarization)
- Return to resting potential (refractory period)

# Action potential break-down

Phase	Neuron State
Rise to threshold	+ input makes membrane potential more +
Rising phase	Voltage-gated Na <sup>+</sup> channels open, Na <sup>+</sup> enters
Peak	Voltage-gated Na <sup>+</sup> channels close and deactivate; voltage-gated K <sup>+</sup> channels open
Falling phase	K <sup>+</sup> exits
Refractory period	Na <sup>+</sup> /K <sup>+</sup> pump restores [Na <sup>+</sup> ], [K <sup>+</sup> ]; voltage-gated K <sup>+</sup> channels close

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# Question

- During rising phase,  $\text{Na}^+$  enters because
  - Force of diffusion pushes  $\text{Na}^+$  in
  - Electrostatic force pushes  $\text{Na}^+$  in
  - Electrostatic force pushes  $\text{K}^+$  out

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# Question

- Why does membrane potential go from - to +?
  - $\text{Na}^+$  ions are +, inward flow makes interior more +
  - $\text{K}^+$  ions are +, outward flow makes interior more +

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# Question

- During falling phase,  $K^+$  flows out of cell because
  - Force of diffusion pushes  $K^+$  out.
  - Force of diffusion keeps  $K^+$  in.
  - Electrostatic force pushes  $K^+$  out.
  - Electrostatic force keeps  $K^+$  in.

# Question

- During falling phase,  $K^+$  flows out of cell because
  - **Force of diffusion pushes  $K^+$  out.**
  - Force of diffusion keeps  $K^+$  in.
  - **Electrostatic force pushes  $K^+$  out.**
  - Electrostatic force keeps  $K^+$  in.



# Question

- At peak of action potential, why does electrostatic force push  $K^+$  out?
  - Membrane potential is +,  $K^+$  repelled from interior
  - Membrane potential is -,  $K^+$  attracted to interior

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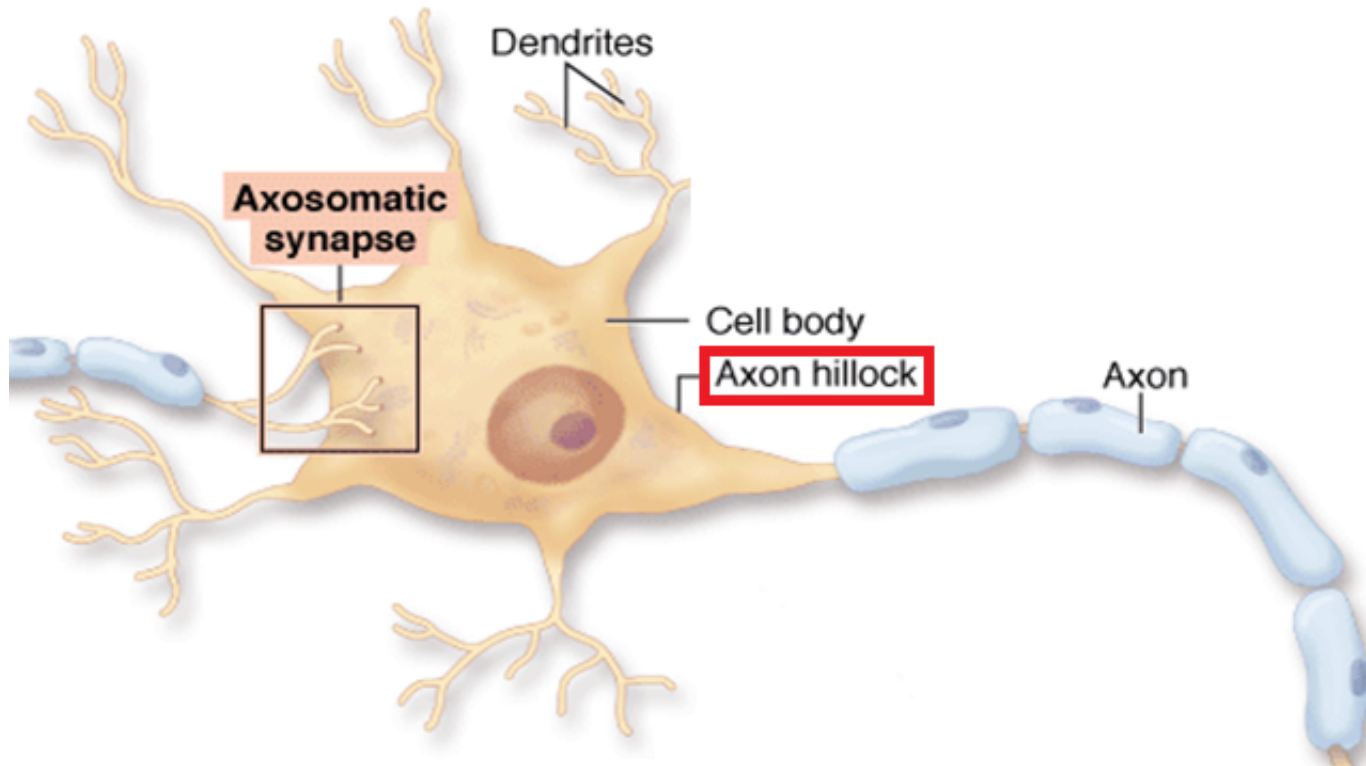
# Refractory periods

- Absolute
  - Cannot generate action potential (AP) no matter the size of the stimulus
  - Voltage-gated Na<sup>+</sup> channels inactivated, reactivate in time.
- Relative
  - Can generate AP with larg(er) stimulus
  - Some voltage-gated K<sup>+</sup> channels still open
- Refractory periods put 'spaces' between APs

# Generating APs

- Axon hillock
  - Portion of soma adjacent to axon
  - Integrates/sums input to soma
- Axon initial segment
  - Umyelinated portion of axon adjacent to soma
  - Voltage-gated Na<sup>+</sup> and K<sup>+</sup> channels exposed
  - If sum of input to soma > threshold, voltage-gated Na<sup>+</sup> channels open

# Axon hillock, axon initial segment

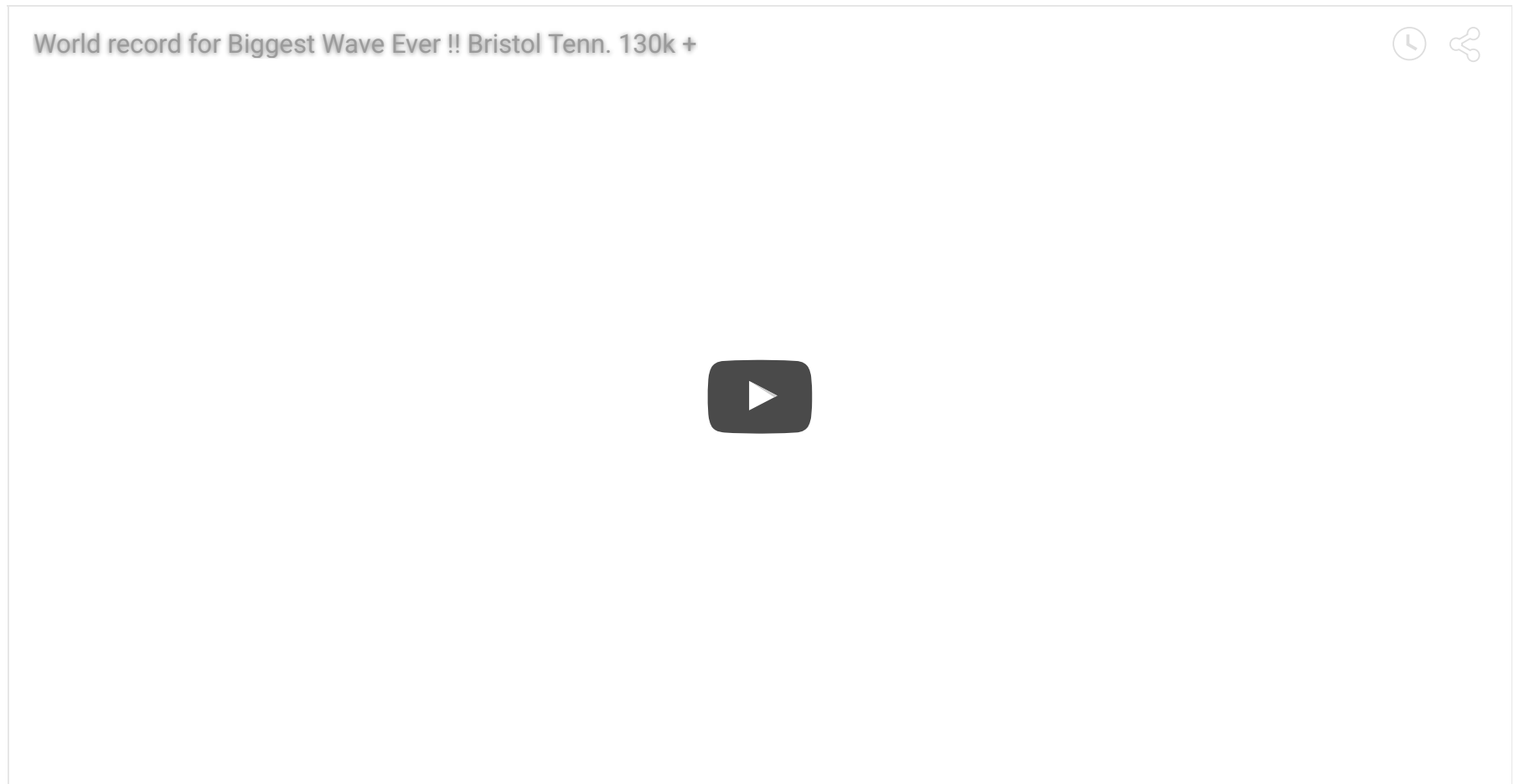


[Axon Hillock](#)" by [M.aljar3i](#) - Own work. Licensed under [CC BY-SA 3.0](#) via [Commons](#)

# AP propagation

- Propagation
  - move down axon, away from soma, toward axon terminals.
- Unmyelinated axon
  - Each segment "excites" the next

# AP propagation is like



# AP propagation

- Myelinated axon
  - AP "jumps" between Nodes of Ranvier, *saltatory conduction*
  - Nodes of Ranvier == unmyelinated sections of axon
  - voltage-gated Na<sup>+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup> channels exposed
  - Current flows through myelinated segments



# Question

- Why does AP flow in one direction, away from soma?
  - Soma does not have (many) voltage-gated Na<sup>+</sup> channels.
  - Soma is not myelinated.
  - Refractory periods mean polarization only in one direction.

# Question

- Why does AP flow in one direction, away from soma?
  - **Soma does not have (many) voltage-gated Na<sup>+</sup> channels.**
  - Soma is not myelinated.
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# Conduction velocities

## Nerve conduction velocity

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**Nerve conduction velocity** is an important aspect of nerve conduction studies. It is the speed at which an electrochemical impulse propagates down a neural pathway. Conduction velocities are affected by a wide array of factors, including age, sex, and various medical conditions. Studies allow for better diagnoses of various neuropathies, especially demyelinating conditions as these conditions result in reduced or non-existent conduction velocities.

### Contents

- 1 Normal conduction velocities
- 2 Testing methods
  - 2.1 Nerve conduction studies
    - 2.1.1 Micromachined 3D electrode arrays
- 3 Causes of conduction velocity deviations
  - 3.1 Anthropometric and other individualized factors
    - 3.1.1 Age
    - 3.1.2 Sex
    - 3.1.3 Temperature
    - 3.1.4 Height
    - 3.1.5 Hand factors
  - 3.2 Medical conditions
    - 3.2.1 Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)
    - 3.2.2 Carpal tunnel syndrome
    - 3.2.3 Guillain-Barre syndrome
    - 3.2.4 Lambert-Eaton myasthenic syndrome

# What happens when AP runs out of axon?

- Rapid change in voltage triggers neurotransmitter (NT) release
- Voltage-gated calcium  $\text{Ca}^{++}$  channels open
- $\text{Ca}^{++}$  causes *synaptic vesicles* to bind with presynaptic membrane, merge
- NTs diffuse across *synaptic cleft*
- NTs bind with *receptors* on *postsynaptic membrane*
- NTs unbind, are inactivated

# Wrap-up

Nerve Impulse Mechanism [3D Animation]



37/38

# Next time

- Review for Exam 1