Influence of inhibitory circuits on the frequency tuning of mitral cells

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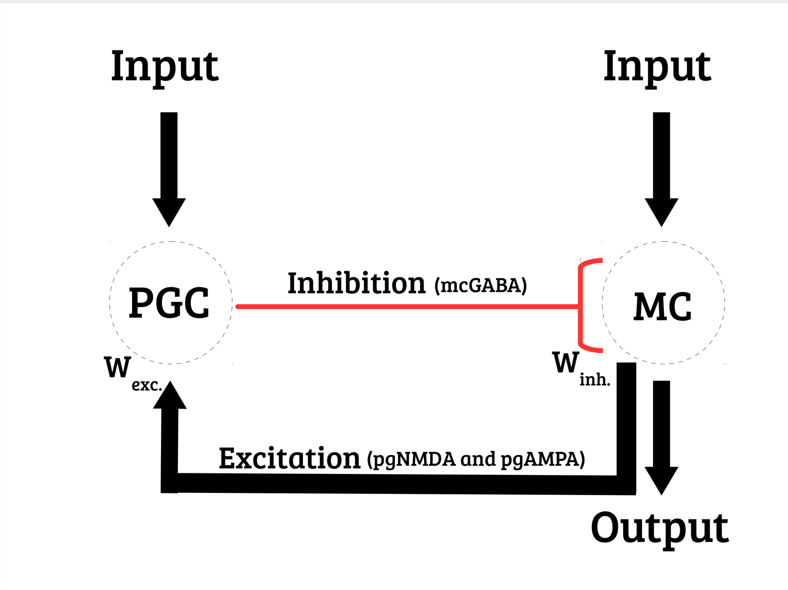
Introduction

- Recent studies show that the structure of odour stimuli contains information about the olfactory scene [1, 2].
- We investigated whether mitral cells (MCs) in the OB show frequency tuning and, if they do, how different components of the glomerular layer circuitry shape and determine the tuning.

Model



- We used a model of the OB (modified from [3]).
- Modeled MC - PGC (periglomerular cells), focusing on recurrent and feed - forward inhibition in the glomerular layer.

Method

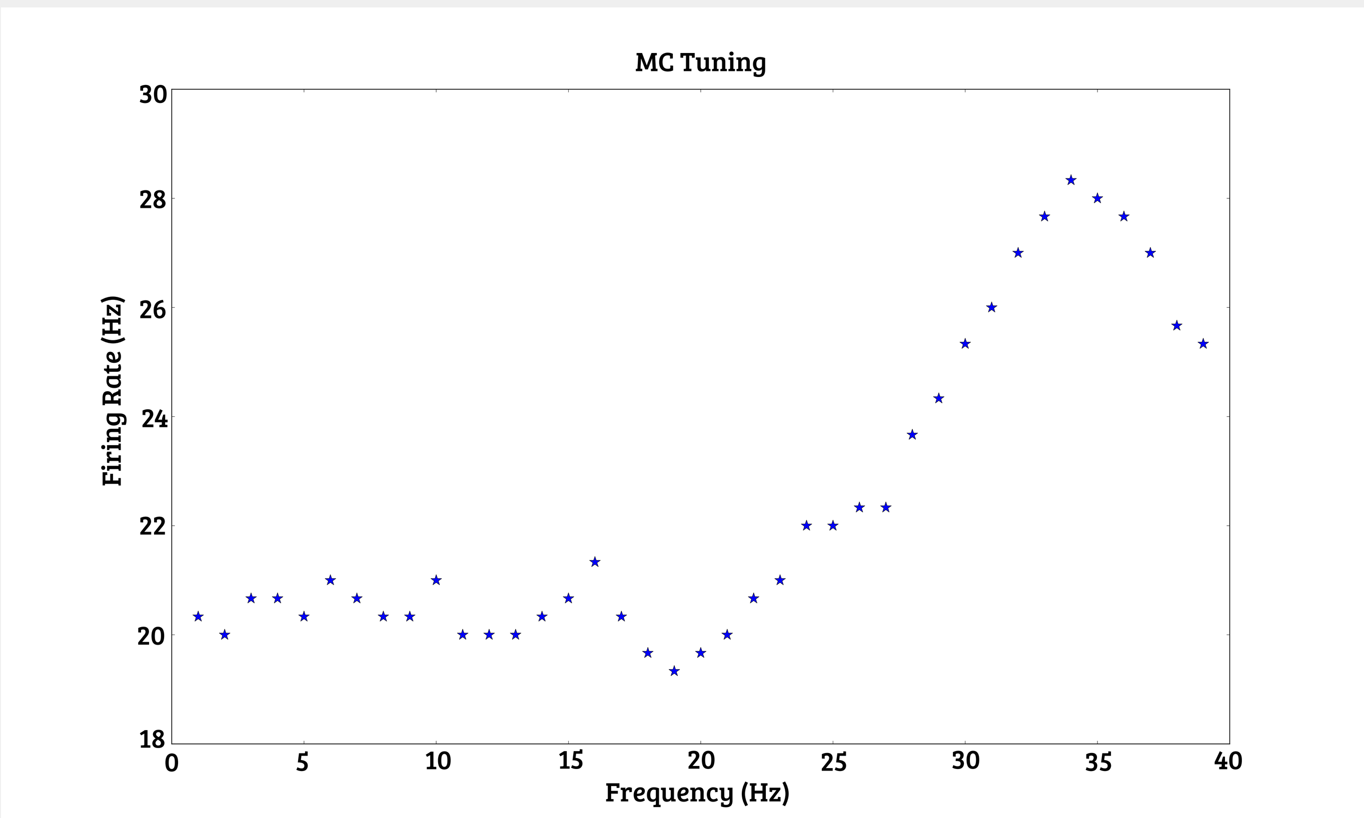
- Parameter combinations: PGC input strength, MC - PGC excitation strength and PGC - MC inhibition strength.
- We used sinusoidal currents of varying frequencies as input, using the equation:

$$y(t) = c \cdot \sin(2 \cdot \pi \cdot ft + \varphi) + 0.18$$

- Where strength of input to MC (c) = 0.45nA and phase (φ) = 0.
- PGC input is defined as i·c, where i is the PGC input factor.

Parameter	Iteration Values
PGC Input Factor (i)	0.2 0.3 0.4 0.5 0.6
MC - PGC excitation strength (W_{exc})	2.0 4.0 6.0 8.0 10.0
PGC - MC inhibition strength (W_{inh})	1.0 2.0 3.0 4.0 5.0
Frequency (f)	1.0, 2.0, 3.0, ... , 40.0

- Constructed frequency tuning curves (fig2) and then extracted the peak resonance frequency (fig 3).



- Extracted the resonance strength of the tuning Q (fig 4), measured as:

$$Q = \frac{(F_{max} - F_{min})}{\langle F \rangle}$$

- F_{max} and F_{min} are maximum and minimum firing rate.
- $\langle F \rangle$ is mean firing rate over all measured frequencies.

Acknowledgements

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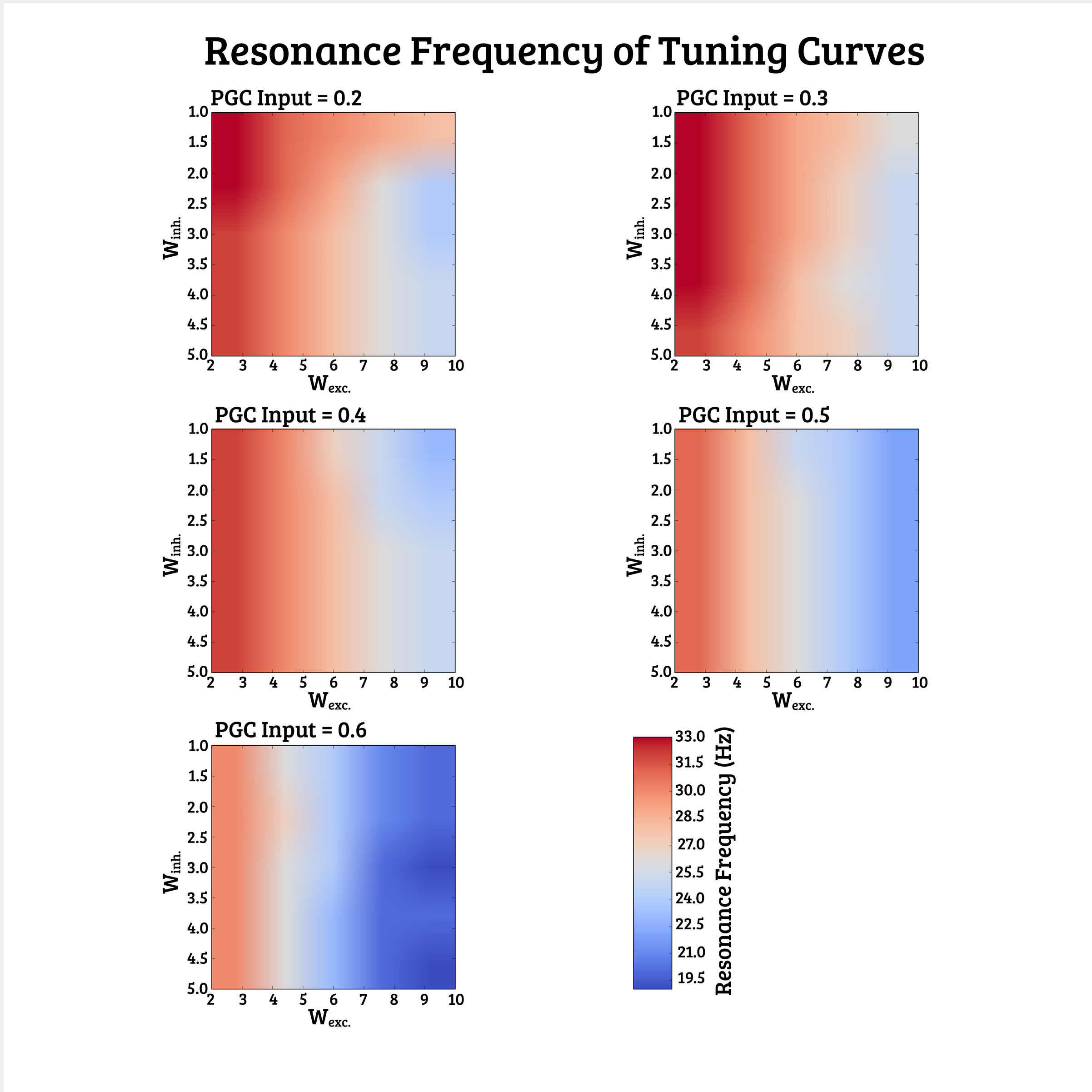
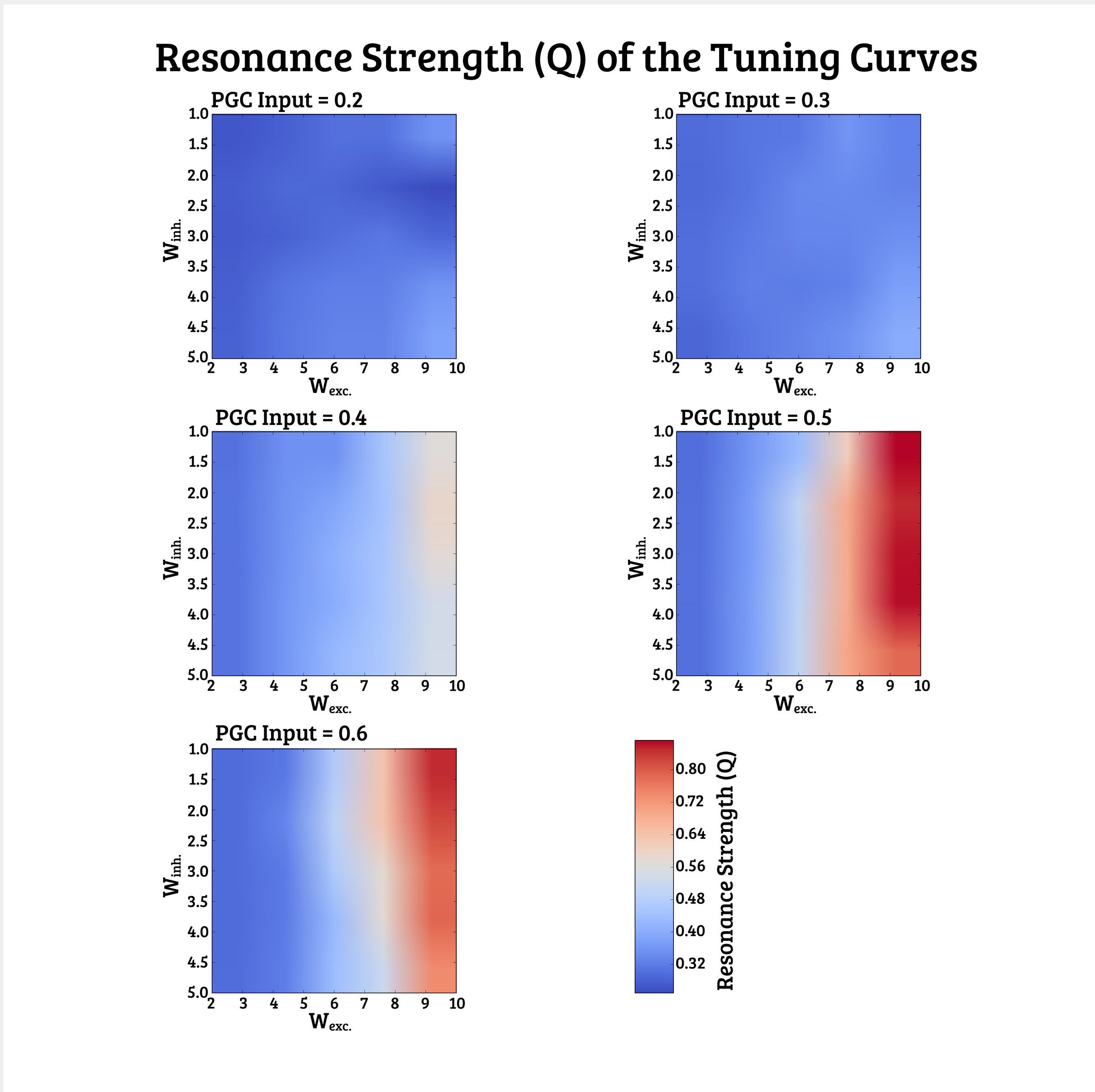
Results



- Resonance frequency decreased as the excitation of the PGC increased (both from input and the MC).
- Strength of PGC inhibition onto the MC did not have a strong effect.



- Resonance strength increased with the strength of the excitatory connection, when the PGC received sufficient external input.

Conclusion

- Our results suggest that MCs can show frequency tuning in the presence of sufficiently strong excitatory connections between MCs and PGCs, which provide feedback inhibition to the MCs.
- Therefore, the OB might be able to detect the frequency composition of signals.
- This could be used for olfactory scene analysis.
- However, we only see tuning in a narrow frequency range.

References

[1] A. Celani, E. Villermaux, and M. Vergassola, ``Odor landscapes in turbulent environments,'' Physical Review X, vol. 4, no. 4, p. 041015, 2014.[2] M. Schmuker, V. Bahr, and R. Huerta, ``Exploiting plume structure to decode gas source distance using metal-oxide gas sensors,'' Sensors and Actuators B: Chemical, vol. 235, pp. 636--646, 2016.[3] G. Li and T. A. Cleland, ``A two-layer biophysical model of cholinergic neuromodulation in olfactory bulb,'' Journal of Neuroscience, vol. 33, no. 7, pp. 3037--3058, 2013.[4] J. N. Brea, L. M. Kay, and N. J. Kopell, ``Biophysical model for gamma rhythms in the olfactory bulb via subthreshold oscillations,'' Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, vol. 106, no. 51, pp. 21954--21959, 2009.

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