

Problem 01: This problem considers two coupled ODEs with different timescales  $\epsilon_1$  and  $\epsilon_2$ :

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = \epsilon_1^{-1} [-x(t) + y(t) + I(t)]$$

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = \epsilon_2^{-1} [-y(t) + x(t)^2 + A]$$

Part (a):

if  $\epsilon_1 \ll \epsilon_2$ , it means  $\frac{dx}{dt}$  evolves much faster than  $\frac{dy}{dt}$ . Thus, we assume  $x(t)$  rapidly reaches a steady state relative to  $y(t)$ , leading to  $\frac{dx}{dt} \approx 0$ .

From the equation  $\epsilon_1^{-1} [-x(t) + y(t) + I(t)] \approx 0$

$$x(t) \approx y(t) + I(t)$$

Substituting  $x(t)$  in the equation for  $y(t)$ :

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = \epsilon_2^{-1} [-y(t) + (y(t) + I(t))^2 + A]$$

This differs from the provided equation (4), suggesting that if there was an error in interpreting the steady-state condition or the simplification.

Part (b): if  $\epsilon_2 \ll \epsilon_1$  then  $\frac{dy}{dt}$  evolves faster than  $\frac{dx}{dt}$  suggesting  $\frac{dy}{dt} \approx 0$ : From the equation  $\epsilon_2^{-1} [-y(t) + x(t)^2 + A] = 0$

$$y(t) \approx x(t)^2 + A$$

Substituting  $y(t)$  in the equation for  $x(t)$ :

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = \epsilon_1^{-1} [-x(t) + x(t)^2 + A + I(t)]$$

This results in an approximation closer to equation (5) including that simplification based on  $\epsilon_2 \ll \epsilon_1$  is consistent.

Part (c): if  $\epsilon_1 \ll \epsilon_2$ , then none of the approximations leading to equations (4) or (5) would hold because both variables evolve on the same timescale, preventing any simplification based on timescale separation.

### Problem 02:

Given the channel equation:

$$\frac{dR}{dt} = \frac{1}{\epsilon_1} [-R(t) + R_0(v(t))]$$

And the influence on the voltage:

$$\frac{dv}{dt} = \frac{1}{\epsilon_2} [-v(t) - V_0 + R(t)A]$$

Part (a): if  $\epsilon_2 \ll \epsilon_1$  then  $v(t)$  rapidly adjusts, leading to  $dv/dt \approx 0$  implying:  $v(t) \approx -V_0 + R(t)A$

This dimension reduction allows us to describe  $v(t)$  in terms of  $R(t)$ , making it a consistent simplification if  $\epsilon_2 \ll \epsilon_1$ .

Part (b): if  $\epsilon_1 \approx \epsilon_2$ , it becomes impossible to simplify or reduce dimensions based on the timescale because both  $R(t)$  and  $v(t)$  evolve at similar rates.

Part (c): if  $\epsilon_1 \ll \epsilon_2$ ,  $R(t)$  stabilizes quickly;  $R(t) \approx R_0(v(t))$

This feedback impacts  $dv/dt$ , allowing  $v(t)$  to be described in terms of  $R(t)$ , simplifying the system.