



DEGREE PROJECT IN TECHNOLOGY,  
SECOND CYCLE, 30 CREDITS  
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# Template

## KTH Thesis Report

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# Abstract

This is a template for writing thesis reports for the ICT school at KTH. I do not own any of the images provided in the template and this can only be used to submit thesis work for KTH.

The report needs to be compiled using XeLaTeX as different fonts are needed for the project to look like the original report. You might have to change this manually in overleaf.

This template  
was created by Hannes Rabo <hannes.rabo@gmail.com or hrabo@kth.se> from the template provided by KTH. You can send me an email if you need help in making it work for you.

Write an abstract. Introduce the subject area for the project and describe the problems that are solved and described in the thesis. Present how the problems have been solved, methods used and present results for the project. Use probably one sentence for each chapter in the final report.

The presentation of the results should be the main part of the abstract. Use about 1/2 A4-page. English abstract

## Keywords

Template, Thesis, Keywords ...

# Abstract

Svenskt abstract Svensk version av abstract – samma titel på svenska som på engelska.

Skriv samma abstract på svenska. Introducera ämnet för projektet och beskriv problemen som löses i materialet. Presentera

## Nyckelord

Kandidat examensarbete, ...

# Acknowledgements

Write a short acknowledgements. Don't forget to give some credit to the examiner and supervisor.

# Acronyms

<b>DS</b>	Dynamic System
<b>NN</b>	Neural Network
<b>ANN</b>	Artificial Neural Network
<b>SNN</b>	Spiking neural network
<b>IF</b>	Integrate and Fire
<b>LIF</b>	Leaky-integrate-and-fire
<b>HH</b>	Hodgkin–Huxley
<b>NLP</b>	Natural Language Processing
<b>LQG</b>	Linear Quadratic Gaussian

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# Chapter 1

## Introduction

Provide a general introduction to the area for the degree project. Use references!

Link things together with references. This is a reference to a section: 1.1.

The human brain is a brilliant computing unit comprised of around 86 billion[1] neurons. Each of these neurons can have thousands of connections to other neurons.. Between these connections, information travels through the network as electrical impulses that interact with the neurons own electrical potential. The huge network complex of the human brain is capable of vastly different and intricate tasks. Some problems that are still next to impossible to solve by machines and classical algorithms alone. Moreover many machine implementations lack the speed, precision or flexibility of the human counterpart.

Researchers want to remedy this by mimicking the brain's internal network structure to solve problems deemed unsuitable for classic algorithms.

A variety of different architectures have been proposed, with the most prevalent design being a feed-forward network. Information travels only in one direction and is not propagated by spikes but gradients usually set in  $[0, 1]$  or  $[-1, 1]$ . These Artificial Neural Networks (ANNs) have made impressive progress in the fields of image recognition and Natural Language Processing (NLP)(using Transformers).

This abstract representation bears advantages e.g in modelling and implementation but also gives away some key features of the human brain. Do to the information traveling only towards the output, feed-forward networks cannot build a memory or temporal data. Recurrent models exist which allow for memory and sequential data input but lose some of the advantages compared to the Feed-Forward.

Neuro stuff  
very rapid  
development  
tremendous  
progress, m  
things are  
successful v  
NNs. Then  
list fields th  
work well.  
E.g pattern  
recognition  
bioinformat  
neuroscienc  
With spikin  
neural netw  
they are be  
the state of  
art feedforw  
networks bu  
the gap is  
closing. Th  
are already  
fields where  
they are ex

A third generation of network architectures has risen, which aims to be even more biologically plausible. Inspired from nature, they implement spiking behaviour and recurrence found in the human brain. This newer form of Spiking neural network (SNN) is as powerful as the classic feed-forward but suited for temporal data.

While feed-forward networks are still outperforming SNNs, in some cases SNNs are on par or more performant.

meth where  
are better  
ref

Now list the goal: We want to do it for DS and check how good they are. Then method and then work. Take from below

Human brain amazing

We struggle to make to replicate at the computer level with algorithms

Neural network a way to imitate the brain and its inner workings.

Neural networks have shown and proven performance in certain areas

They lack in some others

Therefore considerable research went into it

Now we have spiking neural networks, that imitate the brain even more

We hope that with that we have even better performance

From very biological to very abstract there have been many proposals

Cost performance trade off.

Spiking networks have gained similar or exceeding performance compared to the artificial one in some areas-> refs

Key advantage is in the temporal dimensional gain.

One field they are suited well is the control of dynamic systems

In this thesis we use a spiking neural network to control a linear dynamic system

The usual way to simulate biological dynamic systems is using LQG control -> ref

I believe because of the energy minimization

So we can compare them with usual NN and control in terms of performance... i guess

We start by giving an intro into spiking neural networks

Then spiking neural networks for dynamic systems

After control theory with SNN and maybe regular LQG control

Lately the learnign of SNNs for the control of dynamic system

Further work:

Maybe learning methods to control nonlinear dynamic systems

Maybe we can even do the adversarial attack to try to screw with the network.  
Implement this on neuromorphic hardware

### Problem:

Problem is that it is unnatural for classic NN to use temporal data.  
They usually quantize it and make a big input layer -> ref  
There are recurrent networks but ... they need to have smth bad as well  
The LQG control is also not great for some reason I need to find  
There are many spiking network archetypes like poisson and GLM and balanced  
Also problem is that for some spiking networks learning rules could be hard to come by.  
There are many prospects though as for example .....->refs  
Also usually learning rules smth of an inverse and that the brain does not have or do I believe arvind said

### Method:

We use a SNN to control any arbitrary DS  
Balanced networks show some key motives seen in the brain like poisson distribution and smth else ->ref  
The SNN is to be trained with a STDP rule  
Then compared to optimal weights  
Then investigated about robustness and other things as many before  
One part of robustness is trying to get the most essential nodes of the snn to function well.  
, Then we have the potential to find a classic nn and train it with that ???  
With that out of the way we can compare the performance of all the methods.  
Then we could study the usability for biological interpretation.  
Maybe even train time over performance or smth whatever

### Work:

Explain the controller method aka what the math of the controller  
In method explain the balanced and the derivation  
In work summarize the implementation

Same for the conventional NN

Summarize the training method

Explain and derive the training method in method

Results:

To everthign mentioned in method for performance and so on

Answer the questions of the problem!!!!

## 1.1 Background

Present the background for the area. Give the context by explaining the parts that are needed to understand the degree project and thesis. (Still, keep in mind that this is an introductory part, which does not require too detailed description).

Use references<sup>1</sup>

Detailed description of the area should be moved to Chapter 2, where detailed information about background is given together with related work.

This background presents background to writing a report in latex.

Example citation [**Jones2017**] or for two authors: [**Jones2017, Liu2017**]

Look at sample table 1.1.1 for a table sample.

Table 1.1.1: Sample table. Make sure the column with adds up to 0.94 for a nice look.

SAMPLE	TABLE
One	Stuff 1
Two	Stuff 2
Three	Stuff 3

Boxes can be used to organize content

---

<sup>1</sup>You can also add footnotes if you want to clarify the content on the same page.

### Development environment for prototype

#### Operating systems

computer: Linux - kernel 4.18.5-arch1-1-ARCH

android phone: 8.1.0

#### Build tools

exp (build tool): version 55.0.4

...

## 1.2 Problem

NN have excelled at many fields

Fields where they are not fit

aka temporal data

They have ways to compromise on that

-> reference

Spiking nn inherently temporal

more natural choice

However they also have problems

like the following::: reference!!

## 1.3 Purpose

The purpose of the degree project/thesis is the purpose of the written material, i.e., the thesis. The thesis presents the work / discusses / illustrates and so on.

It is not “The project is about” even though this can be included in the purpose. If so, state the purpose of the project after purpose of the thesis).

Probably delete as a own paragraph but mention smth like that.

## 1.4 Goal

The goal means the goal of the degree project. Present following: the goal(s), deliverables and results of the project.

The goal of this project is to create a SNN that can control any given linear Dynamic System (DS). Furthermore should the Neural Network (NN) be robust against failing neurons or connections to some degree. With this we can investigate to find the smallest SNN with acceptable performance. Its performance should be comparable or supersede conventional control systems, like Linear Quadratic Gaussian (LQG) control, or NNs. We expect better results to conventional NNs because of the SNN's natural way to use temporal data. For the SNN itself we desire similarities to the brain, such as high precision or Poisson distributed spiking. To mimic the brain's learning, we want to use local training rules that are biologically plausible. The network should be converge to the optimal parameters.. This requirement would allow us to give a justified measure on how close we are replicating the brain's control power compared to our artificial implementation in specific circumstances.

## 1.5 Benefits, Ethics and Sustainability

Describe who will benefit from the degree project, the ethical issues (what ethical problems can arise) and the sustainability aspects of the project.

Use references!

## 1.6 Methodology

Introduce, theoretically, the methodologies and methods that can be used in a project and, then, select and introduce the methodologies and methods that are used in the degree project. Must be described on the level that is enough to understand the contents of the thesis.

Use references!

Preferably, the philosophical assumptions, research methods, and research approaches are presented here. Write quantitative / qualitative, deductive

/ inductive / abductive. Start with theory about methods, choose the methods that are used in the thesis and apply.

Detailed description of these methodologies and methods should be presented in Chapter 3. In chapter 3, the focus could be research strategies, data collection, data analysis, and quality assurance.

We build a SNN for a control problem and check it for performance as mentioned above. In addition we design a conventional controller and compare the result. IF we have the time for it we put a conventional NN to it too. We see the performance compared to the others and look at the specs we mentioned above. The SNN is trained by learning using STDP rule. We can compare the learned weights with the optimal weights when we have our own optimal controller/ we simulate our trajectory. For our approach we use a balanced spiking network.

### **1.7 Stakeholders**

Present the stakeholders for the degree project.

### **1.8 Delimitations**

Explain the delimitations. These are all the things that could affect the study if they were examined and included in the degree project. Use references!

### **1.9 Outline**

In text, describe what is presented in Chapters 2 and forward. Exclude the first chapter and references as well as appendix.

# Chapter 2

## <Theoretical Background>

In this chapter, a detailed description about background of the degree project is presented together with related work. Discuss what is found useful and what is less useful. Use valid arguments.

Explain what and how prior work / prior research will be applied on or used in the degree project /work (described in this thesis). Explain why and what is not used in the degree project and give valid reasons for rejecting the work/research.

Use references!

### 2.1 Use headings to break the text

Do not use subtitles after each other without text in between the sections.

### 2.2 Related Work

You should probably keep a heading about the related work here even though the entire chapter basically only contains related work.

Here just what has been done for each of the headlines

Previous efforts were already made to control dynamic systems with SNNs.

List here also efforts with other concepts apart from Balanced Networks

Neural networks in general spiking neural networks and their differences and what



they are better for. neuron models, iwazishi neuron and maybe one more mein neuron model und warum ich es ausgewaelt habe: einfach zu implementieren. Bereits fuer dynamische systeme verwendet, Nachteile dieses modells. Vlt vergleich mit einem anderen modell. Ganz kurzer ausflug in die regelung von dynamischen systemen.

What is a neural network? -> not here ref a paper. kurze erkl'ung in der einfuehrung in der einfuehrung vlt auch hodgekin huxley erwaehen :)

## 2.3 Dynamic systems

## 2.4 Neuron model

### 2.4.1 Biological Neuron model

The most biologically accurate model of neuron spiking is the Hodgkin–Huxley (HH) model. The HH-model considers the neuron with its ion channels. The membrane acts as a capacitance and the travelling ions in each ion channel contribute a current to the overall membrane potential. These ion gates are voltage dependent and are defined positive in direction out of the cell.

A particular ion channel for ion  $X$  can be modelled as

$$I_X = g_X \cdot (V - V_X) \quad (2.1)$$

These currents are summed summed for the different ion channels in question, most commonly for Sodium, Potassium and a leak current. In reality there are a plethora of different channels and channel properties<sup>1</sup>. The  $V_X$  are the equilibrium potentials for each of the channels and can be computed using the Nernst equation [7].

$$C \frac{dV}{dt} = g_{Na} \cdot (V - V_{Na}) + g_K \cdot (V - V_K) + g_l \cdot (V - V_l) \quad (2.2)$$

Add a  
reference to  
monograph

Do model the voltage dependency of the ion channels, the conductances are described with gating variables, usually called  $n$ ,  $h$  and  $g$  for Na-Activation, Na-Inactivation and K-activation respectively. One gating variable is set between  $[0, 1]$  and models the permeability of said gate. Multiple gates are used to fit to each ion channel in order to match experimental data and the model behaviour.

<sup>1</sup>See `channelpedia.epfl.ch` for an extensive list

Gates have first order dynamics of the form

$$\frac{dn}{dt} = \alpha_n(1 - n) - \beta_n n \quad (2.3)$$

for e.g the n gate. The other gates' dynamics are analogous. The functions  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are voltage but not time dependent. The discussion of initial values as well as functions for  $\alpha_p, \beta_p$   $p = (n, h, m)$  can be found in [3] or [7]. The gates for each ion channel's conductance are found to be

$$\begin{aligned} g_{Na} &= \bar{g}_{Na} n^4 \\ g_K &= \bar{g}_K m^3 h \end{aligned} \quad (2.4)$$

and give form to the final model

$$\begin{aligned} C \frac{dV}{dt} &= I(t) - \bar{g}_{Na} n^4 (V - V_{Na}) - \bar{g}_K m^3 h (V - V_K) - g_L (V - V_L) \\ \frac{dn}{dt} &= (1 - n) \alpha_n(V) - \beta_n n(V) \\ \frac{dm}{dt} &= (1 - m) \alpha_m(V) - \beta_m m(V) \\ \frac{dh}{dt} &= (1 - h) \alpha_h(V) - \beta_h h(V) \end{aligned} \quad (2.5)$$

We did not define a gate for the leak term as it is assumed constant.

## 2.4.2 "IF and LIF"

In contrast of the HH model in eq. (2.5), the simplest models of neurons are the Integrate and Fire (IF) and Leaky-integrate-and-fire (LIF) models.

**IF Neurons** IF Neurons, as the name implies, integrate the incoming current over time.

$$\frac{dV(t)}{dt} = \frac{1}{C} I(t) \quad (2.6)$$

The membrane voltage is governed by the incoming current spikes of connected neurons and the membrane capacitance. The neuron potential does not change without a change of input current and thus presents as a perfect integrator of the input.

**LIF Neurons** In contrast to that the LIF neuron contains a leak term on the RHS which brings the voltage back to its resting potential over time. The model can be expressed as

$$\tau \frac{dV(t)}{dt} = -(V(t) - E_r) + RI(t), \quad (2.7)$$

where  $\tau = RC$  is the time constant the composed of the membrane resistance  $R$  and the membrane capacitance  $C$  and the resting potential  $E_r$ . In the absence of input  $I(t)$  the voltage settles on the membrane potential  $E_r$ .

The input  $I(t)$  encapsulates external inputs as well as a sum of Dirac functions indicating a spiking neuron

$$I(t) = \sum_k \delta(t - t^k) \quad (2.8)$$

and  $t_k$  being the time of the  $k$ -th spike. When the membrane voltage exceeds the threshold potential  $\bar{v}$ , a spike is sent out by the neuron and the voltage sets back to its reset voltage  $v_{res}$ .

This is not correct. For weights, but the same thing only when there are more than one neuron

### 2.4.3 Izhikevich Neuron

While the above models deliver a useful and cheap simplification, they lack in accuracy. The Izhikevich model [6] of the neuron tries to be the of both worlds in terms of efficiency and accuracy. It is comprised of 2D ODEs with the membrane potential  $v$  as

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dv}{dt} &= 0.04v^2 + 5v + 140 - u + I(t) \\ \frac{du}{dt} &= a(bv - u). \end{aligned} \quad (2.9)$$

With the chosen factors, the neuron experiences a spike when  $u \geq 30\text{mV}$ , in which case the neuron resets to

$$\begin{aligned} u &\leftarrow u + d \\ v &\leftarrow c \end{aligned} \quad (2.10)$$

The parameters describe  $a$  scale of recovery,  $b$  sensitivity,  $c$  the reset potential of  $v$  and  $d$  the reset of variable  $u$ . Depending on these parameters one can achieve different behaviours of the neuron e.g. regular spiking, fast spiking and low threshold spiking to name a few [6].

Maybe shift explanation which could be extended on

## 2.5 Neural Networks

### 2.5.1 Biological Neural Network

### 2.5.2 Artificial Neural Networks

### 2.5.3 Spiking Neural Networks

A spiking Neural network is one step closer to a biologic representation of a brain. Instead of conveying information using a gradient in conventional NNs, information is propagated using discrete spikes of excitation, similar to biological neurons. Hereby one can distinguish between several ideas of implementation.

### 2.5.4 Poisson-Networks

### 2.5.5 Liquid state machines

### 2.5.6 GLM

### 2.5.7 Balanced Networks

Balanced networks differ from the previous approaches that they closely track excitation and inhibition. The derivation of its behaviour is adopted from [2] and [5].

We s

The derivation of the balanced spiking network follows the derivation found in [2] and [4]. The goal is to describe a dynamical system of the form

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{c}(t) \quad (2.11)$$

with  $J$  state variables. The estimating is done by leaky integration of spiking trains  $\mathbf{o}(t)$  in

$$\dot{\hat{\mathbf{x}}} = -\lambda_d \hat{\mathbf{x}} + \mathbf{\Gamma} \mathbf{o}(t). \quad (2.12)$$

$\mathbf{\Gamma}$  is a given Matrix of size  $\mathbb{R}^{J \times N}$ ,  $N$  being the number of neurons, with the different connection weights between the neurons. This matrix is given as initial and can be optimized by learning later.

In addition to the estimate  $\hat{\mathbf{x}}$  we define a spiking rate variable  $\mathbf{r}$  following the dynamics

of

$$\dot{\mathbf{r}} = -\lambda_d \mathbf{r} + \lambda_d \mathbf{o}(t). \quad (2.13)$$

The spikes are calculated by minimizing a cost function. A spike is fired if it minimizes the cost function that tracks the error between the true and estimated value over time

$$E(t) = \int_0^t \|\mathbf{x}(u) - \hat{\mathbf{x}}(u)\|_2^2 du. \quad (2.14)$$

The cost function integrates the error between the estimate and the real dynamic variable as well as regularization terms. These terms are added to encourage a

$$E(t) = \int_0^t (\|\mathbf{x}(u) - \hat{\mathbf{x}}(u)\|_2^2 + \nu \|\mathbf{r}(u)\|_1 + \mu \|\mathbf{r}(u)\|_2^2) du \quad (2.15)$$

The dynamic variable  $x$  is tracked by firing spikes in when the "pseudo voltage" of a neuron surpasses its

### 2.5.8 Learning: SGD and STDP

Key to give any NN the ability to solve a task, it is integral to learn/train the network. The adaption of synapse weights is necessary to accomplish any functionality based on the underlying data[8]. There are various ways to train a network. The most fundamental distinction can be made between supervised, unsupervised and reinforcement learning rules. One needs to remember that ANNs and SNNs require completely different learning algorithms because of their different transport of information.

For a review

#### Supervised Learning methods

Gradient based methods require differentiability and therefore continuity, thus are only applicable for ANNs.

Explain gradient methods. The derivative of the weights and biases is used for the derivative of the cost function. Efficient methods for building the derivative exists. With reference!

Put this reference in and say its copied part from them

## **Unsupervised Learning methods**

STDP

## **Reinforcement learning**

Here explain the concepts for each of the NNs

Give references for the STDP variances

# Chapter 3

## <Engineering-related content, Methodologies and Methods>

Describe the engineering-related contents (preferably with models) and the research methodology and methods that are used in the degree project.

Most likely it generally describes the method used in each step to make sure that you can answer the research question.

### 3.1 Engineering-related and scientific content:

Applying engineering related and scientific skills; modelling, analysing, developing, and evaluating engineering-related and scientific content; correct choice of methods based on problem formulation; consciousness of aspects relating to society and ethics (if applicable).

As mentioned earlier, give a theoretical description of methodologies and methods and how these are applied in the degree project.

was ist meine research question?

zusammensetzung von den beiden systeme: dynamisches system und neuronales netz. mehr oder weniger die herleitung kopieren aus dem paper. Dann mit learning von den gewichten.

Here I describe what how it needs to be done. So this is the place for the derivation The concept and the process whatever that means Later there comes the how I implemented

it. Here is what we needs to be implemented.

Here very detailed explanation of the Balanced network for this problem

Very detailed way for the regular NN for this problem Basics of the controller design used in this comparison aka LQG controller

Method of learning the weights for the SNN Method of comparison



# Chapter 4

## <The work>

Describe the degree project. What did you actually do? This is the practical description of how the method was applied.

### 4.1 Creating the SNN

How do we make the SNN MATLAB Balanced spiking network (say why to use that ) maybe pseudo code Ideally some theorem (convergence???) Simulation? nein kommt in den naechsten part

### 4.2 Creating the NN

### 4.3 Creating the regular Controller

# Chapter 5

## <Result>

Describe the results of the degree project.

# Chapter 6

## <Conclusions>

Describe the conclusions (reflect on the whole introduction given in Chapter 1).

Discuss the positive effects and the drawbacks.

Describe the evaluation of the results of the degree project.

Describe valid future work.

The sections below are optional but could be added here.

### **6.1 Discussion**

#### **6.1.1 Future Work**

#### **6.1.2 Final Words**

# Todo list

■	Neuro stuff, very rapid development, tremendous progress, many things are successful with NNs. Then list fields that work well. E.g pattern recognition, bioinformatics, neuroscience. With spiking neural networks they are behind the state of the art feedforward networks but the gap is closing. There are already fields where they excel compared over normal NN. . . . .	1
■	Maybe put some exact numbers here and a source . . . . .	1
■	Sounds vague . . . . .	1
■	Ref for Transformers . . . . .	1
■	Find some more fields with source! . . . . .	1
■	cite some LSTM networks . . . . .	1
■	Say smth where they are better with ref . . . . .	2
■	Now list the goal: We want to do it for DS and check how good they are. Then method and then work. Take from below . . . . .	2
■	give exact specifications. For example controllability . . . . .	6
■	What do we else want like the brain.Maybe low spike count? And what can we do? Also References! . . . . .	6
■	This is even more to ask than from a conventional NN, Say in method bcs there it has already been proven if I am not mistaken . . . . .	6
■	sounds vague . . . . .	6
■	List here also efforts with other concepts apart from Balanced Networks . . .	8
■	Add a reference to a monography. . . . .	9
■	This is not truly correct. Forgot weights, but at the same time only when there are more than 1 neuron . . . . .	11
■	Maybe shitty explanation, which could be extended on. . . . .	11

■ Make clear distinction between forward nns and ann. Bcs apparently they are not the same! . . . . .	12
■ Add some more general stuff here! . . . . .	12
■ Put this reference in and say its is copied partly from them . . . . .	13
■ Explain gradient methods. The derivative of the weights and biases is used for the derivative of the cost function. Efficient methods for building the derivative exists. With reference! . . . . .	13

**If you are using mendeley to manage references, you might have to export them manually in the end as the automatic ways removes the "date accessed" field**

# Bibliography

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# **Appendix A**

## **First Appendix**

This is only slightly related to the rest of the report

# **Appendix B**

## **Second Appendix**

this is the information