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Master Thesis

Thesis Title

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¡author¿

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Abstract

Faculty Name

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Master of

Thesis Title

by Shrisha Rao

The Thesis Abstract is written here (and usually kept to just this page). The page is kept centered vertically so can expand into the blank space above the title too...

Acknowledgements

The acknowledgements and the people to thank go here, don't forget to include your project advisor. . .

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Abbreviations

CA1   **L**ist **A**bbreviations **H**ere

CA3   **L**ist **A**bbreviations **H**ere

DG   **L**ist **A**bbreviations **H**ere

MEC   **L**ist **A**bbreviations **H**ere

LEC   **L**ist **A**bbreviations **H**ere

SWS   **L**ist **A**bbreviations **H**ere

SWR   **L**ist **A**bbreviations **H**ere

p   **L**ist **A**bbreviations **H**ere

Symbols

a	distance	m
P	power	W (Js^{-1})
ω	angular frequency	rads^{-1}

For/Dedicated to/To my...

Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 Anatomy

The hippocampal formation has been identified to be composed of several regions based on their cytoarchitecture. These are Dentate Gyrus, CA3, CA1, subiculum, pre and para subiculum and Entorhinal cortex. Sensory information from different modalities converges onto the hippocampus via the Entorihnal cortex and the reciprocal divergent connections from the hippocampus to the neocortex also pass through the EC. EC sends projections to DG and CA1 through the perforant pathway. DG sends mossy fibers to CA3. CA3 projects to CA1 through the Schaffer collaterals. CA3 has massive reccurent connections with other pyramidal cells in the same area. CA1 projects to EC, where divergent projections are sent out.

1.2 Internal representation of space

Spatial representation in animals is vital for their survival since they have to search for food and mates, this makes considerable demands in terms of spatial processing for success. Representation of space requires that the geometric relationship between objects in the environment are encoded using a convenient metric. The relevant objects and landmarks in the environment can thus be organized in a spatial framework, although the structure of space is independent of the sensory input through which the former is extracted. Spatial information provides the context for adaptive behaviours. Storing spatial relationships over time could be a plausible framework for encoding episodic memory.

Egocentric or allocentric representations can be used to encode and store spatial information. Egocentric space corresponds to the representation relative to the viewer's

current location. If the viewer moves, the egocentric representation also changes correspondingly. In allocentric representation, the spatial relationships of landmarks and objects in the environment are encoded relative to each other, independent of the viewer. Unless the objects move, the allocentric representation is stable even when the viewer moves. Hippocampus is a structure that has been implicated to play an important role in spatial processing and episodic memory.

1.2.1 Spatial navigation in the the rat

In this section I shall review some of the prominent discoveries made in experiments of spatial navigation conducted on rats and mice.

1.2.1.1 Place cells

Place cells were first discovered by O'Keefe and Dostrovsky [1]. Following this discovery, O'Keefe and Nadel [2] conceived of a functional role for the hippocampus, they proposed that the hippocampus is the substrate for a cognitive map which is formed while the rat explores its environment. This is known as the *cognitive map theory*. They suggested that the primary function of the hippocampus was to encompass mechanisms that would enable the learning and storage of the map in the hippocampal network. The cognitive map represents spatial information in allocentric space. So the relative spatial metrics of the landmarks in the incoming stimuli have to be computed. This map can then be utilized for for solving navigational tasks while the various structures of the hippocampus provide the spatial information related to place, head direction, and current view. They also suggested that the map is stored in the hippocampus and it is used in conjunction with information stored in other areas. By extending their theory to humans they postulated that episodic memory derives its basis from similar mechanisms that enable spatial processing in animals. ~~Leison studies corroborate their claims. The fornix fibers are one of the predominant fiber tracts into the hippocampus . Lesions in the track lead to partial deficit in spatial learning in rats, but cue learning is preserved.~~

Place cells are the pyramidal cells in the rat and mice hippocampus. Place cells derive their name form the fact that their discharge is strongly correlated with the position of the animal in the environment. In a given unchanging environment, each cell has a preferred location called the place field where the cell fires maximally. The cells that are active in one environment may not participate in another. The total number of cells active in a given environment is proposed to be 25-30 % providing a sparse representation which increases storage capacity and reduces interference between representations[3**?**].

Recent Ca^{2+} imaging of CA1 pyramidal cells are consistent with this account [4]. Place cells are found in the CA1 and CA3 regions of the dorsal hippocampus. They have also been found in the ventral hippocampus.

Place cell activity in response to environmental manipulations have been intensively studied. The trajectories traversed by the rat determine the directionality of the place cell [5]. If the place cell is indeed coding for a specific location, then its firing must be independent of head direction. The angular firing distribution is found to pass this test in the open field and any modulation of firing by head direction in a maze can be explained as a result of non-uniform sampling of head directions at every location [6]. It is possible that in the open field the place cells achieve omni-directionality by associative binding of local views [7]. Hence, the place cells might develop omni-directionality through random exploration rather than directed exploration in a linear or radial maze. The place cell spiking times are known to show reliable relationship with respect to the ongoing theta rhythm when the rat is in motion. The firing of the place cells show theta phase precession in one dimensional tracks [8] as well as in unconstrained open field [9]. When the animal enters the place field of a cell, the cell fires at late phase of theta and as the rate traverses through the place field it fires at earlier phases of successive theta cycles. The cell fires maximally at the trough of theta when the rat is at location corresponding to the peak of the place field tuning curve. Thus the theta phase of the spike times is correlated with the distance the animal has travelled along the place field. This is often referred to as temporal coding [10]. When several cells are recorded, the cells with overlapping place fields fire at different phases of theta, which is suggested as an encoding strategy for compressing sequences in time. This has the advantage that these sequences are arranged in the time scale of LTP to influence the synaptic connectivity between the cells participating in the sequence. Thus providing a mechanism for rapid storage of encoded ongoing experience.

The place cells are not associated only with visual cues. The place fields are observed to persist even after the removal of visual landmarks [11]. In an experiment where the animals were placed with lights on and subsequently turned off, most place fields did not disappear in the dark [12]. So the place fields are derived by integrating both visual and non-visual cues.

1.2.1.2   Head Direction cells

Often when someone is given a map and asked to find his way to a certain goal location, one starts by orienting oneself with the help of a compass or cues such as the sun or the starts. Thus for successful spatial navigation and route planning with the cognitive

map, there must be a neural system which provides a stable reference direction in an environment. A subset of cells in the postsubiculum are found to be sensitive to head direction [13]. The head direction tracking can be achieved through angular integration. The head direction system is perhaps wired to implement a continuous ring attractor which receives vestibular and visual inputs. These inputs are integrated to generate a stable activity distribution along the perceived head direction. If there is considerable mismatch between the inputs will result in the reference direction being reset along the orientation implied by the stronger input [14].

1.2.1.3   Grid Cells

The neurons in the Medial Entorihnal cortex (MEC) are also found to be spatially tuned. These cells fire at regular distances along the animals' trajectory. Their tuning curves show gird like structure spanning the whole environment. The vertices of the grid form equilateral triangles [15]. The grid cell population comprises grid cells of different scales, orientations and phases. They provide an internally calibrated scale for spatial computations. How the grid structure emerges is yet to be understood. The hippocampal back projections to MEC are critical for a reliable grid structure [16].

1.2.2   Path integration

Path integration, also referred to as dead reckoning is one of the strategies that can be used for spatial navigation. It keeps track of the the current location with respect to a reference point in the current reference frame. The ability to path integrate is vital for the survival of animals, it provides a means of computing the home location after the animal has traveled away from home location in search of food. Self motion information (speed and acceleration) and heading direction are essential information that need to be available for path integration. If the speed and heading direction is known at an arbitrary location, then the future location can be readily computed. Unless the ideothetic information is noisy, a perfect path integration system is capable of maintaining location information with respect to a reference point. Any noise that enters the measurements of speed and direction will lead to accumulative error in the predicted location. This increasing error can be corrected if the system has access to location information with respect to external landmarks. In animals this is the sensory input that is constantly available. Both self motion cues and sensory information when used together provide a better estimation of the current location. Interesting experiments can be designed in virtual reality by introducing appreciable conflict between sensory input and ideothetic information.

1.2.2.1 Multichart architechture

One of theories proposes that the synaptic connections of the CA3 pyramidal cells are pre-configured to represent a large number of two-dimensional surfaces [17]. The pre-configured architecture is achieved through special synaptic connectivity. Along each surface the synaptic strength between neurons any two neurons is a function of the distance between the peaks of place fields. A simple way to understand how the weights are assigned is to imagine a plane with randomly chosen subset of cells placed on this plane. Then the synaptic strength between any proximally located pair of cells is given by a two dimensional gaussian function of the distance between them. The cells further away receive inhibitory connections. This synaptic connectivity scheme produces 2 dimensional quasi-continuous attractors. The imaginary arrangement of a population of place cells on an abstract plane such that each cell is fixed at a location where it shows maximum firing activity is called a *chart*. When this chart is bound to an environment, then each cell shows peak firing at the appropriate location in the physical location to which it has been mapped. Their model proposes that multiple charts are available which could be potentially used to represent several environments or the same environment in differing contexts. These *charts* exhibit no significant correlations, thus reducing interference between representations. A chart is referred to as the *active chart* if the activity of cells in that chart appears to be localized at a specific location on the that chart. The active neurons that are proximally located in the active chart would be allocated random positions that are different on different charts. So the activity distribution on all other charts would appear to be dispersed. The distribution of activity can remain localized even in the absence of external stimuli since it is a stable state of the network. The active chart would then be the current reference frame used for spatial processing. Other charts would would display rand activity as dictated by the synaptic connections.

In their model place cells connect to a PI(path integration system) which sends back asymmetric projections to cells along the direction of motion of the animal. Thus the localized activity pattern in the active chart follows the actual movement of the animal.

1.2.3 Remapping

When certain features of the environment are varied by small amounts the place cell firing characteristics are altered [11]. The firing rates are observed to show drastic changes. Some place cells change their place fields to new locations while others completely vanish and new fields emerge. This is often referred to as *remapping*, resulting from the changes in the spatial information of the environment. Thus distinct representations are

formed for differing environments and even in a similar environment with apparently minor modifications.

Storage of memory requires that the each unique memory engram produces decorrelated patterns of activity. If the memories share some common features, it will lead activation of very similar activity patterns and the distinction between them might be lost. This is often referred to as interference and is a possible mechanism of forgetting. To keep memories distinct, a decorrelation operation of the overlapping memories must be performed so as to produce orthogonal representations before storage. Remapping might be a signature of the underlying decorrelation computations occurring while memories are encoded.

Two types of remapping can be identified. When the location of the place fields remain essential the same while the firing rates change, it is referred to as *rate remapping*. When the cells arbitrarily change their firing rates and develop new place fields, *Global remapping* is said to have occurred. These categories of remapping signal different kinds of environmental manipulations. Rate remapping was observed when the location was unchanging while the color and shape of enclosures were changed. Global remapping was induced in identical enclosures at different locations [18]. Changing cue configurations also produce global remapping [18]. Rate remapping probably occurs when only the relevant non-spatial features change while the spatial structure is preserved. Thus the spatial information content in the population is identical for rate remapped representations since it is only the non-spatial component of the stimuli is varying. In the Ca^{2+} imaging study [4], $15 - 25\%$ of CA1 cells were found to consistently encoding for space over weeks. Rate remapping could then also be the short time scale characteristic of the ensemble encoding scheme where the population of cells recruited are changing. This would enable the encoding of other non-spatial information as episodes in an unchanging spatial setting. The only overlapping patterns in the ensemble code would be coding for the temporally invariant spatial information.

Global remapping is almost always induced when the location is changed. The magnitude of dissimilarity between the relevant environmental features dictates the likelihood of global and rate remapping.

The earlier experiments made discrete changes in the environment. The naturally occurring stimuli are usually continuous. The hippocampal network then has to generate dynamically varying patterns to encode the continuously changing stimuli. In a study by Leutgeb [19], flexible enclosures were gradually morphed from a square shape to circle with several intermediate stages. The animals were initially familiarized with both square and circular enclosures so as to allow for stable representations of each to be learnt. Rate remapping was observed for the gradual changes from square to circle. [transitions in the representation] [teleportation]

In another study [20], the square and circular enclosures were designed to induce global

remapping. There was abrupt transition to a learnt representations based on the similarity of the current environment to the previously acquired one. The representations also change when the behavioural task the animal has to perform changes [21].

The CA3 pyramidal cells are observed to produce significantly distinct patterns in response to apparently minor changes in the environment. Since the CA3 network is also thought to function as an auto-associative memory, this would be an advantageous feature increasing the network capacity. The encoding scheme has to produce non-redundant codes for effective performance of the auto-associative network. The Dentage Gyrus (DG) input seems to be critical for pattern separation in the CA3. The DG granulae cells are hypothesized to perform the computational operation of orthogonalization of the input patterns before feeding them to the CA3 network. The sparse yet effective connectivity between the granulae cells and the CA3 pyramidal cells could provide the critical architecture.

The grid cells in the Medial entorhinal cortex(MEC) show little change in the grid parameters whenever the environmental change produces rate remapping in CA3. But when global remapping occurs in CA3, the grid cells show coherent shift and rotation of their fields. The time course of grid realignment and remapping seem to be closely follow each other [22]. Perhaps the grid realignment in the MEC contributes to global remapping in the CA3. Since the CA3 also back projects to the MEC, it is also not known whether the realignment of the grids occurs first in the MEC and then leads to CA3 remapping or vice versa. Remapping the is less pronounced in CA1 in comparison to CA3 [18, 23]. It also possible that the CA1 representation changes over a longer time scale.

The interneuron network assists the formation of new cell assemblies and supression of old ones [24], playing an important role in the emergencce of remapped representations.

1.2.4   Replay

The hippocampus is thought to be a temporary storage for memory [25, 26]. Then the hippocampus has to meet the computational demands of rapid encoding and later recapitulation of salient memory traces for transfer to long term storage. The phenomenon of replay is a possible mechanism through which consolidation might be achieved. Marr [3] proposed that long term storage and classification of information as the functional role of neocortex. He also proposed that the neocortex would be required to be trained during sleep to classify overlapping pieces of information. Since the hippocampus has suitable anatomical communication channels via the entorhinal cortex, it is appropriate for short term storage. The Entorhinal cortex in turn has reciprocal connection with

other regions.

Replay is the phenomena where the cell sequences that are activated along a trajectory are later activated in the same or reverse order when the animal is sleeping or even when the animal is awake during periods of immobility . The synaptic connectivity of the cells participating in a sequence during exploration are strengthened. The sequences appearing when the animal is exploring the environment have greater propensity to occur during subsequent sleep. Significant correlated temporal bias favouring the same cell sequences to repeat during SWRs in the SWS after exploration on a linear track has been reported [27].

1.3   Dynamcial systems framework

This section will be a review some concepts from dynamical systems and how these are being used to understand hippocampal population activity. Dynamical systems theory deals with time varying systems. It dwells on questions of how the behaviour of systems evolve over time. Non-linear dynamics is a powerful analytic tool for studying complex systems. A network of neurons can be formalized as a system of differential equations, lending them amenable to be studied in the same framework. There is the long standing idea that interesting abstract properties emerge in a population of interacting objects obeying certain local rules. This framework might prove to be useful in developing further insights into the mechanisms that give rise to emergent cognitive faculties.

The electrophysiology of the hippocampus has revealed several internally self generated patterns. Some of which are thought to be essential for memory consolidation and spatial processing. Internal activity is not restricted only to the hippocampus, the brain in general exhibits internally self generated activity even in the absence of external stimulus. The usual examples include the recordings form humans and animals during sleep. Although during sleep the sensory input is at a minimum, these recordings show a lot of interesting patterns.

Differential equations provide a convenient and straight forward technique to formalize and study dynamical systems. The system under study is formulated by specifying governing equations capturing the dynamics of the system. The variables in these equations are called state variables. Solving these equations given initial conditions we can predict the future states of the system. One soon realizes that this is no trivial matter for complex systems. Some systems are inherently unpredictable event though the governing equations are deterministic. Higher order differential equations can be converted to a

system if first order differential equations. The system of differential quations can be imagined as a vector field in the state space where a vector is assigned to every point in the state space. The vector points in the direction of change of the state variables.

1.3.1 Basic concepts

1.3.1.1 Fixed points

Fixed points are the states where there is no change i.e where the flow is zero ~~this figure shows a one dimensional system whose vector field is defined by some arbitrary function $f(x)$ When $f(x)$ is positive the system moves towards $+\inf$ when $f(x) = 0$, there is no change. These states are called the fixed points of the system.~~ A fixed point is stable if the system can recover form small perturbations about the fixed point. An unstable fixed point is one about which there is no restoring force that steers the system back to the fixed point. A mechanical equivalent of unstable fixed point is an inverted pendulum.

~~fig- show a two dimensional system where different types of fixed points result when the parameter a is varied. These are the stable nodes star node , line of fixed points , saddle node.~~

The usual procedure used to analyze and visualize dynamical processes is to compute the energy functional for the system, if it exists. The energy is a scalar function of the state variables. The system always tends to evolve in the direction which will reduce its energy. The standard picture is to imagine a ball rolling down the hill towards the valley and always ending up in the valley. The energy landscapes can be complex in biological systems. Some systems are highly sensitive to initial conditions. The ball can end up in one of the several valleys depending on where it starts. A simple example is that of bistable system which has been used for modelling working memory. One of the states is the resting state, other is with persistent activity which could function as working memory.

The stable fixed points of the systems are interesting since it they exist, the transients die out and the system will eventually settle to one of the stable states. These stable states are called attractors of the system. The topology of the attractors can be helpful in predicting the long term behaviour of the system. An attractor is the limiting set of states that the system will approach as $t \to \infty$.

~~point. line attractor If end points of the line attractor are joined, a ring attractor is obtained which is proposed a model of the head direction system.~~

Limit cycle attractors give rise to periodic behaviour of the system. Limit cycles cannot occur in linear systems. Biological pattern generators can be understood in terms of limit cycles. ~~Here is an example of modified HH model... x axis is the membrane voltage~~

~~, y is tch potassium activation variable, Initially th model neuron is at rest correspond-~~
~~ing to a stable point. If a strong pulse of current is injected in the membrane , it will~~
~~take the neuron to the basin of attraction of the limit cycle and the neuron will produce~~
~~rhythmic spikes.~~

1.3.1.2 Stability analysis

The stability of fixed points can be analyzed by linearizing the system at the fixed point
and then applying linear stability analysis techniques. This gives correct predictions of
stability around the fixed point. When linear fails Layapnov stability analysis approach
is usually adopted. Lyapnov funcion provides a generalized energy landscape and con-
servative estimate of domains of attraction .

1.3.1.3 Bifurcations

Certain parameters of systems when varied result in it showing qualitatively new be-
havior, the system is then said to have undergone a bifurcation. Bifurcations reflect
the dependence on parameters. At some critical values of the parameters, the system
switches between different regimes of operation. So the phase space can be partitioned
into regions with certain behaviors.
In neural networks, the same network could be switched between different regimes to
implement different computations, where neuro-modulators levels might be responsible
for switching.
Bifurcations are classified as local and global. Global if the bifurcation effects a large
portion of the state space. Bifurcations are classified based on how the properties of
fixed points change.

- *Saddle node bifurcation* occurs when a stable and an unstable node get closer and
  close as the parameter is varied , eventually colliding and vanishing. t variable and
  the fixed points are plotted as the dependent variable. The dotted lines indicate
  the unstable nodes and the stable mode.

- *pitchfork bifurcation* occurs in symmetric systems as the parameter is varied it
  loses stability and two new fixed points are created. eg - a beam with load

- *Hopf bifurcation* occurs when a stable spiral loses its stability and a limit cycle is
  created. .fig— model neuron the injected current as the parameter , when ramp
  current is applied at a critical value the spiking.

1.3.2 Attractor networks

[INCOMPLETE]

~~attractor networks have stable patterns as their attractor sets and depending on the initial conditions the network will settle down to one of the stable patterns. Depending on the type if attractor different kinds patterns can be achieved. It has been proposed the recurrent network in the CA3 might function as an auto-associative network...........
The characteristics of the attractor determines which patterns are stable. This type of continuous attractor dynamics has been proposed as a mechanism for path integration (sec. ■ p. ■ Localized activity patterns are achieved by local excitation and long range inhibition. In networks with shift invariant structures it is possible to stabilize activity pattern on each node. Thus if we have a line of attractors in the limit of infinite nodes a continuous manifold of point attractors can be generated.~~

1.3.2.1 Auto-associative network

For reliable recall of memories, pattern completion capabilities would be advantageous for a memory system. The recurrent synaptic connectivity of CA3 is suitable for an auto associative network. An auto-associative network memorizes patterns through learning rules that modify the synaptic strengths. Each pattern produces an energy minima in the energy landscape. Pattern completion occurs because of the recurrent synaptic architecture. When a few neurons of a certain pattern are active, then they activate others because of strong synaptic connectivity strength.

1.3.2.2 Models of place selectivity and phase precession

The basic requirement to get place cell is localized firing patterns, so that the this pattern might then be utilized to encode distinct locations in the physical space. Second requirement is to have a mechanism by which this localized activity can be conveniently updated as the animal traverses in the environment.

Contrary to the view that there is an explicit temporal code (sec. 1.2.1.1 p. 2), it has been suggested that the correlation between position and phase of theta could be explained as a consequence of sequential computation occurring within a theta cycle. Across the population of place cells, different phases the theta cycle encode positions offset into either future or past along the rat's trajectory [28]. The past and future locations robustly predict the CA1 place cell activity at different phases. This indicates

that the information content in the cell activity at different phases of theta is actually correlated with the past and future locations of the animal. It was also show that this phenomena is not a direct consequence of phase precession, rather might actually be a causing the observed phase precession.

Tsodyks [29] proposed a model proposing possible mechanisms through with place cell selectivity is achieved through a specific synaptic connectivity between neurons reflecting the distances between their place field peaks in the environment. In the presence of global inhibition this architecture results to attractor dynamics. External input with weak selectivity is sufficient to steer the network into the one of the basins of attraction resulting in stable localized activity. The activity tracks the input peak location as it moves. With the addition of asymmetric synaptic strengths in the direction of motion phase precession effect is observed. Hence the phase precession could be a manifestation of the inherent asymmetry in the synaptic connections. The inhibitory interneurons in the model network receive theta input which is the simulated input from medial septum to the GABAergic interneurons. The simulation of the network shows that as the rat moves along the track the external excitation drifts through a group of neurons. Due to the asymmetry in the synaptic connections the activity spontaneously propagates forward in every theta cycle.

1.3.2.3   Internal sequences in the rat hippocampus

In the study by Pastalkova [30], multi-unit recordings were obtained form the rat hippocampus in non-sleep state. They report observation of internally self sustained cell assembly sequences. The animals were trained to run in a wheel during the delay period in an alternation task. The CA1 pyramidal neurons were recorded during the delay period. Some of these neuron assemblies were sequentially activated. These sequences were predictive of the time the rat spent in the wheel upto 20 seconds [31]. The sequences were unique for different behavioral choices including the ones which were incorrect choices. Since the location of the rat was stationary, one would expect to see only place cells for that location to be active.

time/distance cells

It has been proposed that this could be a means by which the networks keeps track of time elapsed. A model was proposed suggesting a possible mechanism for the generation of cell sequences in a network with no strong inputs. The two critical ingredients of the model are adaptive thresholds and Mexican hat synaptic connectivity. In the model, every spike fired by the neuron will result in the increase of its spiking threshold.

This threshold then exponentially decays to it default value with a time constant in the order of seconds. Thus a neuron gets increasingly discouraged to fire as its firing rate increases, which will eventually silence the neuron.The Mexican hat type connectivity ensures that the activity remains localize to a small number of neighboring neurons. The symmetry in the connectivity is broken by introducing uncorrelated noise in the connectivity matrix. In fact, to ensure that the dynamics displayed by the model is not just a result of the perfect synaptic tuning; the strength of the correlated Mexican hat connectivity was chosen to be weaker as compared to that of the heterogeneous component. This model generates a continuum of bump attractors, for the network, this implies that if the bump were to be moved laterally by some means, it would stabilize in the new position. The introduction of threshold adaptation will result in the increase of the thresholds of neurons participating in the localized activity. Gradually, on the time scale of seconds (i.e. the time scale of threshold relaxation), this bump will lose its stability as the neurons become quite due high values of threshold. Assuming the input noise levels are low, the heterogeneity in the network connectivity will dictate the next position of the stable bump, which will remain so until it is destabilized again by the same mechanism. The bump in essence is moving away from the neurons with recently updated thresholds. In this setting, activity bump shifts its peak constantly without ever stabilizing at a particular location. Thus the model exhibits self generated sequential activation of cells, captured by the bump constantly moving along continuous trajectories in the state space. The model produces reliable trajectories even with weakly noisy input, provided that it starts with the same initial conditions. Hence, the similar heterogeneity and threshold levels across trials provide identical contexts which results in reproducible behavior. It was also shown that these sequences can be inherited by succeeding layer of neurons without recurrent connections receiving sparse feed-forward input from the layer with recurrent connectivity.Since the CA1 region does not have recurrent connectivity and the sequences were observed in CA1, it is possible that they are inherited form sequences are generated elsewhere.

1.3.2.4 Preplay

The trajectories taken by an animal are rapidly encoded the activity of sequences of place cells. It has been proposed that this can be accomplished if there exists a pool of sequences ready to be bound to sensory cues. The mechanism of *preplay* has been reported as evidence for this claim [32, 33].

Chapter 2

Data Analysis

Data analysis was done by custom written MATLAB code.

2.1 Selection pyramidal cells

The pyramidal cells were selected base on spike features (Spike waveform asymmetry and filtered spike width) [34] and firing rate. The hyperplane best separating the clusters formed in the feature space was used to classify interneuons and pyramidal cells.

2.1.1 Cluster Quality

2.2 Computing place field

The arena was divided into 50 x 50 spatial bins. The rate maps were computed by accumulating the spikes fired by into these spatial bins, which was then normalized by the occupancy time in each bin. Rate maps were computed only for cells which fired atleast 10 spikes within the duration of a single trial. The resulting rate map was then smoothed with a 2D Gaussian kernel. The smoothed ratemaps were then used for all further analysis. The location of peak firing rate of the smoothed rate maps was considered as the place field center. Only place cells with a minimum peak firing rate $(1 Hz)$ were considered for further analysis. The pixels which had firing rate greater than 20 of the peak firing rate were included in then place field.

An adaptive smoothing technique was also used to obtain a robust estimation of ratemaps since multiple peaks in the rate maps were observed. This method did not completely eliminate the smaller peaks in the rate maps, these residual peaks might be present

due to poor cluster isolation. This technique controls for the trade off between spatial resolution and sampling error [9]. The radius of a circle r, centered at each bin was expanded until it met the criterion : $r \geq \frac{\alpha}{N_{Occ}\sqrt{N_{spk}}}$. The firing rate at each bin is then set to $f_s \cdot \frac{N_{spk}}{N_{Occ}}$, where f_s is the position sampling rate.

Several place field parameters were computed for later analysis and selection of ideal place fields. Ideal here implies that the place field has only one localized peak. The spatial coherence is defined as the $z-$ transformed correlation between the firing rate in each bin and the mean firing rate of its 8 nearest-neighbors [35]. Spatial coherence is a measure of local smoothness of the place field.

Sparsity is defined as : $\frac{(\Sigma p_i \lambda_i)^2}{\Sigma p_i \lambda_i^2}$, where p_i is the occupancy of bin i and λ_i is the firing mean firing rate in bin i. Sparsity is a measure of spatial selectivity. Smaller the sparsity, higher the spatial tuning. For a cell with uniform firing in all bins, the sparsity would be 1.

~~Entropy~~

For computing 1D place fields on the linear track, the position linearized and divided into 100 bins. 1D place fields were computed separately for both directions by splitting the data into two depending on the heading direction of the animal. The 1D place field was obtained by accumulating the spikes of the selected cells in these bins and normalizing by the occupancy time. The resulting place tuning curves were then smoothed with a Gaussian window.

2.3   Pairwise analysis

Cross corrlellograms(CCG) were computed to asses the firing pairwise correlations. CCGs were computed for cell pairs with overlapping place fields. The offset in the CCG if any, would be indicative of the sequential activation of the pair along the trajectory of the animal. [offset seq compression]The trajectories through the overalpping place fields were separated into two directions (from one cell peak to the other and vice versa) by projecting the velocity at each sampled point onto the line segment connecting the place field peaks. If all the traversals through the overlapping fields are considered, regardless of the heading direction then the CCG peak will always occur at zero time offset, given equal sampling of both directions. All the ccg parameters calculated were obtained form smoothed CCG.

~~The offset was calculated as a function of theta cycle and to obtain a robust estimate of~~

~~the offset, the intercept of the best fitting line through the individual offsets was considered as the offset for a cell pair.~~ The offsets further away from zero time lag actually do not carry much information about the short time scale offset, so the time lag of the first peak closest to zero lag was considered as the estimate of the time offset.

For place cells with multiple place fields, the overlapping sub-field pairs were selected and the CCG was computed for spikes occurring inside the place fields for each of the individual overlapping sub-fields. Since some of the sub-fields were present in regions of low occupancy, only sub-fields with sufficient occupancy were selected ().

2.4   Population vectors

Population vectors were constructed for every theta cycle. The theta phase with the lowest spike count for the whole trial was defined as the theta cycle boundaries. For each theta cycle and each spatial bin the population vector consisted of the the spike count of all the cells in that bin. The reference population vector was the stacked mean rate maps. The dot product of the population vector in every theta cycle and the reference vector is a measure of degree similarity of the population activity to that of the reference vector.

[36] - pv spatial corr

2.5   Trajectory event analysis

2.5.1   Linear track

The spiking activity during sleep was identified as an event epoch if there were no less than 6 pyramidal cells firing within a time window. Further, it was required that this window was flanked by windows of 100ms with no more than 1 spike. The linearized rate maps were sorted by position of their peak firing rates to obtain the templates of cell order for the two directions on the linear track. The firing sequence in each of the selected event epochs was defined by considering only the first spike fired by each cell. The sequences during pre and post trial sleep was then compared with the template. The rank correlation between each of these sequences and the template was computed.

2.5.2   Bayesian decoding for 2D place fields

Appendix A

Appendix Title Here

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