

HW 3 Problem 1

Problem1

a).

First, we have two independent poisson process, Poisson($\lambda_1 s$) and Poisson($\lambda_2 s$). And Poisson process is denote by :

$$Pr(N(s)=n)=\frac{(\lambda s)^n}{n!}\cdot e^{-\lambda s}$$

Given any time t_0 , we can assume that the next combined signal only appear after t_0+t , which means at the interval(t_0, t_0+t), there isn't any spike within this time period. So we can plug $n=0$ into the above equation:

$$P\{\text{next combined spike occurs after } t\}=Pr(N_1(t)=0)\cdot Pr(N_2(t)=0)=e^{-(\lambda_1+\lambda_2)t}$$

So,

$$Pr(\text{combined signal} > t)=e^{-(\lambda_1+\lambda_2)t}$$

The probability that a spike has already occurred is 1 minus this result, i.e.

$$P\{\text{next combined spike occurs before } t\}=1-e^{-(\lambda_1+\lambda_2)t}$$

This is a cumulative distribution function for the probability of a spike occurring within the interval(t_0, t_0+t).

And The probability density function for the waiting time until the next spike is the derivative of the above cumulative distribution:

$$f_T(t)=\frac{d}{dt}\left(1-e^{-(\lambda_1+\lambda_2)t}\right)=(\lambda_1+\lambda_2)e^{-(\lambda_1+\lambda_2)t}$$

Thus, the interspike interval density for this Poisson spike train is an exponential function.

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b).

Since the two neurons are spiking independently, following independent poisson process, $\text{Poisson}(\lambda_1 s)$ and $\text{Poisson}(\lambda_2 s)$. So, it a superposition situation, and as in a):

$$Pr(\text{combined signal} > t) = e^{-(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2) \cdot t}$$

Therefore, the rate for the combined poisson process is: $\lambda_1 + \lambda_2$

c).

$$P\{\text{each neuron spikes once within the same } 1 \text{ ms interval}\} = Pr(N_1(1\text{ms})=1) \cdot Pr(N_2(1\text{ms})=1)$$

so,

$$P = 0.001\lambda_1 e^{-0.001\lambda_1} \cdot 0.001\lambda_2 e^{-0.001\lambda_2} = 10^{-6} \cdot \lambda_1 \cdot \lambda_2 \cdot e^{-0.001(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2)}$$