

Introduction to silicon neuron and neuronal networks

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Introduction to silicon neuron and neuronal networks

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Contents

- ▶ What is silicon neuron ?
- ▶ Activities of neuronal cells
- ▶ Leaky Integrate-and-Fire silicon neuron
- ▶ Conductance-based silicon neurons
- ▶ FitzHugh-Nagumo model and Nagumo circuit
- ▶ Mathematical-structure-based silicon neurons

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Silicon neuron

Electronic circuit that reproduces neuronal behaviors **in real time**

Hybrid network

- ▶ Neuroscientific research tools
- ▶ Validation of theoretical models
- ▶ Biomedical applications

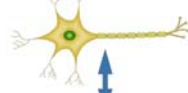
Real-time simulation of large-scale neural networks

- ▶ Analog circuit simulator

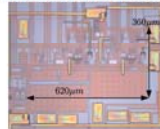
Neuromorphic system

- ▶ Autonomous information processing systems
- ▶ silicon retina, silicon cochlea, ...
- ▶ Artificial brain

biological neurons



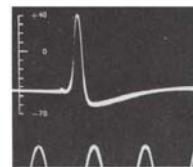
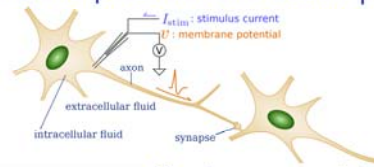
silicon neurons



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Membrane potential and action potential

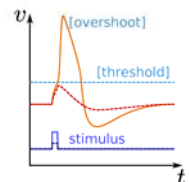
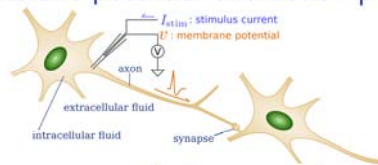


Membrane potential

- ▶ Thought to be coding neuronal information.
- ▶ Normally stays stable at a resting potential (around -60mV to -100mV).
- ▶ In most cells, information is coded in pulses (action potential) instead of voltage level.
- ▶ Transmitted to another cell via a synapse.

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Membrane potential and action potential

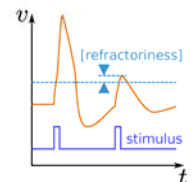
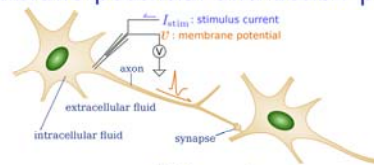


Action potential

- ▶ Transient activity of membrane potential.
- e.g. response to a pulse stimulus current
- ▶ **Excitatory stimulus** increases membrane potential (**Integration**).
- ▶ If membrane potential exceeds a **threshold**, an **overshoot** appears (**Fire**).
- ▶ otherwise, relaxes to resting potential slowly.

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Membrane potential and action potential



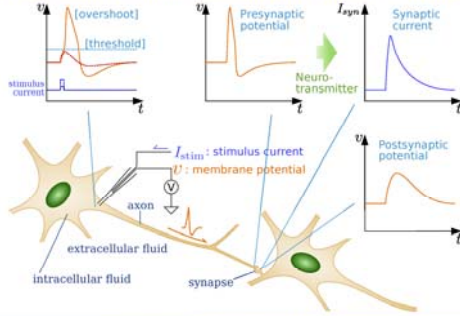
Refractoriness

- ▶ For a while after an overshoot, **threshold is increased**.

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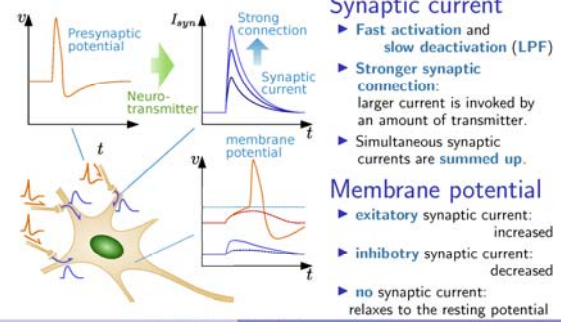
Synaptic transmission

An action potential is transmitted and converted to a synaptic current.

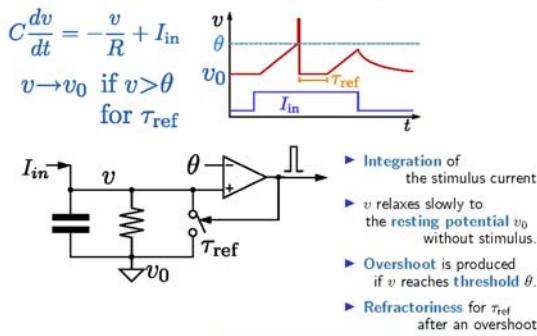


Synaptic transmission

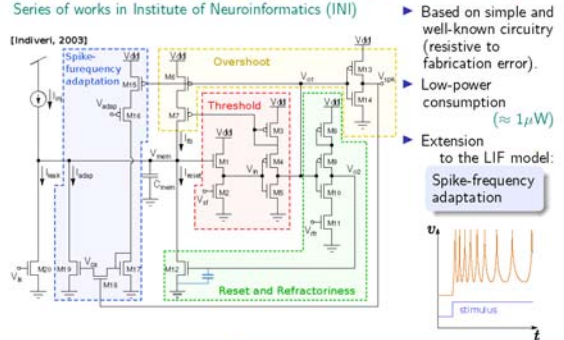
Synaptic currents increase/decrease the membrane potential.



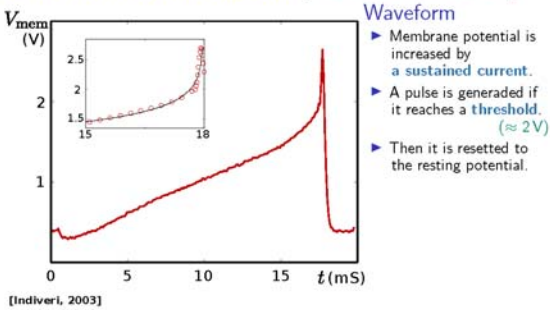
Leaky Integrate-and-Fire(LIF) model



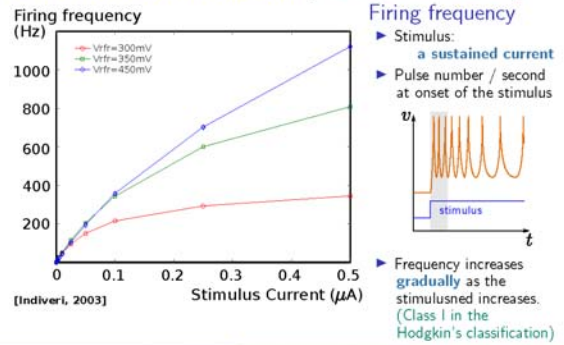
LIF Silicon Neuron [G. Indiveri, Proc. ISCAS-IV, 2003]



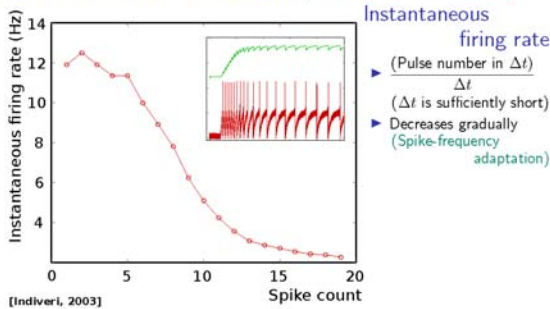
LIF Silicon Neuron [G. Indiveri, Proc. ISCAS-IV, 2003]



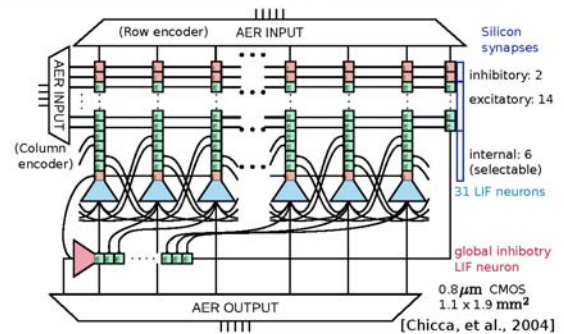
LIF Silicon Neuron [G. Indiveri, Proc. ISCAS-IV, 2003]



LIF Silicon Neuron [G. Indiveri, Proc. ISCAS-IV, 2003]



A LIF Silicon Neuronal Network



A LIF Silicon Neuronal Network

- ▶ Each neuron is connected with its first and second neighborhood by excitatory synapse.
- ▶ The global inhibitory neuron:
 - ▶ Inhibitory connection to every neuron.
 - ▶ Excitatory connection from every neuron.

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A synapse circuit in LIF SNN

- ▶ Two Current Mirror Integrators (CMIs) for excitatory and inhibitory connections.
- ▶ Synaptic depression and facilitation (short-term plasticity) can be realized by the CMI of opposite polarity.

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Current Mirror Integrator

$$\frac{d}{dt} I_{syn} = \frac{\kappa}{CU_T} I_{syn} (I_{in} - \alpha I_{syn})$$

Time constant is ruled by

- ▶ I_{in} while $I_{in} \gg I_{syn} \Rightarrow$ fast
- ▶ α while $I_{in} \ll 1 \Rightarrow$ slow

$\alpha \equiv \exp(-\frac{V_T}{U_T})$

Increases fast, decreases slowly

Similar to synaptic dynamics

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Orientation discrimination network

TMPDIFF chip

- ▶ A neuromorphic image sensor
- ▶ 32×32 pixels
- ▶ Generates spikes proportional to log of the "intensity" of a pixel.

AER bus

- ▶ A off-chip bus that transmits the timing of spikes.

IFWTA chip

- ▶ The LIF neuronal network chip.
- ▶ Each of 31 LIF neurons receives spikes from its own "receptive field" bar of different orientation.

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Orientation discrimination network

- ▶ Output is coded by firing rate of each silicon neurons.
- ▶ Selectivity is enhanced by local connection
- ▶ Neurons for similar orientation facilitate each other via the neighborhood connection.
- ▶ Neurons for different orientation are depressed via the global inhibitory neuron.

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Recent updates

[Indivori, et al., Internal Symposium on Circuit and Systems 2010, pp.1051-1054, 2010]

- ▶ Improvement of the LIF silicon neuron circuit
- ▶ Extending configurability of characteristics.
- ▶ Another silicon synapse circuit
- ▶ Differential pair integrator (DPI): linear integrator
- ▶ Implementation of STDP learning rule

[Arthur and Boahen, IEEE Transactions on Circuit and Systems, pp. 1034-1043, 2011]

An extended LIF silicon neuron by another research group

- ▶ Incorporating slow dynamics into LIF neuron model.

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Periodical firing and neuron class

Response to sustained I_{stim}

- ▶ Most neuronal cells start firing periodically when sustained current I_{stim} is sufficiently strong.

Hodgkin's classification

- ▶ Class I: Firing frequency can be very low (asymptotically 0 frequency).
- ▶ Class II: Firing frequency cannot be lowered to 0 by decreasing I_{stim} (non-zero frequency).

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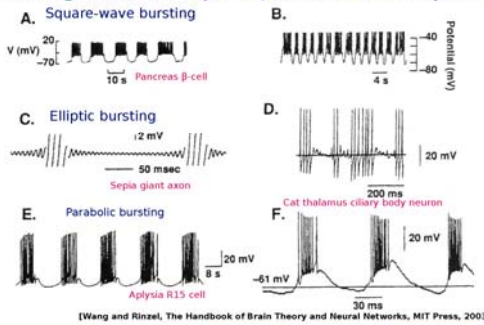
Function in neuronal network:

- ▶ Class I: Leaky integrator
- ▶ Class II: Frequency resonator

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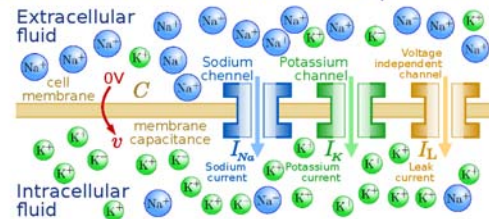
Rhythmic bursting

Burst firing is a source of rhythmic patterns in the nerve system.



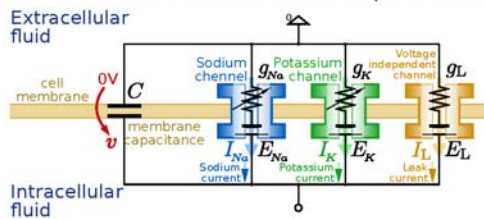
[Wang and Rinzler, The Handbook of Brain Theory and Neural Networks, MIT Press, 2003]

Ionic mechanism of membrane potential



- ▶ membrane capacitance: cell membrane is an insulator.
- ▶ Ionic concentration is different between intracellular and extracellular fluids.
- ▶ Ionic channels passively transmit specific ionic particles.
 - ⇒ ionic current (e.g. sodium current, ...)
- ▶ Membrane capacitance is charged or discharged by ionic currents.
 - ⇒ membrane potential

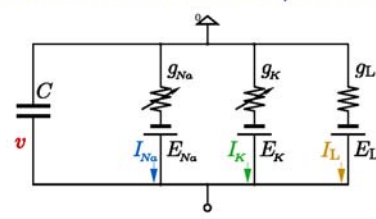
Ionic mechanism of membrane potential



equivalent circuit

- ▶ Membrane capacitance C is charged or discharged by ionic currents.
- ▶ Ionic current is controlled by voltage source and variable resistor.
- ▶ Voltage source corresponds to the power produced by concentration potential.
- ▶ Variable resistor corresponds to ionic permeability of an ionic channel.

Ionic mechanism of membrane potential



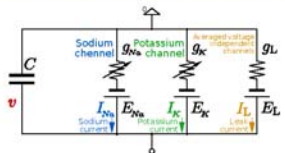
Ionic concentration is maintained by biological mechanisms (E_i is constant). Membrane potential is decided by conductance g_j of variable resistors.

Some of g_j s change dynamically depending on the membrane potential. (voltage-dependent channels) ⇒ dynamical behavior of membrane potential

Hodgkin-Huxley model

[A. Hodgkin and A. Huxley, 1952]

The world's first model for ionic conductance in a nerve membrane



$$C \frac{dv}{dt} = \bar{g}_{Na} m^3 h (E_{Na} - v) + \bar{g}_K n^4 (E_K - v) + \bar{g}_L (E_L - v),$$

$$\frac{dm}{dt} = \alpha_m - (\alpha_m + \beta_m) m, \quad E_{Na}: \text{Equilibrium potential of Na}^+ (\approx 50 \text{ mV})$$

$$\alpha_m = \frac{0.1(v + 40)}{1 - \exp(-(v + 40)/10)}, \quad E_K: \text{Equilibrium potential of K}^+ (\approx -77 \text{ mV})$$

$$\frac{dh}{dt} = \alpha_h - (\alpha_h + \beta_h) h, \quad E_L: \text{Averaged value of the equilibrium potentials of voltage-independent channels} (\approx 54.4 \text{ mV})$$

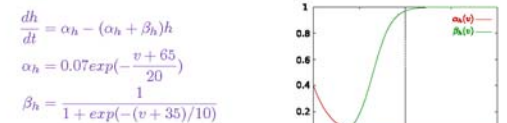
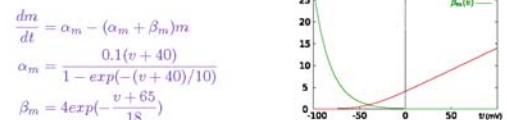
$$\frac{dn}{dt} = \alpha_n - (\alpha_n + \beta_n) n, \quad \bar{g}_{Na} \approx 120 \text{ mS/cm}^2, \bar{g}_K \approx 36 \text{ mS/cm}^2, \bar{g}_L \approx 0.3 \text{ mS/cm}^2, C \approx 1 \mu\text{F/cm}^2.$$

Hodgkin-Huxley model

[A. Hodgkin and A. Huxley, 1952]

The world's first model for ionic conductance in a nerve membrane

State variable for the Na^+ channel

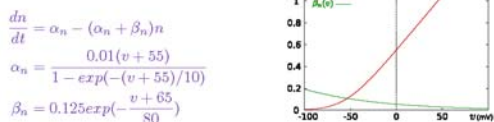


Hodgkin-Huxley model

[A. Hodgkin and A. Huxley, 1952]

The world's first model for ionic conductance in a nerve membrane

State variables for the K^+ channel



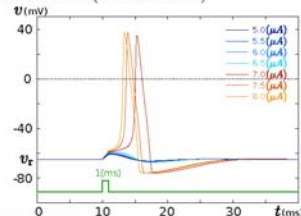
$$\frac{dn}{dt} = \alpha_n - (\alpha_n + \beta_n) n$$

$$\alpha_n = \frac{0.01(v + 55)}{1 - \exp(-(v + 55)/10)}$$

$$\beta_n = 0.125 \exp(-\frac{v + 65}{80})$$

Behavior of Hodgkin-Huxley model

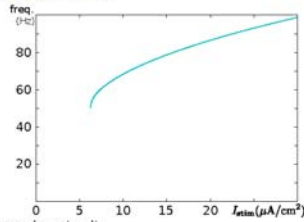
response to pulse stimulus (1 msec width)



- ▶ responses to pulse stimuli: overshoot, threshold, refractoriness, chaotic behavior
- ▶ response to sustained stimulus: Class II in the Hodgkin's classification
- ▶ response to inhibitory stimulus: anodal break excitation
- ▶ subthreshold response and dumping oscillation

Behavior of Hodgkin-Huxley model

response to sustained stimulus

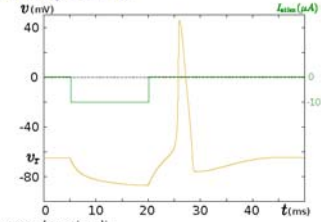


- ▶ responses to pulse stimuli: overshoot, threshold, refractoriness, chaotic behavior
- ▶ response to sustained stimulus: Class II in the Hodgkin's classification
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- ▶ subthreshold response and dumping oscillation

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Behavior of Hodgkin-Huxley model

response to inhibitory stimulus



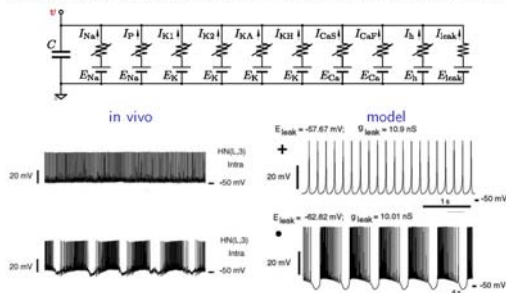
- ▶ responses to pulse stimuli: overshoot, threshold, refractoriness, chaotic behavior
- ▶ response to sustained stimulus: Class II in the Hodgkin's classification
- ▶ response to inhibitory stimulus: anodal break excitation
- ▶ subthreshold response and dumping oscillation

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Leech heart interneuron model

[Gennady et al., J. Neurosci., 2002]

▶ Composed of 9 voltage-dependent and 1 voltage-independent ionic channels

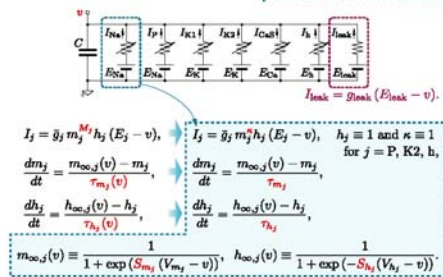


[Gennady et al., 2002]

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A conductance-based silicon neuron

[Simoni et al., IEEE Biomed. Eng., 2004]

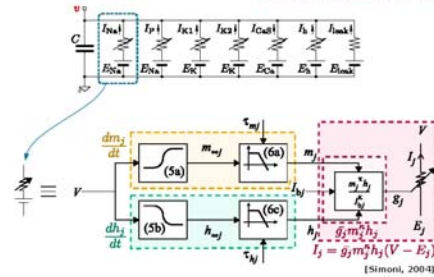


- ▶ Three minor currents were removed from the original model.
- ▶ Equations were modified for simplification of circuitry.

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A conductance-based silicon neuron

[Simoni et al., IEEE Biomed. Eng., 2004]

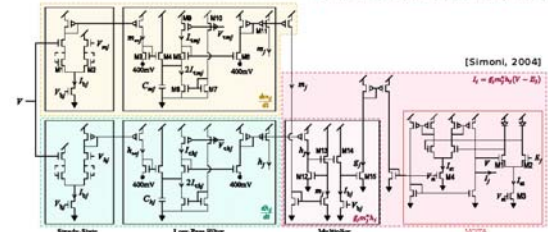


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A conductance-based silicon neuron

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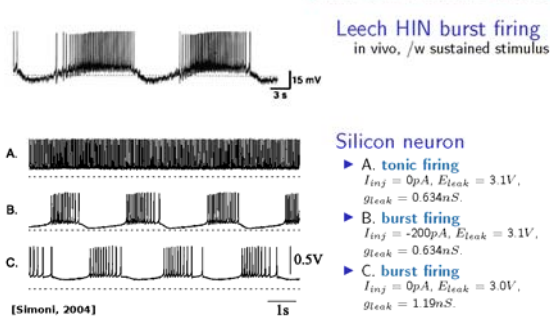
- ▶ A number of externally applied parameter voltages to configure the circuit.
- ▶ MOSFETs are driven in the subthreshold domain for ultra-low-power consumption.

except for VOTA: ~10nA, VOTA: ~80 ~ 100 μA

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A conductance-based silicon neuron

[Simoni et al., IEEE Biomed. Eng., 2004]



[Simoni, 2004]

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A conductance-based silicon neuron

[Simoni et al., IEEE Biomed. Eng., 2004]

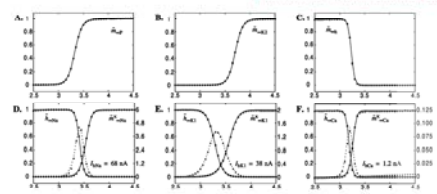


Fig. 6. Data measured from the fabricated silicon neuron and the theoretical curves that were fit to the data for each of the steady state circuit and multiplier circuits. For each plot, the horizontal axis is V_{ij} in V. Normalized data for the steady state circuit are indicated by circles and the dashed lines are the theoretical curves. If data for the multiplier circuit are indicated by 'x' and the dashed lines are the theoretical curves. The specified bias currents, I_j were derived by fitting the theoretical curves to the data. The vertical scale is in nA, as located to the right of each plot.

[Simoni, 2004]

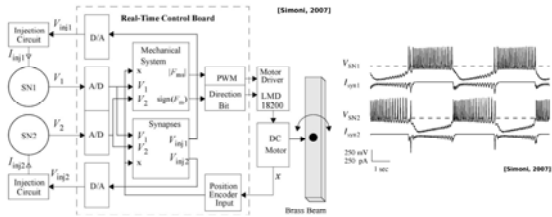
- ▶ A number of parameter voltages (~40) to be applied externally.
- ▶ Different values are required for each silicon neuron circuit because of fabrication variation.

Equips measurement circuits for m_{∞j}, h_{∞j}, I_j.

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A conductance-based silicon neuronal network

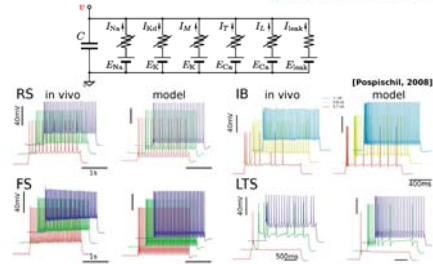
[Simoni et al., IEEE Biomed. Eng., 2007]



- ▶ A silicon half-center oscillator
- ▶ Half-center oscillator: the simplest biological motion pattern generator
- ▶ Two neurons are connected each other via inhibitory synapses.
- ▶ Synapses are emulated by ADC, PC, and DAC (dynamic clamp)

Cortical neuron models

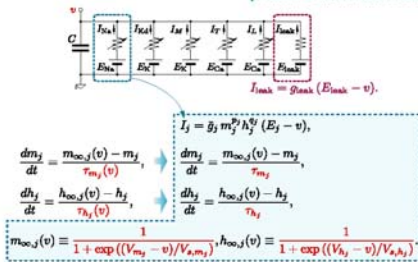
[Pospischil et al., Biol. Cybern., 2008]



- ▶ Composed of 5 voltage-dependent and 1 voltage-independent ionic channels

A conductance-based silicon cortical neuron

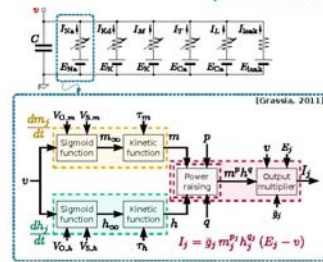
[Grassia et al., Frontiers Neurosci., 2011]



- ▶ Equations were modified for simplification of circuitry.

A conductance-based silicon cortical neuron

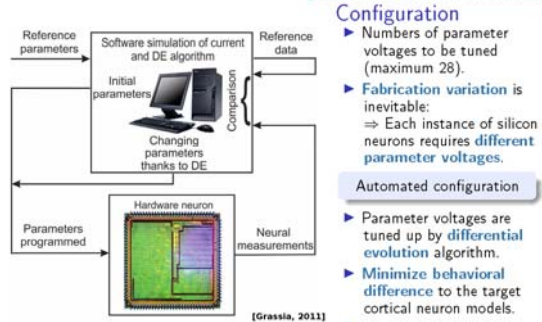
[Grassia et al., Frontiers Neurosci., 2011]



- ▶ Several nFs of capacitors are required: off-chip capacitor.
- ▶ Parameter voltages are stored in on-chip dynamic analog memory.
- ▶ 0.35μm BiCMOS SiGe process, total power consumption 550mW (5 neurons)

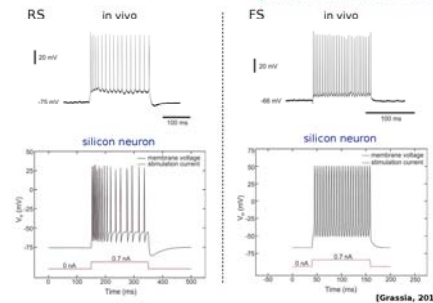
A conductance-based silicon cortical neuron

[Grassia et al., Frontiers Neurosci., 2011]



Behavior of silicon cortical neuron

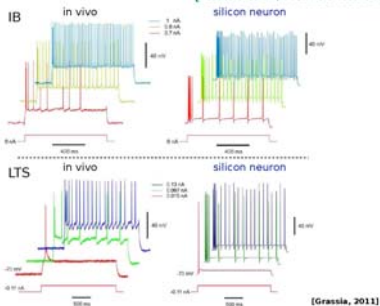
[Grassia et al., Frontiers Neurosci., 2011]



- ▶ Successful automated tuning system.

Behavior of silicon cortical neuron

[Grassia et al., Frontiers Neurosci., 2011]



- ▶ Successful automated tuning system.

Qualitative neuron models

Ionic conductance models are too complex to explain the mechanism of the neuronal behaviors.

Simple models with similar dynamics were developed by techniques in nonlinear mathematics.

FitzHugh-Nagumo model

Similar dynamics to the Hodgkin-Huxley model

$$\frac{du}{dt} = c(-v + u - \frac{u^3}{3} + I(t)),$$

$$\frac{dv}{dt} = u - bv + a.$$

Hindmarsh-Rose model

A simplest burst firing model

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = y - x^3 + 3x^2 - z,$$

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = 1 - 5x^2 - y,$$

$$\frac{dz}{dt} = r(s(x - x_1) - z).$$

Reduction of the Hodgkin-Huxley model by Rinzel

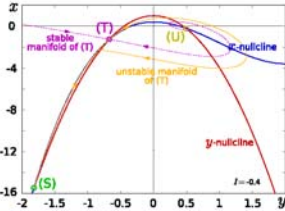
$$h = b - an.$$

A qualitative model: H-R(1982) model

The model $\frac{dx}{dt} = y - ax^3 + bx^2 + I - z$ Nullclines $y = ax^3 + bx^2 - I + z$... *x*-nullcline
 $\frac{dy}{dt} = c - dx^2 - y$ $y = -dx^2 + c$... *y*-nullcline

Phase plane sample

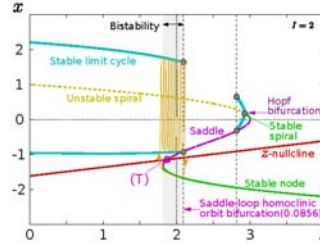
$a = 1,$
 $b = 3,$
 $c = 1,$
 $d = 5,$
 $z = 0,$
 $I = -0.4.$



A qualitative model: H-R(1984) model

H-R(1982) + a slow variable z
 Dynamics is described in the $v-z$ plane
 The $v-z$ plane corresponds to a bifurcation diagram in H-R(1982)

$\frac{dx}{dt} = y - ax^3 + bx^2 + I - z,$
 $\frac{dy}{dt} = c - dx^2 - y,$
 $\frac{dz}{dt} = r(s(x - x_1) - z).$



z -nullcline:
 $s(x - x_1) - z = 0$
 $\Leftrightarrow x = \frac{1}{s}z + x_1$
 In the left figure
 $r = 0.001, s = 4,$
 x_1 : x coordinate of (S)
 Above the z -nullcline:
 $\frac{dz}{dt} > 0$
 Below the z -nullcline:
 $\frac{dz}{dt} < 0$

FitzHugh-Nagumo model

The world's first qualitative neuron model.

IMPULSES AND PHYSIOLOGICAL STATES IN THEORETICAL MODELS OF NERVE MEMBRANE

From the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda

ABSTRACT Van der Pol's equation for a relaxation oscillator is generalized by the addition of terms to produce a pair of nonlinear differential equations with either a stable singular point or a limit cycle. The resulting "F-N" model has two variables of state, representing excitability and refractoriness, and qualitatively resembles Hodgkin's theoretical model for the nerve axon model of nerve. The F-N model serves as a simple representative of a class of excitable-oscillatory systems including the Hodgkin-Huxley (HH) model of the squid giant axon. The F-N phase plane can be divided into regions corresponding to the physical states of nerve fiber (resting, active, refractory, subthreshold, depressed, etc.) to form a "physiological state diagram," with the help of which many physiological phenomena can be summarized. A previously obscure projection from the 4-dimensional HH phase space onto a plane produces a similar diagram which shows the underlying relationship between the two models. Inactive nerve axons in the F-N and HH models for a range of constant applied currents which make the singular point representing the resting state unstable.

INTRODUCTION This paper continues the analysis of the Hodgkin-Huxley (1952) equations for the nerve membrane that was begun in a previous paper (FitzHugh, 1960). In that paper, which will be referred to here as "FHN" as explanation was given of the occurrence of thresholds and plateaus. Use was made of phase space methods (non-

$\frac{dx}{dt} = c(y + x - \frac{x^3}{3} + z),$
 $\frac{dy}{dt} = -(x - a + by),$
 $\frac{dz}{dt} = c$

x : Membrane potential,
 y : Activity of ionic channels,
 z : Stimulus current,
 a, b, c : Constants under conditions:
 $1 - \frac{2}{3}b < a < 1, 0 < b < 1,$
 $b < c^2, c > 0$

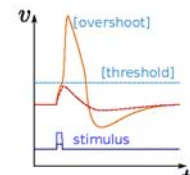
NOTE:
 - x decreases at excitation.
 - (Sign is inverted to the H-H model)
 - Excitatory stimulus is $z < 0$.

What is F-N model for ?

$\frac{dx}{dt} = c(y + x - \frac{x^3}{3} + z),$ x : Membrane potential,
 $\frac{dy}{dt} = -(x - a + by),$ y : Activity of ionic channels,
 $\frac{dz}{dt} = c$ z : Stimulus current.

To construct a simple model that reproduces the important behaviors in the H-H model to elucidate their mathematical structure

- Resting membrane potential
 - Response to pulse stimulus
- Overshoot, threshold, and refractoriness

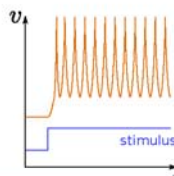


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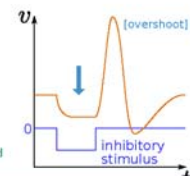


What is F-N model for ?

$\frac{dx}{dt} = c(y + x - \frac{x^3}{3} + z),$ x : Membrane potential,
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To construct a simple model that reproduces the important behaviors in the H-H model to elucidate their mathematical structure

- Resting membrane potential
 - Response to pulse stimulus
 - Periodical firing
 - Anodal break excitation
- Action potential is produced after a sufficiently long and strong inhibitory stimulus.



Phase plane of F-N model (1)

Nullcline:

A set of state point (x, y) where the temporal differentiation of a variable is 0

x-nullcline

$\frac{dx}{dt} = c(y + x - \frac{x^3}{3} + z),$
 $\Rightarrow y + x - \frac{x^3}{3} + z = 0, \Leftrightarrow y = -x + \frac{x^3}{3} - z$

y-nullcline

$\frac{dy}{dt} = -(x - a + by),$
 $\Rightarrow x - a + by = 0, \Leftrightarrow y = \frac{-x + a}{b}$

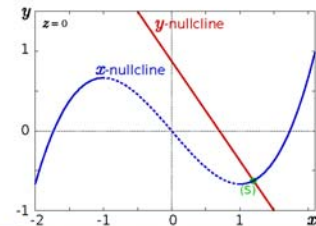
Phase plane of F-N model (2)

Nullclines in the F-N model:

$y = -x + \frac{x^3}{3} - z$... *x*-nullcline $(\frac{dx}{dt} = c(y + x - \frac{x^3}{3} + z))$
 $y = \frac{-x + a}{b}$... *y*-nullcline $(\frac{dy}{dt} = -(x - a + by))$

Phase plane example

stimulus $z = 0,$
 $a = 0.7,$
 $b = 0.8,$
 $c = 3.0.$



Phase plane of F-N model (2)

Nullclines in the F-N model:

$$y = -x + \frac{x^3}{3} - z \quad \dots x\text{-nullcline} \quad \left(\frac{dx}{dt} = c(y + x - \frac{x^3}{3} + z) \right)$$

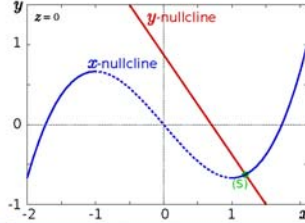
$$y = \frac{-x + a}{b} \quad \dots y\text{-nullcline} \quad \left(\frac{dy}{dt} = -(x - a + by) \right)$$

Phase plane example

(S): equilibrium

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = \frac{dy}{dt} = 0$$

The system state stays at equilibrium forever.



Phase plane of F-N model (2)

Nullclines in the F-N model:

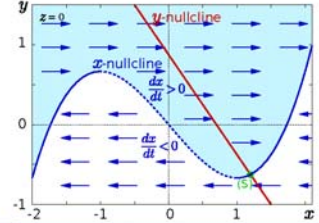
$$y = -x + \frac{x^3}{3} - z \quad \dots x\text{-nullcline} \quad \left(\frac{dx}{dt} = c(y + x - \frac{x^3}{3} + z) \right)$$

$$y = \frac{-x + a}{b} \quad \dots y\text{-nullcline} \quad \left(\frac{dy}{dt} = -(x - a + by) \right)$$

Phase plane example

The x-nullcline:

Above it, $\frac{dx}{dt} > 0$
 Below it, $\frac{dx}{dt} < 0$



Phase plane of F-N model (2)

Nullclines in the F-N model:

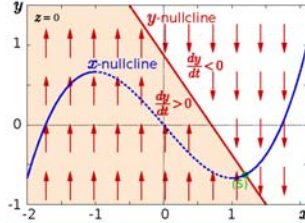
$$y = -x + \frac{x^3}{3} - z \quad \dots x\text{-nullcline} \quad \left(\frac{dx}{dt} = c(y + x - \frac{x^3}{3} + z) \right)$$

$$y = \frac{-x + a}{b} \quad \dots y\text{-nullcline} \quad \left(\frac{dy}{dt} = -(x - a + by) \right)$$

Phase plane example

The y-nullcline:

On the left side, $\frac{dy}{dt} > 0$
 On the right side, $\frac{dy}{dt} < 0$



Phase plane of F-N model (2)

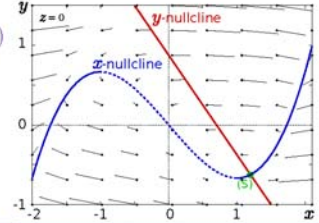
Nullclines in the F-N model:

$$y = -x + \frac{x^3}{3} - z \quad \dots x\text{-nullcline} \quad \left(\frac{dx}{dt} = c(y + x - \frac{x^3}{3} + z) \right)$$

$$y = \frac{-x + a}{b} \quad \dots y\text{-nullcline} \quad \left(\frac{dy}{dt} = -(x - a + by) \right)$$

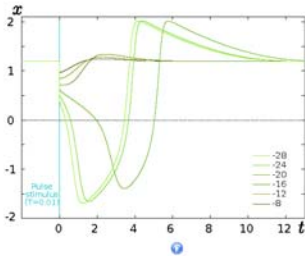
Phase plane example

Vector field of $(\frac{dx}{dt}, \frac{dy}{dt})$



Action potentials in F-N model (1)

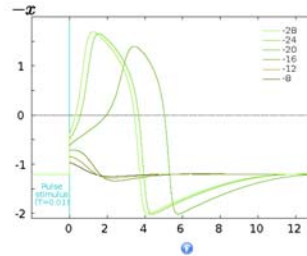
Response to singlet pulse: ($T = 0.01$)



x decreases at depolarization
 $z < 0$ is excitatory stimulus.

Action potentials in F-N model (1)

Response to singlet pulse: ($T = 0.01$)



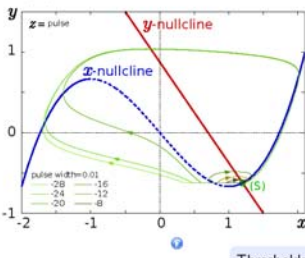
x decreases at depolarization
 $z < 0$ is excitatory stimulus.

Pulse response
 Time width: $T = 0.01$
 Amplitude: $-8 \dots -28$
 Threshold is between $x = -0.7$ and -0.6

Action potentials in F-N model (1)

Response to singlet pulse: ($T = 0.01$)

(S): stable



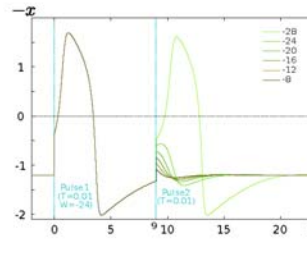
Pulse stimulus kicks the state point leftward.

If stimulus is small:
 stays above the x-nullcline
 $\Rightarrow \frac{dx}{dt} > 0 \Rightarrow$ rightward to (S)
 If stimulus is large:
 moves below the x-nullcline
 $\Rightarrow \frac{dx}{dt} < 0, \frac{dy}{dt} > 0$ (upper-leftward)
 \Rightarrow goes over the x-nullcline
 $\Rightarrow \frac{dx}{dt} < 0$ (upper-rightward)
 \Rightarrow crosses the y-nullcline
 $\Rightarrow \frac{dx}{dt} < 0$ (lower-rightward)
 \Rightarrow below the x-nullcline
 $\Rightarrow \frac{dx}{dt} > 0$ (lower-leftward)
 \Rightarrow goes back to (S) overshoot

Threshold: the middle part of the x-nullcline

Action potentials in F-N model (2)

Response to doublet pulse: ($T = 0.01$)



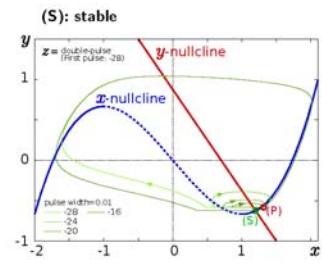
Pulse stimulus
 Time width: $T = 0.01$
 Interval: 8
 Amplitude: 1st = 24
 2nd = $-8 \dots -28$

Threshold for 1st pulse
 between $x = -0.7$ and -0.6
 for 2nd pulse
 between $x = -0.6$ and -0.5
 \Rightarrow Threshold is increased

Refractoriness

Action potentials in F-N model (2)

Response to doublet pulse: ($T = 0.01$)



The 2nd pulse is given when the state point is at (P) (8 timeunit after the 1st pulse) \Rightarrow jumps leftward from (P)

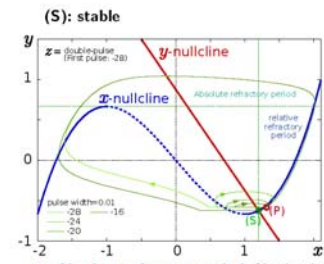
Threshold: the middle part of the x-nullcline

- [The x coordinate of threshold for (P)]
- [The x coordinate of threshold for (S)]

Refractoriness

Action potentials in F-N model (2)

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- [The x coordinate of threshold for (P)]
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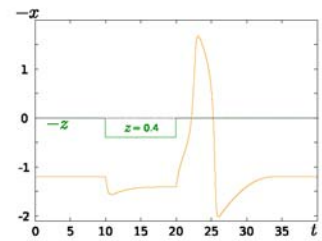
Refractoriness

- Absolute refractory period: No threshold exist
- Relative refractory period: Threshold is high

Anodal break excitation in F-N model

Response to inhibitory stimulus:

($z = 0.4, T = 10$)

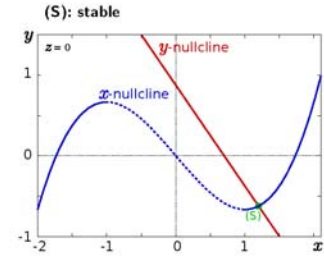


Sufficiently long inhibitory stimulus invokes an action potential at its end.

Anodal break excitation in F-N model

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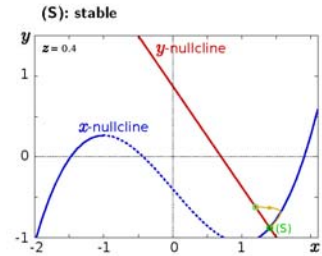
Sufficiently long inhibitory stimulus invokes an action potential at its end.

- Inhibitory stimulus $z = 0.4 \Rightarrow$ x-nullcline is displaced downward
- (\because x-nullcline: $y = -x + \frac{x^3}{3} - z$) \Rightarrow (S) moves lower-rightward

Anodal break excitation in F-N model

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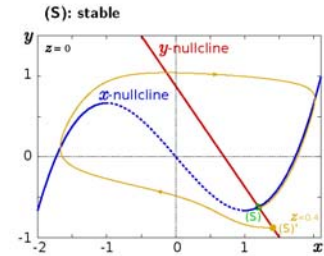
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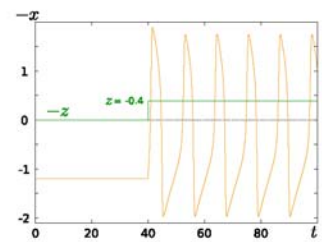
Sufficiently long inhibitory stimulus invokes an action potential at its end.

- Inhibitory stimulus $z = 0.4 \Rightarrow$ x-nullcline is displaced downward
- (\because x-nullcline: $y = -x + \frac{x^3}{3} - z$) \Rightarrow (S) moves lower-rightward
- Stimulus ends $z = 0 \Rightarrow$ The system state is below the x-nullcline, where $\frac{dx}{dt} < 0 \Rightarrow$ it moves leftward and action potential starts.

Periodic firing in F-N model (1)

Response to sustained stimulus:

($z = 0 \rightarrow -0.4$)

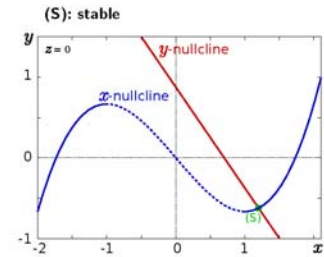


Excitatory sustained stimulus invokes periodic firing.

Periodic firing in F-N model (1)

Response to sustained stimulus:

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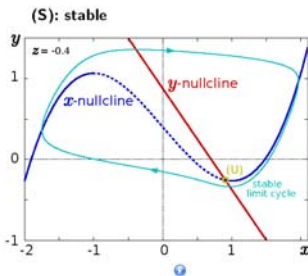
Excitatory sustained stimulus invokes periodic firing.

- Decrease in $z \Rightarrow$ x-nullcline shifts upward.
- x-nullcline: $y = -x + \frac{x^3}{3} - z$

Periodic firing in F-N model (1)

Response to sustained stimulus:

$$(z = 0 \rightarrow -0.4)$$



Excitatory sustained stimulus invokes periodic firing.

Decrease in z
 \Rightarrow x -nullcline shifts upward.

► (S) loses stability \Rightarrow (U) (Hopf bifurcation)

► The state point jumps to the limit cycle.

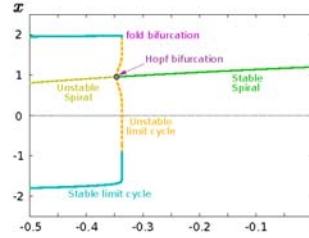
Periodic firing (Class II)

► The limit cycle is produced by a fold bifurcation.

Periodic firing in F-N model (2)

Response to sustained stimulus:

Decrease in z
 \Rightarrow x -nullcline shifts upward.



► (S) loses stability \Rightarrow (U) (Hopf bifurcation)

► The state point jumps to the limit cycle.

► No "slowing" mechanism exists.

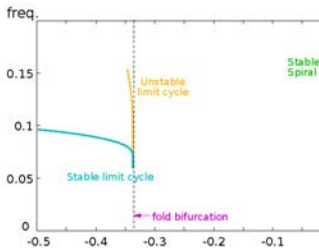
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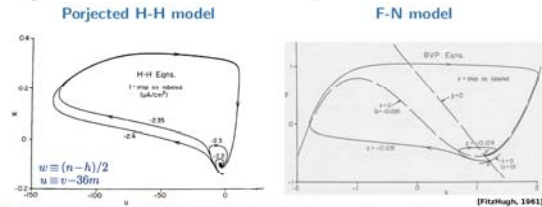
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Periodic firing (Class II)

► The limit cycle is produced by a fold bifurcation.

Comparison with H-H model

Projection of the H-H model to a plane [FitzHugh, Biophys. J., 1961]



► In H-H $h + n \sim 0.85$ is known to be true in most of the activities.
 \Rightarrow h can be assumed to depend directly on n .

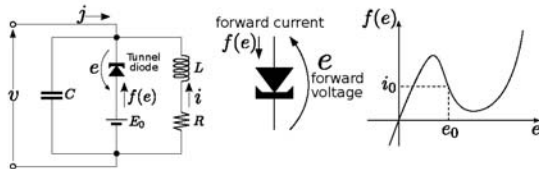
► Time constant of m is sufficiently small.
 \Rightarrow m can be assumed to depend directly on v .

Orbits in both planes are similar: F-N model approximates H-H model

Nagumo circuit (1)

[Nagumo et al., Proc. IRE, 1962]

The world's first silicon nerve membrane circuit.

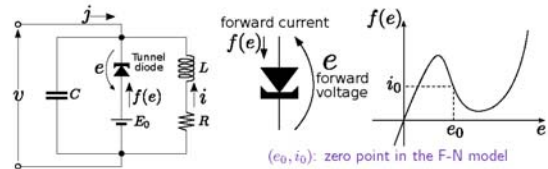


- Implemented the equations of the F-N model using electronic circuits.
- x corresponds to v and y to i .
- Shape of x -nullcline in the F-N model was emulated using the characteristics curve of the tunnel diode.
- Can be applied as a single-compartmental silicon neuron circuit.

Nagumo circuit (1)

[Nagumo et al., Proc. IRE, 1962]

The world's first silicon nerve membrane circuit.



$$\frac{dv}{dt} = (i + f(E_0 - v) + j)/C \quad v \Leftrightarrow Kx - (e_0 - E_0)$$

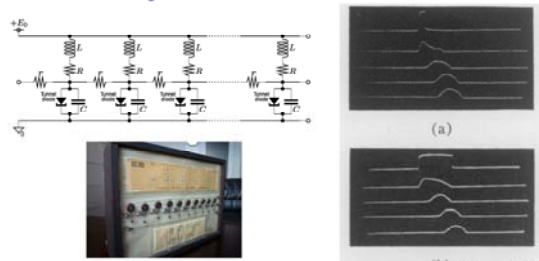
$$\frac{di}{dt} = -(v + i)/L \quad i \Leftrightarrow \frac{K}{\rho}y - i_0$$

K, ρ : constants dependent on the characteristics of the tunnel diode.

Nagumo circuit (2)

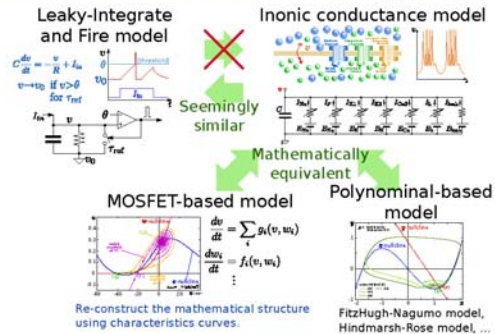
[Nagumo et al., Proc. IRE, 1962]

Share the voltage source and connect via resistor



- Active transmission line with waveform shaping ability similar to the axon.

Mathematical-structure-based approach



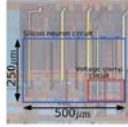
Re-construct the mathematical structure using characteristic curves.

FitzHugh-Nagumo model, Hindmarsh-Rose model, ...

A mathematical-structure-based burst SN

The model:

- ▶ Qualitatively equivalent to the Hindmarsh-Rose (1984) model, constructed by combination of "device-native" curves
- ▶ Three-variable the minimum number of variables required for burst firing, two fast and one slow ones.
- ▶ Produces a class of burst firing pattern: Square-wave bursting



Constructed on CMOS technology:

- ▶ MOSFETs are under subthreshold condition. ⇒ Low-power consumption.
- ▶ Simple and easy-to-use circuit components ⇔ "device-native" curves
 - ▶ differential pair circuitry (with or without current mirror load)
 - ▶ log-domain current-mode integrator circuitry

System equations

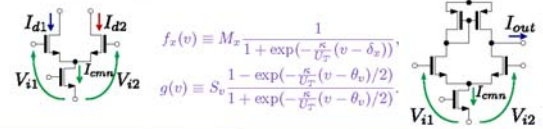
$$C_v \frac{dv}{dt} = -g(v) + f_m(v) - n - q + I_a + I_{stim},$$

$$\frac{dn}{dt} = \frac{f_n(v) - n}{T_n}, \quad \frac{dq}{dt} = \frac{f_q(v) - q}{T_q}$$

v : membrane potential, n : ionic conductance variable, q : slow feedback variable

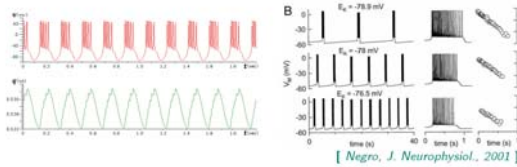
Combination of given components' characteristics curves, which re-constructs the bifurcation structure in the H-R model.

Here, the given components are differential pairs: $f_x(v)$ and $g(v)$ represent their characteristics curves.



Dynamical structure

timeseries of v and q biological square-wave burster

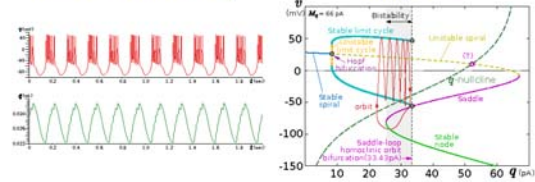


In the 3-variable system, bursting is produced.

- ▶ $\frac{dq}{dt} < 0$ while the system state is below the q -nullcline.
- ▶ $\frac{dq}{dt} > 0$ while the system state is above the q -nullcline.

Dynamical structure

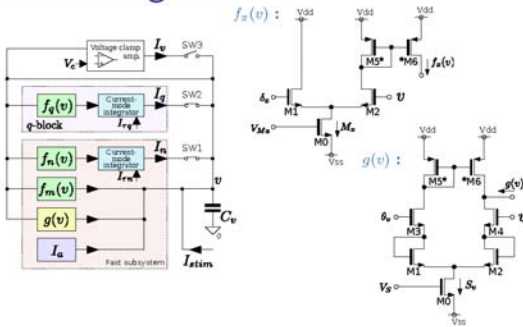
timeseries of v and q v - q plane



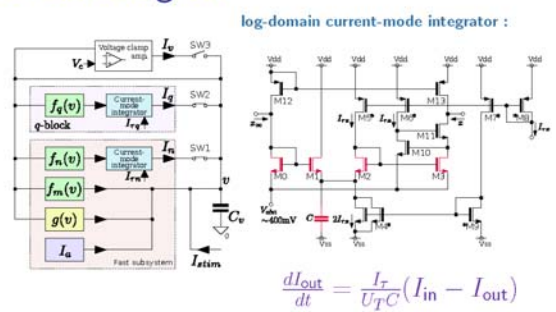
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Circuit diagram

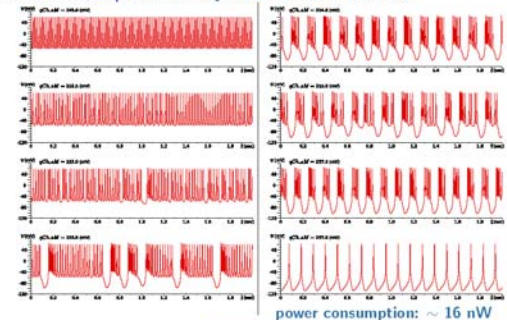


Circuit diagram

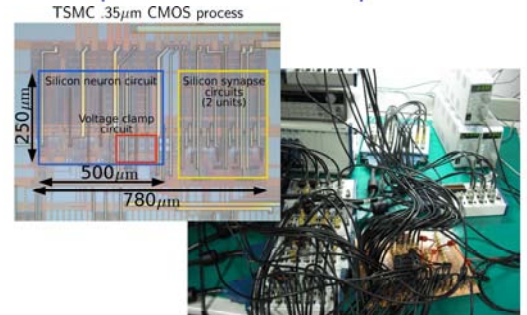


HSpice simulation results

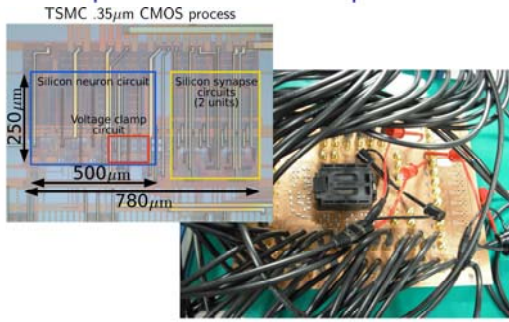
Timeseries examples of v : very similar to the H-R model



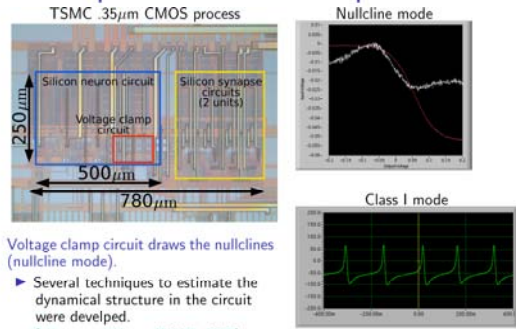
VLSI implementation and experiment



VLSI implementation and experiment



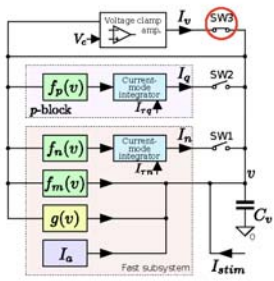
VLSI implementation and experiment



Voltage clamp circuit draws the nullclines (nullcline mode).
 ▶ Several techniques to estimate the dynamical structure in the circuit were developed.
 [Kohno and Aihara, NOLTA, 2010]

Setting up the parameter voltages

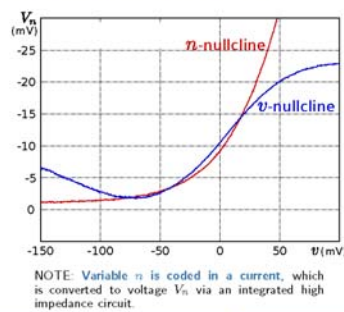
Configuring the circuit's dynamics



- ▶ A number of externally applied parameter voltages (~20)
 - ▶ Fabrication variation is inevitable.
- Nullcline mode**
- ▶ The integrated voltage-clamp circuit is activated to draw the nullclines.
 - ▶ The parameter voltages are decided based on the nullclines in each silicon neuron unit.
- Affect of fabrication variation can be compensated.

Setting up the parameter voltages

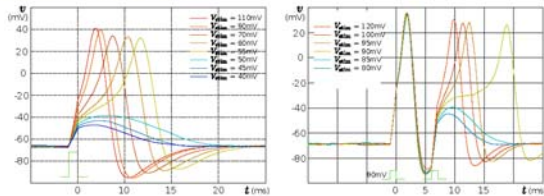
Configuring the circuit's dynamics



- ▶ A number of externally applied parameter voltages (~20)
 - ▶ Fabrication variation is inevitable.
- Nullcline mode**
- ▶ The integrated voltage-clamp circuit is activated to draw the nullclines.
 - ▶ The parameter voltages are decided based on the nullclines in each silicon neuron unit.
- Affect of fabrication variation can be compensated.

Experimental result (Class I setting)

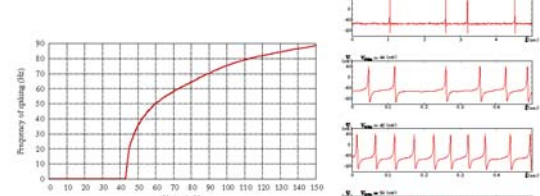
Response to pulse stimulus



- ▶ **Class I** : Only the fast subsystem is activated.
- ▶ **Threshold** is at near -45mV.
- ▶ **Refractoriness**: The latter response is smaller than the former (see $V_{stim} = 90$ mV)

Experimental result (Class I setting)

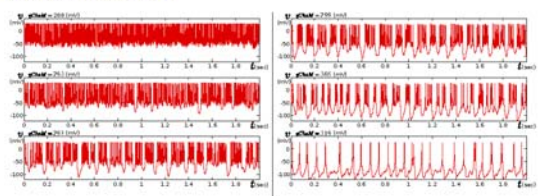
Response to pulse stimulus



- ▶ The firing frequency can be decreased to near zero. (**Class I in the Hodgkin's Classification**)
- ▶ Fluctuation in the spontaneous frequency gets smaller as the stimulus increases

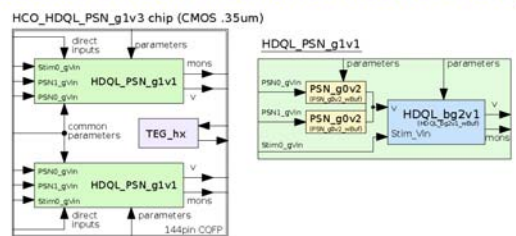
Experimental result (square-wave burster setting)

Autonomous bursting



- ▶ Not completely different from the HSpice simulation results.
 - ▶ Bursting patterns are fluctuated severely by noise.
- Noise effect is critical in this mode.
- ▶ Several modeling techniques to reduce the noise effect were developed.
 [Kohno and Aihara, Physcon, 2011]

Latest silicon neuronal network chip



- ▶ Two silicon neuron blocks
- ▶ A **silicon neuron block**: a silicon neuron and two silicon synapse circuits.
- ▶ A **silicon synapse circuit**: similar dynamics to the GABA_A or AMPA synapses.
- ▶ Experimental results will appear soon.