

COMPUTATIONAL MODELLING OF SYNAPTIC FUNCTION

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Department of Engineering
University of Cambridge



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SYNAPTIC PLASTICITY

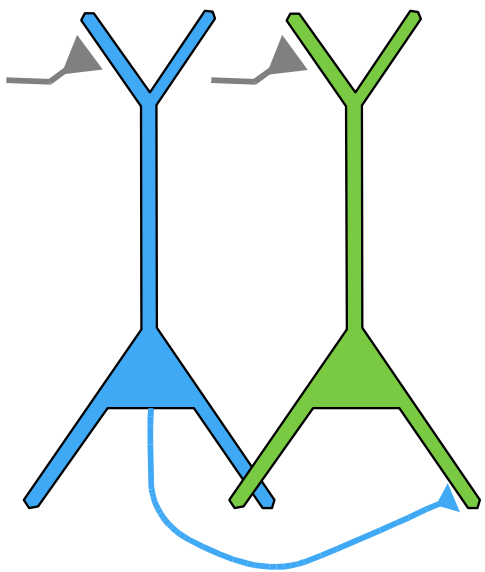
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Südhof, 2012

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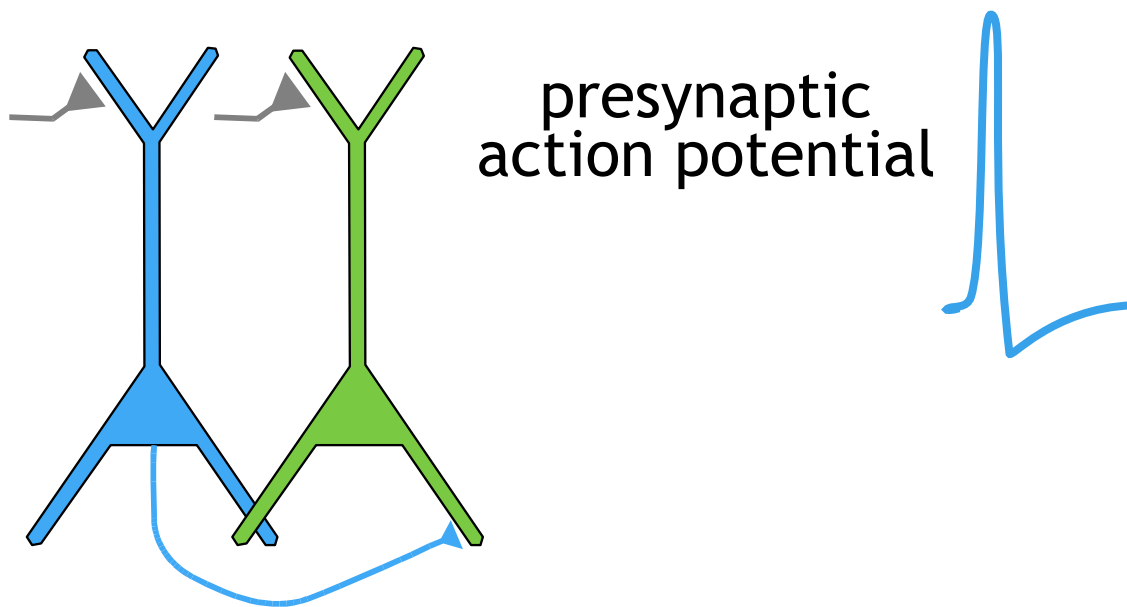
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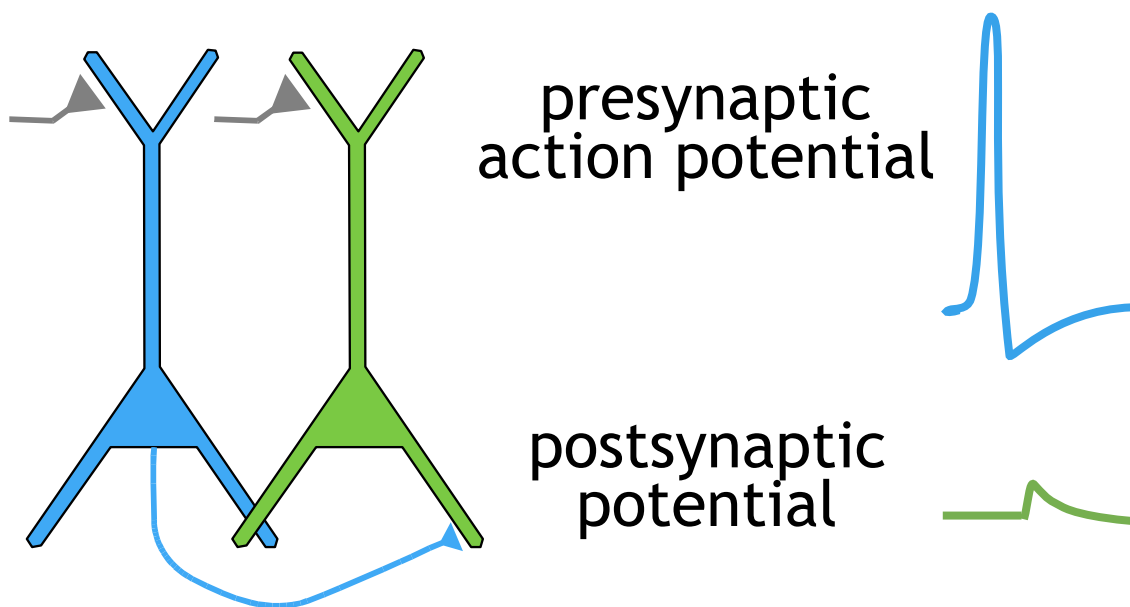
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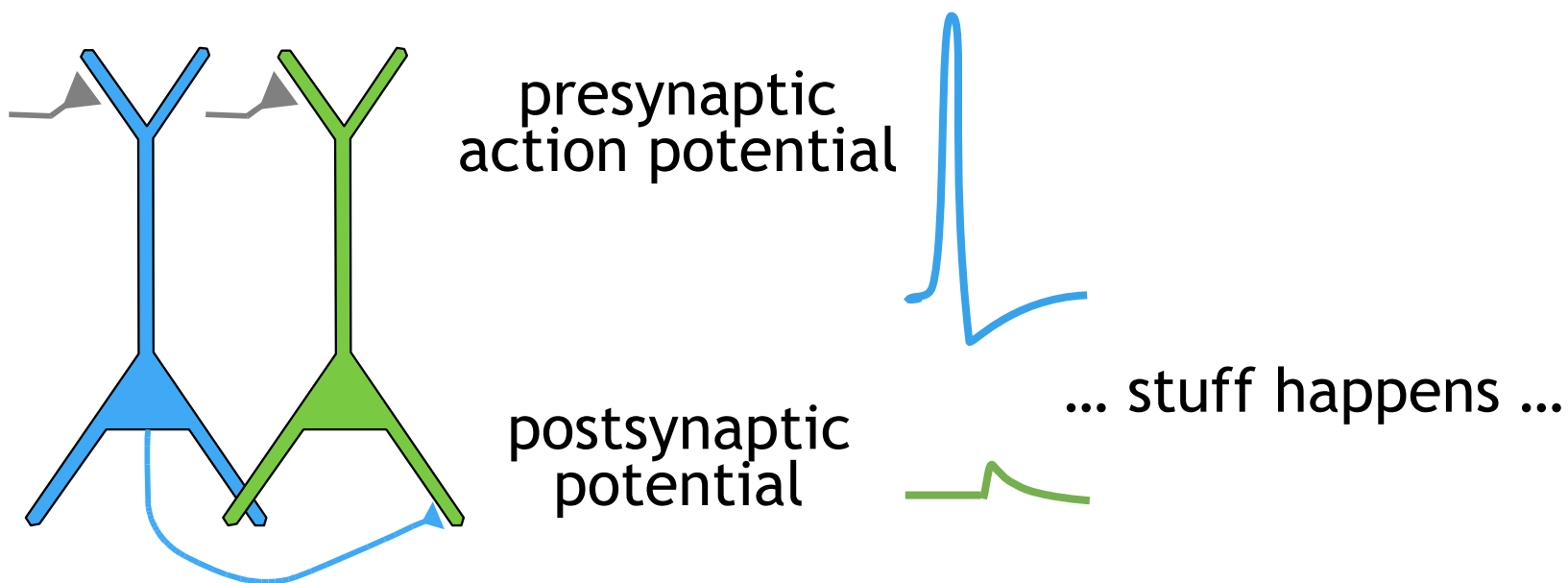
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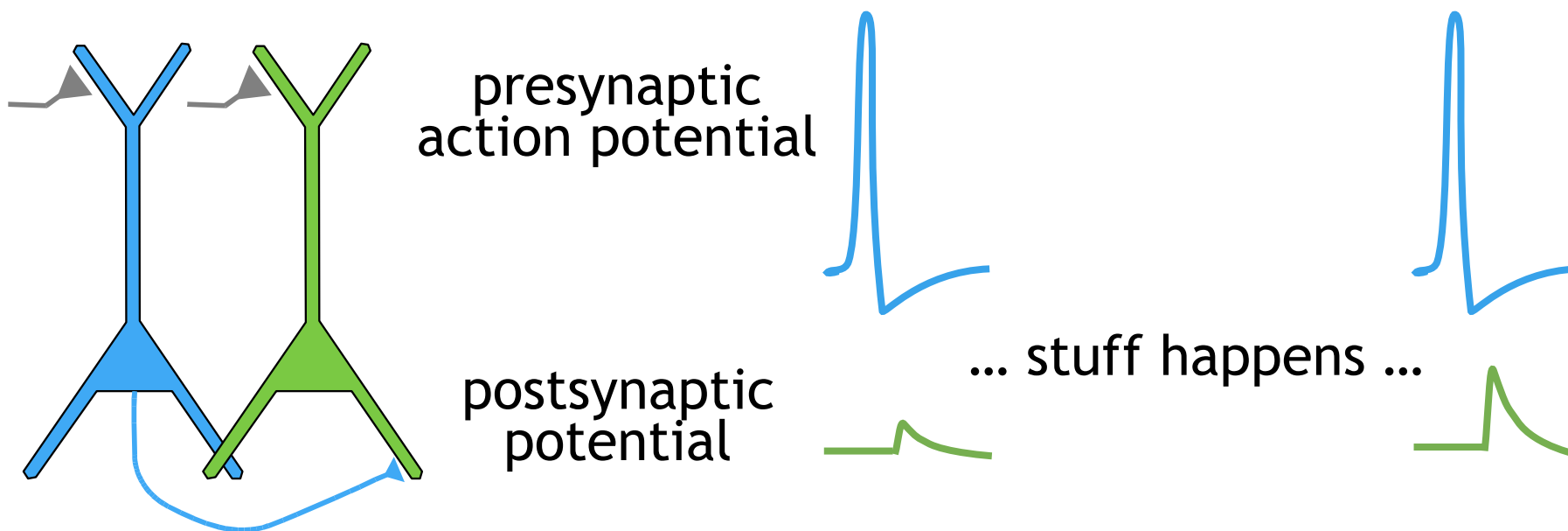
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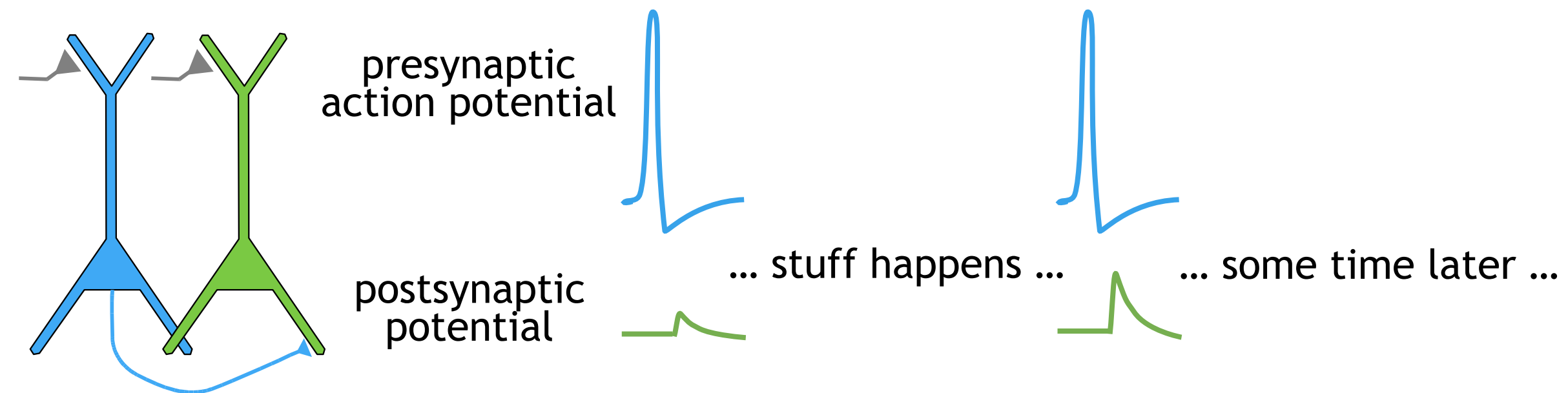
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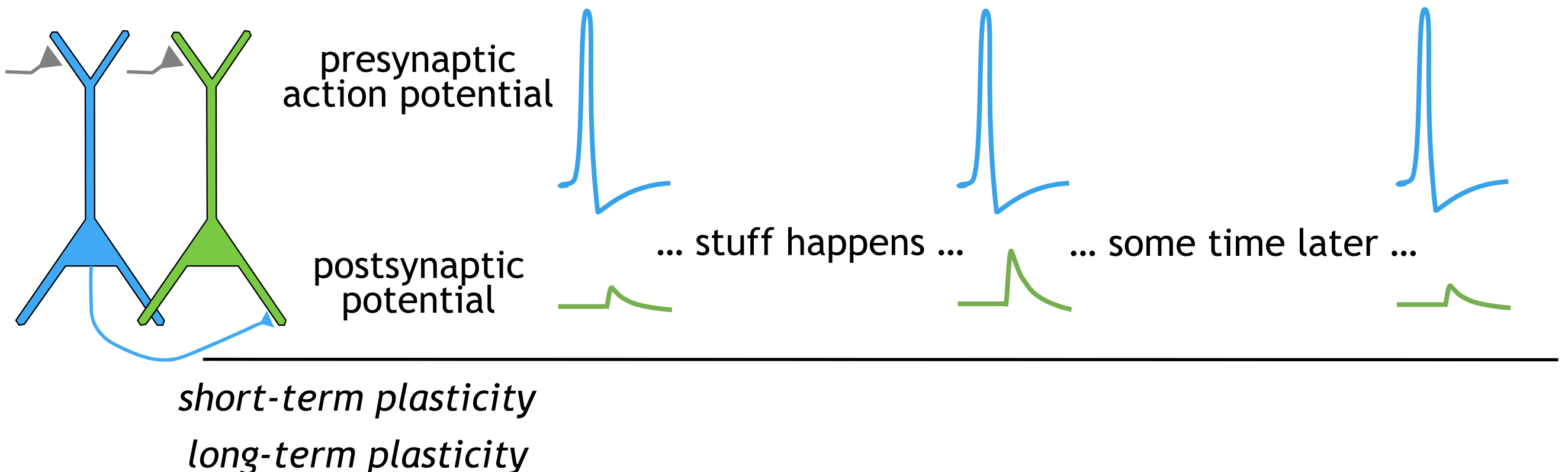
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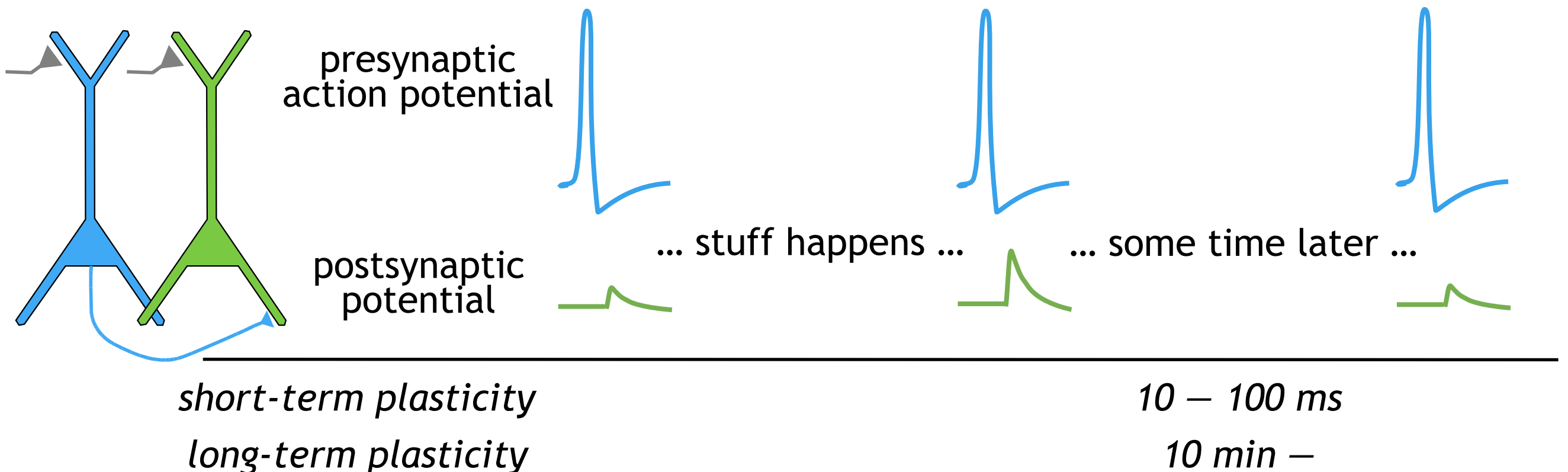
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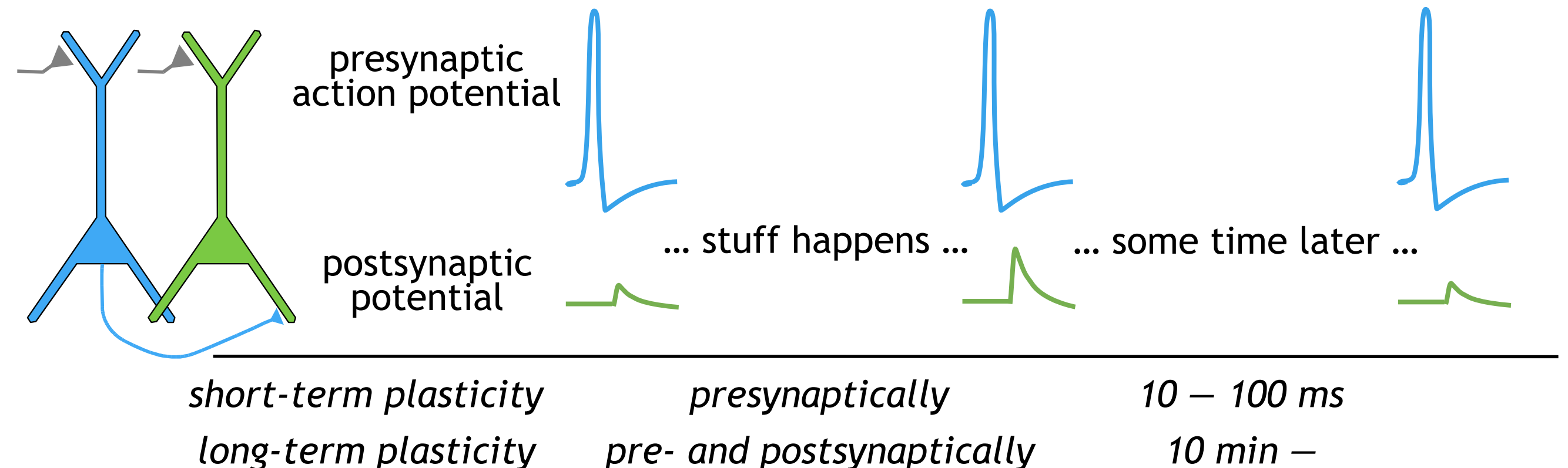
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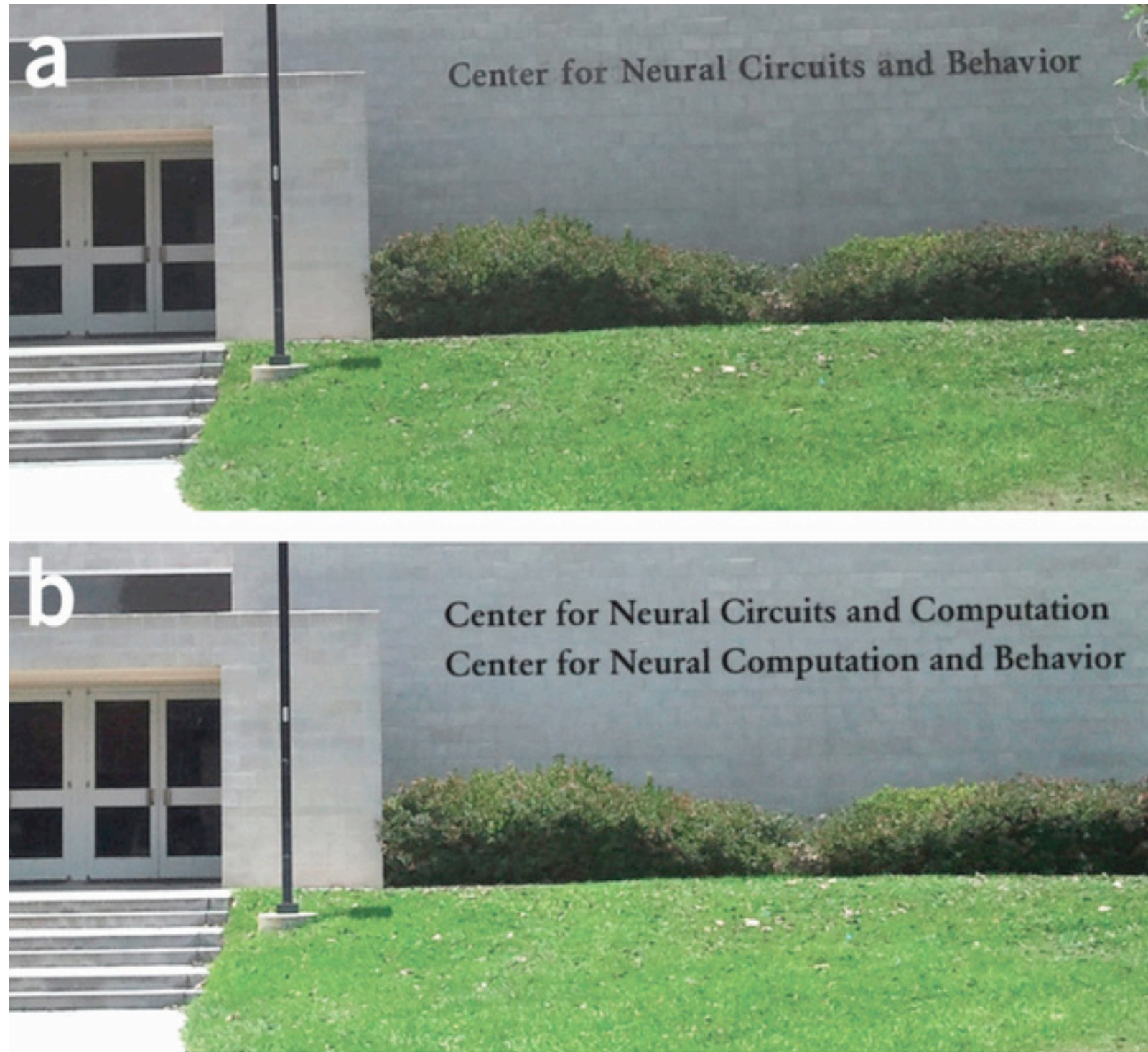
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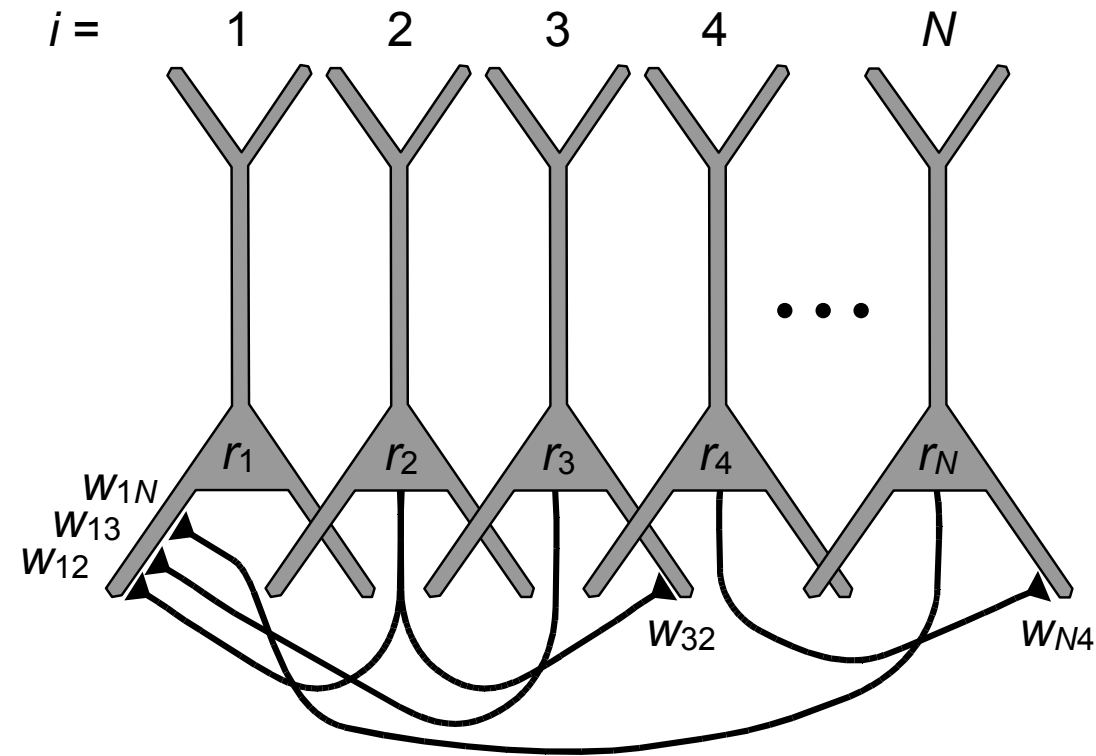


COMPUTATION: BETWEEN CIRCUITS AND BEHAVIOUR

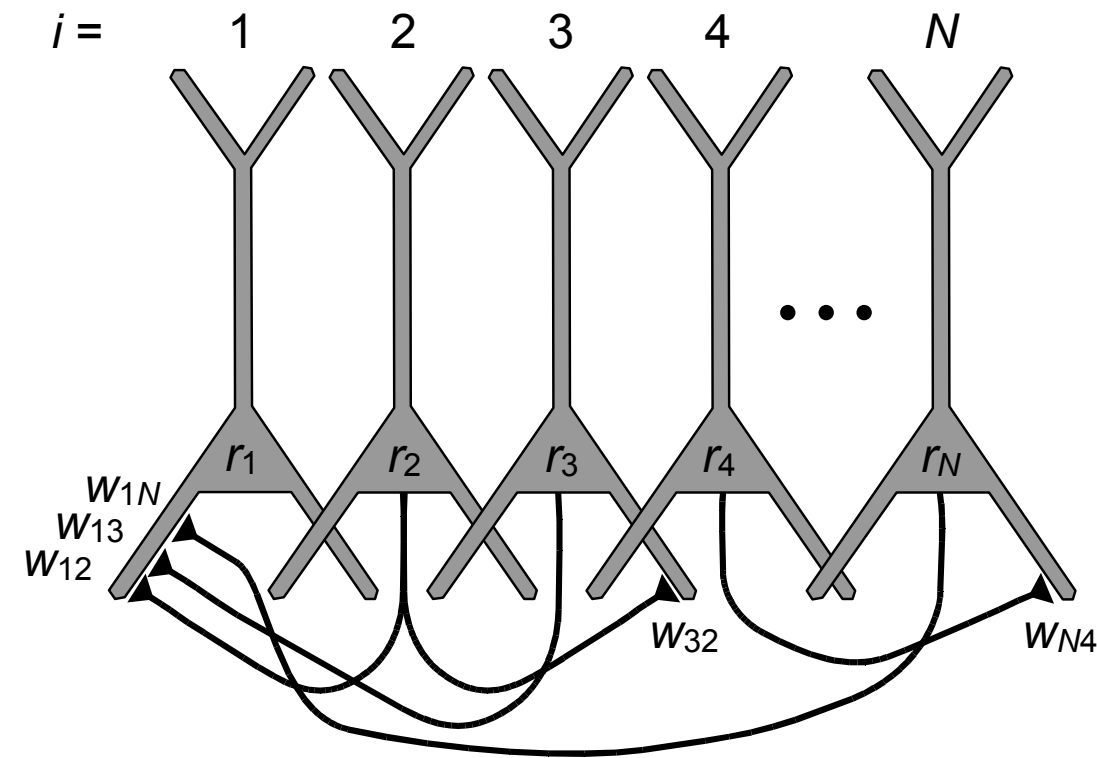


Carandini, 2012

TWO LEVELS OF NETWORK DYNAMICS



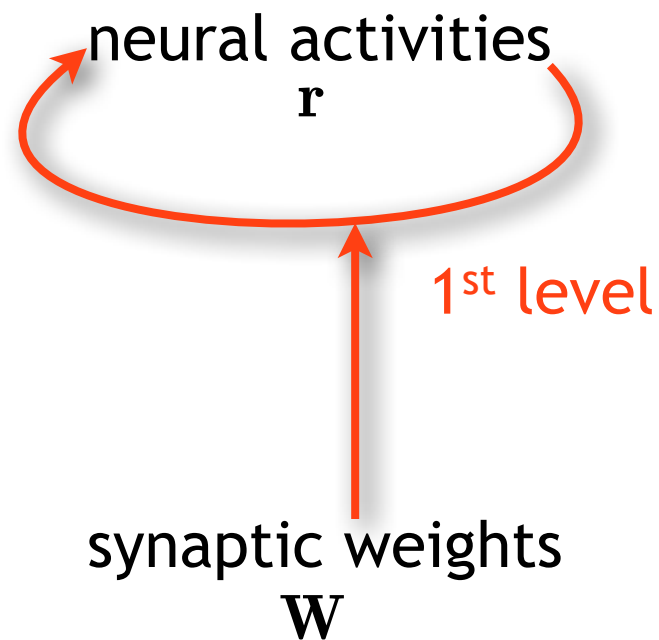
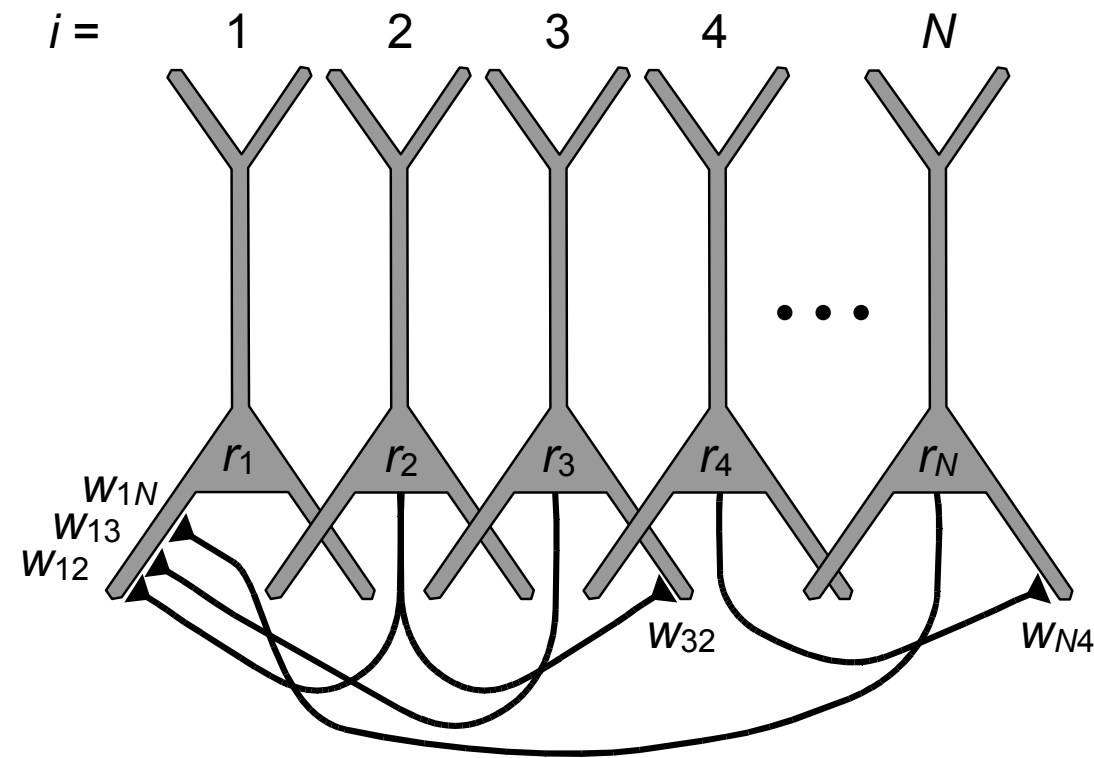
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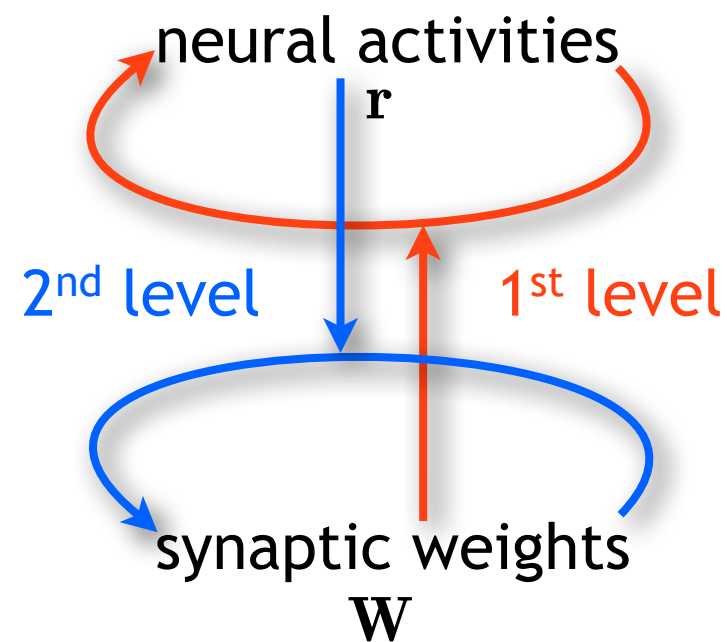
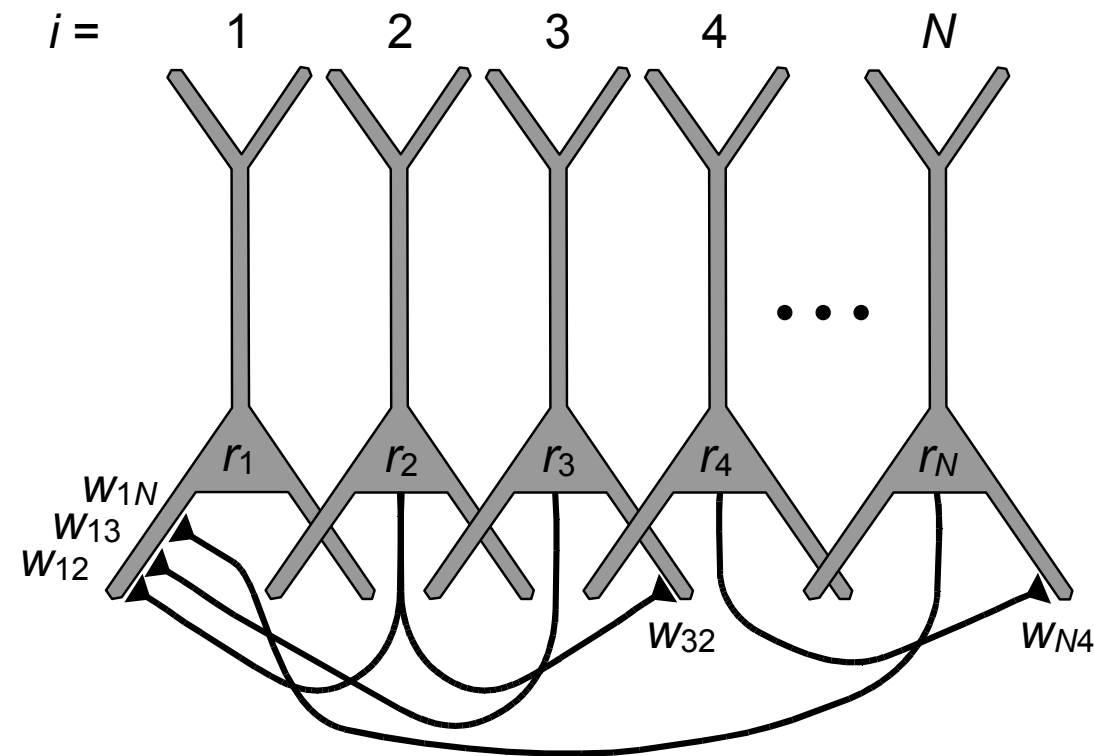
neural activities
 \mathbf{r}

synaptic weights
 \mathbf{W}

TWO LEVELS OF NETWORK DYNAMICS



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AUTOASSOCIATIVE MEMORY: AN EXAMPLE



I raised to my lips a spoonful of the tea in which I had soaked a morsel of the cake. ... And suddenly the memory returns. The taste was that of the little crumb of madeleine which on Sunday mornings at Combray, when I went to say good day to her in her bedroom, my aunt Léonie used to give me, dipping it first in her own cup of real or of lime-flower tea.

Marcel Proust: À la recherche du temps perdu

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HOW DOES THIS HAPPEN?

MEMORY PROCESSING IN NEURAL NETWORKS



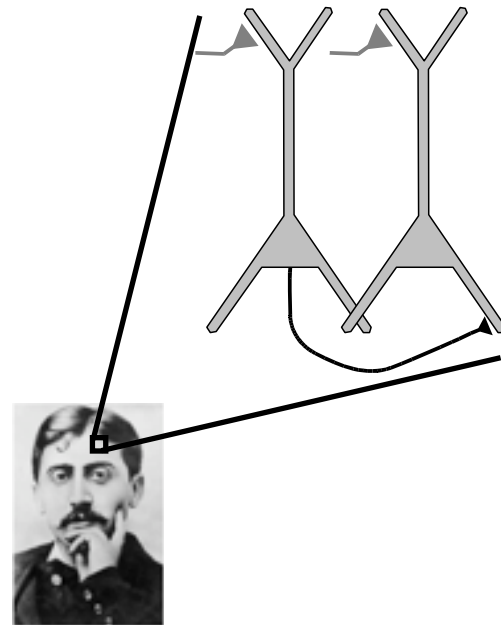
MEMORY PROCESSING IN NEURAL NETWORKS

the Hebbian paradigm



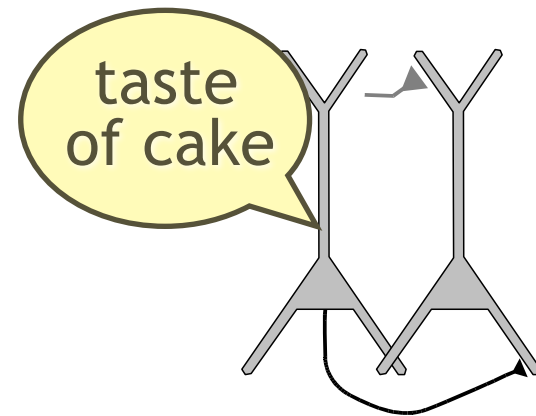
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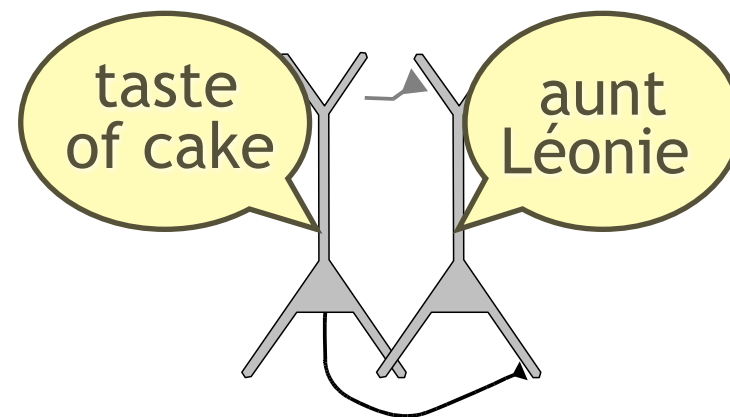
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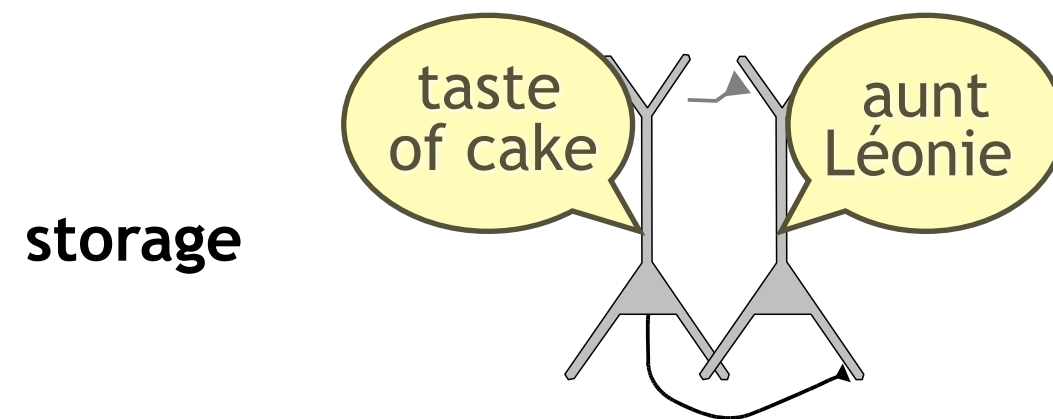
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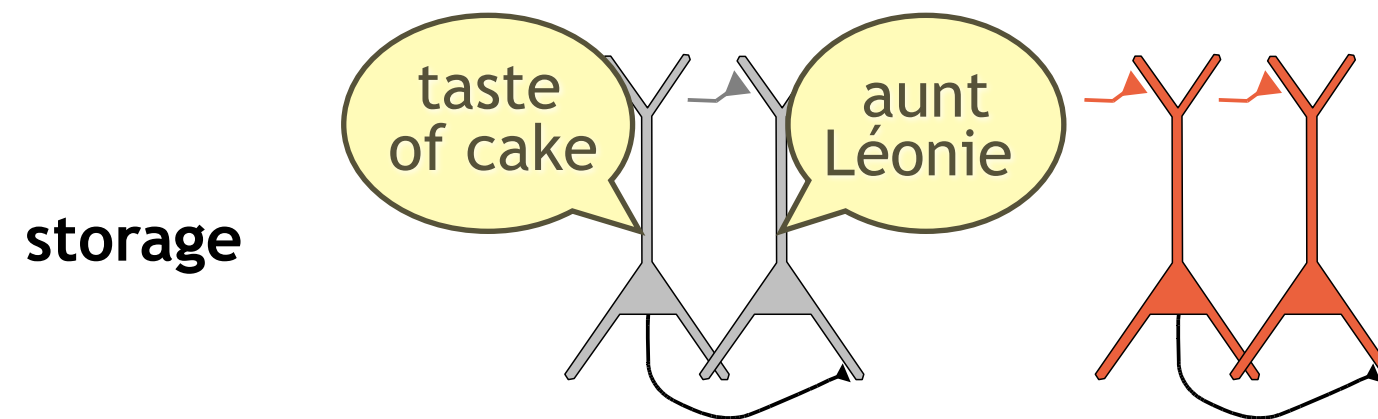
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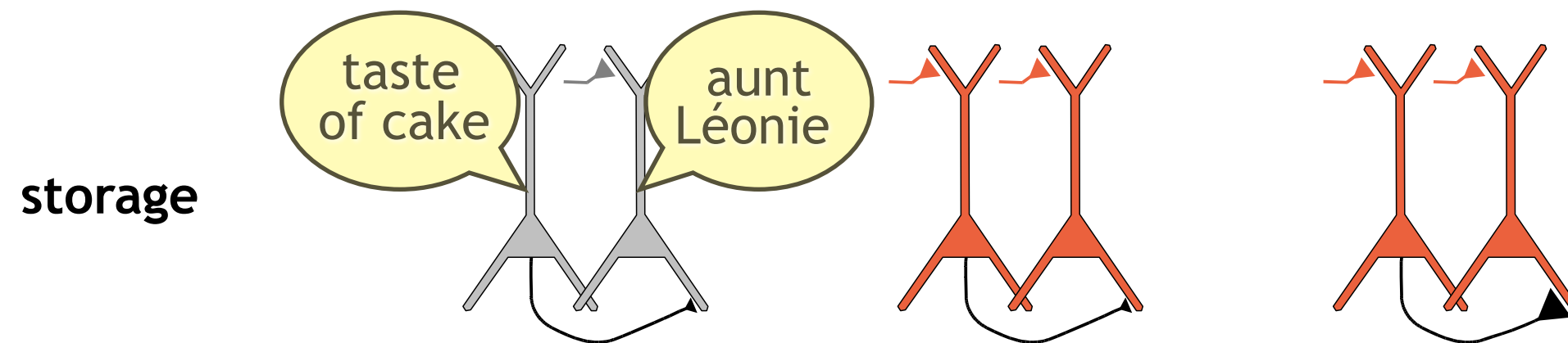
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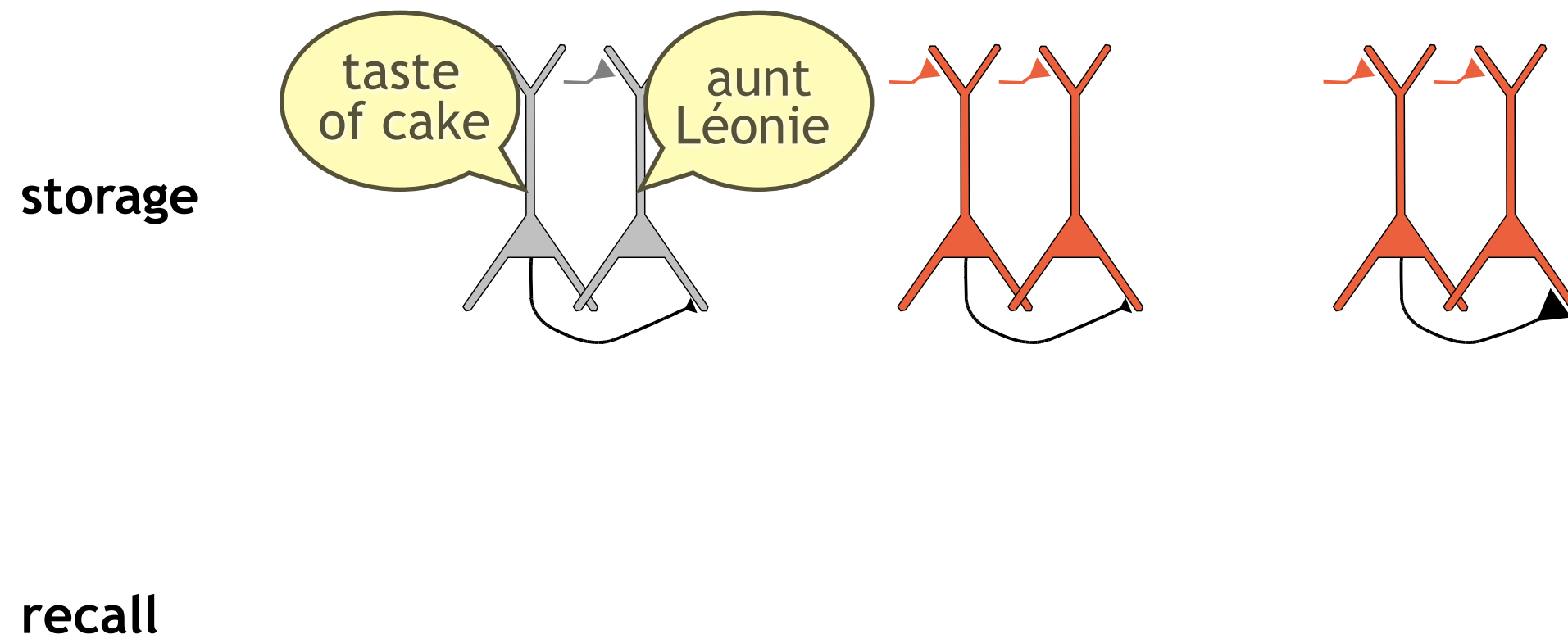
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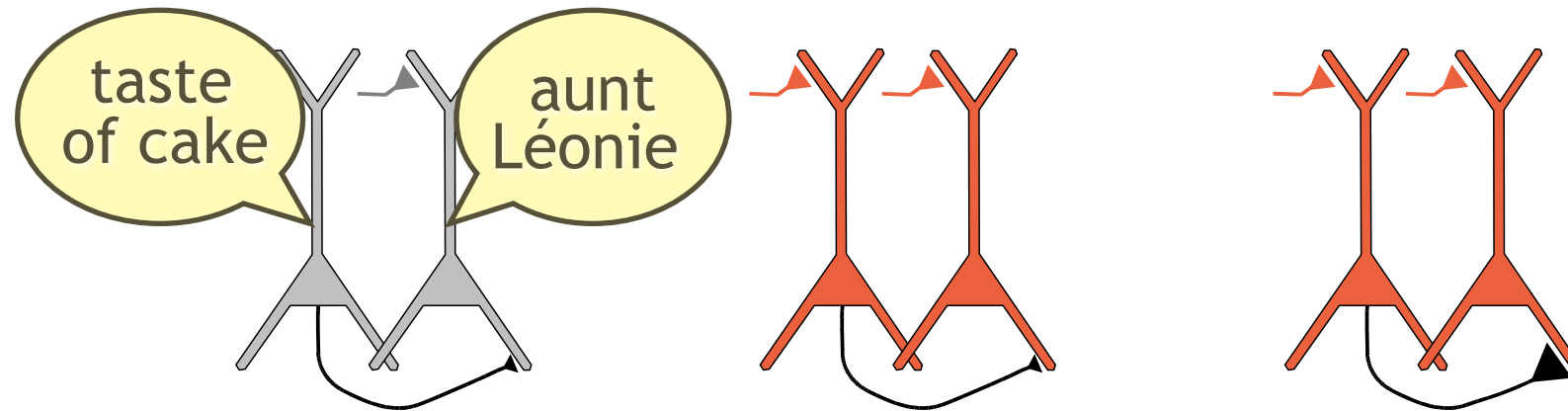
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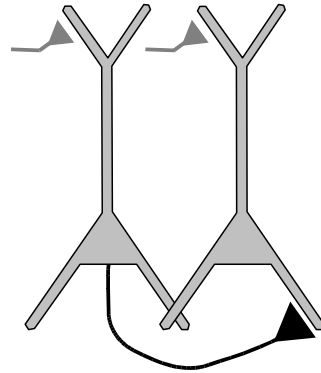
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storage



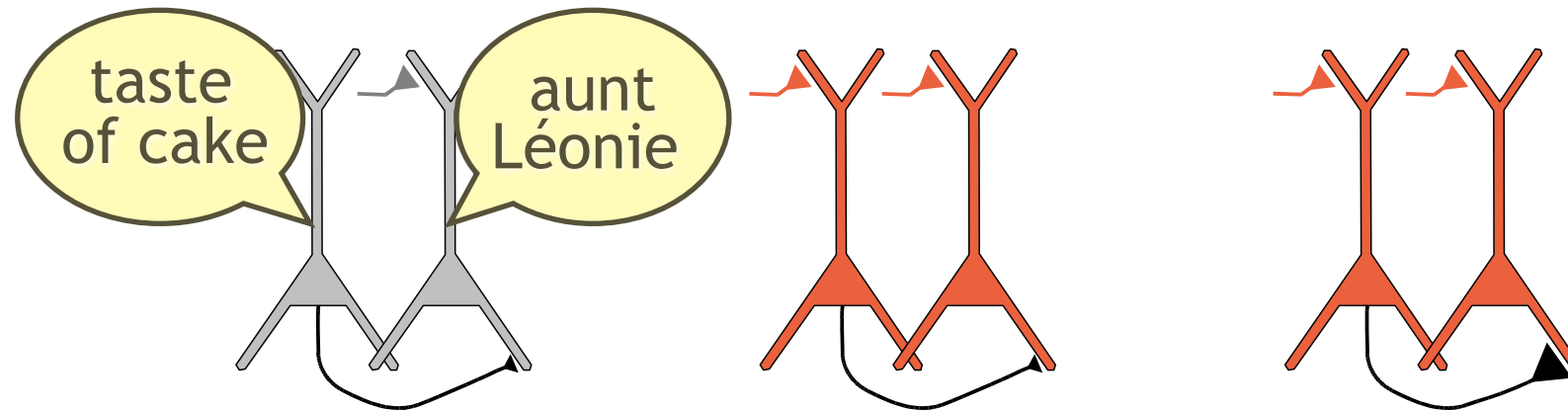
recall



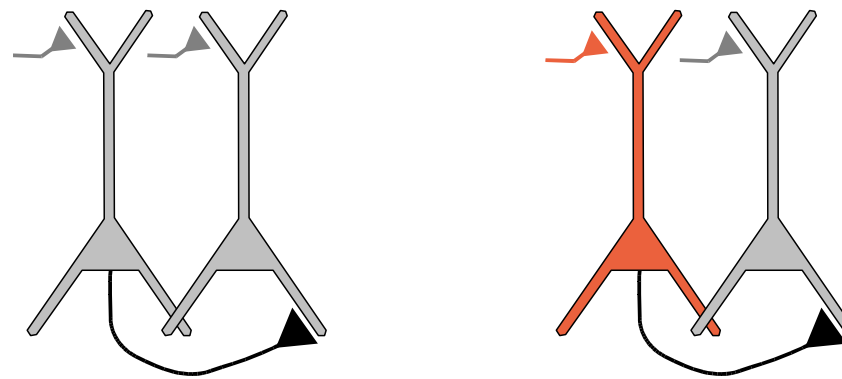
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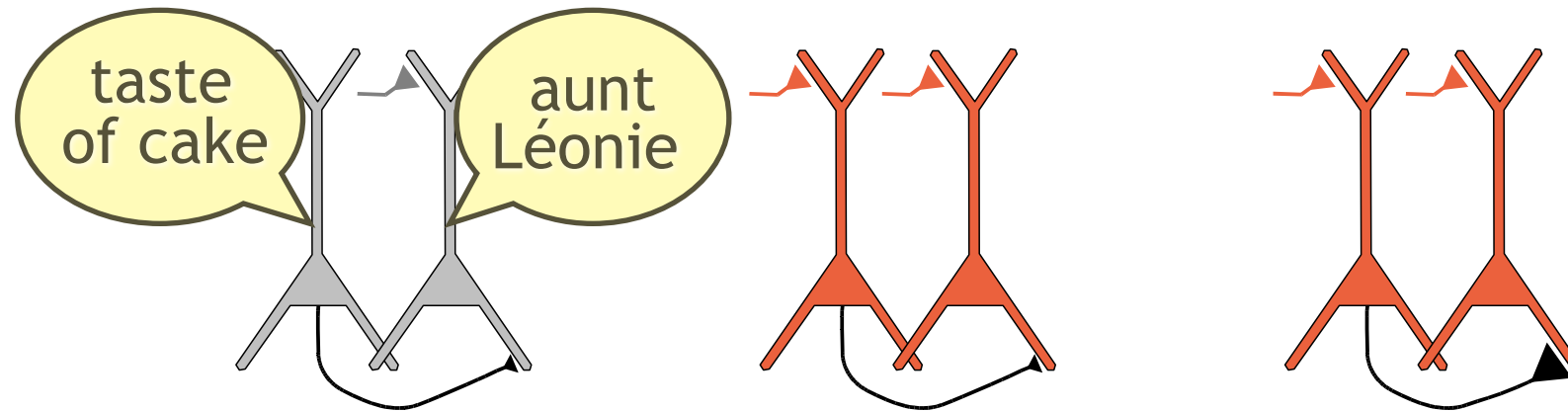
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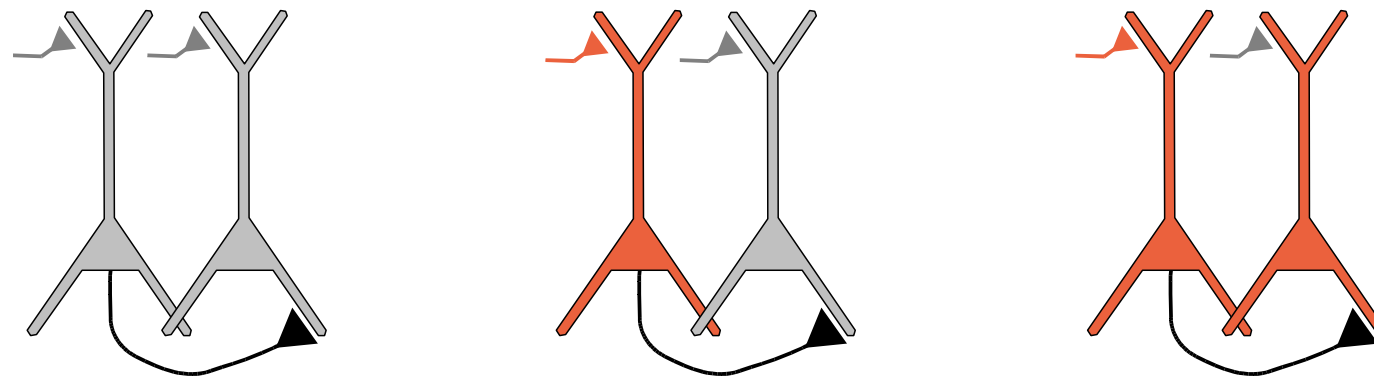
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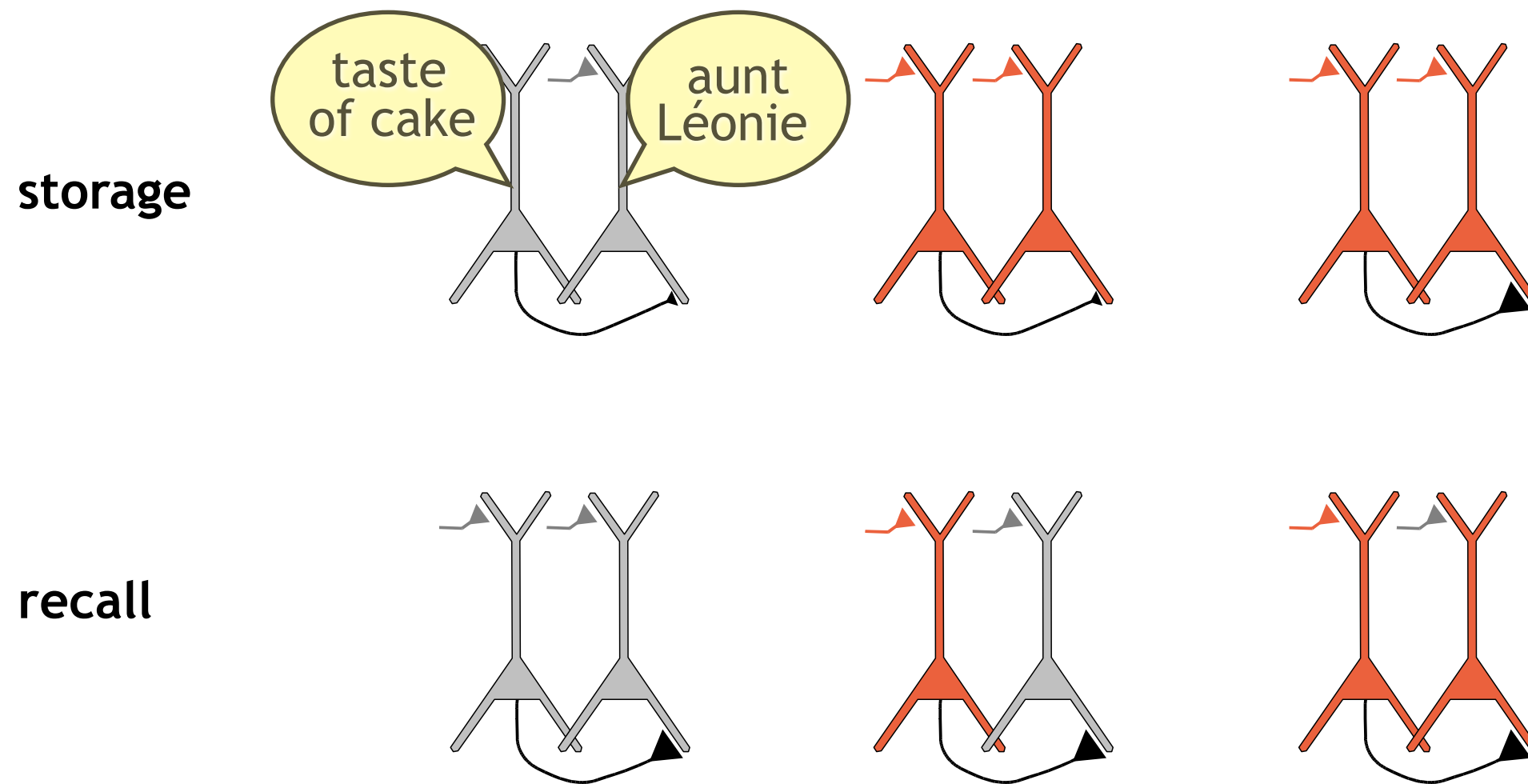


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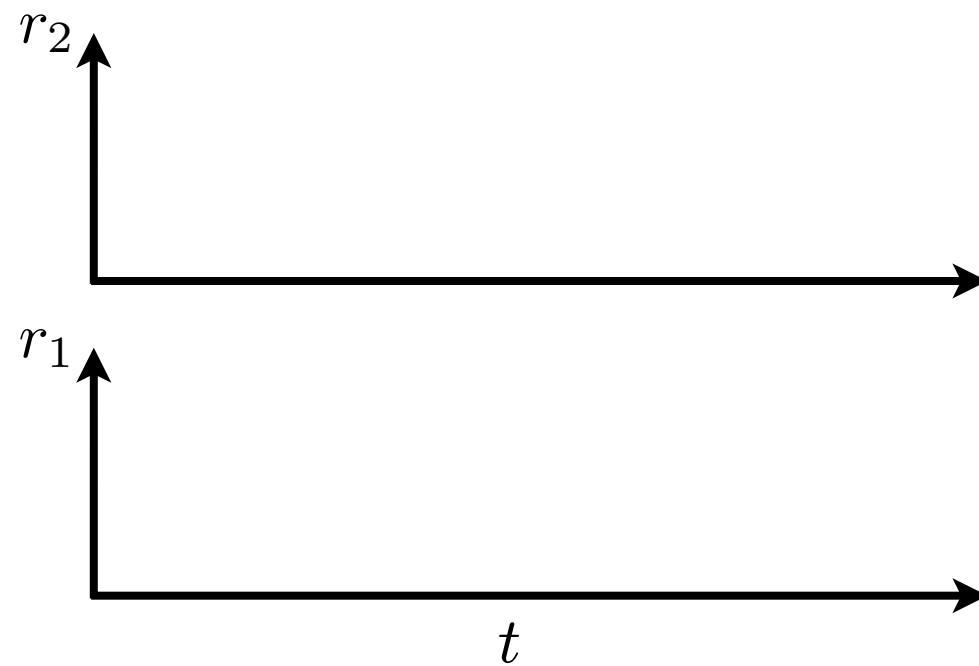
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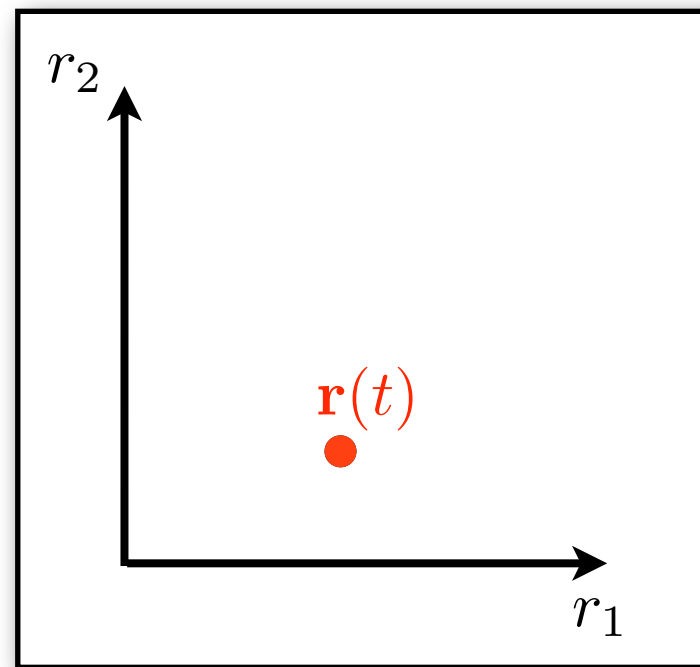
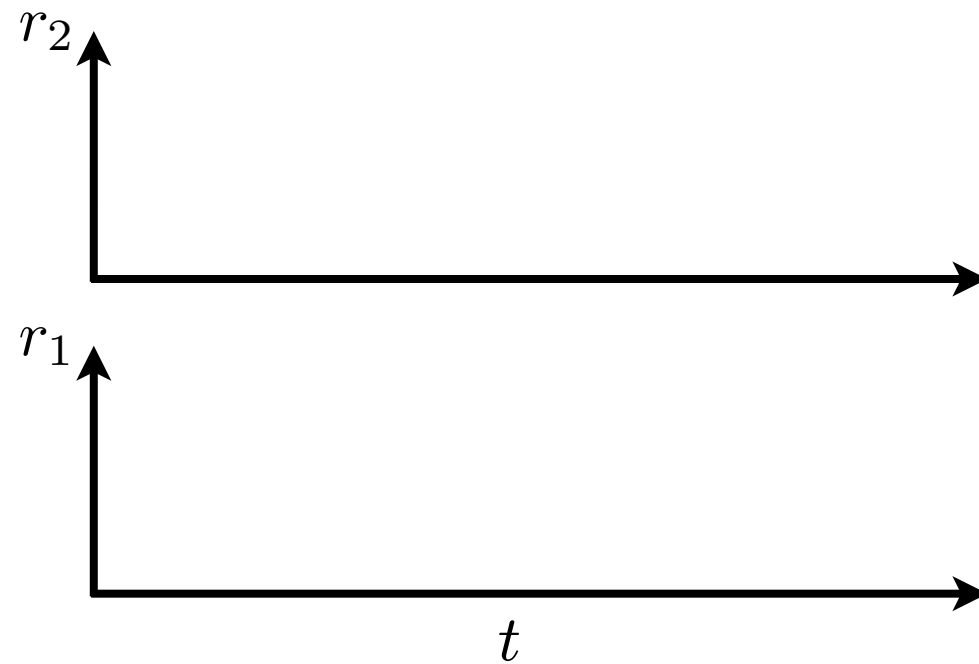


how does this work for **distributed representations**,
without assuming ~~aunt Léonie~~ grandmother neurons ?

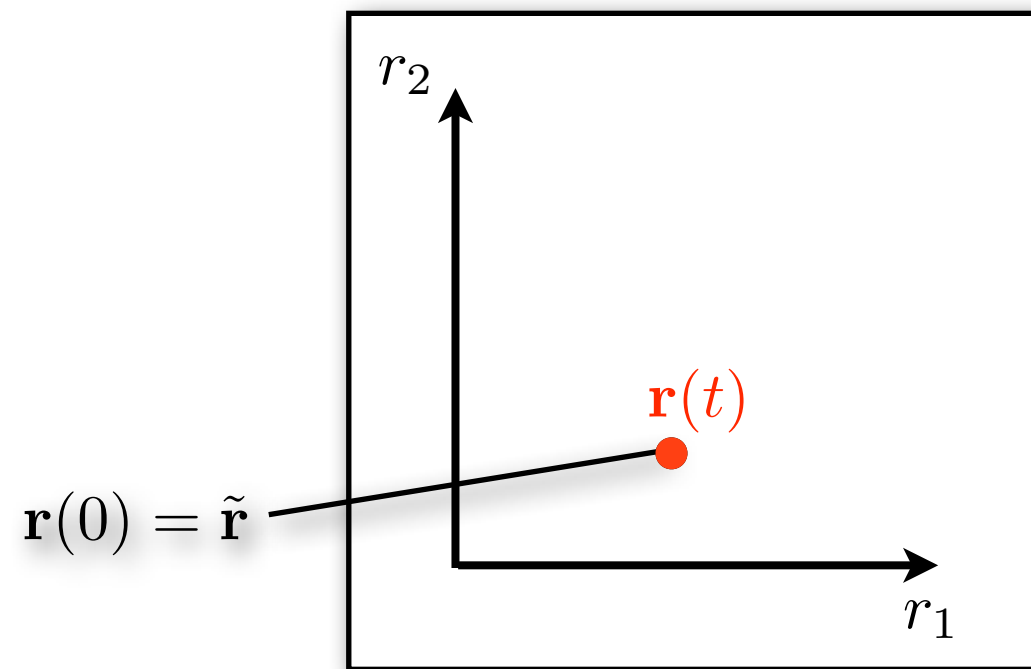
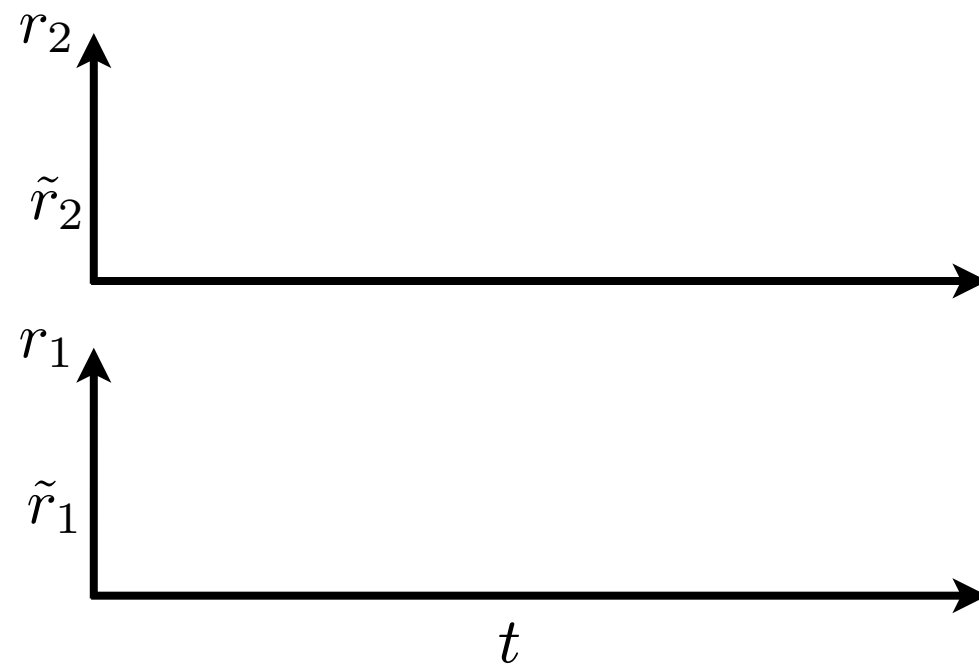
THE PHASE PLANE



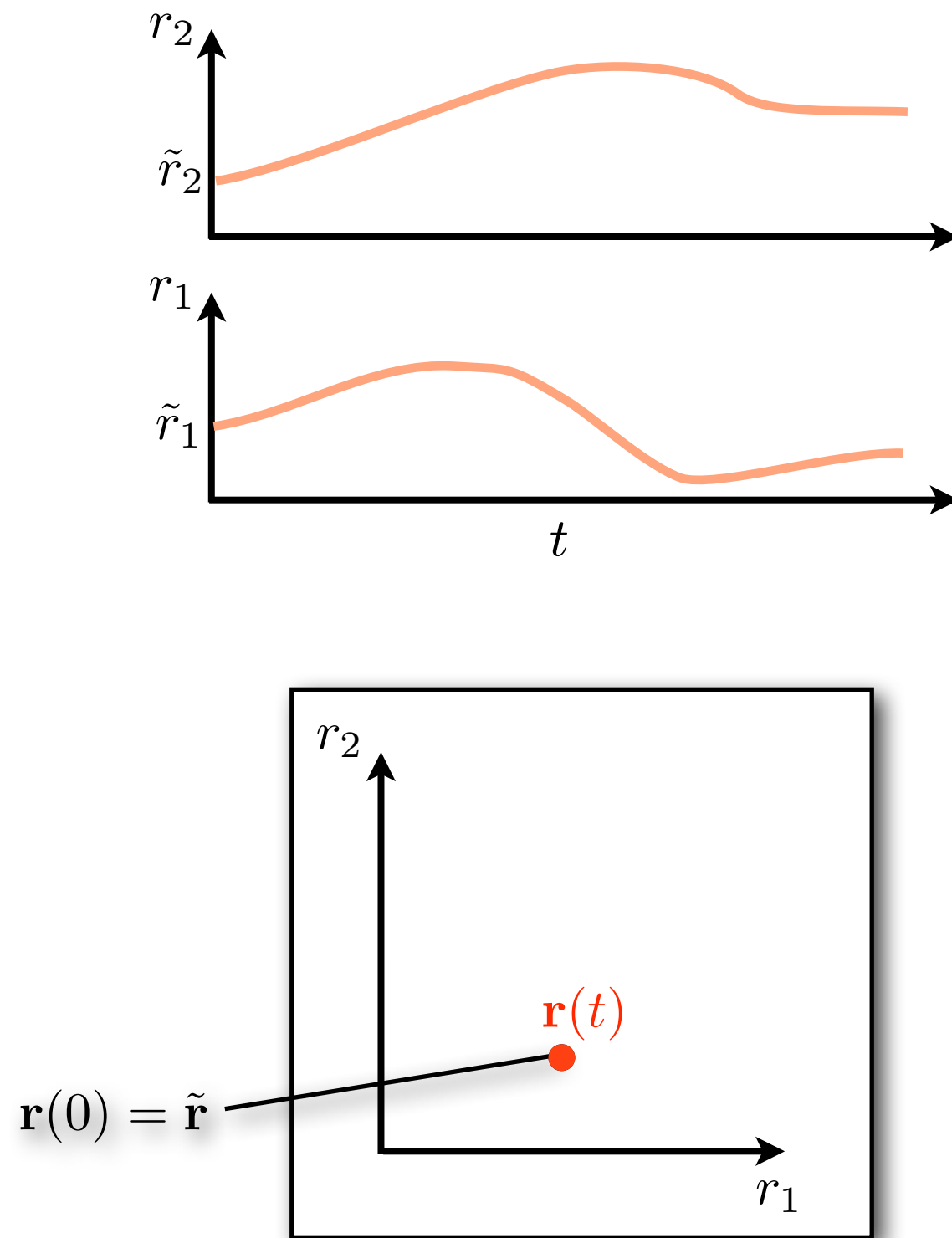
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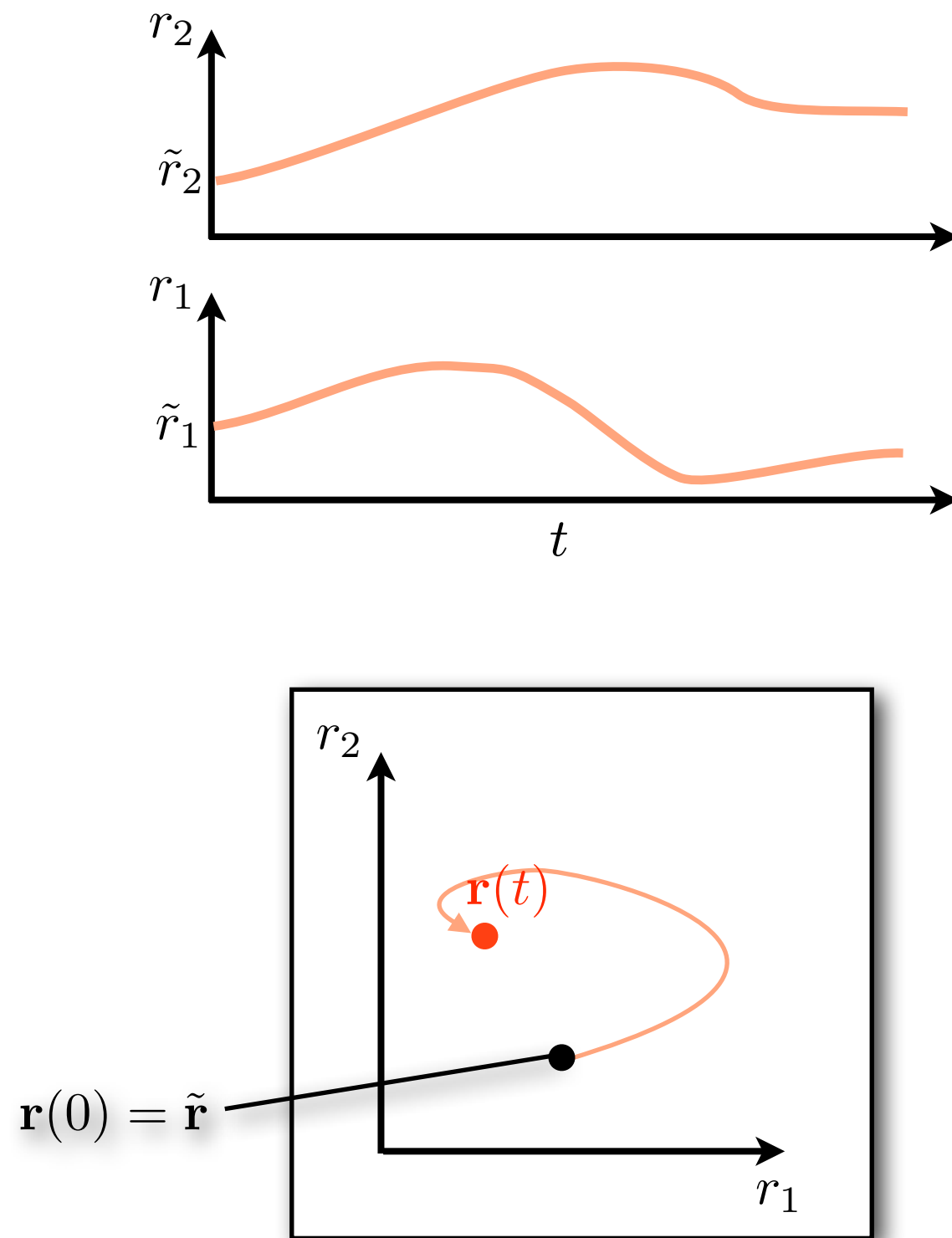
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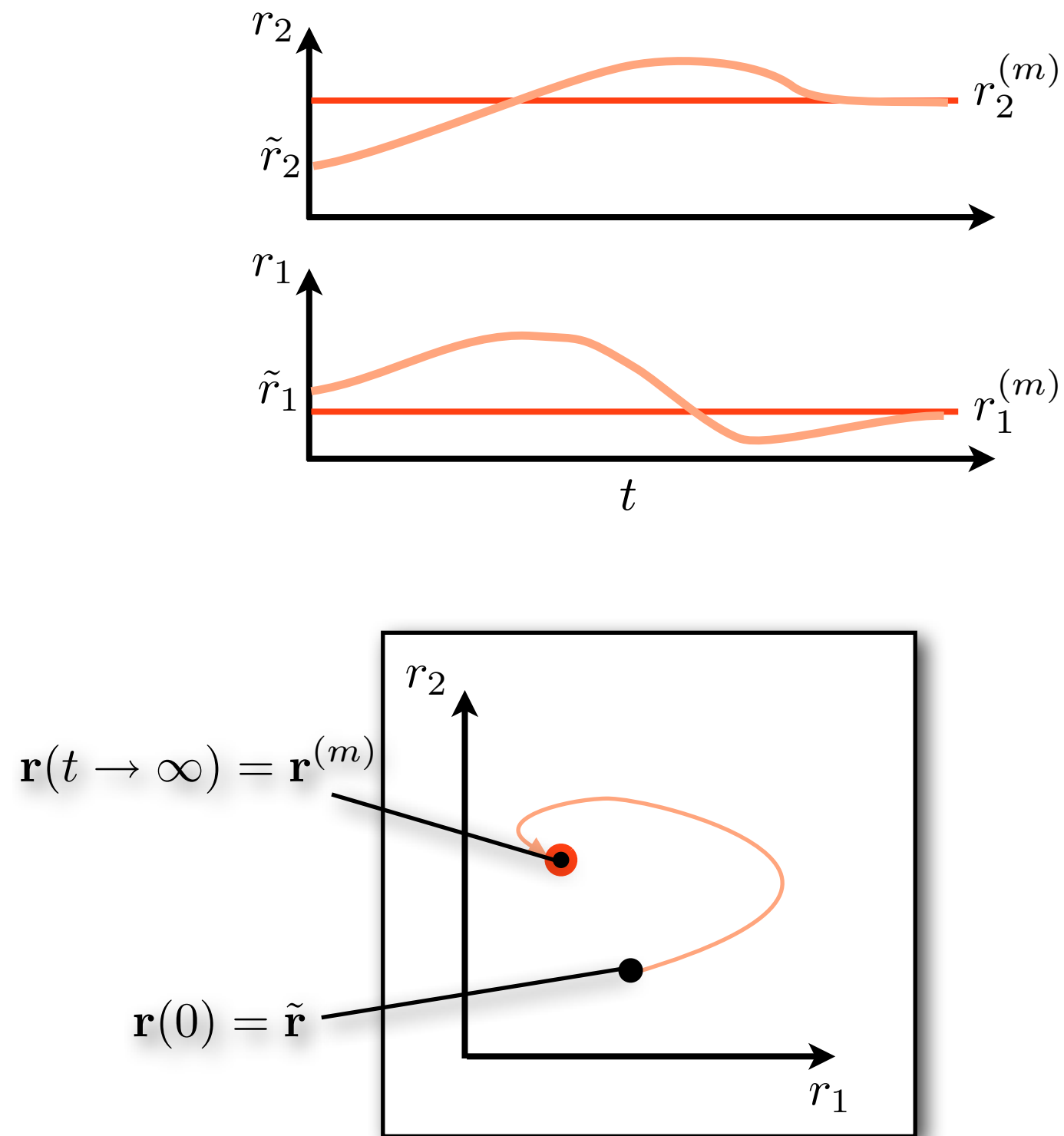
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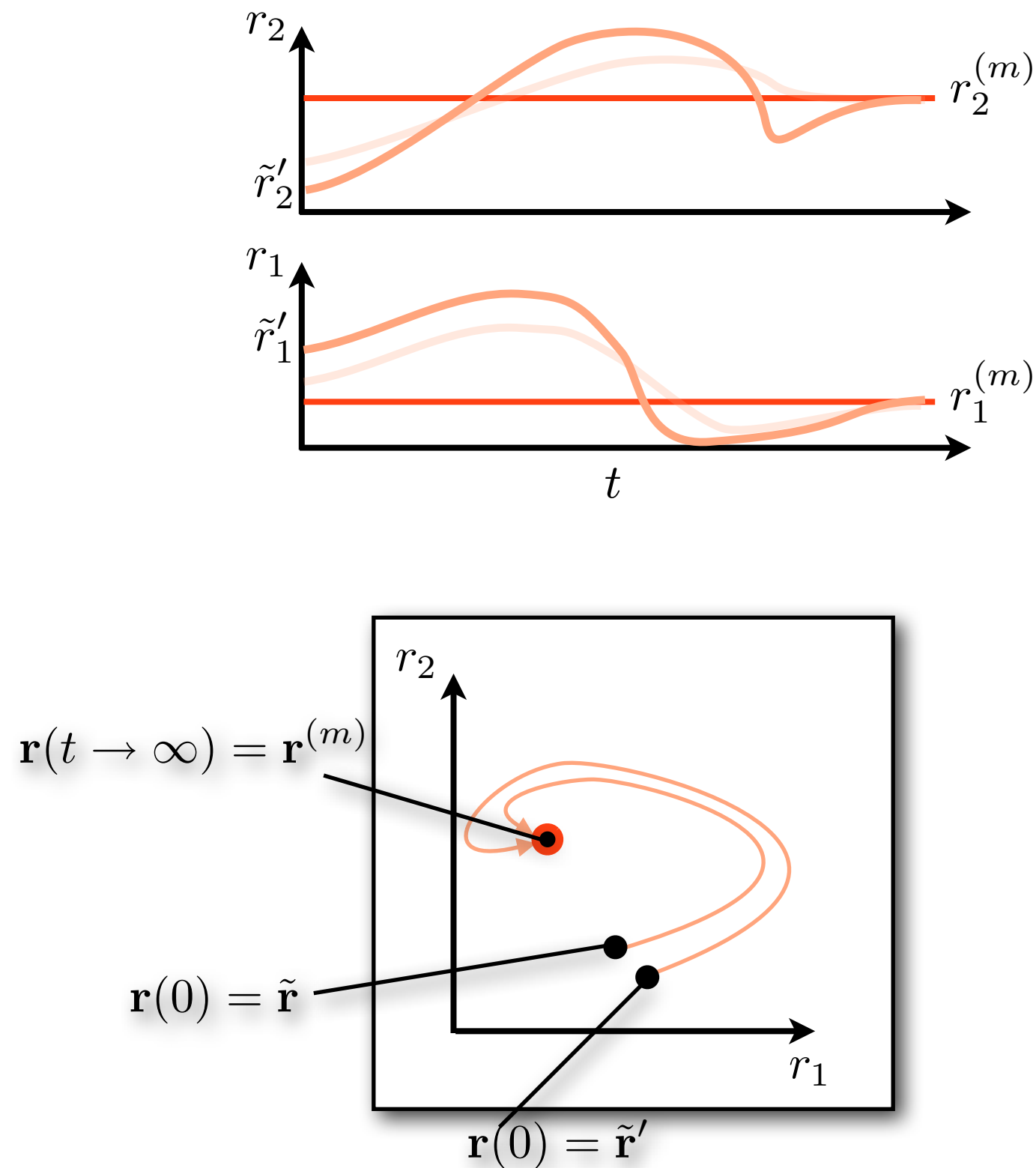


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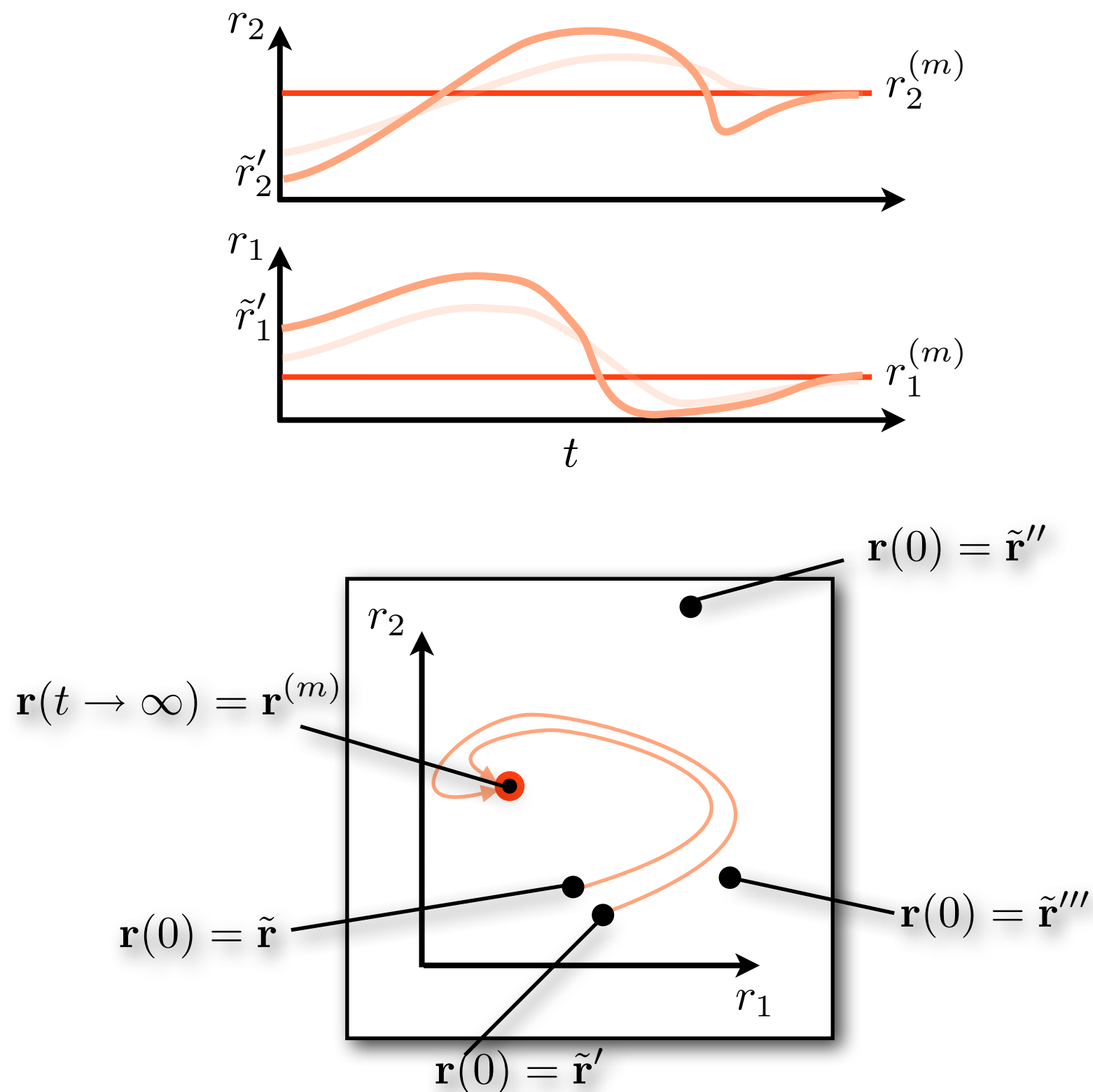
stored patterns should be (point) attractors

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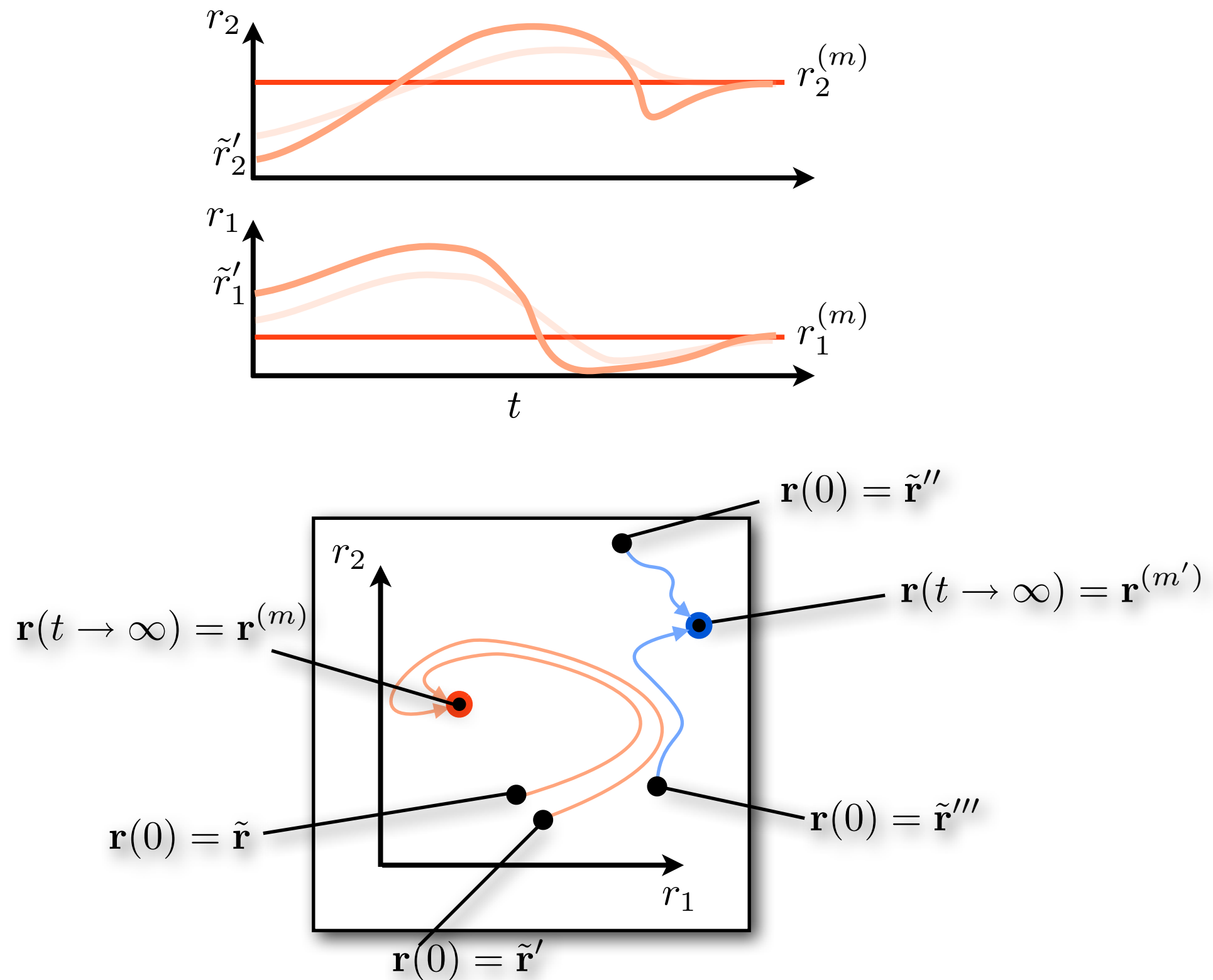
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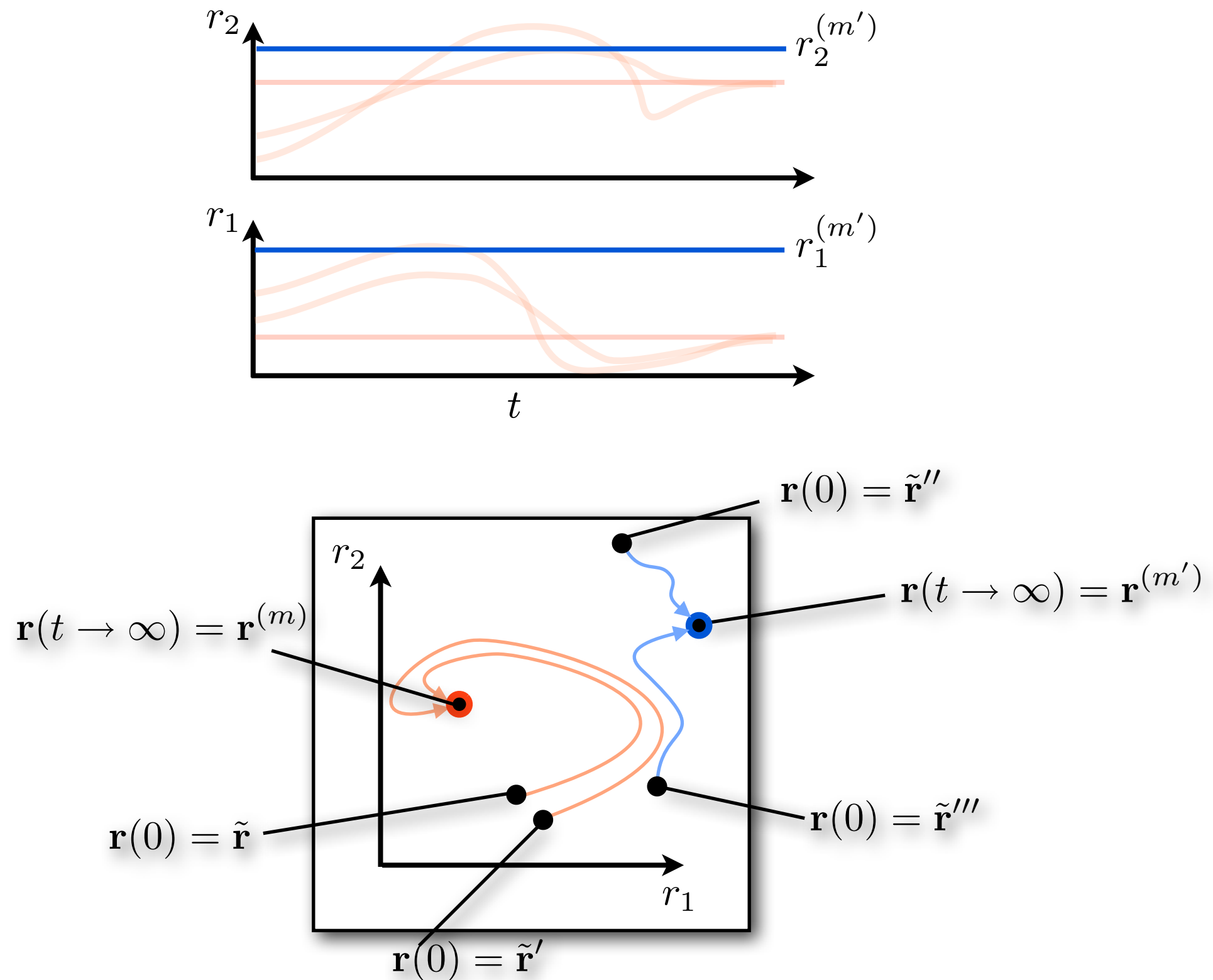
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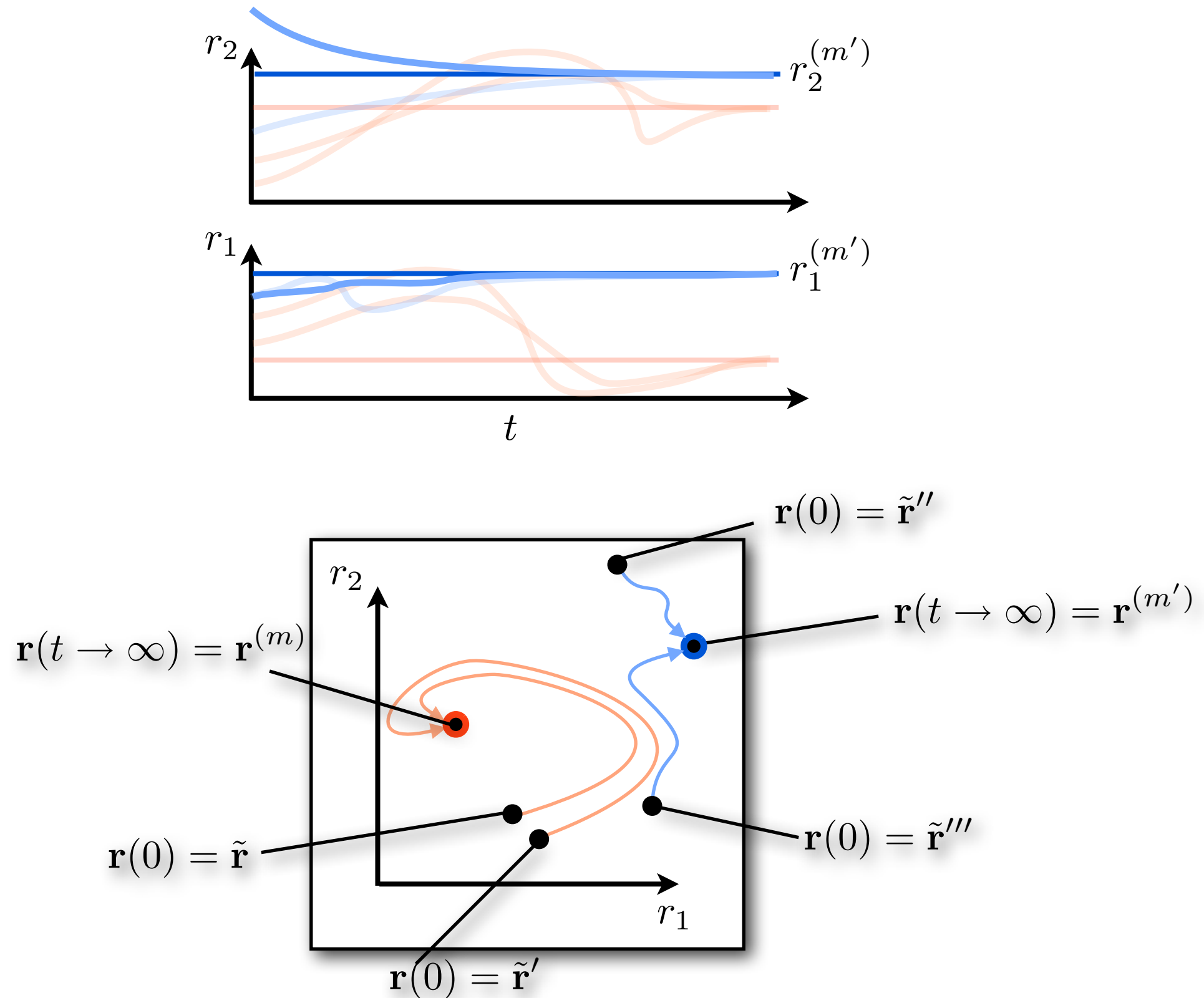
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HOPFIELD NETWORK

Hopfield, 1982, 1984

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binary neurons

McCulloch & Pitts, 1943. A logical calculus of the ideas immanent in nervous activity.

HOPFIELD NETWORK

Hopfield, 1982, 1984

recall: analogue neurons with a firing rate-based description

HOPFIELD NETWORK

Hopfield, 1982, 1984

recall: analogue neurons with a firing rate-based description

$$\frac{dI_i}{dt} = -\frac{1}{\tau} I_i(t) + \sum_{j \neq i} W_{ij} r_j(t)$$

HOPFIELD NETWORK

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f-I characteristic of cells

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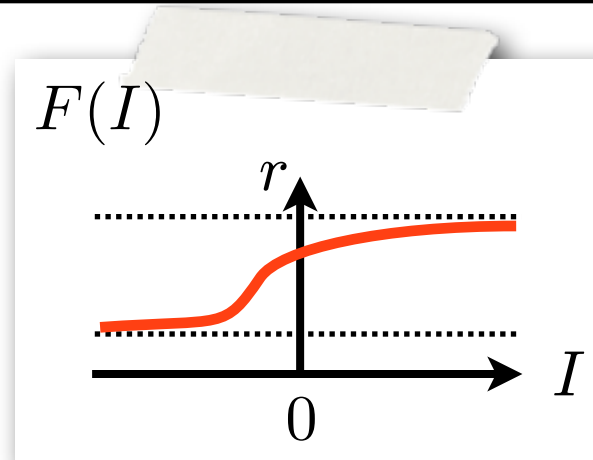
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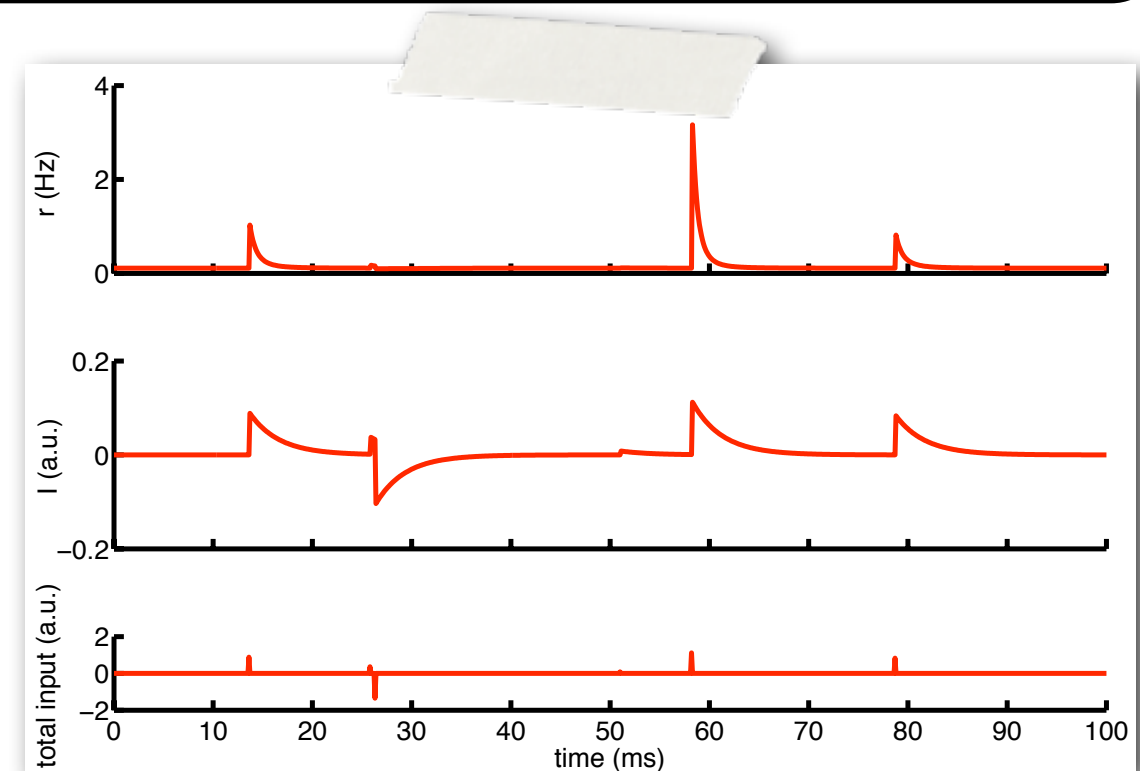
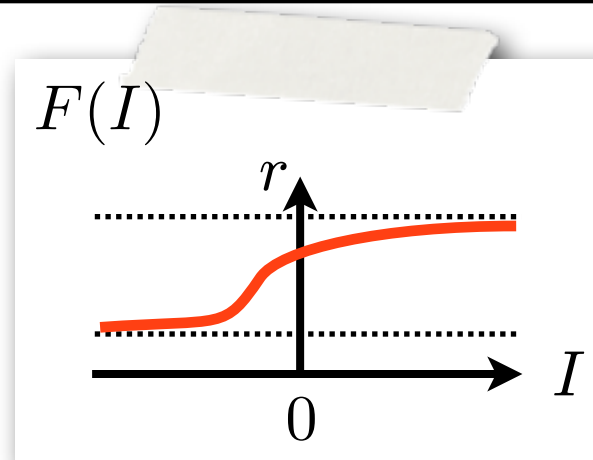
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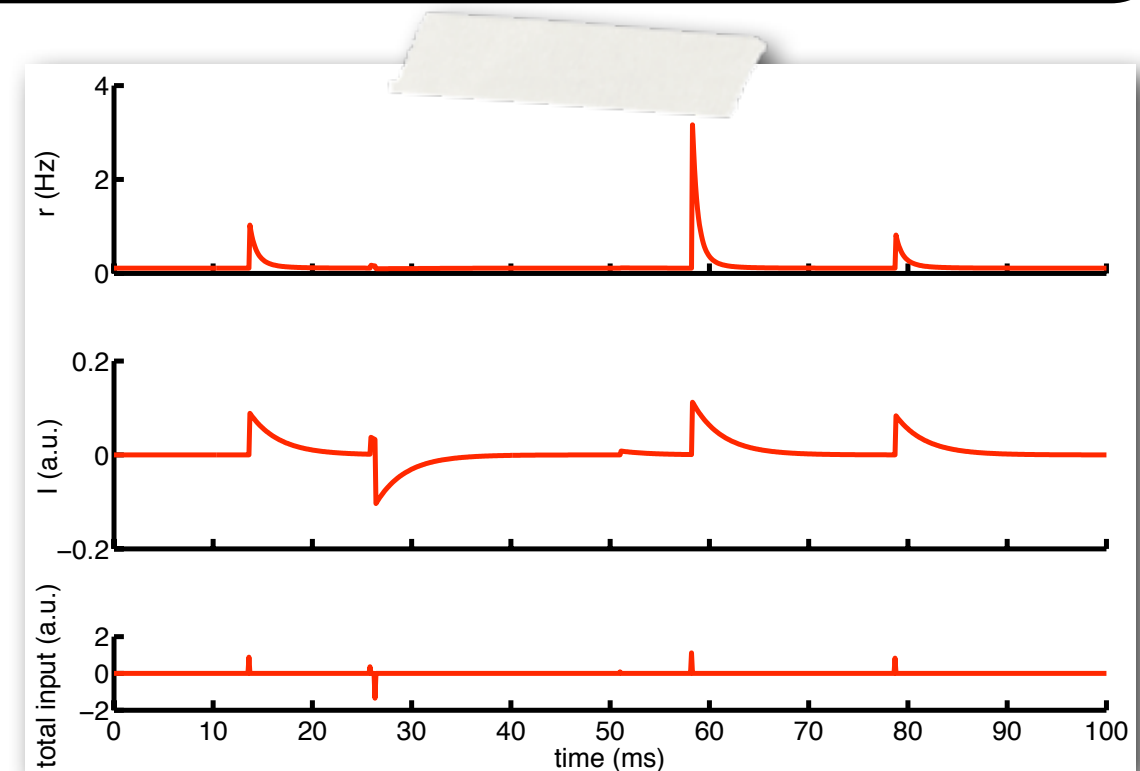
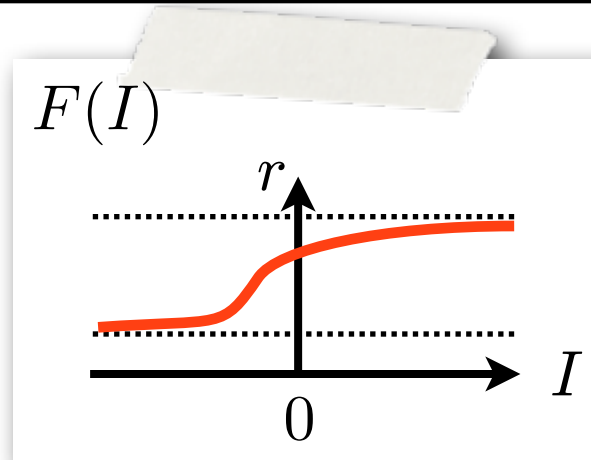
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storage: “Hebbian” synaptic plasticity

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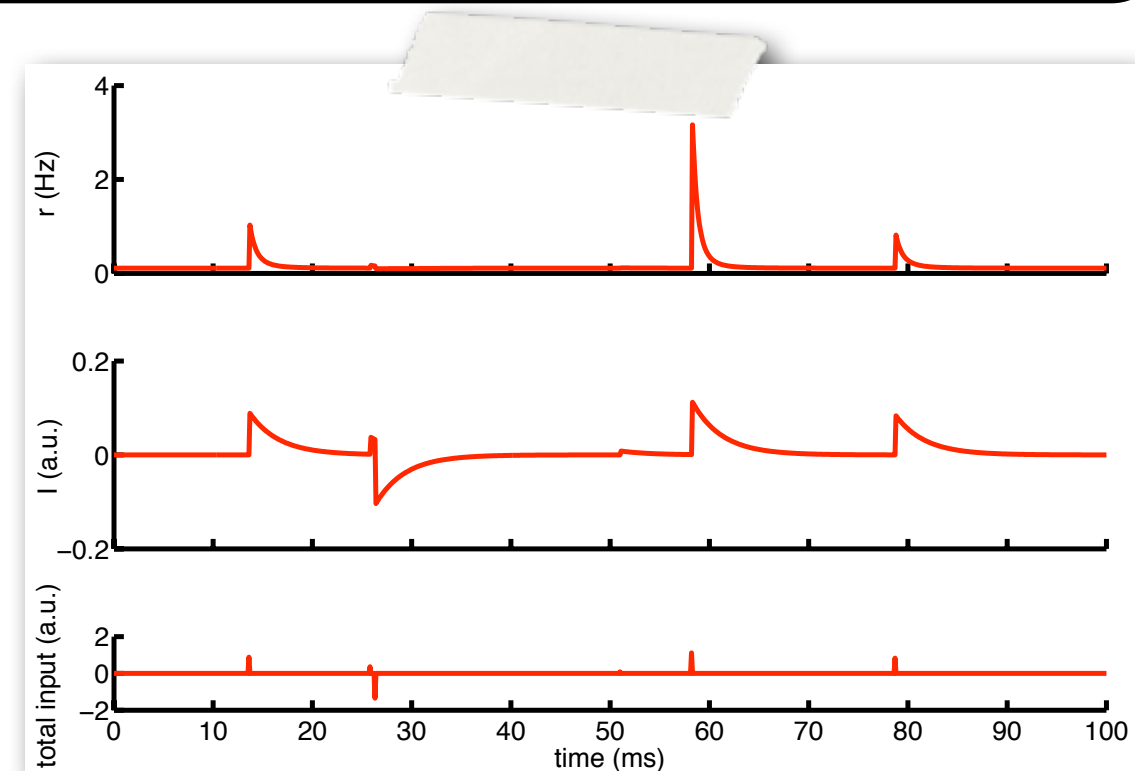
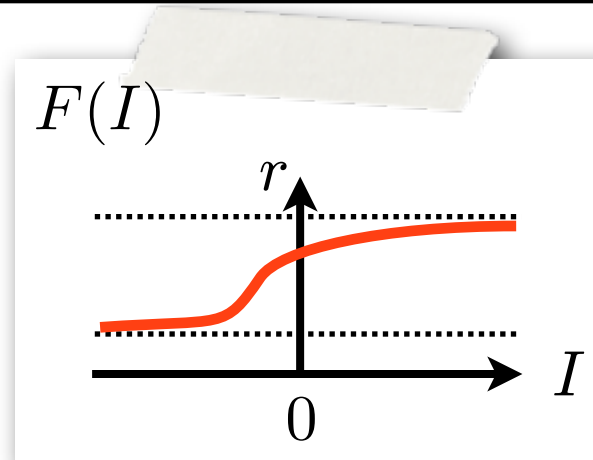
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f-I characteristic of cells



storage: “Hebbian” synaptic plasticity

binary, uncorrelated, balanced patterns

HOPFIELD NETWORK

Hopfield, 1982, 1984

recall: analogue neurons with a firing rate-based description

postsynaptic current in cell i

firing rate of presynaptic cell j

$$\frac{dI_i}{dt} = -\frac{1}{\tau} I_i(t) + \sum_{j \neq i} W_{ij} r_j(t)$$

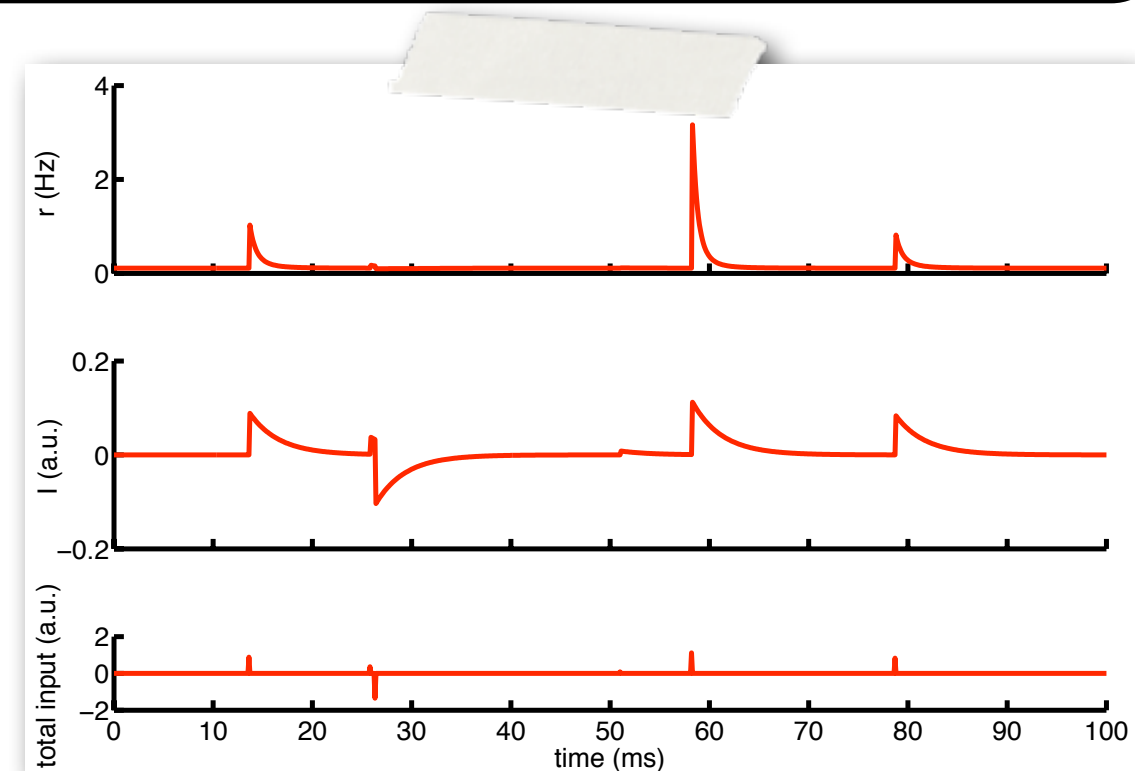
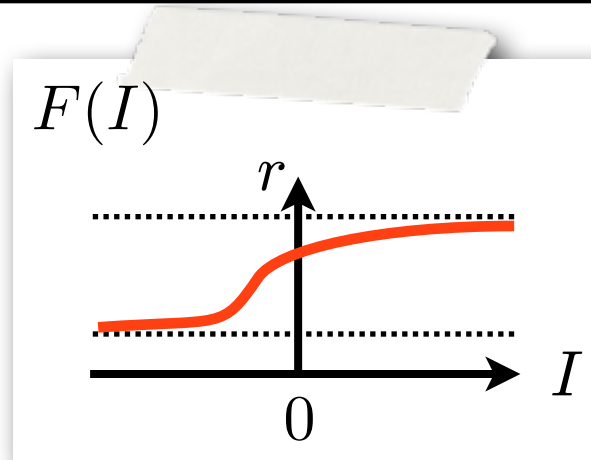
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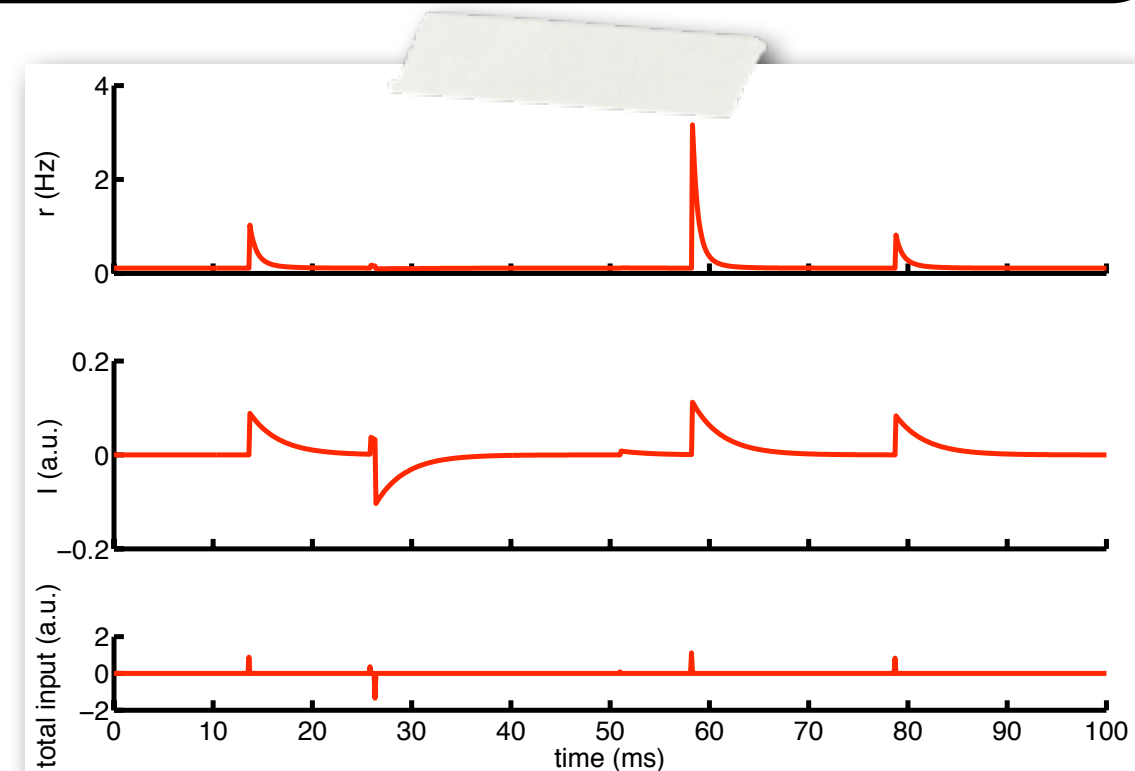
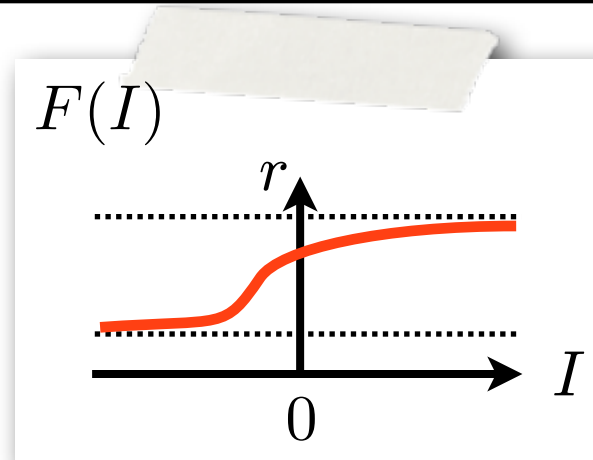
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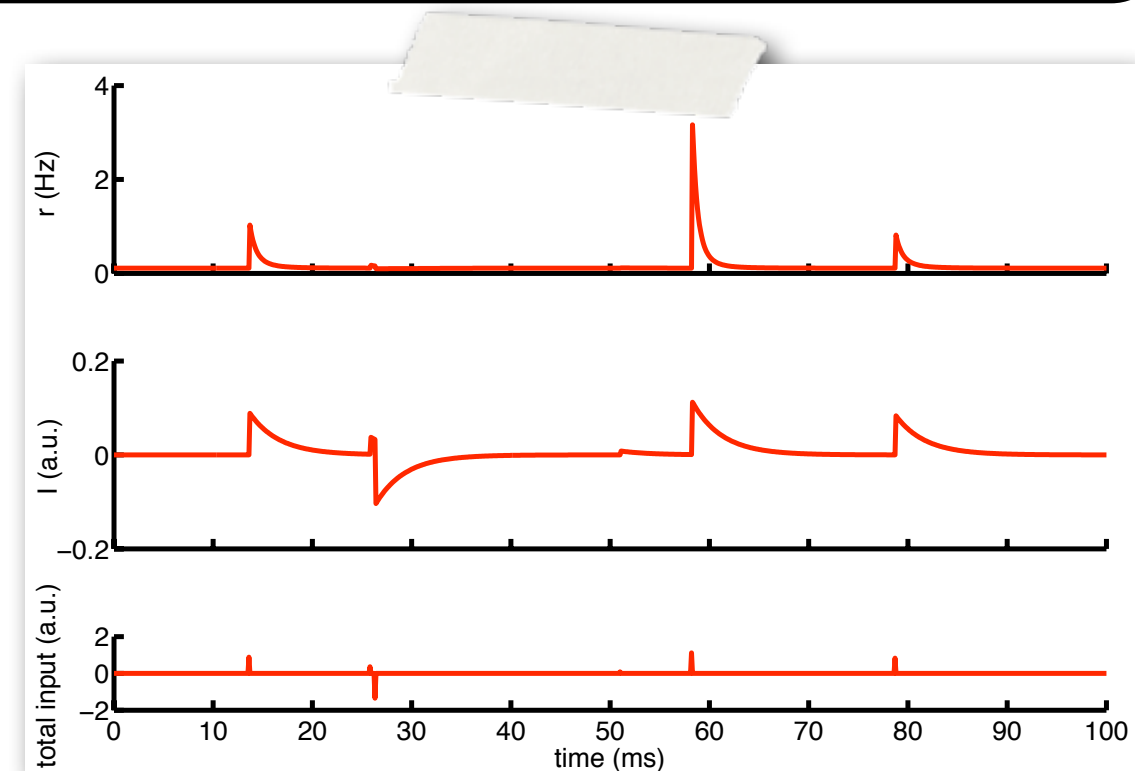
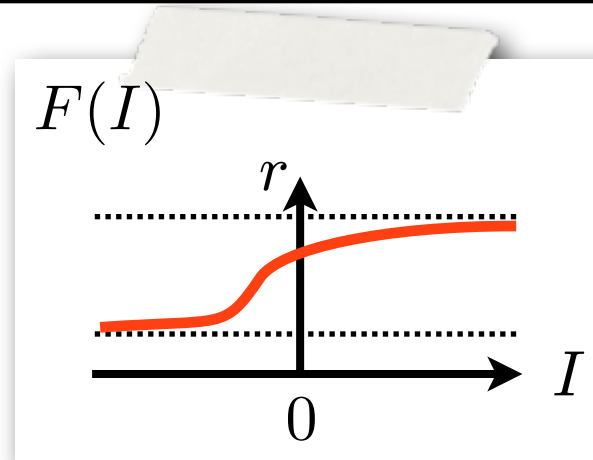
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activities are forced onto the network:
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- same maths apply!

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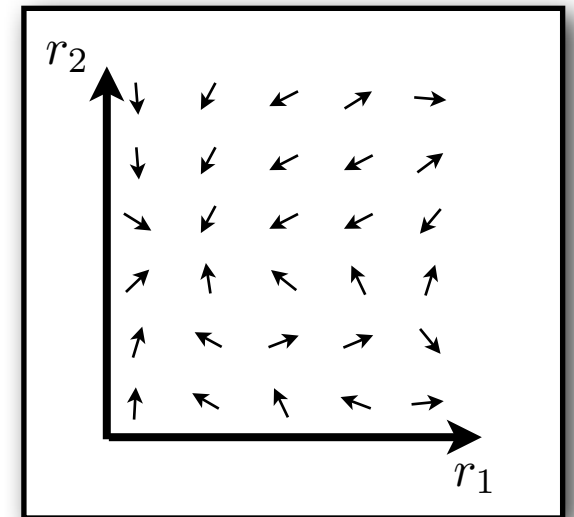
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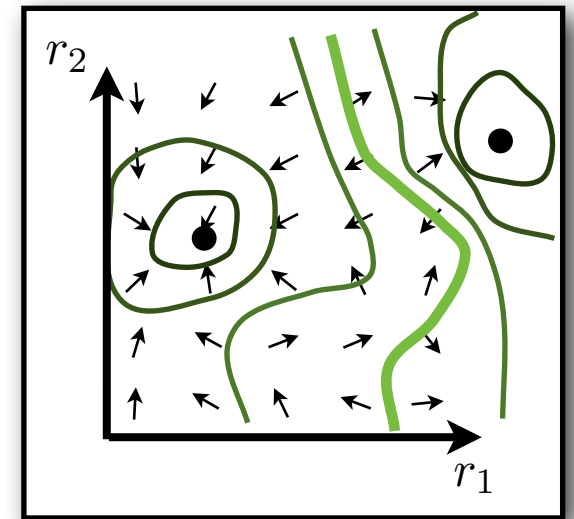
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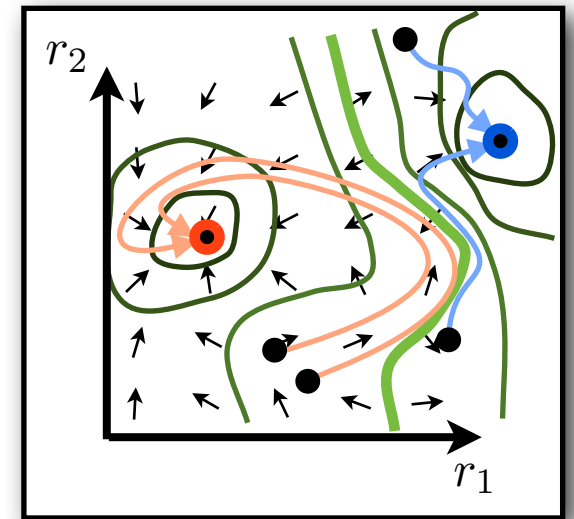
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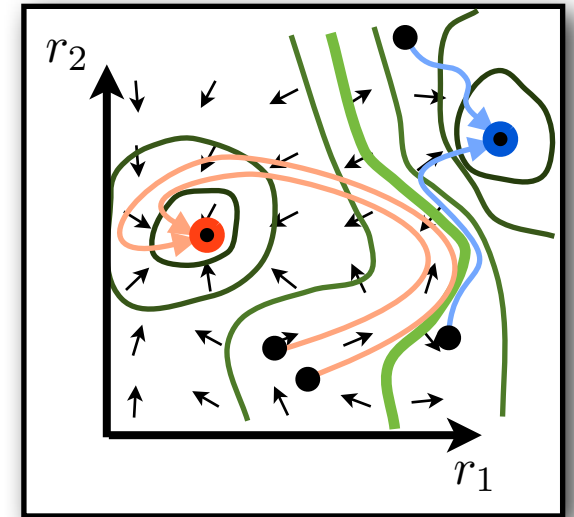
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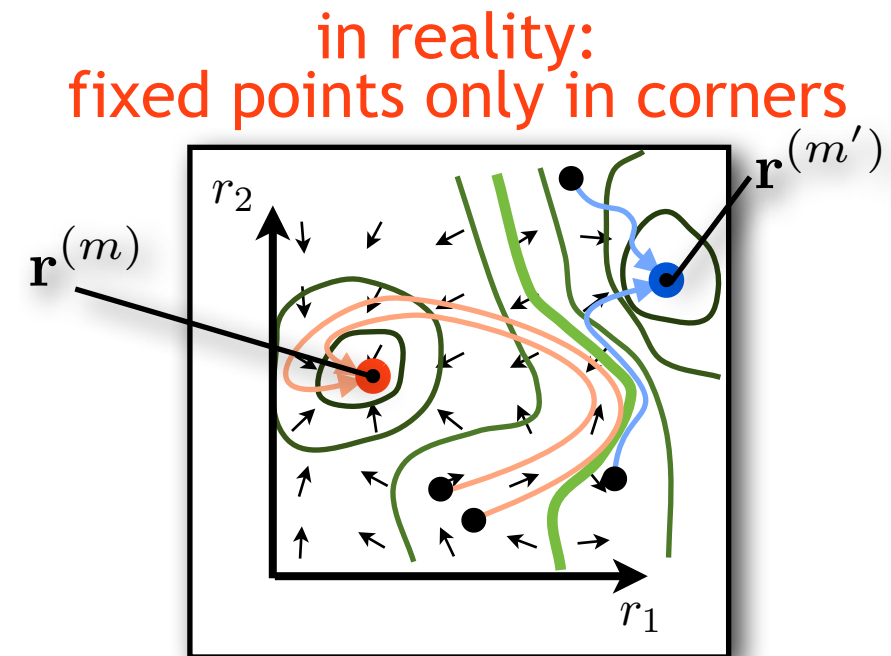
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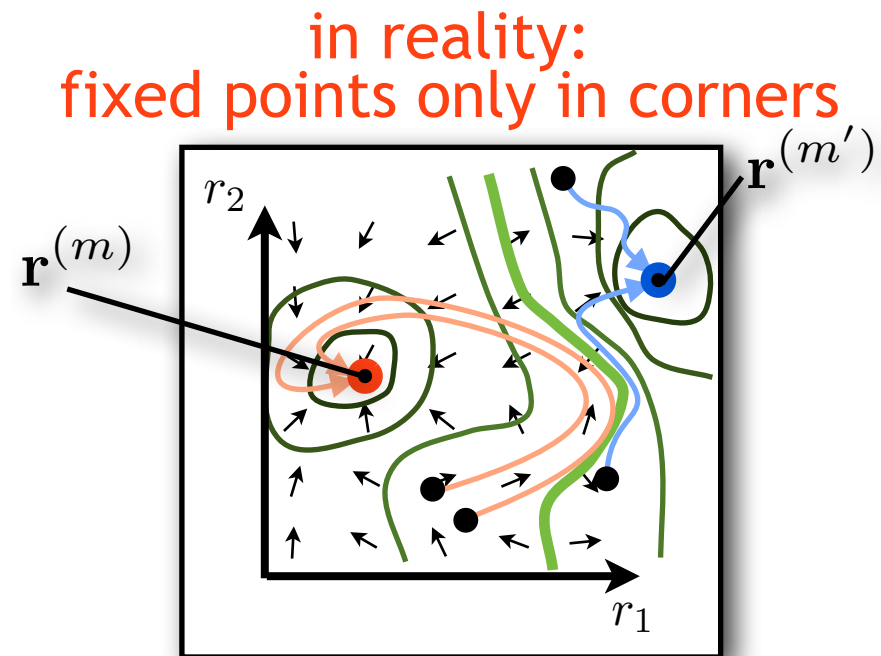


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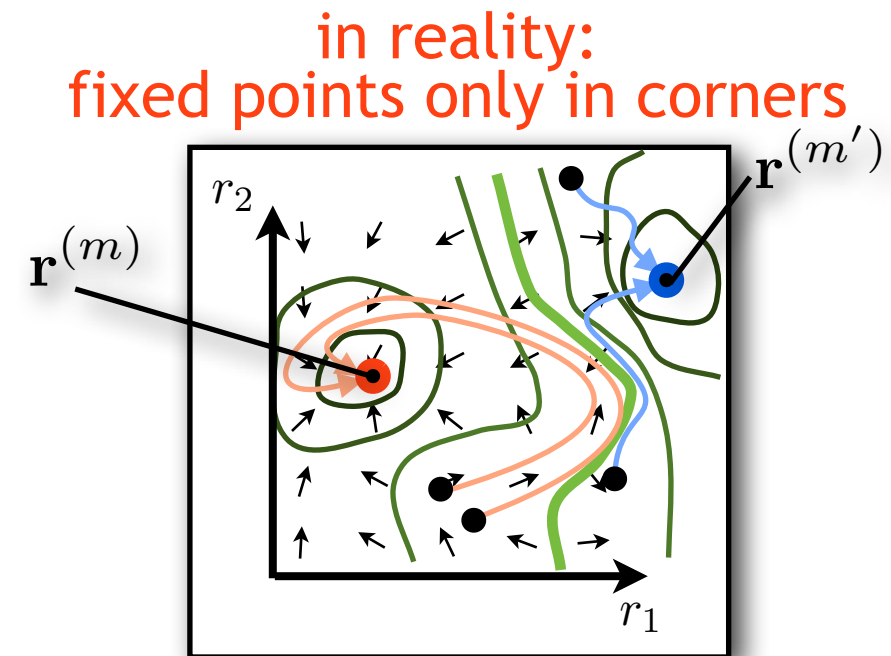
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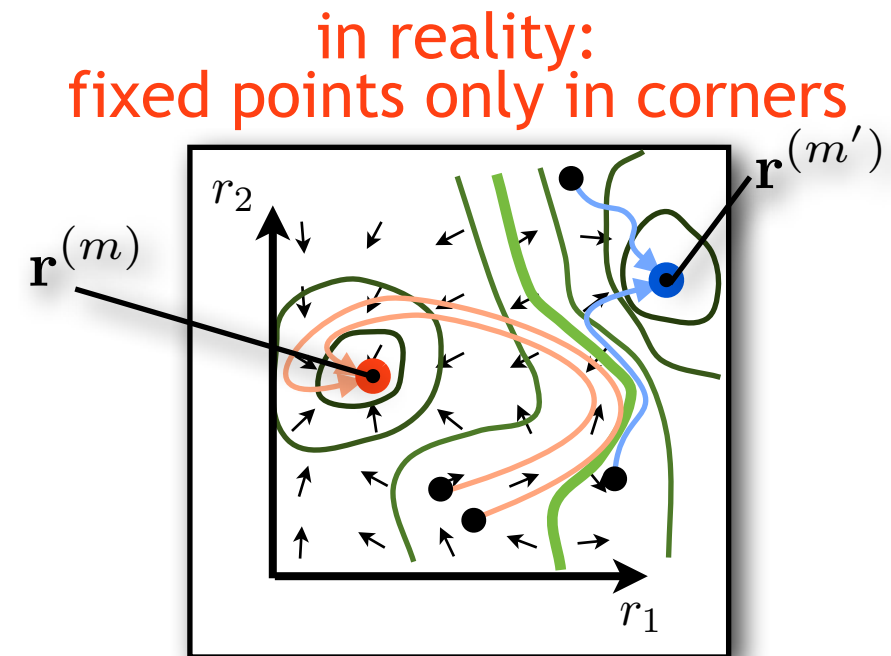
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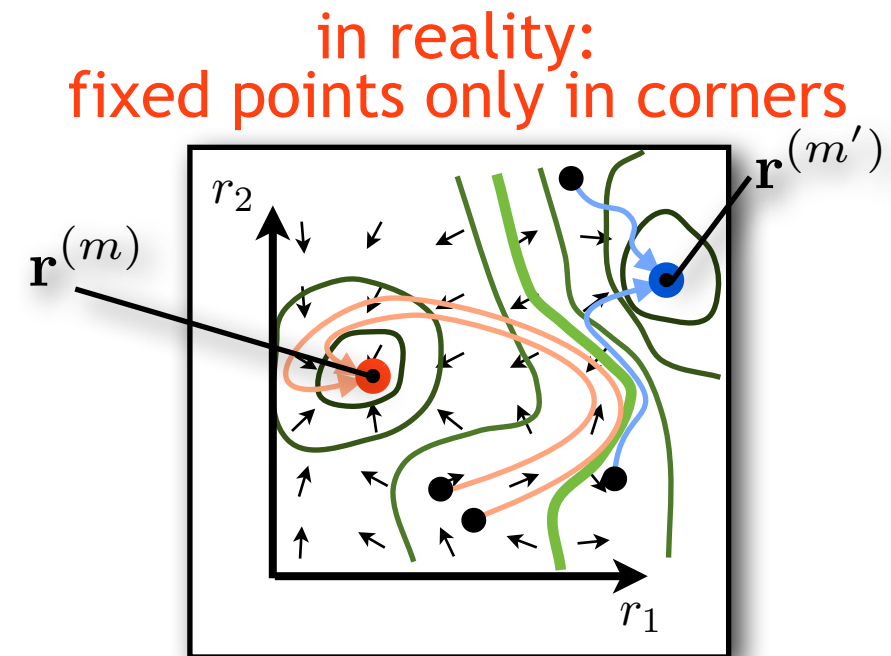
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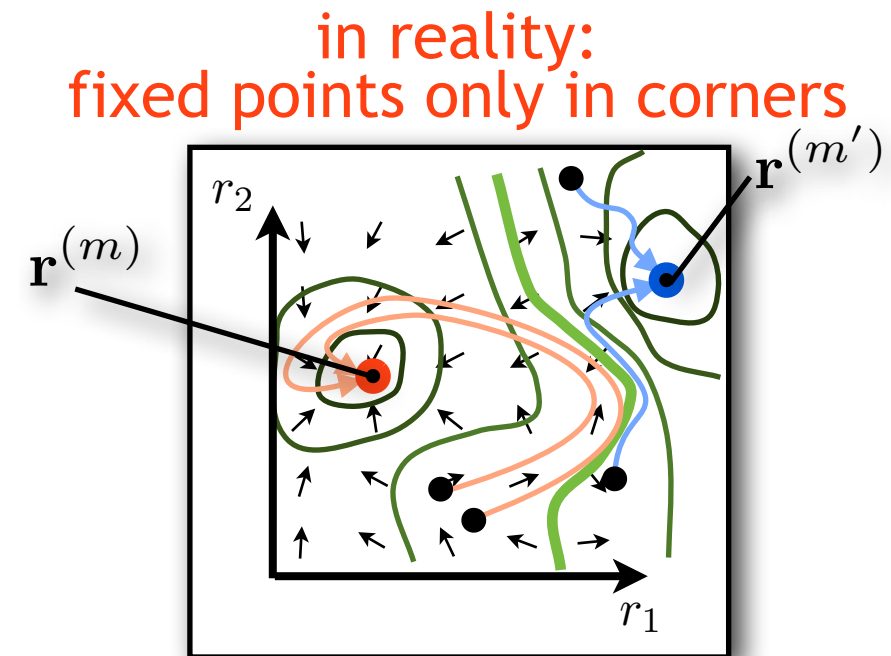
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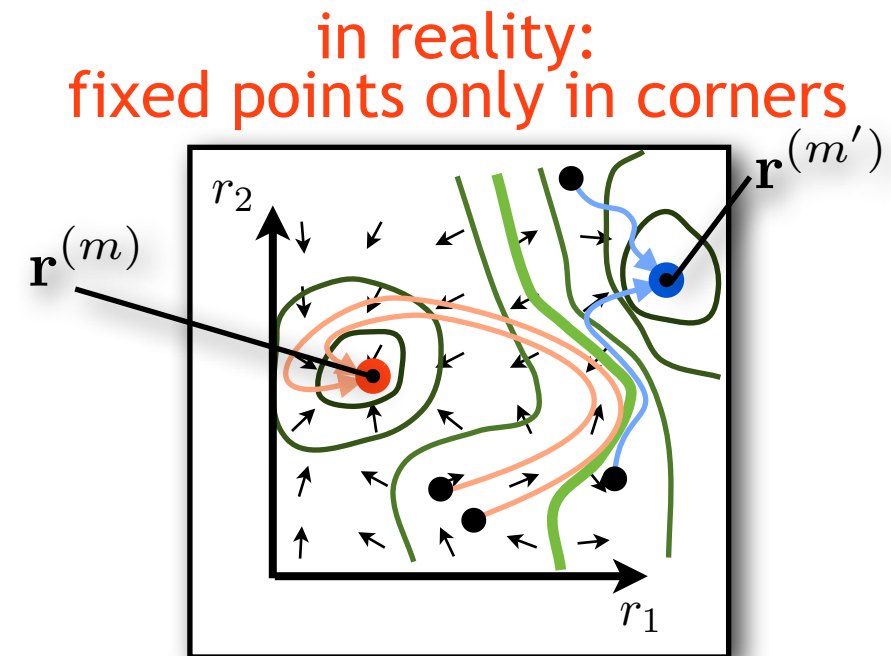
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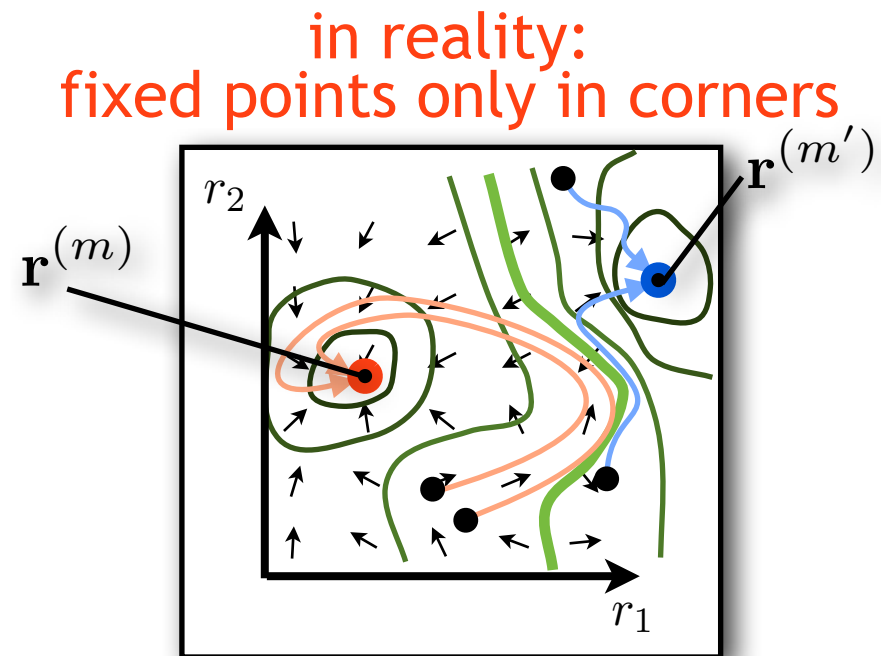
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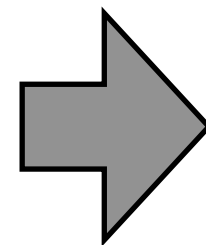
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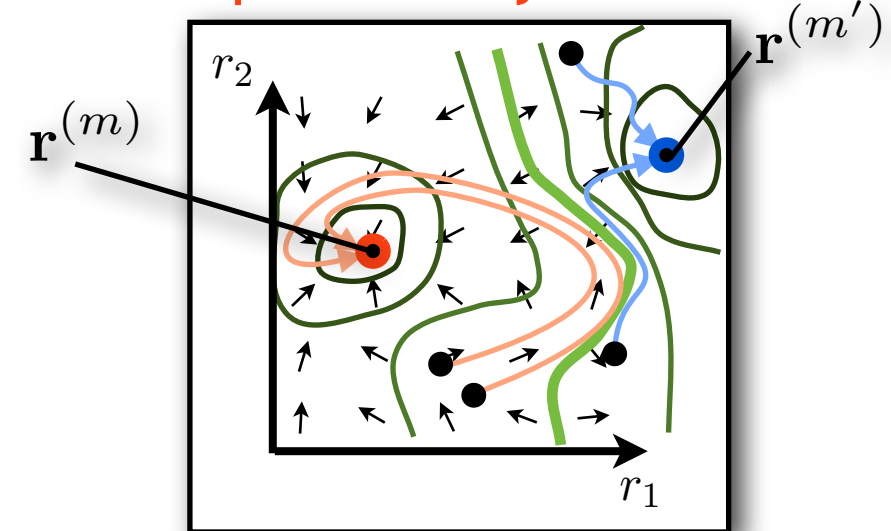
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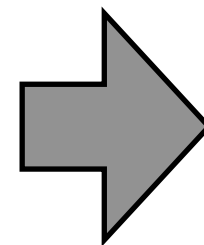
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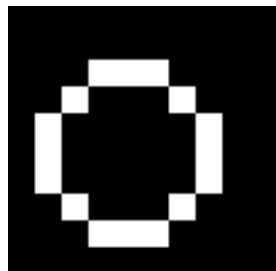
e.g. capacity is determined by

$$\frac{\text{number of stored patterns}}{\text{number of synapses/cell}}$$

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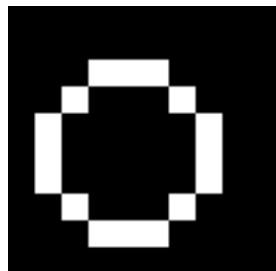
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stored patterns



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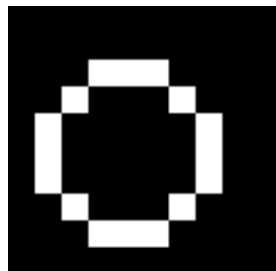


noisy input

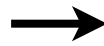


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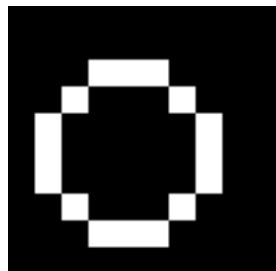


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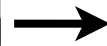


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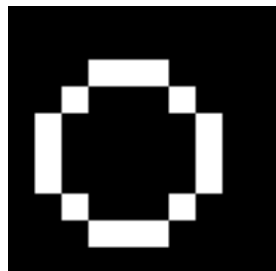


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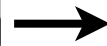


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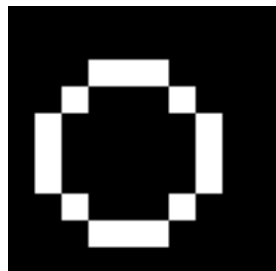


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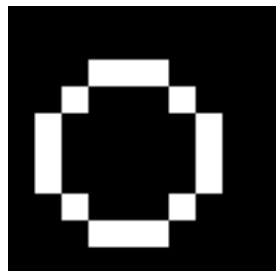


partial input

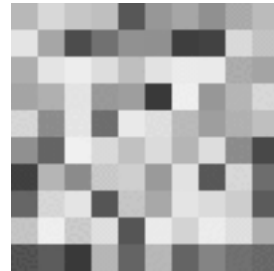


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noisy input

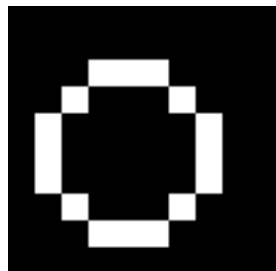


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HOPFIELD NETWORK IN OPERATION

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noisy input



+20 patterns

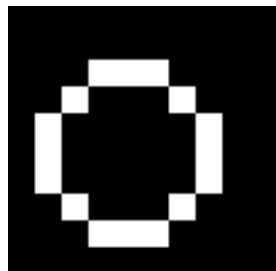


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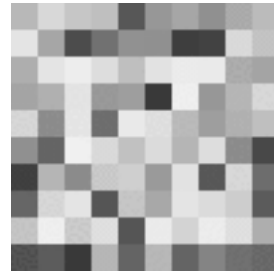
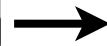


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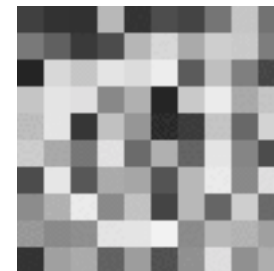
stored patterns



noisy input



+20 patterns



10% connectivity



partial input



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the Hopfieldian paradigm

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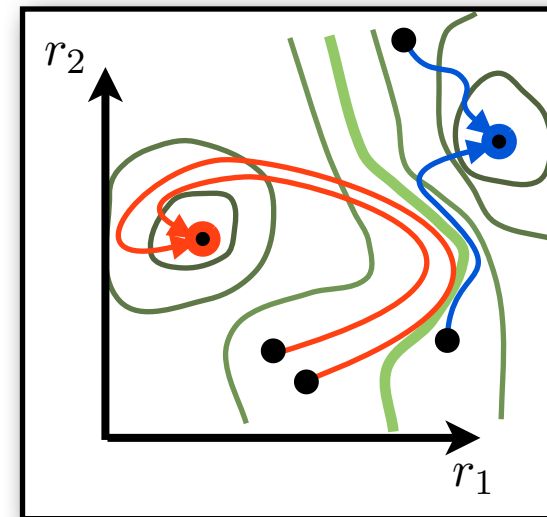
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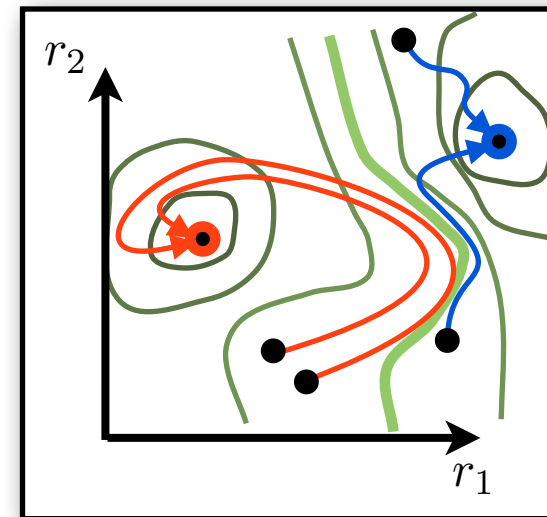
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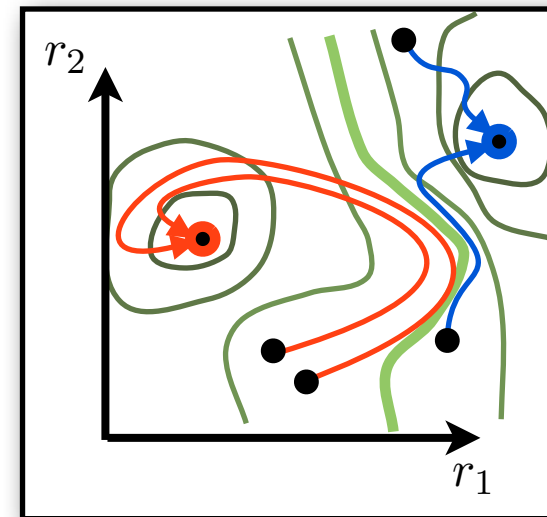


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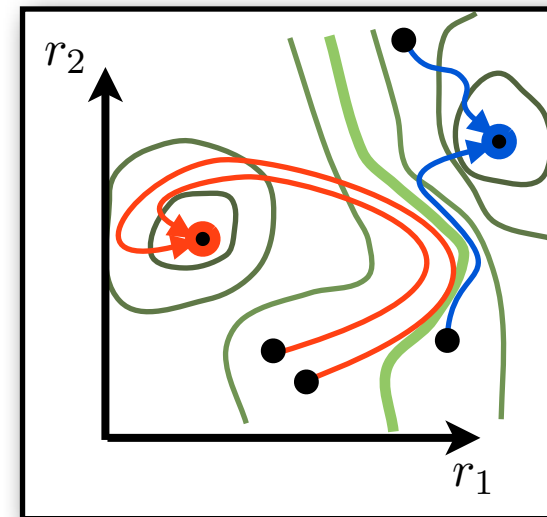
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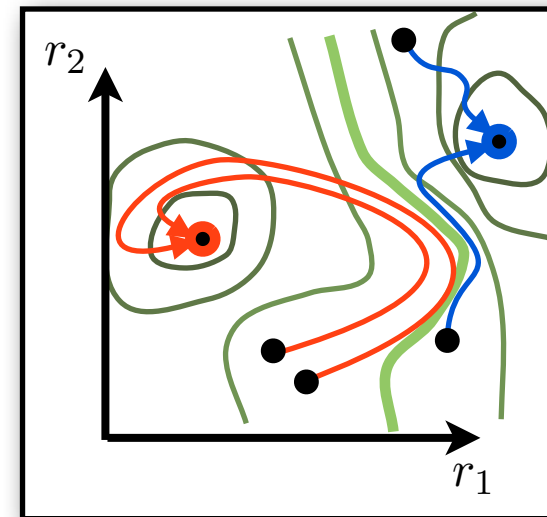
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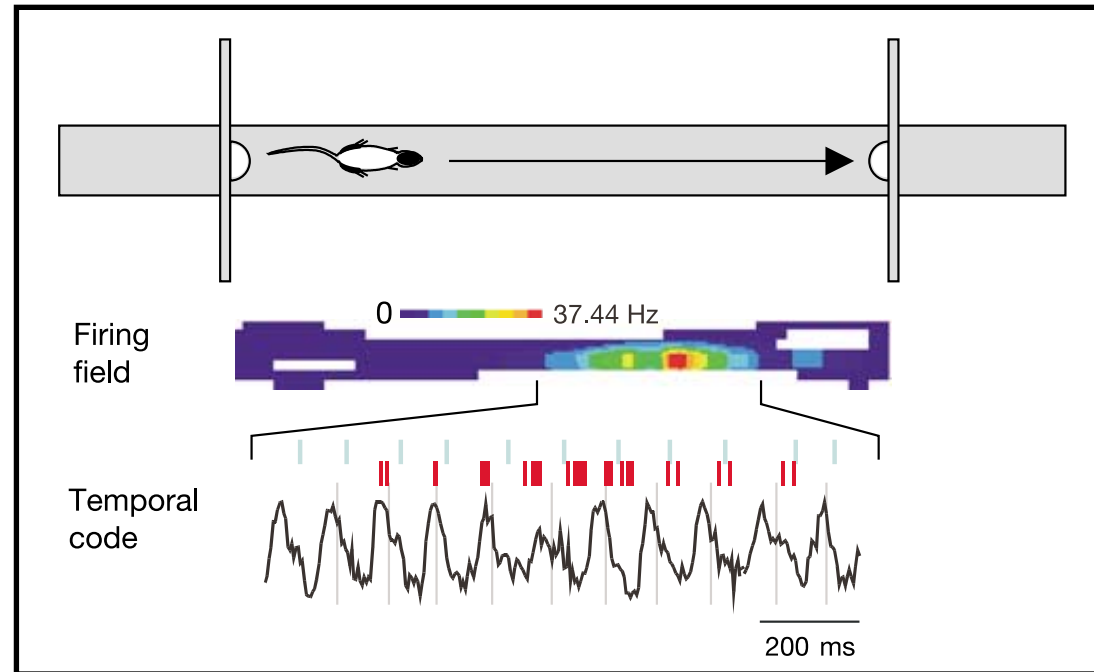


challenges:

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- ❖ analogue-valued memories
- ❖ spike timings, oscillations

THE IMPORTANCE OF SPIKE TIMINGS IN THE HIPPOCAMPUS

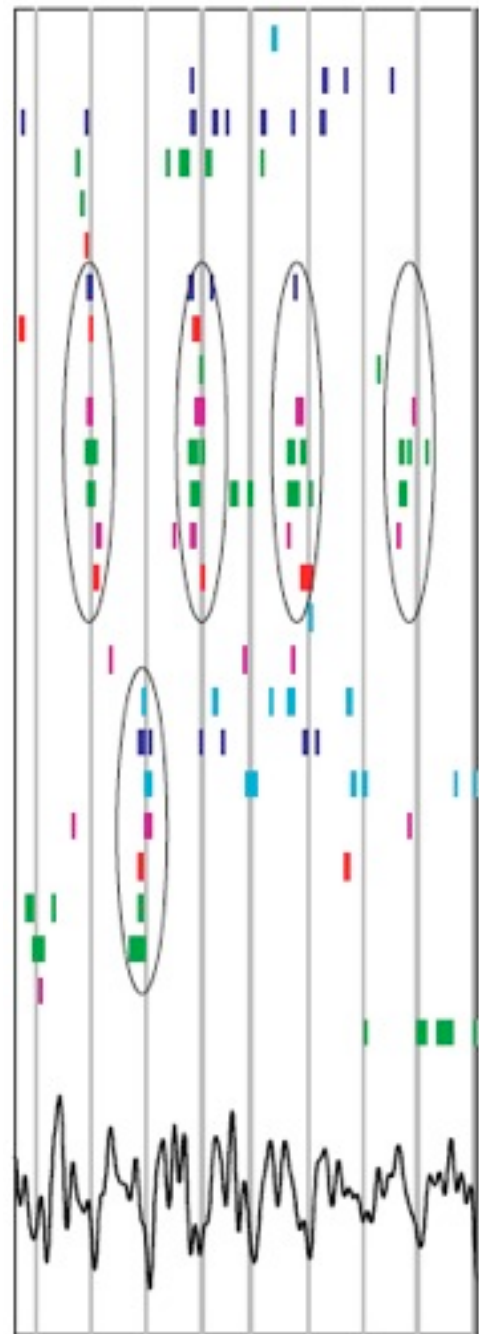
THE IMPORTANCE OF SPIKE TIMINGS IN THE HIPPOCAMPUS



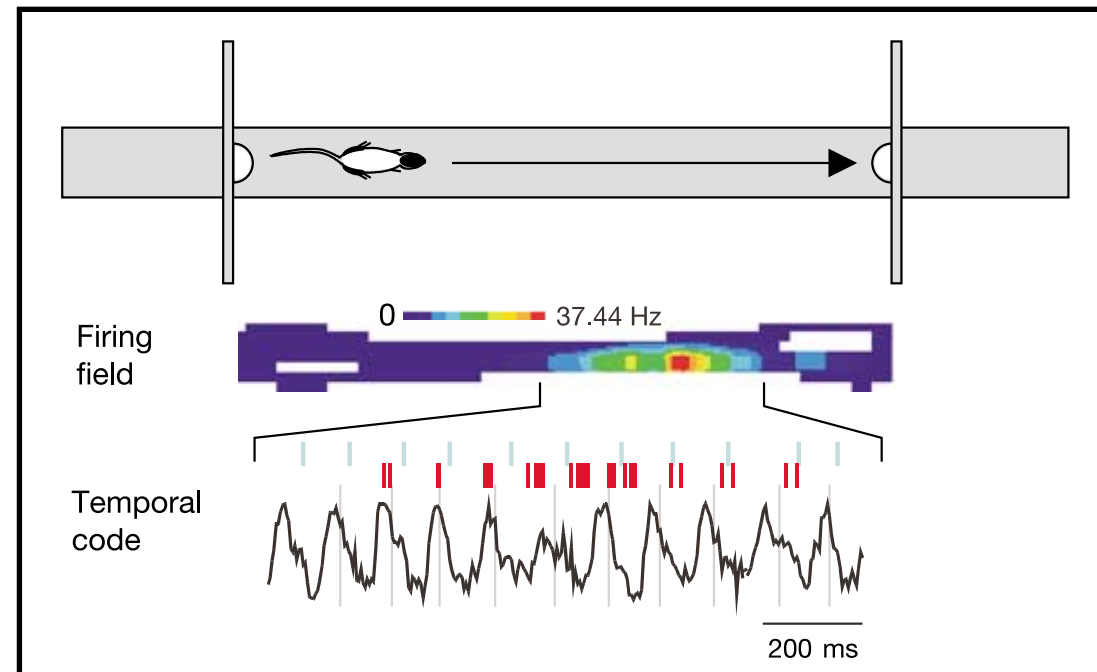
spike times convey
spatial information

Huxter et al, 1993

THE IMPORTANCE OF SPIKE TIMINGS IN THE HIPPOCAMPUS



Harris & al, 2003

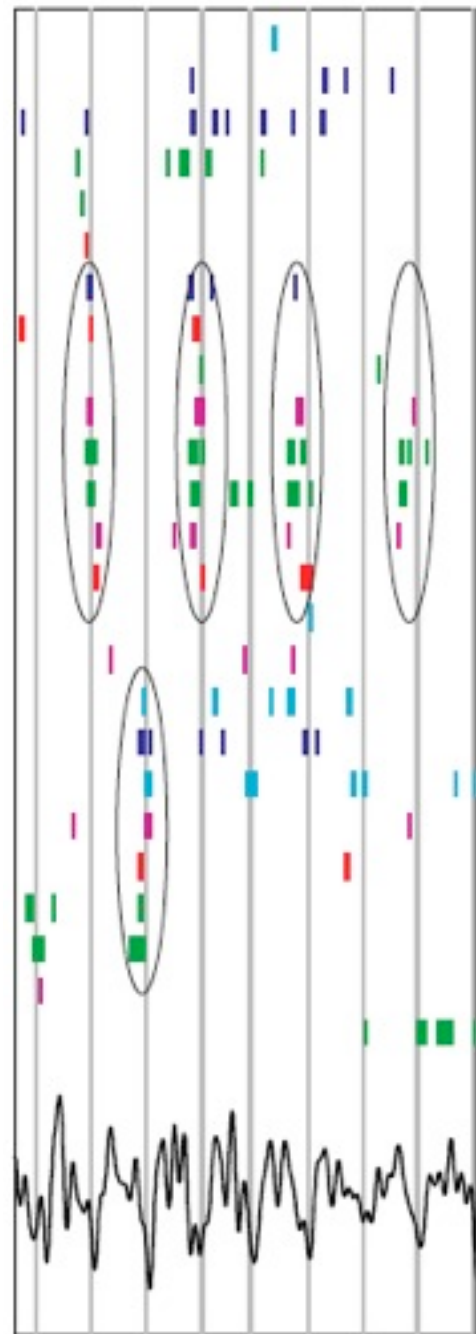


Huxter et al, 1993

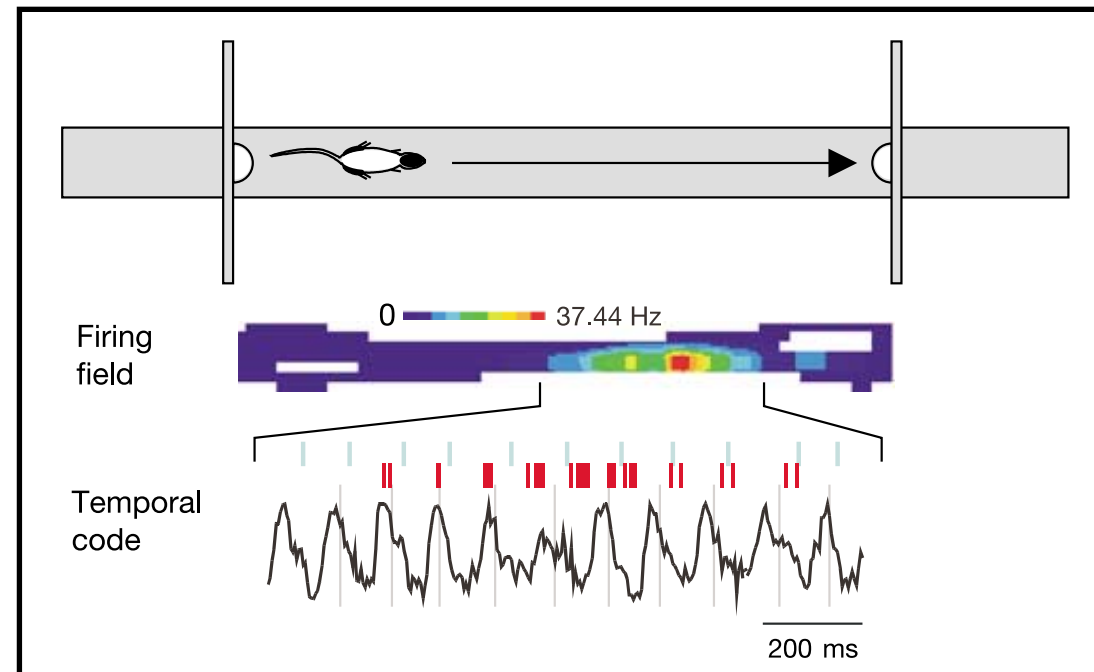
spike times convey
spatial information

spatio-temporal firing patterns
consistently reappear during
awake behavior

THE IMPORTANCE OF SPIKE TIMINGS IN THE HIPPOCAMPUS



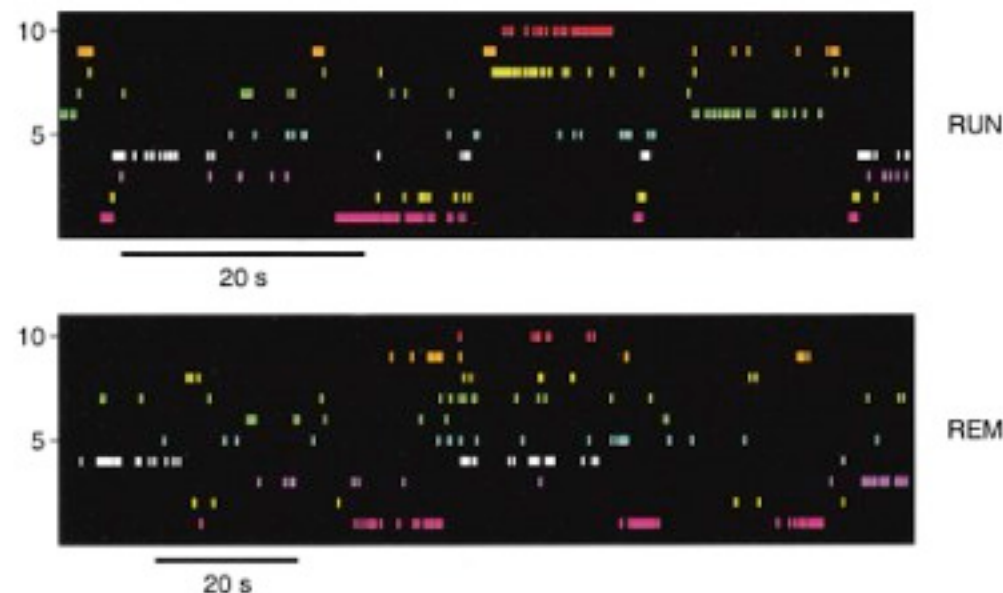
Harris & al, 2003



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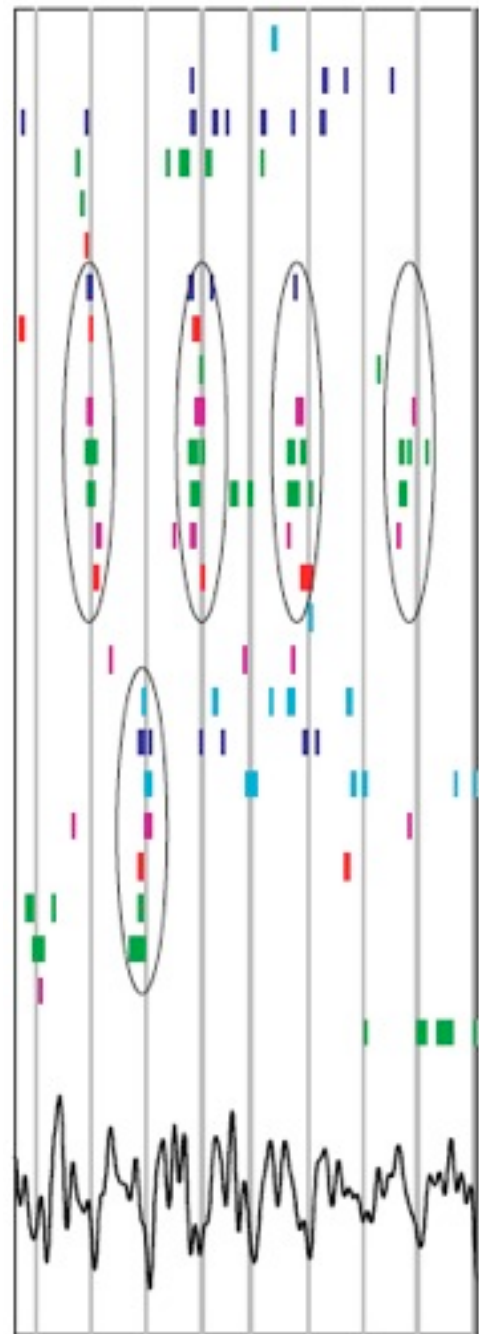
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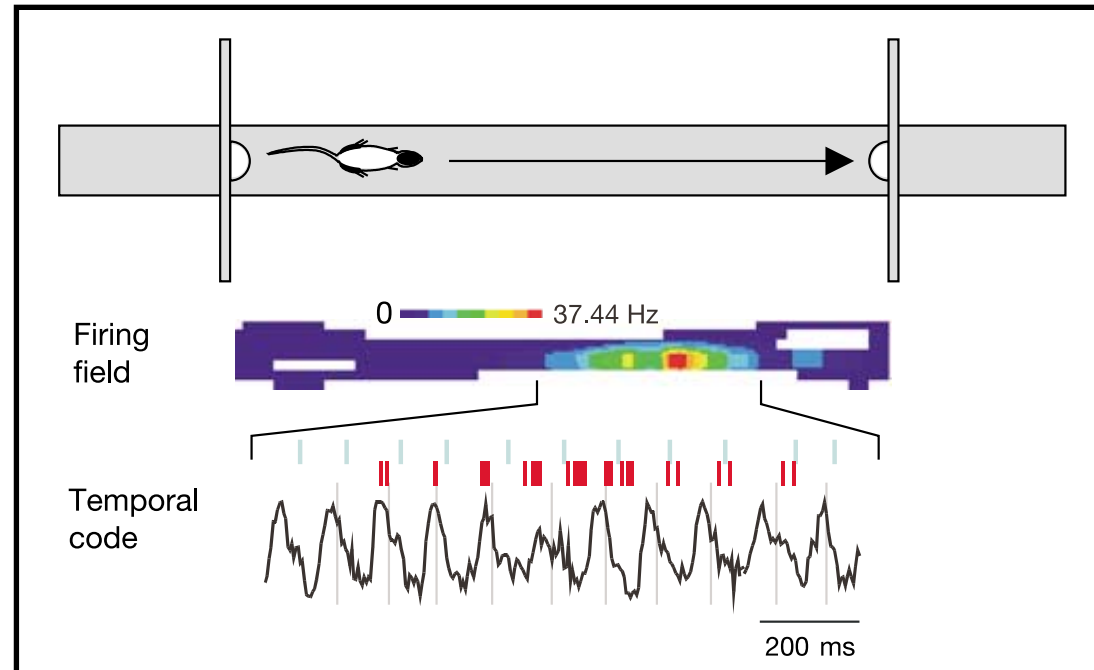


Louie and Wilson, 2001

THE IMPORTANCE OF SPIKE TIMINGS IN THE HIPPOCAMPUS



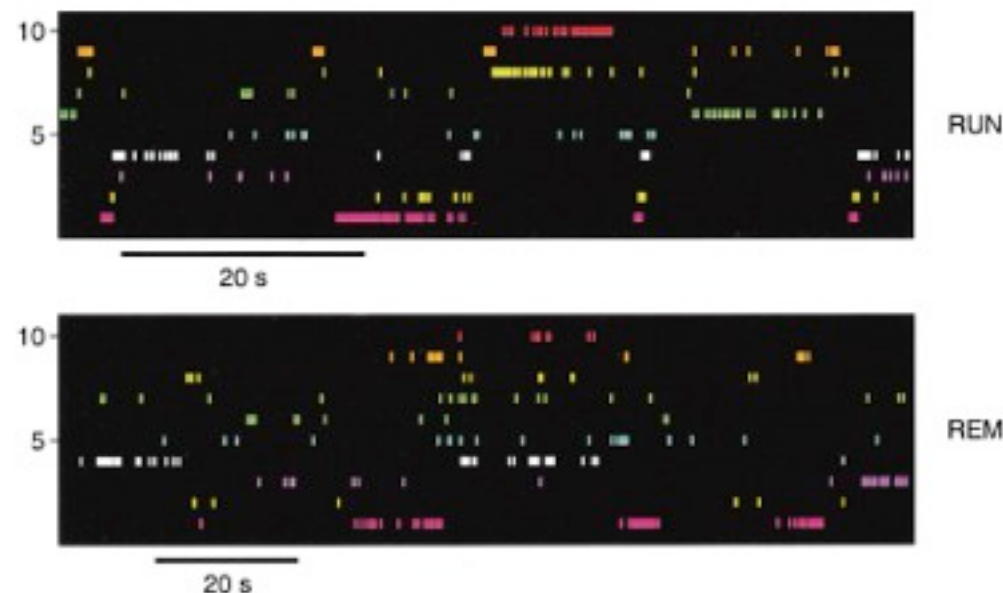
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Huxter et al, 1993

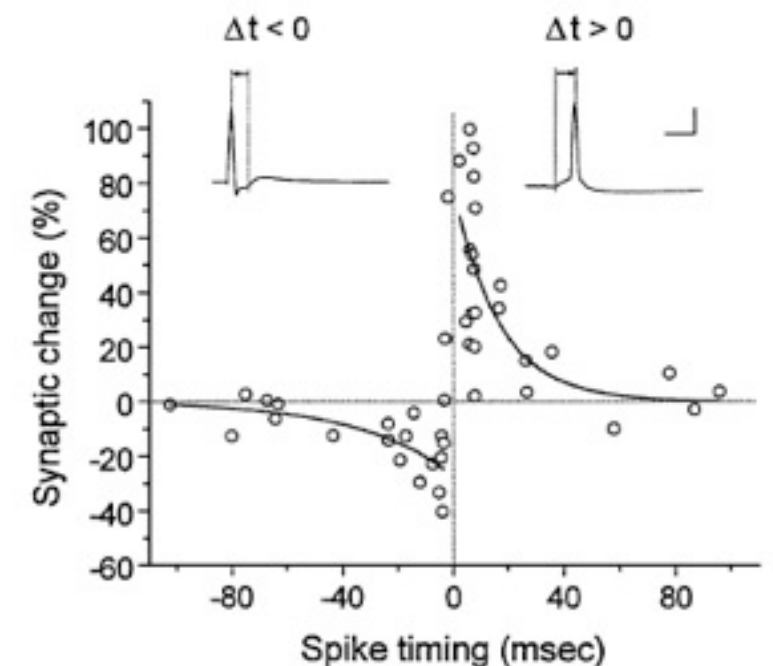
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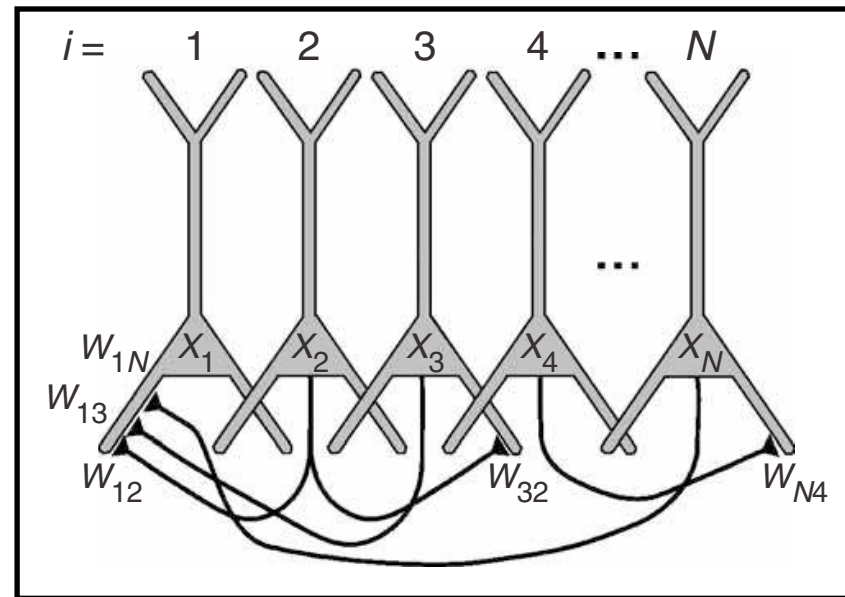
Louie and Wilson, 2001

synaptic plasticity depends
on relative spike timings



Bi & Poo, 2001

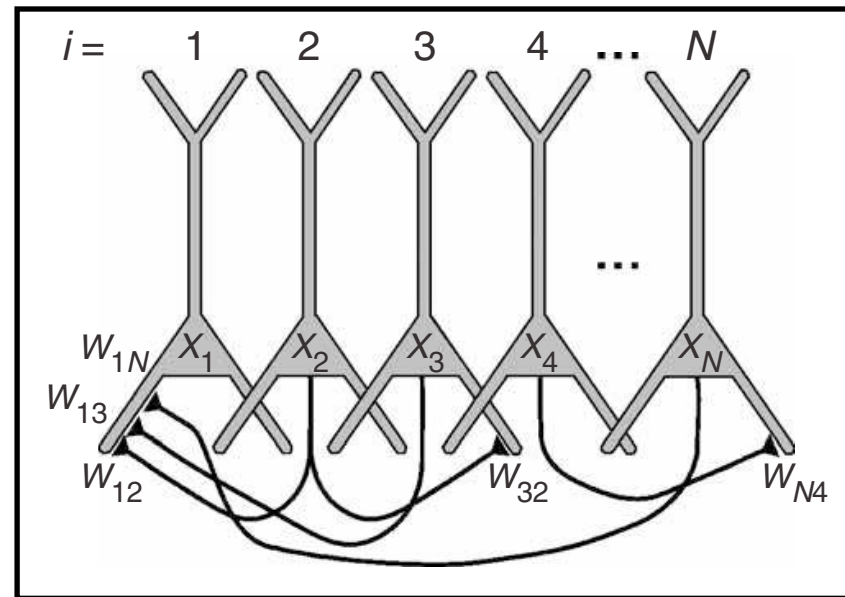
MEMORY RETRIEVAL AS PROBABILISTIC INFERENCE



MEMORY RETRIEVAL AS PROBABILISTIC INFERENCE

stored activities

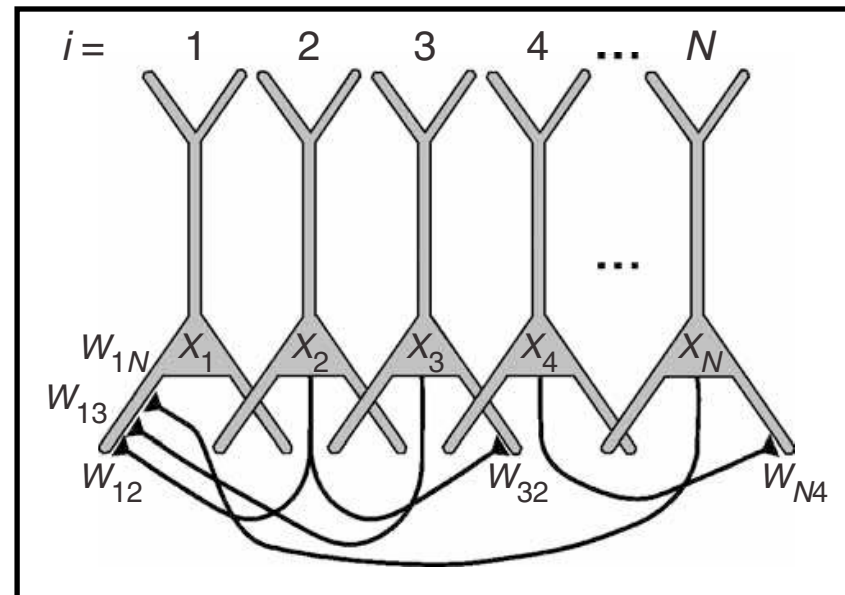
x_1	x_2	x_3	x_4
2	0	5	3
3	8	2	1



MEMORY RETRIEVAL AS PROBABILISTIC INFERENCE

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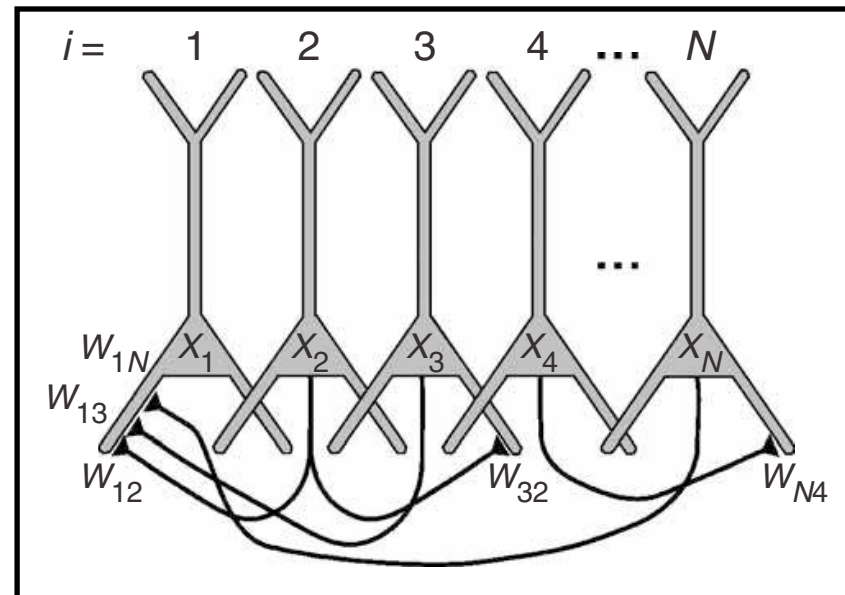


storage in synaptic efficacies

MEMORY RETRIEVAL AS PROBABILISTIC INFERENCE

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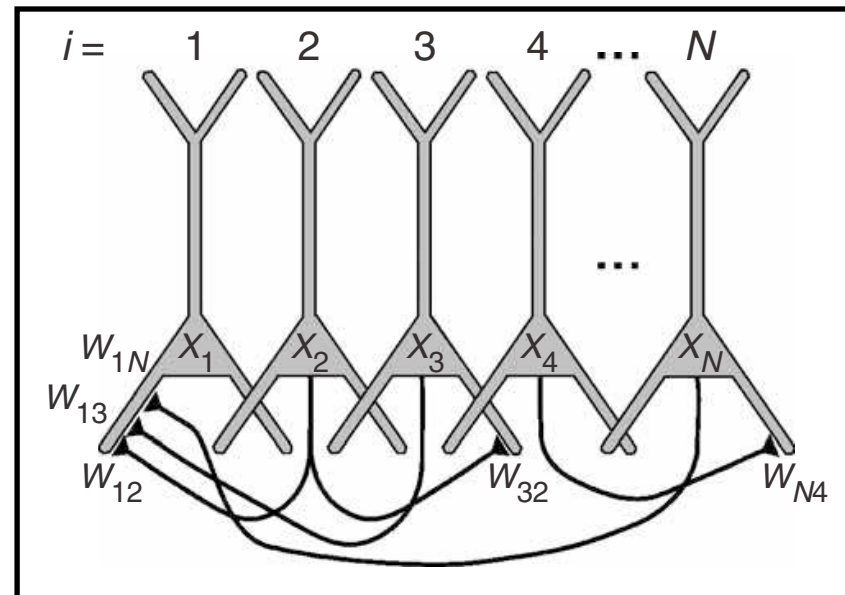
input for retrieval

\tilde{x}_1	\tilde{x}_2	\tilde{x}_3	\tilde{x}_4
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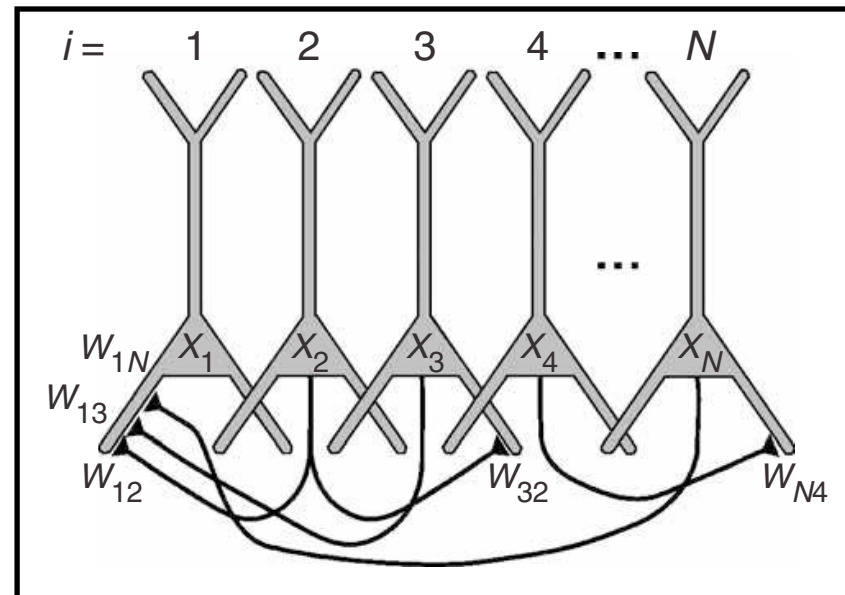
\tilde{x}_1	\tilde{x}_2	\tilde{x}_3	\tilde{x}_4
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❖ input is ambiguous

MEMORY RETRIEVAL AS PROBABILISTIC INFERENCE

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storage in synaptic efficacies

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- ❖ input is ambiguous
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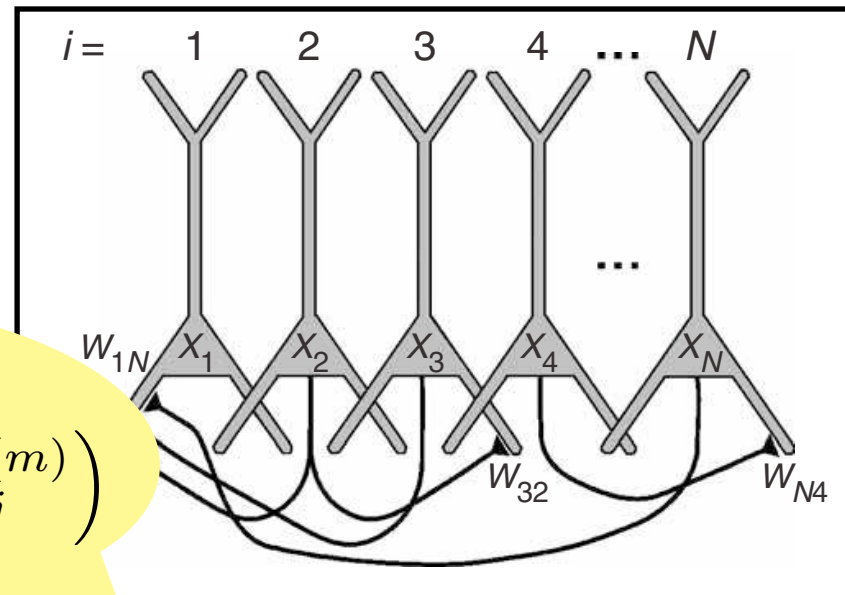
MEMORY RETRIEVAL AS PROBABILISTIC INFERENCE

stored activities

x_1	x_2	x_3	x_4	...
2	0	5	3	...
3	8	2	1	...

general form:

$$w_{ij} = \sum_{m=1}^M \Omega(x_i^{(m)}, x_j^{(m)})$$



storage in synaptic efficacies

$$w_{13} = 2 \times 5 + 3 \times 2 = 16$$

input for retrieval

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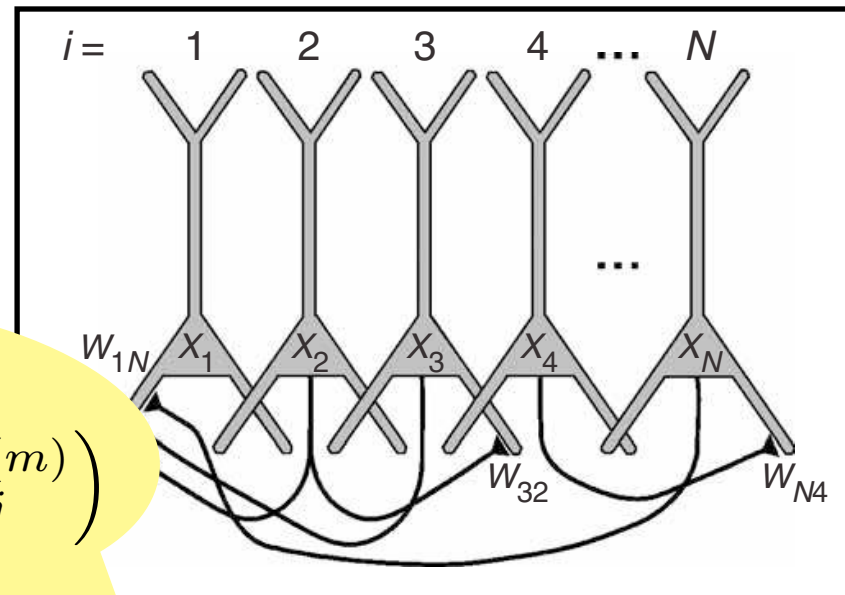
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- ❖ prior knowledge about kind of patterns stored

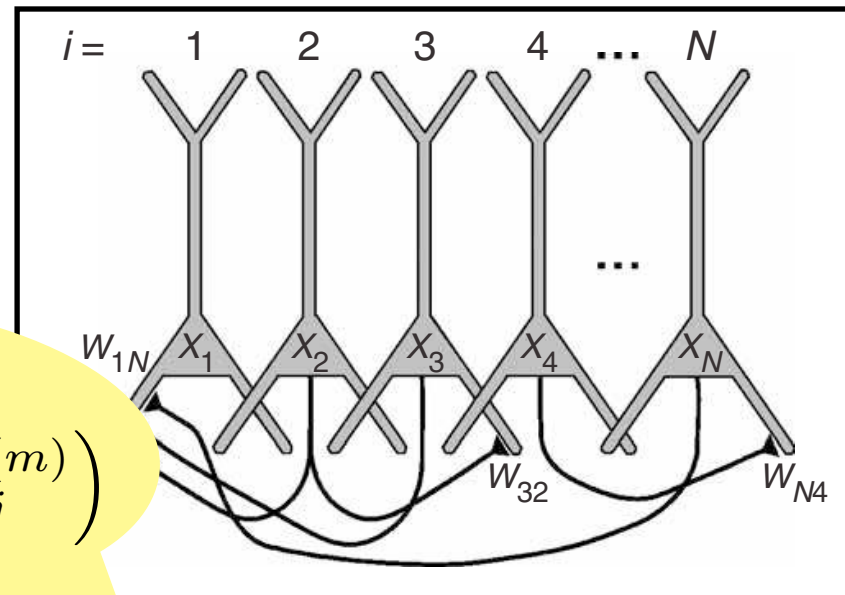
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full answer to a memory query is a probability distribution
 $P(\text{population activity pattern} \mid \text{recall cue, synaptic efficacies})$

MacKay 1991, Sommer & Dayan 1998

UNDERSTANDING THE POSTERIOR

$P(\text{population activity pattern} \mid \text{recall cue, synaptic efficacies})$

UNDERSTANDING THE POSTERIOR

$$P(\mathbf{x}|\tilde{\mathbf{x}}, \mathbf{W})$$

UNDERSTANDING THE POSTERIOR

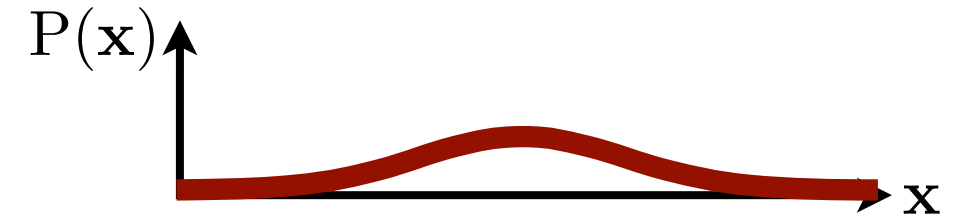
$$P(\mathbf{x}|\tilde{\mathbf{x}}, \mathbf{W}) \propto P(\mathbf{x}) P(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}|\mathbf{x}) P(\mathbf{W}|\mathbf{x})$$

UNDERSTANDING THE POSTERIOR

$$P(\mathbf{x}|\tilde{\mathbf{x}}, \mathbf{W}) \propto P(\mathbf{x}) P(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}|\mathbf{x}) P(\mathbf{W}|\mathbf{x})$$

$P(\mathbf{x})$

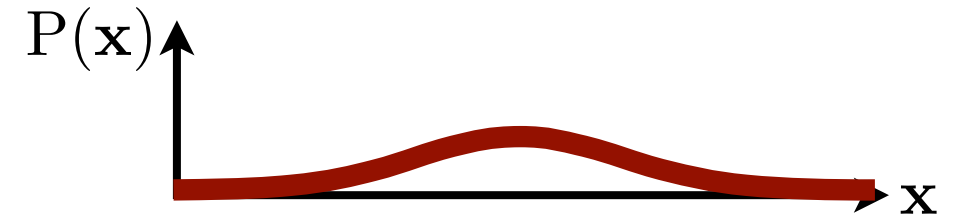
the probability that pattern \mathbf{x} is chosen to be stored



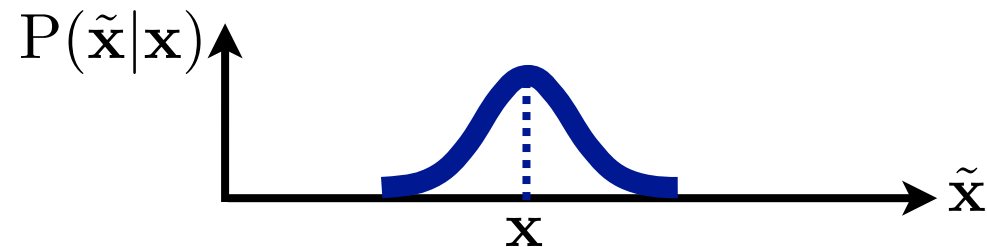
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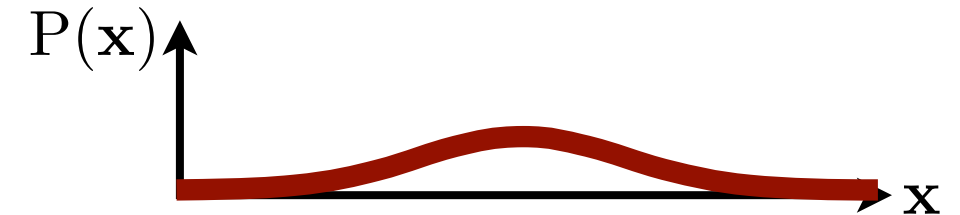
$P(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}|\mathbf{x})$ the probability that input $\tilde{\mathbf{x}}$ is received when the true pattern to be recalled is \mathbf{x}



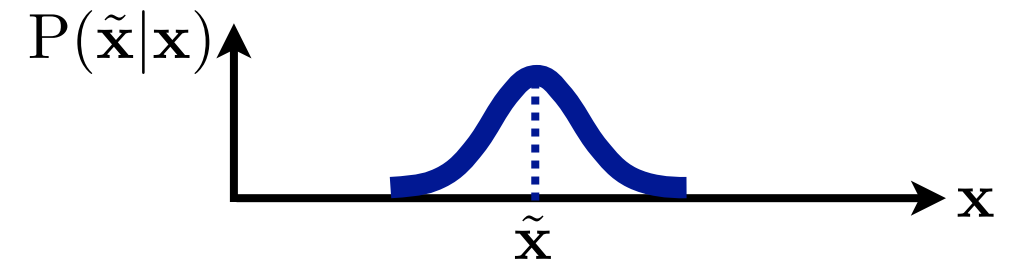
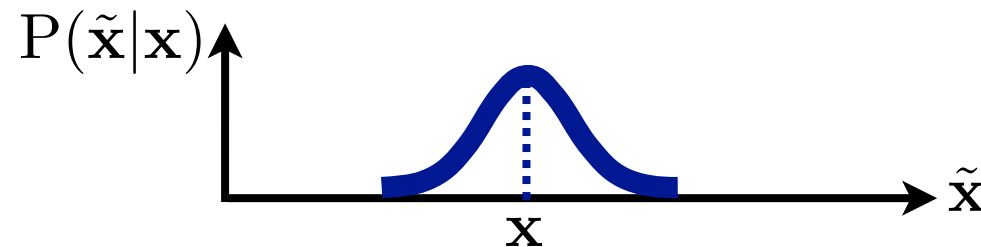
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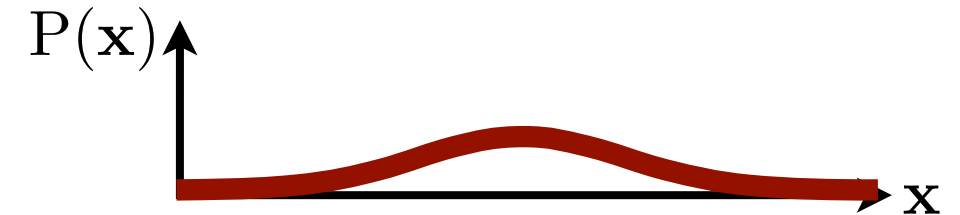
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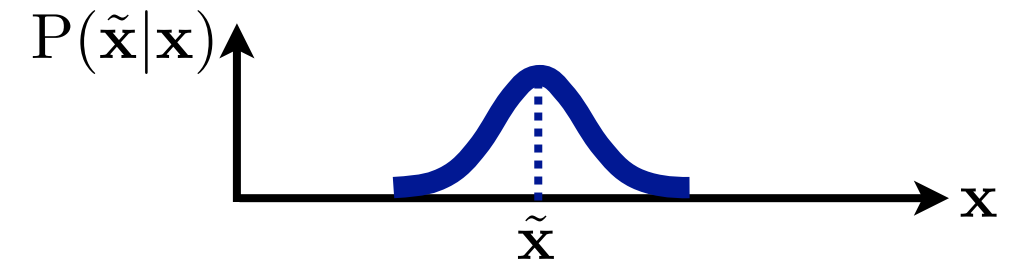
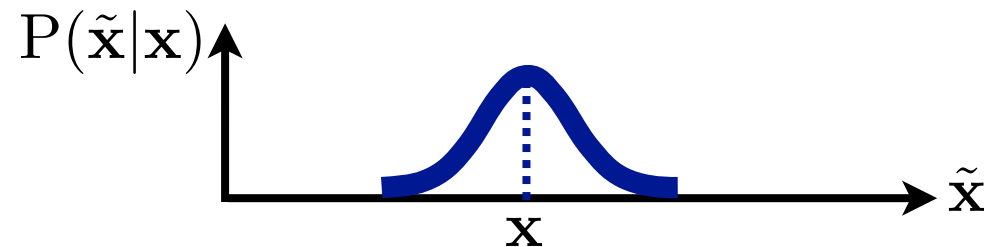
UNDERSTANDING THE POSTERIOR

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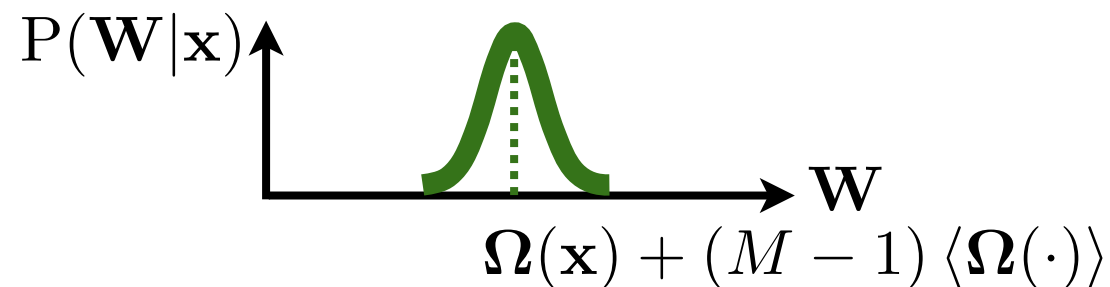
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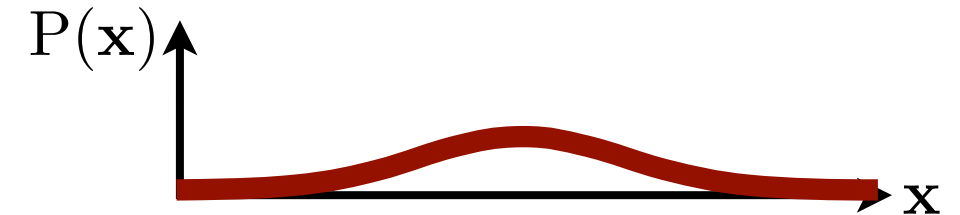
$P(\mathbf{W}|\mathbf{x})$ the probability of obtaining weight matrix \mathbf{W} by storing pattern \mathbf{x} and $M-1$ random patterns



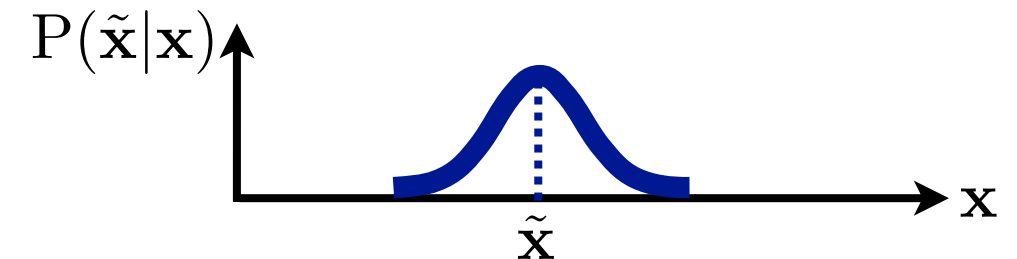
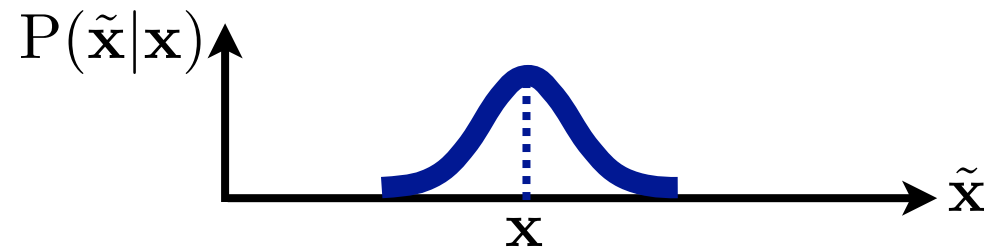
UNDERSTANDING THE POSTERIOR

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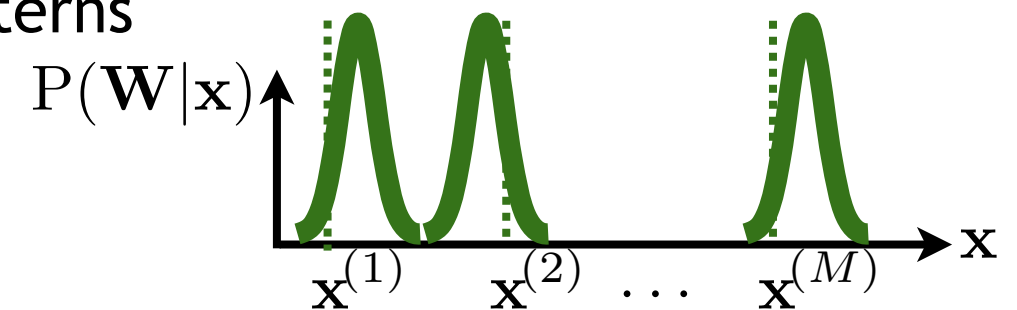
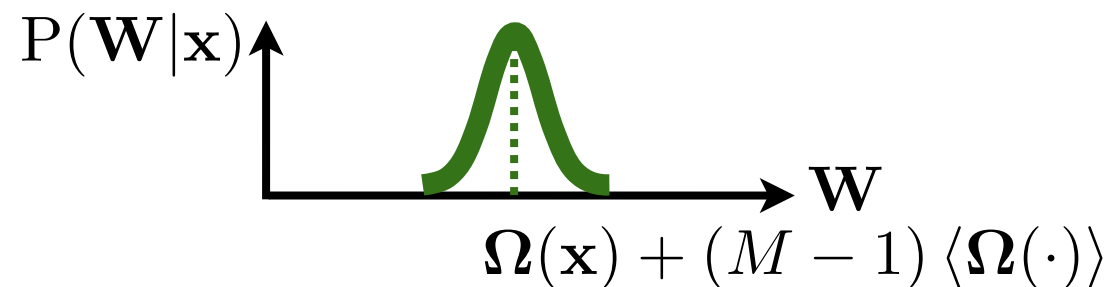
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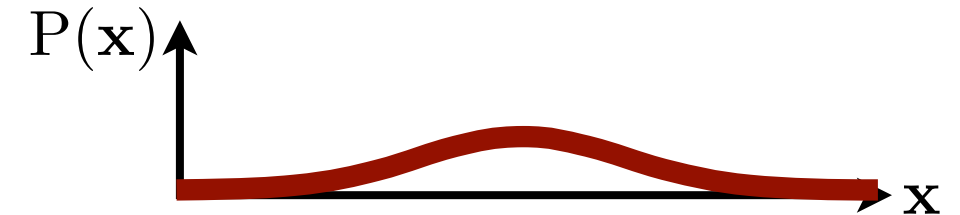
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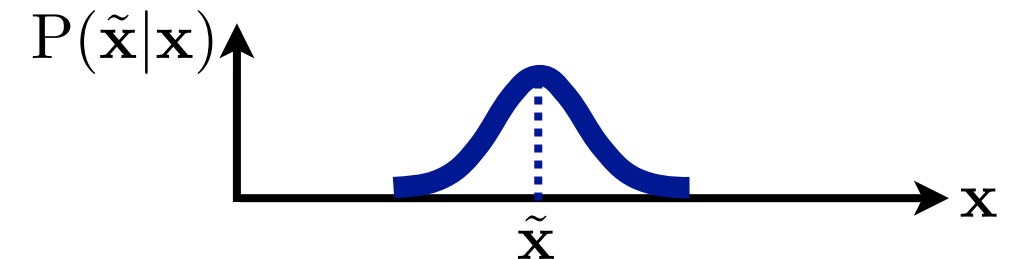
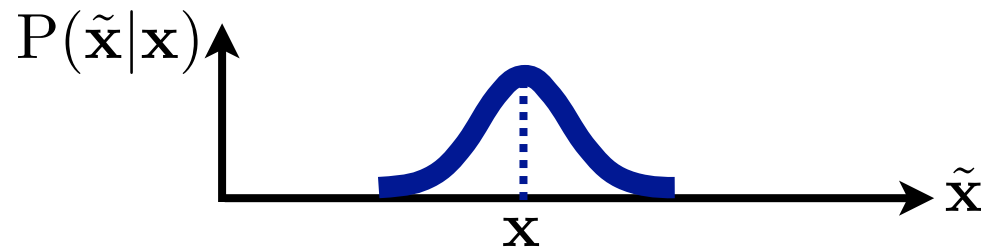
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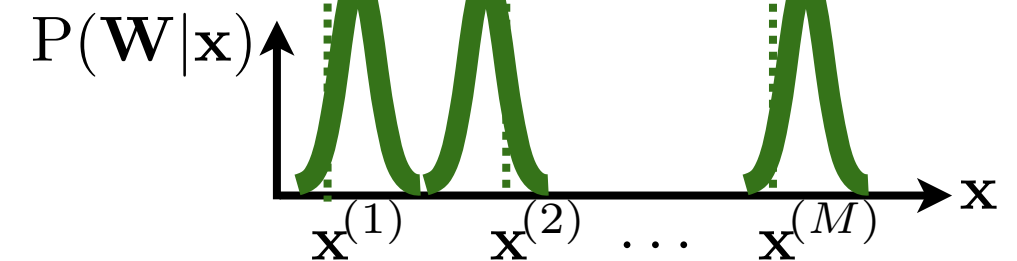
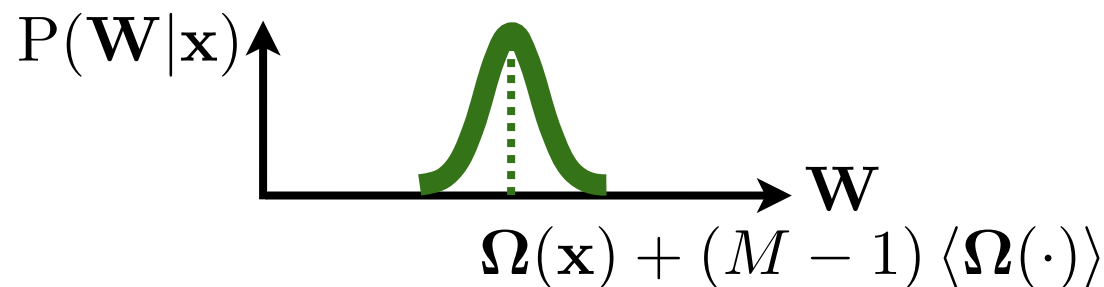
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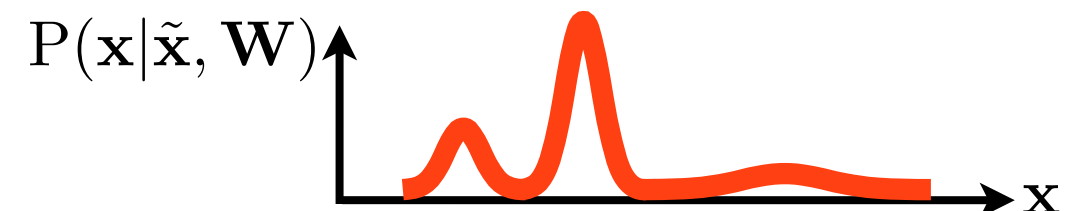
$P(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}|\mathbf{x})$ the probability that input $\tilde{\mathbf{x}}$ is received when the true pattern to be recalled is \mathbf{x}



$P(\mathbf{W}|\mathbf{x})$ the probability of obtaining weight matrix \mathbf{W} by storing pattern \mathbf{x} and $M-1$ random patterns



$P(\mathbf{x}|\tilde{\mathbf{x}}, \mathbf{W})$ what is the probability of that pattern \mathbf{x} is the right pattern to be recalled given that the input is $\tilde{\mathbf{x}}$ and the weight matrix \mathbf{W}

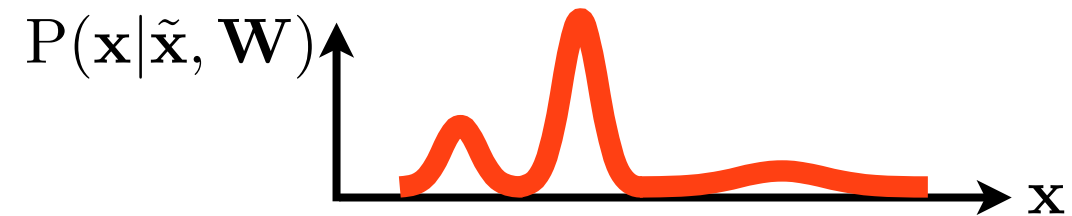


MAXIMUM A POSTERIORI INFERENCE

- memories are represented as distributed patterns of activity
 - **assume** particular learning rule
 - **assume** particular network dynamics
- **find** energy function

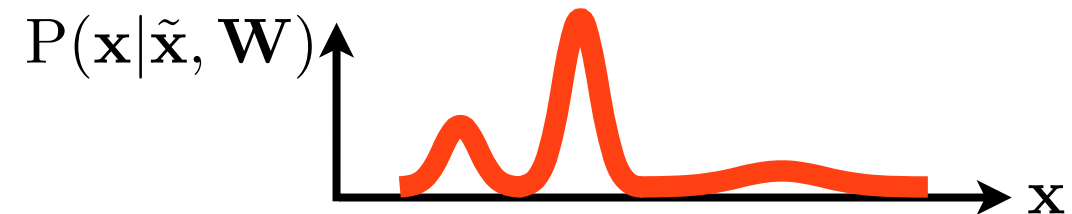
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approximate **MAXIMUM A POSTERIORI INFERENCE**

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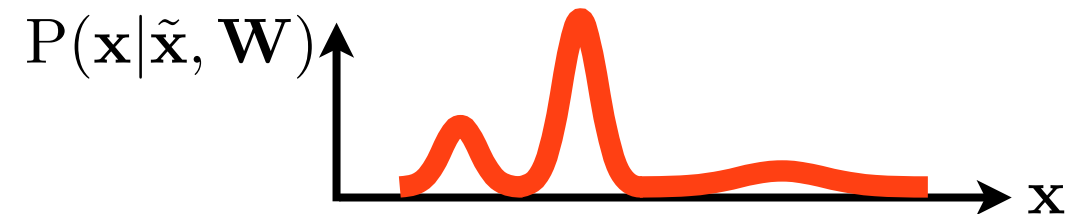


network dynamics implements gradient ascent on the (log) posterior

$$\frac{d}{dt}x_i \propto \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \log P(\mathbf{x}|\tilde{\mathbf{x}}, \mathbf{W})$$

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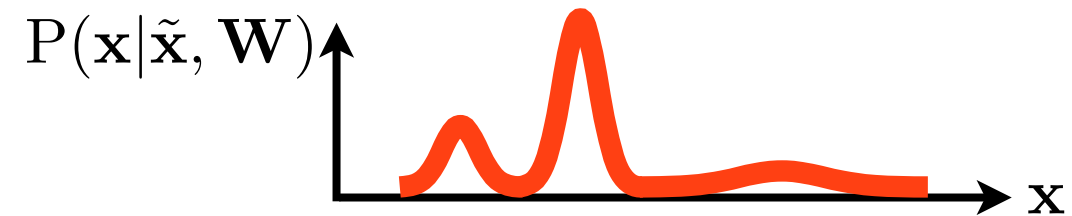


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$$\frac{d}{dt}x_i \propto \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \log P(\mathbf{x}) + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \log P(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}|\mathbf{x}) + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \log P(\mathbf{W}|\mathbf{x})$$

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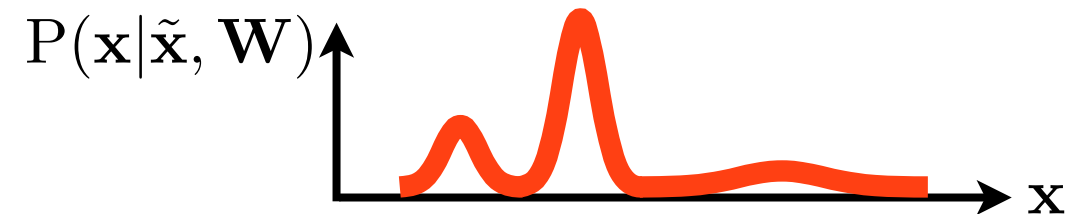


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$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt}x_i &\propto \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \log P(\mathbf{x}) + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \log P(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}|\mathbf{x}) + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \log P(\mathbf{W}|\mathbf{x}) \\ &\approx \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \log P(x_i) + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \log P(\tilde{x}_i|x_i) + \frac{1}{2} \sum_j \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \log P(w_{ij}|x_i, x_j) \end{aligned}$$

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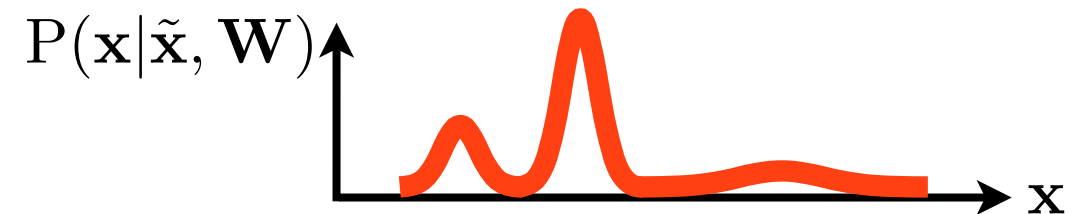
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$$\frac{d}{dt}x_i \propto \dots + \sum_j w_{ij} \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \Omega(x_i, x_j)$$

Lengyel et al, Nat Neurosci 2005

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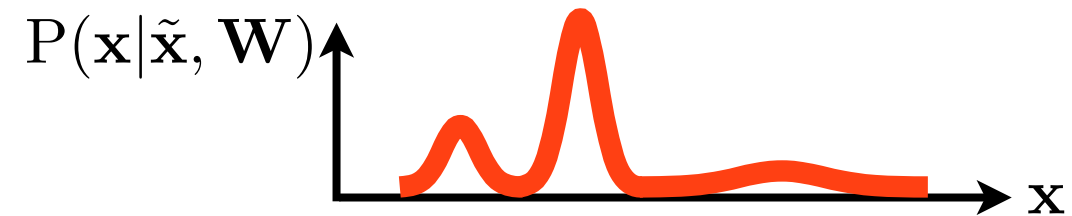
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interactions should be scaled by synaptic weights

Lengyel et al, Nat Neurosci 2005

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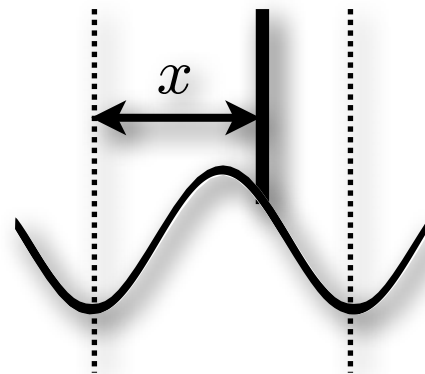
interactions should be scaled by synaptic weights
matching between storage and recall

Lengyel et al, Nat Neurosci 2005

PREDICTING INTERACTIONS BETWEEN NEURONS

representation

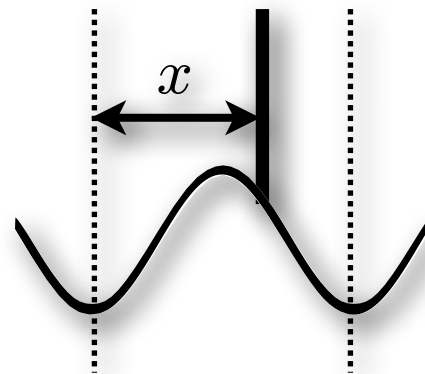
spike timing



PREDICTING INTERACTIONS BETWEEN NEURONS

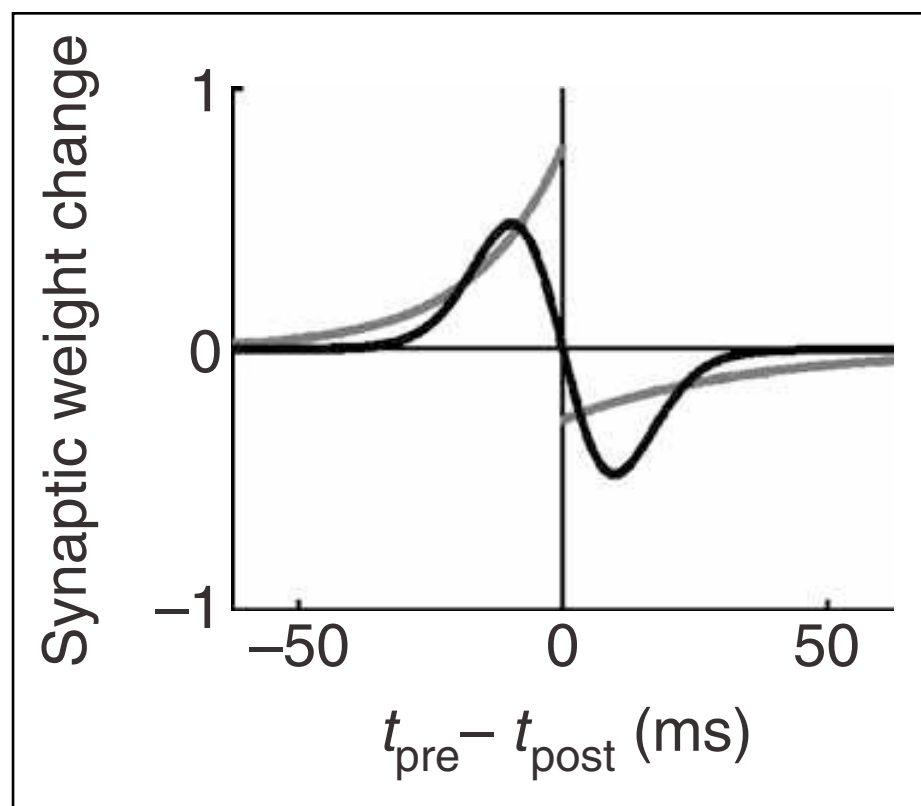
representation

spike timing



storage

spike timing-dependent plasticity



strengthen

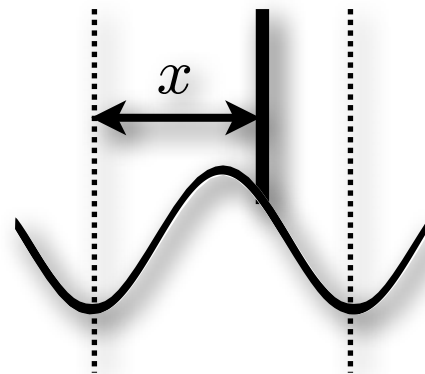


weaken

PREDICTING INTERACTIONS BETWEEN NEURONS

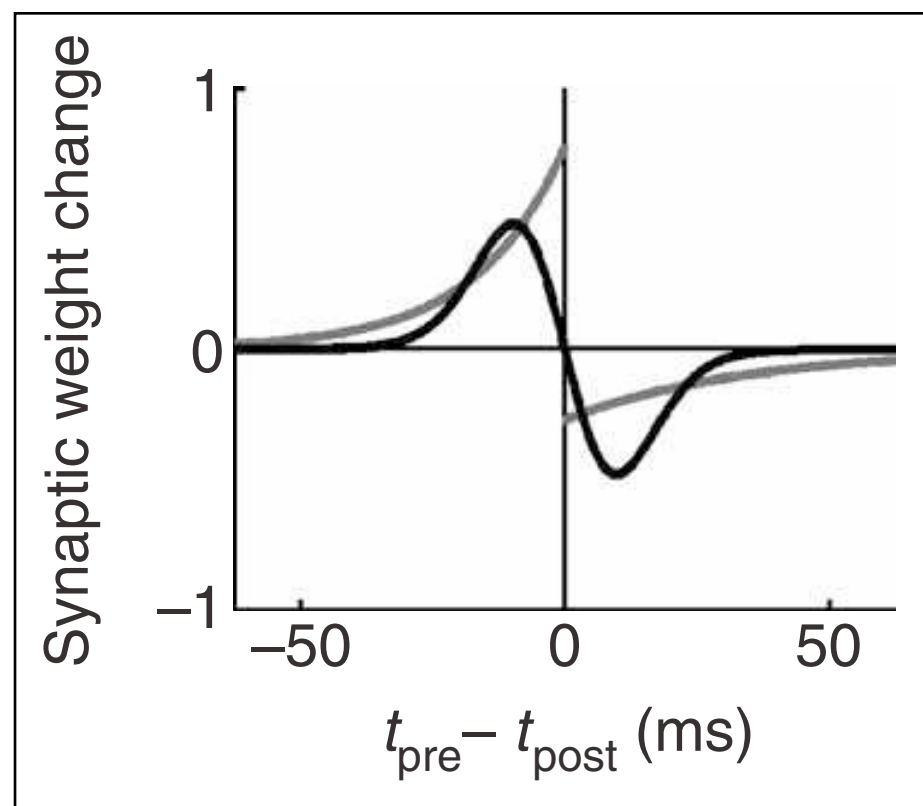
representation

spike timing



storage

spike timing-dependent plasticity

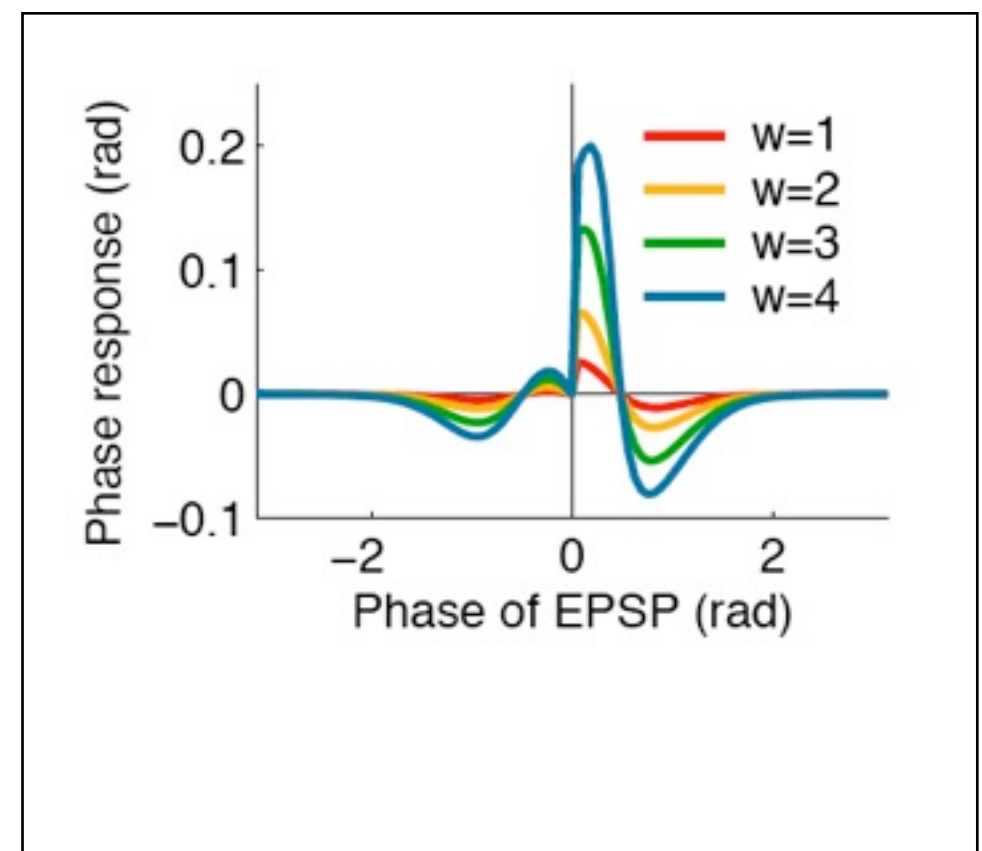


strengthen

weaken

recall

“phase response curve”



delay

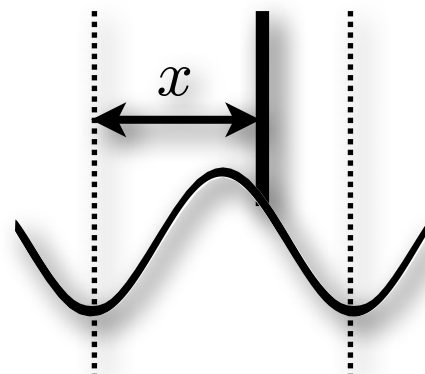
advance

Lengyel et al, Nat Neurosci 2005

PREDICTING INTERACTIONS BETWEEN NEURONS

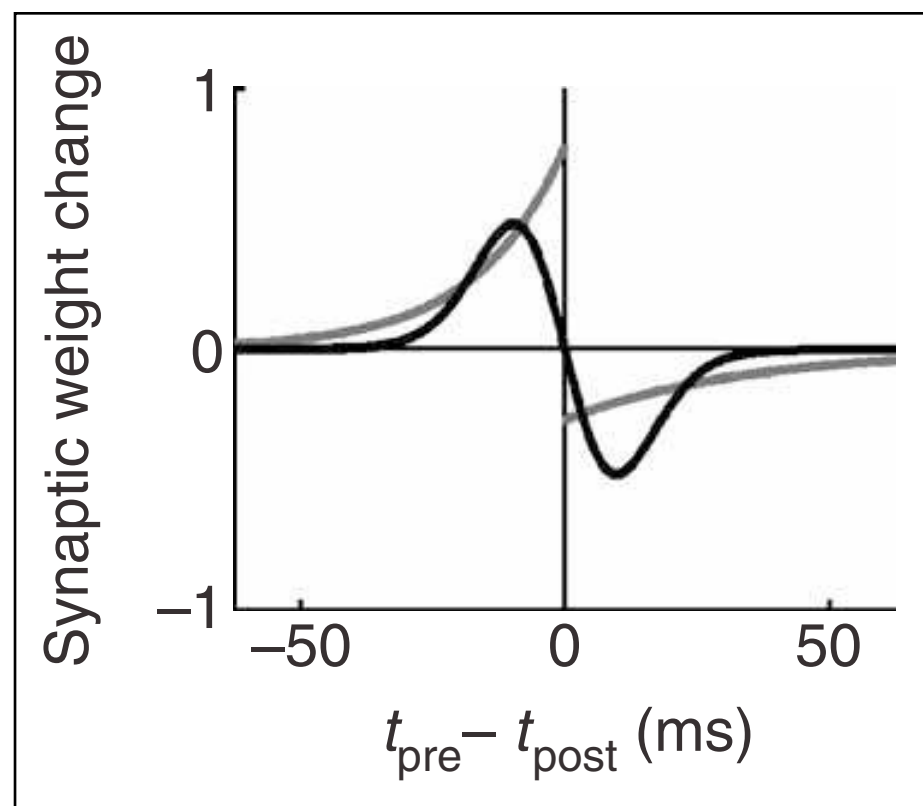
representation

spike timing



storage

spike timing-dependent plasticity

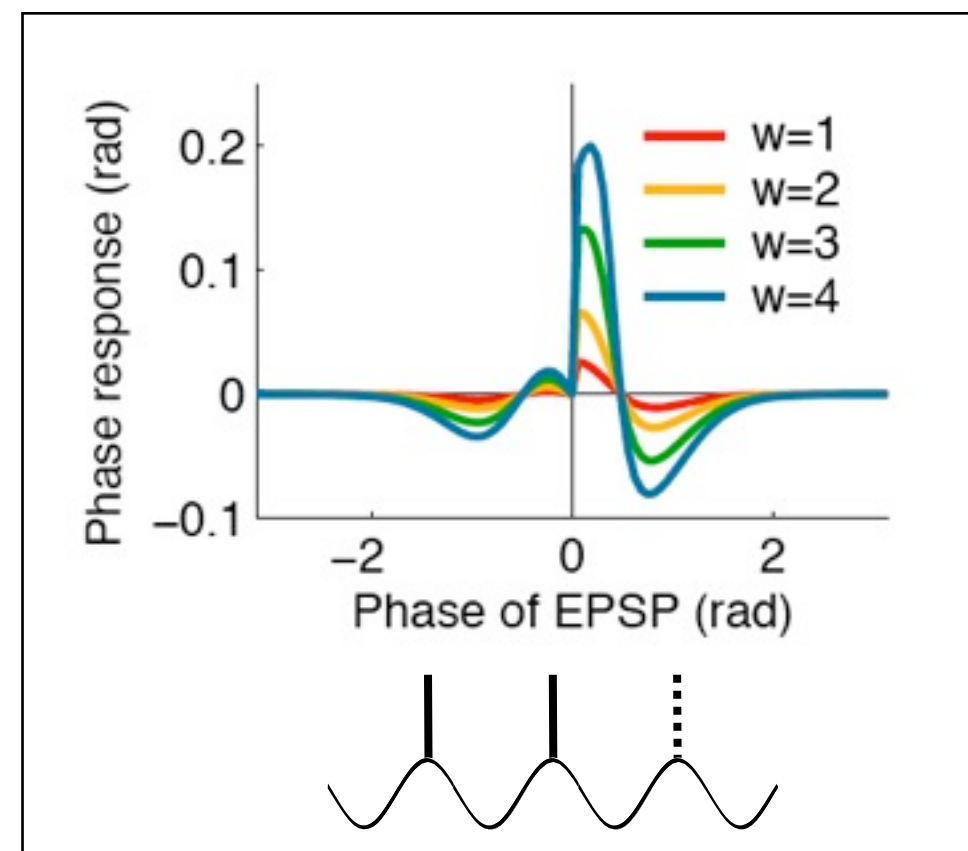


strengthen

weaken

recall

“phase response curve”



delay

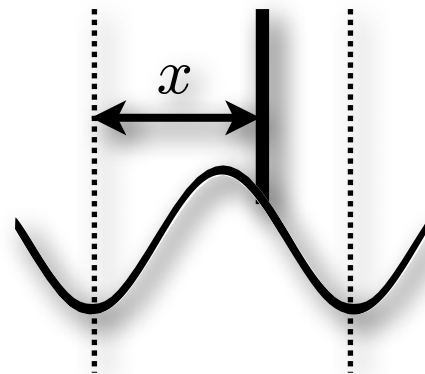
advance

Lengyel et al, Nat Neurosci 2005

PREDICTING INTERACTIONS BETWEEN NEURONS

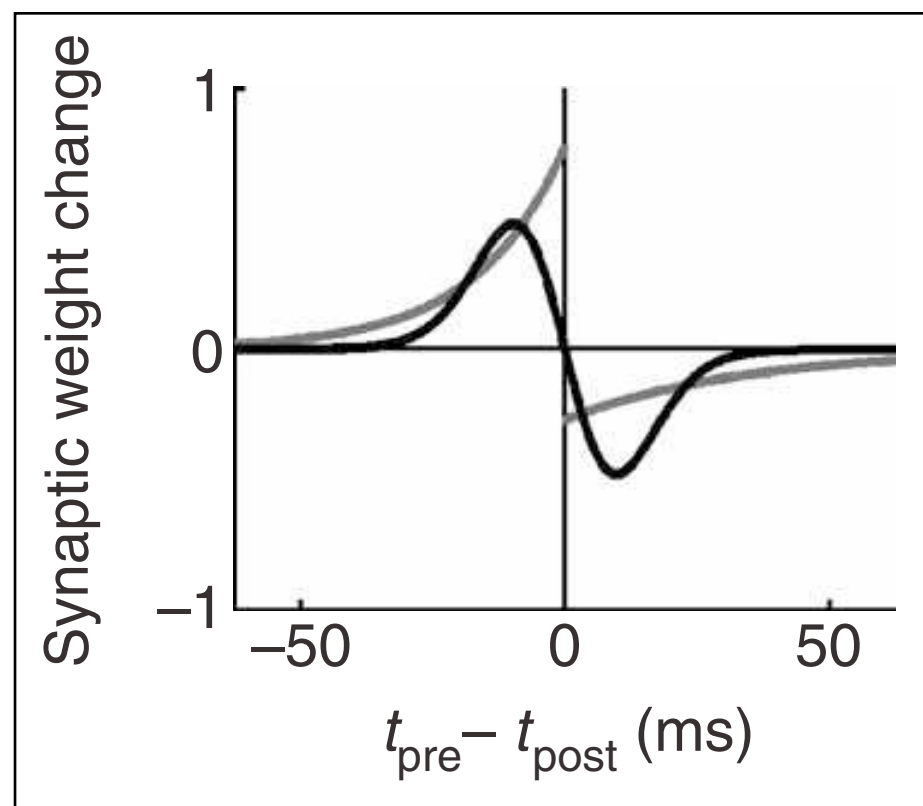
representation

spike timing



storage

spike timing-dependent plasticity

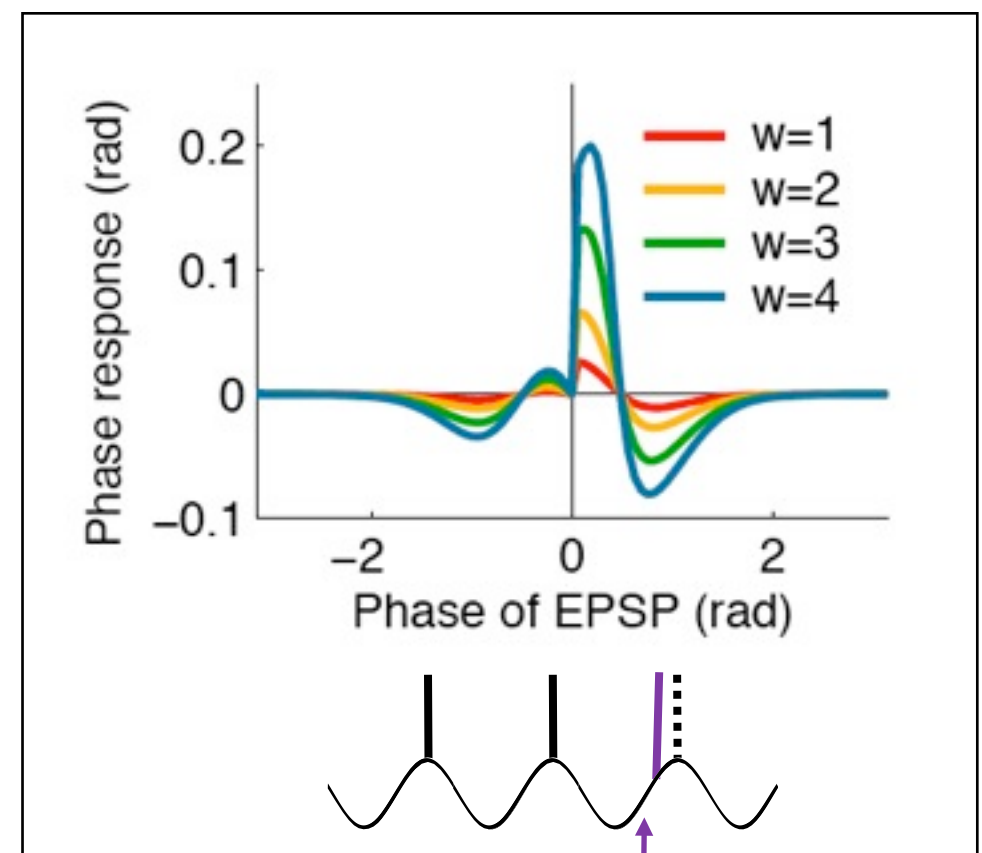


strengthen

weaken

recall

“phase response curve”



delay

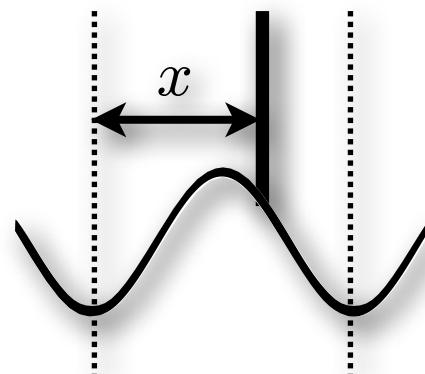
advance

Lengyel et al, Nat Neurosci 2005

PREDICTING INTERACTIONS BETWEEN NEURONS

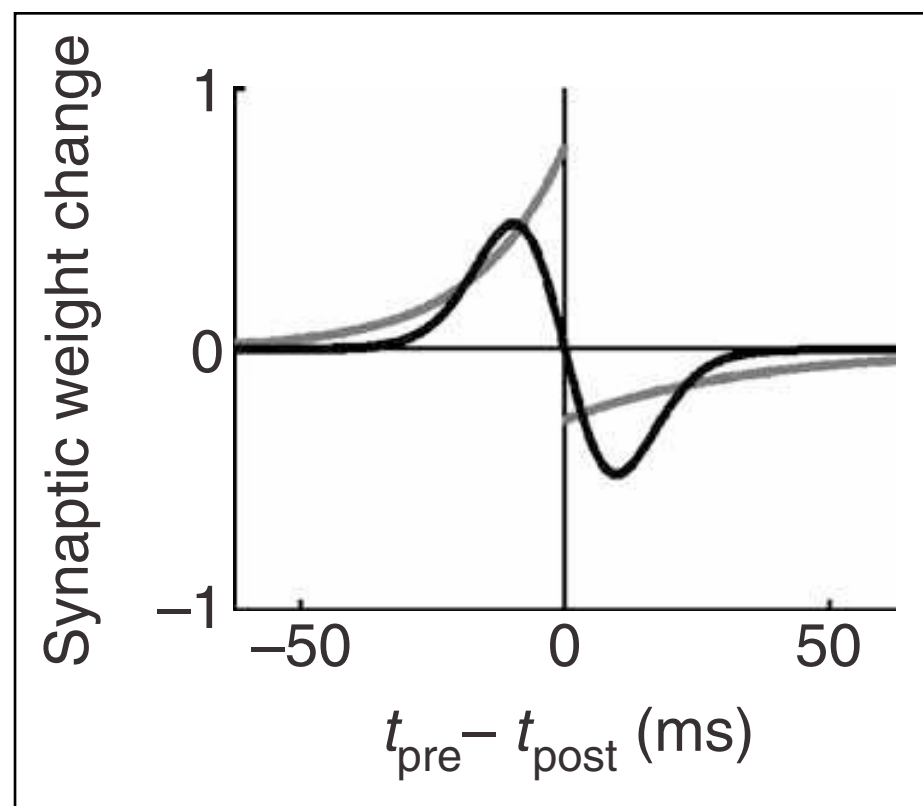
representation

spike timing



storage

spike timing-dependent plasticity

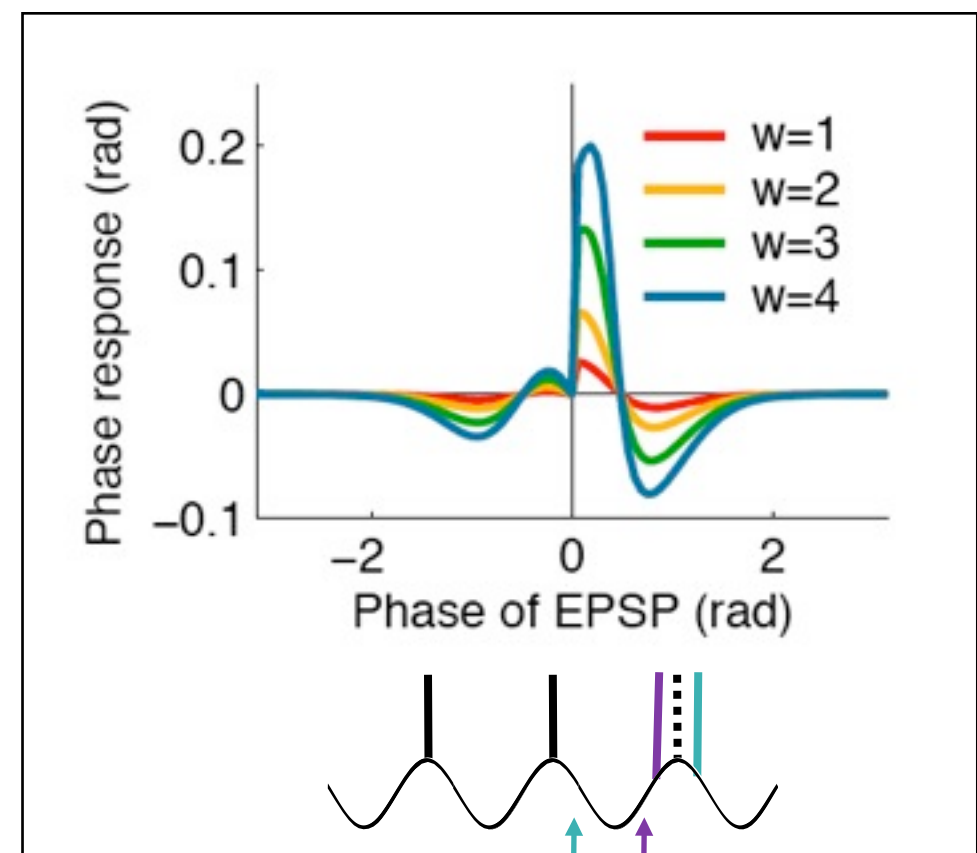


strengthen

weaken

recall

“phase response curve”

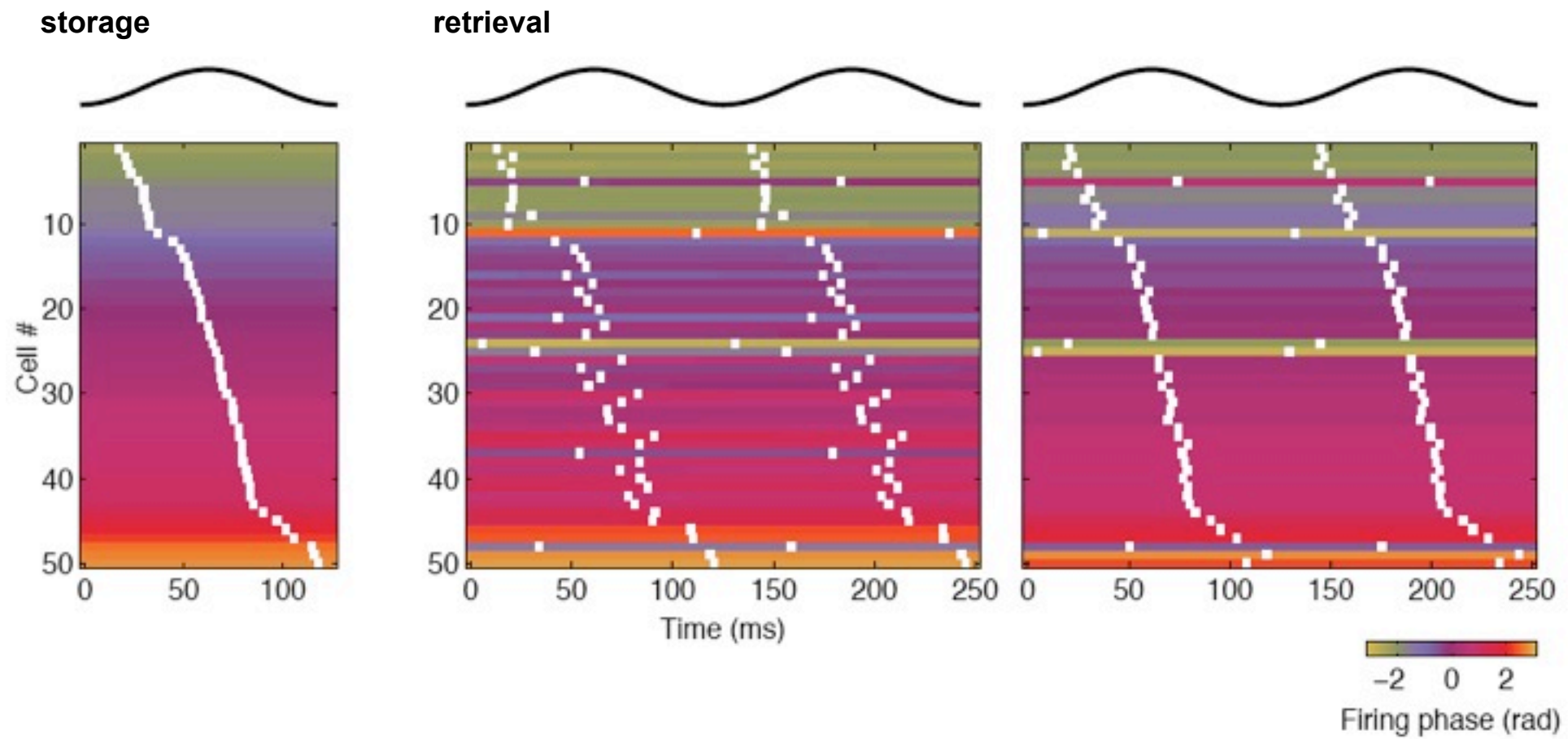


delay

advance

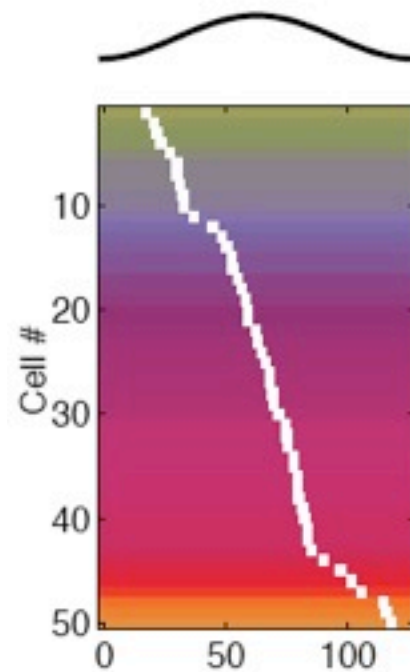
Lengyel et al, Nat Neurosci 2005

PERFORMANCE OF NETWORK

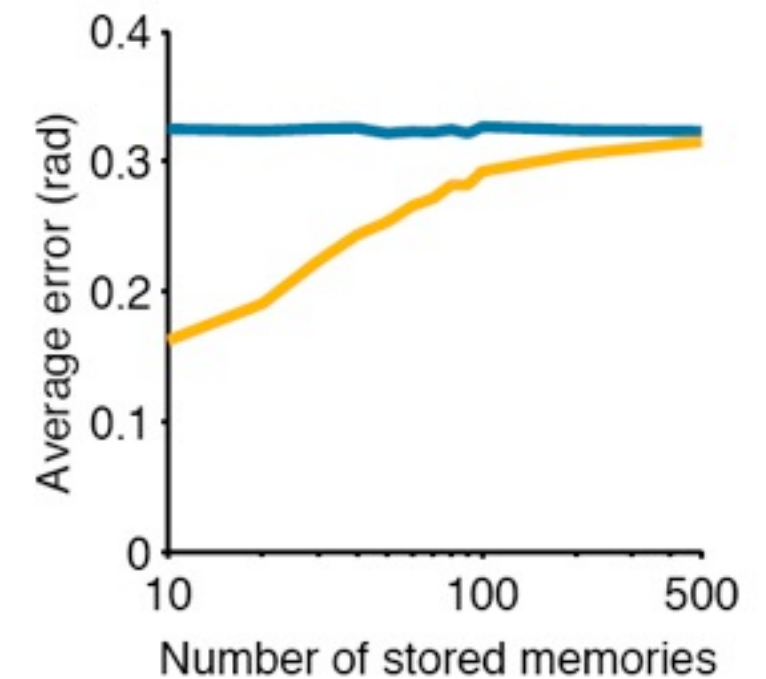
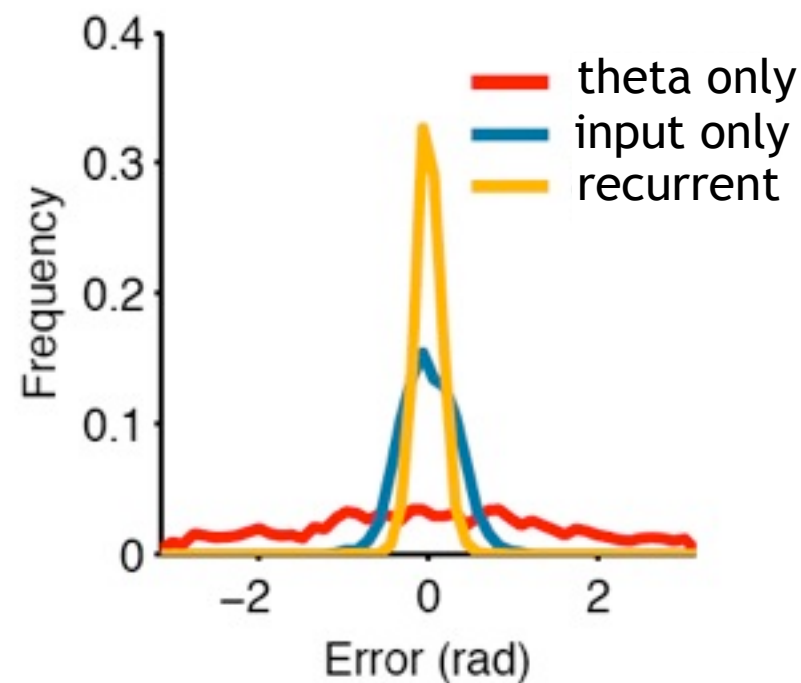
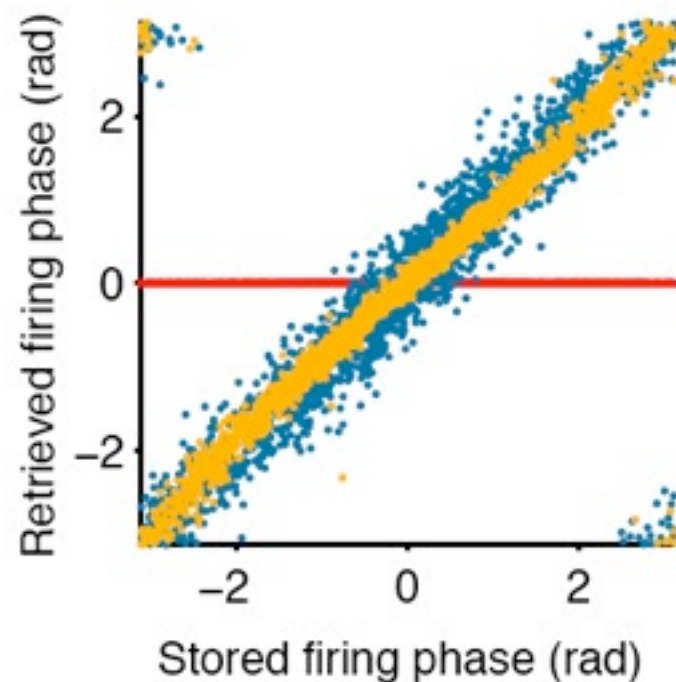
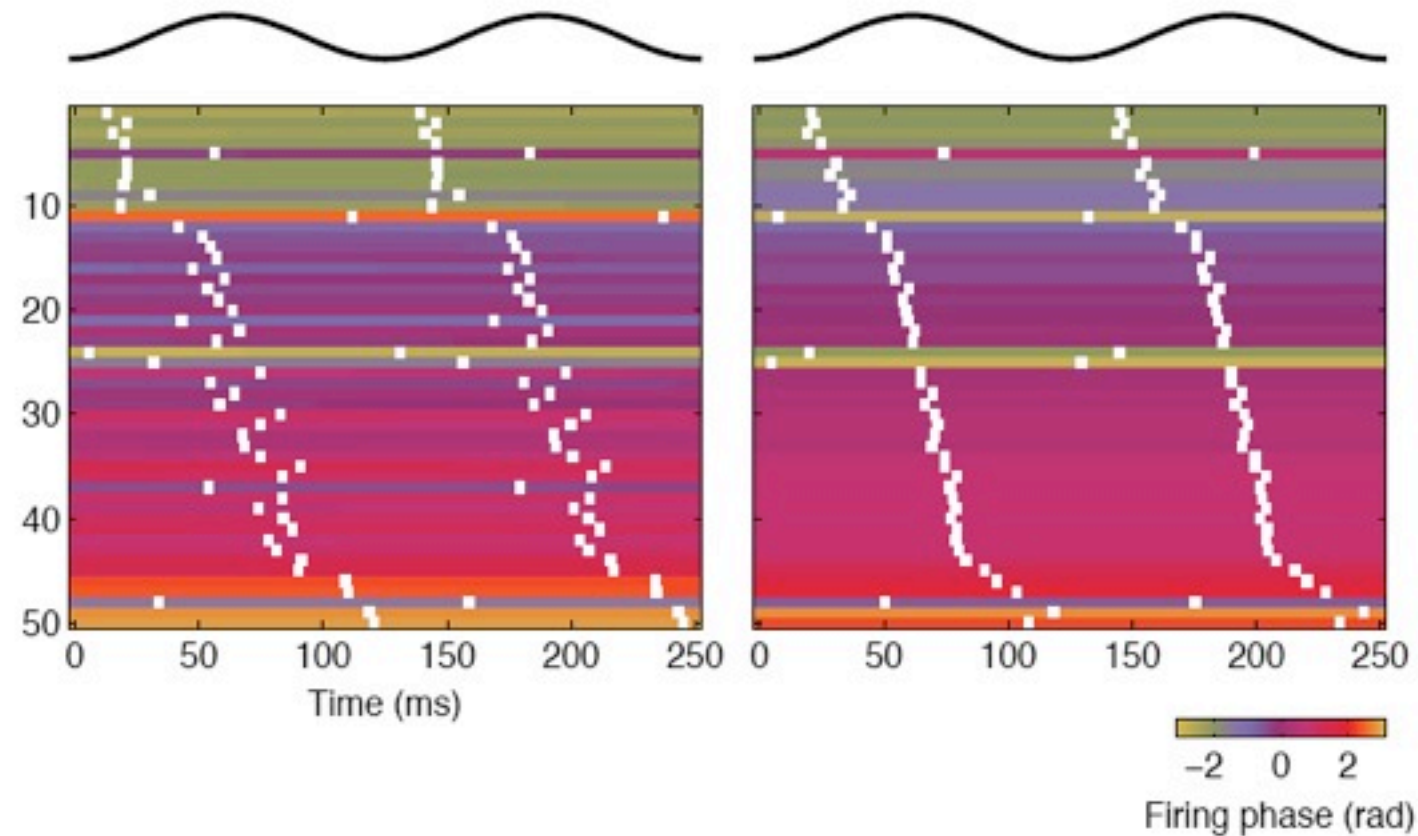


PERFORMANCE OF NETWORK

storage

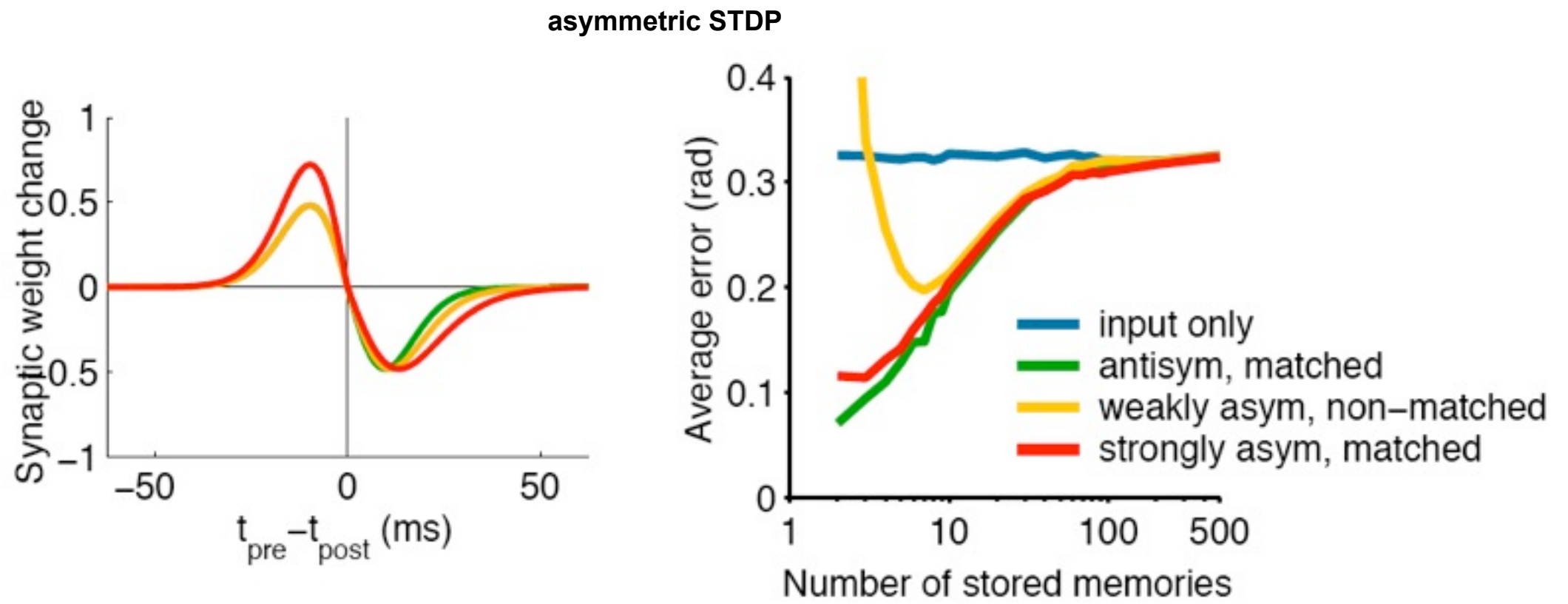


retrieval



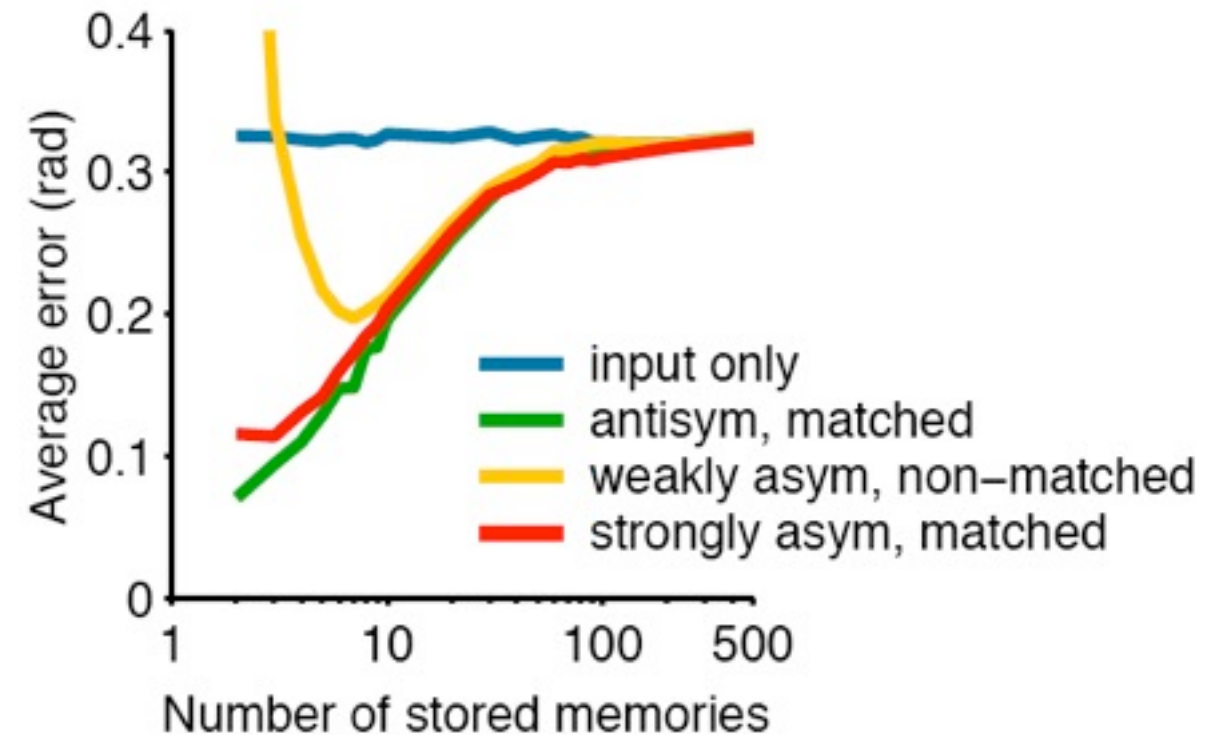
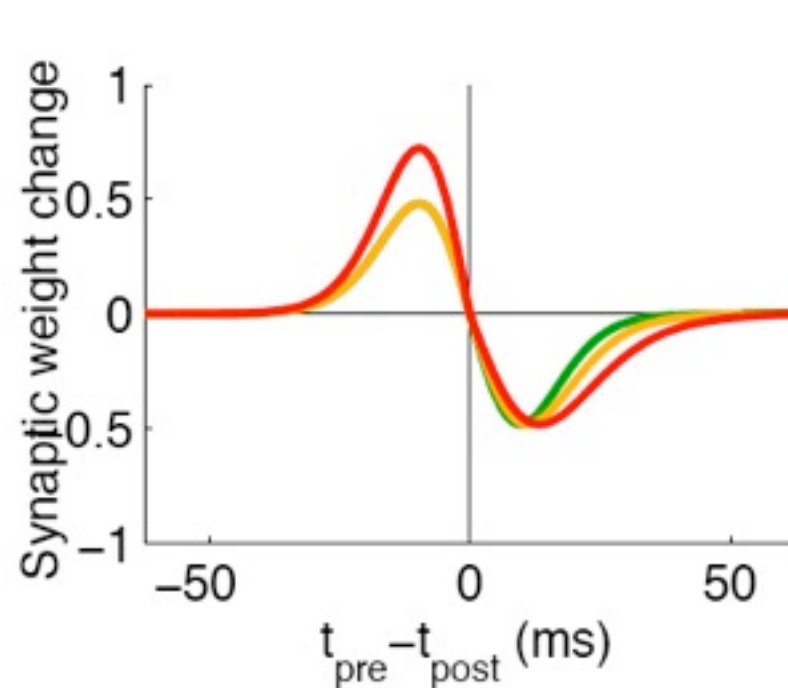
Lengyel et al, Nat Neurosci 2005

ROBUSTNESS OF RECALL PERFORMANCE

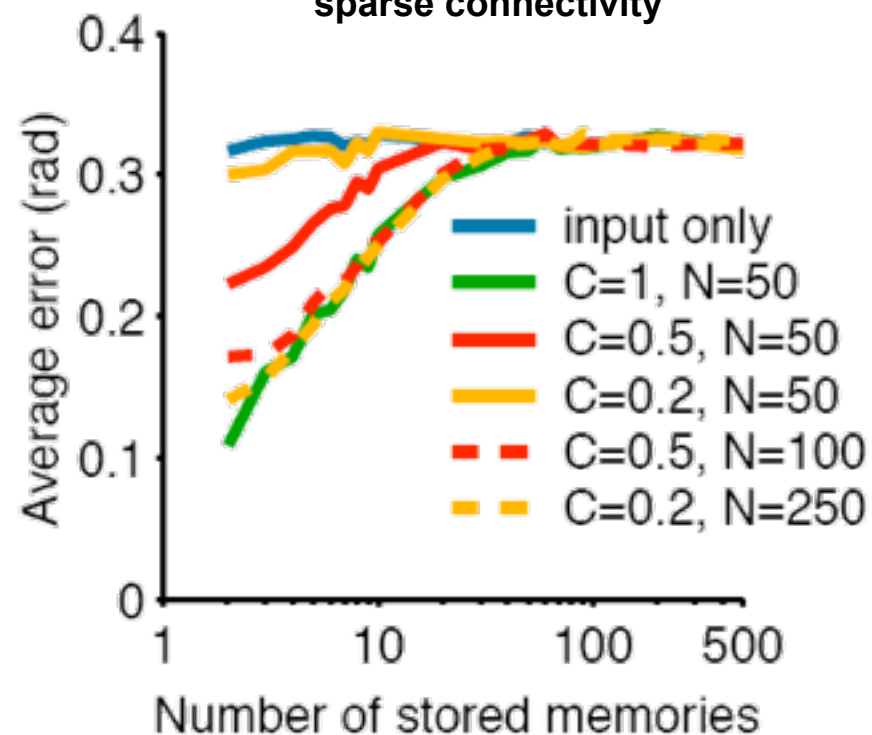


ROBUSTNESS OF RECALL PERFORMANCE

asymmetric STDP

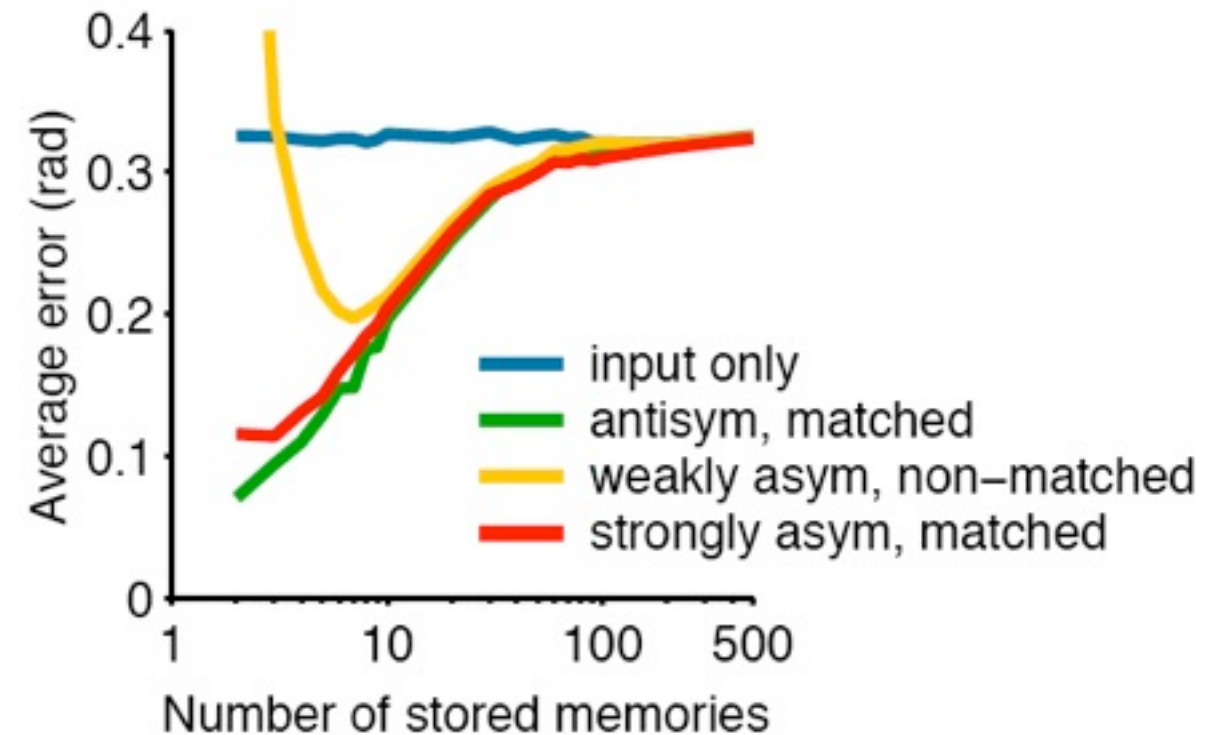
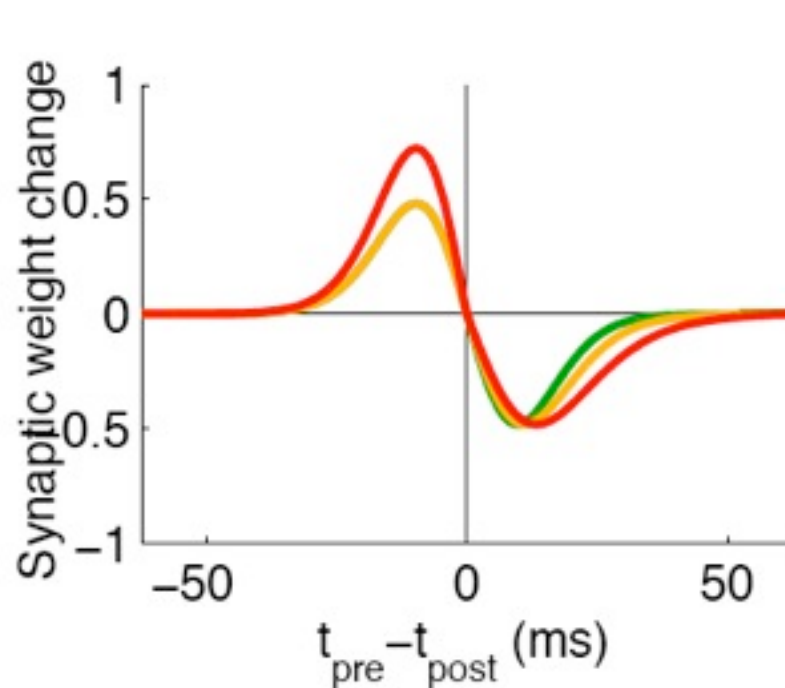


sparse connectivity

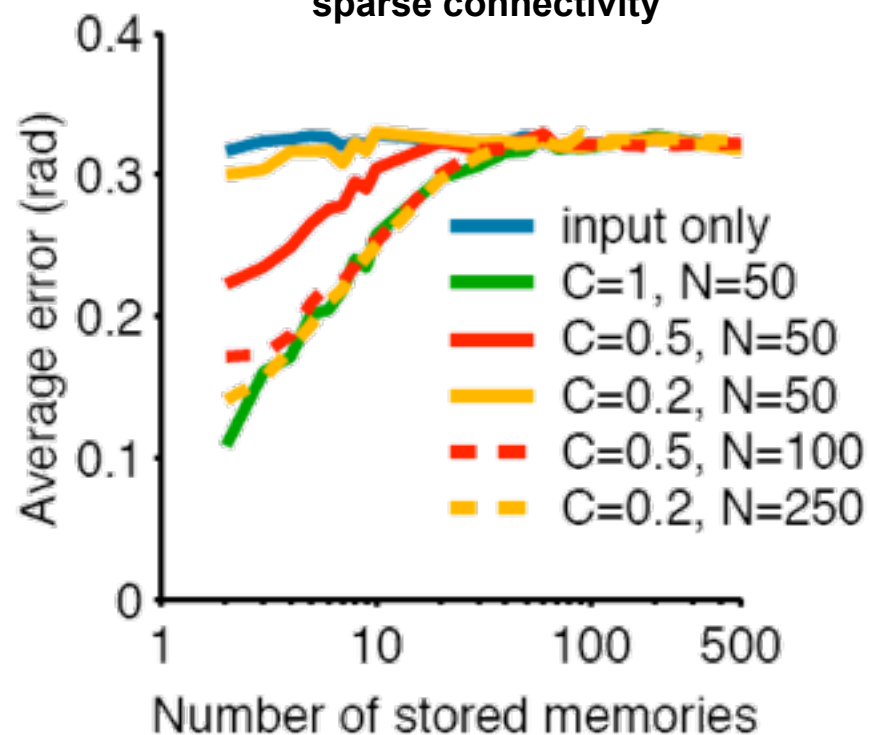


ROBUSTNESS OF RECALL PERFORMANCE

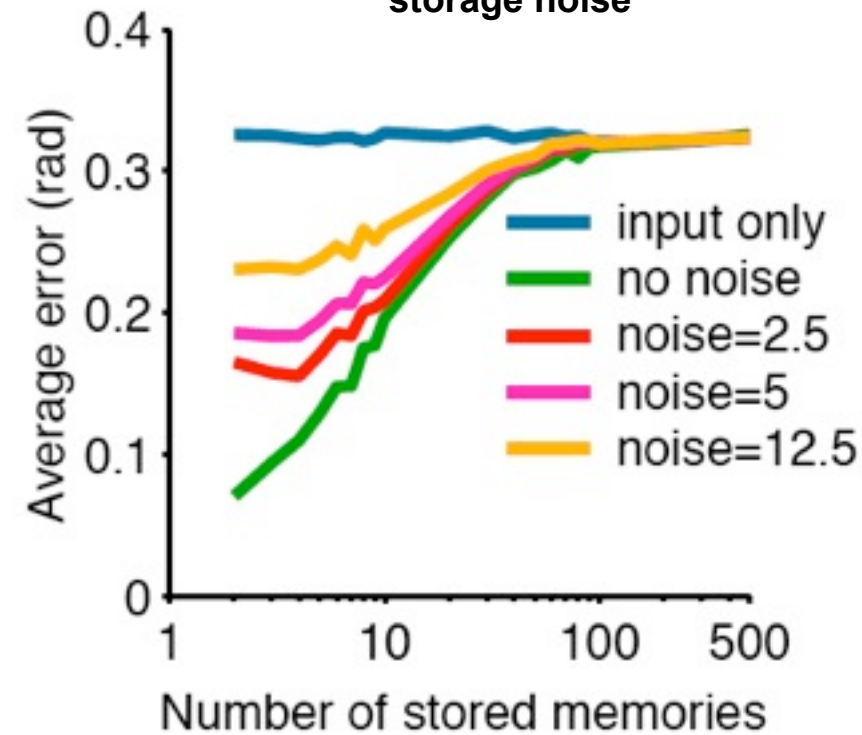
asymmetric STDP



sparse connectivity

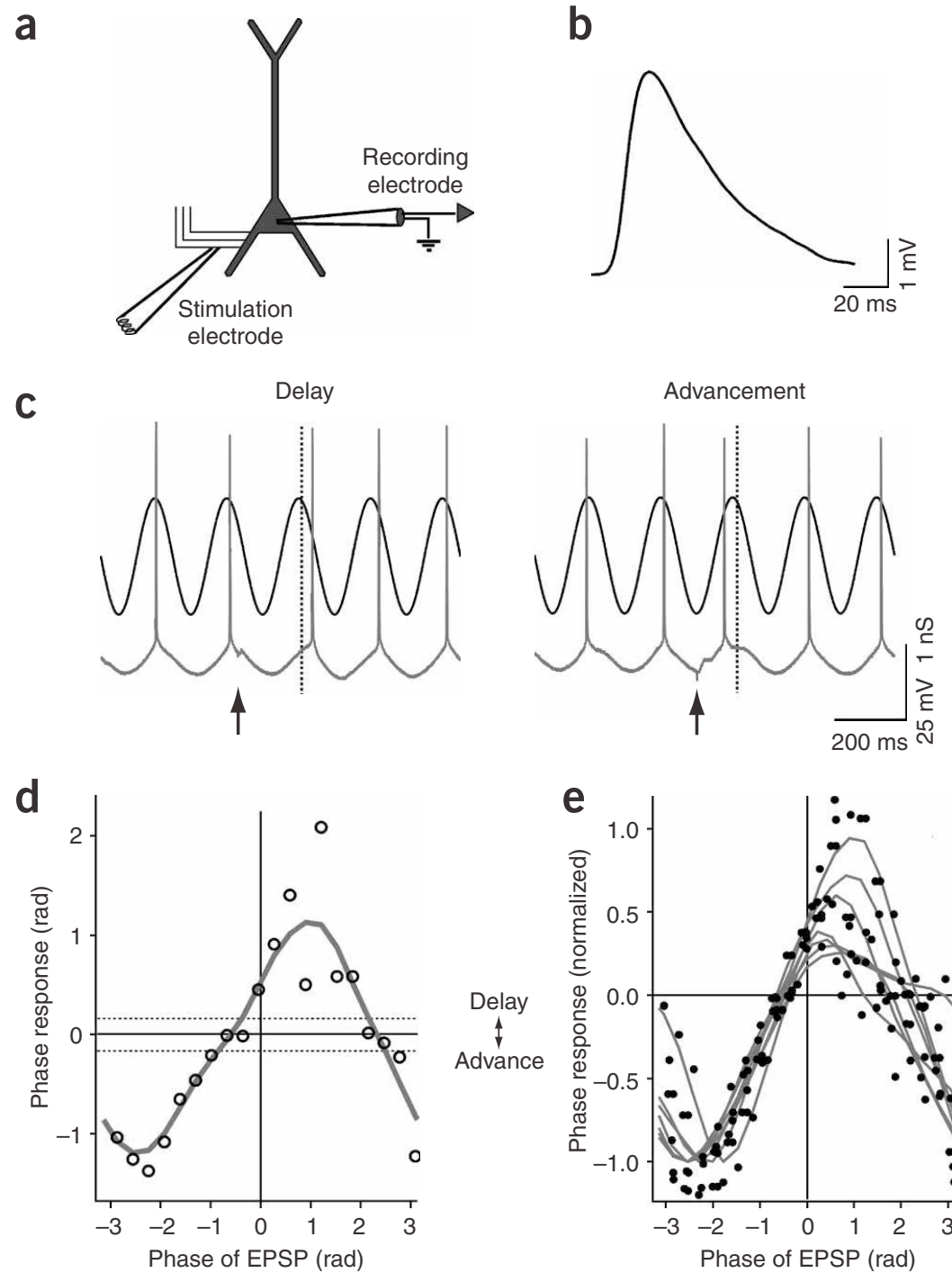


storage noise

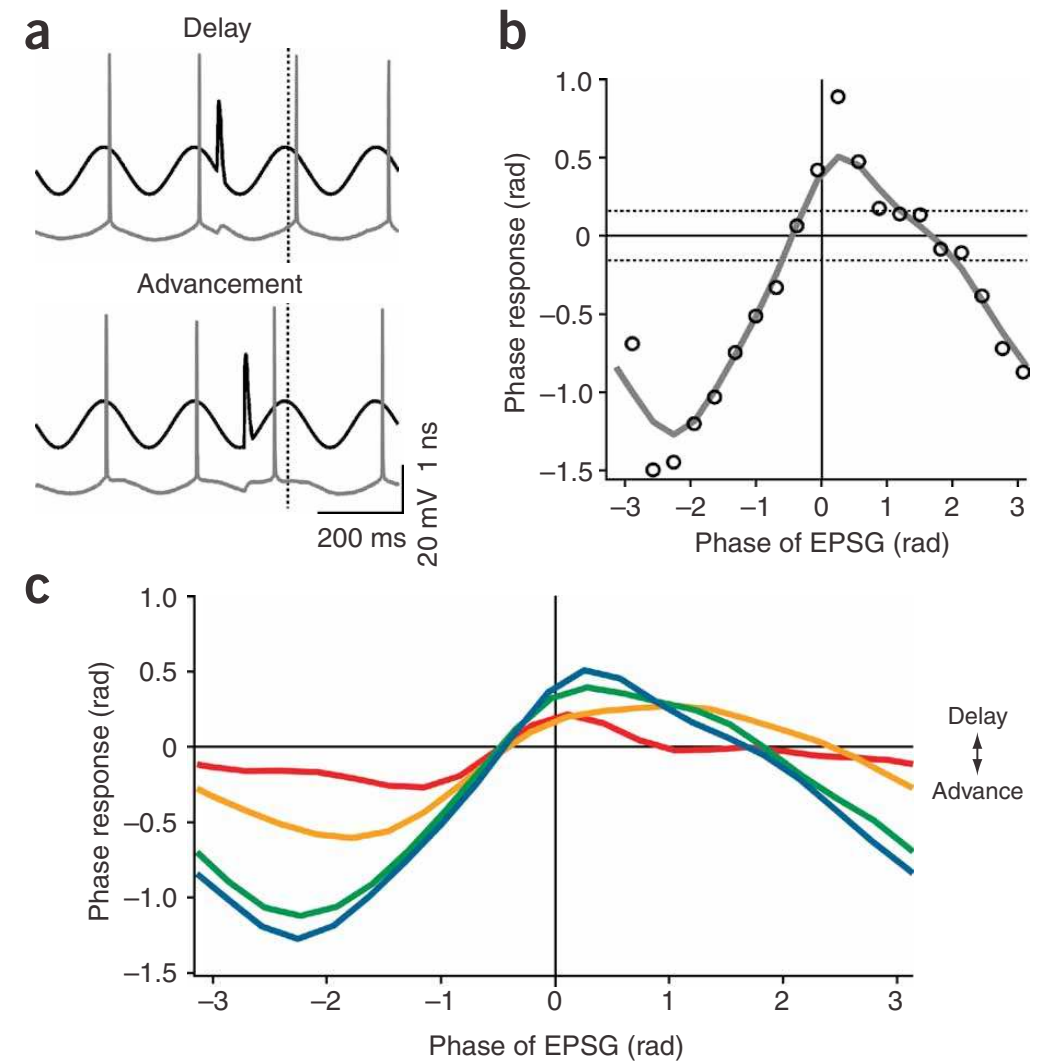
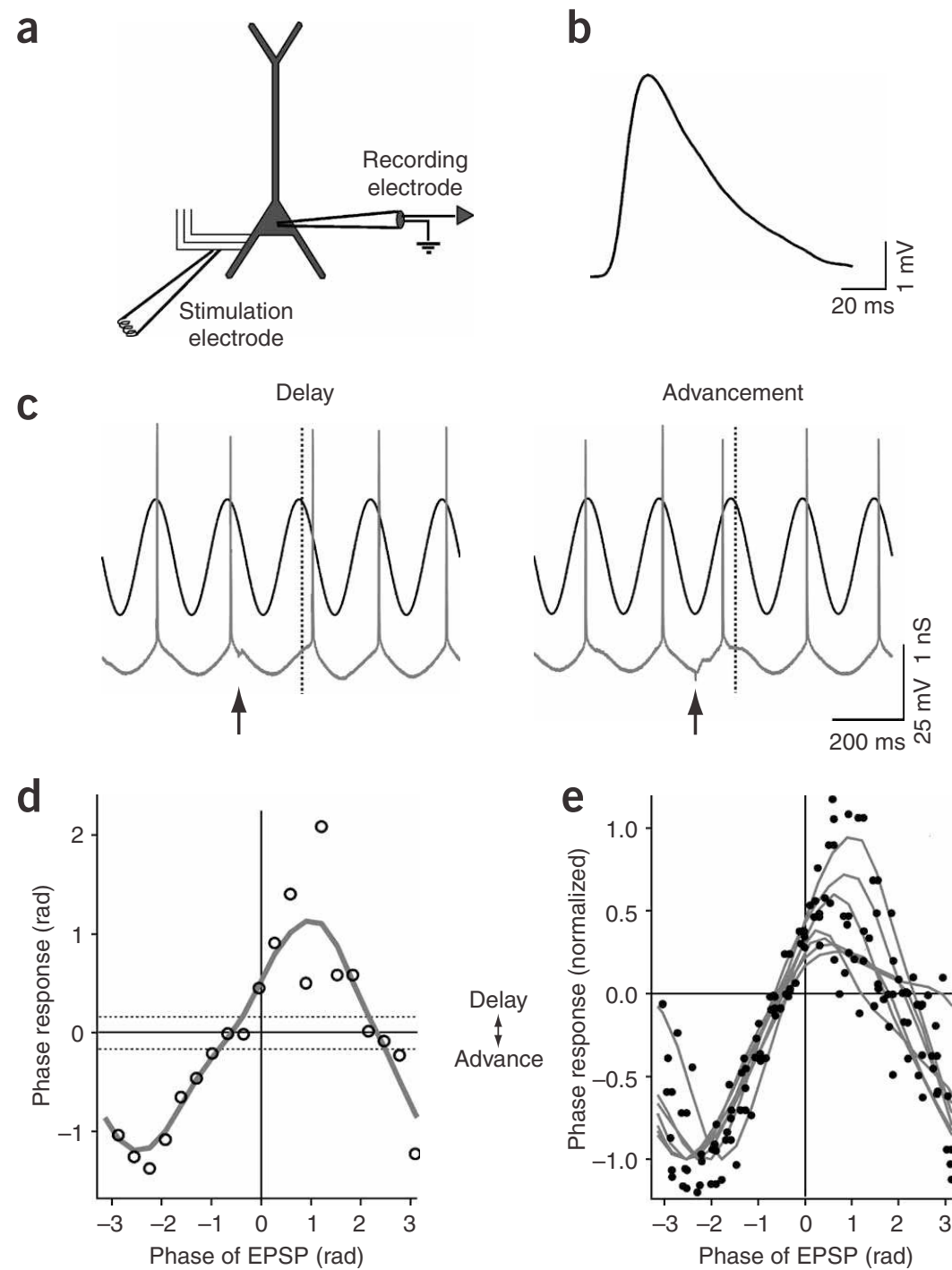


Lengyel et al, Nat Neurosci 2005

TESTING THE PREDICTION *IN VITRO*



TESTING THE PREDICTION *IN VITRO*



Lengyel et al, Nat Neurosci 2005

DISCRETE-STATE SYNAPSES

DISCRETE-STATE SYNAPSES

$$W_{ij} = \sum_{m=1}^M \Omega\left(x_i^{(m)}, x_j^{(m)}\right)$$

DISCRETE-STATE SYNAPSES

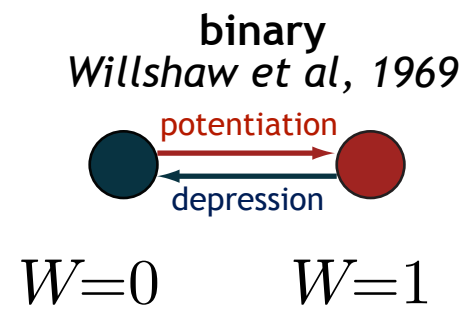
$$W_{ij} = \sum_{m=1}^M \Omega\left(x_i^{(m)}, x_j^{(m)}\right) \rightarrow \text{unlimited dynamic range ...}$$

DISCRETE-STATE SYNAPSES

synapses with limited dynamic range

DISCRETE-STATE SYNAPSES

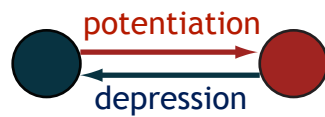
synapses with limited dynamic range



DISCRETE-STATE SYNAPSES

synapses with limited dynamic range

binary
Willshaw et al, 1969

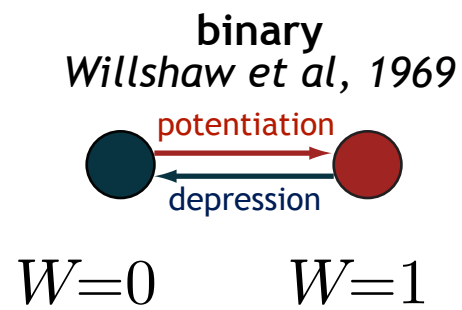


$W=0$ $W=1$

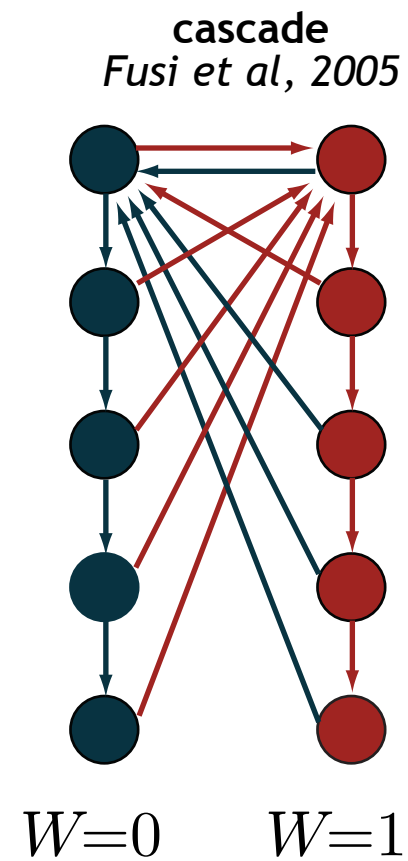
post	0	1
	-	-
0	D	P
1		
pre		

DISCRETE-STATE SYNAPSES

synapses with limited dynamic range

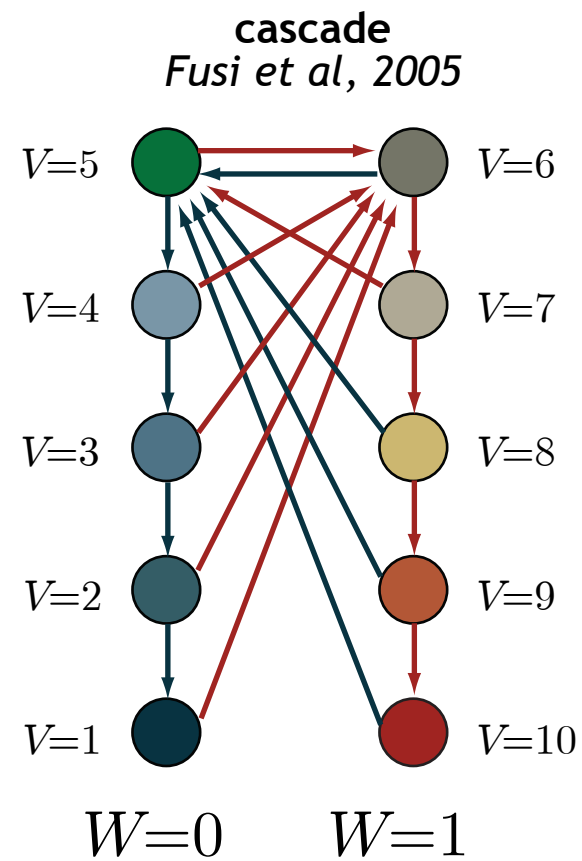
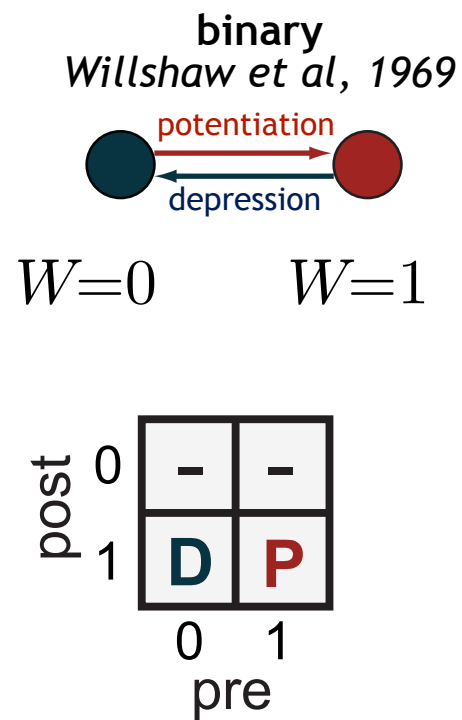


post	0	1
	-	-
0	D	P
1		
pre		
0		
1		



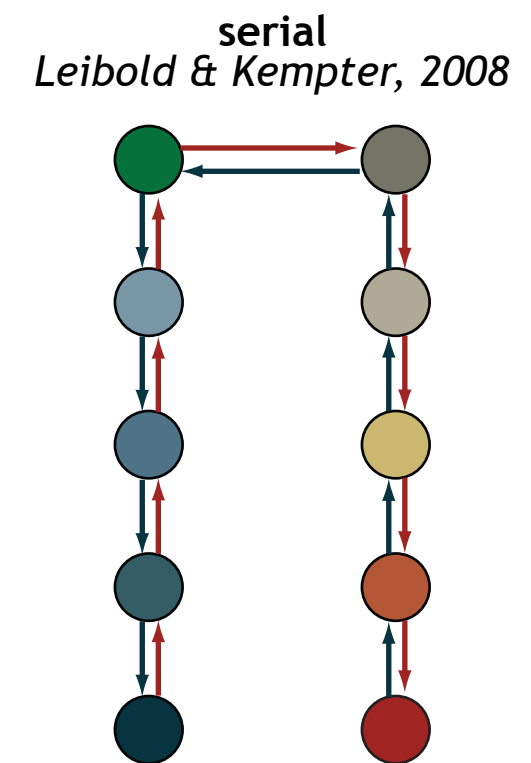
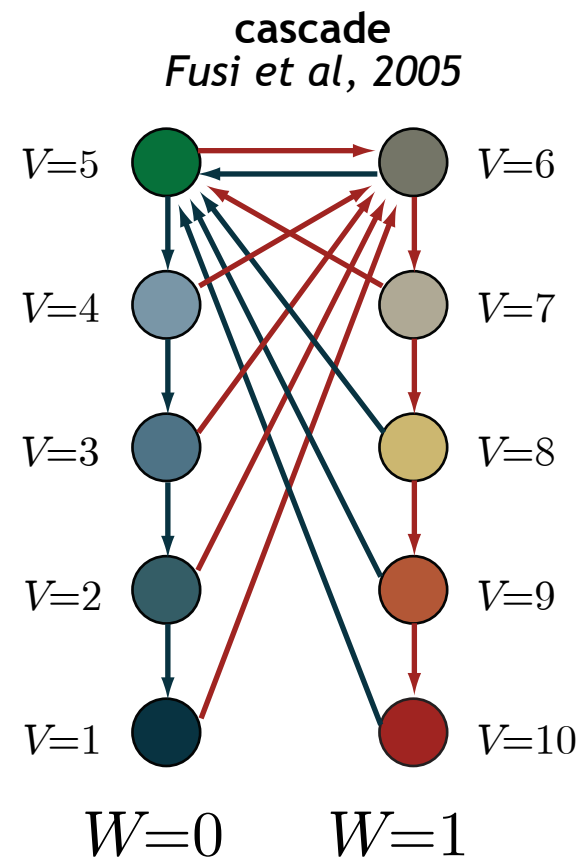
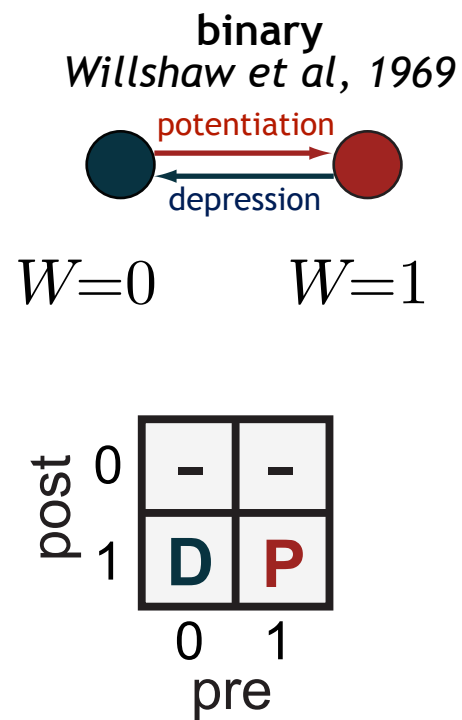
DISCRETE-STATE SYNAPSES

synapses with limited dynamic range



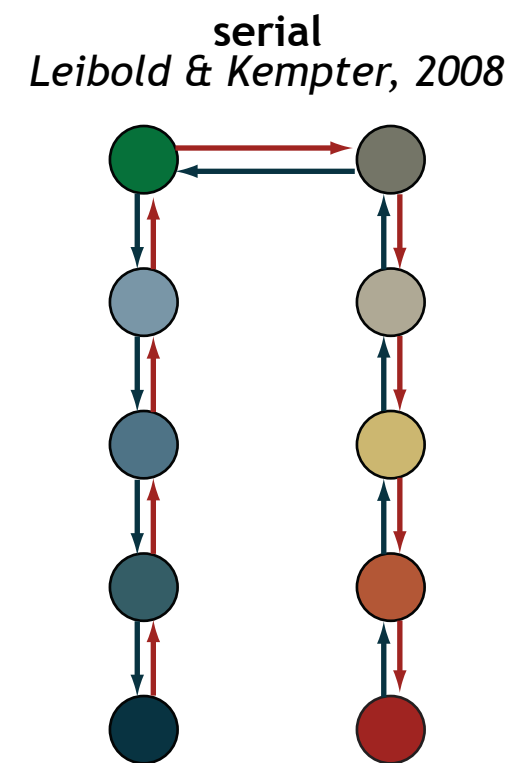
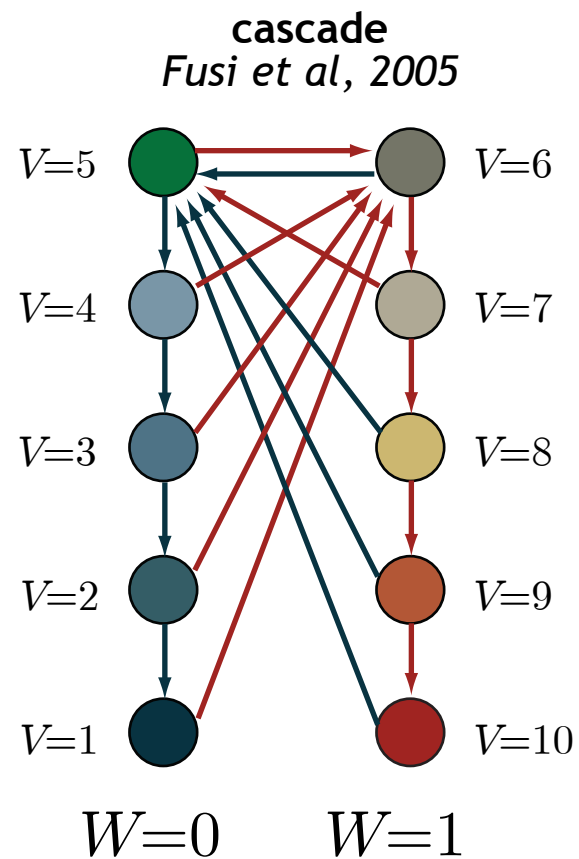
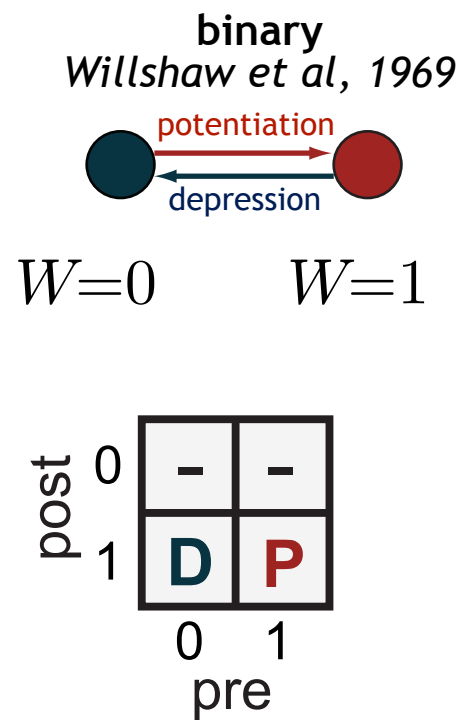
DISCRETE-STATE SYNAPSES

synapses with limited dynamic range



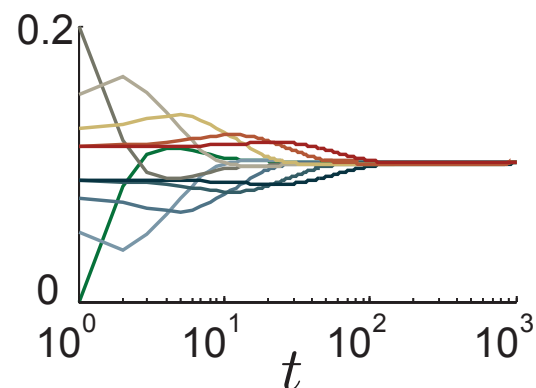
DISCRETE-STATE SYNAPSES

synapses with limited dynamic range



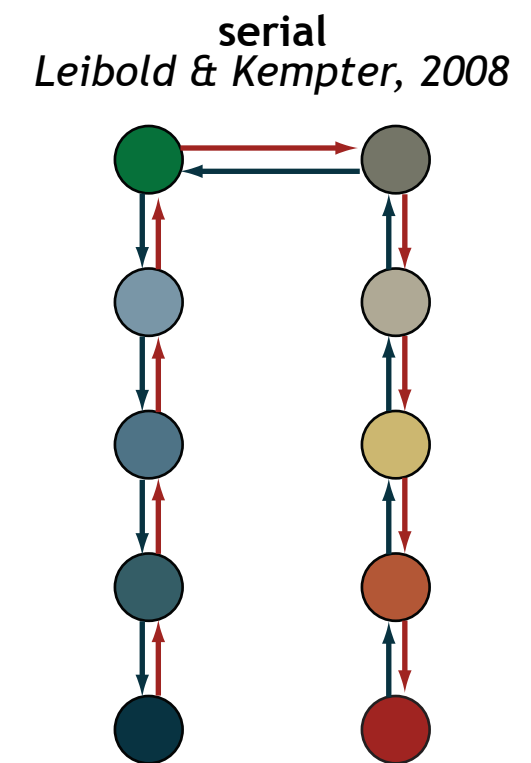
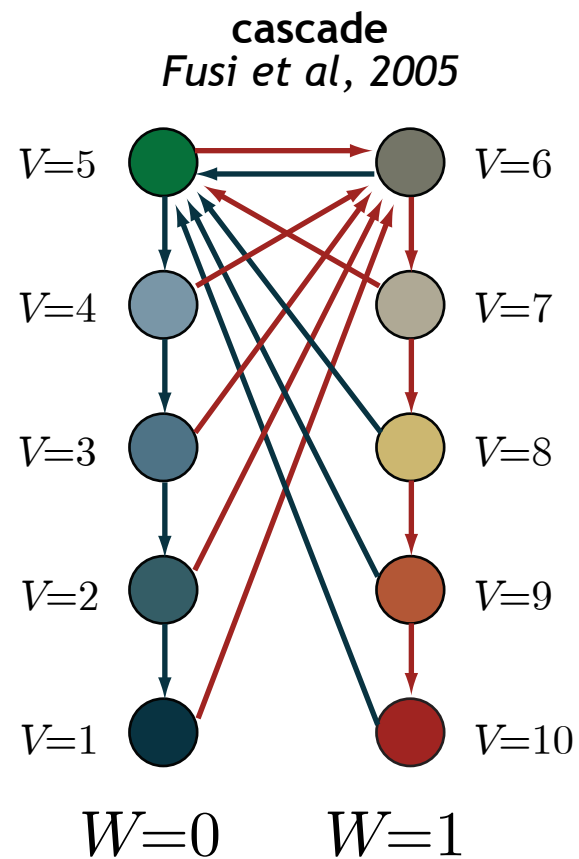
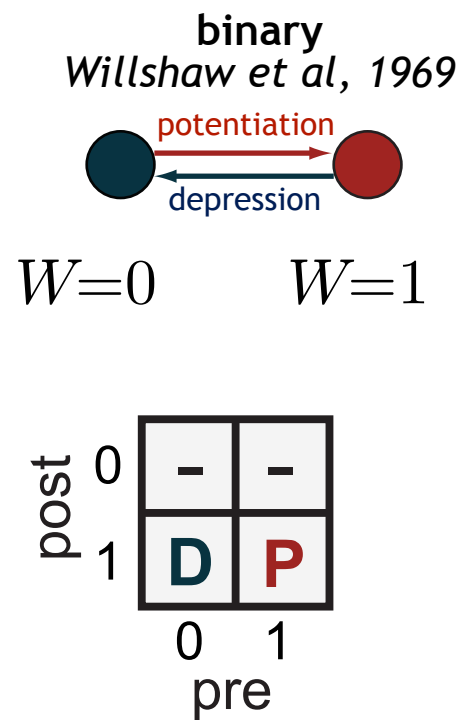
... lead to palimpsest memories

$$P(V_{ij}|t, x_i = 1, x_j = 1)$$



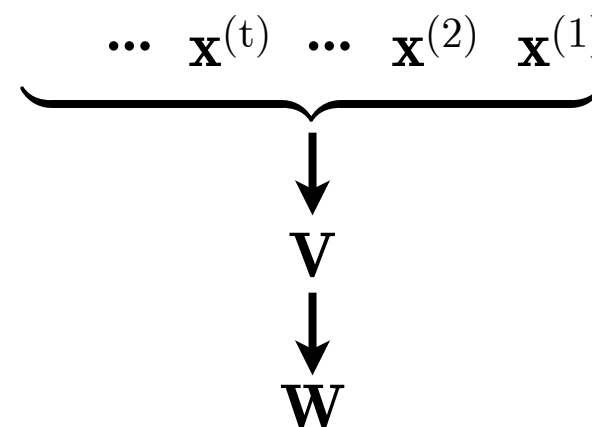
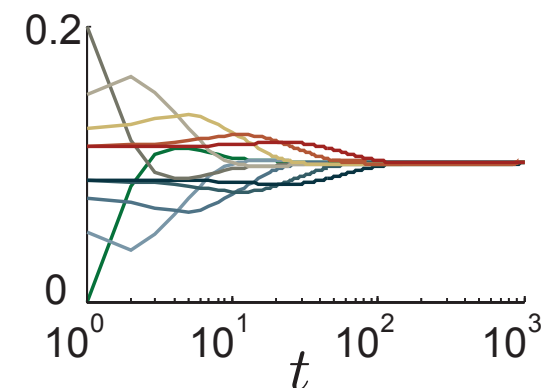
DISCRETE-STATE SYNAPSES

synapses with limited dynamic range



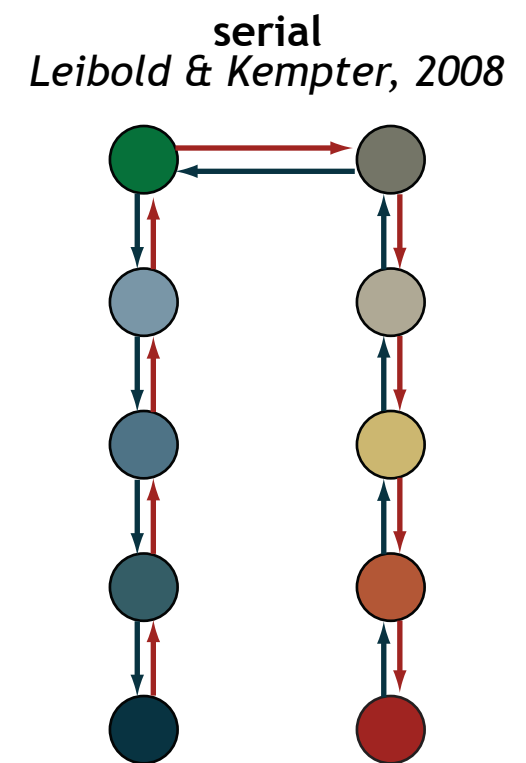
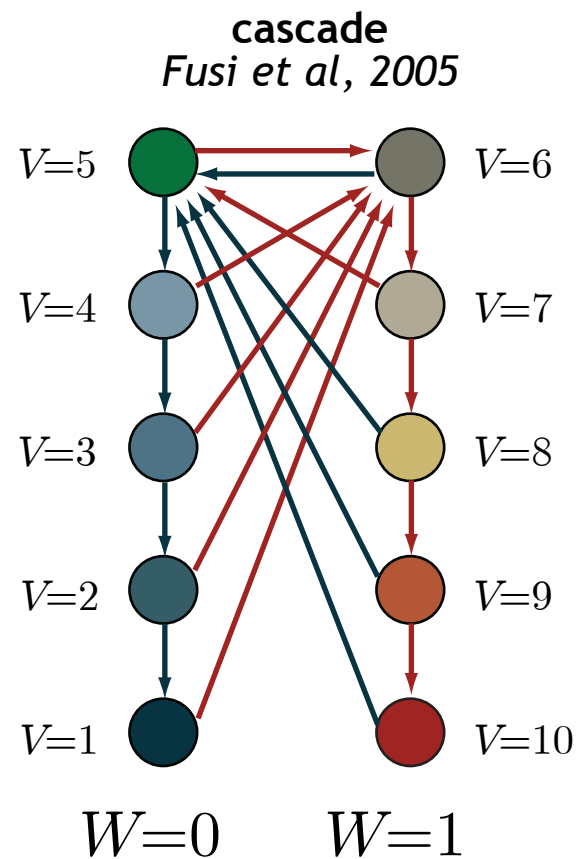
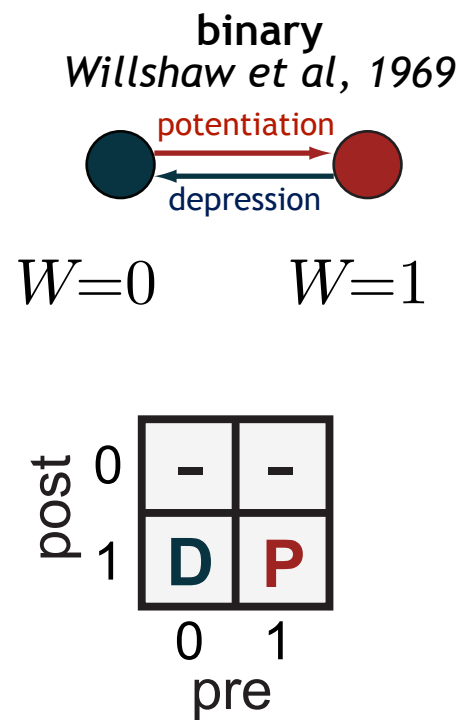
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$$P(V_{ij}|t, x_i = 1, x_j = 1)$$



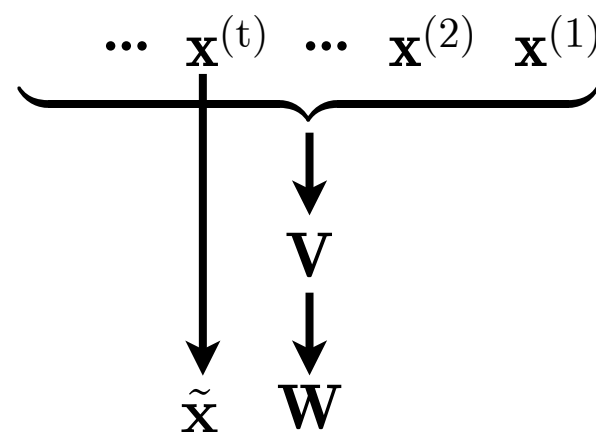
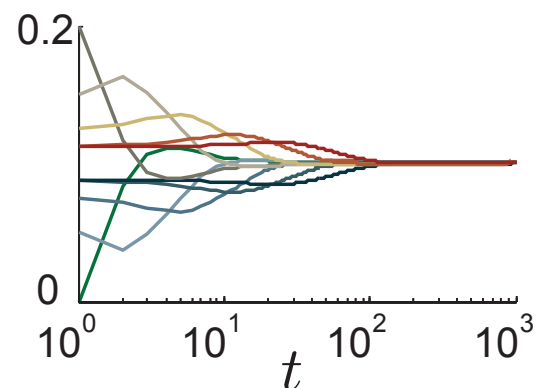
DISCRETE-STATE SYNAPSES

synapses with limited dynamic range



... lead to palimpsest memories

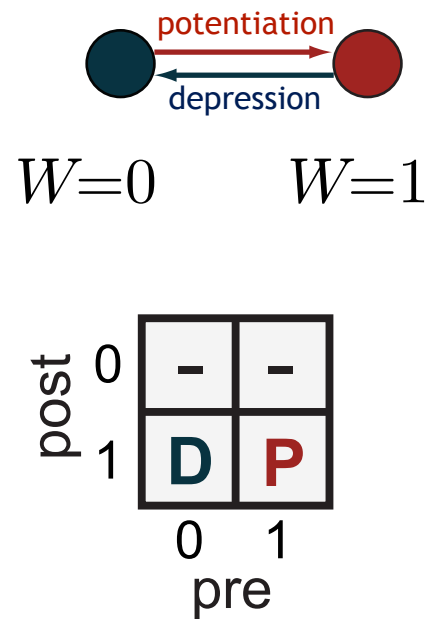
$$P(V_{ij}|t, x_i = 1, x_j = 1)$$



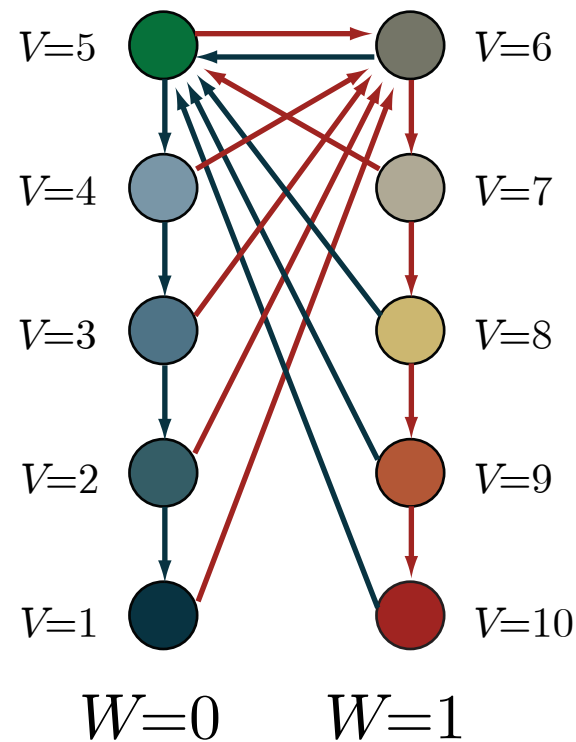
DISCRETE-STATE SYNAPSES

synapses with limited dynamic range

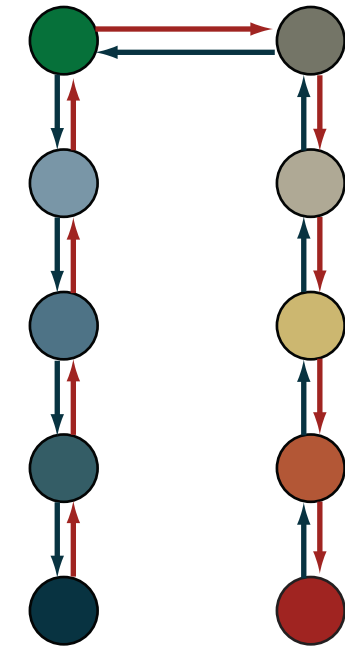
binary
Willshaw et al, 1969



cascade
Fusi et al, 2005

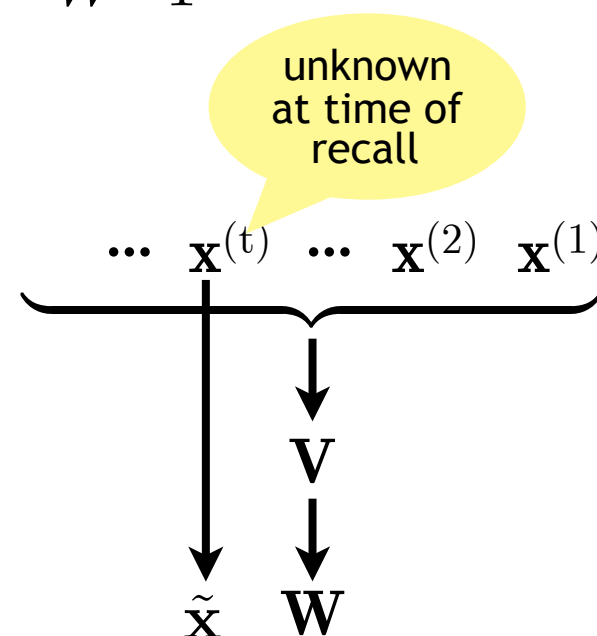
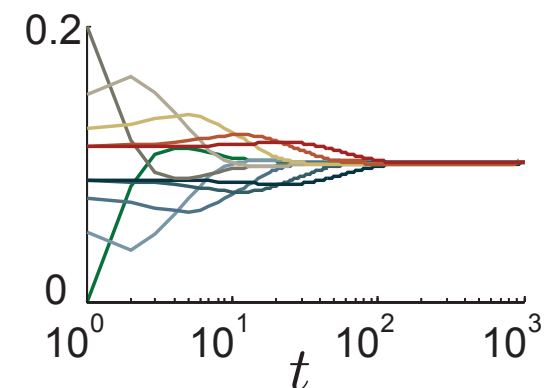


serial
Leibold & Kempter, 2008



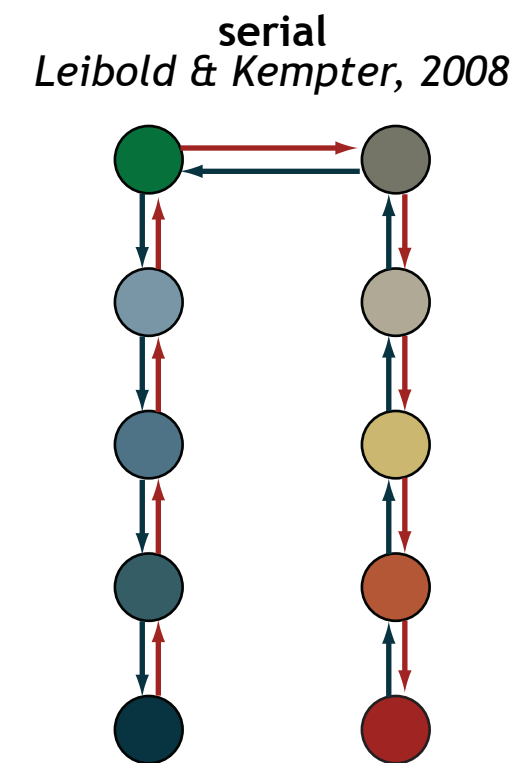
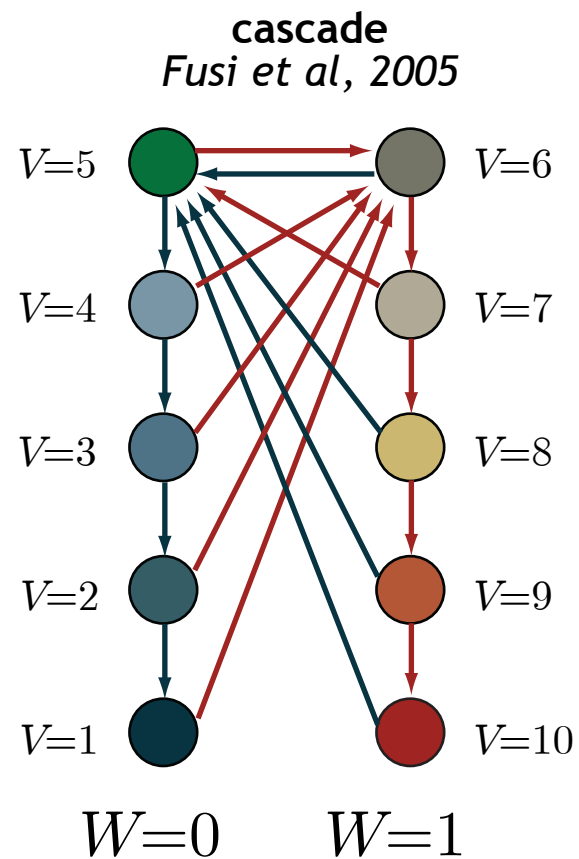
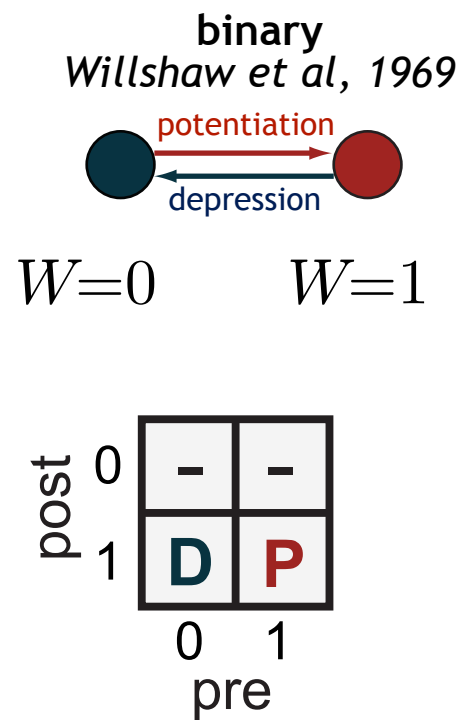
... lead to palimpsest memories

$$P(V_{ij}|t, x_i = 1, x_j = 1)$$



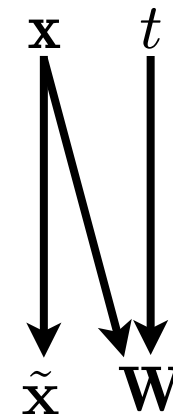
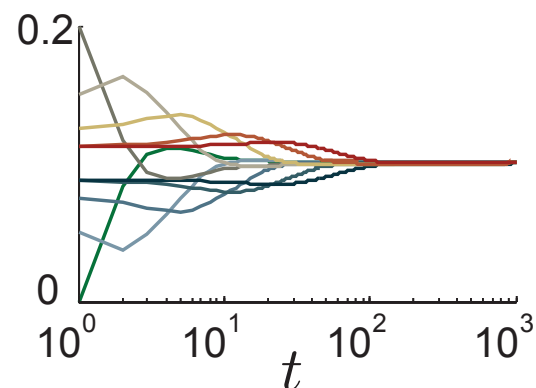
DISCRETE-STATE SYNAPSES

synapses with limited dynamic range



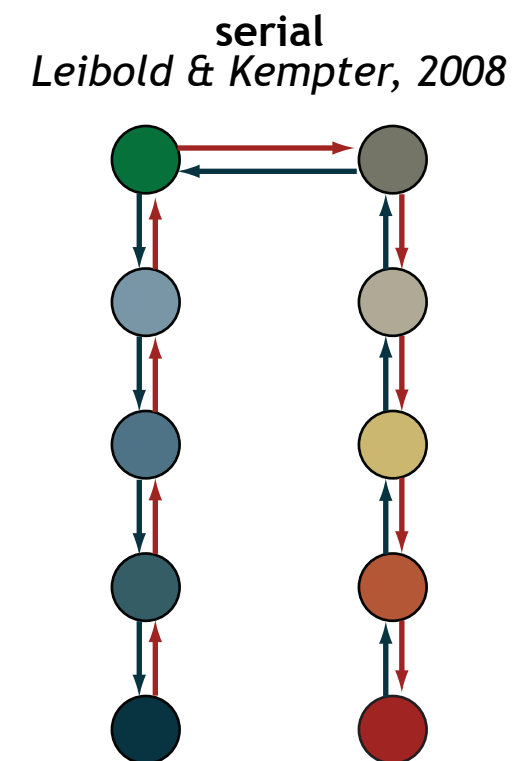
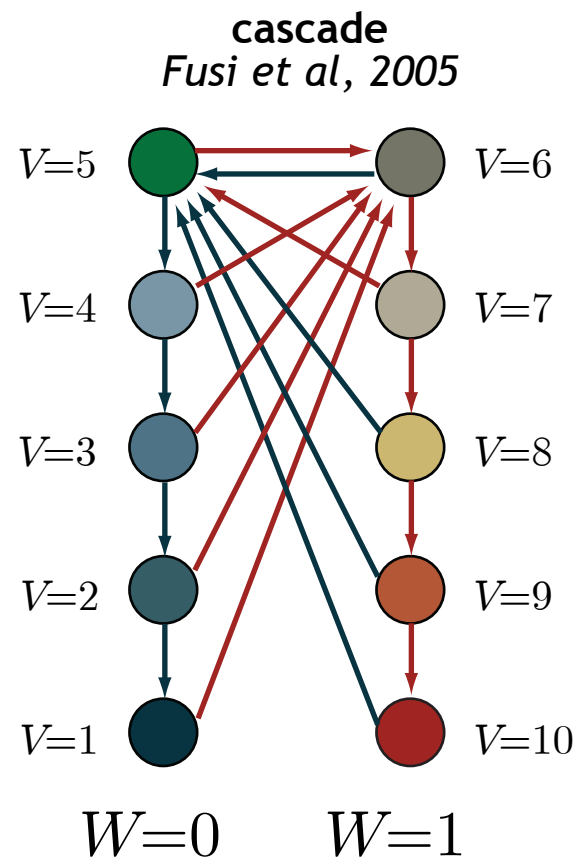
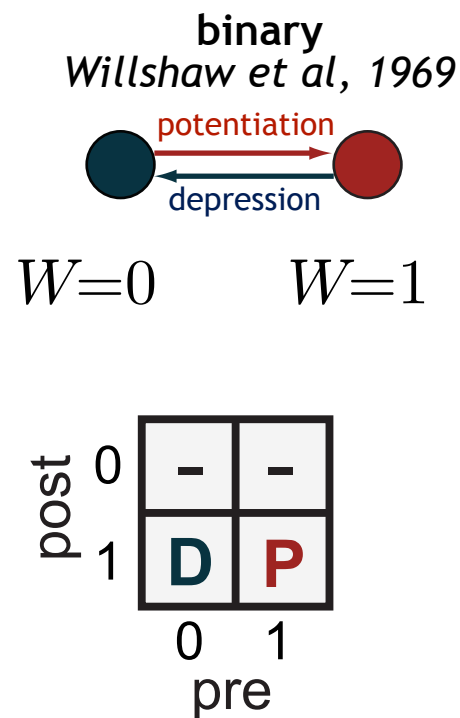
... lead to palimpsest memories

$$P(V_{ij}|t, x_i = 1, x_j = 1)$$



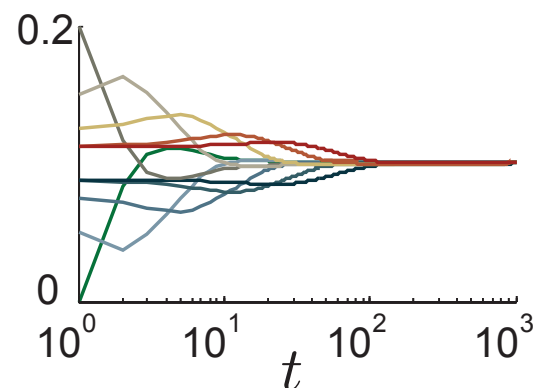
DISCRETE-STATE SYNAPSES

synapses with limited dynamic range

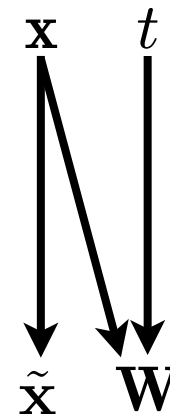


... lead to palimpsest memories

$$P(V_{ij}|t, x_i = 1, x_j = 1)$$

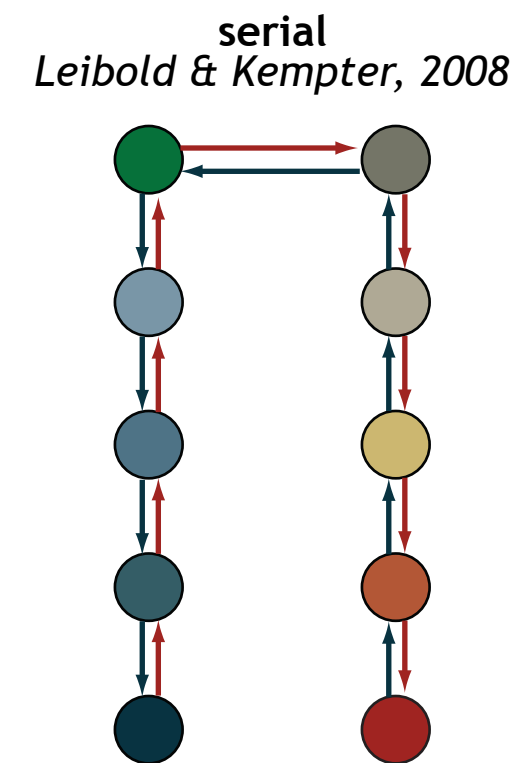
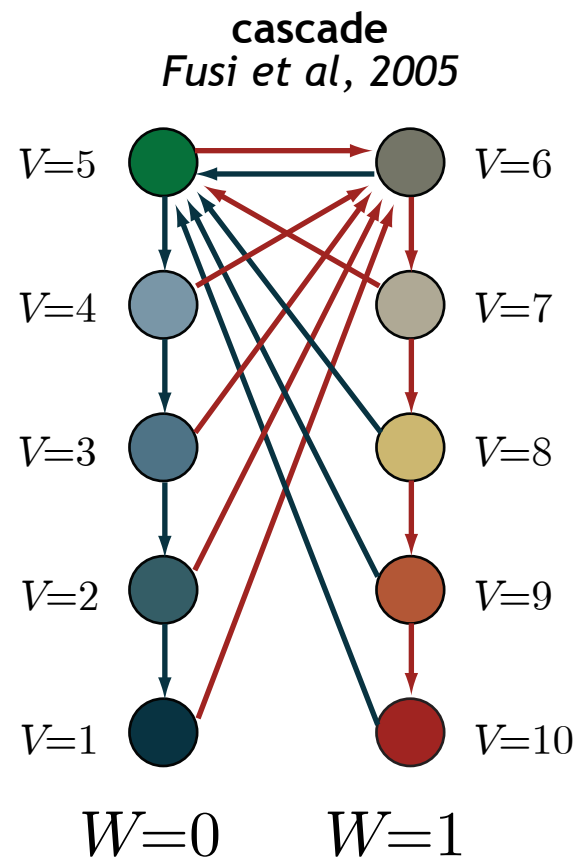
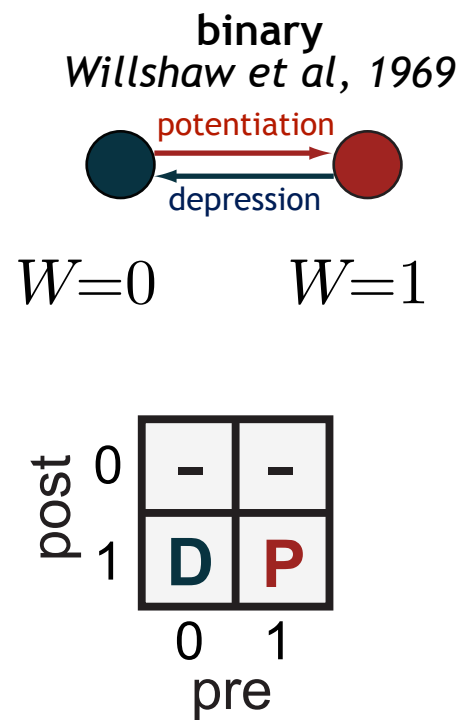


$$P(\mathbf{x}|\tilde{\mathbf{x}}, \mathbf{W}) \propto P(\mathbf{x}) P(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}|\mathbf{x}) P(\mathbf{W}|\mathbf{x})$$



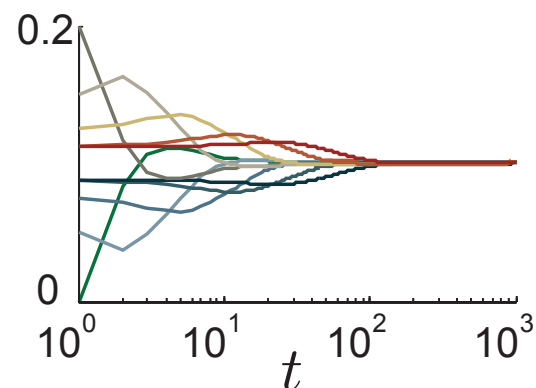
DISCRETE-STATE SYNAPSES

synapses with limited dynamic range

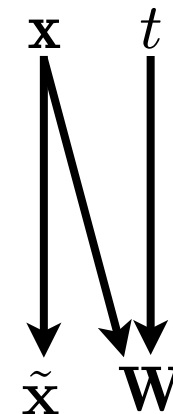


... lead to palimpsest memories

$$P(V_{ij}|t, x_i = 1, x_j = 1)$$



$$P(\mathbf{x}|\tilde{\mathbf{x}}, \mathbf{W}) \propto P(\mathbf{x}) P(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}|\mathbf{x}) \sum_t P(\mathbf{W}|\mathbf{x}, t) P(t)$$

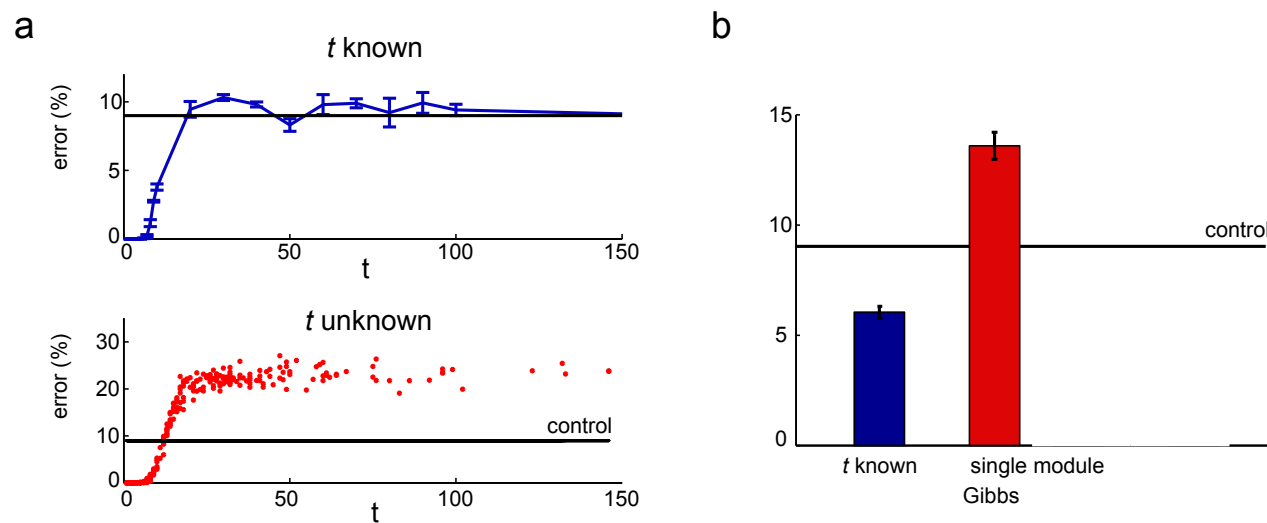


FAMILIARITY VS RECOLLECTION:

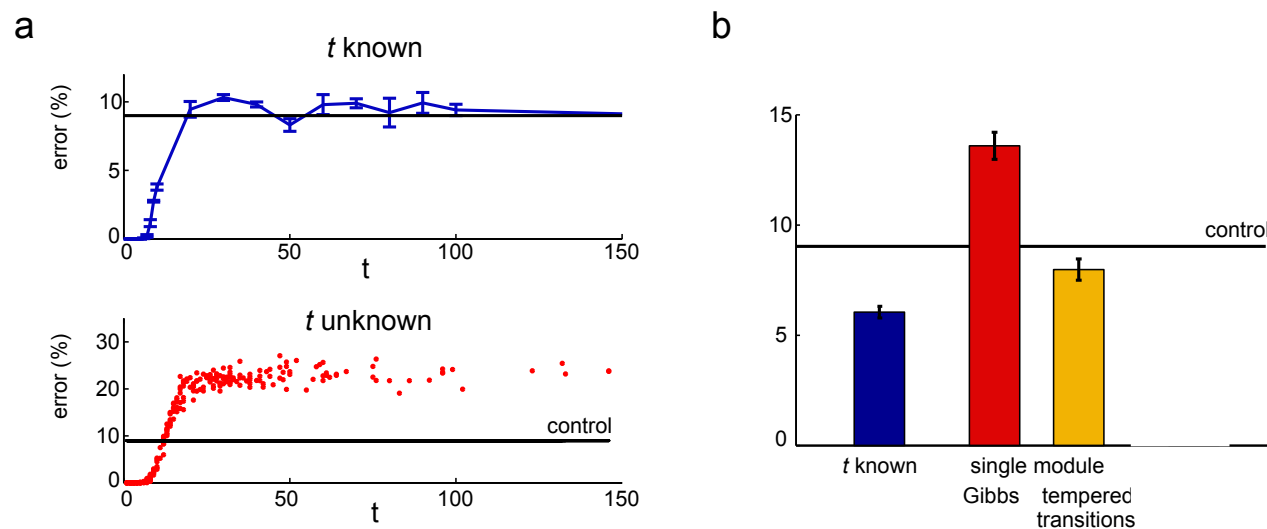
A SYSTEMS-LEVEL SOLUTION TO A SYNAPTIC-LEVEL PROBLEM?

FAMILIARITY VS RECOLLECTION:

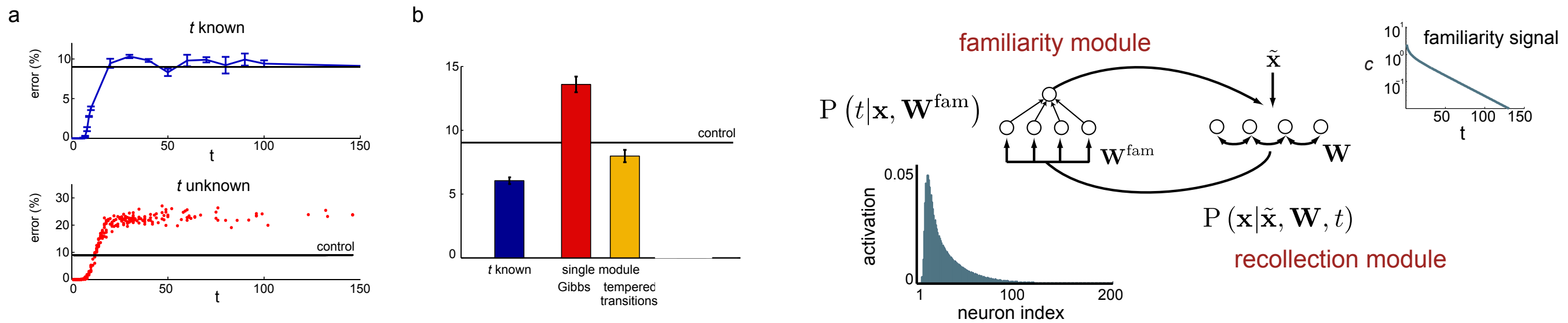
A SYSTEMS-LEVEL SOLUTION TO A SYNAPTIC-LEVEL PROBLEM?



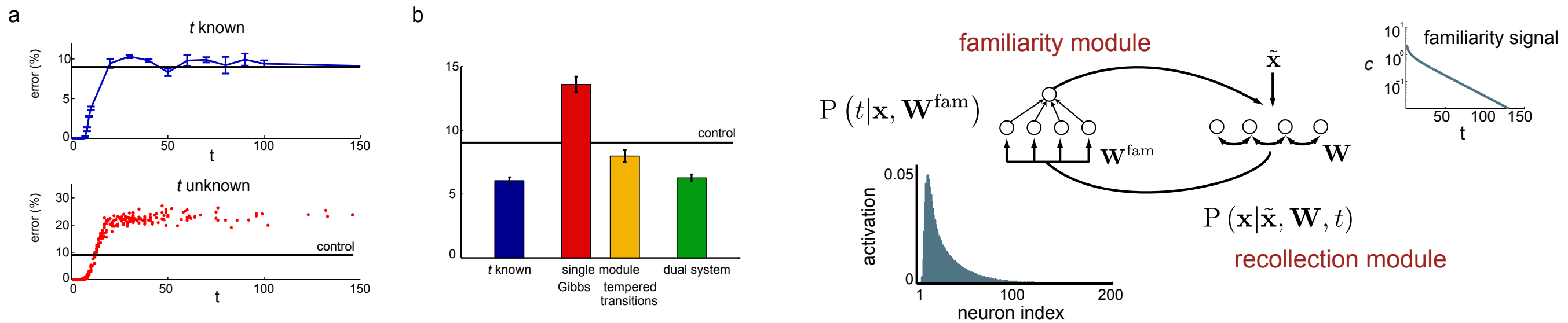
FAMILIARITY VS RECOLLECTION: A SYSTEMS-LEVEL SOLUTION TO A SYNAPTIC-LEVEL PROBLEM?



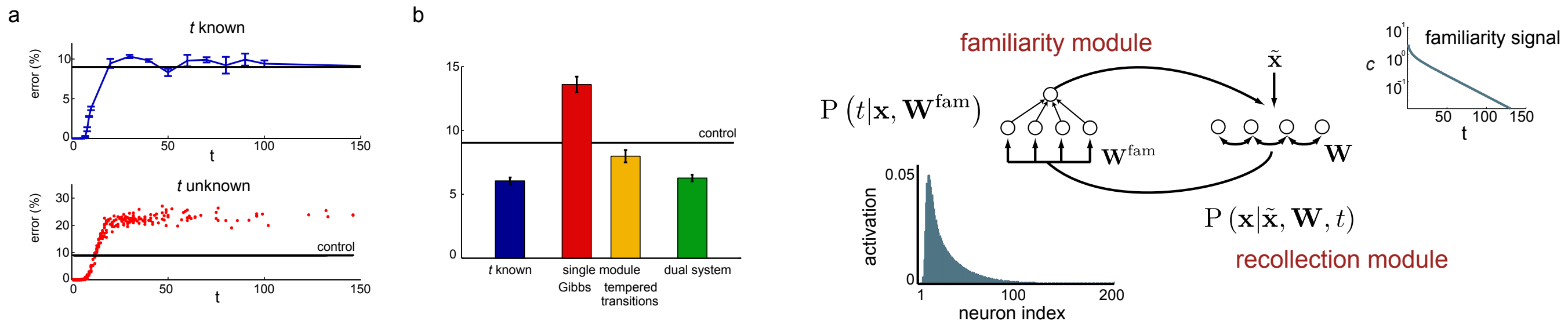
FAMILIARITY VS RECOLLECTION: A SYSTEMS-LEVEL SOLUTION TO A SYNAPTIC-LEVEL PROBLEM?



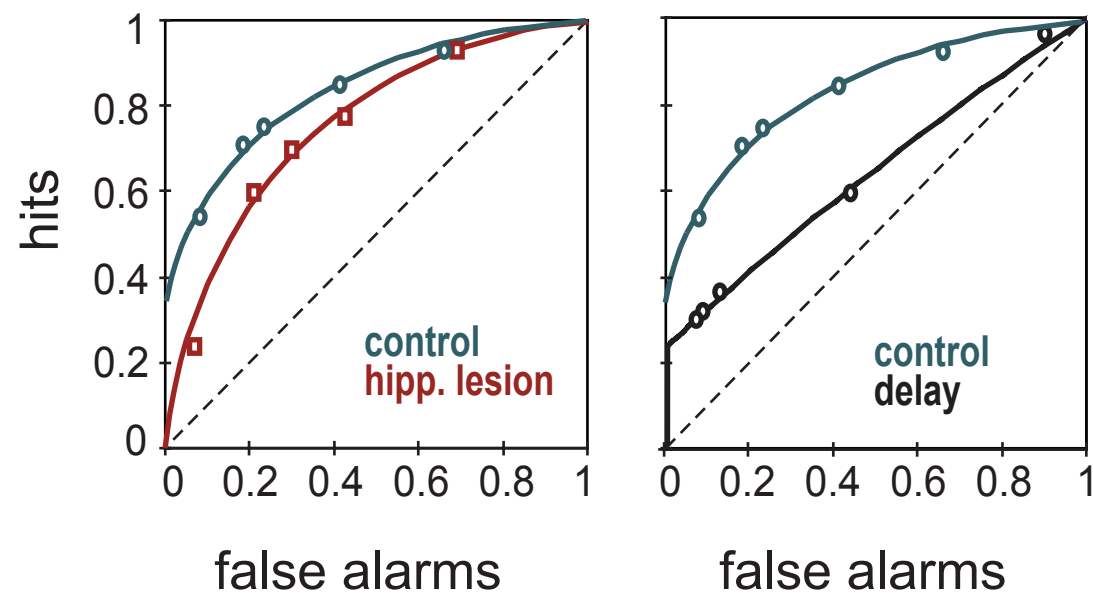
FAMILIARITY VS RECOLLECTION: A SYSTEMS-LEVEL SOLUTION TO A SYNAPTIC-LEVEL PROBLEM?



FAMILIARITY VS RECOLLECTION: A SYSTEMS-LEVEL SOLUTION TO A SYNAPTIC-LEVEL PROBLEM?

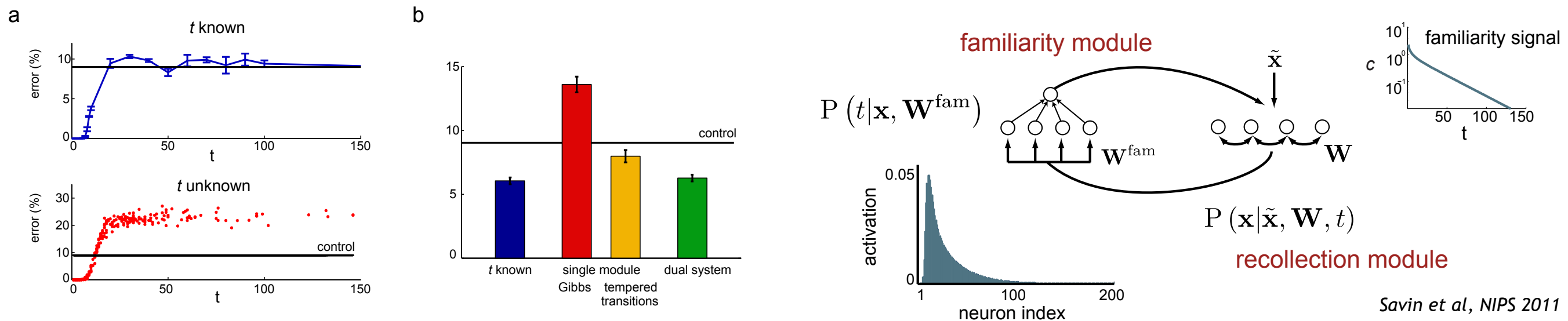


EXPERIMENTS

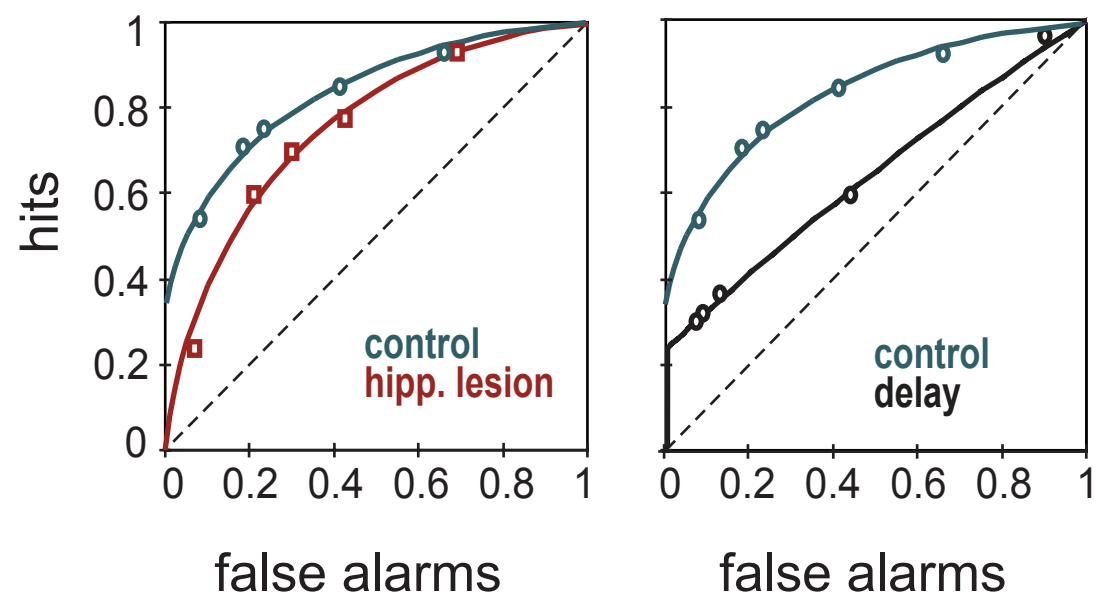


Fortin et al, Nature 2004

FAMILIARITY VS RECOLLECTION: A SYSTEMS-LEVEL SOLUTION TO A SYNAPTIC-LEVEL PROBLEM?

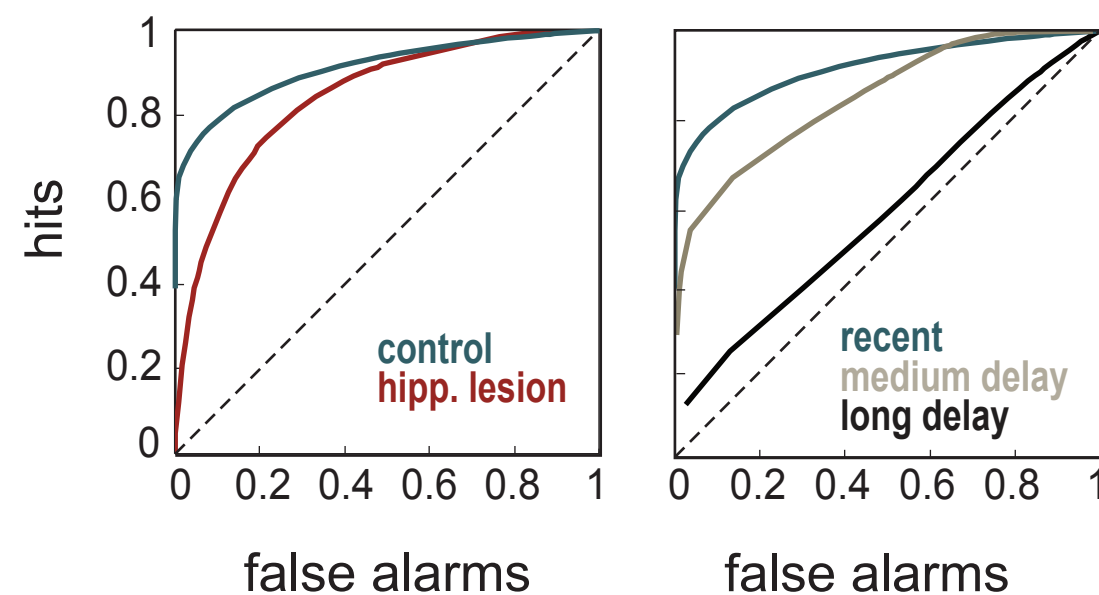


EXPERIMENTS



Fortin et al, Nature 2004

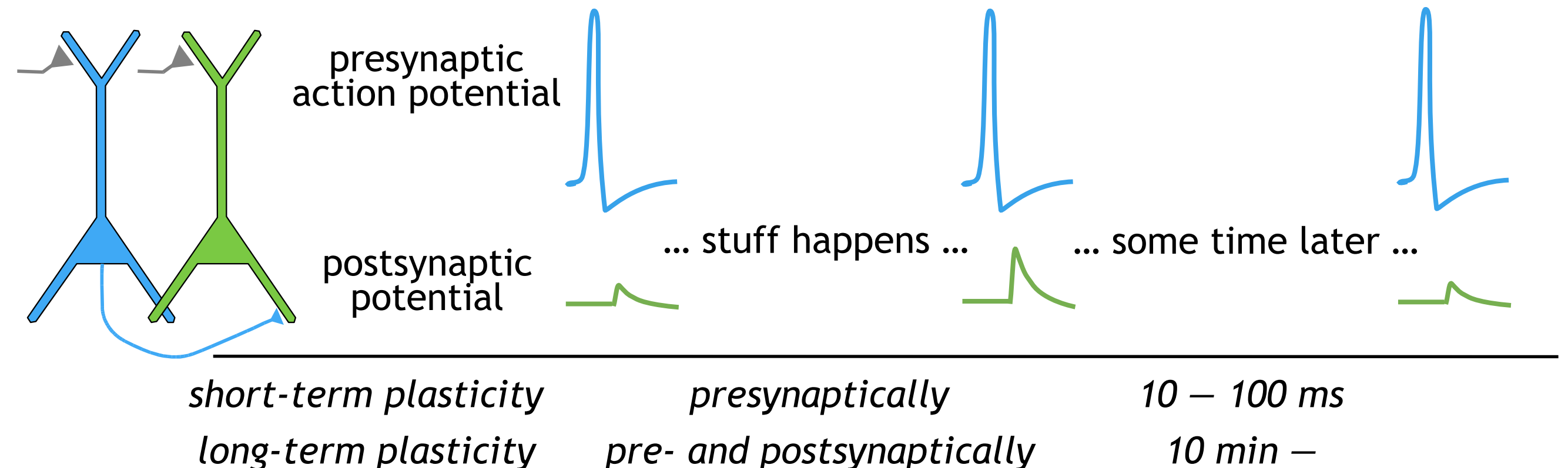
MODEL



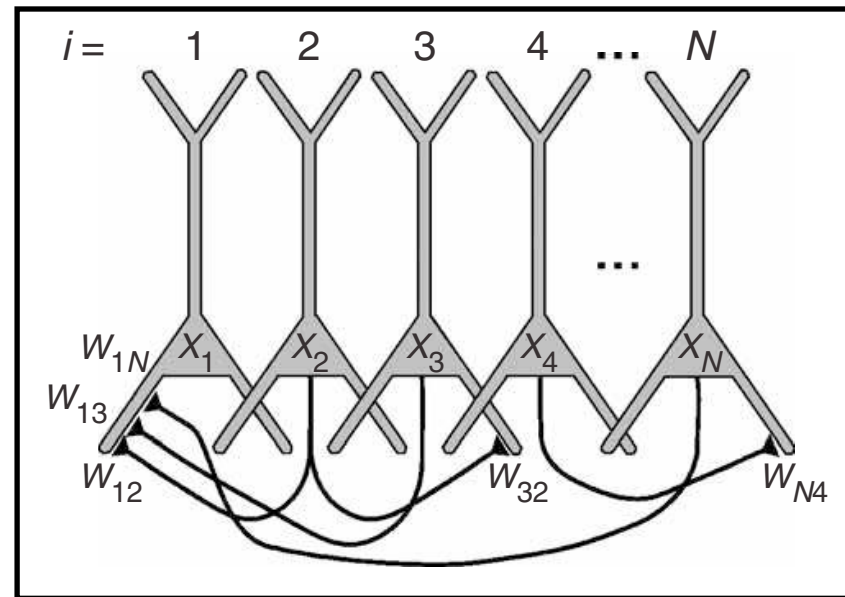
SYNAPTIC PLASTICITY

Synapses are **computational devices** that not only transmit action potential-encoded information, but also transform it. Neuronal information is often encoded by bursts or trains of action potentials. Synapses process such action potential bursts or trains in a synapse-specific manner that involves **use-dependent changes in neurotransmitter release** during the burst or train (referred to as short-term plasticity). In addition, synapses experience **use-dependent long-term changes in synaptic transmission** that adjust the “gain” of a synapse, and operate either pre- and/or postsynaptically (referred to as long-term plasticity)

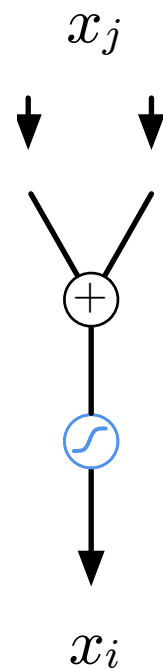
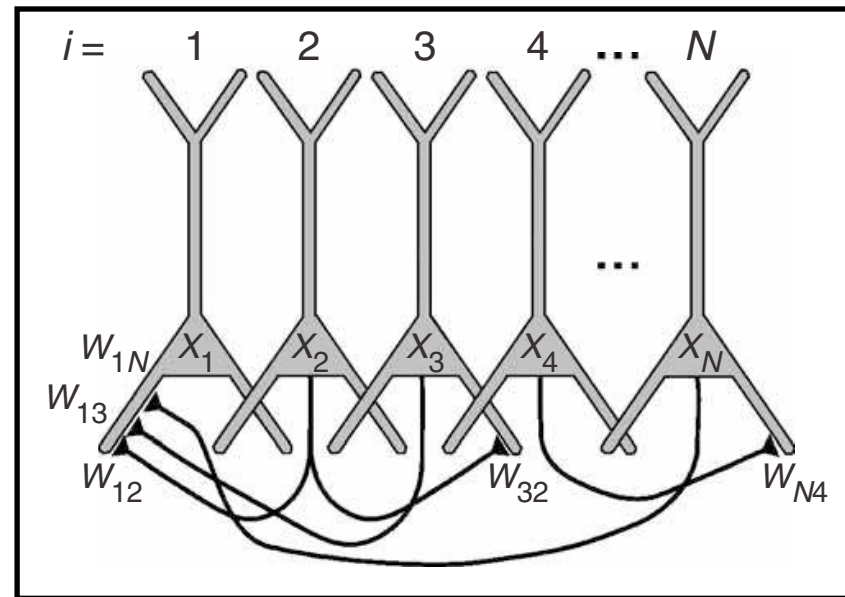
Südhof, 2012



CIRCUIT COMPUTATIONS → SINGLE CELL OPERATIONS

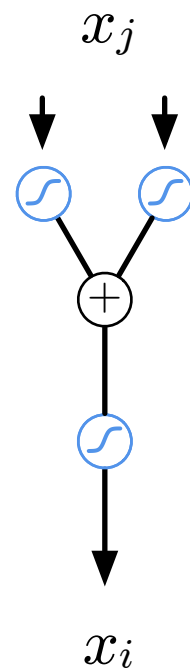
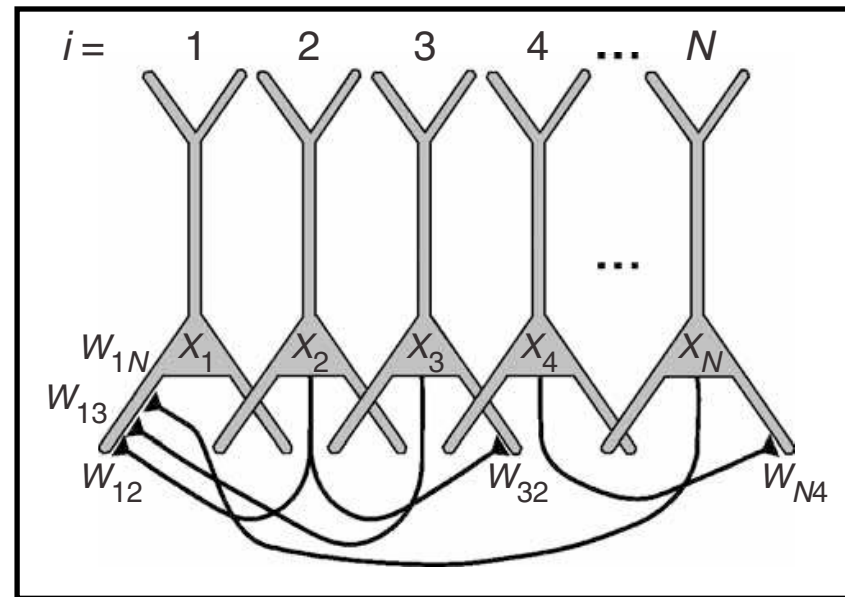


CIRCUIT COMPUTATIONS → SINGLE CELL OPERATIONS



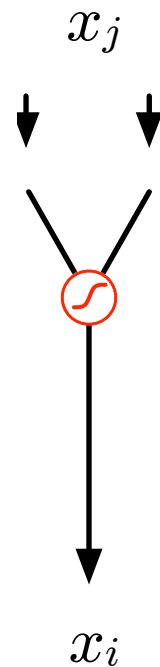
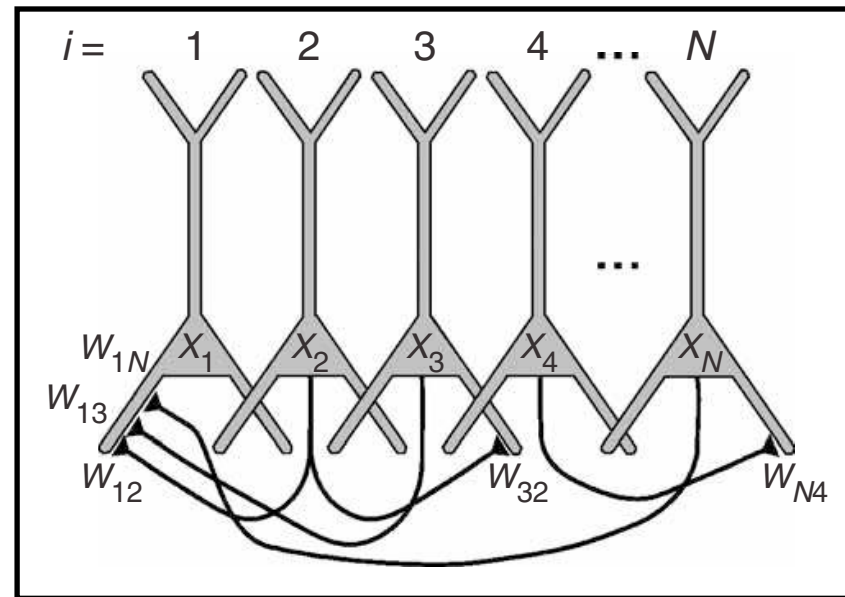
$$\frac{dx_i}{dt} \propto -\frac{x}{\tau_x} + F\left(\sum_j x_j\right)$$

CIRCUIT COMPUTATIONS → SINGLE CELL OPERATIONS



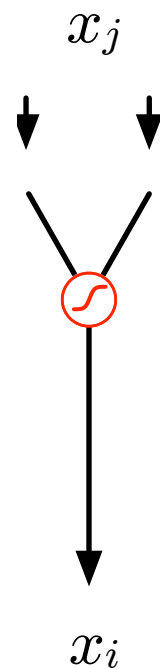
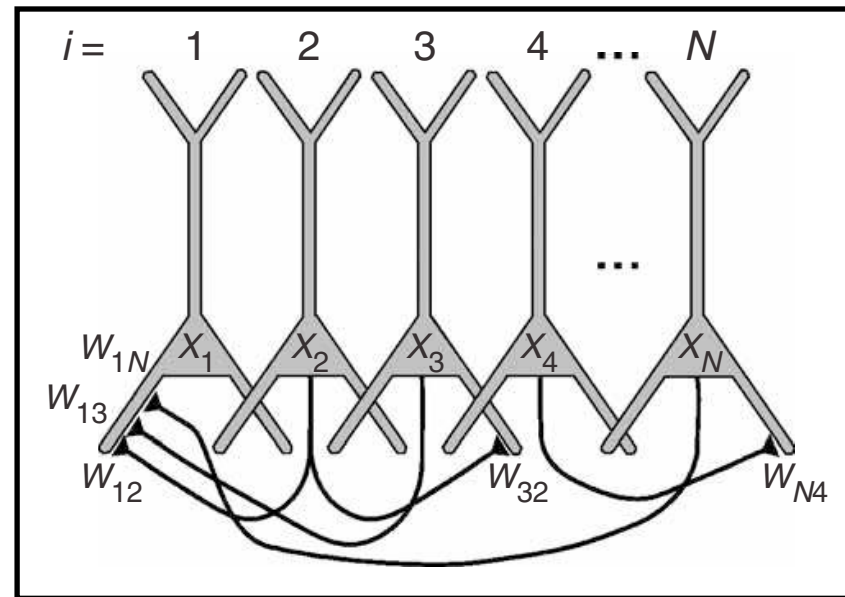
$$\frac{dx_i}{dt} \propto -\frac{x}{\tau_x} + F\left(\sum_j G(x_j)\right)$$

CIRCUIT COMPUTATIONS → SINGLE CELL OPERATIONS



$$\frac{dx_i}{dt} \propto -\frac{x}{\tau_x} + F\left(\{x_j\}_{j \neq i}\right)$$

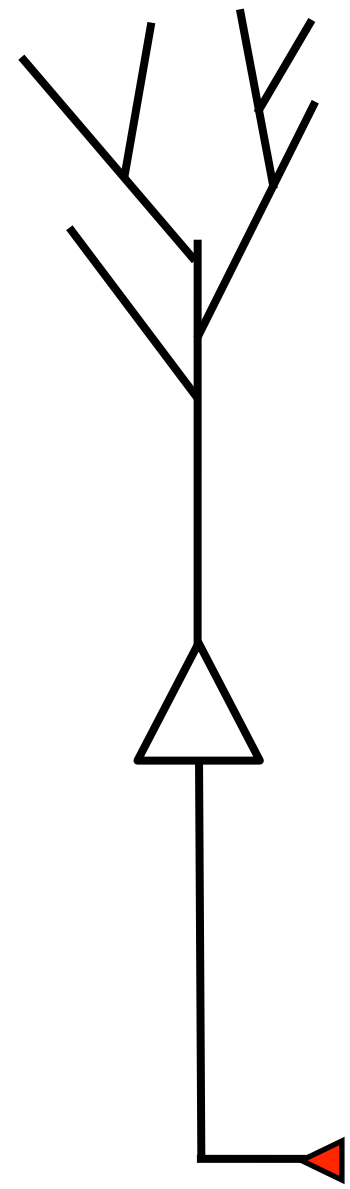
CIRCUIT COMPUTATIONS → SINGLE CELL OPERATIONS



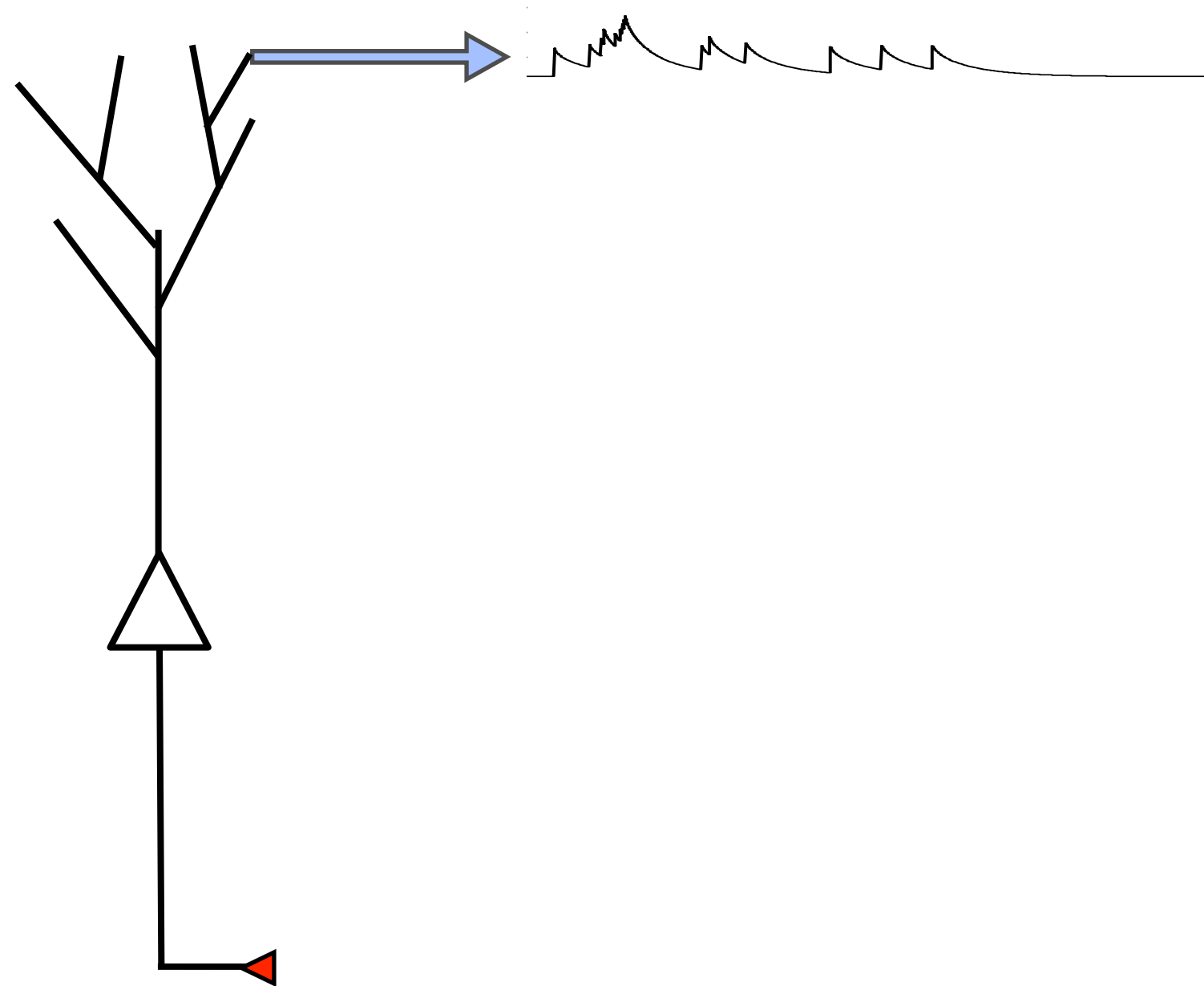
assumption: same kind of quantity

$$\frac{dx_i}{dt} \propto -\frac{x}{\tau_x} + F\left(\{x_j\}_{j \neq i}\right)$$

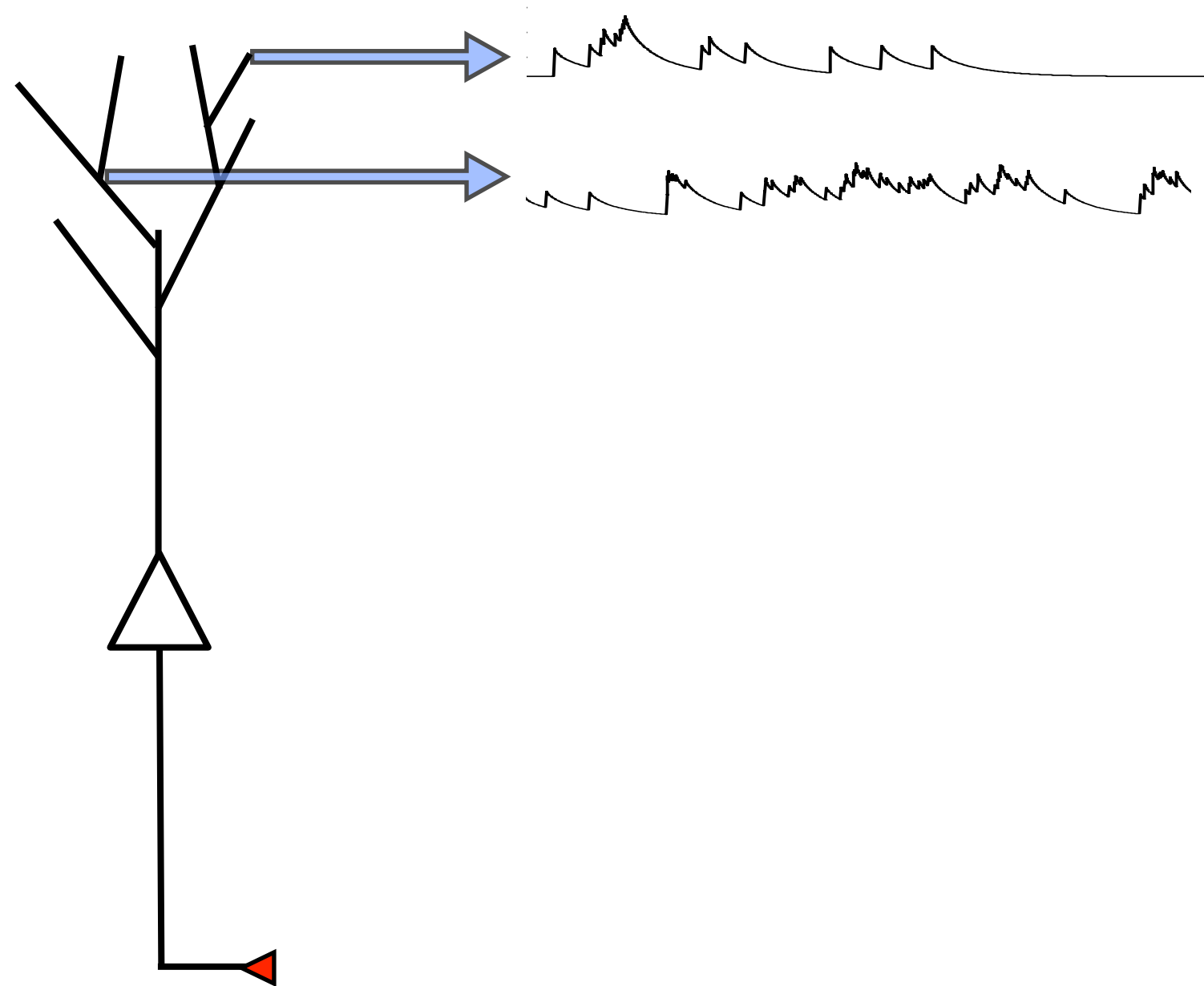
INFORMATION LOSS IN SYNAPTIC TRANSMISSION



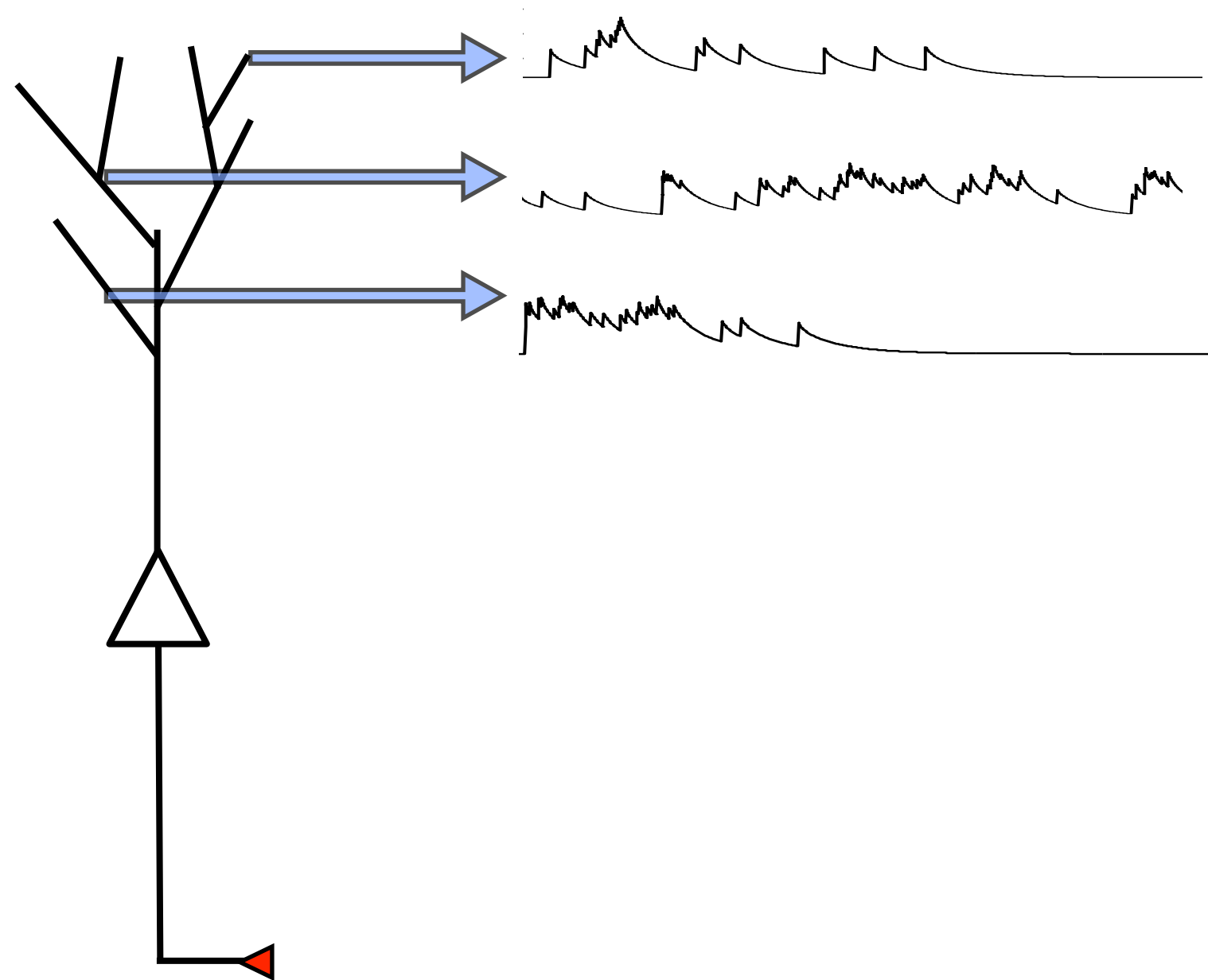
INFORMATION LOSS IN SYNAPTIC TRANSMISSION



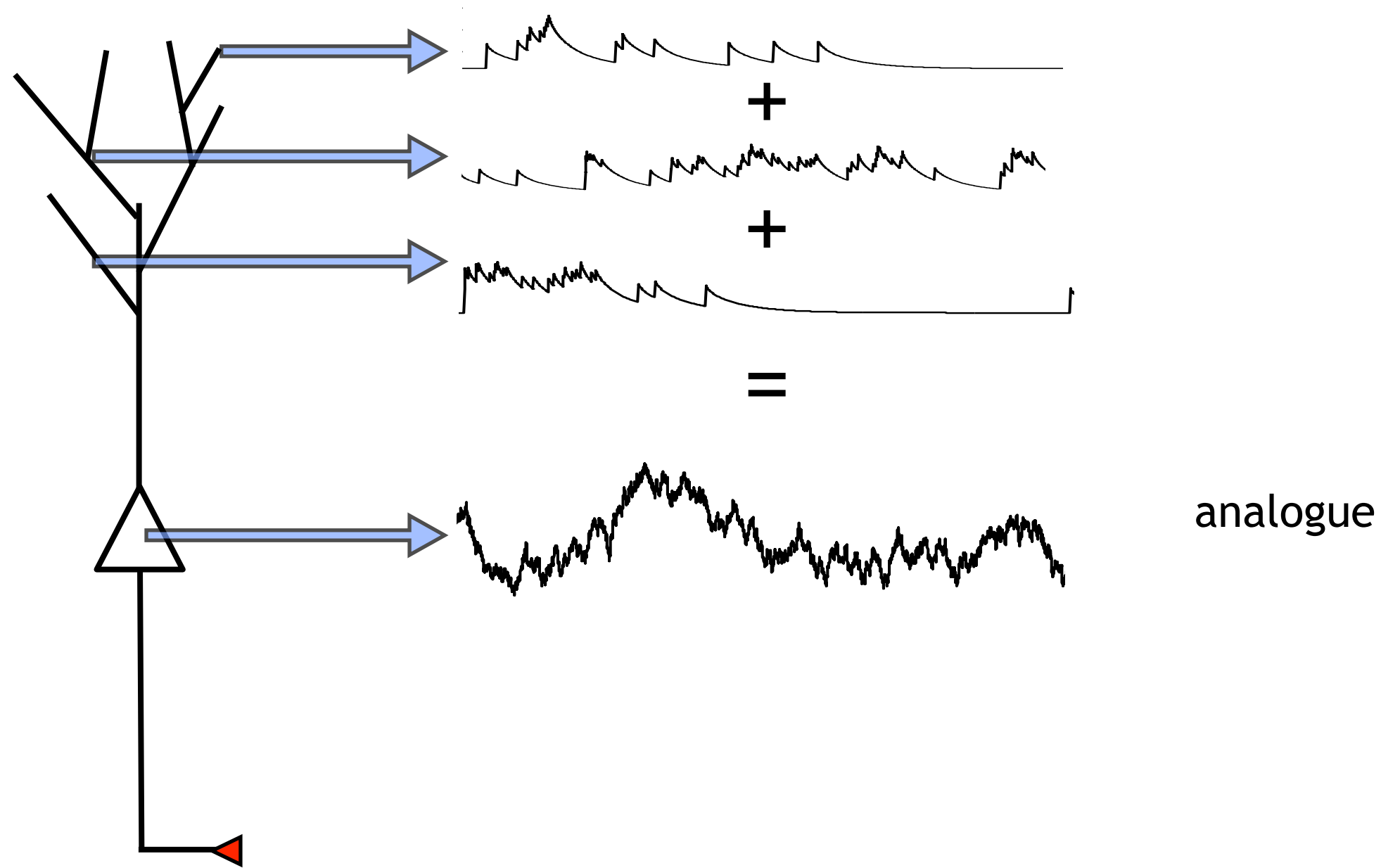
INFORMATION LOSS IN SYNAPTIC TRANSMISSION



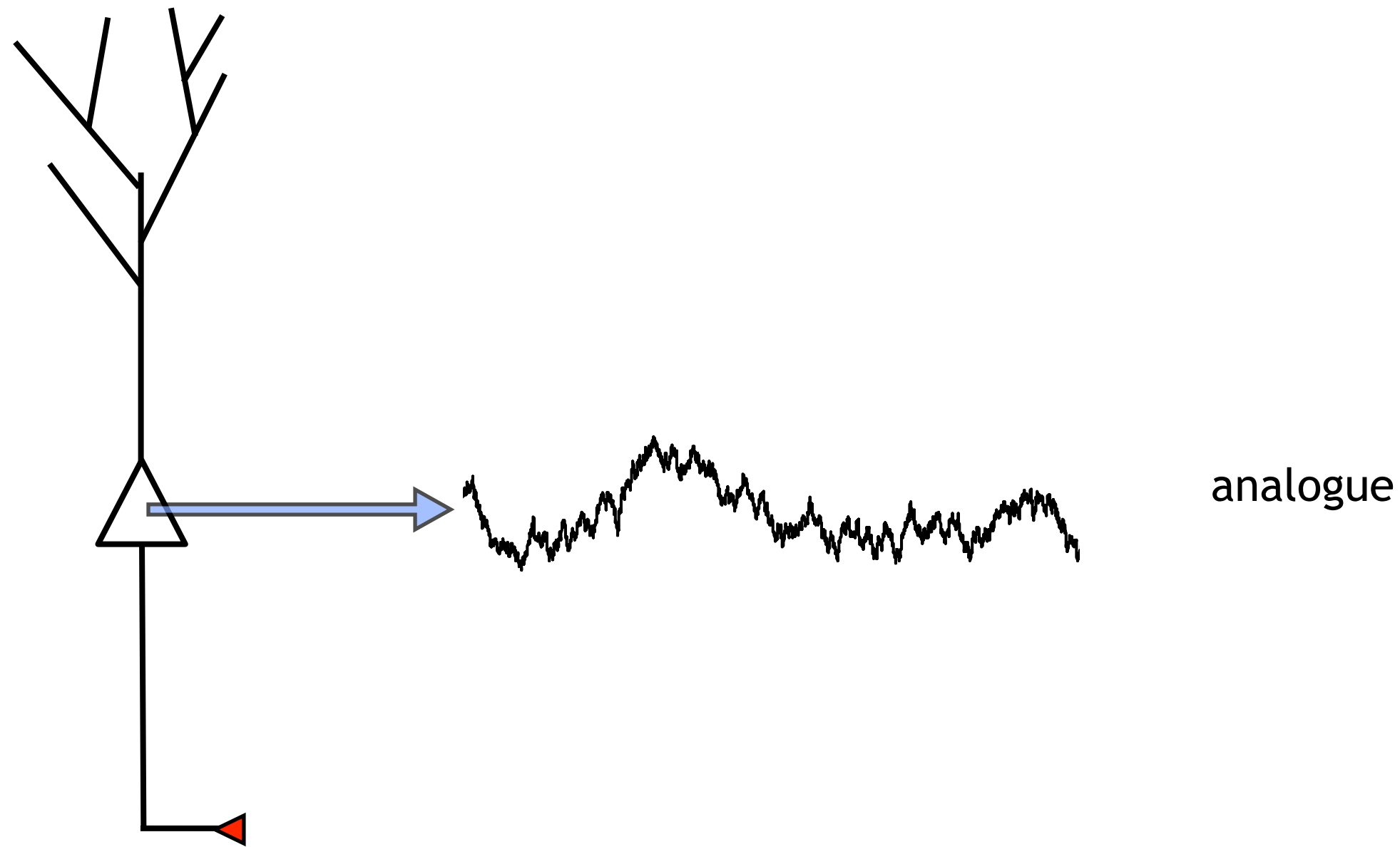
INFORMATION LOSS IN SYNAPTIC TRANSMISSION



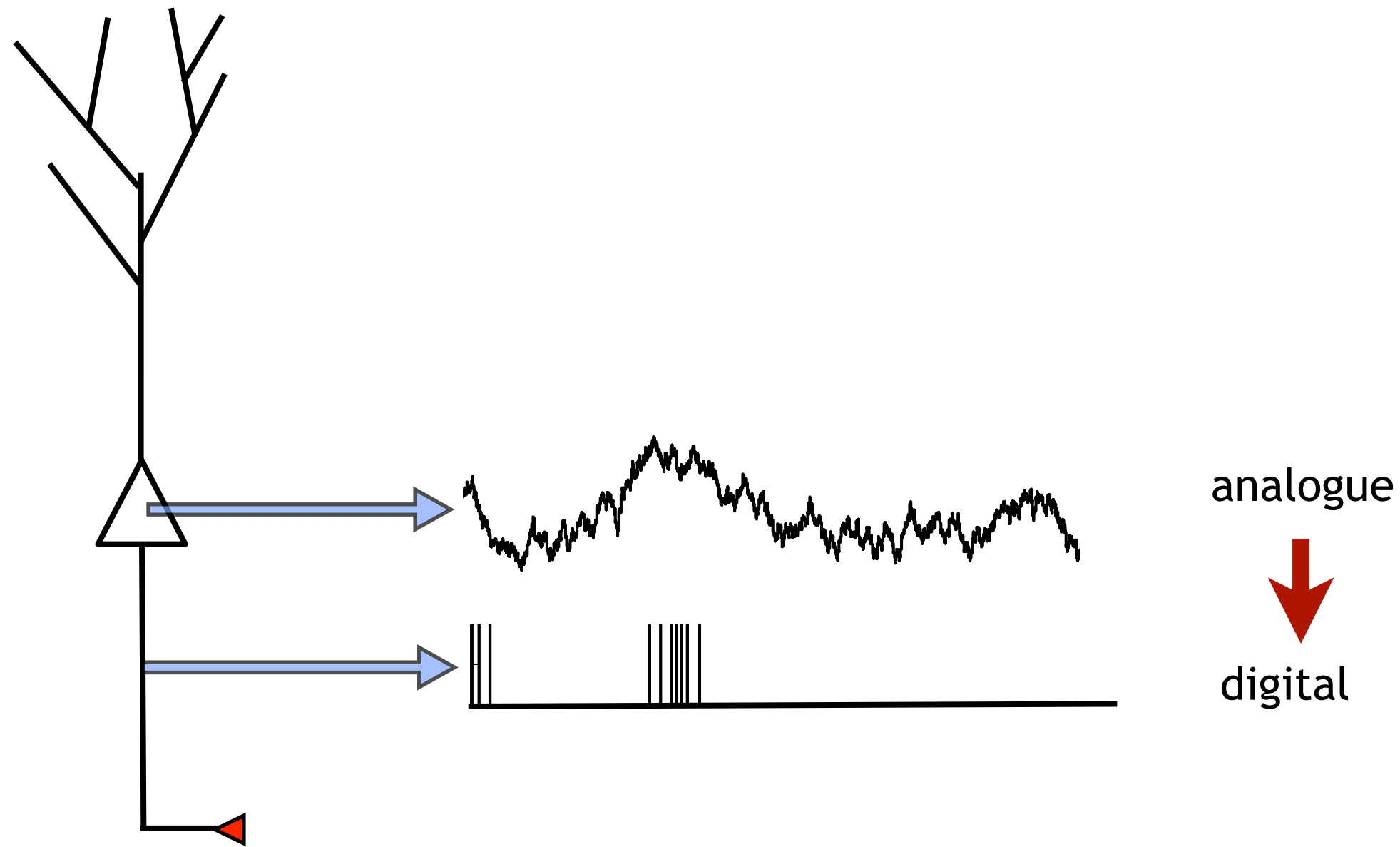
INFORMATION LOSS IN SYNAPTIC TRANSMISSION



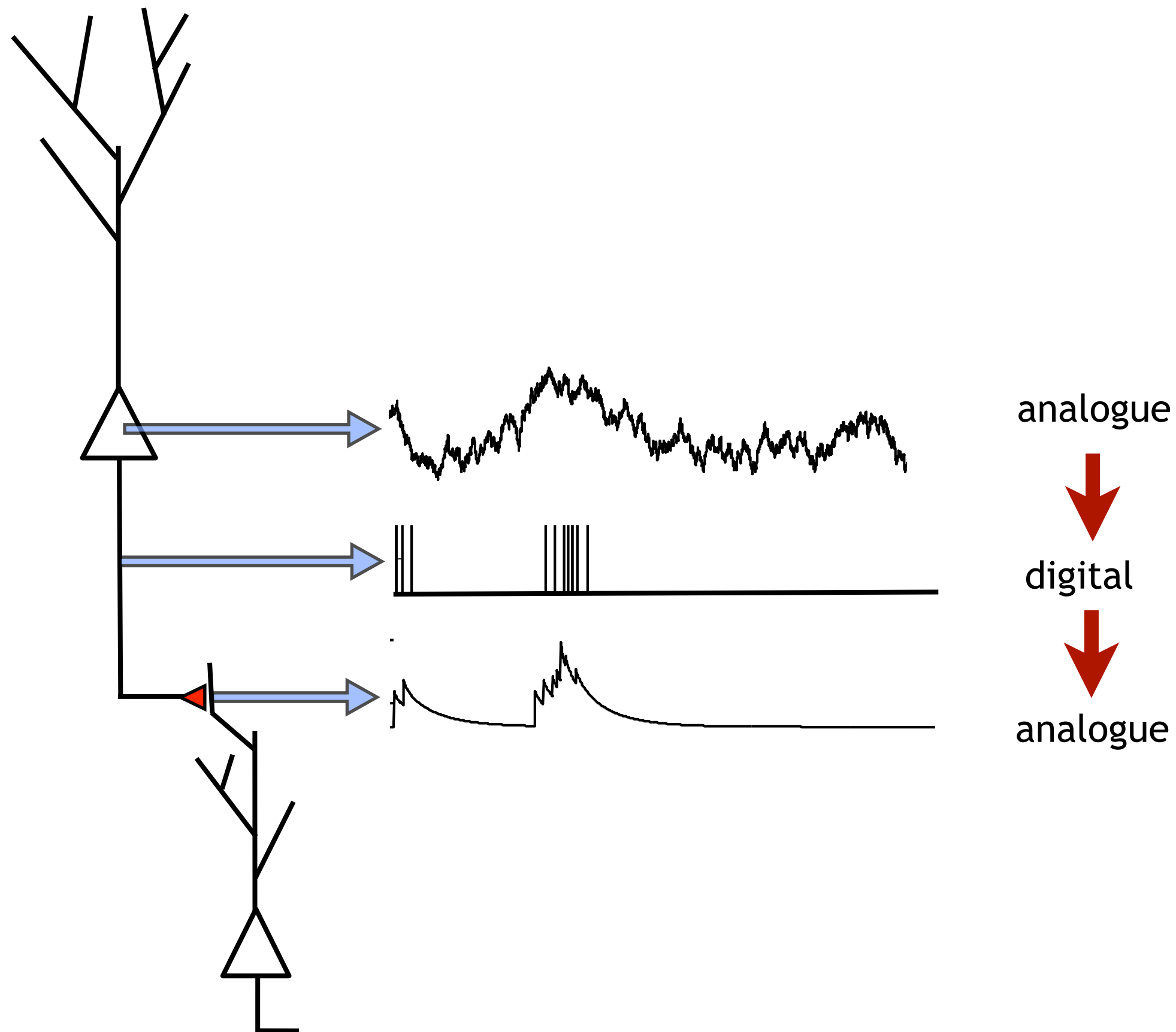
INFORMATION LOSS IN SYNAPTIC TRANSMISSION



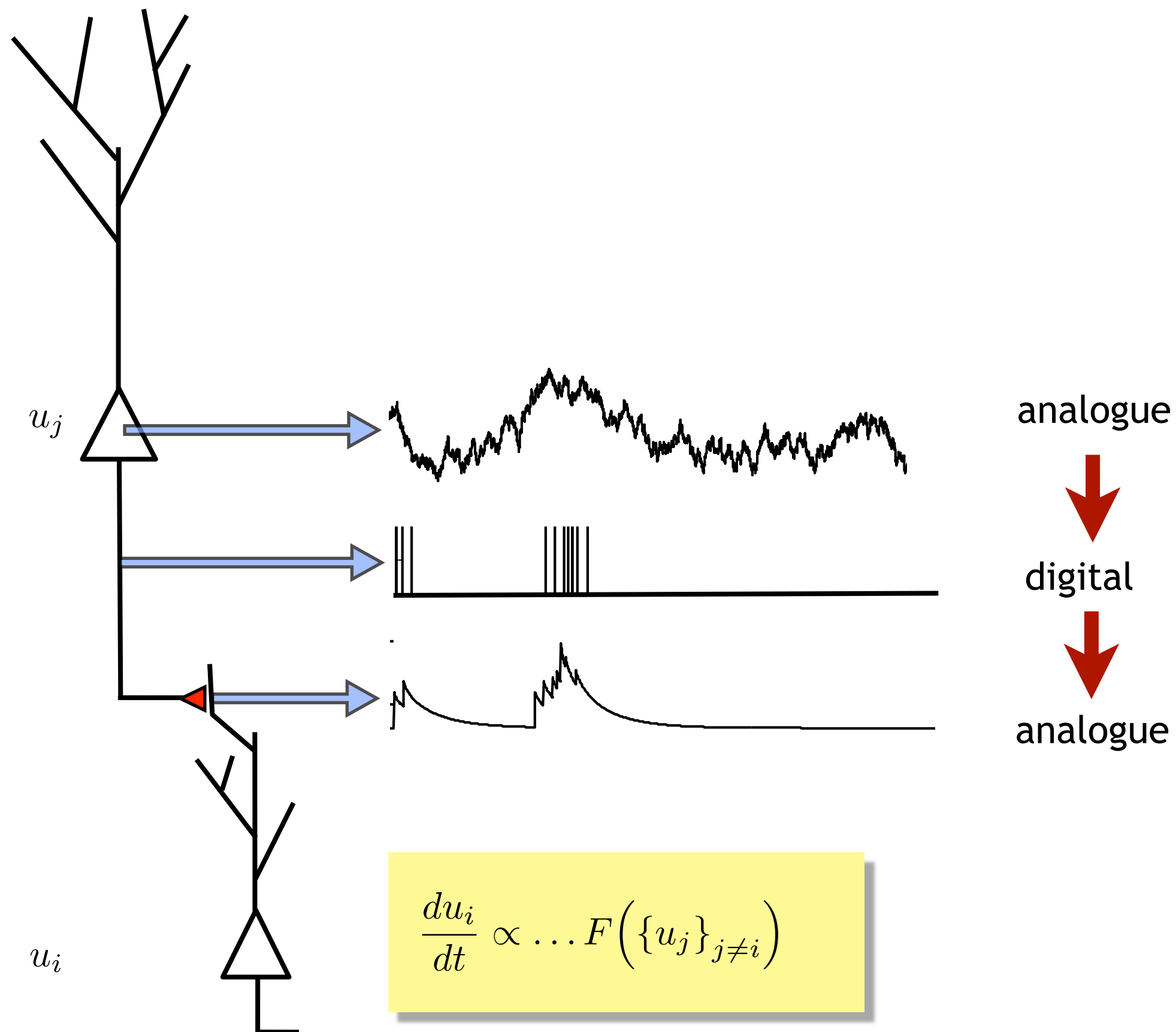
INFORMATION LOSS IN SYNAPTIC TRANSMISSION



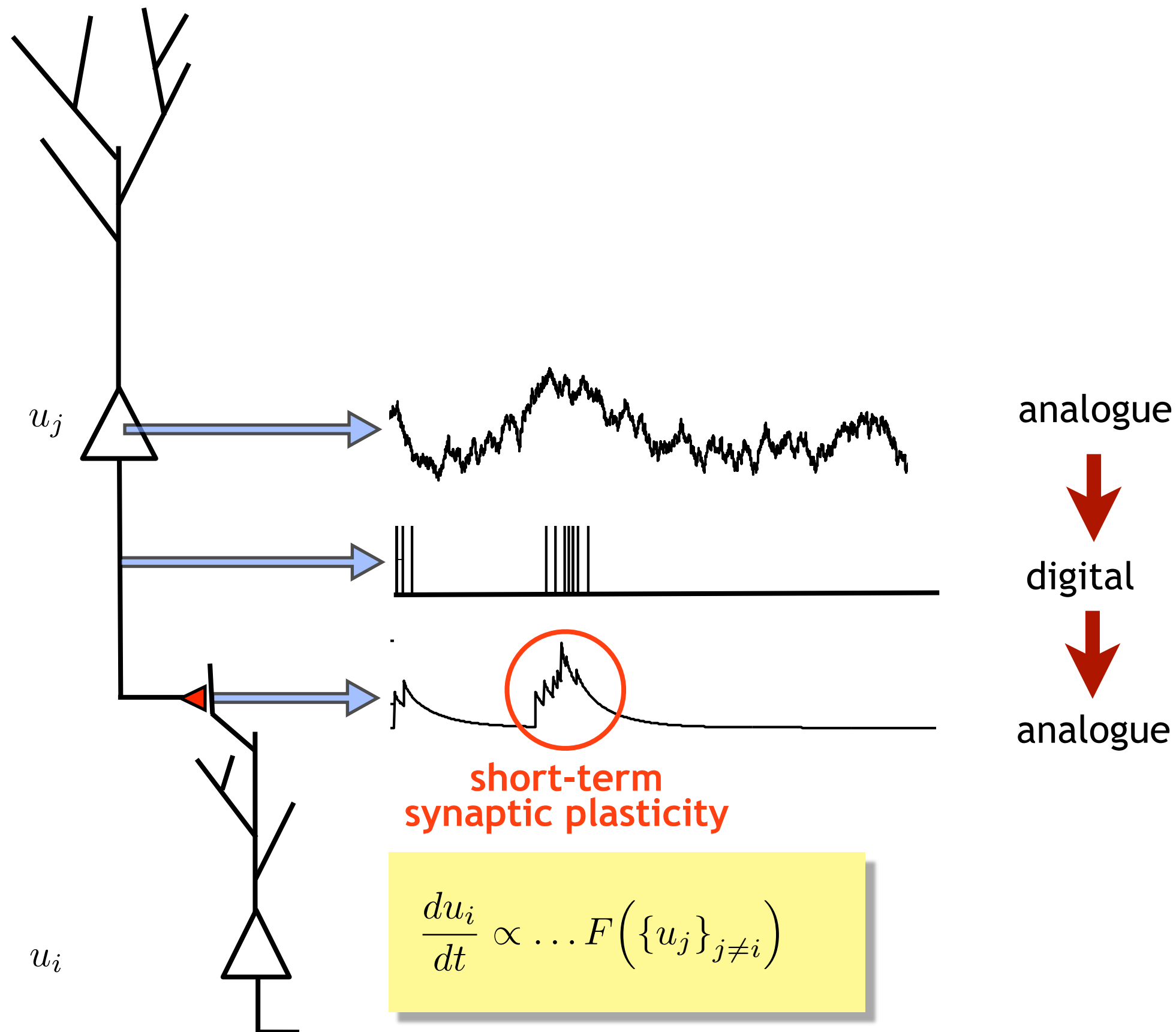
INFORMATION LOSS IN SYNAPTIC TRANSMISSION



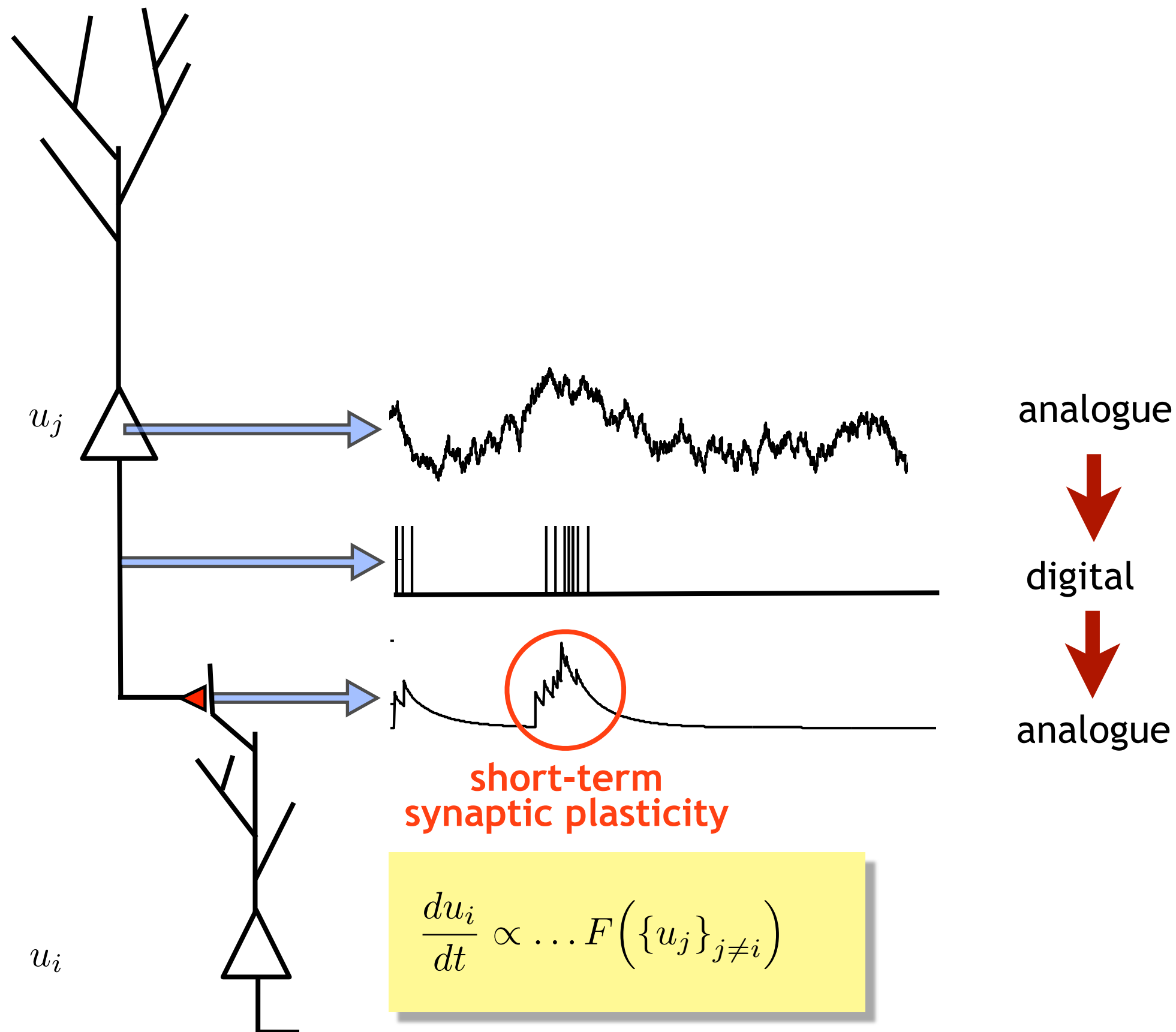
INFORMATION LOSS IN SYNAPTIC TRANSMISSION



INFORMATION LOSS IN SYNAPTIC TRANSMISSION



INFORMATION LOSS IN SYNAPTIC TRANSMISSION

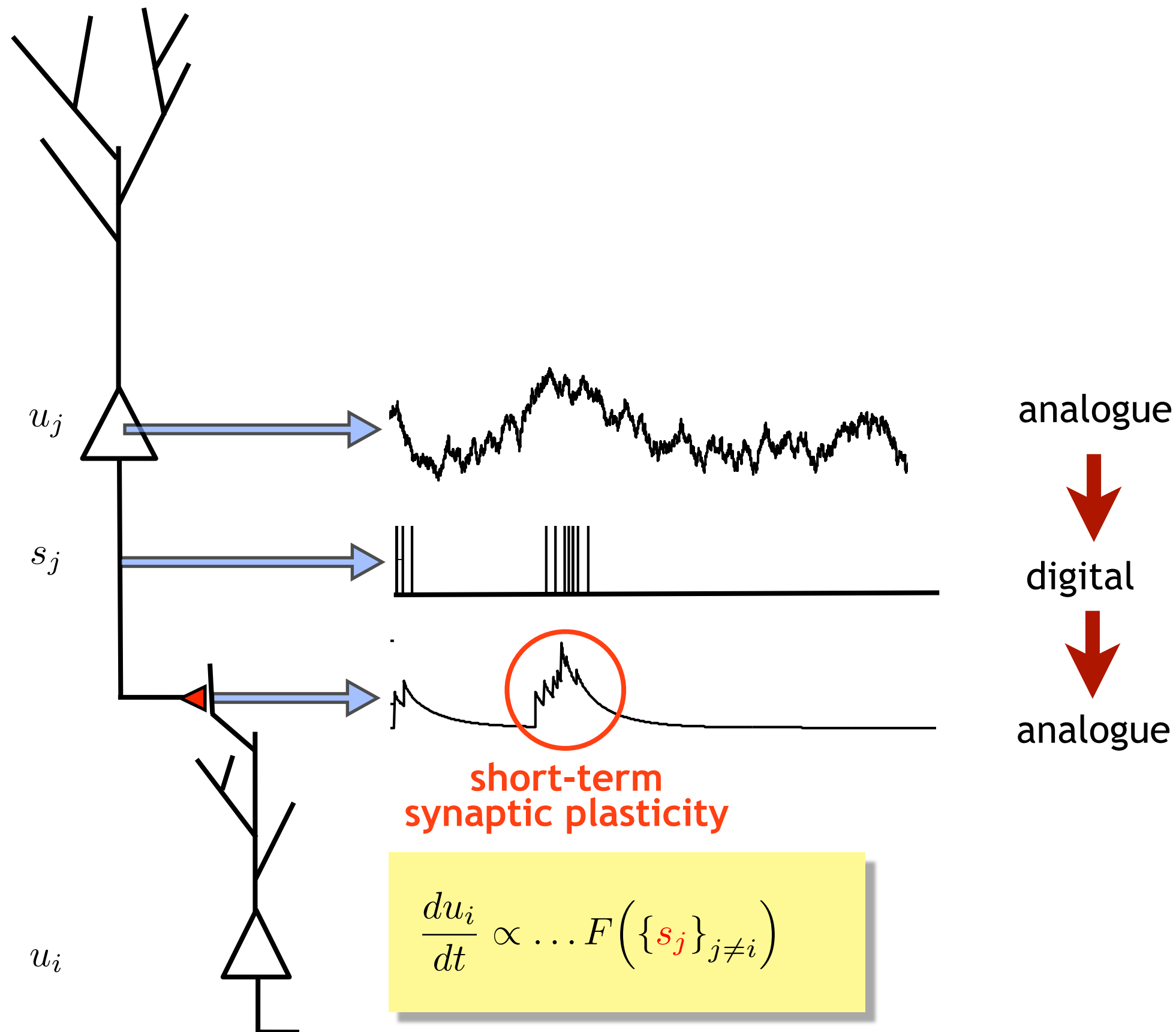


loss of
information !

short-term
synaptic plasticity

$$\frac{du_i}{dt} \propto \dots F\left(\{u_j\}_{j \neq i}\right)$$

INFORMATION LOSS IN SYNAPTIC TRANSMISSION



loss of information !

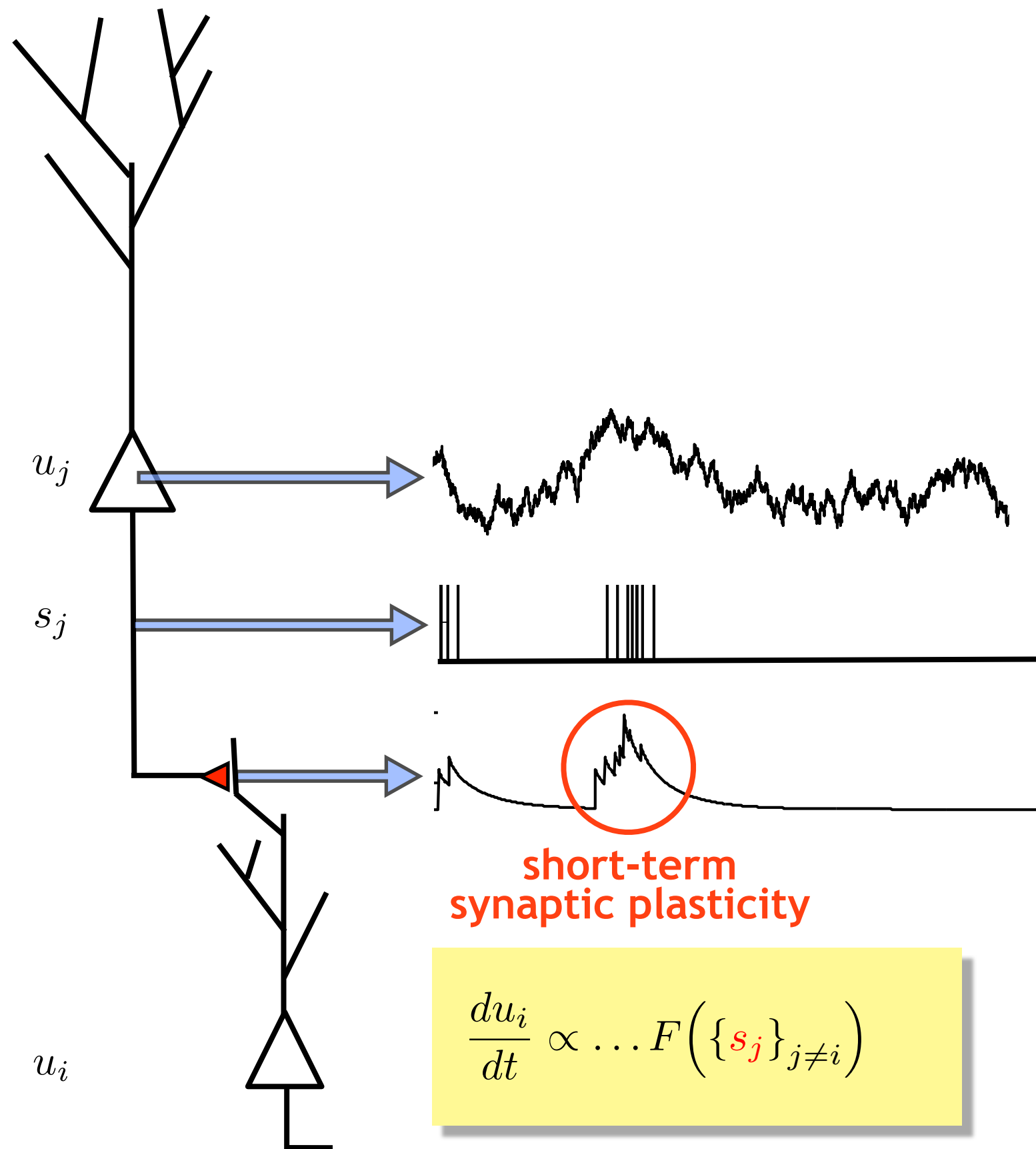
analogue

digital

analogue

$$\frac{du_i}{dt} \propto \dots F\left(\{\mathbf{s}_j\}_{j \neq i}\right)$$

INFORMATION LOSS IN SYNAPTIC TRANSMISSION



analogue



digital

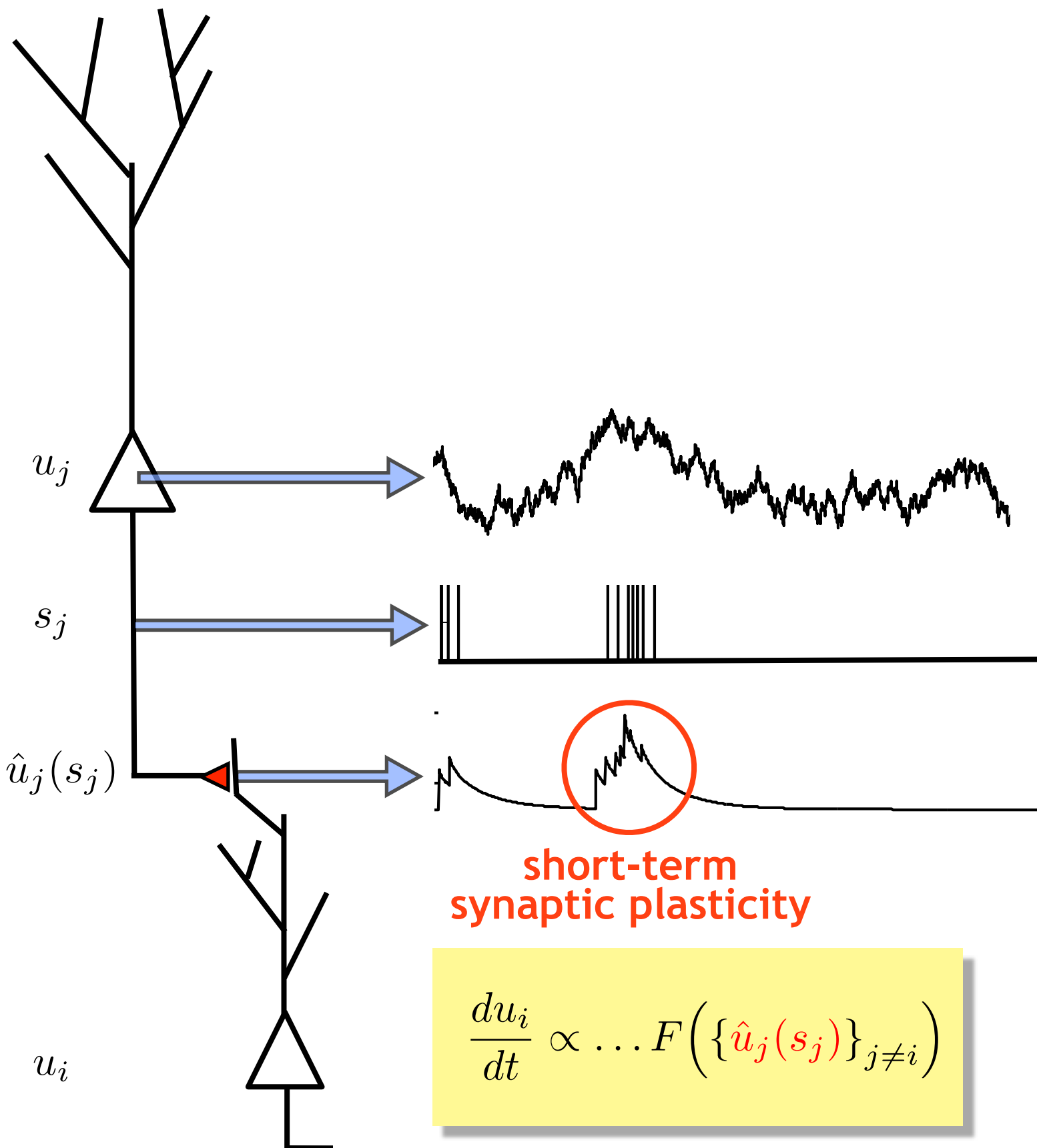


analogue

loss of
information !

reconstruct
with synaptic dynamics ?

INFORMATION LOSS IN SYNAPTIC TRANSMISSION



analogue



digital



analogue

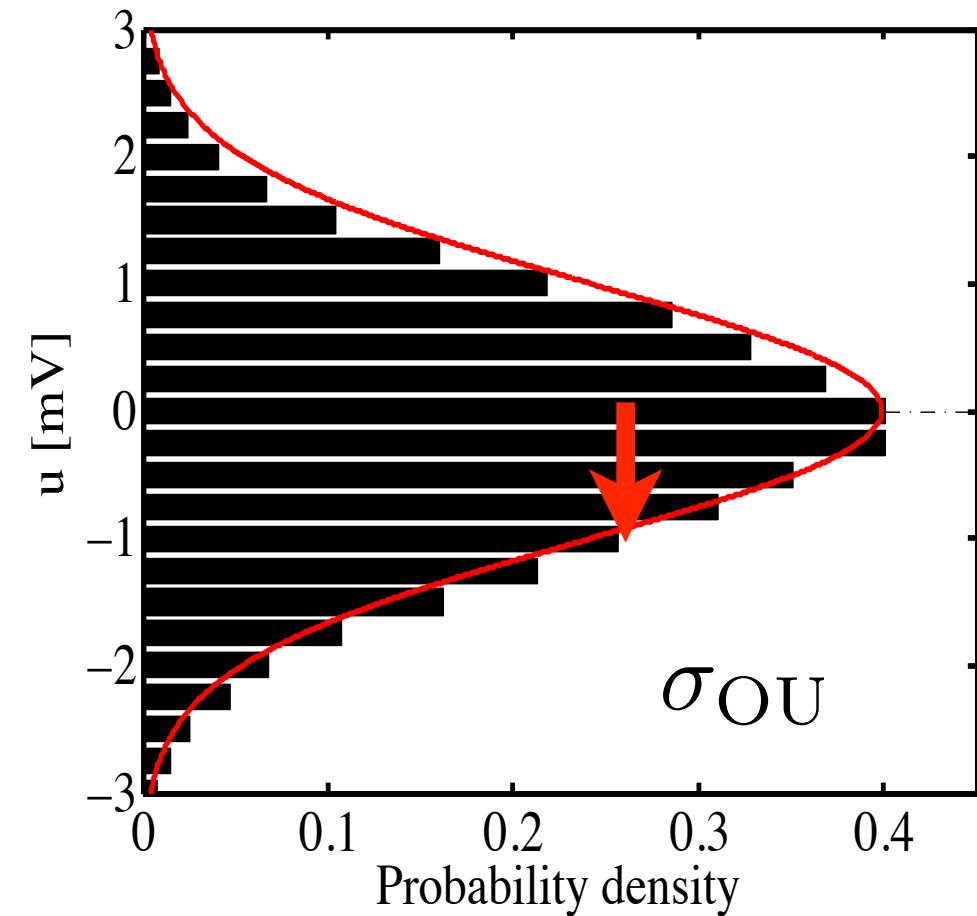
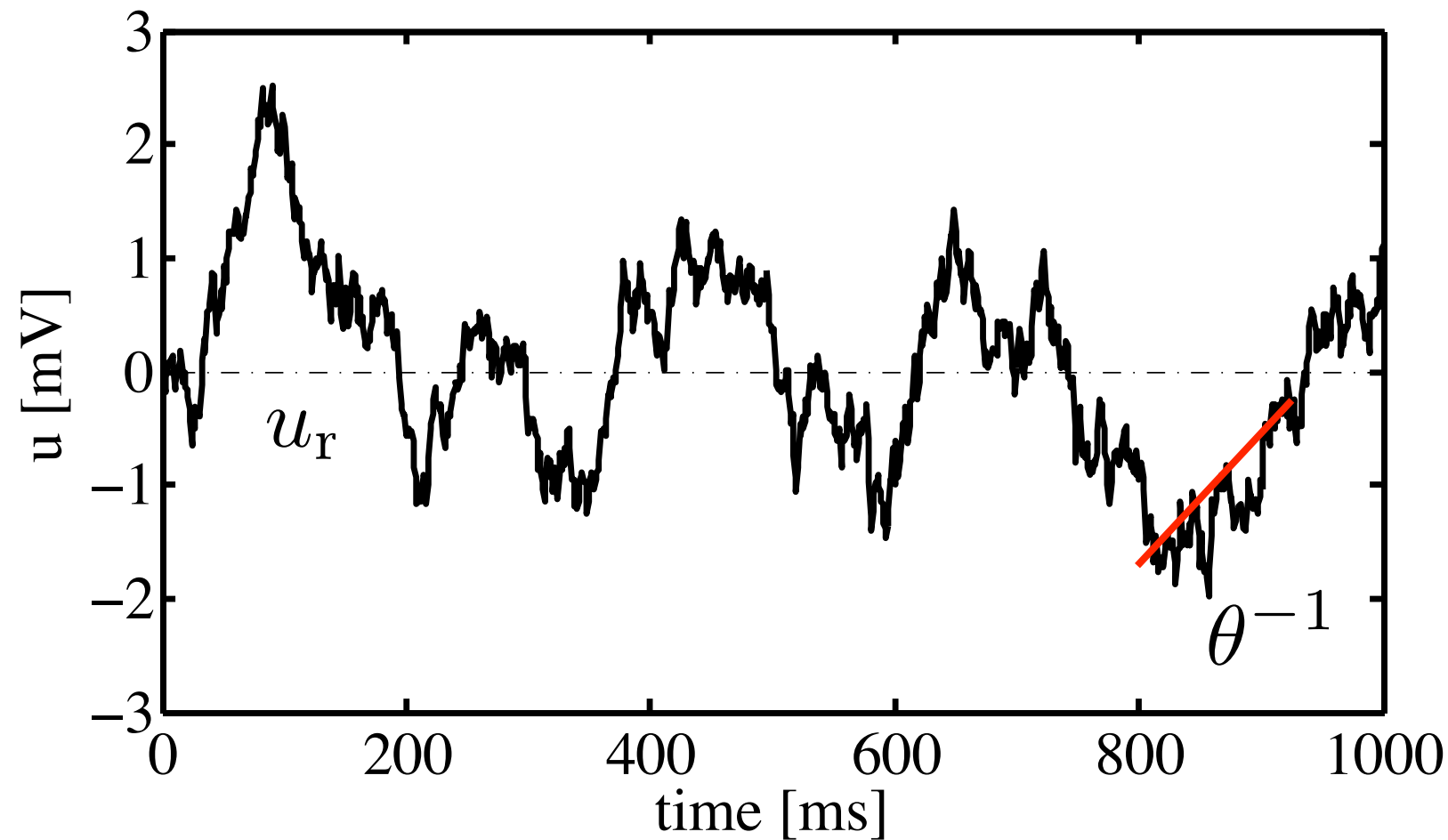
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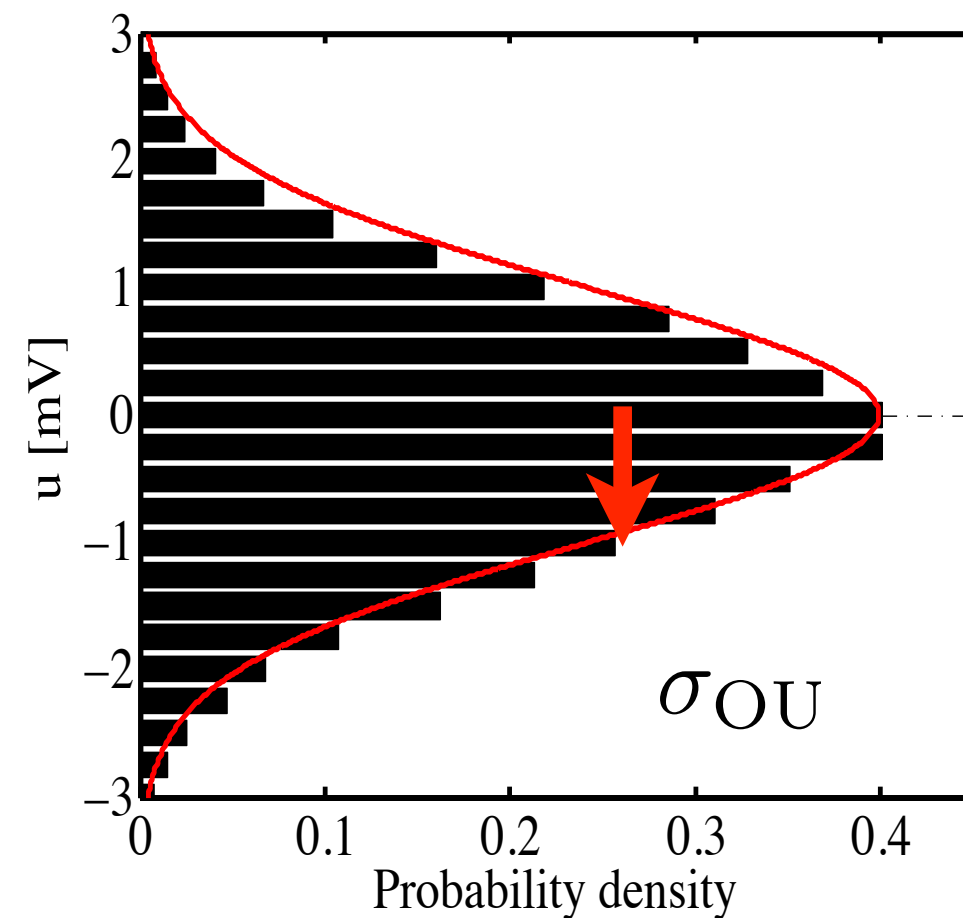
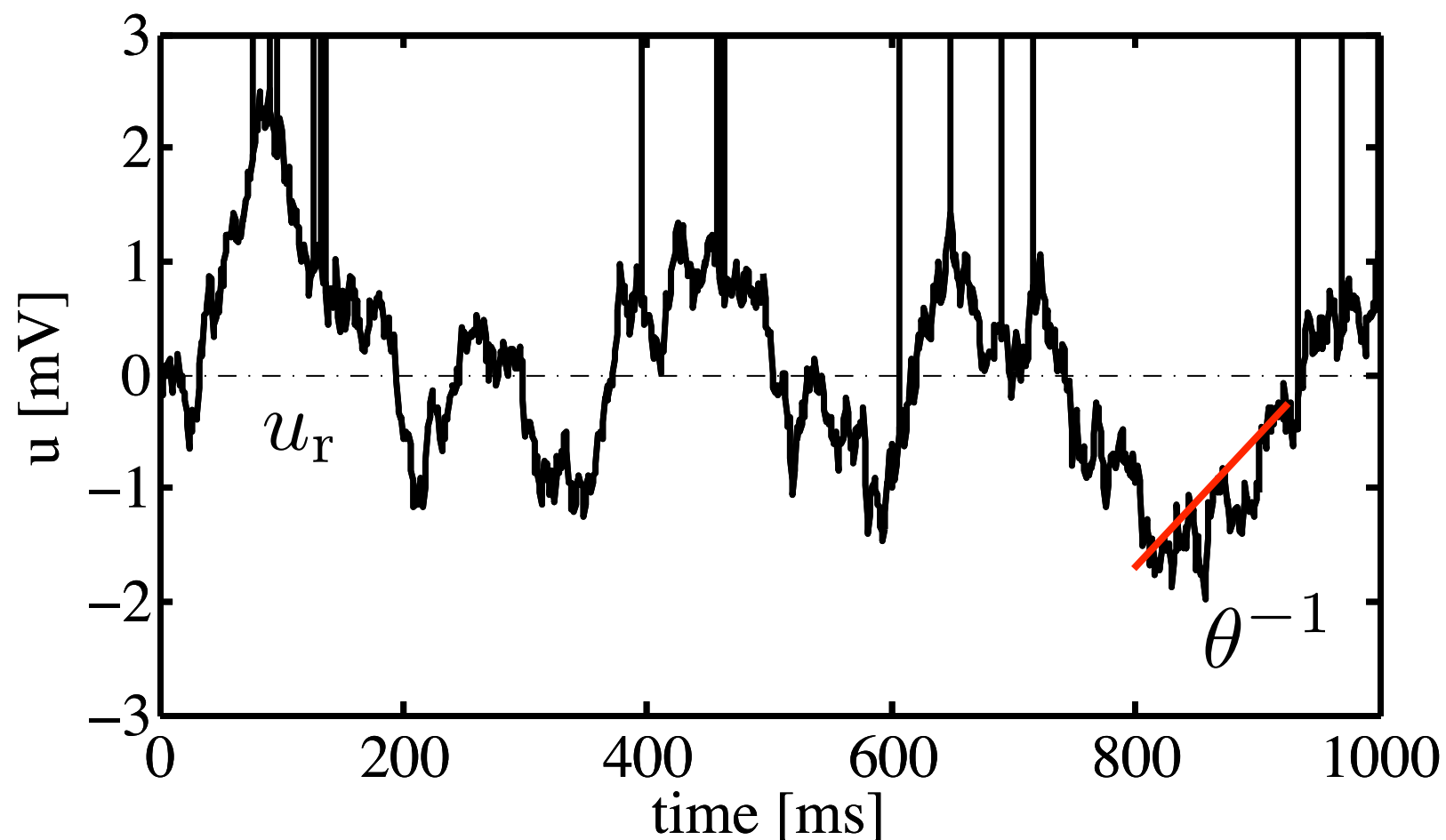
MODEL OF PRESYNAPTIC DYNAMICS



Ornstein-Uhlenbeck
process:

$$u_t = u_{t-1} - \theta(u_{t-1} - u_r)\Delta t + W_t\sqrt{\Delta t}$$

MODEL OF PRESYNAPTIC DYNAMICS

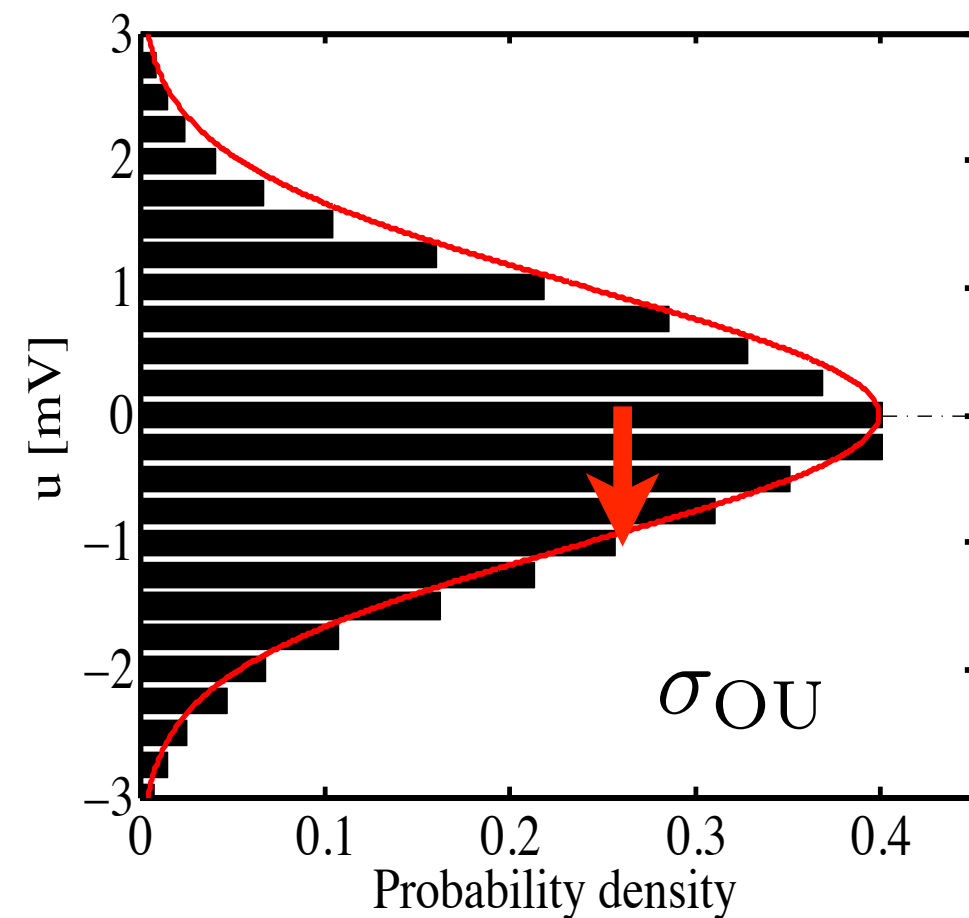
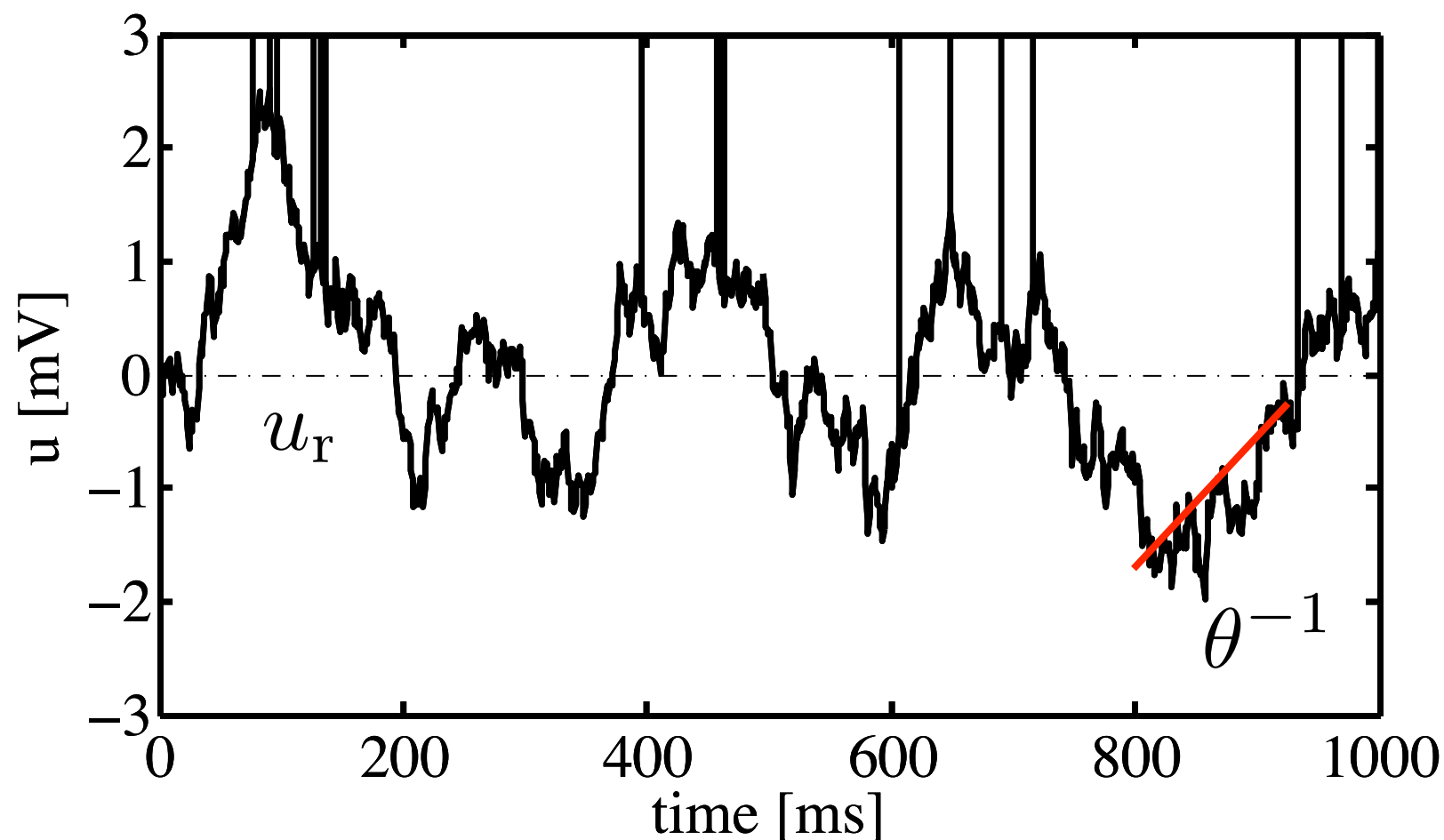


Ornstein-Uhlenbeck
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prob. spike: $p(s_t = 1|u_t) = g(u_t)\Delta t$

MODEL OF PRESYNAPTIC DYNAMICS

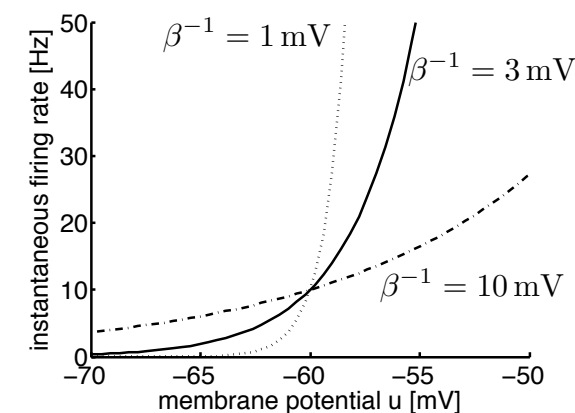


Ornstein-Uhlenbeck
process:

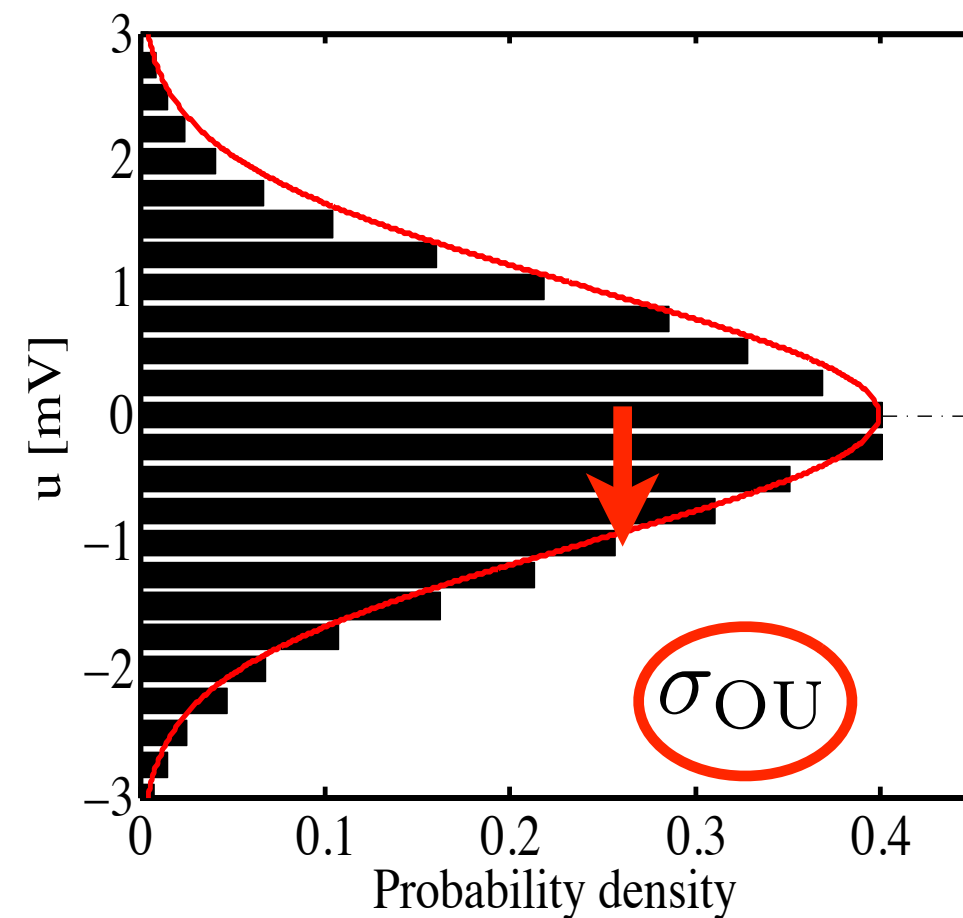
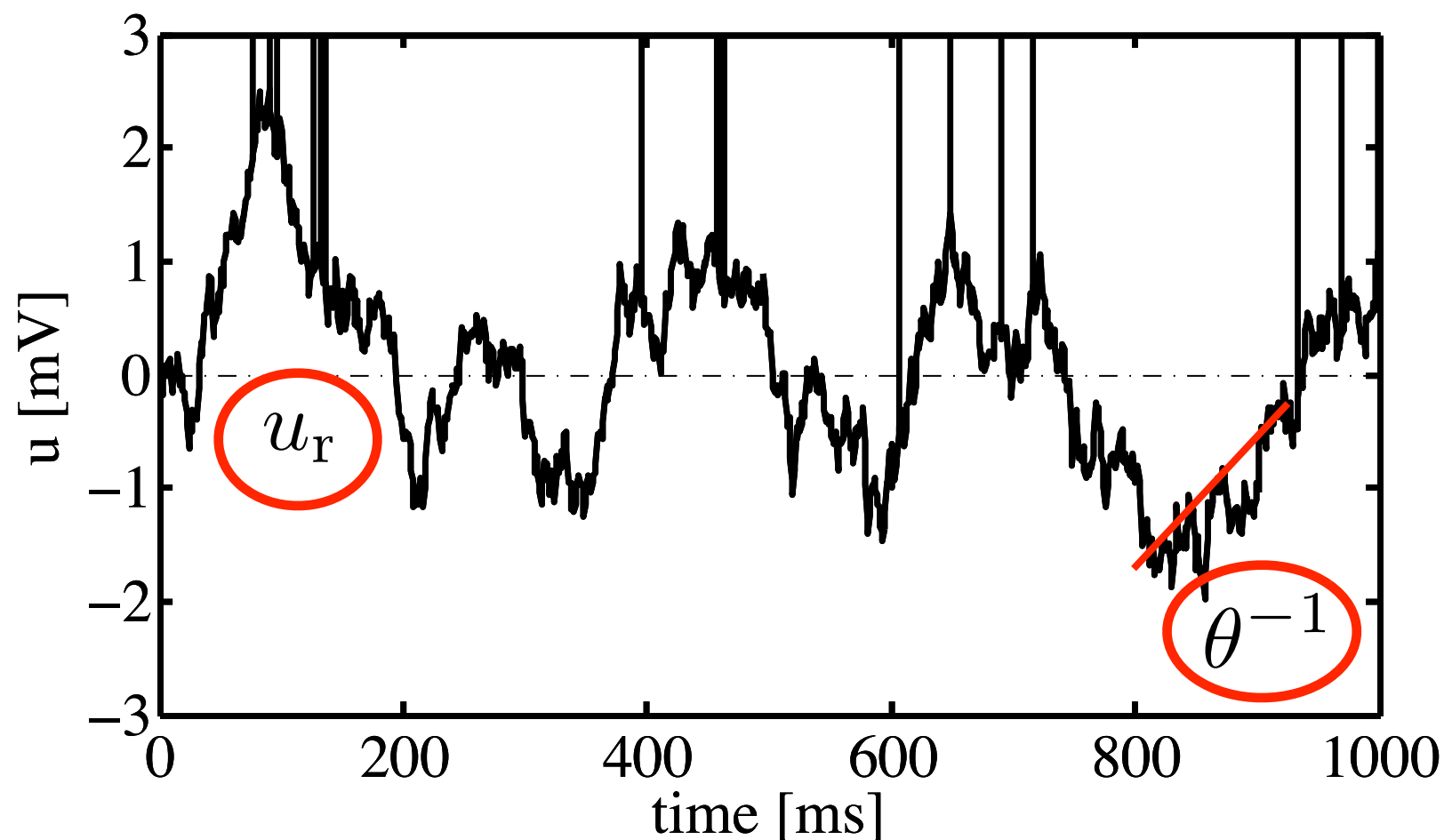
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$$g(u) = g_0 \exp(\beta u)$$



MODEL OF PRESYNAPTIC DYNAMICS

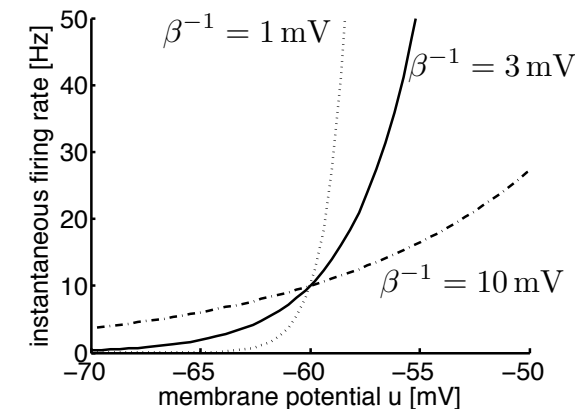


Ornstein-Uhlenbeck
process:

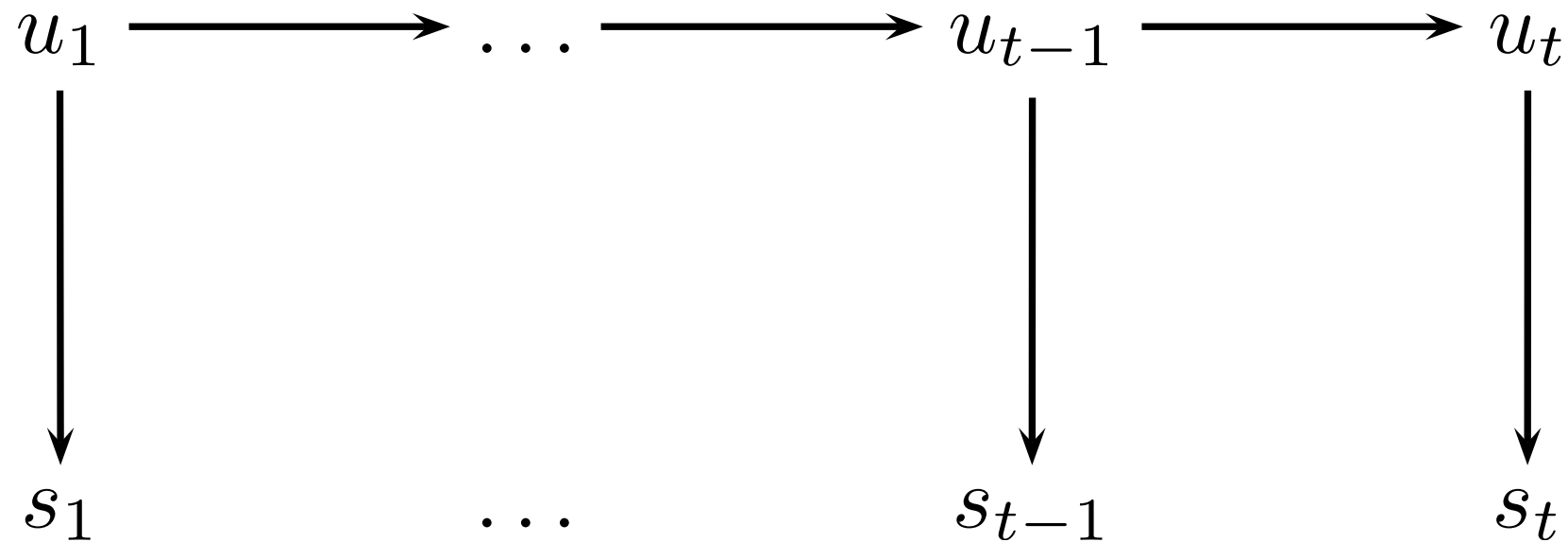
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MODEL OF PRESYNAPTIC DYNAMICS



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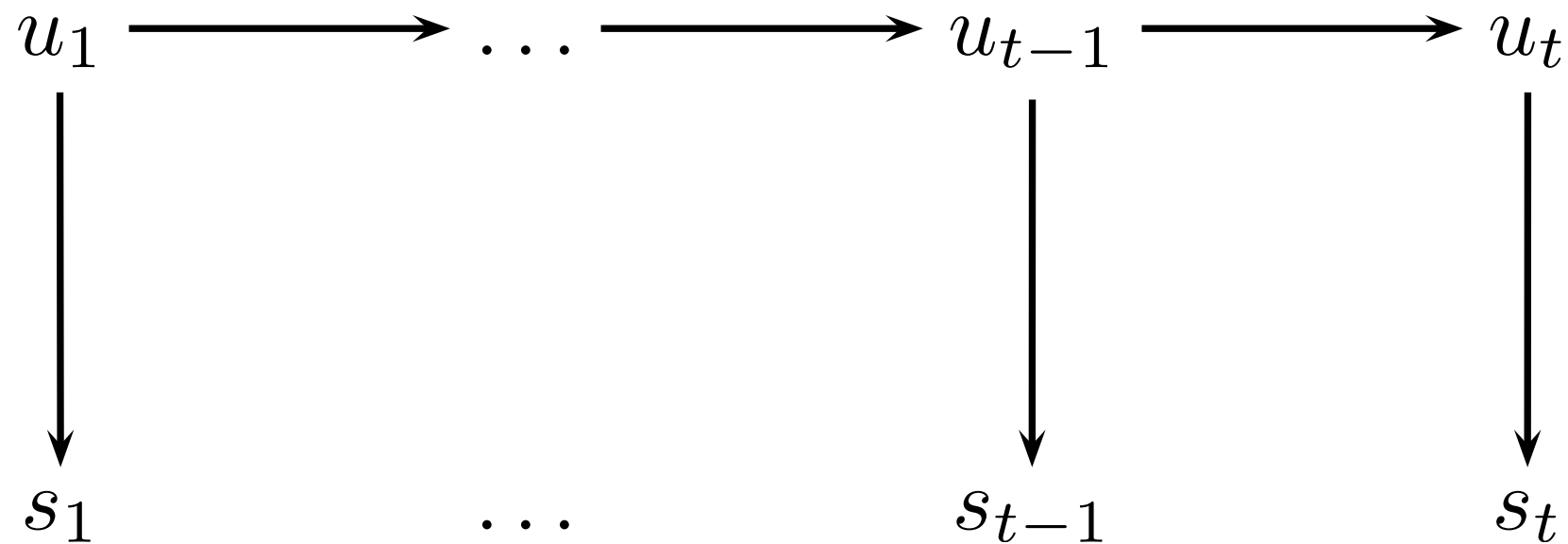
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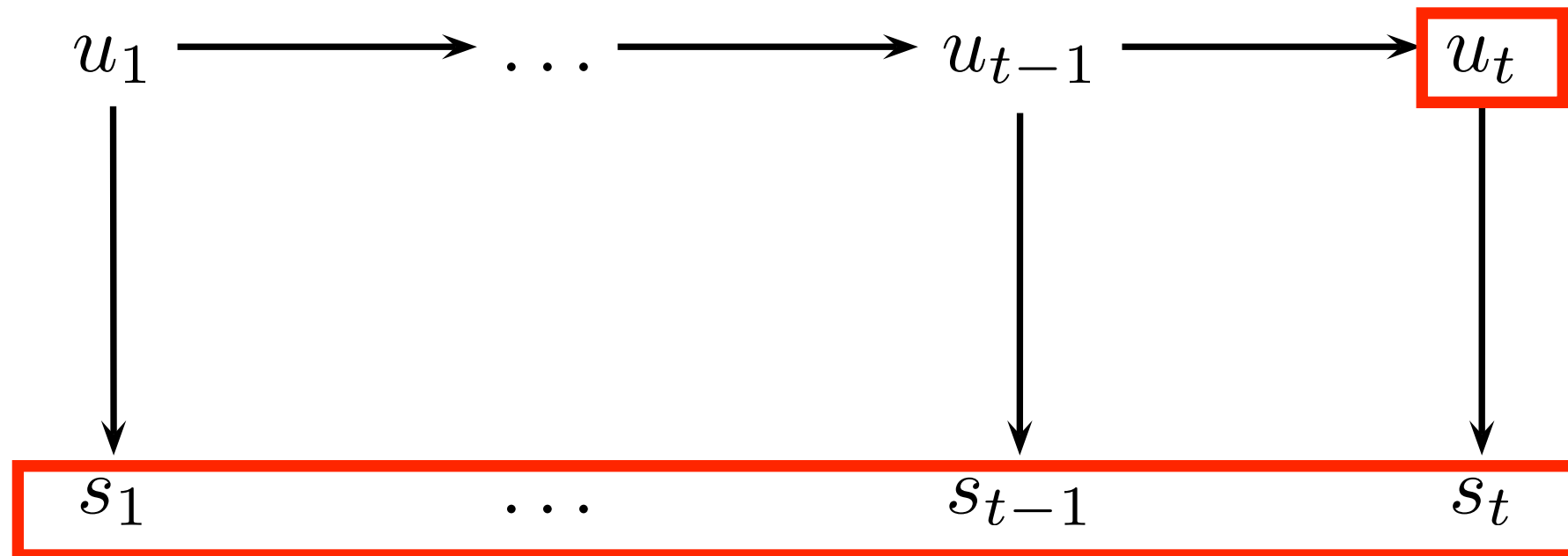
INFERRING THE MEMBRANE POTENTIAL



posterior distribution:

$$p(u_t | s_{1..t}) \propto p(s_t | u_t) \int p(u_t | u_{t-1}) p(u_{t-1} | s_{1..t-1}) du_{t-1}$$

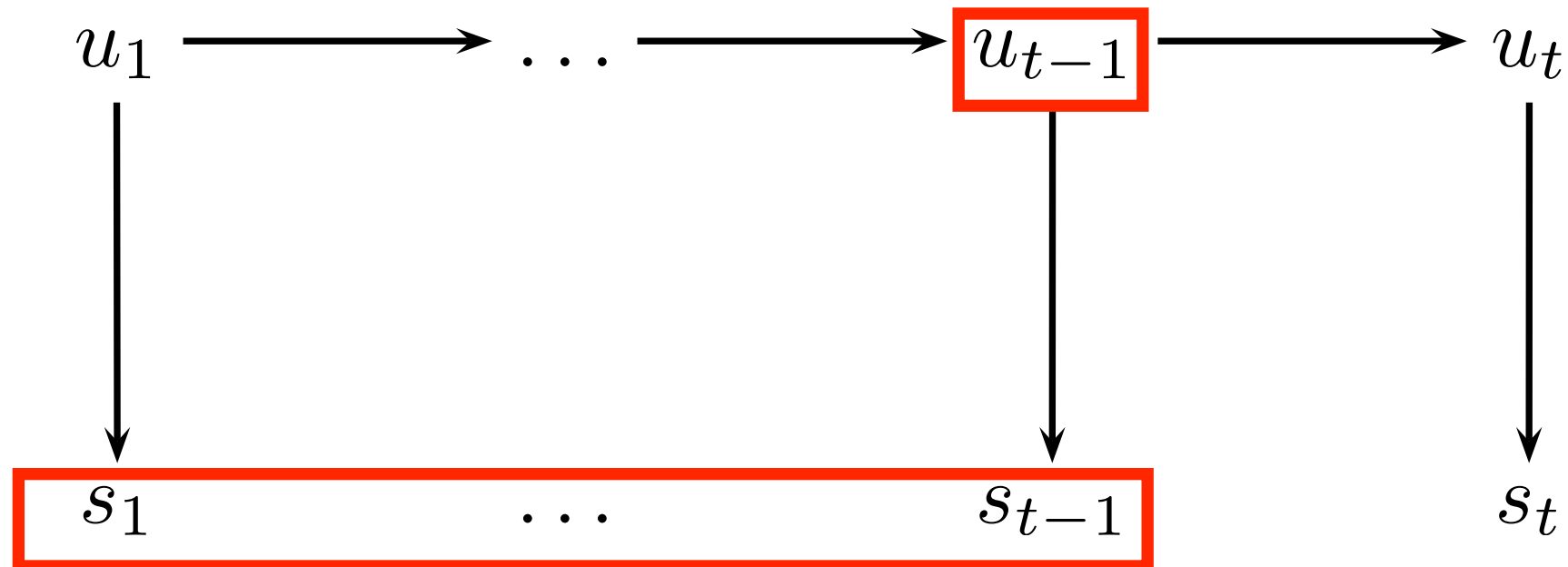
INFERRING THE MEMBRANE POTENTIAL



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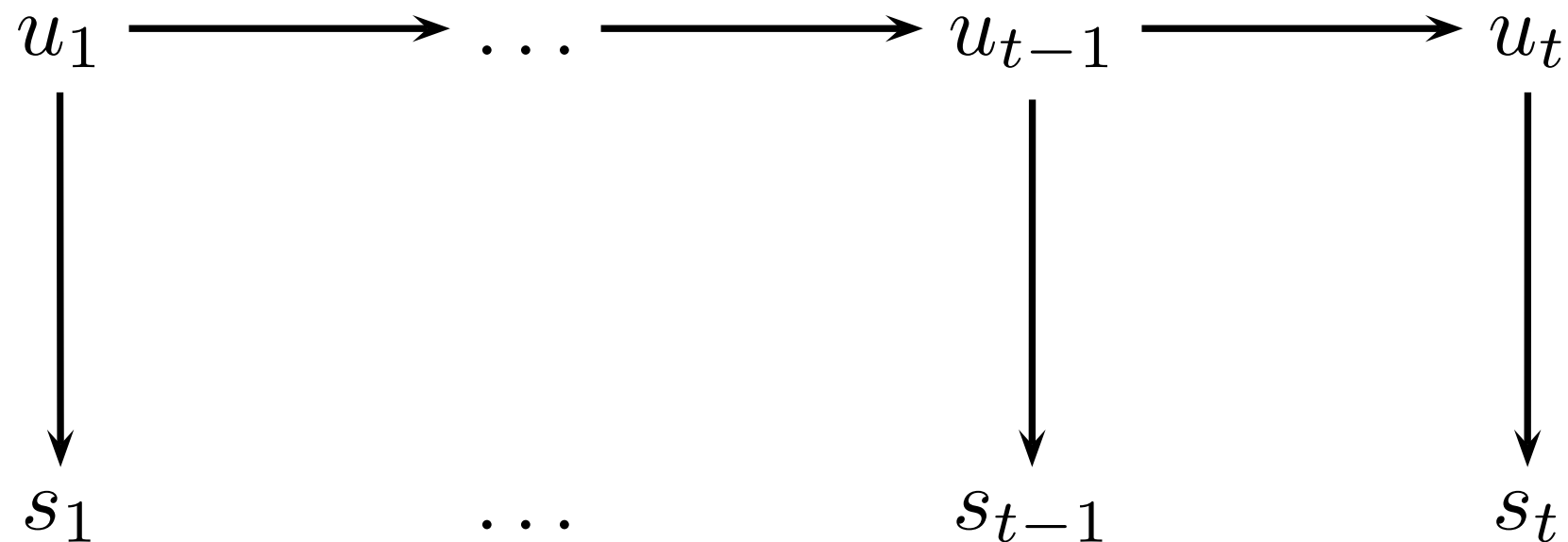
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INFERRING THE MEMBRANE POTENTIAL



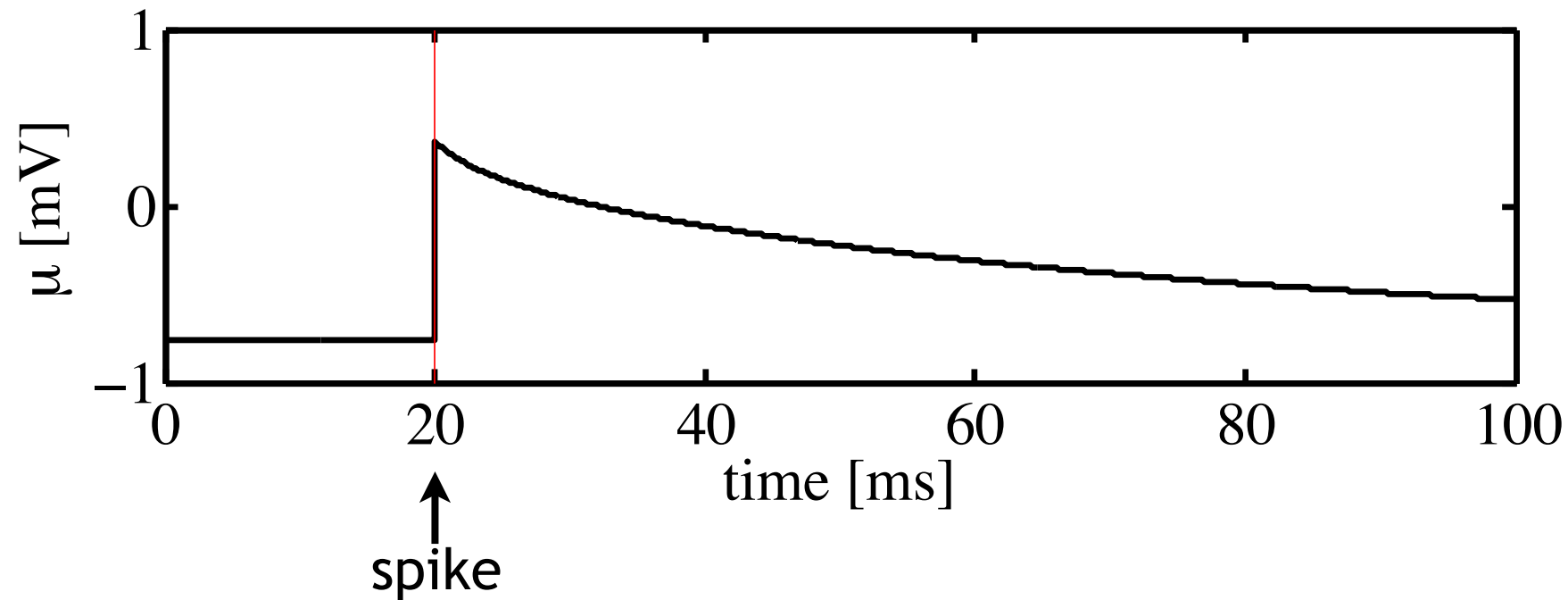
posterior distribution:

$$\underbrace{p(u_t | s_{1..t})}_{\mathcal{N}(u_t | \mu_t, \sigma_t^2)} \propto p(s_t | u_t) \int \underbrace{p(u_t | u_{t-1}) p(u_{t-1} | s_{1..t-1})}_{\mathcal{N}(u_{t-1} | \mu_{t-1}, \sigma_{t-1}^2)} du_{t-1}$$

DYNAMICS OF THE OPTIMAL ESTIMATOR

$$\dot{\mu} = -\theta(\mu - u_r) + \beta\sigma^2(S(t) - \gamma(t)) \quad \gamma(t) = \langle g(u) \rangle_{u|\mu(t),\sigma^2(t)}$$

presyn. spike train \downarrow mean posterior firing rate \downarrow

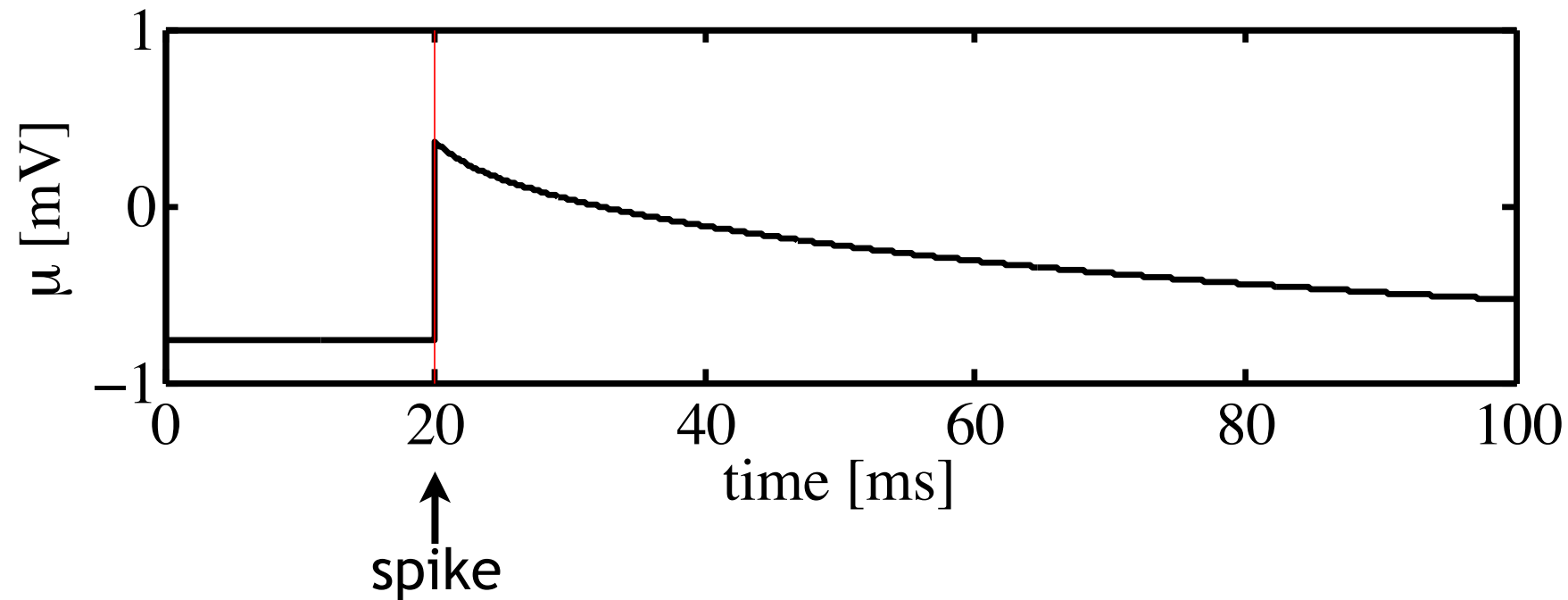


DYNAMICS OF THE OPTIMAL ESTIMATOR

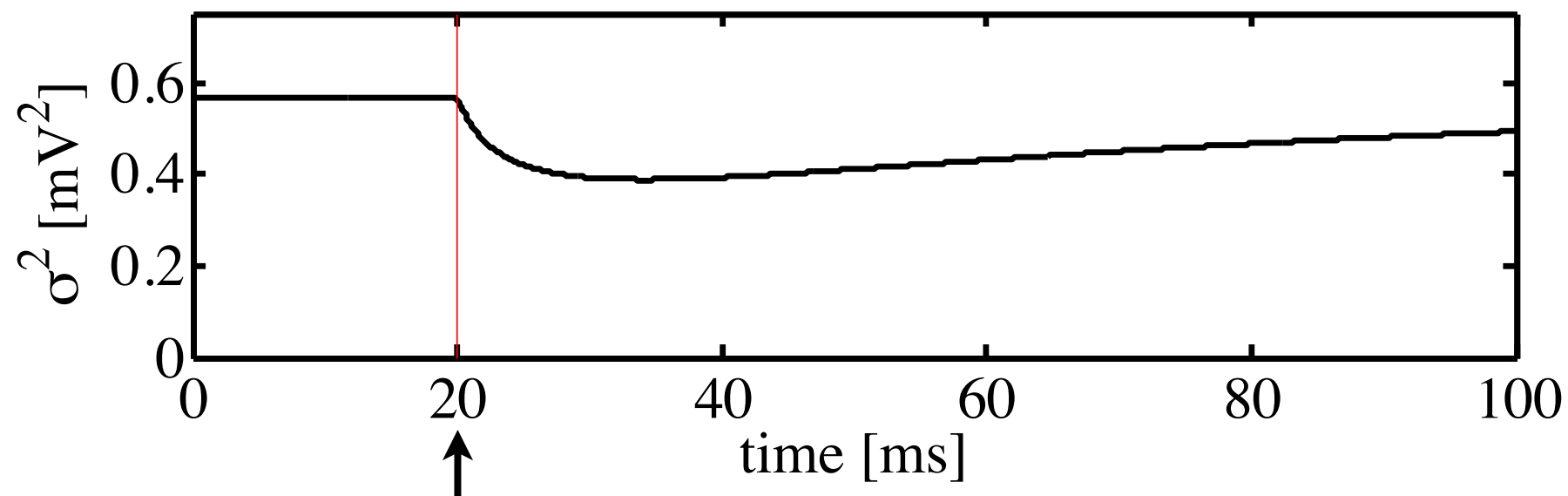
presyn. spike train mean posterior firing rate

↓ ↓

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$$\dot{\sigma}^2 = -2\theta(\sigma^2 - \sigma_{OU}^2) - \gamma(t)\beta^2\sigma^4$$

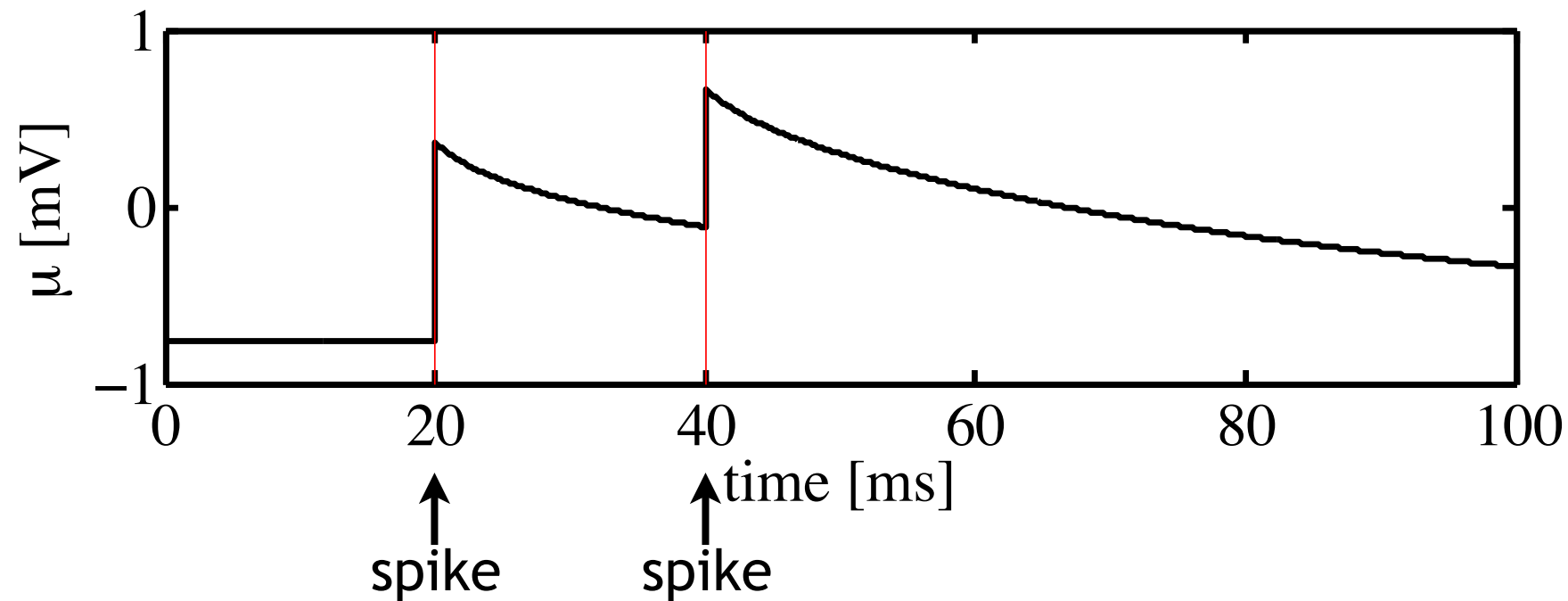


DYNAMICS OF THE OPTIMAL ESTIMATOR

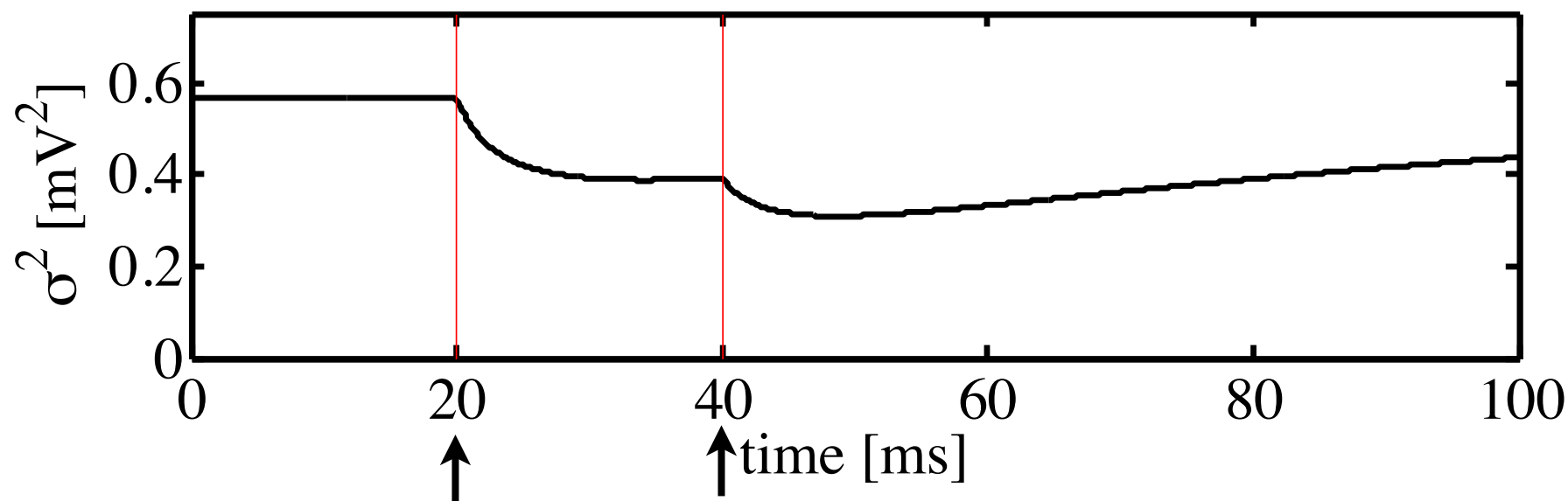
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RELATION TO SHORT-TERM PLASTICITY

“biophysical” model of dynamic synapse

postsynaptic membrane potential

$$\frac{dv}{dt} = \frac{v_0 - v}{\tau_m} + J x S(t)$$

synaptic resource

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = \frac{1 - x}{\tau_D} - Y x S(t)$$

Tsodyks et al., 1998

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Tsodyks et al., 1998

optimal estimator (in the limit)

mean estimate

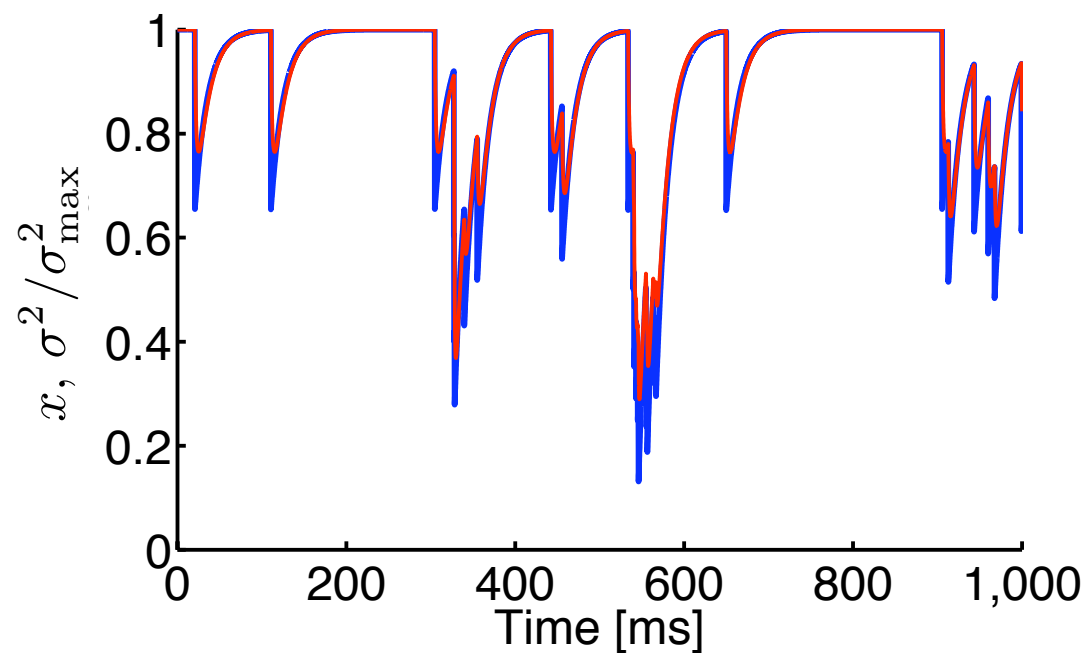
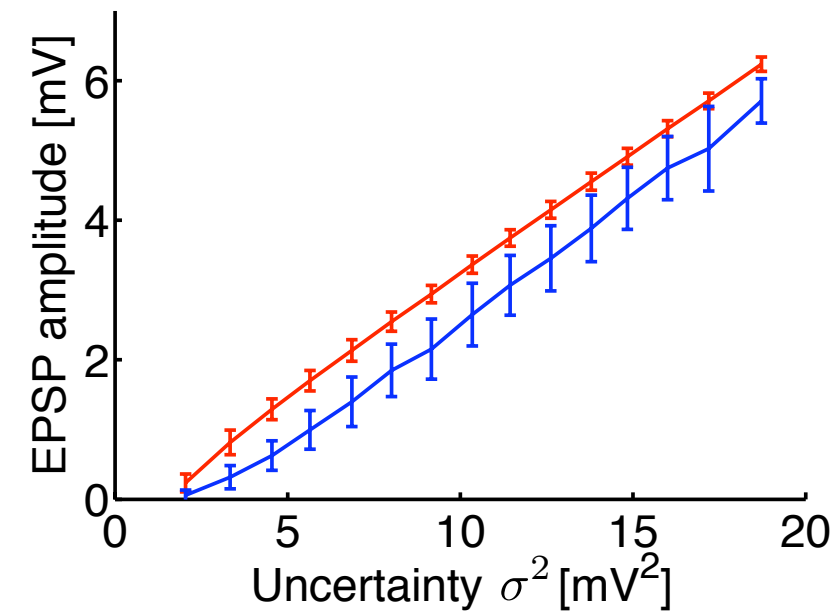
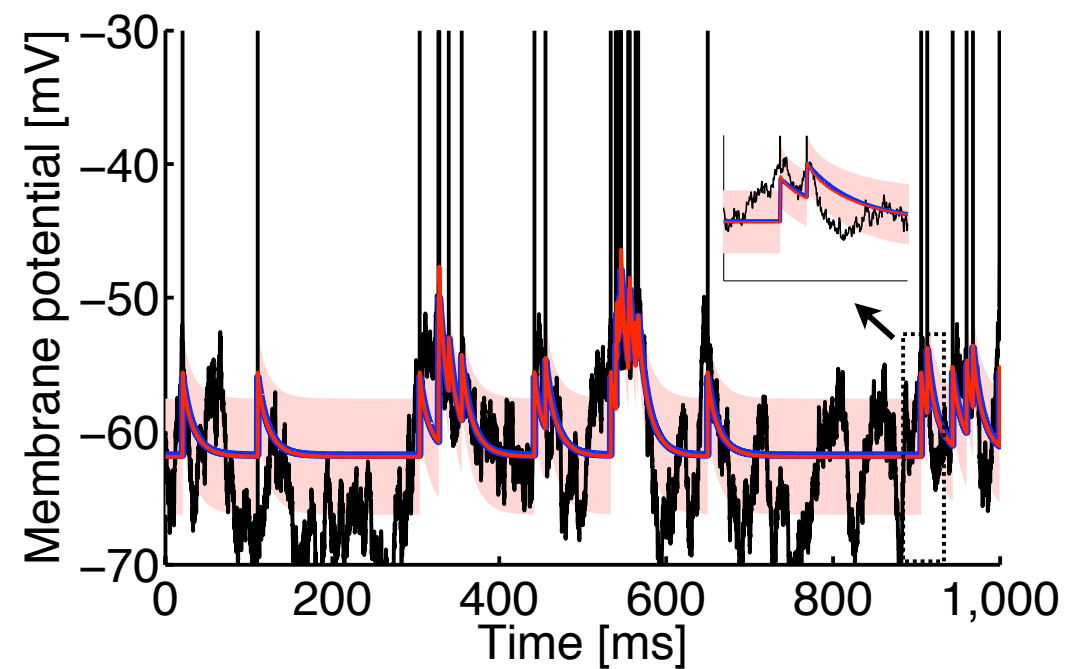
$$\frac{d\hat{u}}{dt} = \frac{\hat{u}_0 - \hat{u}}{\tau_m} + J \sigma_u^2 S(t)$$

estimator uncertainty

$$\frac{d\sigma_u^2}{dt} = \frac{1 - \sigma_u^2}{\tau_D} - Y \sigma_u^2 S(t)$$

Pfister et al., NIPS 2009
Pfister et al., Nat Neurosci 2010

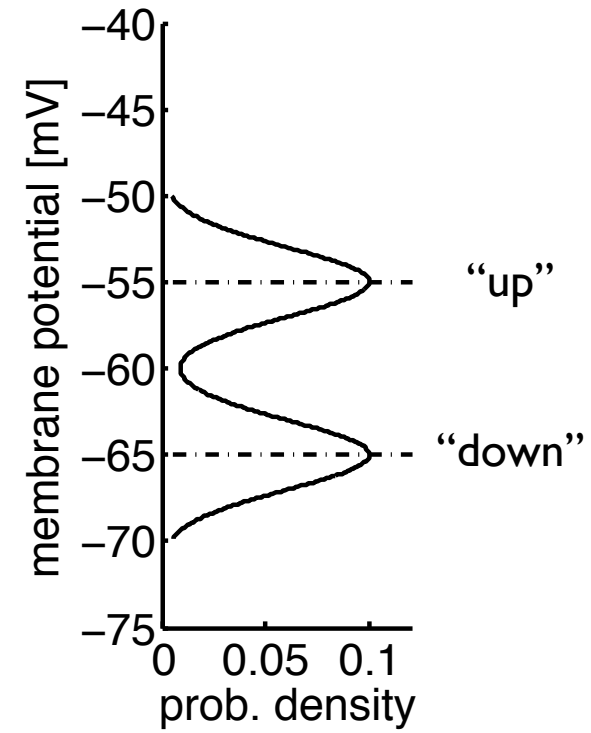
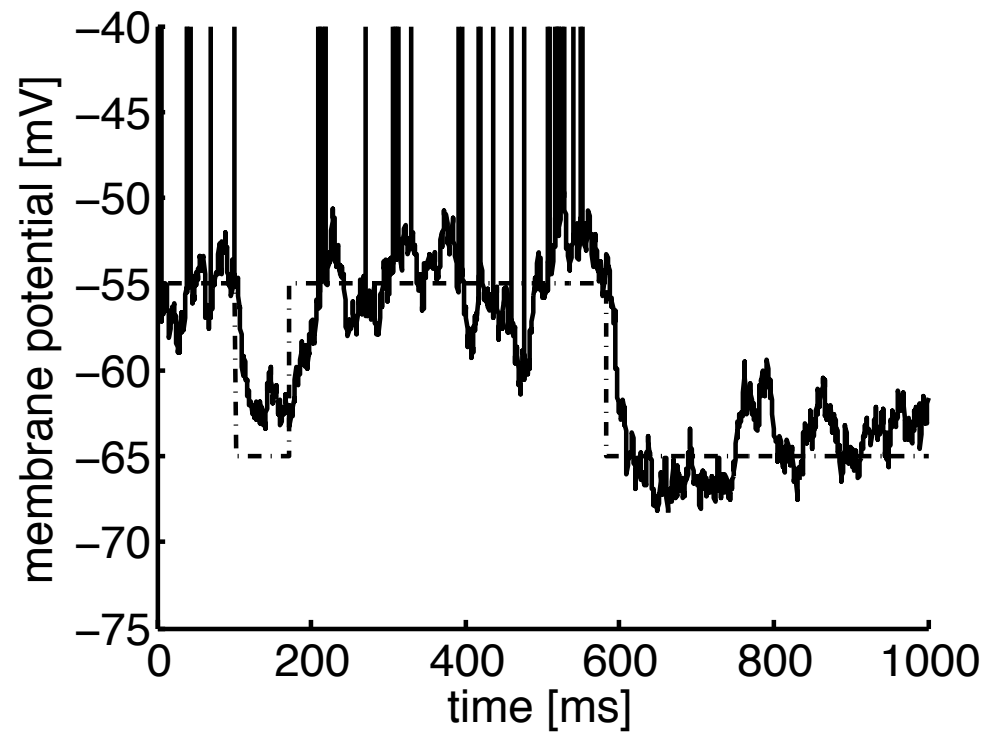
DEPRESSING SYNAPSES AS NEAR-OPTIMAL ESTIMATORS



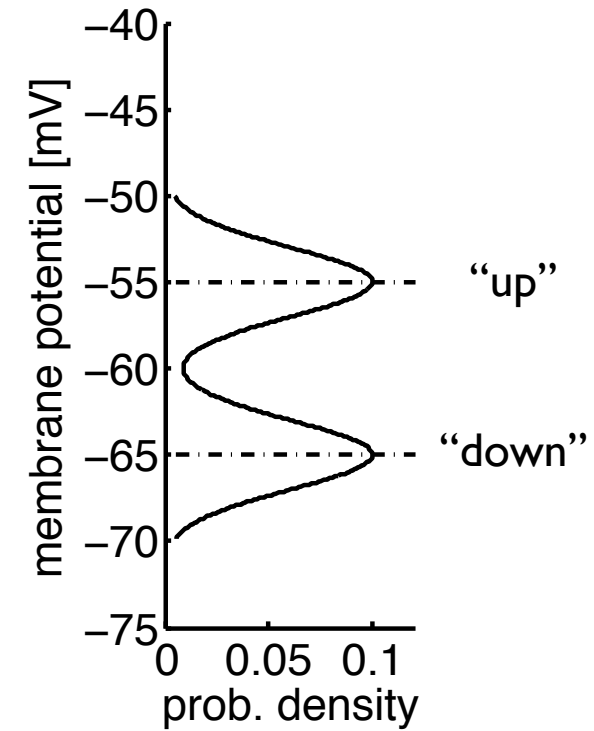
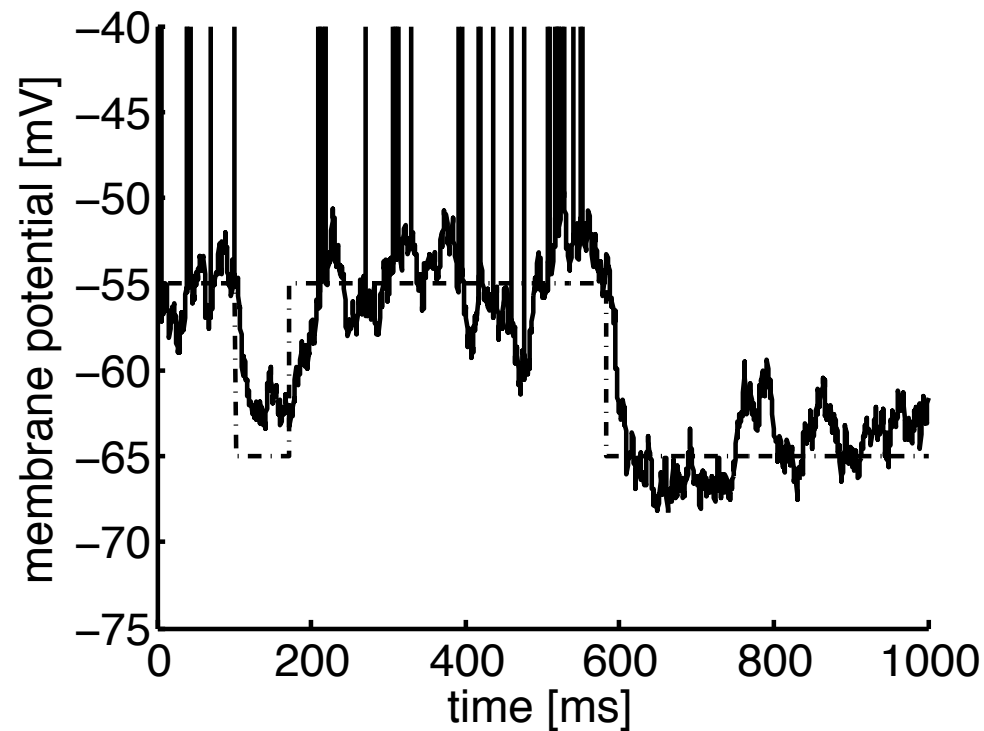
- presynaptic cell
- optimal estimator
- synapse with STD

Pfister et al, Nat Neurosci 2010

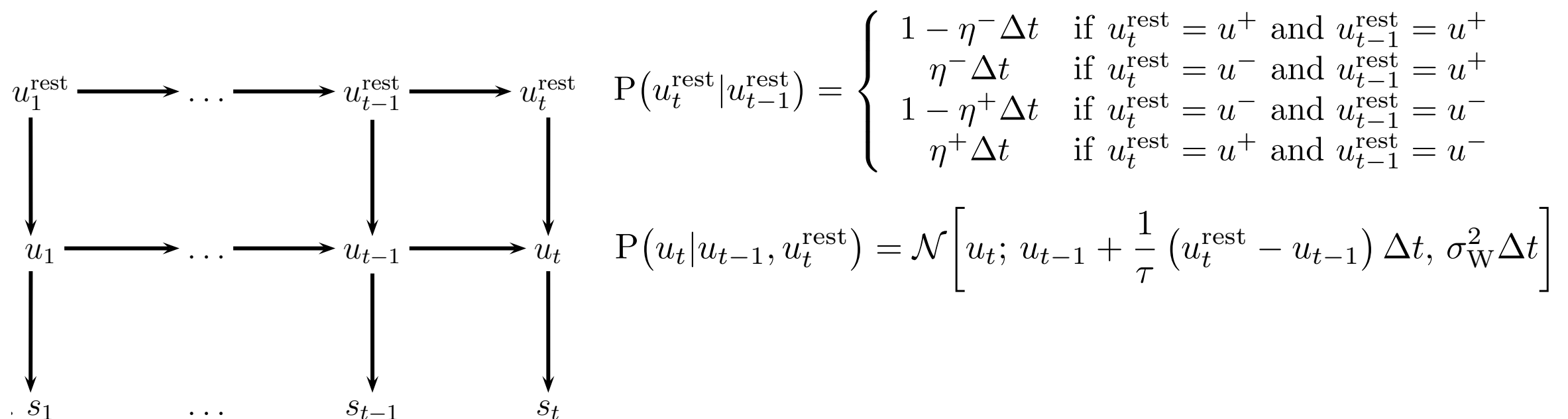
AN EXTENSION: “UP” AND “DOWN”



AN EXTENSION: “UP” AND “DOWN”



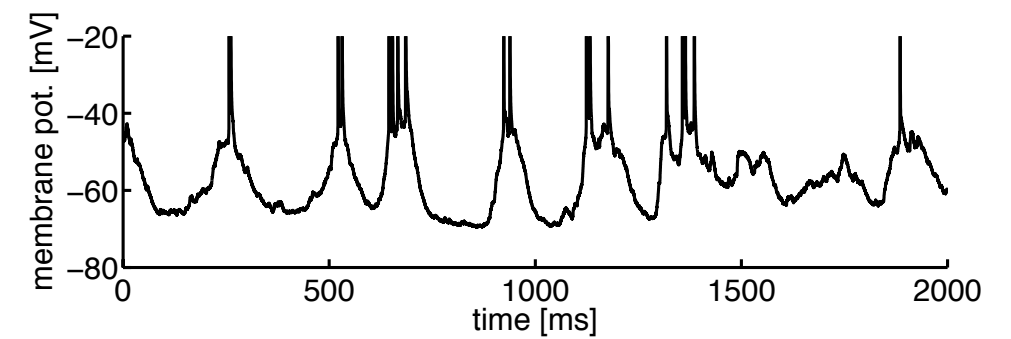
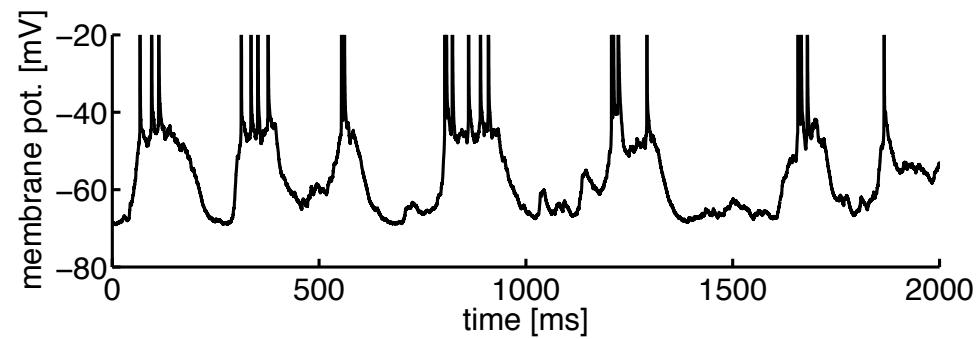
switching OU process



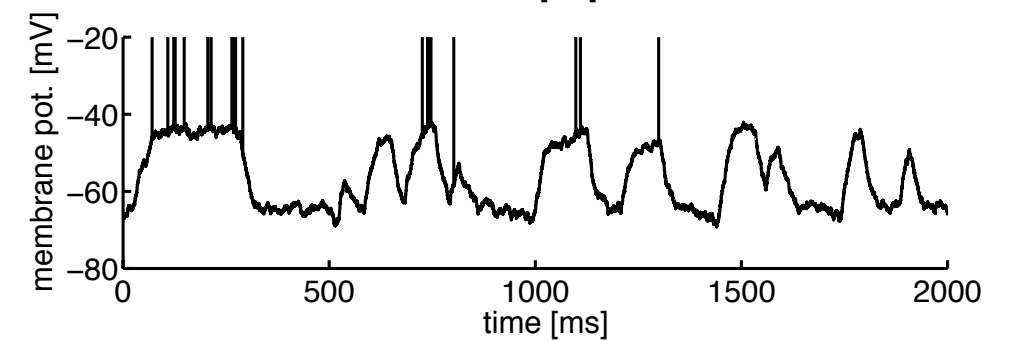
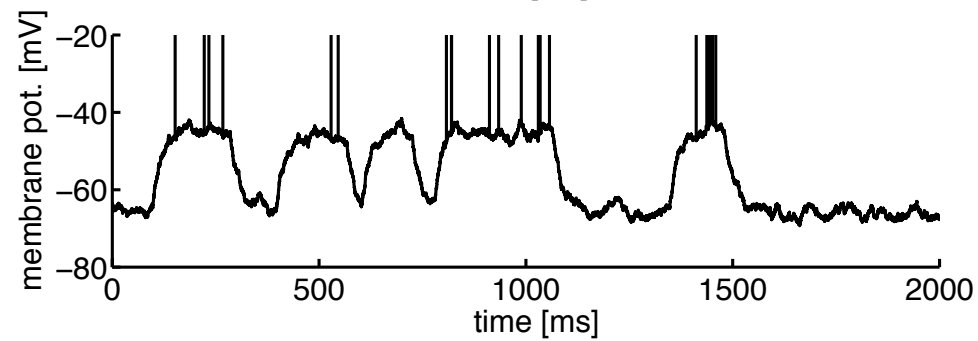
THE SWITCHING ON PROCESS

experiment

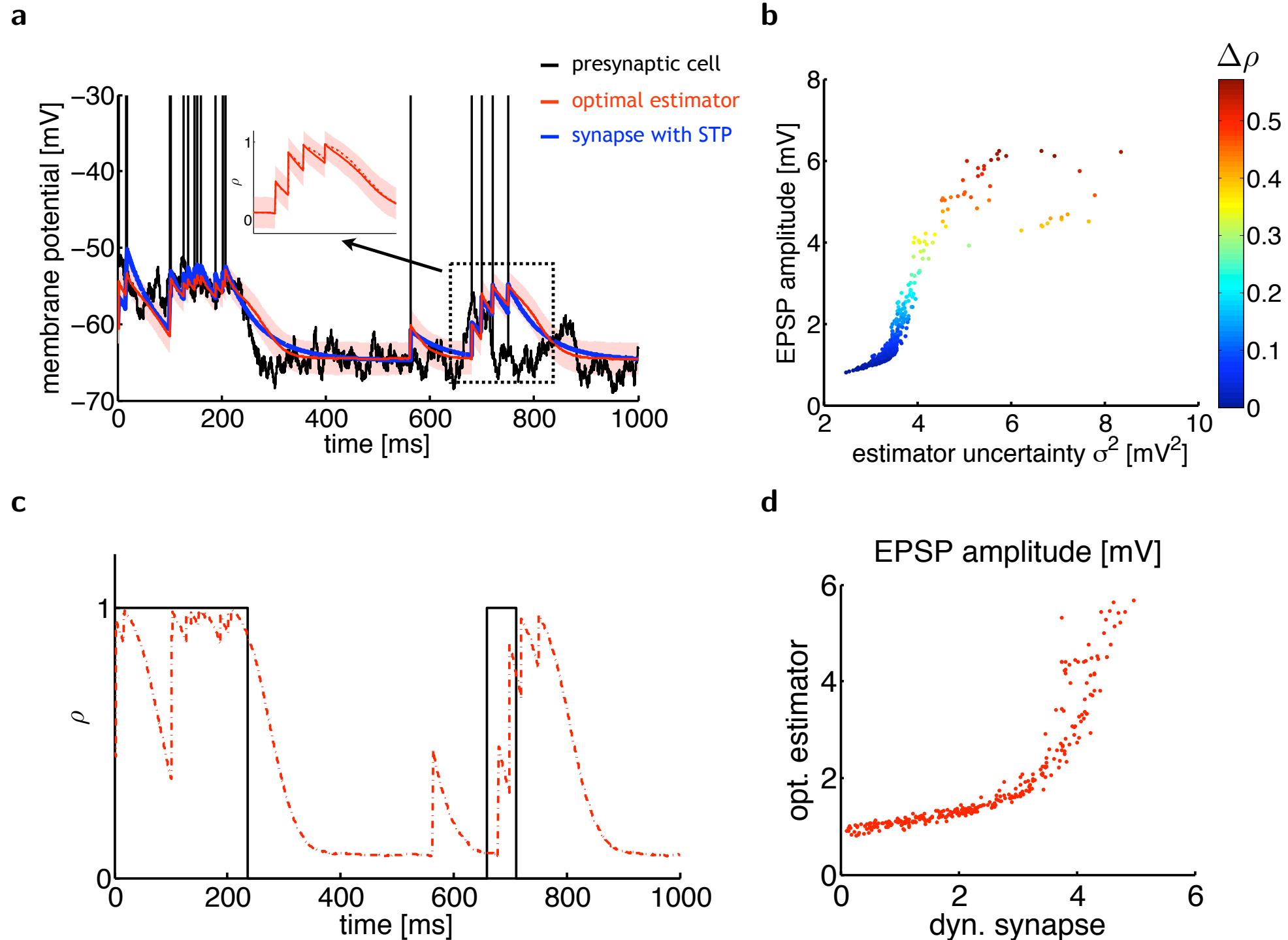
Gentet et al, 2010



model



SYNAPSES WITH STP AS OPTIMAL ESTIMATORS



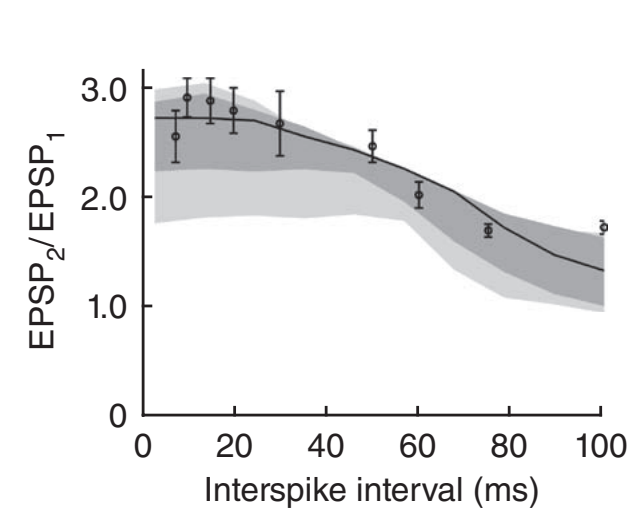
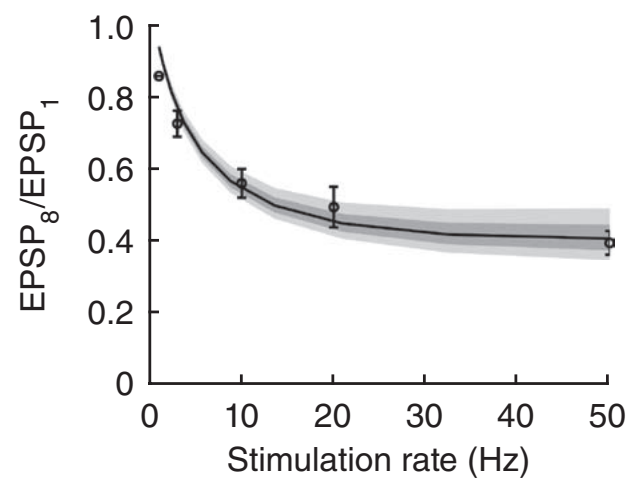
Pfister et al, Nat Neurosci, 2010

MATCHING STP PARAMETERS TO NATURAL MEMBRANE POTENTIAL STATISTICS

climbing fibers
inf. olive → Purkinje cell

Schäffer collaterals
CA3 pyr → CA1 pyr

model fit



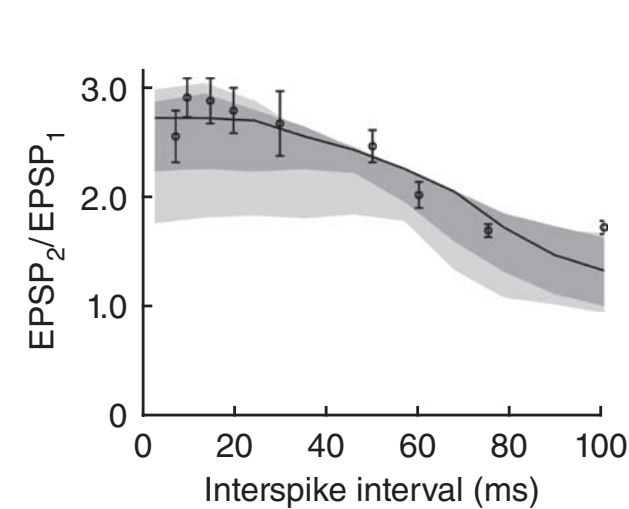
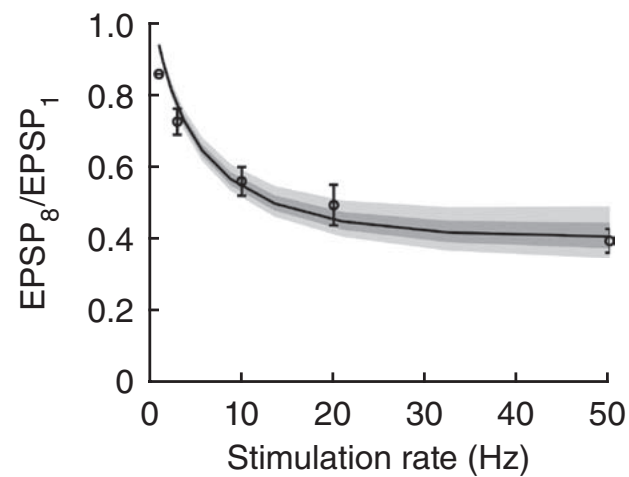
experiments
Dittman et al, 2000
Dobrunz et al, 1997
model
Pfister et al, 2010

MATCHING STP PARAMETERS TO NATURAL MEMBRANE POTENTIAL STATISTICS

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experiments
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Dobrunz et al, 1997
model
Pfister et al, 2010

model
prediction

Pfister et al, Nat Neurosci 2010

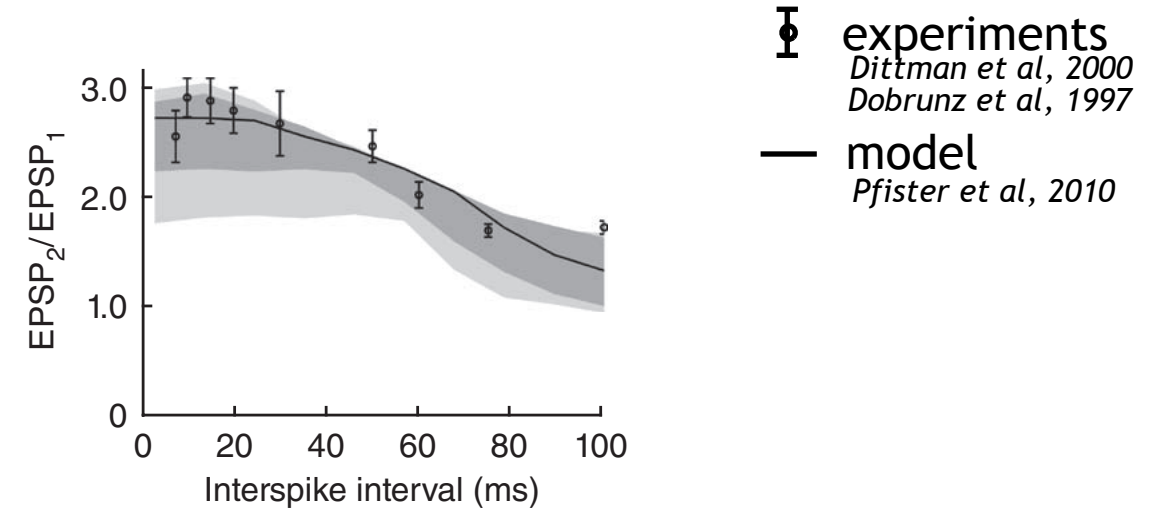
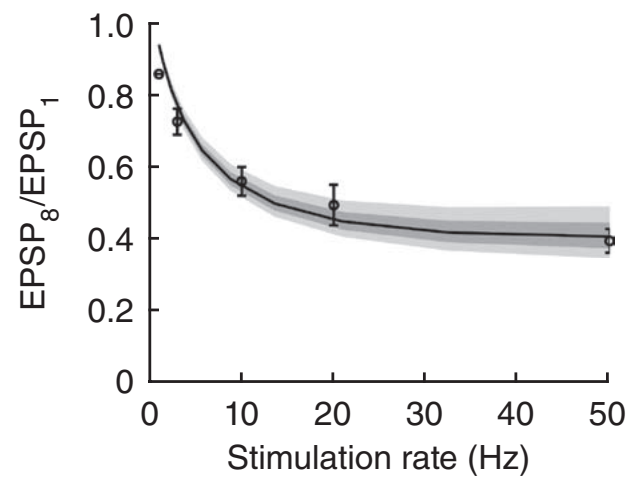


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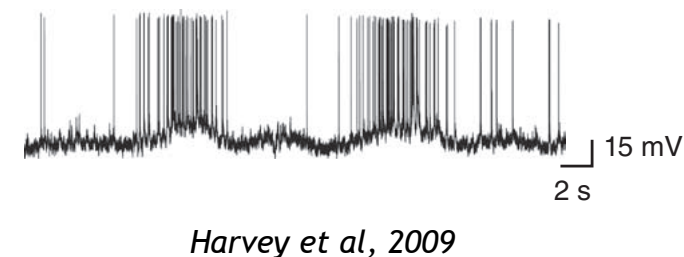
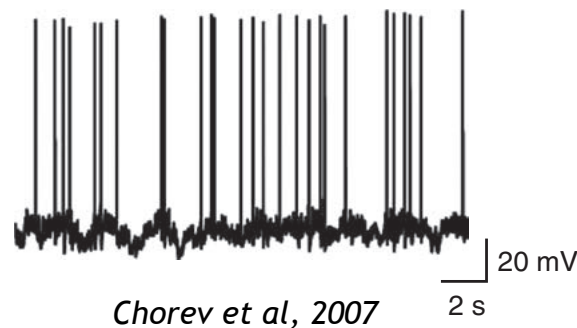
experiments
Dittman et al, 2000
Dobrunz et al, 1997
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Pfister et al, Nat Neurosci 2010



experiment

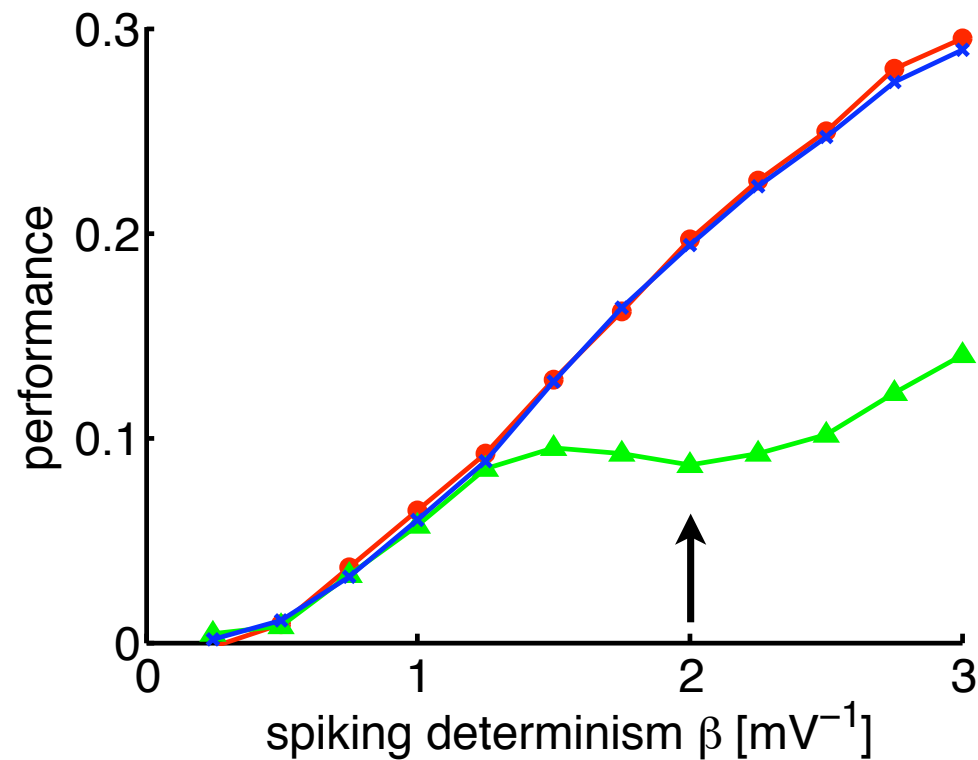


THE ADVANTAGE OF STP

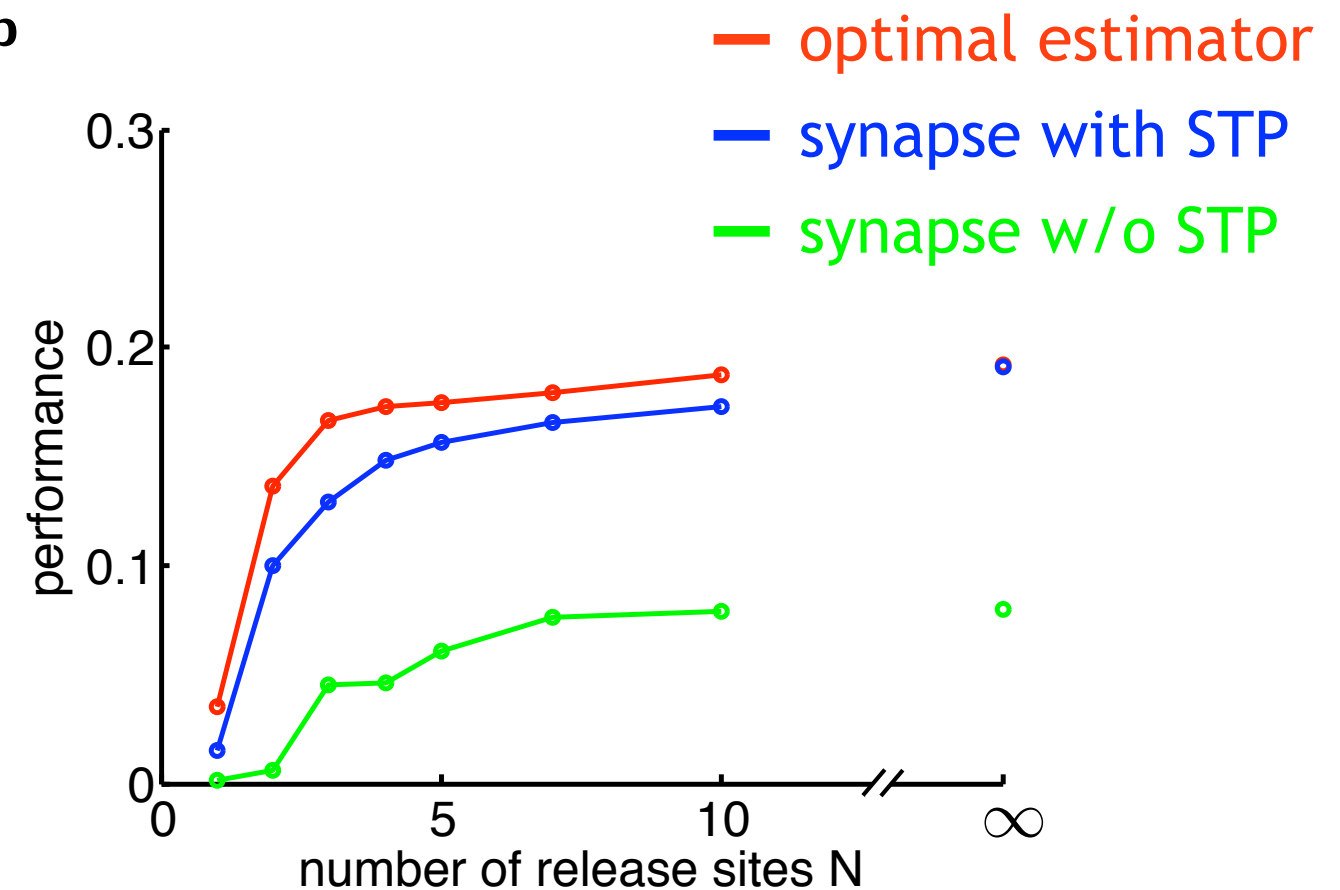
deterministic synapse

stochastic synapse

a



b



Pfister et al, Nat Neurosci 2010

$$\text{performance} = 1 - \frac{1}{\sigma_{\text{OU}}} \left[\frac{1}{T} \int_0^T (\hat{u}(t) - u(t))^2 dt \right]^{\frac{1}{2}} \quad \text{RMSE}$$

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theory

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