# Endogenous and Exogenous Neuronal Rhythmicity

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(Byrne et al., 2004)

Example 1: Thalamic and cortical neurons during awakeness and sleep.



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□ Pathological burst firing during awakeness leads to epileptic seizures.

Example 2: Subthalamic nucleus (STN) neurons in control and Parkinson's disease patients



Many Parkinson's disease motor symptoms correlate to STN neuron pathological burst firing/STN beta oscillations.

 $\rightarrow$  What are the mechanisms controlling neuronal rhythmicity?



Unicellular mechanisms? (endogenous rhythmicity) Network properties? (exogenous rhythmicity) Both?

#### Endogenous Rhythmicity: Tonic Firing and Bursting



- Neurons can exhibit many quantitatively different firing patterns
- □ Qualitatively, they can be grouped in two categories:
  - $\Box$  Tonic (single-spike) firing
  - □ Bursting

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#### Single Neuron Rhythmicity relies on a Richness in Ion Channel Diversity



Hodgkin and Huxley were the Firsts to record, Analyze and Mathematically Model the Behavior of an Excitable Cell



Alan L. Hodgkin



Andrew F. Huxley



$$C_m \dot{V}_m = -\sum_n I_{ion} + I_{app}$$



HH Model (Hodgkin and Huxley, 1952)





Two Dimensional Reduction of the Hodgkin-Huxley Model (FitzHugh, 1961)



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FitzHugh Reduction strongly succeeds in explaining the Geometry of Tonic Firing



However, Many Neuronal Behavior, including Bursting, cannot be Reproduced on the Basis of this Picture





#### The Classical Picture of Neuronal Excitability is only one Half of the Story



**A** No calcium channels (original reduced Hodgkin-Huxley model)

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#### Restorative and Regenerative Excitability in Planar Models



#### Restorative and Regenerative Excitability in Conductance-Based Models



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A Switch from Restorative to Regenerative Excitability provides a Physiological Route to Bursting



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Some physiological examples (top: experimental trace, bottom: reduced model):

A Reticular cells of the thalamus 20 mV 200 ms C Relay cells of the thalamus 40 mV 80 ms 0.3nA 0.3nA



## Summary

#### I. The switch from tonic to burst firing is a fundamental signaling mechanism in neurons

- 1. Sleep and arousal in thalamocortical neurons
- 2. Healthy vs Parkinson's disease state in STN neurons
- II. Reduced modeling and bifurcation theory provides new insights on the mechanisms underlying this switch
  - 1. The organizing center of neuronal excitability is a transcritical bifurcation
  - 2. Physiologically, the bifurcation corresponds to a balance between restorative and regenerative channels
- III. A physiological route to bursting
  - 1. The proposed reduced model is able to switch from tonic to burst firing by modulation of physiologically relevant parameters
  - 2. The same transition is observed in high-dimensional conductace-based model via modulation of the balance between restorative and regenerative channels

#### Impact of Neuron Endogenous Rhythmicity at the Network Level?

Back to example 2: Subthalamic nucleus (STN) neurons in control and Parkinson's disease patients



□ See Julie Dethier's poster:

"Oscillations in the basal ganglia: illustration of a cellular effect at the network level"

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Julie Dethier





**BELGIAN SCIENCE POLICY** 



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