

# **Synchrony: Delayed inhibition is key**



Period proportional to rise-time (linear fit plus offset); purple-mean interneuron period [Arthur07].

#### **Period is twice the delay, which is the sum of two terms:**

#### **Rise-time contributes half of the rise-time.**

#### **Decay-constant contributes up to a quarter of the period.**



#### **Asynchronous state**



The two steady-state curves' intersection determines the asynchronous state.

In the fully-connected network, the neurons receives the same amount of inhibition, *G*, and fire at the rate  $A(G) = N f(G, r)$ , where *N* is the number of neurons,  $f(G, r)$  is their individual firing-rate curve, and *r* is their common excitatory drive (no heterogeneity).

The network activity *A* determines the inhibitory conductance  $G(A)$  (similar to a single adaptive neuron), which in turn determines the network activity  $A(G)$ .

In the *asynchronous state*, network activity remains constant, at a level *c* that satisfies:



### **Delay destabilizes asynchronous state**



Changes in inhibition ( $g(t)$ ) impact activity ( $a(t)$ ) immediately; changes in activity impact inhibition with a delay (*d*).

These deviations  $(a(t)$  and  $g(t)$ ) from the asynchronous-state (*c* and  $G(c)$ ) are related by:

 $a[t] = -mg[t]$  and  $g[t] = sa[t-d] \Rightarrow a[t] = -(ms) a[t-d]$ 

where *m* and *s* are the steady-state-curves' slopes at  $A = c$ .

Thus, deviations grow if  $m s > 1$ , destabilizing the asynchronous state.



#### **Period and amplitude of network rhythm**



Inhibition overshoots and undershoots repeatedly.

We assume  $a(t) = A_0 \sin(2 \pi t / T)$  and solve for  $A_0$  and *T*:

$$
A_0 \sin\left[\frac{2\pi t}{T}\right] = -(\text{m s}) A_0 \sin\left[\frac{2\pi (t-d)}{T}\right]
$$

$$
= (\text{m s}) A_0 \sin\left[\frac{2\pi (t-d)}{T} + \pi\right]
$$

$$
\Rightarrow -\frac{2\pi d}{T} + \pi = 0 \Rightarrow T = 2d
$$
and  $\text{m s} = 1$ 

The second condition determines  $A_0$ : the amplitude grows if  $m s > 1$  and shrinks if  $m s < 1$ .



### **Both rise-time and decay-constant contribute delay**



How long does it take for half the inhibition to show up?

If the decay-constant is fast, the delay is half the rise-time (i.e., neurotransmitter pulse's width).

If the decay-constant is slow, the delay is longer, because the input is smeared out.

However, the rise-time's contribution is still  $t_{\text{rise}}/2$ ; a frequency-domain analysis shows this.



# **Decay-constant's contribution (** $t_{rise} = 0$ **)**



The maximum delay is a quarter-period when the rise-time is zero.

When the decay-constant is very slow, inhibition is the integral of activity:

$$
\int \sin\left[\frac{2\pi t}{T}\right] dt \propto -\cos\left[\frac{2\pi t}{T}\right] = \sin\left[\frac{2\pi t}{T} - \frac{\pi}{2}\right] = \sin\left[\frac{2\pi}{T}\left(t - \frac{T}{4}\right)\right]
$$

Thus, the longest delay is a quarter of the period. Adding this to the rise-time's contributions yields:

$$
\frac{\mathtt{t}_{\mathtt{rise}}}{2} < d < \frac{\mathtt{t}_{\mathtt{rise}}}{2} + \frac{\mathtt{T}}{4}
$$

Doubling the delay gives the period, which falls in the range:



# How inhibition is delayed by  $T/2$  (180° lag)



Delays due to rise-time (green), decay-constant (blue), and their sum (red) The rise-time contributes  $2 \pi \left( \frac{t_{\text{rise}}}{2} \right)$  $\frac{1}{2}$  T – the delay normalized by the period (in radians). The decay-constant contributes  $\tan^{-1}(2\pi\tau_{\text{decay}}/T)$ —which cannot exceed 90 °. There is a unique frequency  $f = 1/T$  that makes these two contributions sum to 180°.

This is the frequency that the network synchronizes at.



### Lab 5: Set-up



## Lab 5: Data



## **Next week: Attention**

