

Biological Modeling of Neural Networks



Week 4

Reducing detail:

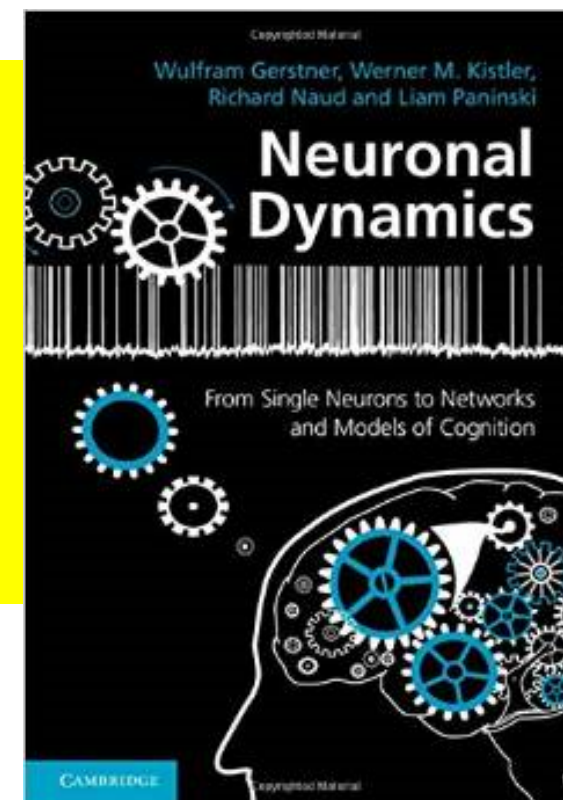
Analysis of 2D models

Wulfram Gerstner

EPFL, Lausanne, Switzerland

Reading for week 4:
NEURONAL DYNAMICS
- Ch. 4.4 – 4.7

Cambridge Univ. Press



✓ 3.1 From Hodgkin-Huxley to 2D

✓ 3.2 Phase Plane Analysis

✓ 3.3 Analysis of a 2D Neuron Model

4.1 Type I and II Neuron Models

- limit cycles

4.2 Pulse input

- where is the firing threshold?
- separation of time scales

4.3. Further reduction to 1 dim

- nonlinear integrate-and-fire (again)

-Reduction of Hodgkin-Huxley to 2 dimension

-step 1: separation of time scales

-step 2: exploit similarities/correlations

Week 4 – Review from week 3

$$C \frac{du}{dt} = \underbrace{-g_{Na} [m(t)]^3 h(t) (u(t) - E_{Na})}_{I_{Na}} - \underbrace{g_K [n(t)]^4 (u(t) - E_K)}_{I_K} - \underbrace{g_l (u(t) - E_l)}_{I_{leak}} + I(t)$$

$$C \frac{du}{dt} = -g_{Na} m_0 (u)^3 (1-w)(u - E_{Na}) - g_K \left[\frac{w}{a}\right]^4 (u - E_K) - g_l (u - E_l) + I(t)$$

1) dynamics of m are fast

$$\longrightarrow m(t) = m_0(u(t))$$

2) dynamics of h and n are similar

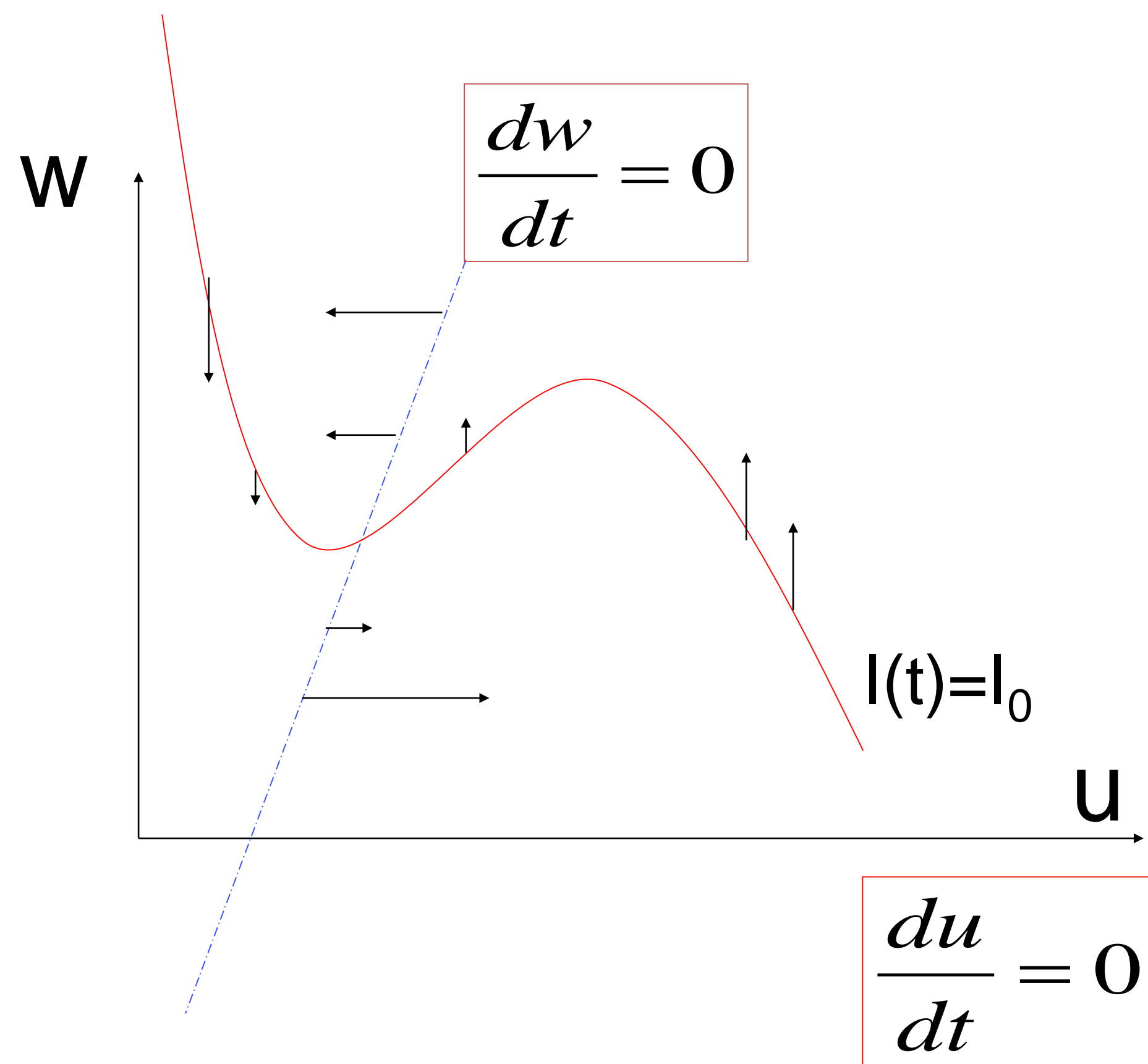
$$\longrightarrow \underbrace{1 - h(t)}_{w(t)} = a \underbrace{n(t)}_{w(t)}$$

$$\frac{dh}{dt} = -\frac{h - h_0(u)}{\tau_h(u)}$$

$$\frac{dn}{dt} = -\frac{n - n_0(u)}{\tau_n(u)}$$

$$\longrightarrow \frac{dw}{dt} = -\frac{w - w_0(u)}{\tau_{eff}(u)}$$

Week 4 – review from week 3



2-dimensional equation
stimulus

$$\tau \frac{du}{dt} = F(u, w) + RI(t)$$

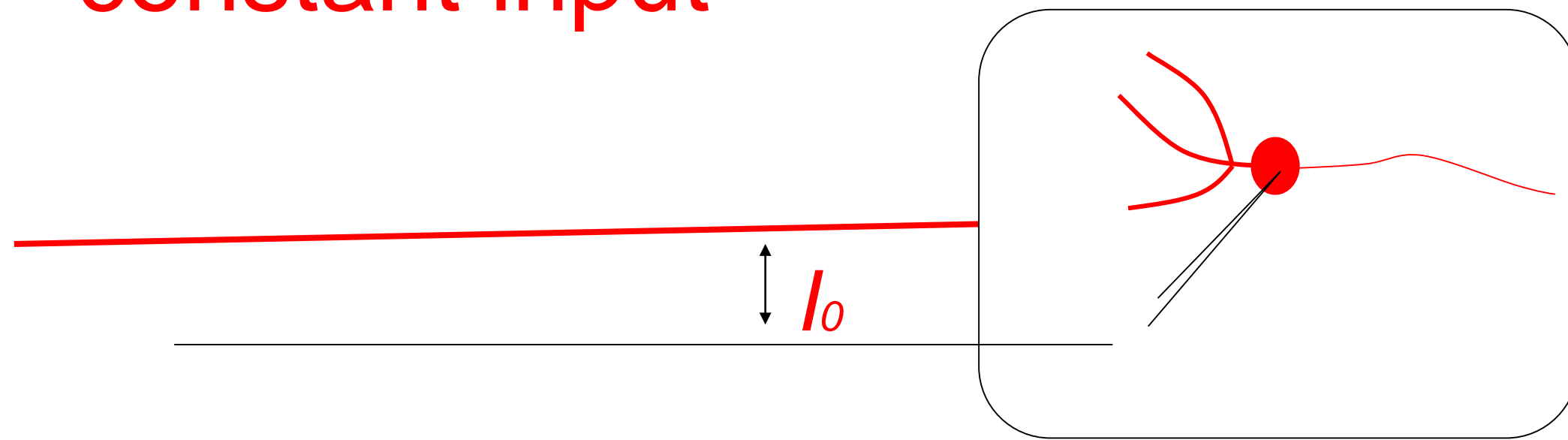
$$\tau_w \frac{dw}{dt} = G(u, w)$$

Enables graphical analysis!

- Pulse input
 - AP firing (or not)
- Constant input
 - repetitive firing (or not)
 - limit cycle (or not)

Week 4 – Reducing Detail – 2D models

ramp input/
constant input

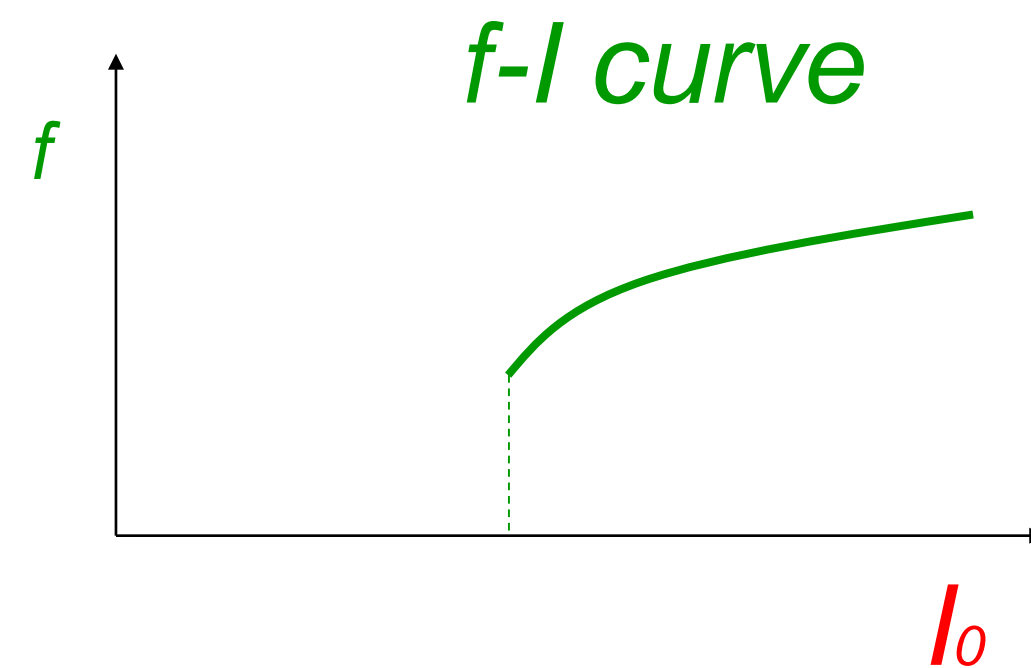
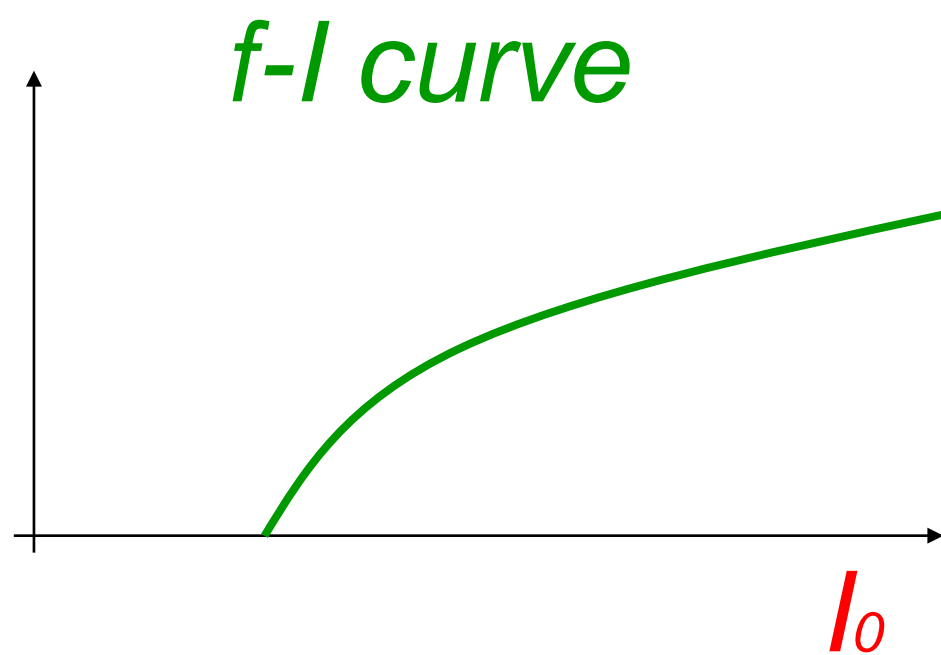


✓ 3.1 From Hodgkin-Huxley to 2D

✓ 3.2 Phase Plane Analysis

3.3 ✓ Analysis of a 2D Neuron Model

Type I and type II



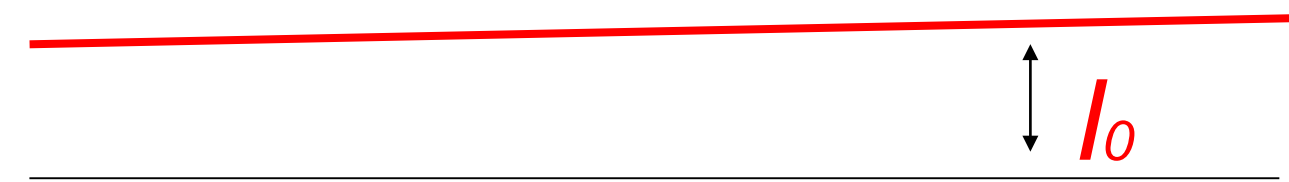
4.1 Type I and II Neuron Models

- limit cycles
- where is the firing threshold?
- separation of time scales

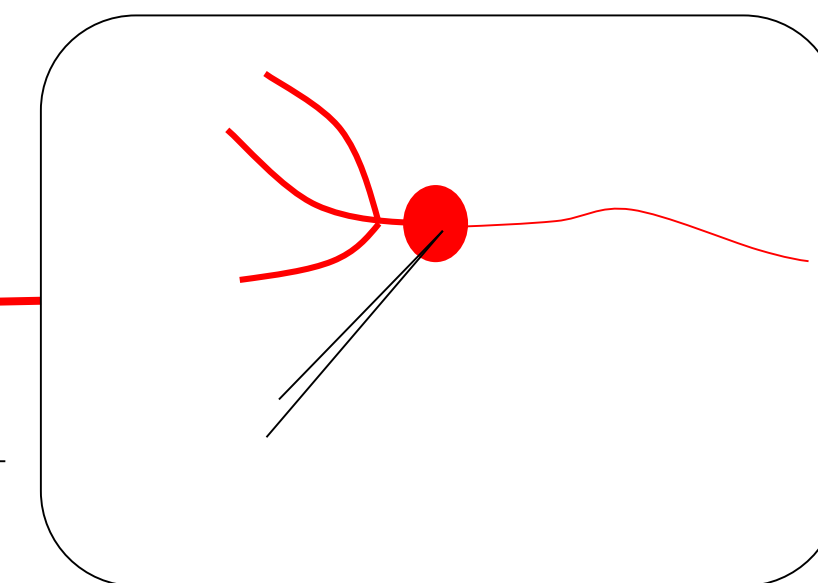
4.2. Further Reduction to 1D

Week 4 – 4.1. Type I and II Neuron Models

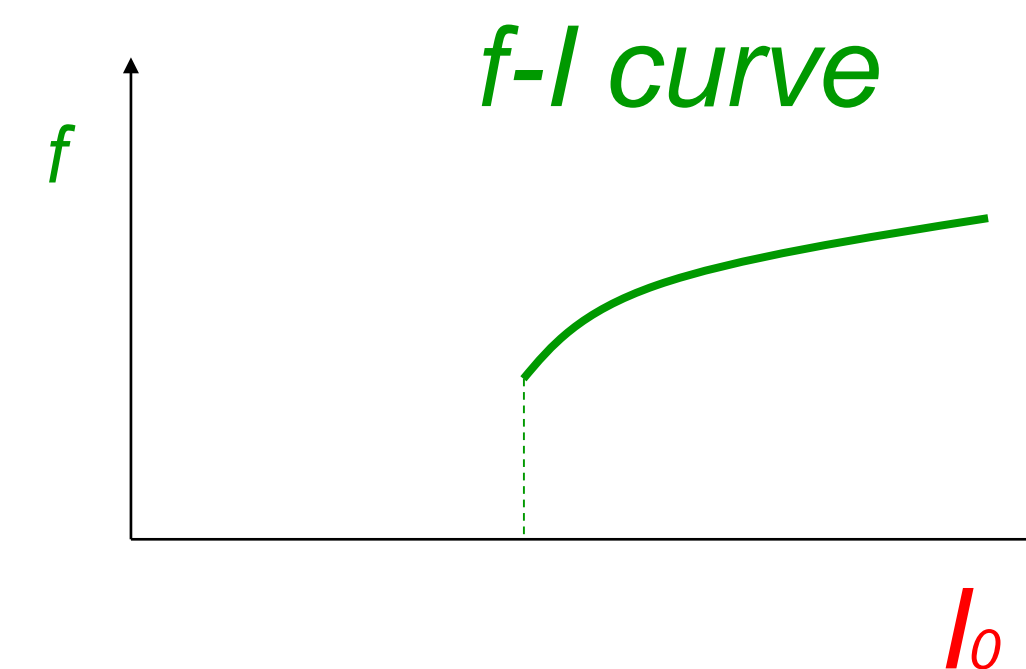
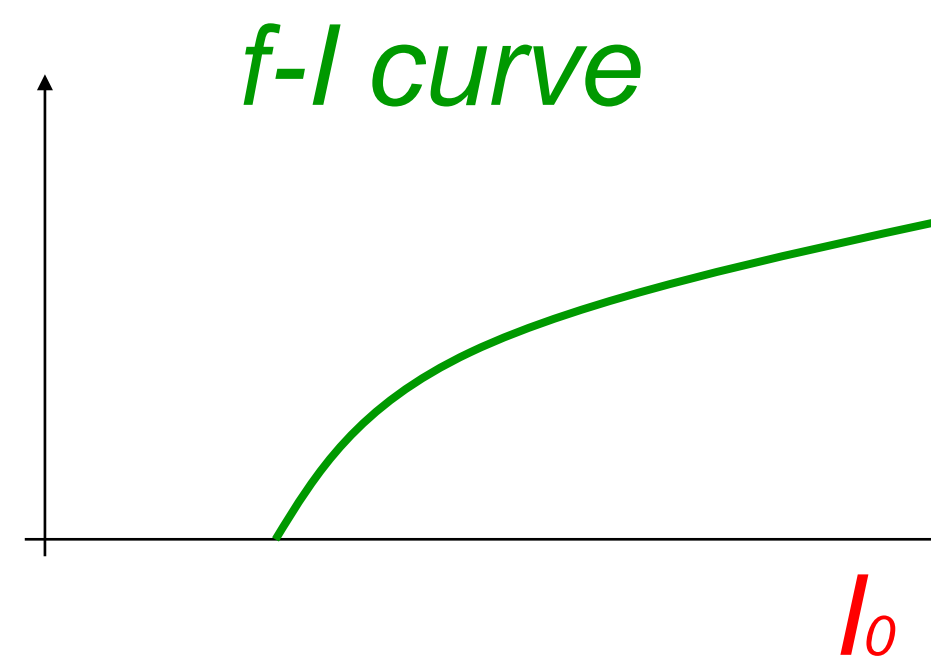
ramp input/
constant input



neuron



Type I and type II models



4.1 Nullclines change for constant stimulus

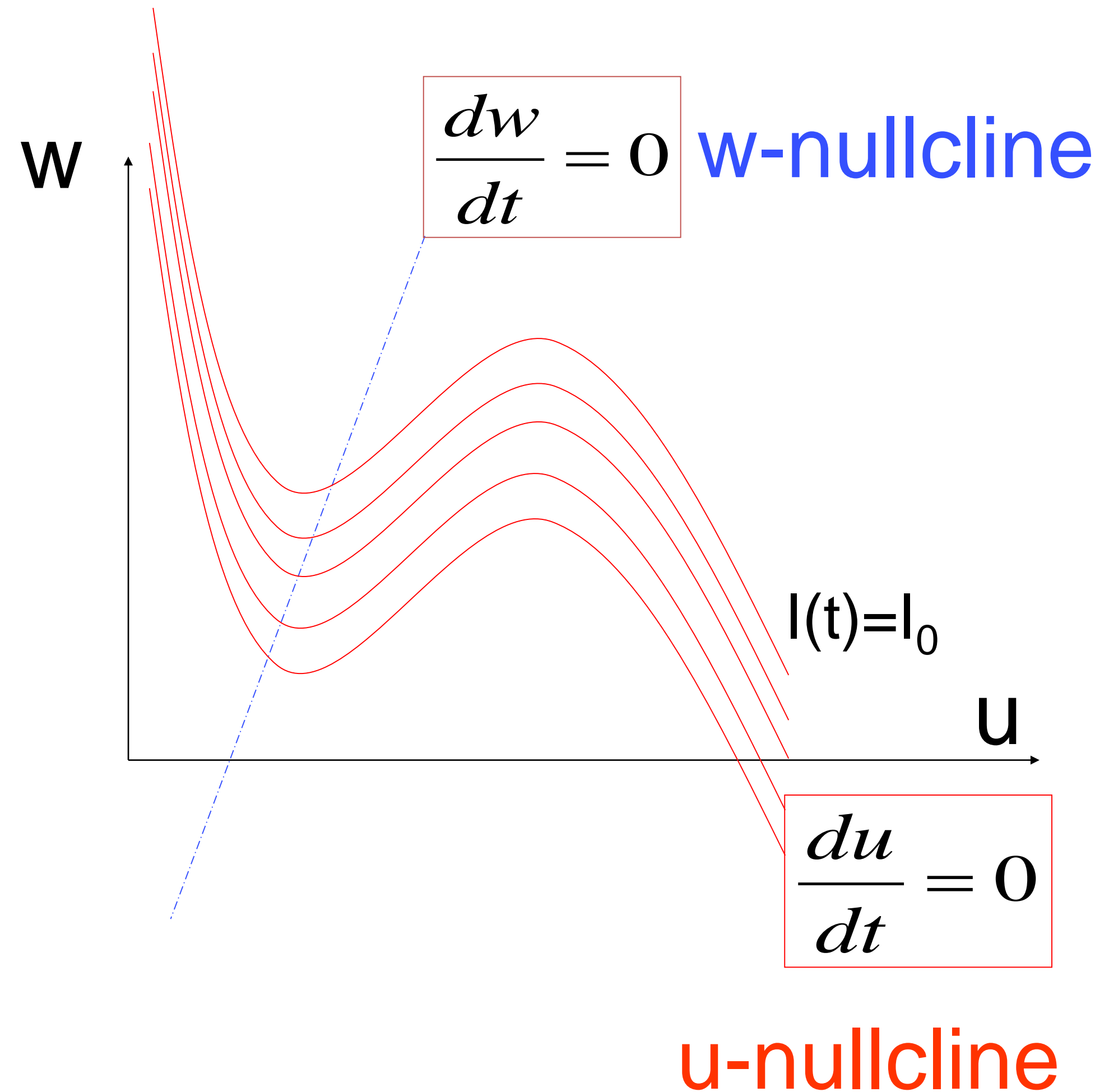
$$\tau \frac{du}{dt} = F(u, w) + I(t)$$

stimulus
↓

$$\tau_w \frac{dw}{dt} = G(u, w)$$

apply constant stimulus I_0

Blackboard $\varepsilon = \frac{\tau}{\tau_w}$



4.1. Separation of time scales

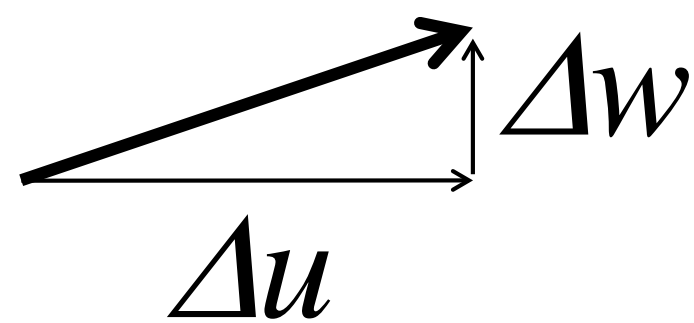
$$\tau \frac{du}{dt} = F(u, w) + \overset{\text{stimulus}}{\downarrow} RI(t)$$

$$\tau_w \frac{dw}{dt} = G(u, w)$$

Separation of time scales

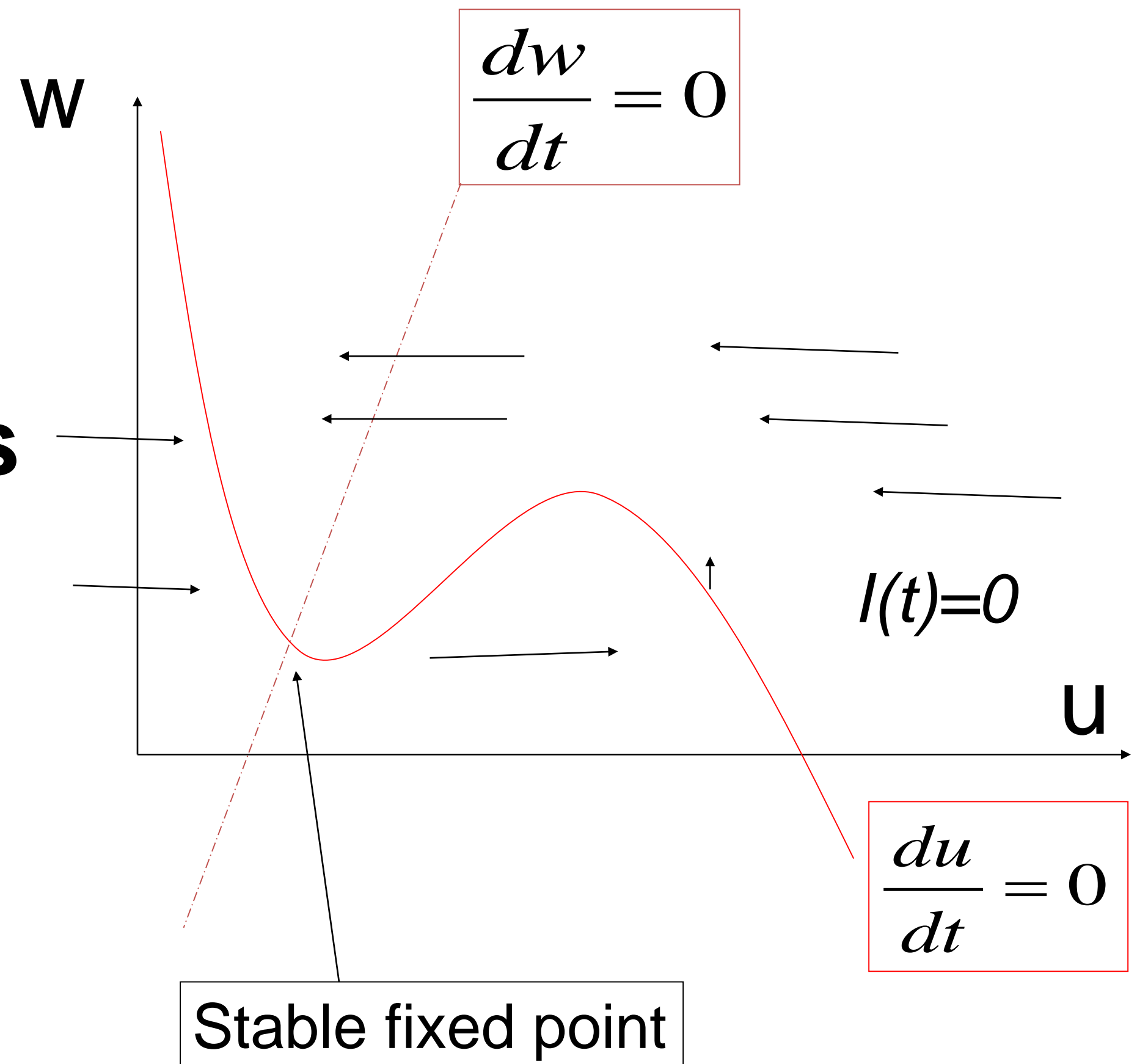
$$\tau_w \gg \tau_u$$

blackboard

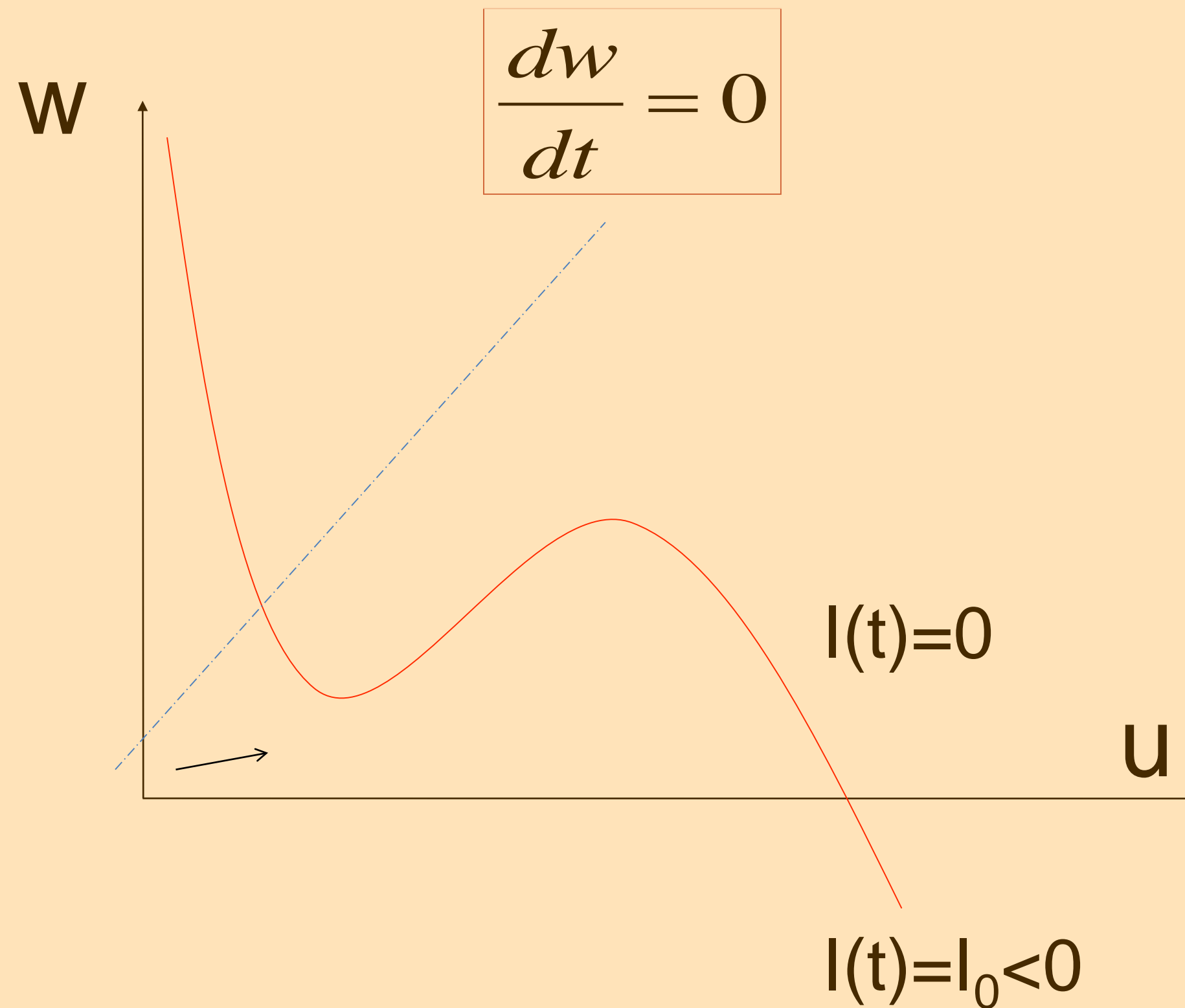


$$\tau_w \gg \tau_u \longrightarrow \Delta w \ll \Delta u$$

Unless close to nullcline



Week 4 - Exercise inhibitory rebound NOW!



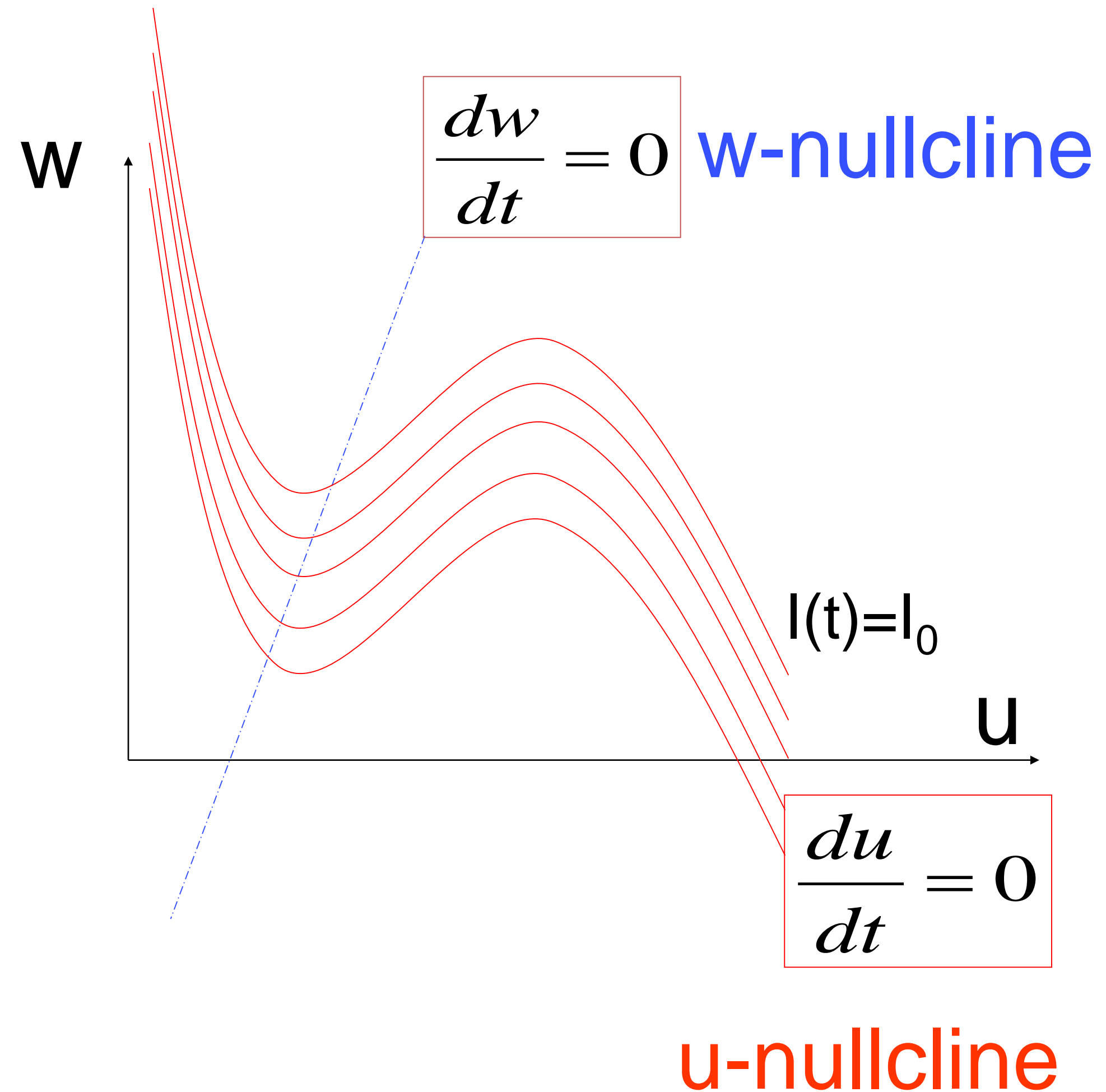
Start at 9:25
Next lecture at 9:40

Now exercises

4.1 Nullclines change for constant stimulus

$$\tau \frac{du}{dt} = F(u, w) + I(t)$$
$$\tau_w \frac{dw}{dt} = G(u, w)$$

apply constant stimulus I_0

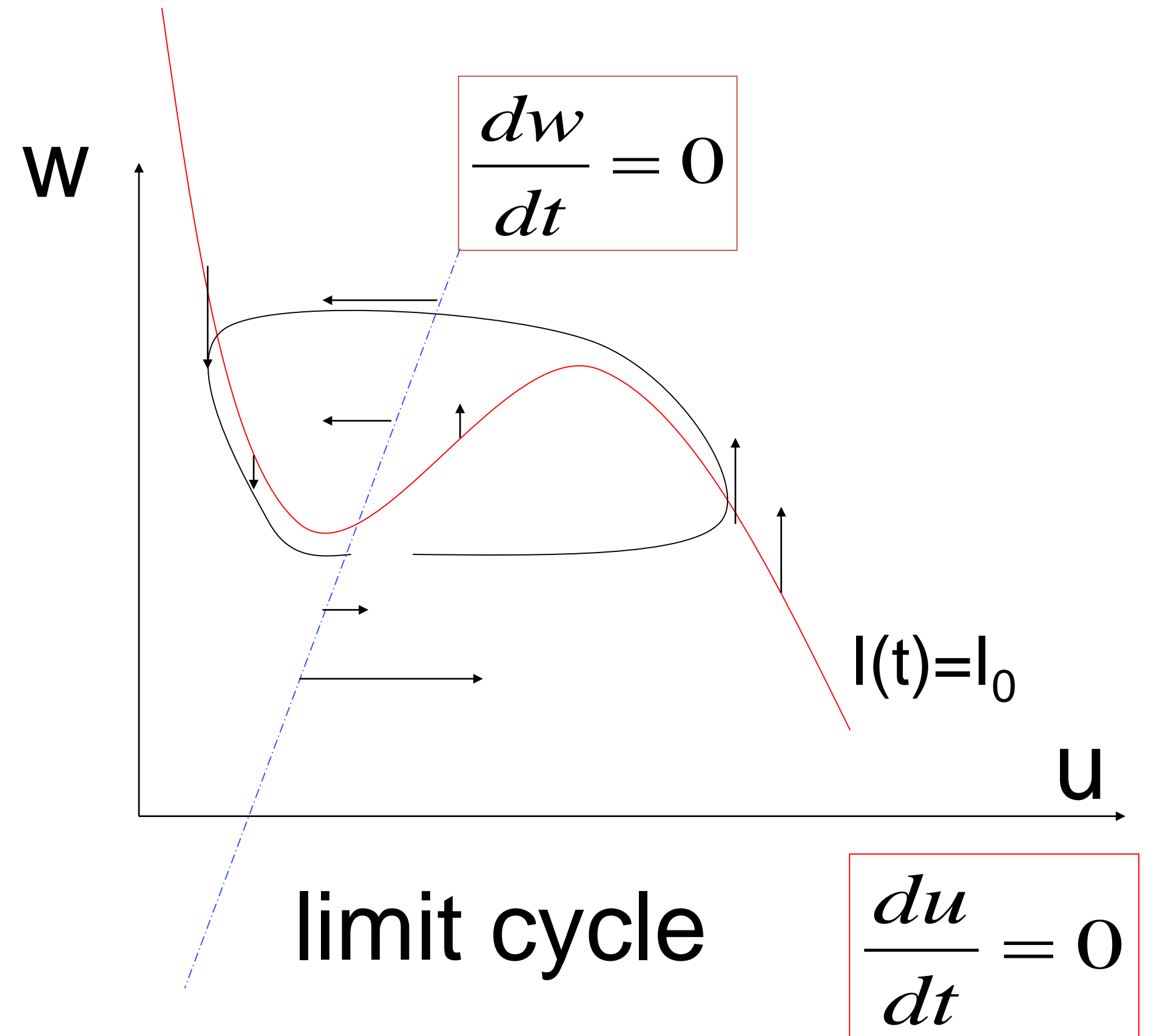


4.1. Limit cycle (example: FitzHugh Nagumo Model)

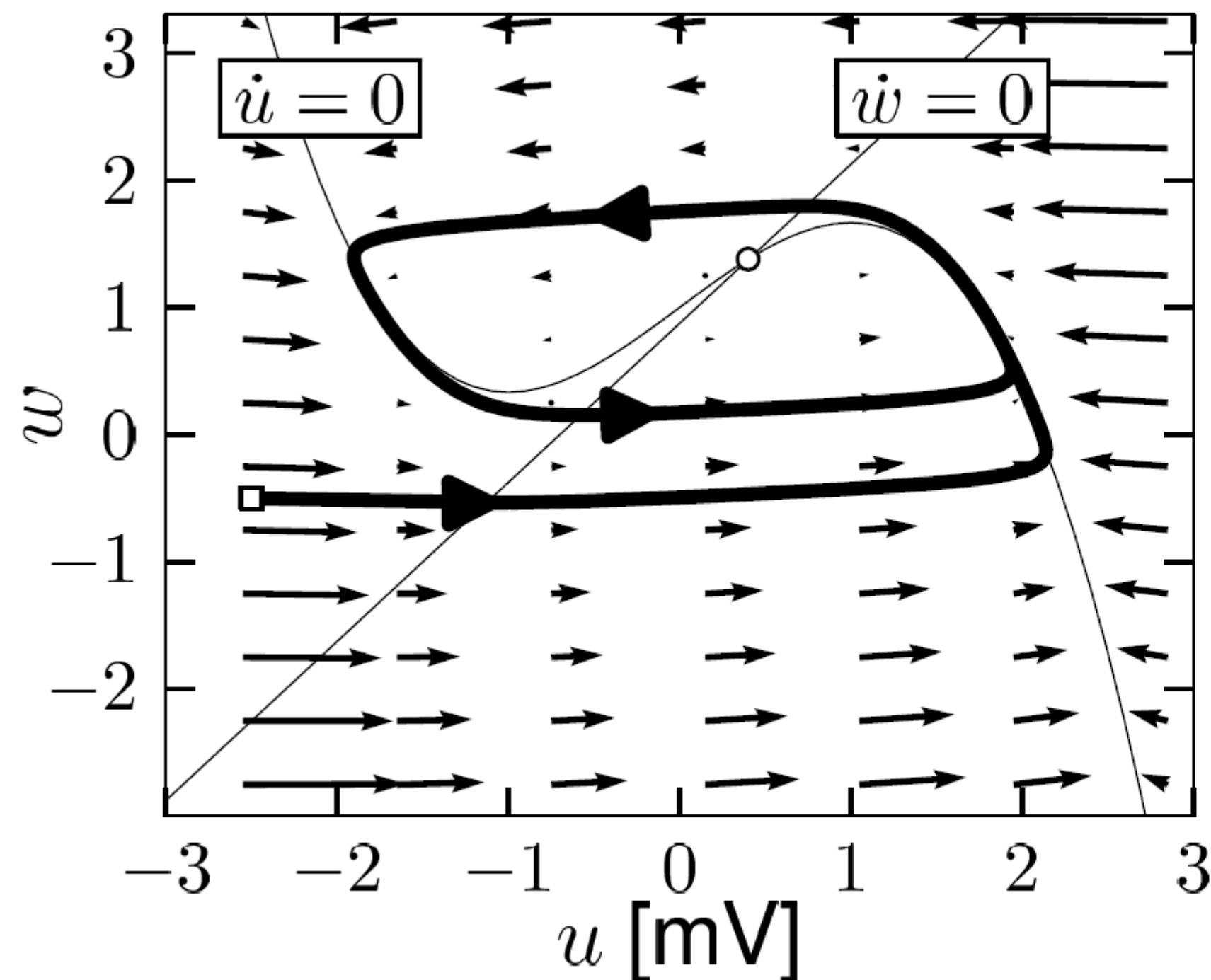
$$\tau \frac{du}{dt} = F(u, w) + I(t)$$
$$\tau_w \frac{dw}{dt} = G(u, w)$$

- unstable fixed point
 - closed boundary
with arrows pointing inside
- > limit cycle

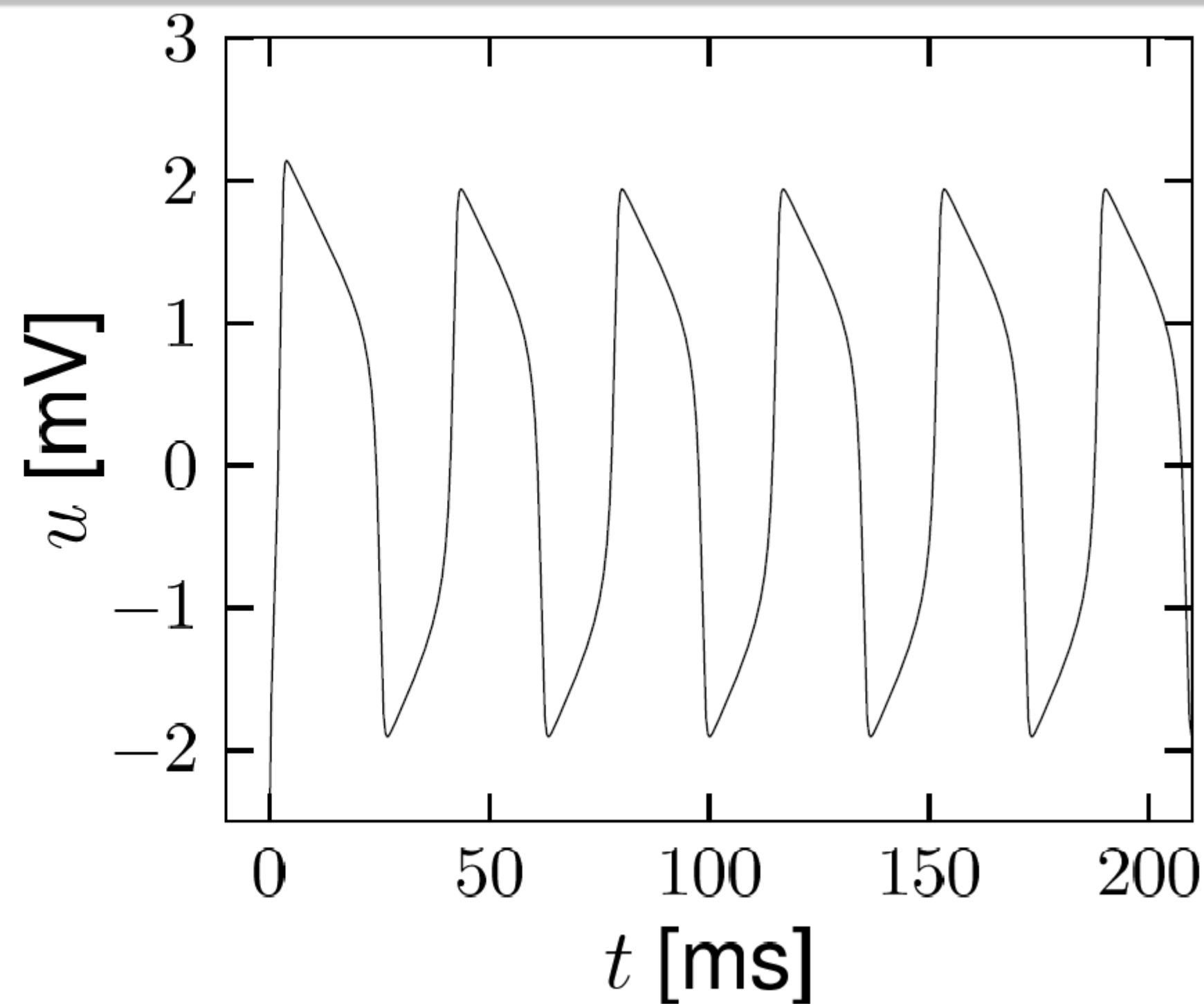
stimulus



4.1. Limit Cycle



D



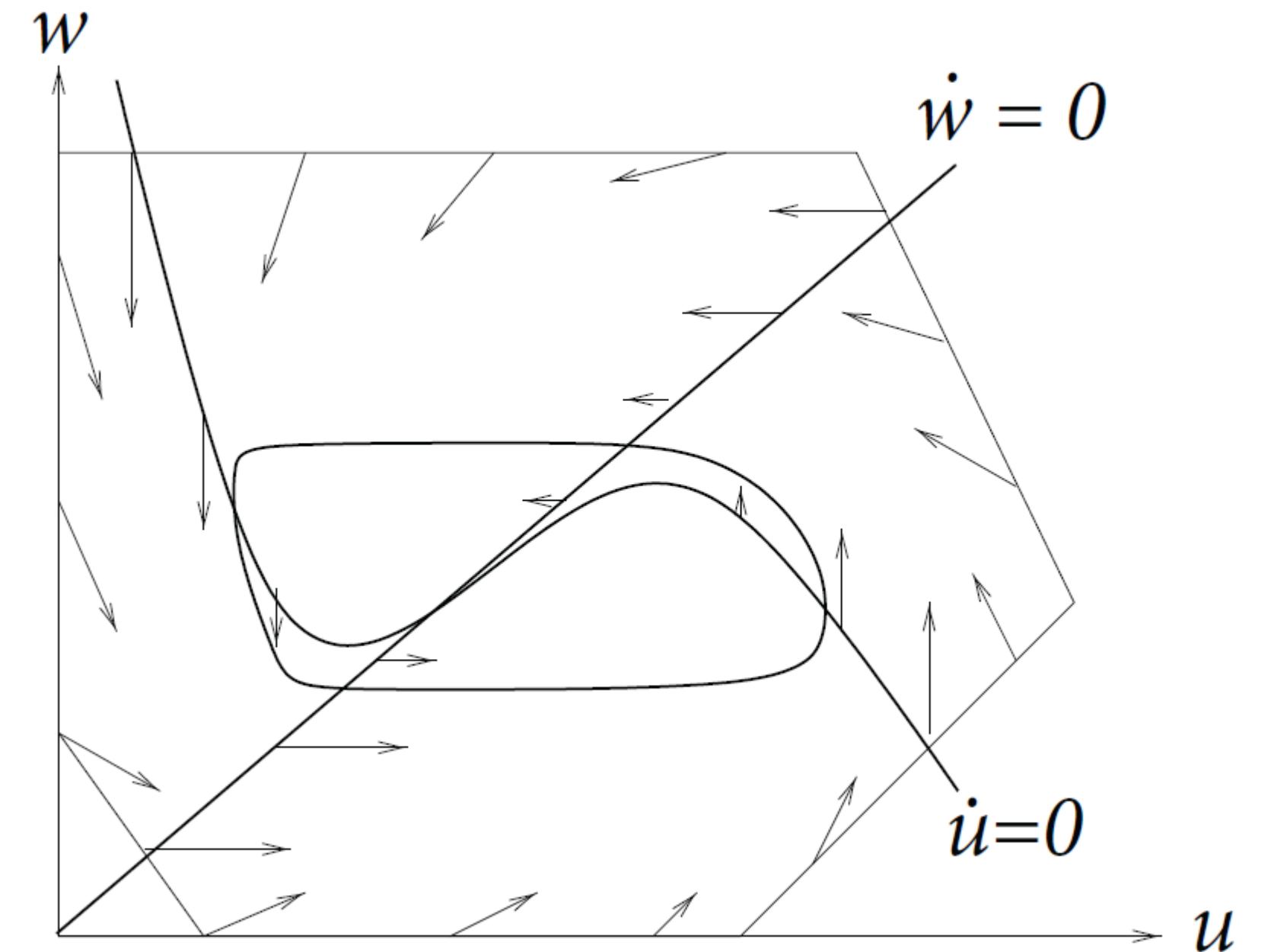
- unstable fixed point in 2D
- bounding box with inward flow
→ limit cycle (*Poincare Bendixson*)

*Image: Neuronal Dynamics,
Gerstner et al.,
Cambridge Univ. Press (2014)*

4.1. Limit Cycle

**In 2-dimensional equations,
a limit cycle must exist, if we can
find a surface**

- containing one unstable fixed point
- no other fixed point
- bounding box with inward flow
→ limit cycle (*Poincare Bendixson*)



*Image: Neuronal Dynamics,
Gerstner et al.,
Cambridge Univ. Press (2014)*

4.1 Type II Model

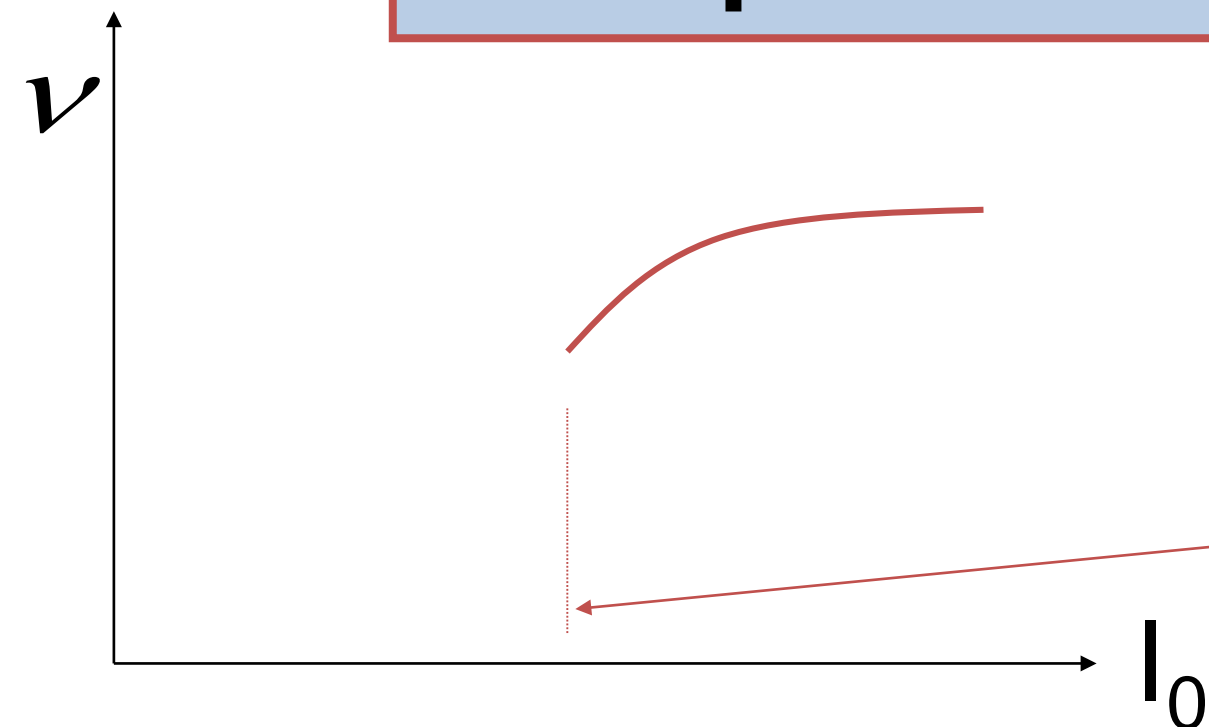
constant input

stimulus

$$\tau \frac{du}{dt} = F(u, w) + I(t)$$

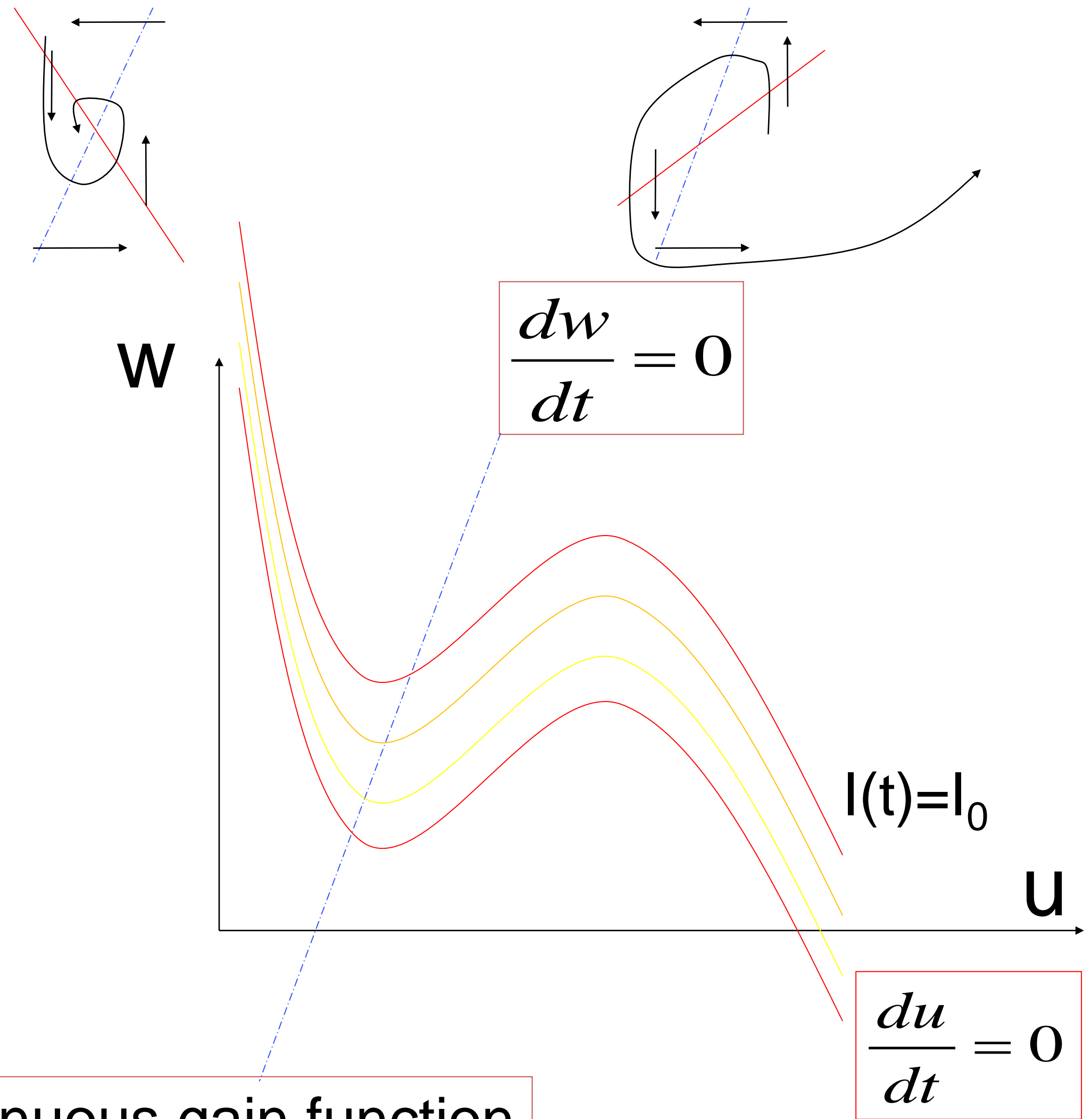
$$\tau_w \frac{dw}{dt} = G(u, w)$$

Hopf bifurcation

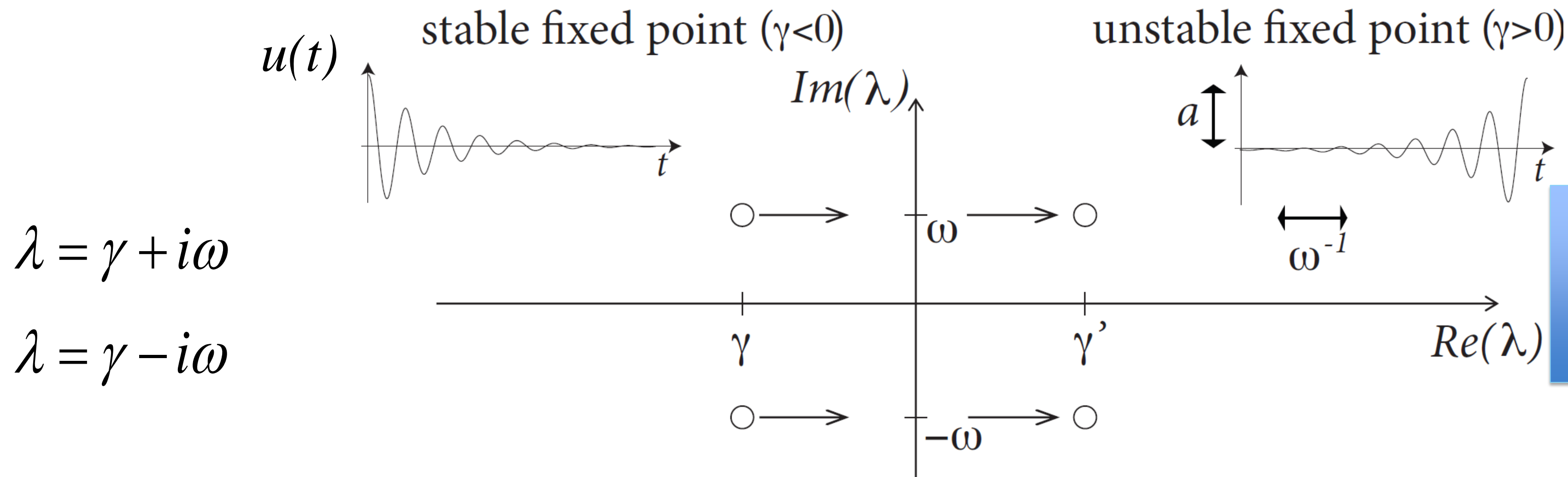


Discontinuous gain function

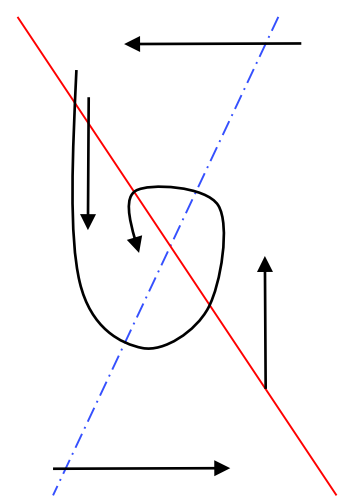
Stability lost \rightarrow oscillation with finite frequency



4.1. Hopf bifurcation



$\gamma < 0$



$\gamma > 0$

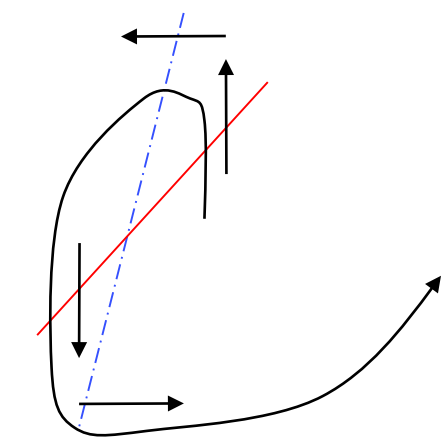
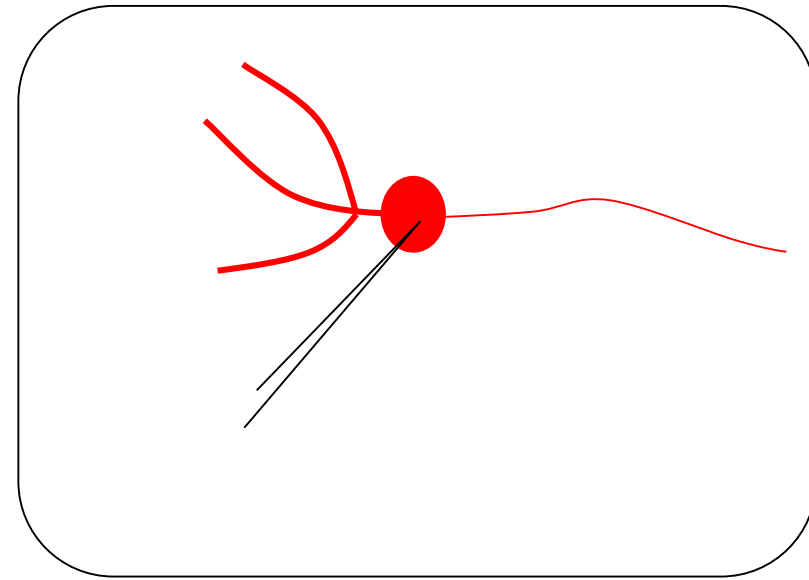


Image: *Neuronal Dynamics*,
Gerstner et al.,
Cambridge Univ. Press (2014)

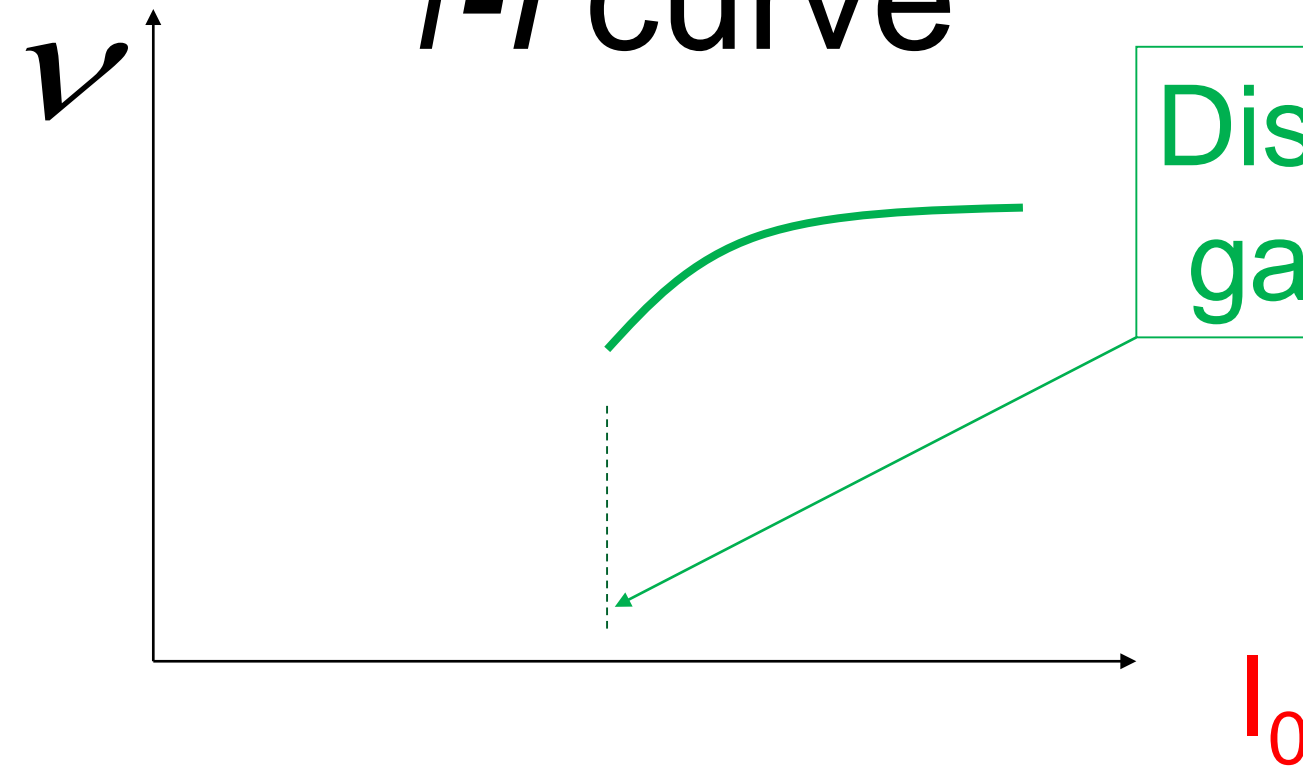
4.1. Hopf bifurcation: $f-I$ -curve

ramp input/
constant input

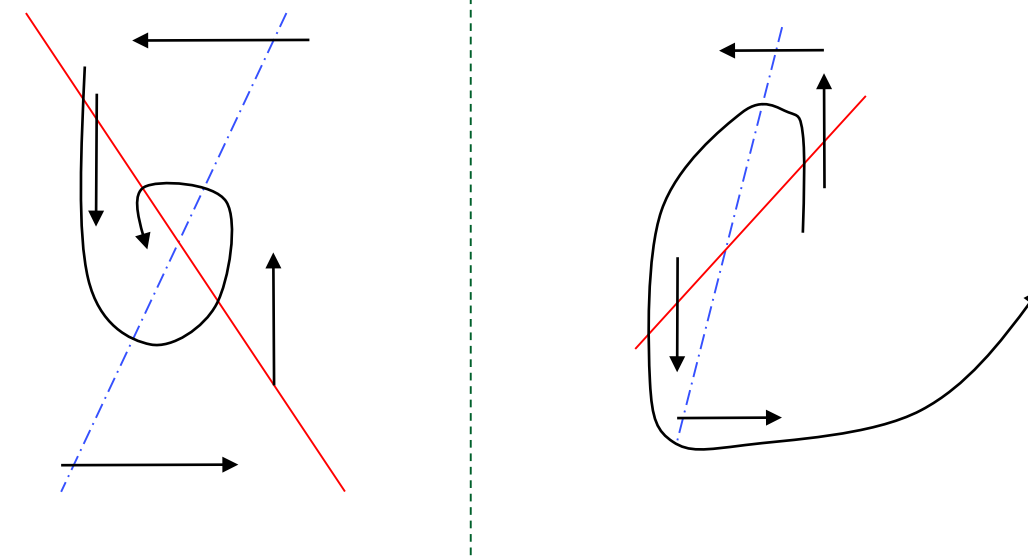


I_0

$f-I$ curve



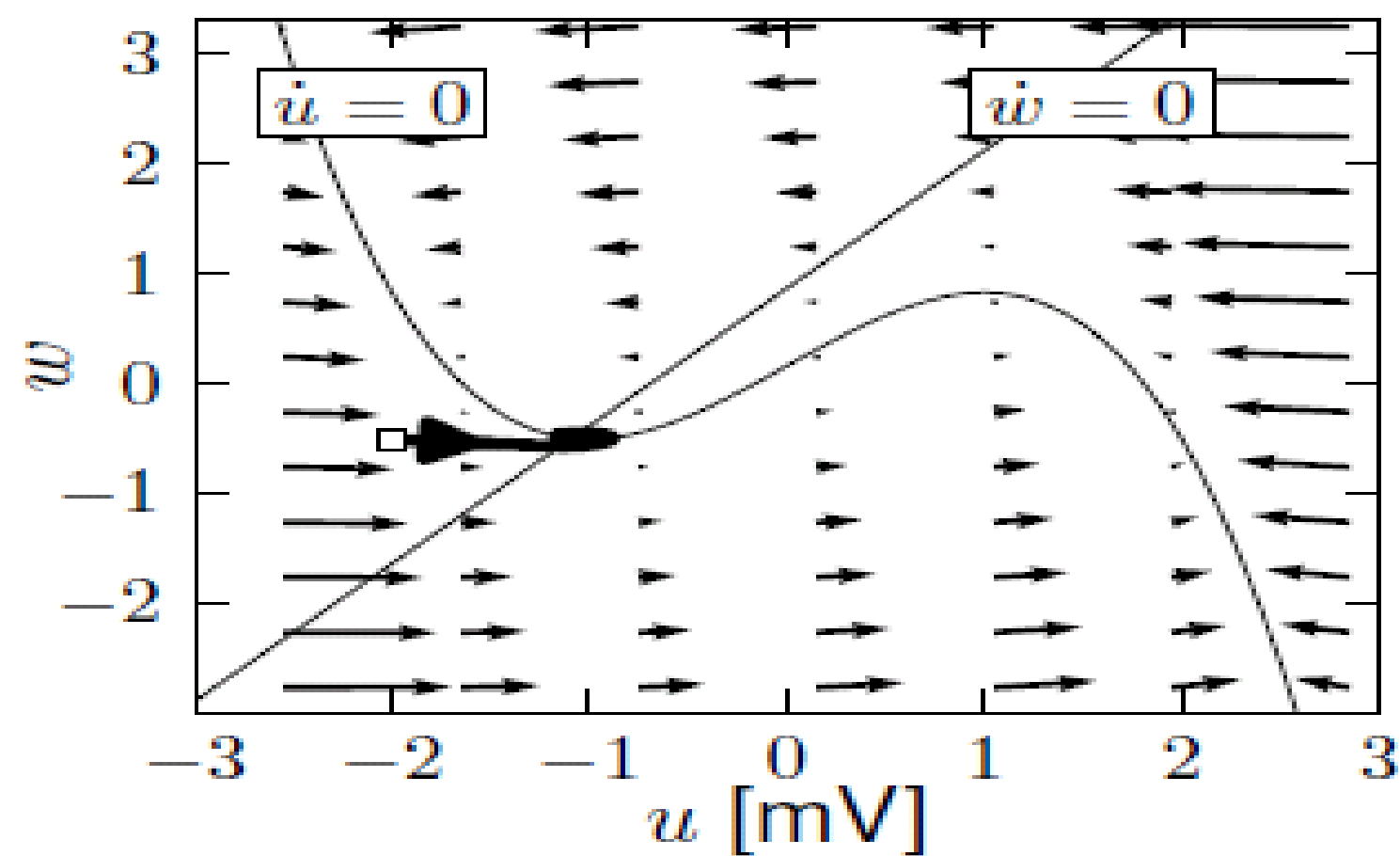
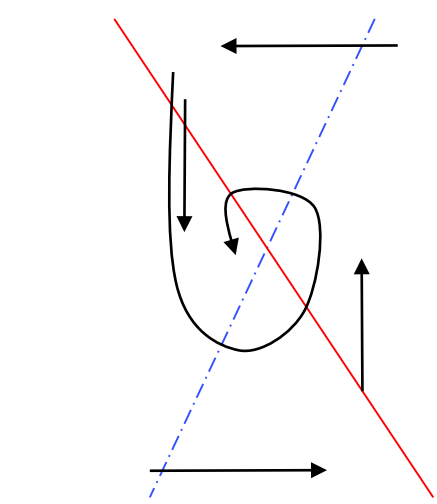
Discontinuous
gain function: Type II



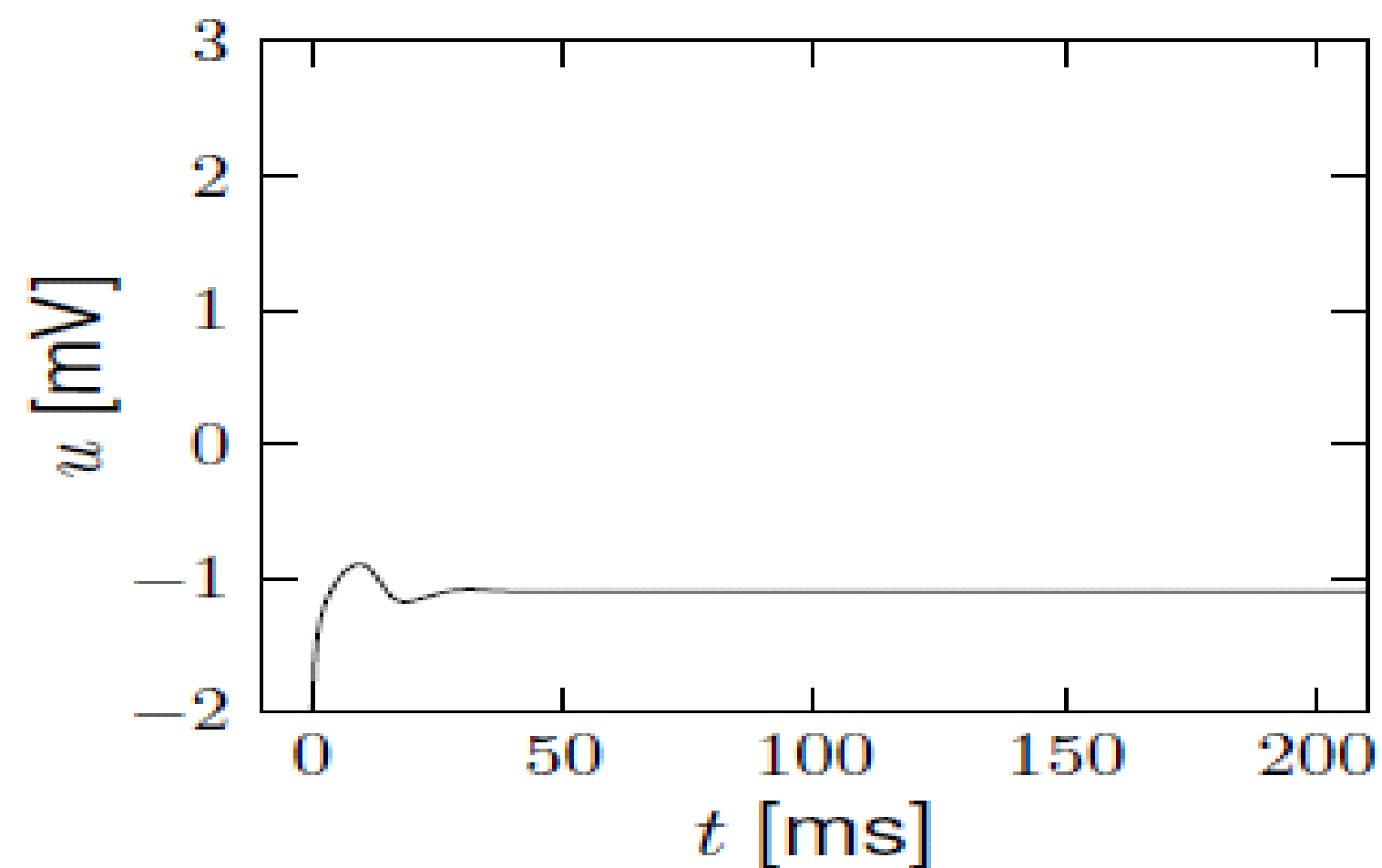
Stability lost \rightarrow oscillation with finite frequency

4.1 Example: FitzHugh-Nagumo / Hopf bifurcation

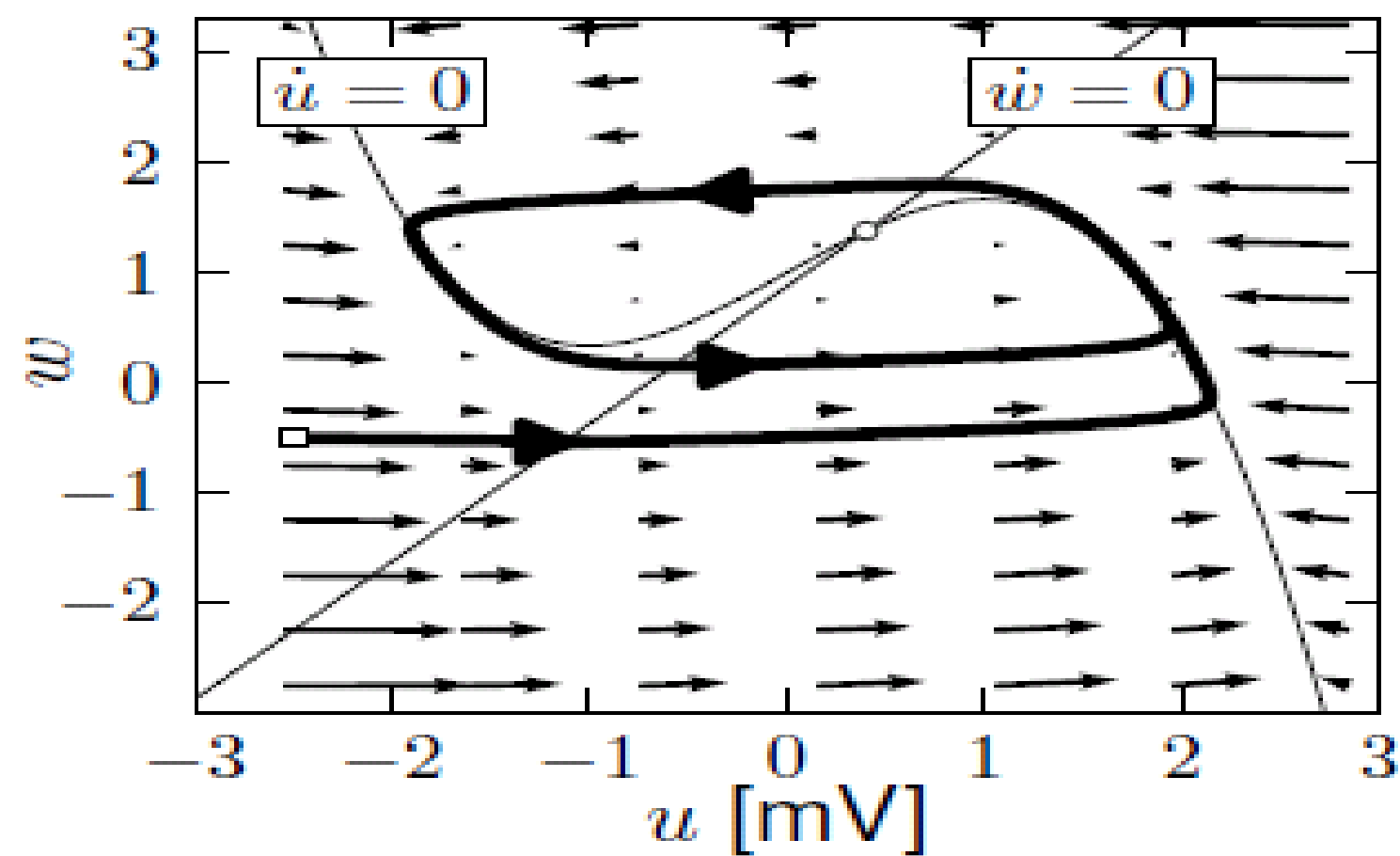
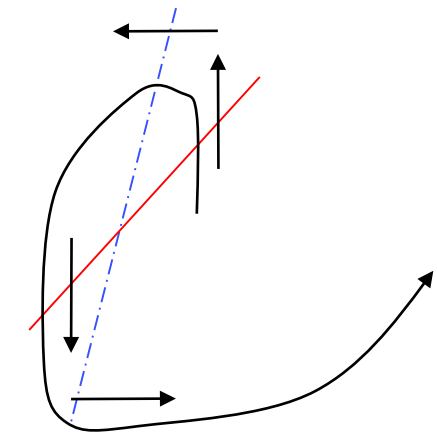
$I=0$



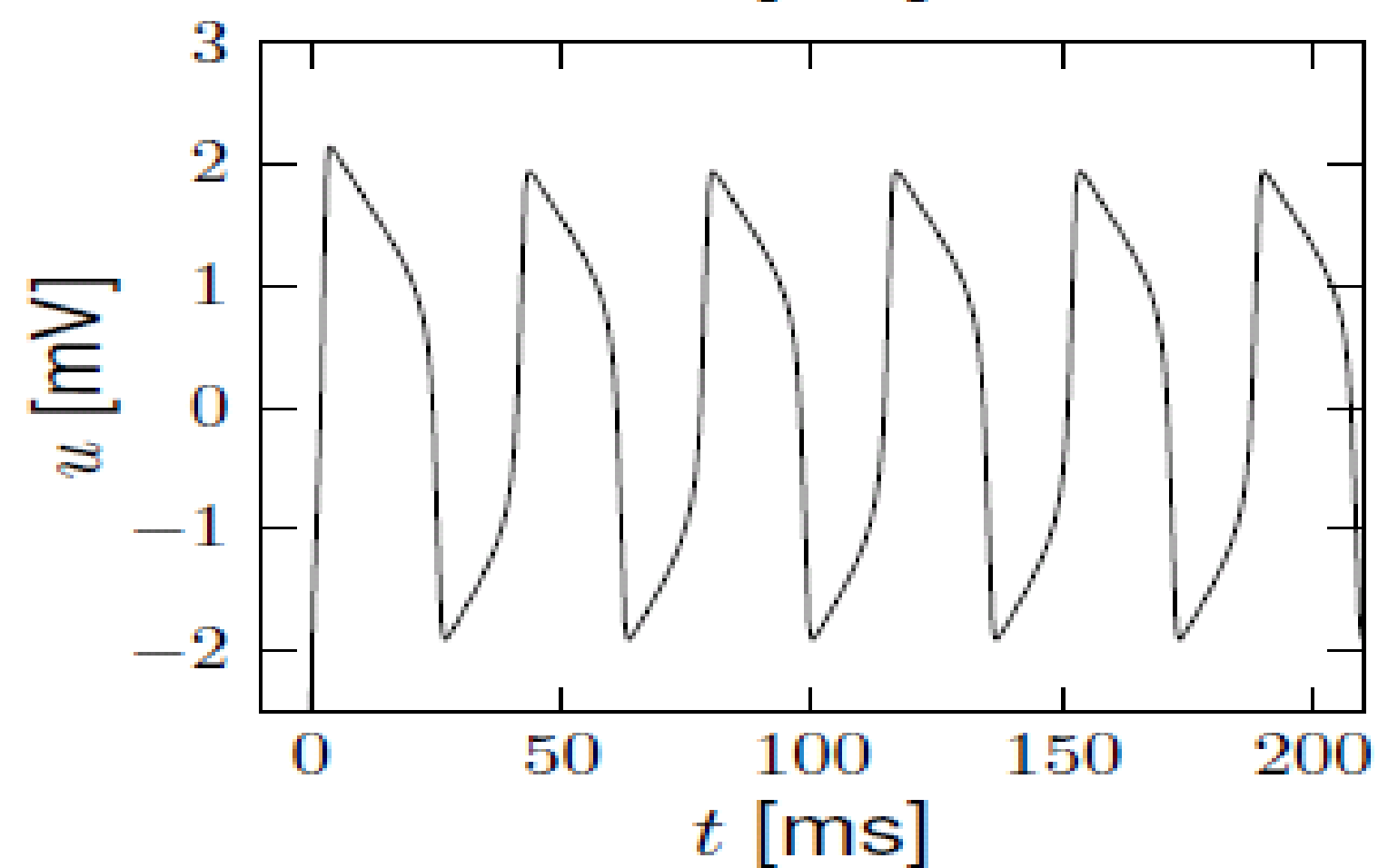
B



$I > I_c$

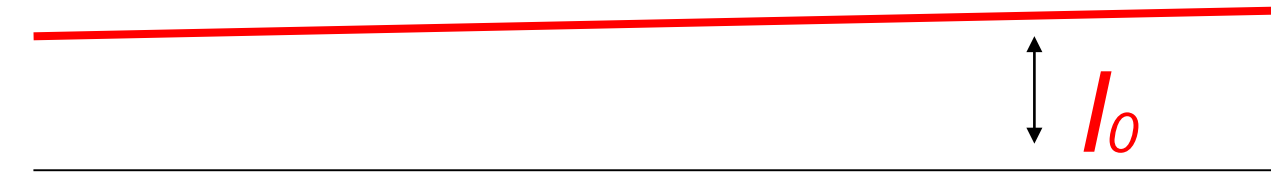


D

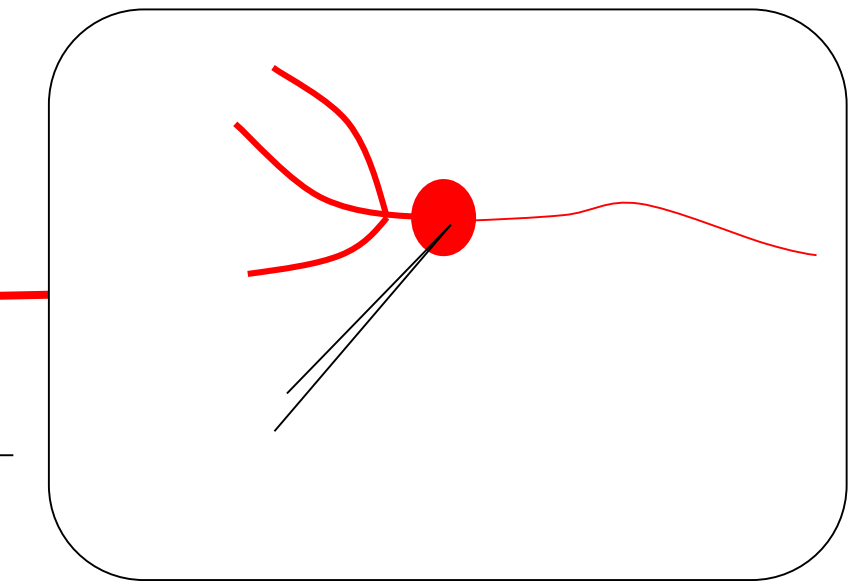


4.1. Type I and II Neuron Models

ramp input/
constant input

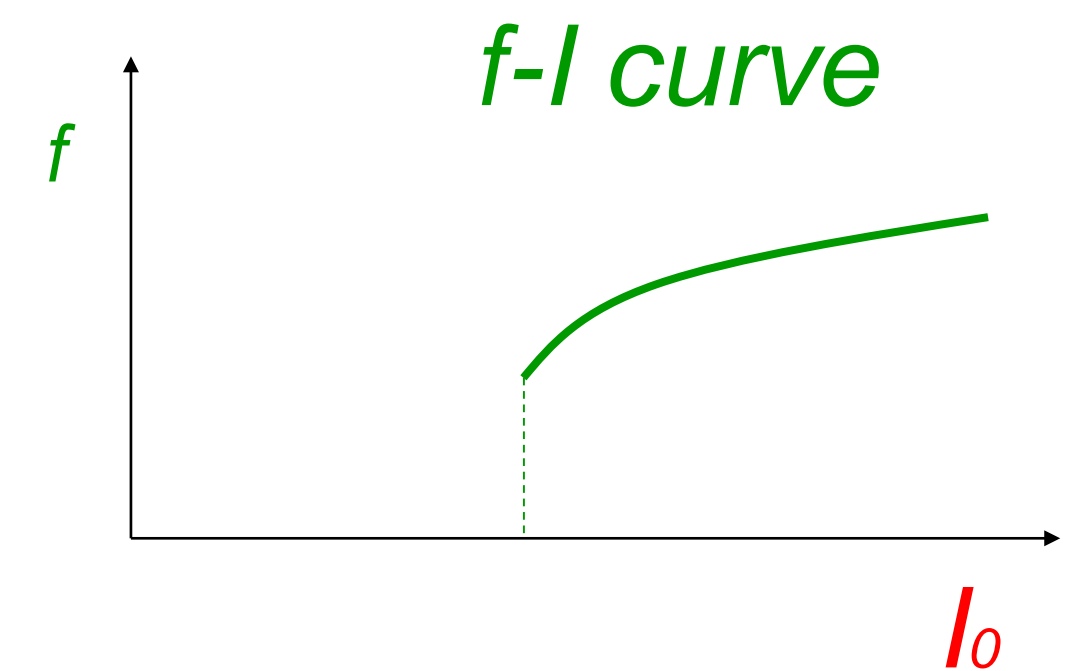
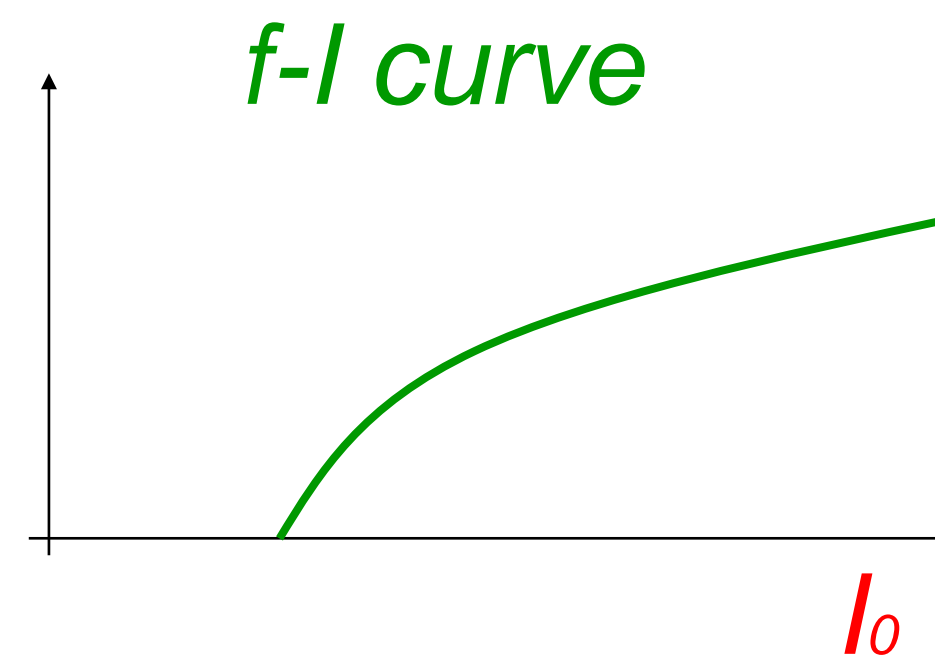


neuron



Now:
Type I model

Type I and type II models



4.1. Type I Neuron Models: saddle-node bifurcation

type I Model: 3 fixed points

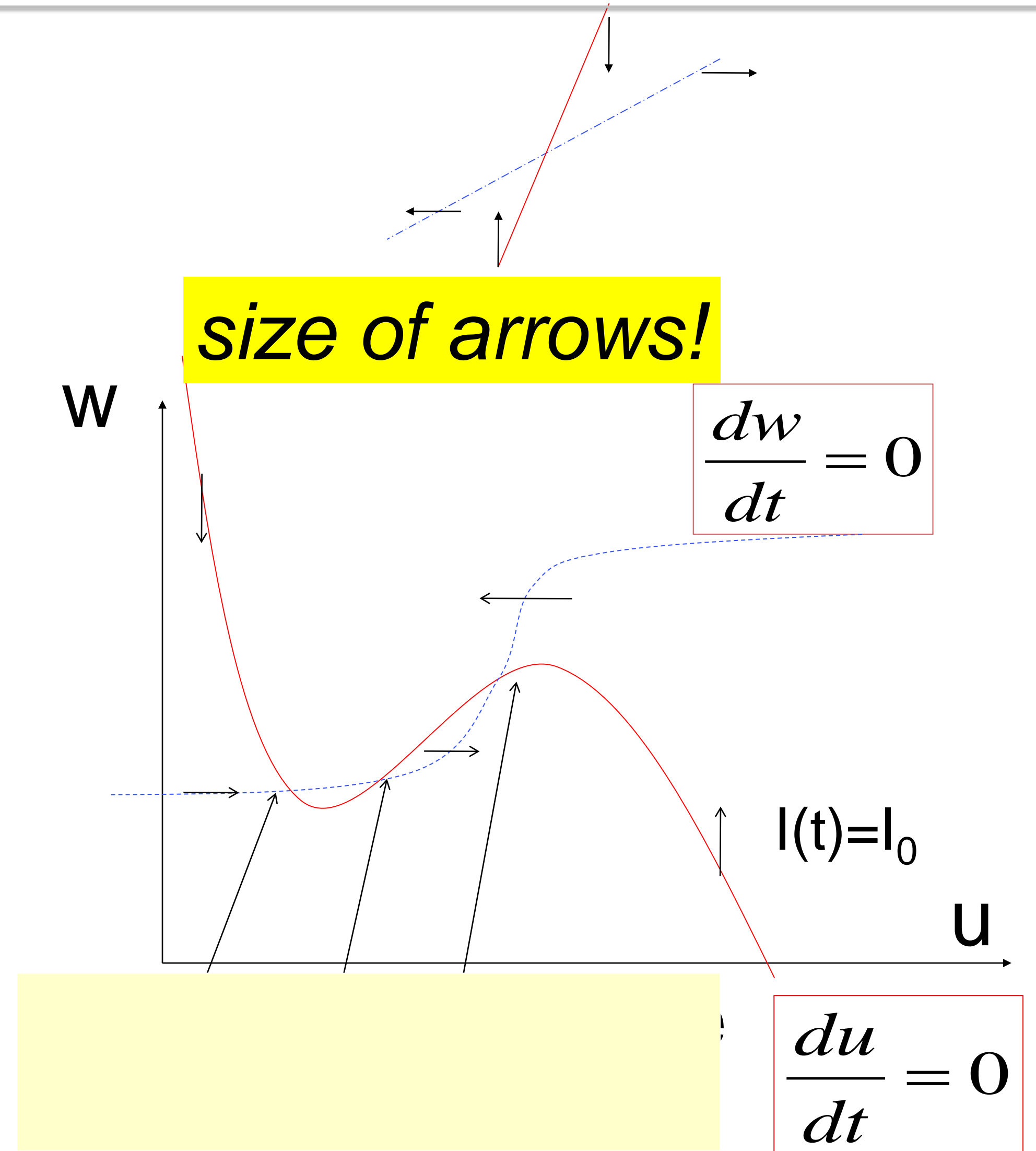
stimulus

$$\tau \frac{du}{dt} = F(u, w) + I(t)$$

$$\tau_w \frac{dw}{dt} = G(u, w)$$

apply constant stimulus I_0

Saddle-node bifurcation



4.1. Type I Neuron Models: saddle-node bifurcation

stimulus

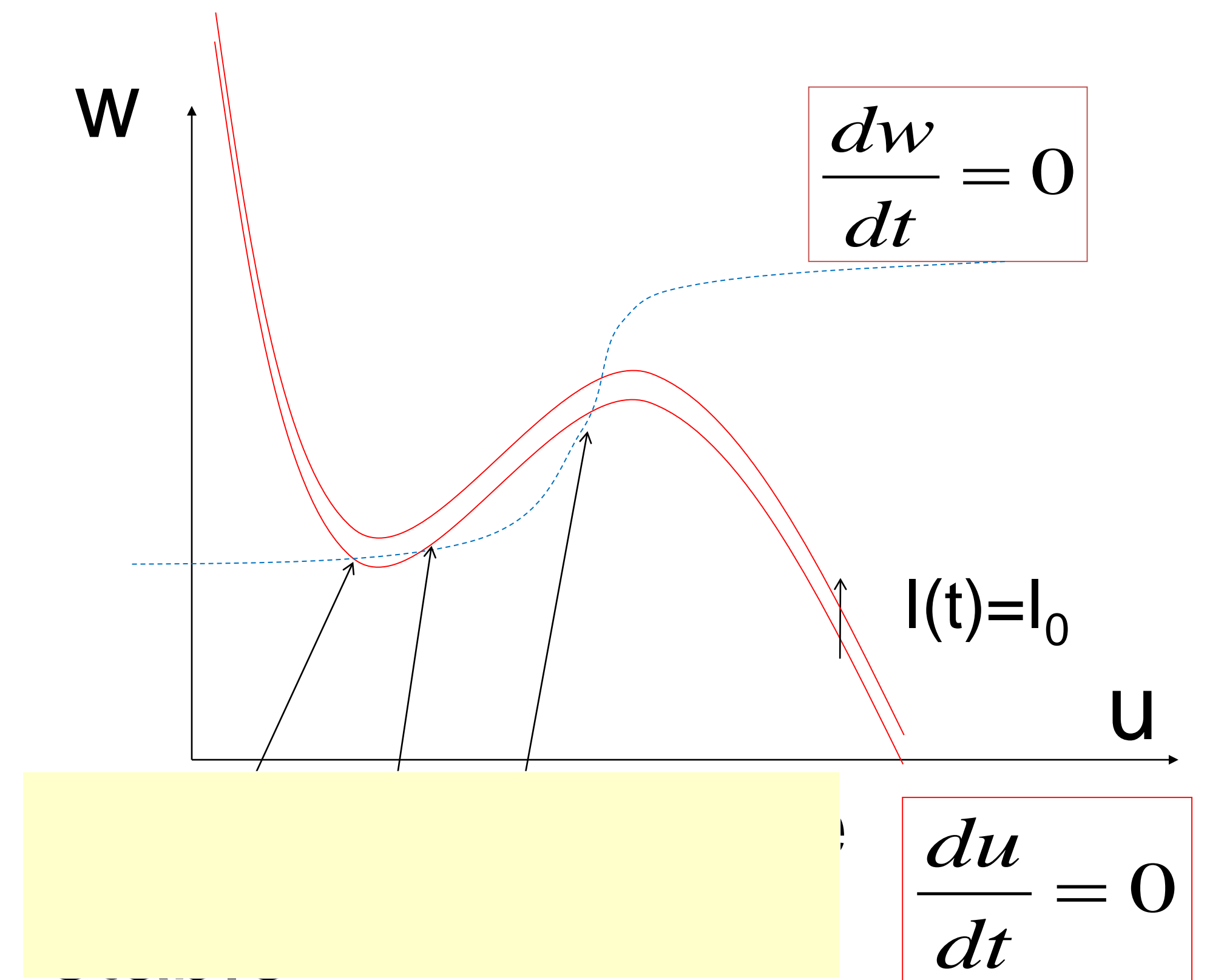


$$\tau \frac{du}{dt} = F(u, w) + I(t)$$

$$\tau_w \frac{dw}{dt} = G(u, w)$$

Blackboard:
- flow arrows,
- ghost/ruins

constant input

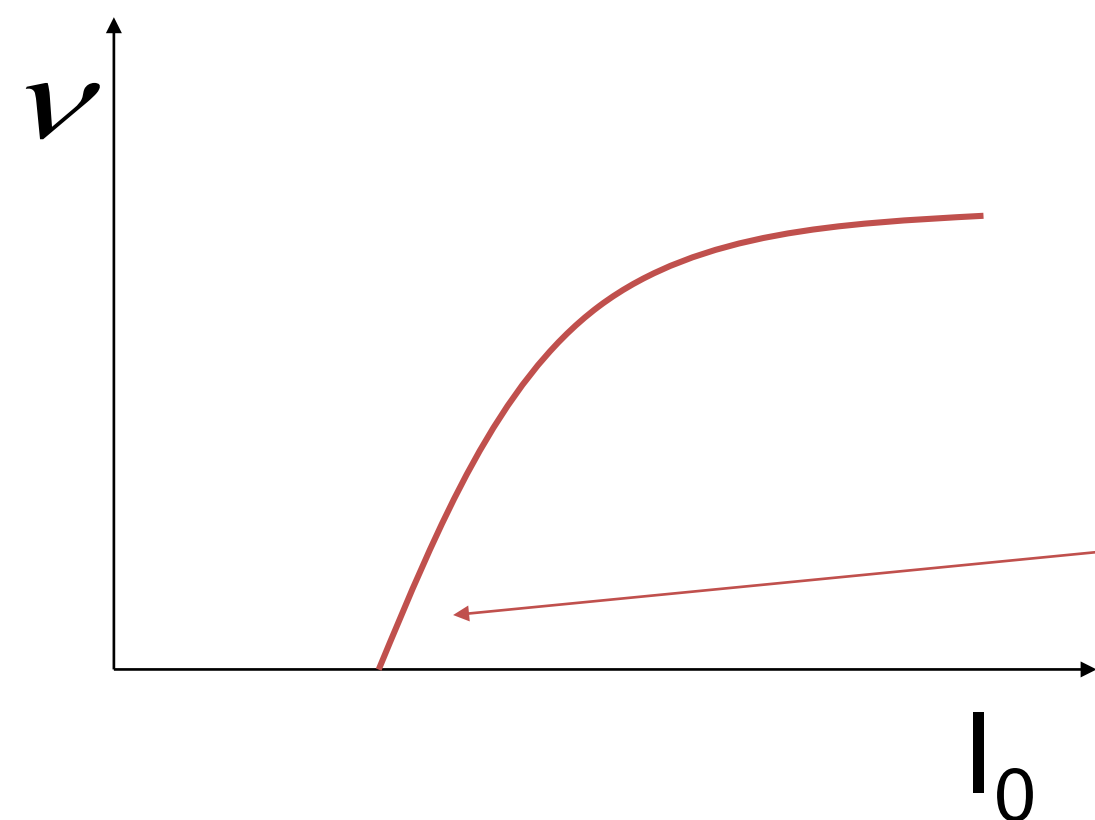


4.1. Type I Neuron Models: saddle-node bifurcation

$$\tau \frac{du}{dt} = F(u, w) + I(t)$$

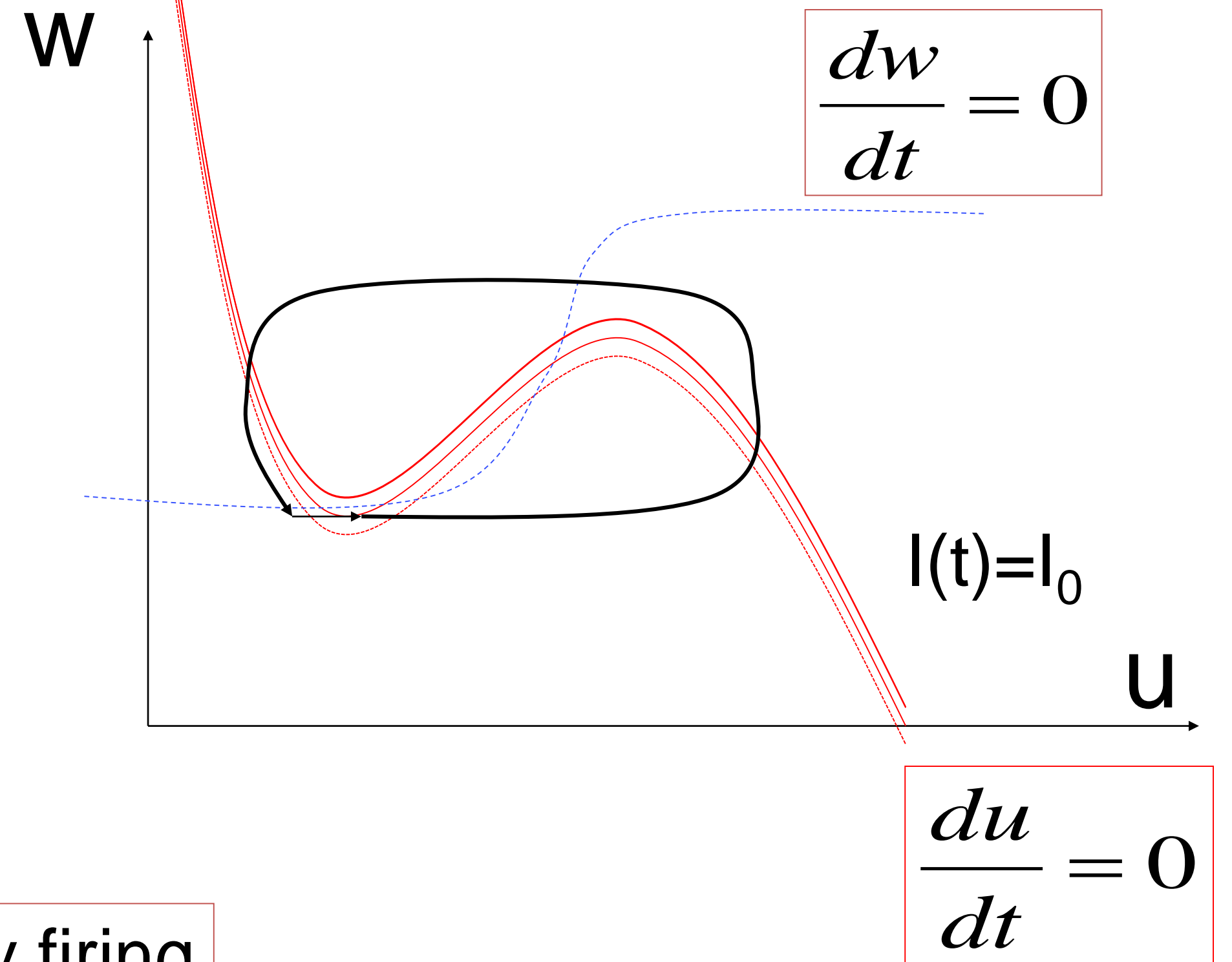
stimulus
↓

$$\tau_w \frac{dw}{dt} = G(u, w)$$



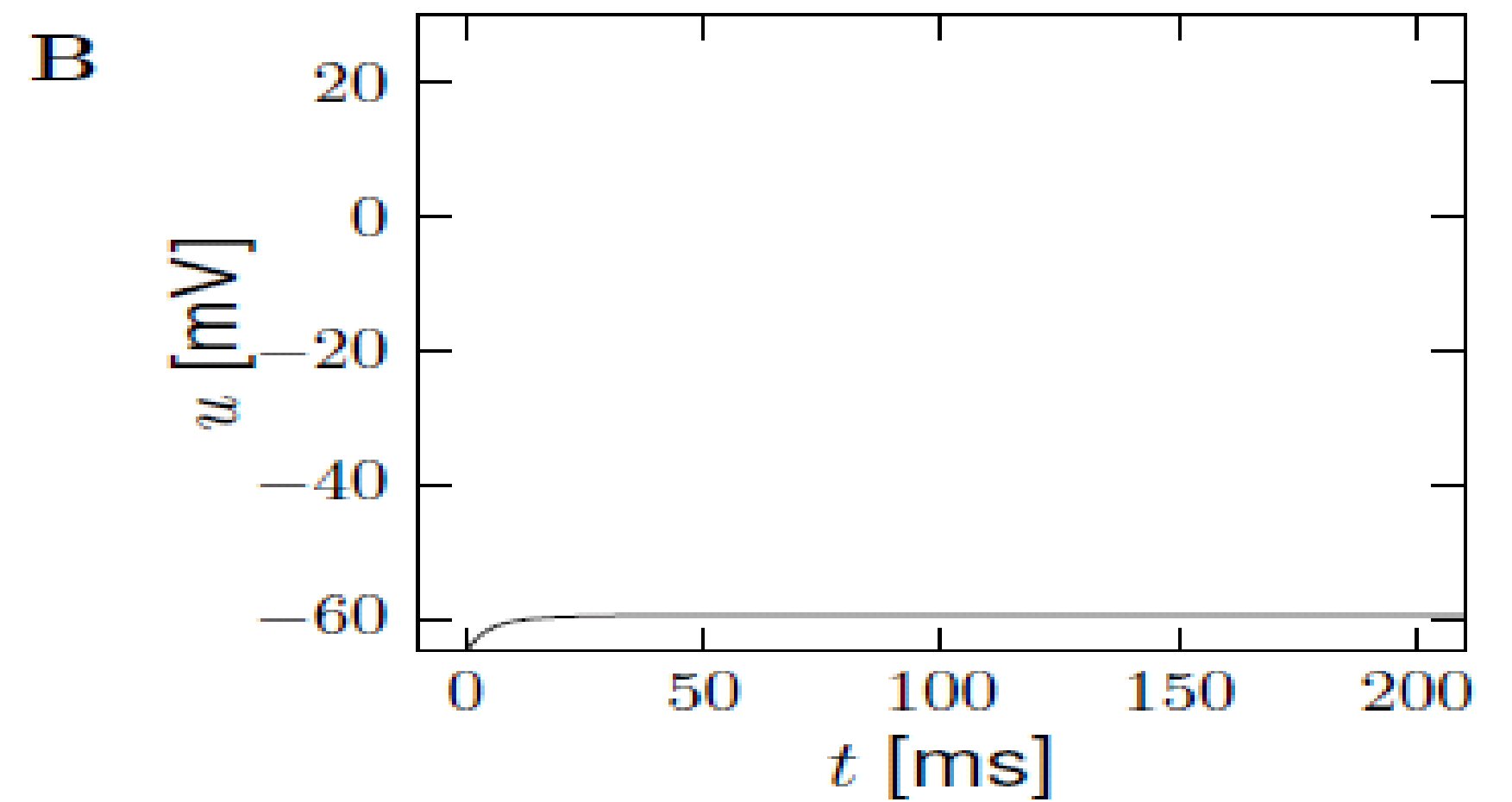
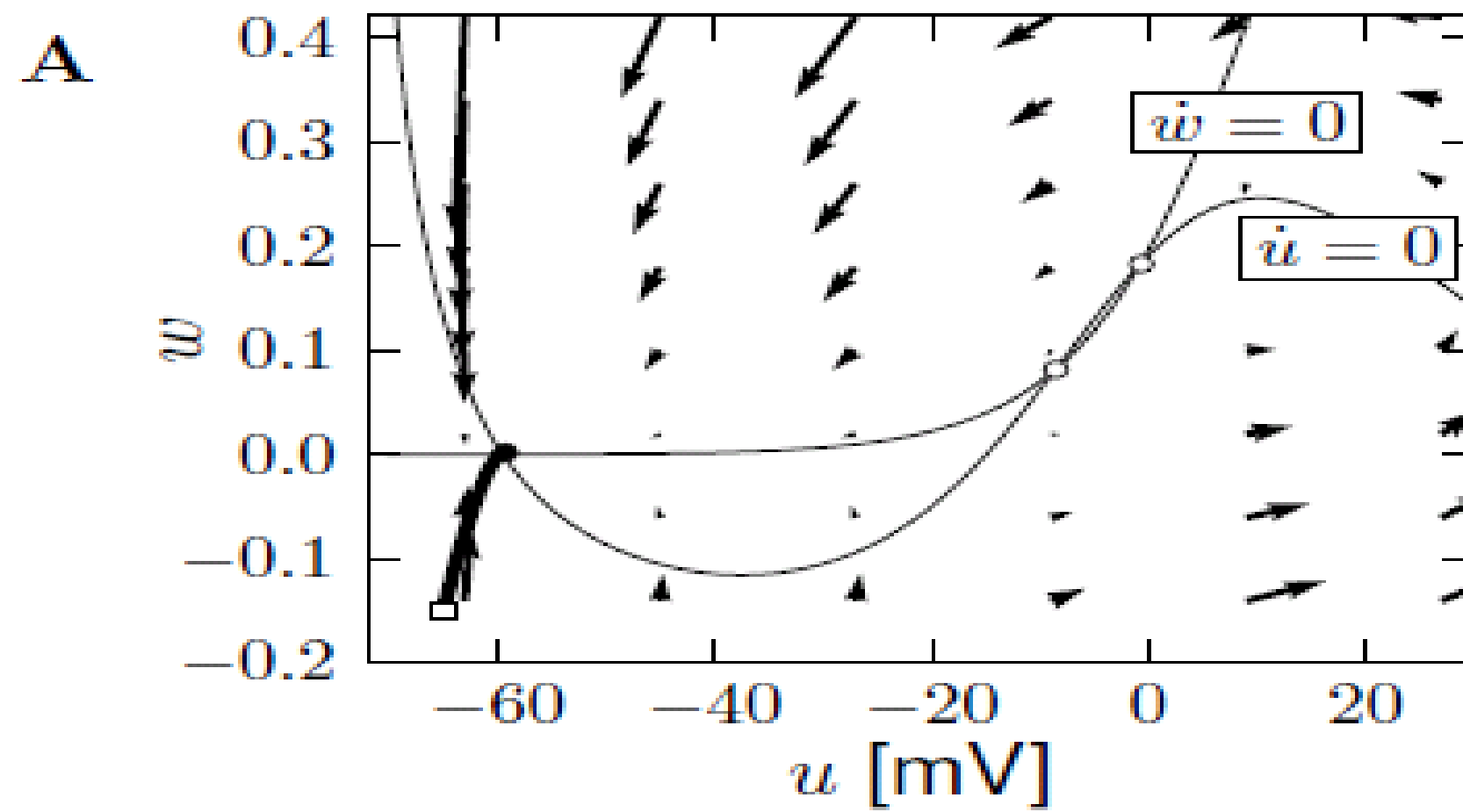
Low-frequency firing

constant input

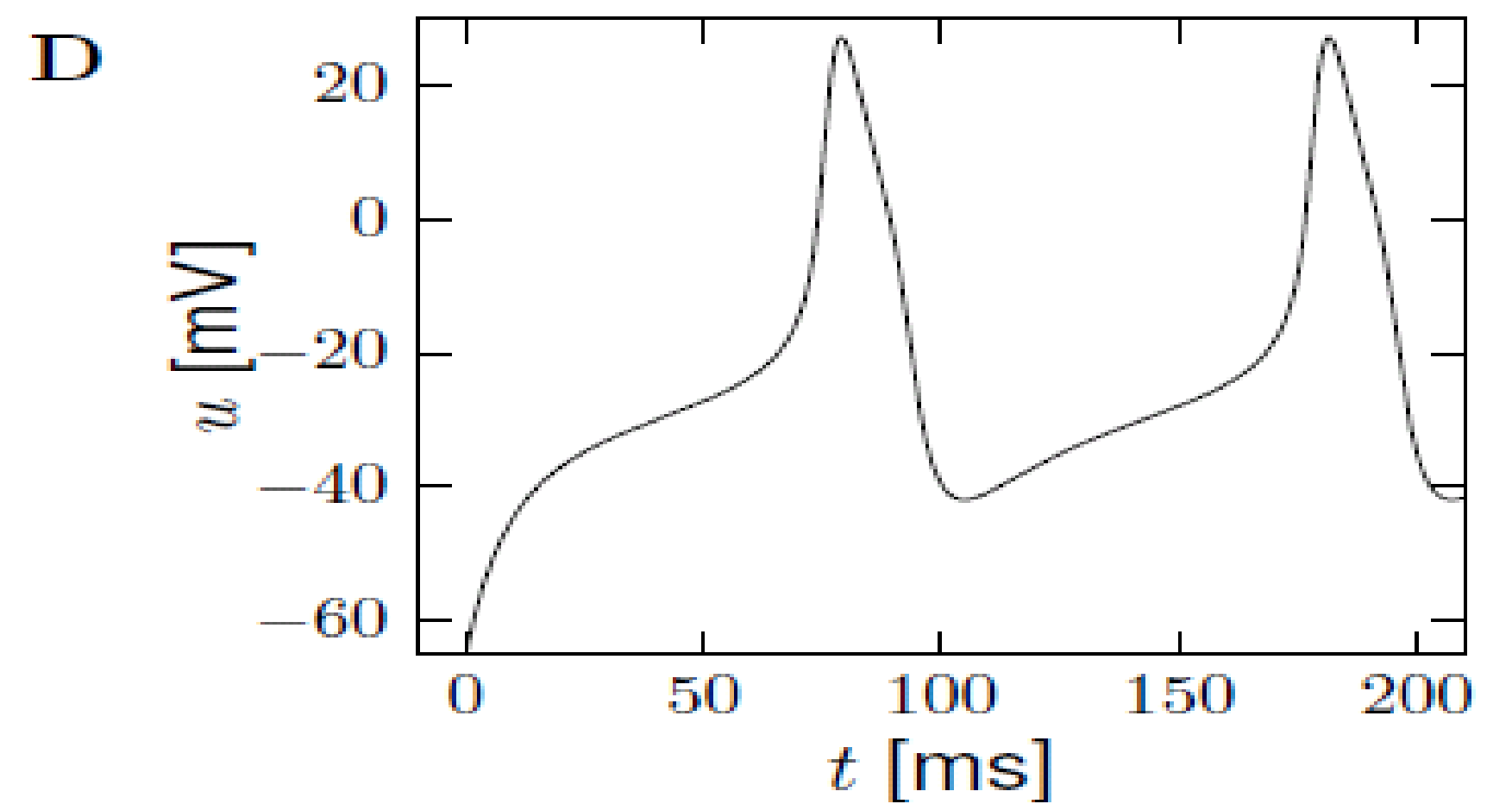
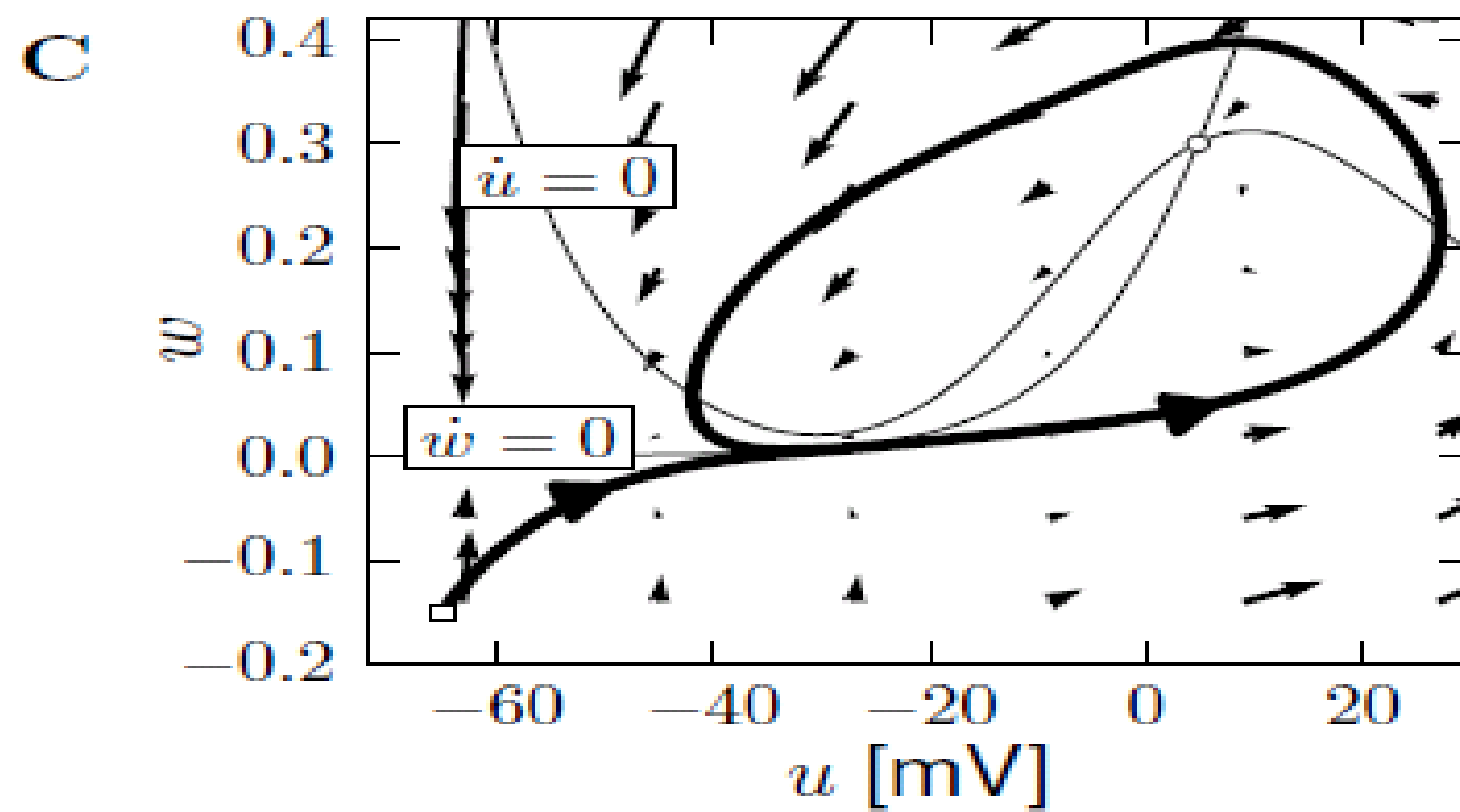


4.1. Example: Morris-Lecar as type I Model

$I = 0$



$I > I_c$



4.1. Example: Morris-Lecar as type I Model

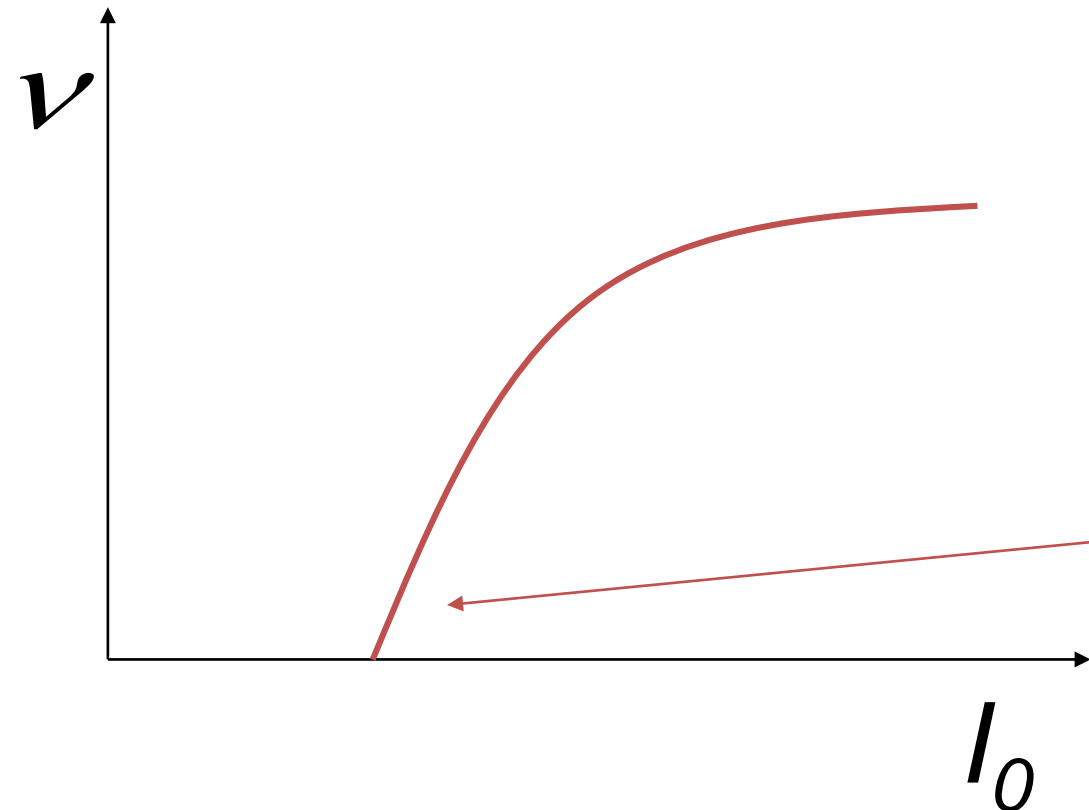
stimulus



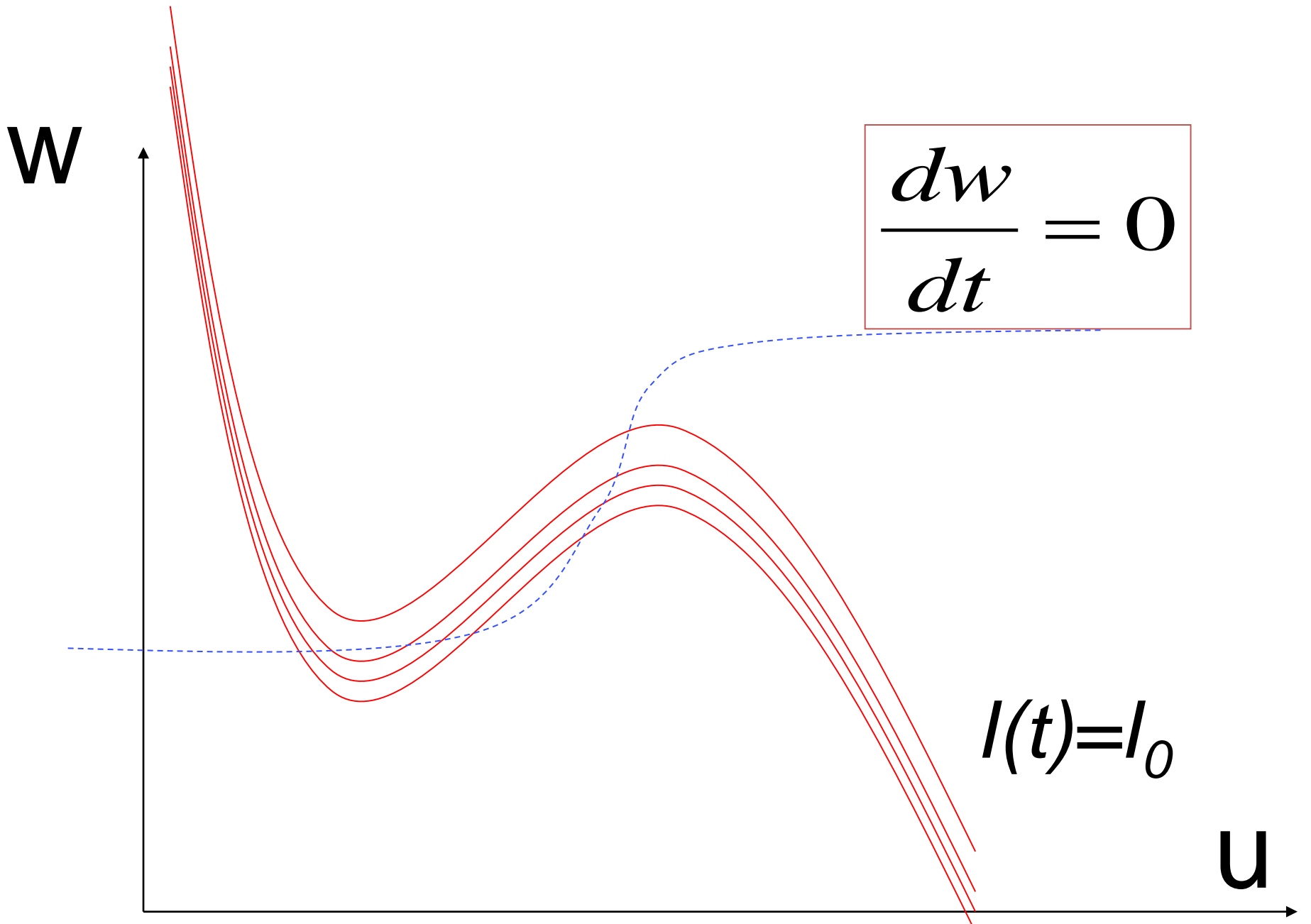
$$\tau \frac{du}{dt} = F(u, w) + I(t)$$

$$\frac{dw}{dt} = -\frac{w - w_0(u)}{\tau_{eff}(u)}$$

$$w_0(u) = 0.5[1 + \tanh(\frac{u - \theta}{d})]$$



Low-frequency firing



$$\frac{dw}{dt} = 0$$

$$\frac{du}{dt} = 0$$

4.1. Type I and II Neuron Models

Response at firing threshold?

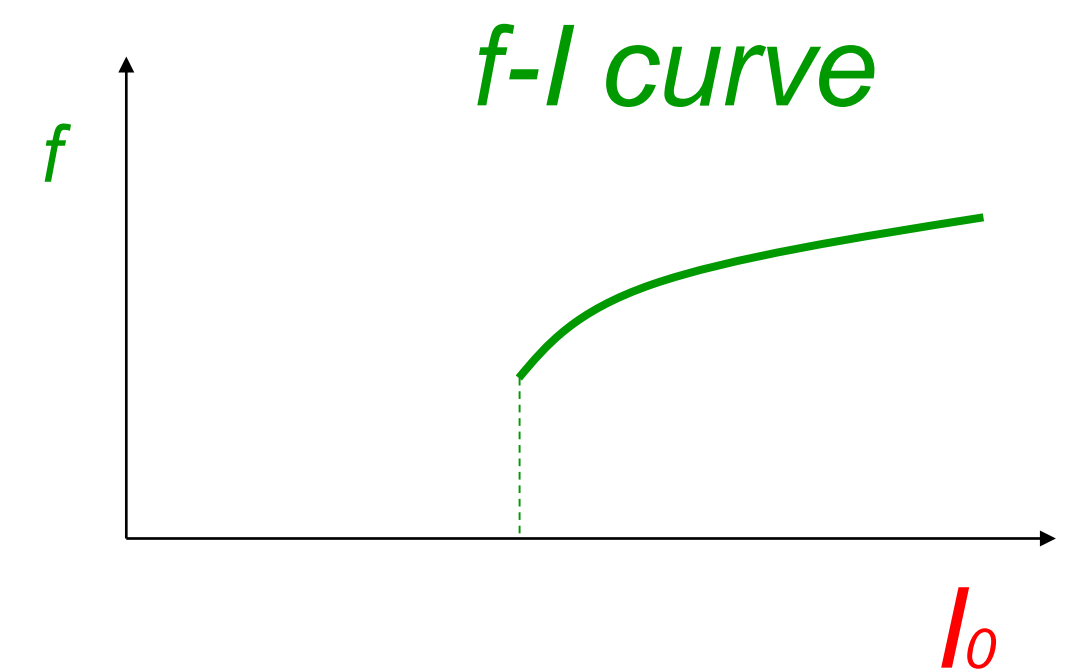
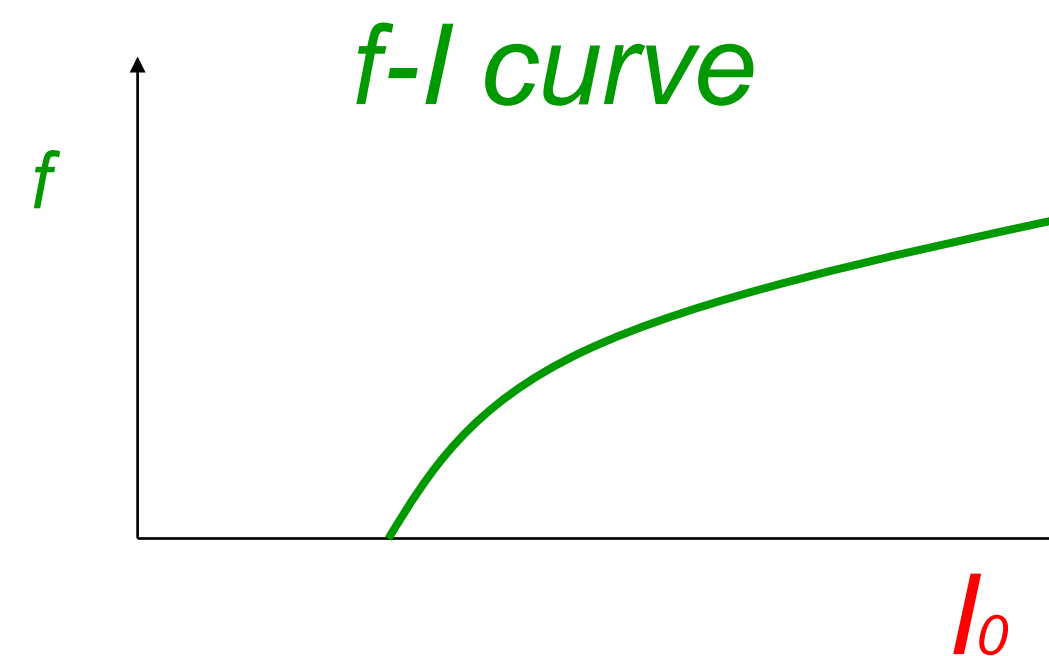
Type I

type II

Saddle-Node
Onto limit cycle

For example:
Subcritical Hopf

ramp input/
constant input



4.1. Type I and II Neuron Models

2-dimensional equation

stimulus

$$\tau \frac{du}{dt} = F(u, w) + RI(t)$$

$$\tau_w \frac{dw}{dt} = G(u, w)$$

ramp input/
constant input



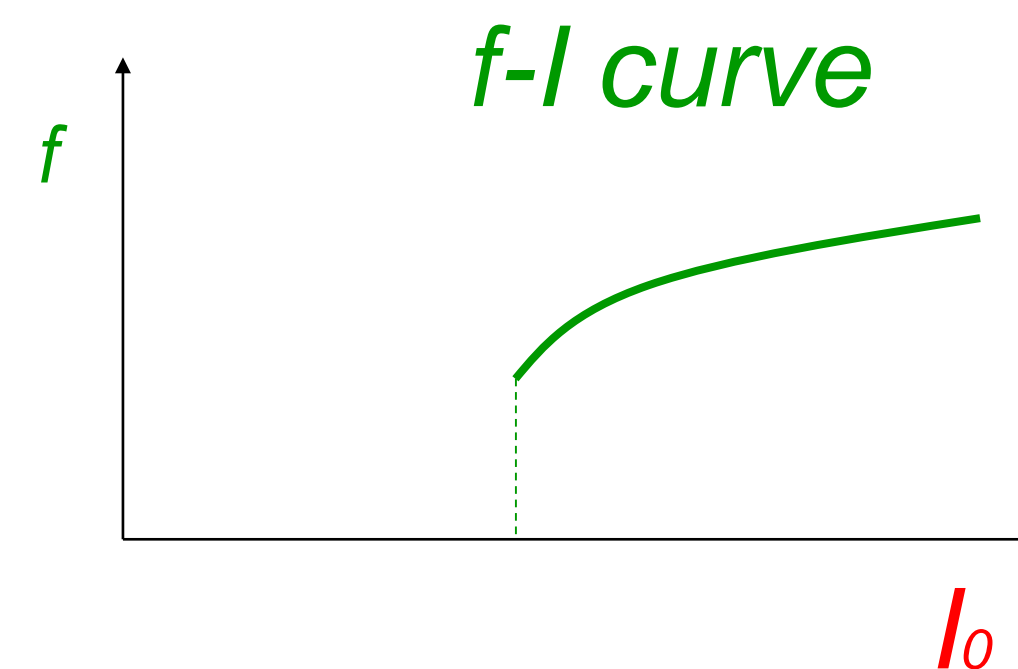
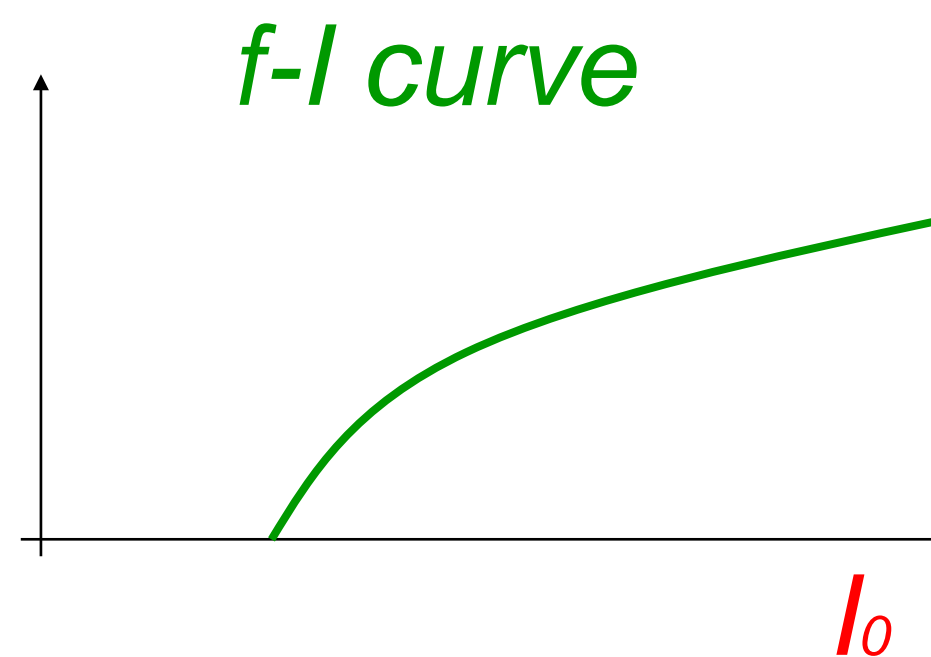
neuron

Type I and type II models

Enables graphical analysis!

Constant input

- repetitive firing (or not)
- limit cycle (or not)



Neuronal Dynamics – Quiz 4.1.

A. 2-dimensional neuron model with (supercritical) saddle-node-onto-limit cycle bifurcation

The neuron model is of type II, because there is a jump in the f-I curve

The neuron model is of type I, because the f-I curve is continuous

The neuron model is of type I, if the limit cycle passes through a regime where the flow is very slow.

B. Threshold in a 2-dimensional neuron model with subcritical Hopf bifurcation

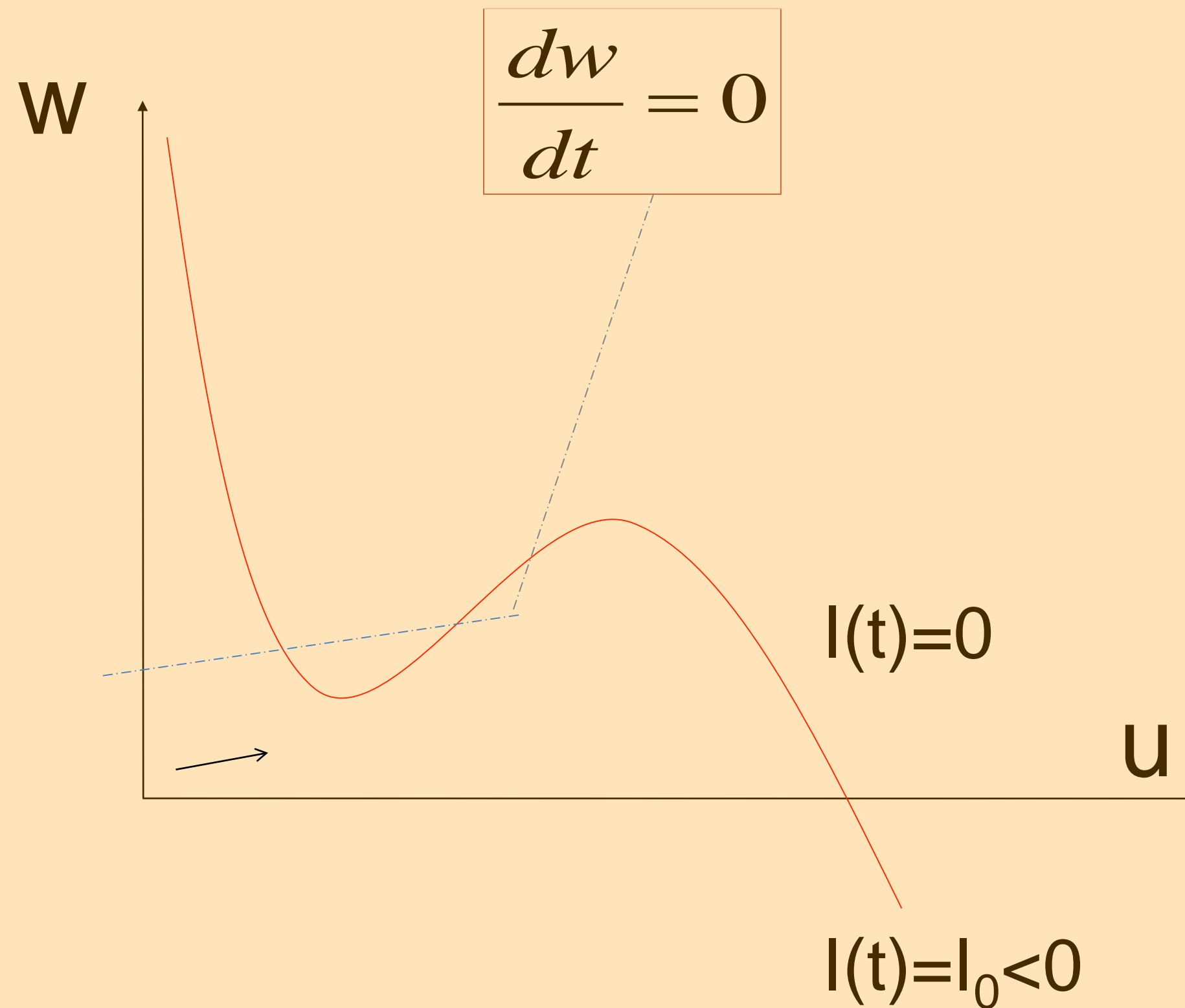
The neuron model is of type II, because there is a jump in the f-I curve

The neuron model is of type I, because the f-I curve is continuous

starting with zero current, and slowly increasing the current, is this true?

“ in the regime below the Hopf bifurcation, the neuron is at rest or will necessarily converge to the resting state”

Week 4 - Exercise 1 and 2: NOW!



Next lecture at 11:15

Now exercises

Week 4 – part 2: Pulse input in 2D Neuron Models



Biological Modeling of Neural Networks

Week 4

Reducing detail:

Analysis of 2D models

Wulfram Gerstner

EPFL, Lausanne, Switzerland

√ 3.1 From Hodgkin-Huxley to 2D

√ 3.2 Phase Plane Analysis

√ 3.3 Analysis of a 2D Neuron Model

4.1 Type I and II Neuron Models

- limit cycles

4.2 Pulse input

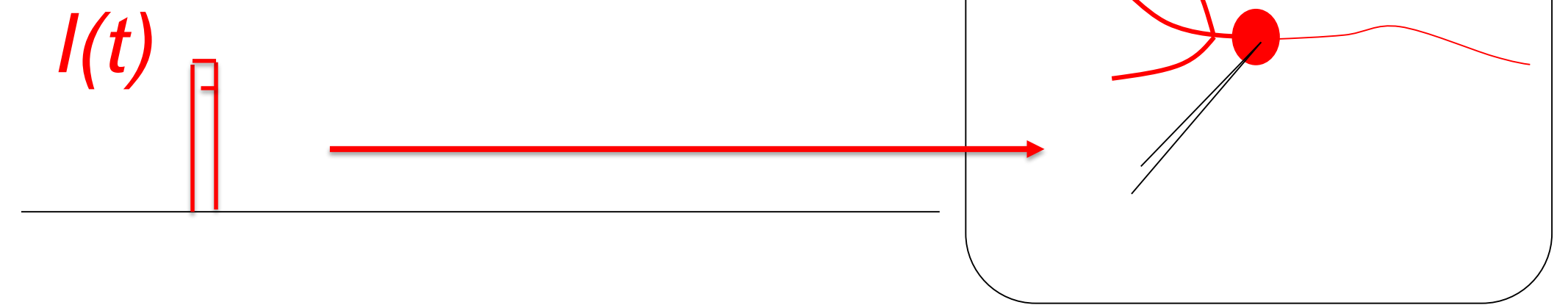
- where is the firing threshold?
- separation of time scales

4.3. Further reduction to 1 dim

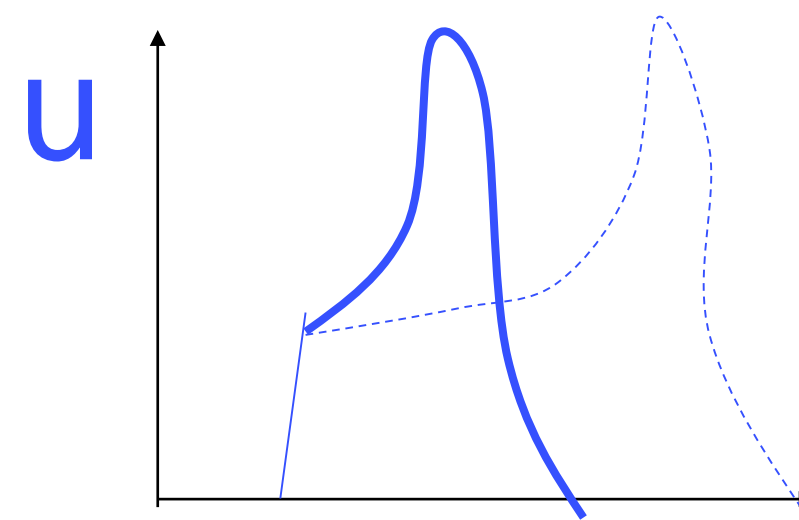
- nonlinear integrate-and-fire (again)

4.2. Threshold for Pulse Input in 2dim. Neuron Models

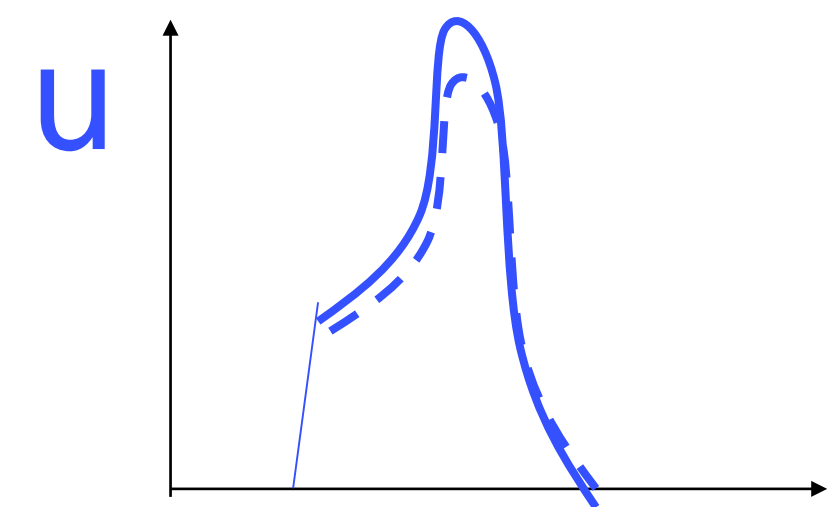
pulse input



Delayed spike



Reduced amplitude



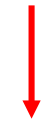
Review from 4.1 Bifurcations, simplifications

Bifurcations in neural modeling,
Type I/II neuron models,
Canonical simplified models

*Nancy Koppell,
Bart Ermentrout,
John Rinzel,
Eugene Izhikevich
and many others*

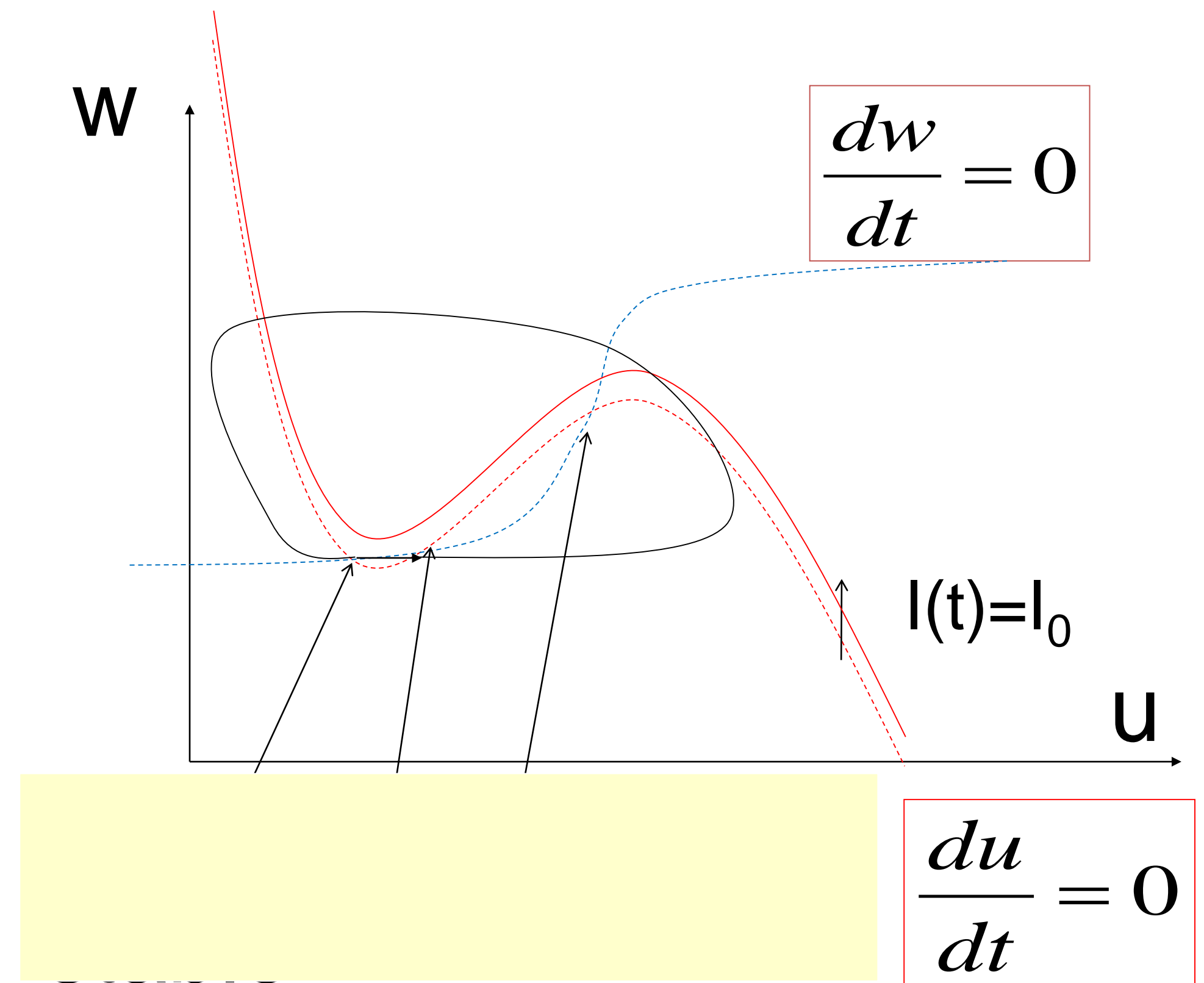
Review from 4.1: Saddle-node onto limit cycle bifurcation

stimulus



$$\tau \frac{du}{dt} = F(u, w) + RI(t)$$

$$\tau_w \frac{dw}{dt} = G(u, w)$$



4.2 Threshold for Pulse input

stimulus

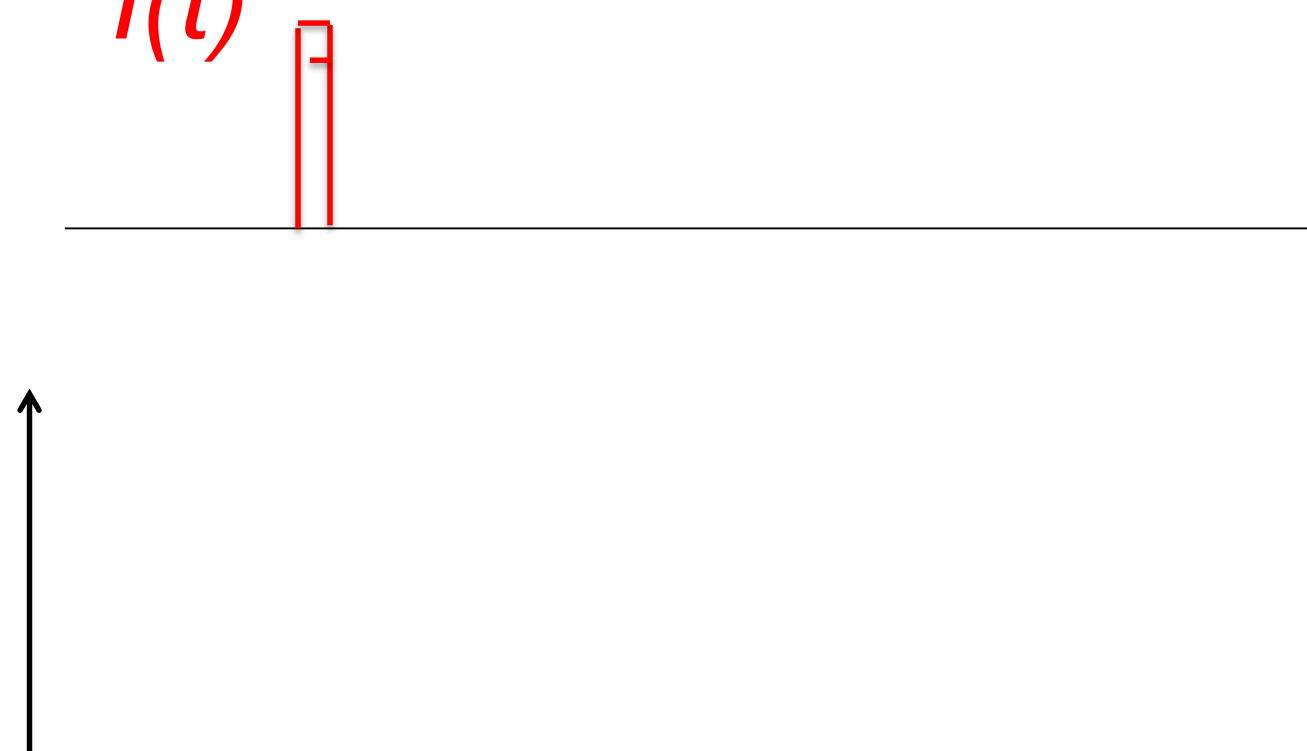


$$\tau \frac{du}{dt} = F(u, w) + RI(t)$$

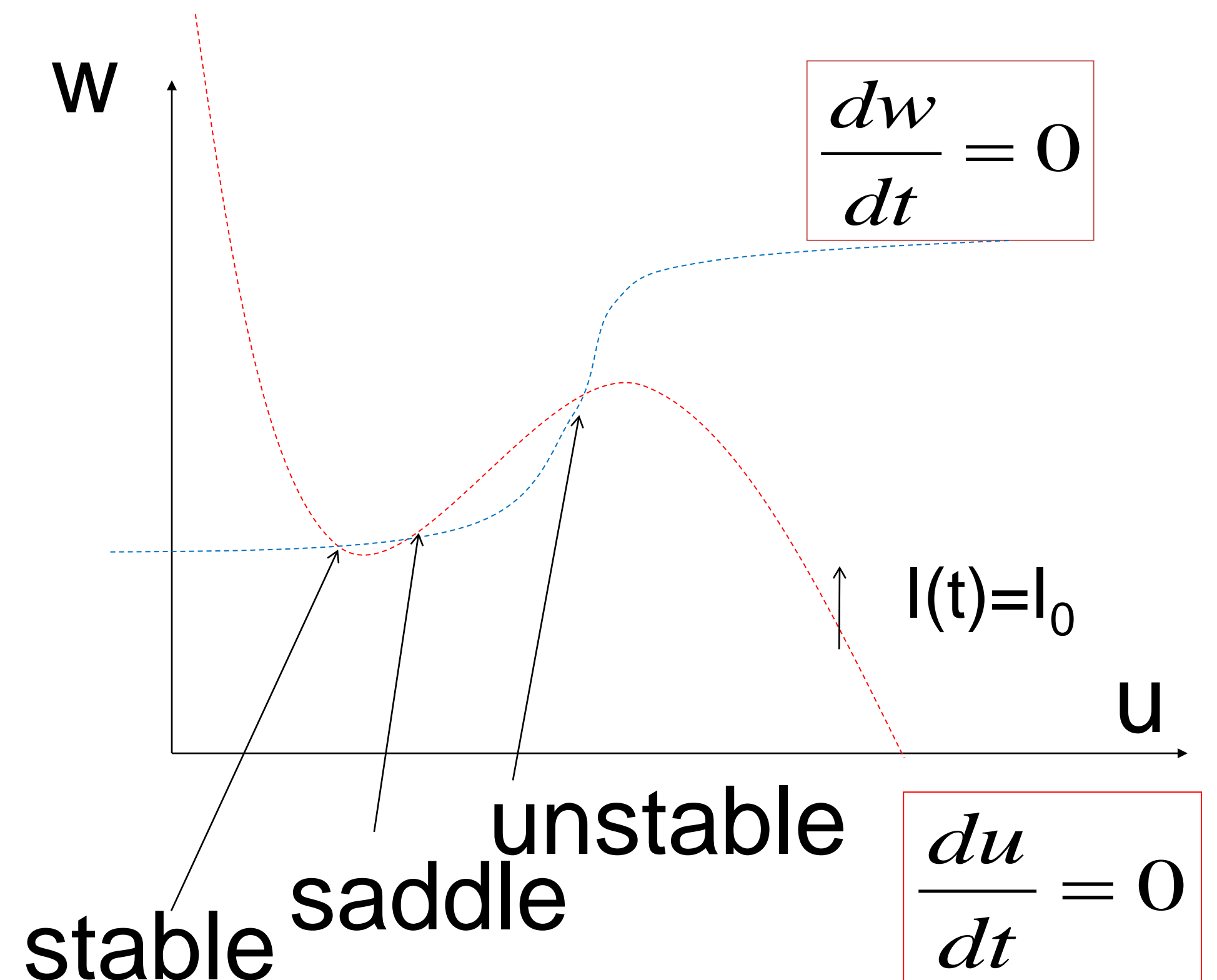
$$\tau_w \frac{dw}{dt} = G(u, w)$$

pulse input

$I(t)$



Blackboard:
Saddle, stable manifold,
Slow response

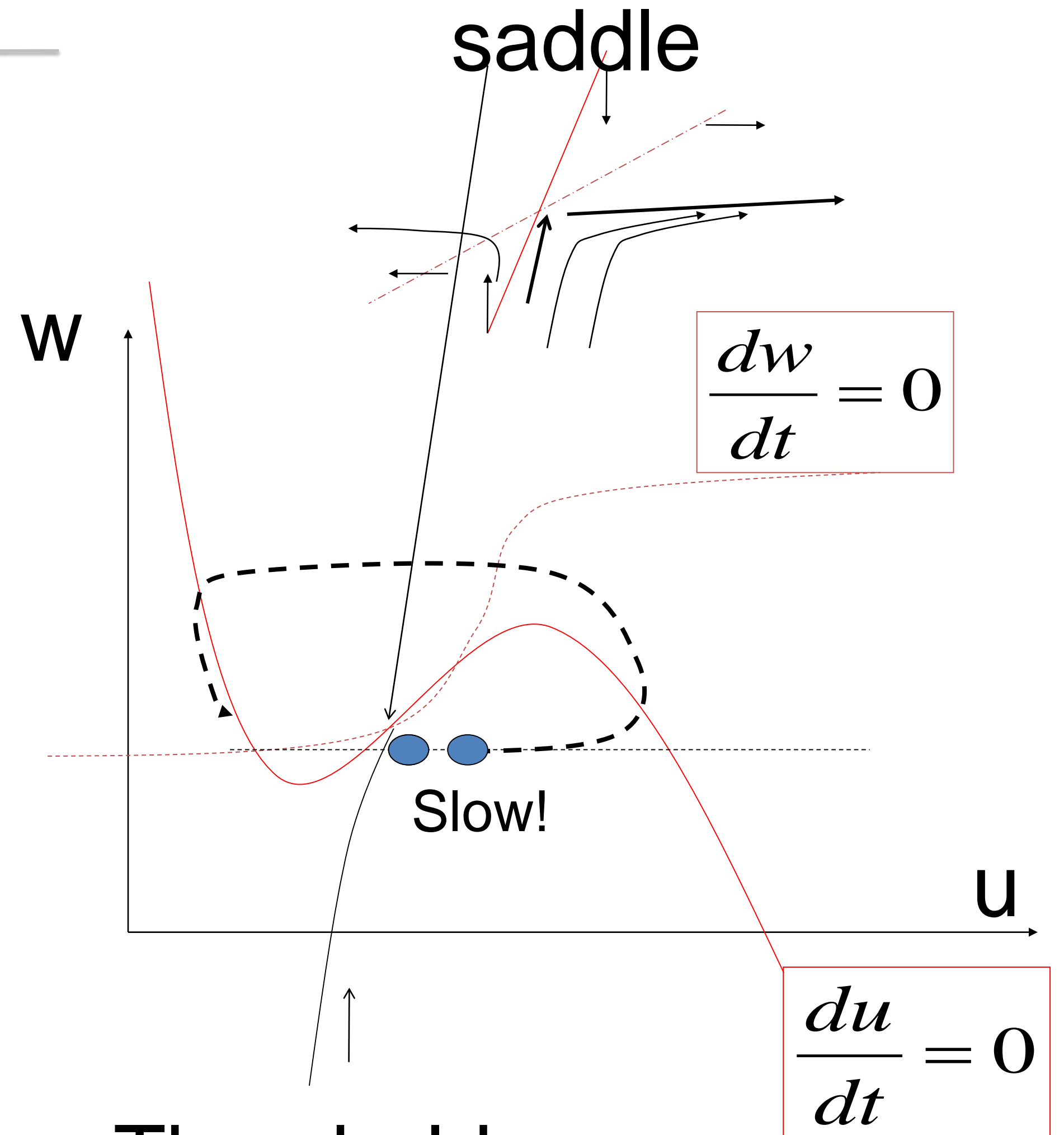
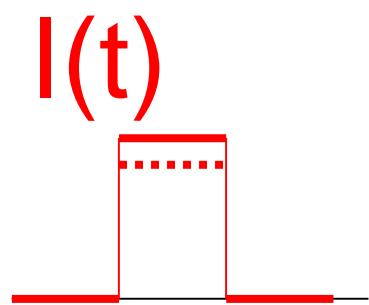


4.2 Type I model: Pulse input

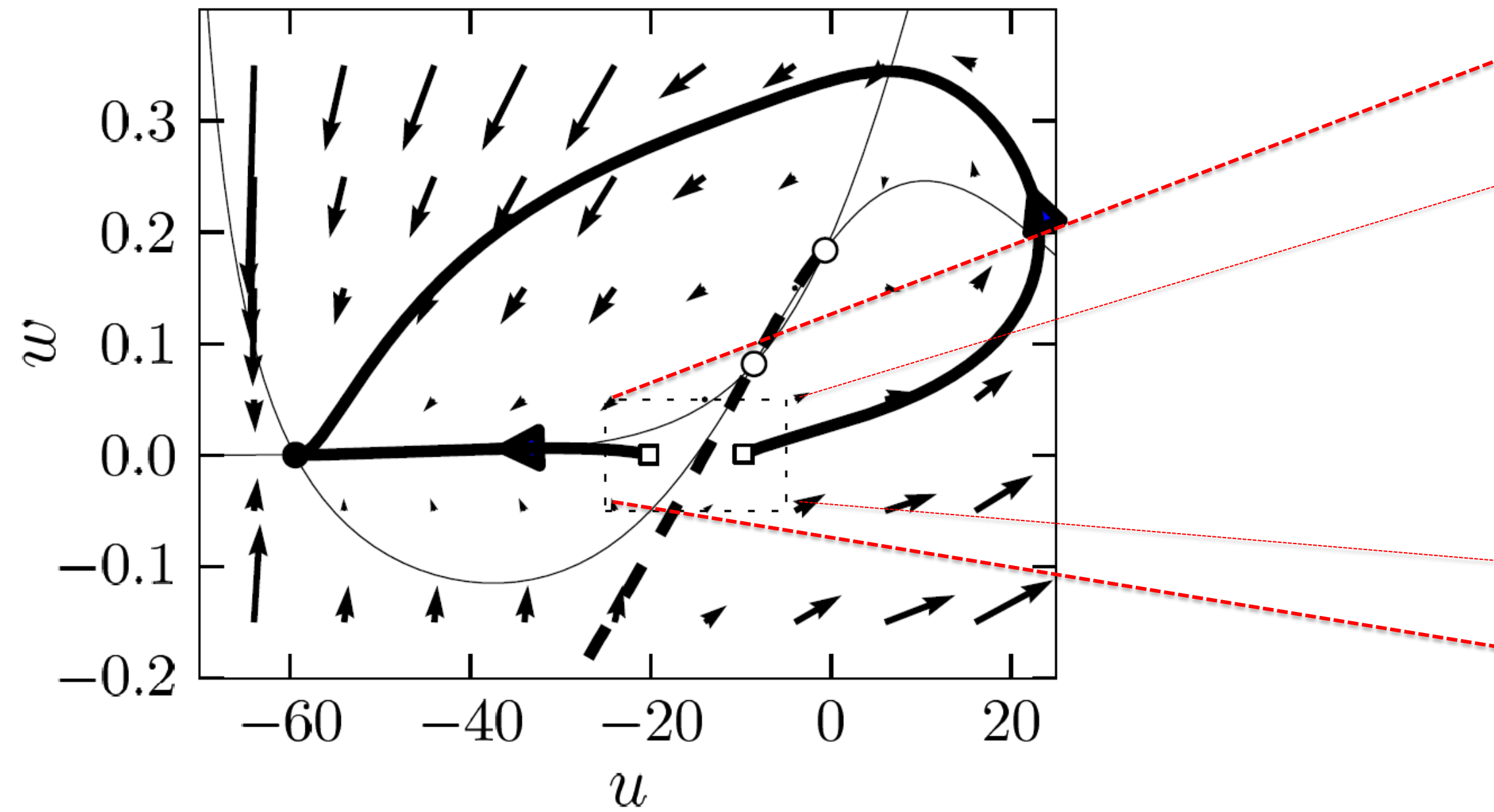
$$\tau \frac{du}{dt} = F(u, w) + \overset{\text{stimulus}}{\downarrow} RI(t)$$

$$\tau_w \frac{dw}{dt} = G(u, w)$$

pulse input



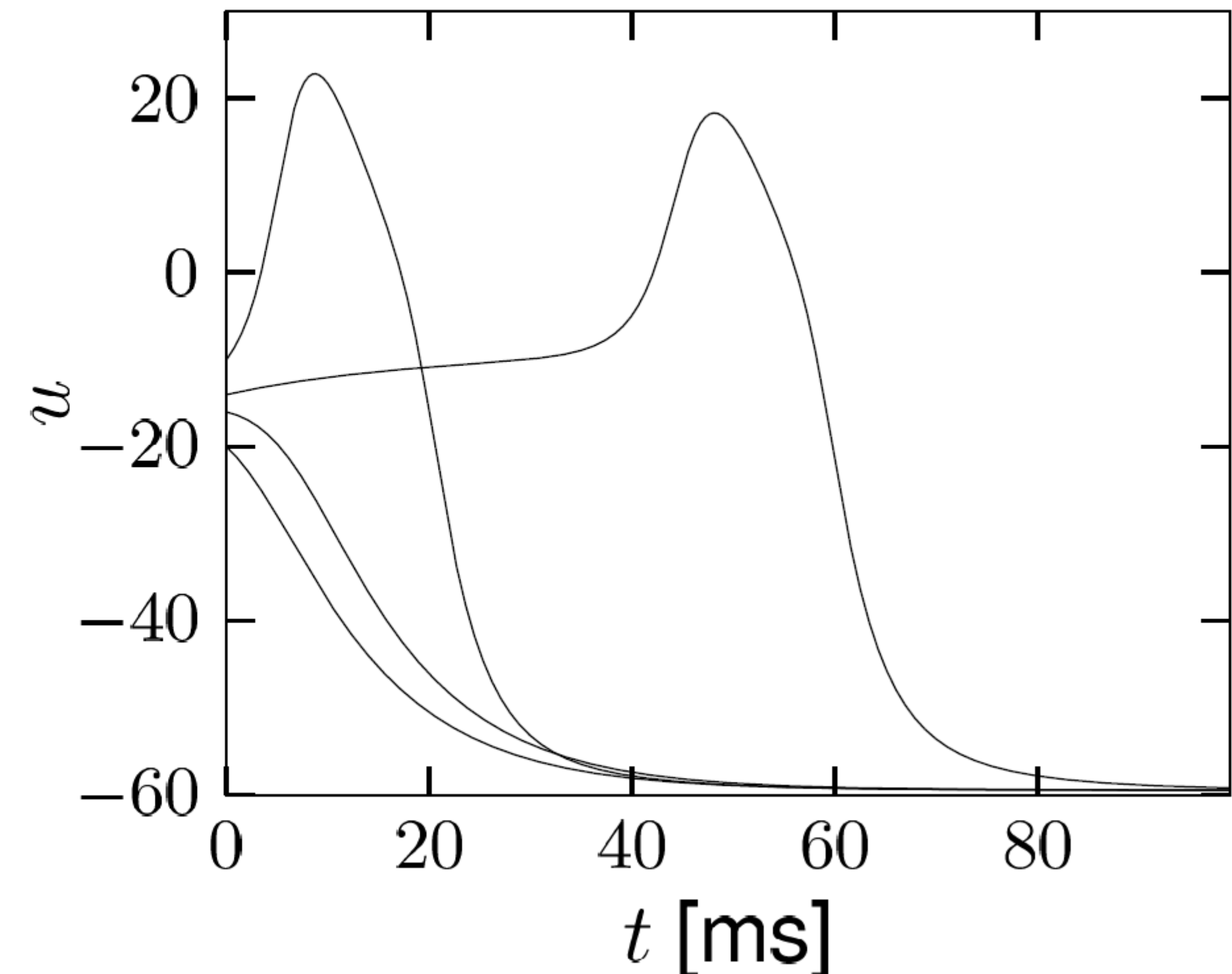
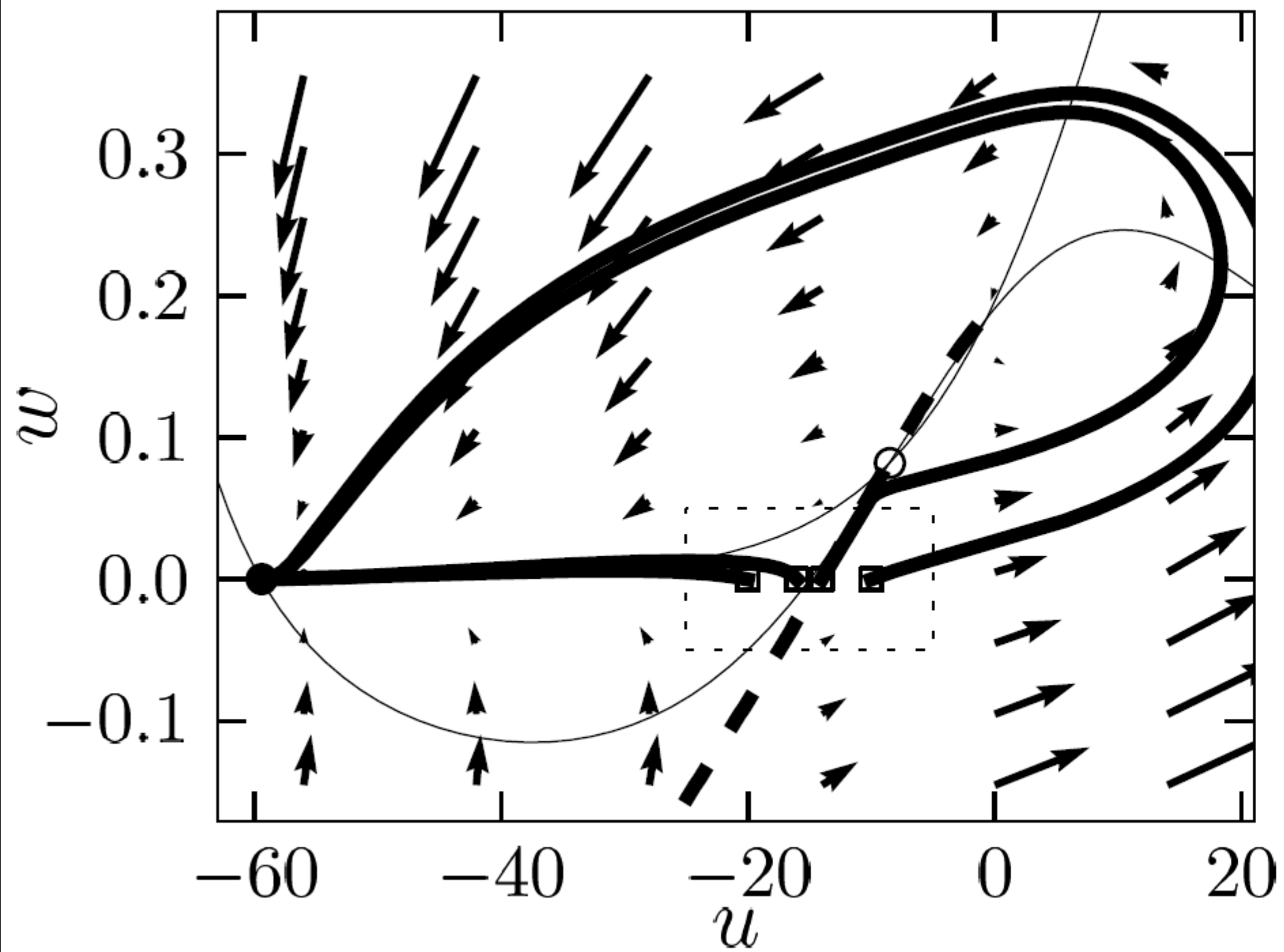
4.1 Type I model: Threshold for Pulse input



Stable manifold plays role of
'Threshold' (for pulse input)

*Image: Neuronal Dynamics,
Gerstner et al.,
Cambridge Univ. Press (2014)*

4.1 Type I model: Delayed spike initiation for Pulse input



Delayed spike initiation close to
'Threshold' (for pulse input)

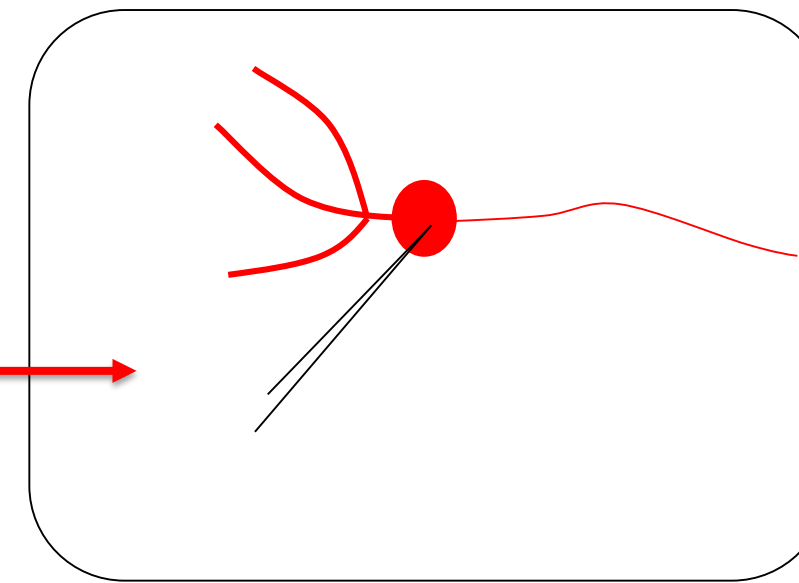
*Image: Neuronal Dynamics,
Gerstner et al.,
Cambridge Univ. Press (2014)*

4.2 Threshold for pulse input in 2dim. Neuron Models

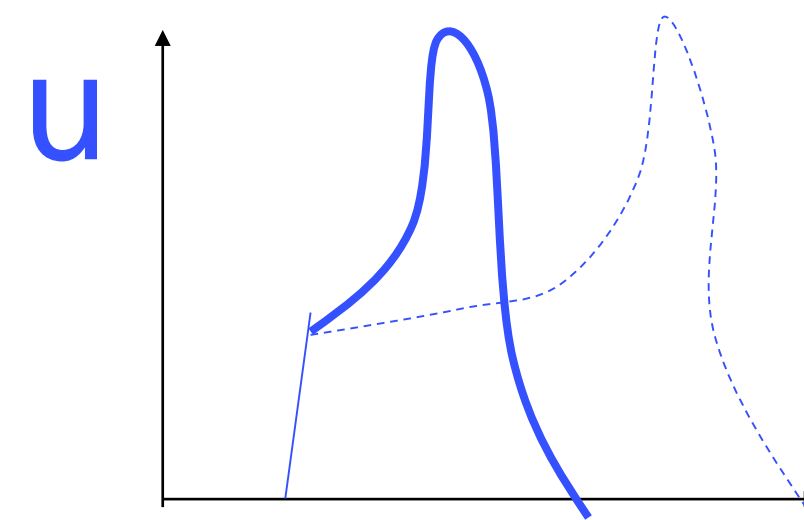
pulse input



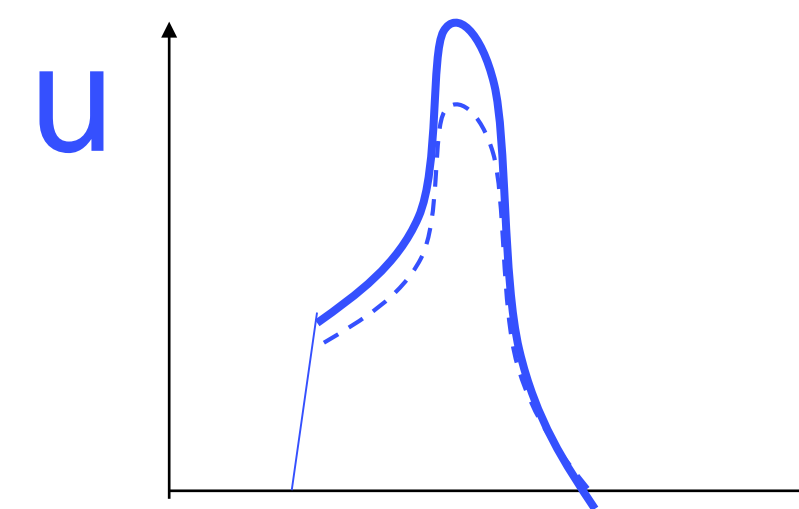
neuron



Delayed spike



Reduced amplitude



NOW: model with subc. Hopf

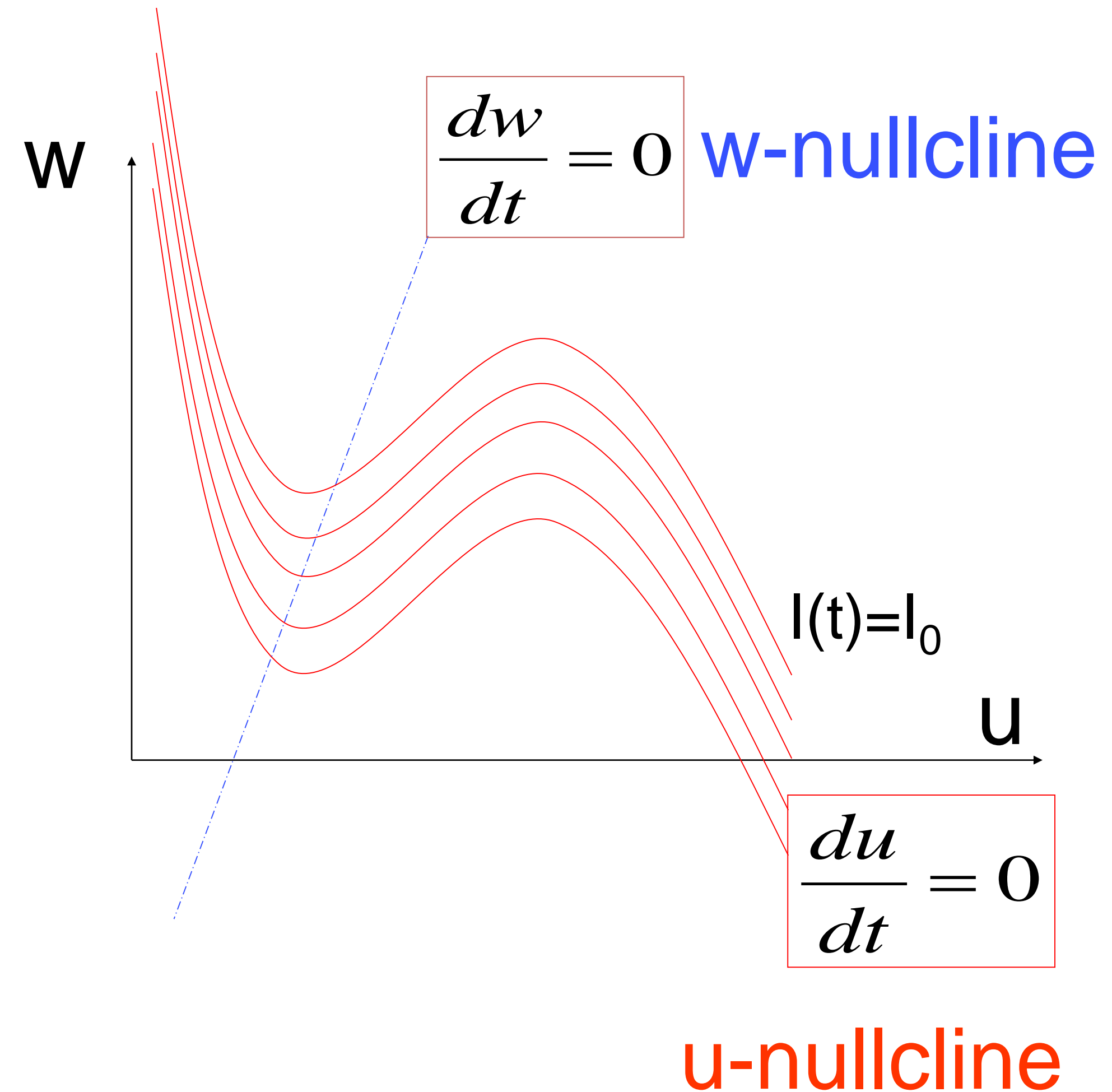
Review from 4.1: FitzHugh-Nagumo Model: Hopf bifurcation

$$\tau \frac{du}{dt} = F(u, w) + RI(t)$$

stimulus
↓

$$\tau_w \frac{dw}{dt} = G(u, w)$$

apply constant stimulus I_0



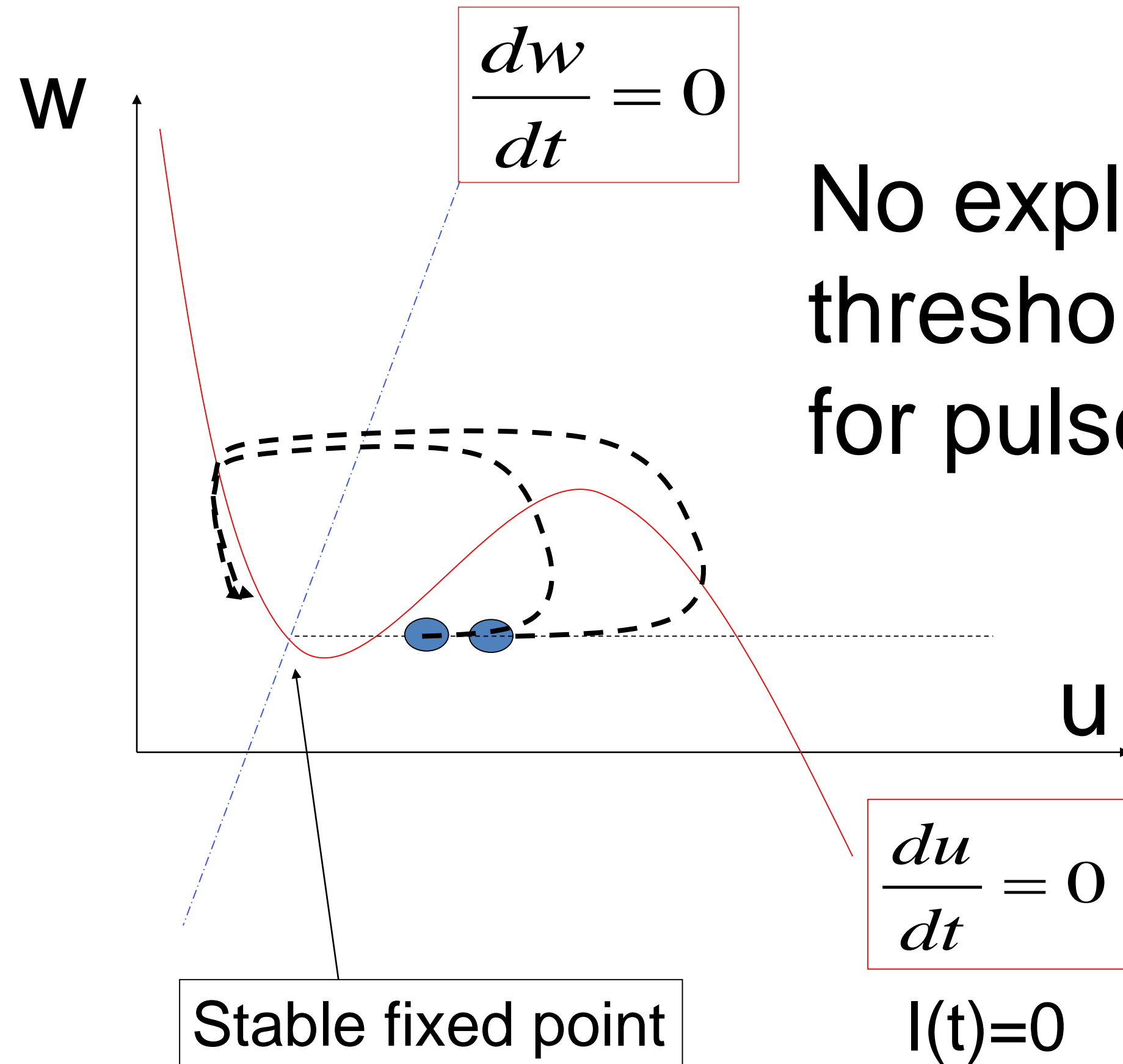
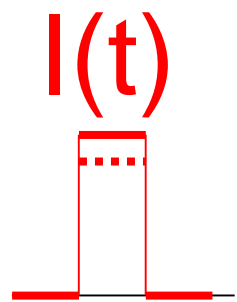
4.2 FitzHugh-Nagumo Model with pulse input

$$\tau \frac{du}{dt} = F(u, w) + RI(t)$$

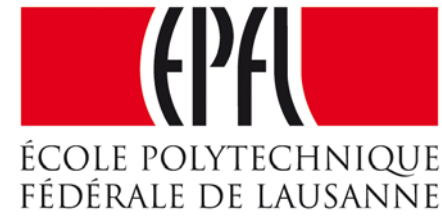
stimulus
↓

$$\tau_w \frac{dw}{dt} = G(u, w)$$

pulse input



Week 4 – part 2: Threshold for pulse input in 2D models



Biological Modeling of Neural Networks

Week 4

Reducing detail:

Analysis of 2D models

Wulfram Gerstner

EPFL, Lausanne, Switzerland

√ 3.1 From Hodgkin-Huxley to 2D

√ 3.2 Phase Plane Analysis

√ 3.3 Analysis of a 2D Neuron Model

√ 4.1 Type I and II Neuron Models

- limit cycles

4.2 Pulse input

√ - where is the firing threshold?

- separation of time scales

4.3. Further reduction to 1 dim

- nonlinear integrate-and-fire (again)

4.2 Separation of time scales, example FitzHugh-Nagumo Model

$$\tau \frac{du}{dt} = F(u, w) + RI(t)$$

stimulus

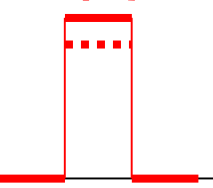
$$\tau_w \frac{dw}{dt} = G(u, w)$$

Separation of time scales

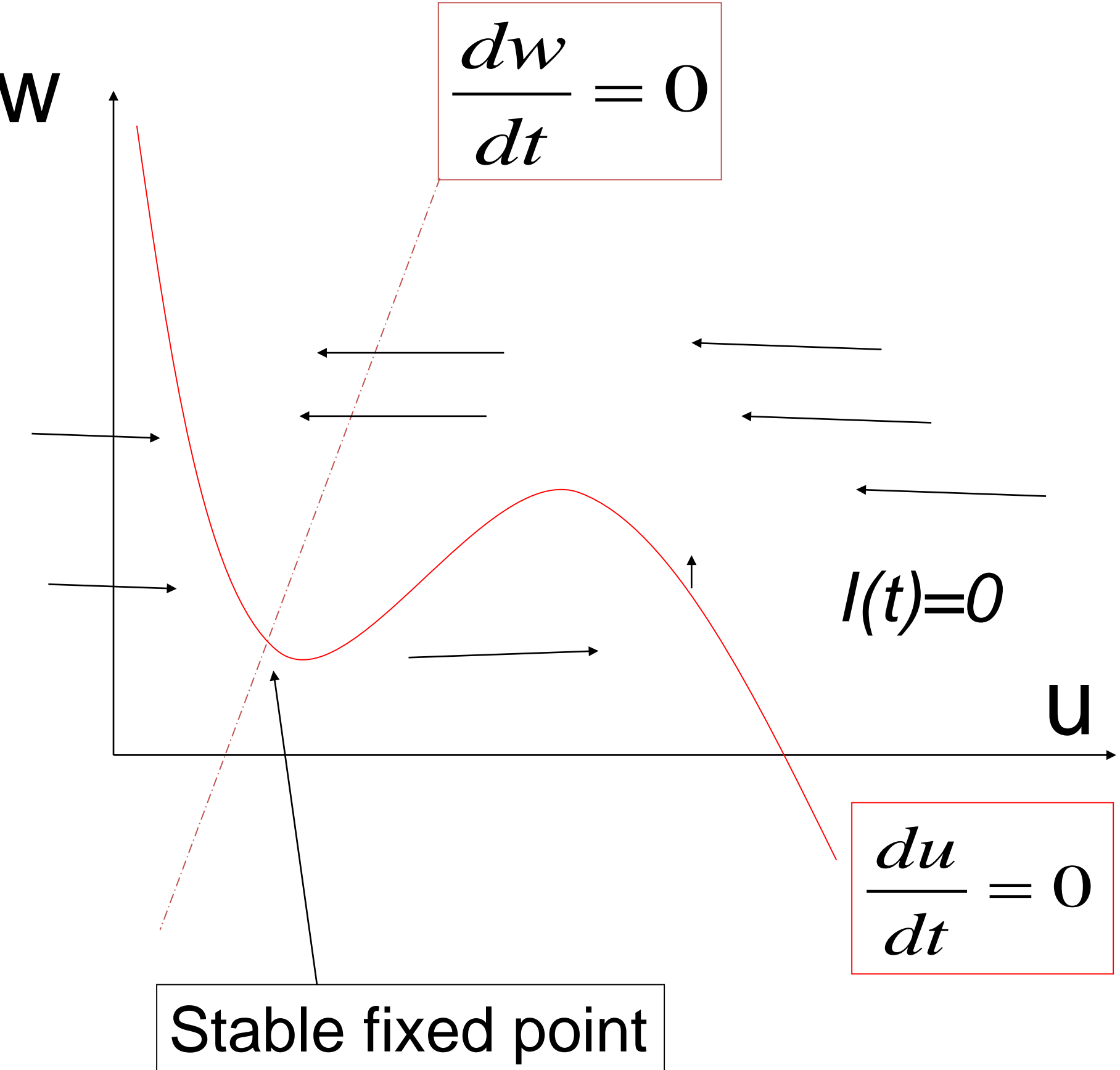
pulse input

$$\tau_w \gg \tau_u$$

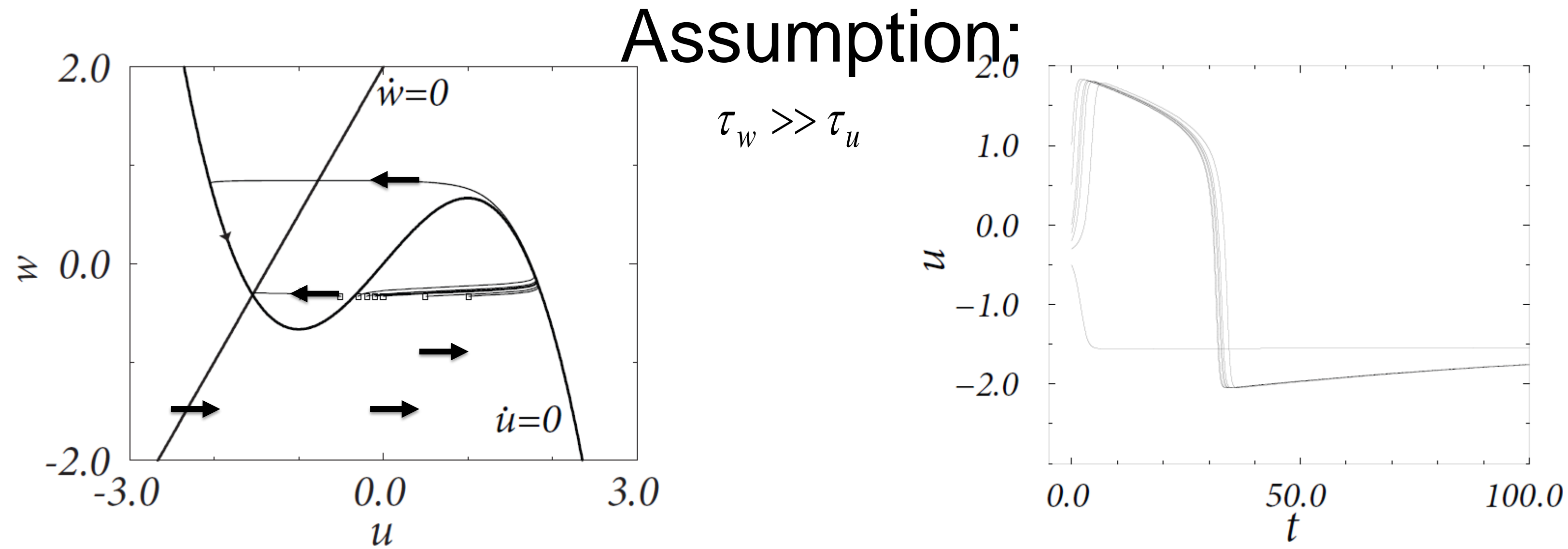
$I(t)$



blackboard



4.2 FitzHugh-Nagumo model: Threshold for Pulse input



Middle branch of u -nullcline
plays role of
'Threshold' (for pulse input)

*Image: Neuronal Dynamics,
Gerstner et al.,
Cambridge Univ. Press (2014)*

4.2 Detour: Separation of time scales in 2dim models

$$\tau \frac{du}{dt} = F(u, w) + \overset{\text{stimulus}}{\downarrow} RI(t)$$

$$\tau_w \frac{dw}{dt} = G(u, w)$$

Assumption:

$$\tau_w \gg \tau_u$$

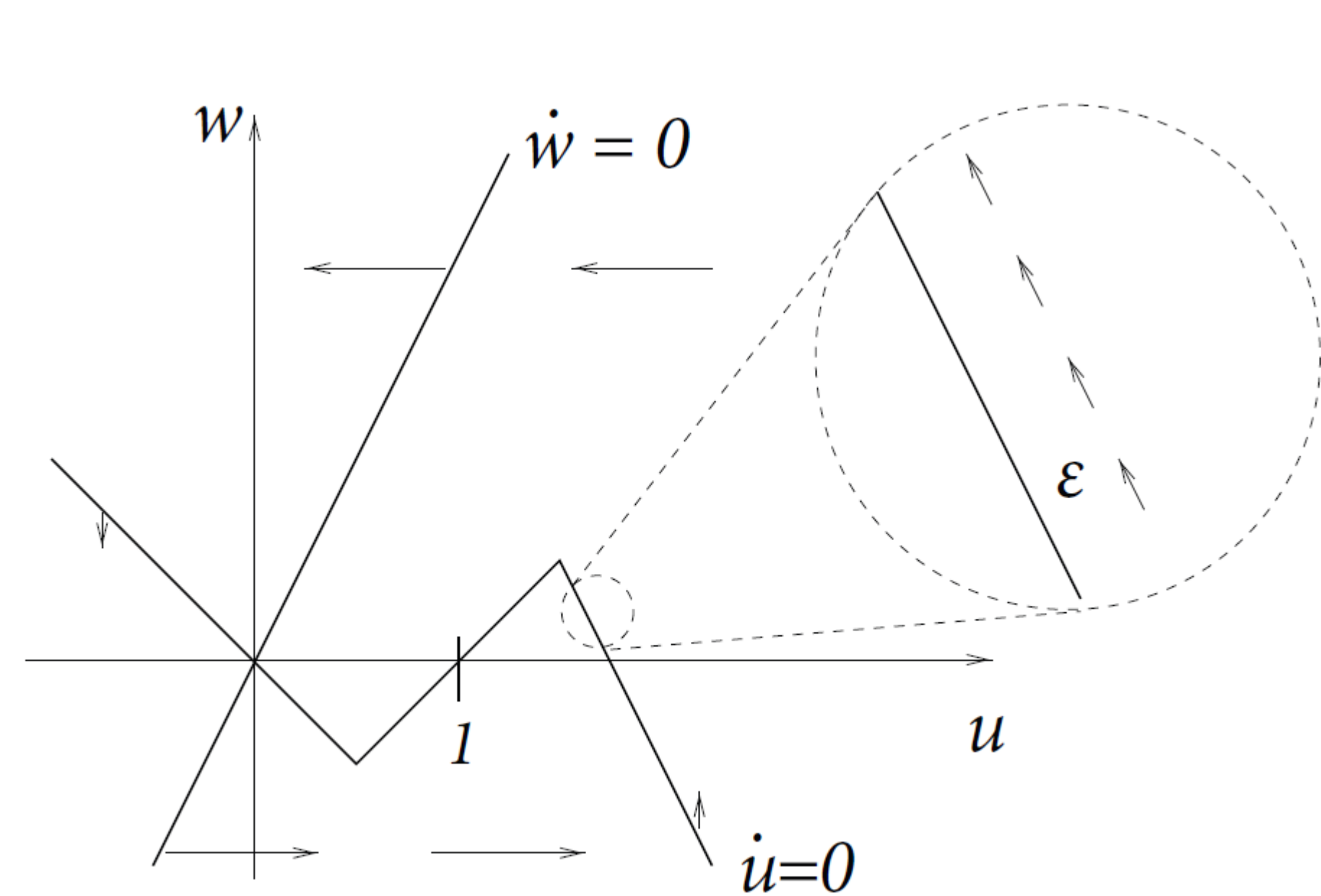
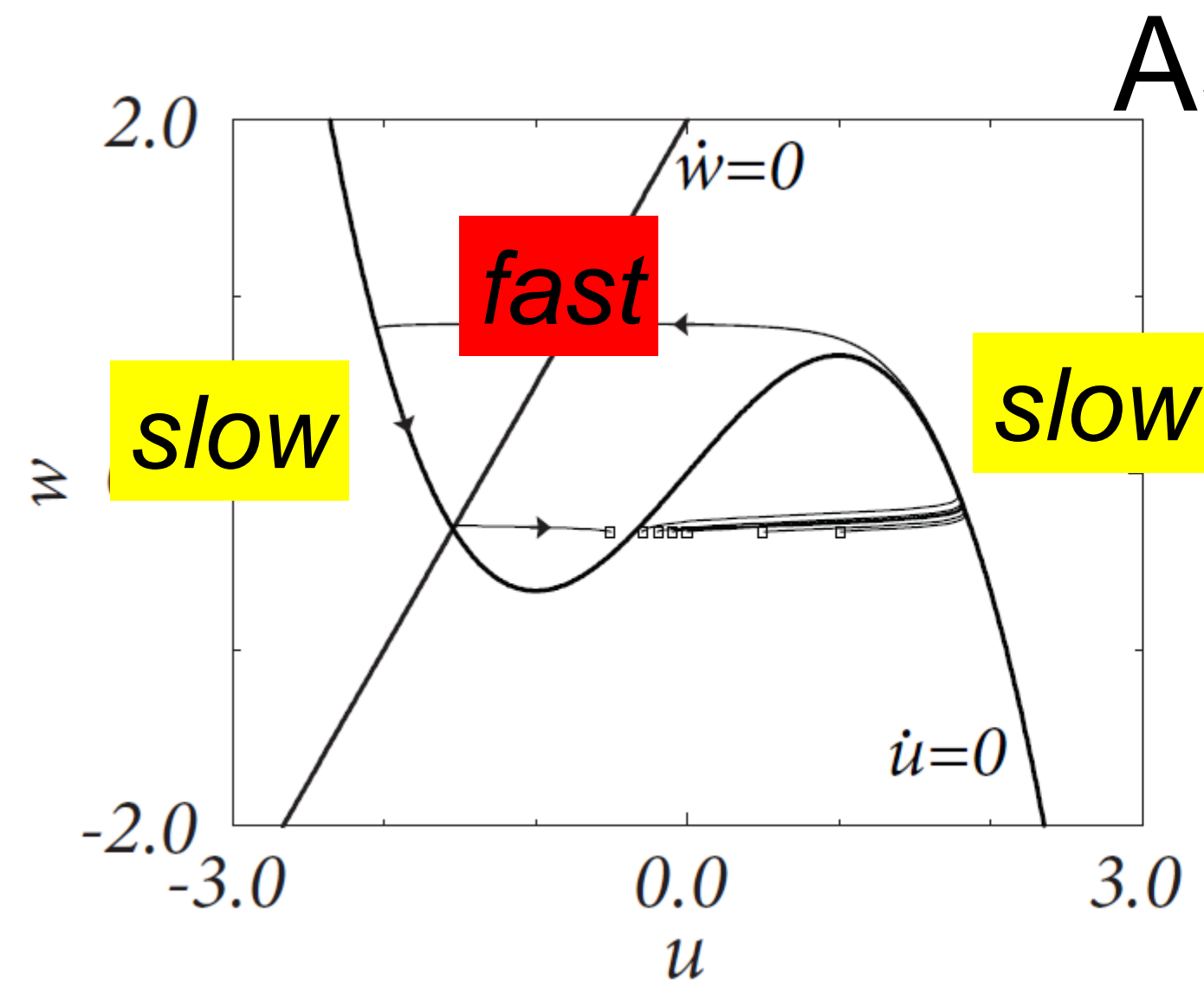


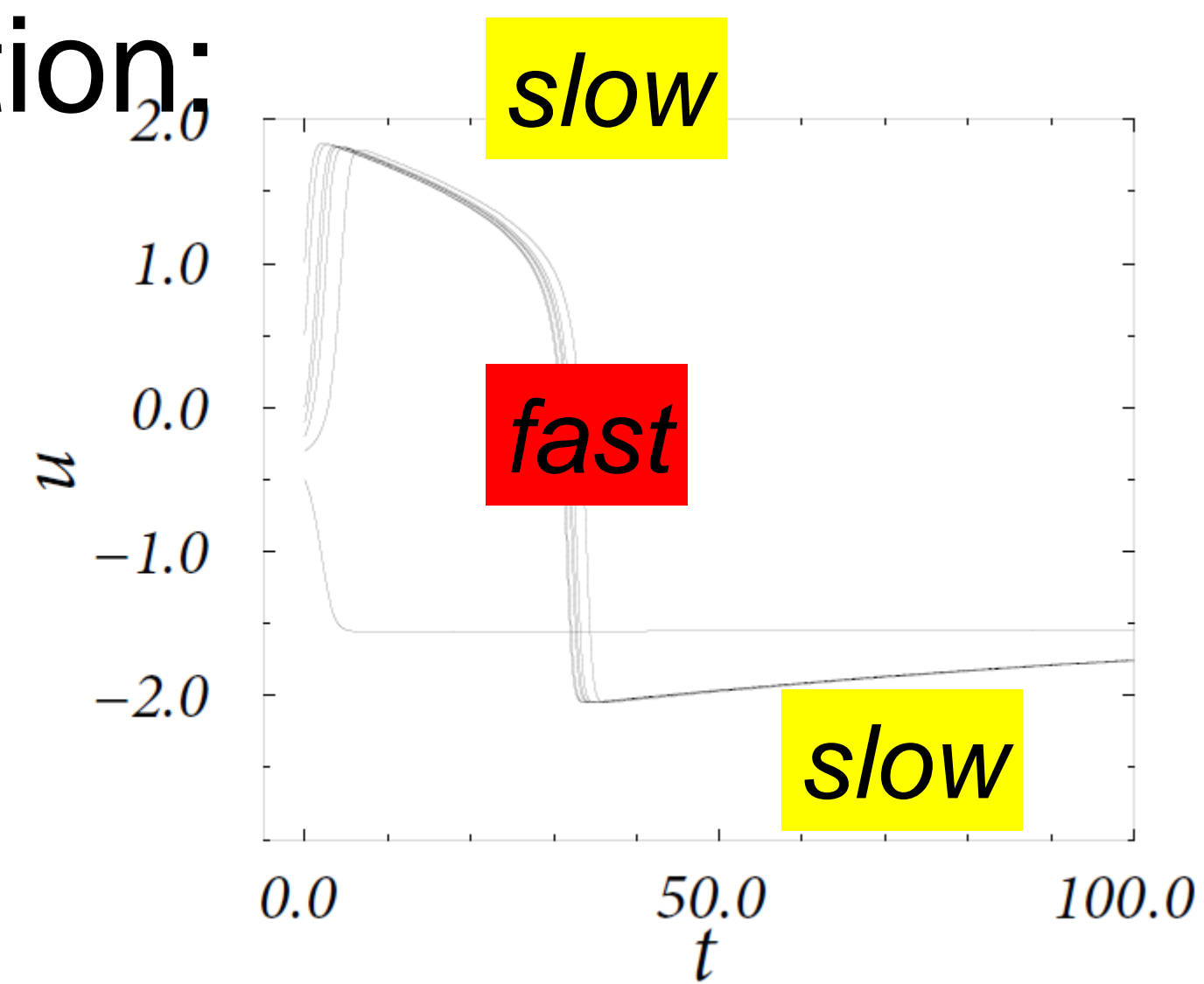
Image: *Neuronal Dynamics*,
Gerstner et al.,
Cambridge Univ. Press (2014)

4.2 FitzHugh-Nagumo model: Threshold for Pulse input



Assumption:

$$\tau_w \gg \tau_u$$



trajectory

-follows u -nullcline: **slow**

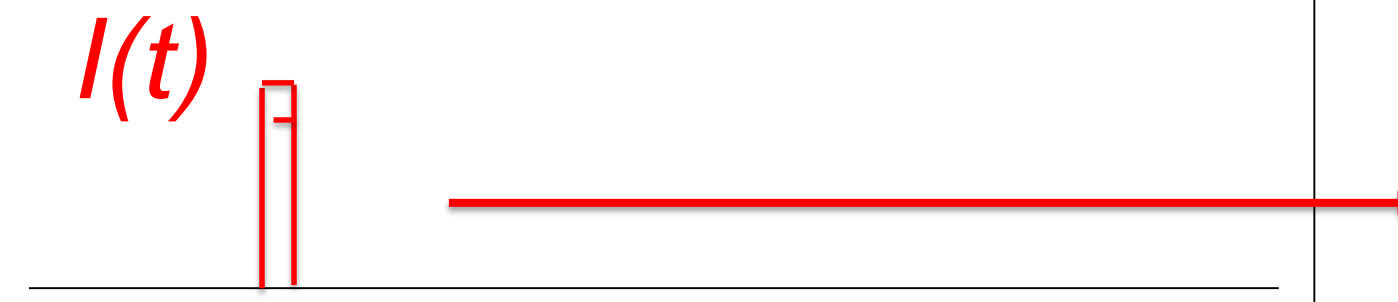
-jumps between branches: **fast**

*Image: Neuronal Dynamics,
Gerstner et al.,
Cambridge Univ. Press (2014)*

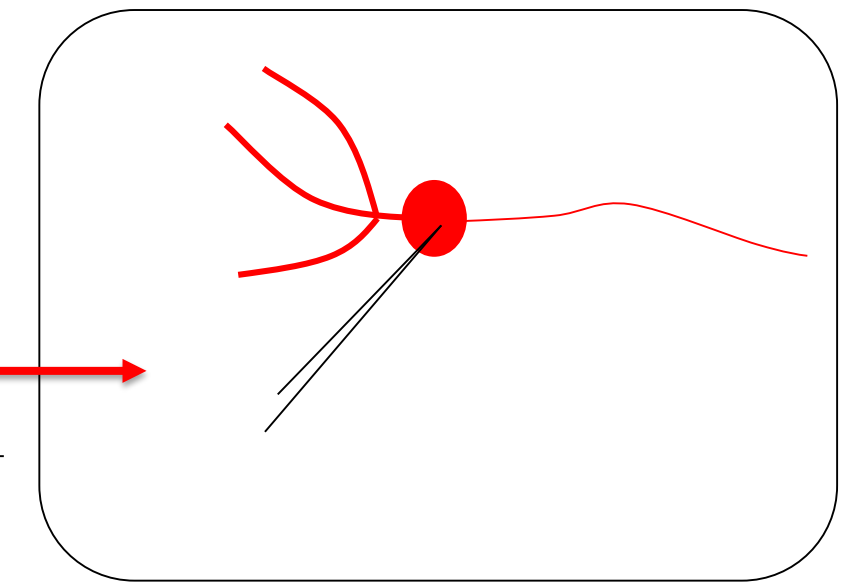
4.2 Threshold for pulse input in 2dim. Neuron Models

Biological input scenario

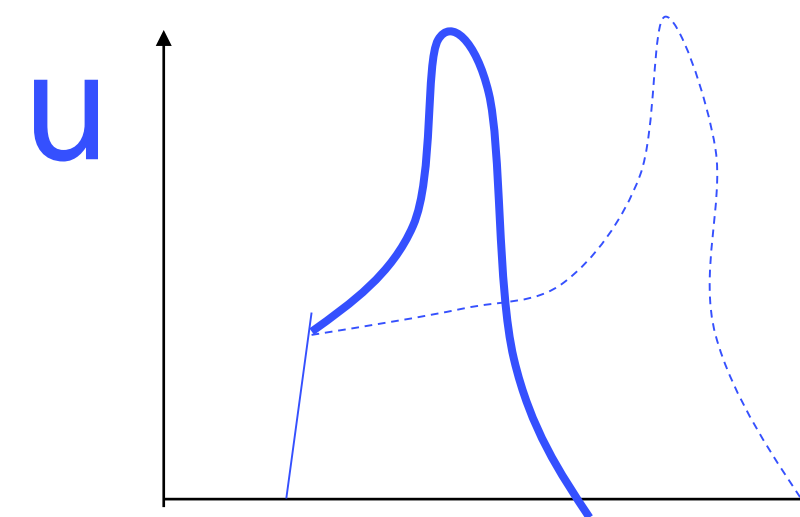
pulse input



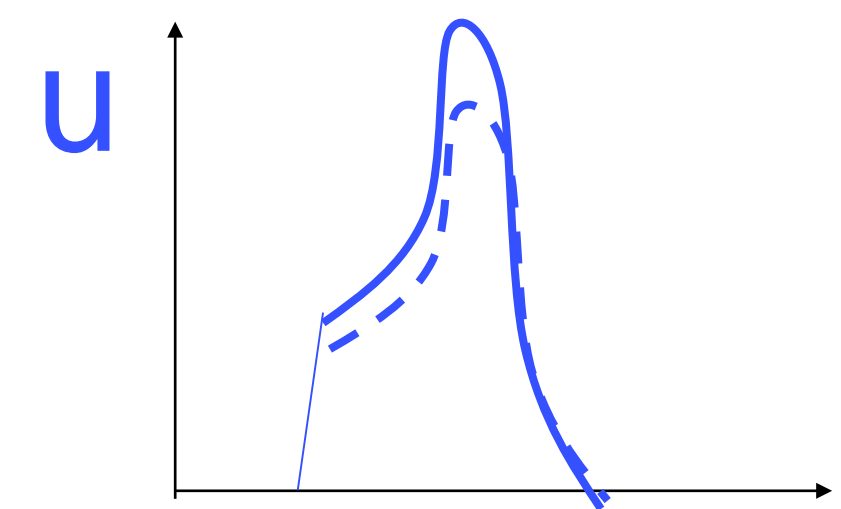
neuron



Delayed spike



Reduced amplitude



Mathematical explanation:
Graphical analysis in 2D

Week 4– Quiz 4.2.

A. Threshold in a 2-dimensional neuron model with saddle-node bifurcation

- The voltage threshold for repetitive firing is always the same as the voltage threshold for pulse input.
- in the regime below the saddle-node bifurcation, the voltage threshold for repetitive firing is given by the stable manifold of the saddle.
- in the regime below the saddle-node bifurcation, the voltage threshold for action potential firing in response to a short pulse input is given by the middle branch of the u-nullcline.
- in the regime below the saddle-node bifurcation, the voltage threshold for action potential firing in response to a short pulse input is given by the stable manifold of the saddle point.

B. Threshold in a 2-dimensional neuron model with subcritical Hopf bifurcation

- in the regime below the bifurcation, a voltage threshold for action potential firing in response to a short pulse input exists only if $\tau_w \gg \tau_u$

Week 4: Reducing Detail – 2D models



Biological Modeling of Neural Networks

Week 4

Reducing detail:

Analysis of 2D models

Wulfram Gerstner

EPFL, Lausanne, Switzerland

√ 3.1 From Hodgkin-Huxley to 2D

√ 3.2 Phase Plane Analysis

√ 3.3 Analysis of a 2D Neuron Model

4.1 Type I and II Neuron Models

- limit cycles

4.2 Pulse input

- where is the firing threshold?
- separation of time scales

4.3. Further reduction to 1 dim

- nonlinear integrate-and-fire (again)

4.3. Further reduction to 1 dimension

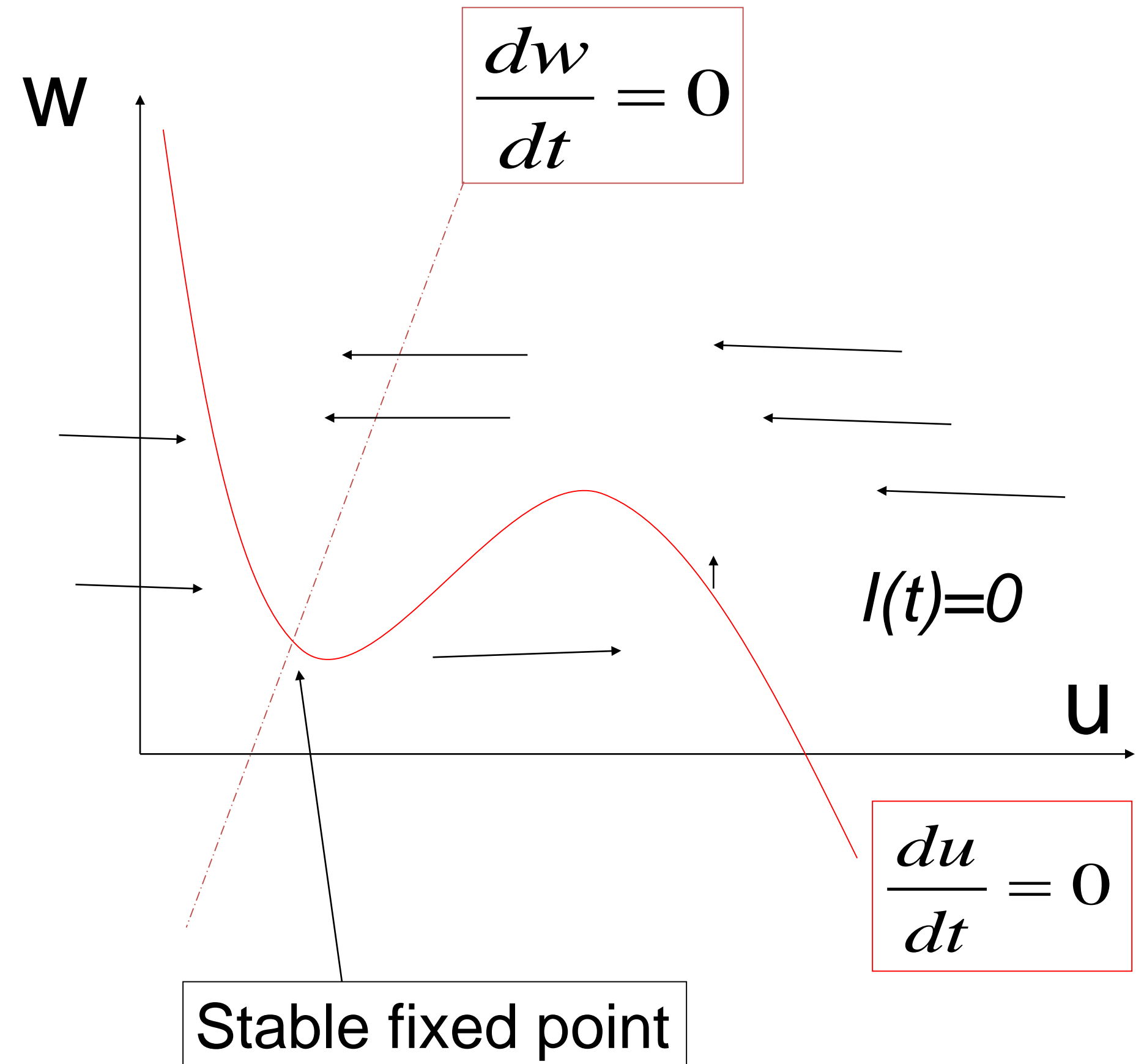
$$\tau \frac{du}{dt} = F(u, w) + I(t)$$

$$\tau_w \frac{dw}{dt} = G(u, w)$$

Separation of time scales

$$\tau_w \gg \tau_u$$

→ Flux nearly horizontal



4.3. Further reduction to 1 dimension

2-dimensional equation stimulus

$$\tau \frac{du}{dt} = F(u, w) + RI(t)$$

$$\tau_w \frac{dw}{dt} = G(u, w) \quad \text{slow!}$$

Separation of time scales

-w is nearly constant
(most of the time)

4.3. Further reduction to 1 dimension

Hodgkin-Huxley reduced to 2dim

$$\tau \frac{du}{dt} = F(u, w) + I(t)$$

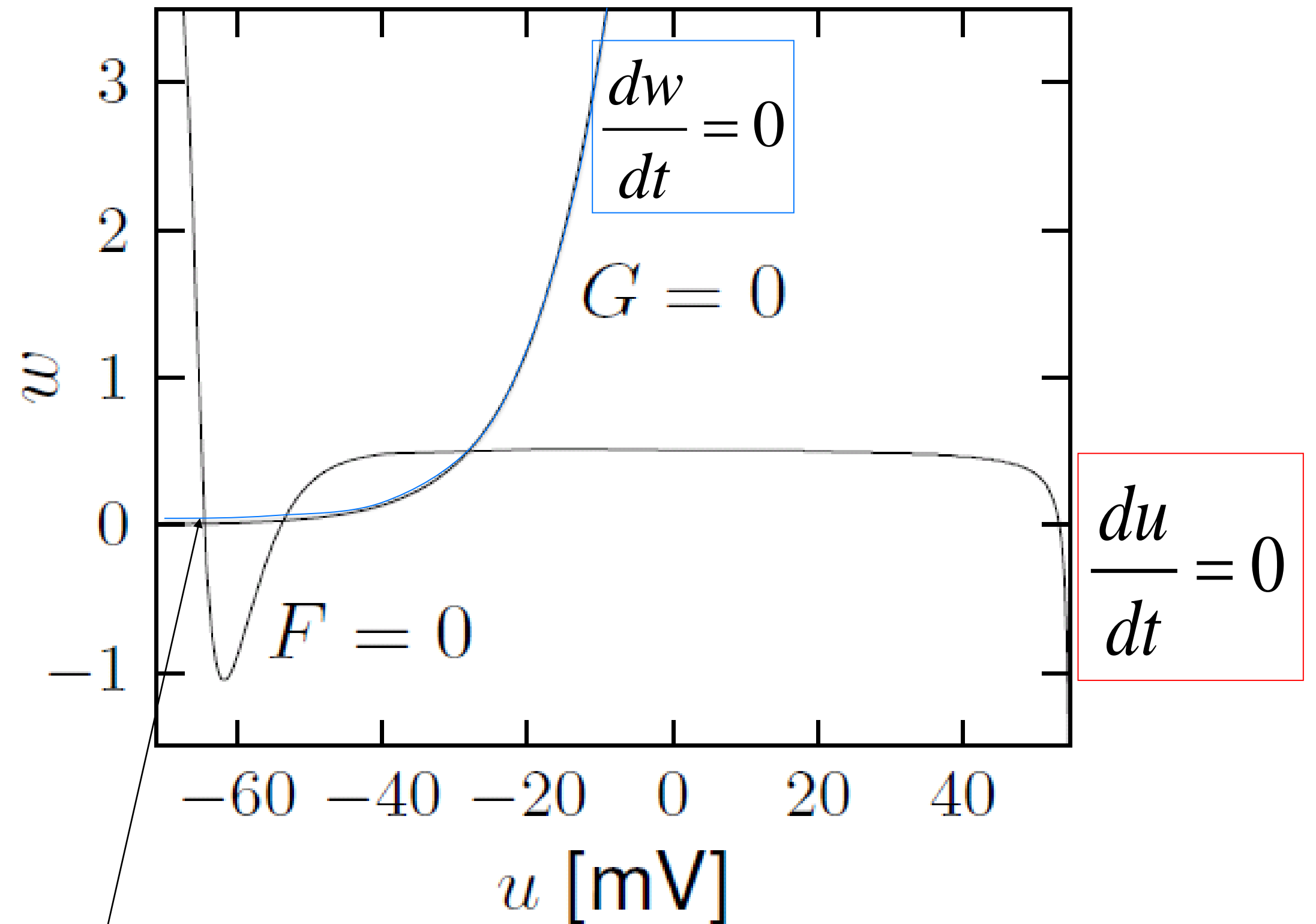
$$\tau_w \frac{dw}{dt} = G(u, w)$$

Separation of time scales

$$\tau_w \gg \tau_u$$

$$\tau_w \frac{dw}{dt} \approx 0 \rightarrow w \approx w_{rest}$$

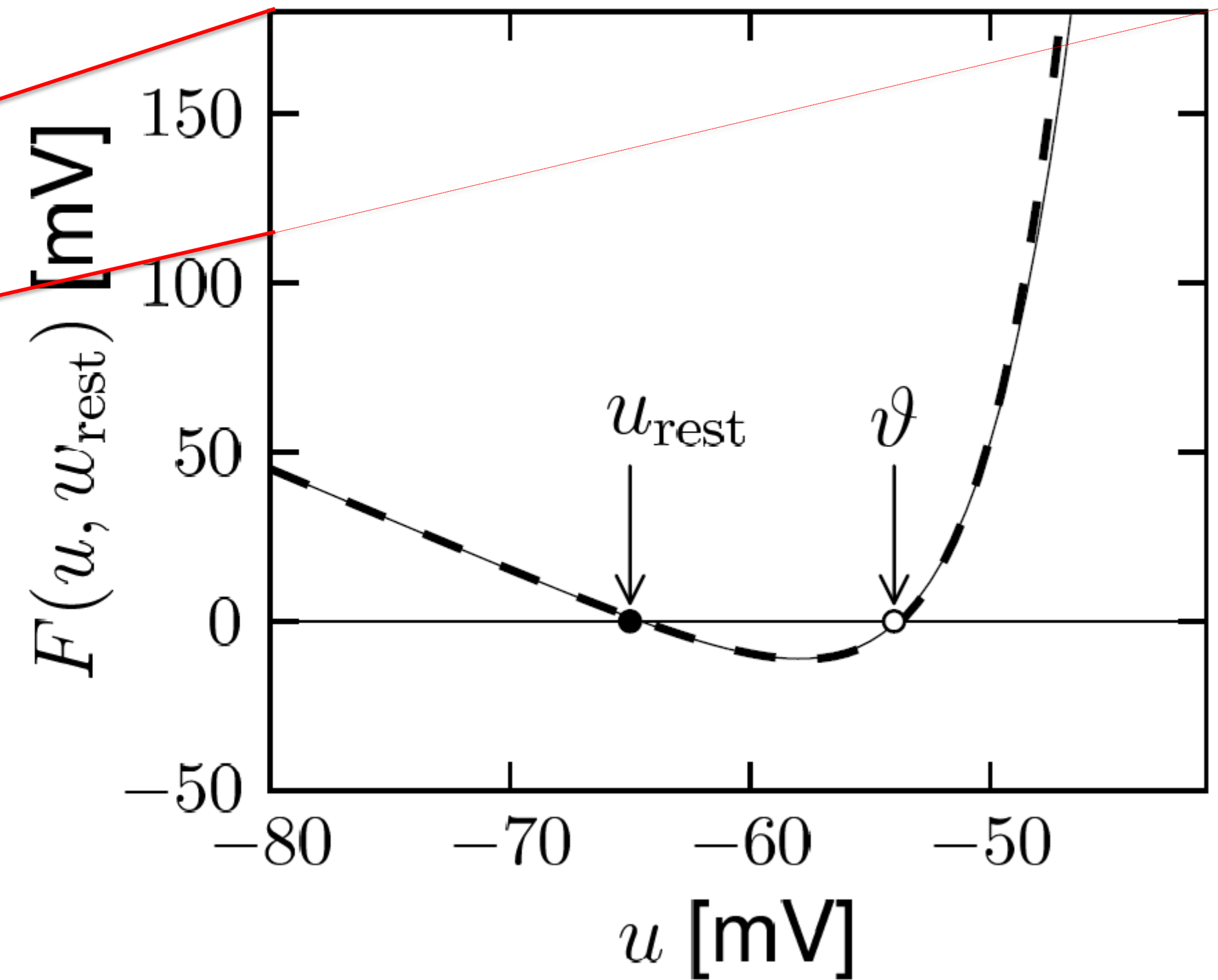
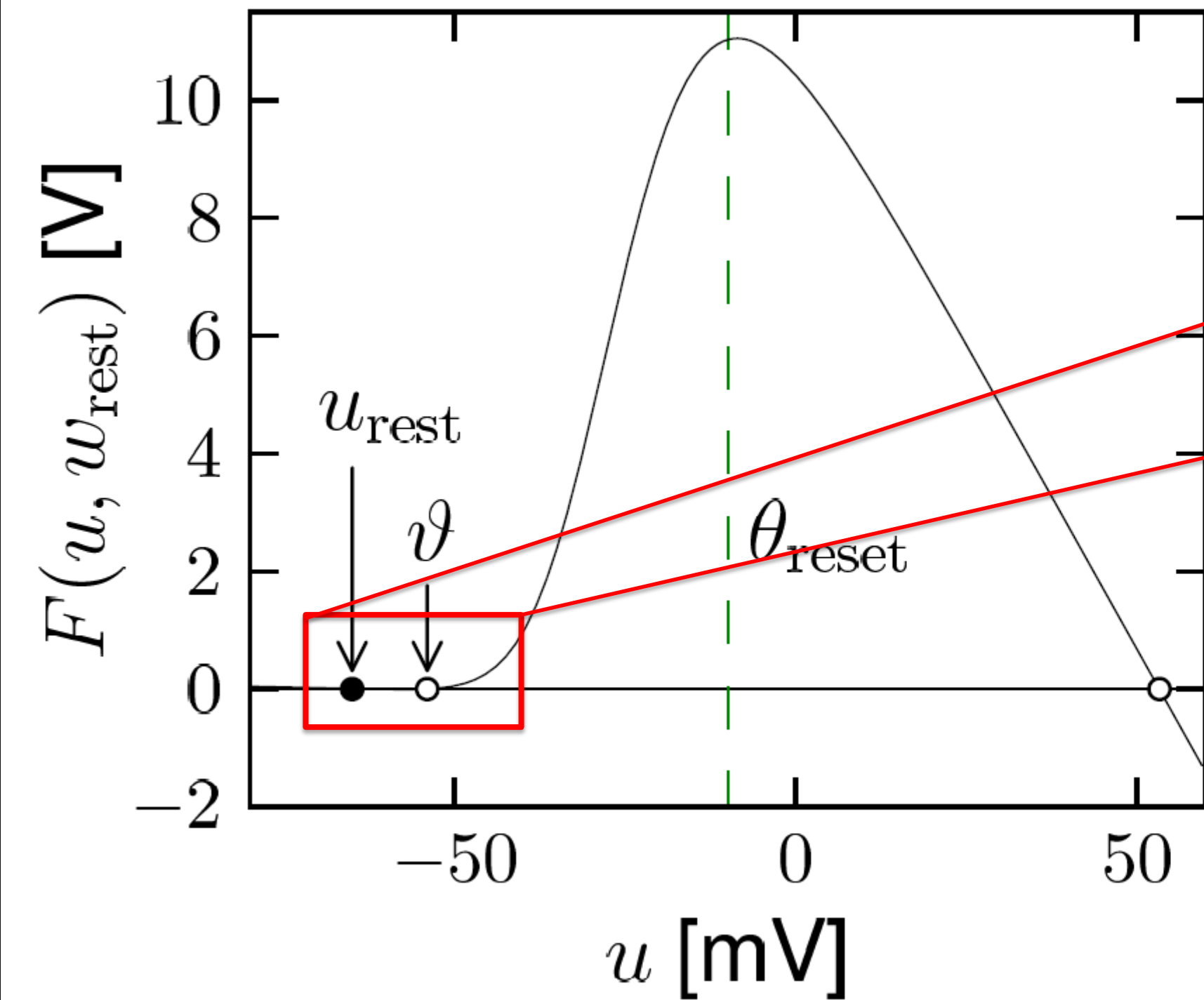
$$\tau \frac{du}{dt} = F(u, w_{rest}) + RI(t)$$



Stable fixed point

← During preparation/initiation of spike

4.3. Spike initiation: Nonlinear Integrate-and-Fire Model



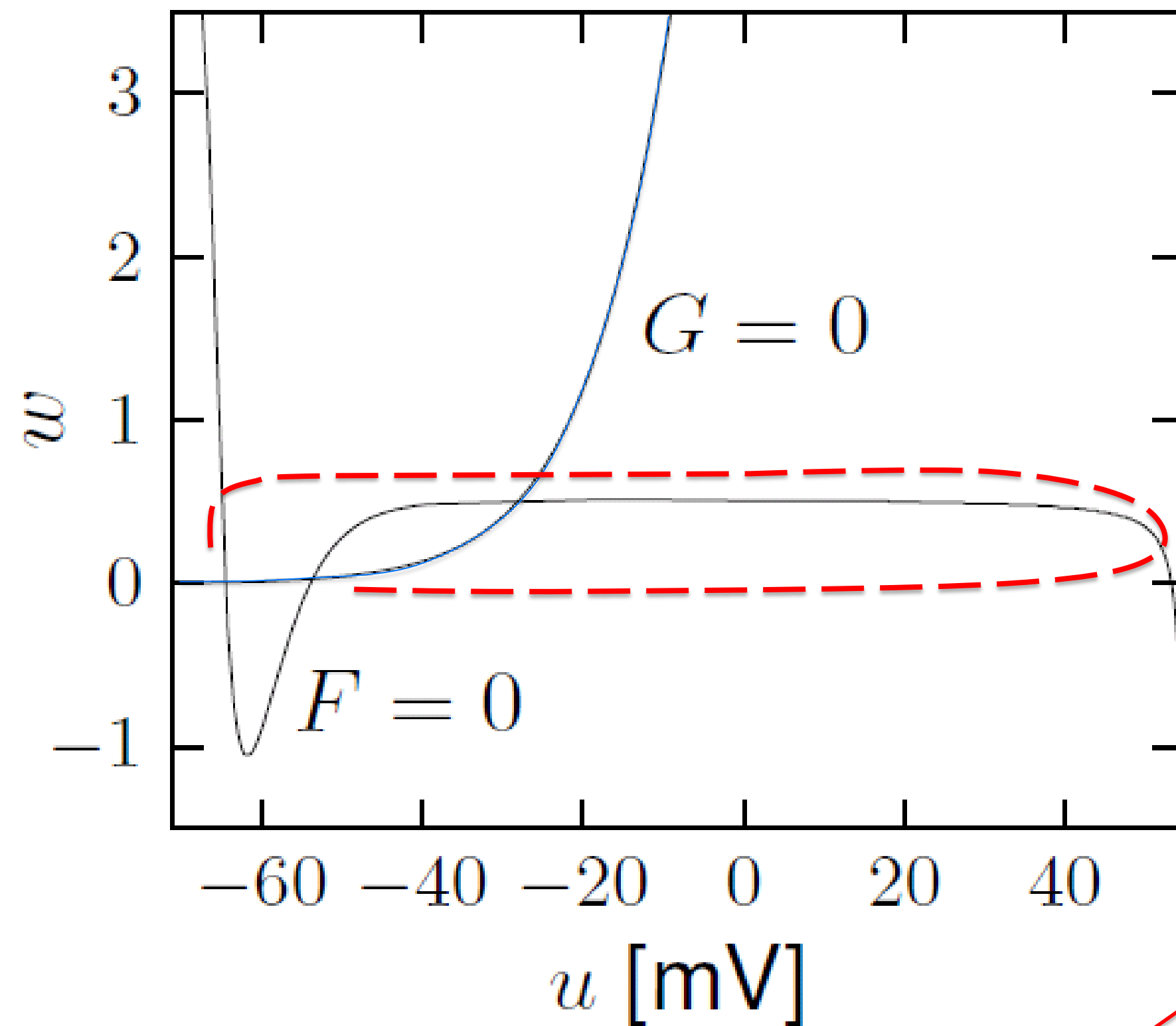
$$\tau \frac{du}{dt} = F(u, w_{rest}) + RI(t) = f(u) + RI(t)$$

→ Nonlinear I&F (see week 1!)

*Image: Neuronal Dynamics,
Gerstner et al.,
Cambridge Univ. Press (2014)*

During spike initiation, the 2D models with separation of time scales can be reduced to a 1D model equivalent to nonlinear integrate-and-fire

4.3. 2D model, after spike initiation



Relevant during spike
and downswing of AP

2-dimensional equation

$$\tau \frac{du}{dt} = F(u, w) + RI(t)$$

$$\tau_w \frac{dw}{dt} = G(u, w)$$

Separation of time scales

- w is constant (if not firing)

$$\tau \frac{du}{dt} = f(u) + RI(t)$$

Integrate-and-fire:
threshold+reset for AP

4.3. From 2D to Nonlinear Integrate-and-Fire Model

2-dimensional equation

2-dimensional Model

$$\tau \frac{du}{dt} = F(u, w) + RI(t)$$

Relevant during spike
and downswing of AP

$$\tau_w \frac{dw}{dt} = G(u, w)$$

Separation of time scales

Nonlinear Integrate-and-Fire Model

- w is constant (if not firing)

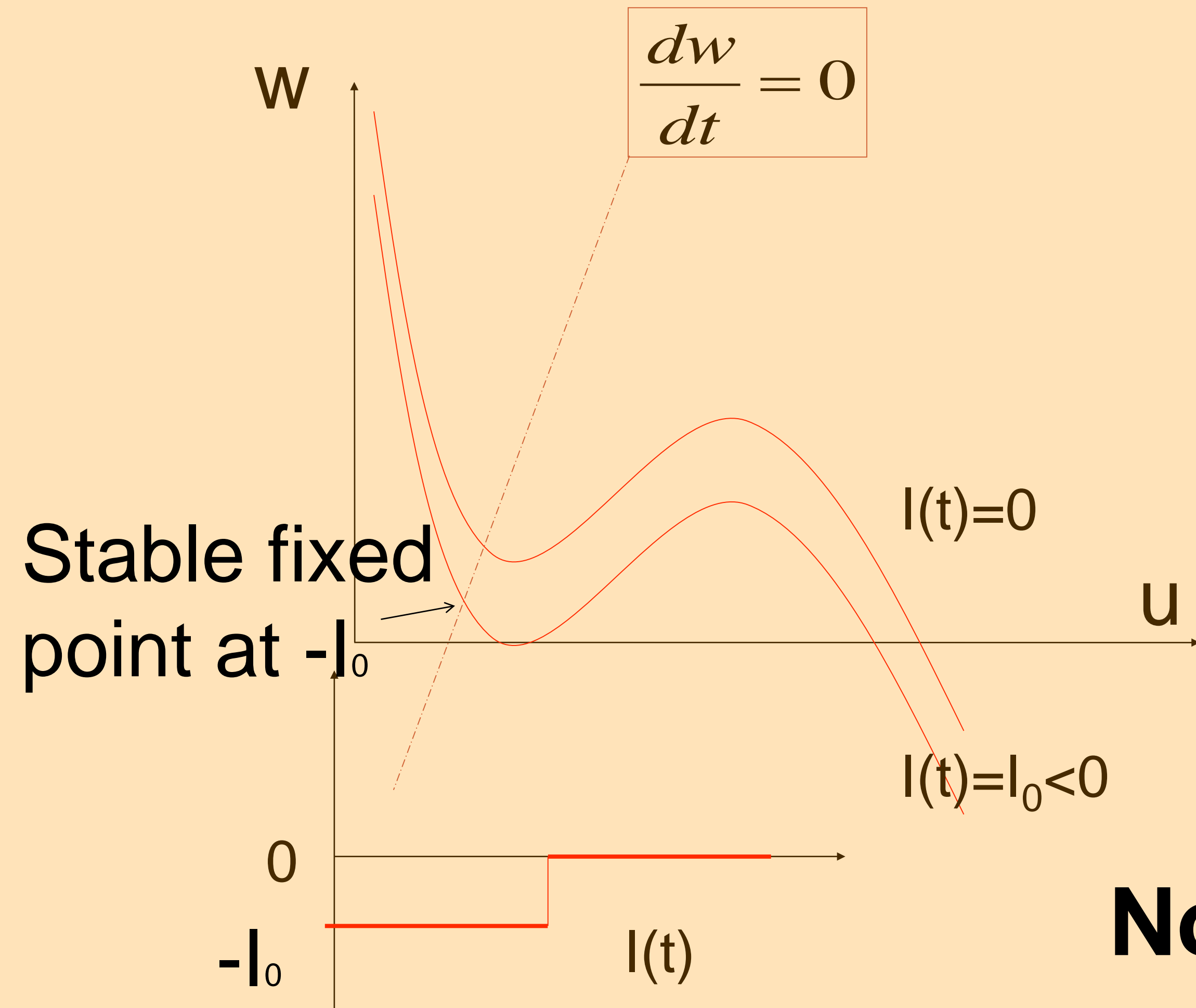
w -dynamics replaced by
Threshold and reset in
Integrate-and-fire

$$\tau \frac{du}{dt} = f(u) + RI(t)$$

Linear plus exponential

Exercise 2 and 3: NOW! inhibitory rebound

Assume separation
of time scales



Now exercises

Neuronal Dynamics – Literature for week 3 and 4.1

Reading: W. Gerstner, W.M. Kistler, R. Naud and L. Paninski,
Neuronal Dynamics: from single neurons to networks and models of cognition. Chapter 4 Cambridge Univ. Press, 2014

OR J. Rinzel and G.B. Ermentrout, (1989). Analysis of neuronal excitability and oscillations. In Koch, C. Segev, I., editors, *Methods in neuronal modeling*. MIT Press, Cambridge, MA.

Selected references.

- Ermentrout, G. B. (1996). *Type I membranes, phase resetting curves, and synchrony*. Neural Computation, 8(5):979-1001.
- Fourcaud-Trocme, N., Hansel, D., van Vreeswijk, C., and Brunel, N. (2003). *How spike generation mechanisms determine the neuronal response to fluctuating input*. J. Neuroscience, 23:11628-11640.
- Badel, L., Lefort, S., Berger, T., Petersen, C., Gerstner, W., and Richardson, M. (2008). *Biological Cybernetics*, 99(4-5):361-370.
- E.M. Izhikevich, *Dynamical Systems in Neuroscience*, MIT Press (2007)

The END

The END

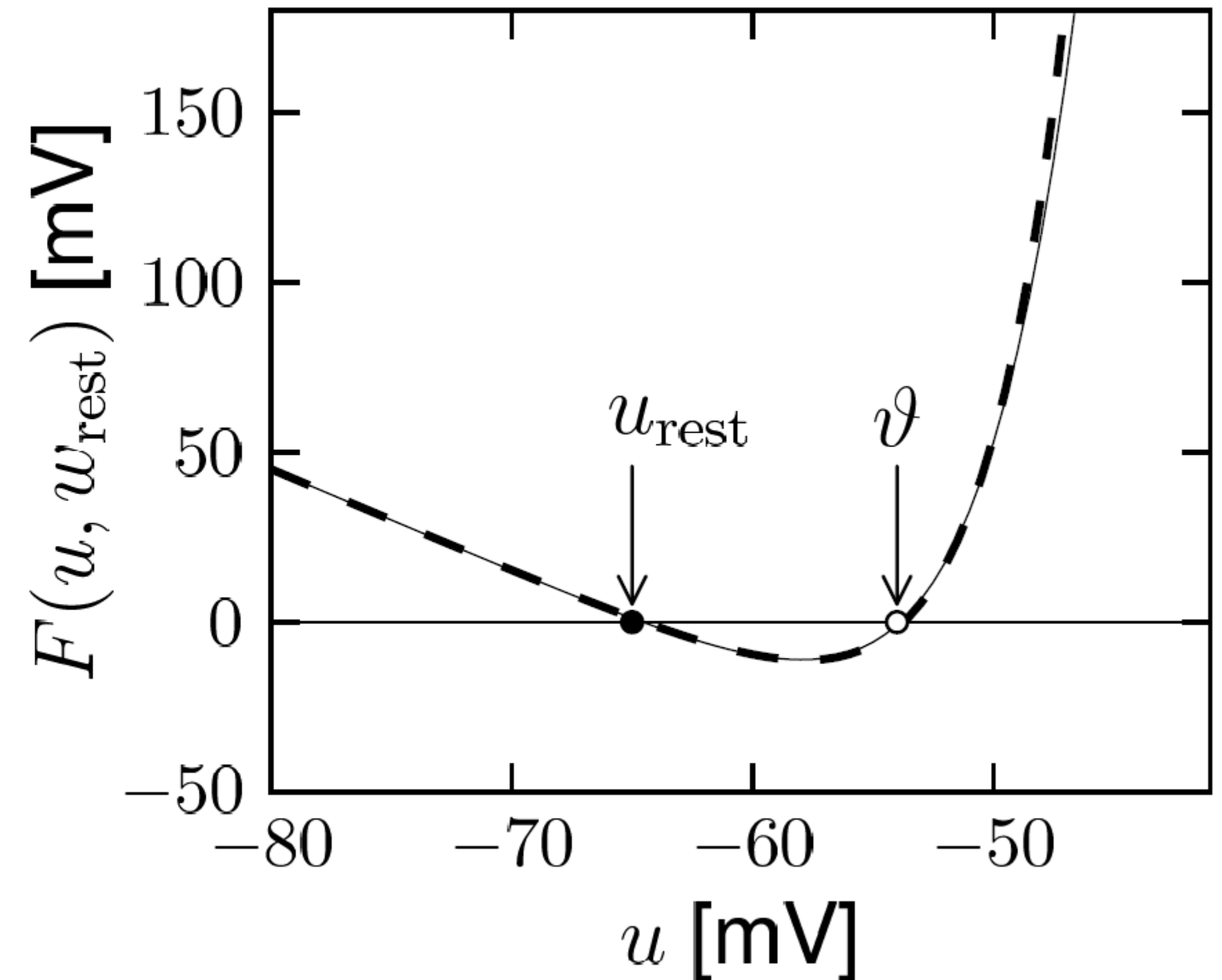
4.3. Nonlinear Integrate-and-Fire Model

Exponential integrate-and-fire model (EIF)

$$f(u) = -(u - u_{rest}) + \Delta \exp\left(\frac{u - \vartheta}{\Delta}\right)$$

$$\tau \frac{du}{dt} = F(u, w_{rest}) + RI(t) = f(u) + RI(t)$$

→ Nonlinear I&F (see week 1!)



*Image: Neuronal Dynamics,
Gerstner et al.,
Cambridge Univ. Press (2014)*

Neuronal Dynamics – 4.2. Exponential Integrate-and-Fire Model

Direct derivation from Hodgkin-Huxley

$$C \frac{du}{dt} = -g_{Na} m^3 h (u - E_{Na}) - g_K n^4 (u - E_K) - g_l (u - E_l) + I(t)$$

$$C \frac{du}{dt} = -g_{Na} [m_0(u)]^3 h_{rest} (u - E_{Na}) - g_K [n_{rest}]^4 (u - E_K) - g_l (u - E_l) + I(t)$$

Fourcaud-Trocme et al, J. Neurosci. 2003

$$f(u) = -(u - u_{rest}) + \Delta \exp\left(\frac{u - \theta}{\Delta}\right)$$

$$\tau \frac{du}{dt} = F(u, h_{rest}, n_{rest}) + RI(t) = f(u) + RI(t)$$

gives expon. I&F

Neuronal Dynamics – Quiz 4.3.

A. Exponential integrate-and-fire model.

The model can be derived

- from a 2-dimensional model, assuming that the auxiliary variable w is constant.
- from the HH model, assuming that the gating variables h and n are constant.
- from the HH model, assuming that the gating variables m is constant.
- from the HH model, assuming that the gating variables m is instantaneous.

B. Reset.

- In a 2-dimensional model, the auxiliary variable w is necessary to implement a reset of the voltage after a spike
- In a nonlinear integrate-and-fire model, the auxiliary variable w is necessary to implement a reset of the voltage after a spike
- In a nonlinear integrate-and-fire model, a reset of the voltage after a spike is implemented algorithmically/explicitly