

Biological Modeling of Neural Networks

EPFL

Week 12

Optimizing Neuron Models For Coding and Decoding

Wulfram Gerstner

EPFL, Lausanne, Switzerland

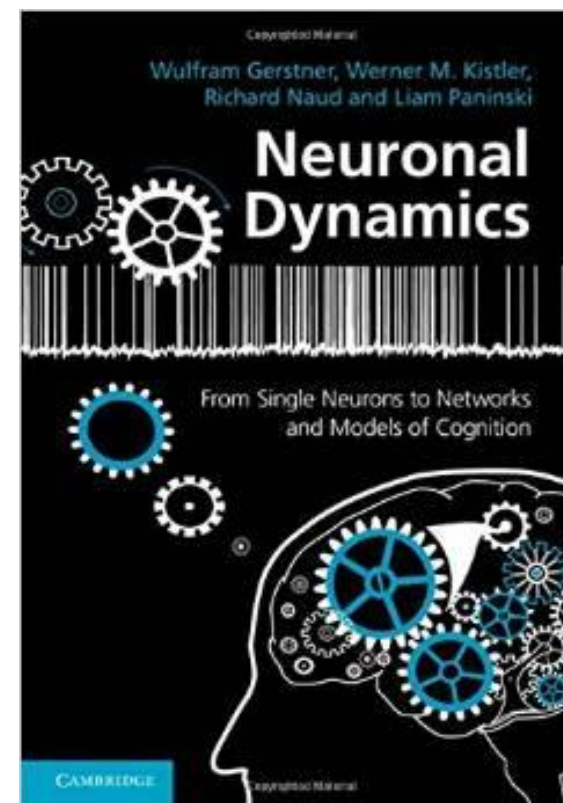
Reading for this week:

NEURONAL DYNAMICS

- Ch. 4.6, 6.1, 6.2, 6.4, 9.2

- Ch. 10.2.3, 11.1. 11.3.3

Cambridge Univ. Press



1 What is a good neuron model?

- Models and data

2 AdEx model

- Firing patterns and adaptation

3 Spike Response Model (SRM)

- Integral formulation

4 Generalized Linear Model

- Adding noise to the SRM
- Likelihood of a spike train

5 Parameter Estimation

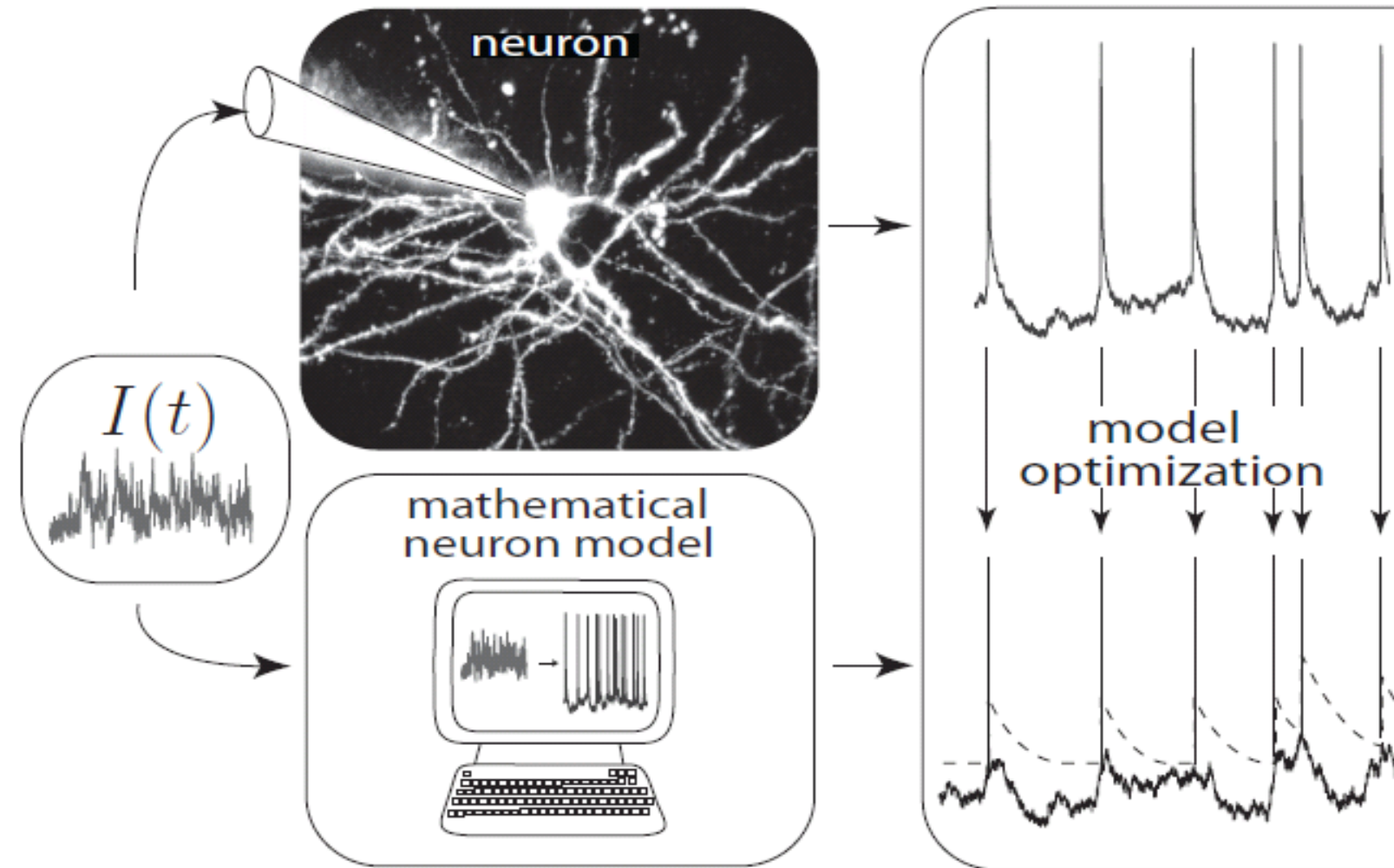
- (- Quadratic and convex optimization)

6 Modeling in vitro data

- how long lasts the effect of a spike?

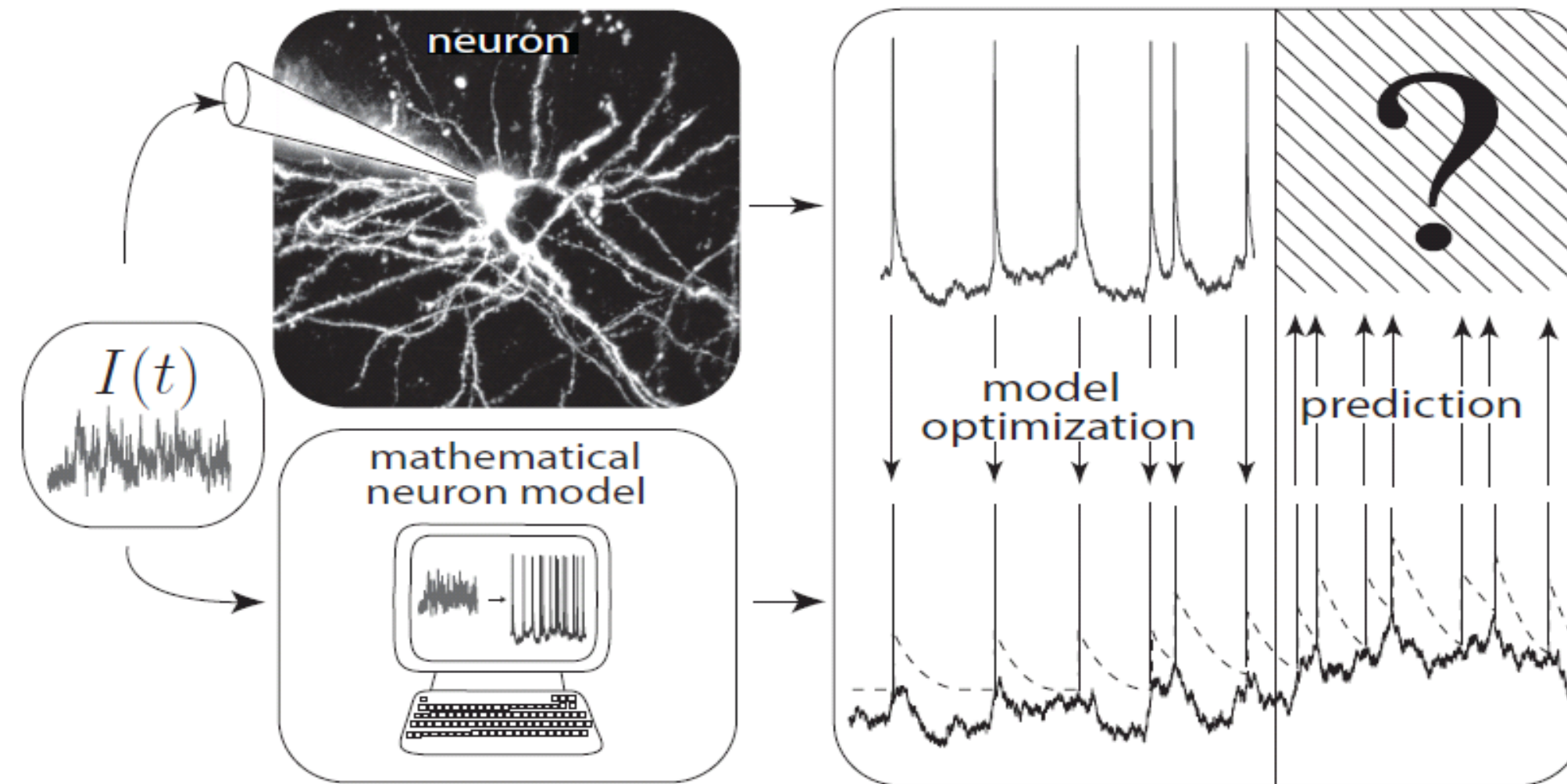
7 Helping humans – in vivo data

1. Neuron Models and Data



- What is a good neuron model?
- How can we estimate parameters of models?
- What is a neuron model good for?

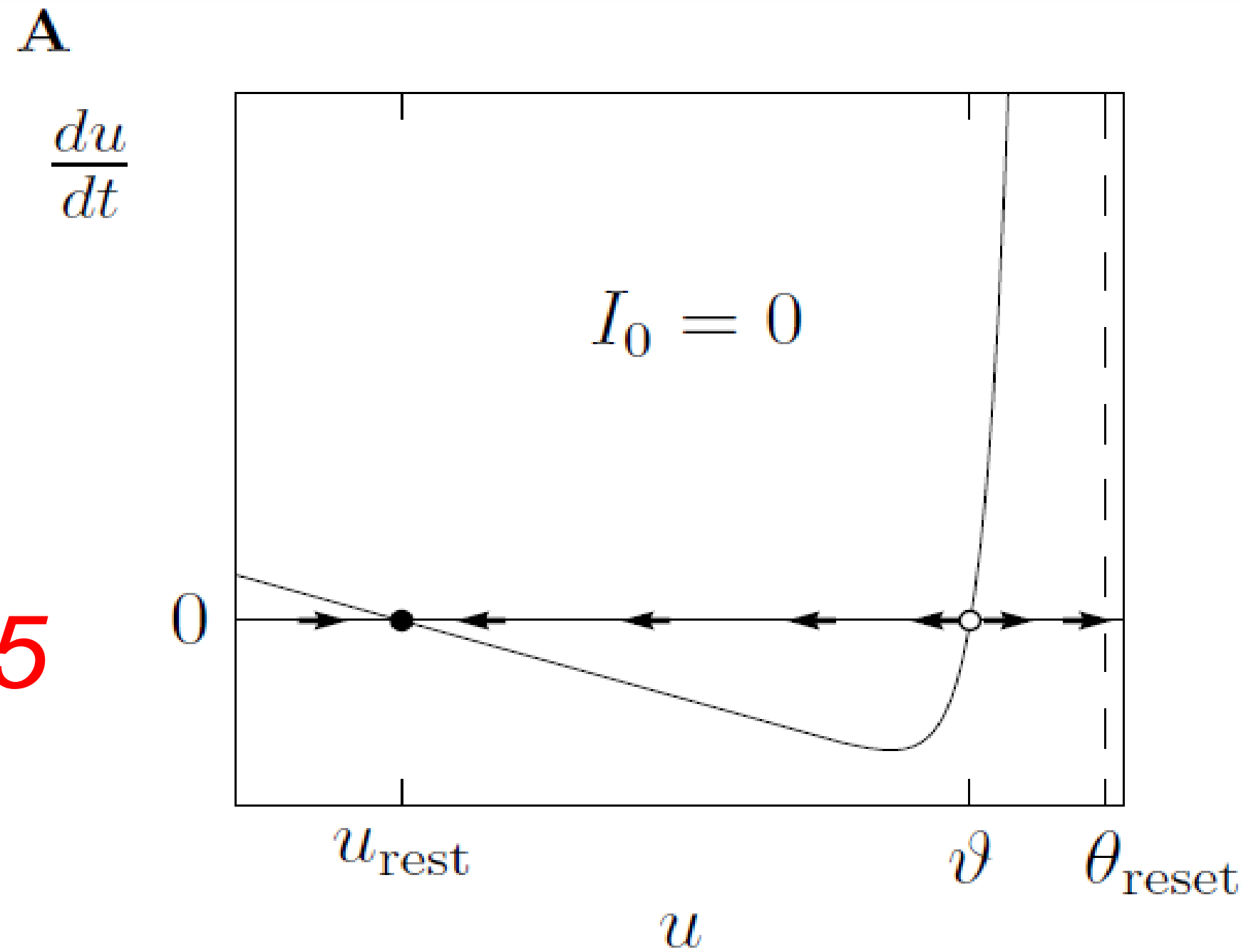
1. What is a good neuron model?



- A) Predict spike times
- B) Predict subthreshold voltage
- C) Easy to interpret (not a 'black box')
- D) Flexible enough to account for a variety of phenomena
- E) Systematic procedure to 'optimize' parameters

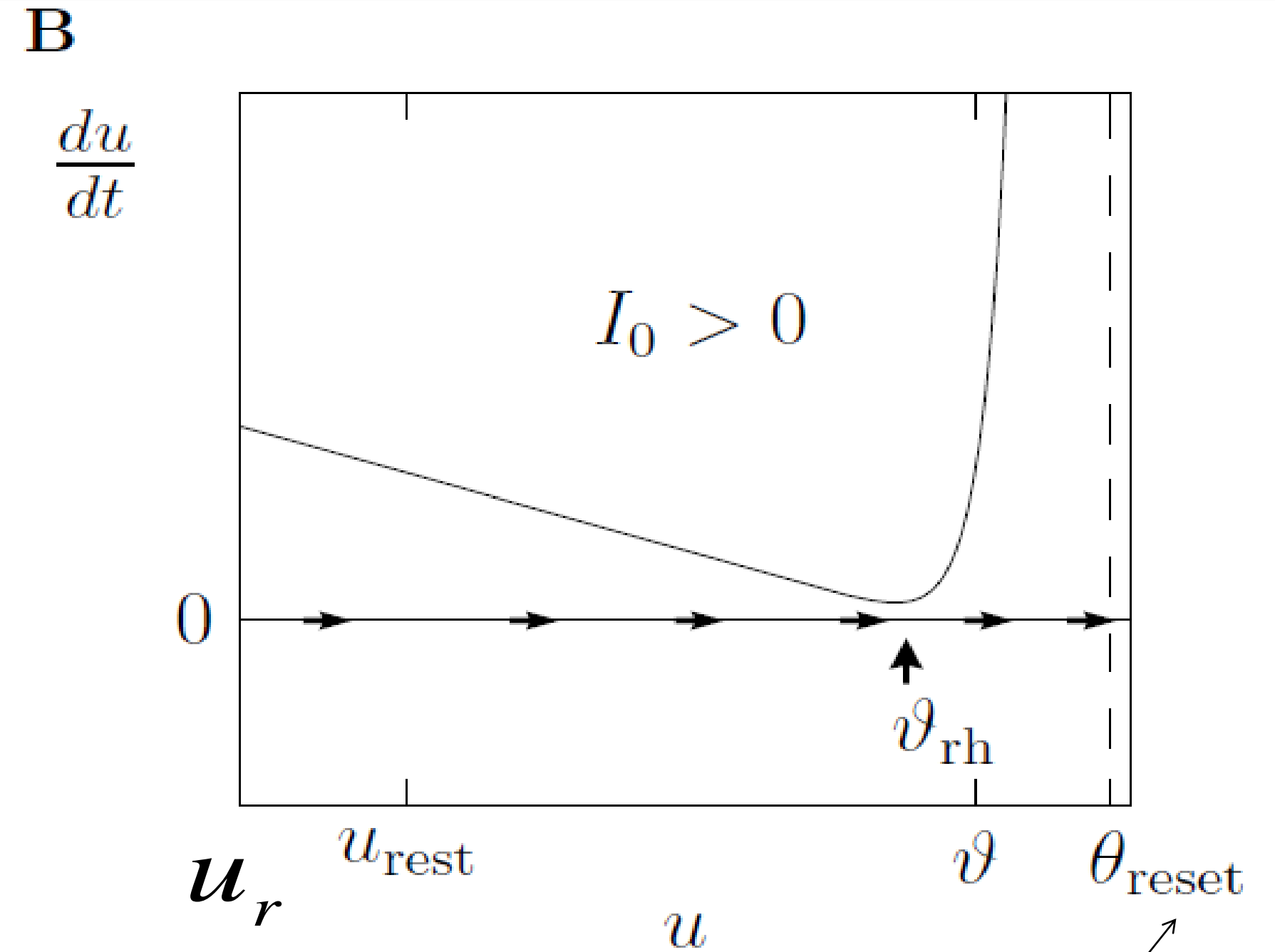
1. Review: Nonlinear Integrate-and-fire

See:
week 1,
lecture 1.5



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

What is a good choice of f ?



If $u = \theta_{reset}$

then reset to

$$u = u_r$$

1. Review: Nonlinear Integrate-and-fire

$$(1) \quad \tau \frac{du}{dt} = f(u) + RI(t)$$

(2) *If $u = \theta_{reset}$ then reset to $u = u_r$*

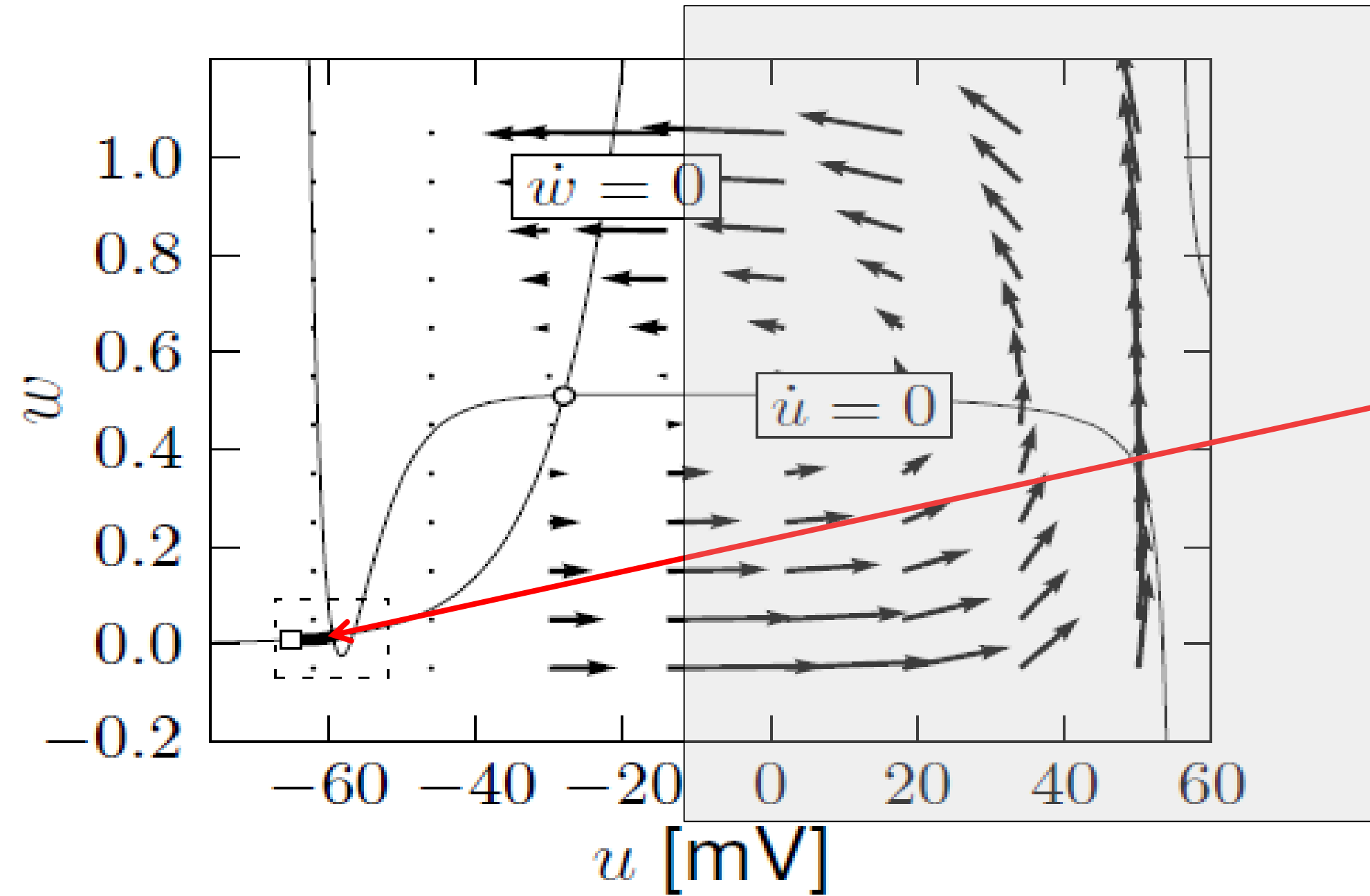
What is a good choice of f ?

- (i) Extract f from more complex models
- (ii) Extract f from data

1. Review: 2-dim neuron models

(i) Extract f from more complex models

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



A. detect spike and reset
resting state

Separation of time scales:
Arrows are nearly horizontal

Spike initiation, from rest

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

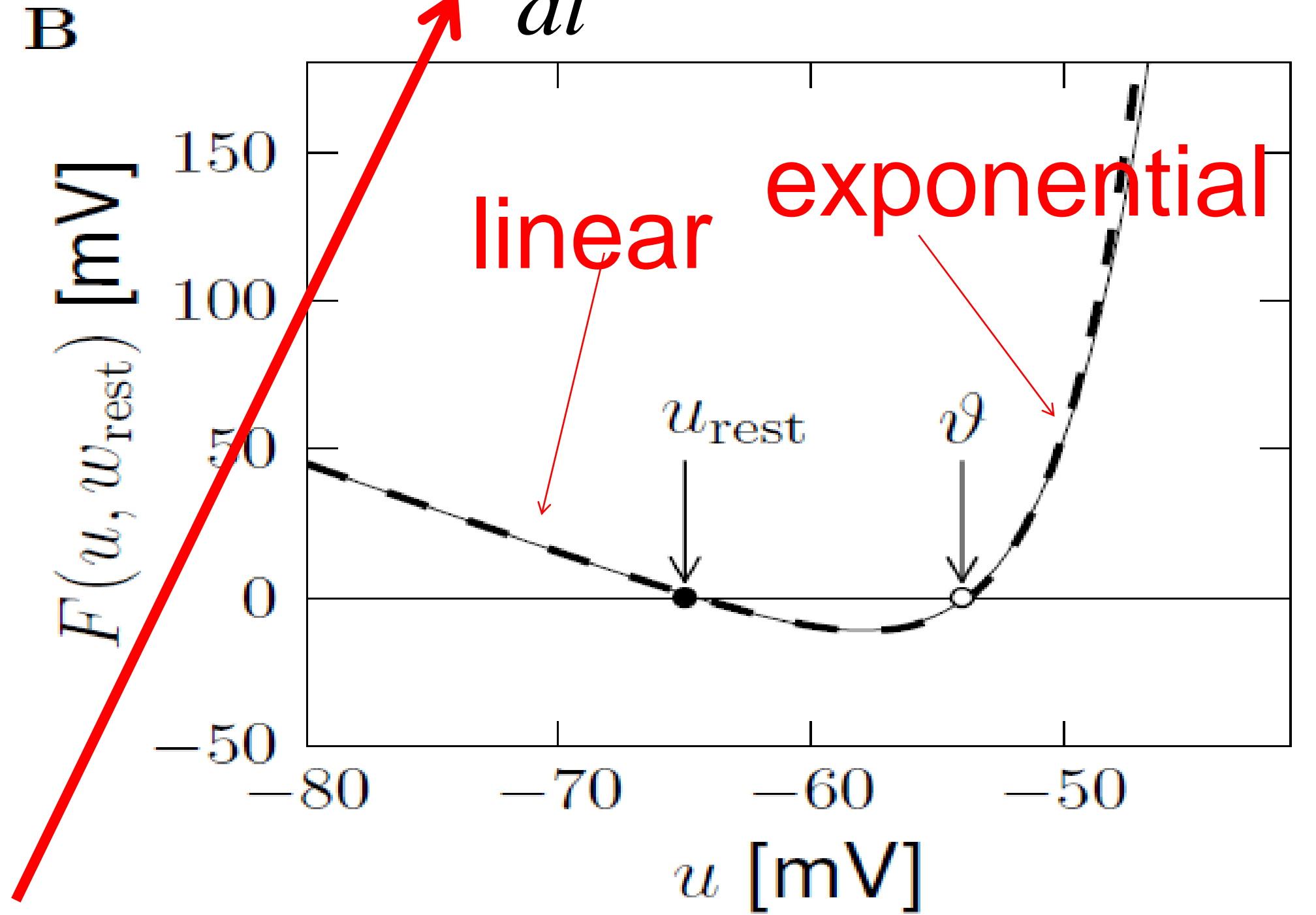
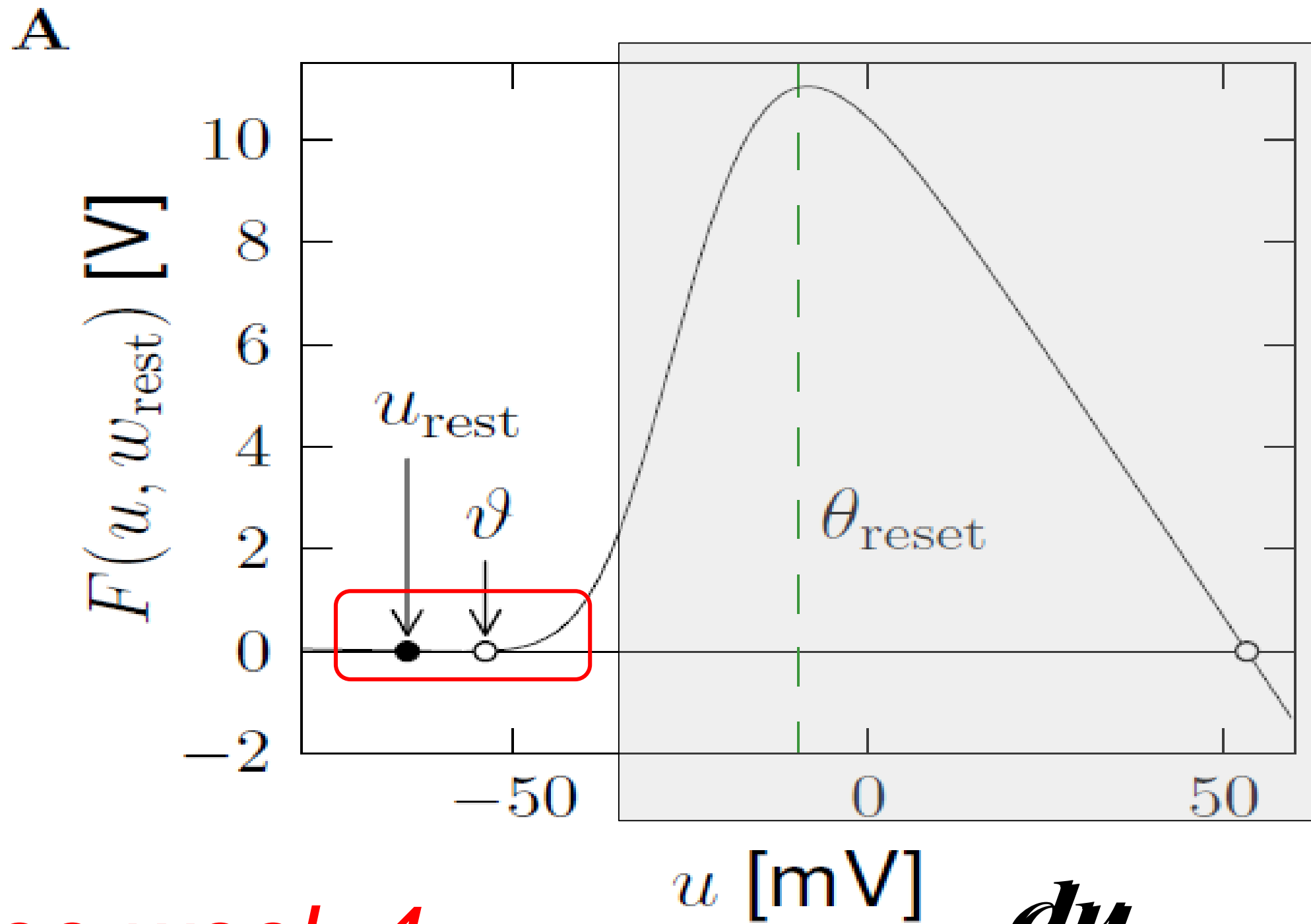
$$w \approx w_{rest}$$

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

B. Assume $w = w_{rest}$

1. Review: Nonlinear Integrate-and-fire

(i) Extract f from more complex models $\tau \frac{du}{dt} = f(u) + RI(t)$



See week 4:
2dim version of
Hodgkin-Huxley

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

Separation of time scales

$$\tau_w \frac{dw}{dt} = G(u, w) \longrightarrow w \approx w_{rest}$$

1. Review: Nonlinear Integrate-and-fire

(ii) Extract f from data *Badel et al. (2008)*

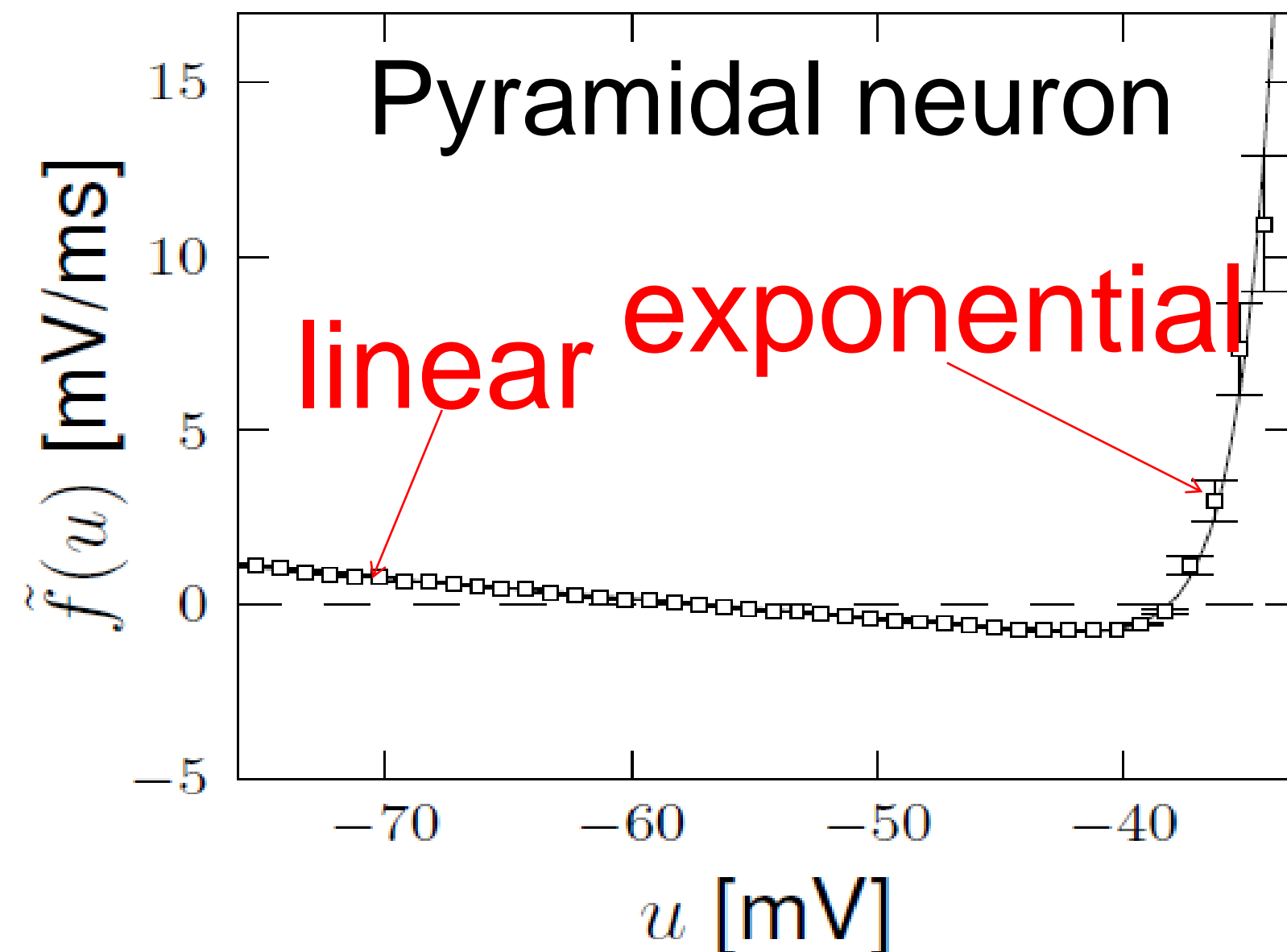
$$\tau \frac{du}{dt} = f(u) + RI(t)$$

$$\tilde{f} = f(u)/\tau$$

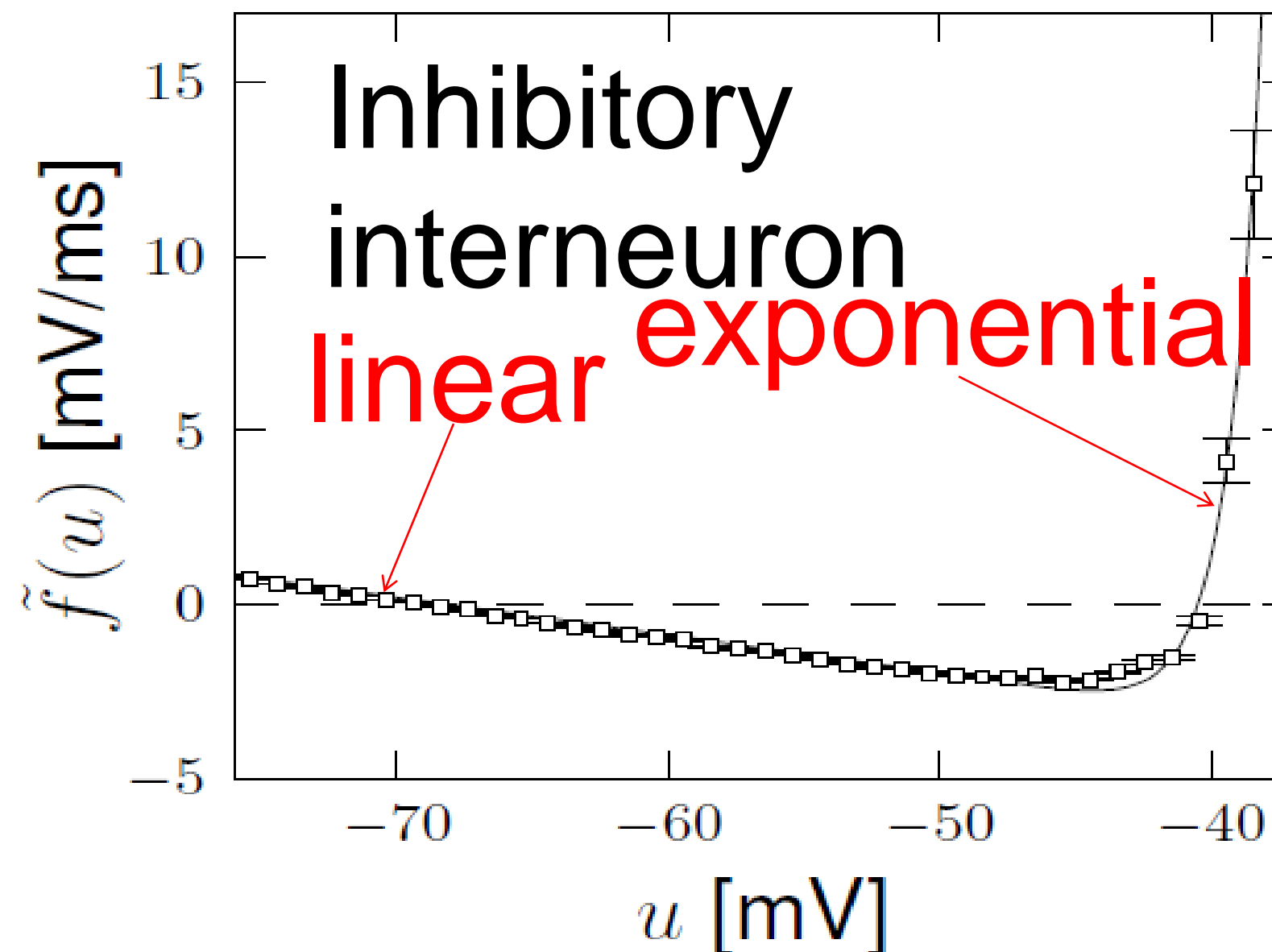
$$\tau \frac{du}{dt} = -(u - u_{rest}) + \Delta \exp\left(\frac{u - \mathcal{I}}{\Delta}\right)$$

Exp. Integrate-and-Fire,
Fourcaud et al. 2003

A



B



Badel et al.
(2008)

1. Review: Nonlinear Integrate-and-fire

$$(1) \quad \tau \frac{du}{dt} = f(u) + RI(t)$$

(2) *If $u = \theta_{reset}$ then reset to $u = u_r$*

Best choice of f : linear + exponential

$$\tau \frac{du}{dt} = -(u - u_{rest}) + \Delta \exp\left(\frac{u - \mathcal{I}}{\Delta}\right)$$

BUT: Limitations – need to add

- Adaptation on slower time scales
- Possibility for a diversity of firing patterns
- Increased threshold \mathcal{I} after each spike
- Noise

1. Review: Nonlinear Integrate-and-fire

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Conclusion – 1 What is a good neuron model?

- A) Predict spike times
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- C) Easy to interpret (not a 'black box')
- D) Systematic procedure to 'optimize' parameters
- E) Flexible enough to account for a variety of phenomena
- F) Account for adaption and firing patterns

How can we find good, but easy-to-interpret neuron models

- A) Derived from detailed Hodgkin-Huxley
- B) Construct simple phenomenological model

Conclusion – 1 What is a good neuron model?

How can we find good, but easy-to-interpret neuron models

A) Derived from detailed Hodgkin-Huxley

Step 1: reduce to 2 dimensions

Step 2: Separation of time scales.

Step 3: focus on spike initiation zone.

Step 4: During spike initiation keep w constant.

Steps 1 to 4 yield an Exponential I&F model.

Step 5 (next): make w flexible again by giving it a dynamics.

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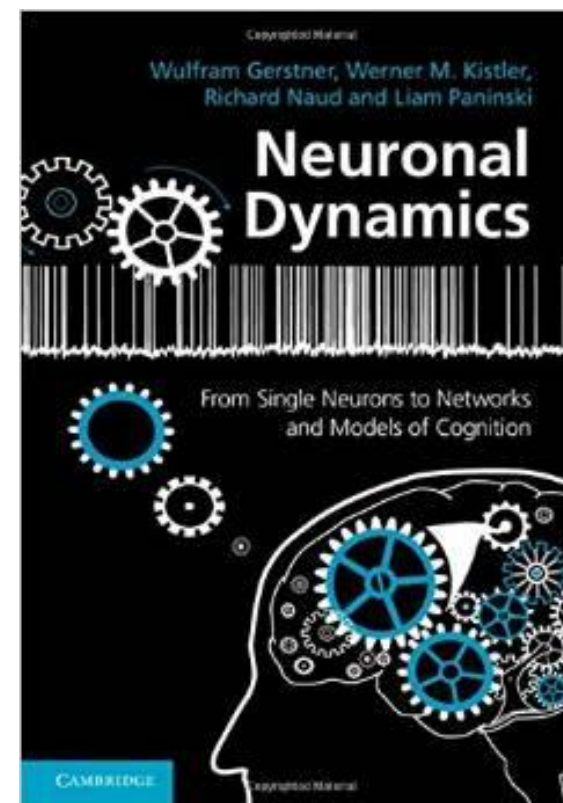
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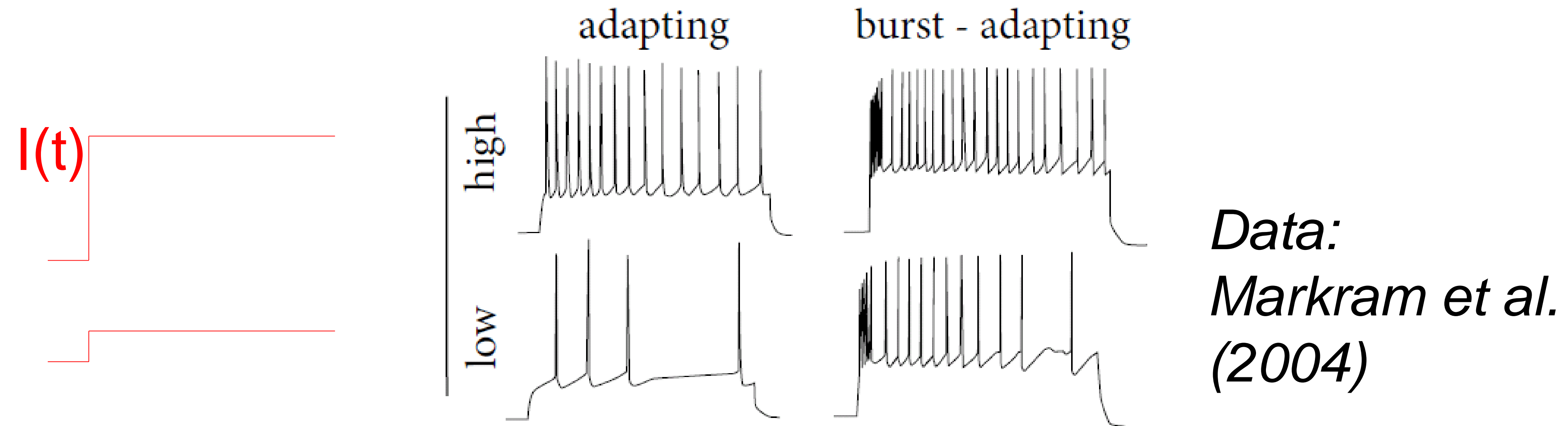
6 Modeling in vitro data

- how long lasts the effect of a spike?

7 Helping humans – in vivo data

2 Adaptation

Step current input – neurons show adaptation



1-dimensional (nonlinear) integrate-and-fire model cannot do this!

2 Adaptation

What is adaptation?

‘Firing that slows down in response to step input’
(→ previous slide)

Idea:

Add one (or several) variables to exponential IF model, so as to account for adaptation
(→ next slide)

2 Adaptive Exponential I&F

Add adaptation variables:

$$\tau \frac{du}{dt} = -(u - u_{rest}) + \Delta \exp\left(\frac{u - \mathcal{I}}{\Delta}\right) - R \sum_k w_k$$

Blackboard !

$$\tau_k \frac{dw_k}{dt} = a_k (u - u_{rest}) - w_k + b_k \tau_k \sum_f \delta(t - t^f)$$

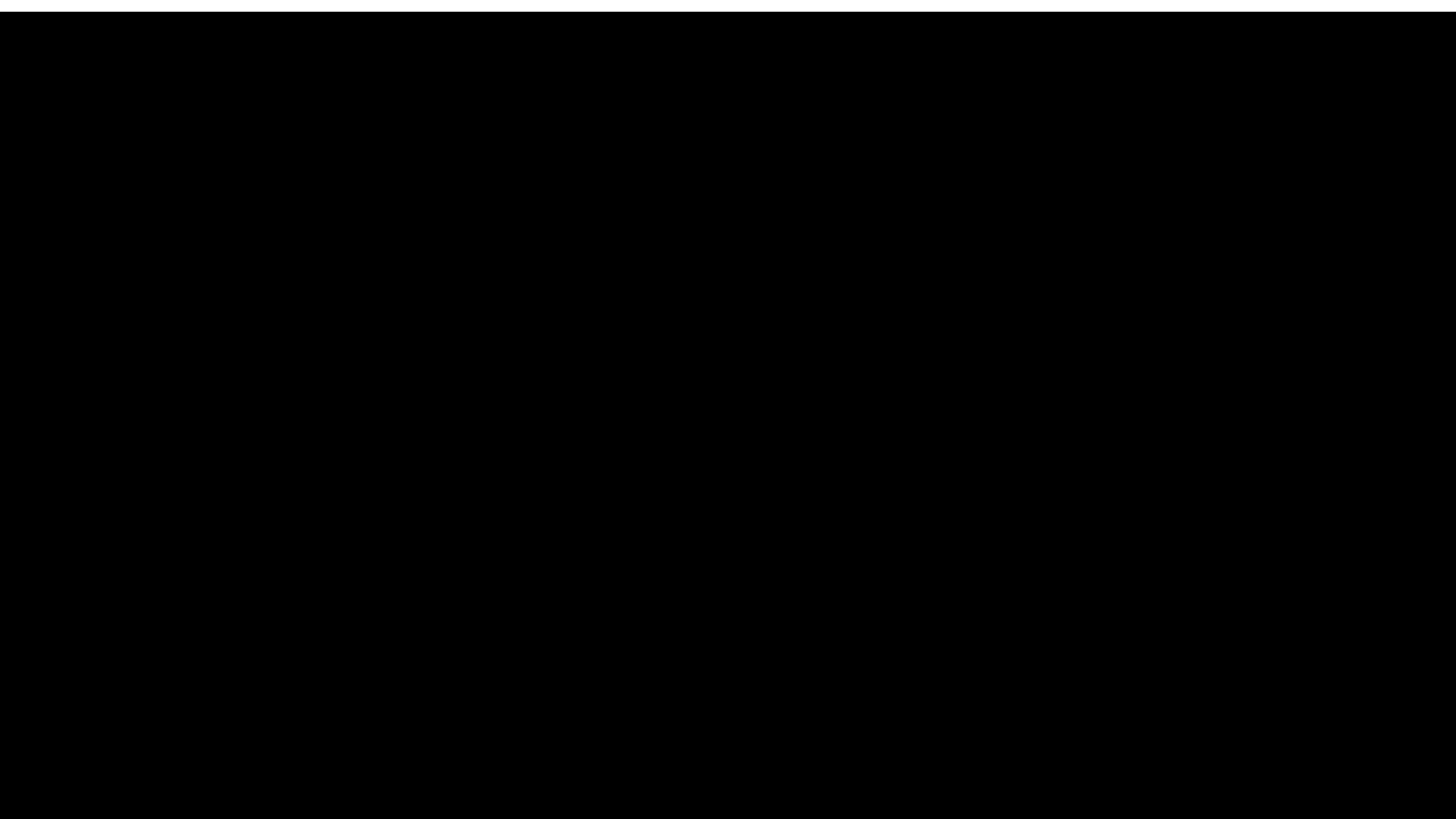
Exponential I&F
+ 1 adaptation var.
= AdEx

**SPIKE AND
RESET**

after each spike w_k
jumps by an amount b_k

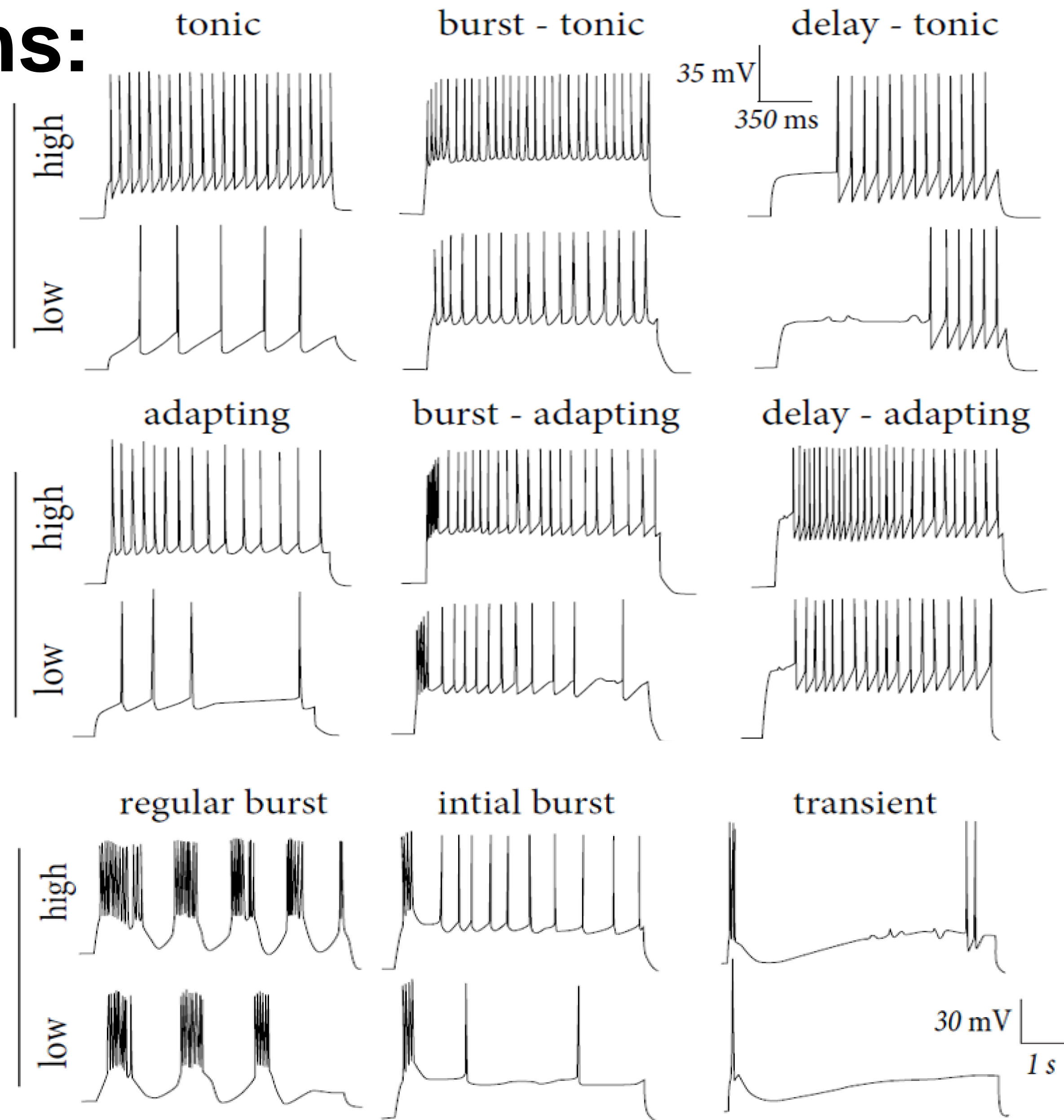
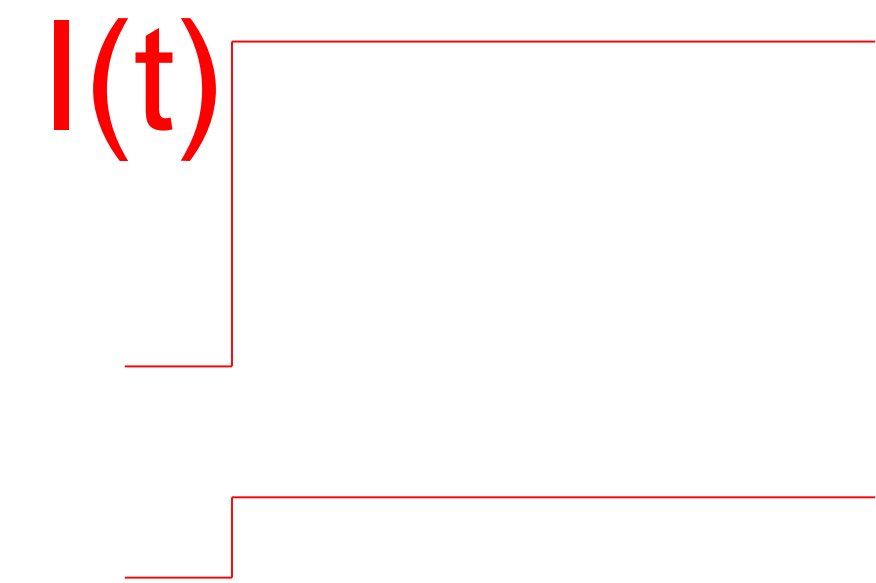
If $u = \theta_{reset}$ then reset to $u = u_r$

*AdEx model,
Brette & Gerstner (2005):*



Firing patterns:

Response to
Step currents,
Exper. Data,
Markram et al.
(2004)



Firing patterns:

Response to
Step currents,
AdEx Model,
Naud&Gerstner

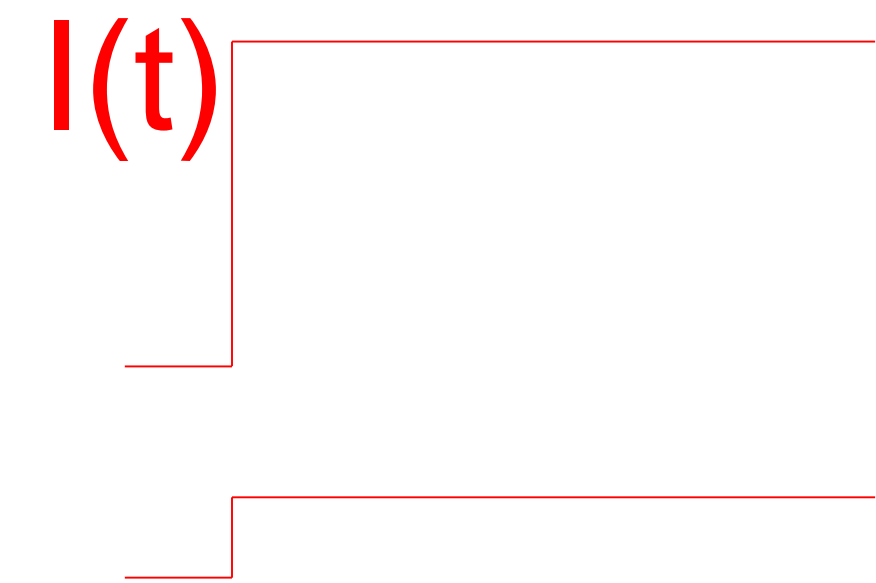
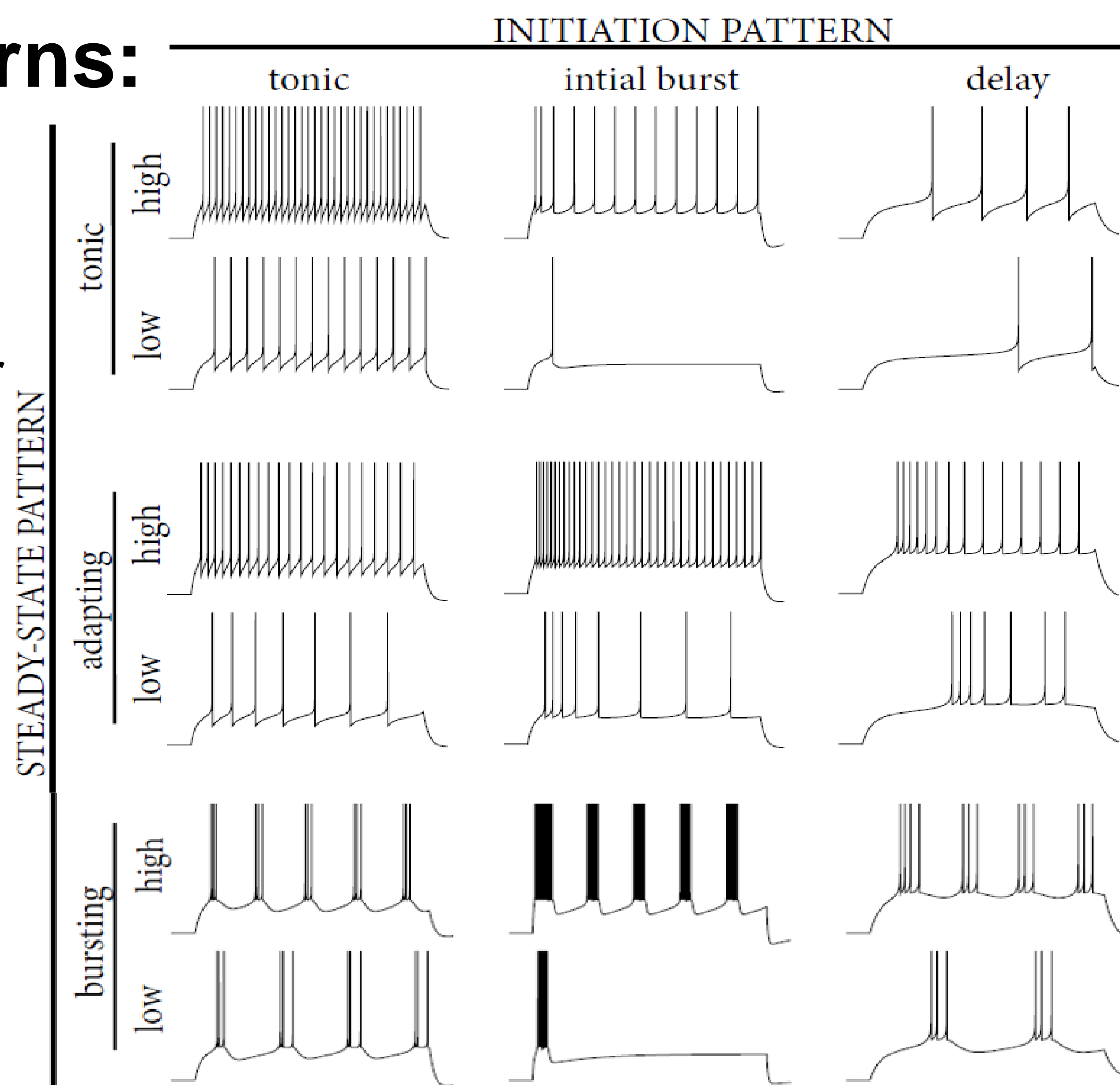


Image:
Neuronal Dynamics,
Gerstner et al.
Cambridge (2002)



Conclusion – 2 Firing patterns

There are many different firing patterns.
Experimentalists have classified them in 9 different groups.
Non-adapting (=tonic), adapting, bursty;
Combined with or without initial burst or delay.

The AdEx model can also account for 9 different types of patterns – changing just 3 parameters!

We will consider parameters a , b , and u_r .

But before we start we need to construct the nullclines.

Week 12 - Firing Patterns

EPFL

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Wulfram Gerstner

EPFL, Lausanne, Switzerland

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6. Modeling in vitro data

- how long lasts the effect of a spike?

2 Adaptive Exponential I&F

AdEx model: exponential I&F plus adaptation variable

$$\tau \frac{du}{dt} = -(u - u_{rest}) + \Delta \exp\left(\frac{u - \mathcal{I}}{\Delta}\right) - R_w + RI(t)$$

$$\tau_w \frac{dw}{dt} = a (u - u_{rest}) - w + b \tau_w \sum_f \delta(t - t^f)$$

Two variables → Phase plane analysis!

Can we understand the different firing patterns?

Quiz. Nullclines of AdEx

$$\tau \frac{du}{dt} = -(u - u_{rest}) + \Delta \exp\left(\frac{u - \mathcal{I}}{\Delta}\right) - Rw + RI(t)$$

$$\tau_w \frac{dw}{dt} = a(u - u_{rest}) - w$$

A - What is the qualitative shape of the w-nullcline?

- constant
- linear, slope a
- linear, slope 1
- linear + quadratic
- linear + exponential

B - What is the qualitative shape of the u-nullcline?

- linear, slope 1
- linear, slope 1/R
- linear + quadratic
- linear w. slope 1/R+ exponential

2 minutes

Restart at 9:45

2. AdEx model

after each spike
 u is reset to u_r

$$\tau \frac{du}{dt} = -(u - u_{rest}) + \Delta \exp\left(\frac{u - \mathcal{G}}{\Delta}\right) - R_w + RI(t)$$

$$\tau_w \frac{dw}{dt} = a (u - u_{rest}) - w + b \tau_w \sum_f \delta(t - t^f)$$

after each spike
 w jumps by an amount b

parameter a – slope of w -nullcline

Can we understand the different firing patterns?

2. AdEx model – phase plane analysis

Next slides: phase plane analysis

- 3 different examples of firing patterns
- 3 different choices of parameters a and b

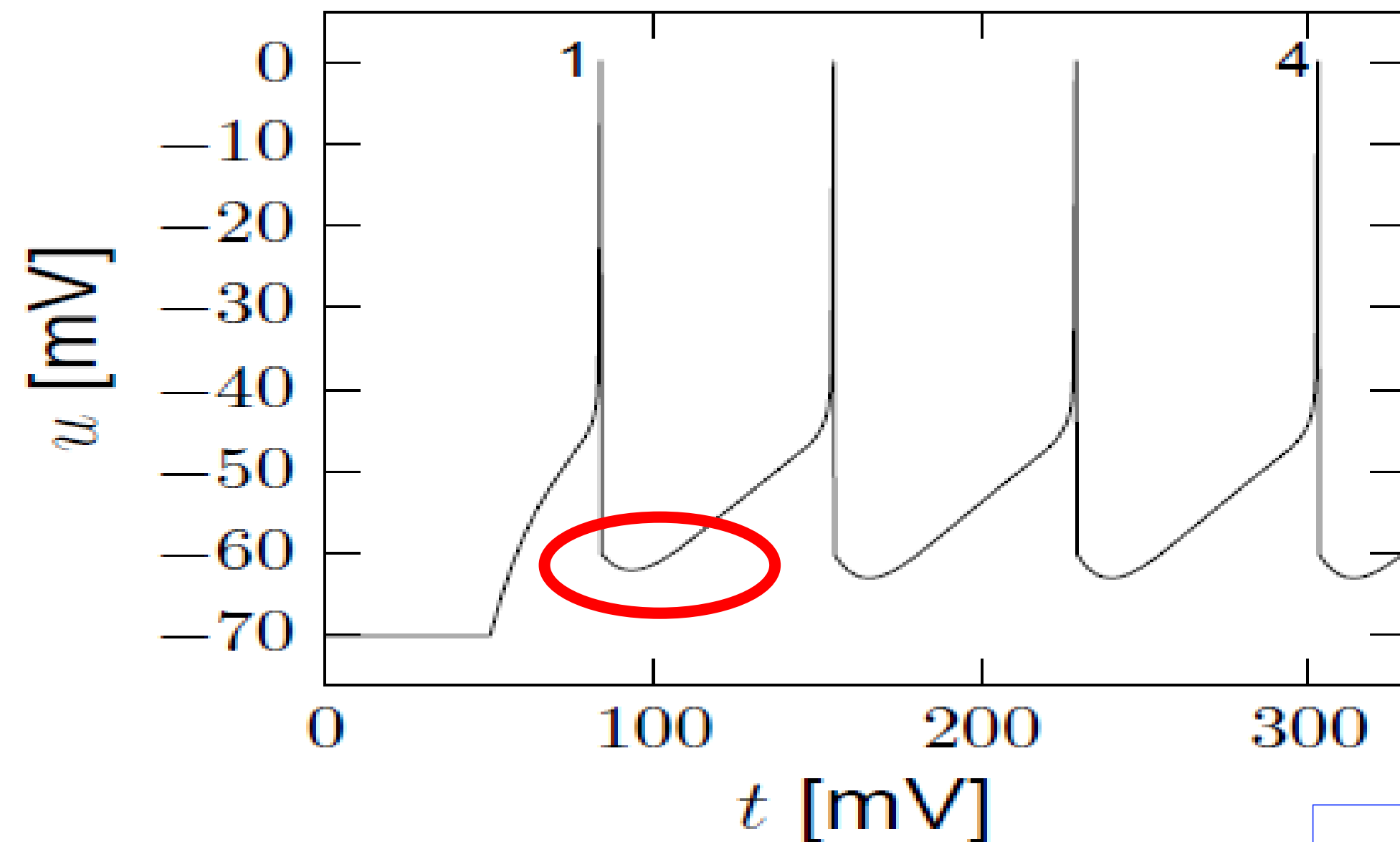
2. AdEx model – phase plane analysis: large b

$$\tau \frac{du}{dt} = -(u - u_{rest}) + \Delta \exp\left(\frac{u - \mathcal{G}}{\Delta}\right) + w + RI(t)$$

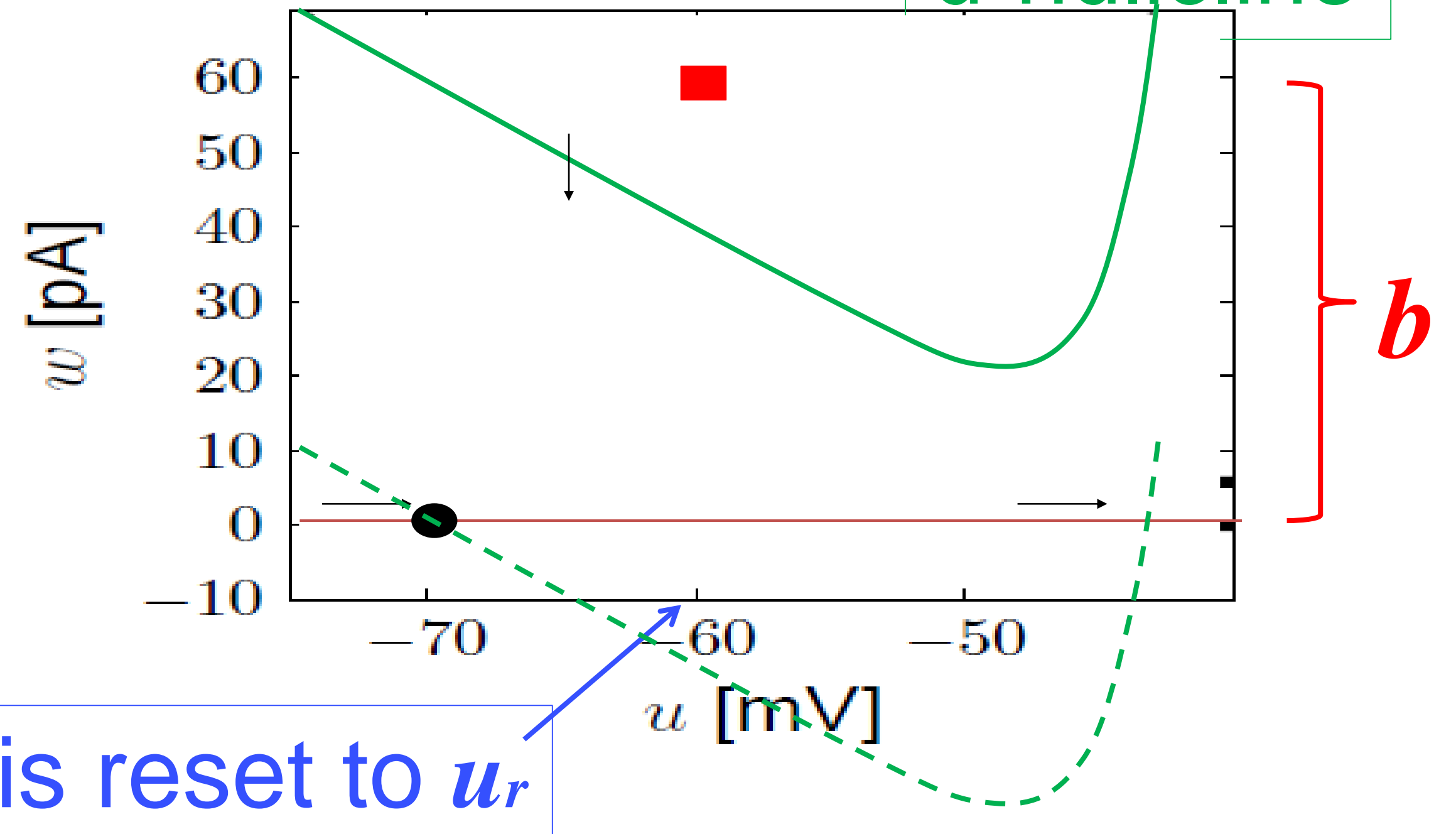
$$\tau_w \frac{dw}{dt} = a (u - u_{rest}) - w + b \tau_w \sum_f \delta(t - t^f)$$

a=0

A



B



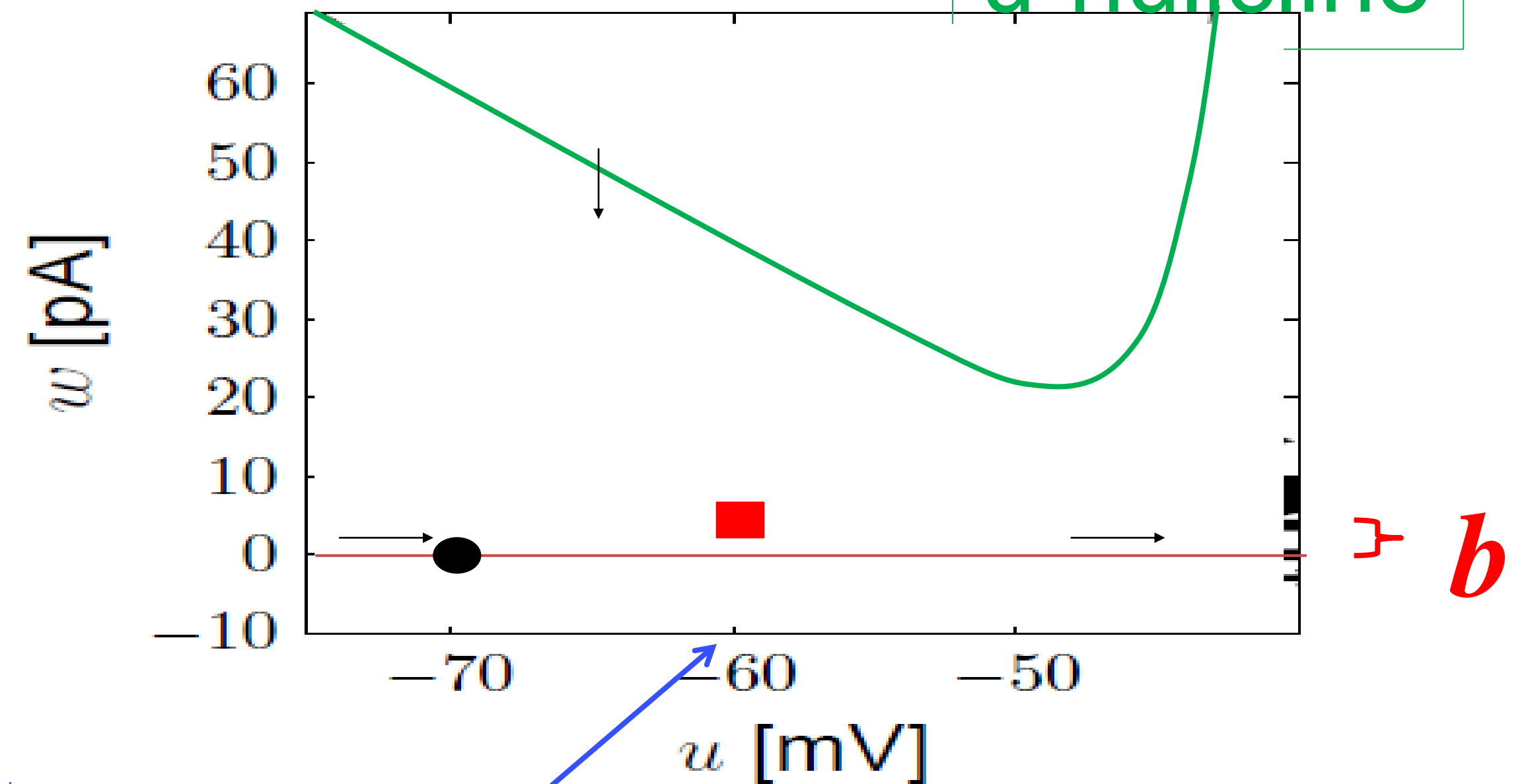
2. AdEx model – phase plane analysis: small b

$$\tau \frac{du}{dt} = -(u - u_{rest}) + \Delta \exp\left(\frac{u - \mathcal{G}}{\Delta}\right) + w + RI(t)$$

$$\tau_w \frac{dw}{dt} = a (u - u_{rest}) - w + b \tau_w \sum_f \delta(t - t^f)$$

adaptation

D



u is reset to u_r

Quiz: AdEx model – phase plane analysis

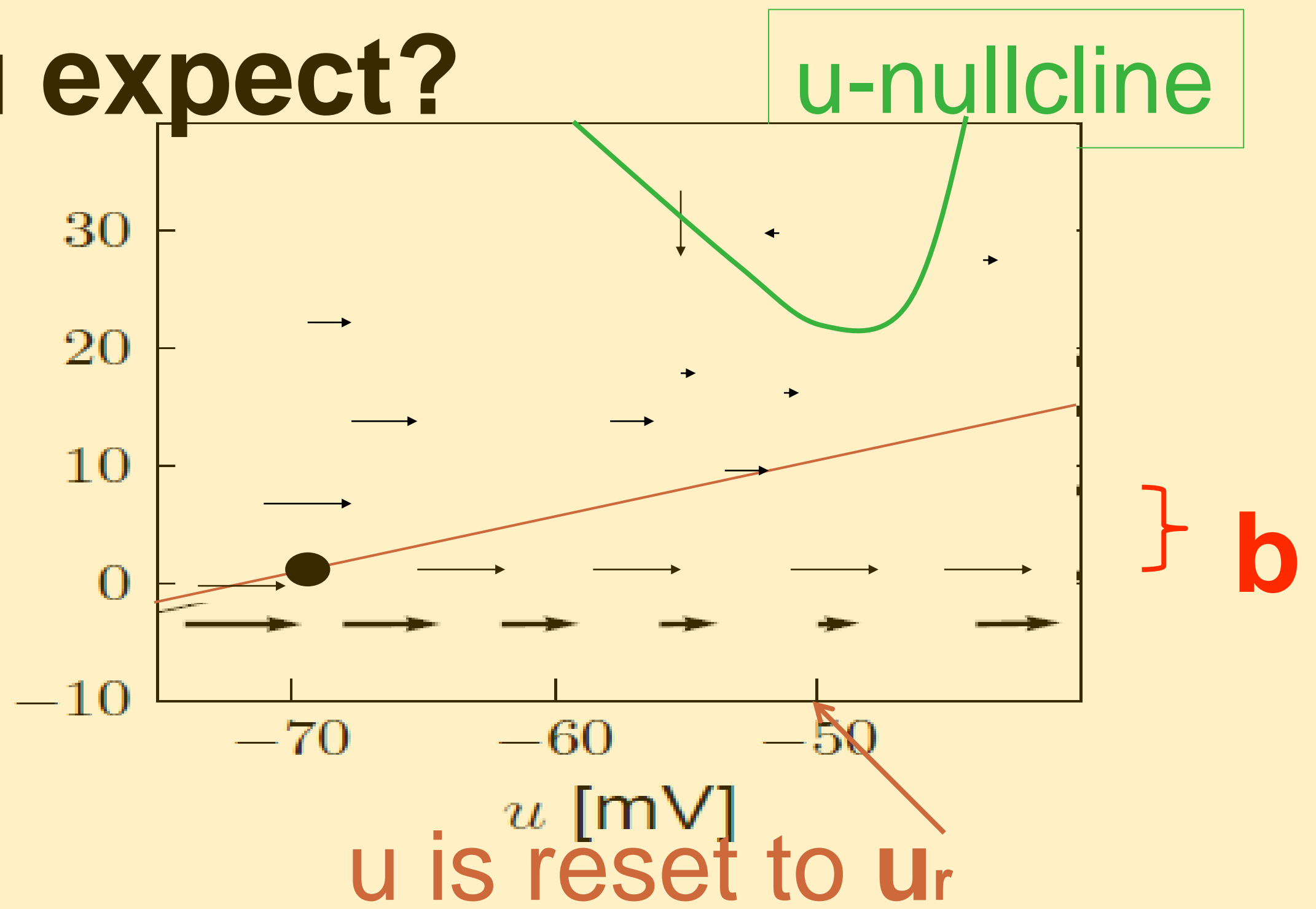
$$\tau_w \gg \tau$$

$$\tau \frac{du}{dt} = -(u - u_{rest}) + \Delta \exp\left(\frac{u - \mathcal{G}}{\Delta}\right) + w + RI(t)$$

$$\tau_w \frac{dw}{dt} = a (u - u_{rest}) + b \tau_w \sum_f \delta(t - t^f)$$

What firing pattern do you expect?

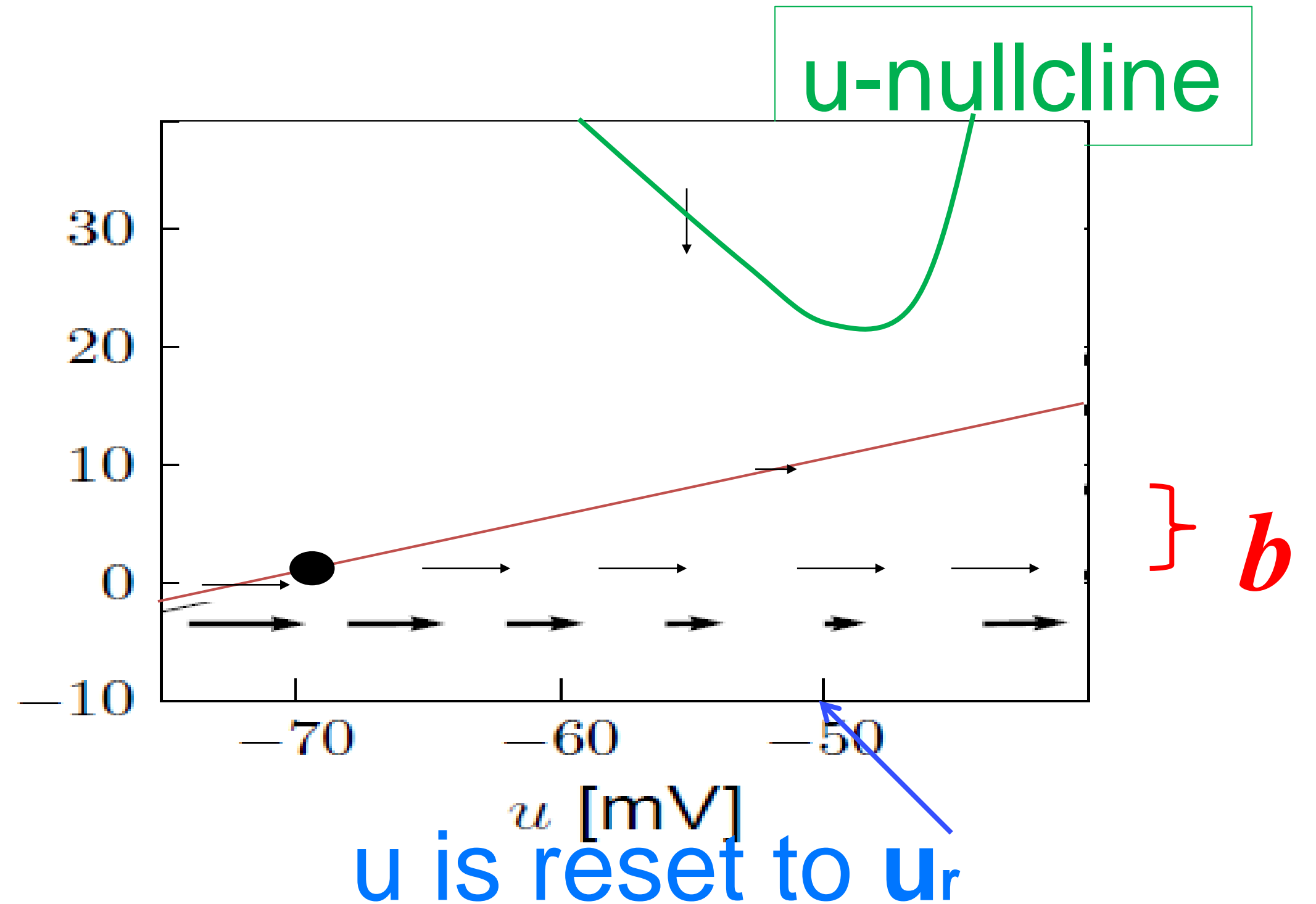
- (i) Adapting
- (ii) Bursting
- (iii) Initial burst
- (iv) Non-adapting



2. AdEx model – phase plane analysis: $a > 0$

$$\tau \frac{du}{dt} = -(u - u_{rest}) + \Delta \exp\left(\frac{u - \mathcal{G}}{\Delta}\right) + w + RI(t)$$

$$\tau_w \frac{dw}{dt} = a (u - u_{rest}) - w + b \tau_w \sum_f \delta(t - t^f)$$



2 AdEx model and firing patterns

after each spike u is reset to u_r

$$\tau \frac{du}{dt} = -(u - u_{rest}) + \Delta \exp\left(\frac{u - \mathcal{I}}{\Delta}\right) - R w + RI(t)$$

$$\tau_w \frac{dw}{dt} = a (u - u_{rest}) - w + b \tau_w \sum_f \delta(t - t^f)$$

after each spike

w jumps by an amount b

parameter a – slope of w nullcline

Firing patterns arise from different parameters!

See Naud et al. (2008), see also Izhikheich (2003)

Review: Nonlinear Integrate-and-fire

$$(1) \quad \tau \frac{du}{dt} = f(u) + RI(t)$$

(2) *If $u = \theta_{reset}$ then reset to $u = u_r$*

Best choice of f : linear + exponential

$$\tau \frac{du}{dt} = -(u - u_{rest}) + \Delta \exp\left(\frac{u - \mathcal{I}}{\Delta}\right)$$

BUT: Limitations – need to add

- ✓ -Adaptation on slower time scales
- ✓ -Possibility for a diversity of firing patterns
- Increased threshold \mathcal{I} after each spike
- Noise

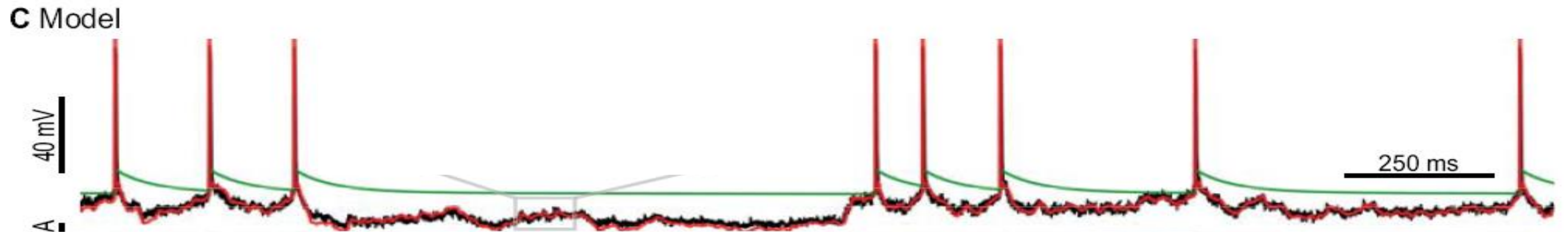
2. AdEx with dynamic threshold

Add dynamic threshold:

$$\tau \frac{du}{dt} = -(u - u_{rest}) + \Delta \exp\left(\frac{u - \mathcal{G}}{\Delta}\right) - R \sum_k w_k + RI(t)$$

Threshold increases after each spike

$$\mathcal{G} = \theta_0 + \sum_f \theta_1 (t - t^f)$$



2. Generalized Integrate-and-fire

We started with a one-dimensional nonlinear I&F model

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

If $u = \theta_{reset}$ then reset to $u = u_r$

we added

- ✓ -Adaptation variables
- ✓ -Possibility for firing patterns
- ✓ -Dynamic threshold \mathcal{I}
- Noise

Use 'escape noise'
(see earlier lecture)
→ Section 9.4

Week 12 - Firing Patterns

EPFL

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EPFL, Lausanne, Switzerland

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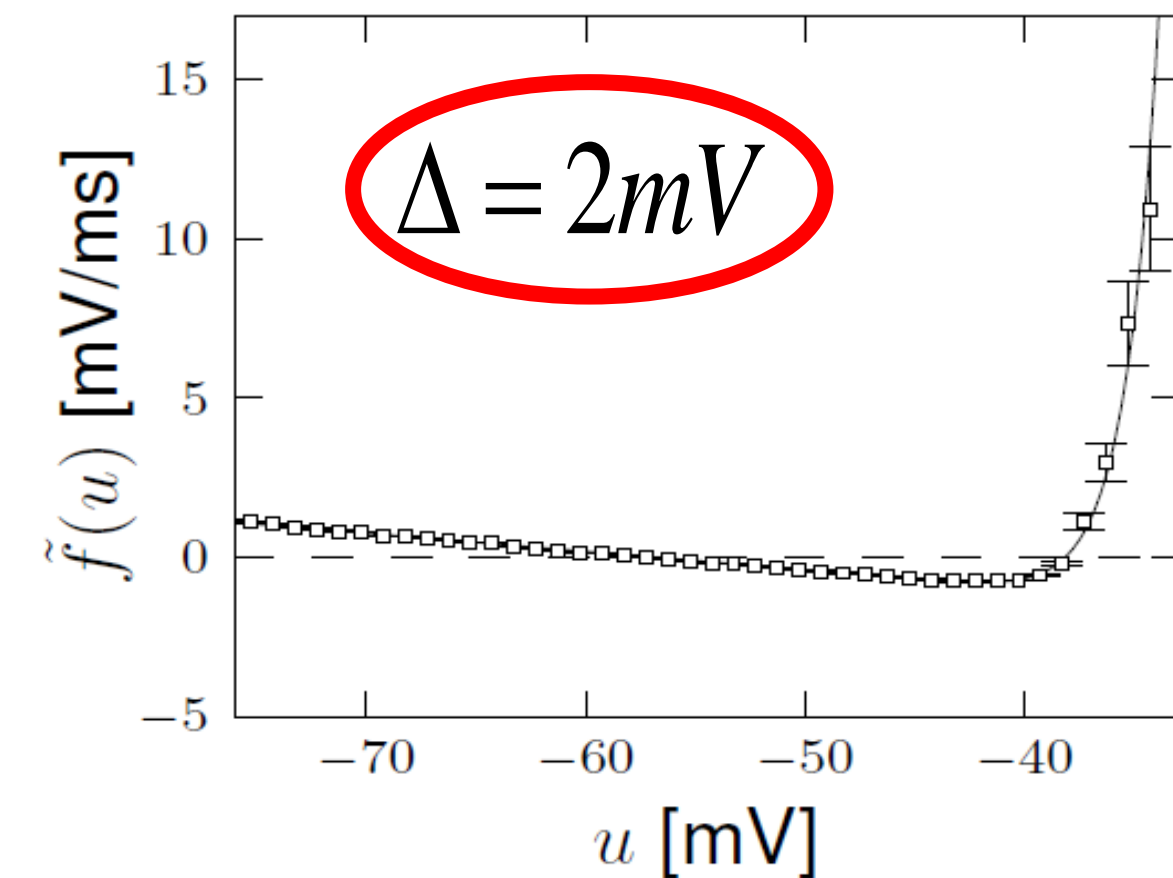
- how long lasts the effect of a spike?

3. Review: Exponential Integrate-and-Fire

$$\tau \frac{du}{dt} = -(u - u_{rest}) + \Delta \exp\left(\frac{u - \mathcal{V}}{\Delta}\right) + RI(t)$$

What is the size of the parameter Δ ?
→ experiments?

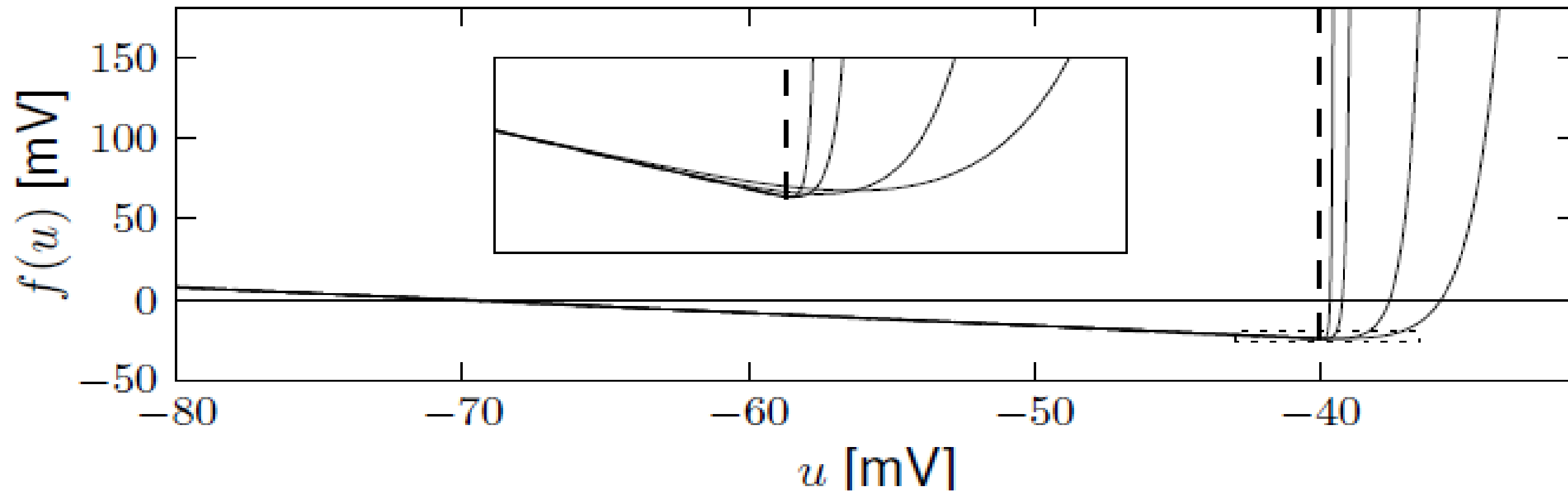
Badel et al (2008)



What is the role of the parameter Δ ?
→ make Δ smaller and smaller

3. Exponential versus Leaky Integrate-and-Fire

$$\tau \frac{du}{dt} = -(u - u_{rest}) + \Delta \exp\left(\frac{u - \mathcal{I}}{\Delta}\right) + RI(t)$$



In the limit $\Delta \rightarrow 0$ the exponential I&F simplifies to

$$\tau \frac{du}{dt} = -(u - u_{rest}) + RI(t)$$

Leaky Integrate-and-Fire

Reset if $u = \mathcal{I}$

3. Adaptive leaky integrate-and-fire

Defined by 1) voltage equation, adaptation variables

$$\tau \frac{du}{dt} = -(u - u_{rest}) - R \sum_k w_k + RI(t)$$

$$\tau_k \frac{dw_k}{dt} = a_k (u - u_{rest}) - w_k + b_k \tau_k \sum_f \delta(t - t^f)$$

2) spike and
reset

If $u = \vartheta(t)$ then reset to $u = u_r$

and

w_k jumps by an amount b_k

3) Dynamic threshold $\vartheta(t)$

Exercise 1: from adaptive IF to SRM

$$\tau \frac{du}{dt} = -(u - u_{rest}) - R \alpha w + RI(t), \quad \alpha = \{0, 1\}$$

If $u = \mathcal{I}$ then reset to $u = u_r$

$$\tau_w \frac{dw}{dt} = -w + b \tau_w \sum_f \delta(t - t^f)$$

Start at 10:15

Next lecture at 10:25

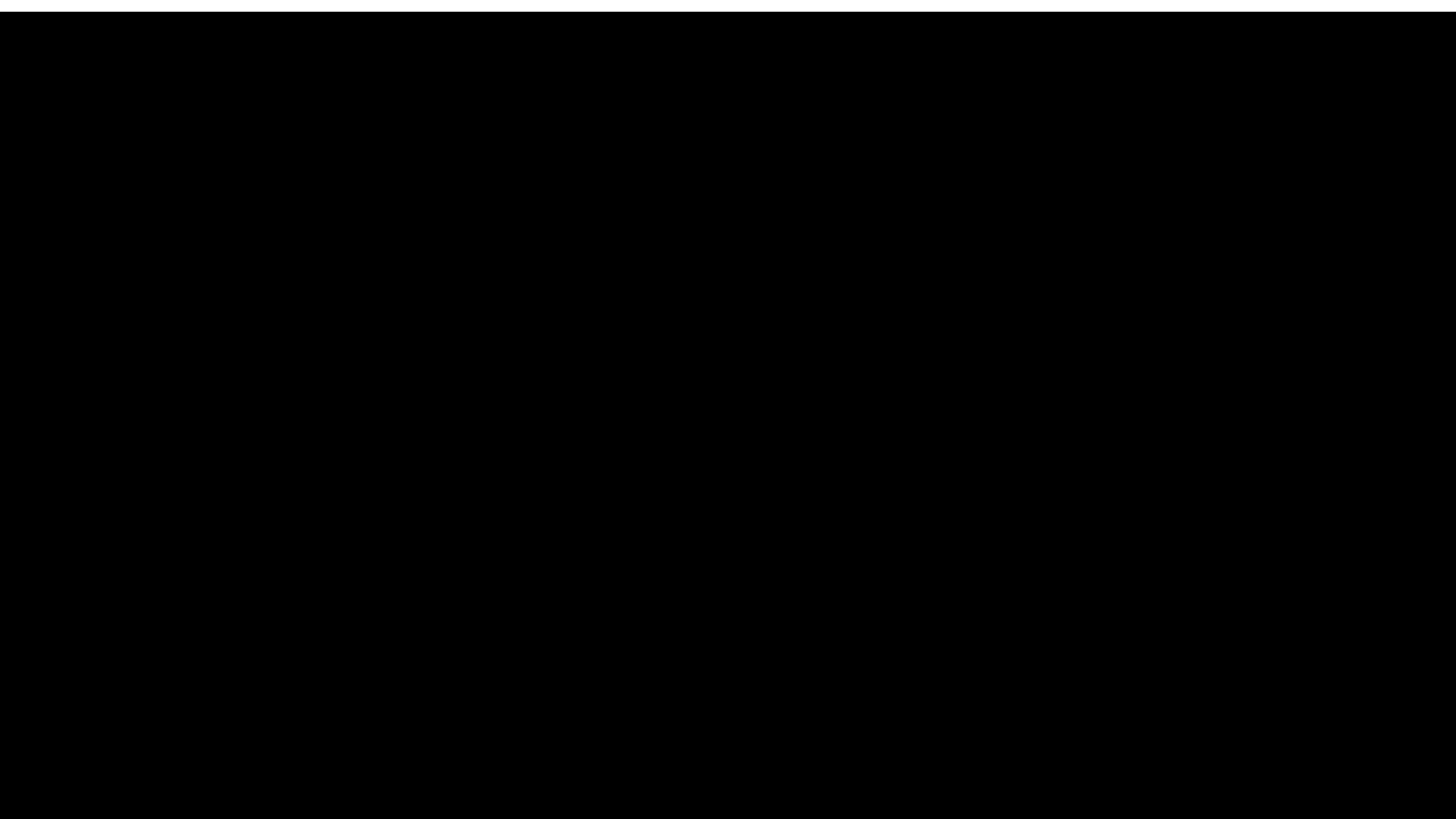
Integrate the above system of two differential equations so as to rewrite the equations as

potential $u(t) = \int_0^\infty \underline{\eta(s)} S(t-s) ds + \int_0^\infty \underline{\varepsilon(s)} I(t-s) ds + u_{rest}$

Hint: voltage reset equivalent to short current pulse

A – what is $\underline{\varepsilon(s)}$? (i) $x(s) = \frac{R}{\tau} \exp(-\frac{s}{\tau})$ (ii) $x(s) = \frac{R}{\tau_w} \exp(-\frac{s}{\tau_w})$

B – what is $\underline{\eta(s)}$? (iii) $x(s) = C[\exp(-\frac{s}{\tau}) - \exp(-\frac{s}{\tau_w})]$ (iv) **Combi of (i) + (iii)**



3. Adaptive leaky I&F and SRM

$$\tau \frac{du}{dt} = -(u - u_{rest}) - R \sum_k w_k + RI(t)$$

$$\tau_k \frac{dw_k}{dt} = a_k (u - u_{rest}) - w_k + b_k \tau_k \sum_f \delta(t - t^f)$$

Adaptive
leaky I&F

Linear equation → can be integrated!

$$u(t) = \sum_f \eta (t - t^f) + \int_0^\infty ds \kappa(s) I(t - s)$$

$$\vartheta(t) = \theta_0 + \sum_f \theta_1 (t - t^f)$$

Spike Response Model (SRM)

Representation of potential
and threshold by linear filters
of arbitrary shape

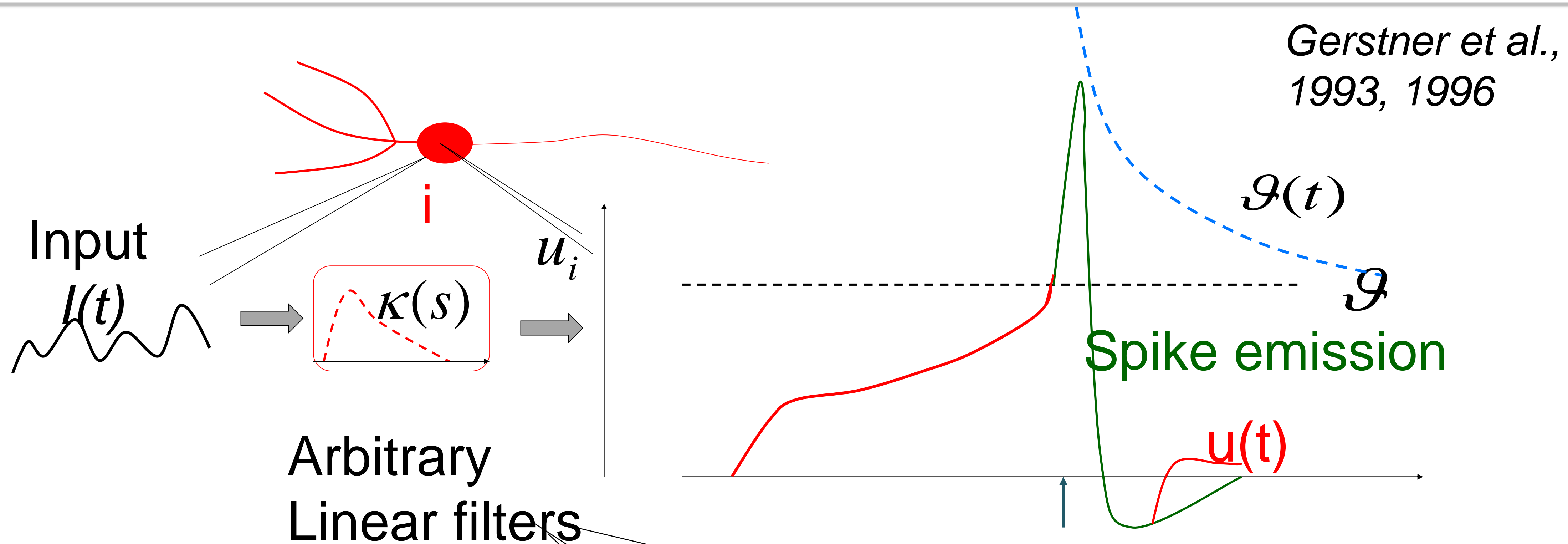
Firing condition: $u(t) = \vartheta$

Gerstner et al. (1996)

3. Spike Response Model (SRM)

- Voltage equation in integrated form, includes linear filters
- Linear filters shape neuronal behavior (e.g., bursting)
- Linear filters can result from linear differential equations
- Alternatively linear filters can be directly fitted to experiments
- Simple 'flow diagram' (next slide)

3. Spike Response Model (SRM)



potential

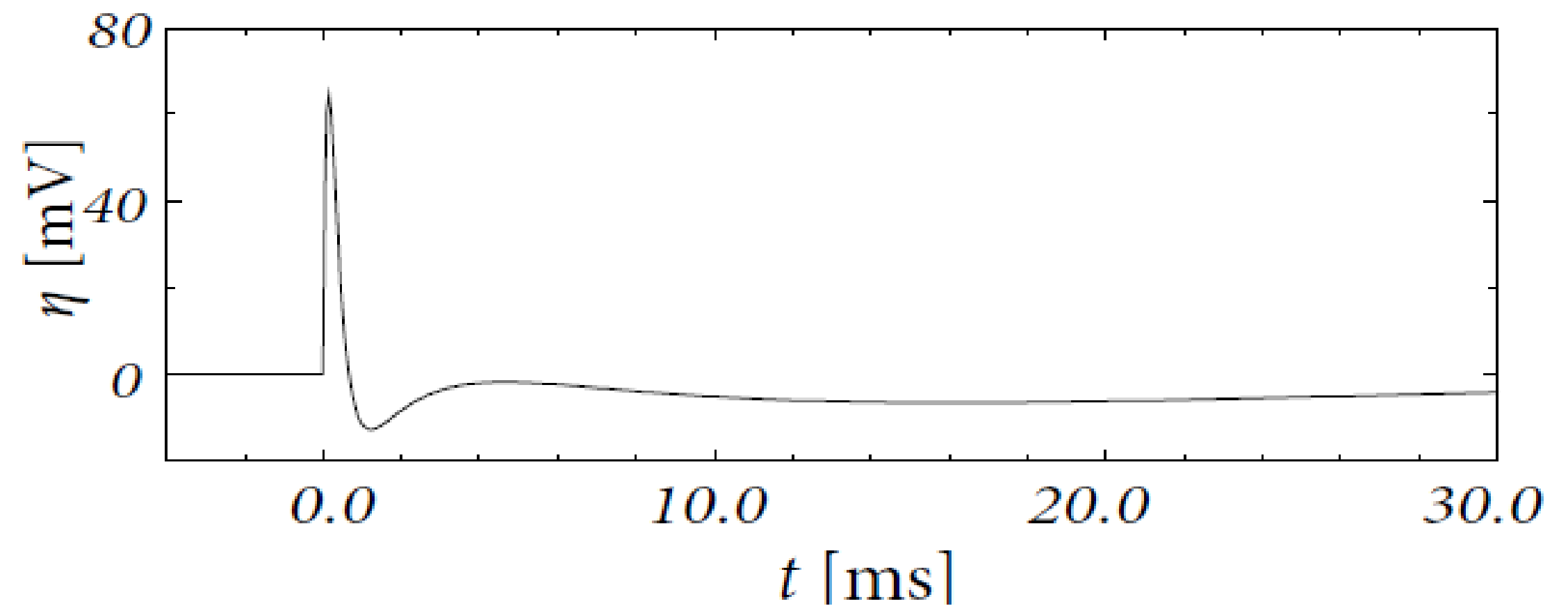
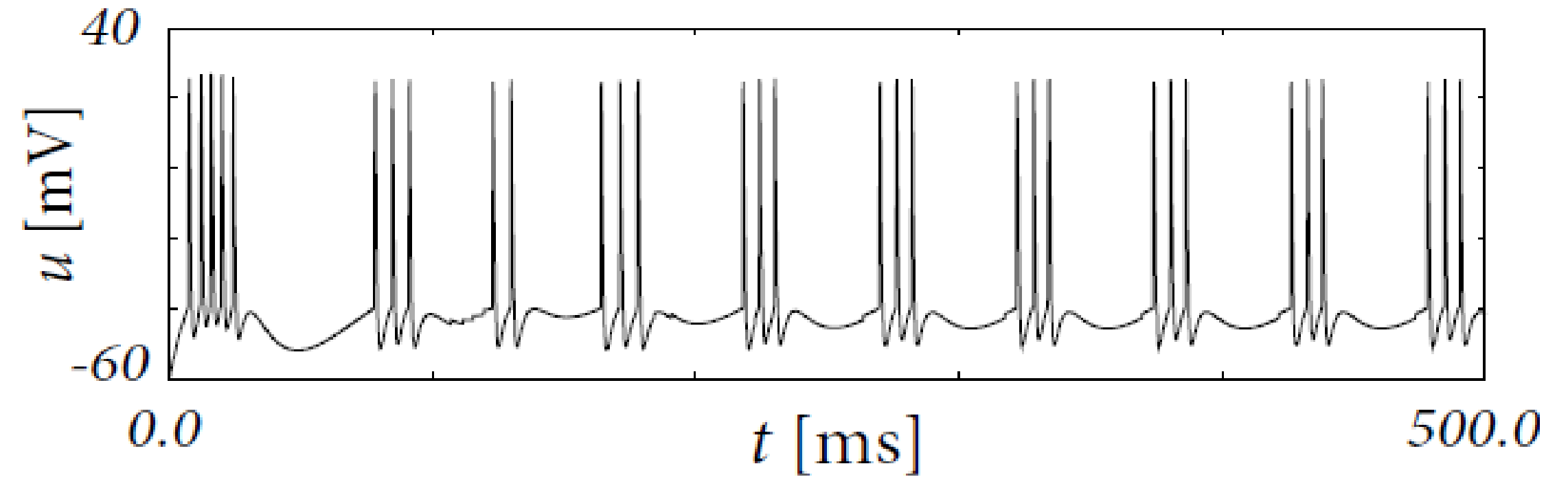
$$u(t) = \sum_{t'} \eta(t-t') + \int_0^\infty \kappa(s) I(t-s) ds + u_{rest}$$

threshold

$$\mathcal{G}(t) = \theta_0 + \sum_{t'} \theta_1(t-t')$$

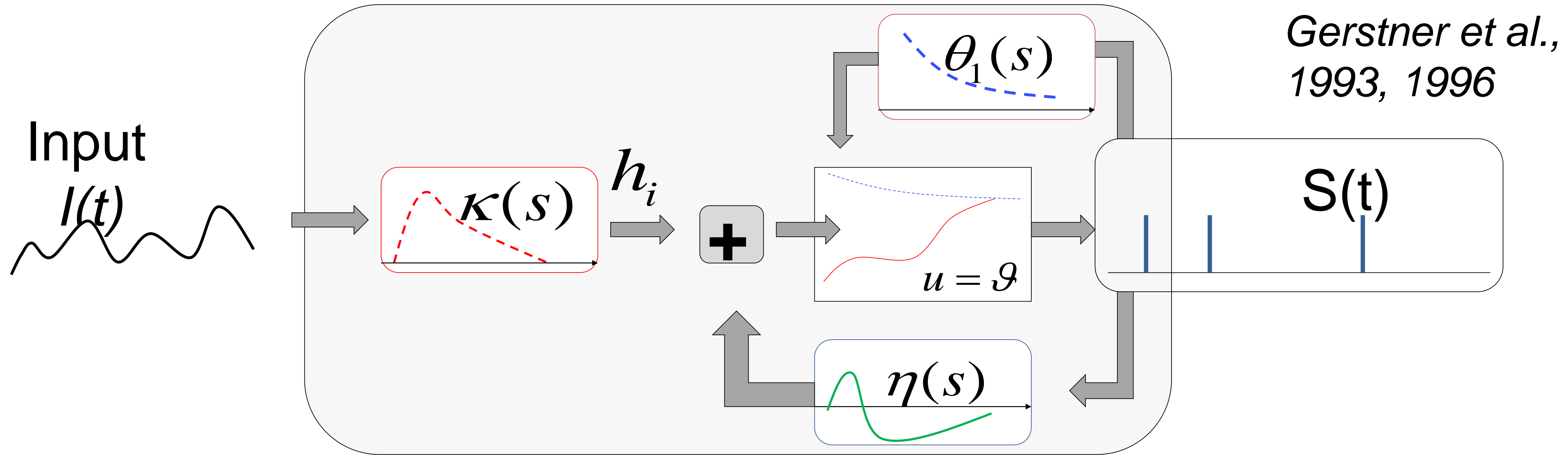
3. Bursting in the SRM

SRM with appropriate η leads to bursting



$$u(t) = \sum_f \eta(t - t^f) + \int_0^\infty ds \kappa(s) I(t - s) + u_{rest}$$
$$u(t) = \int_0^\infty ds \eta(s) S(t - s) + \int_0^\infty ds \kappa(s) I(t - s) + u_{rest}$$

3. Spike Response Model (SRM)



potential

$$u(t) = \sum_{t'} \eta(t-t') + \int_0^\infty \kappa(s) I(t-s) ds + u_{rest}$$

threshold

$$\mathcal{G}(t) = \theta_0 + \sum_{t'} \theta_1(t-t')$$

firing if

$$u(t) = \mathcal{G}(t)$$

3. Summary Spike Response Model (SRM)

- Membrane potential in integral form
- Three arbitrary linear filters
- Threshold condition for firing

potential

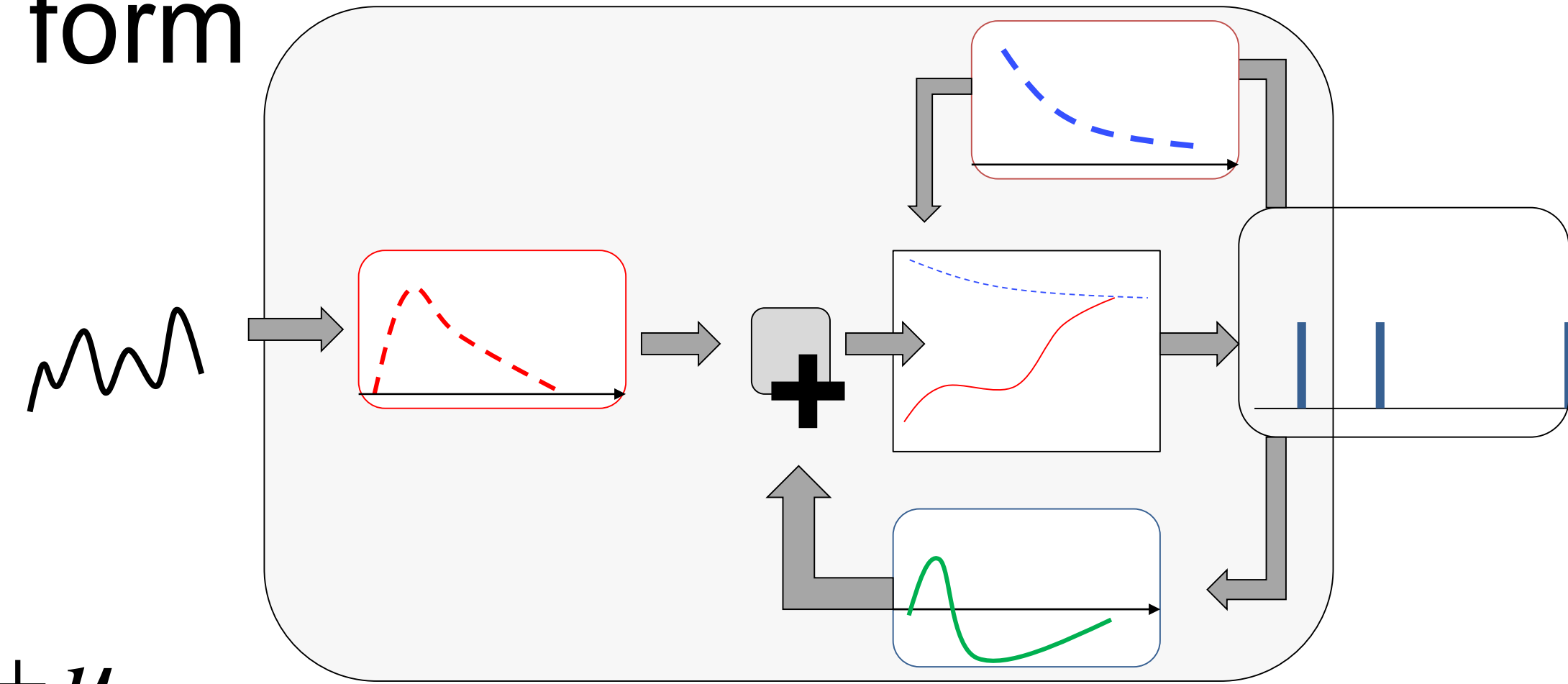
$$u(t) = \sum_{t'} \underline{\eta(t-t')} + \int_0^\infty \underline{\kappa(s)} I(t-s) ds + u_{rest}$$

threshold

$$\mathcal{G}(t) = \theta_0 + \sum_{t'} \underline{\theta_1(t-t')}$$

firing if

$$u(t) = \mathcal{G}(t)$$



Linear filters for

- input: κ
- refractoriness η
- threshold θ

Week 12 - Generalized Linear Model

EPFL

Biological Modeling of Neural Networks:

Week 12 – Optimizing Neuron Models For Coding and Decoding

Wulfram Gerstner

EPFL, Lausanne, Switzerland

- ✓ **1 What is a good neuron model?**
 - Models and data
- ✓ **2 AdEx model**
 - Firing patterns and adaptation
- ✓ **3 Spike Response Model (SRM)**
 - Integral formulation
- 4 Generalized Linear Model**
 - Adding noise to the SRM
- 5 Parameter Estimation**
 - Quadratic and convex optimization
- 6. Modeling in vitro data**
 - how long lasts the effect of a spike?

4. Spike Response Model (SRM)

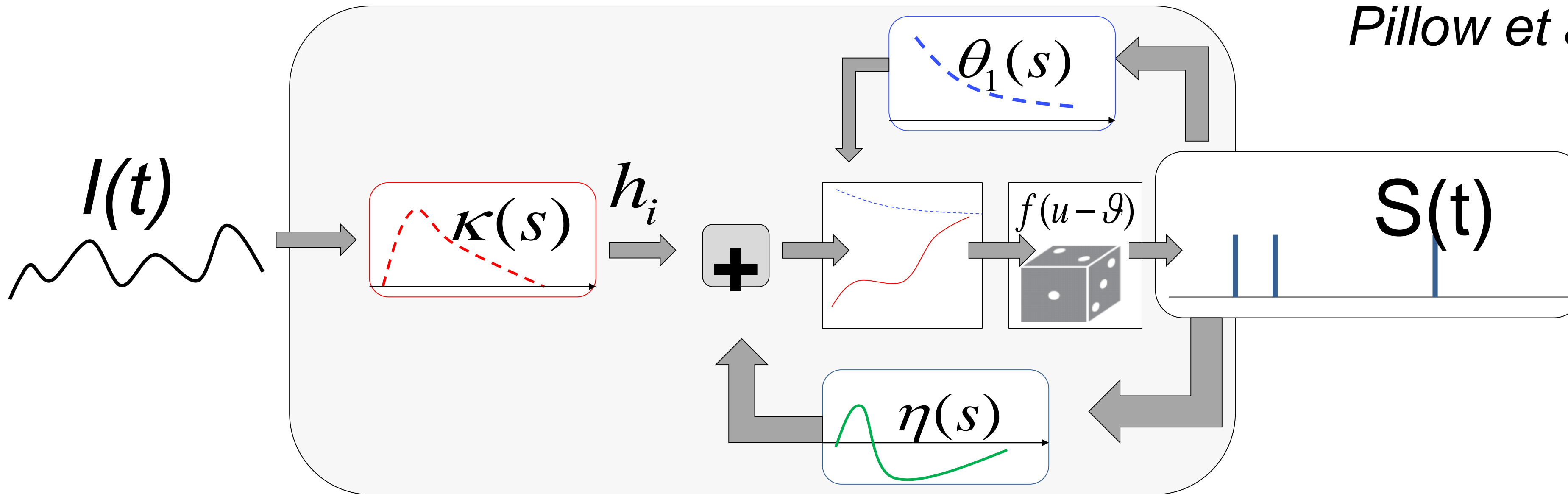
= Generalized Linear Model GLM

*Gerstner et al.,
1992,2000
Truccolo et al., 2005
Pillow et al. 2008*

- take a (deterministic) spike response model
- add escape noise
- Generalized Linear Model (GLM)

4. Spike Response Model (SRM) Generalized Linear Model GLM

*Gerstner et al.,
1992, 2000
Truccolo et al., 2005
Pillow et al. 2008*



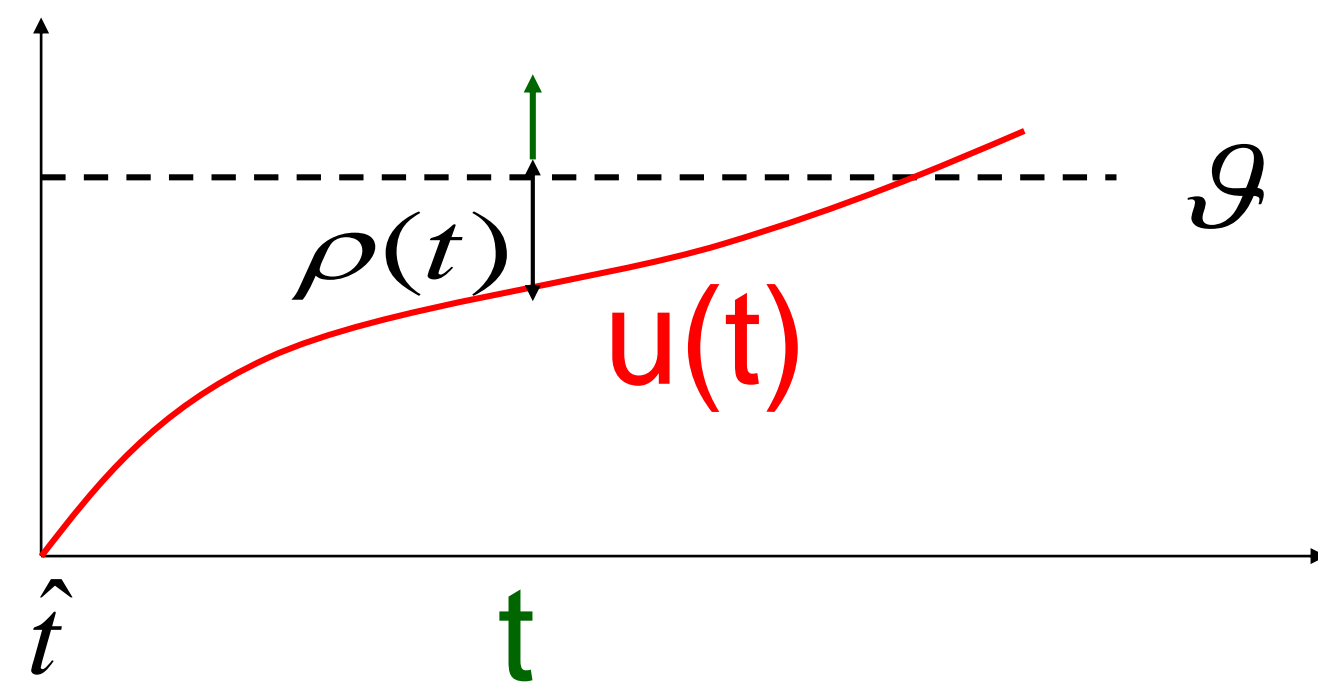
potential $u(t) = \int \eta(s) S(t-s) ds + \int_0^\infty \kappa(s) I(t-s) ds + u_{rest}$

threshold $\vartheta(t) = \theta_0 + \int \theta_1(s) S(t-s) ds$

firing intensity $\rho(t) = f(u(t) - \vartheta(t))$

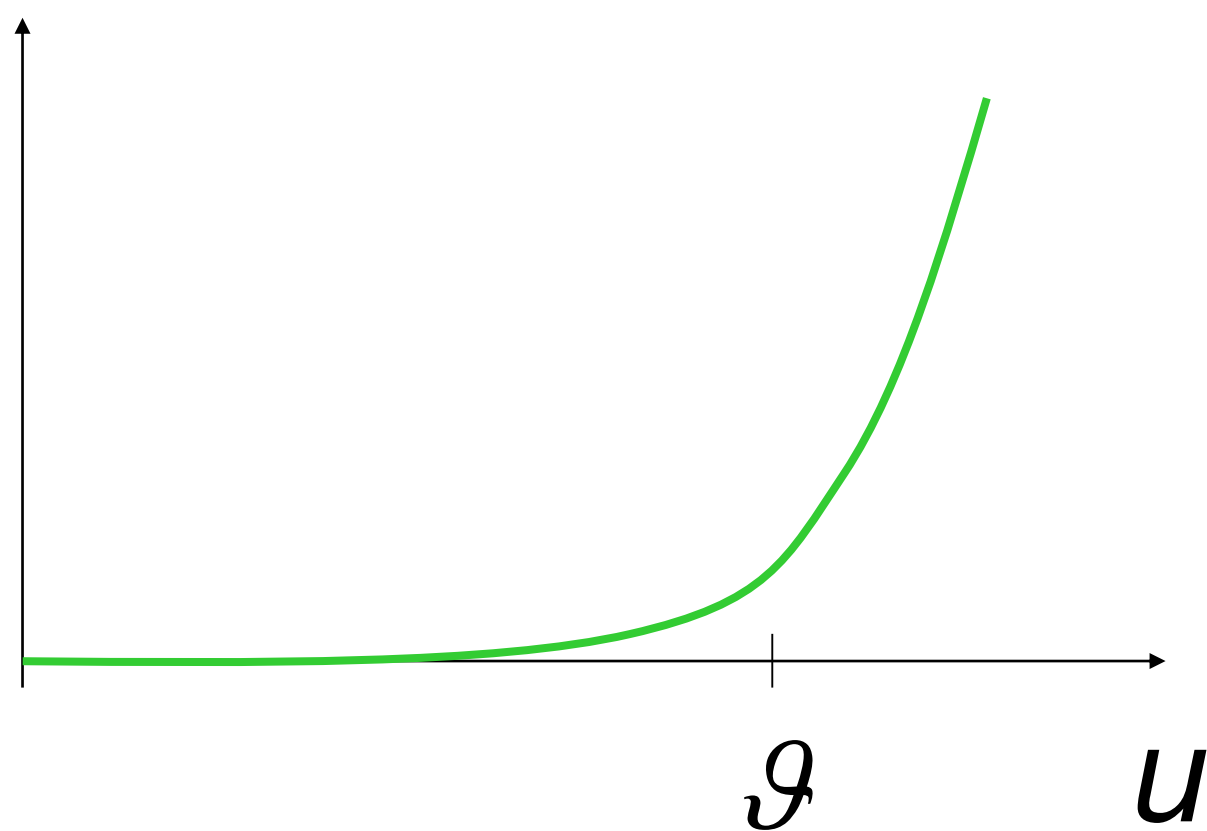
4. Review: Escape noise

escape process



escape rate

$$\rho(t) = f(u(t) - \mathcal{G})$$



escape rate

$$\rho(t) = \rho_0 \exp\left(\frac{u(t) - \mathcal{G}}{\Delta}\right)$$

Example: leaky integrate-and-fire model

$$\tau \cdot \frac{d}{dt} u = -(u - u_{rest}) + RI(t)$$

$$\text{if spike at } t^f \Rightarrow u(t^f + \delta) = u_r$$

Exerc. 2.1: Non-leaky IF with escape rates

$$\frac{du}{dt} = \frac{R}{\tau} I(t) = \frac{1}{C} I(t) \quad \text{nonleaky}$$

reset to $u_r = 0$

$$\tau \frac{du}{dt} = -(u - u_{rest}) + RI(t)$$

reset to $u_{rest} = u_r = 0$

Integrate for constant input (repetitive firing)

12 minutes,
Next lecture
at 10:51

Calculate

- potential

$$u(t - \hat{t})$$

- hazard

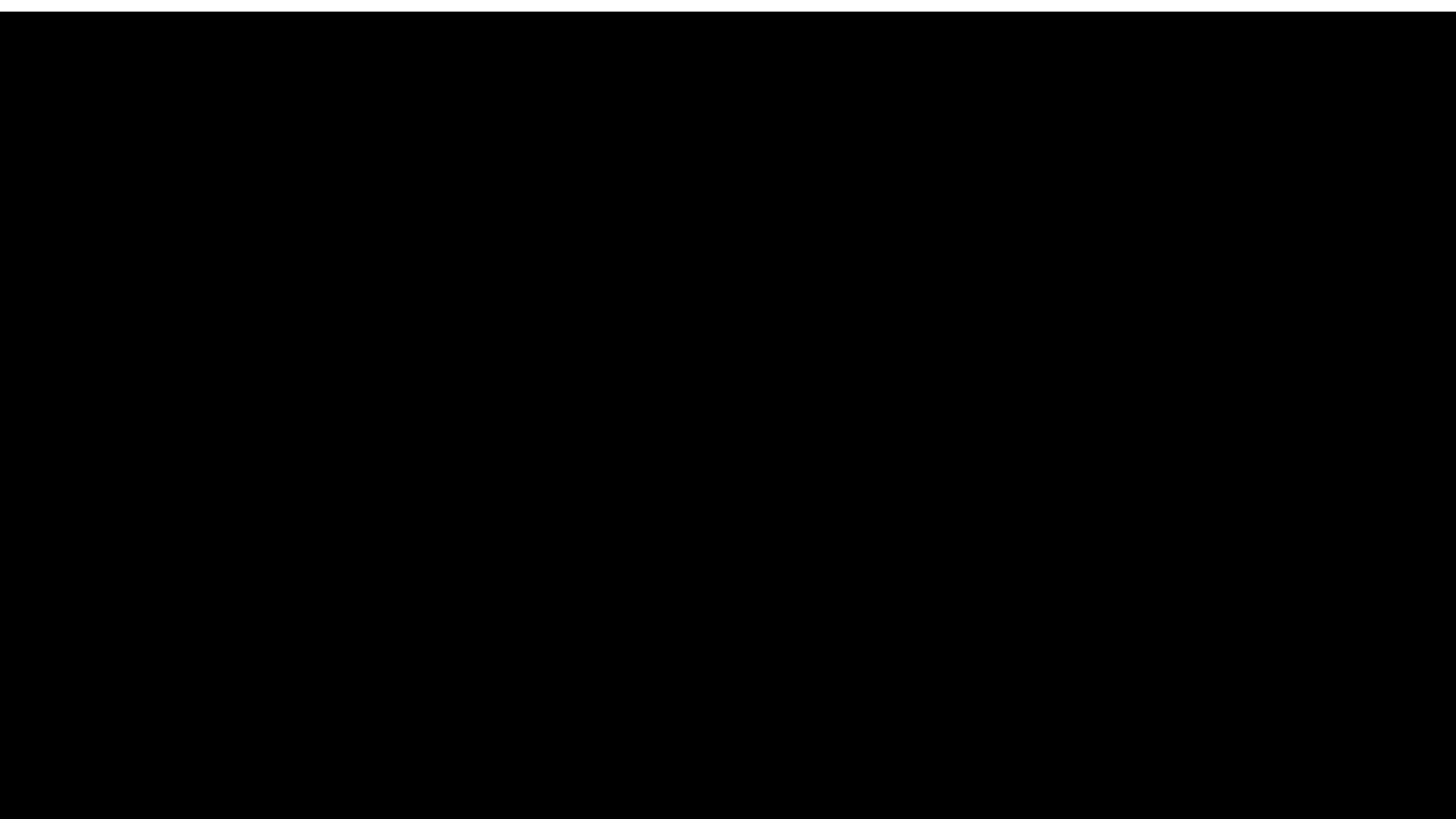
$$\rho(t - \hat{t}) = \beta \cdot [u(t - \hat{t}) - \mathcal{G}]_+$$

- survivor function

$$S(t - \hat{t})$$

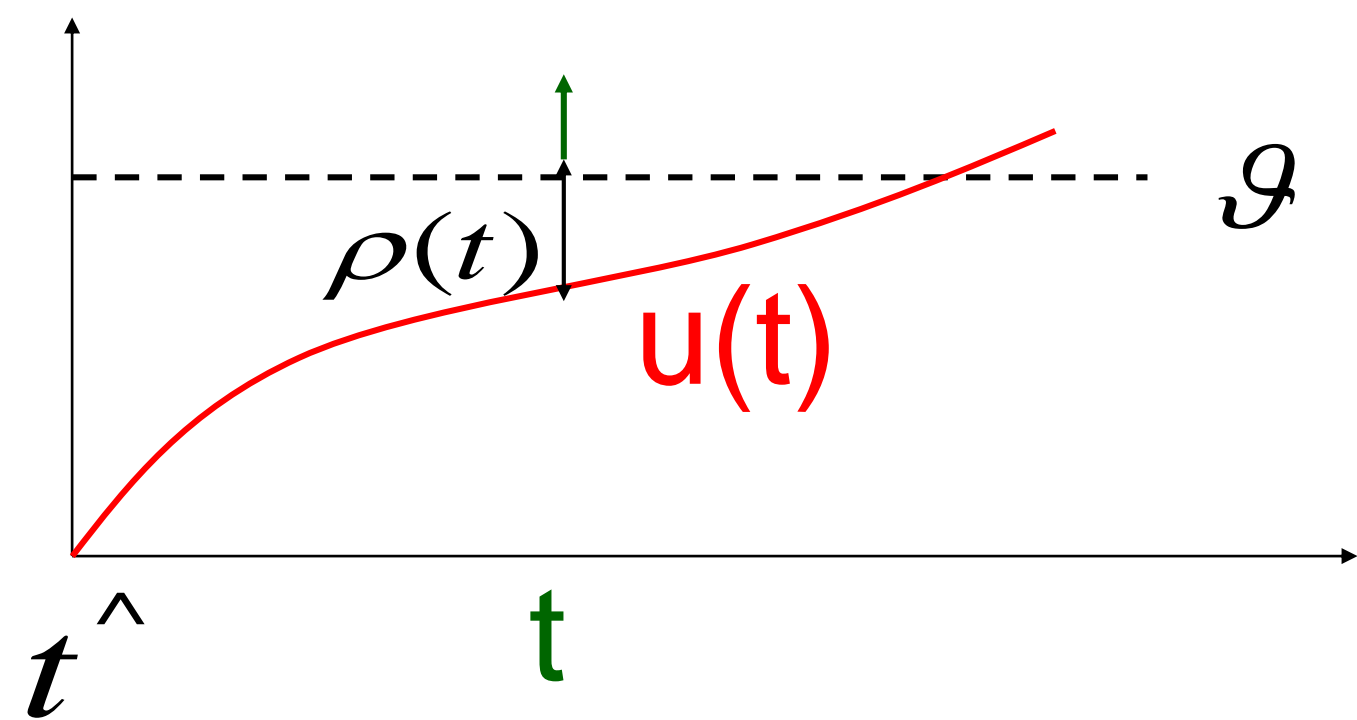
- interval distrib.

$$P_0(t - \hat{t})$$



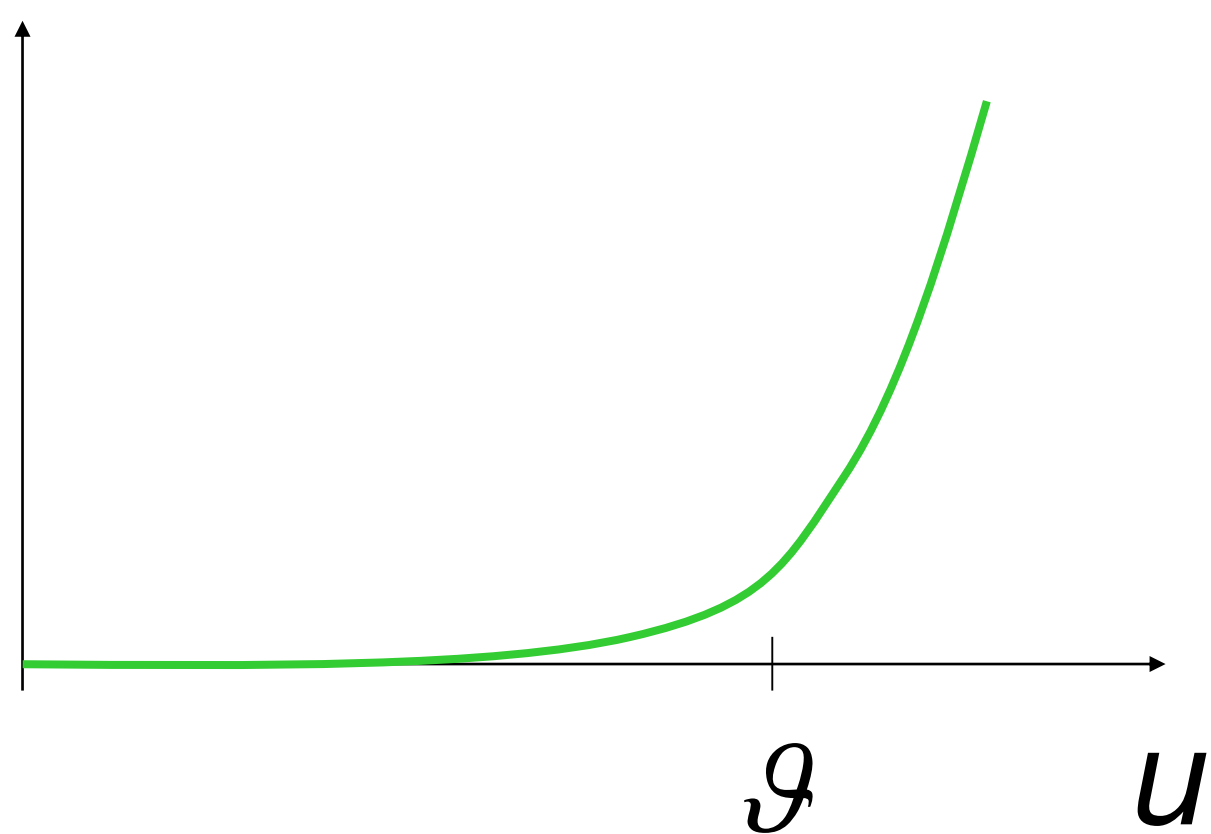
4. Review: Escape noise

escape process



escape rate

$$\rho(t) = f(u(t) - \mathcal{G}(t))$$



Survivor function

$$\frac{d}{dt} S_I(t|\hat{t}) = -\rho(t) S_I(t|\hat{t})$$

$$S_I(t|\hat{t}) = \exp\left(-\int_{\hat{t}}^t \rho(t') dt'\right)$$

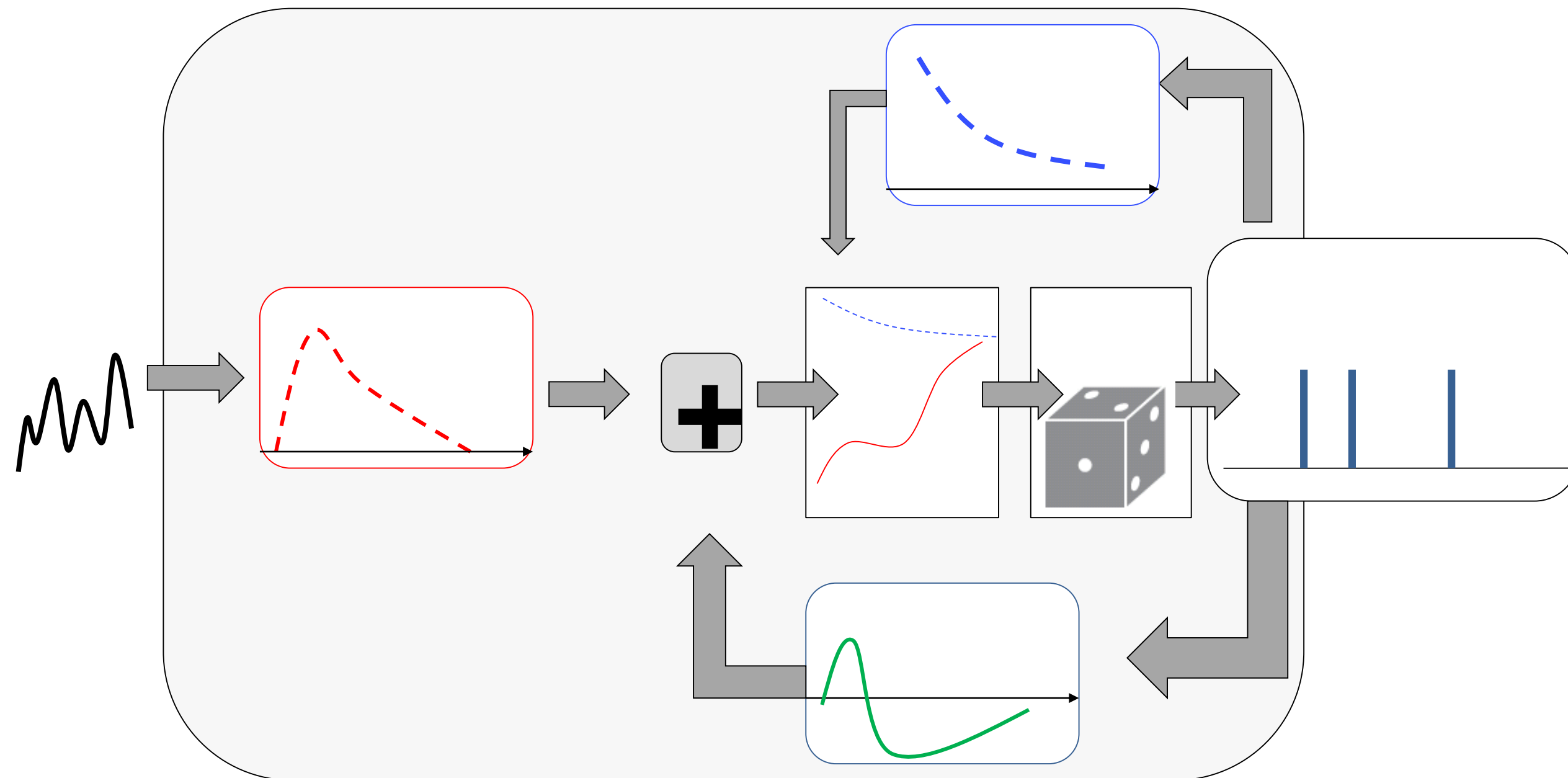
Interval distribution

$$P_I(t|\hat{t}) = \underbrace{\rho(t)}_{\text{escape rate}} \cdot \underbrace{\exp\left(-\int_{\hat{t}}^t \rho(t') dt'\right)}_{\text{Survivor function}}$$

Good choice

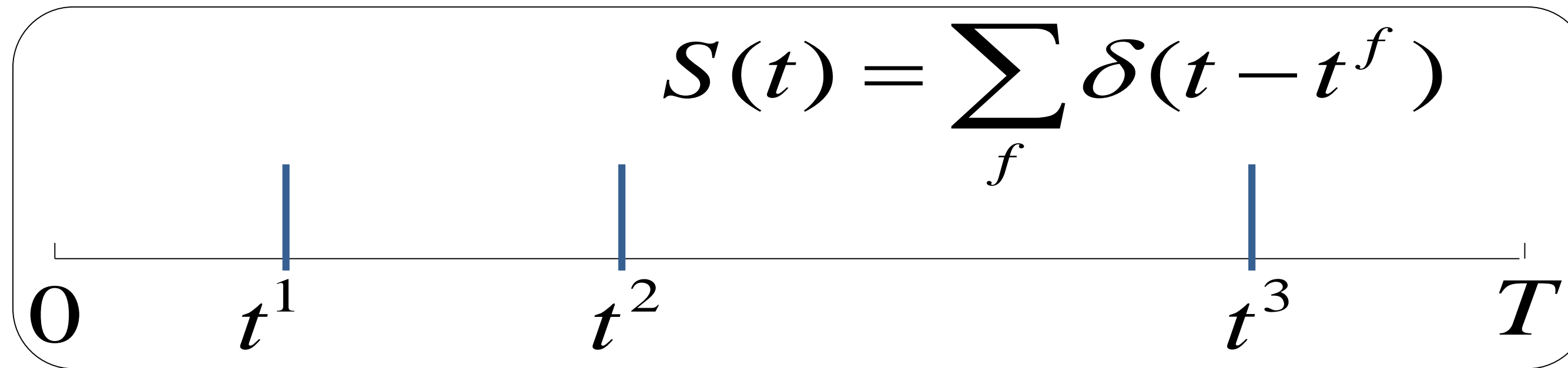
$$\rho(t) = f(u(t) - \mathcal{G}(t)) = \rho_0 \exp\left[\frac{u(t) - \mathcal{G}(t)}{\Delta u}\right]$$

4. Likelihood of spike train



-linear filters
-escape rate
→ likelihood of observed
spike train

4. Likelihood of a spike train in GLMs



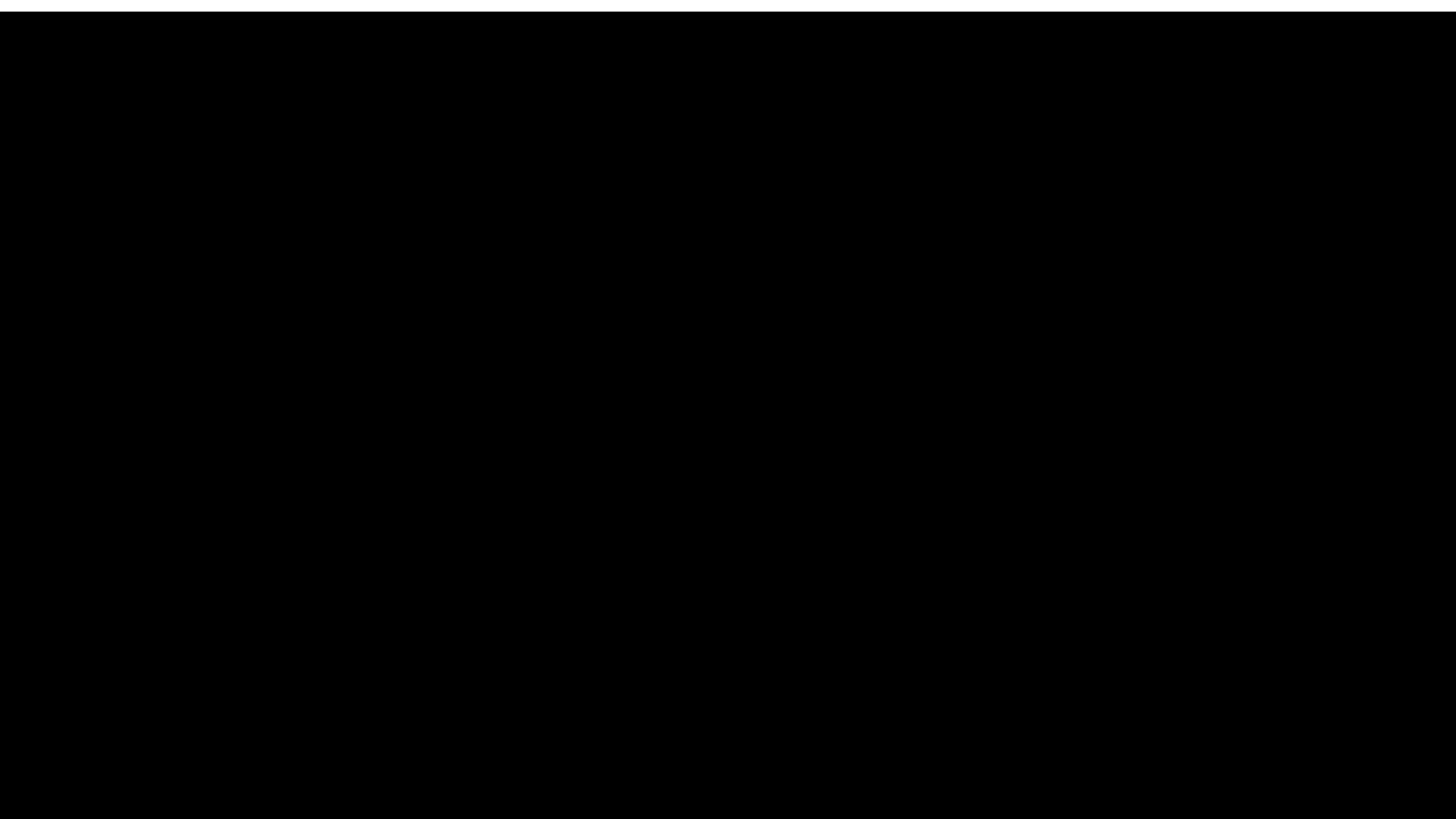
→ Blackboard

t^1, t^2, \dots, t^N

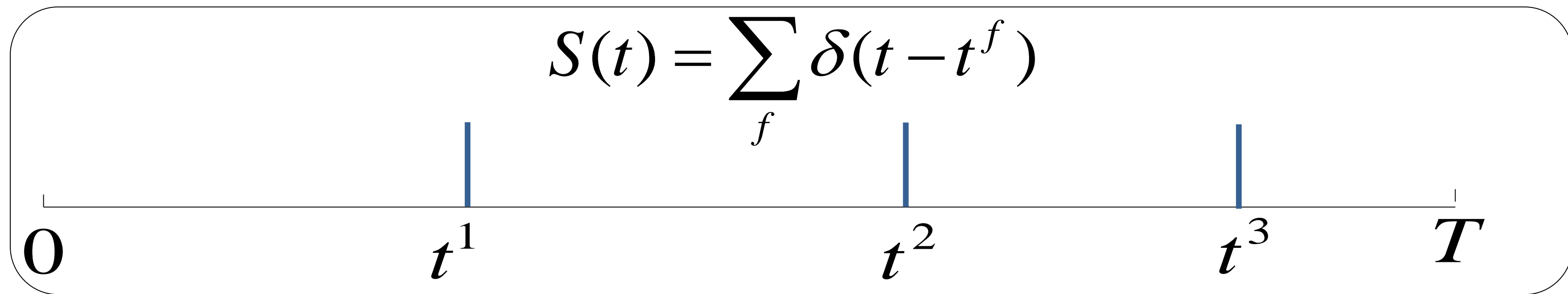
Measured spike train with spike times

Likelihood L that this spike train could have been generated by model?

$$L(t^1, \dots, t^N) = \exp\left(-\int_0^{t^1} \rho(t') dt'\right) \rho(t^1) \cdot \exp\left(-\int_{t^1}^{t^2} \rho(t') dt'\right) \dots$$



4. Log-Likelihood of a spike train

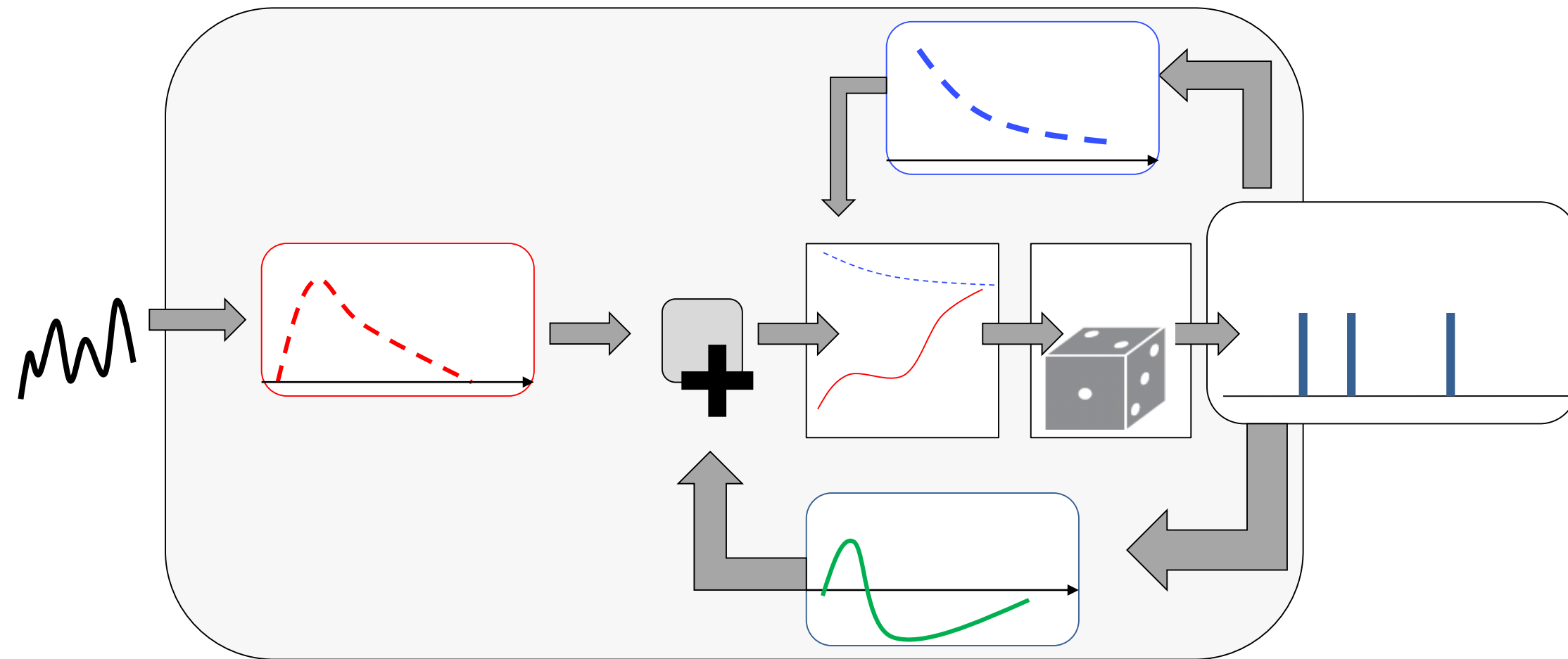


$$L(t^1, \dots, t^N) = \exp\left(-\int_0^{t^1} \rho(t') dt'\right) \rho(t^1) \cdot \exp\left(-\int_{t^1}^{t^2} \rho(t') dt'\right) \rho(t^2) \dots \exp\left(-\int_{t^N}^T \rho(t') dt'\right)$$

$$L(t^1, \dots, t^N) = \exp\left(-\int_0^T \rho(t') dt'\right) \prod_f \rho(t^f)$$

$$\log L(t^1, \dots, t^N) = -\int_0^T \rho(t') dt' + \sum_f \log \rho(t^f)$$

4. Summary: SRM with escape noise = GLM



-linear filters
-escape rate
→ likelihood of observed spike train

we now use this framework for parameter optimization of neuron model

- 1) A GLM is a Spike Response Model with escape noise. The advantage of the escape noise as a noise model is that we have an explicit mathematical formula for the likelihood of a spike train, given a model.
- 2) Knowing the input current and past spike times, the model makes a prediction for the difference between voltage and threshold at each moment in time, which gives the intensity $\rho(t)$ and the likelihood of a spike train

Week 12 - Parameter estimation

EPFL

Biological Modeling of Neural Networks:

Week 12 – Optimizing Neuron Models For Coding and Decoding

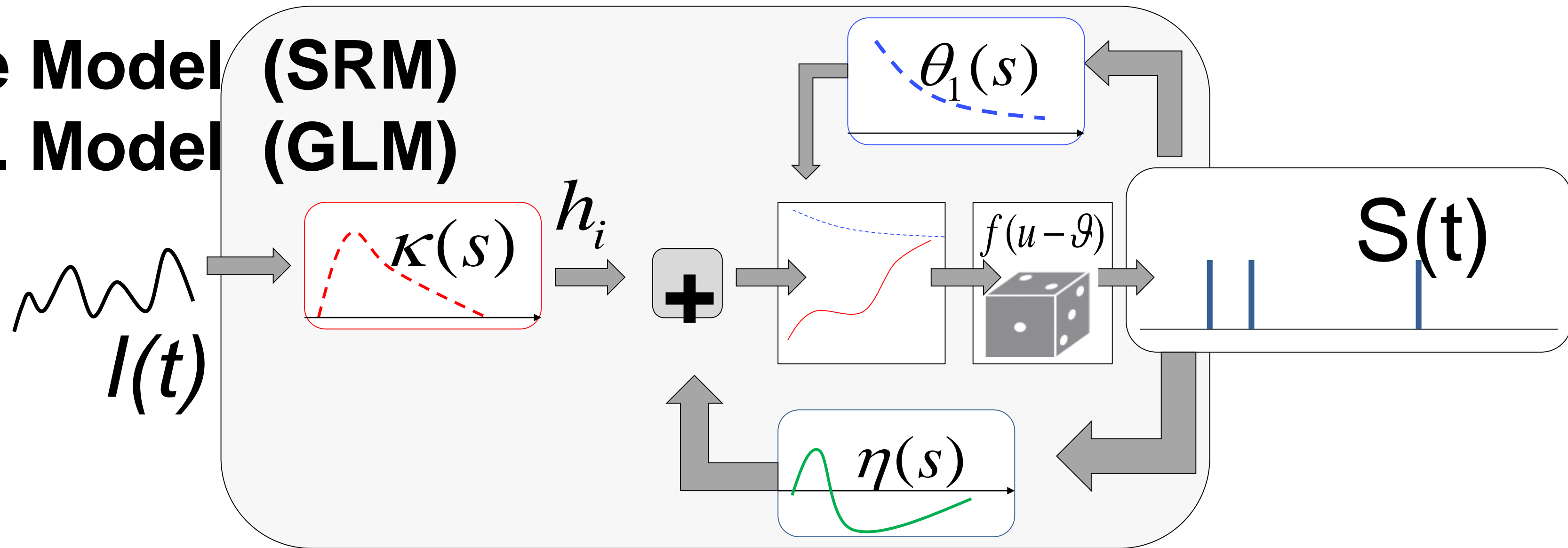
Wulfram Gerstner

EPFL, Lausanne, Switzerland

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5. Parameter estimation: voltage

Spike Response Model (SRM)
Generalized Lin. Model (GLM)



Subthreshold potential

$$u(t) = \int \underbrace{\eta(s)}_{\text{known spike train}} S(t-s) ds + \int_0^\infty \underbrace{\kappa(s)}_{\text{known input}} I(t-s) ds + u_{rest}$$

known spike train

known input

Linear filters/linear in parameters

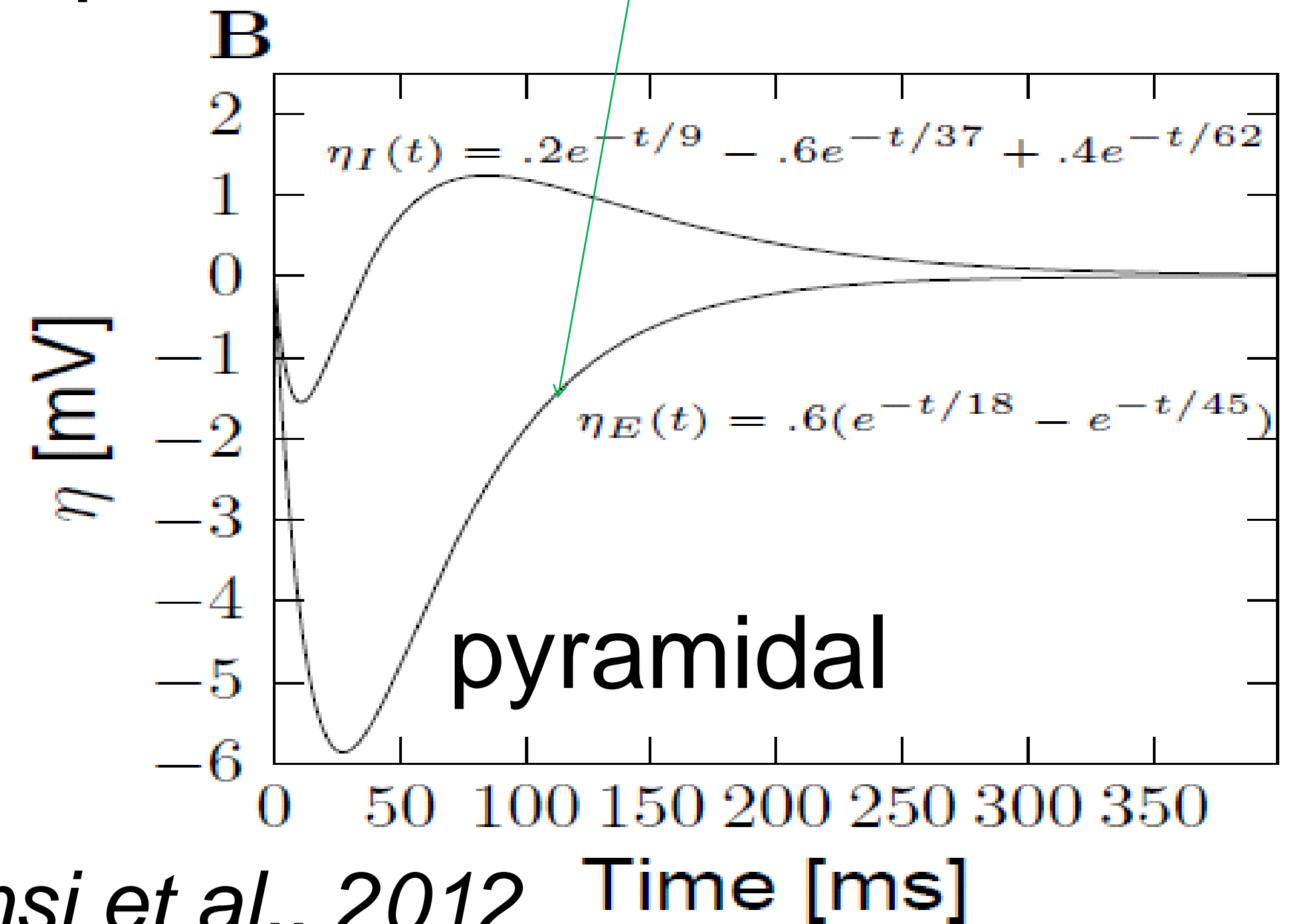
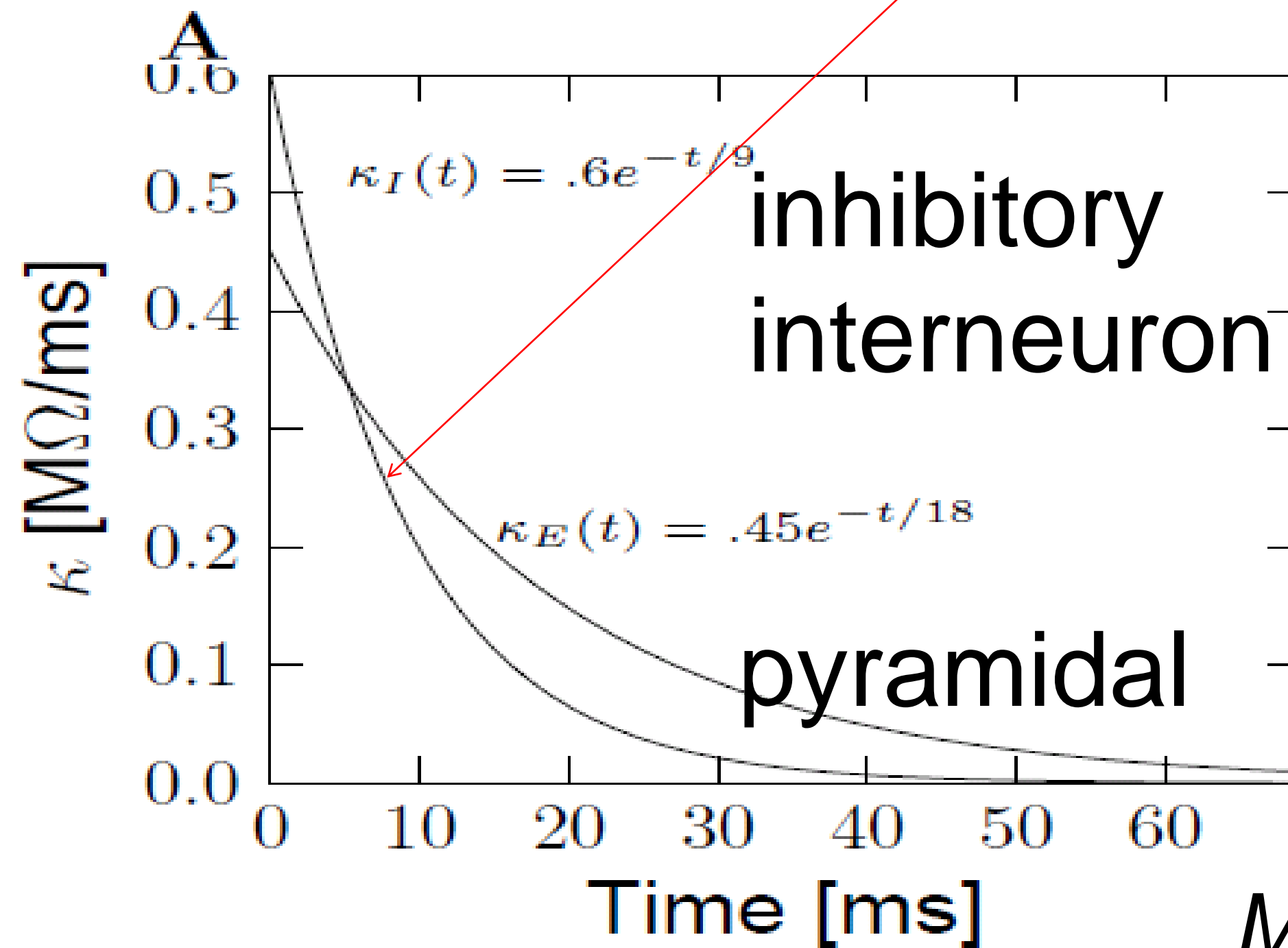
5 Extracted parameters: filter shape extracted from voltage trace

Subthreshold potential

$$u(t) = \int_0^\infty \underbrace{\kappa(s)}_{\text{known input}} I(t-s) ds + u_{rest} + \int \underbrace{\eta(s)}_{\text{known spike train}} S(t-s) ds$$

known input

known spike train



Mensi et al., 2012

5. Summary: voltage modeling

Subthreshold potential

$$u(t) = \int_0^{\infty} \underline{\kappa}(s) I(t-s) ds + u_{rest} + \int \underline{\eta}(s) S(t-s) ds$$

- MODEL: Subthreshold potential between spikes depends on (known) external input and (known) past spikes
- EXPERIMENT: Subthreshold potential is measurable
- Modify filters κ and η so as to minimize the mean-squared error between model voltage and experimental voltage
- ‘optimal filter’ κ is found to be exponential
- ‘optimal filter’ η is found to be non-trivial

Week 12 - Parameter estimation

EPFL

Biological Modeling of Neural Networks:

Week 12 – Optimizing Neuron Models For Coding and Decoding

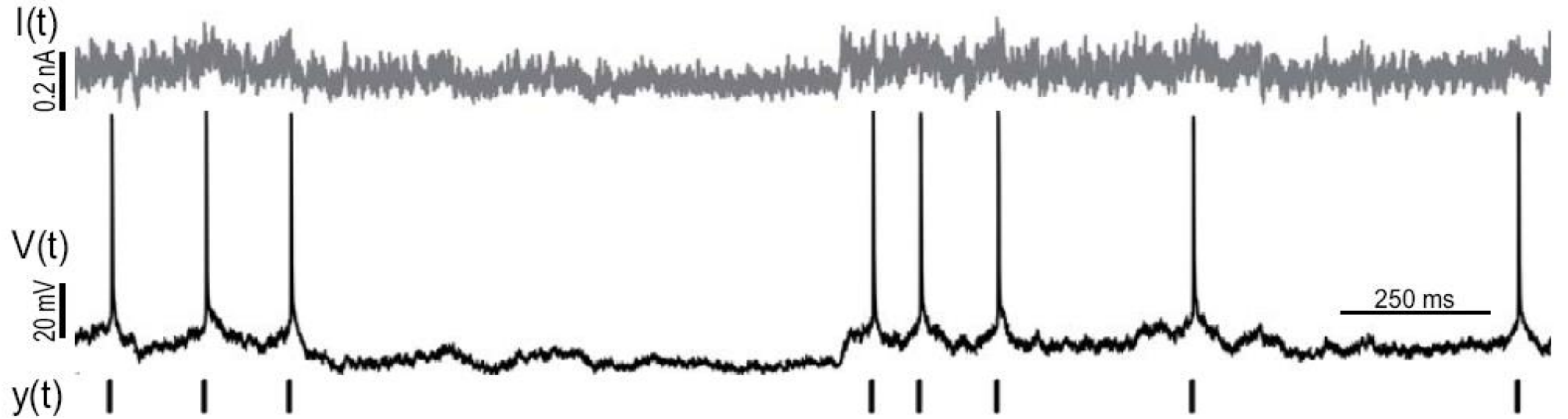
Wulfram Gerstner

EPFL, Lausanne, Switzerland

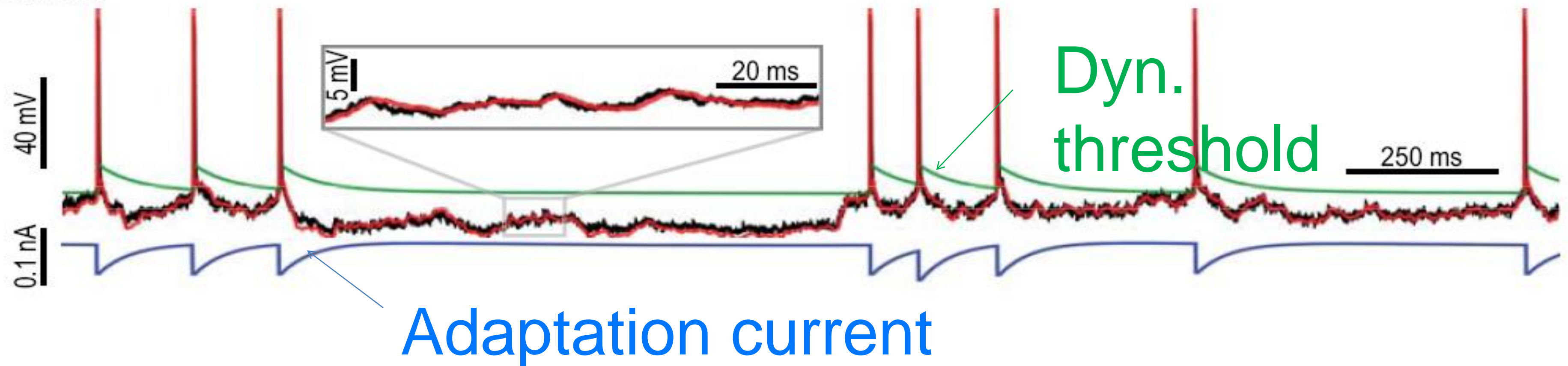
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5. Fitting models to data: so far 'subthreshold

A Experimental data set



C Model



5. Fit Threshold parameters: Predict spike times

Idea:

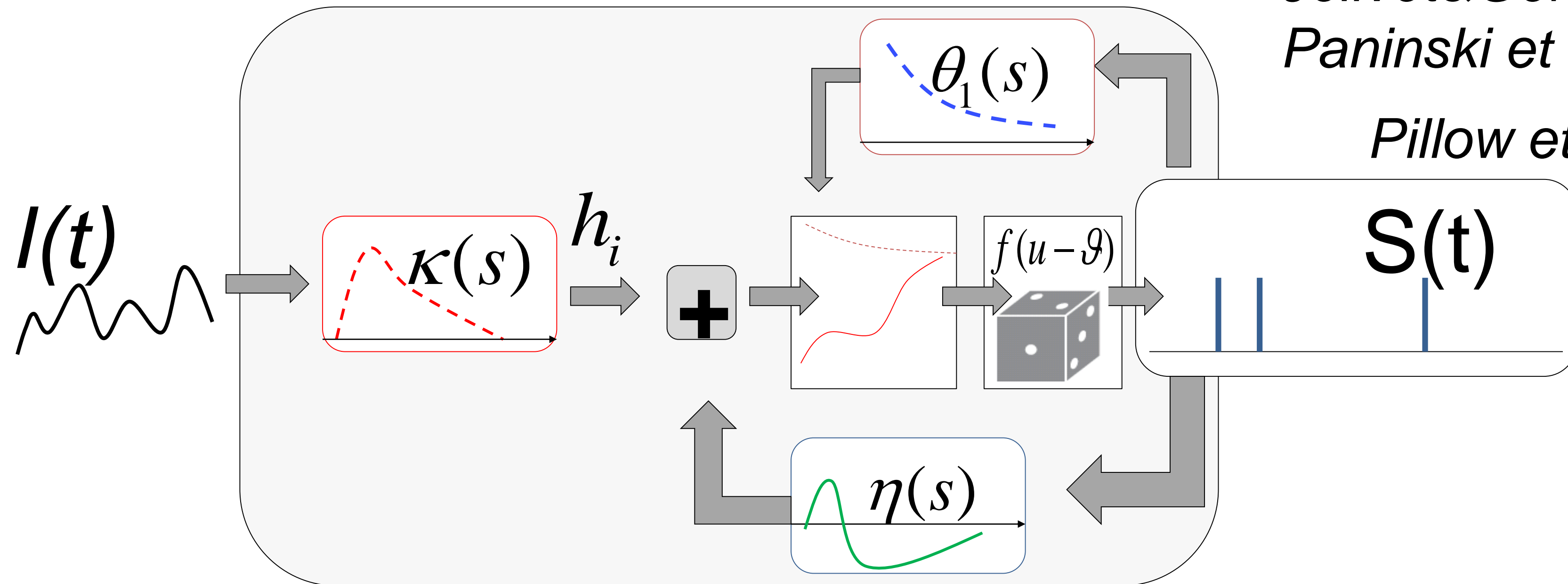
- use subthreshold voltage to extract filters κ and η
→ previous section
- Use spike times of experimental neuron to extract threshold filters θ
- To do so, maximize likelihood that observed spikes could have been generated by the model
→ now

5. Threshold: Predicting spike times

Jolivet & Gerstner, 2005

Paninski et al., 2004

Pillow et al., 2008



potential $u(t) = \int \underline{\eta(s)} S(t-s) ds + \int_0^\infty \underline{\kappa(s)} I(t-s) ds + u_{rest}$

threshold $\mathcal{G}(t) = \theta_0 + \int \underline{\theta_1(s)} S(t-s) ds$

firing intensity $\rho(t) = f(u(t) - \mathcal{G}(t))$

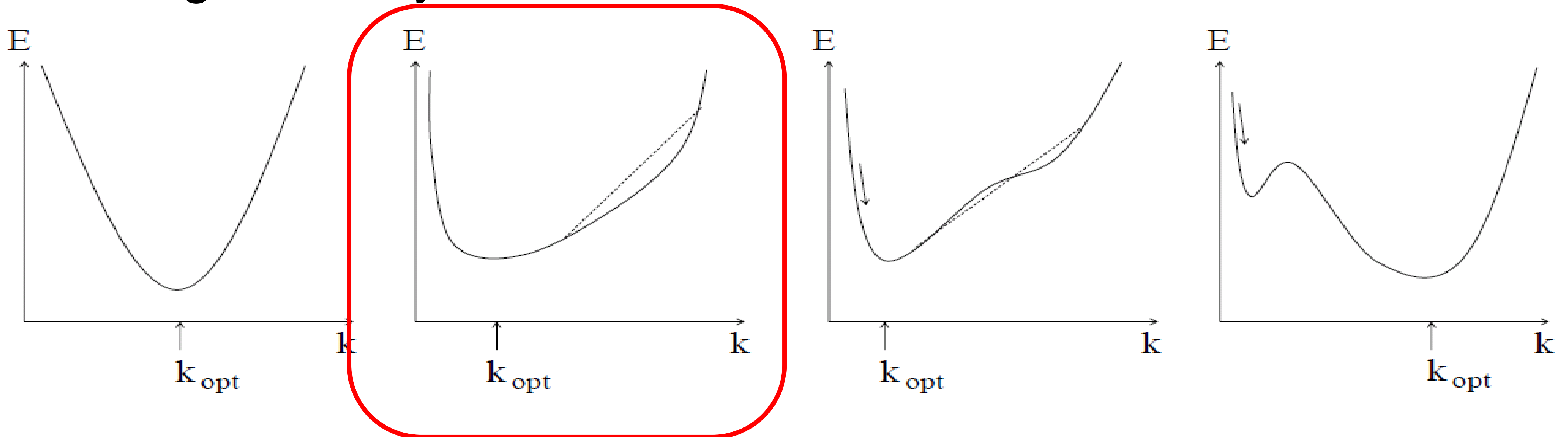
5. Generalized Linear Model (GLM)

$$\log L(t^1, \dots, t^N) = -\int_0^T \rho(t') dt' + \sum_f \log \rho(t^f) = -E$$

potential $u(t) = \int \eta(s) S(t-s) ds + \int_0^\infty \kappa(s) I(t-s) ds + u_{rest}$

threshold $\mathcal{G}(t) = \theta_0 + \int \theta_1(s) S(t-s) ds$

firing intensity $\rho(t) = f(u(t) - \mathcal{G}(t))$



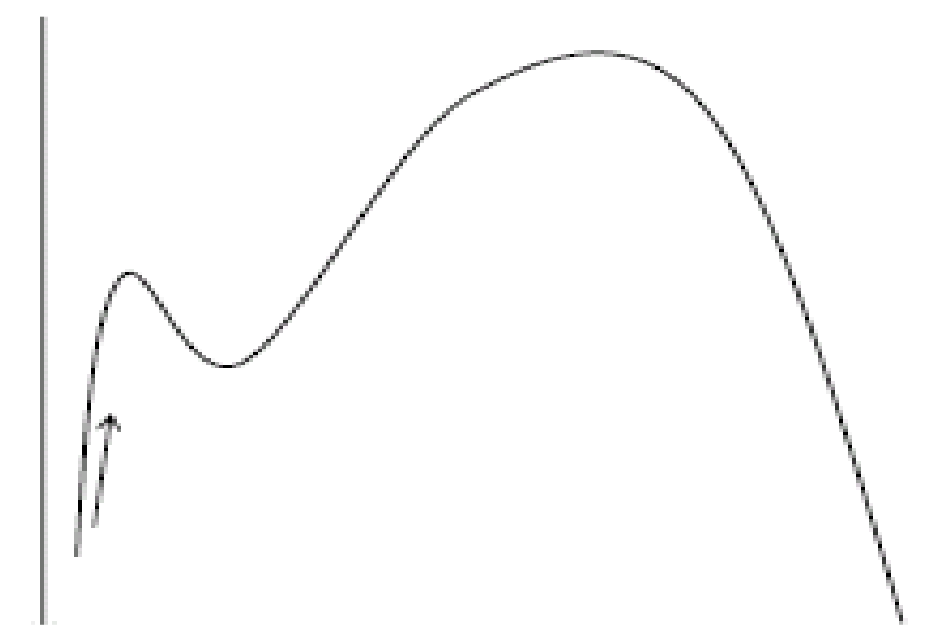
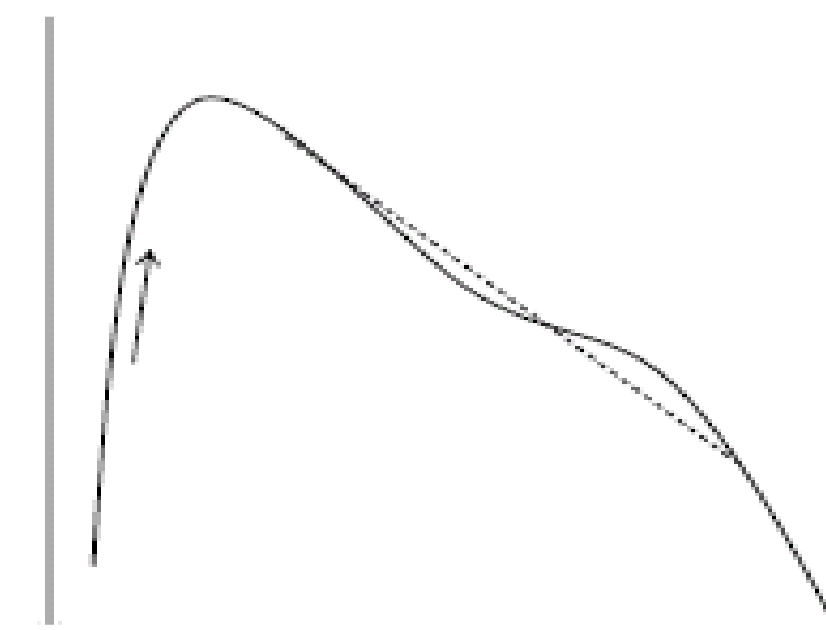
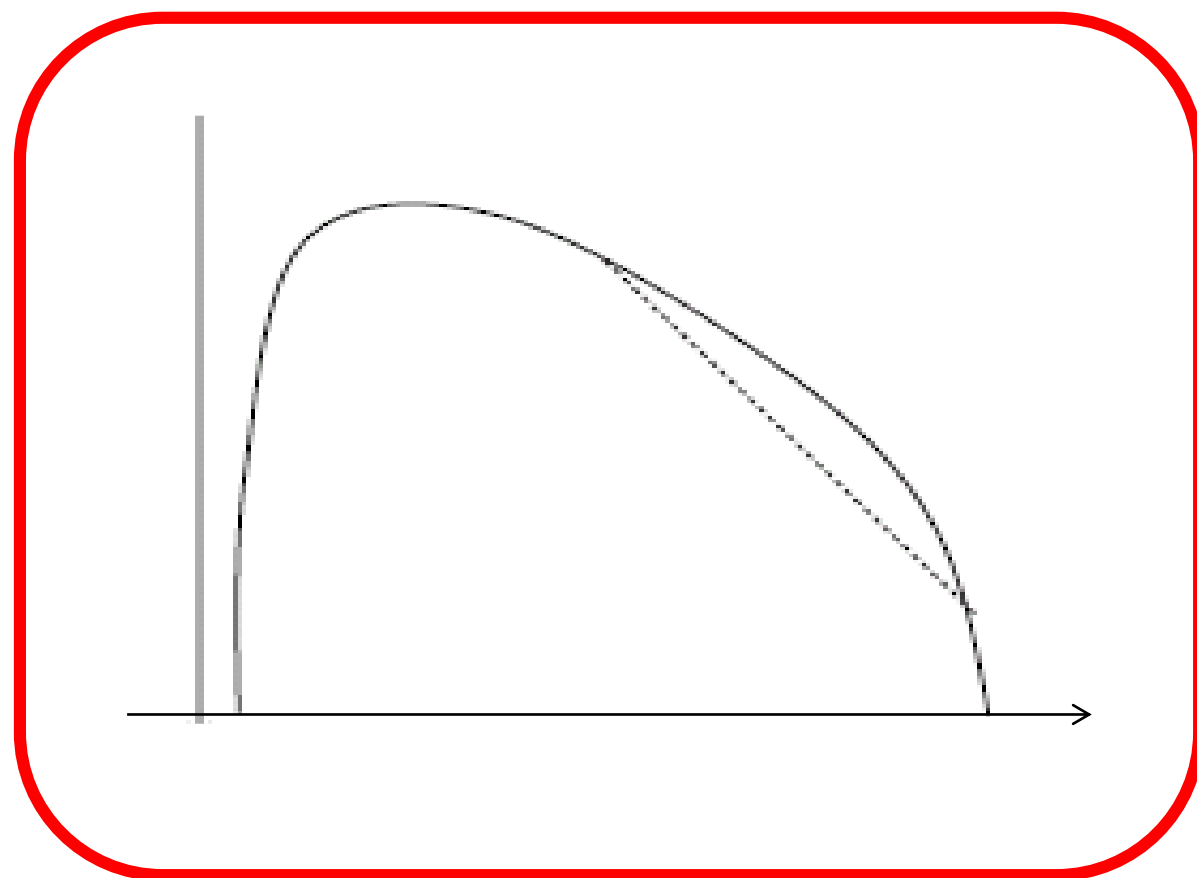
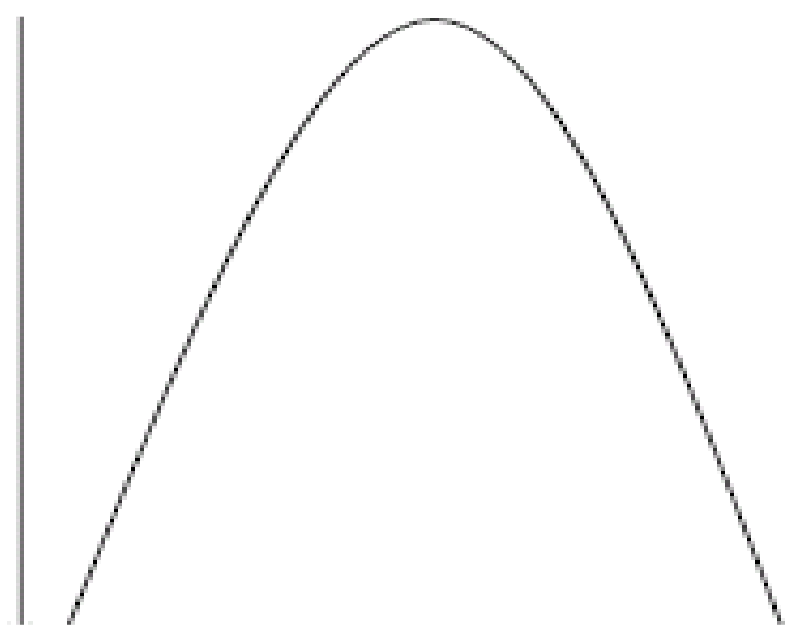
5 GLM: Log-Likelihood induces a concave error function

potential $u(t) = \int \underline{\eta(s)} S(t-s) ds + \int_0^\infty \underline{\kappa(s)} I(t-s) ds + u_{rest}$

threshold $\mathcal{G}(t) = \theta_0 + \int \underline{\theta_1(s)} S(t-s) ds$

firing intensity $\rho(t) = f(u(t) - \mathcal{G}(t))$

$$\log L(t^1, \dots, t^N) = -\int_0^T \rho(t') dt' + \sum_f \log \rho(t^f)$$



Paninski, 2004

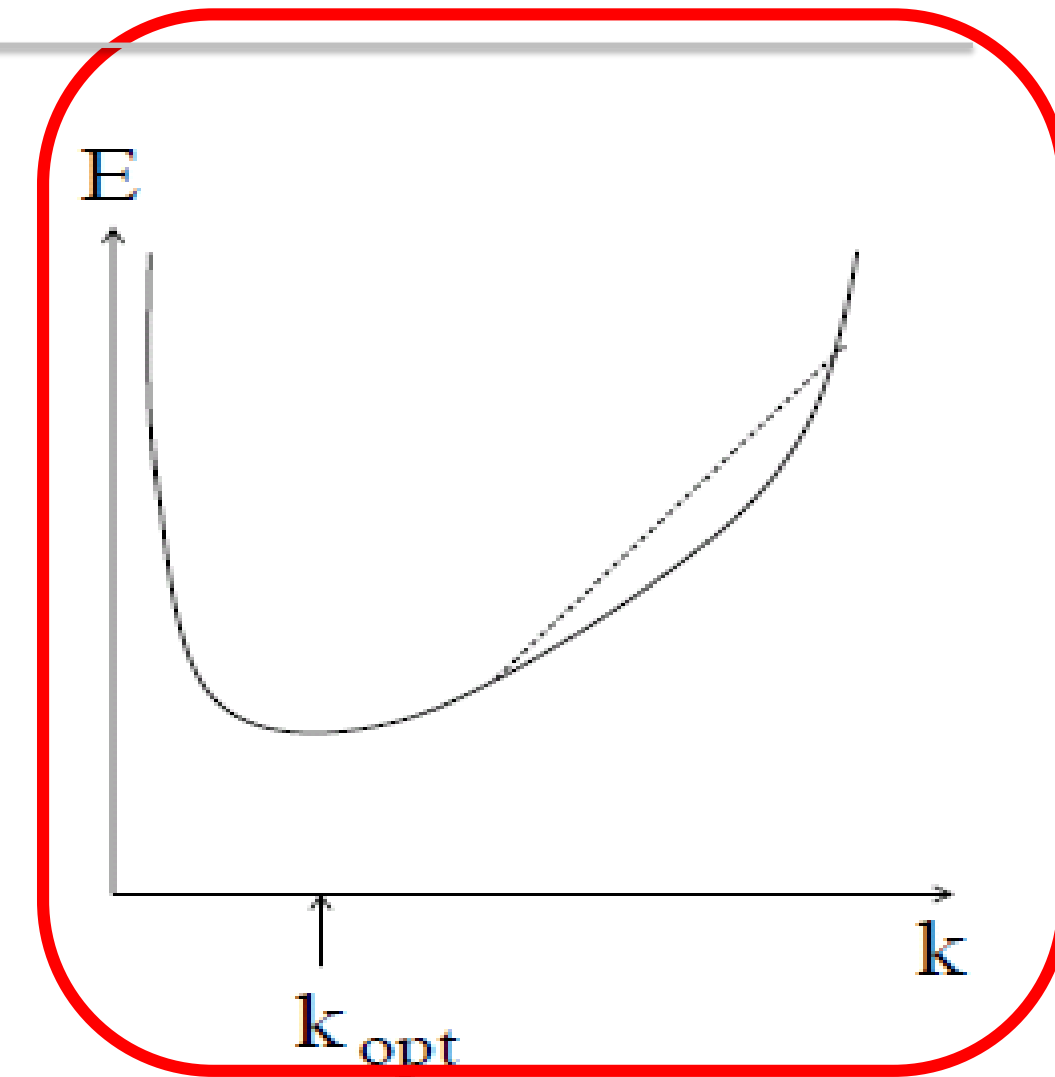
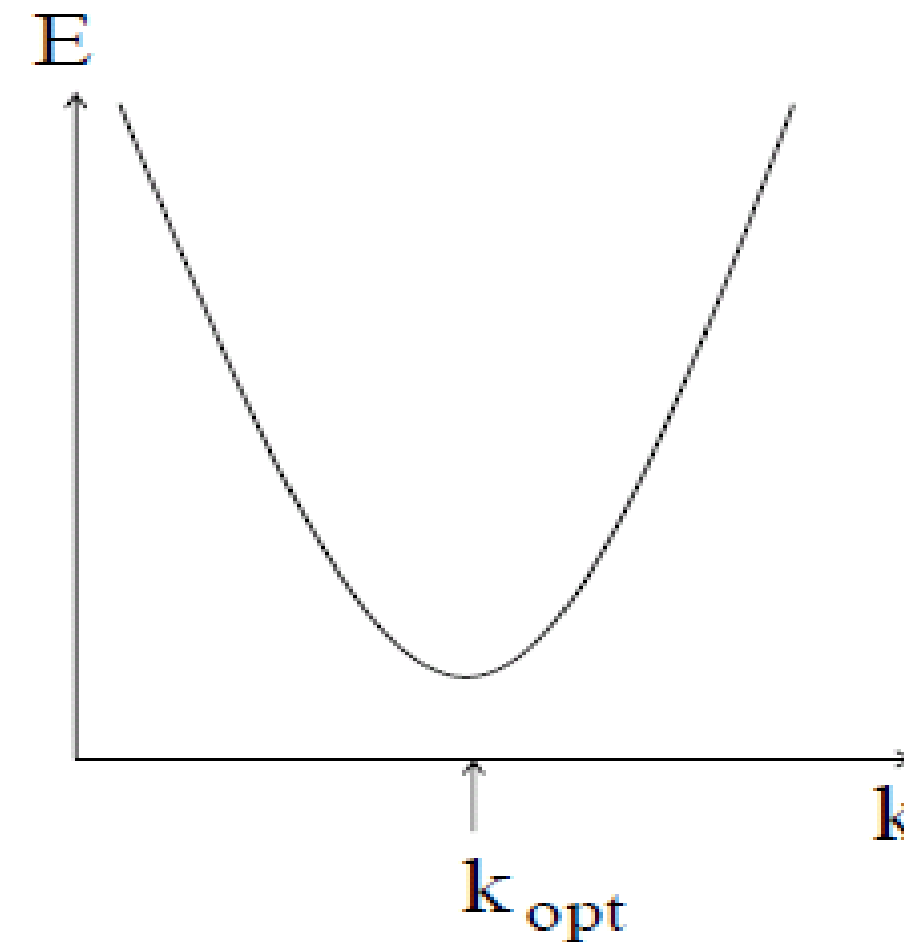
5. quadratic and convex/concave optimization

Voltage/subthreshold

- linear in parameters
→ quadratic error function

Spike times

- nonlinear, but GLM,
- negative loglikelihood of spikes
→ convex error function

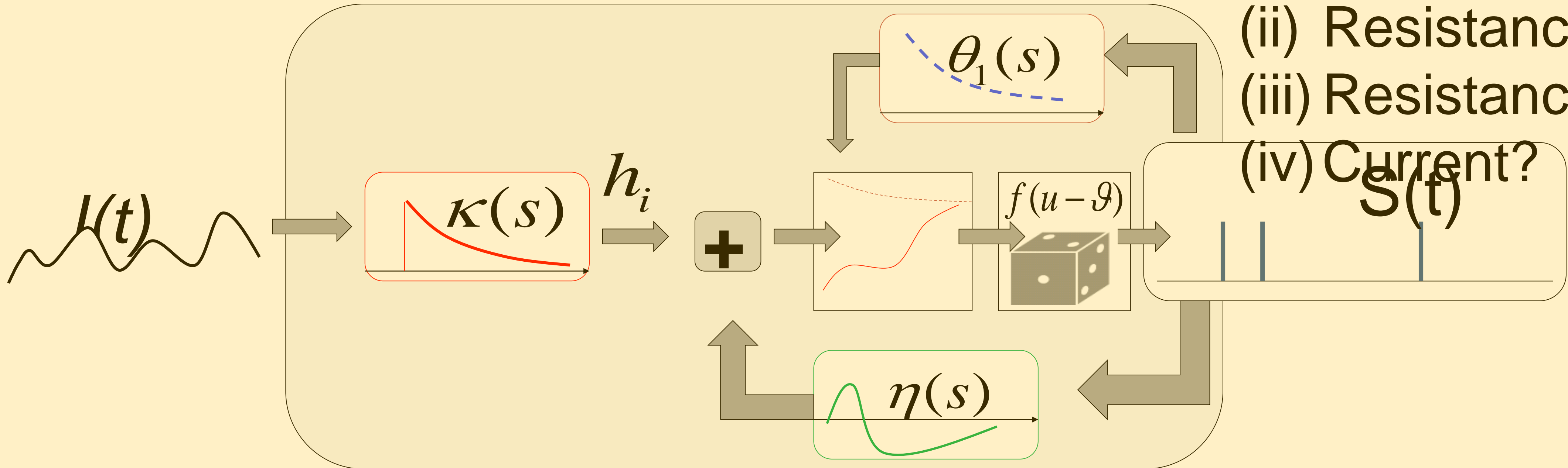


Negative Log-likelihood of spike times is convex as a function of threshold parameters
→ Parameters are easy to extract

Quiz NOW :

What are the units of $\eta(s)$?

- (i) Voltage?
- (ii) Resistance?
- (iii) Resistance/s?
- (iv) Current?



potential $u(t) = \int \eta(s) S(t-s) ds + \int_0^\infty \kappa(s) I(t-s) ds + u_{rest}$

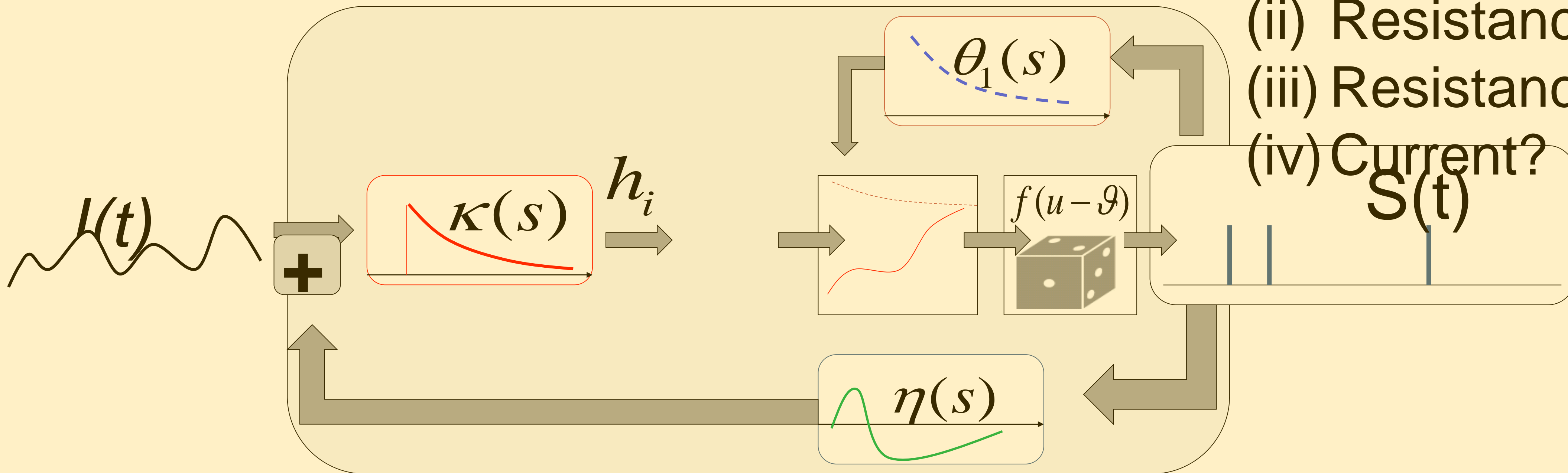
threshold $\mathcal{G}(t) = \theta_0 + \int \theta_1(s) S(t-s) ds$

firing intensity $\rho(t) = f(u(t) - \mathcal{G}(t))$

Quiz NOW:

What are the units of $\eta(s)$?

- (i) Voltage?
- (ii) Resistance?
- (iii) Resistance/s
- (iv) Current?



potential $C \frac{d}{dt} u(t) = -\frac{(u - u_{rest})}{R} + \int \eta(s) S(t-s) ds + I(t-s)$

threshold $\mathcal{G}(t) = \theta_0 + \int \theta_1(s) S(t-s) ds$

firing intensity $\rho(t) = f(u(t) - \mathcal{G}(t))$

Week 12 - Modeling in vitro data

EPFL

Biological Modeling of Neural Networks:

Week 12 – Optimizing Neuron Models For Coding and Decoding

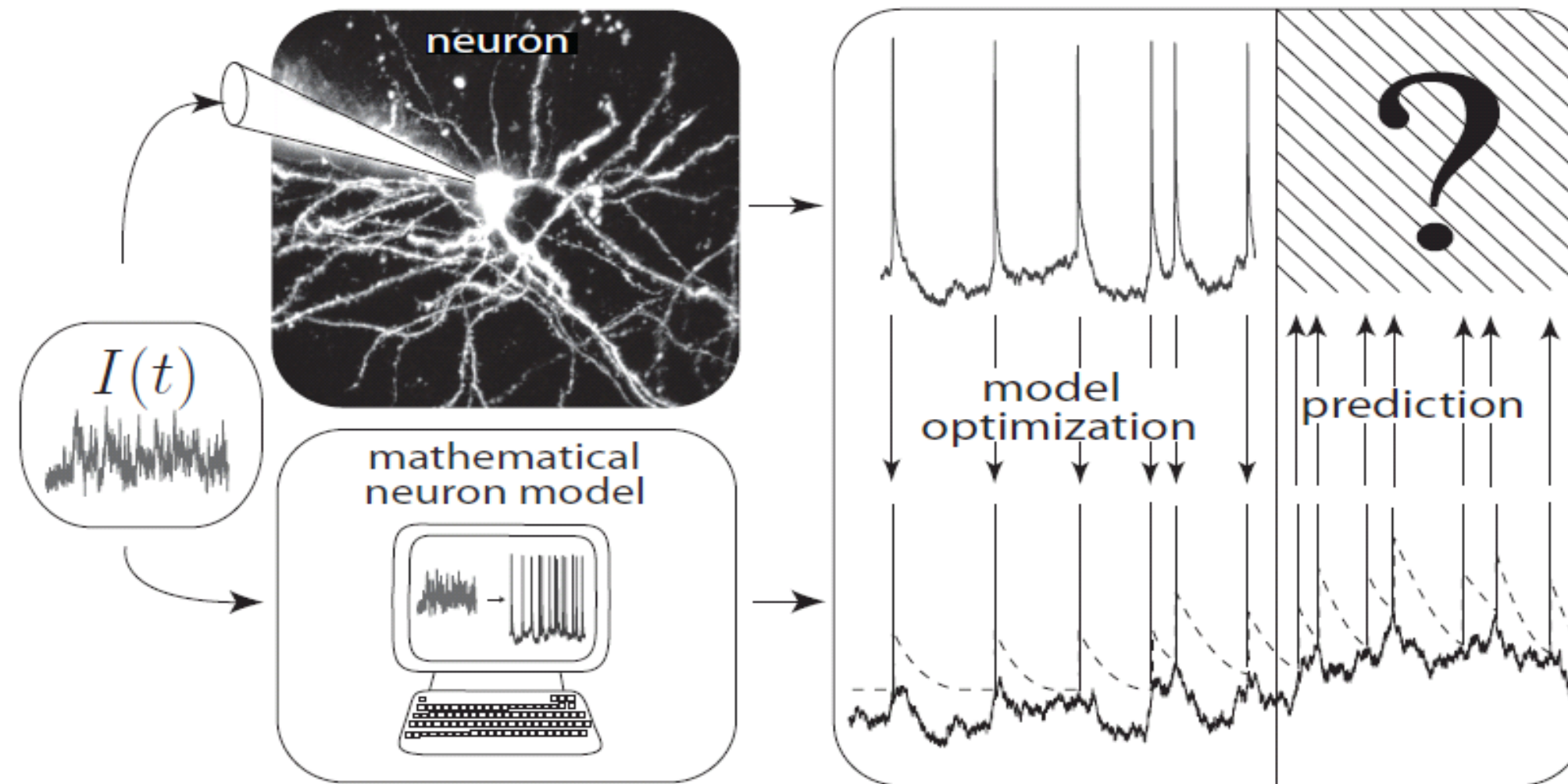
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 - how long lasts the effect of a spike?

6. Review: Models and Data

comparison model-data

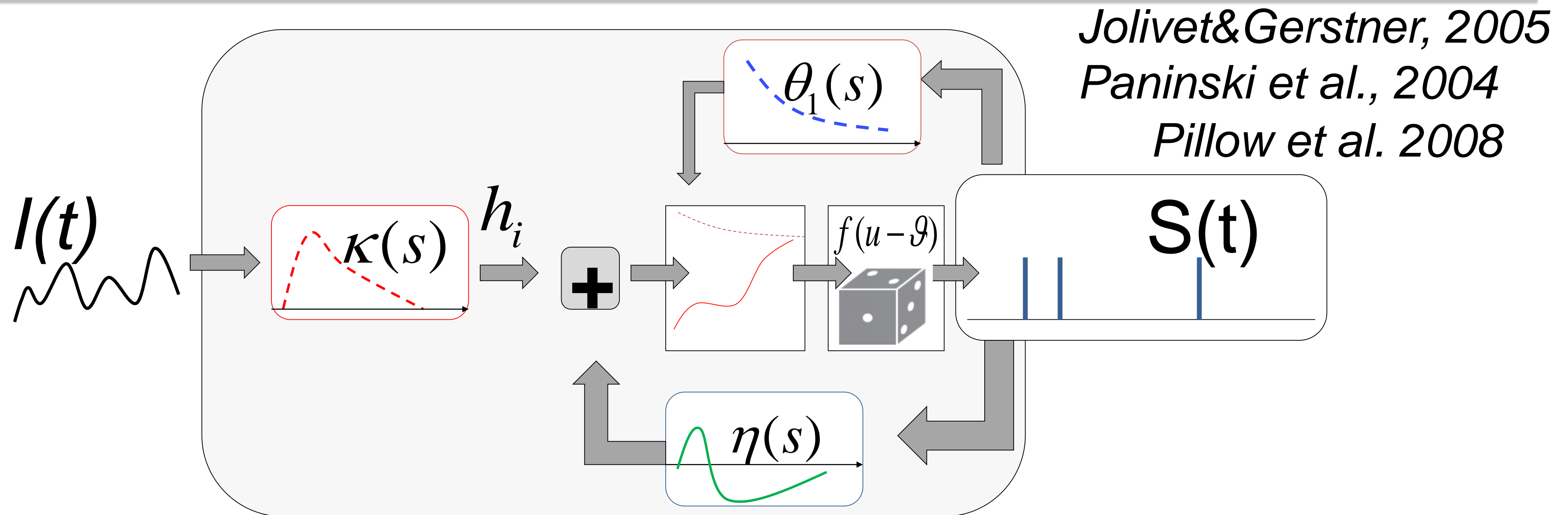


Predict

-Subthreshold voltage

-Spike times

6. Review: GLM/SRM with escape noise

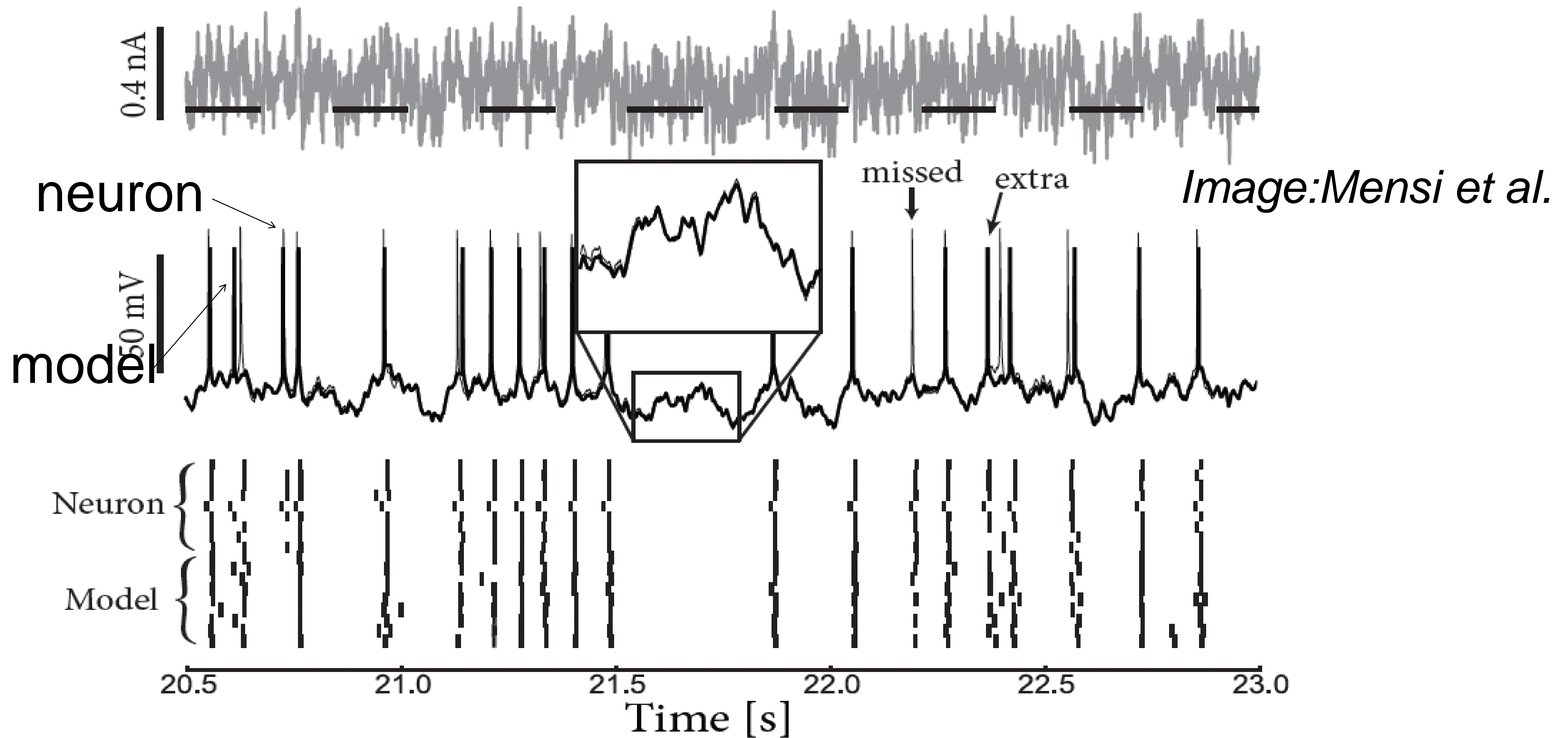


potential $u(t) = \int \underline{\eta(s)} S(t-s) ds + \int_0^\infty \underline{\kappa(s)} I(t-s) ds + u_{rest}$

threshold $\mathcal{G}(t) = \theta_0 + \int \underline{\theta_1(s)} S(t-s) ds$

firing intensity $\rho(t) = f(u(t) - \mathcal{G}(t))$

6. Result: GLM/SRM predict subthreshold voltage and (jittered) spike times



6. Conclusion: GLM/SRM predict neuronal behavior

1) Subthreshold voltage

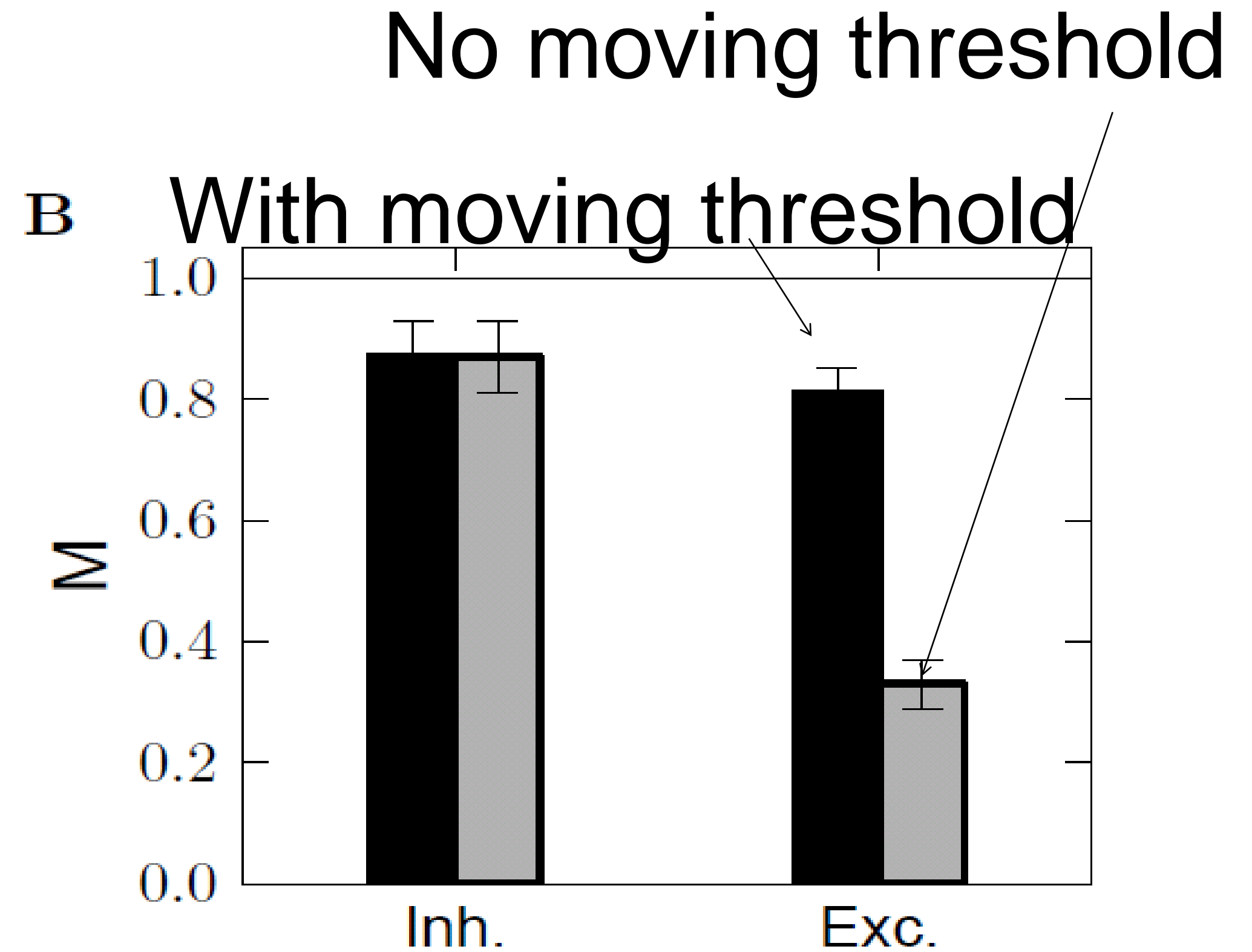
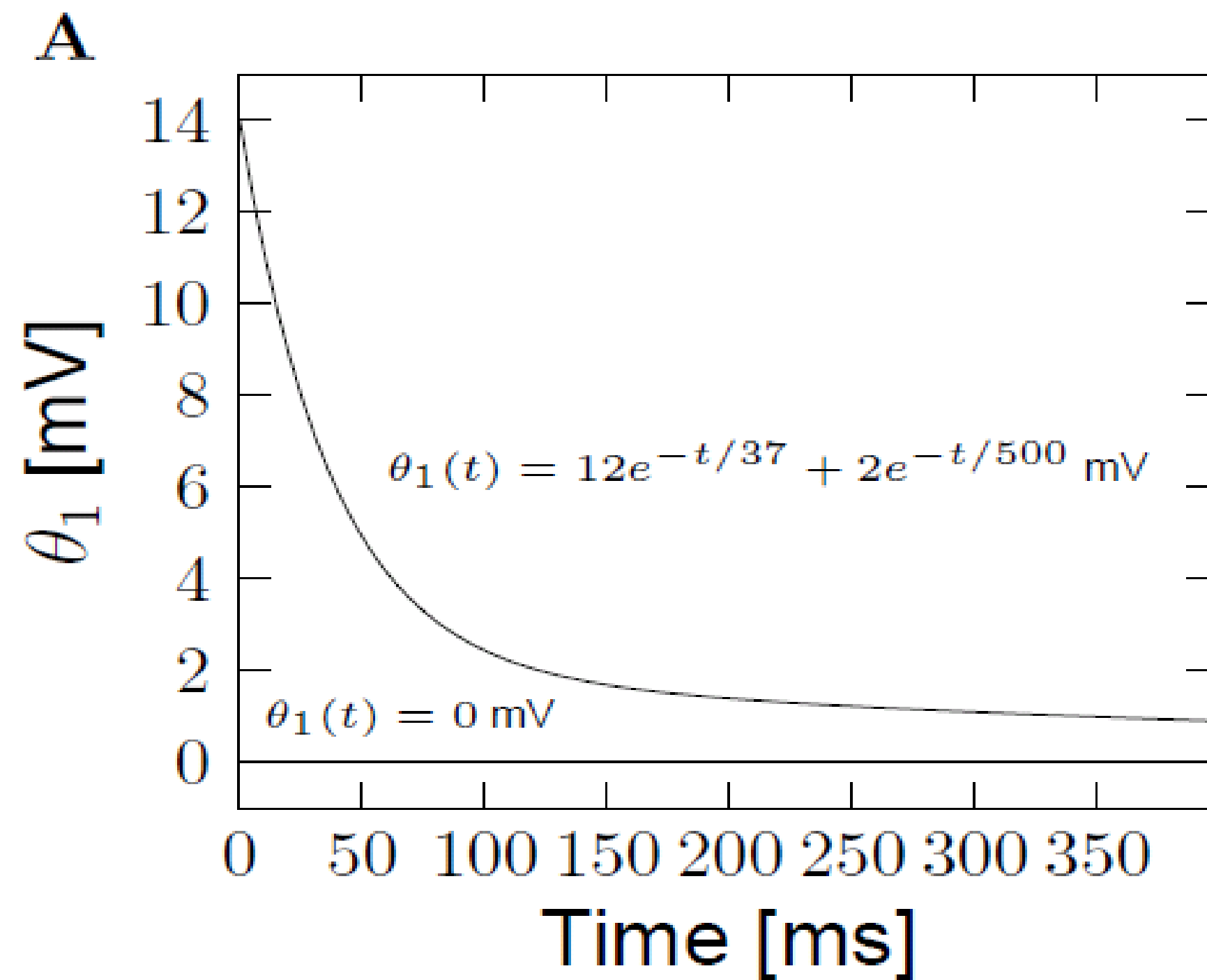
→ prediction very close to measurements on
NEW DATA, not used for parameter optimization

2) Spike times

→ remaining jitter in model very close to jitter in
experimental data

6. GLM/SRM predict spike times: Moving threshold is important

Role of moving threshold



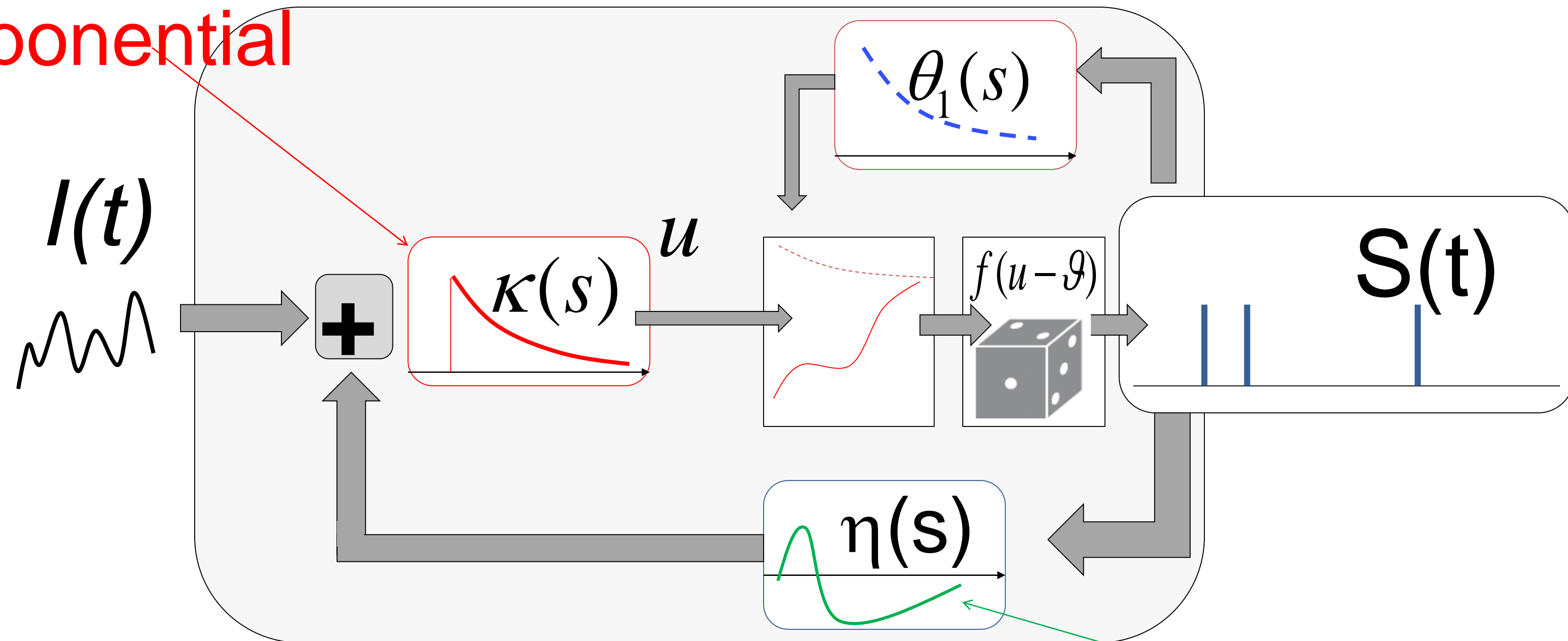
Mensi et al., 2012

Change in model formulation:

What are the units of ?

'soft-threshold
adaptive IF model'

exponential



potential

$$C \frac{d}{dt} u(t) = \int \eta(s) S(t-s) ds + I(t)$$

threshold

$$\theta(t) = \theta_0 + \int \theta_1(s) S(t-s) ds$$

firing intensity

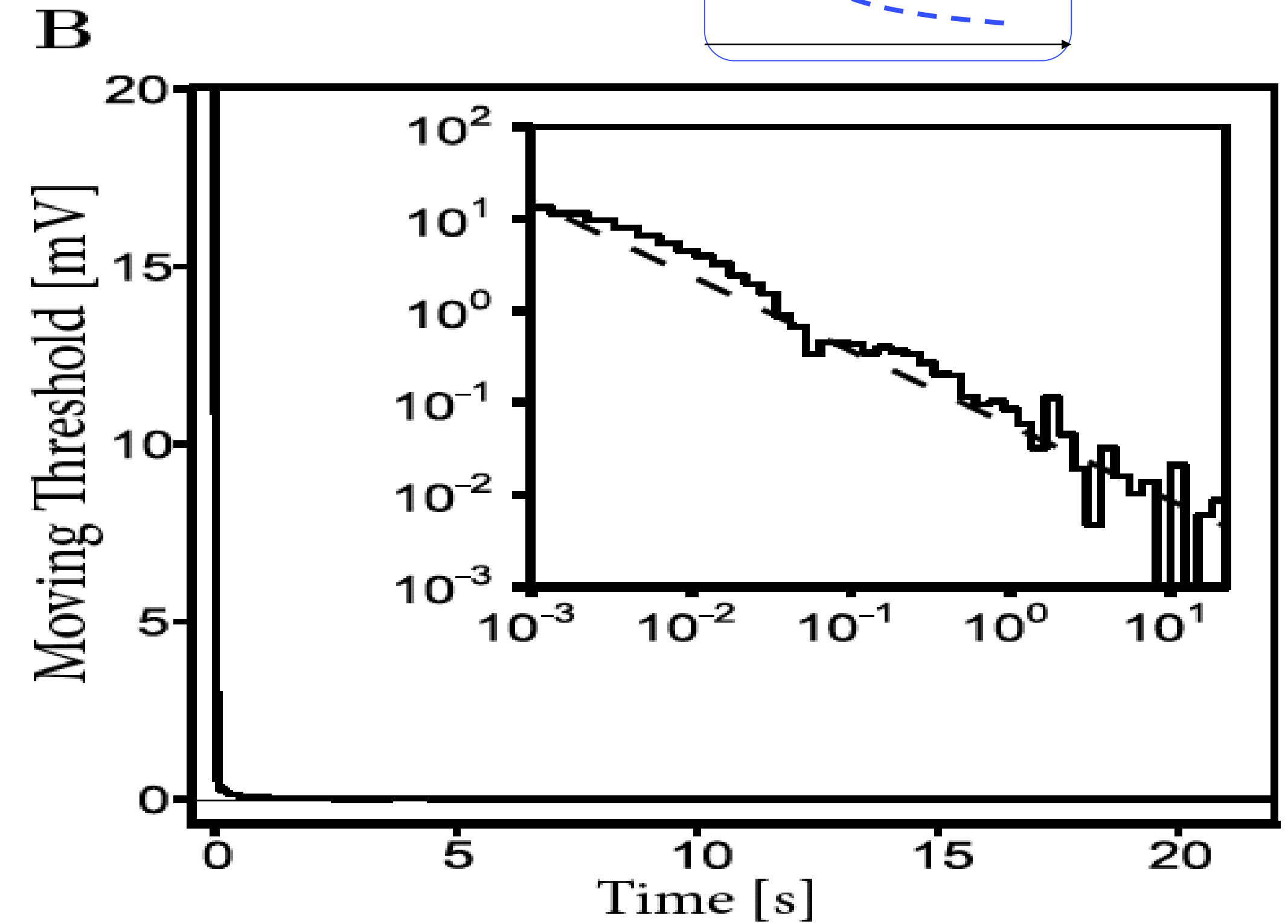
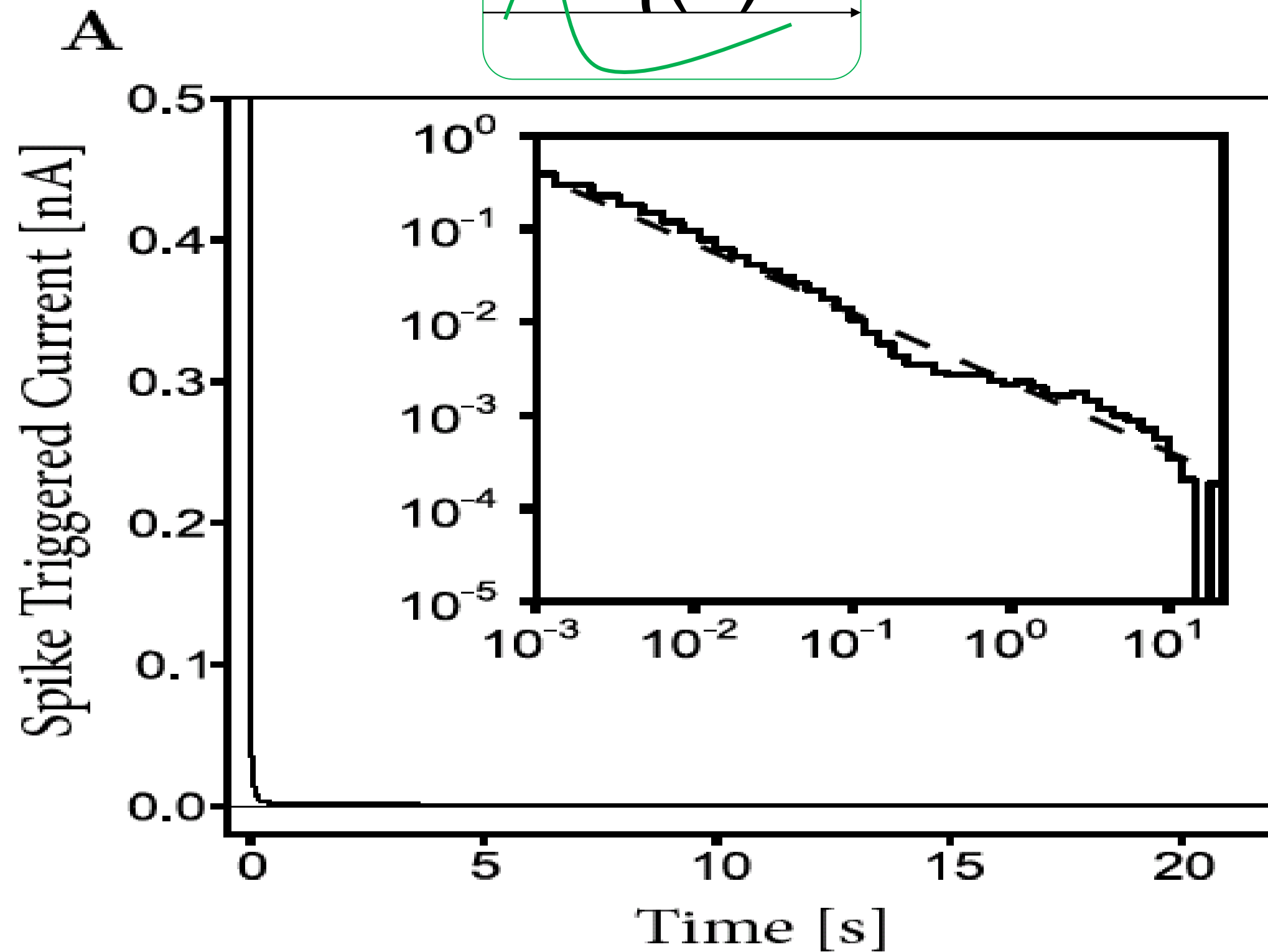
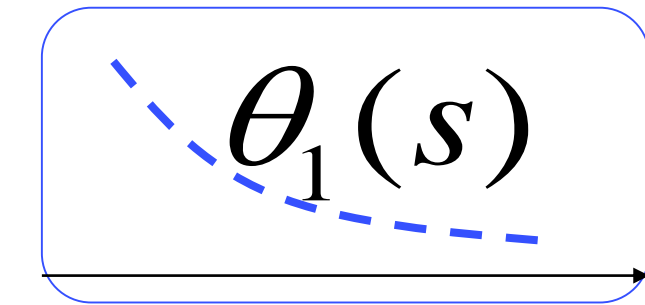
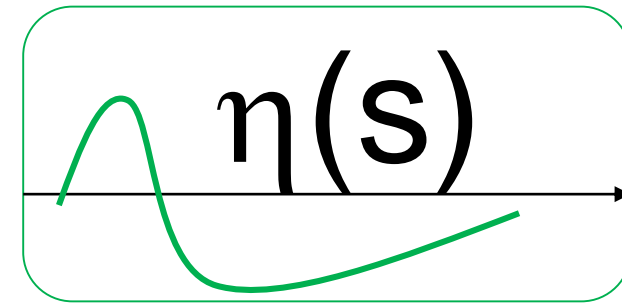
$$\rho(t) = f(u(t) - \theta(t))$$

adaptation
current

6. How long does the effect of a spike last?

Time scale of filters?

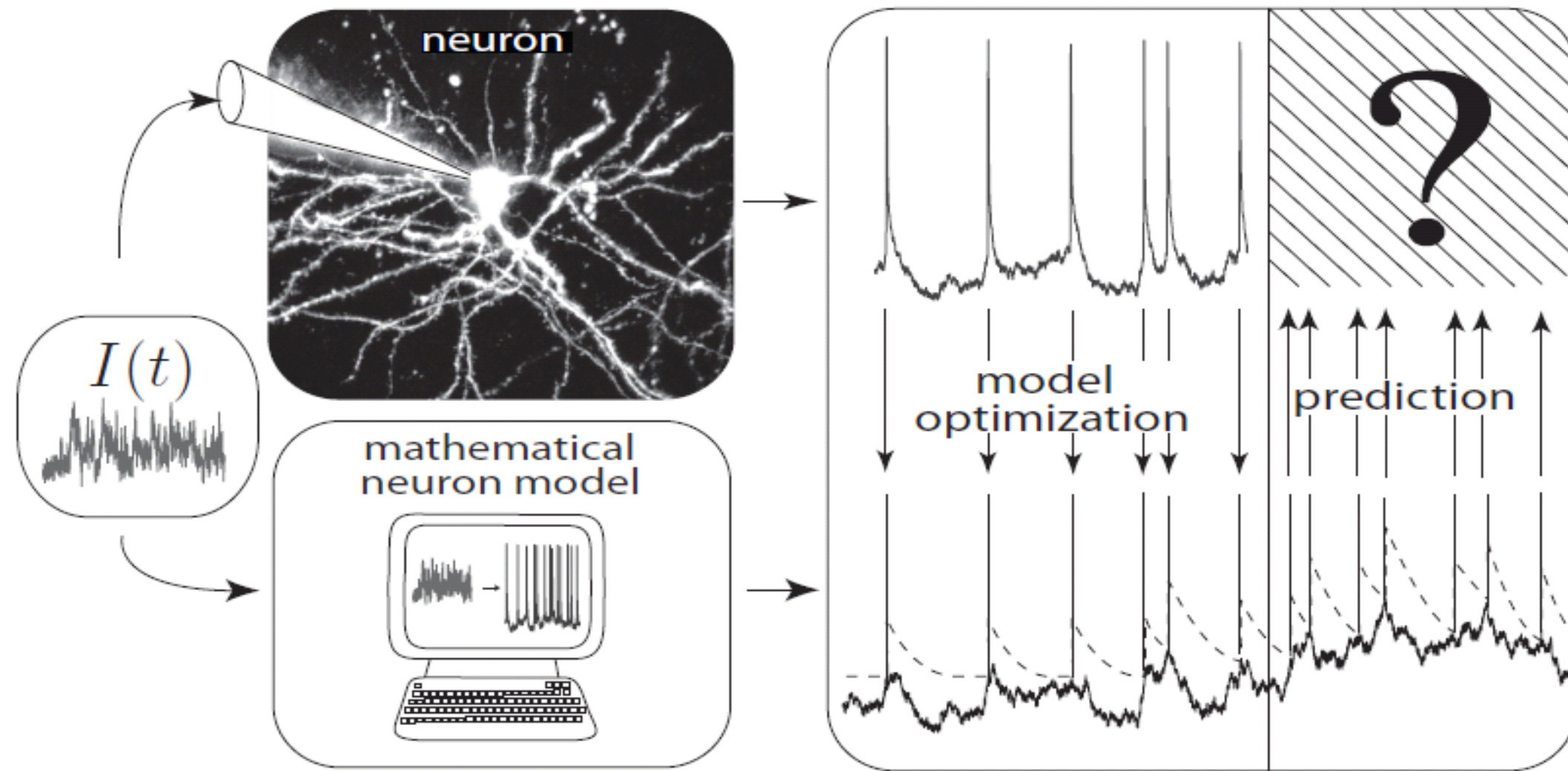
→ **Power law**



A single spike has a measurable effect more than 10 seconds later!

Pozzorini et al. 2013

6: Conclusion: Models and in vitro Data



The SRM/GLM framework is able to

- Predict spike times (plus jitter)
- Predict subthreshold voltage
- Easy to interpret (not a 'black box')
- optimize parameters systematically
- account for firing patterns and adaptation

BUT so far limited to in vitro

Week 12 - Helping Humans

EPFL

Biological Modeling of Neural Networks:

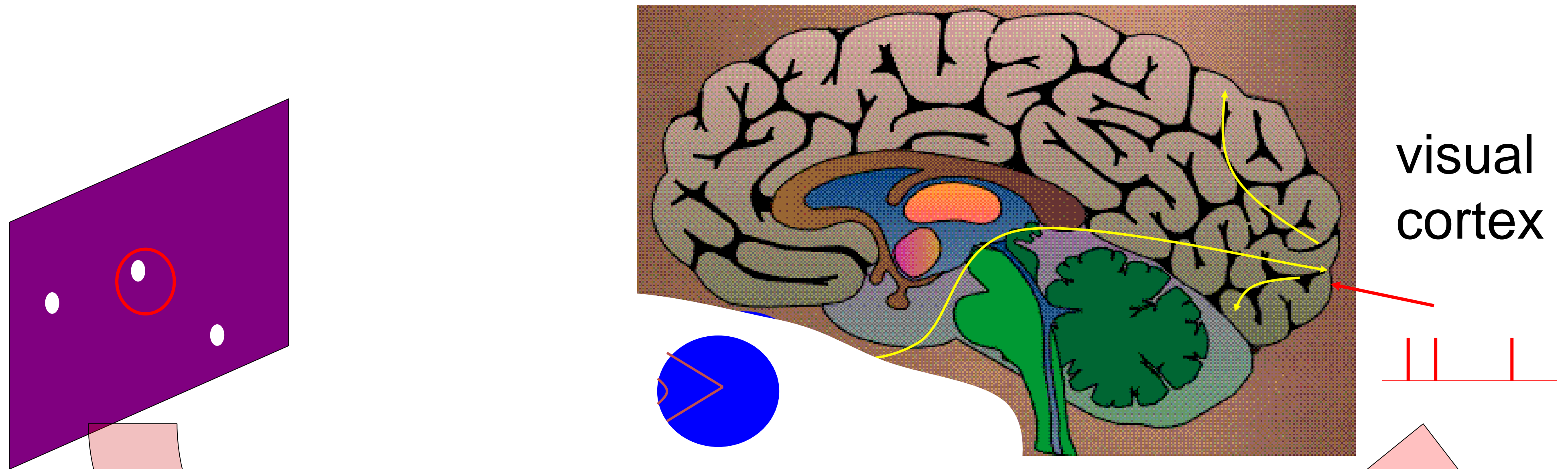
Week 12 – Optimizing Neuron Models For Coding and Decoding

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EPFL, Lausanne, Switzerland

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- ✓ **6 Modeling in vitro data**
 - how long lasts the effect of a spike?
- 7 Helping Humans: in vivo data**

7. Model of ENCODING

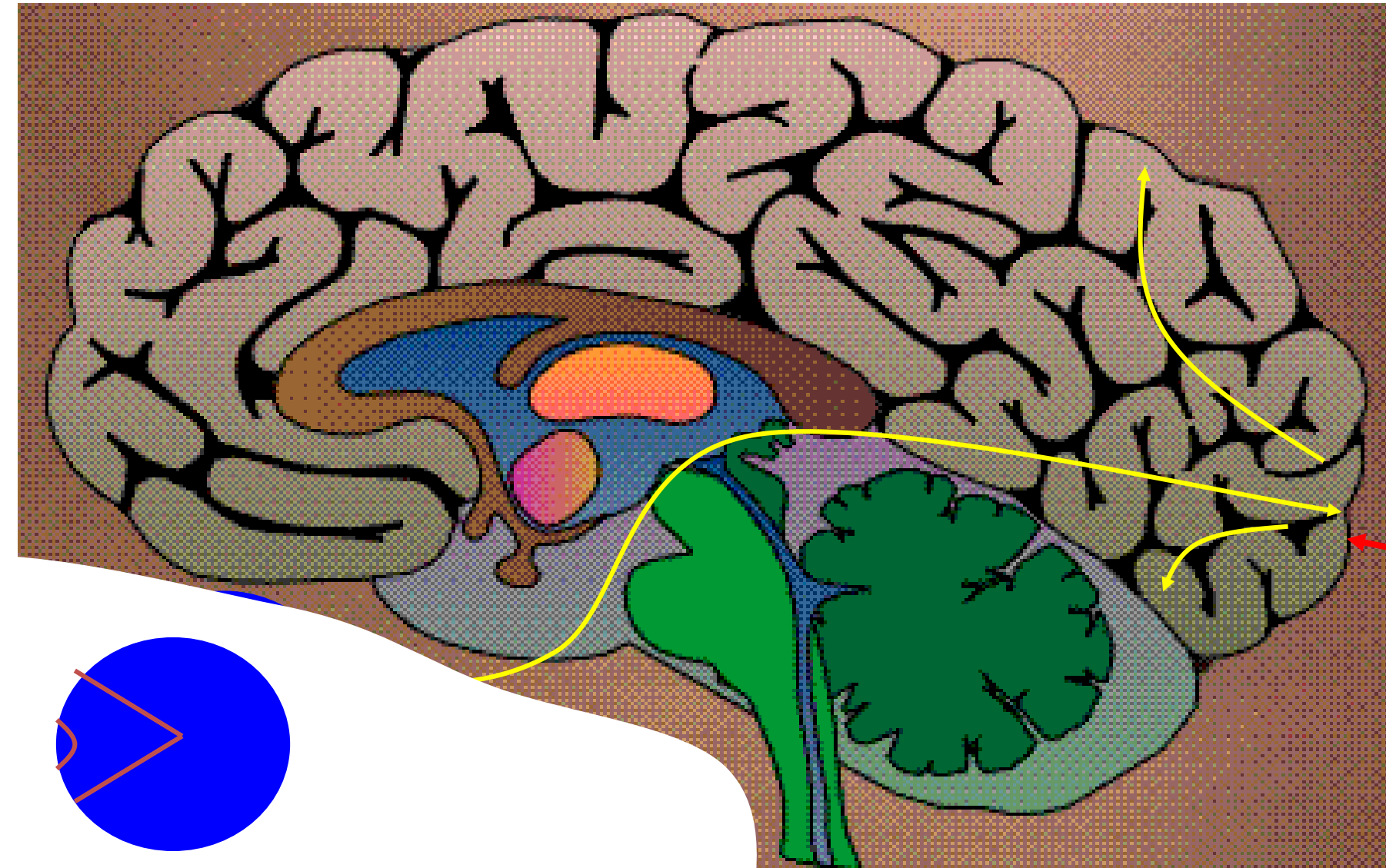
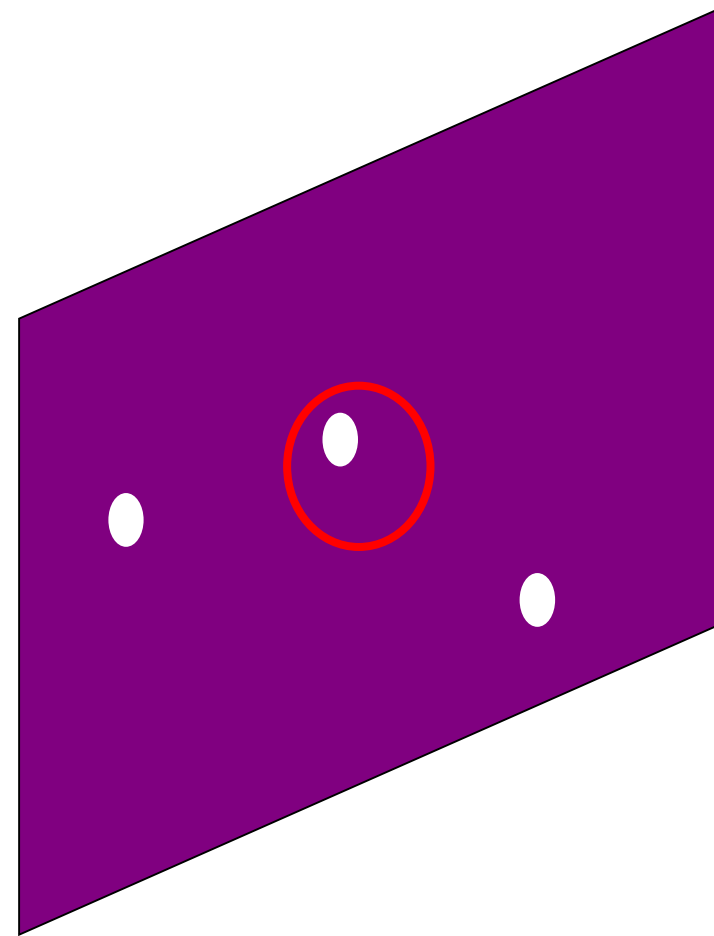


- A) Predict spike times, given stimulus
- ~~B) Predict subthreshold voltage~~
- C) Easy to interpret (not a 'black box')
- D) Flexible enough to account for a variety of phenomena
- E) Systematic procedure to 'optimize' parameters

Model of 'Encoding'

7. Model of DECODING

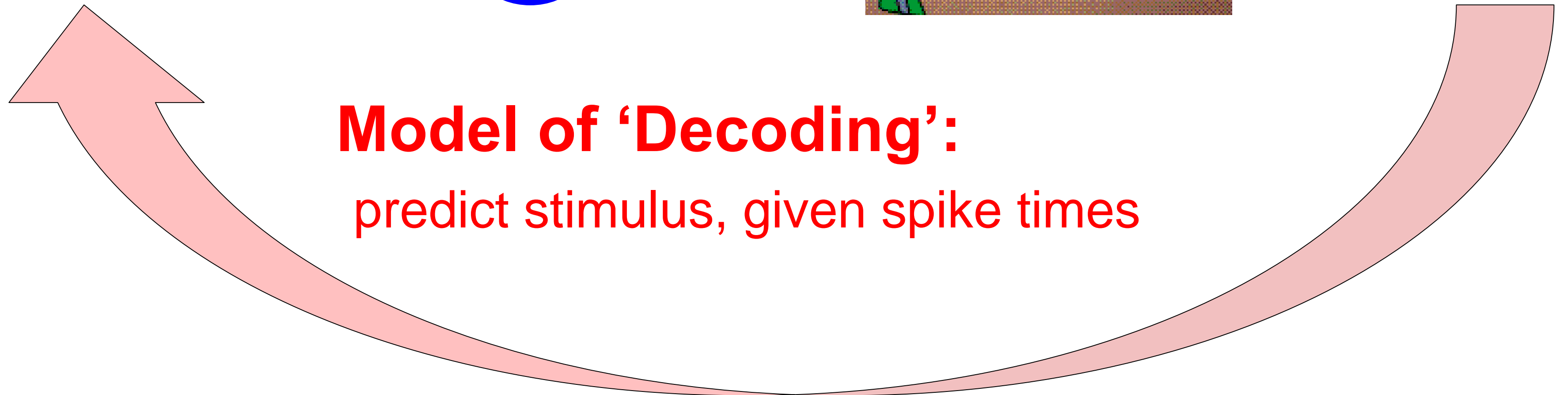
Predict stimulus!



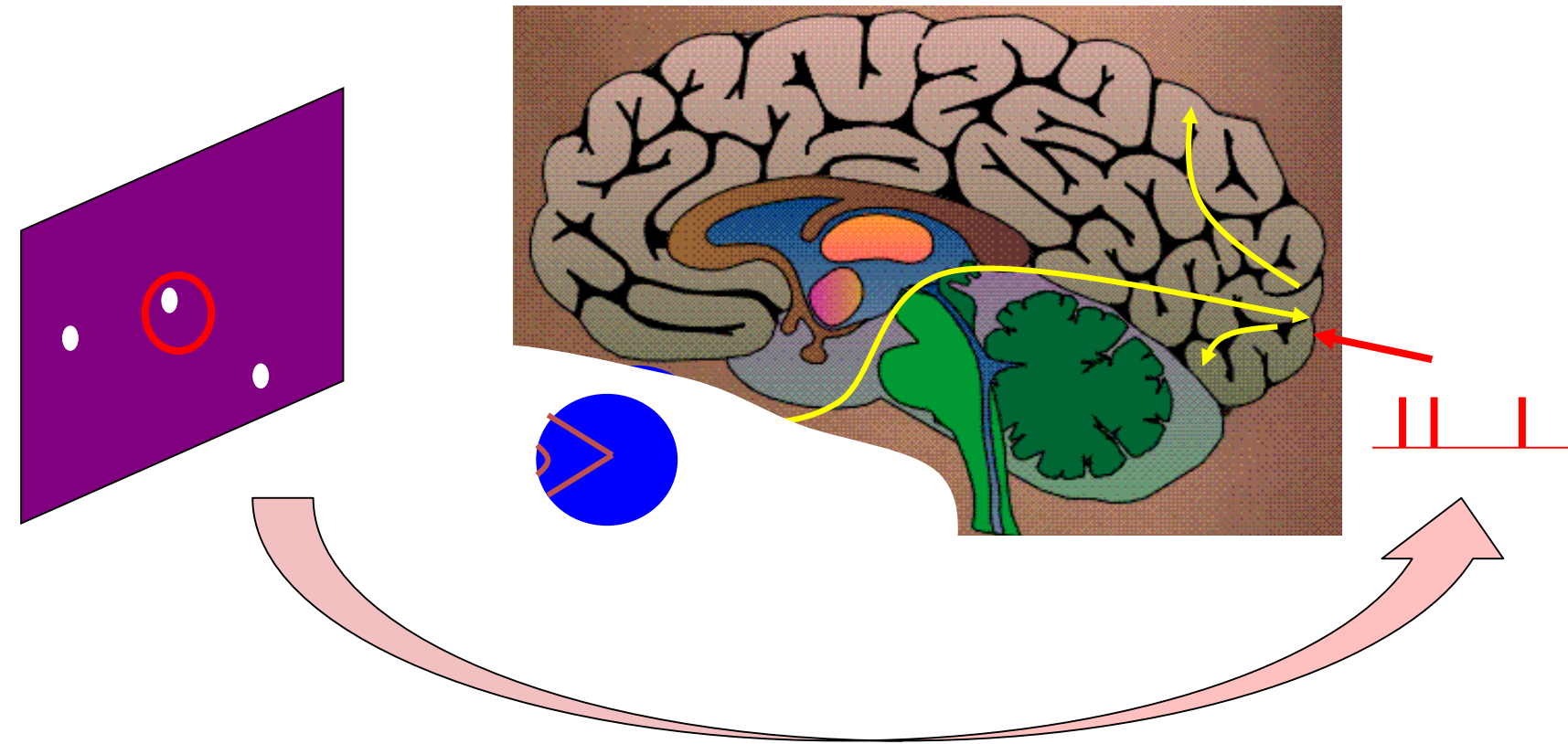
visual cortex



Model of 'Decoding':
predict stimulus, given spike times



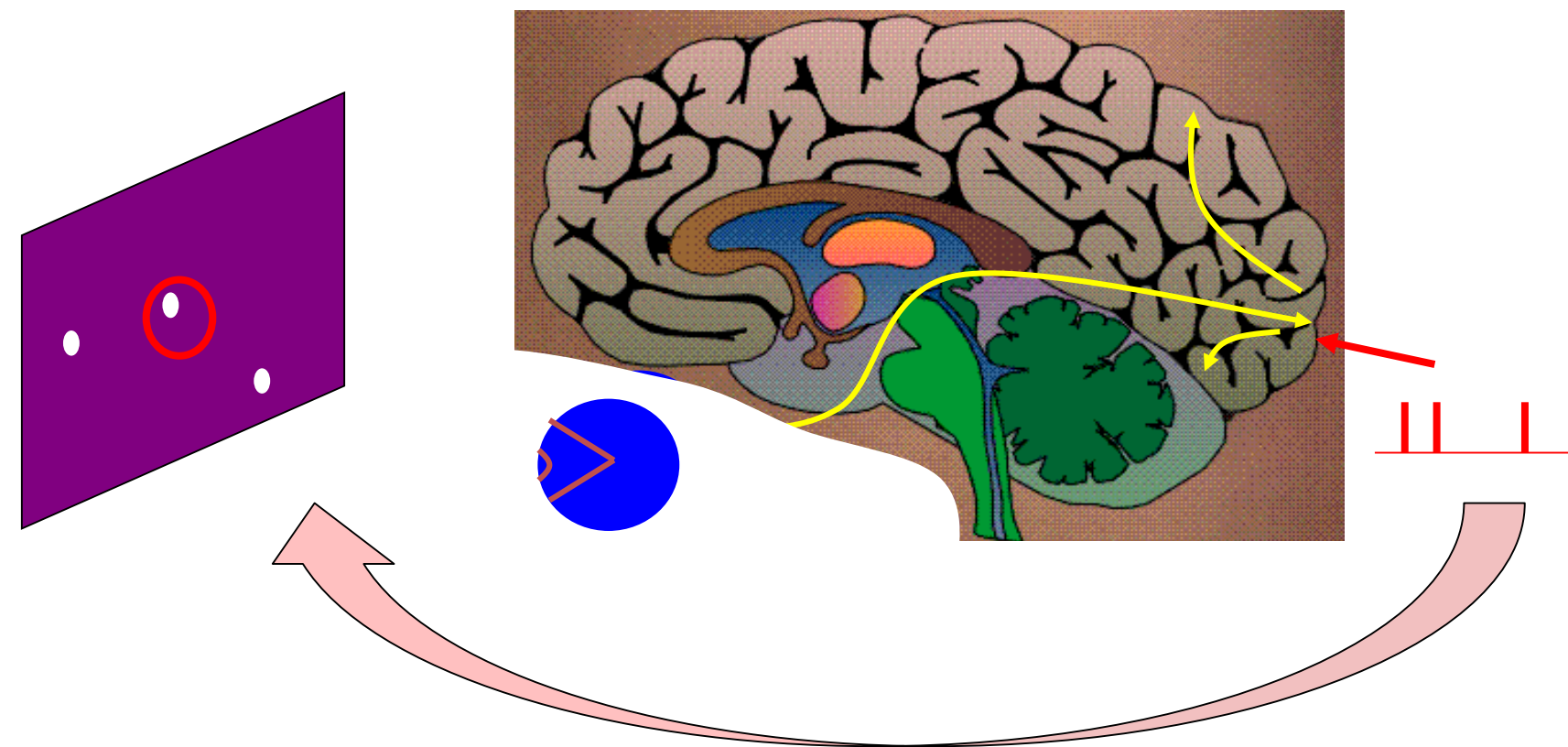
7. ENCODING and Decoding



Model of 'Encoding'

Generalized Linear Model (GLM)

- flexible model
- systematic optimization of parameters



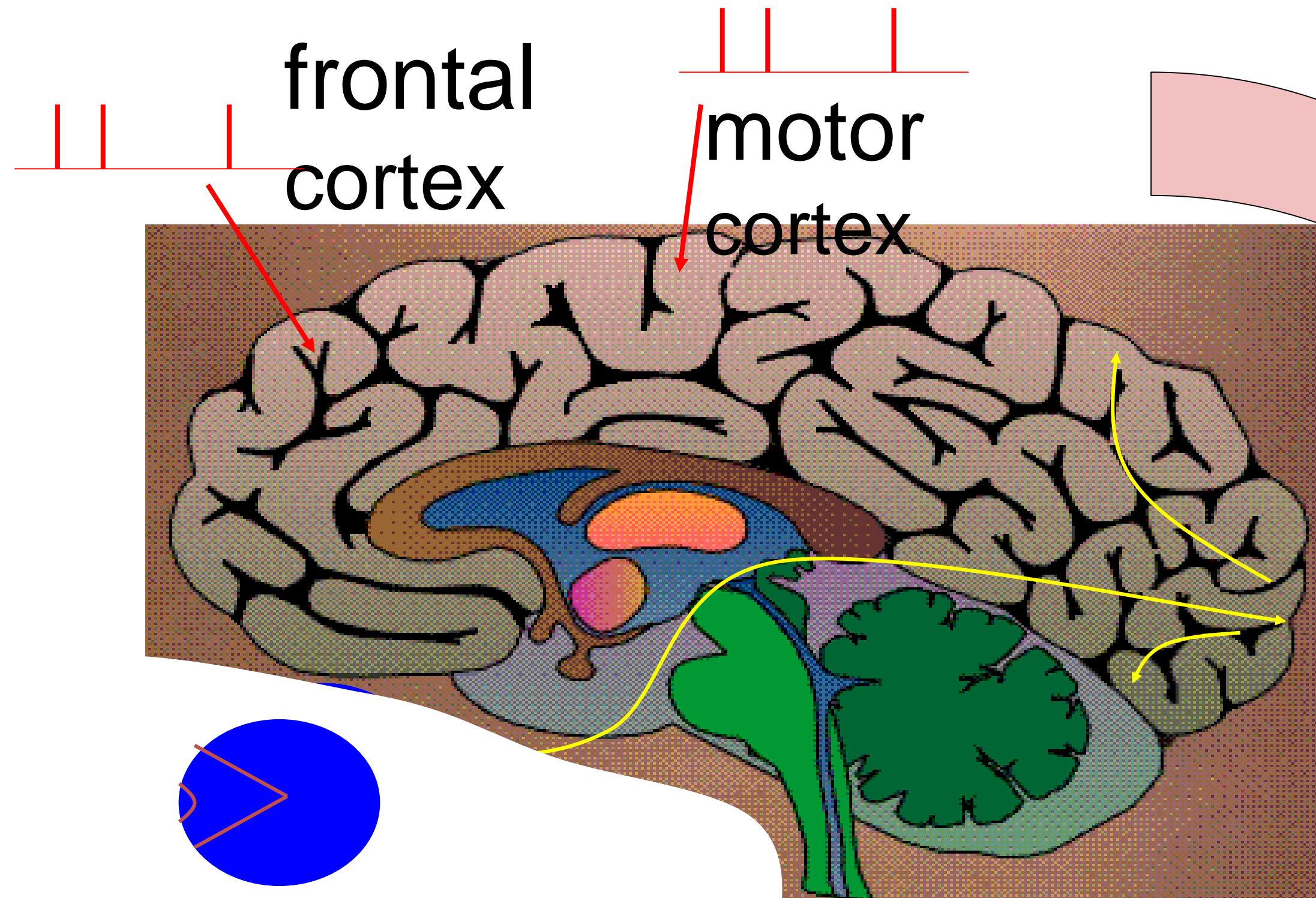
Model of 'Decoding'

The same GLM works!

- flexible model
- systematic optimization of parameters

7.Helping Humans

Application: Neuroprosthetics



Many groups world wide work on this problem!

Model of 'Decoding'

Predict intended arm movement, given Spike Times

7. Basic neuroprosthetics

Application: Neuroprosthetics

Decode the intended arm movement

Hand velocity

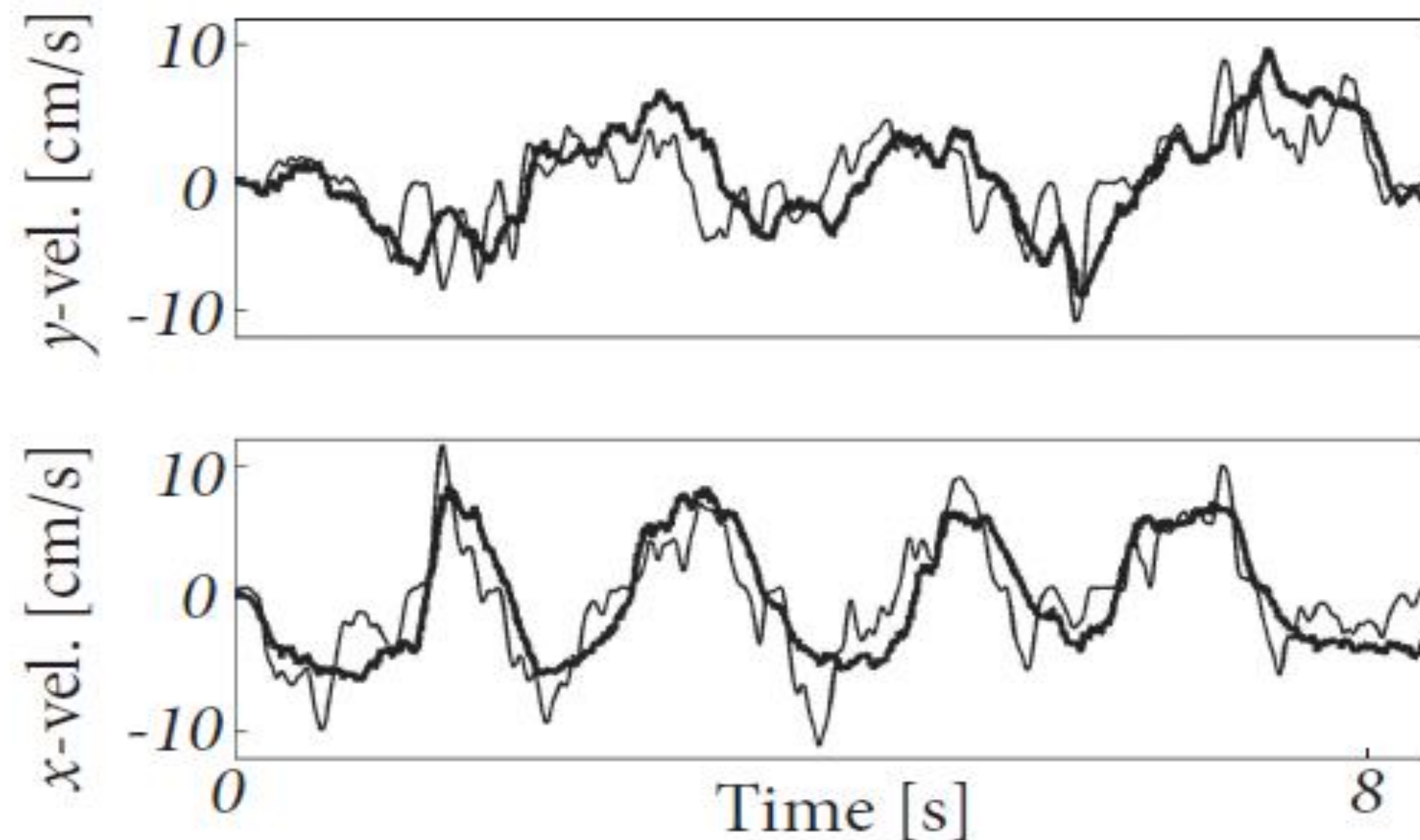
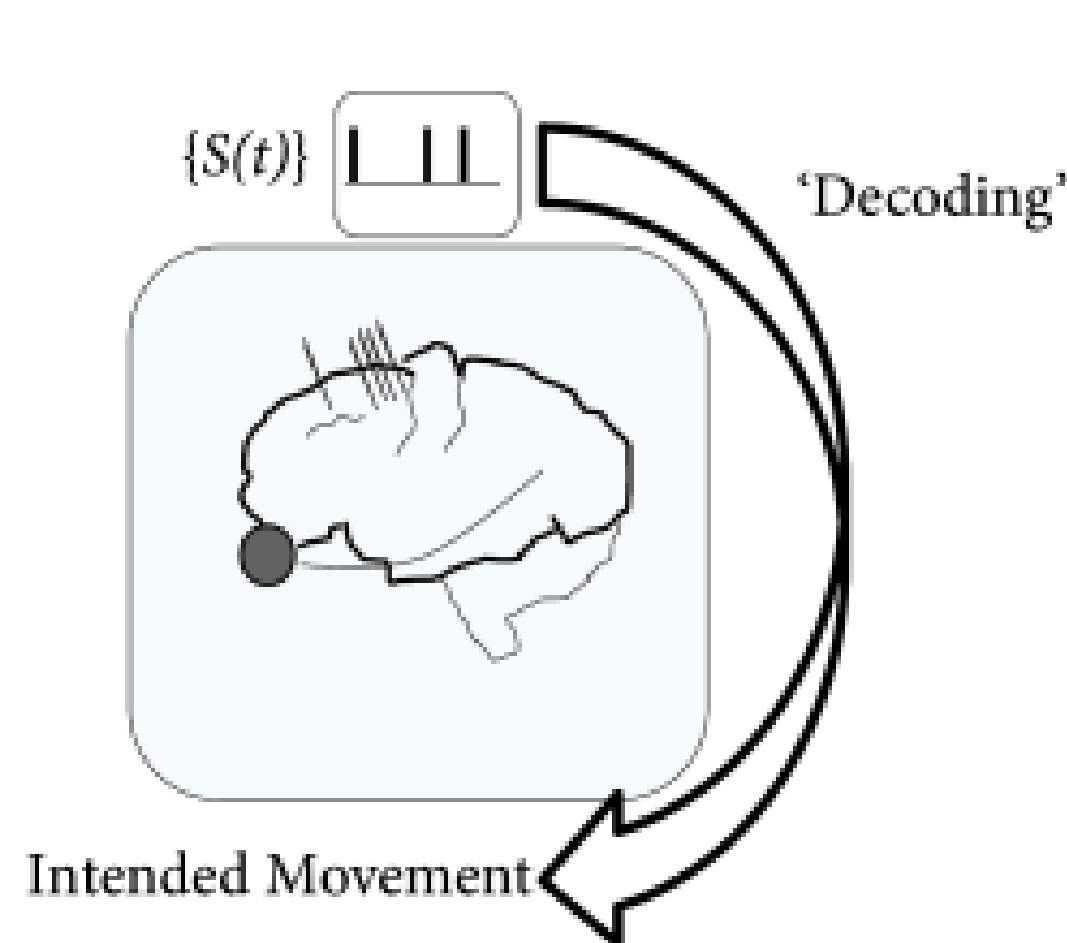


Figure:
Neuronal Dynamics,
Cambridge Univ. Press;
See Truccolo et al. 2005

Fig. 11.12: Decoding hand velocity from spiking activity in area MI of cortex. The real hand velocity (thin black line) is compared to the decoded velocity (thick black line) for the x - (top) and the y -components (bottom). Modified from Truccolo et al. (2005).

7. Conclusion: Basic neuroprosthetics

Complicated math

- Spike Response Model
- Nonlinear Model!
- Survivor Function
- Stochastic Processes
- Likelihood of a spike train

Is all this worth the trouble?

→yes, because it is used in Important Applications!

Suggested Reading/selected references

Reading: W. Gerstner, W.M. Kistler, R. Naud and L. Paninski,

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