

(Courtesy of Alex Thomson,  
University of London, UK)

# Dynamique neuronale stochastique *Stochastic Neuronal Dynamics*

Alain Destexhe

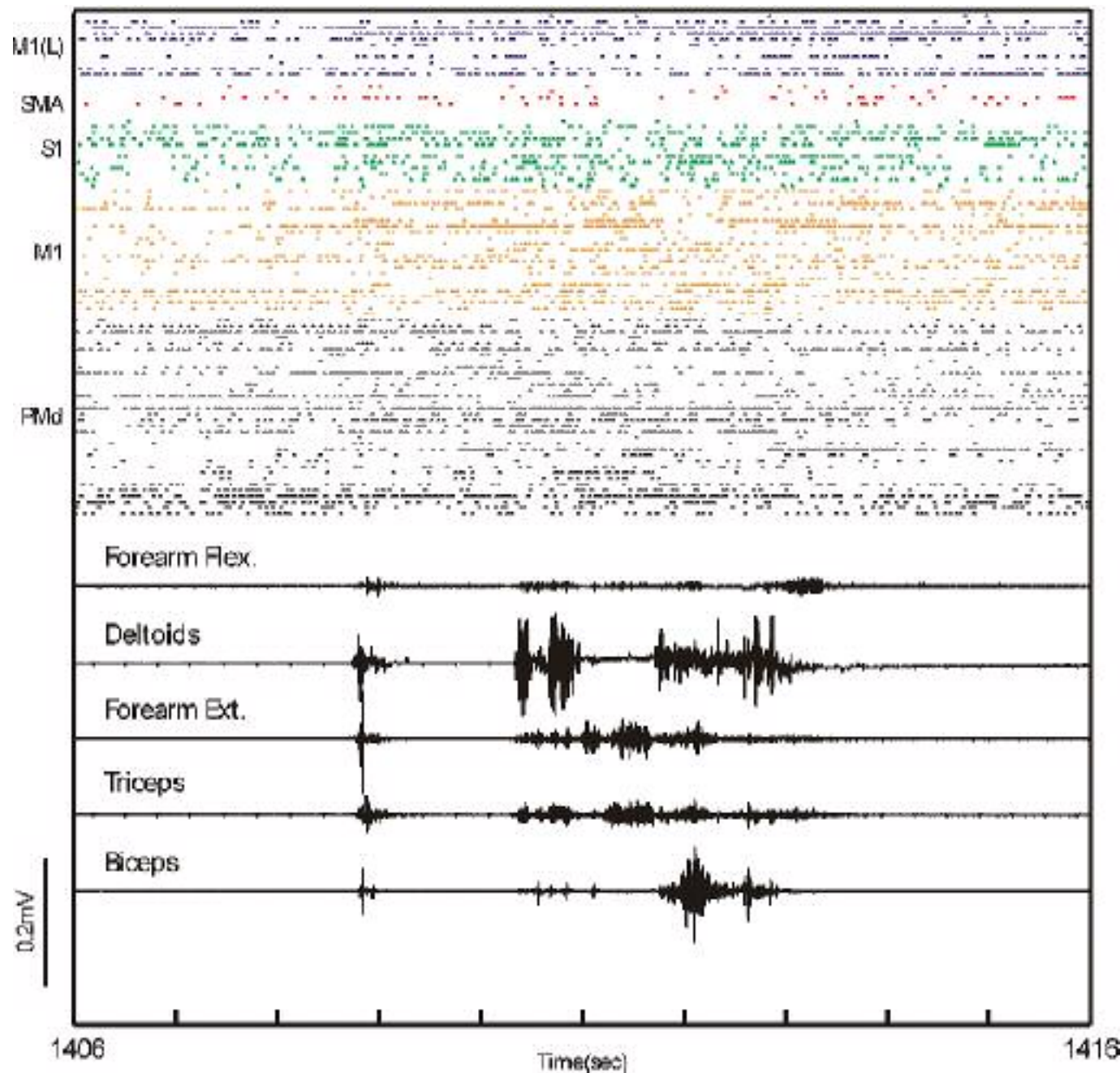
Unité de Neurosciences, Information et Complexité (UNIC)  
CNRS, Gif-sur-Yvette

<http://cns.iaf.cnrs-gif.fr>  
<http://unic.cnrs-gif.fr>

European Institute for Theoretical Neuroscience (EITN)  
Rue du Faubourg St-Antoine, Paris

<http://www.eitn.org>

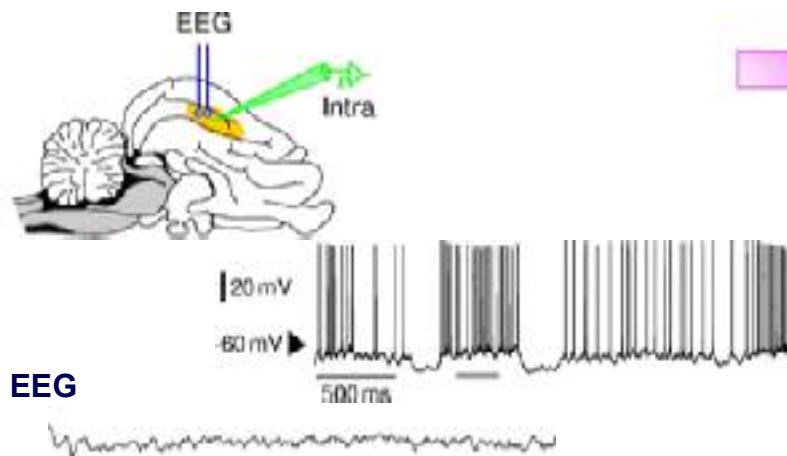
# Complex and seemingly stochastic patterns of neuronal discharge



Ensemble activity  
in the cortex of a  
behaving rhesus  
monkey

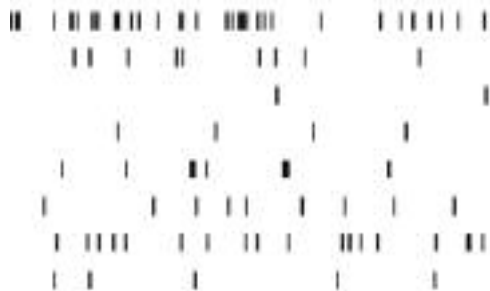
Wessberg  
Crist & Nicolelis  
(2002)

Characterization of “noisy”  
network activity in vivo:  
*High-conductance states*

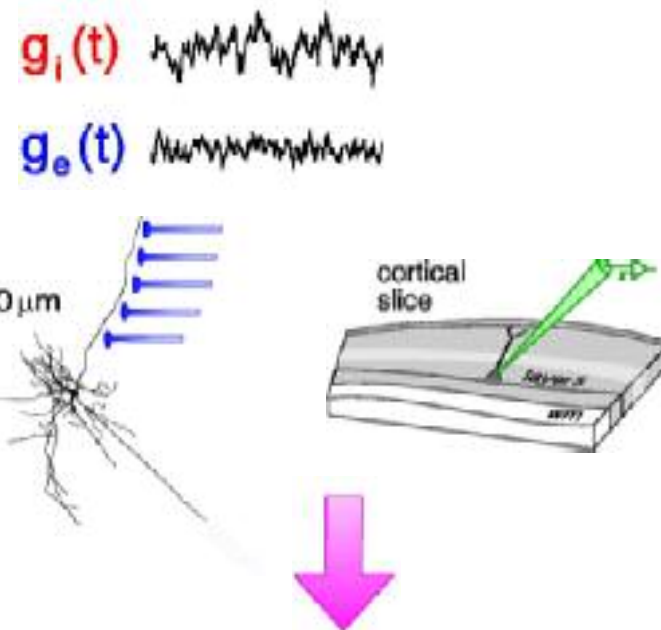


EEG

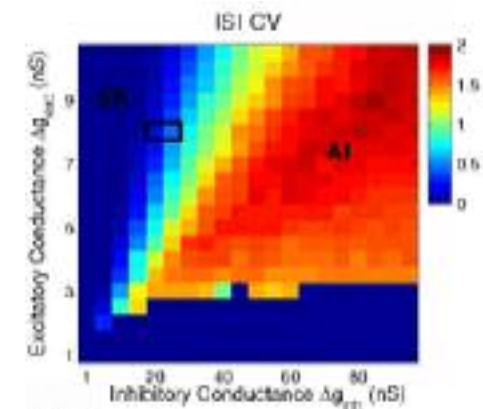
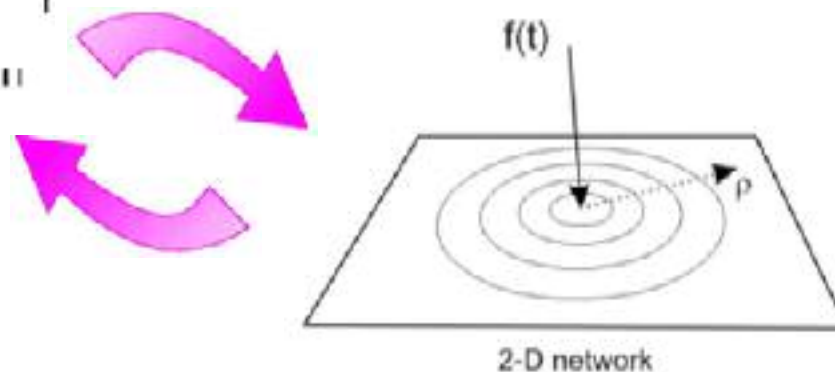
Units



Integrative properties of single neurons  
during *High-Conductance states*



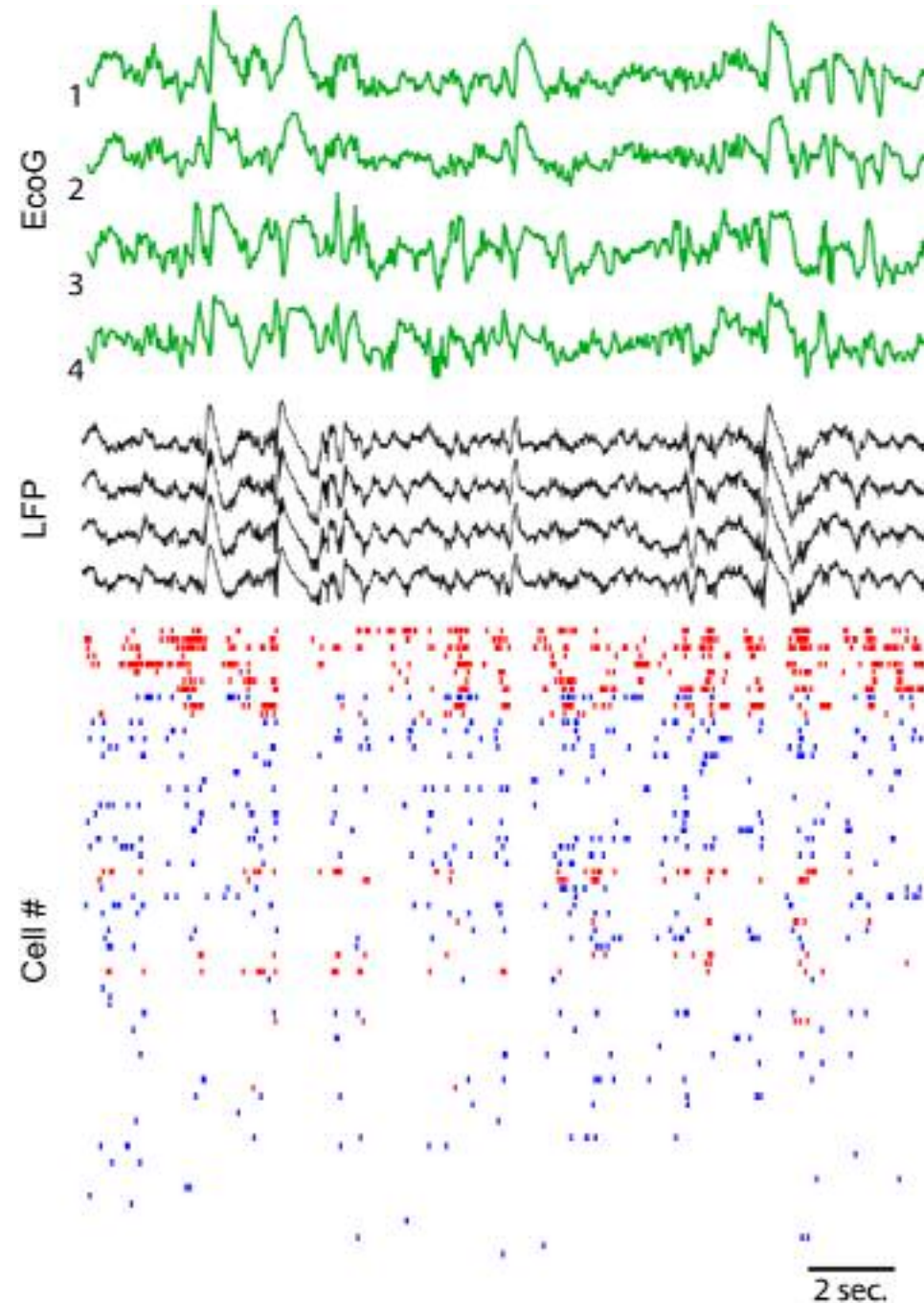
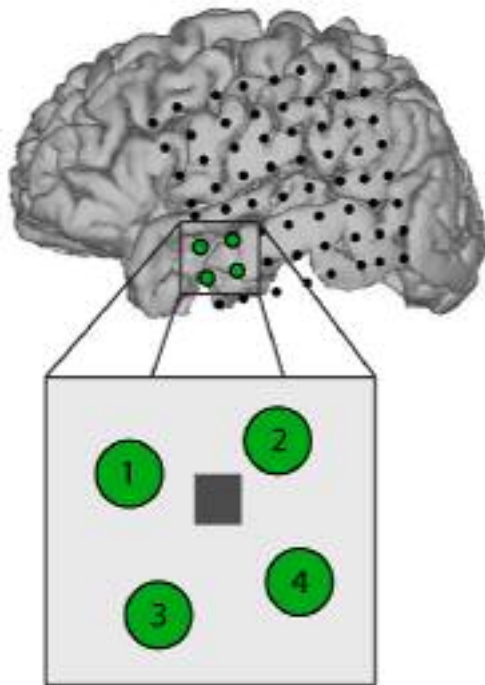
*High-conductance states*  
at the network level



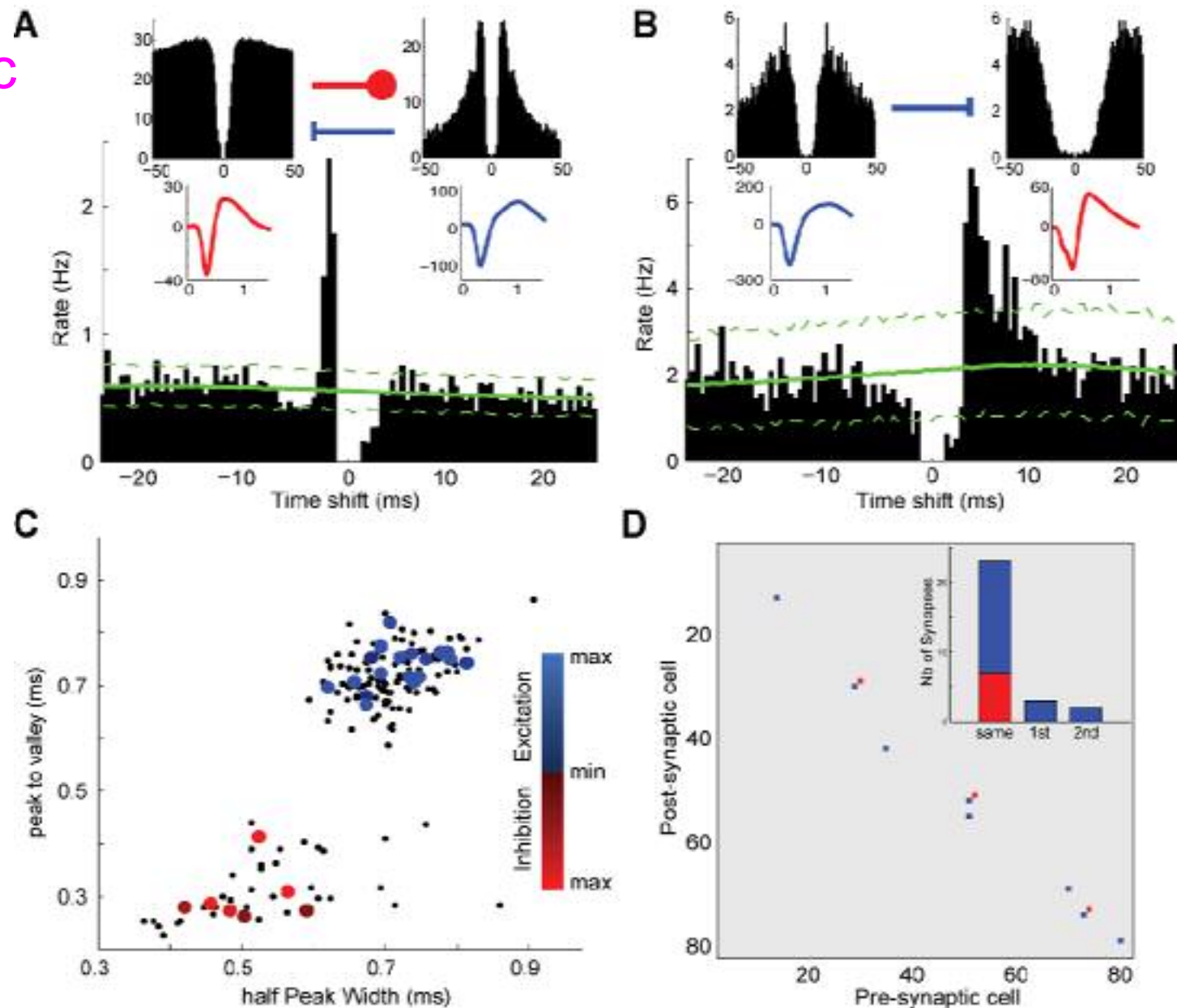
How stochastic is neuronal activity in the awake brain ?

What type of dynamics does it follow ?

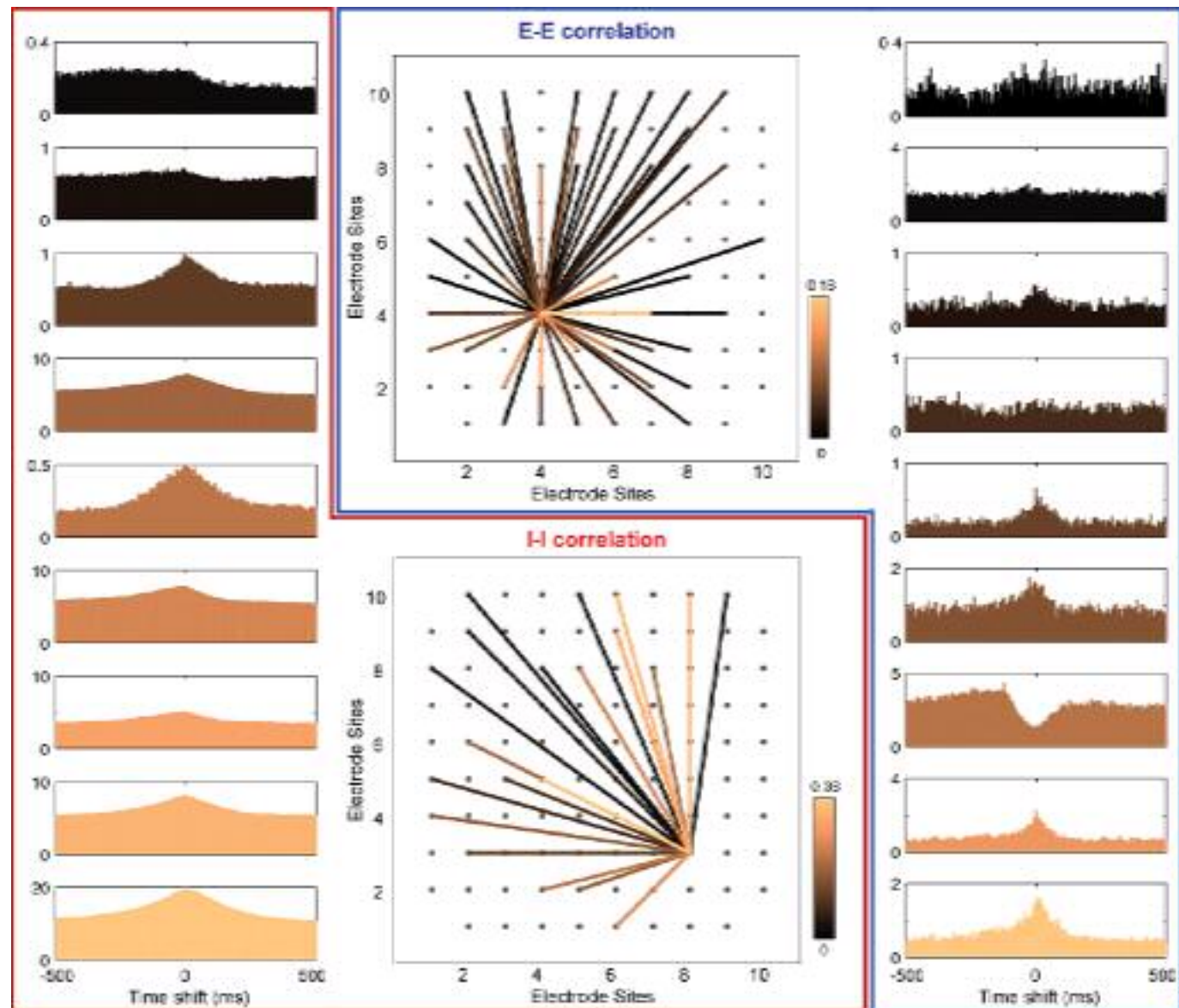
## Utah-array recordings in humans



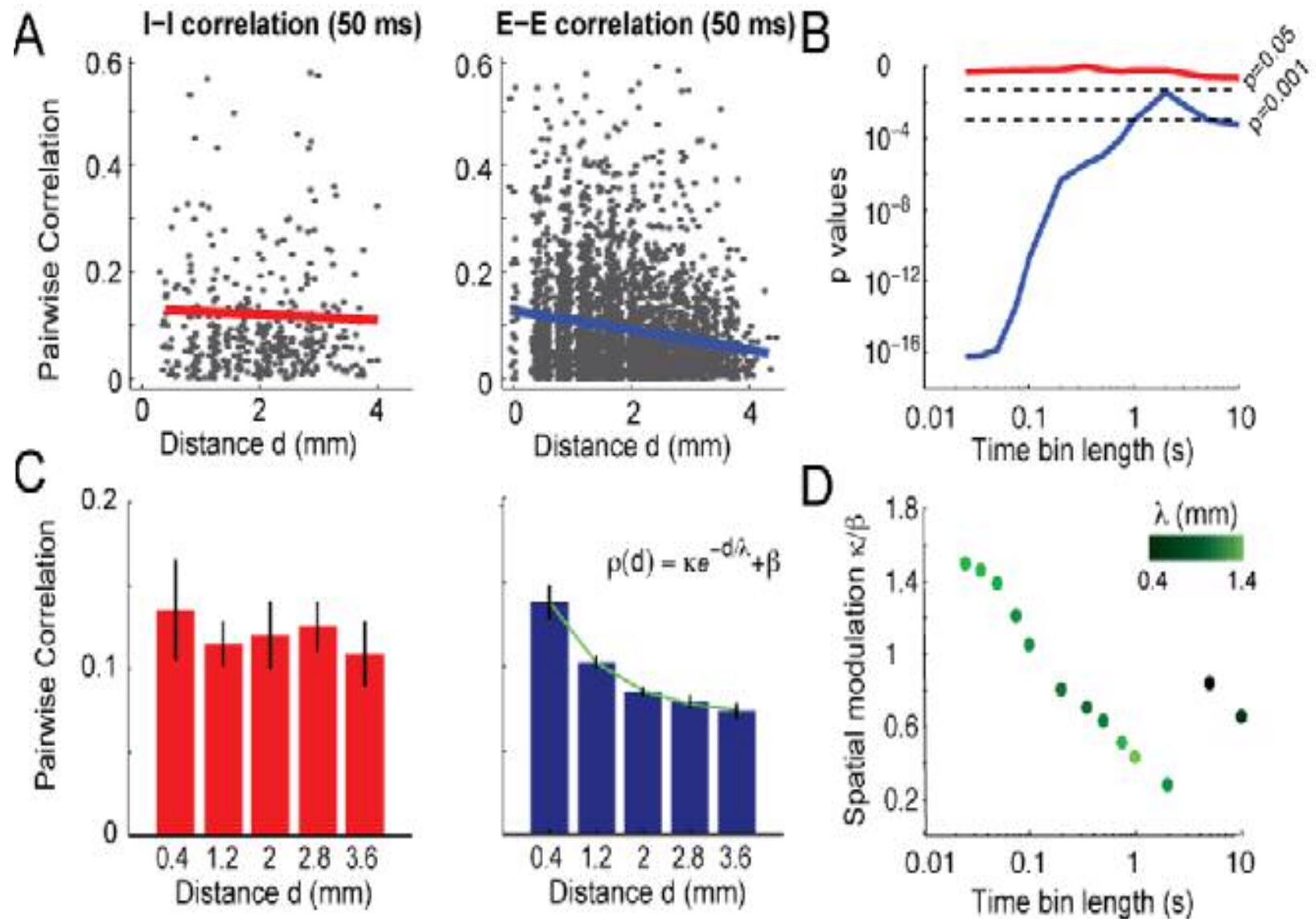
## RS/FS cells monosynaptic connections



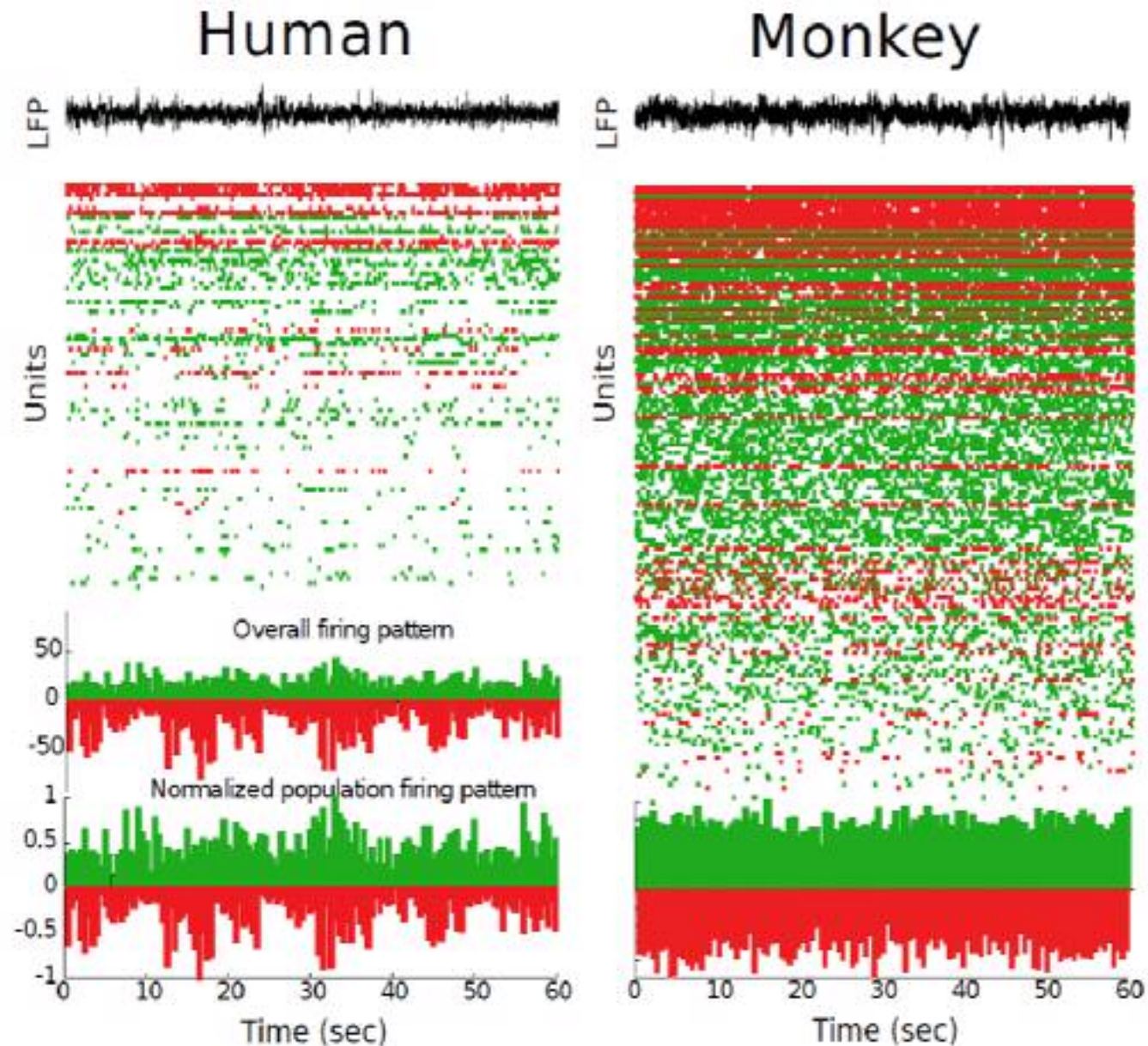
## RS/FS correlations



## RS/FS correlations

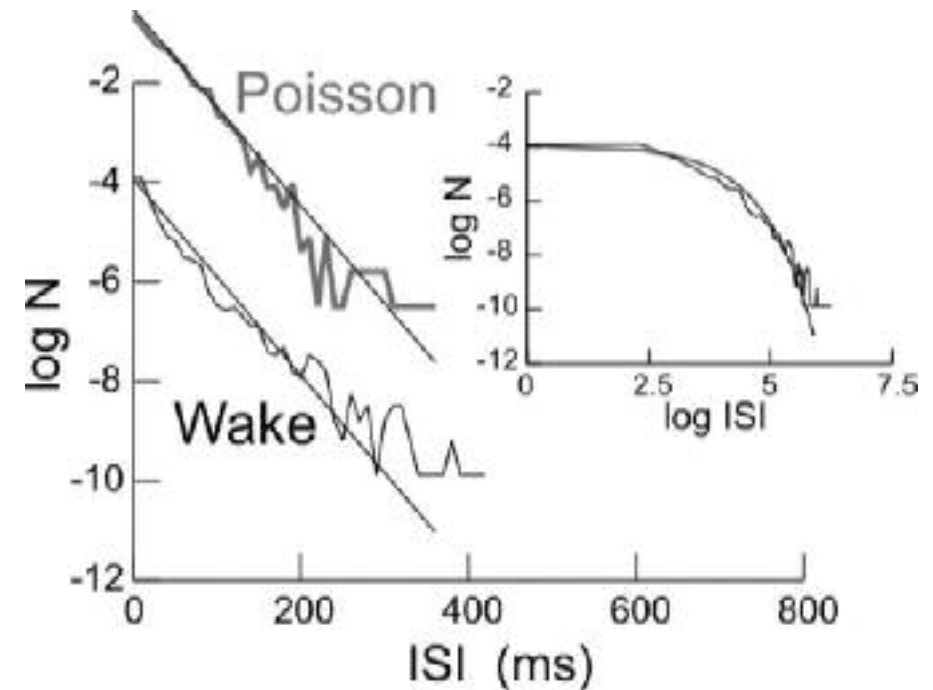
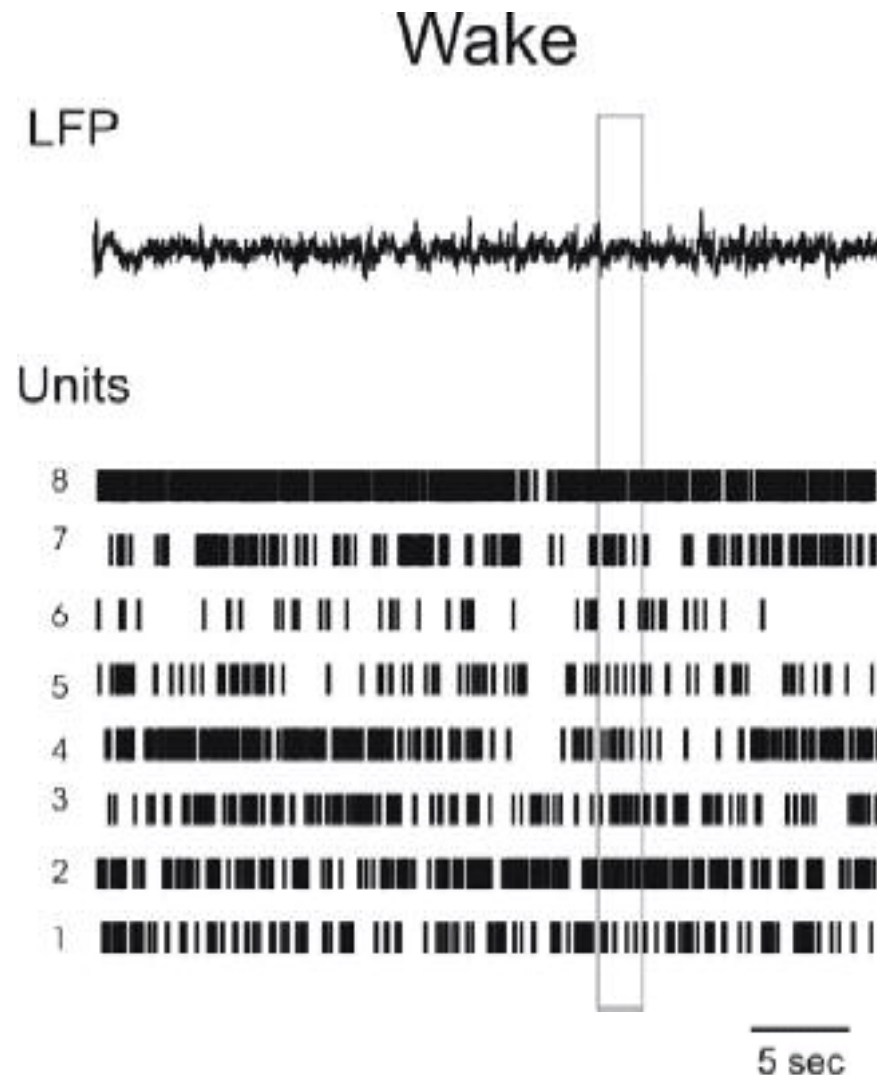


## Irregular activity (awake subjects)



# Multiunit extracellular recordings in awake cats

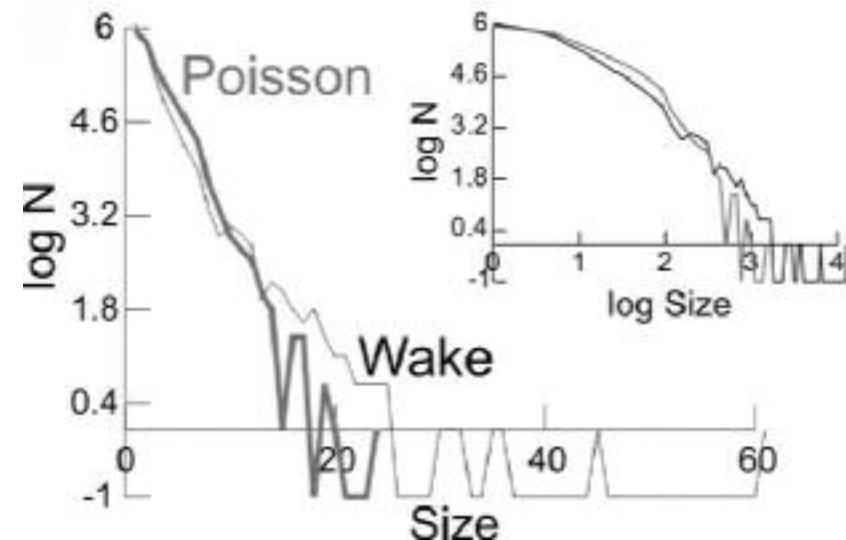
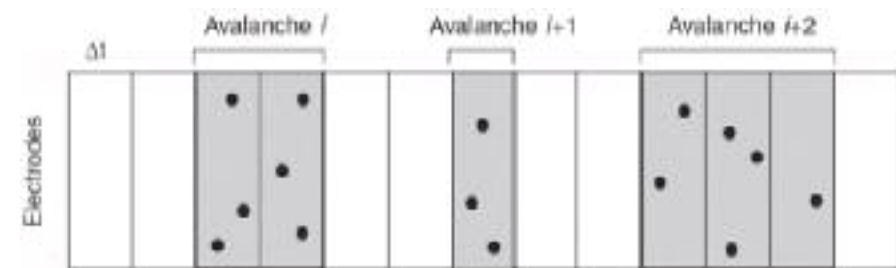
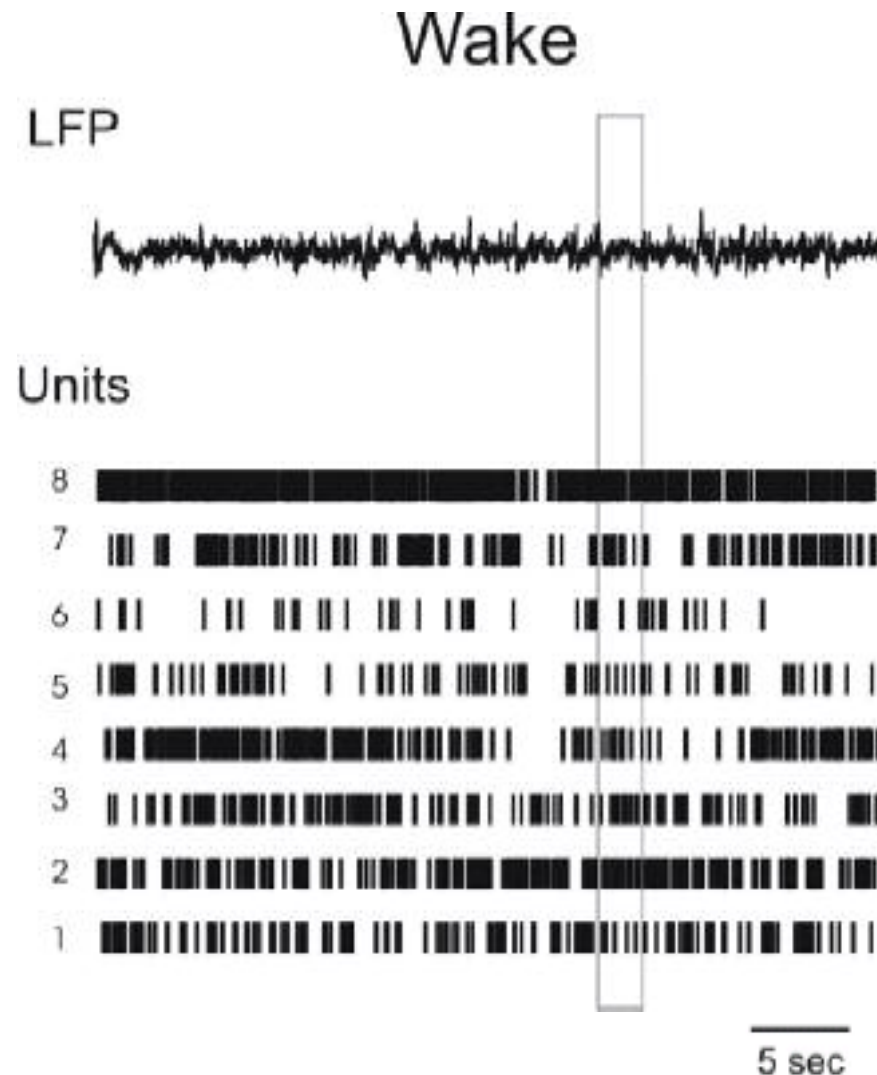
Apparent stochastic dynamics!



Softky & Koch, *J Neurosci.* 1993  
Bedard et al., *Phys Rev Lett* 2006

# Multiunit extracellular recordings in awake cats

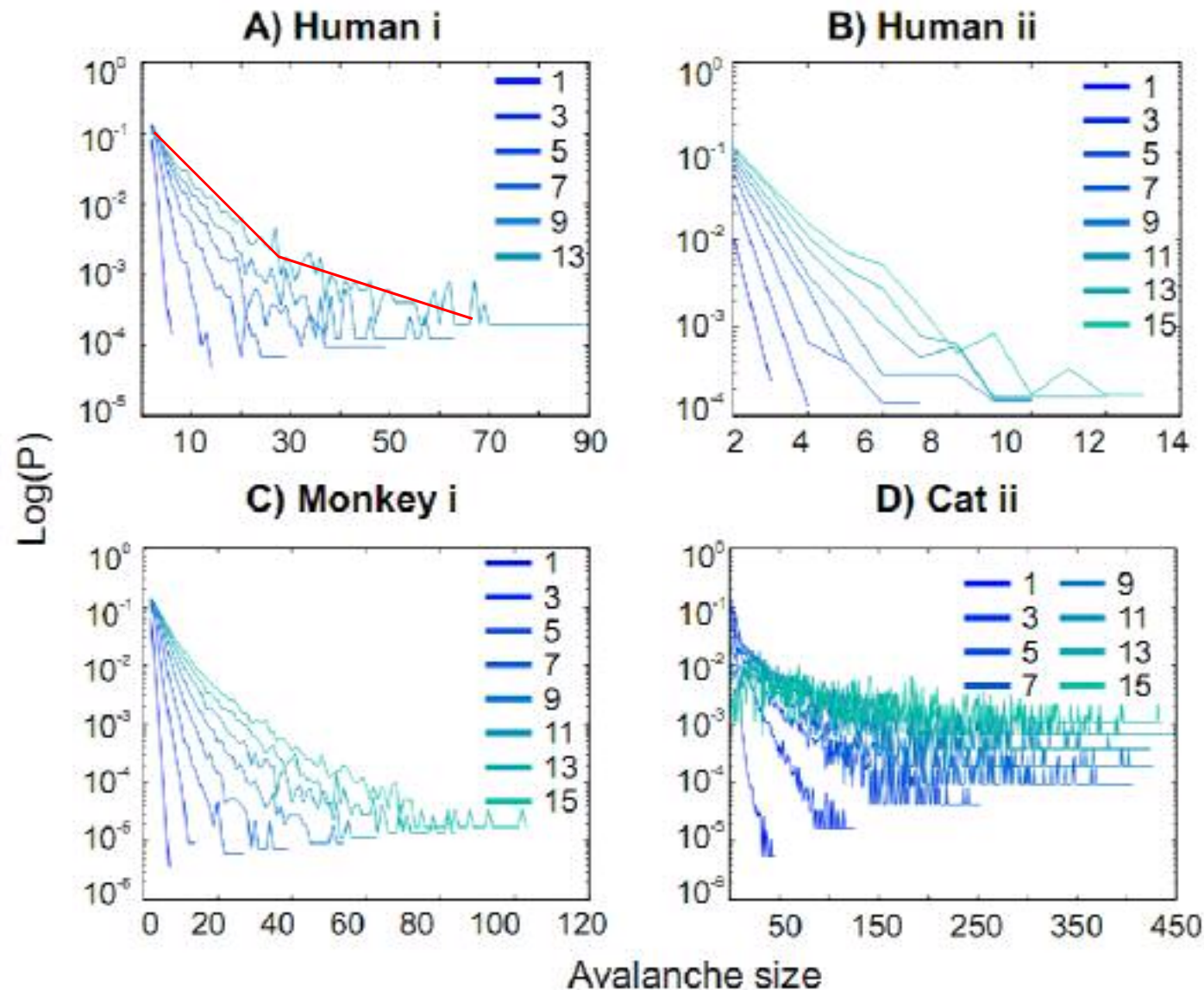
Apparent stochastic dynamics!



Bedard et al., *Phys Rev Lett* 2006

# Avalanche analysis from human neurons

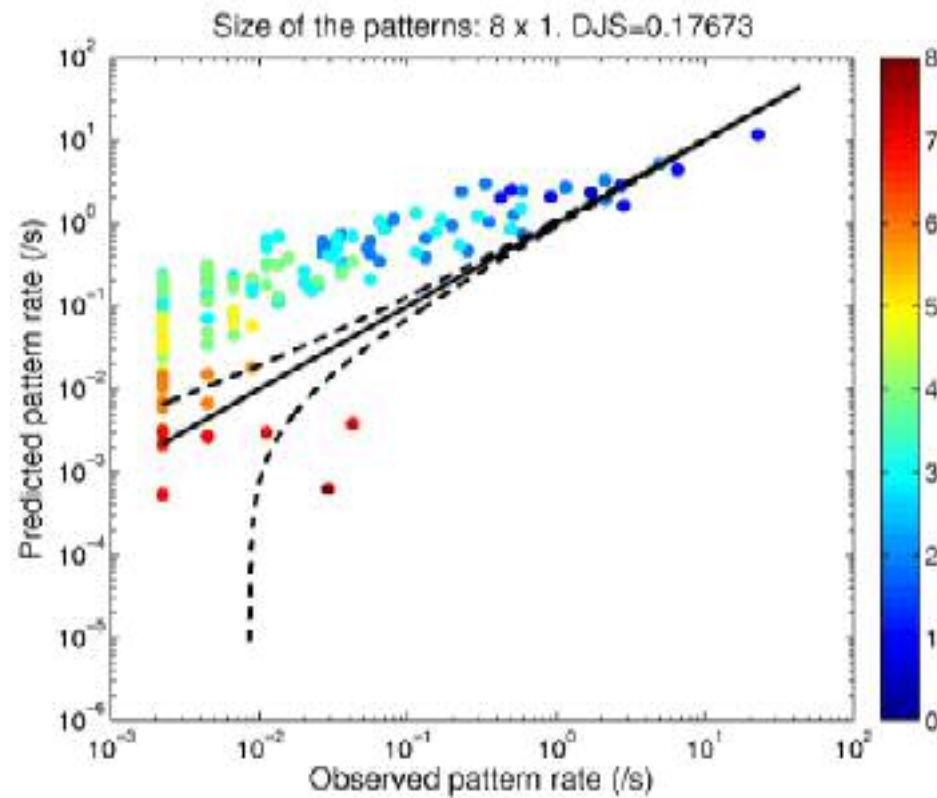
## Avalanche analysis in wakefulness (log-linear)



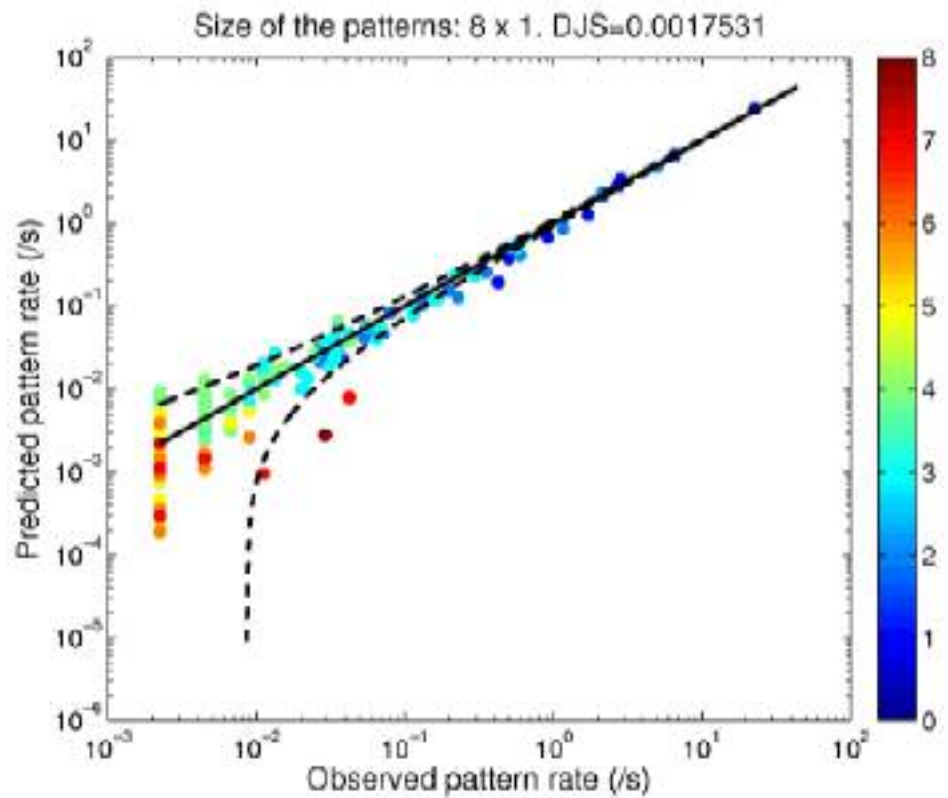
# Multiunit extracellular recordings in awake cats

## Statistics of spike patterns in cat parietal cortex

### Uncorrelated



### Correlated

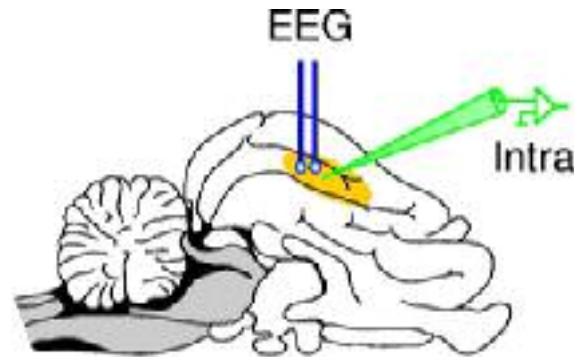


Marre et al.  
*Physical Review Letters*, 2009

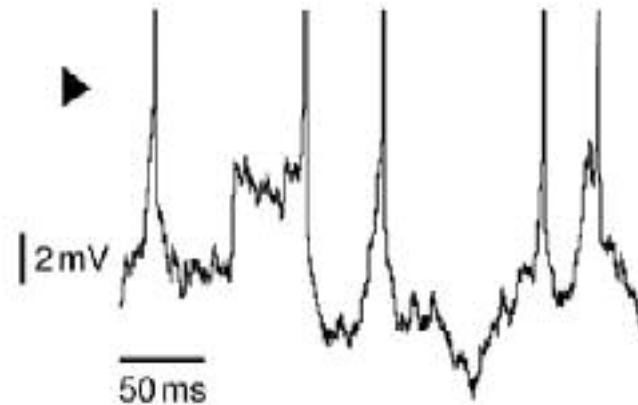
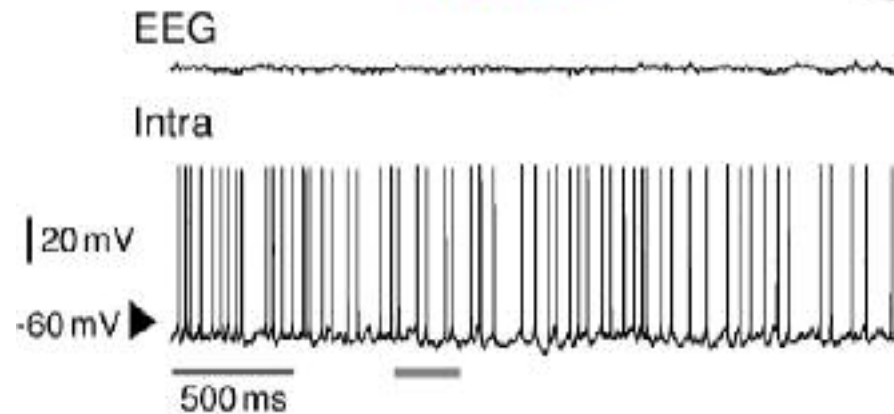
High-conductance states  
at the cellular level

# Intracellular characterization of network activity *in vivo*

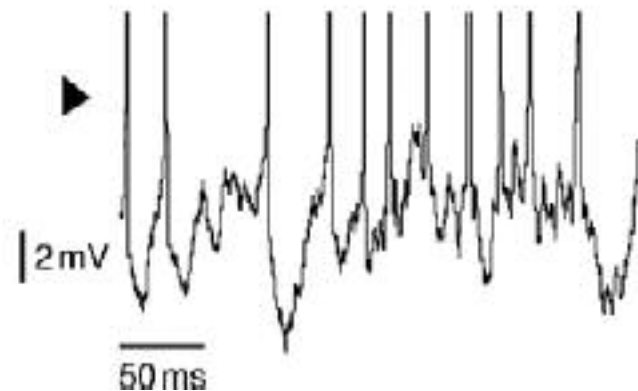
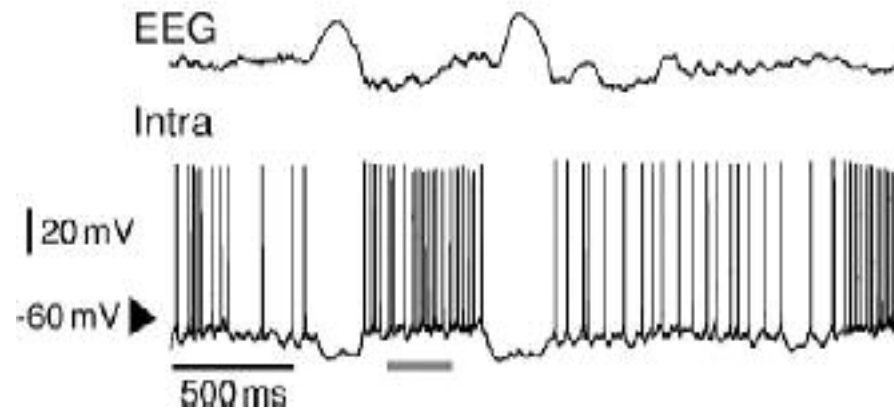
Intracellular recordings  
in parietal cortex  
of awake and sleeping cats



Awake

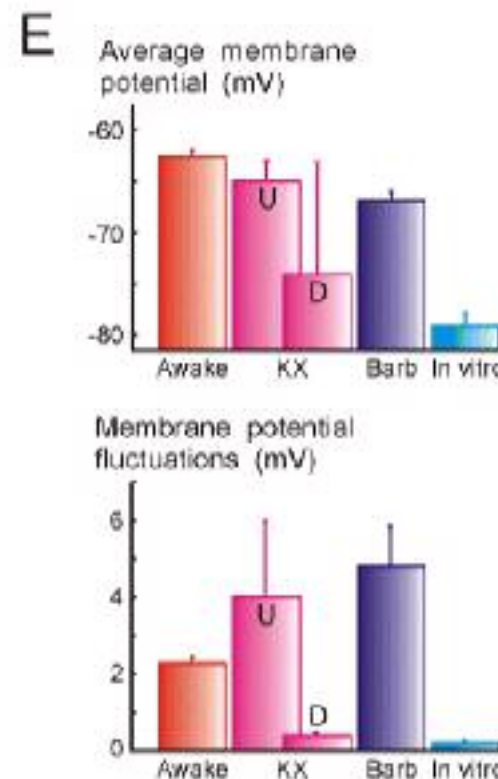
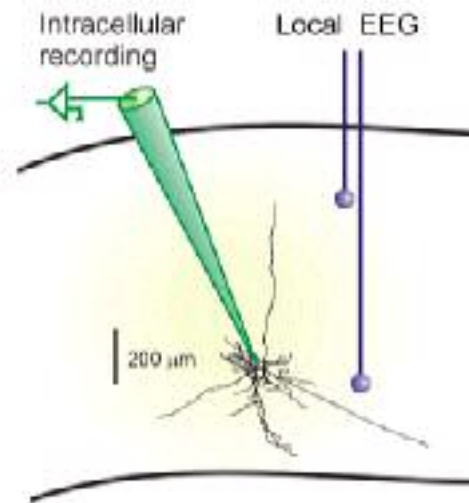
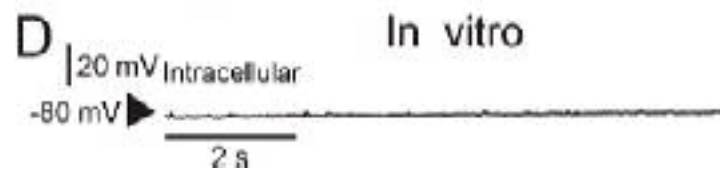
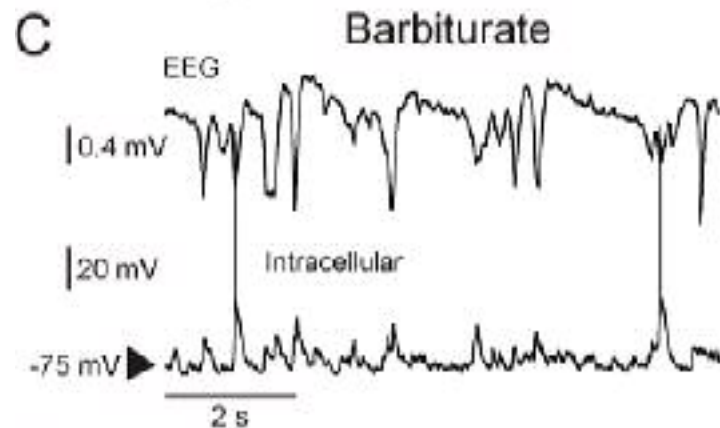
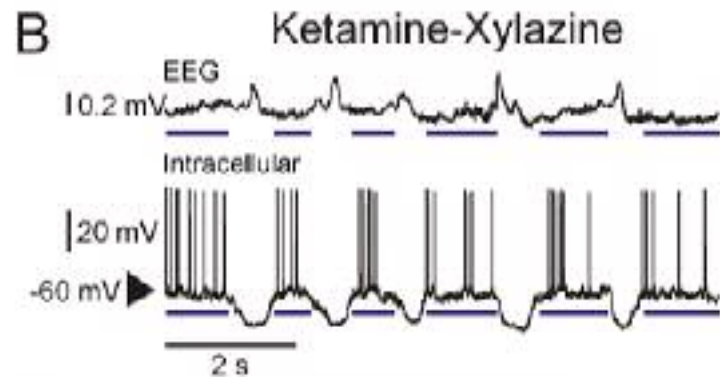
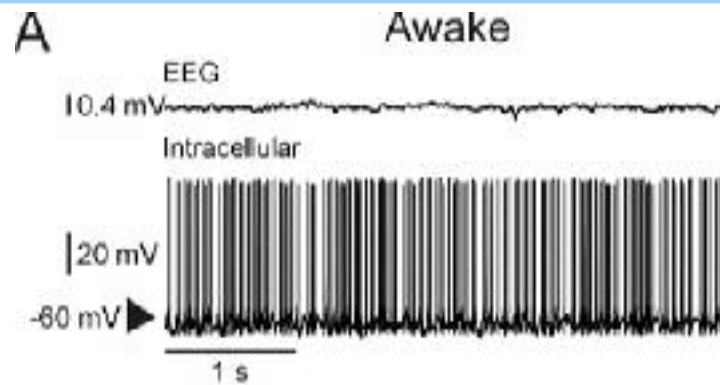


SWS



(Courtesy of Igor Timofeev, Laval University, Canada)

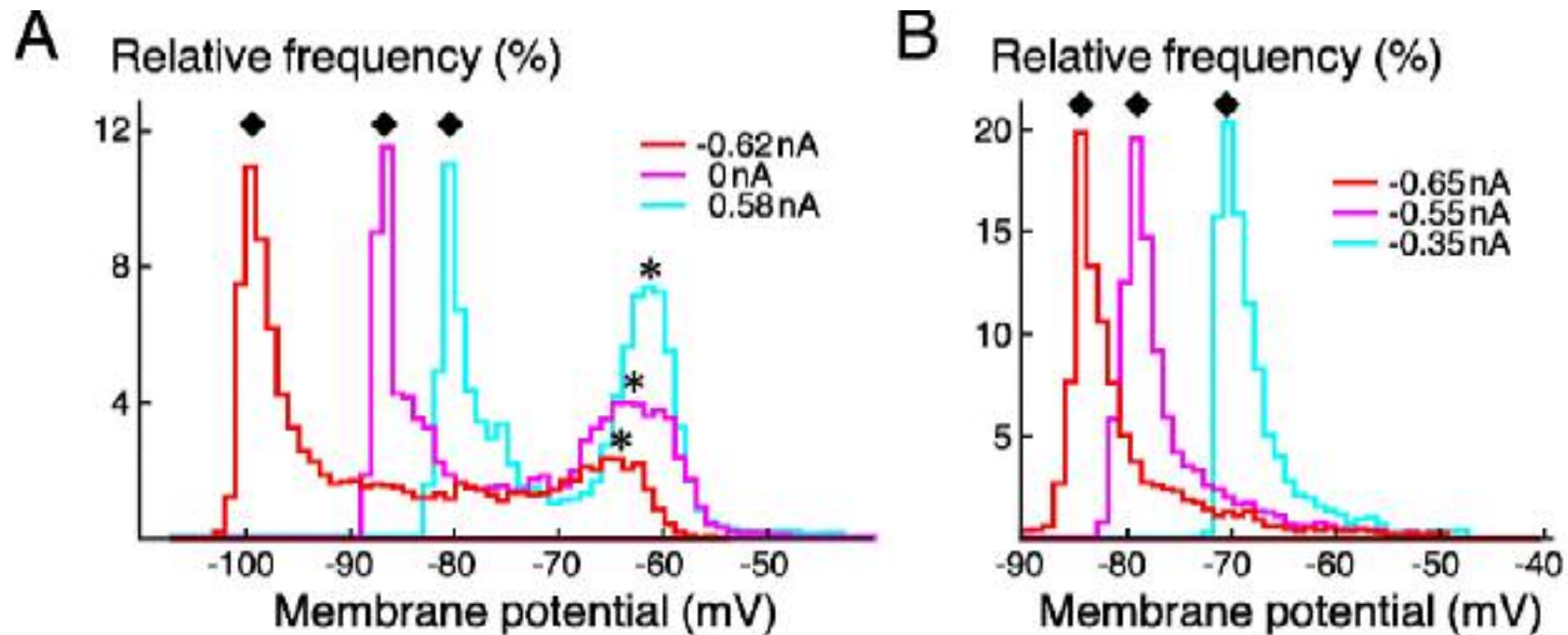
# Synaptic “noise” in vivo



Intracellular recordings in parietal cortex in different brain states

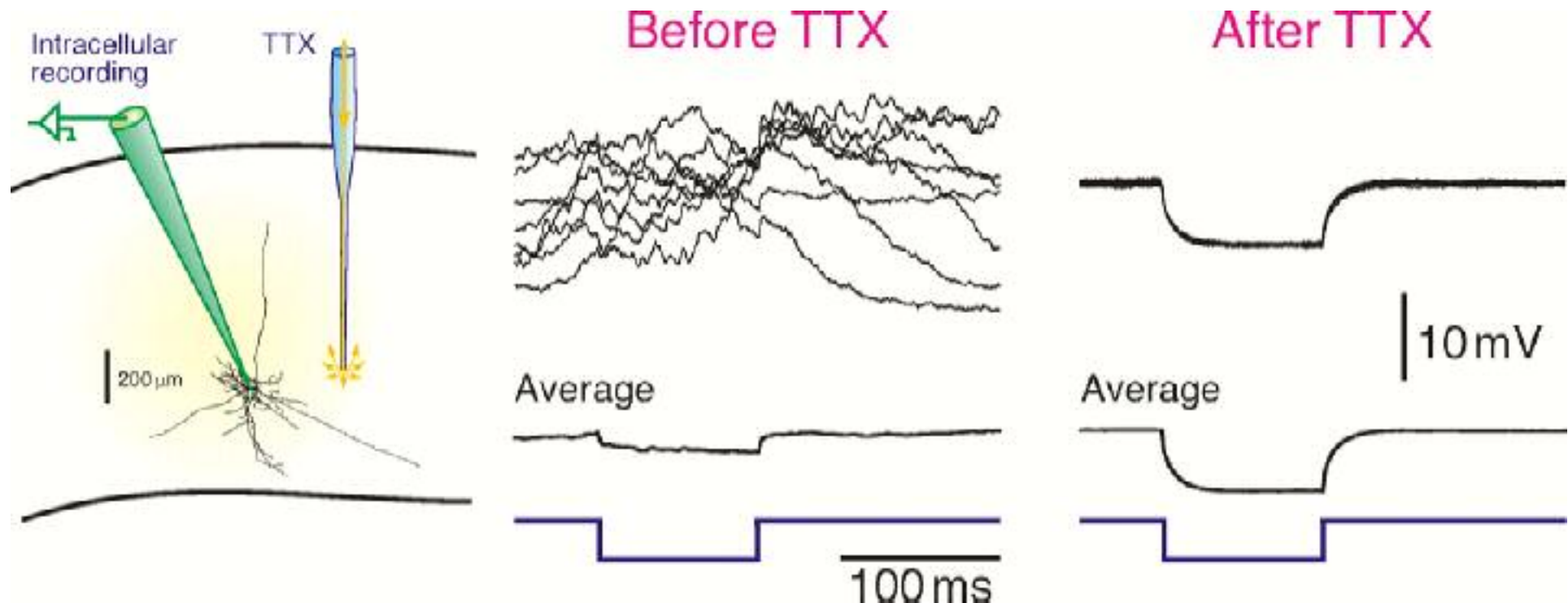
Pare et al.  
*J Neurophysiol.* 1998  
Steriade et al.  
*J Neurophysiol.* 2001  
Destexhe et al.  
*Nature Reviews Neurosci.* 2003

# Conductance measurements in vivo

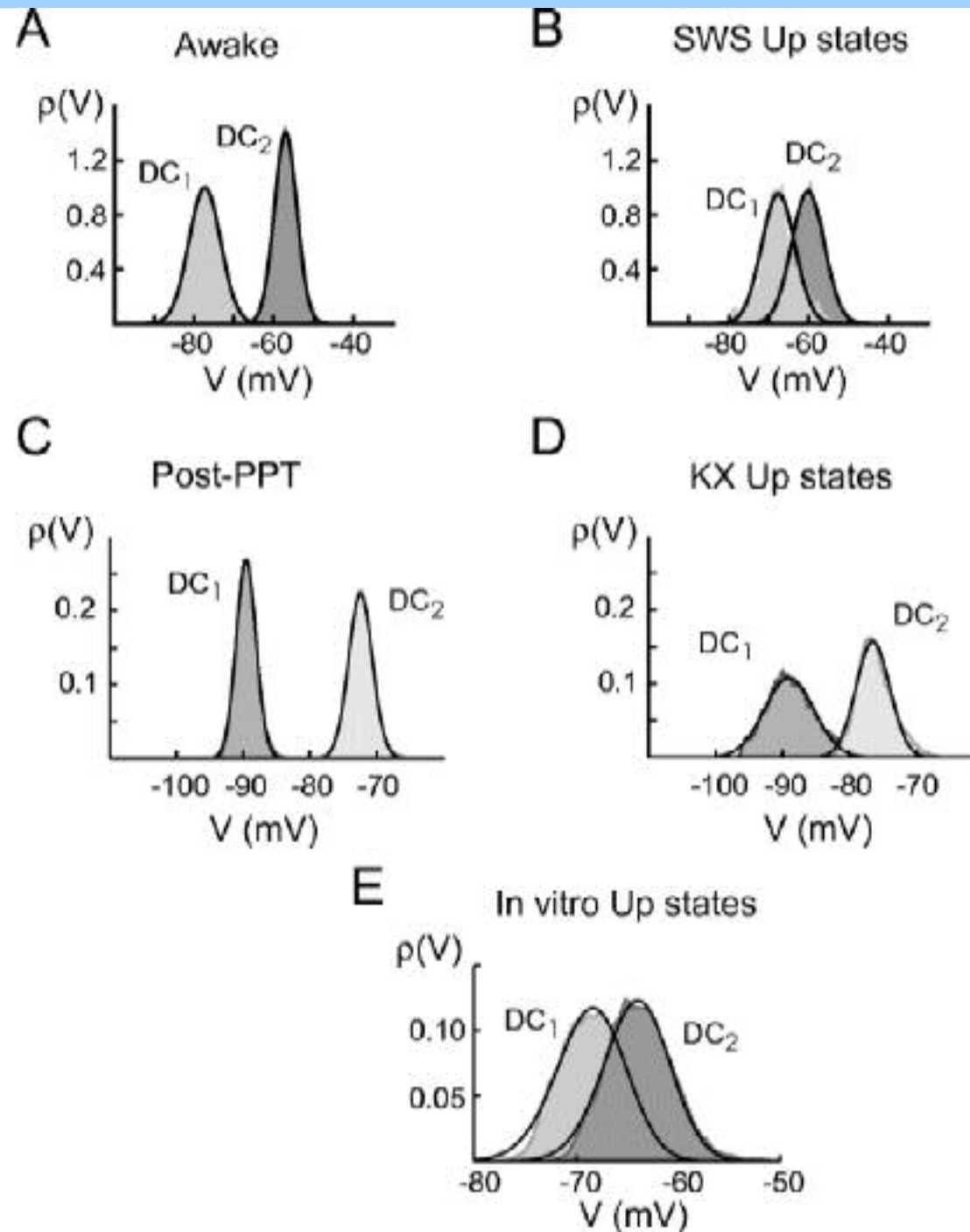


# Characterization of up-states *in vivo* by TTX microdialysis

Microperfusion of TTX in cat parietal cortex under ketamine-xylazine anesthesia



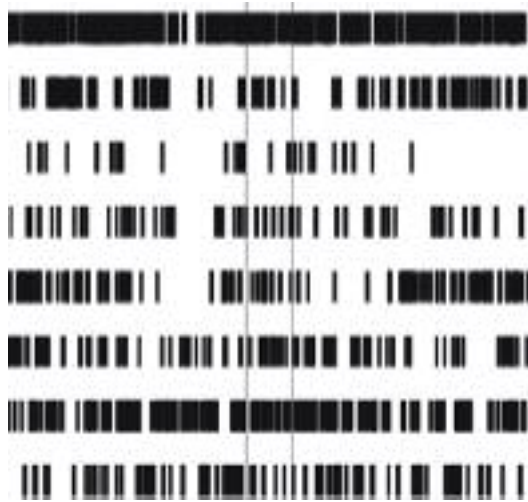
# Characterization of up-states *in vivo*



Vm distributions  
in different network states

Destexhe & Rudolph  
*Neuronal Noise*, 2012

Rudolph et al.  
*J. Neurophysiol* 2005  
*J. Neurosci.* 2007



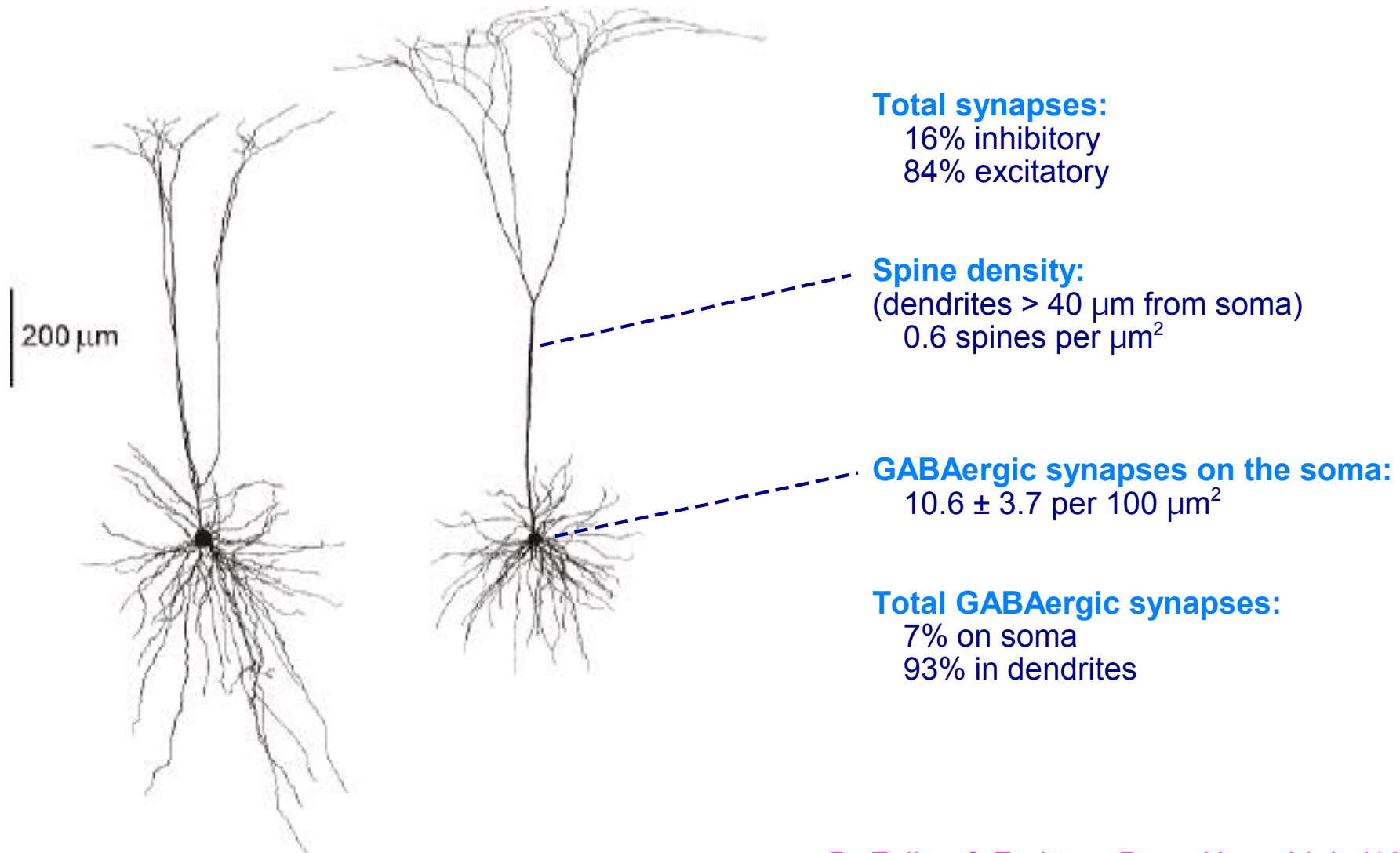
## Summary of measurements of neuronal activity in awake animals

- Synaptic activity is intense and noisy, essentially Gaussian distributed (both for Vm and conductances)
- Responsible for a “high-conductance state” (3 to 5-fold larger than resting conductance)
- Statistics of neuronal activity is very close to Poisson processes

# Modeling high-conductance states in cortical neurons

# Computational models of SBA

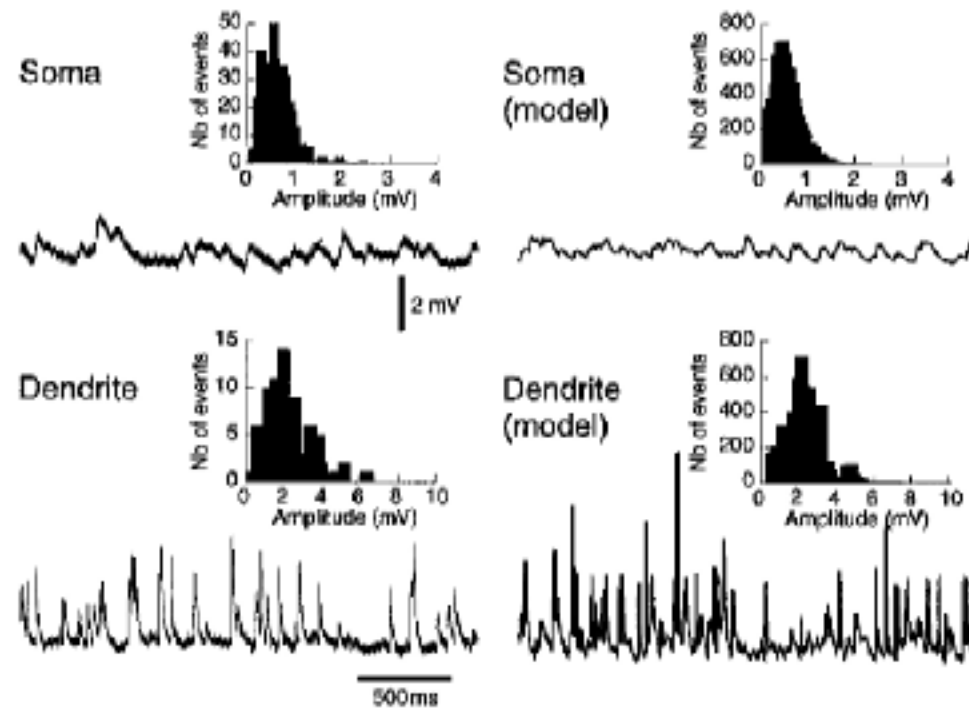
Reconstructed neocortical pyramidal neurons with synaptic densities estimated from morphological measurements



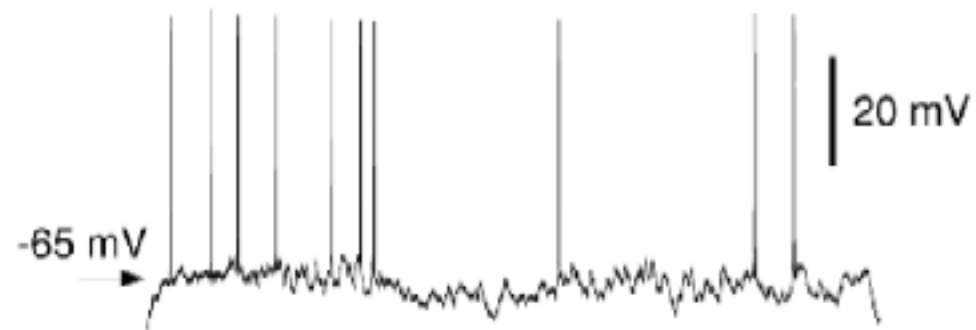
DeFelipe & Fariñas, *Prog. Neurobiol.* (1992);  
Larkman, *Comp. Neurol.* (1991)

# Estimation of the release parameters of SBA

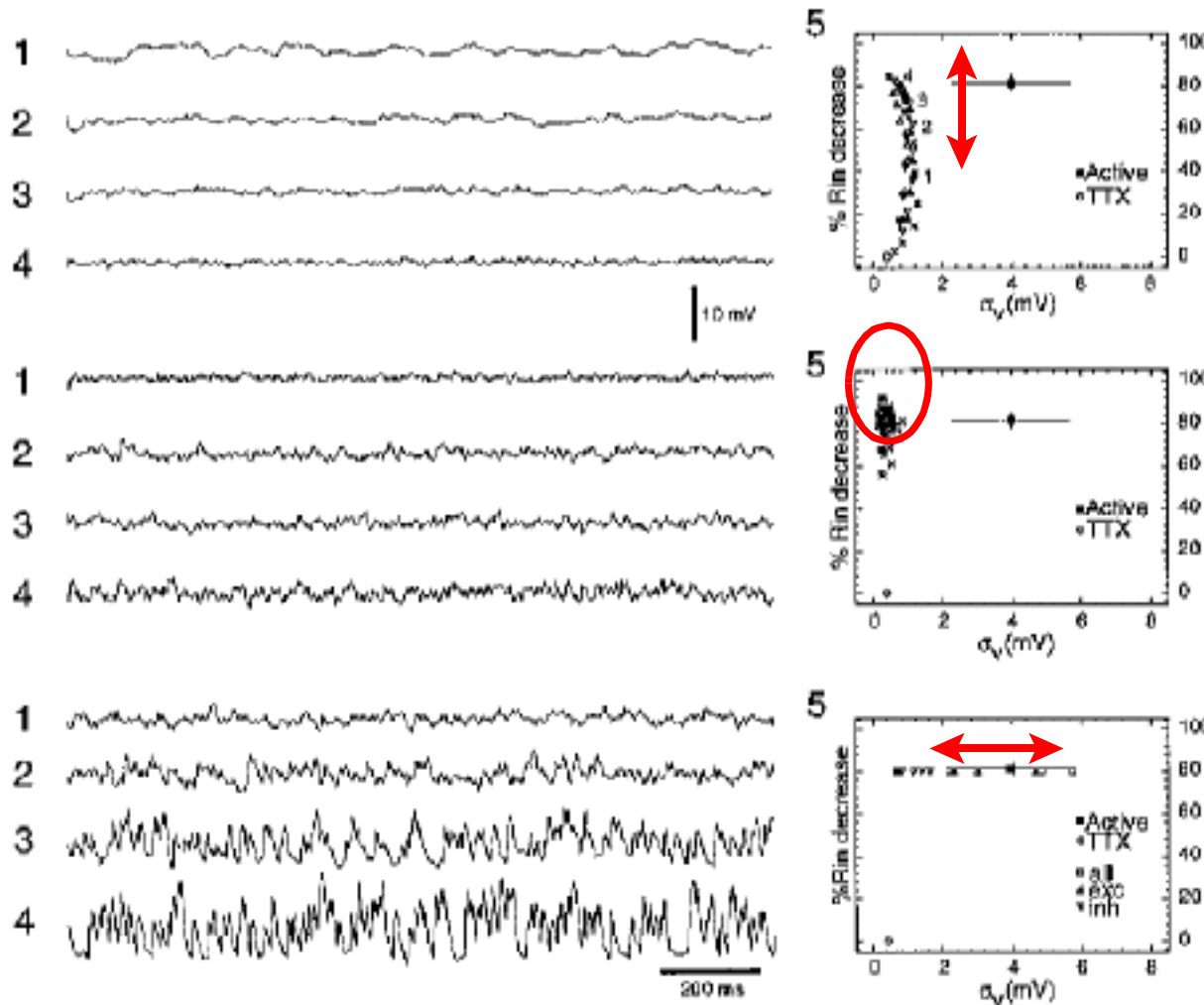
1. Calibration of the model to miniature synaptic events recorded intracellularly *in vivo*



2. Adjustment of release rates to active states recorded intracellularly *in vivo*  $\Rightarrow R_{in}$ ,  $\langle V_m \rangle$ ,  $\sigma_V$



# Single-cell models of high-conductance states



Constraining release parameters of the model to simulate periods of intense synaptic activity

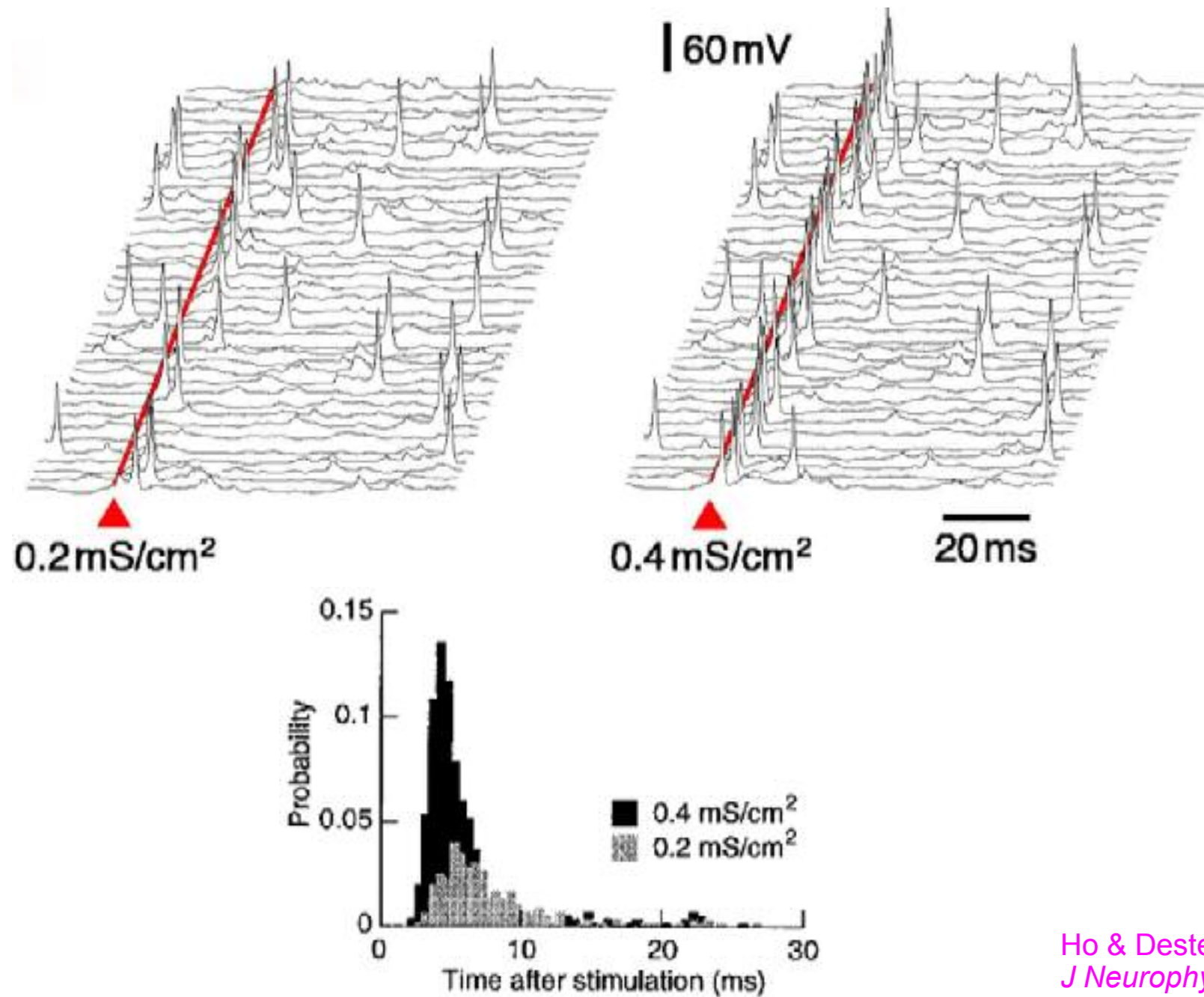
Change in release frequency can account for the experimentally observed  $R_{in}$  decrease but not for the standard deviation of  $V_m$

Several combinations of conductance and release frequencies could yield correct  $R_{in}$  decrease but failed to reproduce  $\sigma_V$

Introducing a correlation between release events led to correct  $R_{in}$  and  $\sigma_V$

What are the consequences of high-conductance states on neuronal integrative properties ?

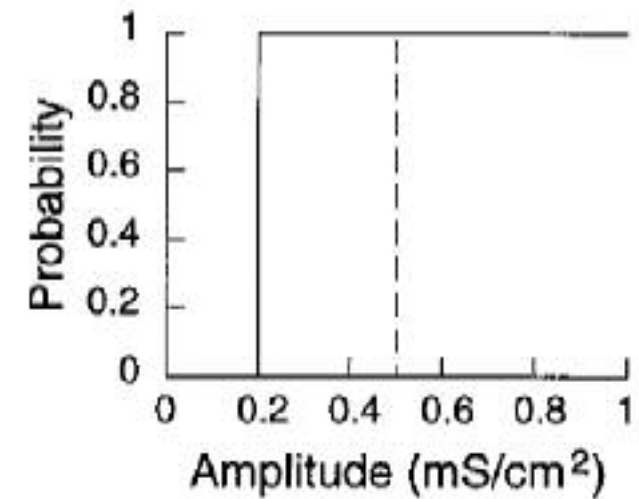
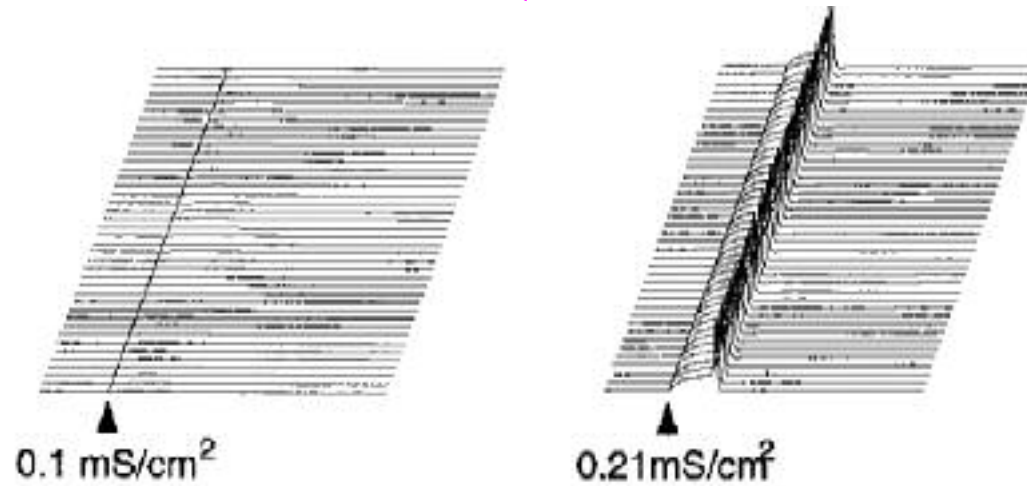
## Consequence 1: neurons are probabilistic devices



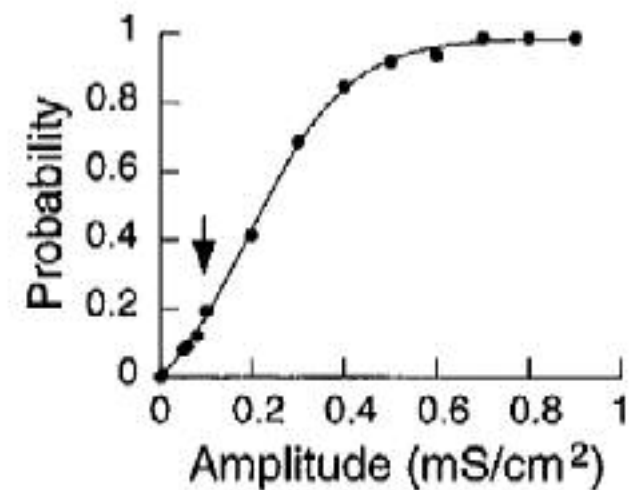
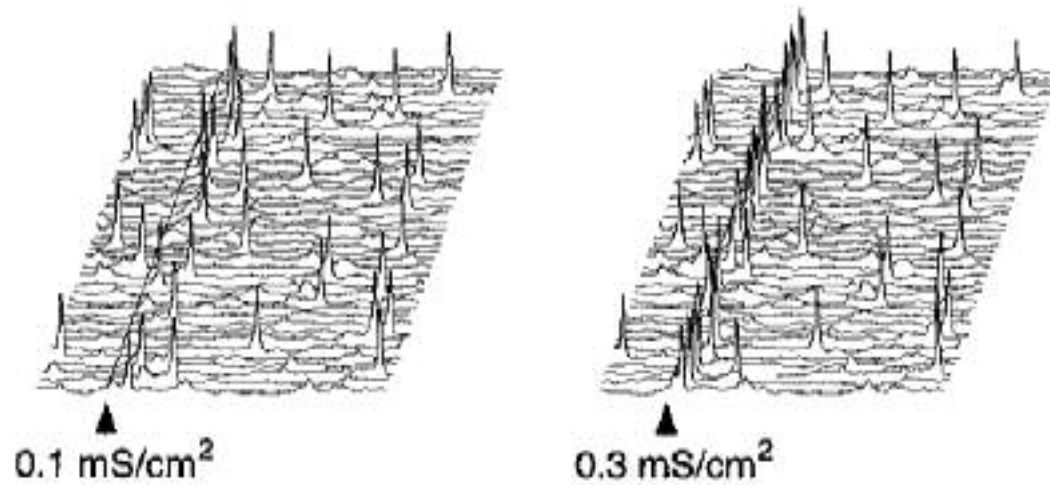
Ho & Destexhe,  
*J Neurophysiol.* 2000

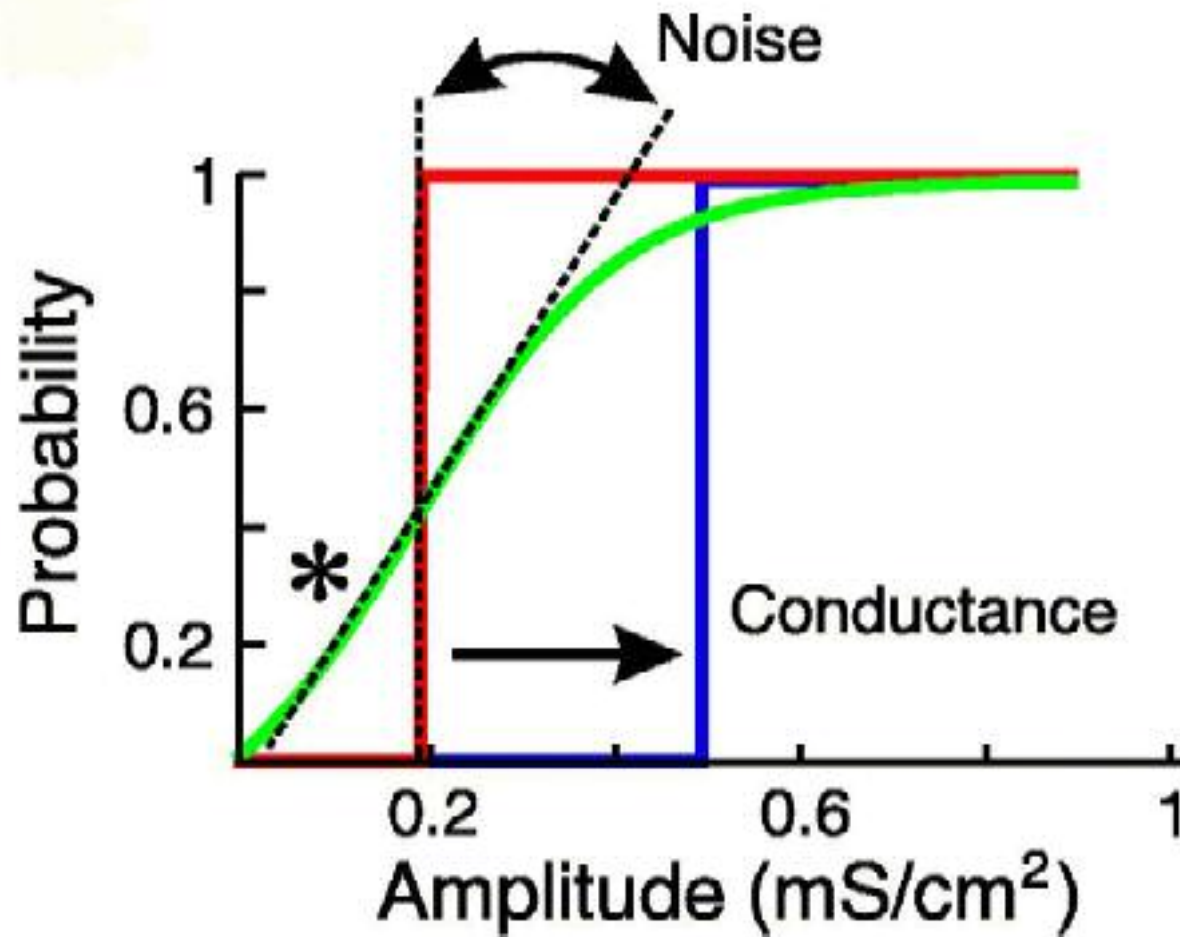
## Consequence 2: Enhanced responsiveness

Quiescent



High-conductance noise

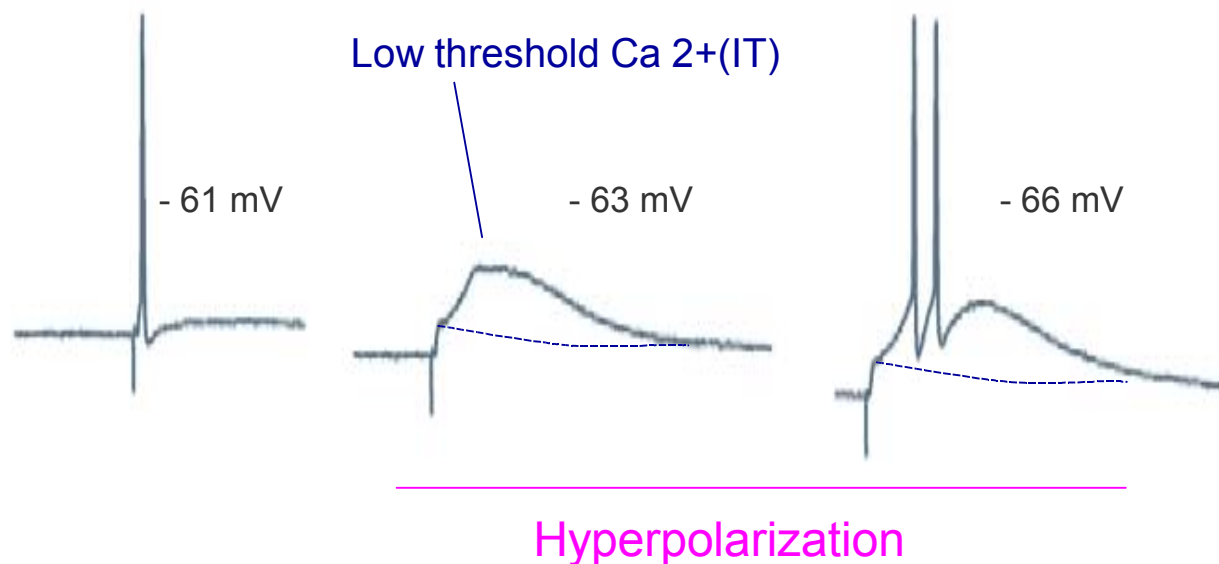




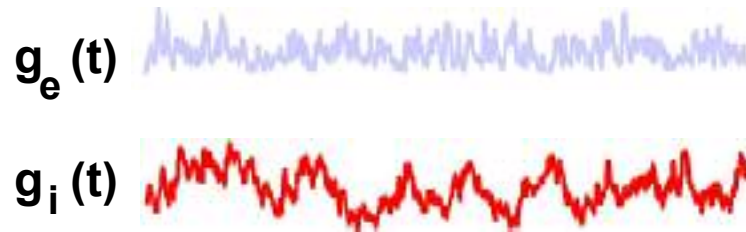
Dynamic-clamp

## Consequence 5: noise modulates intrinsic properties

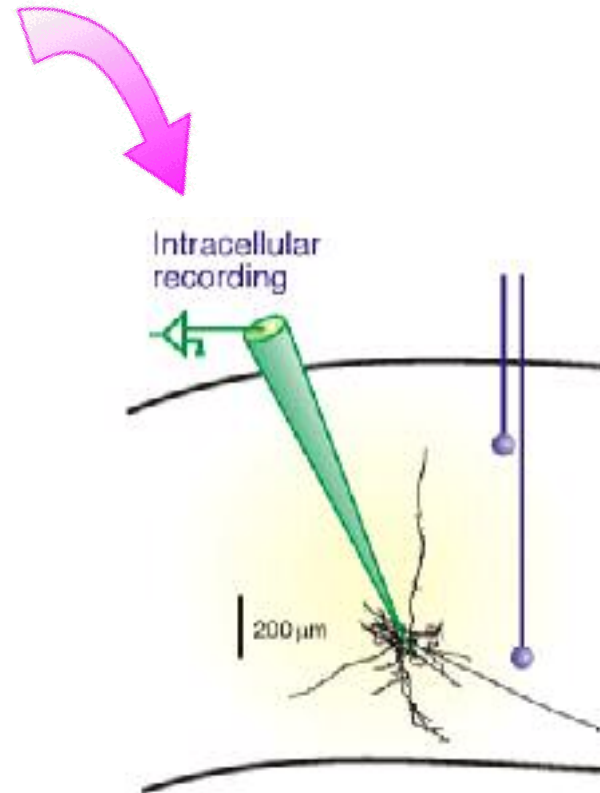
### The non-linear properties of thalamocortical cells



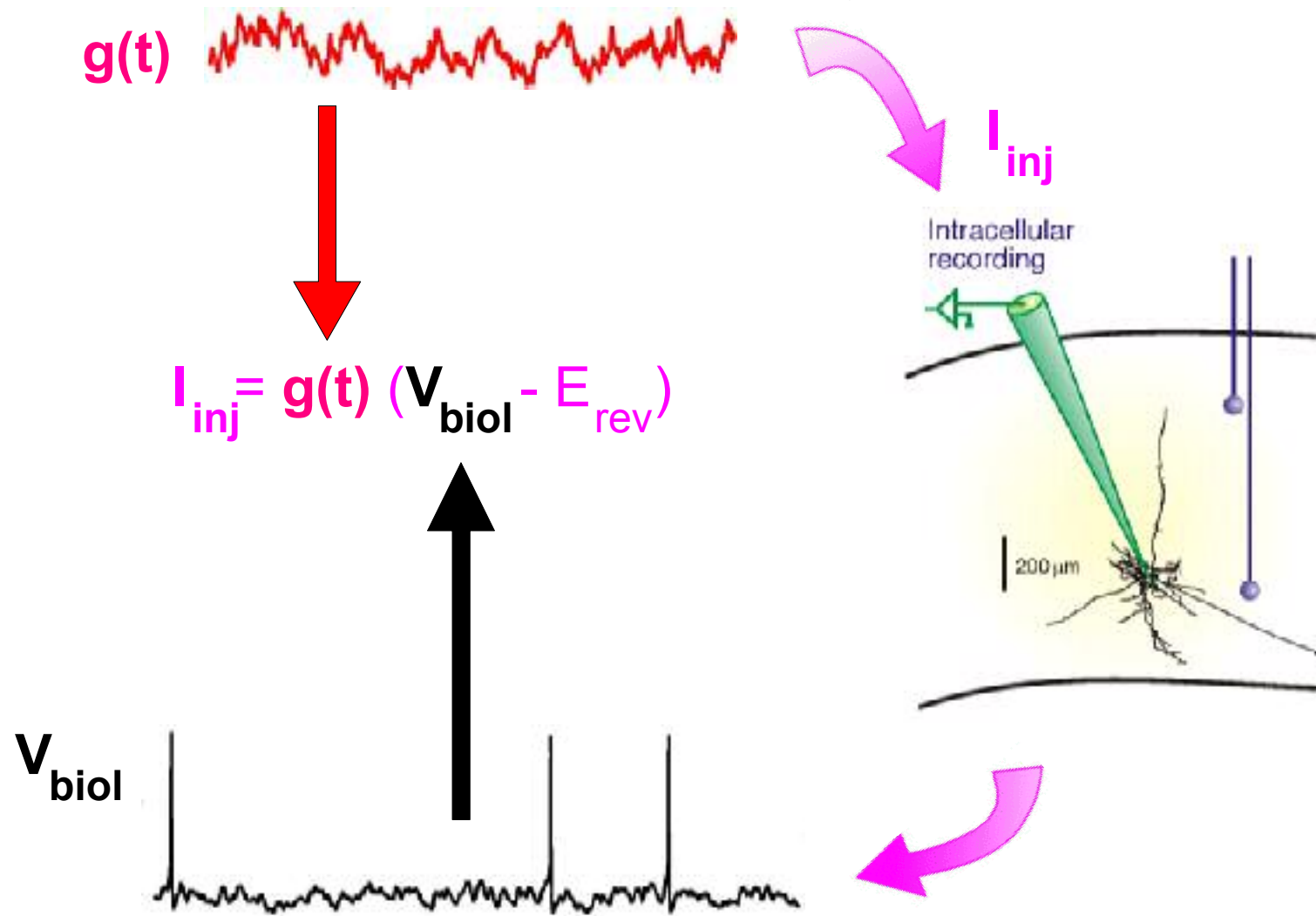
# Interaction between Models and Living Cells



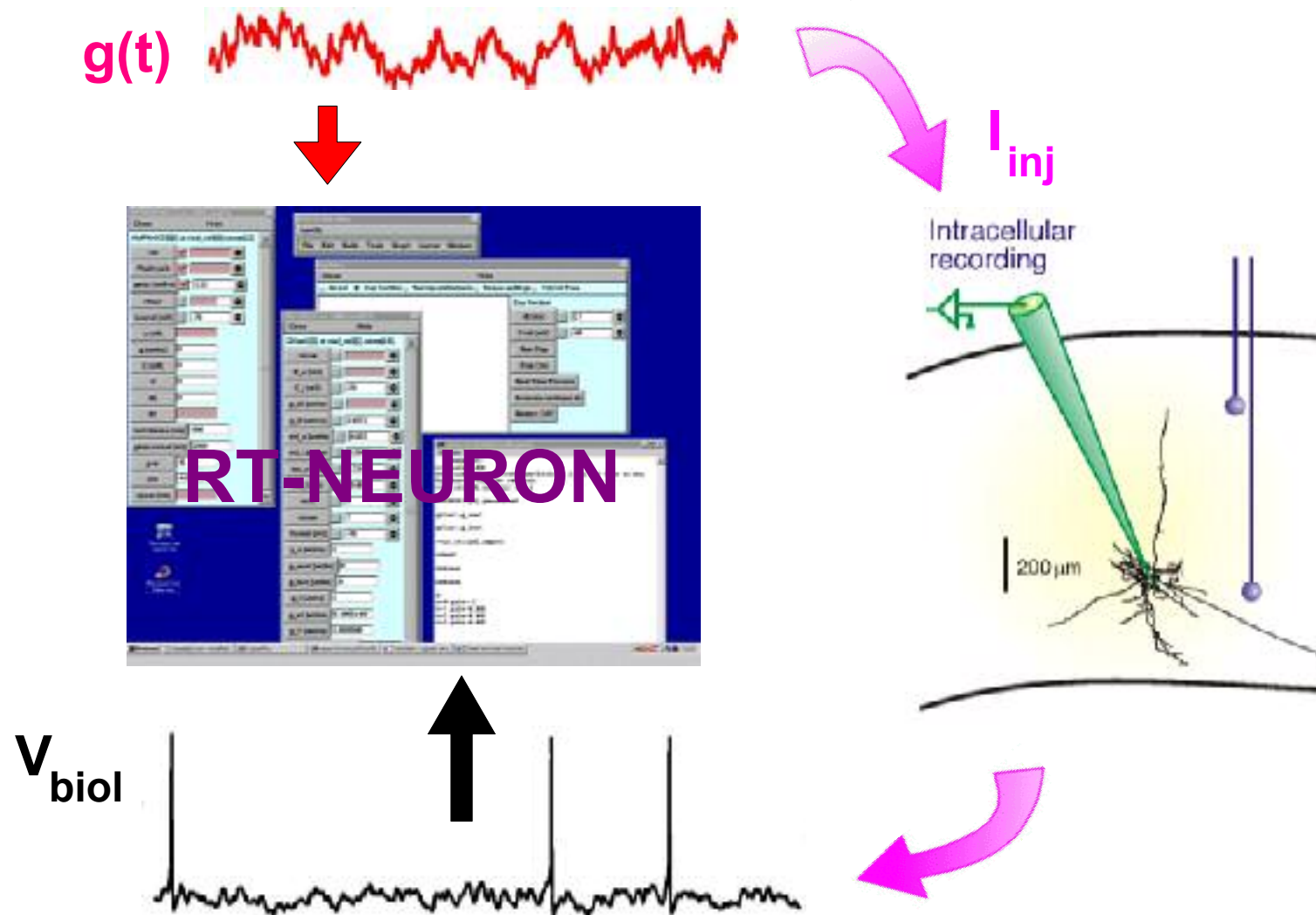
***“Controlling synaptic noise”:  
Real-time injection of stochastic  
synaptic conductances  
(dynamic-clamp)***



# The Dynamic-clamp



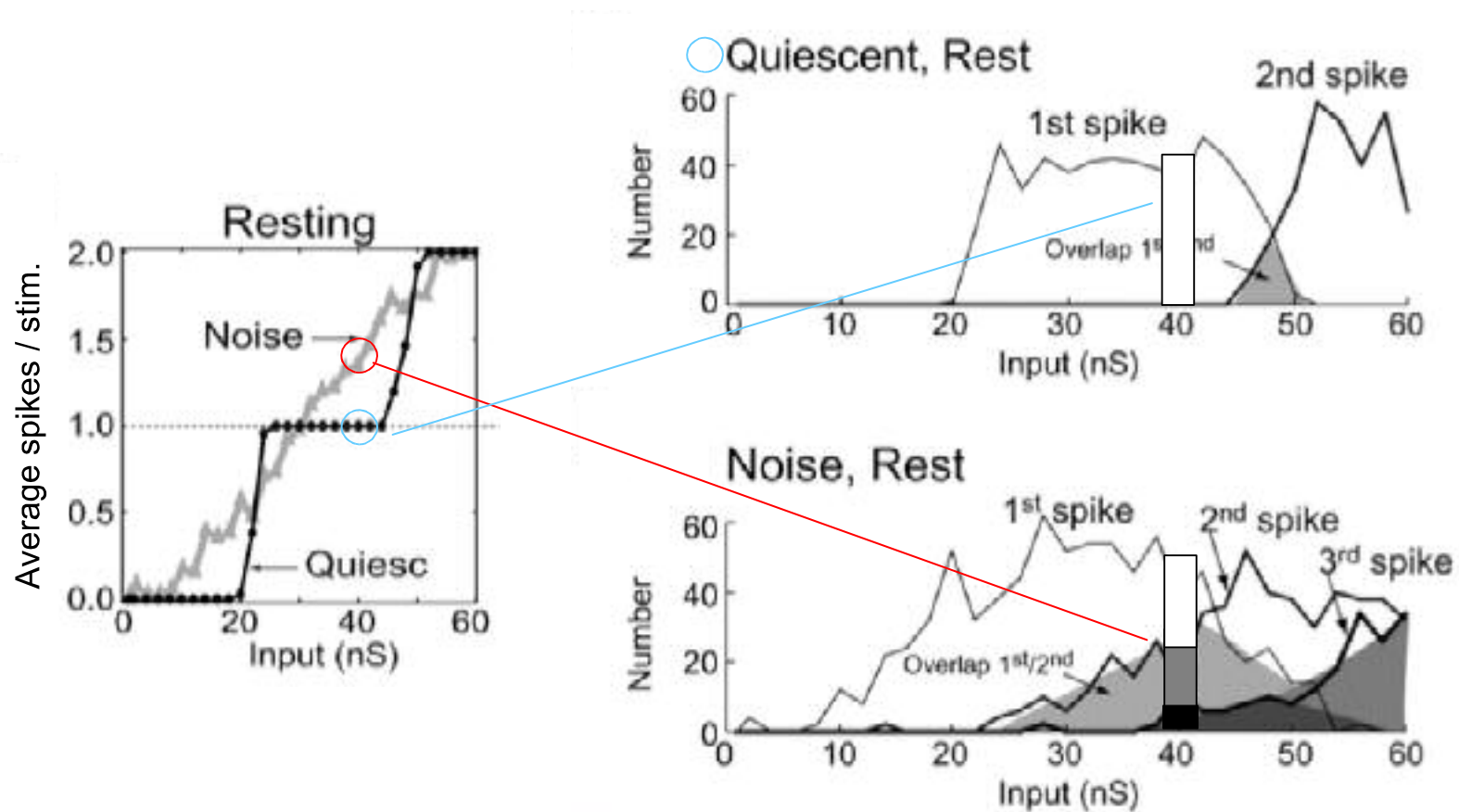
# The Dynamic-clamp



RT-NEURON is developed by  
Gwen LeMasson, University of Bordeaux

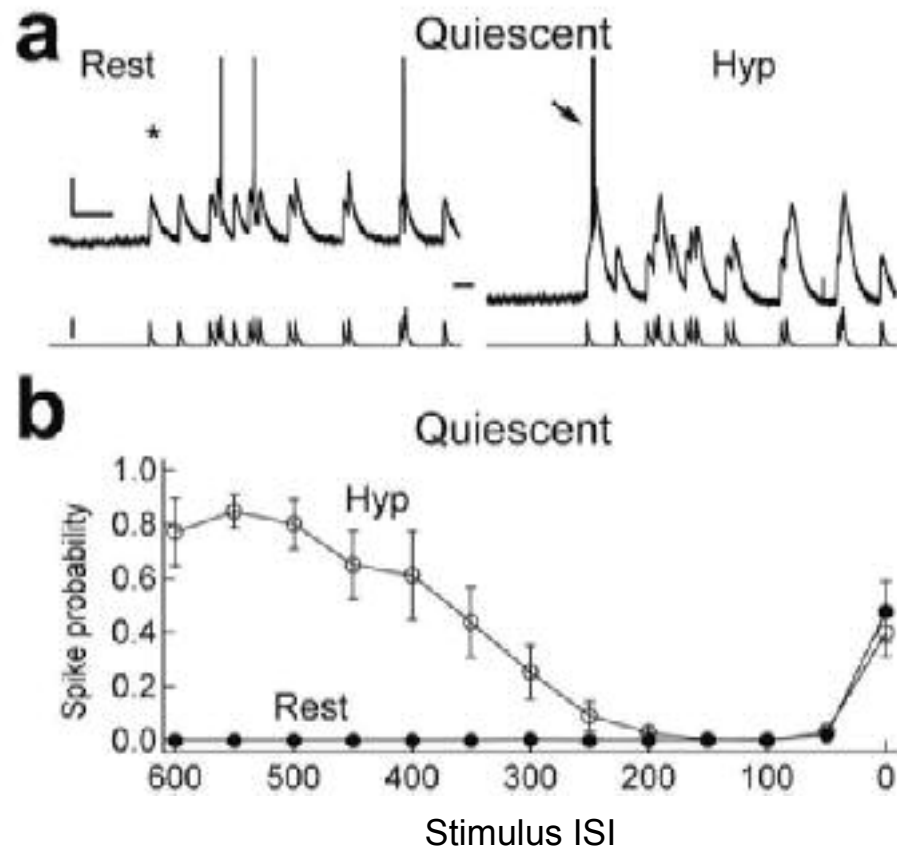
# Effect of synaptic noise on intrinsic properties

Synaptic background activity mixes single spike and burst responses in thalamocortical cells



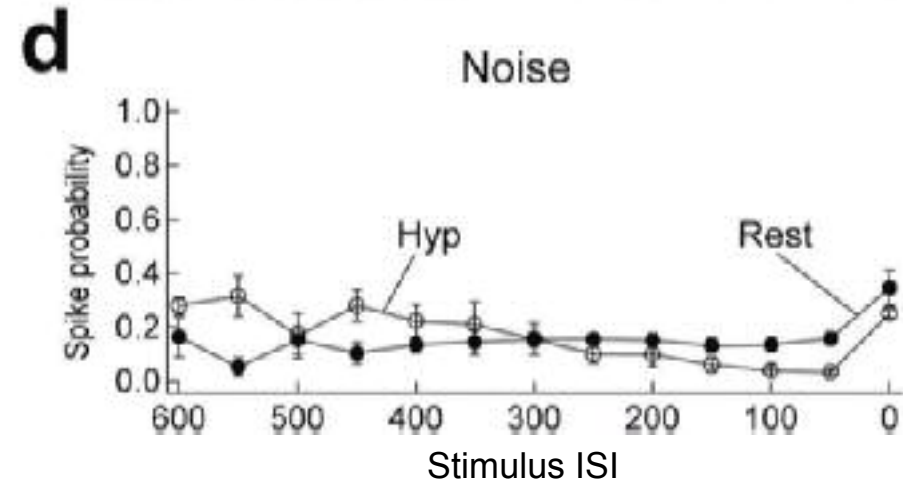
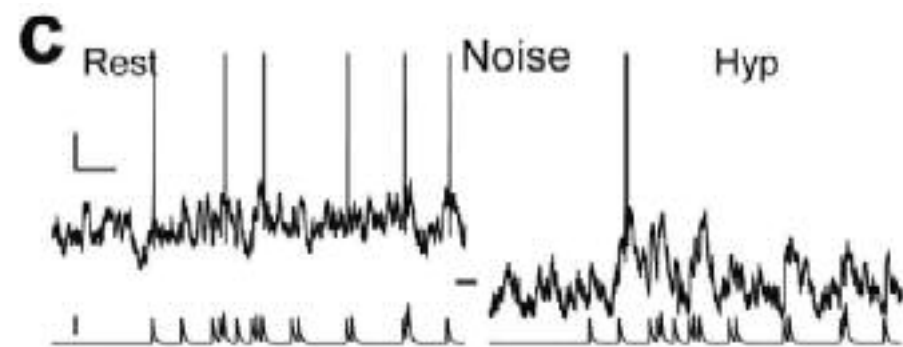
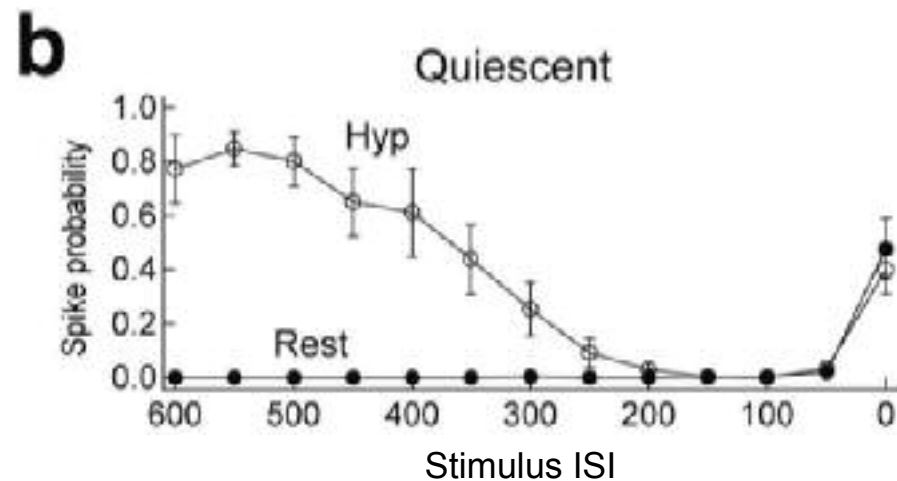
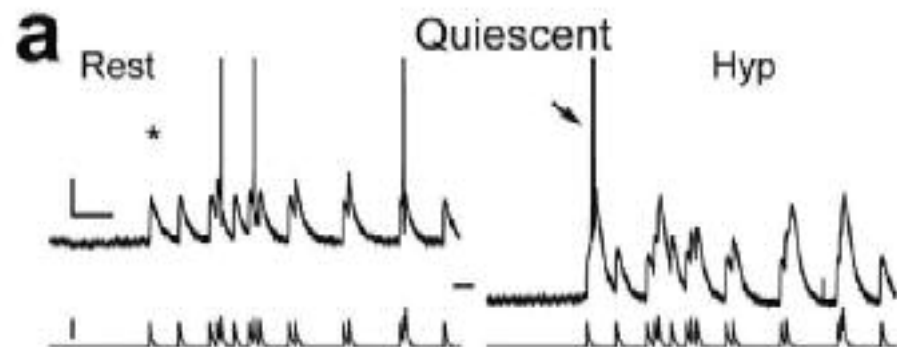
# Effect of synaptic noise on intrinsic properties

## Equalization of spike probabilities

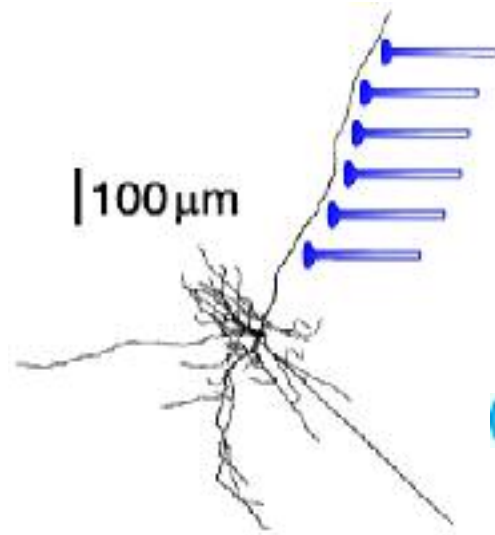


# Effect of synaptic noise on intrinsic properties

## Equalization of spike probabilities



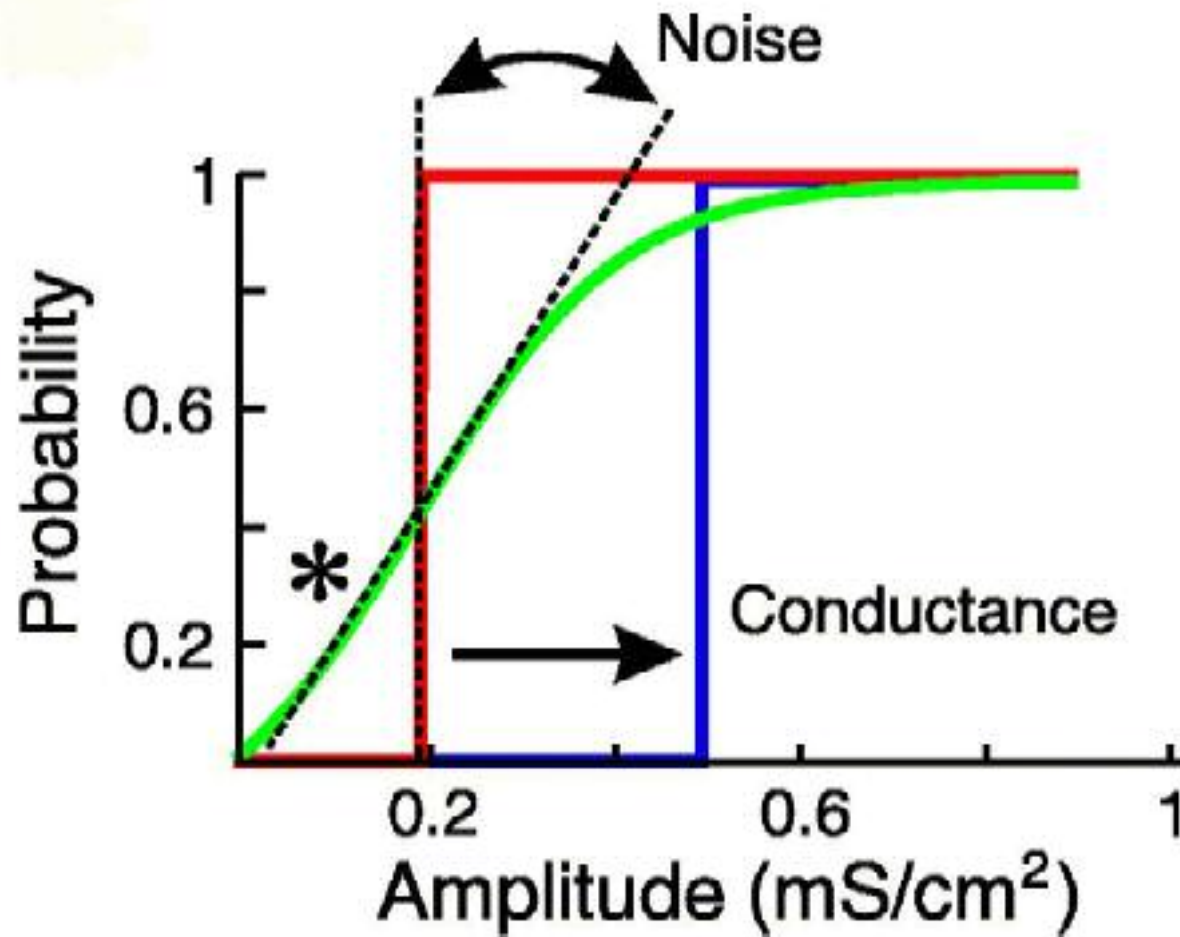
# Consequences on integrative properties



## Conclusions

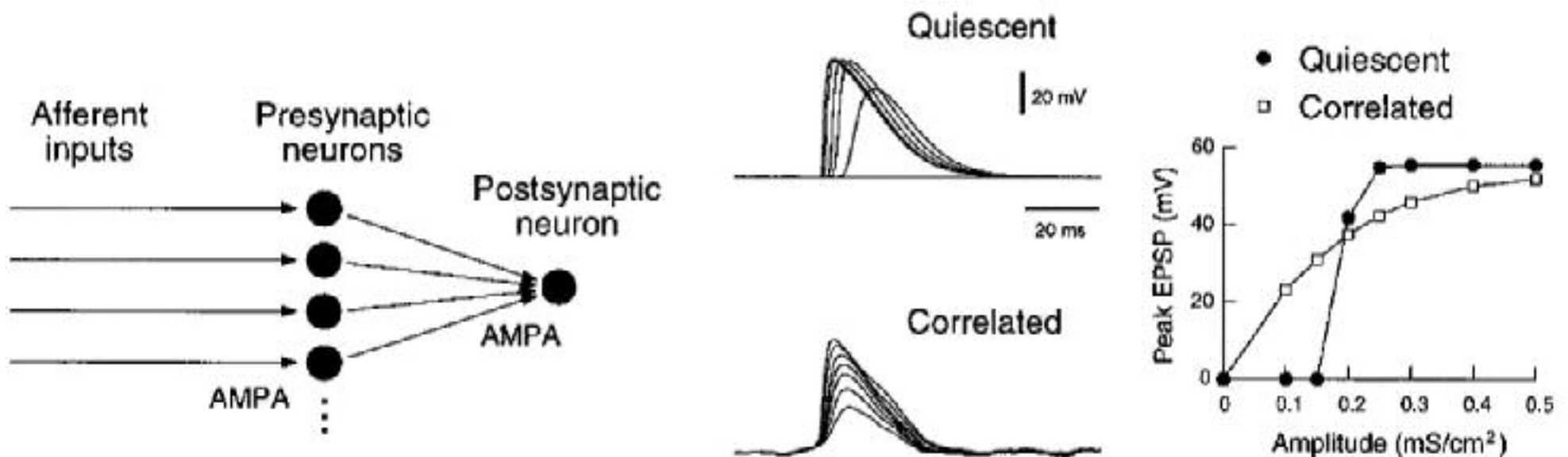
- Central neurons are probabilistic devices due to the presence of synaptic noise
- Enhanced responsiveness (small inputs give a non-zero probability of response)  
**Confirmed experimentally by dynamic-clamp**
- Equalization of synaptic efficacies (probability of axonal spike initiation is weakly location dependent)
- Sharper temporal processing
- Intrinsic properties are different in the presence of synaptic noise (ie, under in vivo conditions...)

Enhanced responsiveness at the network level ?



# Enhanced responsiveness at the network level

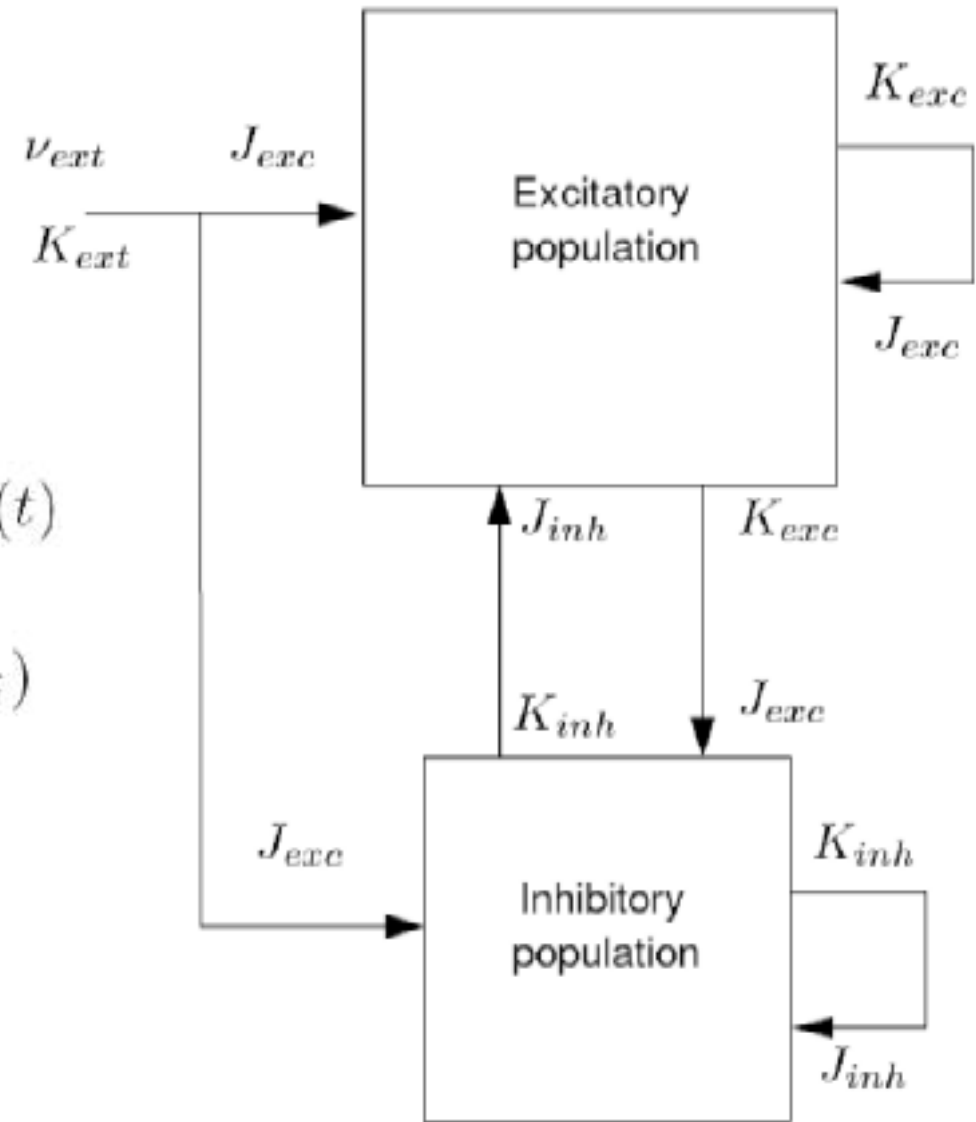
Synaptic background activity enhances the detection of synaptic inputs at the network level



# Network models of self-sustained irregular states

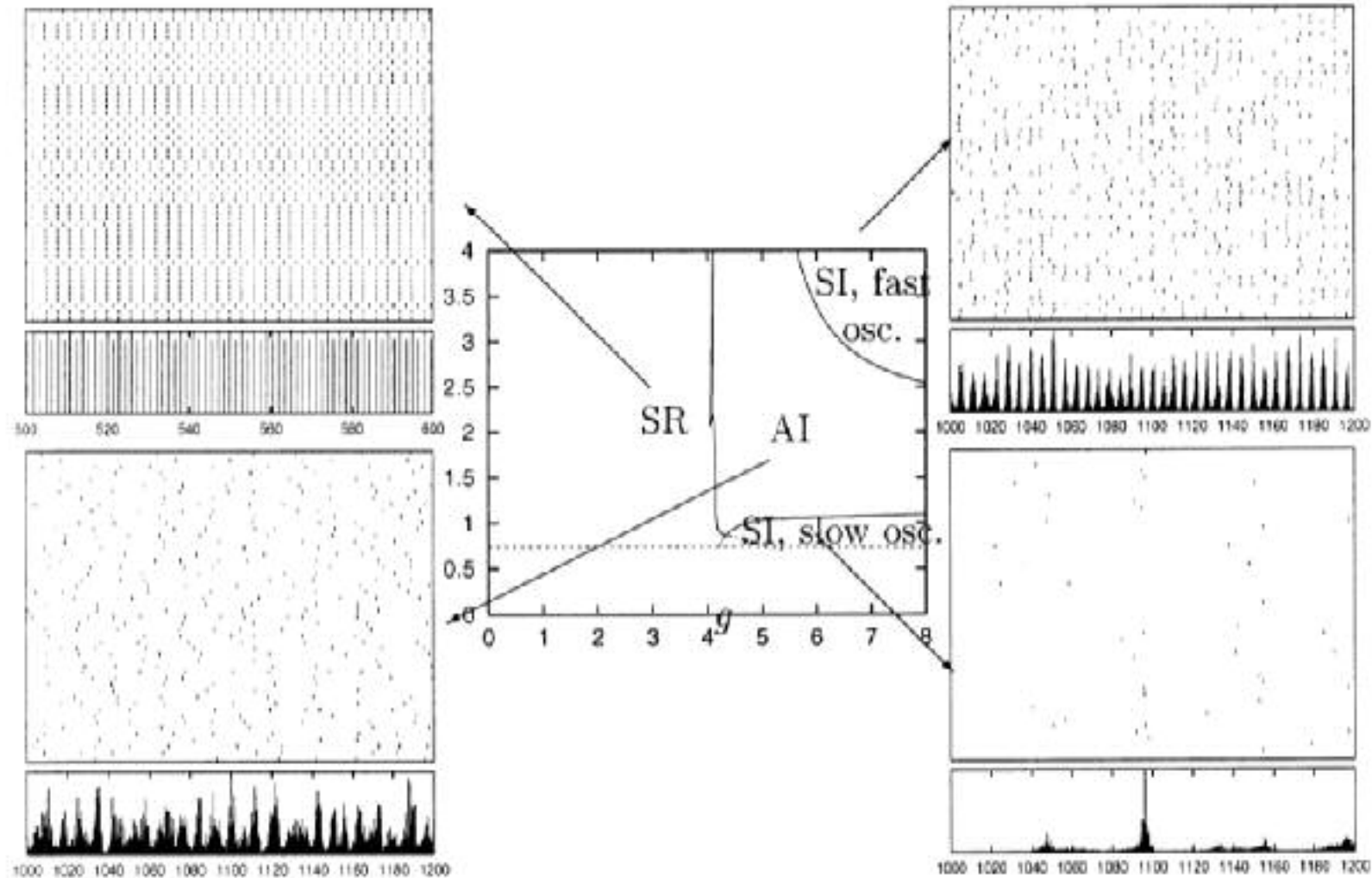
## Networks of IF neurons

$$C_m \frac{dV_i}{dt} = -g_L(V_i - E_L) + S(t) - \sum_j g_{ji}(t)(V_i - E_j)$$



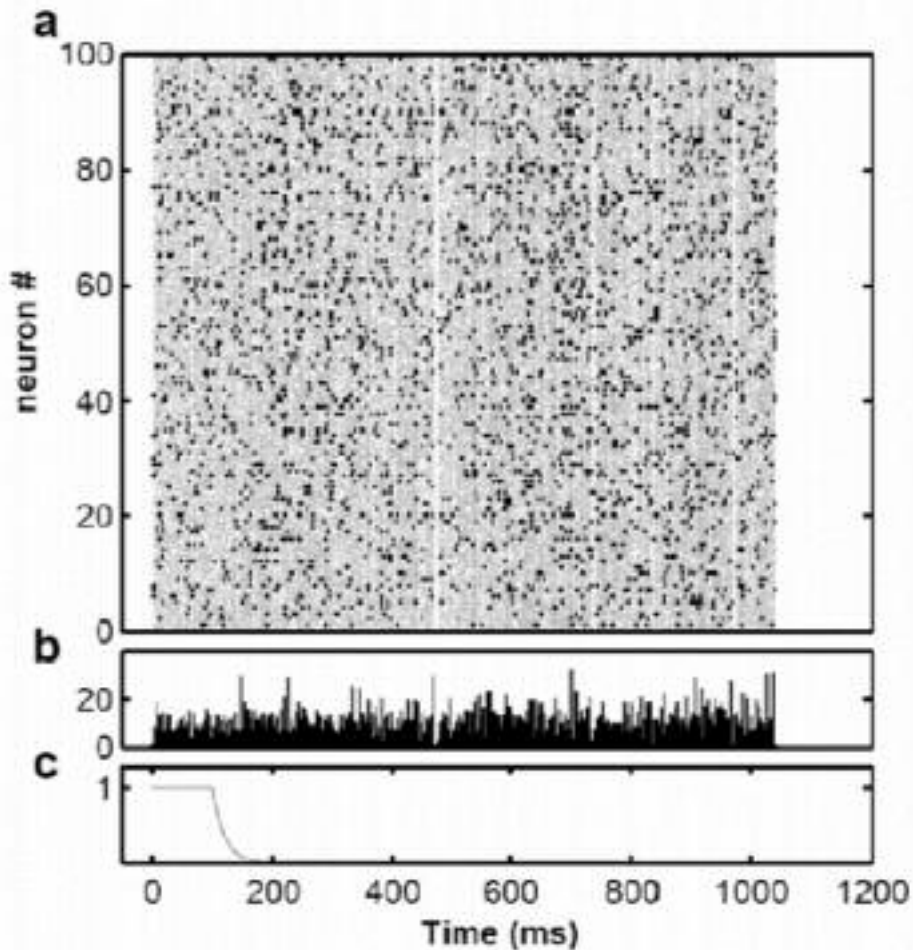
# Network models of asynchronous irregular states

## Networks of IF neurons

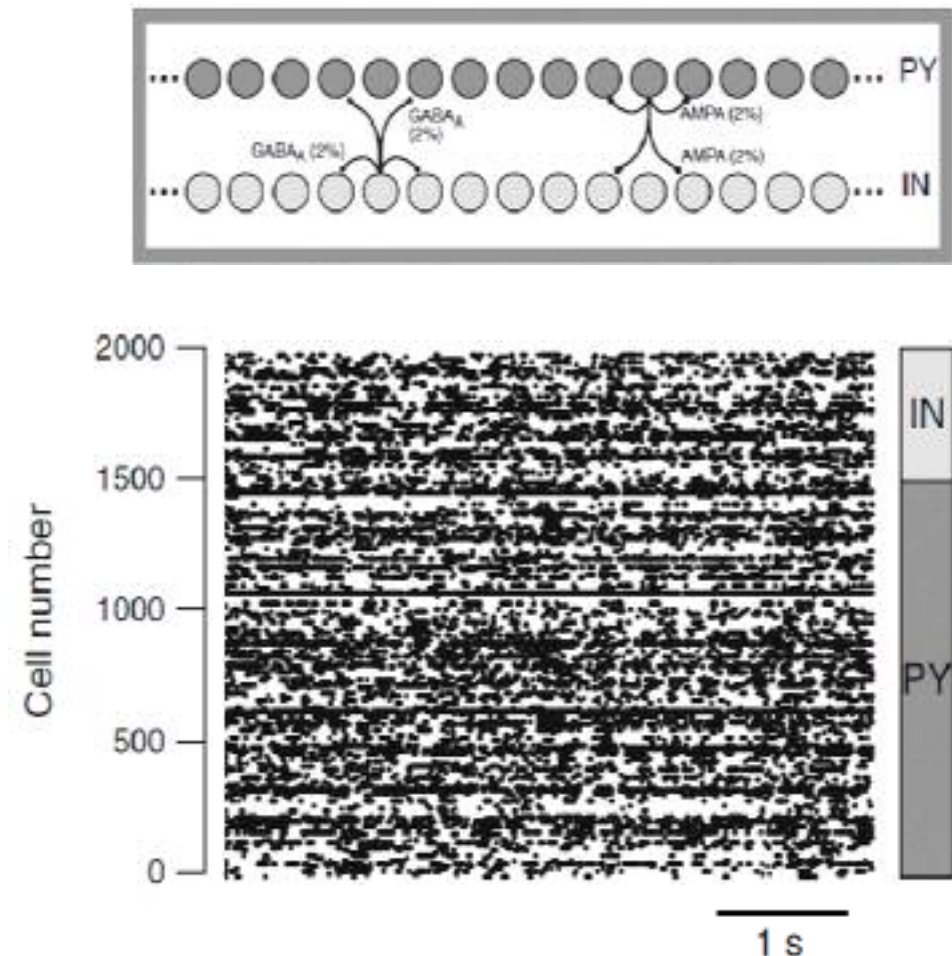


# Self-sustained asynchronous irregular states

Networks of  
IF neurons  
(conductance-based)



Networks of Adaptive  
Exponential (AdEx)  
IF neurons  
(conductance-based)

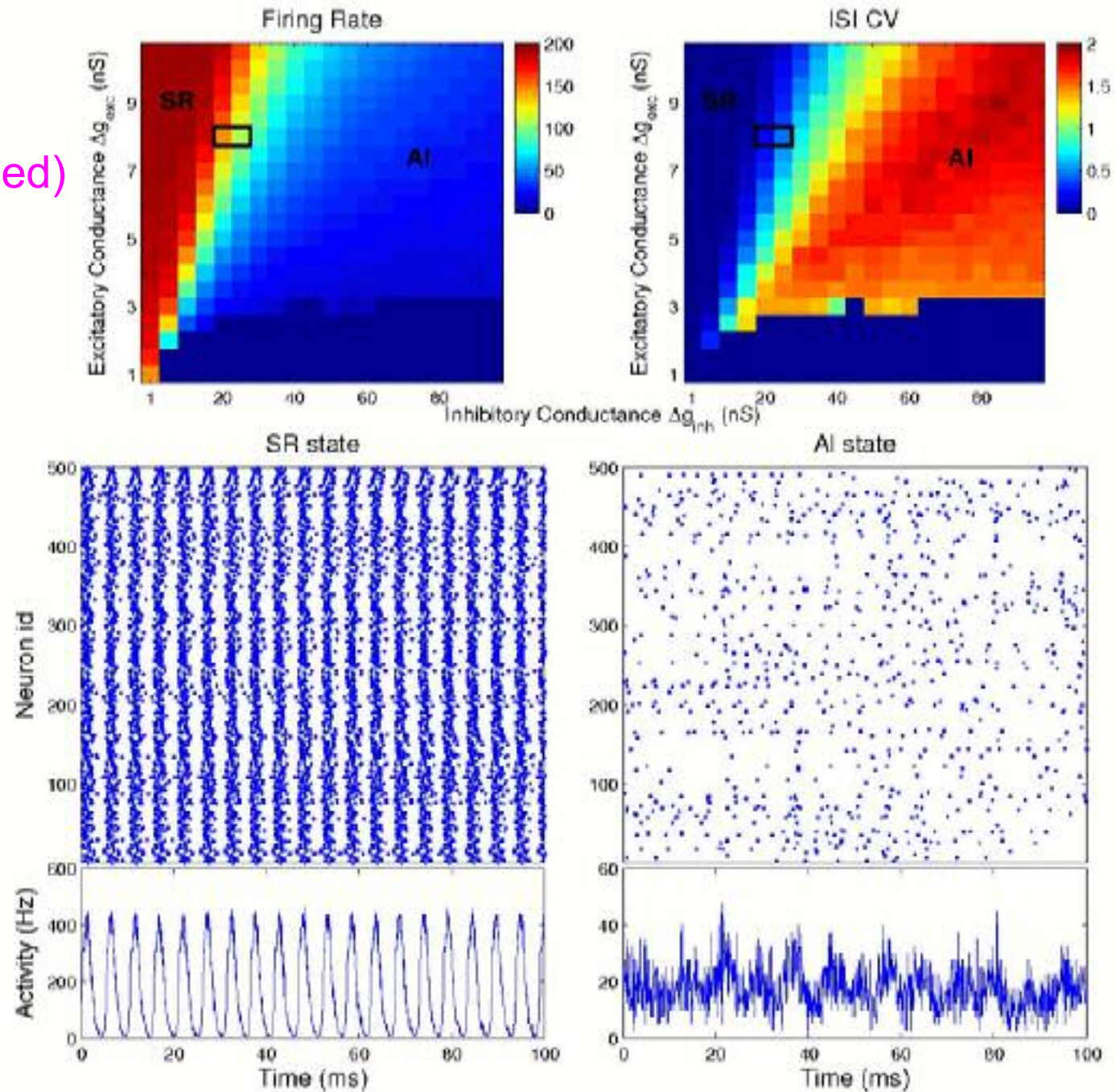


Kumar et al.  
*Neural Computation* 2008

Destexhe, *JCNS* 2009

# Self-sustained asynchronous irregular states

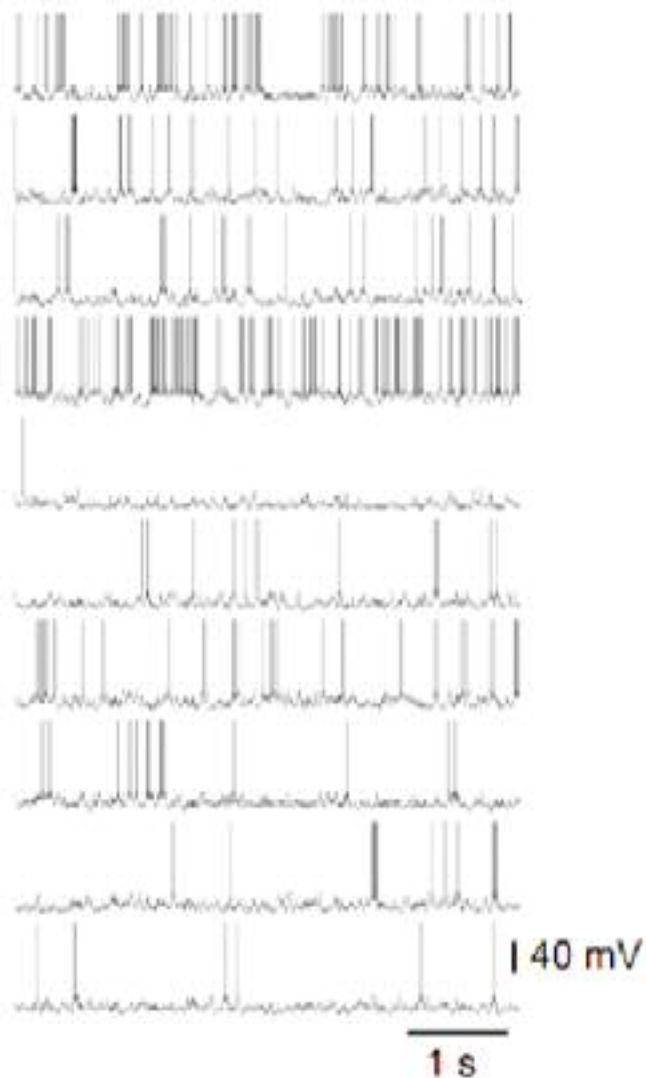
Networks of  
IF neurons  
(conductance-based)



Vogels & Abbott,  
*J Neurosci* 2005

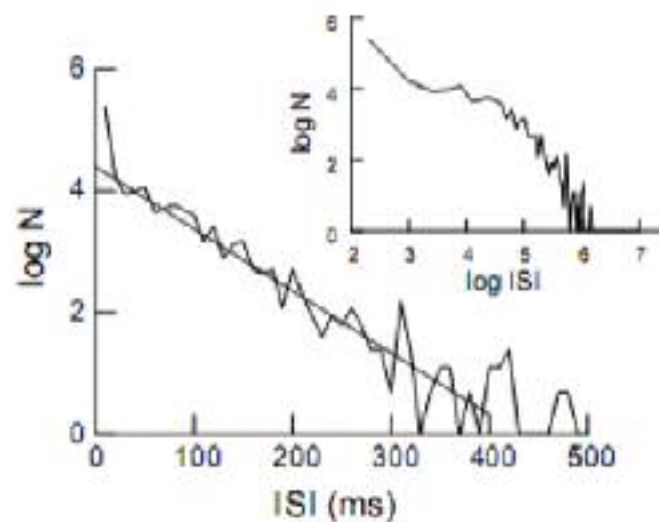
El Boustani & Destexhe,  
*Neural Computation* 2009

**A**

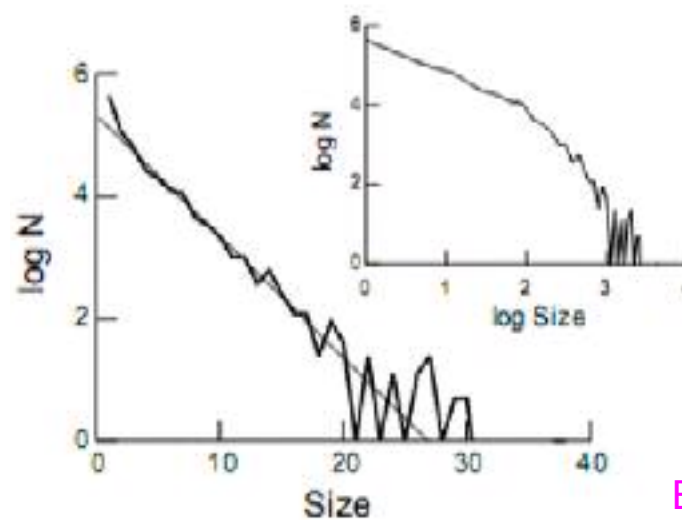


**B**

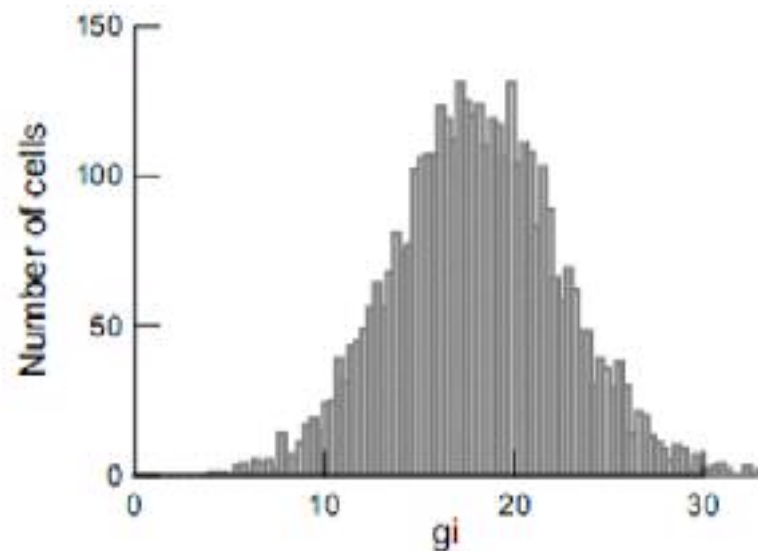
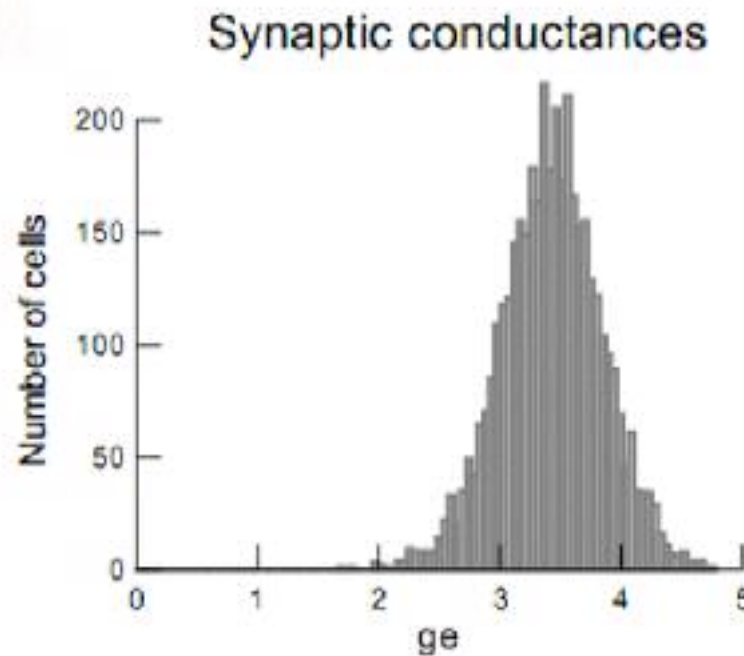
## ISI distributions



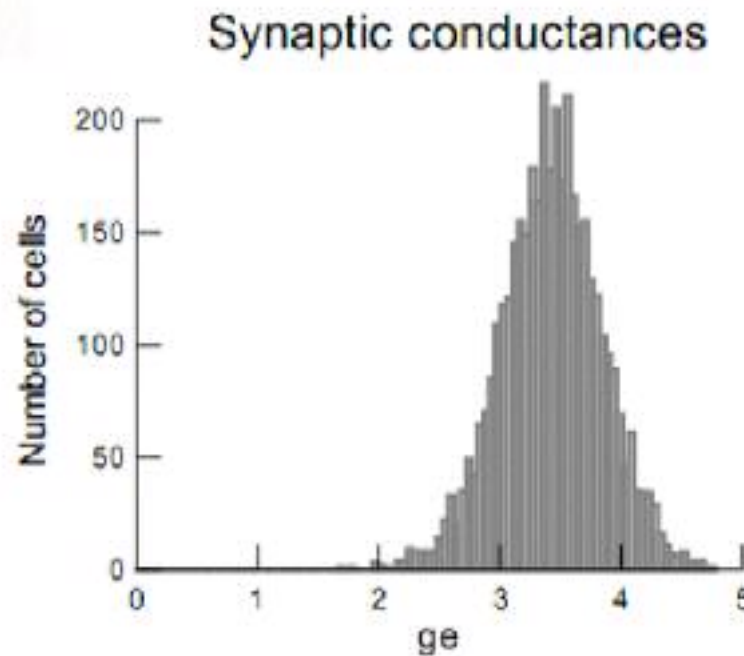
## Avalanche analysis



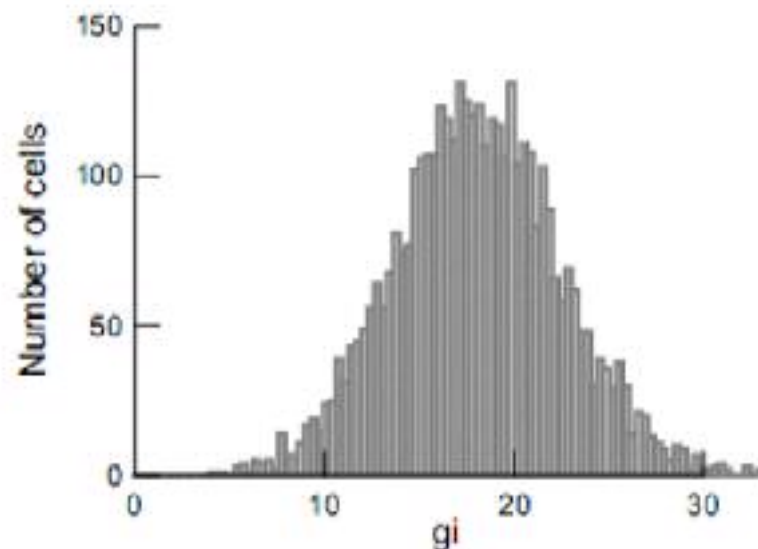
Conductance  
distributions  
in the Vogels-  
Abbott (2005)  
model



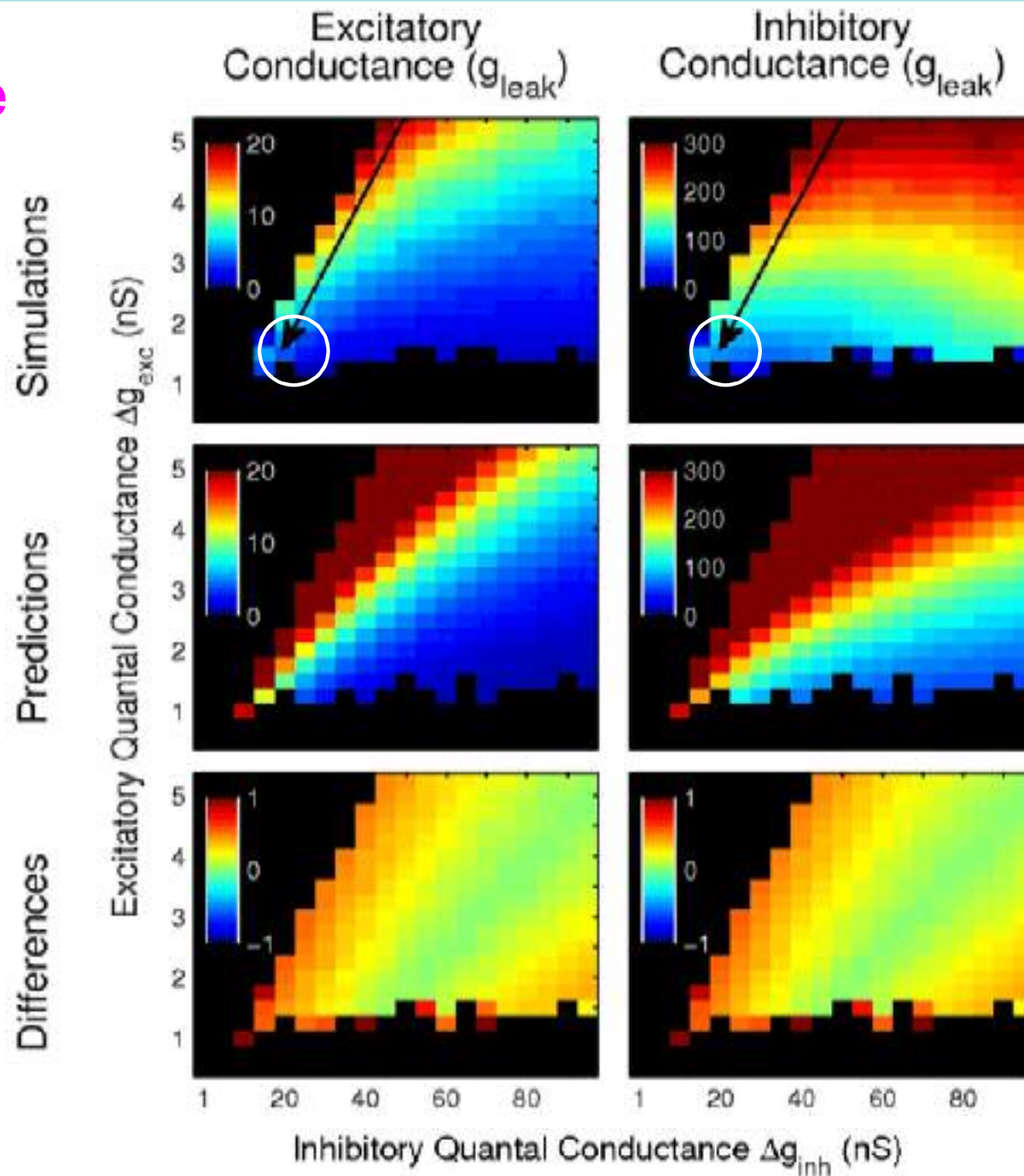
Conductance  
distributions  
in the Vogels-  
Abbott (2005)  
model



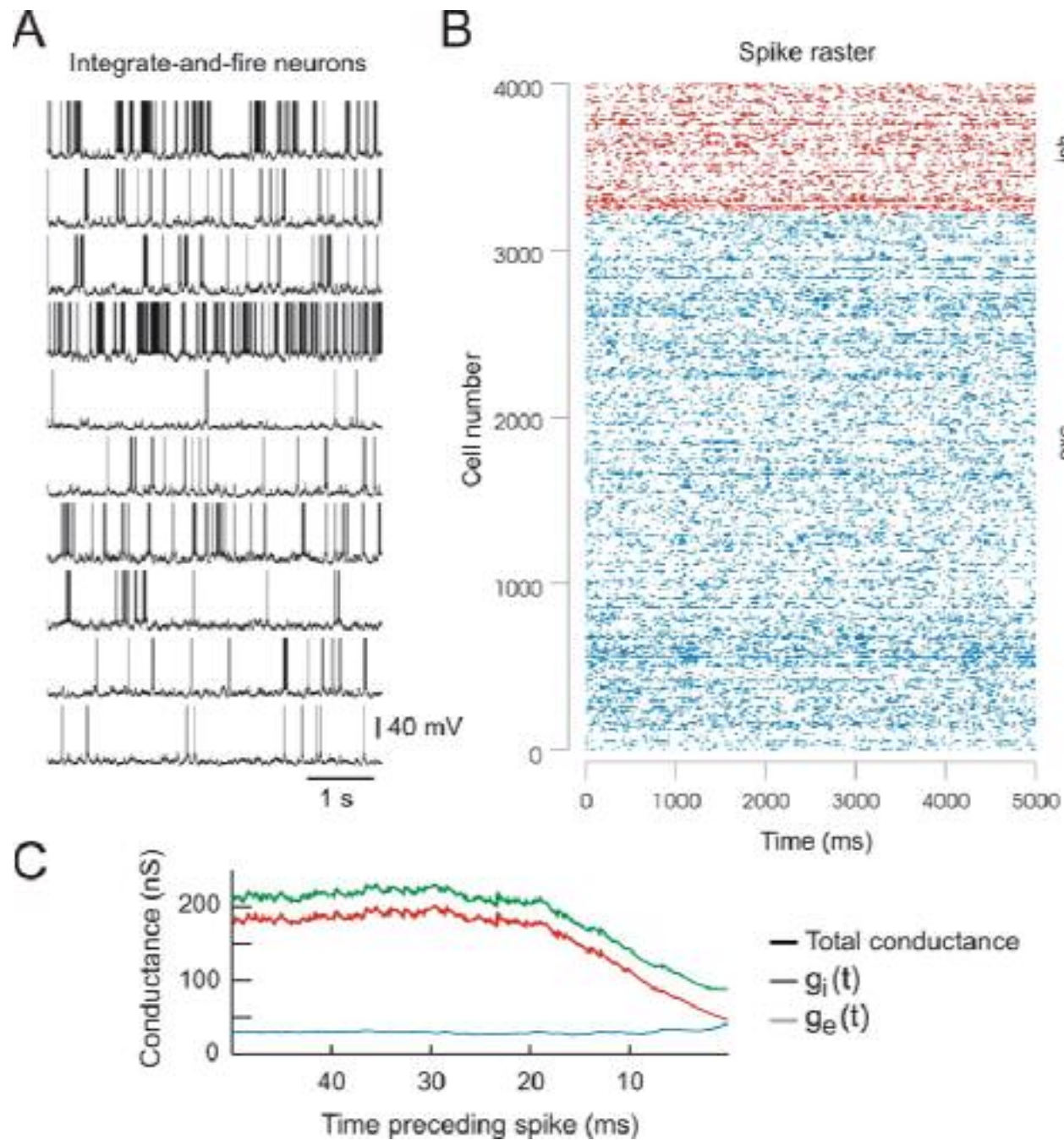
20 times  
too many!



## Conductance maps

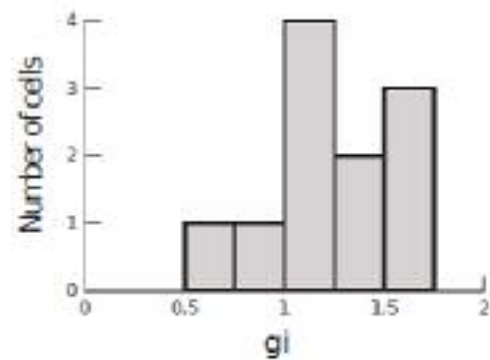
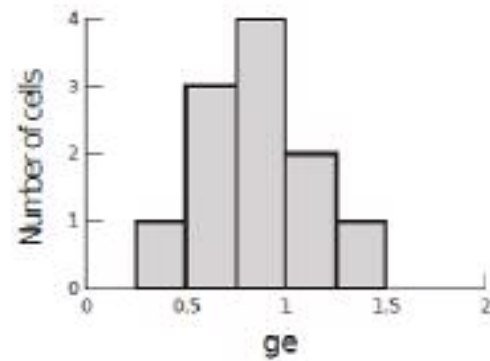


# Analysis of AI states

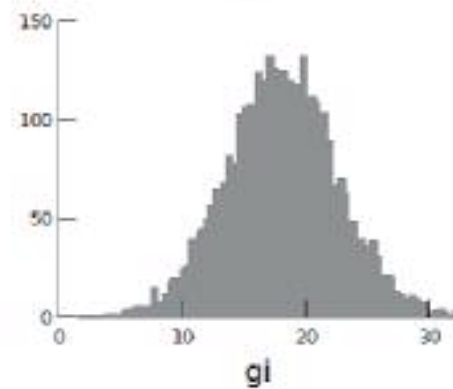
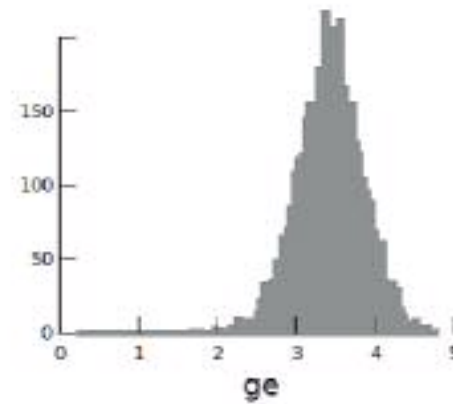


## Comparison

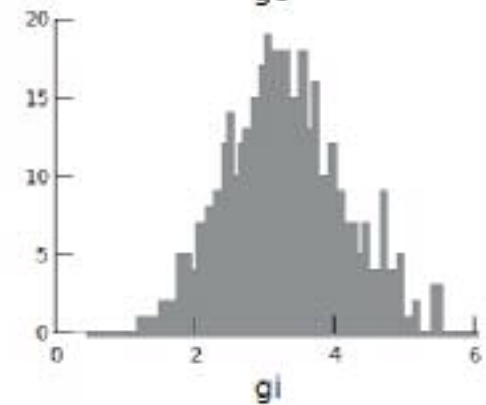
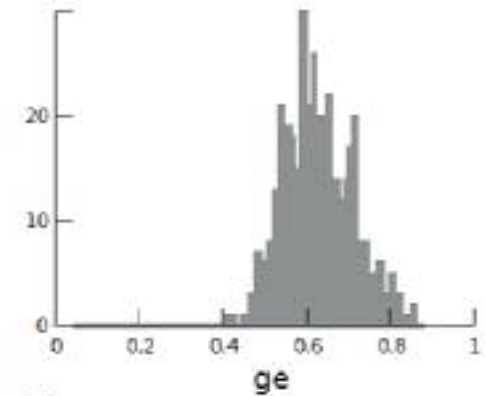
**A** Experiments



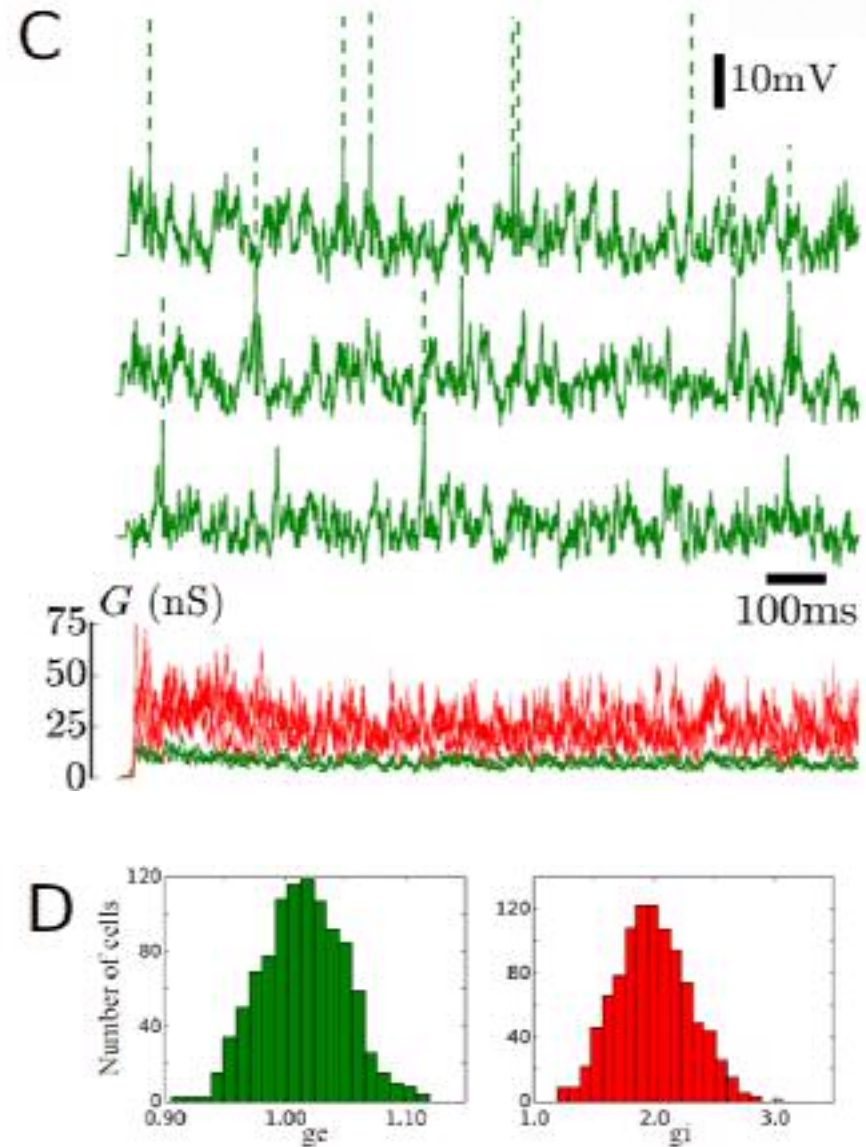
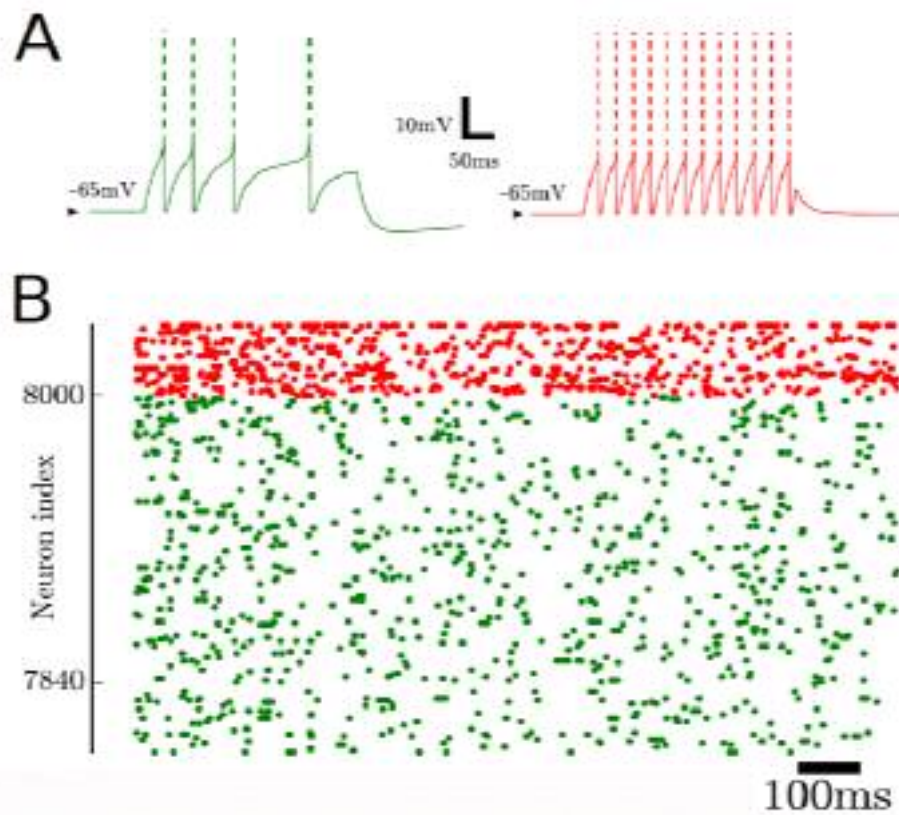
**B** VA-2005



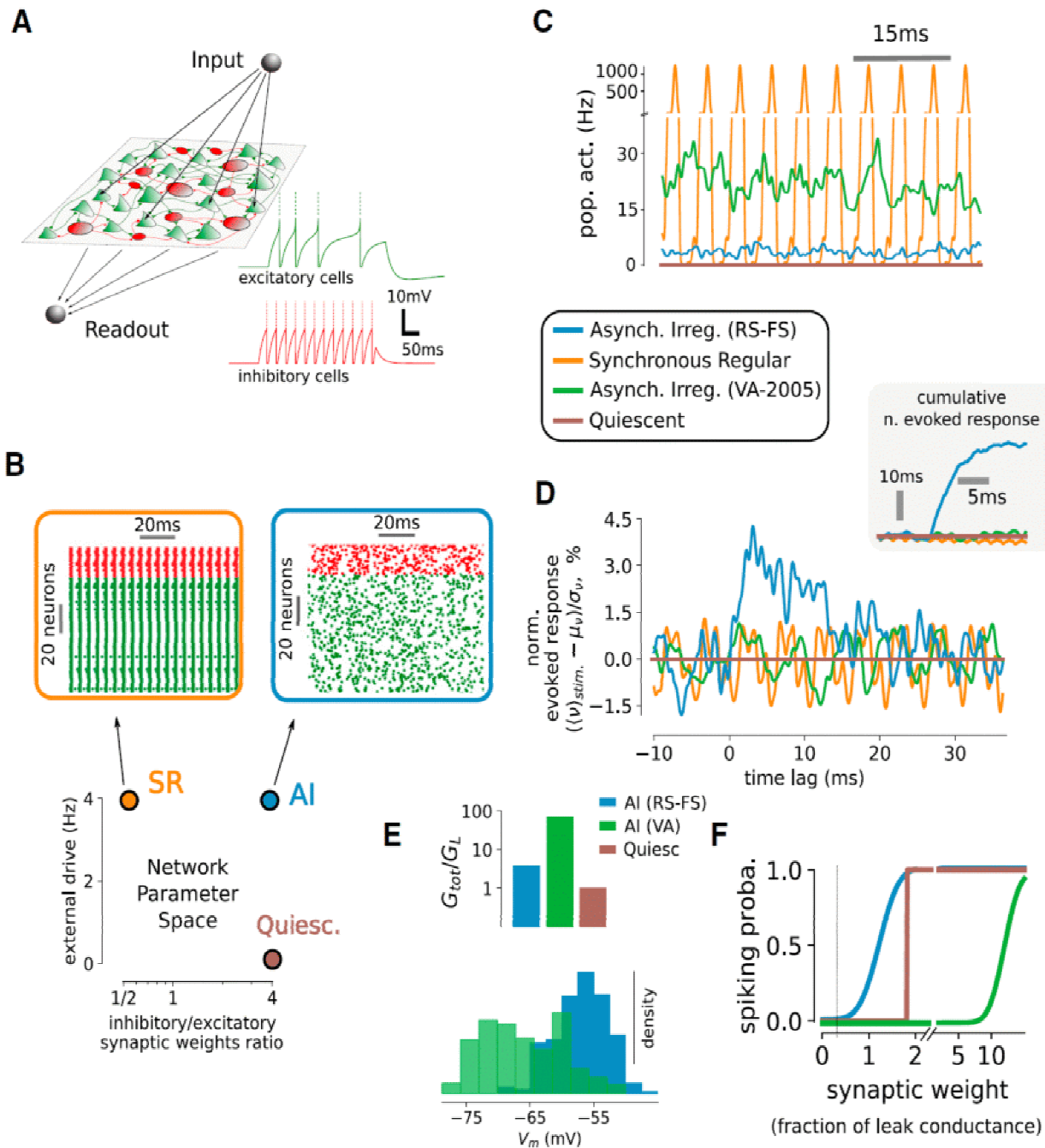
**C** EB-2007



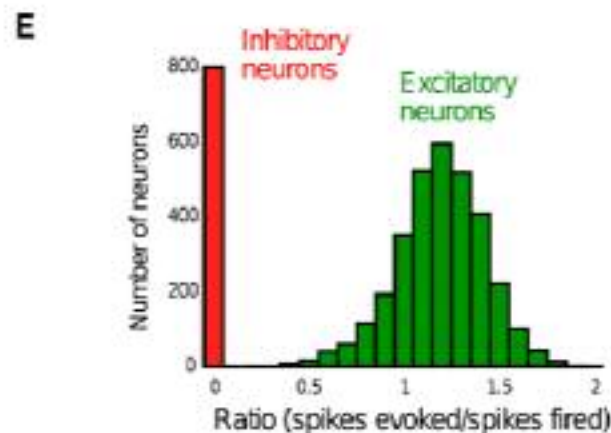
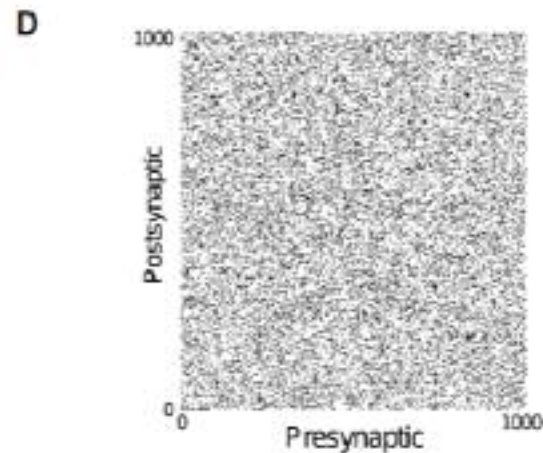
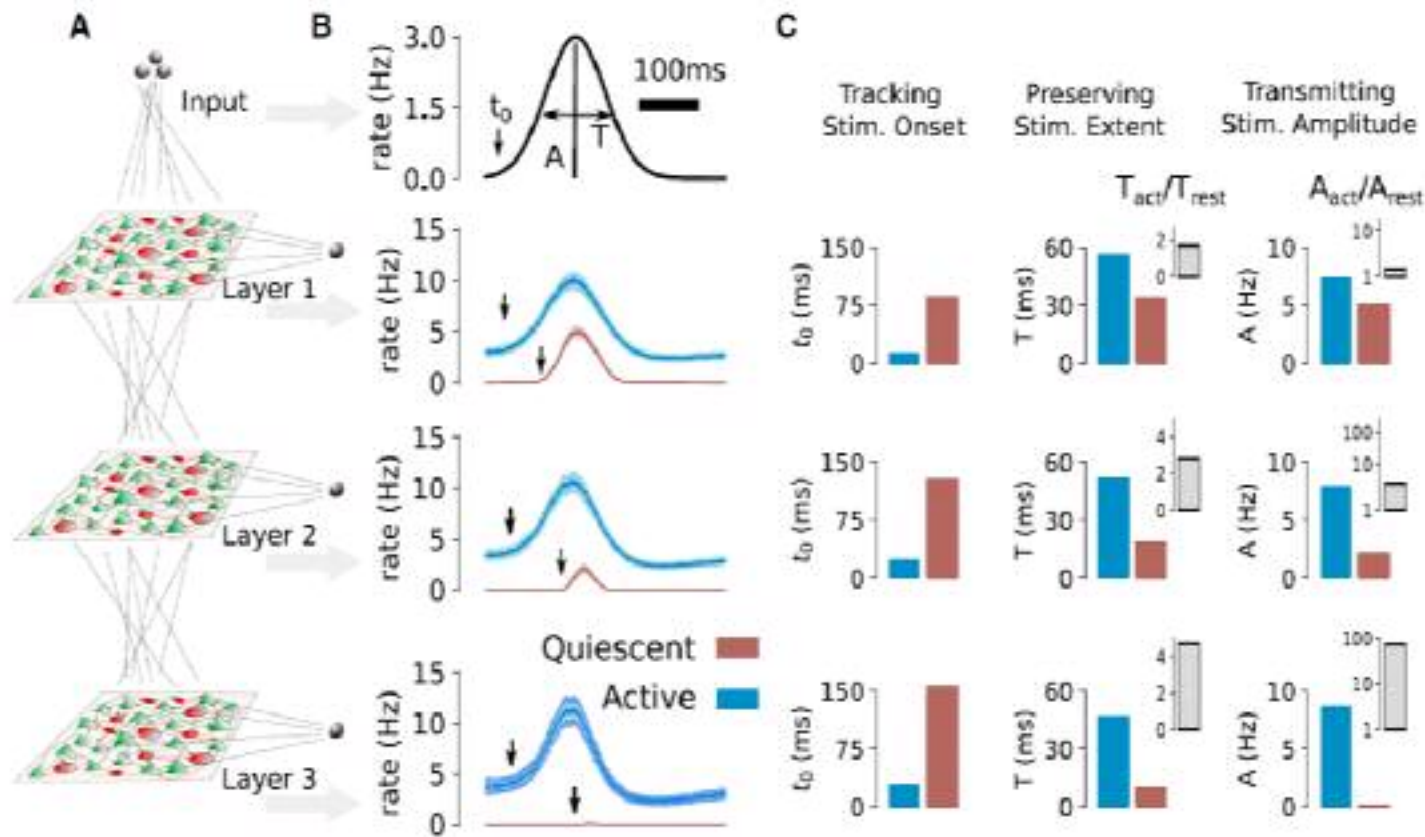
# Network responsiveness



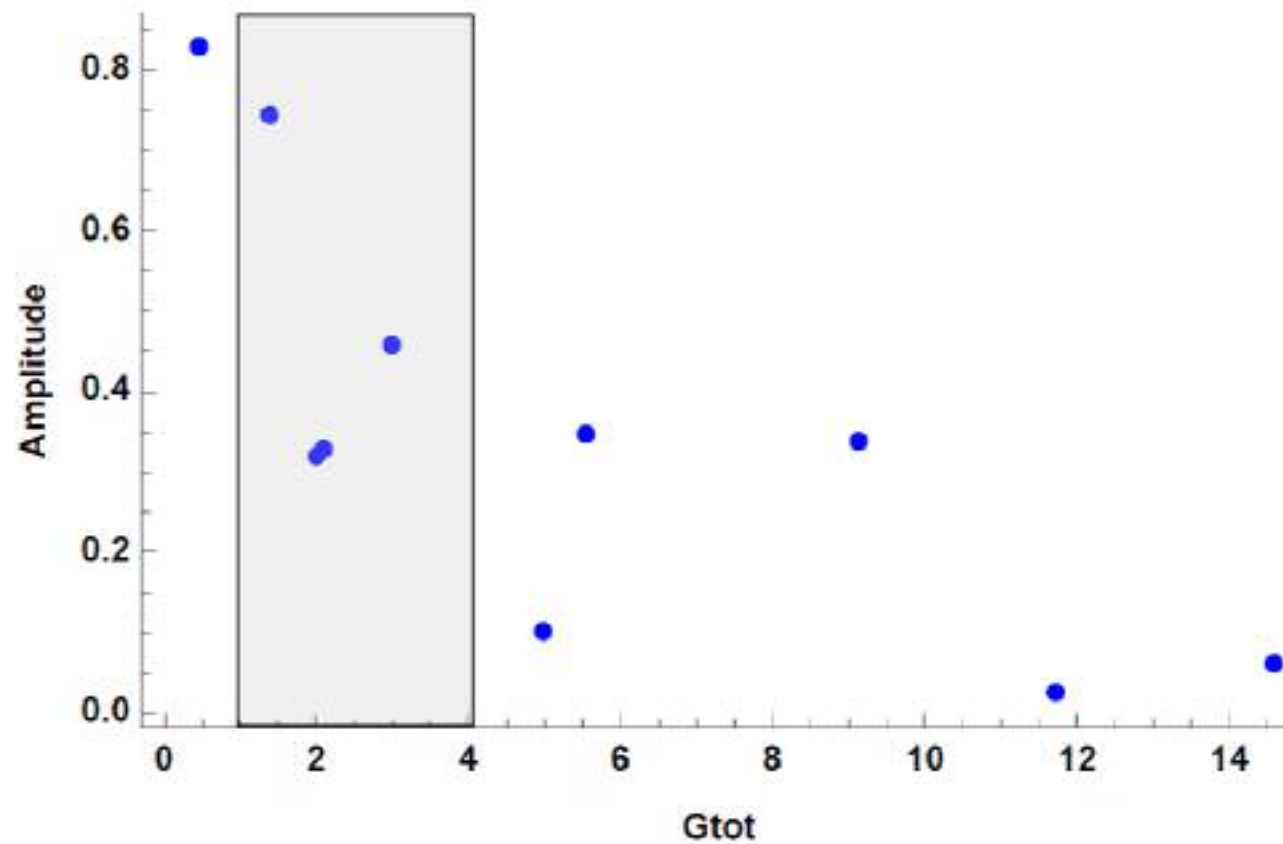
# Network responsiveness



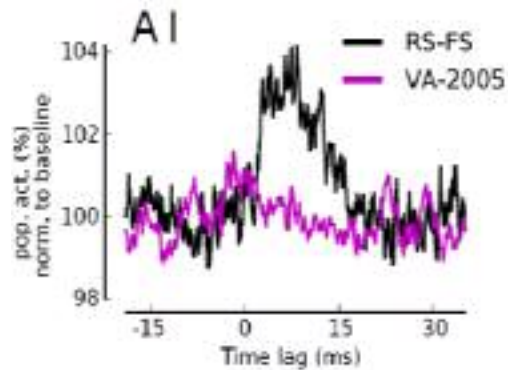
# Network responsiveness



# Network responsiveness



# Consequences on integrative properties



## Conclusions

- Enhanced responsiveness can be found at the network level...
- ... but only if neurons are in a conductance state consistent with experiments

Thanks to the team...

Michelle  
Rudolph



Zuzanna Piwowska



Martin  
Pospischil



Adrien  
Peyrache



Claude  
Bedard



Sami  
El Boustani

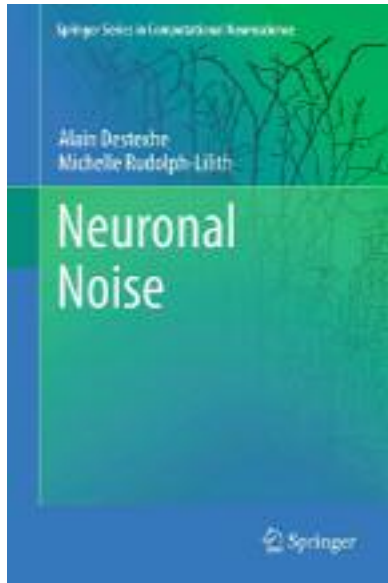


Thierry  
Bal



Nima Dehghani

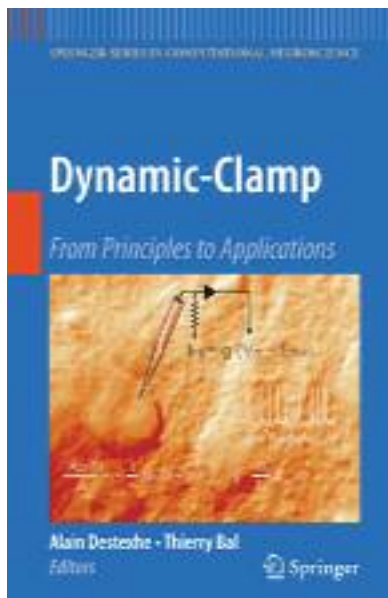
<http://cns.iaf.cnrs-gif.fr>



## Review articles:

- *Scholarpedia* article on "High-conductance states" (open access; many articles available, such as "dynamic-clamp", "neuronal noise", etc)
- Destexhe et al. The high-conductance state of neocortical neurons in vivo, *Nature Reviews Neuroscience*, 2003.

## Books:



- Dayan & Abbott, *Theoretical Neuroscience* (MIT Press, 2001)
- Koch, *Biophysics of Computation* (Oxford UP, 1999)
- Destexhe & Rudolph, *Neuronal Noise* (Springer, 2012)
- Destexhe & Bal (Eds), *Dynamic Clamp* (Springer, 2009)