

# Towards fractional order dynamics neuromorphic elements

*Fidel Santamaria, PhD*

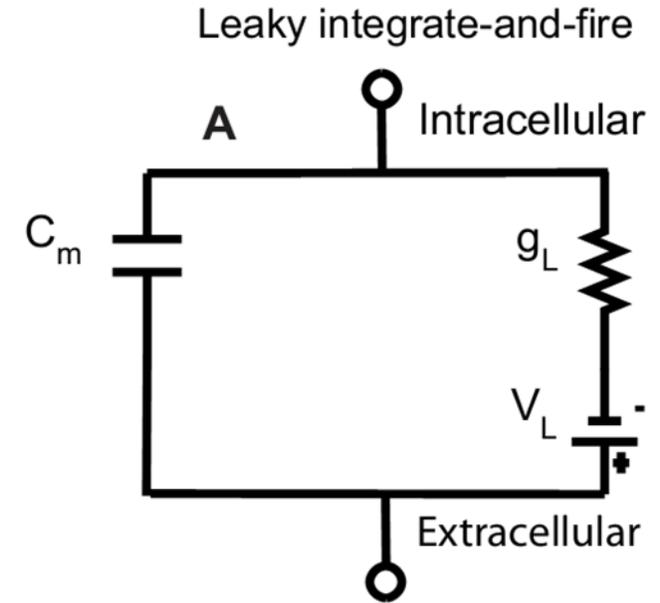
*The University of Texas at San Antonio*

*NICE, La Jolla, CA April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024*

# Challenge: A model that is used as theory

- The leaky integrate-and-fire

$$C_m \frac{dV}{dt} = -g_m(V - V_{rest}) + I_{inj}$$



- Unfortunately, this model has been assumed to be a foundational part of theory
- Another unfortunate assumption is that all the complexity of the brain resides in the connectivity and synaptic weights

## [On the role of theory and modeling in neuroscience](#)

D Levenstein, VA Alvarez, A Amarasingham, H Azab... - Journal of Neuroscience, 2023

## [Development of theoretical frameworks in neuroscience: a pressing need in a sea of data](#)

HG Rotstein, F Santamaria - arXiv preprint arXiv:2209.09953, 2022

# The ideal capacitor does not exist

- The ideal capacitor is not physically possible
- Any basic electromagnetism book explains the assumptions to come up with the ideal capacitor

## History dependence & power law charging

## Constant phase element

## Power law & history dependence in dielectrics

Supposons que la courbe (1) représente l'intensité du courant de charge en fonction du tem[ps]

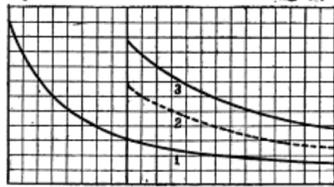


Fig. 9. — Loi de superposition : 1 première charge ; 2 deuxième charge seule (action supposée) ; 3 action résultante (réelle).

$$C = \frac{Q}{U}$$

The charging of a capacitor follows a power-law!!!!!!!!!!!!

Curie J.  
Recherches sur le pouvoir inducteur spécifique et sur la conductibilité des corps cristallisés  
Ann. Chim. Phys., 17 (1889), pp. 385-434

## ELECTRIC PHASE ANGLE OF CELL MEMBRANES

By KENNETH S. COLE

(From the Department of Physiology, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, New York)

(Accepted for publication, April 4, 1932)

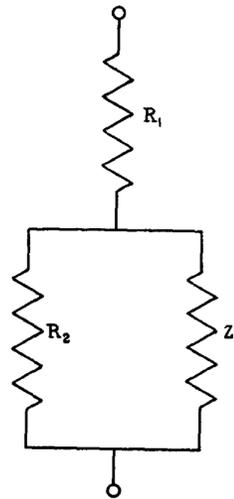


FIG. 1. Assumed equivalent tissue circuit

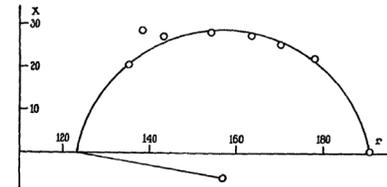


FIG. 2. Reactance vs. resistance in ohms for calf blood (Fricke and Morse)

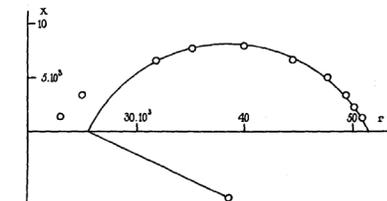


FIG. 3. Reactance vs. resistance in ohms for frog nerve (Lullies)

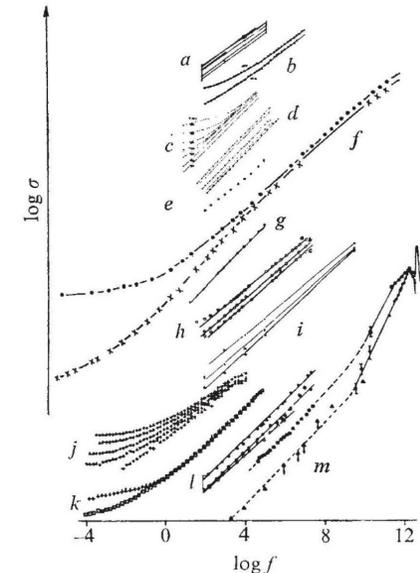
Also see Cole KS (1933) Electric Conductance of Biological Systems. Cold Spring Harb Symp Quant Biol 1: 107–116.

Nature Vol. 267 23 June 1977

## review article

## The 'universal' dielectric response

A. K. Jonscher\*



- The ideal capacitor is

$$I = C \frac{dV}{dt}$$

- Which results in an exponential
- What is the mathematical structure that when solved provides a power-law and constant phase?

$$I = C \frac{d^\eta V}{dt^\eta}$$

- Take a minute to stare at the equation and realize that  $\eta$  has values in this range:  
 $0 < \eta < 1$

- The fractional derivative is

$$\frac{d^\eta V}{dt^\eta} = \frac{1}{\Gamma(1-\eta)} \int_0^t \frac{V'(\tau)}{(t-\tau)^\eta} d\tau$$

- This is a non-local operator that has memory
- Some people call this the intrinsic memory trace
- Thus, the systems depends on time, not just on its previous state (break down of the Markovian assumption)

- The fractional derivative of a sine wave is

$$\frac{d^\eta A \sin(2\pi\omega t)}{dt^\eta} = (2\pi\omega)^\eta A \sin\left(2\pi\omega t + \frac{\eta\pi}{2}\right)$$

- If input follows a power-law,  $A = (2\pi\omega)^{-\beta}$

$$I_n = (2\pi\omega)^{-\beta} \sin(2\pi\omega t)$$

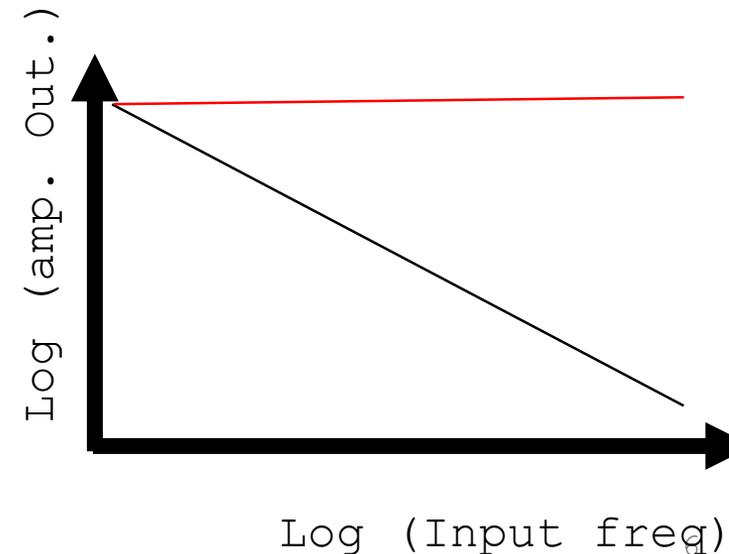
- Then

$$f = \frac{d^\eta I_n}{dt^\eta} = (2\pi\omega)^{-\beta} (2\pi\omega)^\eta \sin\left(2\pi\omega t + \frac{\eta\pi}{2}\right)$$

- If  $\beta = \eta$

$$f = 1 * \sin\left(2\pi\omega t + \frac{\eta\pi}{2}\right)$$

- Optimal coding of pink noise spectra
- **Most natural signals follow pink noise**
  - Texture
  - Sounds - natural, human-made
  - Odorants - natural plumes, food recipes
  - Images - color, intensity



# The sensory World has power-law statistics

- Alternative argument: What is the mathematical transformation that optimally

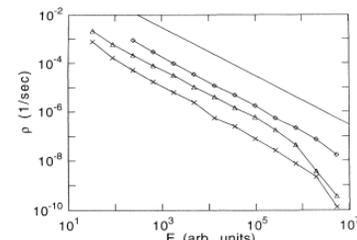
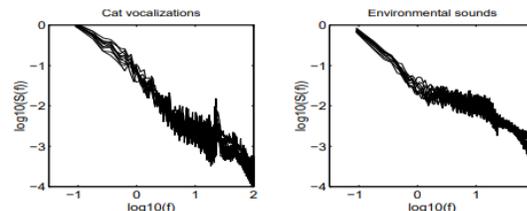
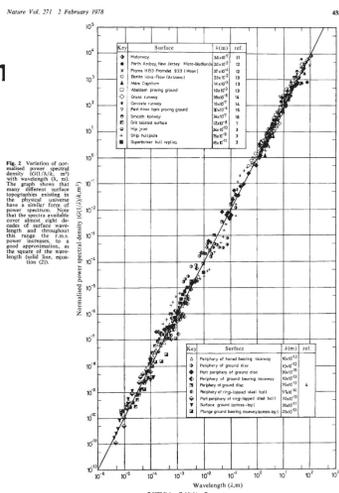
Published: 02 February 1978

## Surface topography as a nonstationary random process

R. S. SAYLES & T. R. THOMAS

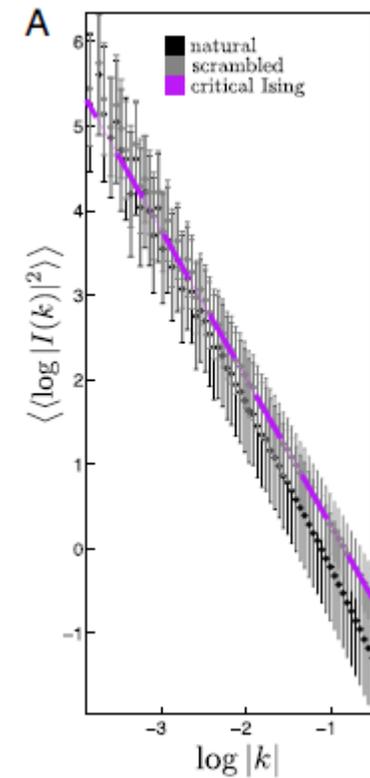
*Nature* 271, 431-434 (1978) | [Cite this article](#)

1860 Accesses | 525 Citations | [Metrics](#)

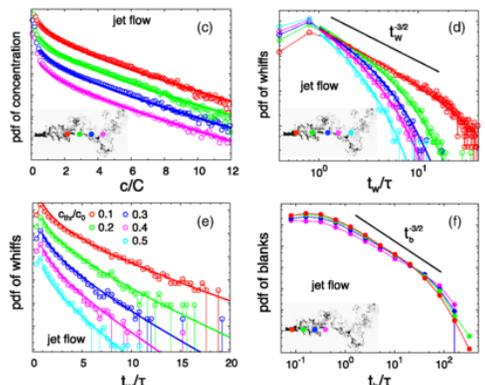


Sounds  
Attias and Schreiner  
(1996) Advances in neural  
information processing  
systems

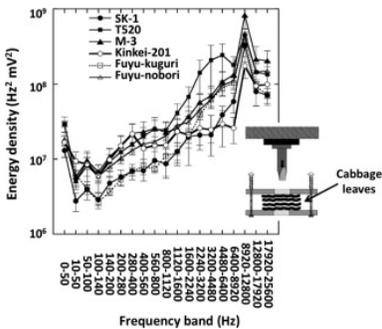
Crumpled plastic  
sheet  
Kramer and  
Lobkovsky (1996)  
Physical Review  
E



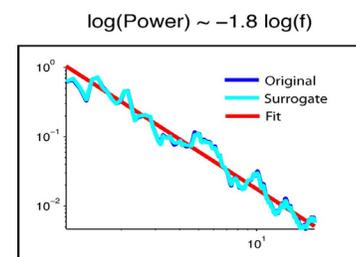
Natural images  
Saremi & Sejnowski PNAS



Odor concentration  
Celani, Villermaux et al.  
(2014) Physical Review X

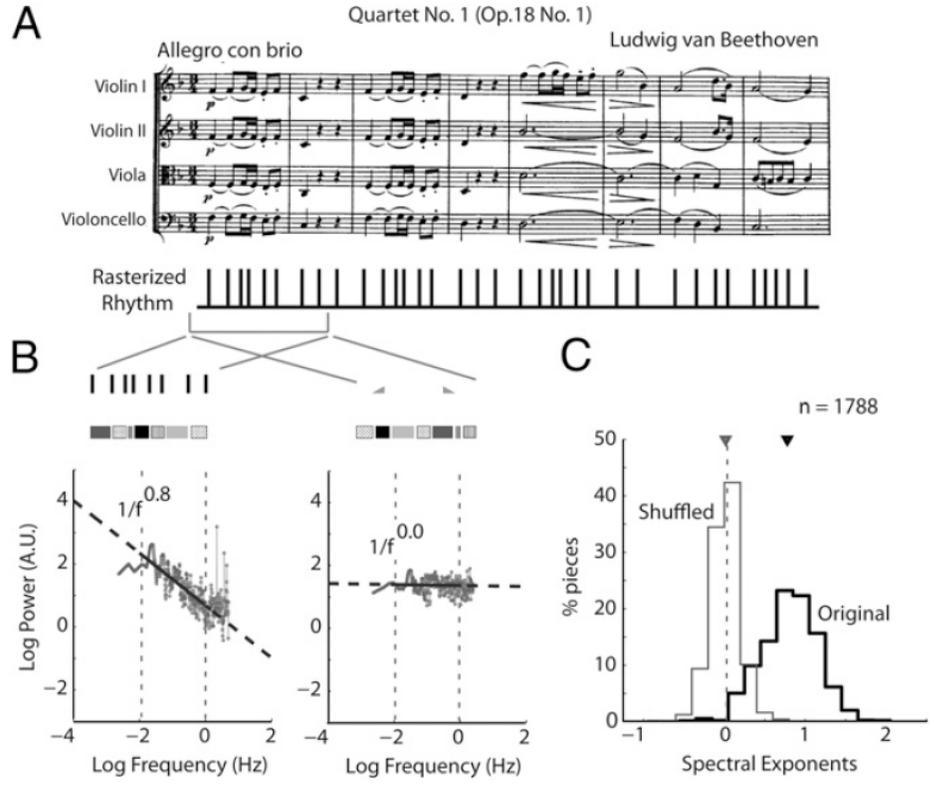


Food texture  
Chen and Opara (2013)  
Journal of Food  
Engineering

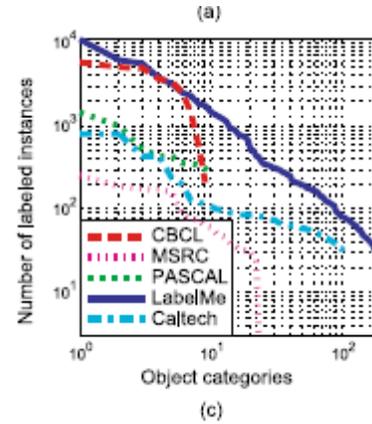


The sound of water  
Geffen et al, Front  
Int. Neuro, 2011

# Power-law statistics in human signals

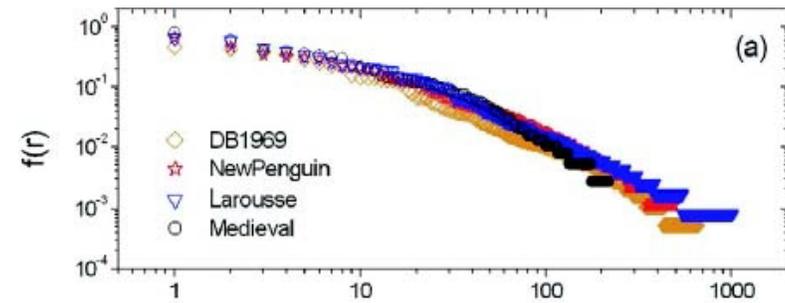


Levitin, Chordia, Menon, PNAS 2011



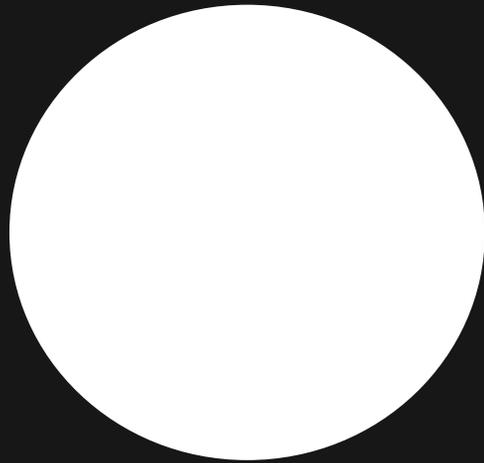
Naming things

Russel et al, In J Comput Vis 2008



Food recipes

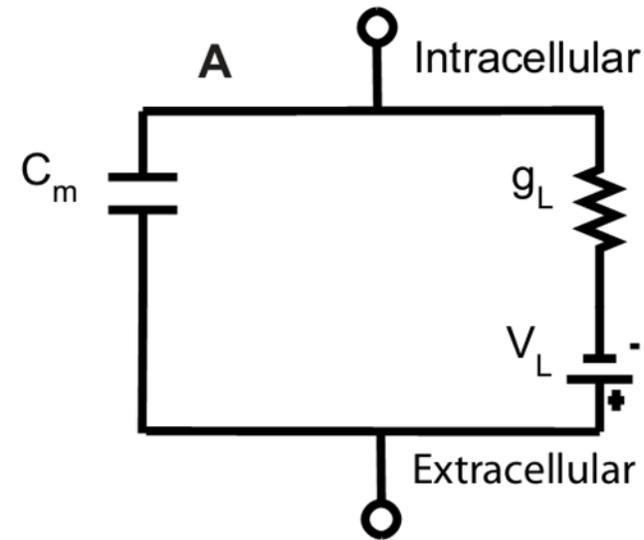
Kinouchi, Diez-Garcia et al. (2008) New Journal



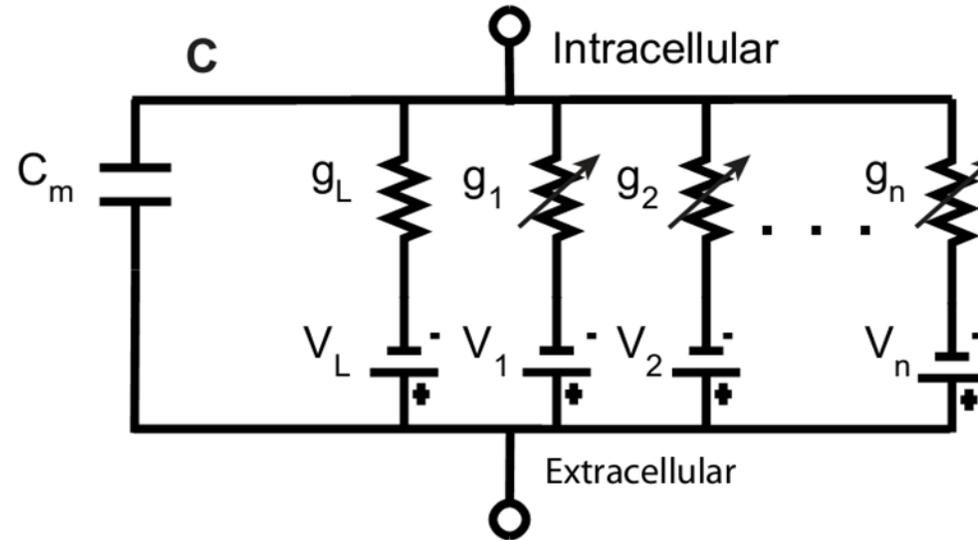
# Computational advantages of fractional neurodynamics

# Another way to generate fractional order dynamics

- Alternative argument: Fractional order dynamics arises from processes outside thermodynamics
  - Diffusion equation turns into Anomalous diffusion
  - The reaction diffusion equation is the foundation to model neuronal activity



$$C_m \frac{dV}{dt} = -g_m(V - V_{rest})$$



$$C_m \frac{dV}{dt} = -g_m(V - V_{rest}) - \sum_{i=1}^N g_i(V - V_i)$$

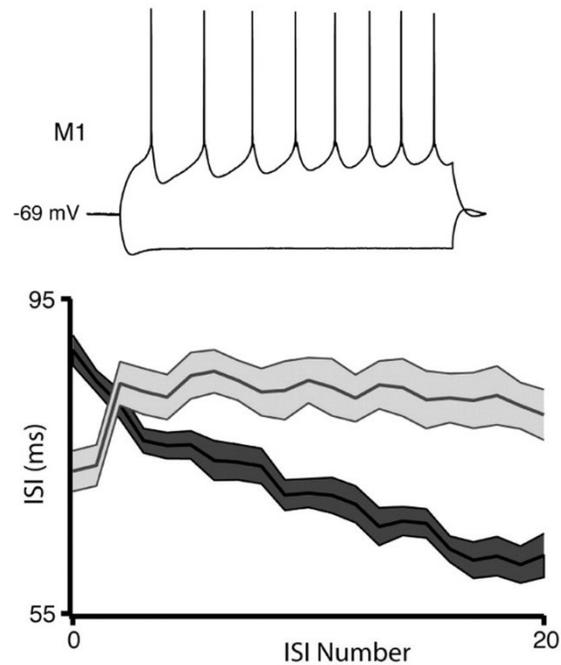
$$g_i = m^a n^b z^c$$

$$\frac{dm_i}{dt} = \alpha(1 - m_i) - \beta m_i$$

$$C_m \frac{d^n V}{dt^n} = -g_m(V - V_{rest}) + I_{inj}$$

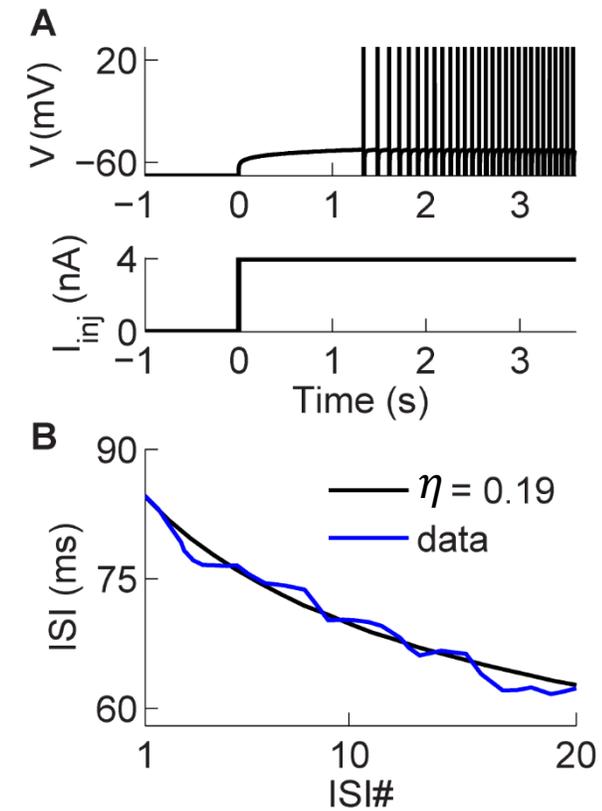


## Experiments



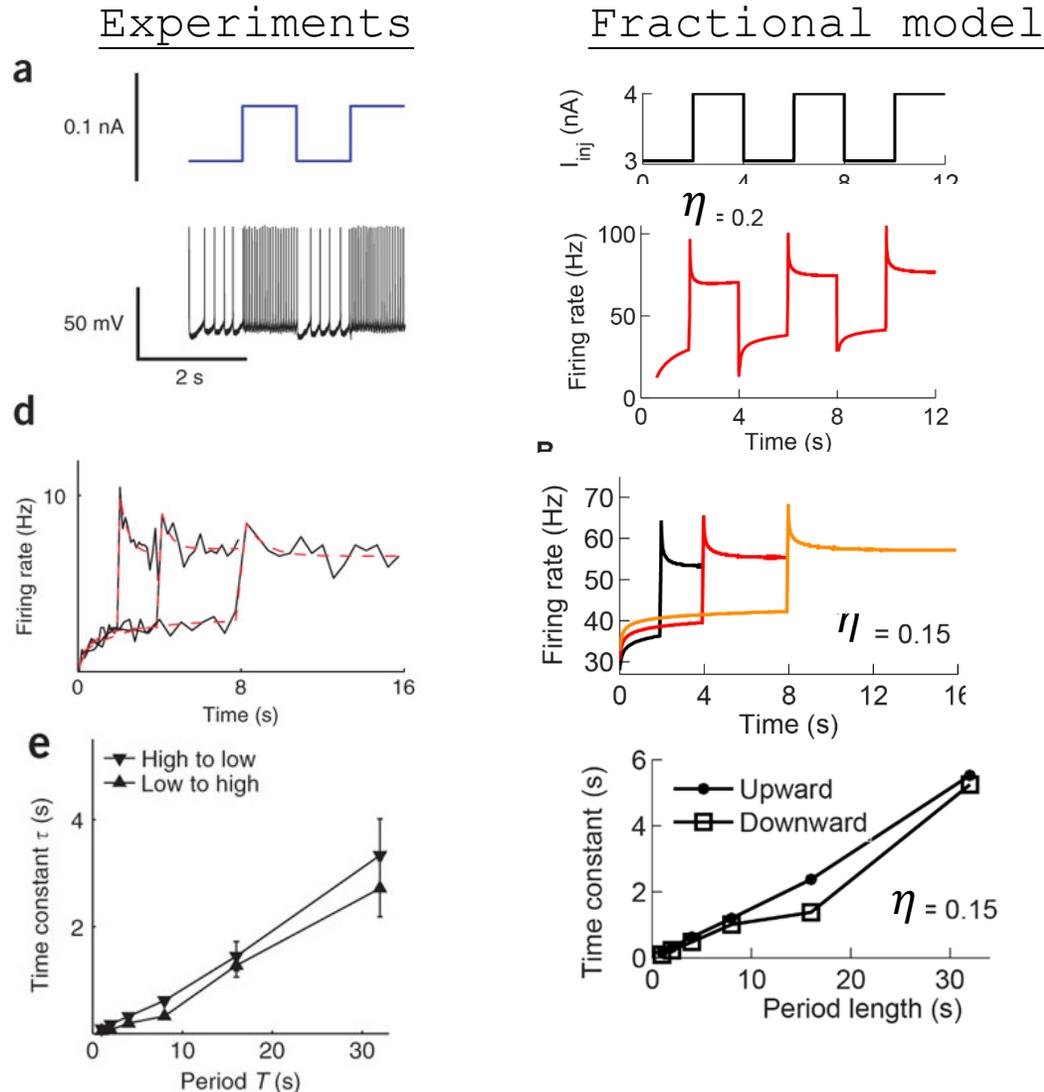
Miller M N et al. J. Neurosci. 2008;28:13716-13726

## Fractional model



Teka et al., PLoS Comp. Bio 2014.

# History dependence in L2/3 pyramidal cells



And several other results  
Teka, W., T. M. Marinov and F.  
Santamaria (2014). "Neuronal spike  
timing adaptation described with a  
fractional leaky integrate-and-fire  
model." PLoS computational biology  
**10**(3): e1003526.

- The fractional order is in voltage
- Does spike time or firing rate have fractional order properties?
  - Coding strategies of neurons

$$C_m \frac{d^n V}{dt^n} = -g_m(V - V_{rest}) + I_{inj}$$

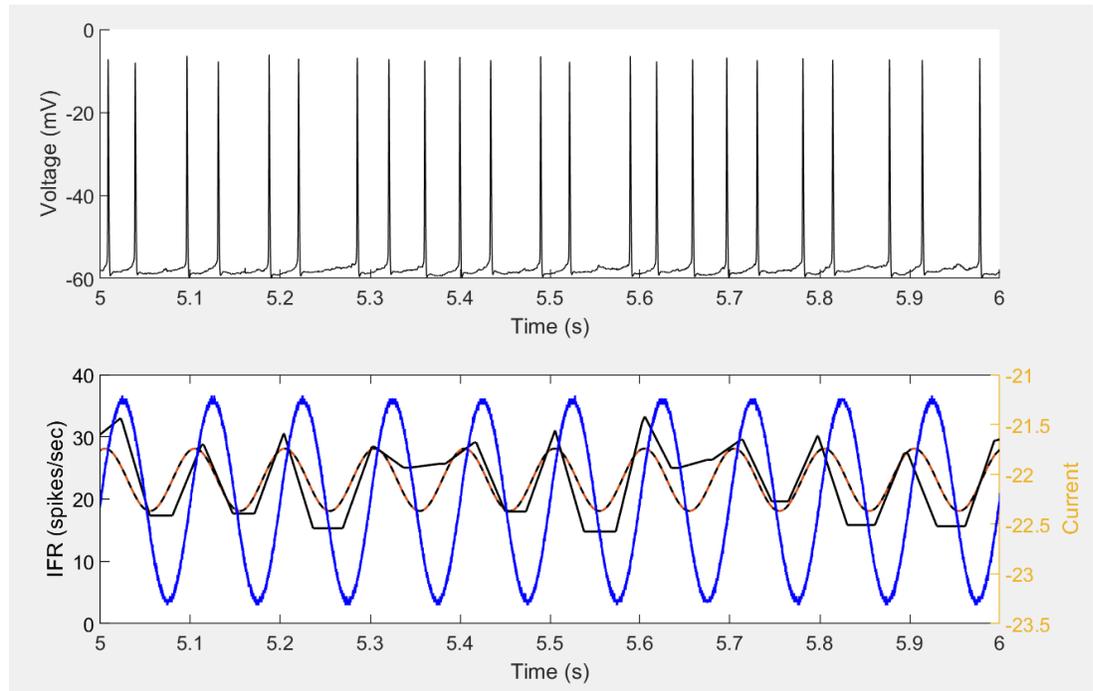
Is the fractional order reflected in the firing rate properties?

$$f \sim \frac{d^n I_n}{dt^n} ?$$

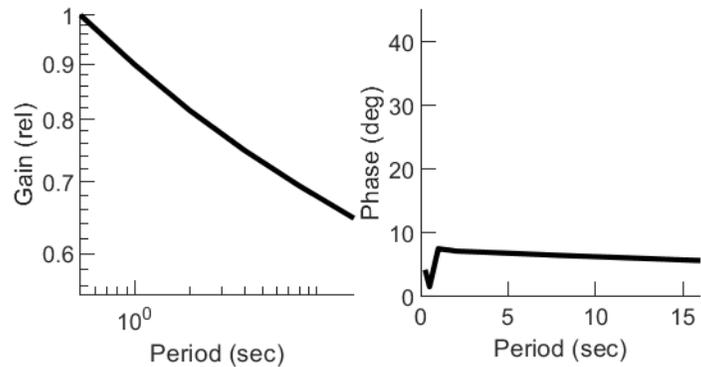
# Evidence of fractional differentiation of firing rate

- Fractional order differentiation has been shown in
  - Cortical
    - Lundstrom, B. N., Higgs, M. H., Spain, W. J., & Fairhall, A. L. (2008). Fractional differentiation by neocortical pyramidal neurons. *Nature neuroscience*, 11(11), 1335.
  - Brainstem
    - Anastasio, T. J. (1994). The fractional-order dynamics of brainstem vestibulo-oculomotor neurons. *Biological cybernetics*, 72(1), 69-79.
  - Weakly electric fish.
    - Huang, C. G., & Chacron, M. J. (2016). Optimized parallel coding of second-order stimulus features by heterogeneous neural populations. *Journal of Neuroscience*, 36(38), 9859-9872.
  - Insects
    - French, A. S. (1984). Dynamic properties of the action potential encoder in an insect mechanosensory neuron. *Biophysical journal*, 46(2), 285-289.

Our preliminary data on Purkinje cells show these cells perform a fractional order differentiation

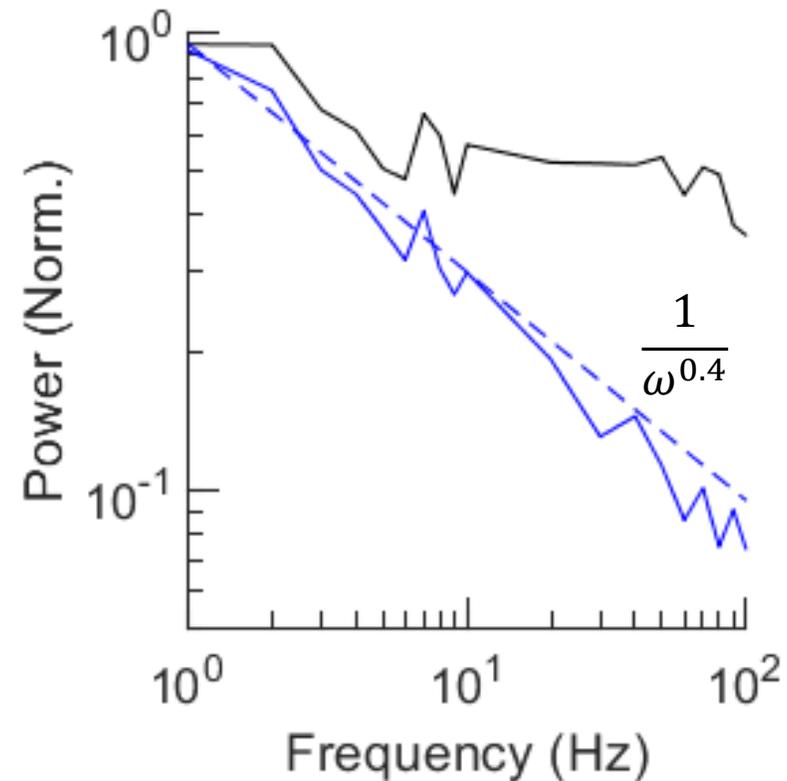


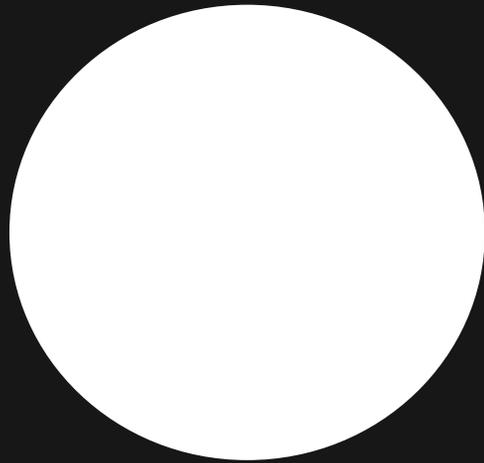
## Fractional differentiation



$$(2\pi\omega)^\eta \sin\left(2\pi\omega t + \frac{\eta\pi}{2}\right)$$

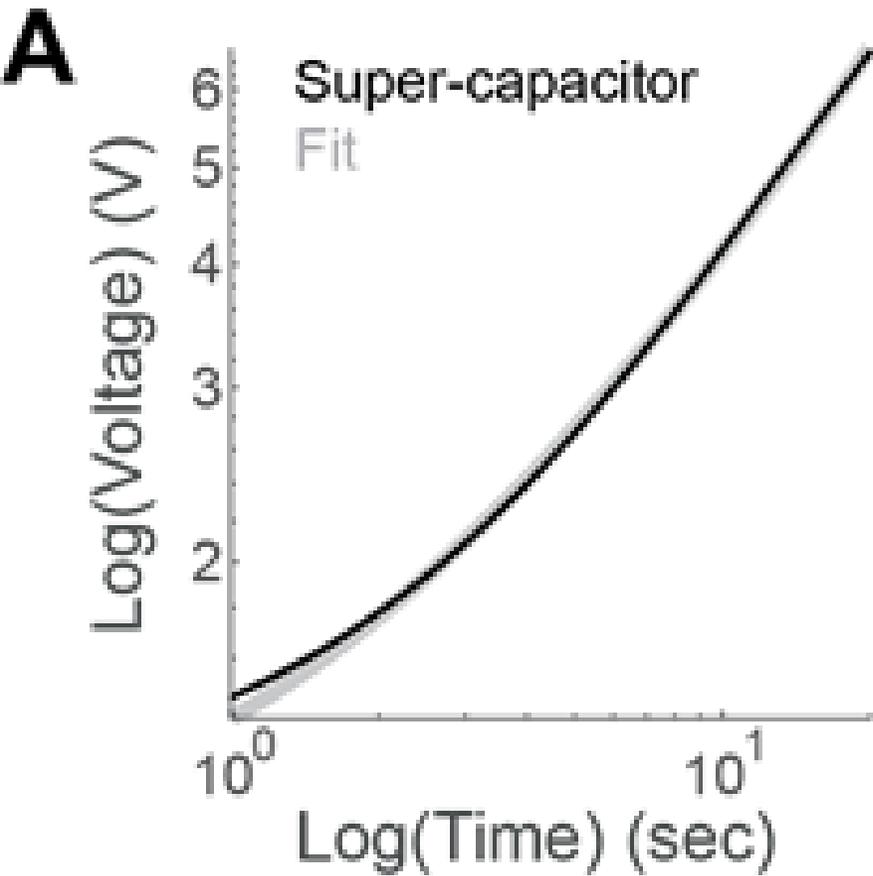
## Noise whitening





# Instantiating the circuits

# A super capacitor is a fractional order differentiator



Vazquez-Guerrero,  
Tuladhar et al. (2024)  
Scientific Reports

- Electric elements with memory are known as memelements
  - Memristors, memcapacitors, meminductors
  - Memristor-The missing circuit element, L. Chua, IEE Trans on circuit theory, 1971
- Intense interest
  - Implement neuronal functions intrinsically in hardware
  - Lower energy consumption
- **Most people care about memristors**
  - **Materials**
  - **Used to model synapses**
- **Capacitors can be many times more energetically efficient than resistors**

- A memcapacitor is

$$q = C(x, v, t)v \text{ and } D^1x = f(x, v, t)$$

- Where  $q$  is charge,  $C$  is capacitance, and  $x$  is an internal variable such as the flux:

$$D^1\varphi = v$$

Assuming that  $c(\varphi, v, t) = c_0\varphi$  then

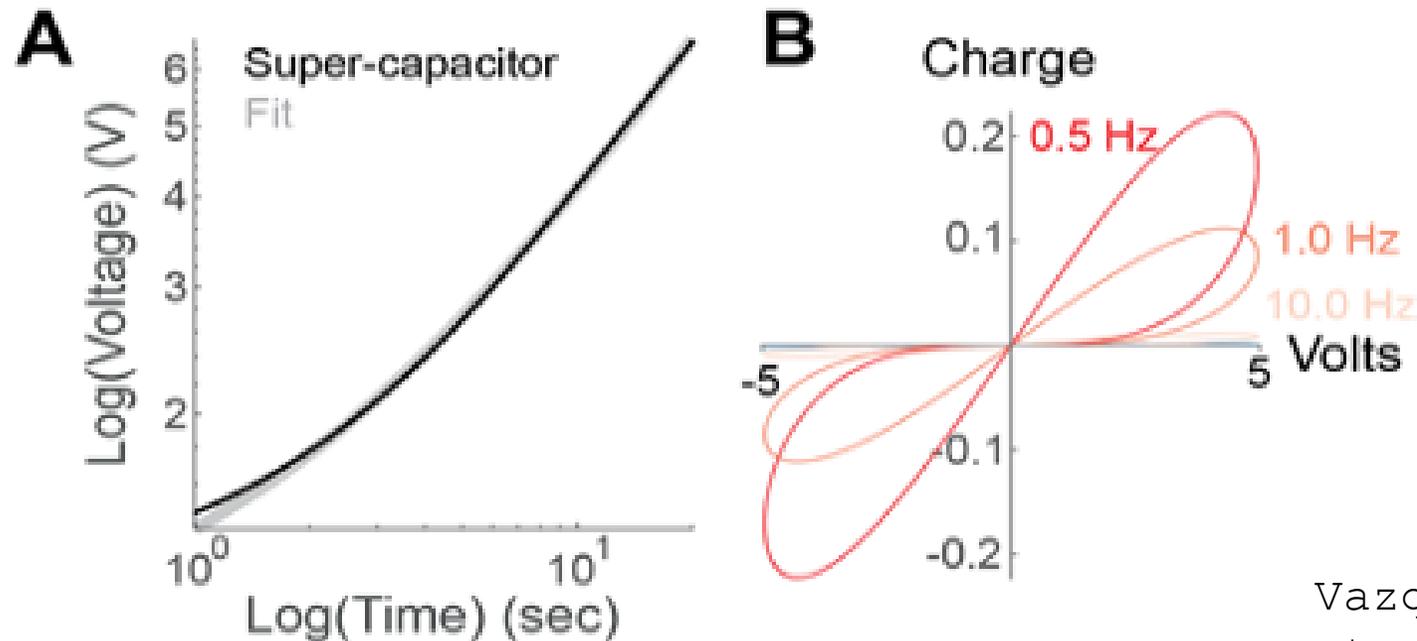
$$q = C_0 \int_0^t v d\tau \cdot v$$

Check out any Chua publication for details

This is a hysteresis process pinched at the center

# Fractional order capacitors and memcapacitors

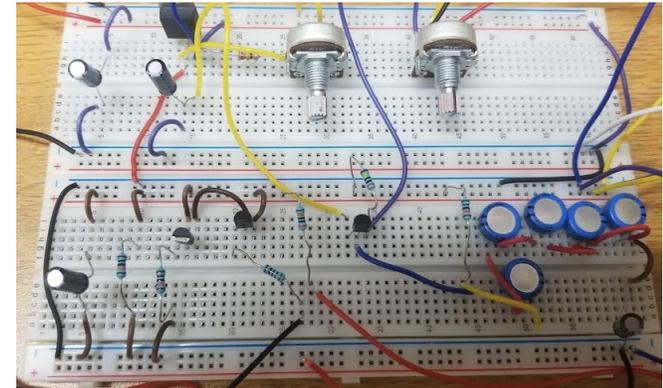
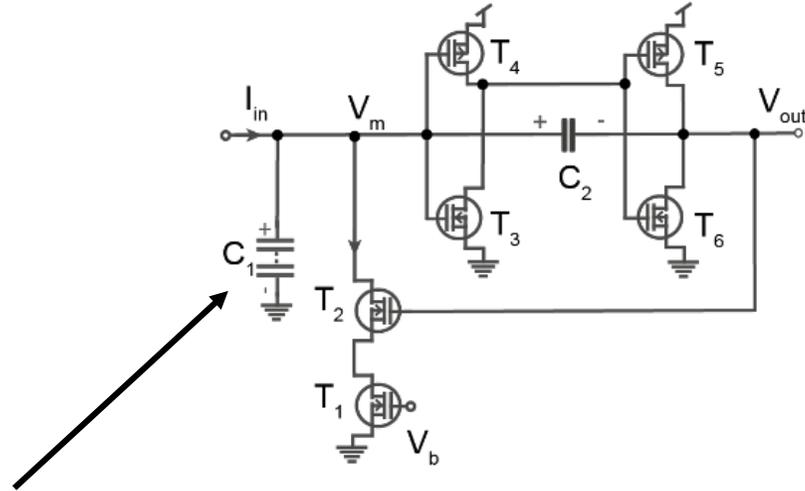
- A fractional order differentiator and a memcapacitor



Vazquez-Guerrero, Tuladhar  
et al. (2024) Scientific  
Reports

# A fractional leaky integrate-and-fire circuit

$$C_m \frac{d^n V}{dt^n} = -g_m(V - V_{rest}) + I_{inj}$$

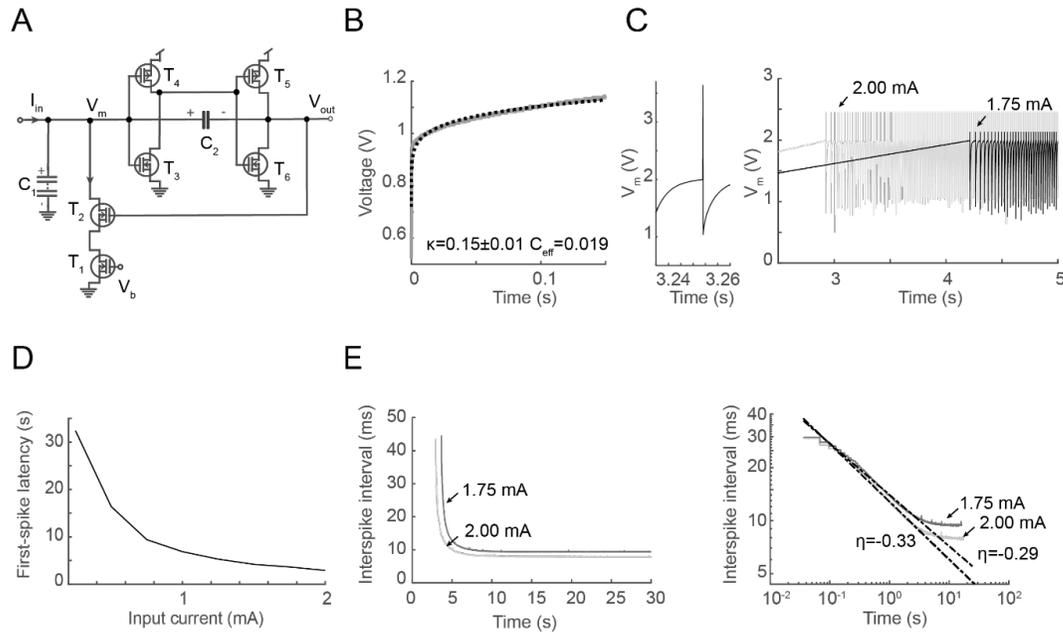


Super-capacitor

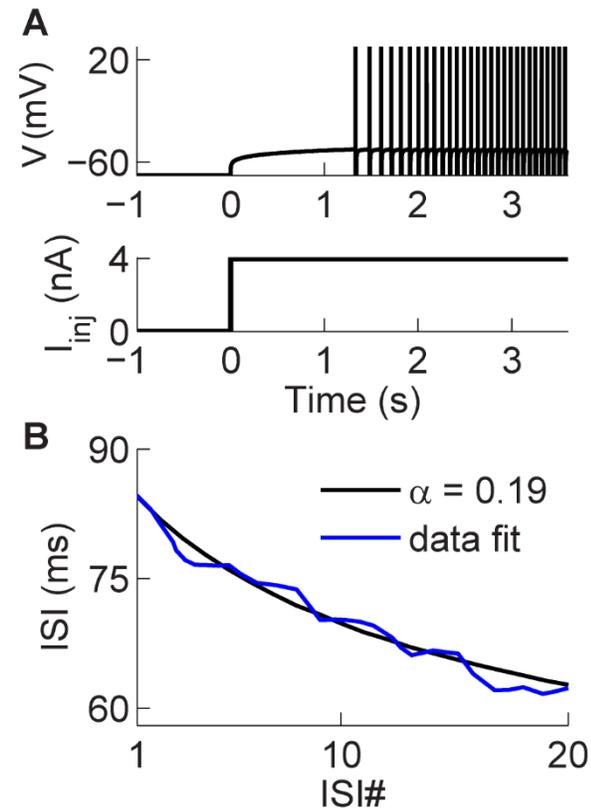
Based on the classic design by Carver Mead

# The fLIF circuit vs model vs data

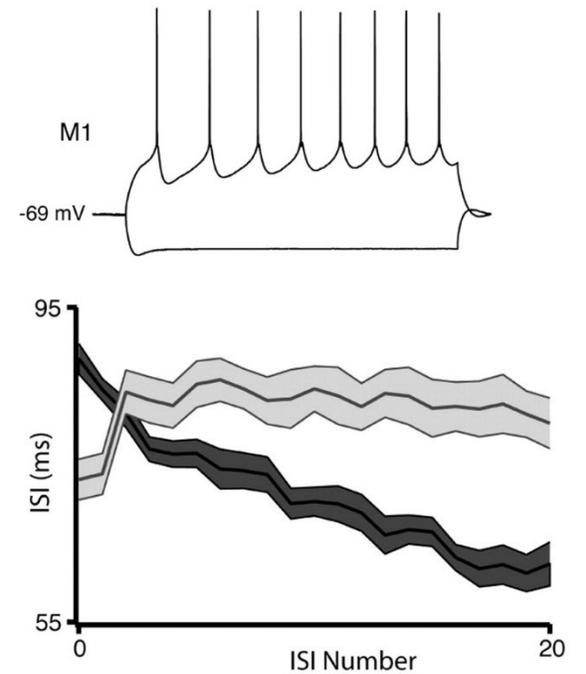
## Fractional circuit



## Fractional model



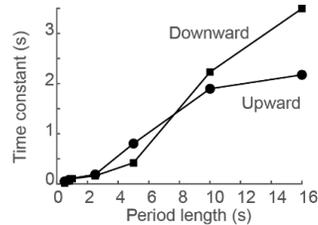
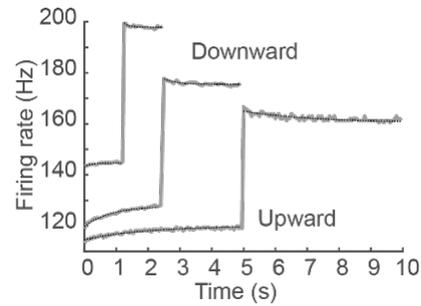
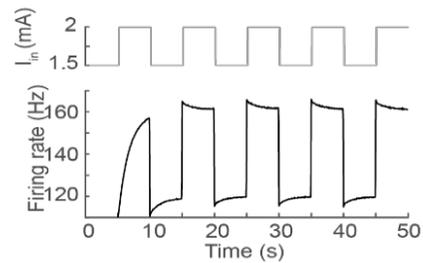
## Experiments



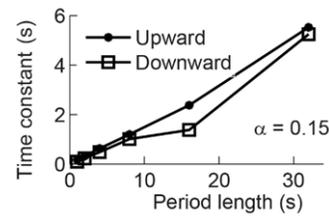
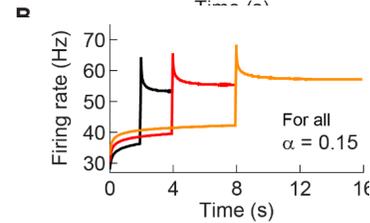
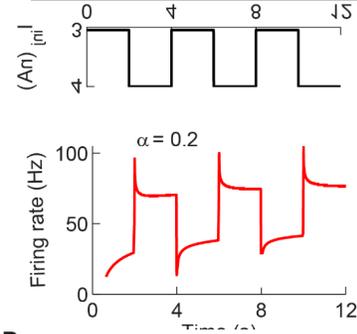
Vazquez-Guerrero, Tuladhar  
et al. (2024) Scientific  
Reports

# The fLIF circuit vs model vs data

## Fractional circuit

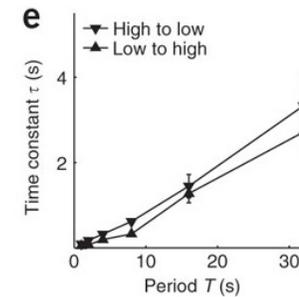
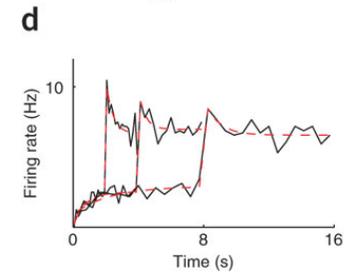
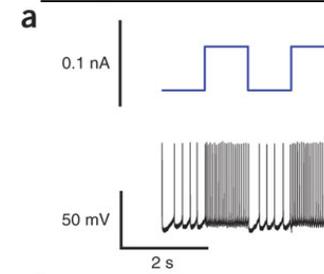


## Fractional model



Teka et al., PLoS  
Comp. Bio 2014.

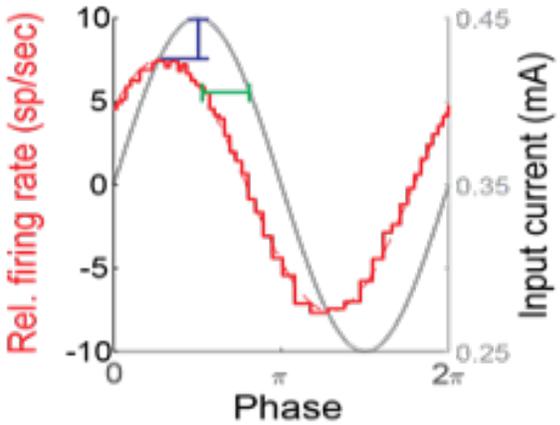
## Experiments



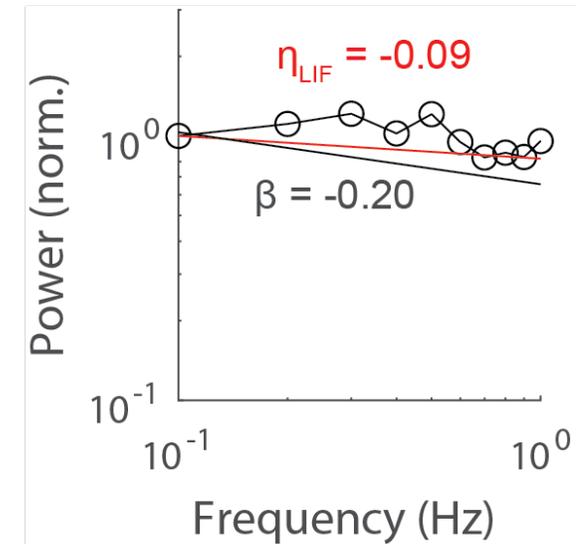
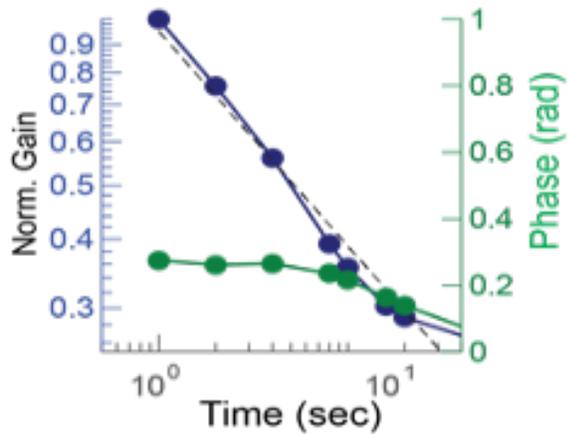
Lundstrom et al., Nat.  
Neurosci. 2008

Vazquez-Guerrero,  
Tuladhar et al.  
(2024) Scientific  
Reports

# Fractional differentiation and input whitening

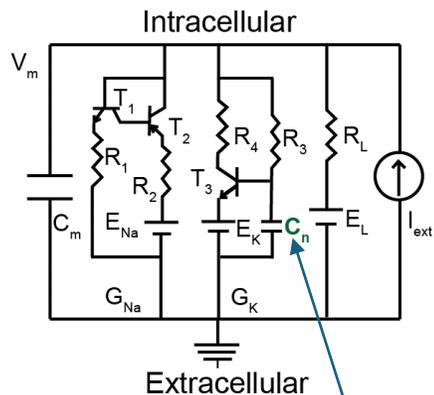
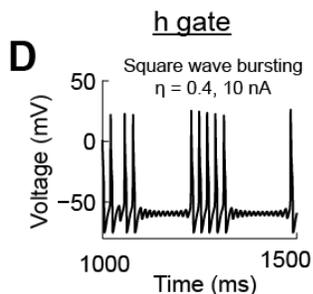
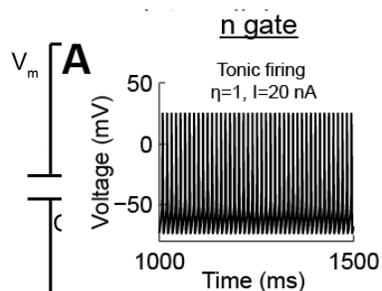


$$f = \frac{d^\eta I_n}{dt^\eta} \rightarrow f = A(2\pi\omega)^\eta \sin\left(2\pi\omega t + \frac{\eta\pi}{2}\right)$$

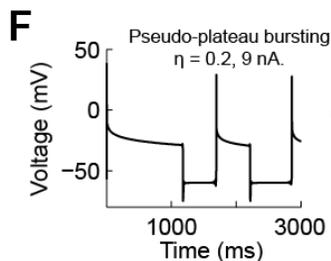
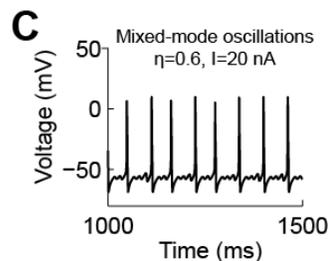
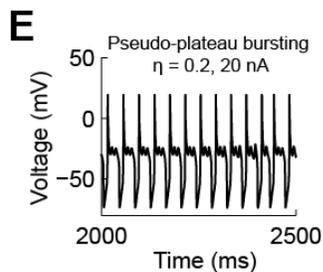
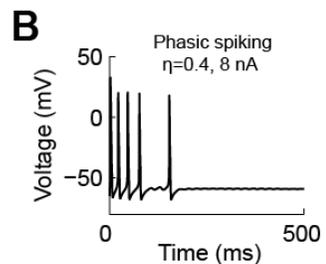


Vazquez-Guerrero, Tuladhar  
et al. (2024) Scientific  
Reports

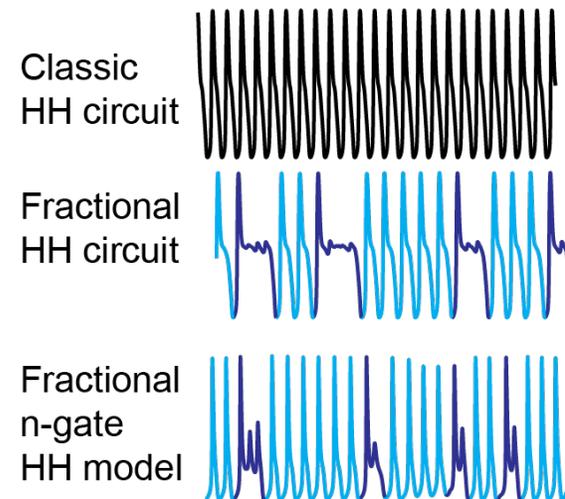
# A fractional order Hodgkin-Huxley circuit



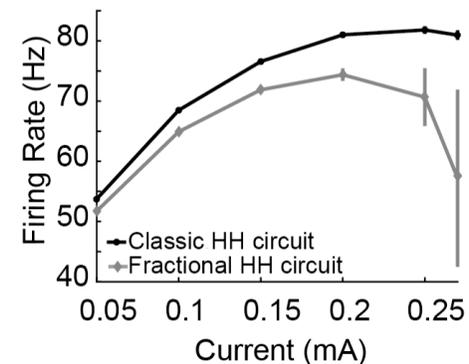
Super-capacitor stack 1  
mF



Teka, Stockton et al.  
(2016) PLoS  
computational biology

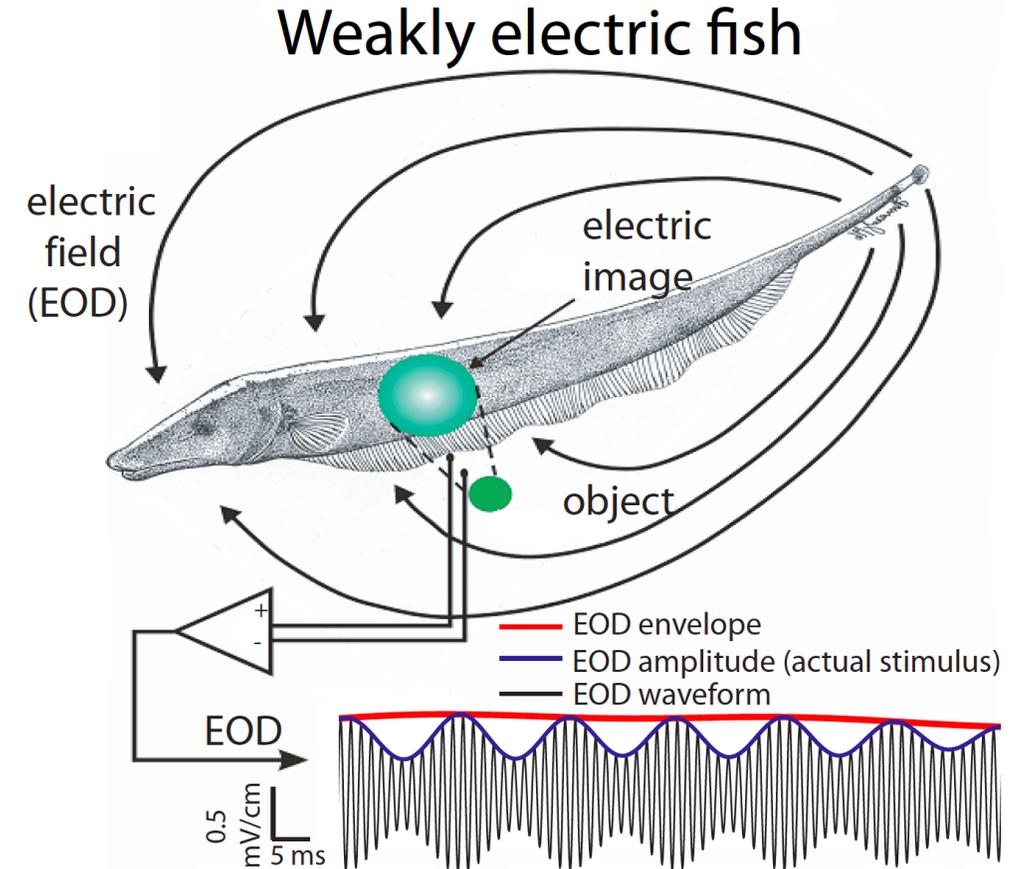


Vazquez-Guerrero,  
Tuladhar et al.  
(2024)  
Scientific  
Reports



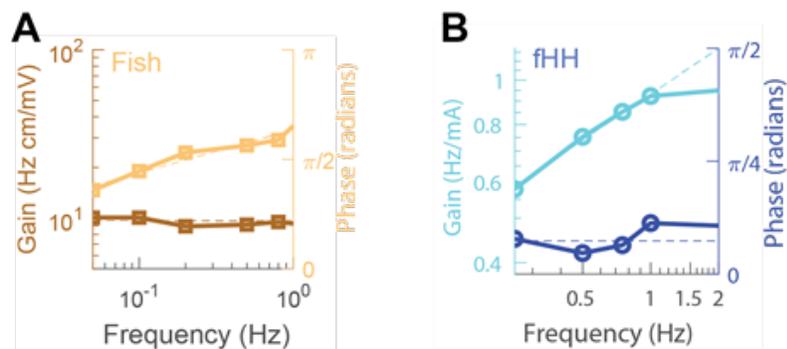
# Compare the circuit to experiments

- The pyramidal cells of the ELL perform a fractional derivative of the sensory input.
- Fractional dynamics of these neurons controlled by a potassium conductance
- Recording multiple neuron using neuropixel probes.
- Collaboration with Maurice Chacron @ McGill

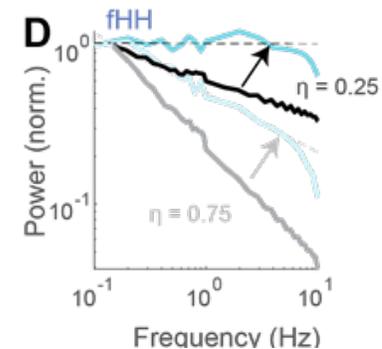
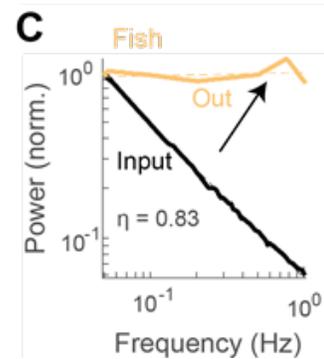


Huang, C. G., & Chacron, M. J. (2016). Optimized parallel coding of second-order stimulus features by heterogeneous neural populations. *Journal of Neuroscience*, 36(38), 9859-9872.

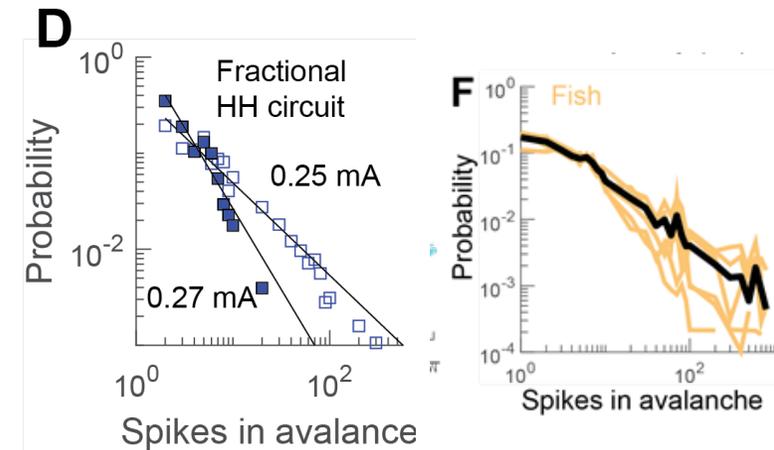
Fractional differentiation



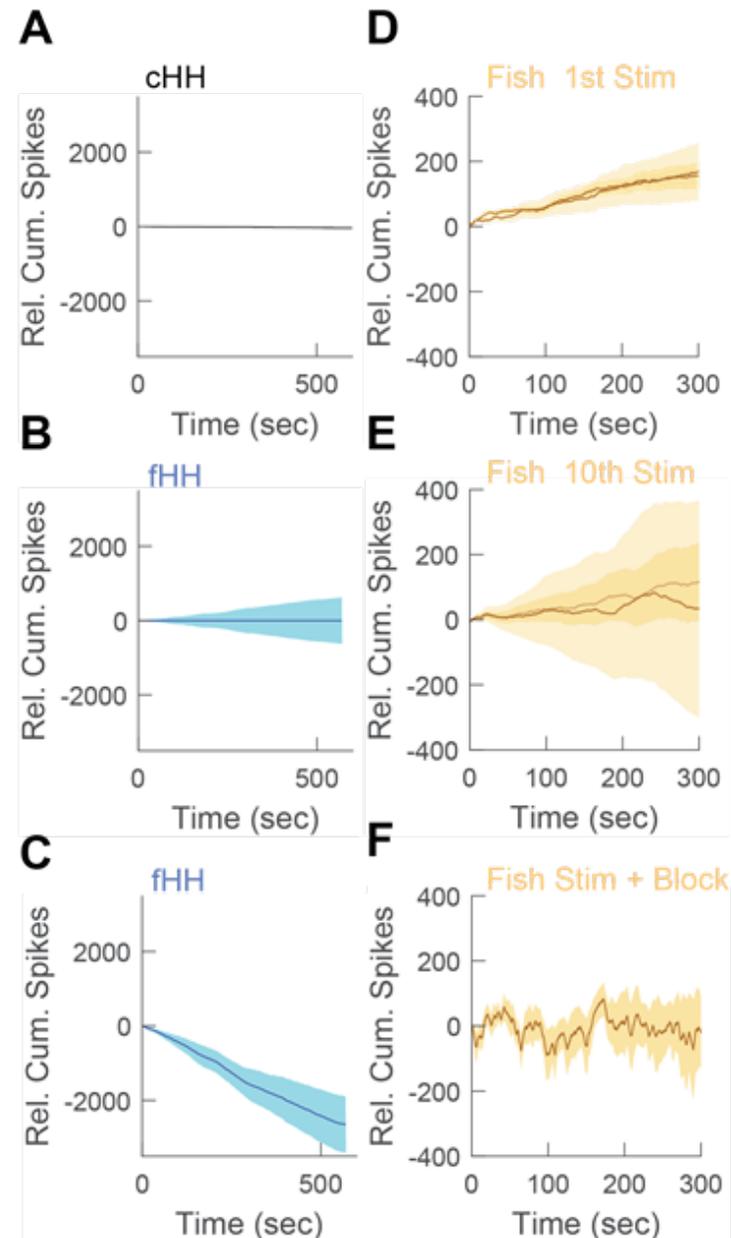
Input whitening



Criticality



Vazquez-Guerrero, Tuladhar et al. (2024) Scientific Reports



Vazquez-Guerrero, Tuladhar et al.  
(2024) Scientific Reports

- Complexity in time at single cell scale provides optimal coding usually attributed to networks
  - Neurons adapt!
  - There is more to computation than synaptic plasticity
  - Intrinsic excitability should be incorporated into neuromorphic studies and designs
- Fractional order memcapacitor networks could provide
  - Optimal encoding - natural and human made signals
  - Optimal energy - the capacitor is the most efficient electric element
- Fractional differentiation in neurons exists at multiple scales
  - It can be measured
  - It is not a metaphor exported to AI

## **NIH R01EB026939 (PI)**

### **Unified theory of adaptation**

- Maurice Chacron, McGill U
- Ahmed Elwakil, Sharja UAE
- Costas Psychalinos, Patras Greece

## **NSF EFRI-BRAID 2318139 (PI)**

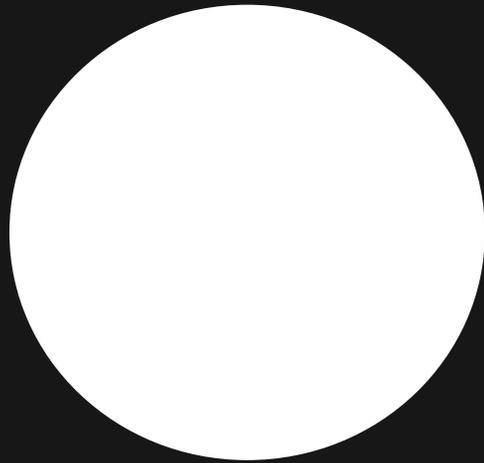
### **Fractional-order neuronal dynamics**

- Andy Sarles, U Tennessee
- Christof Teuscher, Portland State
- Yuriy Pershin, U South Carolina

## **NSF PARTNER 2332744 (co-PI)**

### **Neuro-Inspired AI for the Edge**

- Duke-UTSA



**End**