



**HAL**  
open science

# Mathematical modelling of ICAN-mediated persistent firing in hippocampal neurons

Francesco Giovannini, Motoharu Yoshida, Laure Buhry

► **To cite this version:**

Francesco Giovannini, Motoharu Yoshida, Laure Buhry. Mathematical modelling of ICAN-mediated persistent firing in hippocampal neurons. The Twenty Fourth Annual Computational Neuroscience Meeting: CNS\*2015, Jul 2015, Prague, Czech Republic. , BMC Neuroscience, 16, 2015, 10.1186/1471-2202-16-S1-P292 . hal-01183875

**HAL Id: hal-01183875**

**<https://inria.hal.science/hal-01183875v1>**

Submitted on 12 Aug 2015

**HAL** is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.

Copyright

# MATHEMATICAL MODELLING OF ICAN-MEDIATED PERSISTENT FIRING IN HIPPOCAMPAL NEURONS

Francesco Giovannini<sup>1\*</sup>, Motoharu Yoshida<sup>2</sup>, Laure Buhry<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Neurosys Team, INRIA, LORIA UMR 7503, CNRS, Université de Lorraine, Villers-lès-Nancy, F-54600, France

<sup>2</sup>Faculty of Psychology, Mercator Research Group – Structure of Memory, Ruhr-Universität, Bochum, 44801, Germany

\*francesco.giovannini@inria.fr

*From:* The Twenty Fourth Annual Computational Neuroscience Meeting: CNS\*2015 Prague, Czech Republic. 18-23 July 2015

---

Persistent neural activity has been the focus of neuroscientific research since it was first associated with complex cognitive behaviours. In particular, persistent firing has long been thought to be the neural mechanisms underlying short-term memory encoding and storage [1]. This activity is often elicited by short transient stimuli that have to be retained in memory for long delay periods, in the order of several seconds, after the original stimulus disappeared. In this scenario, the brain stores information for future execution of action depending on that information.

Persistent activity elicited in a recurrent network comprising strong excitation in the local circuit has been extensively described in the literature (for a review see [2]). However, recent findings have shown that memory can also be encoded in brain regions which do not display such recurrent connection topology, including the CA1 hippocampal area [3]. Emerging studies are pointing towards intrinsic neural mechanisms independent of synaptic connections, as a complementary mechanism for the maintenance of persistent activity in the hippocampus [4]. These include various cytoplasmic currents flowing through the membrane, characterised by slow ion channel kinetics, and particular neurotransmitter modulation. Our work investigates persistent firing activity in networks of hippocampal neurons, elicited by leveraging intrinsic currents rather than network dynamics.

Building on previous findings [5], we model a hippocampal pyramidal neuron using the Hodgkin-Huxley model, with low-threshold Ca<sup>2+</sup> currents governing the inward flow of calcium ions in the cell membrane. The intracellular calcium concentration mediates the opening of calcium-activated non-specific (CAN) ion channels [6], which causes an increase in the ionic flow through the cell membrane. Therefore the CAN channels equip the neuron with an after-spike depolarisation mechanism, which enables it to emit action potentials in the absence of external stimulation. Given a transient 250ms 200pA current injection, the neuron is capable of eliciting and maintaining persistent activity with a firing rate of 6Hz for long delay periods (30s). Moreover, this behaviour is in accord with that displayed in neural recordings of hippocampal slice preparations [4]. Connecting these persistent firing neurons in a network comprising strong local excitation yields a wide range of behaviours depending on the interaction between CAN and synaptic currents. Indeed, our network model is capable of displaying rhythmic behaviour in the form of short synchronised bursts with intra-burst frequencies of 20-40Hz and inter-burst frequencies of 3Hz. These results hint towards a possible mechanism for the generation of memory-related oscillatory activity in the hippocampus.

## References

- [1] J. Fuster and G. E. Alexander, “Neuron Activity Related to Short-Term Memory,” *Science*, vol. 173, pp. 652–654, Aug. 1971.
- [2] X.-J. Wang, “Synaptic reverberation underlying mnemonic persistent activity,” *Trends in neurosciences*, vol. 24, pp. 455–63, Aug. 2001.
- [3] D. G. Amaral, “Emerging principles of intrinsic hippocampal organization,” *Current opinion in neurobiology*, vol. 3, pp. 225–229, 1993.
- [4] B. Knauer, A. Jochems, M. J. Valero-Aracama, and M. Yoshida, “Long-lasting intrinsic persistent firing in rat CA1 pyramidal cells: a possible mechanism for active maintenance of memory,” *Hippocampus*, vol. 23, pp. 820–31, Sept. 2013.
- [5] A. Destexhe, D. Contreras, T. J. Sejnowski, and M. Steriade, “A model of spindle rhythmicity in the isolated thalamic reticular nucleus.,” *Journal of neurophysiology*, vol. 72, pp. 803–18, Aug. 1994.
- [6] L. D. Partridge and D. Swandulla, “Calcium-activated non-specific cation channels,” *Trends in neurosciences*, vol. 11, no. 2, pp. 69–72, 1988.