Neural coding: Part 3

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More sophisticated recent approaches for characterizing neural properties



Methods paper on solving with Spike-triggered approaches: Schwartz, Pillow, Rust, Simoncelli 2006



Pillow et al., Nature, 2008



Stimulus filter: spatio-temporal light integration

Post-spiking filter: Voltage-activated currents (time course of recovery after a spike)

Coupling filters: Synaptic or electrical interactions between cells



• Predict spike trains with coupled and uncoupled model



Pillow et al., Nature, 2008



• Predict spike trains with coupled and uncoupled model



 Opposite direction: from spike train model, predict input stimuli



Pillow et al., Nature, 2008

Beyond vision: LIP neurons



Pillow et al., Nature Neuroscience 2014: Encoding and decoding in parietal cortex during sensorimotor decision-making

Decision making



Task: move eyes in direction of target Pillow et al., Nature Neuroscience, 2014

Decision making

6.4% coherence



51.2% coherence



http://cns.bu.edu/~advait/RDMstimuli.html coherence

Decision making: LIP neurons



Pillow et al., Nature Neuroscience 2014:

Encoding and decoding in parietal cortex during sensorimotor decision-making

Decision making



Filters related to three primary tasks: appearance of choice targets, moving dots, saccade

Pillow et al., Nature Neuroscience, 2014

Another example system and coding

Ultra Sparse Song Bird System



Song before learning



Song after learning





Fiete et al. 2009 review paper



Hahnloser et al. 2002, Nature

HVC neurons connect to RA neurons, which control muscles



Hahnloser et al. 2002, Nature

RA neurons fire at multiple times during a song



Hahnloser et al. 2002, Nature

HVC neurons burst reliably at a single precise time in the song or call!



Hahnloser et al. 2002, Nature

HVC neurons burst reliably at a single precise time in the song or call

Why ultra sparse responses in the songbird??

Why ultra sparse responses in the songbird??

We'll look at modeling work, and also introduce network modeling approaches...











Sigmoid curve





We know inputs and desired outputs



Back propagation: Compare outputs with correct answer to get error



Back propagation:

- Compare current outputs with correct desired answer to get error
- Update weights by small step down gradient

Back propagation

Error:

$$C = \int_{0}^{T} dt \sum_{k=1}^{N_{o}} \left[\mathbf{d}_{k}(t) - o_{k}(t) \right]^{2}$$

Back Propagation Gradient descent:

$$\Delta W_{ji} = -\eta \frac{\partial C}{\partial W_{ji}} = \eta \int_0^T \mathrm{d}t \sum_{k=1}^{N_o} 2[\mathrm{d}_k(t) - o_k(t)] A_{kj} f'_j h_i$$

Do sparse HVC responses help learning??





HVC units, initial network output and final network output matching desired output



3 RA units after learning
Songbird model



Fiete et al. 2004: Temporal Sparseness of the Premotor Drive Is Important for Rapid Learning in a Neural Network Model of Birdsong

Songbird model



Fiete et al. 2009, review

Songbird model



Canonical computations in the brain??



• Descriptive neural model

- Canonical computation (Carandini, Heeger, Nature Reviews, 2012)
- Has mechanistic and interpretive versions
- Related to gain control in engineering



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Simple version of descriptive model:

$$R = \frac{R_{max}K^2}{K^2 + \sigma^2}$$

K corresponds to illumination, contrast, sound intensity, etc.

Simple version of descriptive model:



Figure 1.3. Behavior of Naka-Rushton equation. Left, The Naka-Rushton equation for a constant $R_{max} = 1$ and variable σ . Note that higher values of σ shift the response curve to the right on a log axis. Right, The Naka-Rushton equation for a constant $\sigma = .1$ and variable R_{max} . Note that lower values of R_{max} reduce the saturation level of the response curve.

Example: light adaptation



Light adaptation to mean intensity in the retina (in figure: turtle cone photoreceptor) Carandini and Heeger, Nature Review Neuroscience, 2012

Example: primary visual cortex



Figure from: Cagli, Kohn, Schwartz, Nature Neuroscience 2015

Example: multisensory integration



Multisensory integration (eg, can explain change in neural responses with cue reliability) Ohshiro, Angelaki, DeAngelis, Nature Neuroscience 2011 Figure from Churchland News and Views.

Example: decision making



"Context-dependent choice behavior is of particular interest in economics because it violates one of the fundamental assumptions of many rational-choice theories, namely, that decisions reflect absolute valuations assigned to individual options" .. Distractors can reduce or even reverse choice"

Louie, Khaw and Glimcher, PNAS 2013: Normalization is a general neural mechanism for context-dependent decision making

Alterations in Divisive Normalization?

- Rosenberg, Patterson, Angelaki, PNAS 2015: A computational perspective on autism
- Tibber MS, et al. (2013) Visual surround suppression in schizophrenia. Front Psychol 4:88.
- Betts LR, Taylor CP, Sekuler AB, Bennett PJ (2005) Aging reduces center-surround antagonism in visual motion processing. Neuron 45(3):361–366

Mechanism of divisive normalization model



Carandini and Heeger, Nature Review Neuroscience, 2012