

# Week 9 – part 1 : Models and data



## Biological Modeling of Neural Networks:

### Week 9 – Coding and Decoding

Wulfram Gerstner

EPFL, Lausanne, Switzerland

#### 9.1 What is a good neuron model?

- Models and data

#### 9.4 Generalized Linear Model

- Adding noise to the SRM

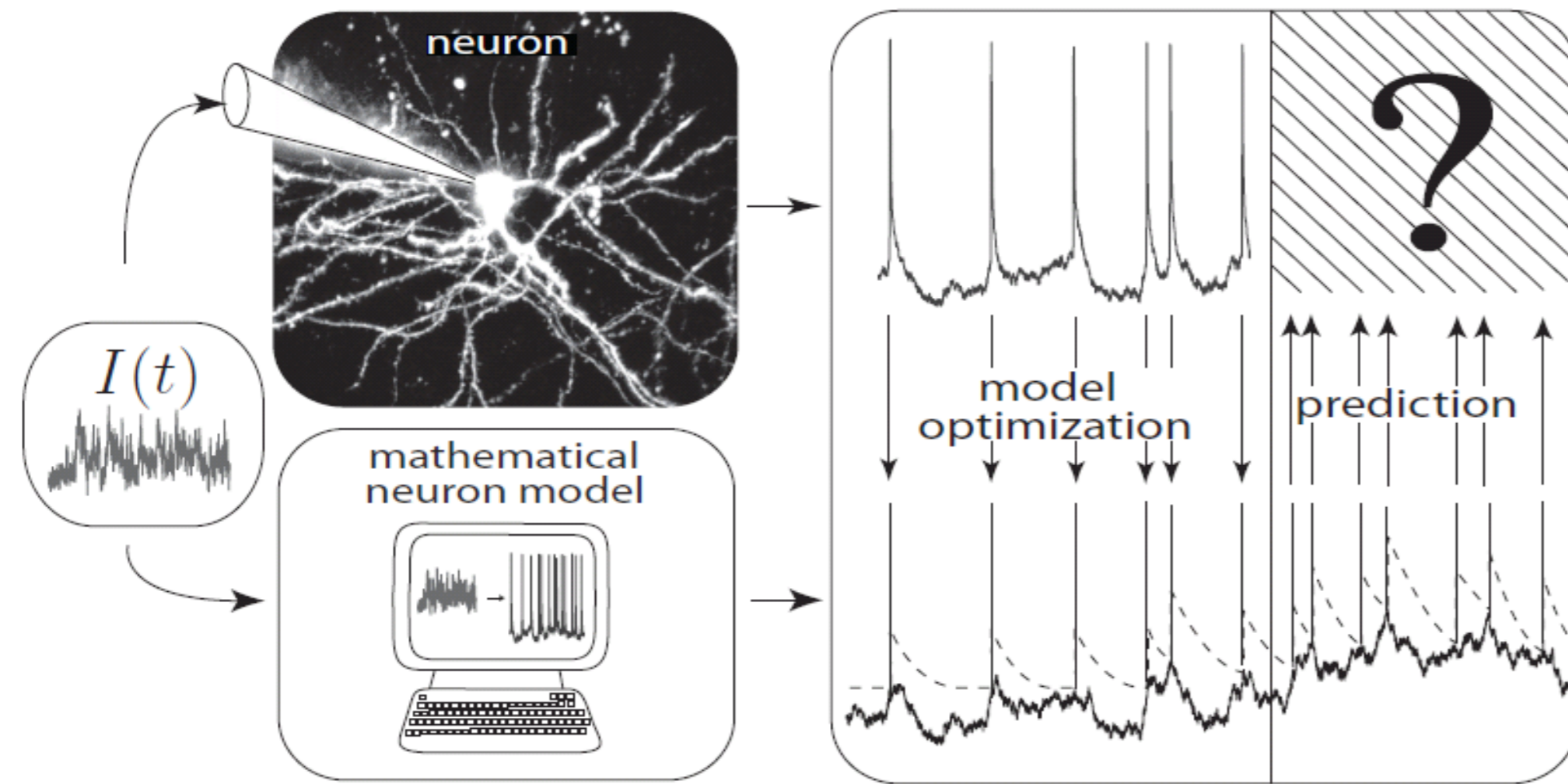
#### 9.6. Modeling in vitro data

- how long lasts the effect of a spike?

#### 9.7 Systems neuroscience

- reverse correlations
- helping humans

# Neuronal Dynamics – 9.1 Neuron Models and Data

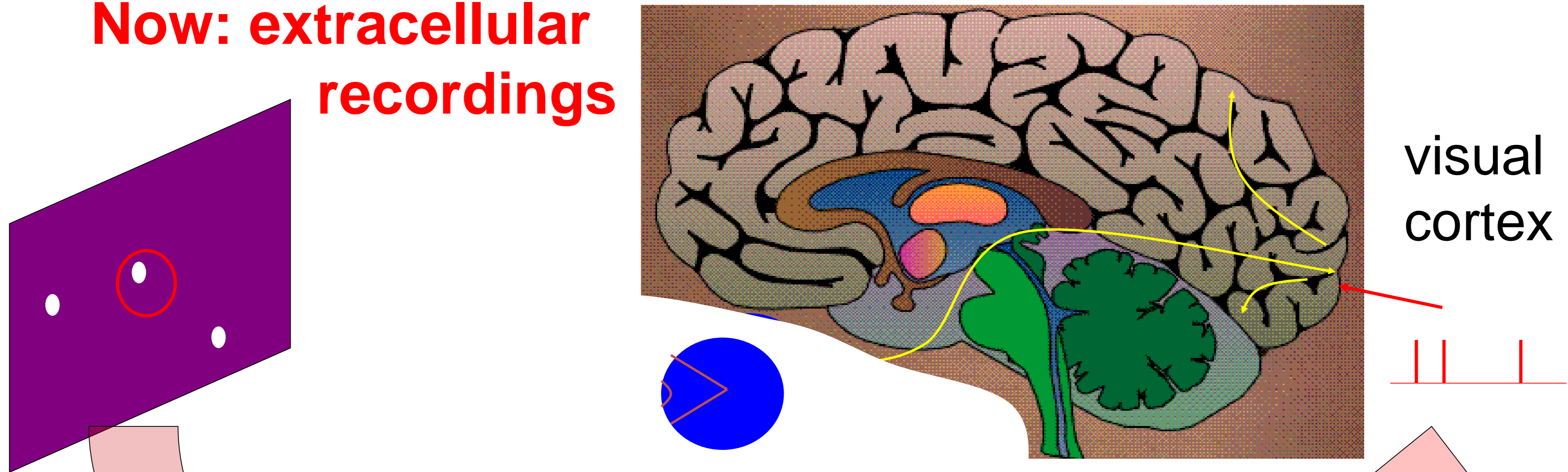


Intracellular recordings

- What is a good neuron model?
- Estimate parameters of models?
- How does a neuron encode?
- Decoding: what do we learn from a spike train?

# Neuronal Dynamics – 9.1 intro: Systems neuroscience, in vivo

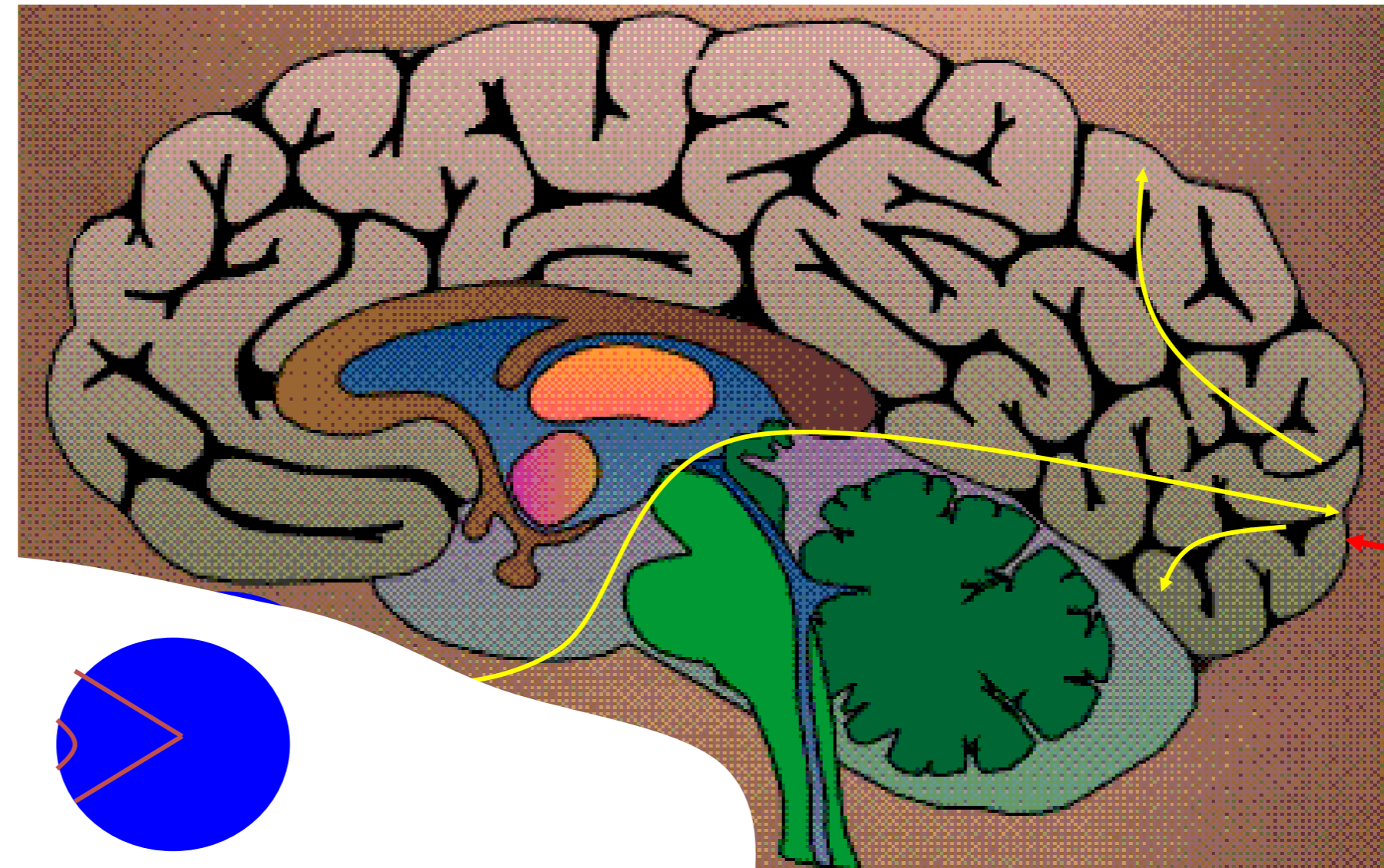
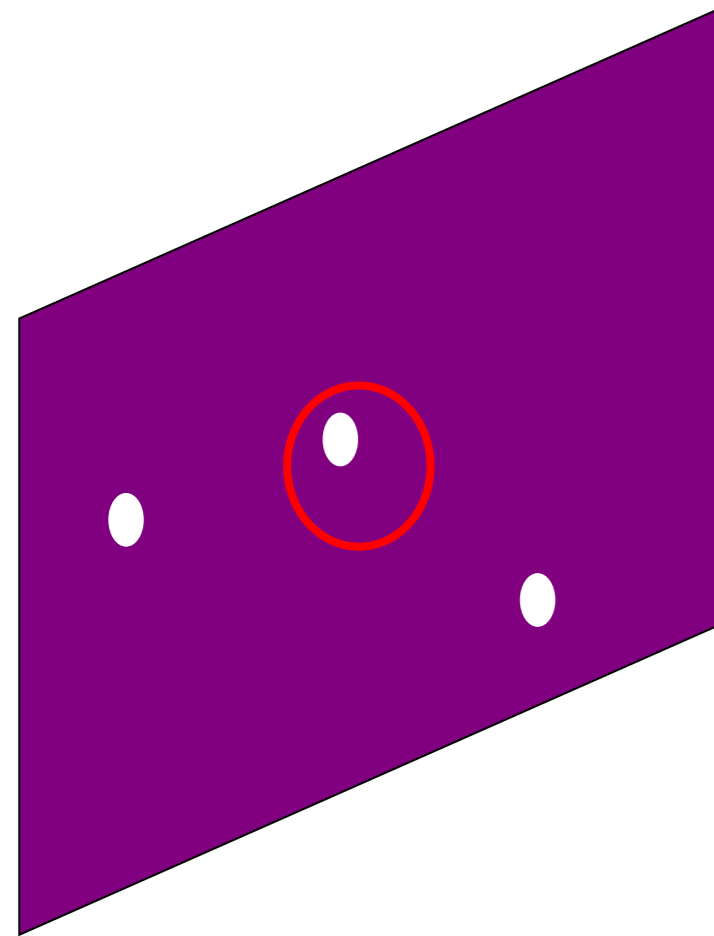
Now: extracellular recordings



- What is a good 'processing' model?
- Estimate parameters of models?
- How does a neuron encode? **Model of 'Encoding'**
- Decoding: what do we learn from a spike train?

# Neuronal Dynamics – 9.1 intro: Model of DECODING

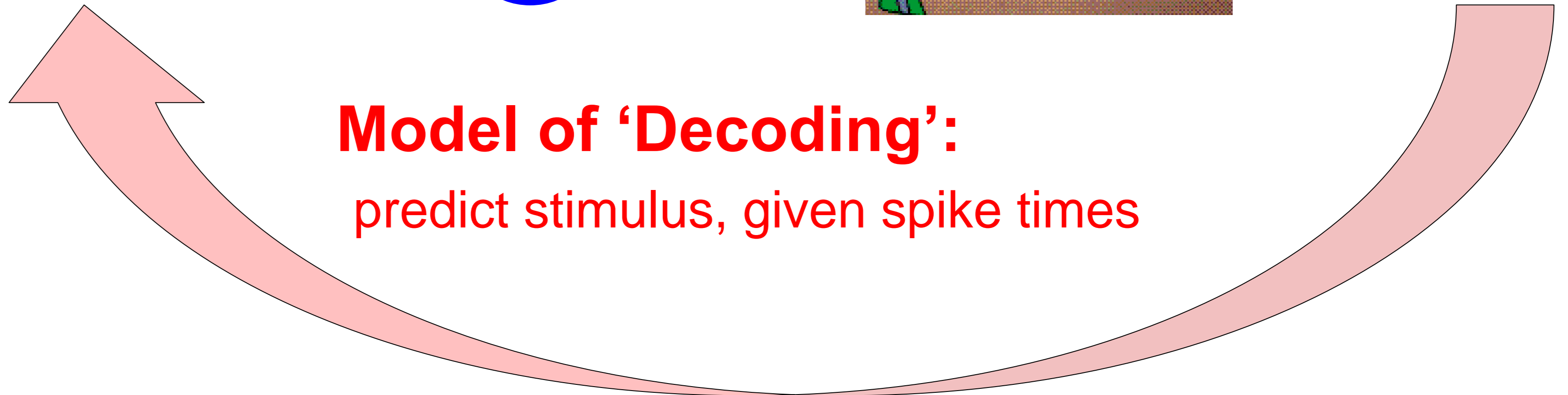
Predict stimulus!



visual cortex



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



# Week 9 – part 4 : Generalized linear model



## Biological Modeling of Neural Networks:

### Week 9 – Coding and Decoding

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#### 9.1 What is a good neuron model?

- Models and data

#### 9.4 Generalized Linear Model

- for one neuron

#### 9.6. Modeling in vitro data

- how long lasts the effect of a spike?

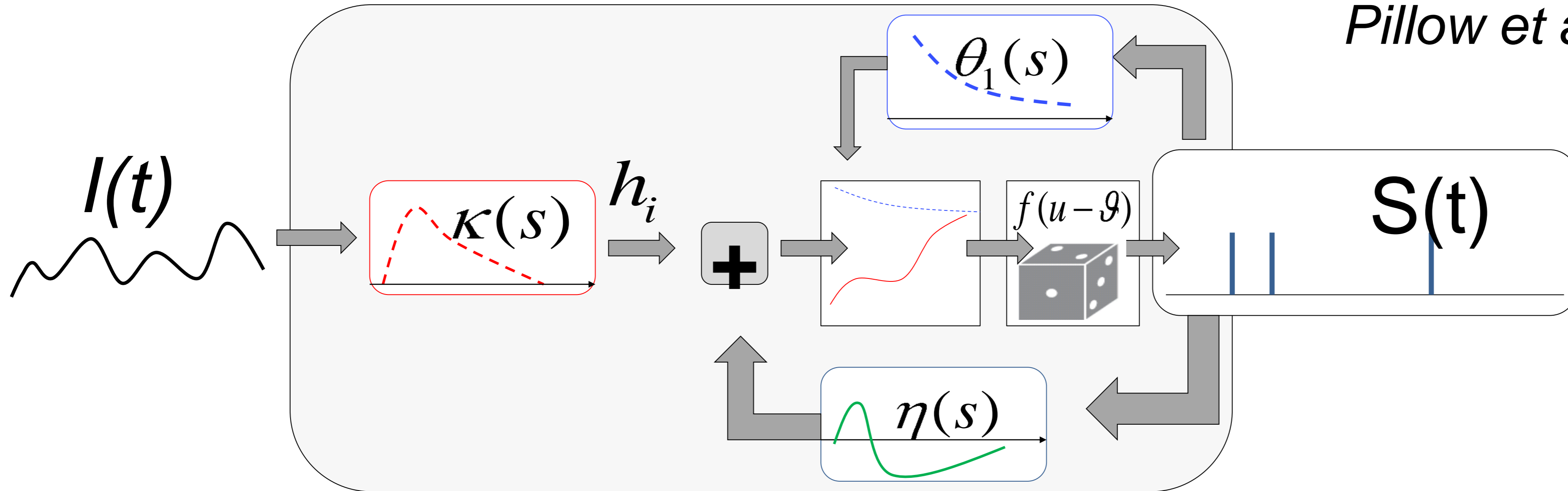
#### 9.7 Systems neuroscience

- reverse correlations

# Spike Response Model (SRM)

## Generalized Linear Model GLM

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

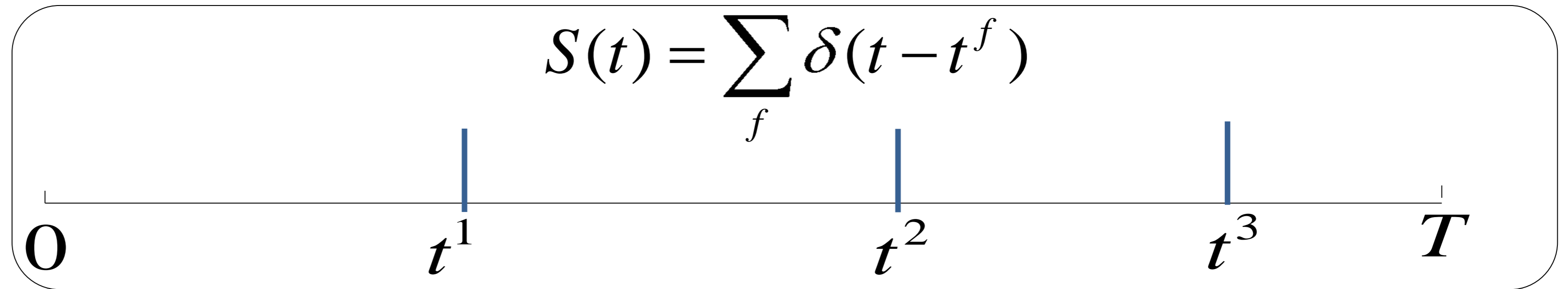


**potential**  $u(t) = \int \eta(s) S(t-s) ds + \int_0^\infty \kappa(s) I(t-s) ds + u_{rest}$

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

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

# Neuronal Dynamics – 9.4 Likelihood of a spike train

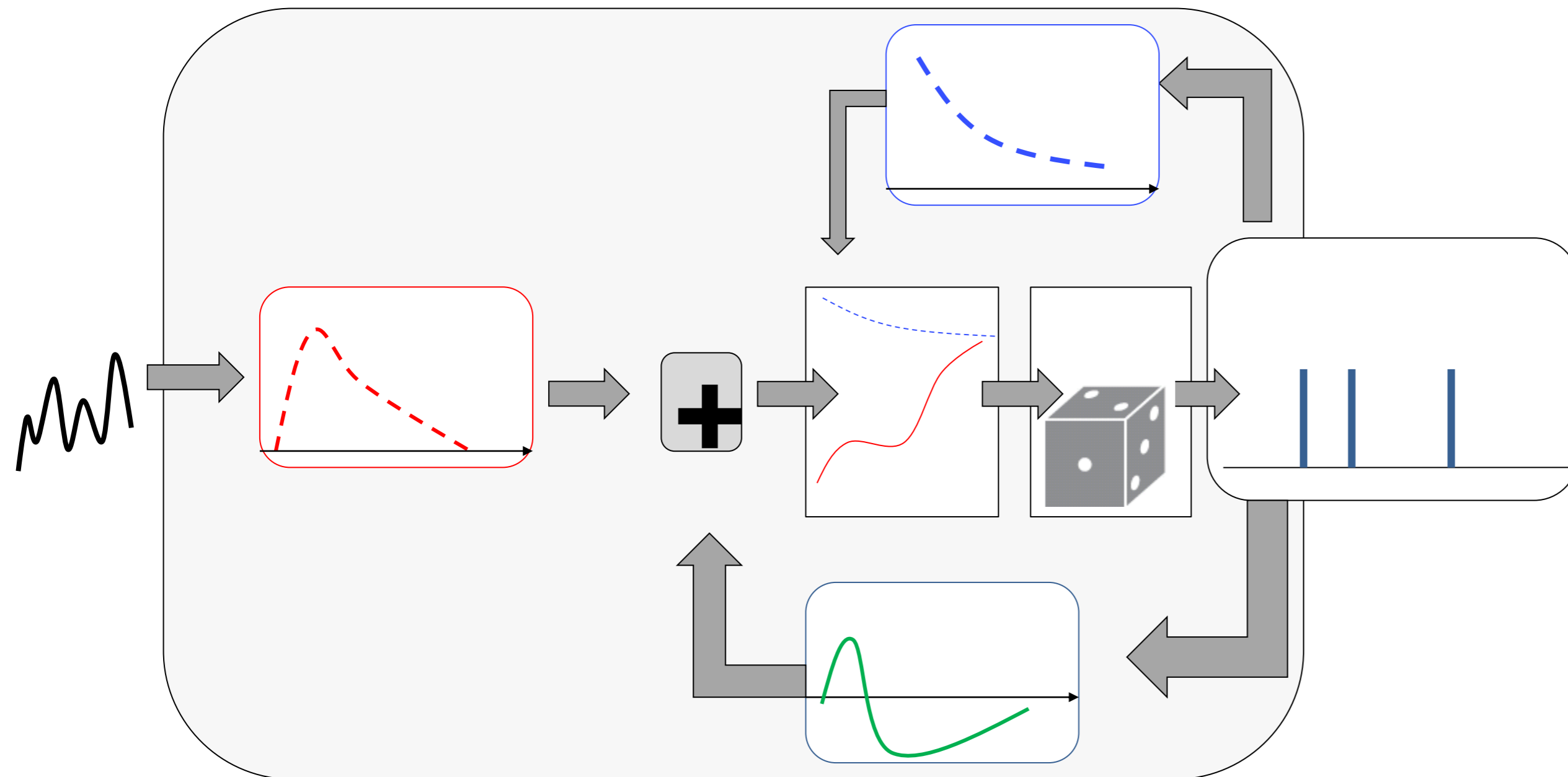


$$L(t^1, \dots, t^N) = \exp\left(-\int_0^{t^1} \rho(t') dt'\right) \rho(t^1) \cdot \exp\left(-\int_{t^1}^{t^2} \rho(t') dt'\right) \rho(t^2) \dots \exp\left(-\int_{t^N}^T \rho(t') dt'\right)$$

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

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

# Neuronal Dynamics – 9.4 SRM with escape noise = GLM



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

→ parameter optimization of neuron model



# Week 9 – part 6 : Modeling in vitro data



## Biological Modeling of Neural Networks:

### Week 9 – Coding and Decoding

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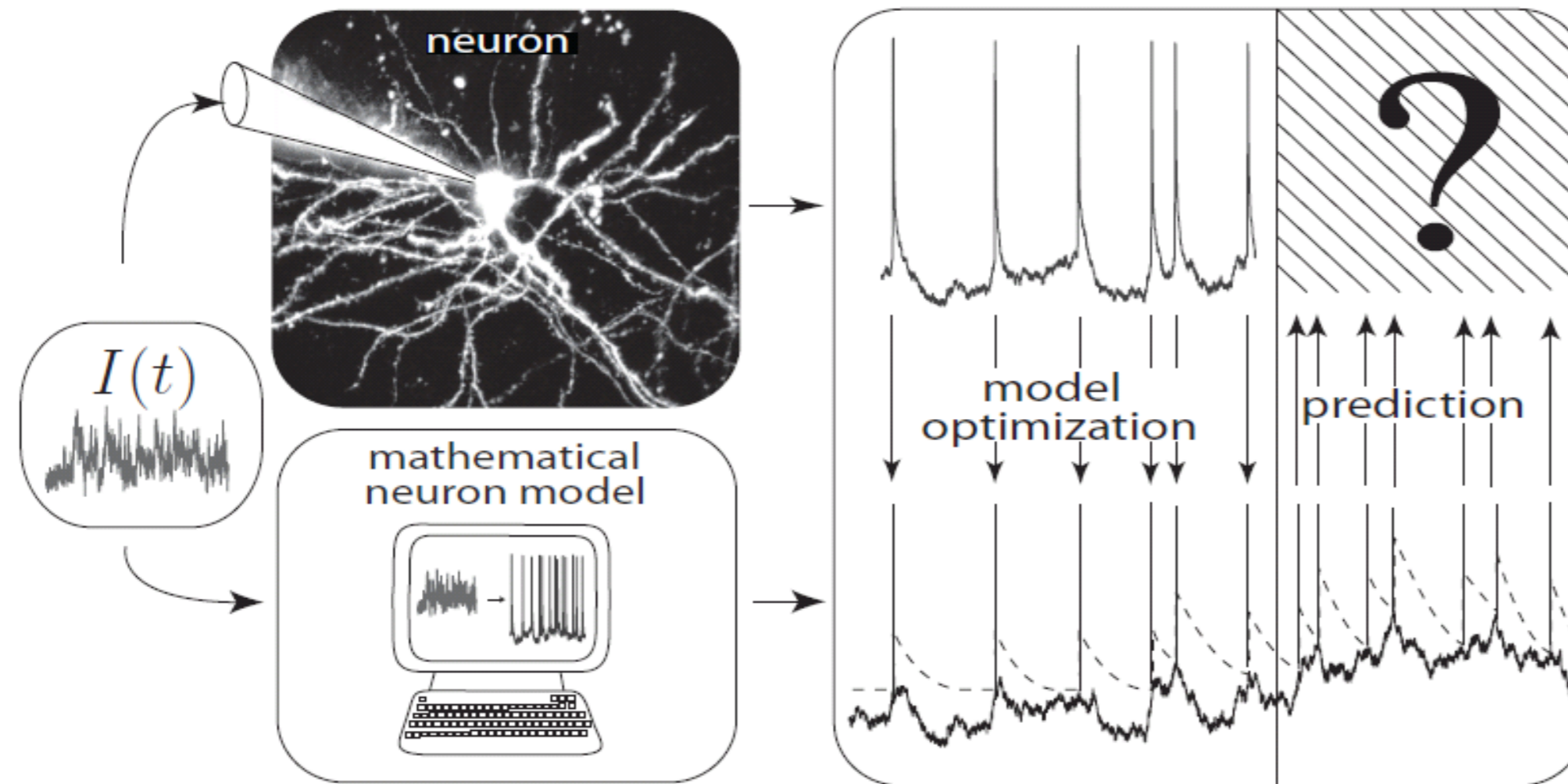
- how long lasts the effect of a spike?

#### 9.7 Systems neuroscience

- reverse correlations
- helping humans

# Neuronal Dynamics – 9.6 Models and Data

comparison model-data



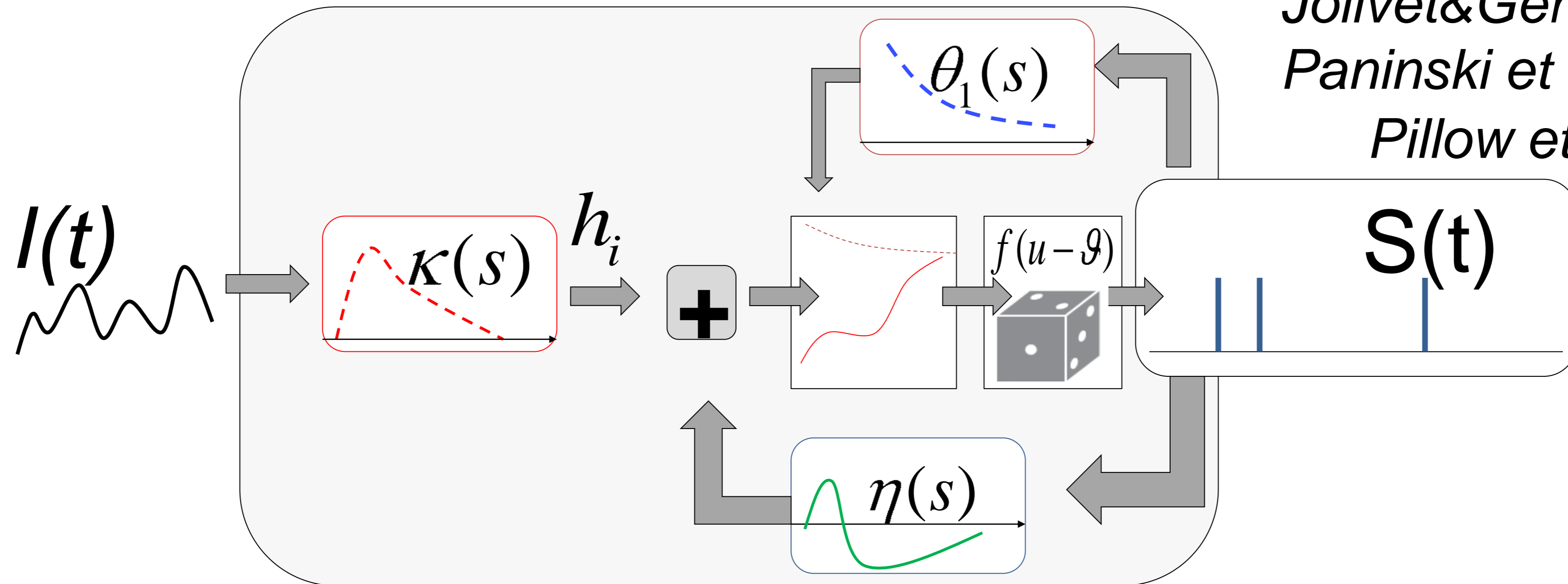
**Predict**

-Subthreshold voltage

-Spike times

# Neuronal Dynamics – 9.6 GLM/SRM with escape noise

*Jolivet & Gerstner, 2005*  
*Paninski et al., 2004*  
*Pillow et al., 2008*

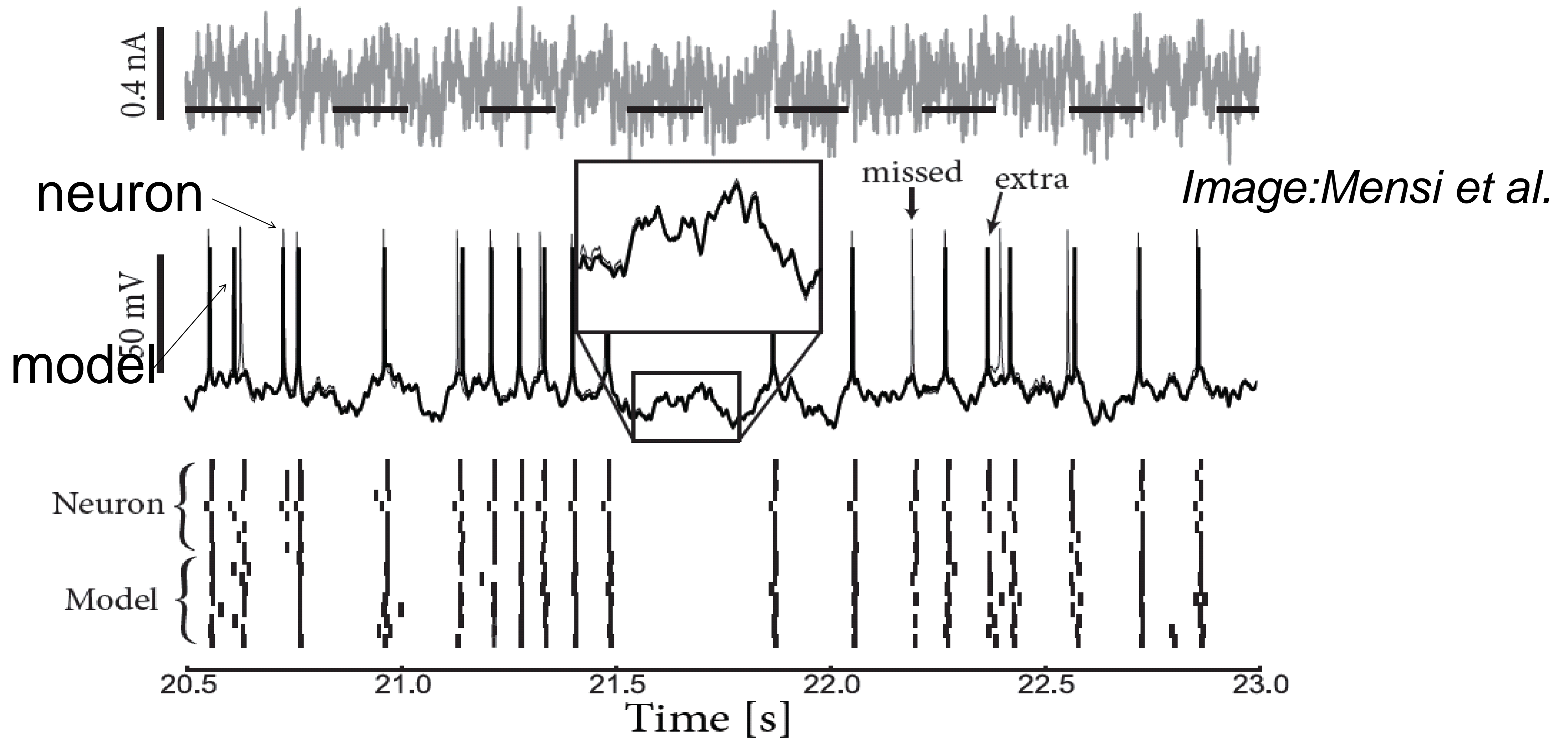


**potential**  $u \triangleq \int \eta(s) S(t-s) ds + \int_0^\infty \kappa(s) I(t-s) ds + u_{rest}$

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

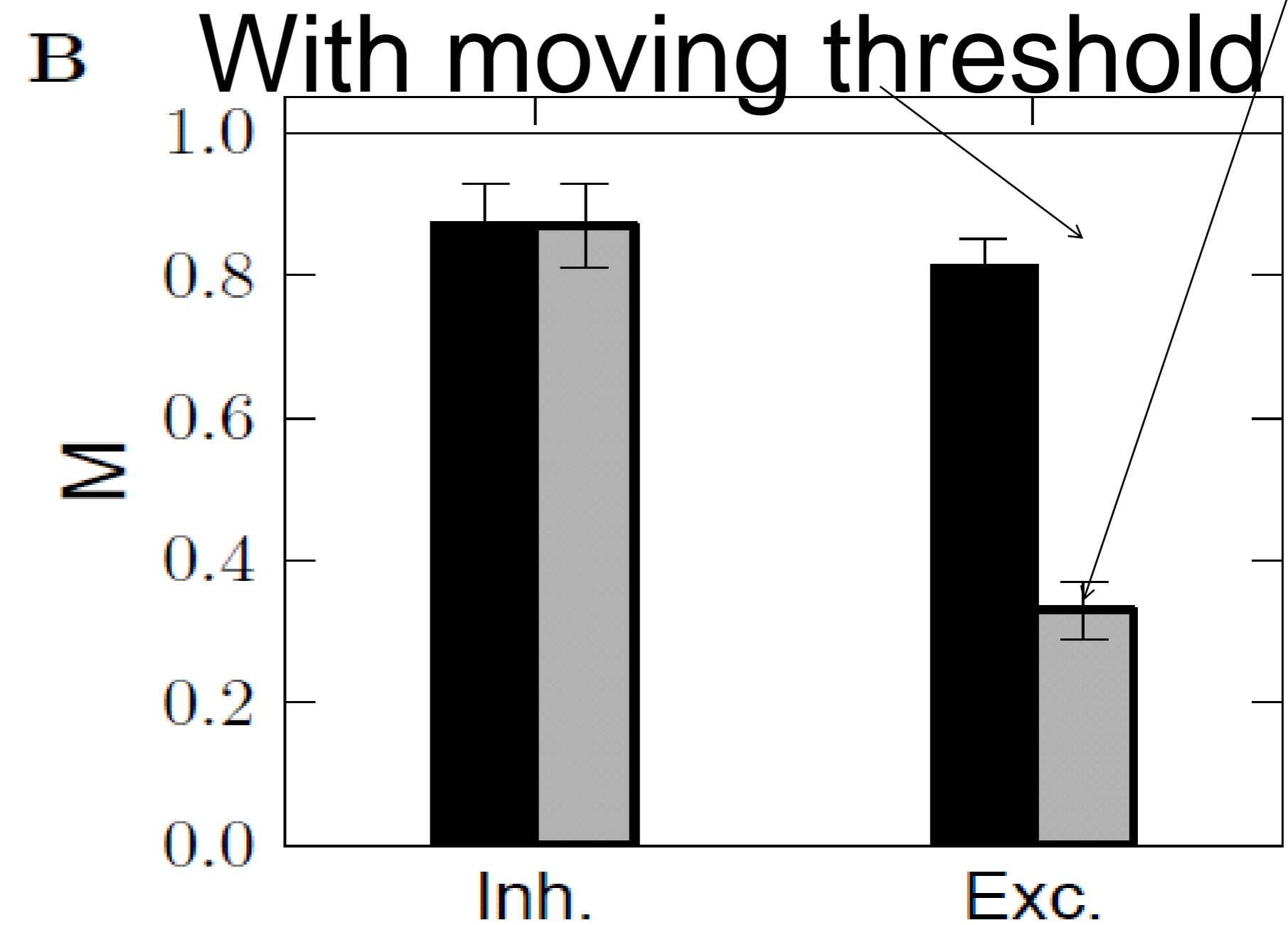
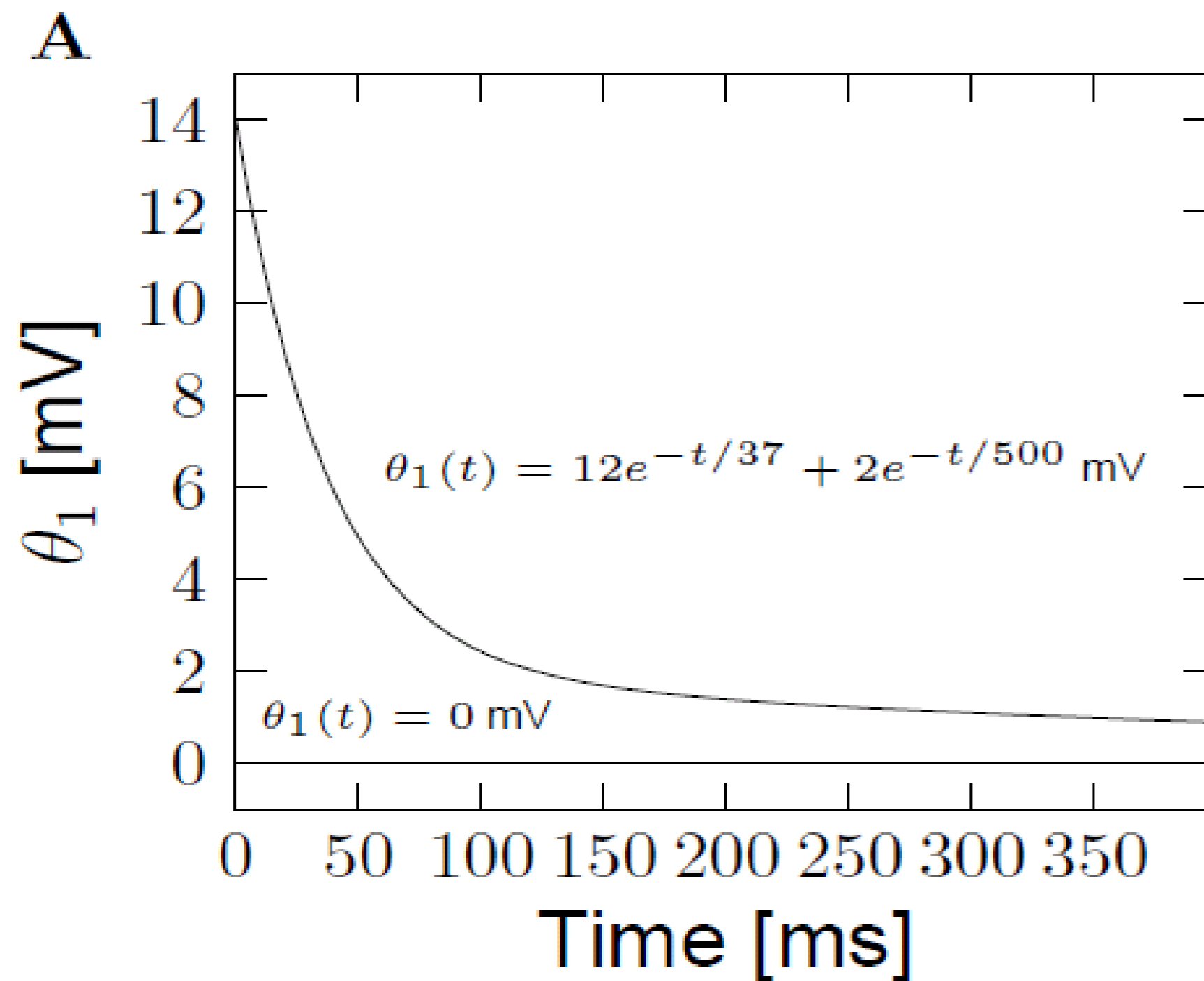
**firing intensity**  $\rho(t) = f(u(t) - \mathcal{G}(t))$

# Neuronal Dynamics – 9.6 GLM/SRM predict subthreshold voltage



## Role of moving threshold

No moving threshold



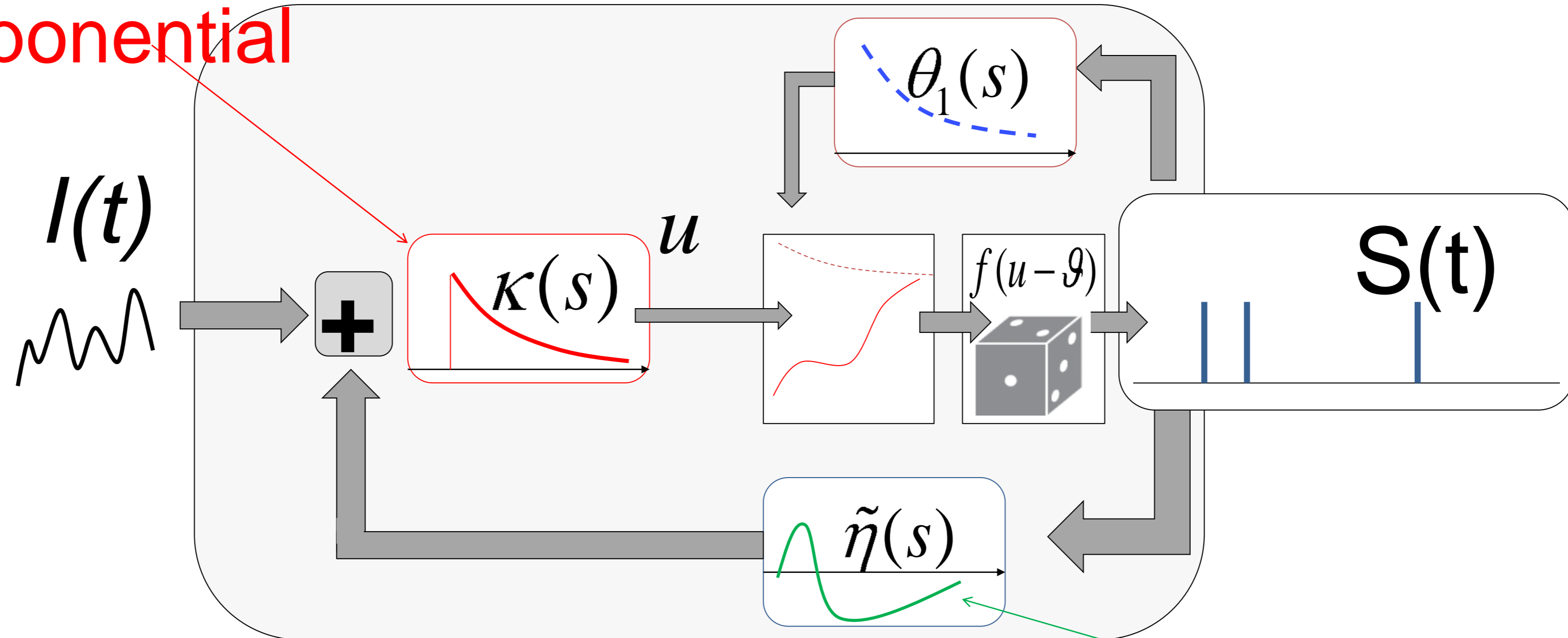
Mensi et al., 2012

# Change in model formulation:

What are the units of .... ?

'soft-threshold  
adaptive IF model'

exponential



potential

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

threshold

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

firing intensity

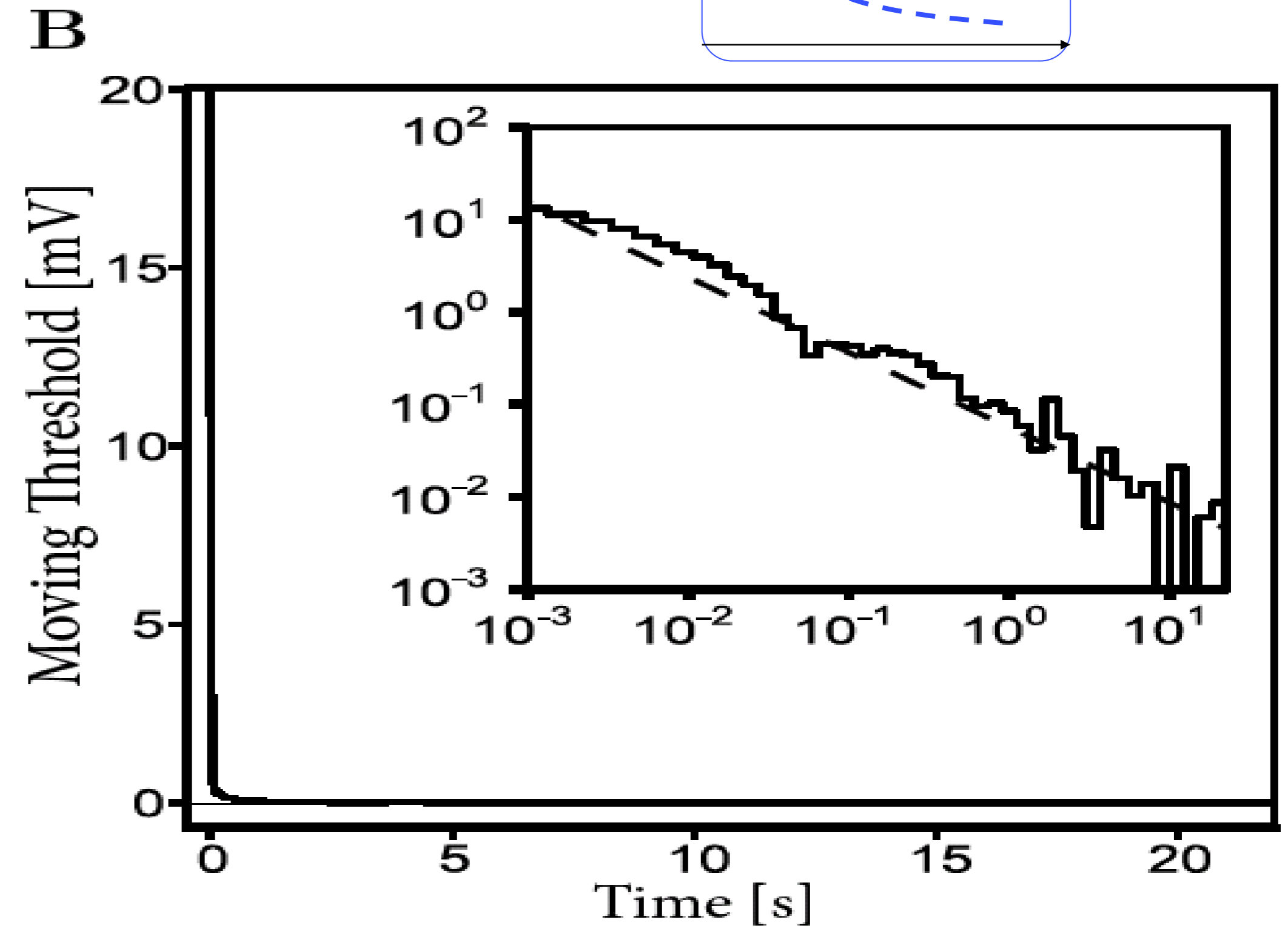
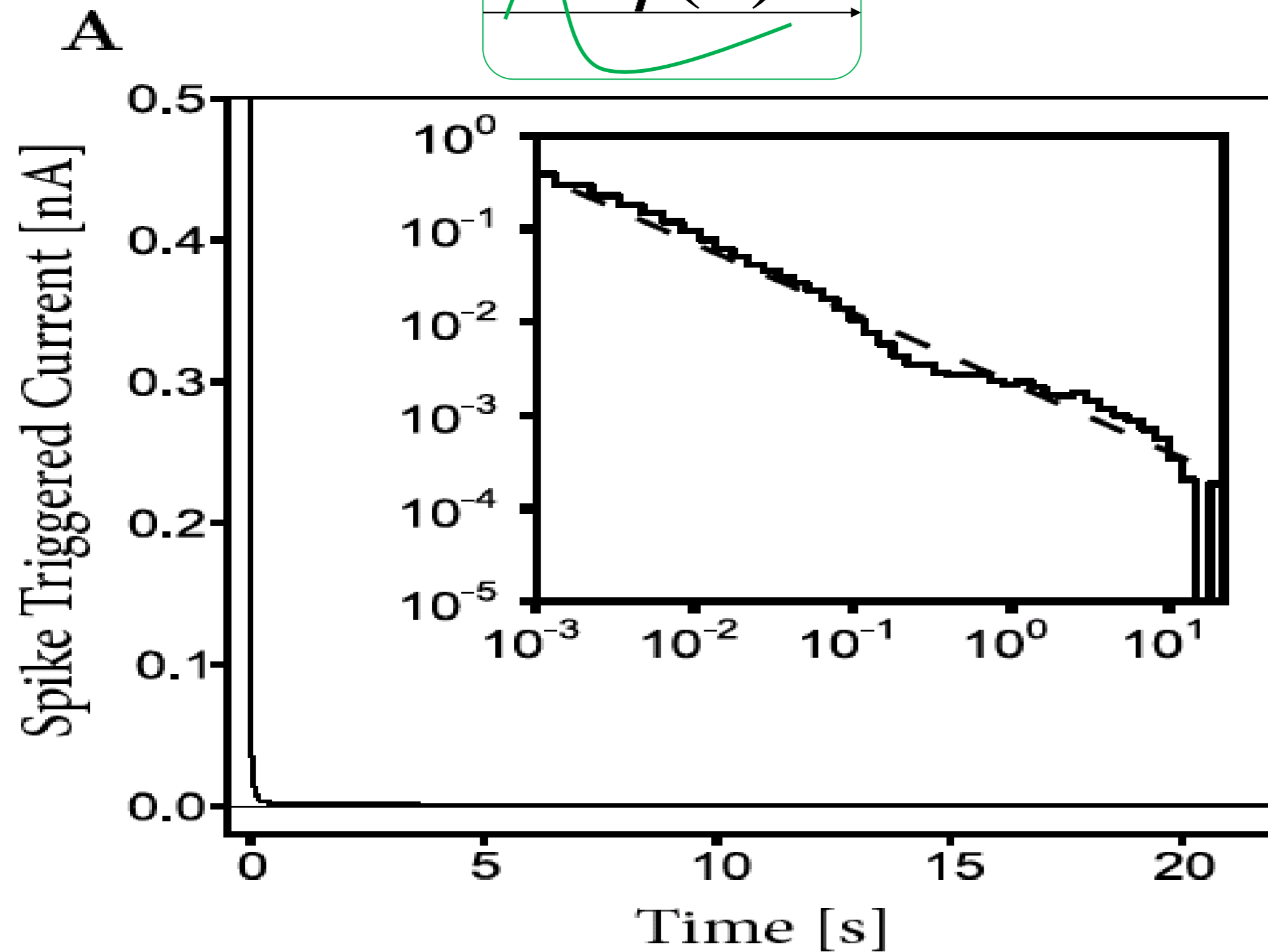
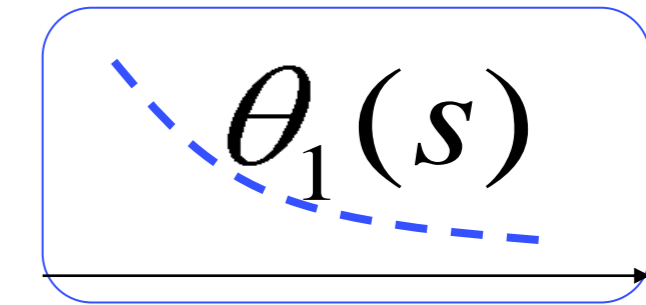
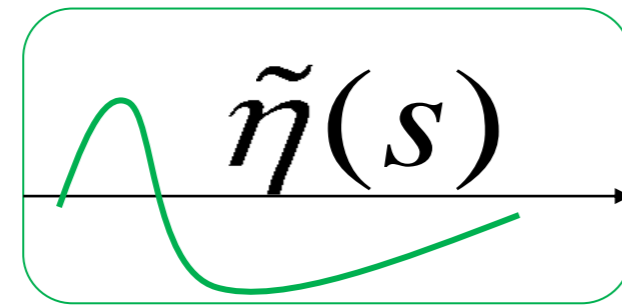
$$\rho(t) = f(u(t) - \theta(t))$$

adaptation  
current

# Neuronal Dynamics – 9.6 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*

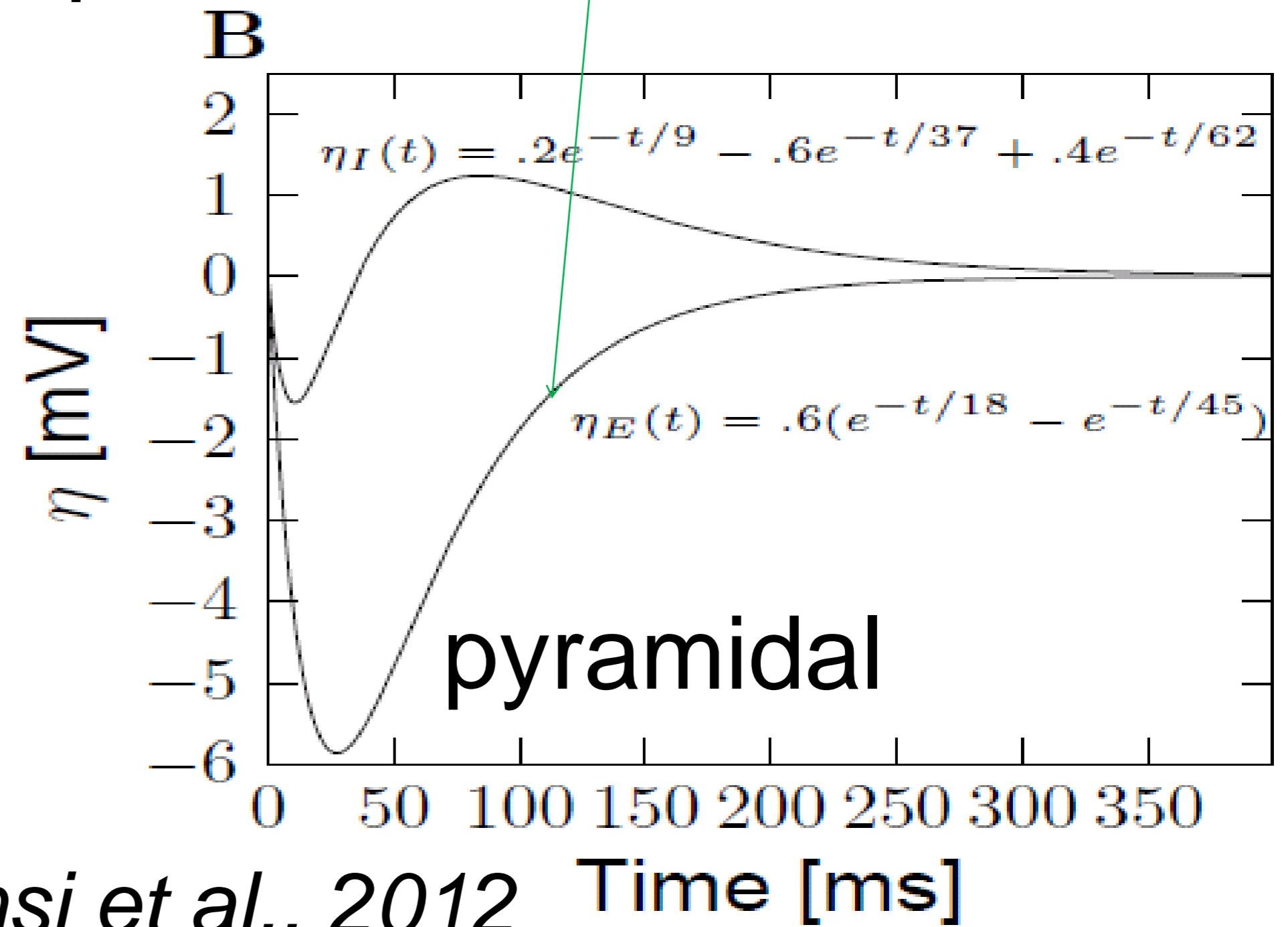
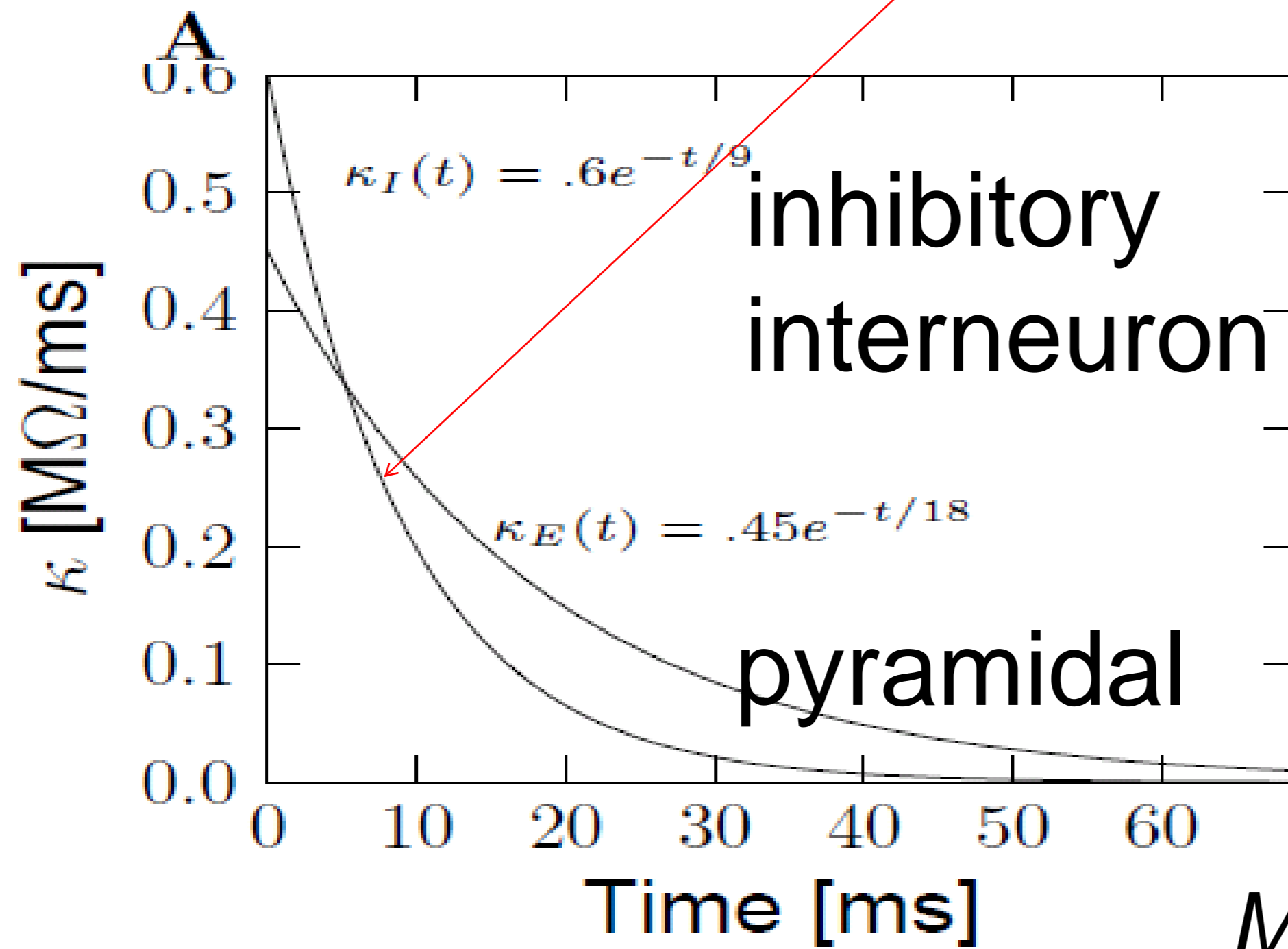
# Neuronal Dynamics – 9.6 Extracted parameters: voltage

Subthreshold potential

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

known input

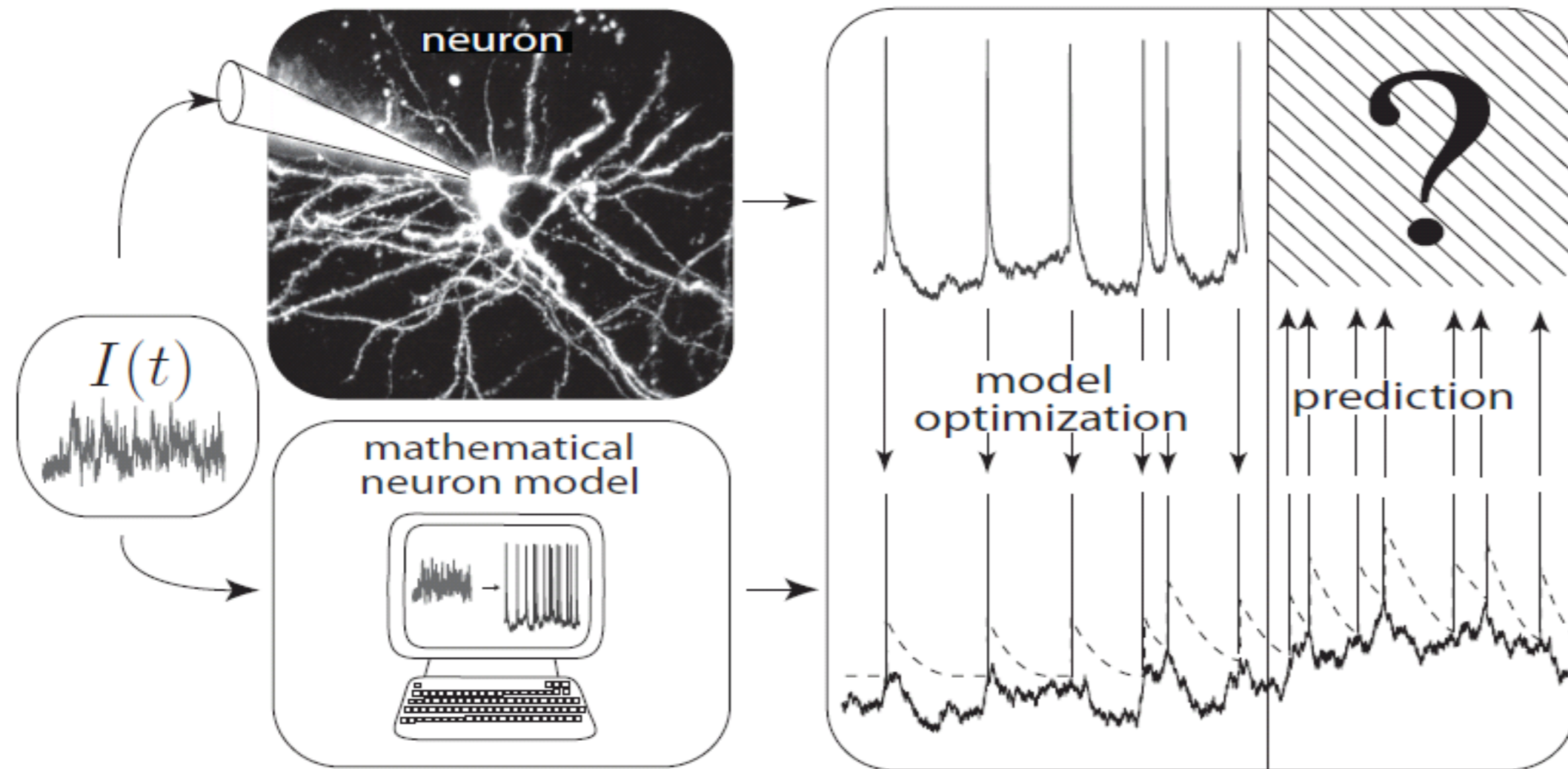
known spike train



Mensi et al., 2012



# Neuronal Dynamics – 9.6 Models and Data



- Predict spike times
- Predict subthreshold voltage
- Easy to interpret (not a 'black box')
- Variety of phenomena
- Systematic: 'optimize' parameters

**BUT so far limited to in vitro**

# Week 9 – part 7 : Models and data



## Biological Modeling of Neural Networks:

### Week 9 – Coding and Decoding

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#### 9.4 Generalized Linear Model

- Adding noise to the SRM

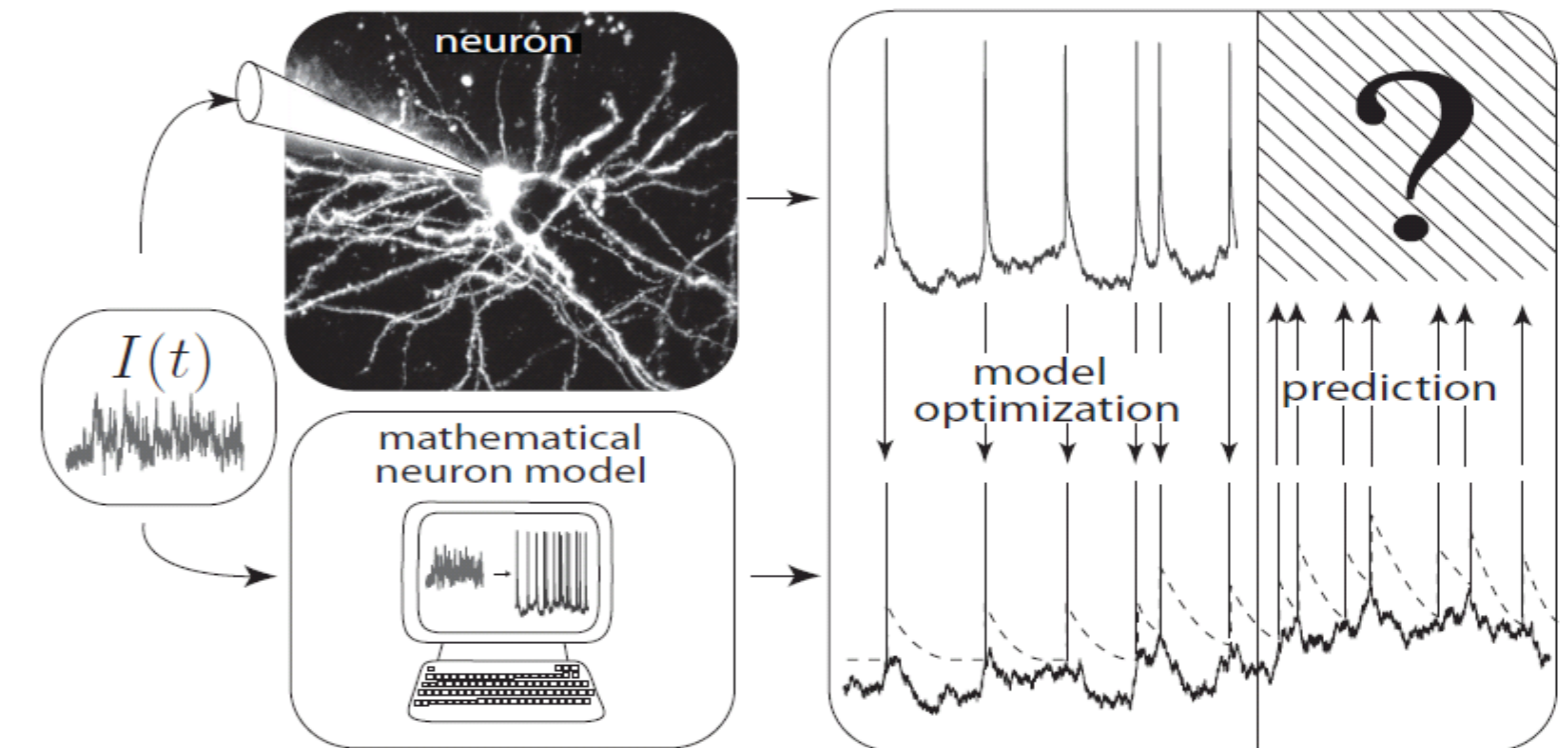
#### 9.6. Modeling in vitro data

- how long lasts the effect of a spike?

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- reverse correlations
- helping humans

# Neuronal Dynamics – Review: Models and Data

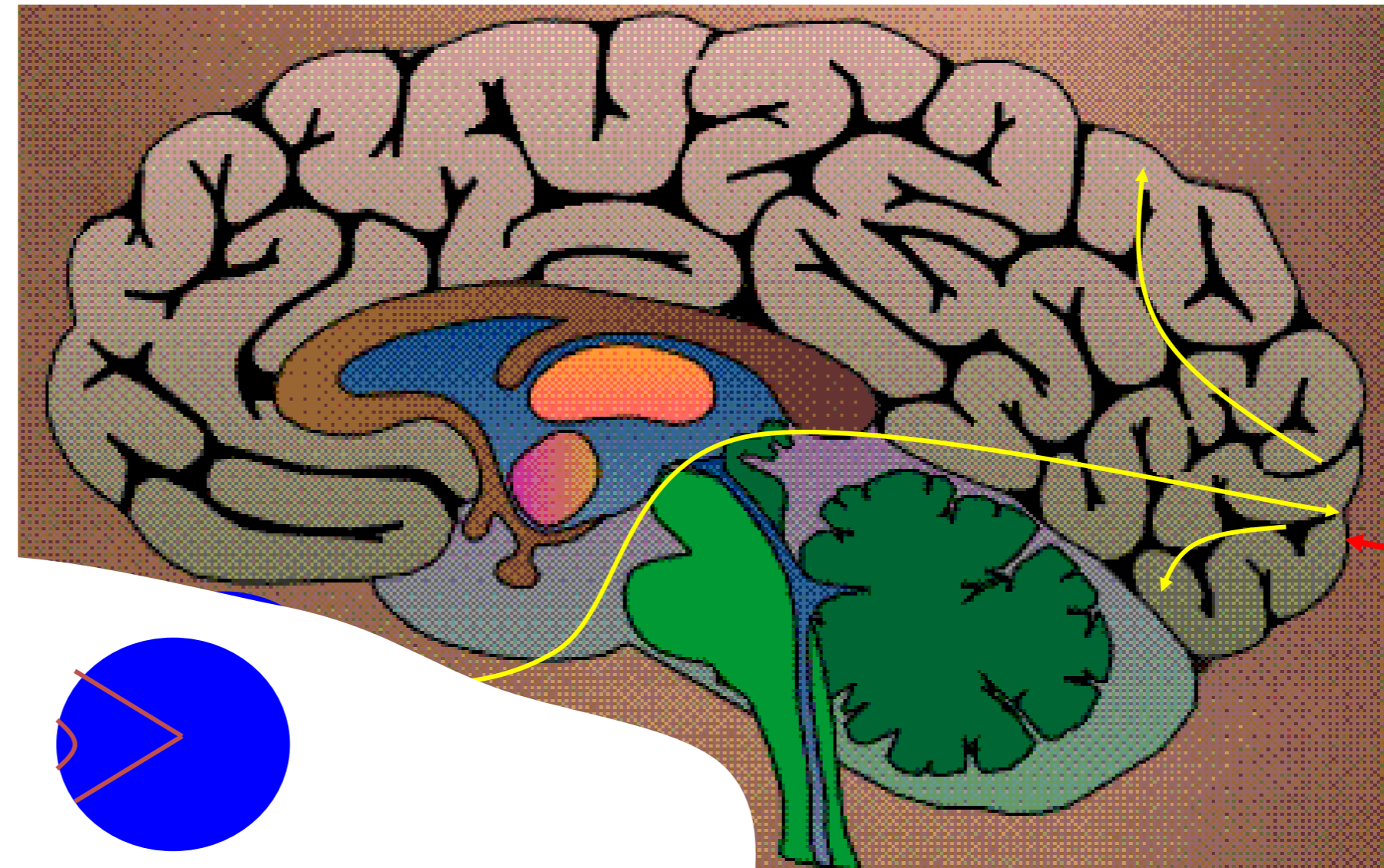
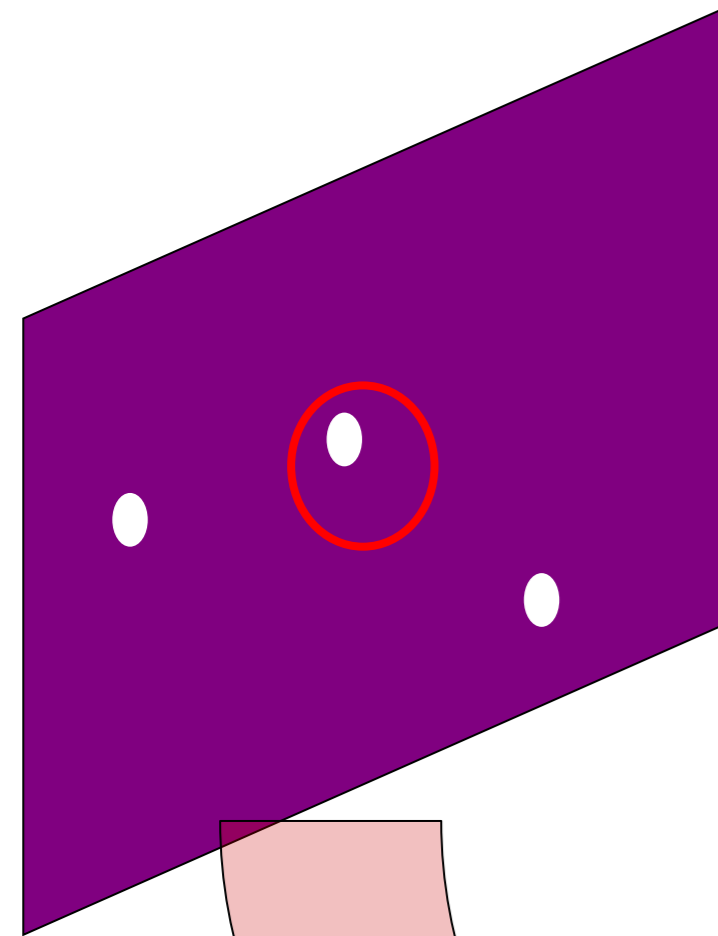


- Predict spike times
- Predict subthreshold voltage
- Easy to interpret (not a 'black box')
- Variety of phenomena
- Systematic: 'optimize' parameters

**BUT so far limited to in vitro**

# Neuronal Dynamics – 9.7 Systems neuroscience, in vivo

Now: extracellular recordings



visual cortex



- 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'**

# Neuronal Dynamics – 9.7 Estimation of receptive fields

Estimation of spatial (and temporal) receptive fields

$$u(t) = \sum k_k I_{K-k} + u_{rest}$$

**LNP**

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

$$\vec{x}_t = (x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots, x_K)$$

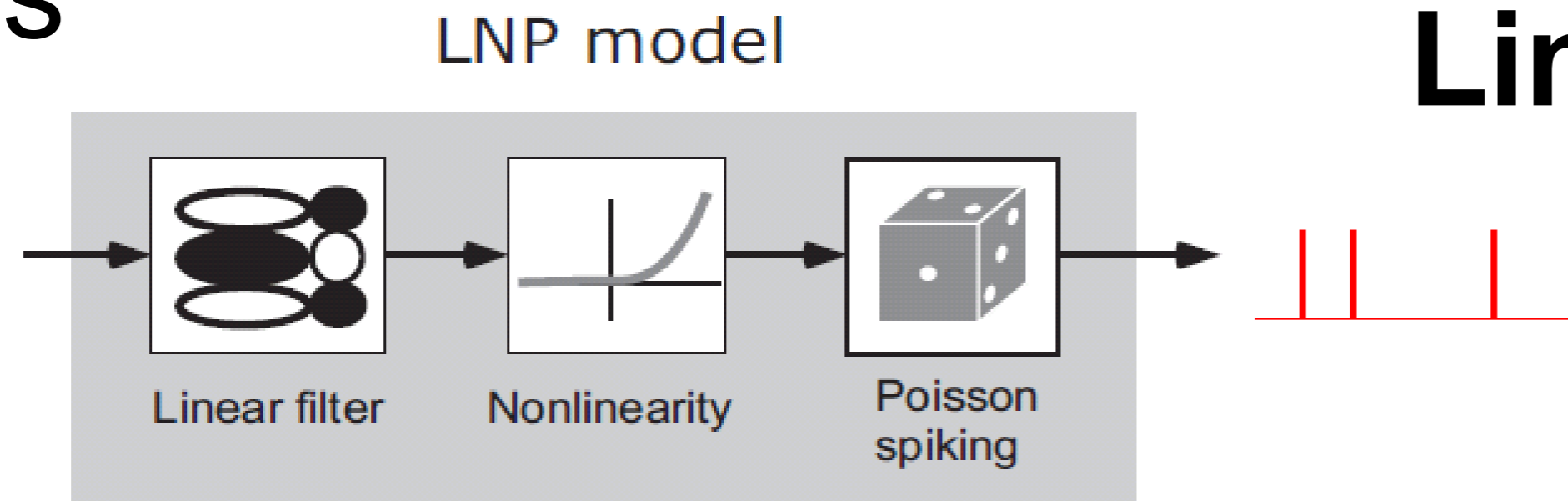
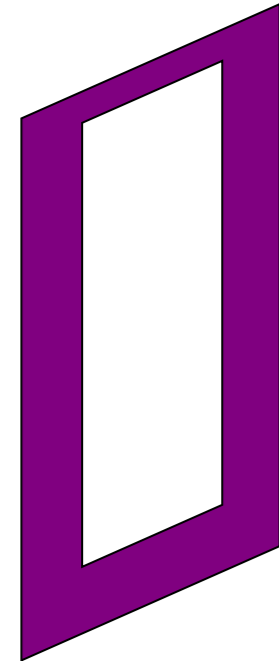
$x_1$	$x_2$	$x_3$					
		$x_{19}$					
			★				
							$x_K$

time	input $\vec{x}$	$x_1$	$x_2$	$x_3$	...	$x_K$
$t=1$		0	1	0	0	0
$t=2$		0	0	1	0	0
$t=3$		0	0	0	0	1
⋮						
⋮						
⋮						
$t=T$		0	0	0	0	1

$dt$

# Neuronal Dynamics – 9.7 Estimation of Receptive Fields

visual stimulus<sup>A</sup>

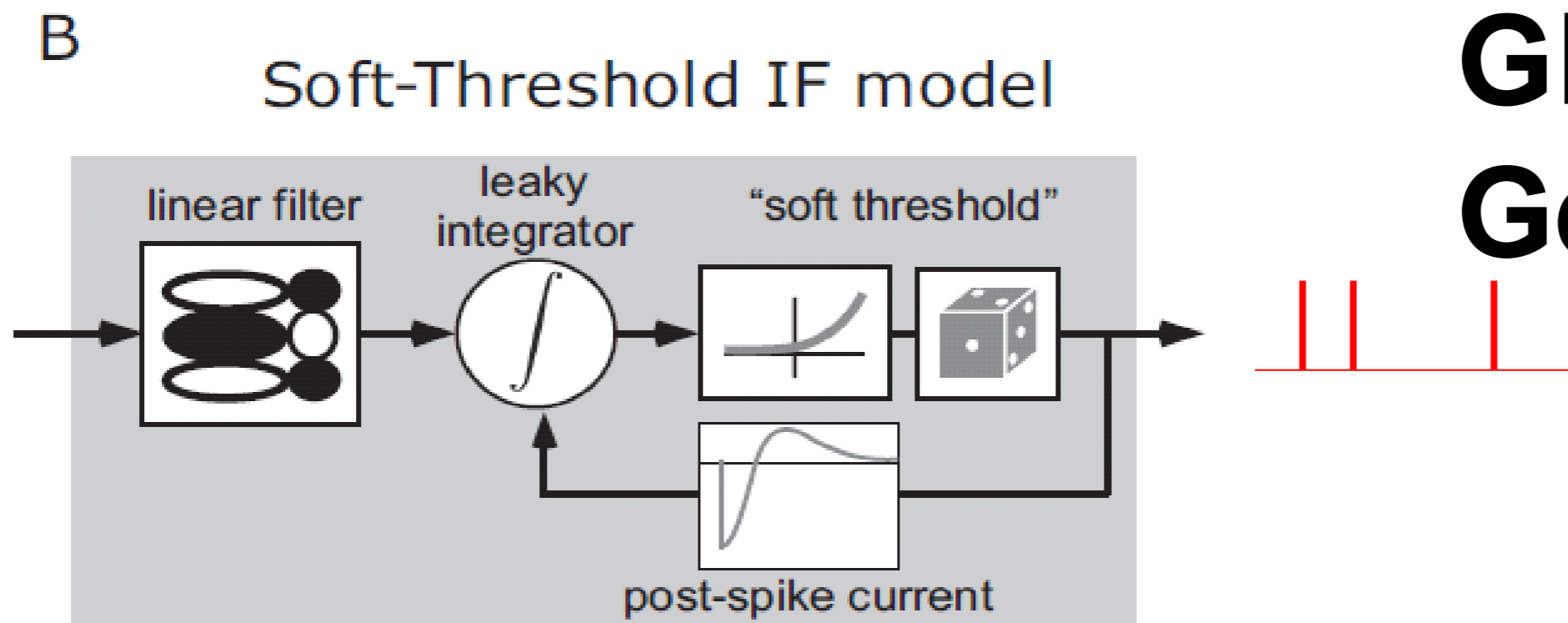
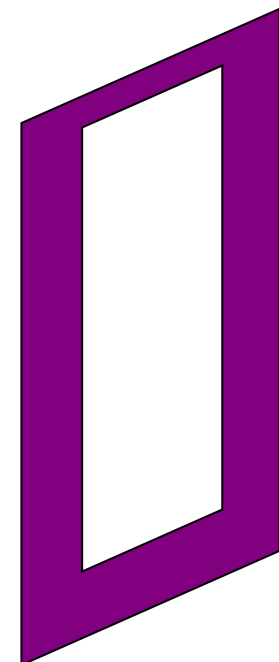


LNP =  
Linear-Nonlinear-Poisson

Special case of

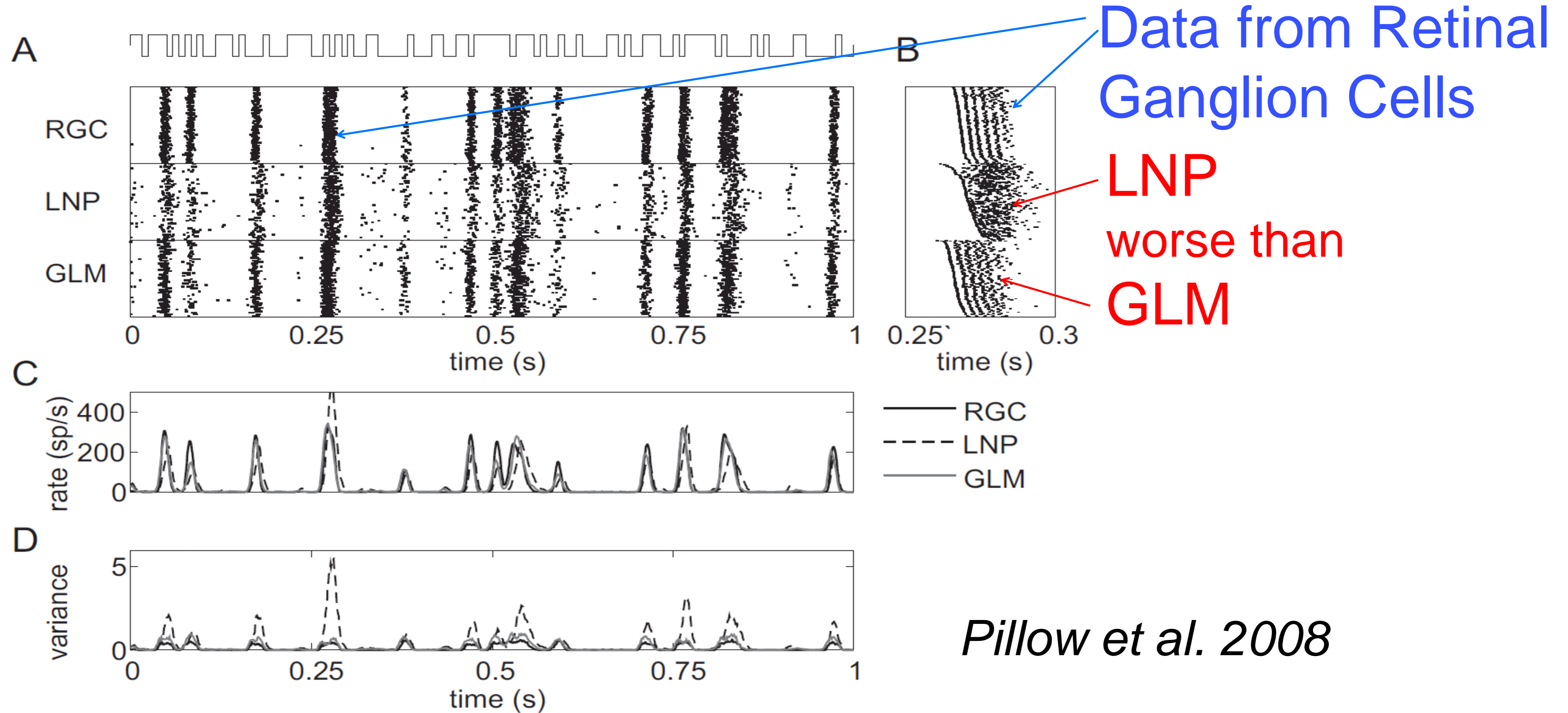
GLM=

Generalized Linear Model



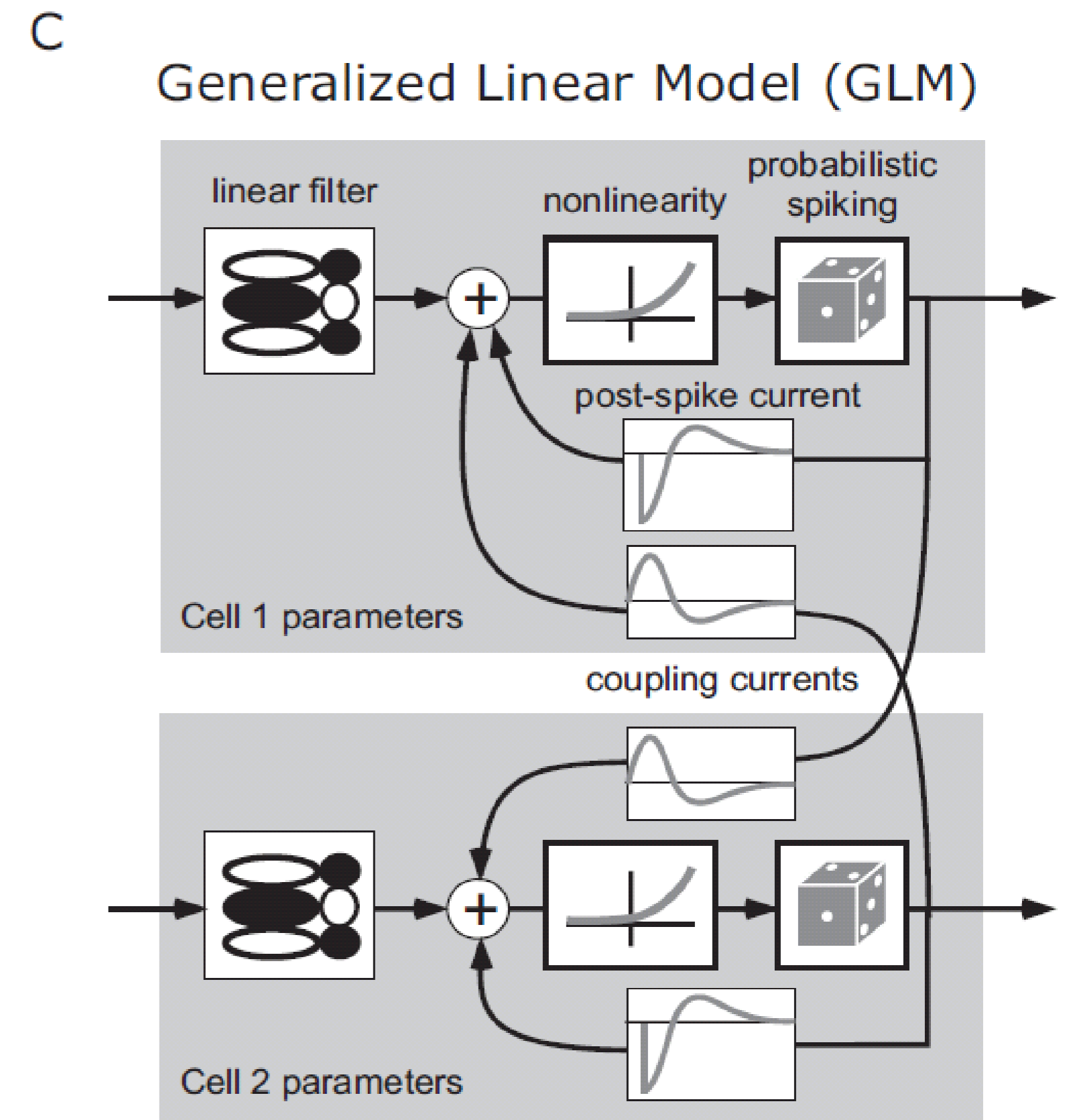
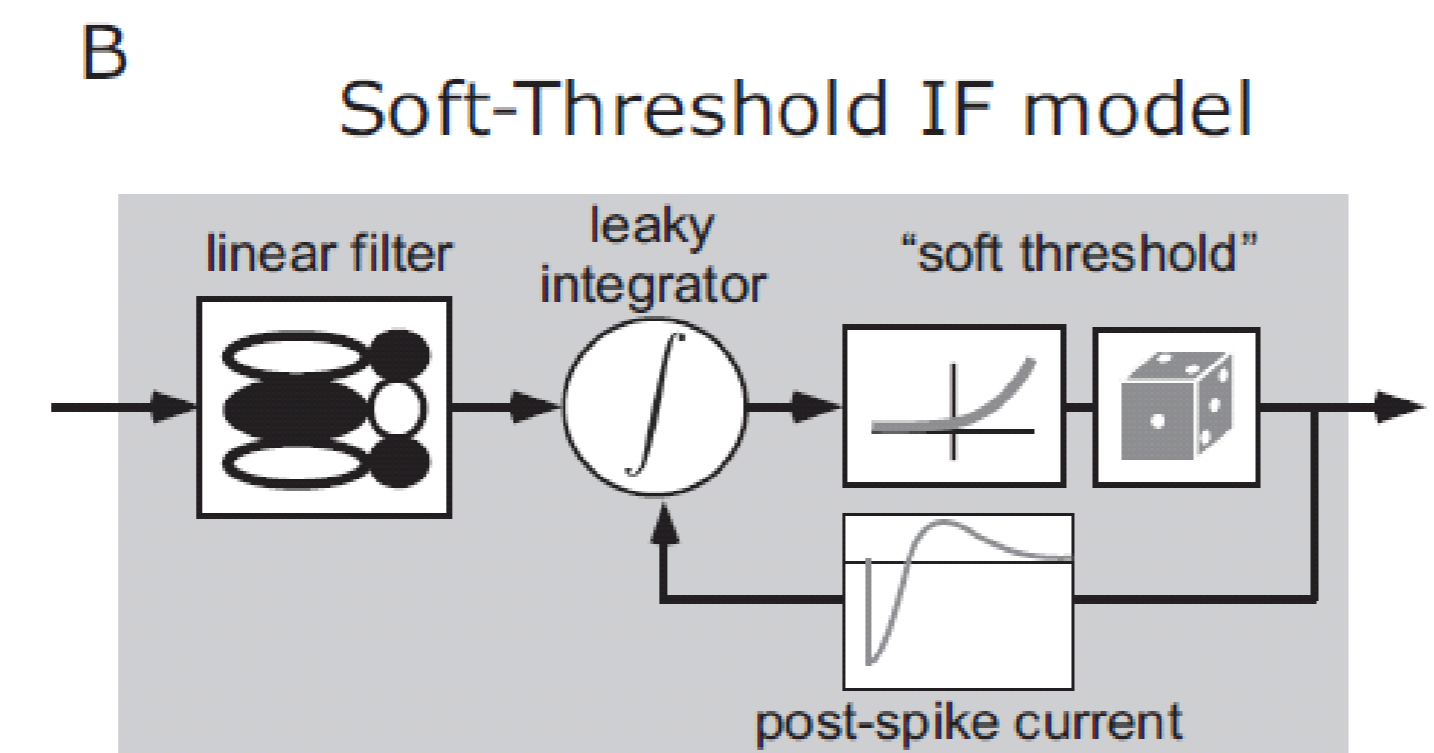
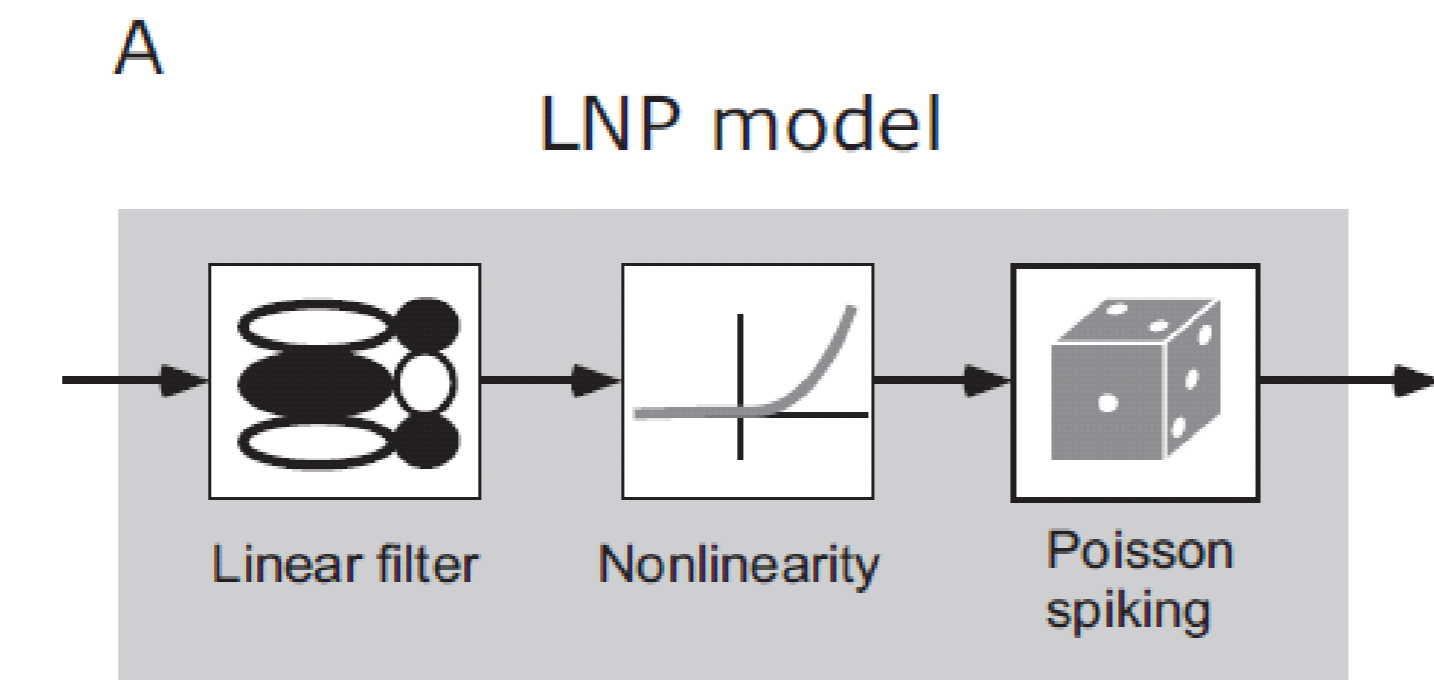
# Neuronal Dynamics – 9.7 Estimation of Receptive Fields

## GLM for prediction of retinal ganglion ON cell activity



*Pillow et al. 2008*

# Neuronal Dynamics – 9.7 GLM with lateral coupling



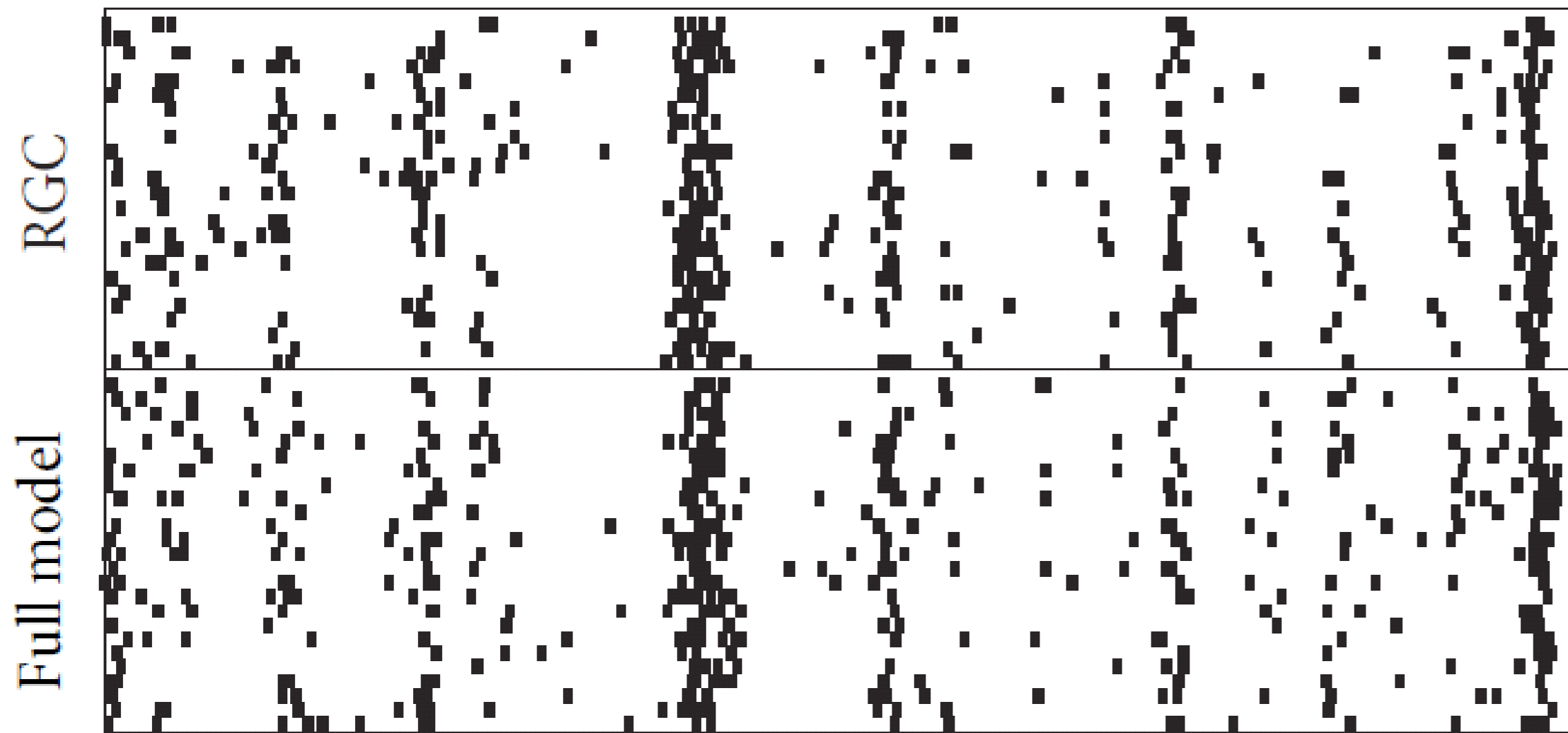


# Neuronal Dynamics – 9.7 GLM with lateral coupling

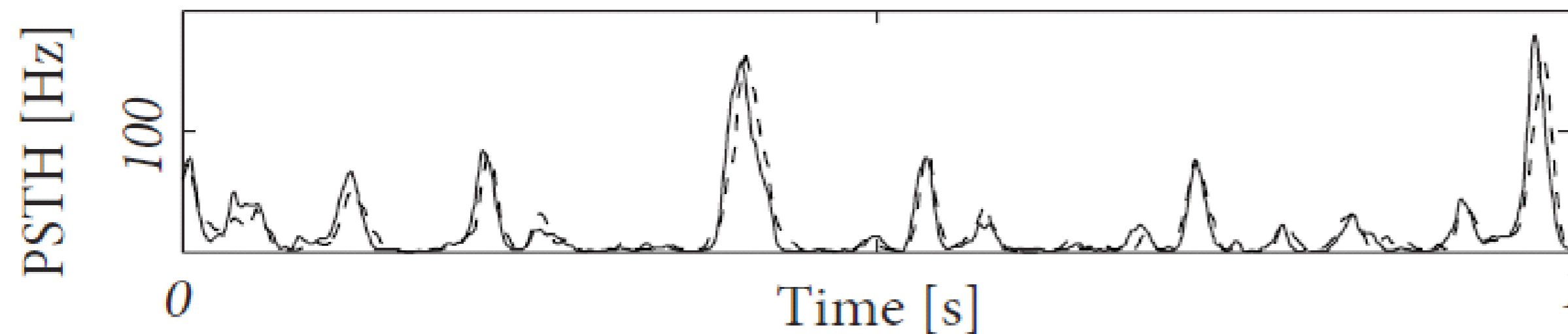
## One cell in a Network of Ganglion cells

*Pillow et al. 2008*

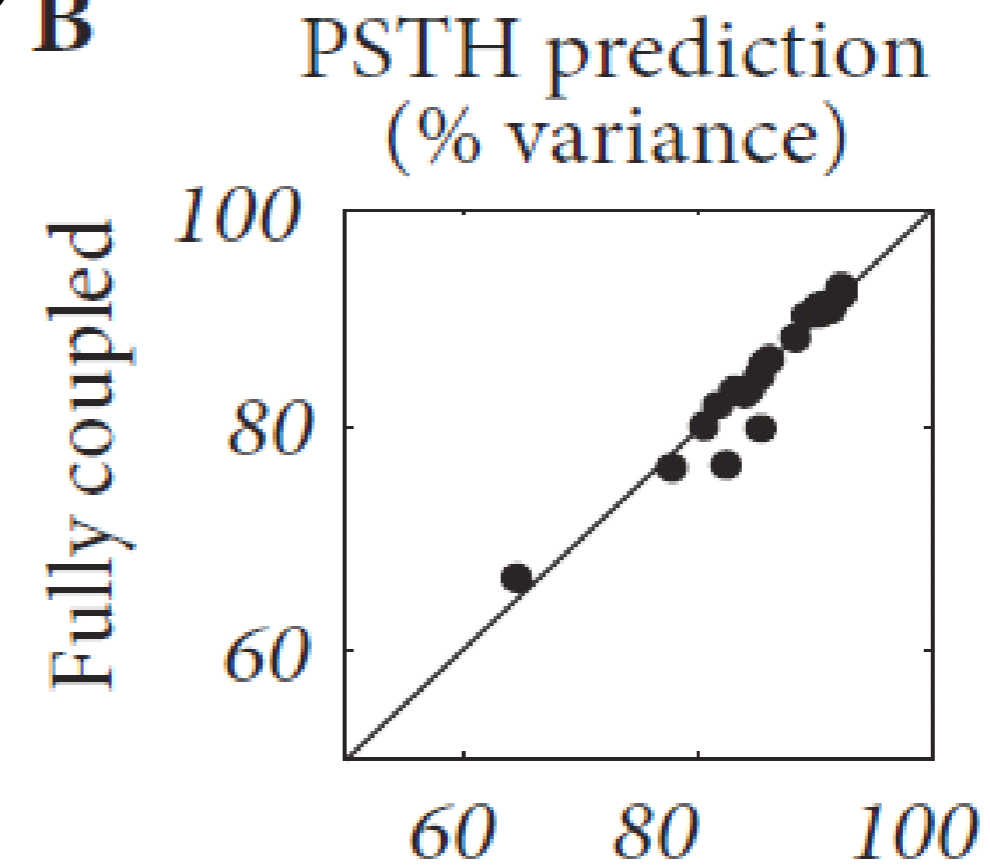
A



C

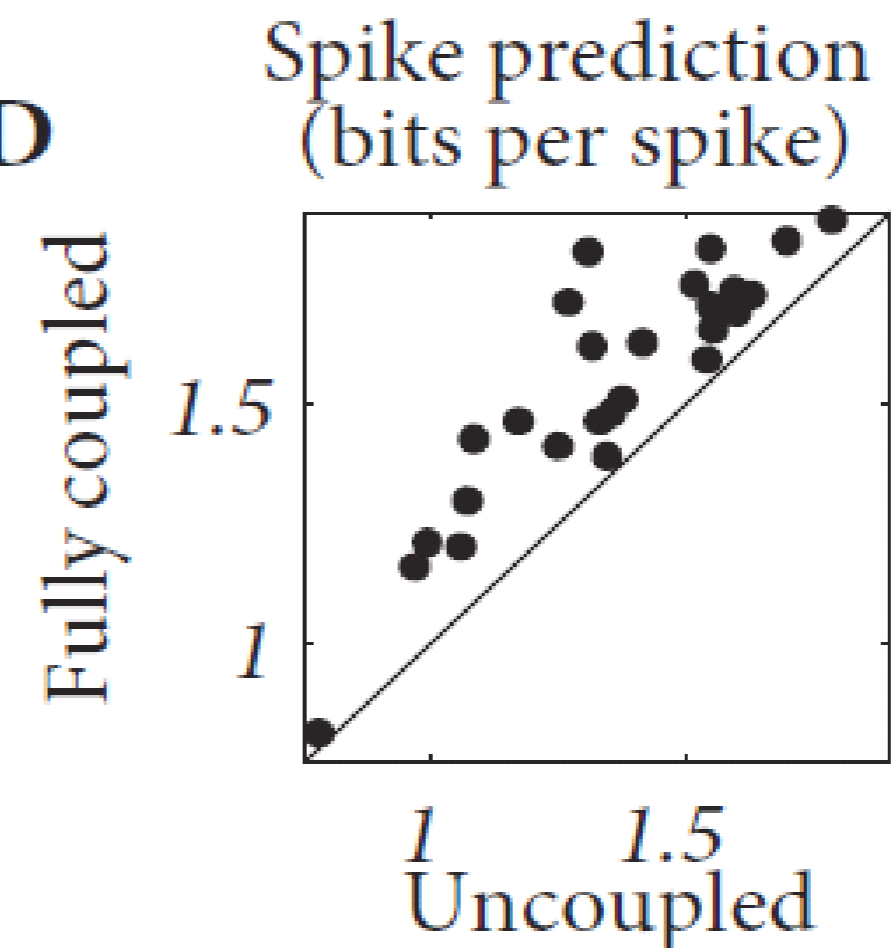


B



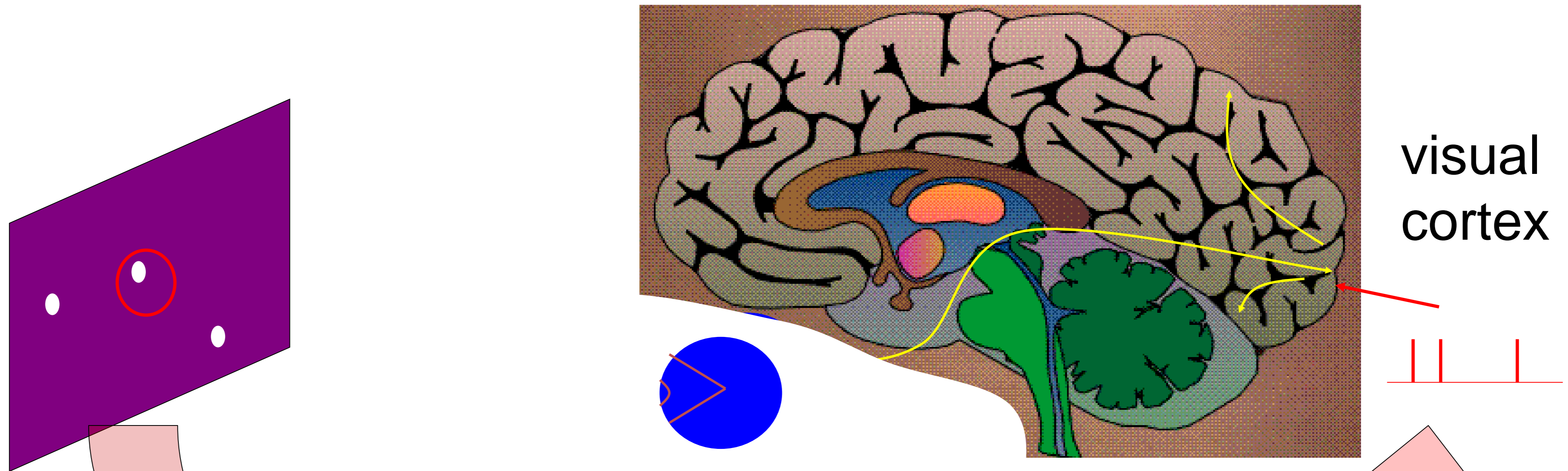
**coupled  
GLM  
Better than  
Uncoupled GLM**

D



*Image:  
Gerstner et al.,  
Neuronal Dynamics,  
Cambridge 2014*

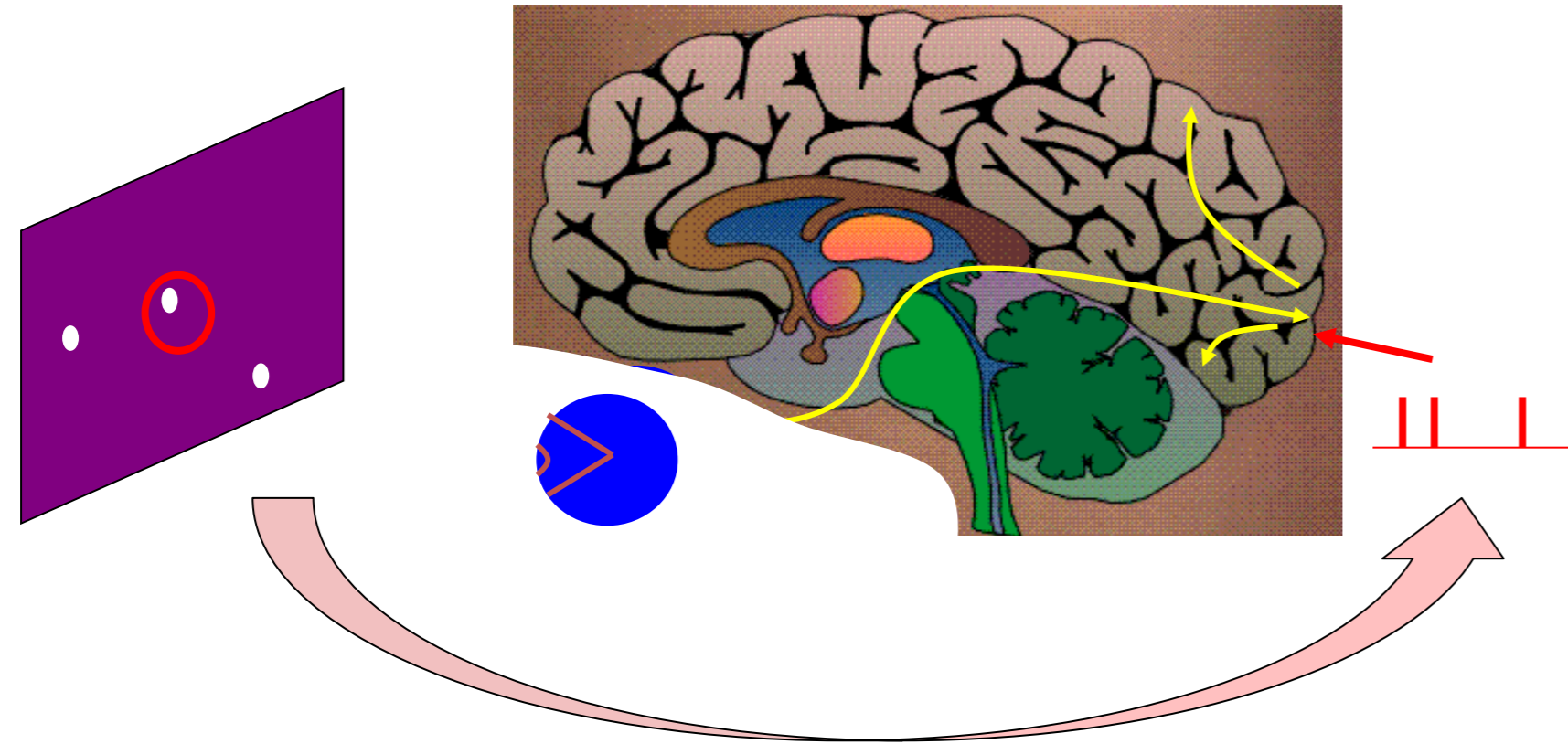
# Neuronal Dynamics – 9.7 Model of ENCODING



- 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'**

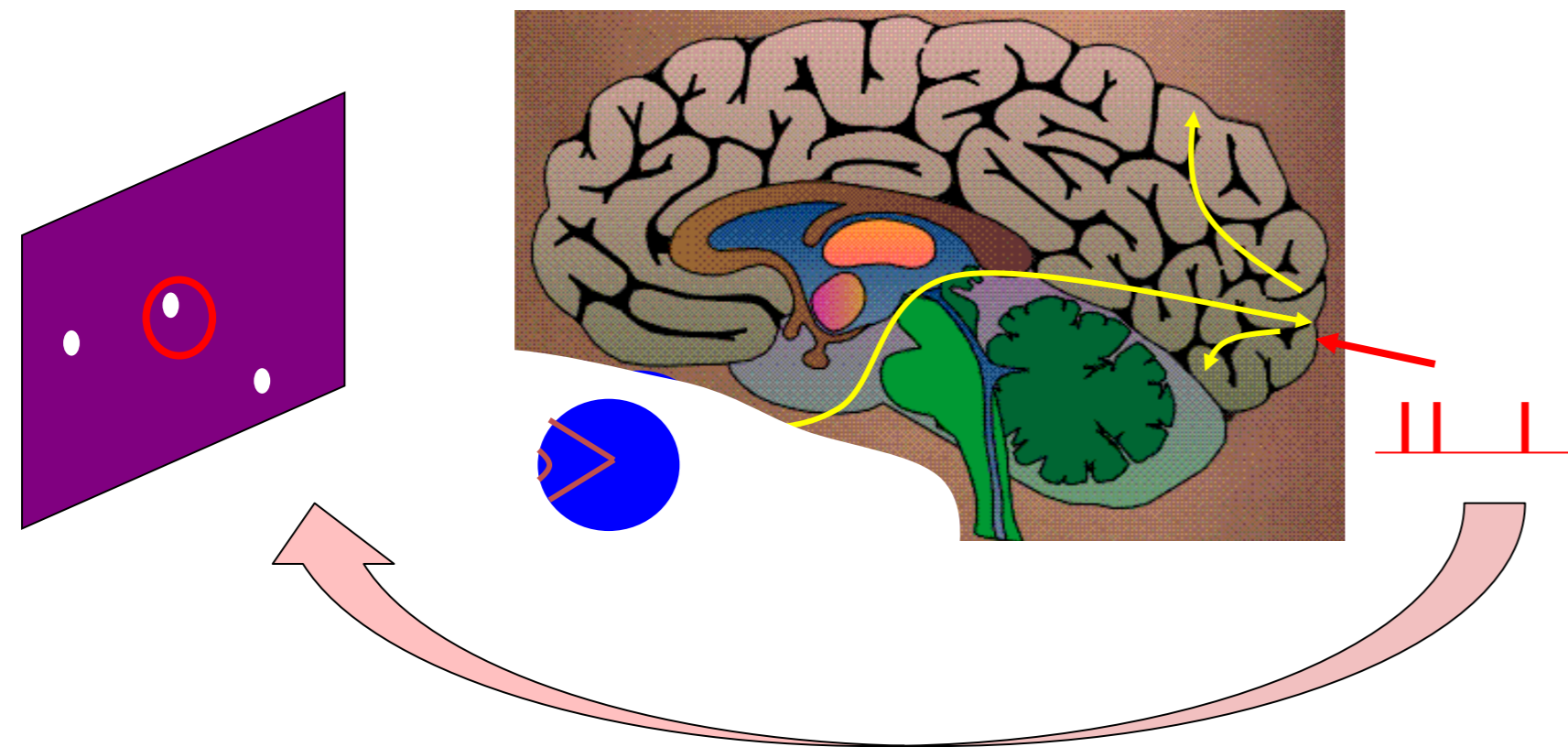
# Neuronal Dynamics – 9.7 ENCODING and Decoding



## Model of ‘Encoding’

### Generalized Linear Model (GLM)

- flexible model
- systematic optimization of parameters



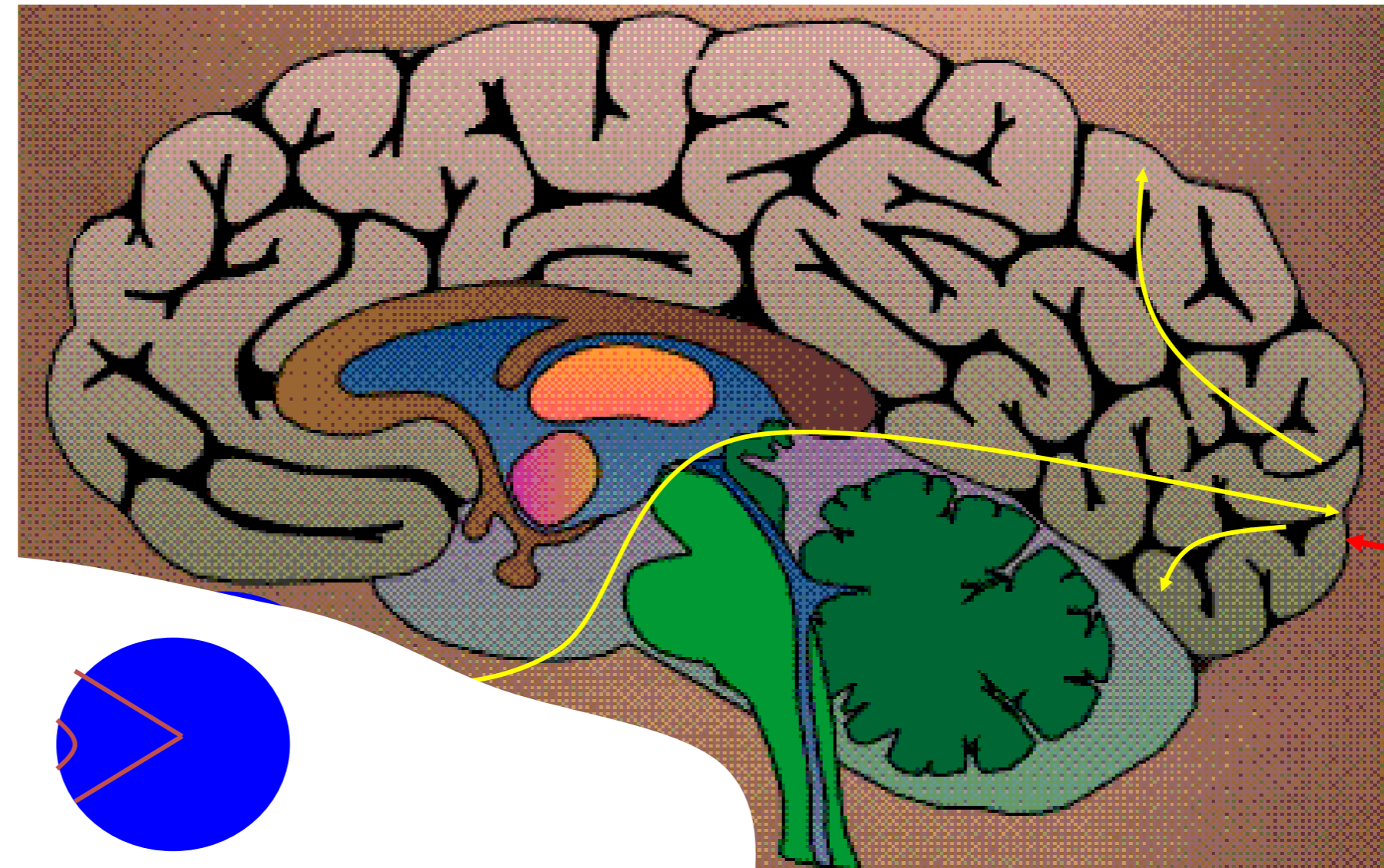
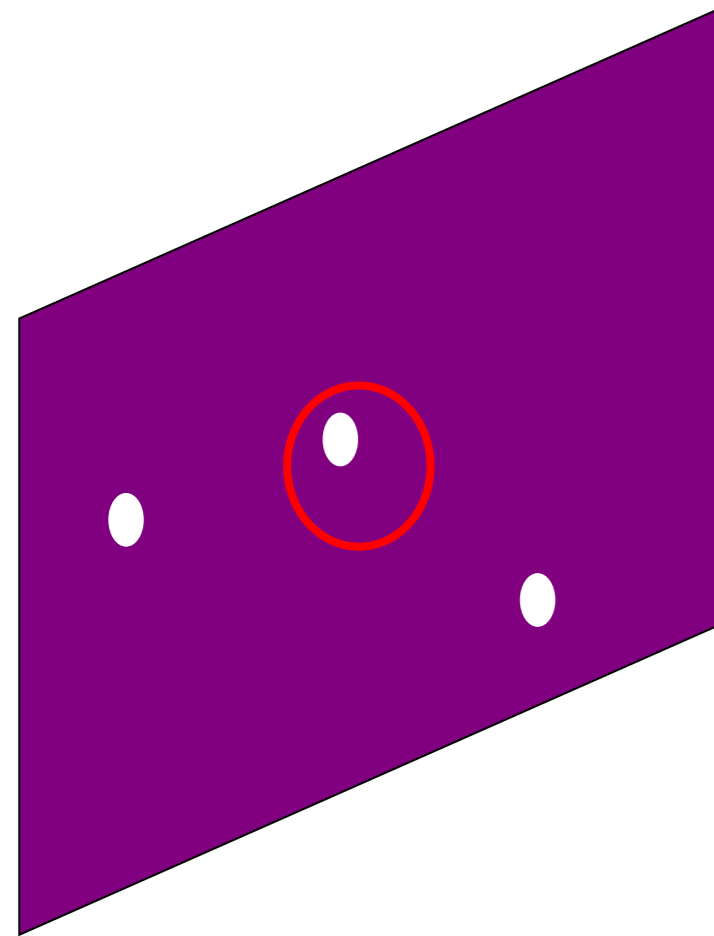
## Model of ‘Decoding’

### The same GLM works!

- flexible model
- systematic optimization of parameters

# Neuronal Dynamics – 9.7 Model of DECODING

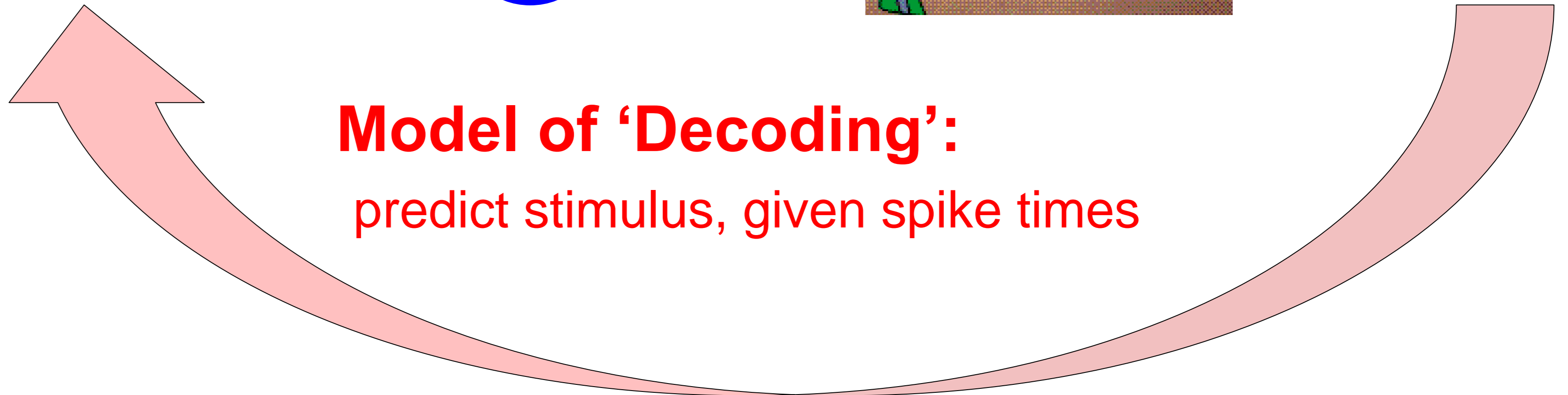
Predict stimulus!



visual cortex

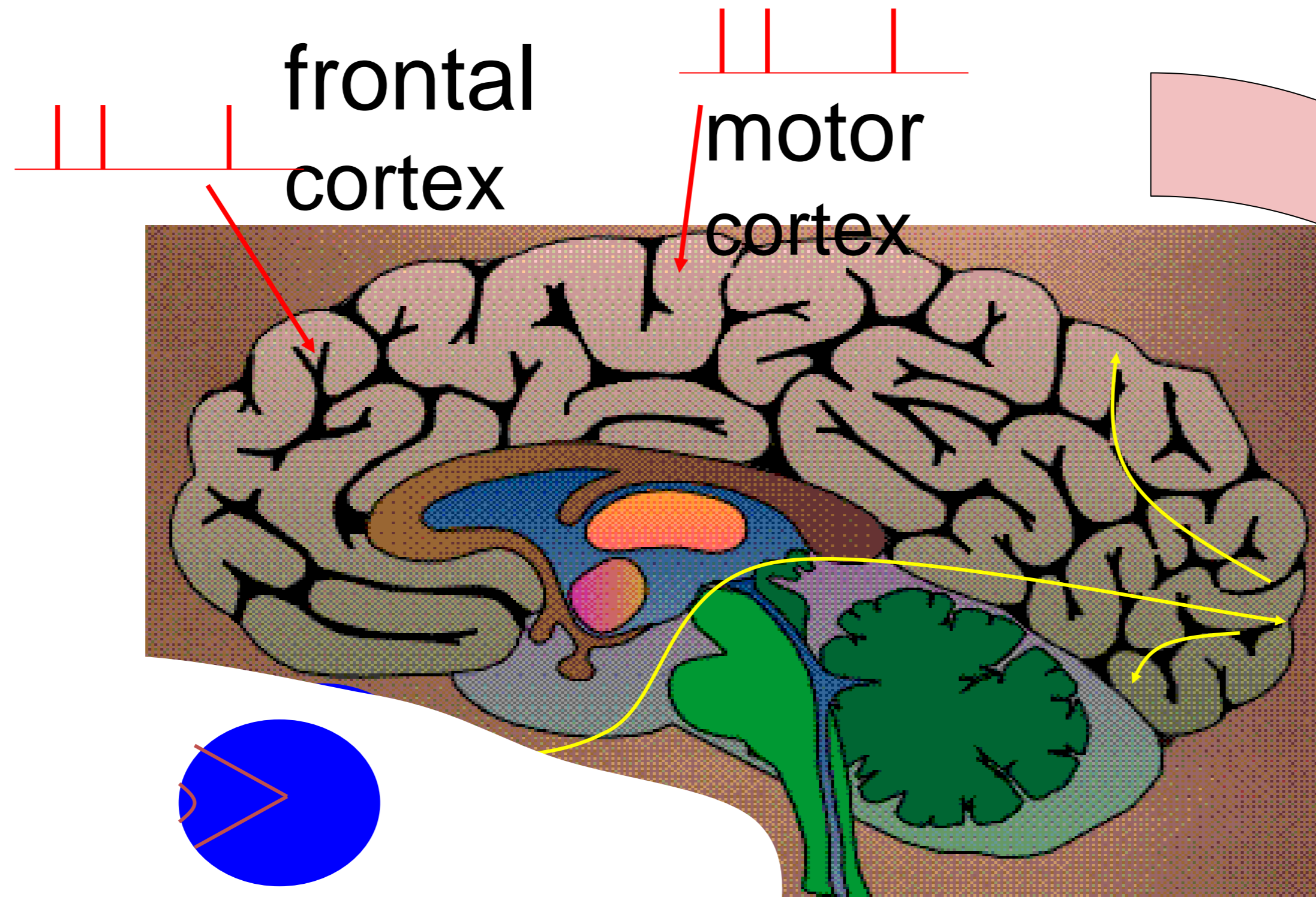


**Model of 'Decoding':**  
predict stimulus, given spike times



# Neuronal Dynamics – 9.7 Helping Humans

## Application: Neuroprosthetics



Many groups world wide work on this problem!

Model of 'Decoding'

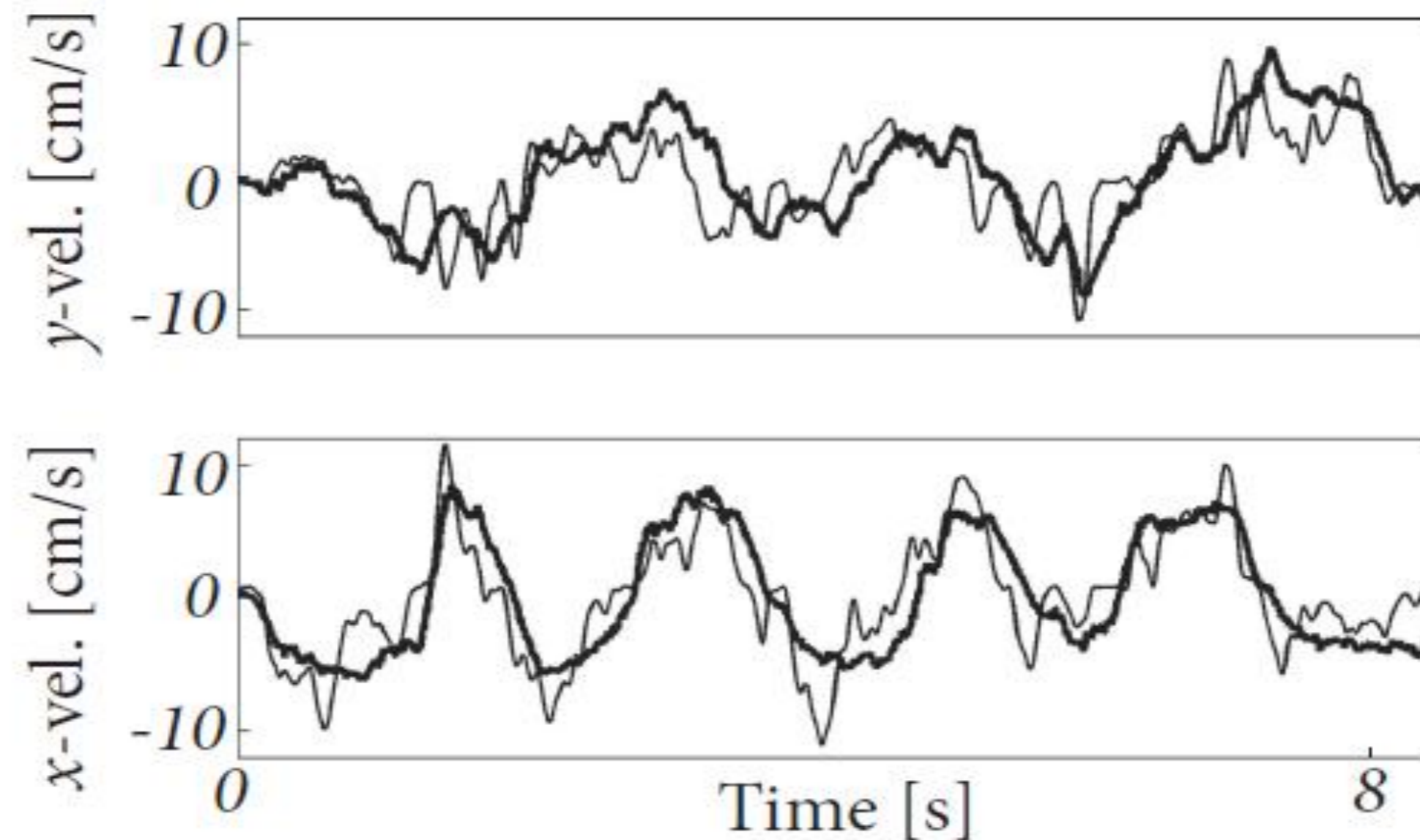
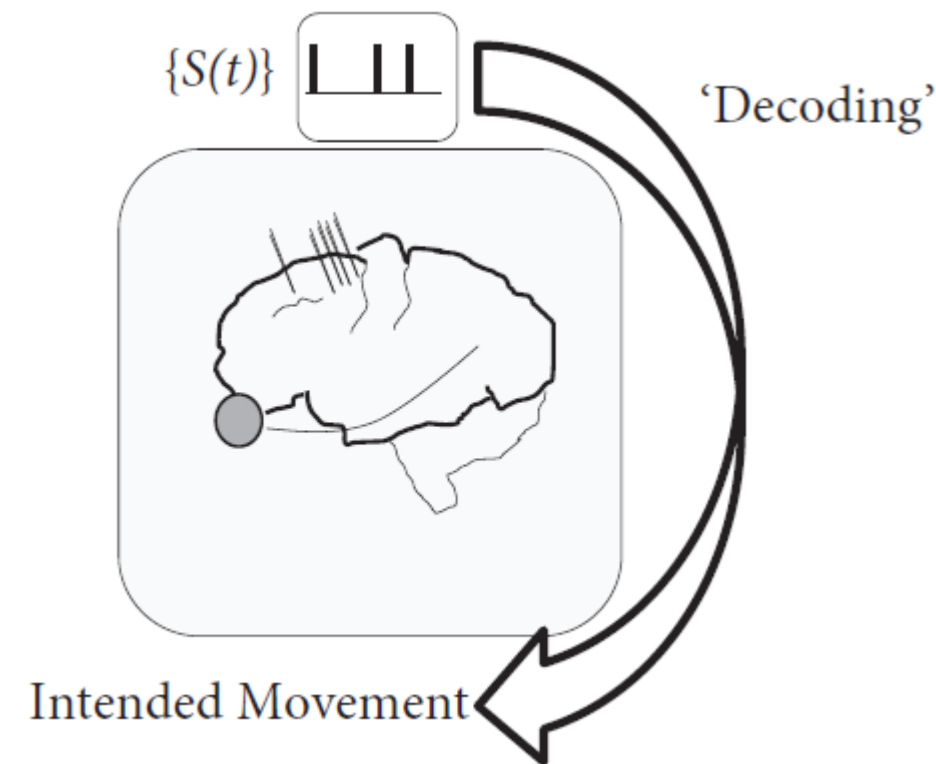
Predict intended arm movement, given Spike Times

# Neuronal Dynamics – 9.7 Basic neuroprosthetics

## Application: Neuroprosthetics

Decode the intended arm movement

Hand velocity



*Image:  
Gerstner et al.,  
Neuronal Dynamics,  
Cambridge 2014*

**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).

# Neuronal Dynamics – 9.7 Why mathematical models?

Mathematical models  
for neuroscience



help humans

**The end**

# Neuronal Dynamics week 9 – Suggested Reading/selected references

**Reading:** W. Gerstner, W.M. Kistler, R. Naud and L. Paninski,  
*Neuronal Dynamics: from single neurons to networks and models of cognition*. Ch. 10,11: Cambridge, 2014

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## Optimization methods for neuron models, max likelihood, and GLM

- Brillinger, D. R. (1988). Maximum likelihood analysis of spike trains of interacting nerve cells. *Biol. Cybern.*, 59:189-200.
- Truccolo, et al. (2005). A point process framework for relating neural spiking activity to spiking history, neural ensemble, and extrinsic covariate effects. *Journal of Neurophysiology*, 93:1074-1089.
- Paninski, L. (2004). Maximum likelihood estimation of ... *Network: Computation in Neural Systems*, 15:243-262.
- Paninski, L., Pillow, J., and Lewi, J. (2007). Statistical models for neural encoding, decoding, and optimal stimulus design. In Cisek, P., et al. , *Comput. Neuroscience: Theoretical Insights into Brain Function*. Elsevier Science.
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## Encoding and Decoding

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- Mensi, S., et al. (2012). Parameter extraction and classification .... *J. Neurophys.*, 107:1756-1775.
- Pozzorini, C., Naud, R., Mensi, S., and Gerstner, W. (2013). Temporal whitening by . *Nat. Neuroscience*,
- Georgopoulos, A. P., Schwartz, A., Kettner, R. E. (1986). Neuronal population coding of movement direction. *Science*, 233:1416-1419.
- Donoghue, J. (2002). Connecting cortex to machines: recent advances in brain interfaces. *Nat. Neurosci.*, 5:1085-1088.