



# Dendritic Computation for Neuromorphic Applications



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Cognitive and Emerging Computing

Sandia National Laboratories

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# DENDRITIC TOOLKIT FOR COMPUTATION



Dendrites are tree-like structures that connect neurons synapses to its soma.

## Dendrites are not *just wires!*

They can perform interesting computation like:

- Coincidence Detection
- Current Summation
- Directional selectivity
- Non-linear filtering
- Amplification of Synaptic inputs

London 2005, Poirazi 2020

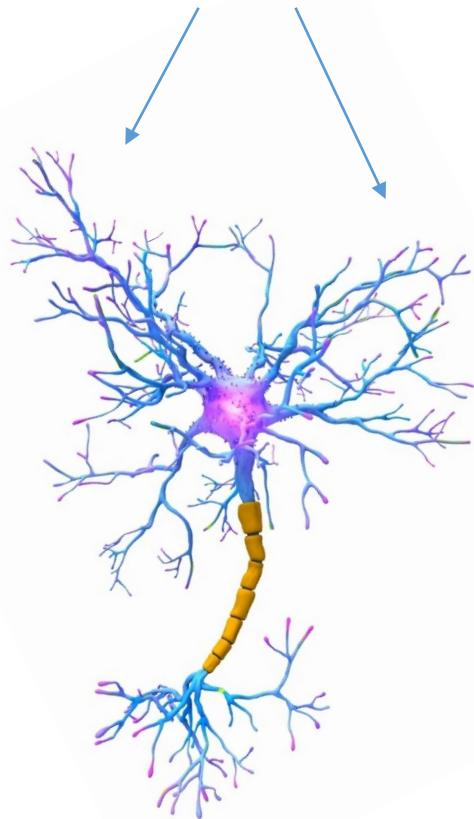


Increased Connectivity and Computation

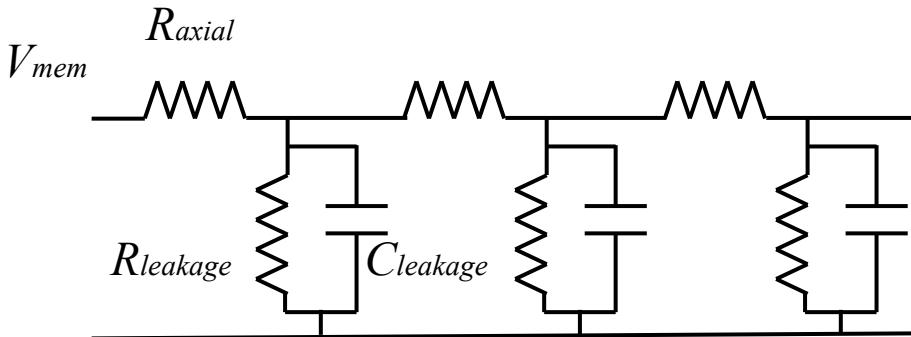
# DENDRITE MODELING



## DENDRITES

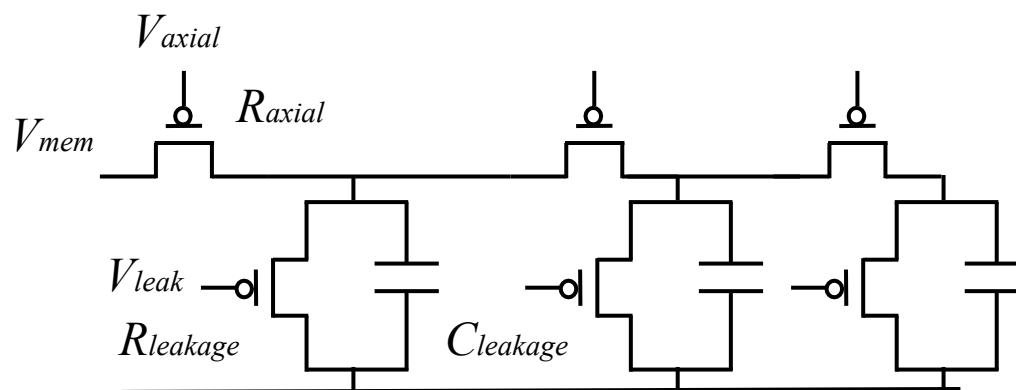


## Resistor-Capacitor Circuit



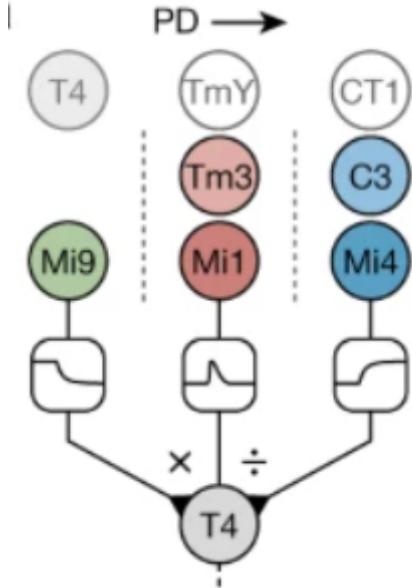
Rall's Cable Model

## CMOS-transistor based Dendrite



Nease et al. 2011

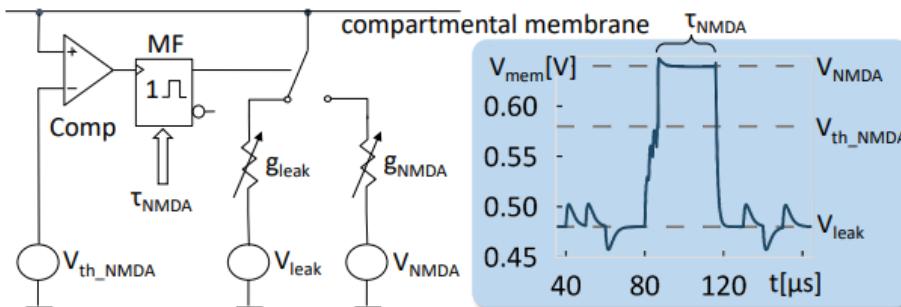
# SINGLE NEURON MULTIPLICATION



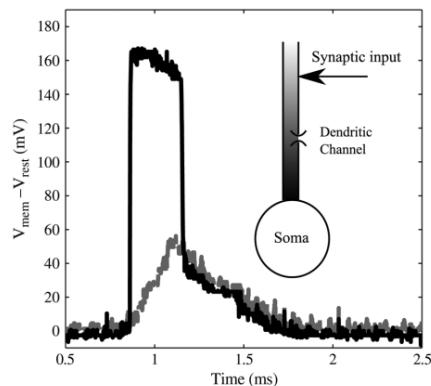
Groschner et al., Nature 2022

Leveraging Inhibition

Shunting Inhibition/  
Leveraging Leakage  
Conductance

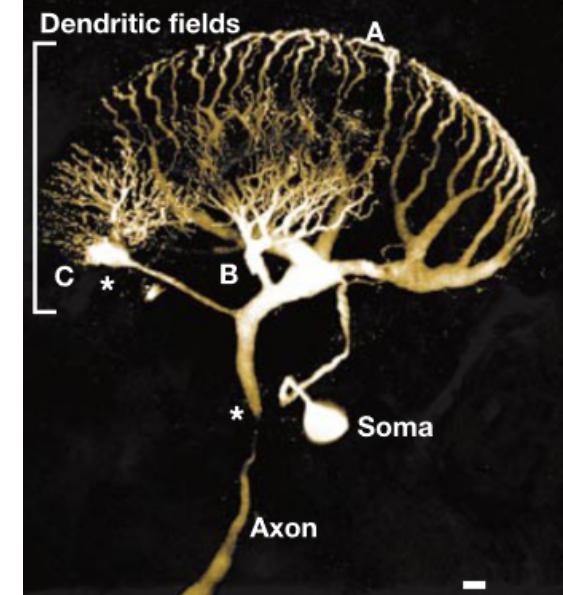


Schemmel, Johannes, et al., IEEE IJCNN, 2017.



Dendrites with Active Channel,  
Ramakrishnan et al., IEEE  
TBIOCAS, 2013.

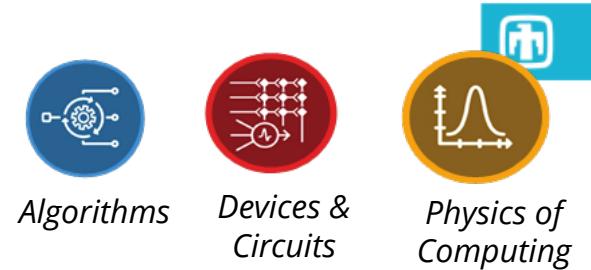
NMDA /Ca



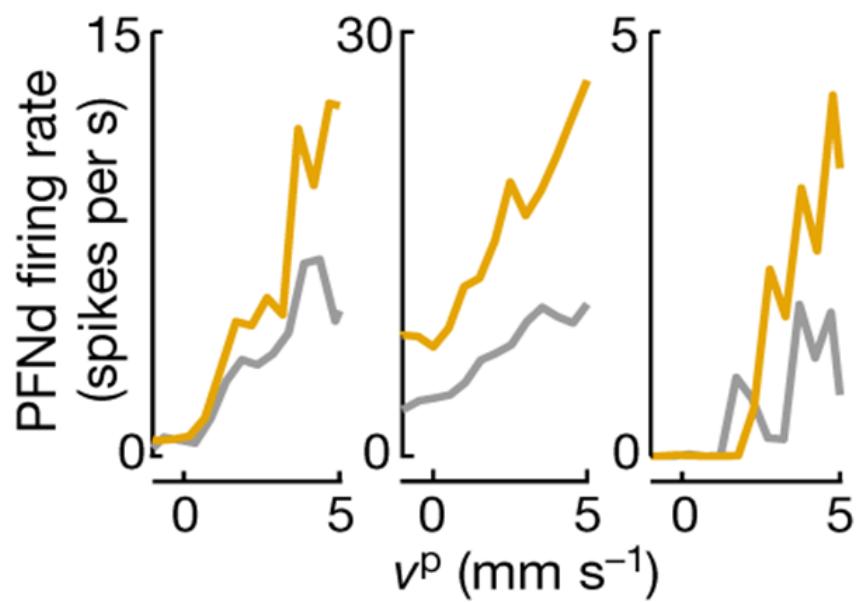
Lobula giant movement  
detector (LGMD) of locusts  
Gabbiani et al., Nature 2002

Multiplication based on dendritic subtraction of two converging inputs encoded logarithmically, followed by exponentiation through active membrane conductances.

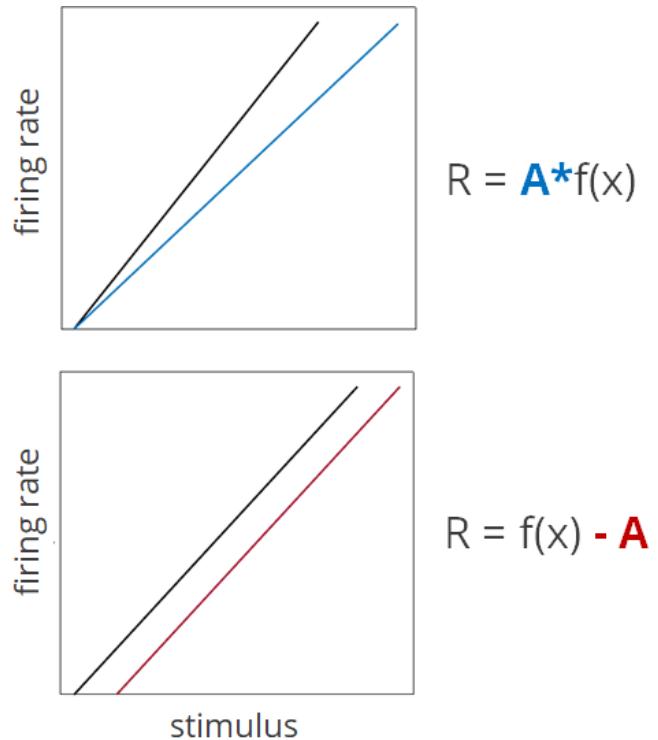
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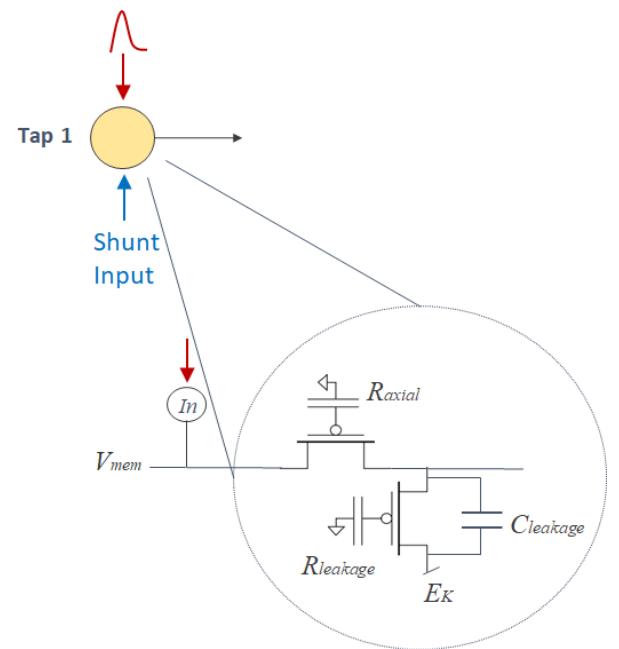
from fan-shaped body of *Drosophila* brain



Lu et al. 2020



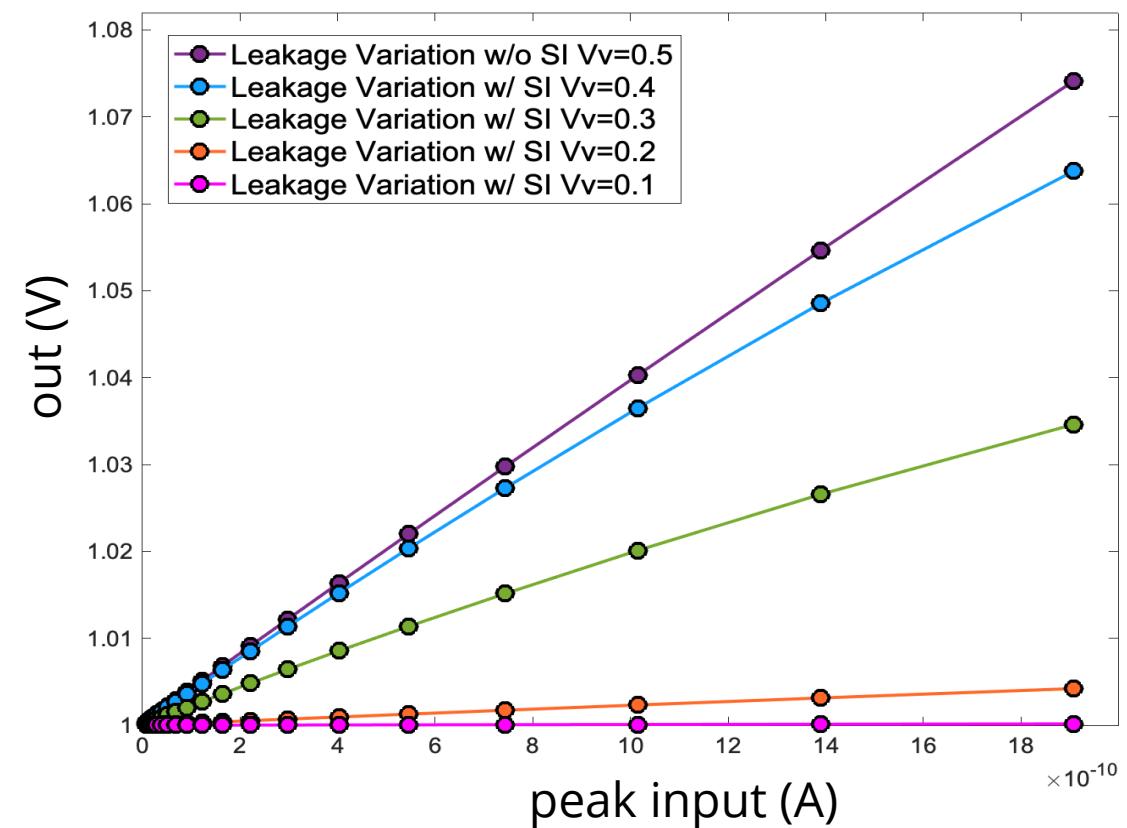
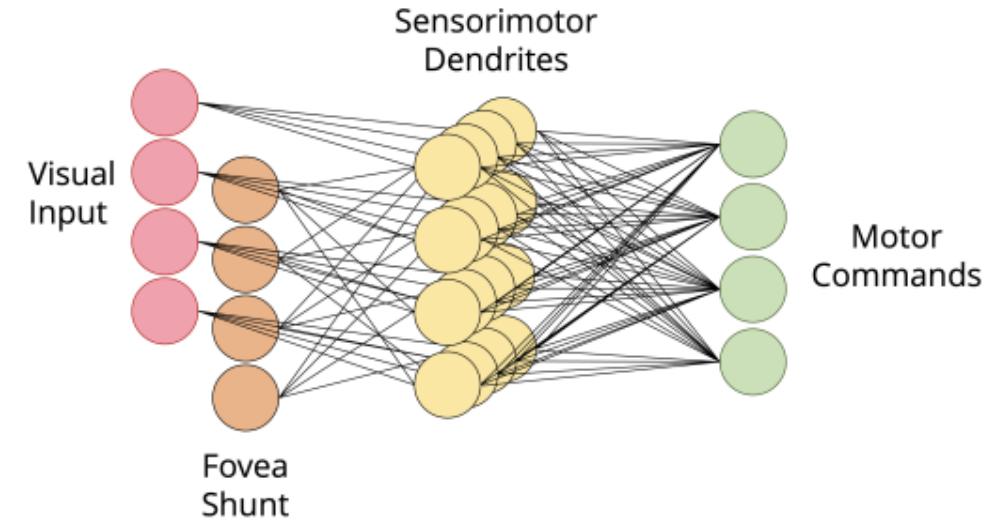
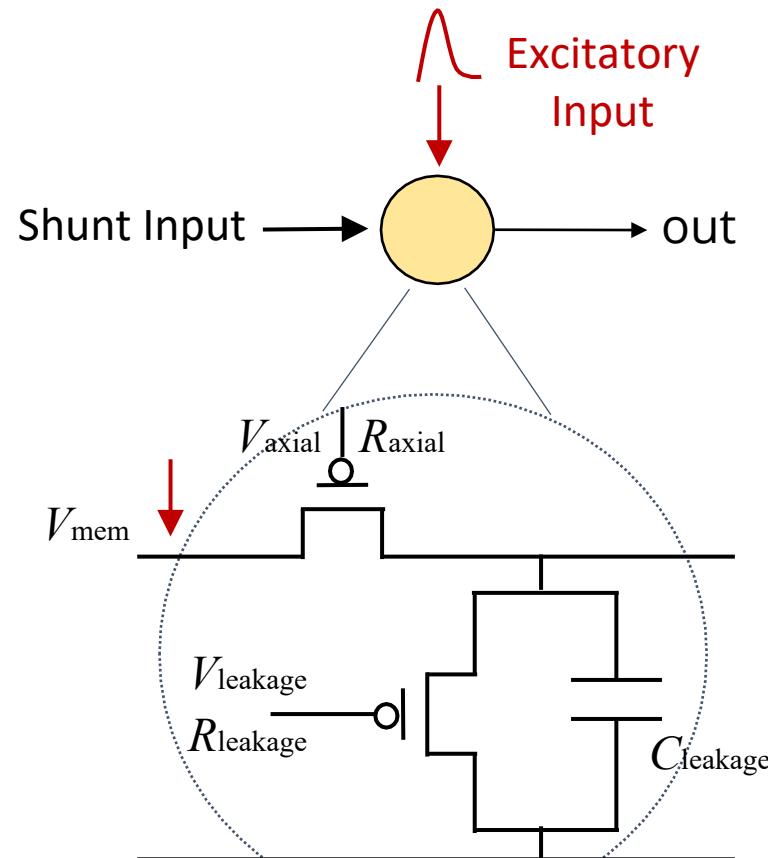
Chance & Cardwell  
NICE 2023



Shunting Inhibition in  
Neuromorphic Dendrite

Collaborators: University of Texas at Austin, Intel Neuromorphic Research Community

# DRAGONFLY WITH DENDRITES



# NEUROMORPHIC CODESIGN



Algorithms



Devices &  
Circuits

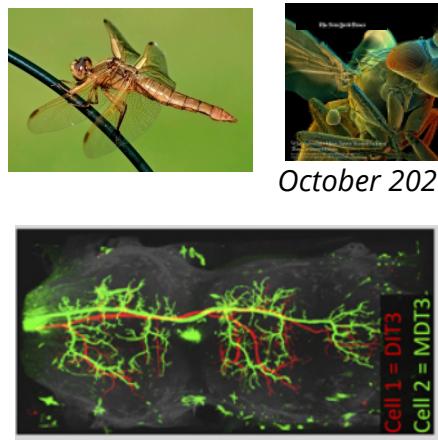


Physics of  
Computing



## Coordinate transformations from Dragonflies to Neuromorphic Hardware

Lead PI: Frances Chance, SNL



October 2021

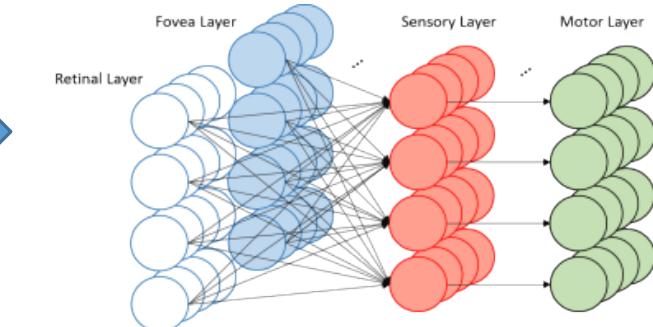
Gonzalez-  
Bellido, UMN

### DRAGONFLY EXPERIMENTS



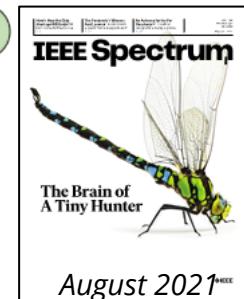
DOE ASCR (FY21-24)

Department of Energy  
Advanced Scientific Computing Research



Chance 2020

### COMPUTATIONAL MODEL



August 2021

GT FPAA



George  
Cardwell 2016

Intel's Loihi



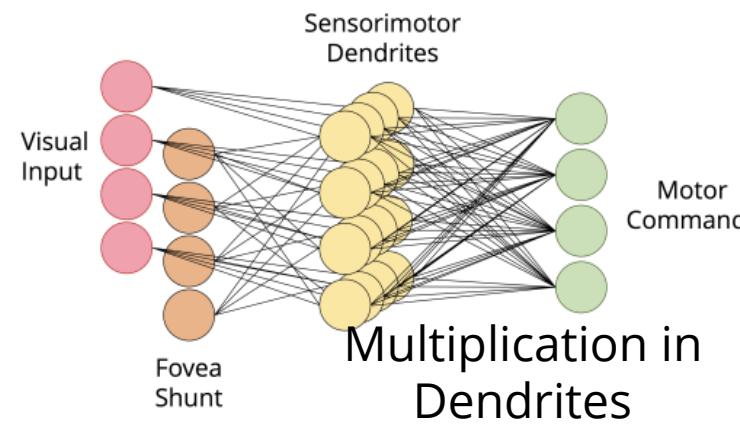
Davies 2018

SNL, Baylor

### NEUROMORPHIC IMPLEMENTATION

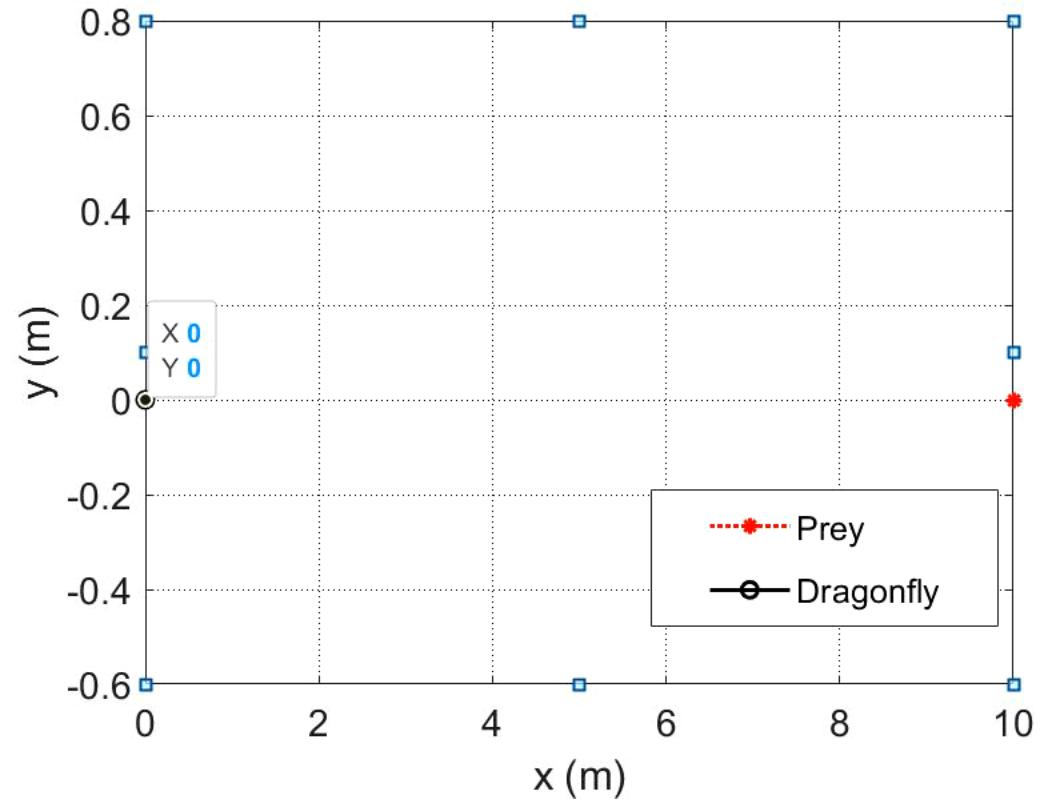
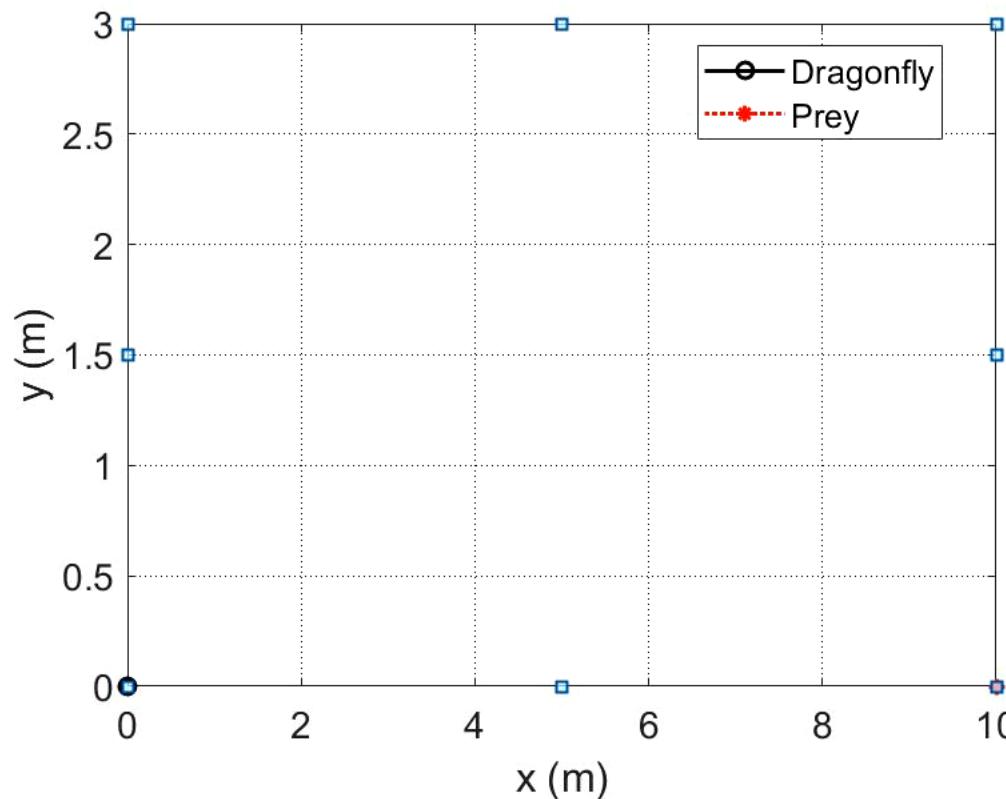
Increased collaboration between neuroscience and neuromorphic engineering will facilitate development of novel neural-inspired architectures.

# DRAGONFLY INTERCEPTION WITH DENDRITES

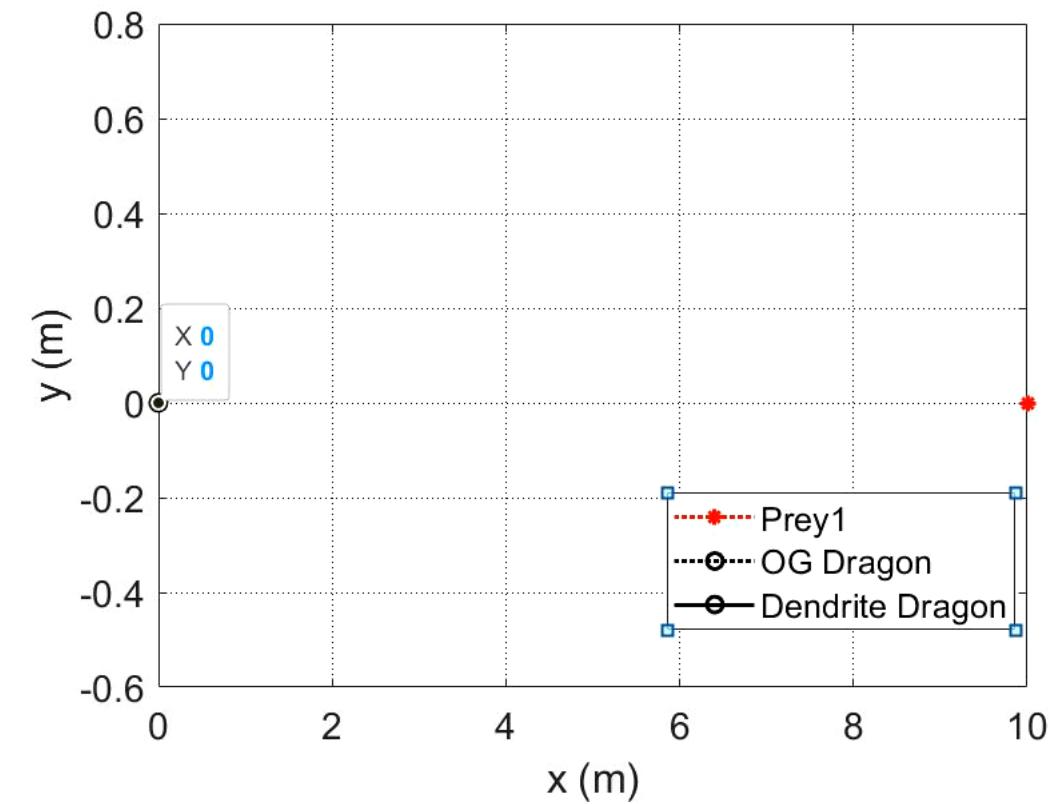
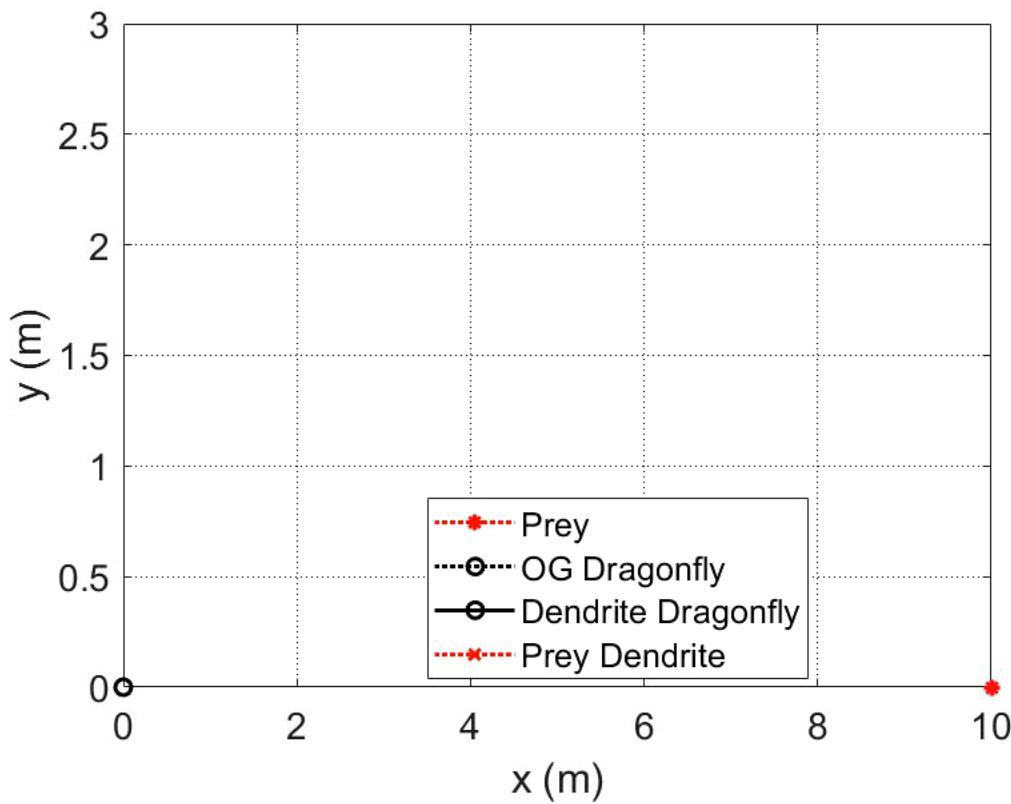
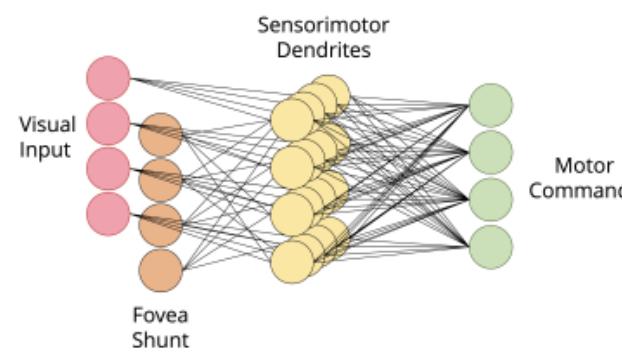


Sensorimotor  
Dendrites Response

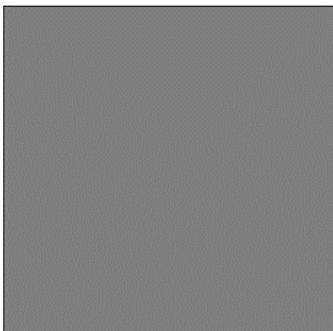
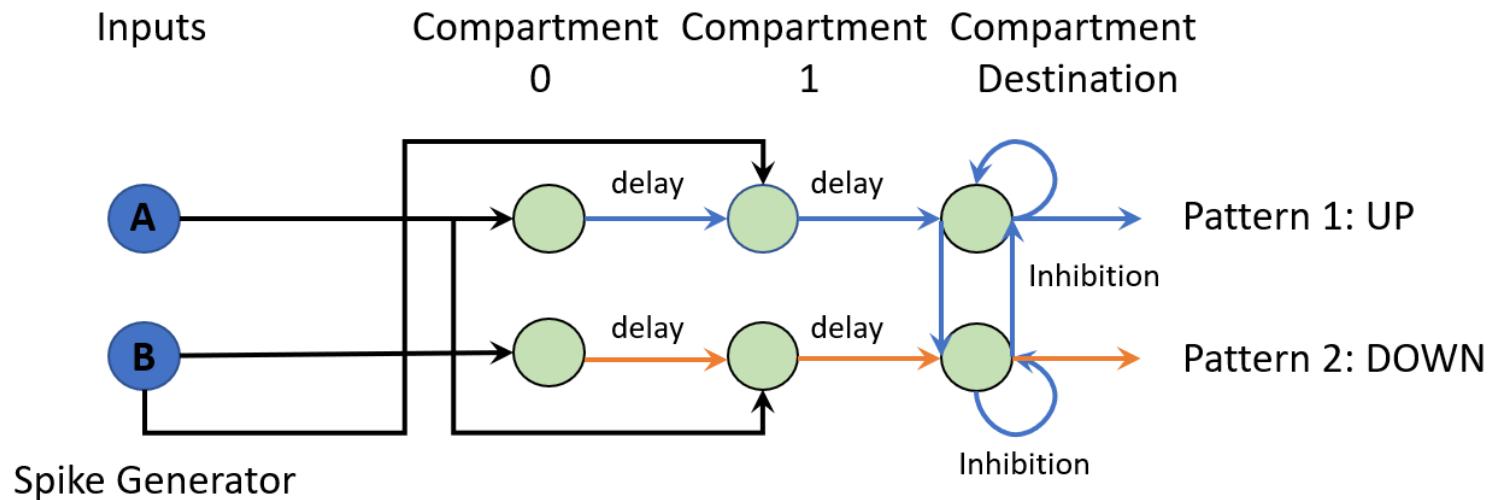
$$S_{ij} = f_i(x)g_j(y)$$



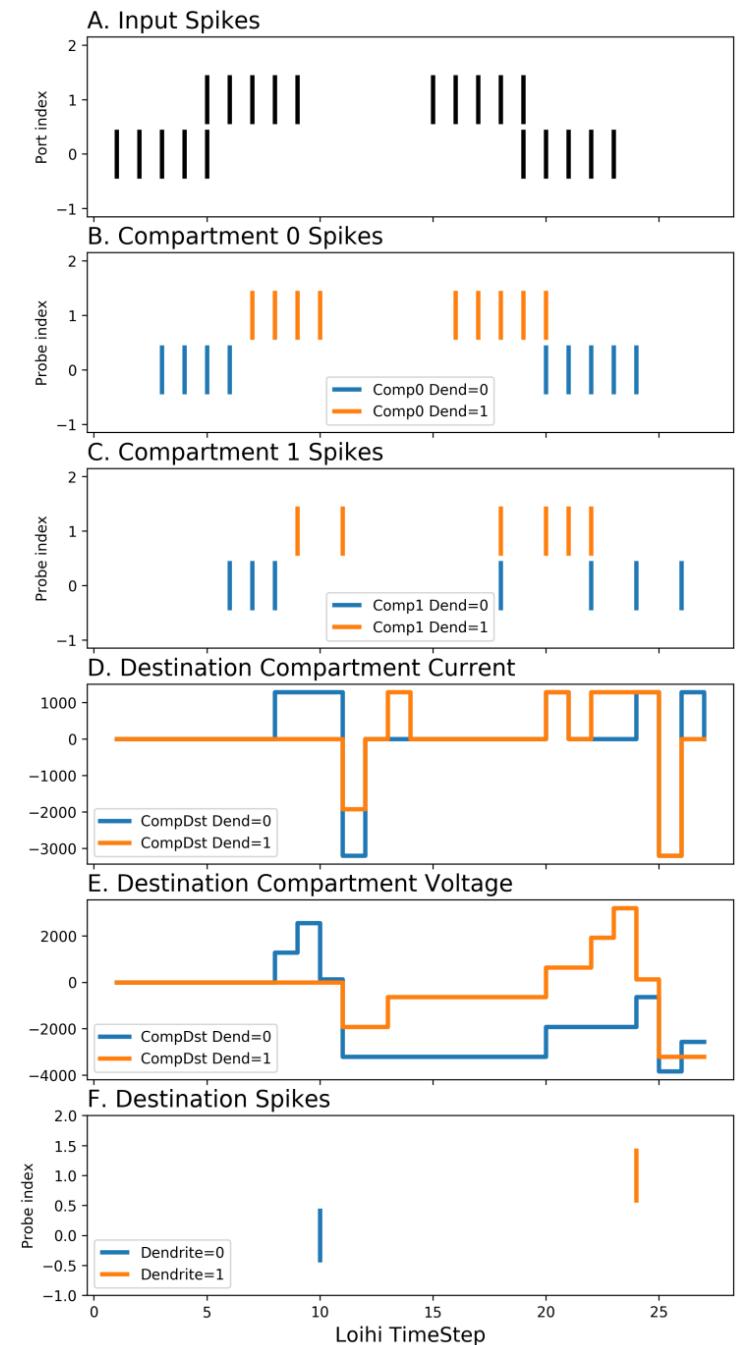
# DRAGONFLY INTERCEPTION WITH DENDRITES COMPARISON



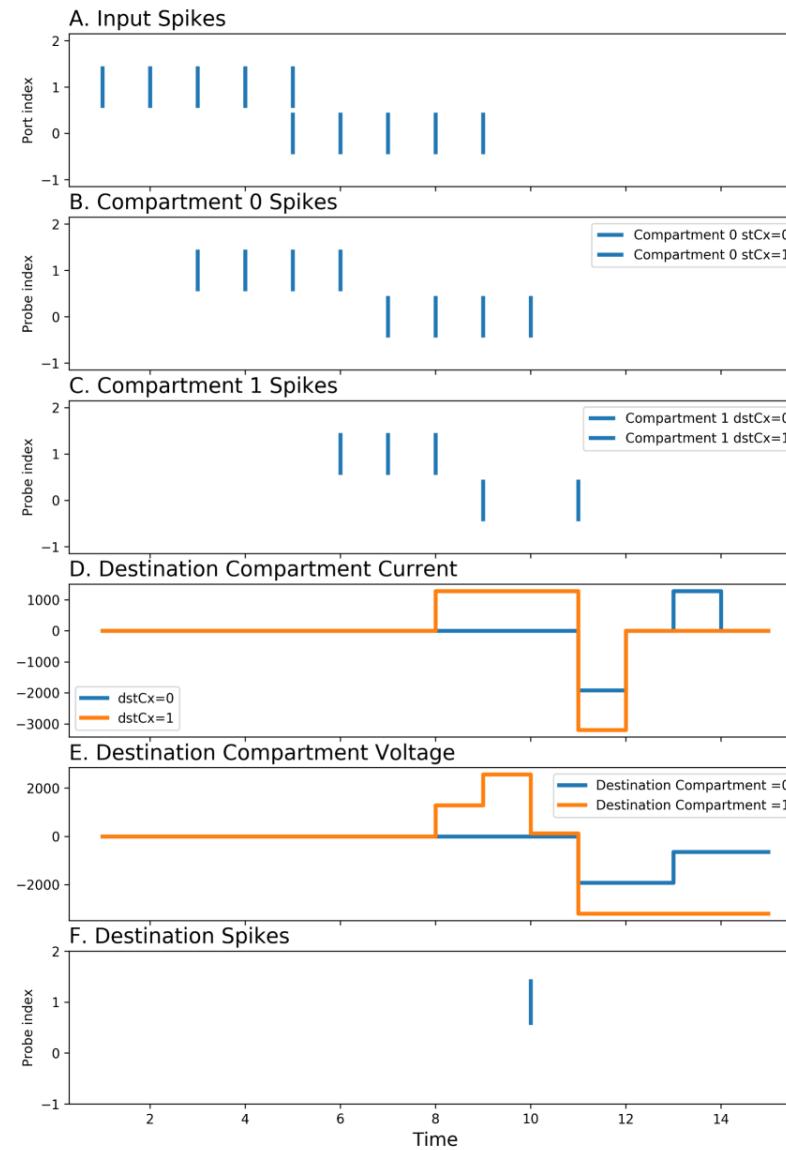
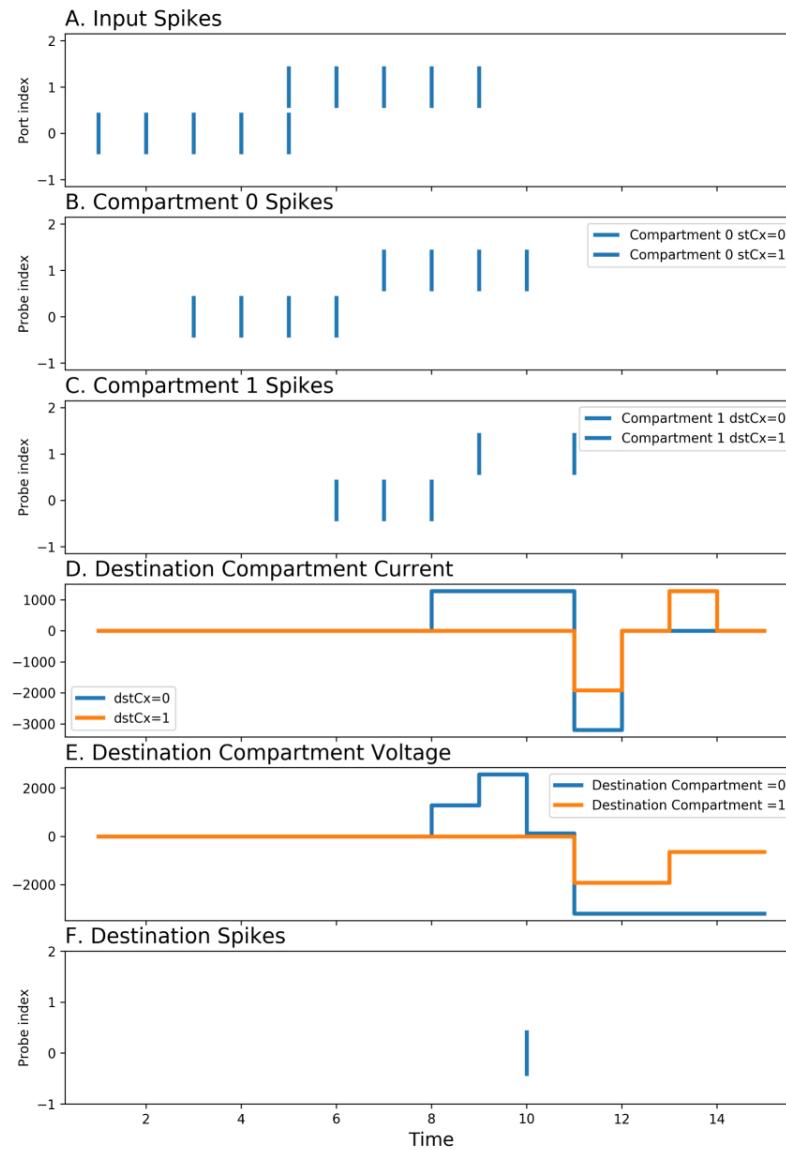
# DIRECTION-SELECTIVE DENDRITES



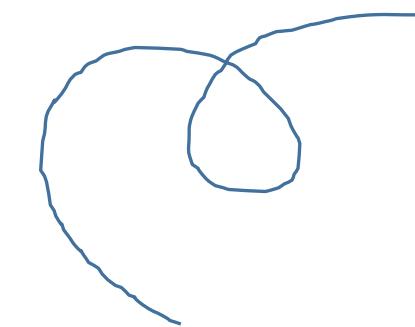
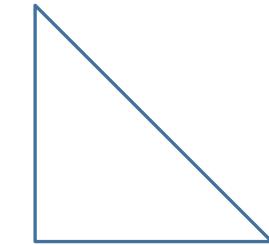
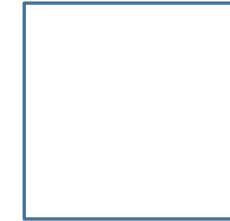
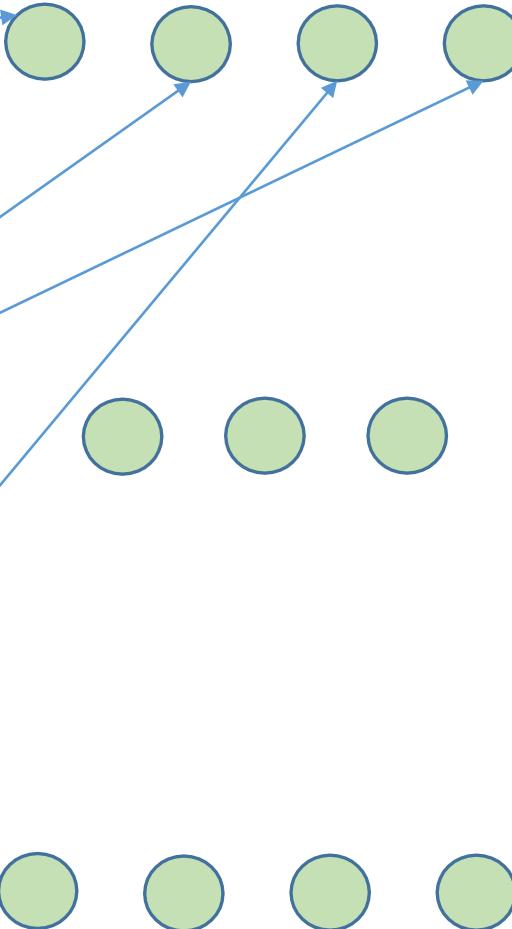
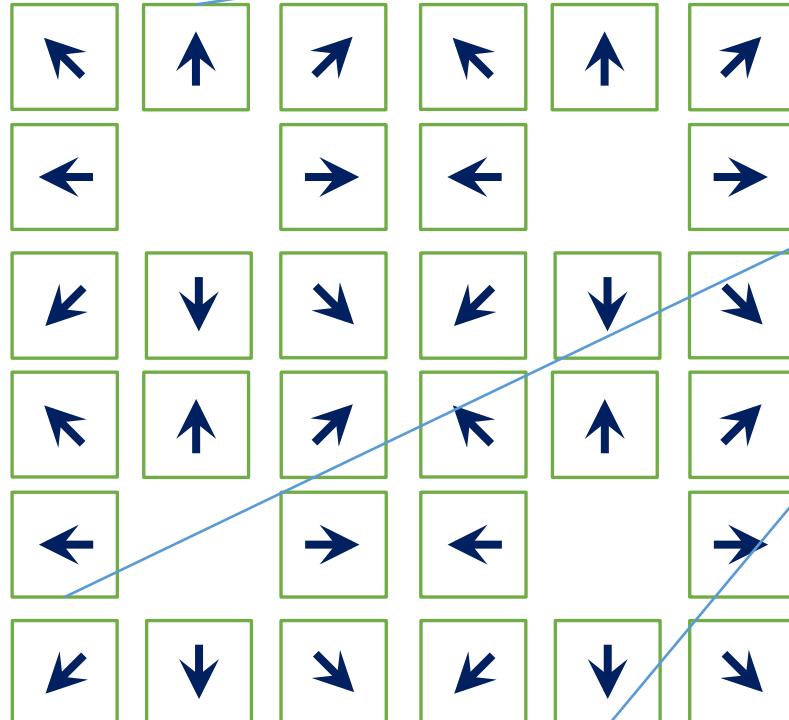
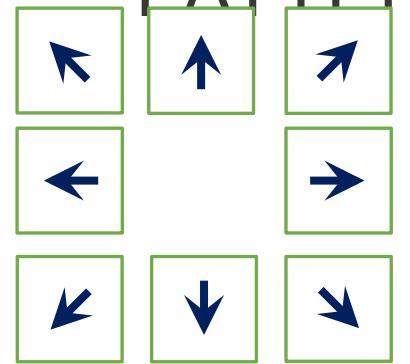
Nahuku (Loihi Chips)  
Davies 2018



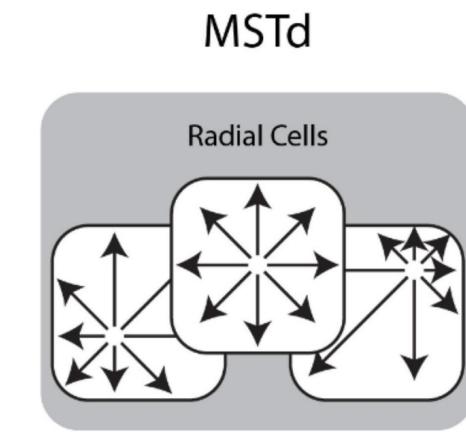
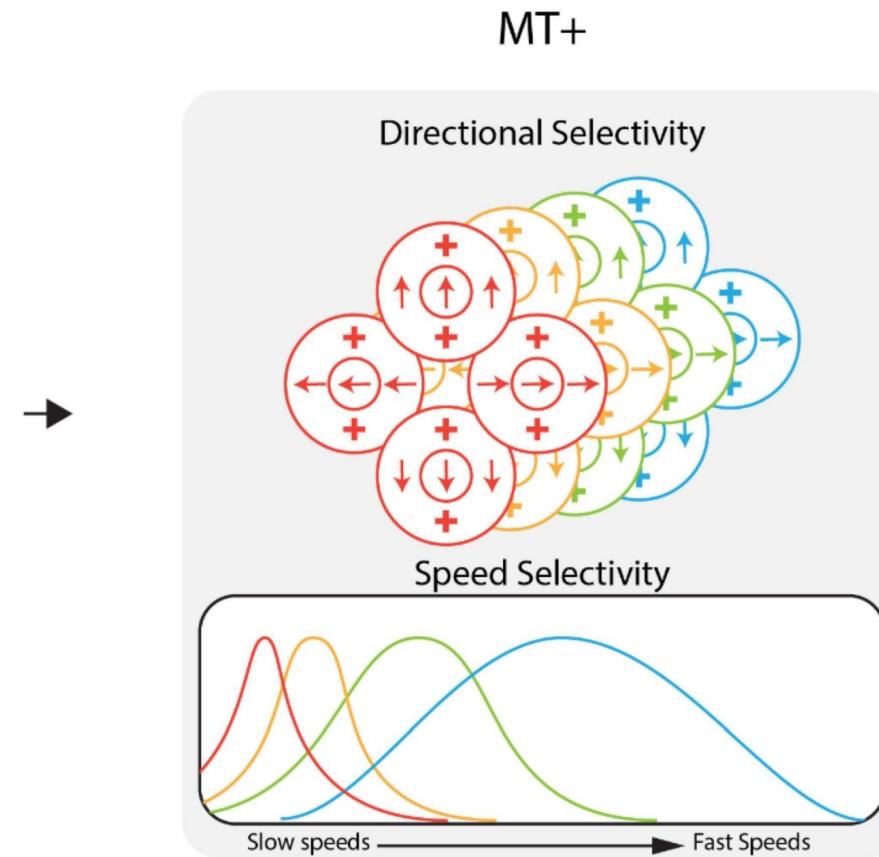
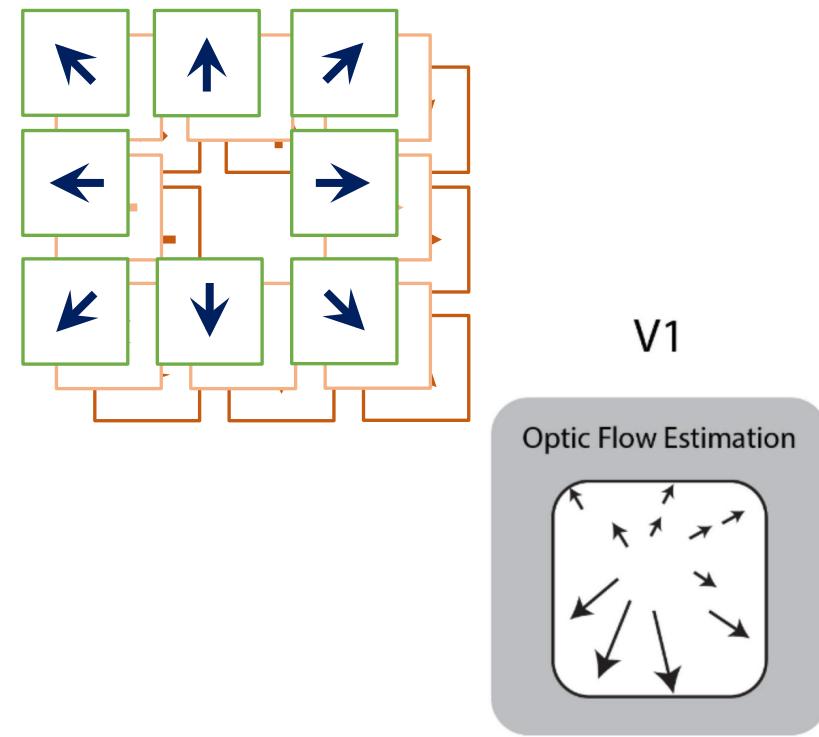
# DIRECTION SELECTIVE CIRCUITS



# DIRECTION-SELECTIVE CELLS FOR COMPLEX PATTERNS

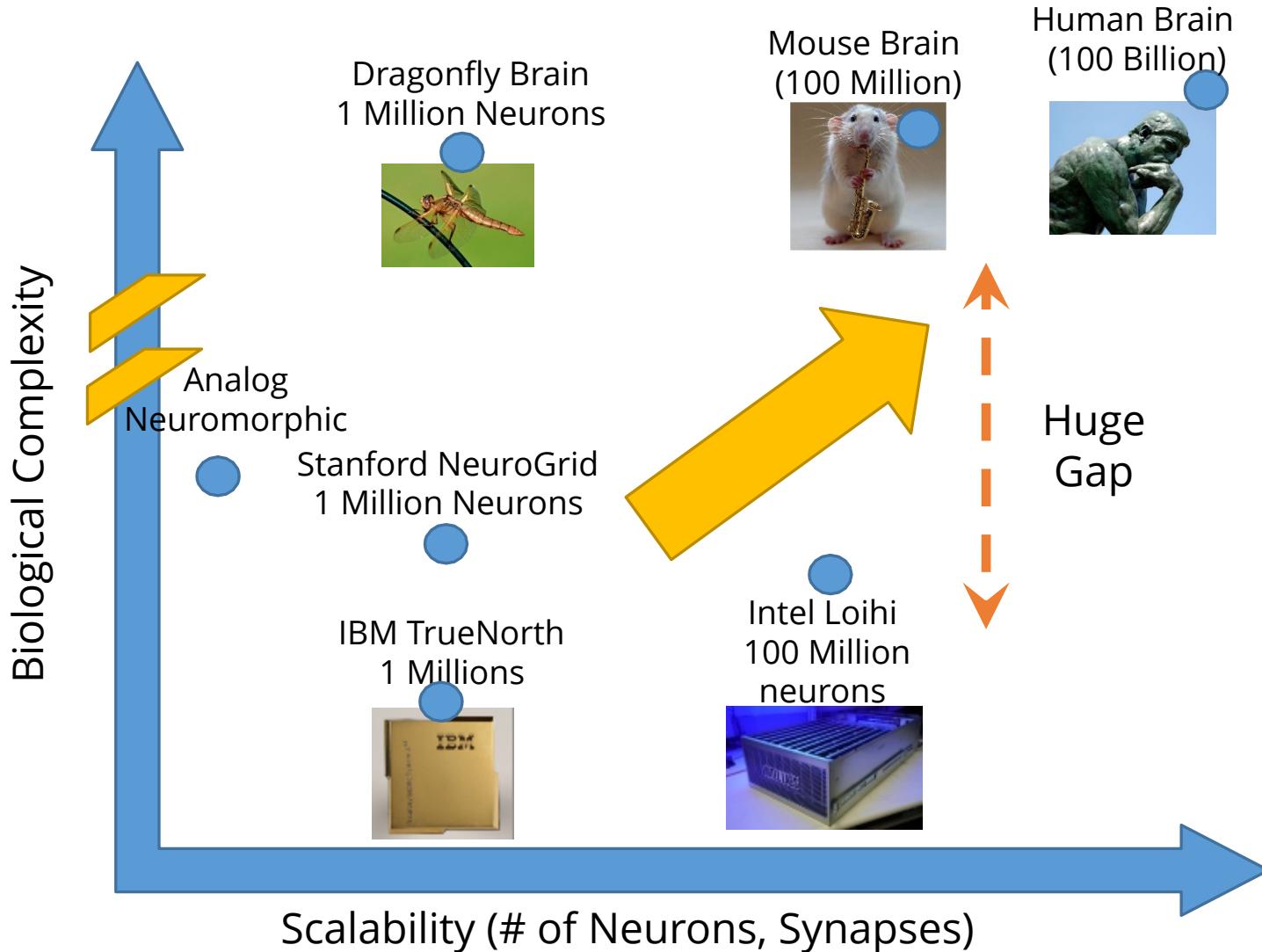


# DIRECTION-SELECTIVE CELLS FOR COMPLEX PATTERNS



Steinmetz et al. 2022

# NEUROMORPHIC COMPUTING CHALLENGE: SCALABILITY VS. COMPLEXITY



However, to achieve brain-like complexity we need both scaling and rich dynamics.

- Solving ill-structured problems
- Online learning
- Transfer learning

Understanding fundamental mechanisms in neuroscience, translated to algorithms and models will influence next-generation devices, architectures and intelligent computing systems

# THANK YOU!!

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**Neural Exploration and Research  
Lab**

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**WE ARE HIRING!**



**Careers**

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<https://neuroscience.sandia.gov/>