

POSTER PRESENTATION

Open Access

Oscillations and chaos in the dynamics of the BCM learning rule

Lawrence C Udeigwe^{1*}, G Bard Ermentrout², Paul W Munro¹

From Twenty Second Annual Computational Neuroscience Meeting: CNS*2013
 Paris, France. 13-18 July 2013

The BCM learning rule originally arose from experiments intended for measuring the selectivity of neurons in the primary visual cortex, and its dependence on input stimuli. This learning rule incorporates a dynamic LTP threshold, which depends on the time averaged postsynaptic activity. Although the BCM learning rule has been well studied and some experimental evidence of neuronal adherence has been found in the other areas of the brain, including the hippocampus, there is still much to be known about the dynamic behavior of this learning rule.

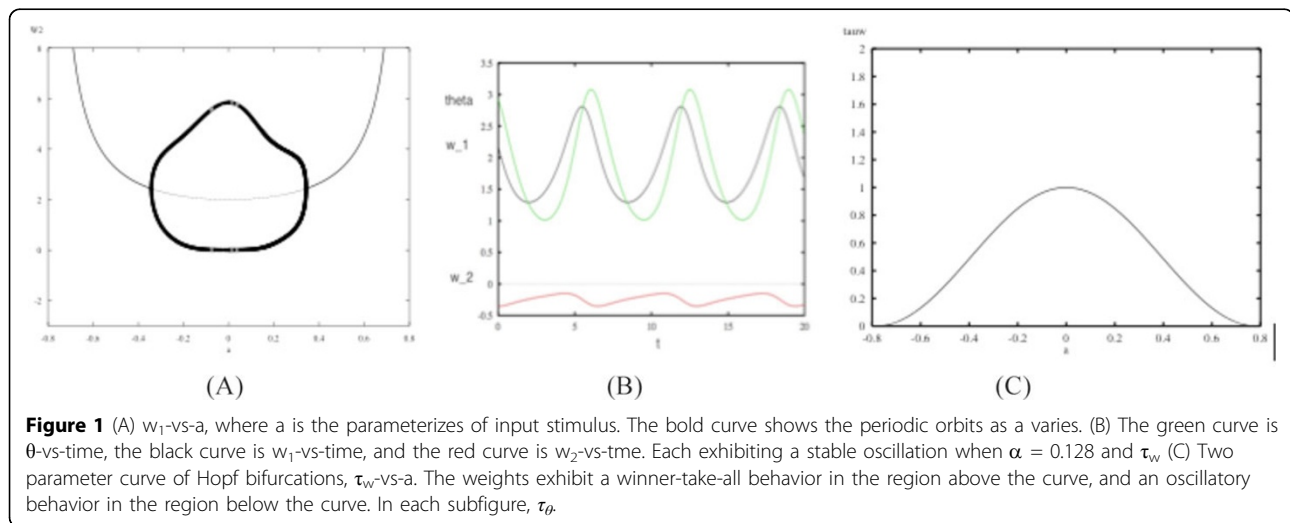
The dynamics of BCM cell can be described as follows:

$$\tau_w \frac{dw}{dt} = v x_j^{(i)} (v - \theta)$$

$$\tau_\theta \frac{d\theta}{dt} = v^2 - \theta$$

where $x^{(i)} = (x_1^{(i)}, \dots, x_n^{(i)})$ is an input stimulus pattern, and $w = (w_1, \dots, w_n)$ is the synaptic weights. The postsynaptic activity is computed as $v = w \cdot x^{(i)}$, and θ is a “sliding” threshold for the postsynaptic activity, and are constants.

In this work, a mean-field version of the BCM learning rule is studied, and it is shown that if the synaptic weights and the postsynaptic activity threshold share similar time scales, then it is possible to obtain complex dynamics. It is also shown that there exist periodic orbits for certain parametric regions of stimulus orientation and time-scale factor, as evidenced by a Hopf



* Correspondence: lcu2@pitt.edu

¹School of Information Sciences, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA 15260, USA

Full list of author information is available at the end of the article

Bifurcation (see Figure 1). Consequently, it is discovered that the synaptic weights exhibit an oscillatory behavior in this region. A preliminary study of two BCM cells coupled by lateral inhibition yields a torus bifurcation, which tends to lead to chaos.

Author details

¹School of Information Sciences, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA 15260, USA. ²Department of Mathematics, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA 15260, USA.

Published: 8 July 2013

doi:10.1186/1471-2202-14-S1-P285

Cite this article as: Udeigwe *et al.*: Oscillations and chaos in the dynamics of the BCM learning rule. *BMC Neuroscience* 2013 **14**(Suppl 1):P285.

**Submit your next manuscript to BioMed Central
and take full advantage of:**

- Convenient online submission
- Thorough peer review
- No space constraints or color figure charges
- Immediate publication on acceptance
- Inclusion in PubMed, CAS, Scopus and Google Scholar
- Research which is freely available for redistribution

Submit your manuscript at
www.biomedcentral.com/submit

