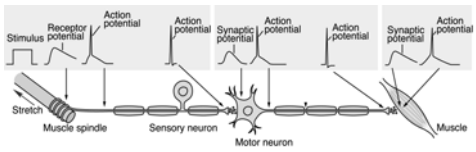
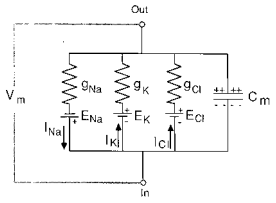
Generator Potentials, Synaptic Potentials and Action Potentials All Can Be Described by the Equivalent Circuit Model of the Membrane



PNS, Fig 2-11

Equivalent Circuit Model of the Neuron

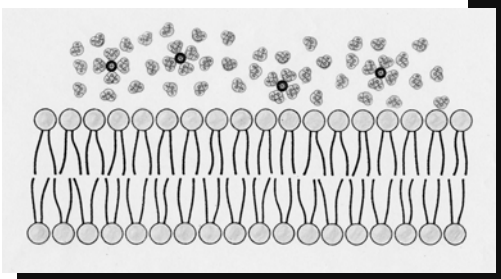


The Nerve (or Muscle) Cell can be Represented by a Collection of Batteries, Resistors and Capacitors

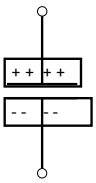
Equivalent Circuit of the Membrane and Passive Electrical Properties

- Equivalent Circuit of the Membrane
  - What Gives Rise to C, R, and V?
  - Model of the Resting Membrane
- Passive Electrical Properties
  - Time Constant and Length Constant
  - Effects on Synaptic Integration
- Voltage-Clamp Analysis of the Action Potential

Ions Cannot Diffuse Across the Hydrophobic Barrier of the Lipid Bilayer



The Lipid Bilayer Acts Like a Capacitor

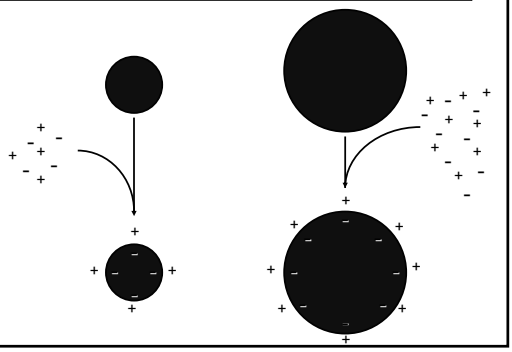


$V_m = Q/C$

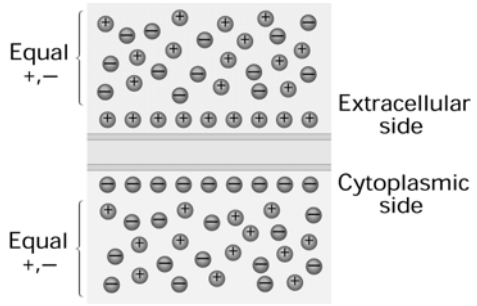
$\Delta V_m = \Delta Q/C$

ΔQ must change before ΔV_m can change

Capacitance is Proportional to Membrane Area

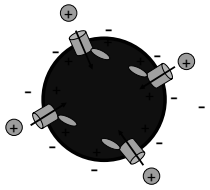


The Bulk Solution Remains Electroneutral



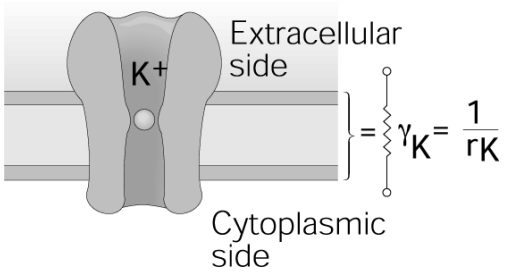
PNS, Fig 7-1

Electrical Signaling in the Nervous System is Caused by the Opening or Closing of Ion Channels



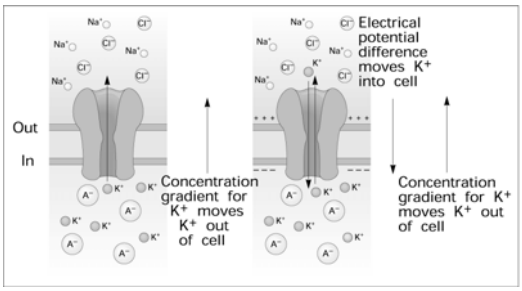
The Resultant Flow of Charge into the Cell
Drives the Membrane Potential Away From its Resting Value

Each K^+ Channel Acts as a Conductor (Resistance)



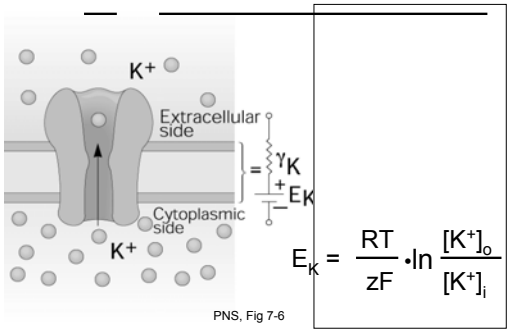
PNS, Fig 7-5

Ion Channel Selectivity and Ionic Concentration Gradient Result in an Electromotive Force



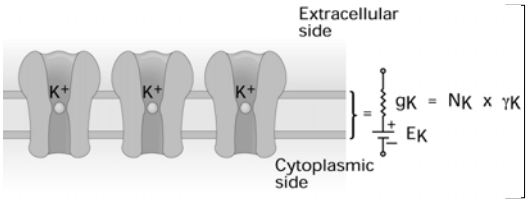
PNS, Fig 7-3

An Ion Channel Acts Both as a Conductor and as a Battery



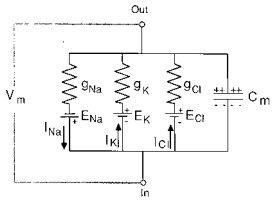
PNS, Fig 7-6

All the K^+ Channels Can be Lumped into One Equivalent Structure



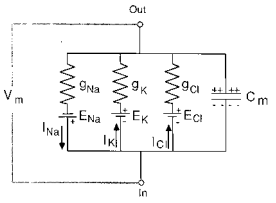
PNS, Fig 7-7

An Ionic Battery Contributes to V_M in Proportion to the Membrane Conductance for That Ion



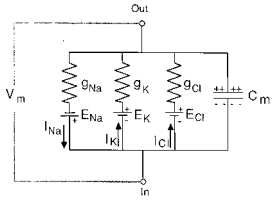
$$V_m = \frac{g_K \cdot E_K + g_{Cl} \cdot E_{Cl} + g_{Na} \cdot E_{Na}}{g_K + g_{Cl} + g_{Na}}$$

When g_K is Very High, $g_K \cdot E_K$ Predominates



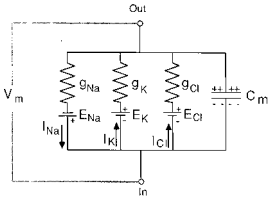
$$V_m = \frac{g_K \cdot E_K + \cancel{g_{Cl} \cdot E_{Cl}} + \cancel{g_{Na} \cdot E_{Na}}}{g_K + \cancel{g_{Cl}} + \cancel{g_{Na}}}$$

The K^+ Battery Predominates at Resting Potential



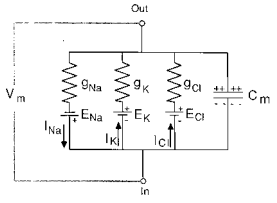
$$V_m \approx \frac{g_K \cdot E_K}{g_K}$$

The K^+ Battery Predominates at Resting Potential



$$V_m \approx \frac{\cancel{g_K} \cdot E_K}{\cancel{g_K}}$$

This Equation is Qualitatively Similar to the Goldman Equation

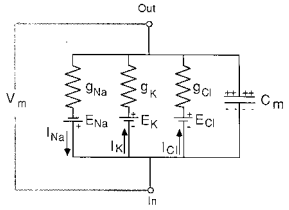


$$V_m = \frac{g_K \cdot E_K + g_{Cl} \cdot E_{Cl} + g_{Na} \cdot E_{Na}}{g_K + g_{Cl} + g_{Na}}$$

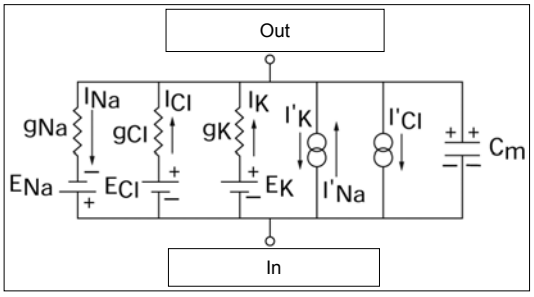
The Goldman Equation

$$V_m = \frac{RT}{zF} \cdot \ln \frac{(P_K\{K^+\}_o + P_{Na}\{Na^+\}_o + P_{Cl}\{Cl^-\}_i)}{(P_K\{K^+\}_i + P_{Na}\{Na^+\}_i + P_{Cl}\{Cl^-\}_o)}$$

Ions Leak Across the Membrane at Resting Potential



At Resting Potential The Cell is in a Steady-State

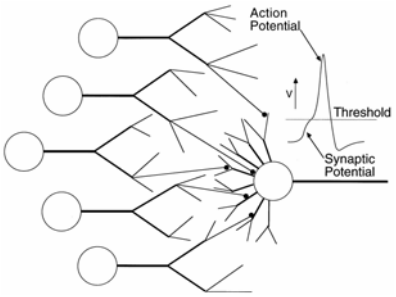


PNS, Fig 7-10

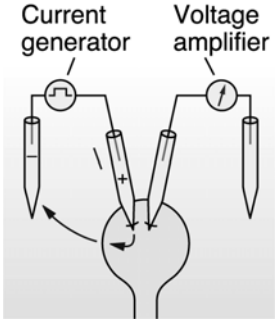
Equivalent Circuit of the Membrane and Passive Electrical Properties

- Equivalent Circuit of the Membrane
  - What Gives Rise to C, R, and V?
  - Model of the Resting Membrane
- Passive Electrical Properties
  - Time Constant and Length Constant
  - Effects on Synaptic Integration
- Voltage-Clamp Analysis of the Action Potential

Passive Properties Affect Synaptic Integration

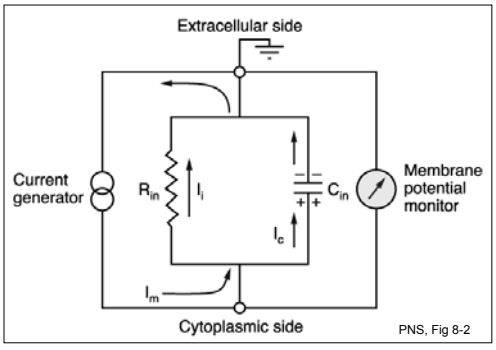


Experimental Set-up for Injecting Current into a Neuron



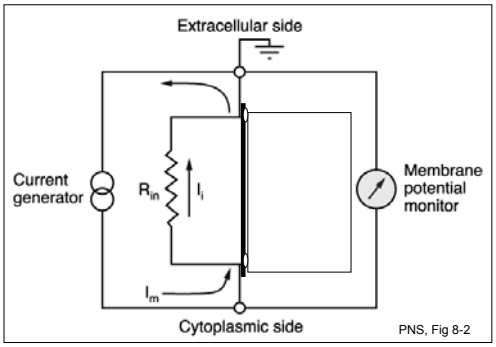
PNS, Fig 7-2

Equivalent Circuit for Injecting Current into Cell



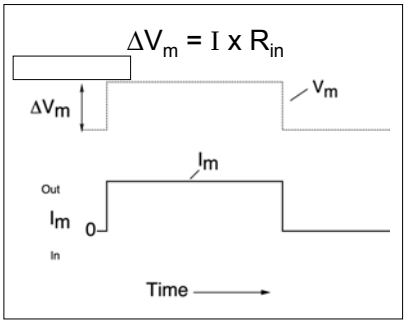
PNS, Fig 8-2

If the Cell Had Only Resistive Properties

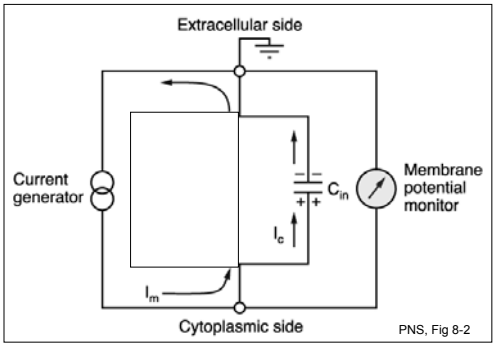


If the Cell Had Only Resistive Properties

$\Delta V_m = I \times R_{in}$

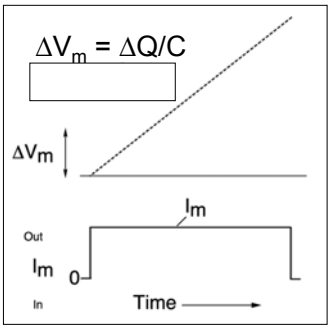


If the Cell Had Only Capacitive Properties

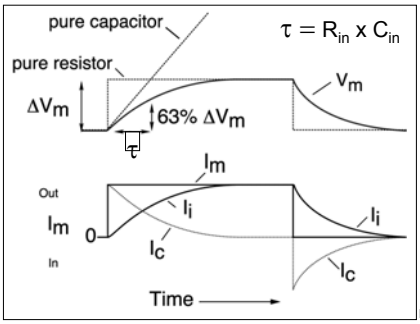


If the Cell Had Only Capacitive Properties

$\Delta V_m = \Delta Q/C$

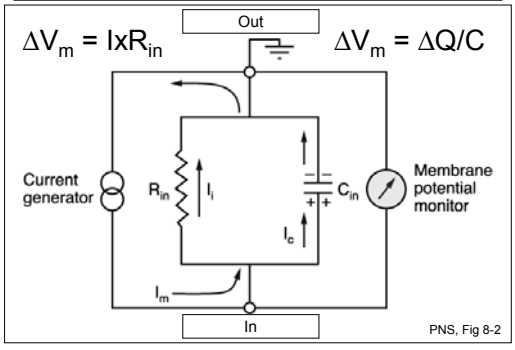


Because of Membrane Capacitance, Voltage Always Lags Current Flow

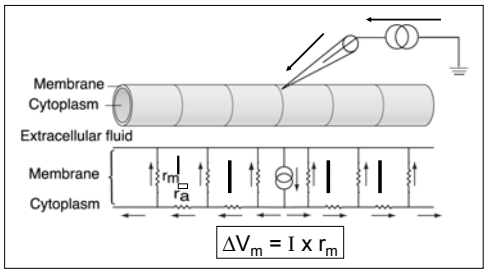


The Vm Across C is Always Equal to Vm Across the R

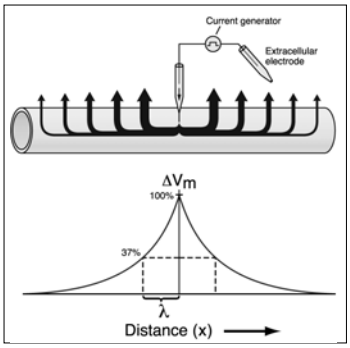
$\Delta V_m = IxR_{in}$ $\Delta V_m = \Delta Q/C$



Spread of Injected Current is Affected by r_a and r_m

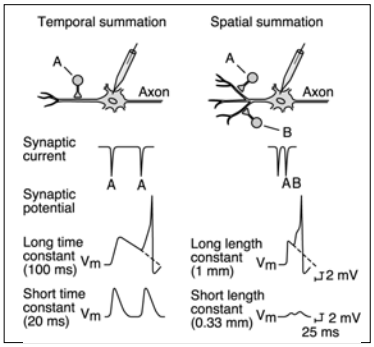


Length Constant $\lambda = \sqrt{r_m/r_a}$



PNS, Fig 8-5

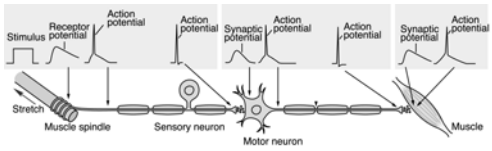
Synaptic Integration



PNS, Fig 12-13

Receptor Potentials and Synaptic Potentials Convey Signals over Short Distances

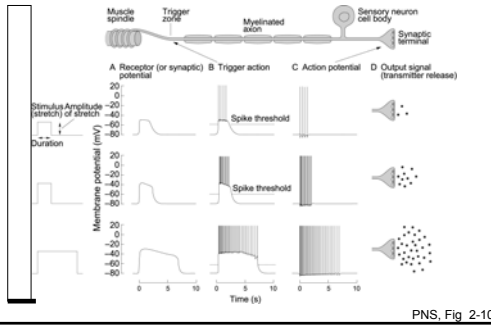
Action Potentials Convey Signals over Long Distances



PNS, Fig 2-11

The Action Potential

1) Has a threshold, is all-or-none, and is conducted without decrement
2) Carries information from one end of the neuron to the other in a pulse-code

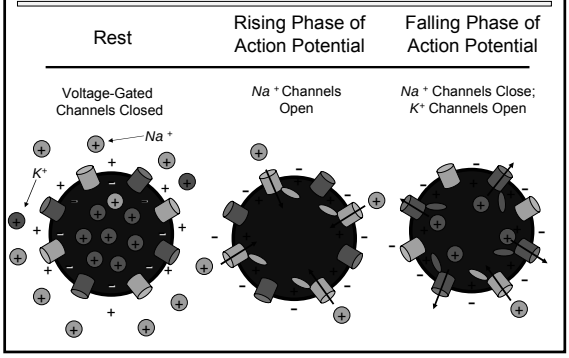


PNS, Fig 2-10

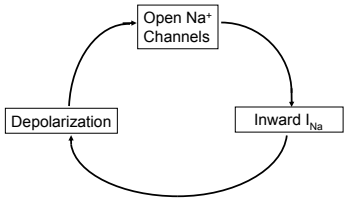
Equivalent Circuit of the Membrane and Passive Electrical Properties

- Equivalent Circuit of the Membrane
  - What Gives Rise to C, R, and V?
  - Model of the Resting Membrane
- Passive Electrical Properties
  - Time Constant and Length Constant
  - Effects on Synaptic Integration
- Voltage-Clamp Analysis of the Action Potential

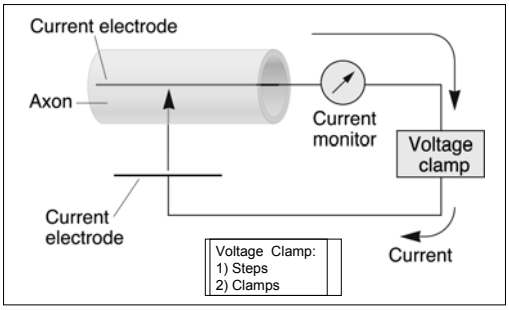
Sequential Opening of Na^+ and K^+ Channels Generate the Action Potential



A Positive Feedback Cycle Generates the Rising Phase of the Action Potential

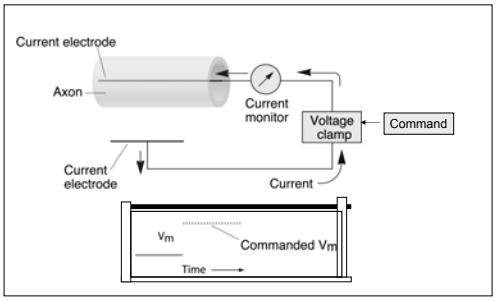


Voltage Clamp Circuit



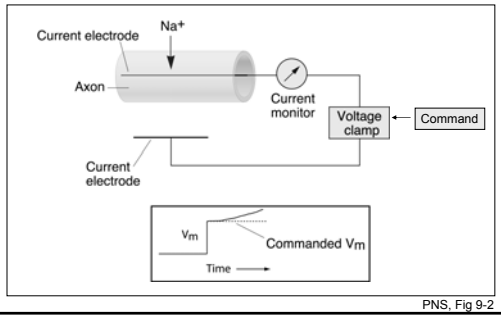
PNS, Fig 9-2

The Voltage Clamp Generates a Depolarizing Step by Injecting Positive Charge into the Axon



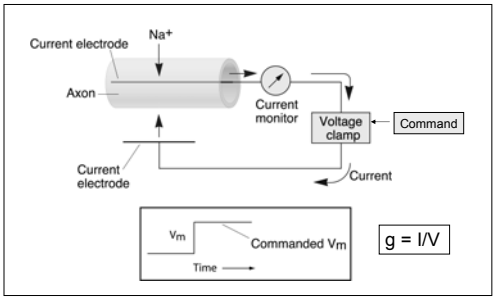
PNS, Fig 9-2

Opening of Na^+ Channels Gives Rise to Na^+ Influx That Tends to Cause V_m to Deviate from Its Commanded Value



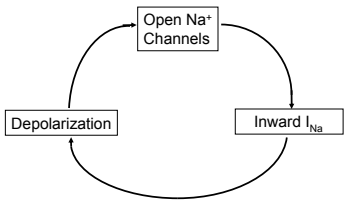
PNS, Fig 9-2

Electronically Generated Current Counterbalances the Na^+ Membrane Current



PNS, Fig 9-2

Where Does the Voltage Clamp Interrupt the Positive Feedback Cycle?



The Voltage Clamp Interrupts the Positive Feedback Cycle Here