### Completed Lab D With Bonus













### "Bonus Problem"

Reversed the intracellular and extracellular [Na] and [K] and tried to create a "reverse action potential". Because of the voltage gated channels, this should not work.

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With no injected current, a neuron in axoplasm with normal [Na] does nothing, in 3000 mM [Naxoplasm, the neuron repeated fires.

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essentially similar to that postulated in Bernstein's form of the membrane theory. The resting membrane is assumed to be permeable to potassium and



AP occurrence in relation with K intra & initial current

I plotted the threshhold of AP for different pairs of intracellular K+ and Initial Current. According to the plot, it looks like  $K+_AP$  threshold =  $k * I^2$ . If this assumption is right, the threshold K+ value increases as a function of I^2.

### Extra Credit Problem: Would Doubling Every Concentration Change the Shape of the Graph?

Hypothesis: No the shape would remain more or less similar to the original setting because the voltage is determined by driving force, so given same ratio, the voltage should remain constant.

## The Graph



# Conclusion

The graph looks significantly different from the one with initial setting and here's why.

$$V_{\rm m} = \frac{RT}{F} \ln \left( \frac{p_{\rm K} [\mathrm{K}]_{\rm o} + p_{\rm Na} [\mathrm{Na}]_{\rm o} + p_{\rm Cl} [\mathrm{Cl}]_{\rm i}}{p_{\rm K} [\mathrm{K}]_{\rm i} + p_{\rm Na} [\mathrm{Na}]_{\rm i} + p_{\rm Cl} [\mathrm{Cl}]_{\rm o}} \right)$$

Although the driving force of each ion is determined by its own concentration, the overall voltage is determined by concentration of all three ions.

### Nernst Equation with Noise

The Na<sup>+</sup> concentration outside the cell is large and probably does not change much. Even if it does, we saw from the lab the enormous range of Na<sup>+</sup><sub>o</sub> over which neurons can still fire action potentials. But what about the intercellular concentration? There are of course mechanisms that keep this very stable, but one would imagine that this smaller concentration that changes drastically during an action potential may often not be exactly at 14 mM. So to see the affects of this, I added a uniformly distributed noise parameter with standard deviation N that made the intercellular concentration somewhat random in the Nernst equation. I then plotted the resulting equation as a function of the extracellular concentration for different noise levels, as well as took a look at how much the  $E_{Na}$  could vary when the extracellular Na concentration was constant at an optimal 140 mM. The MATLAB code and plots are on subsequent slides.

```
function nernst(N)
R= 8.314;
T= 6.3 + 273.15;
z= 1;
F= 96485.339;
Nai = 14;
Na0 = 140;
X = (.25:.25:250);
D = zeros(1, 1000);
for i = 1:1000
  D(i) = ((R^{T})/(z^{F}))^{log}(X(i)/(14 + (N^{randn})));
end
hold on
plot(X, D)
```

N = 1



N = 5





### Variation when Na<sup>+</sup><sub>o</sub> is held constant at 140mM and N=1



There seems to be a plus or minus 10% effect. Subsequent questions include how the intercellular concentration of Na<sup>+</sup> changes in vivo, especially during a train of action potentials.