


# IV. Neural Networks and Learning

## B. Biological Neural Networks

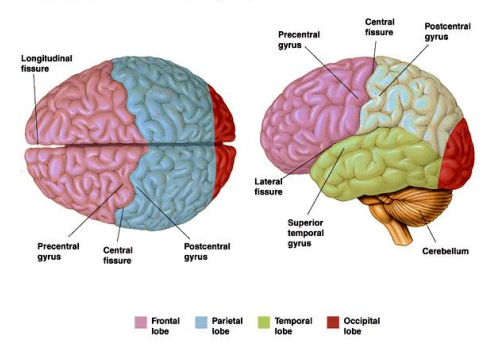
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# A Very Brief Tour of Real Neurons




(and Real Brains)

### ► The Lobes of the Cerebral Hemispheres



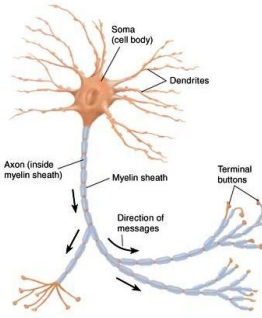
2013/3/11 (fig. from internet) 3

### Left Hemisphere



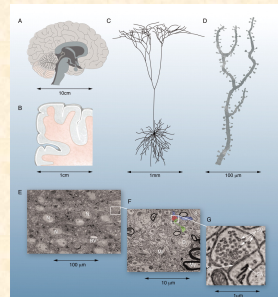
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### Typical Neuron




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### The brain is organized over sizes that span 6 orders of magnitude

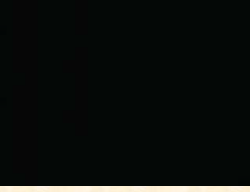


J W Lichtman, W Denk Science 2011;334:618-623

Published by AAAS



### Overview of Brain to Neurons



<<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DF04XPBj5uc>>

(play flash video)


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### Animation of Neuron

- An animated film about nicotine addiction
- A good visualization of a single neuron
- ©2006, Hurd Studios
- Winner of NSF/AAAS Visualization Challenge
- [View flash video](#)

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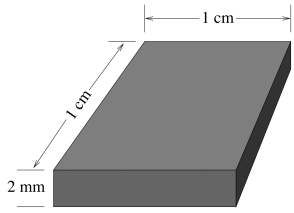
### Grey Matter vs. White Matter



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(fig. from Carter 1998)

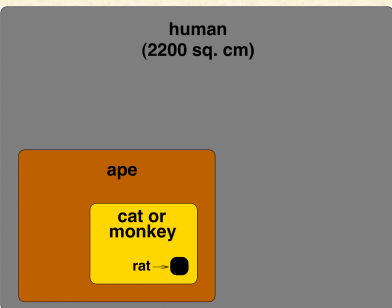
### Neural Density in Cortex



- 148 000 neurons / sq. mm
- Hence, about 15 million / sq. cm

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### Cortical Areas



human  
(2200 sq. cm)

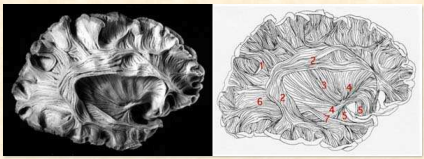
ape

cat or monkey

rat

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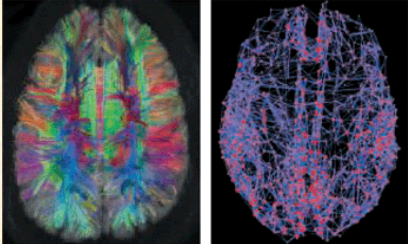
### Intercortical Connections




- (1) Short arcuate bundles, (2) Superior longitudinal fasciculus, (3) External capsule, (4) Inferior occipitofrontal fasciculus, (5) Uncinate fasciculus, (6) Sagittal stratum, (7) Inferior longitudinal fasciculus

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### Intercortical Connections (diffusion spectrum imaging)



G. Miller *Science* 330, 164 (2010) (2010)



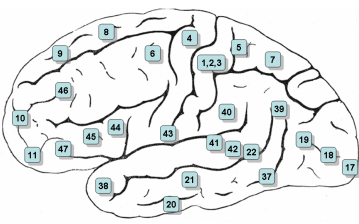
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## Neural Representations

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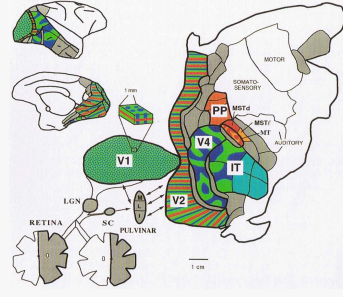
### Brodmann's Areas



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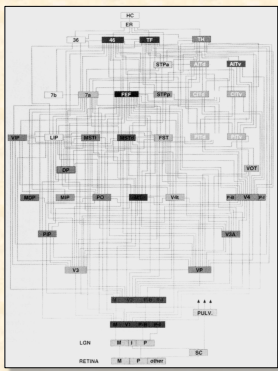
### Macaque Visual System



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16  
*(fig. from Clark, *Being There*, 1997)*

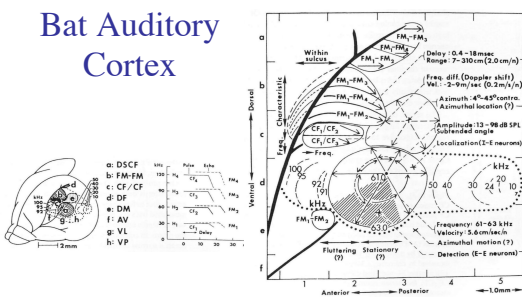
### Hierarchy of Macaque Visual Areas



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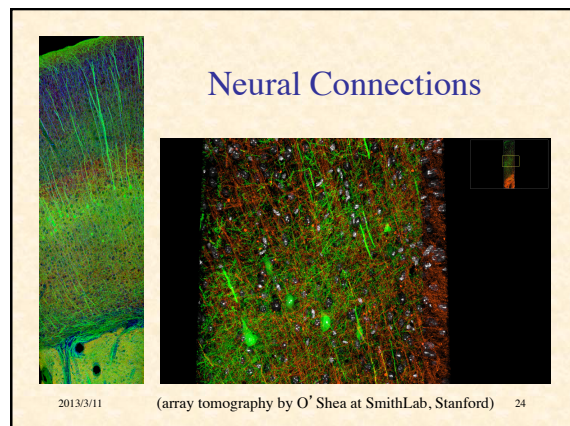
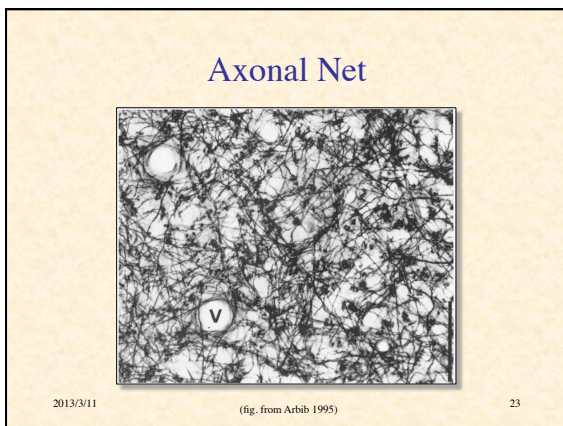
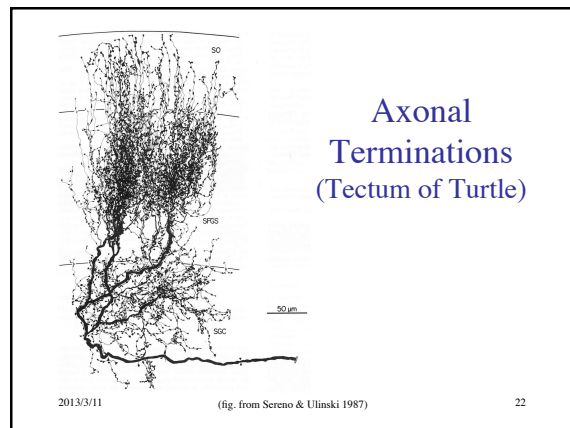
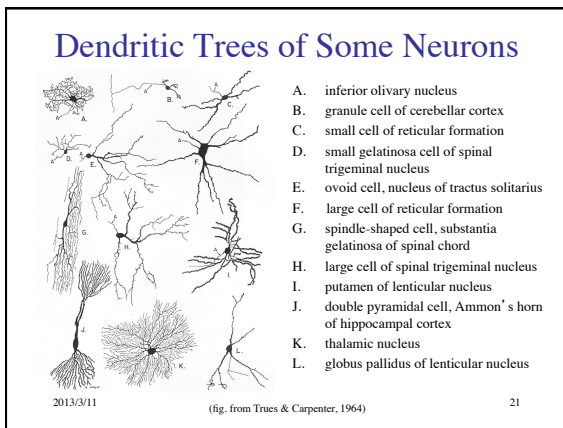
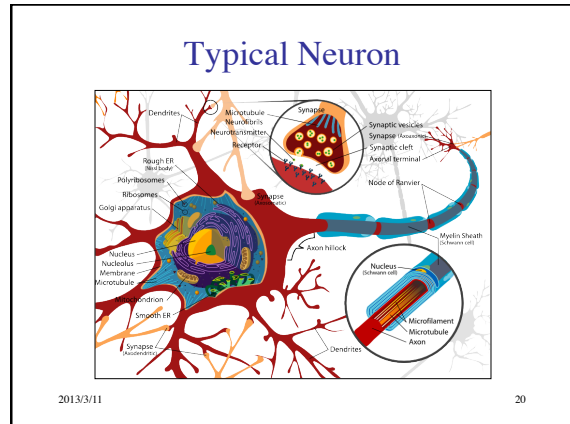
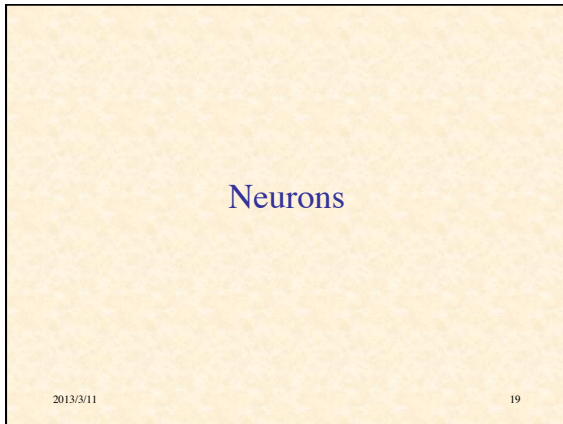
17  
*(fig. from Van Essen & al. 1992)*

### Bat Auditory Cortex

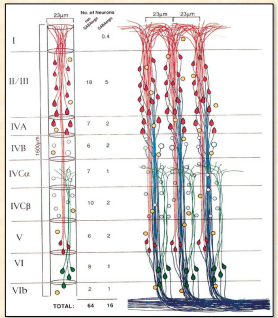


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18  
*(figs. from Suga, 1985)*



### Minicolumn

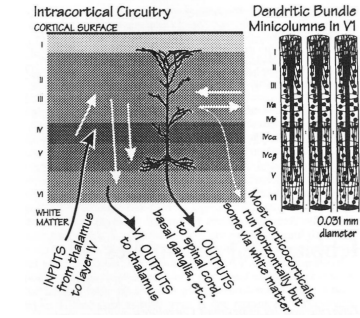


I	18	5
II/III	18	5
IVA	7	2
IVB	4	2
IVCa	7	1
IVCb	10	2
V	6	2
VI	8	1
VIb	2	1
TOTAL	64	16

- Up to ~100 neurons
  - 75-80% pyramidal
  - 20-25% interneurons
- 20-50µ diameter
- Length: 0.8 (mouse) to 3mm (human)
- ~6x10<sup>5</sup> synapses
- 75-90% synapses outside minicolumn
- Interacts with 1.2x10<sup>5</sup> other minicolumns
- Mutually excitable
- Also called *microcolumn*

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### Layers and Minicolumns



**Intracortical Circuitry**  
CORTICAL SURFACE

**Dendritic Bundle Minicolumns in VI**  
0.025 mm diameter

INPUTS from thalamus to layer IV  
Y OUTPUTS basal ganglia, etc.  
X OUTPUTS normal via white matter

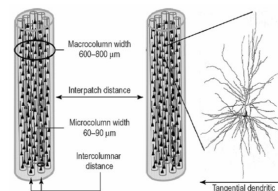
Most corticospinal axons run horizontally, but

WHITE MATTER

(fig. from Arbib 1995, p. 270)

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### Macrocolumns



Macrocolumn width 600-800 µm  
Interpatch distance  
Microcolumn width 60-90 µm  
Intercolumnar distance

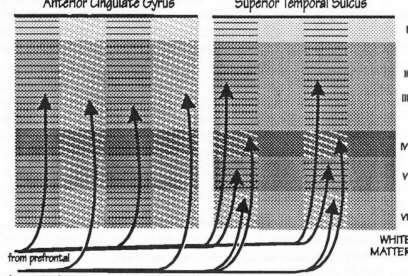
tangential dendritic spread

- ~70 inhibitorily-coupled minicolumns in humans
- 70% of minicol. connections are within macrocol.
- Basket neurons provide shunting inhibition between minicolumns
- Winner-takes-all networks
- Represent microfeatures

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### Projection Macrocolumns 0.5-1.0mm wide

Interdigitating Columns in Anterior Cingulate Gyrus  
Interleaving Input Columns in Superior Temporal Sulcus



from prefrontal  
from parietal

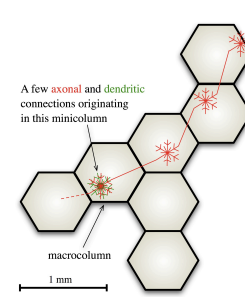
WHITE MATTER

(fig. from Arbib 1995, p. 270)

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### Intracortical Connections

- Dendrites extend 2-4 minicol. diameters
- Axons extend 5x (or even 30-40x) minicol. diameter
- Periodic spacing of axon terminal clusters causes entrainment
- ~2x10<sup>7</sup> connections to macrocolumn



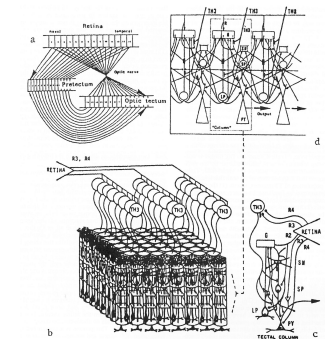
A few axonal and dendritic connections originating in this minicolumn

macrocolumn

1 mm

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### Neural Networks in Visual System of Frog



Retina  
Optic tectum

(fig. from Arbib 1995, p. 1039)

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### Reorganization of Cortex

**A. Nerve Fields of the Hand**  
**B. Topographic Pattern of Hand Representations**  
**C. Normal Hand Representation**  
**D. Cortex Deprived by Median Nerve Section**  
**E. Fully Reorganized Cortex**

- Median nerve sectioned to show fluidity of cortical organization
- (C) before
- (D) immediately after
- (E) several months later

2013/3/11 (fig. < McClelland & al., *Par. Distr. Proc.* II) 31

### Orientation Columns

(C)

2013/3/11 (fig. < Nicholls & al., *Neur. to Brain*) 32

### Orientation Columns

(D)

2013/3/11 (fig. < Nicholls & al., *Neur. to Brain*) 33

### Cell Responses in V4

A. 0.7 to 65.6  
 B. -0.9 to 62.4

Cartesian Hyperbolic Polar

2013/3/11 (fig. < Clark, *Being There*, 1997) 34

### Slow Potential Neuron

Arriving Action Potentials  
 EPSPs  
 Filtered EPSPs at cell body  
 IPSP  
 Filtered IPSP at cell body  
 Summed potential  
 Summed potential converted to outgoing action potentials  
 Output Axon

2013/3/11 (fig. < Anderson, *Intr. Neur. Nets*) 35

### Dendritic computation in pyramidal cells.

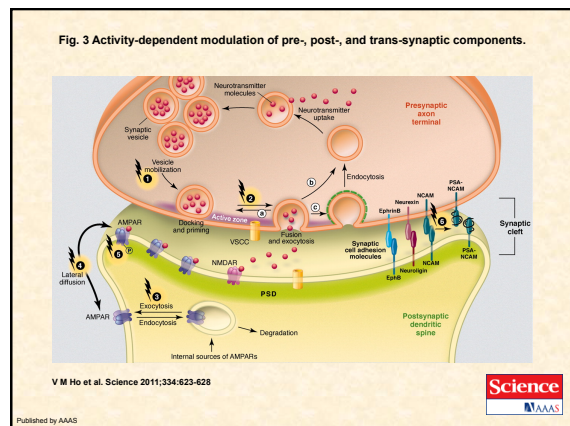
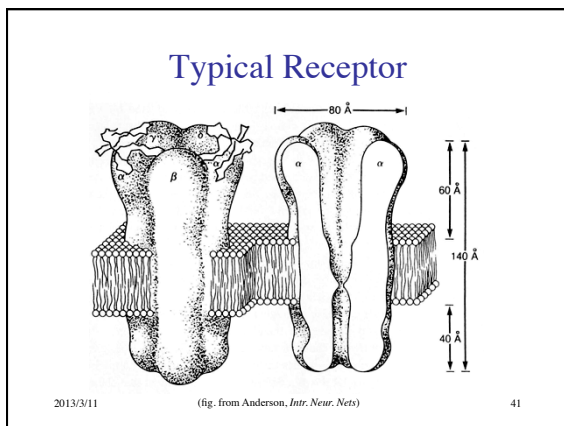
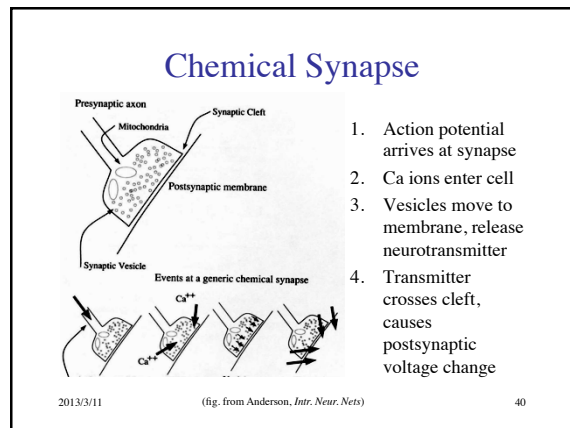
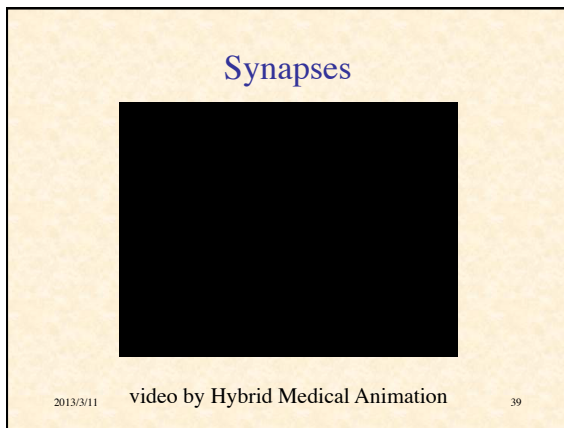
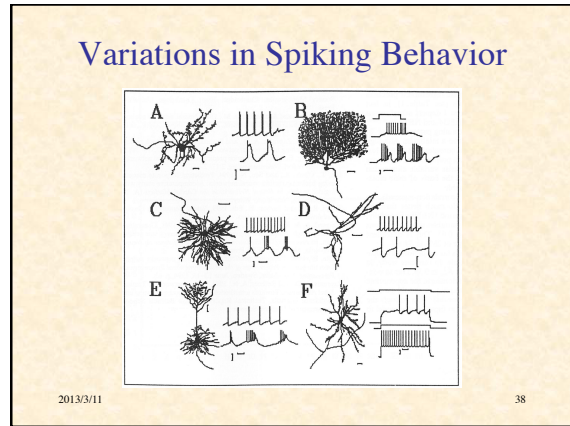
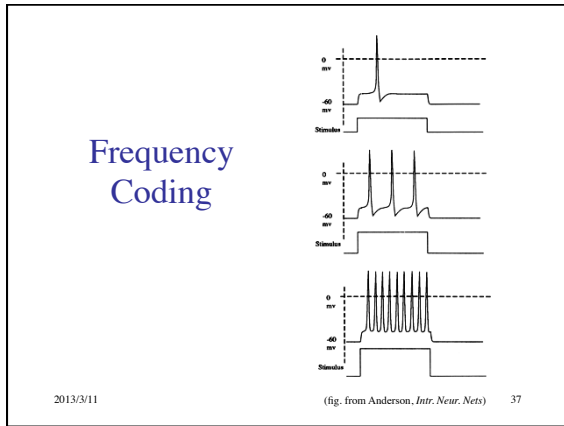
**A. Full model**

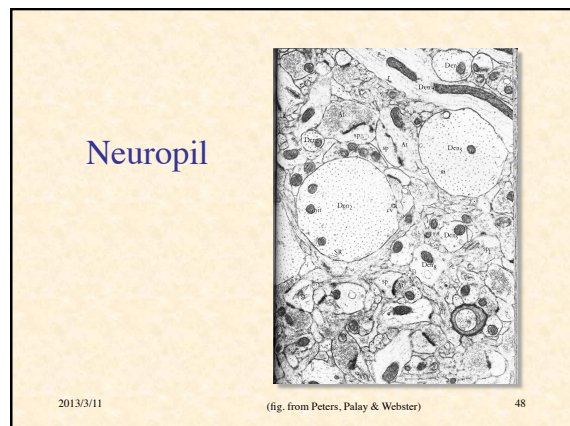
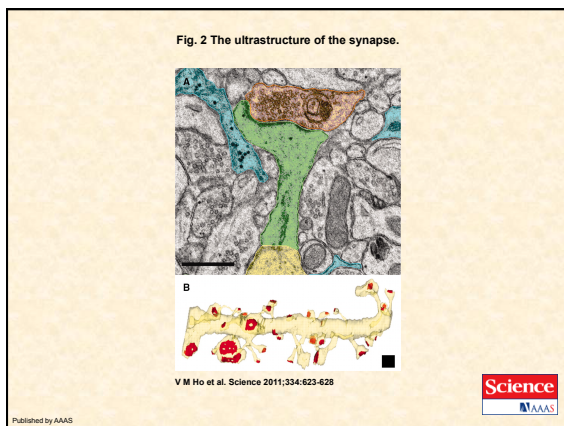
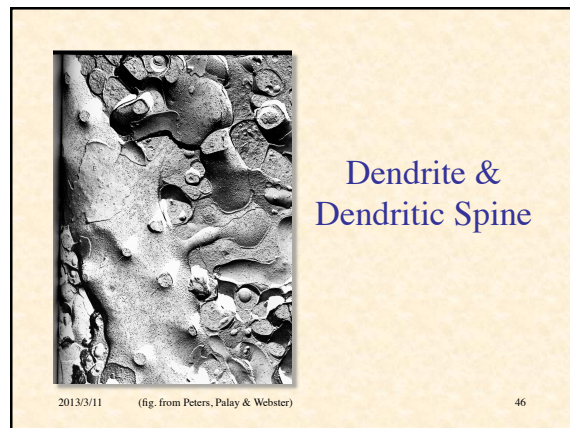
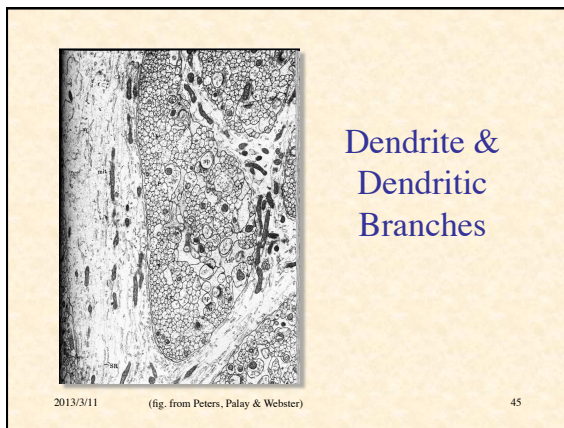
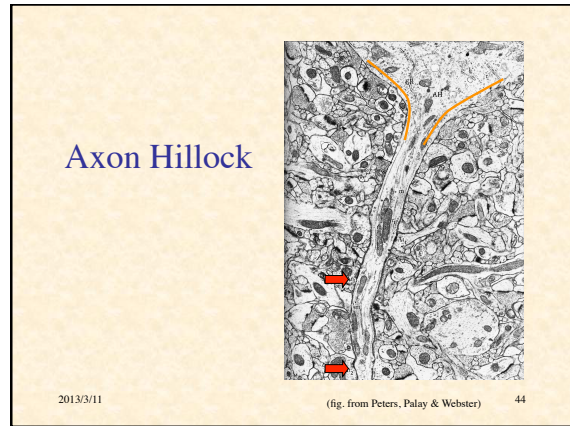
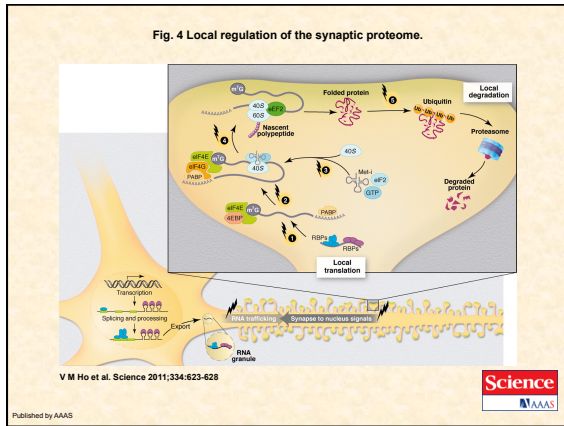
**B. Experiment**

**C. Input-output function**

**D. Input-output function**

T Branco Science 2011;334:616-616  
 Published by AAAS







### Myelinated Axon Making Synapse on Dendrite

2013/3/11 (fig. from Peters, Palay & Webster) 49

### Various Synapses

2013/3/11 (fig. from Peters, Palay & Webster) 50

### Excitatory Synapse Between Axon Terminal and Dendritic Thorn

2013/3/11 (fig. from Peters, Palay & Webster) 51

### Dendro-dendritic Synapses

2013/3/11 (fig. from Peters, Palay & Webster) 52

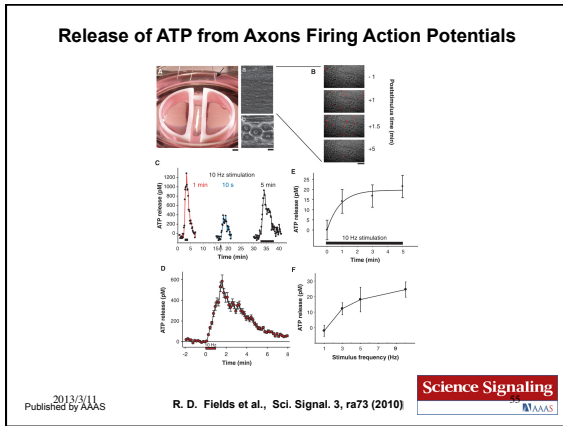
### Electrotonic Synapse

2013/3/11 (fig. from Peters, Palay & Webster) 53

### Nonsynaptic Communication (“twitching neurons”)

- When neurons fire, the axons swell slightly
- This opens channels, releasing neurotransmitters(e.g., ATP)
- A form of nonsynaptic communication between neurons and glia
- May control formation of myelin and other processes
- See Fields & Ni, *Science Signaling*, 5 Oct. 2010

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## Neuronal Group Selection ("Neural Darwinism")

- Theory developed in '70s and '80s by Gerald Edelman (Nobel Prize, 1972)
- Diversity
  - of neural responses to stimuli
  - disjunctive representations of categories
- Competitive Amplification
  - winner-take-all adaptation to stimuli
- Reentry
  - spatiotemporal continuity and coherence

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## Read Flake, ch. 20

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