



## Bio-inspired Information Processing: The Future of Artificial Intelligence?

Kiel University  
Institute of Electrical Engineering and Information Technology  
Chair of Nanoelectronics

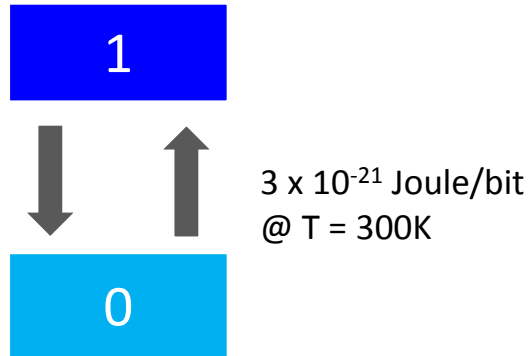
Hermann Kohlstedt

January 2020

### Outline

- Information Technology  
Current Status and Perspectives
- Information Processing in Nervous Systems  
A few Amazing Examples
- Bio-Inspired Electronics  
Looking for Novel Computing Architectures

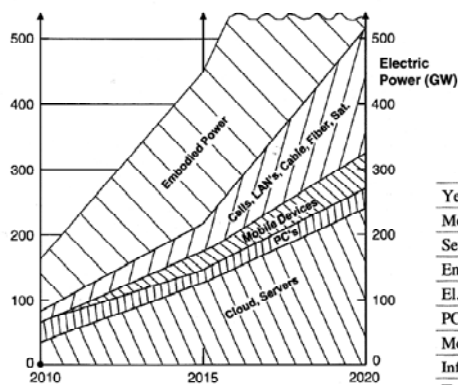
## Bits and Energy: The Landauer Limit



R. Landauer, "Irreversibility and heat generation in the computing process"  
 IBM J. Res. Dev. 5, 183 (1961).  
 Minimum Energy of Computing, Fundamental Considerations  
 V. Zhirnov et al., ICT DOI: 10.5772/57346 (2013).

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## Energy Consumption and Information Technology



0.1 Electric wall-plug power and embodied power for the mobile Internet

Year	2010	2015	2020
Mobile traffic (TB/s)	0.11	1.5	13.2
Server performance (rel.)	1	20	200
Energy eff. (rel.)	1	7	25
El. power (GW)	40	120	240
PC's power (GW)	30	30	30
Mobile devices (GW)	0.4	28	56
Infrastructure (GW)	10	50	200
<b>Total Operative EL. (GW)</b>	<b>80.4</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>526</b>
Embodied EL. power (GW)	80	228	526
<b>Total EL. power (GW)</b>	<b>160.4</b>	<b>456</b>	<b>1052</b>
<b>Global EL. power (GW) generation</b>	<b>2300</b>	<b>2800</b>	<b>3300</b>



B. Hoefflinger, CHIPS 2020 Vol. 2, Springer, p. 191

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### Energy Efficiency: Human versus Artificial Intelligence

#### Jeopardy! Supercomputer IBM Watson vs. Human's



### Microsoft Launches Submersible Datacenter: June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018



<https://www.enterprisetech.com/2018/06/07/microsoft-launches-a-submersible-datacenter/>

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## Autonomous Vehicles

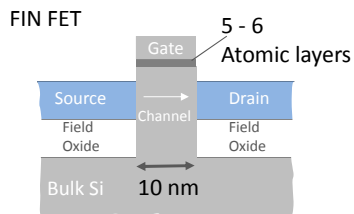


Nvidia graphic processor: 600 Tera-OPS

System dissipation power 1.5 kW

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## The Dead End on Moore's Roadmap



Feature size:  
10 nm → 100 Atoms

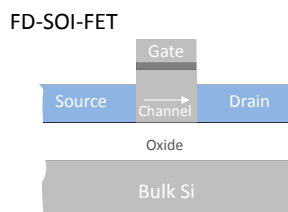
**Doping variance:**  
Si volume-cube:  $V = (10 \text{ nm})^3$   
Doping level:  $N_{A,D} = 10^{18} / \text{cm}^3$

Results in 1 active acceptor or donator atom in average.

Standard deviation  $(N_{A,D})^{1/2}$   
 $N_{A,D} < 50$  Strong conflict with threshold voltage

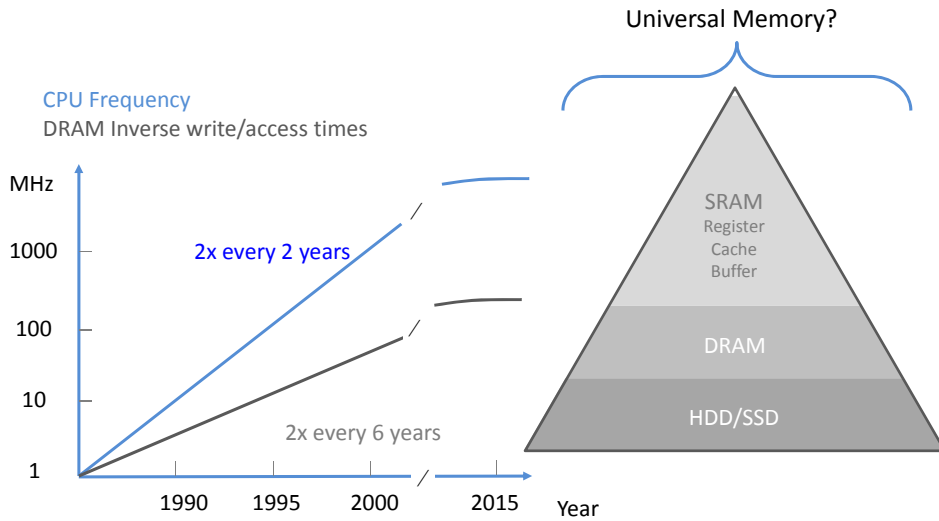
**Supply voltage V has to be large enough to assure the transistor's on/off (digital 0 / 1)**

$$P = n(CV^2 f) + VI$$



Currently: From nano-meter electronics to femto-joule electronics

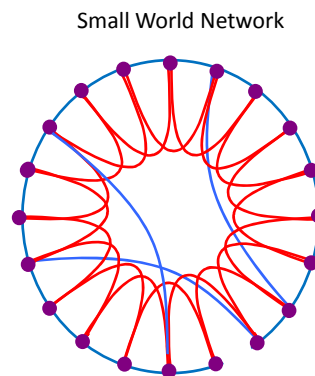
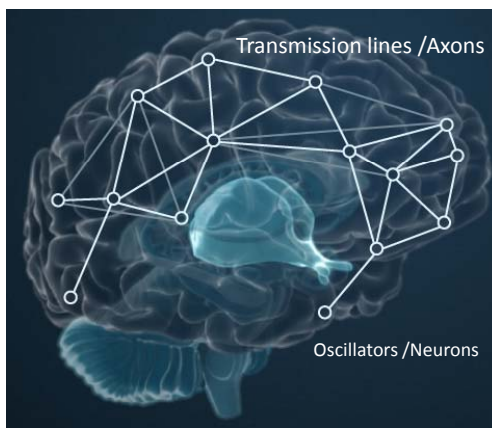
## The von Neumann Bottleneck: Memory Latency



CMOS Processors and Memories, Ed. K. Inewski, Springer 2010  
Embedded Memories for Nano-Scale VLSIs, Springer 2010

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## Brain Networks – Graph Theory – Time varying Circuits



In addition needed:

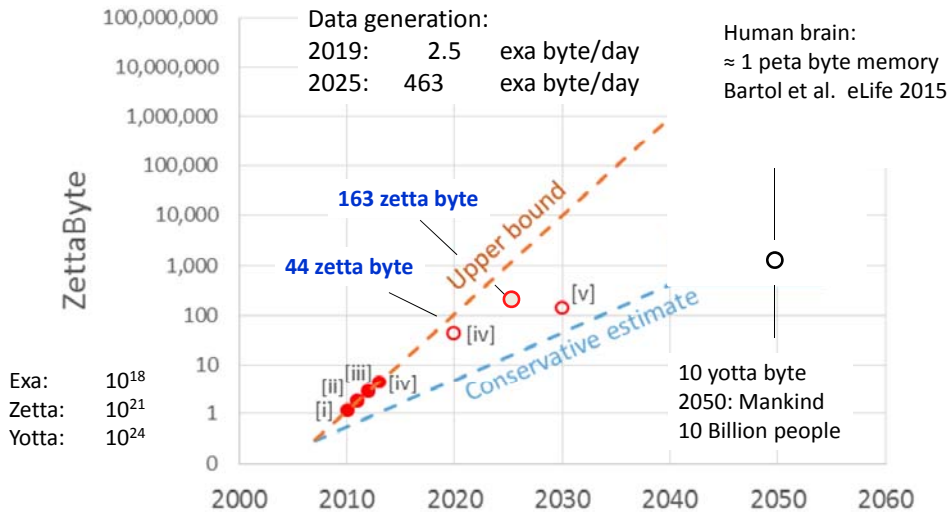
- Delay  $\Delta\tau$
- Variable Coupling  $\Delta\kappa$
- Noise, Stochastic
- External stimuli

- Topology shows Small World characteristics
- Short paths and high clustering
- Transmission delays between nodes (spiking oscillators)

Adapted from Watts and Strogatz Nature 1998  
Olaf Sporns, Networks of the Brain, The MIT press, 2011  
Fornito/Zalesky/Bullmore, Brain Network Analysis, AP 2016

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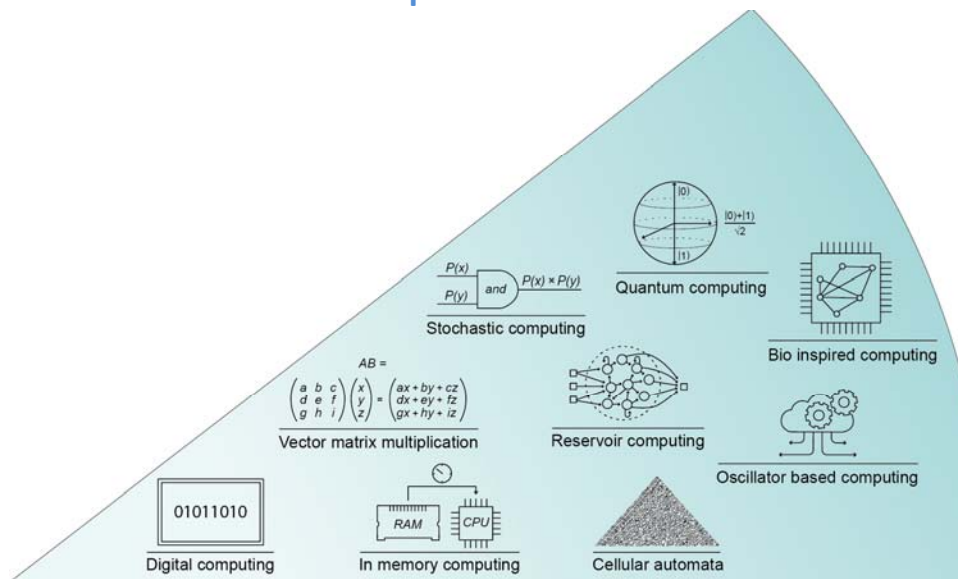
## Global Memory Demand



<https://www.semiconductors.org/resources/rebooting-the-it-revolution-a-call-to-action-2/>  
 M. Hilbert and P. Lopez, "The world's technological capacity to store, communicate, and compute information," *Science* 332 (2011) 60-65.

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## Information Technology: Current Status and Perspectives



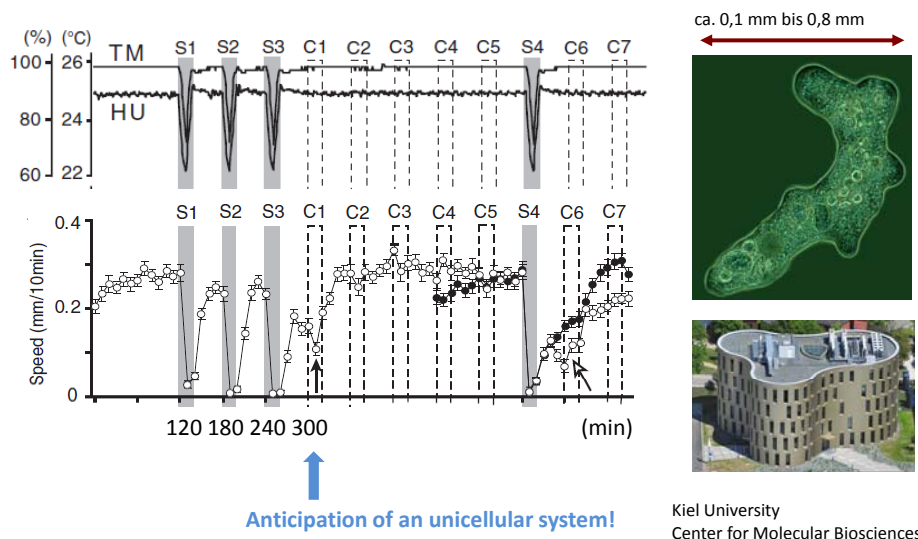
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## Learning and Memory in an Amoeba (unicellular)

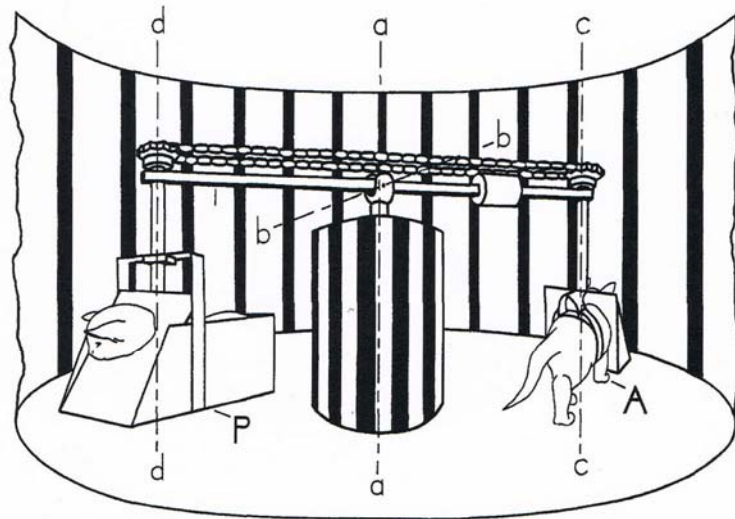


Kiel University  
Center for Molecular Biosciences

Amoebae Anticipate Periodic Events, Tetsu Saigusa et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. (2008)

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### Experiment from Held and Hein 1963



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### What means Failure Tolerant? Network Plasticity

Child with half a brain life's a normal live!  
She is witty, charming and intelligent.



Glasgow University, MPI Frankfurt



The girl's brain rewired itself after the right side failed to develop properly in the womb

see: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-1200958/Girl-born-half-brain-person-world-fields-vision-eye.html>

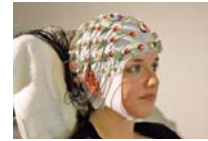
Proceedings of the National Academy of Science USA, 2009

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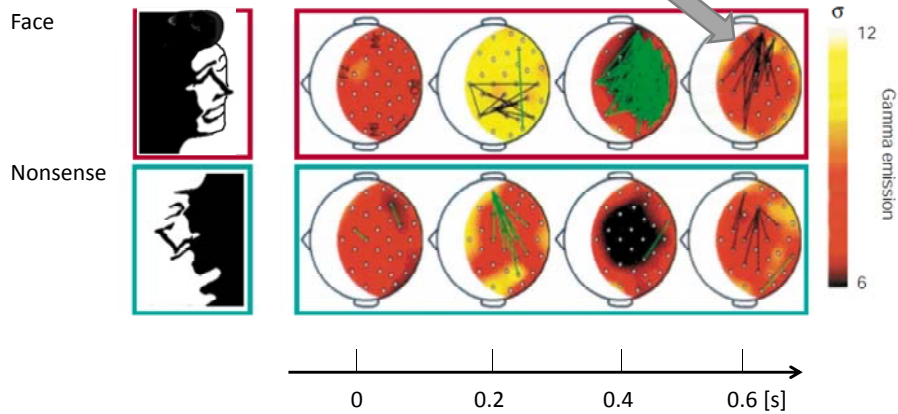


## Perception und Synchronization

EEG: Elektroenzephalography



**Correlated** firing during recognition process  
tendency to synchrony – „binding problem“



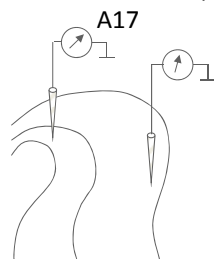
F. Varela et al., Nat. Rev. Neurosciences, 2001

György Buzsáki: Rhythms of the Brain, Oxford University Press, 2006

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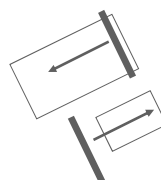
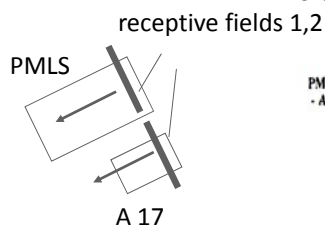
## Interareal Synchronization: Orchestra of Neuronal Ensembles

Visuell area in a cat (cortex, in-vivo experiment)

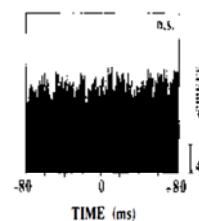
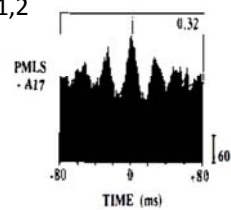


PMLS: posteromedial lateral  
suprasylvian area

5 mm



Cross-correlation histograms



in accordance to:

W. Singer and C. M. Gray, Ann. Rev. Neurosci. 1995

P. J. Uhlhass et al. Front. Int. Neurosci. 2011

E. M. Izhikevich, Dynamical Systems in Neuroscience, Springer 2004

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## Pulse-coupled Oscillators

**Christiaan Huygens**  
 1629 – 1695  
 Non-linear dynamics

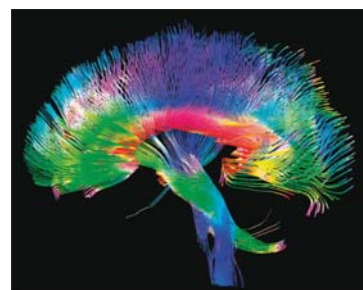
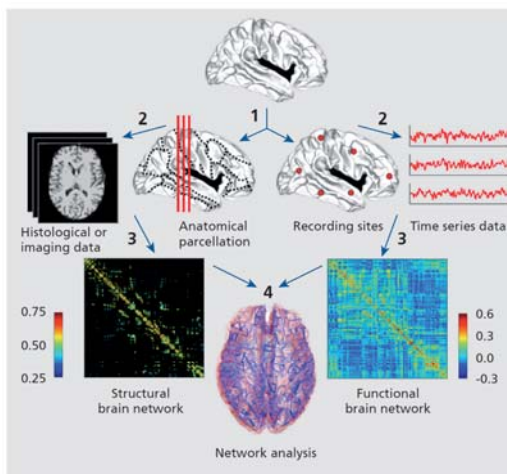


Steven H. Strogatz:  
 Sync: The Emerging Science of Spontaneous Order  
 Hachette Books, 2003

Steven H. Strogatz:  
 Scientific American 1993

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## Structural and Functional Brain Networks: The Connectome



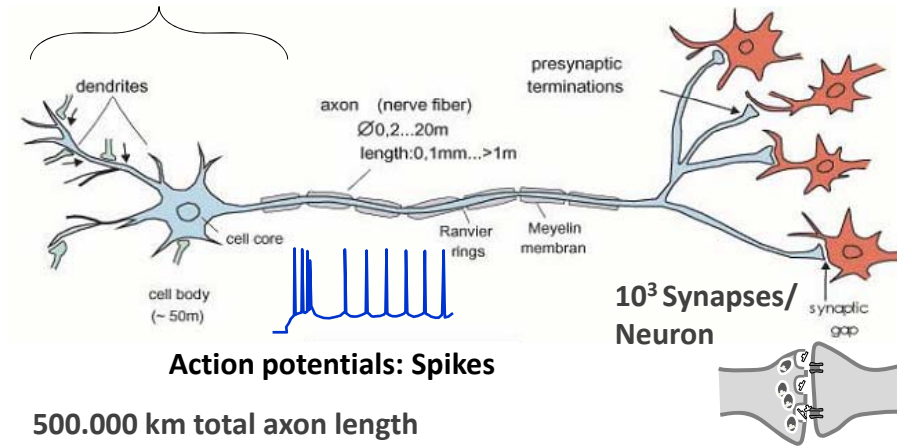
Human Brain Project  
 Jonathan Webb | BBC | July 22, 2016

O. Sporns, Complex brain networks,  
 Dialogues in Clinical Neuroscience (2013)

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## Information Processing by Neurons: The Human Brain

$10^{11}$  Neurons

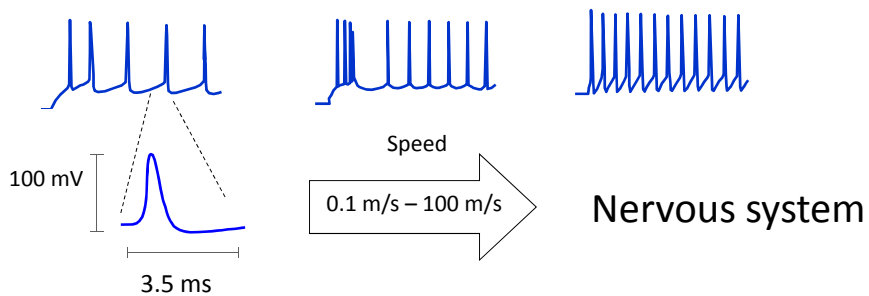


**3 D time varying network with  $10^{14}$  interconnects!**

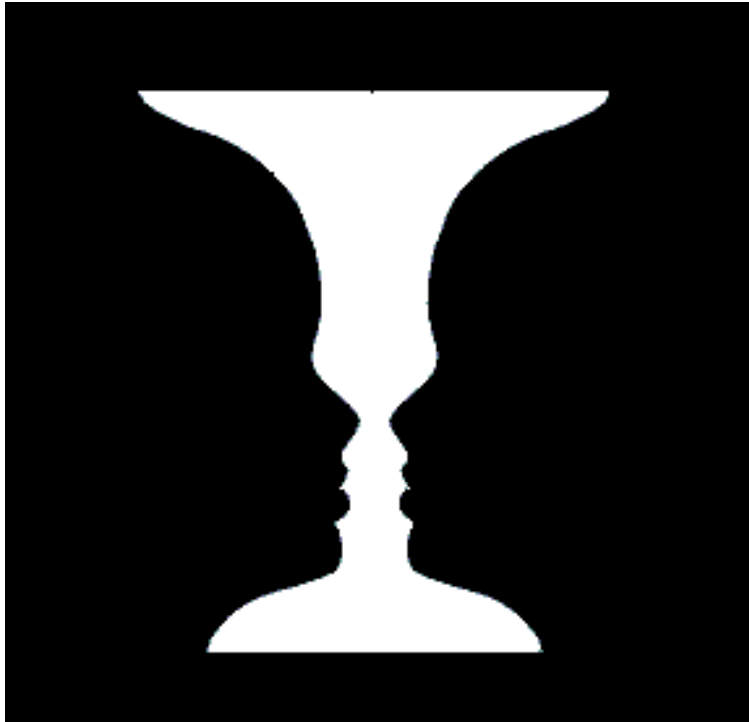
Eric R. Kandel et a., Principles of Neural Science, McGraw-Hill, 2000

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### Action Potentials - "Spikes"

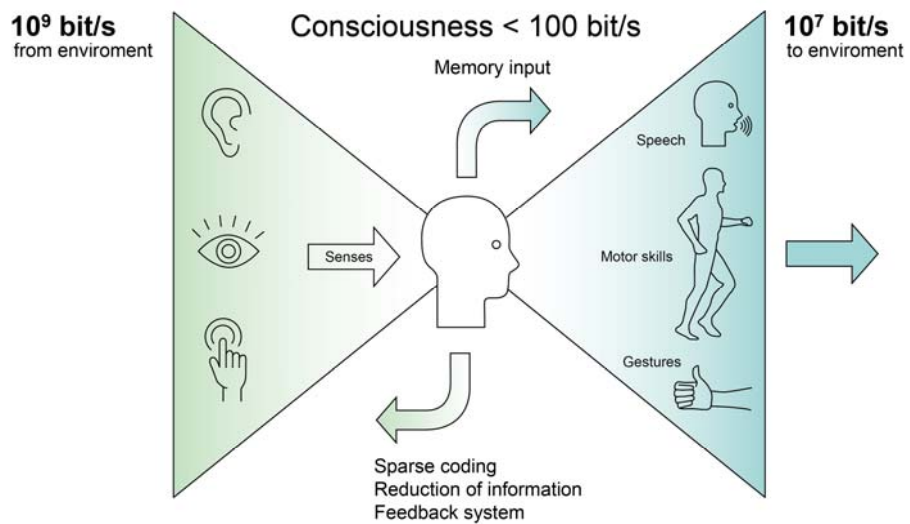


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### Information Processing: Humans



Adapted from: W. D. Keidel: Biokybernetik des Menschen, Wissenschaftl. Buchgesellschaft, S. 161, 1989.

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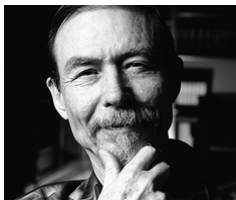
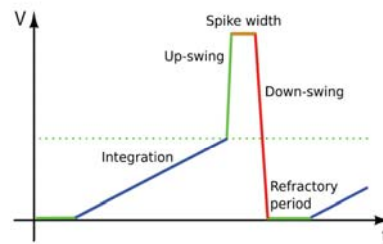
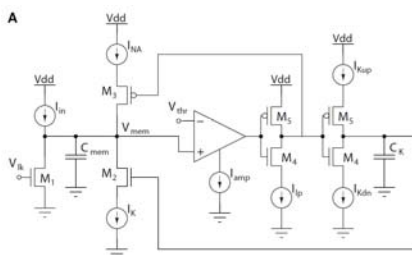
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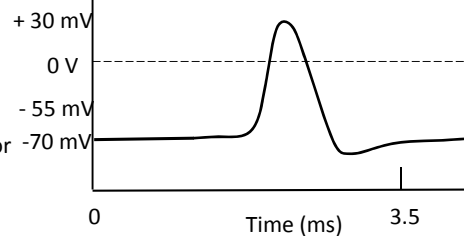
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## Neuromorphic Engineering: A short Survey

Simple Leaky & Integrated Firing (LIF) Neuron



1989  
Silicon Retina  
Electronic Cochlea  
Optical Motion Sensor



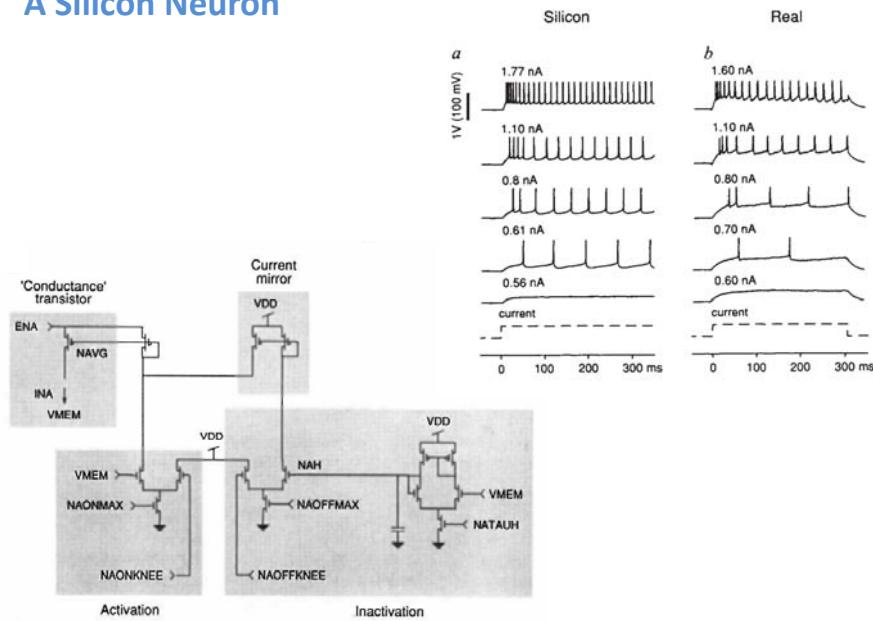
Carver Mead, Analog VLSI and Neural Systems, Addison-Wesley Pub., 1989

G. Indiverie et. Al., Frontiers in Neurosci. 2011

Shih-Chii Liu et al., Event-Based Neuromorphic Systems, Wiley, 2015

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## A Silicon Neuron



M. Mahowald & R. Douglas, Nature 1991

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## Comparison to the state-of-the-art

Giacomo Indiveri, ETH Zürich & U Zürich, Swiss

	[2]	[3]	[4]	[1]	[5]	This work
<b>Implementation</b>	Mixed-signal	Mixed-signal	Digital	Digital	Digital	Mixed-signal
<b>Technology</b>	180 nm	180 nm	28 nm	28 nm	14 nm	28 nm
<b>Supply voltage</b>	1.8V	1.8V	0.55V-1V	0.7V-1.05V	0.5V-1.25V	0.73V-1V
<b>Neuron type</b>	Analog	Analog	Digital	Digital	Digital	Analog
<b>Core area [mm<sup>2</sup>]</b>	51.4	7.5	0.086	0.095	0.4	0.36 (Core<x>) 1.01 (Core<L>)
<b>Neurons per core</b>	256	256	256	256	max 1k	256 (Core<x>) 64 (Core<L>)
<b>Synapses per core</b>	128k	16k	64k	64k	1M-114k	16k (Core<x>) 20k (Core<L>)
<b>Fan-in/Fan-out</b>	256/256	64/4k	256/256	256/256	16/4k	2 <sup>11</sup> /8k (Core<x>) 1k/8k (Core<L>)
<b>Reconfigurable dendritic tree</b>	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes
<b>Synaptic weight</b>	Capacitor	(1+1)-bit	(3+1)-bit	1-bit	1- to 9-bit	(4+1)-bit
<b>On-line learning</b>	STDP	No	STDP	No	Programmable	STDP
<b>Operation mode</b>	Parallel processing	Parallel processing	Time multiplexing	Time multiplexing	Time multiplexing	Parallel processing
<b>Energy per SOP</b>	77uJ@1.8V	17pJ@1.3V@1.8V	9.8pJ@0.55V	26pJ@0.775V	23.6pJ@0.75V	2pJ@0.73V

[1] P. A. Merolla et al. Science. 2014.

[2] N. Qiao et al. Frontiers in Neuroscience, 2015.

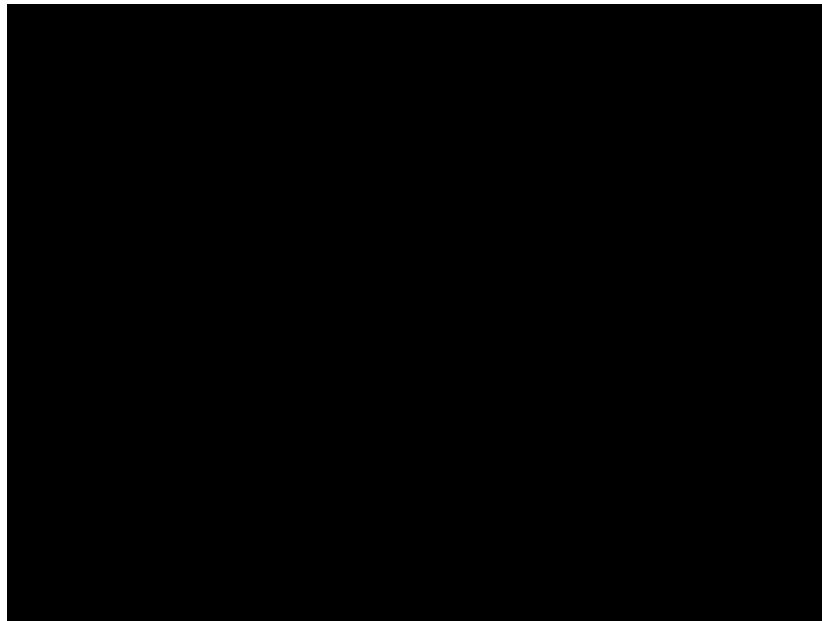
[3] S. Moradi et al. Biomedical Circuits and Systems, IEEE Trans. 2017

[4] C. Frenkel et al., arXiv:1804.07858. 2018.

[5] M. Davies et al. IEEE Micro, 2018.

Tianjic Chip  
Jing Pei et al., Nature 2019

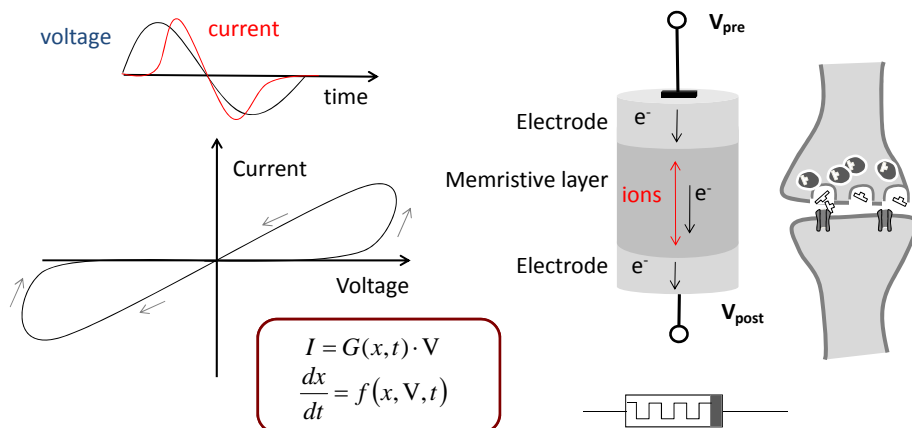
Tianjic Chip, Jing Pei et al., Nature 2019



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## Memristive Devices

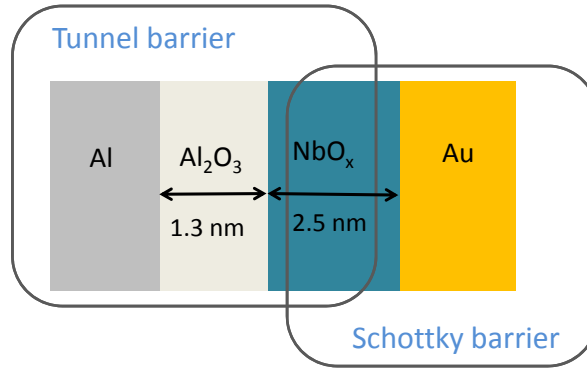
Memristor = Memory + Resistor: **non-volatile, passive**



Leon O. Chua 1970  
 Dmitri B. Strukov & R. Stanley Williams 2008

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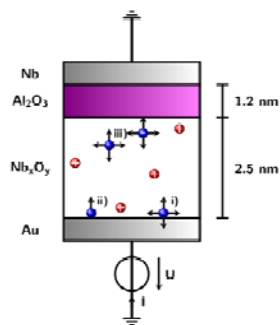
## A double-barrier memristive device (DBMD)



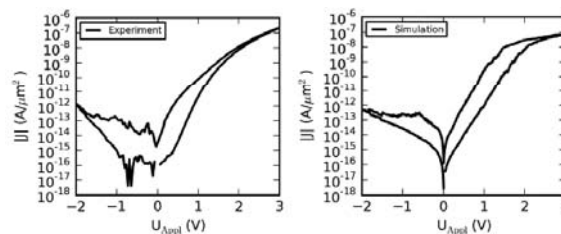
➤ Coupled mechanisms by ultra-thin solid state electrolyte

M. Hansen et al., Sci. Rep. 5 (2015)

## Kinetic Monte Carlo Simulation



- **Tunnel barrier:** voltage controlled current source (Simmons formula)
- **Au / NbO<sub>x</sub> interface:** Schottky model
- **NbO<sub>x</sub> layer:** ohmic resistance dependent on inner atomic structure
- **hopping of negatively charged ions within the NbO<sub>x</sub>:**
  - diffusion within the solid state electrolyte
  - adsorption
  - desorption

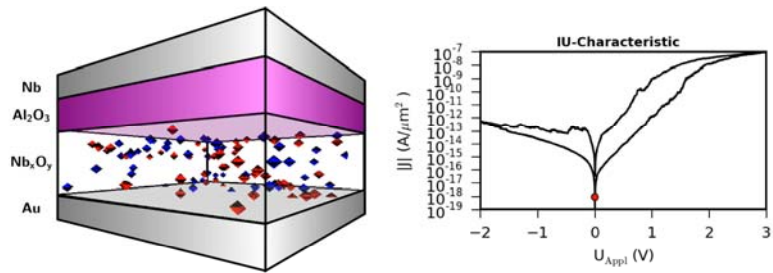


Dirkmann et al., Sci. Rep. 6 (2016)

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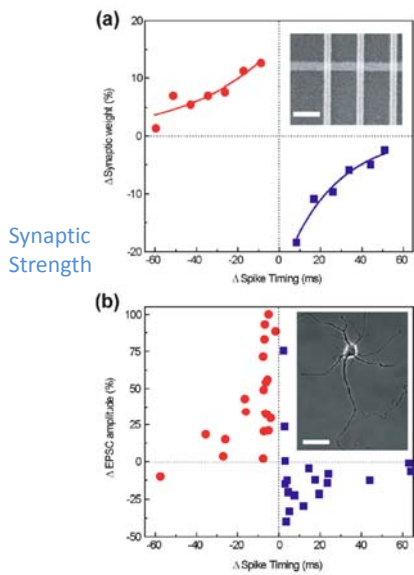
### Kinetic Monte Carlo Simulation



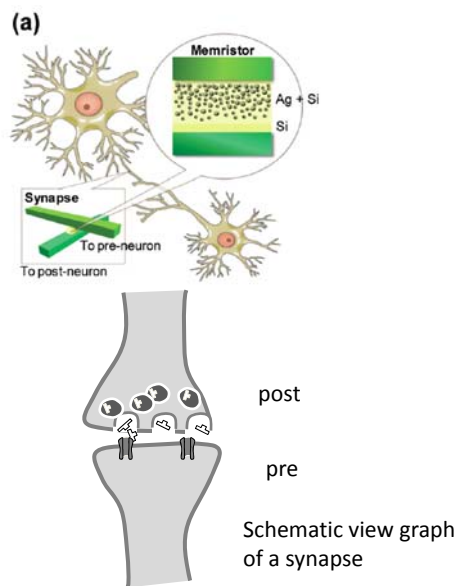
Dirkmann et al., Sci. Rep. 6 (2016)

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### Spike Time Dependent Plasticity (STDP)



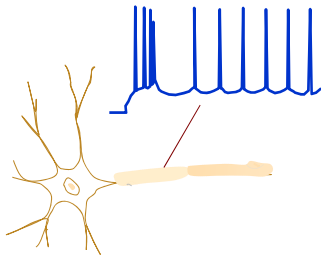
Bi and Poo, The J. of Neuroscience, 1998 (Biology)  
 Jo et al., Nano Lett. 2010 (Memristor)



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## Back to Biology: Brain Activity - Rhythms

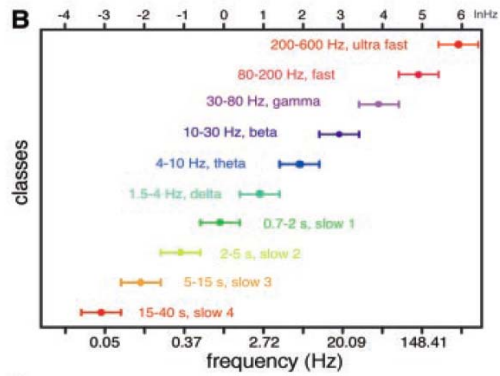
At the **local** neuron level:  
Stochastic signals



At the **global** brain level:  
Rhythms (alpha, beta, gamma)



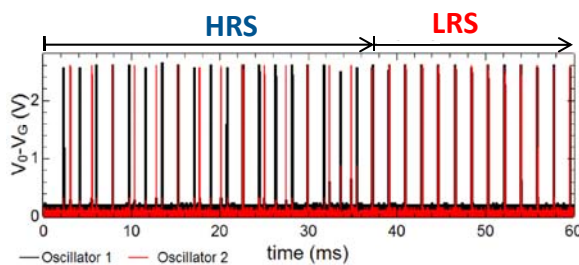
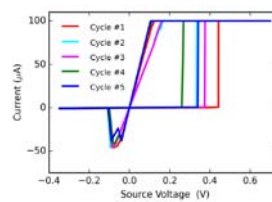
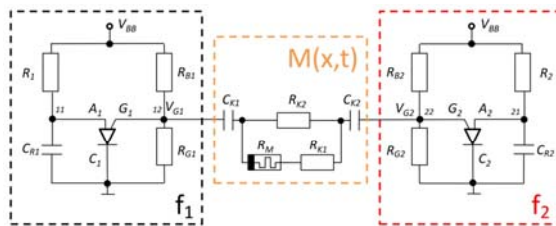
EEG: Electroencephalography



G. Buzsàki and A. Draguhn Science 2004  
G. Buzsàki, Rhythm of the Brain, Oxford, 2006  
B. J. He, Cell Press 2014

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## Memristively coupled Van der Pol oscillator

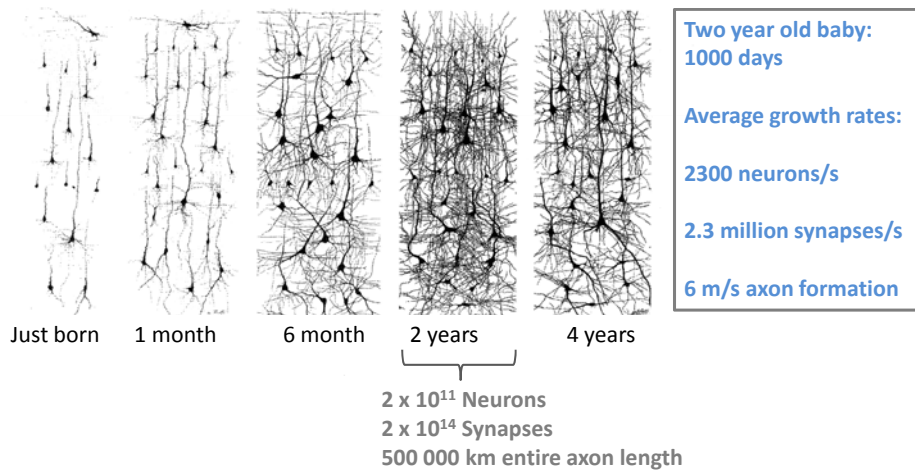


ISIF 2019:  
Memory and Data Storage  
Stochastic Learning  
Tuesday: Martin Ziegler, 10:30 Icon

M. Ignatov, M. Hansen, M. Ziegler, H. Kohlstedt, Appl. Phys. Lett. (2016)  
M. Ignatov et al., Sci. Adv. 2017

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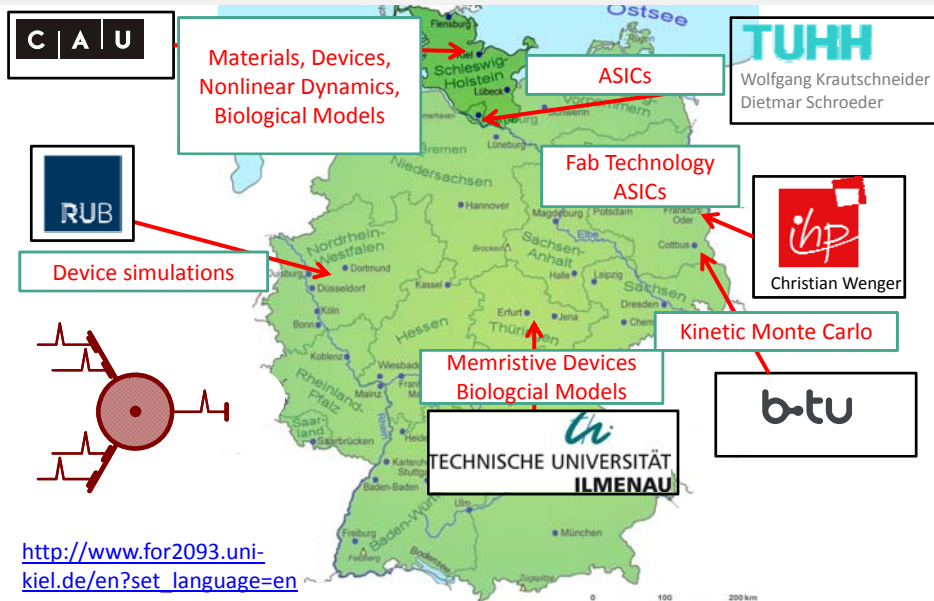
## Growth: Blooming & Pruning under external Stimuli



S. Seung: "Connectome: How the brain's wiring makes us who we are?"  
MIT Cambridge, 2012 (German Version: Das Konnektom, S. 99, Springer Spektrum)

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## Acknowledgement: DFG-Research Unit 2093 Memristive Devices for Neuronal Systems



Group Meeting: Research Unit 2093: Memristive Devices for Neuronal Systems

