Dedicated to my parents

Declaration

I certify that

- The work contained in the dissertation is original and has been done by myself under the general supervision of my supervisors.
- The work has not been submitted to any other Institute for any degree or diploma.
- I have followed the guidelines provided by Tezpur University in writing the thesis.
- I have conformed to the norms and guidelines given in the Ethical Code of Conduct of the university.
- Whenever I have used materials (data, theoretical analysis, and text) from other sources, I have given due credit to them by citing them in the text of the dissertation and giving their details in the references.

Satyabrat Malla Bujar Baruah



Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering Tezpur University

Napaam, Tezpur- 784028, Assam, India.

Dr. Soumik Roy Professor Phone: (03712)275258 Fax: (03712)267006 E-Mail : xoumik@tezu.ernet.in

Certificate

This is to certify that the thesis entitled "Modeling of Non-linearities in Neuronal Dendritic Structures and Their Roles in Feature Extraction" submitted to Tezpur University in the Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering under the School of Engineering in partial fulfillment of the award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Electronics and Communication Engineering is a record of research work carried out by Satyabrat Malla Bujar Baruah under my supervision and guidance.

All helps received by him from various sources have been duly acknowledged. No part of this thesis has been submitted else where for award of any other degree.

Signature of Supervisor (Soumik Roy) Professor Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering Tezpur University Assam, India-784028



Certificate

This is to certify that the thesis entitled "Modeling of Non-linearities in Neuronal Dendritic Structures and Their Roles in Feature Extraction" submitted by Mr. Satyabrat Malla Bujar Baruah to Tezpur University in the Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering under the School of Engineering in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Electronics and Communication Engineering has been examined by us on and found to be satisfactory.

The Committee recommends for award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

Signature of Principal Supervisor

Signature of External Examiner

Acknowledgment

It gives me great pleasure to express my gratitude to everyone who has helped me complete my doctoral programme at Tezpur University by providing guidance and support. It would not have been possible for me to survive and thrive solely through my own efforts. Many people extended their helping hands to me in order to make my work a success. I'd like to thank everyone who helped and supported me while I was working at Tezpur University.

First and foremost, I would like to thank my supervisor, Dr. Soumik Roy, for his unwavering support, trust, valuable feedback, encouragement, and countless words of wisdom. He gave me the opportunity to advance my ideas and work at my own pace, and he was always open to discussing any problems that arose along the way. His encouragement and direction have served as the foundation for the successful delivery of my academic research. I'd also like to thank my father, Bidyut Malla Bujar Baruah, my mother, Pranita Bujar Baruah, my brother, Debabrat Malla Bujar Baruah, and my wife, Karabi Baruah, and other family members for putting up with my idea of entering the area of research to continue pursuing my passion. They have consistently provided emotional, mental, and financial support for me to continue working on my projects with dedication and determination.

I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to all of the doctoral committee members of my research, particularly Prof. Jiten Ch. Dutta, for his insightful advice and recommendations. I'd also like to acknowledge the assistance and support I've received from members of the faculty, Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering, from time to time, with special thanks to Prof. Vijay Kumar Nath, Dr. Md. Rahat Mahboob, and Dr. Deepika Hazarika. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to other faculty members, particularly Prof. Partha P. Sahu and the Department's non-teaching staff, for their generous assistance in various ways in completing the work. I'd like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the members of my thesis review committee as well as the anonymous reviewers for their insightful review and comments.

I am immensely grateful to all of my lab mates and friends, especially Biswajit Das, Uddipan Hazarika, Bidyut Bikash Borah, Debraj Kakati, Rajesh Mandal, Adil, Deepsikha, Mashuma, Rabin, Hriday, and other colleagues in this department, who have always encouraged and supported me in all aspects of my life.

Finally, I would like to thank all those who have directly or indirectly helped me in different capacities to complete my research work.

Satyabrat Malla Bujar Baruah

List of Figures

1-1	The proposed system's conceptual framework	9
2-1	A simple artificial neural network representation.	13
2-2	Actual neurons with dendritic arborization collected from https: //neuromorpho.org/	14
3-1	Cable representation of a differential length of neuron fiber and membrane representation of active and passive fiber (a) Cable model equivalent circuit for a neuron fiber over a small length (Δx) of neuron fiber, (b) Black box representation from Figure3-1a with A representing electical circuit equivalent of a HH active membrane and B represents electical circuit equivalent of a passive membrane model	25
3-2	Active membrane dynamics of HH neuron	26
3-3	Action potential triggered by an HH type membrane due to injected stimulus and corresponding limit cycle of the Na^+ gates and K^+ gates due to membrane potential dynamics.	28
3-4	Passive cable representation of a differential length of neuron fiber.	29
3-5	Passive membrane transients from the cable model	30
3-6	Equivalent discritized passive cable model representation	31

3-7	Propagation response in fibers along the different lengths of the fiber (a) A surface plot from simulation model propagation response along the different lengths of the fiber of fiber diameter $5\mu m$ showing more propagation attenuation in fiber as the length of the fiber increases, (b) Propagation response plot for propagating action potential at different lengths of a passive fiber showing attenuation at different points along the length of the fiber. The response also shows an increase in signal spread due to increased electrostatic interaction due to membrane capacitance.	32
3-8	Propagation response for fibers with different diameters. (a) A surface plot from simulation model propagation response along the different lengths of the fiber of fiber diameter $5\mu m$ showing more propagation attenuation in fiber as the length of the fiber increases and (b) Propagation response plot for propagating action potential at different lengths of a passive fiber showing attenuation at different points along the length of the fiber. The response also shows an increase in signal spread due to increased electrostatic interaction due to membrane capacitance.	33
3-9	2D equivalent of a cable fiber model	34
3-10	Propagation response for tapered and flared fibers. (a)Simulation model propagation response along the different lengths of the fiber of initial fiber diameter $5\mu m$ with different flaring ratio showing more propagation attenuation in fiber as the length of the fiber in- creases, (b) Propagation response plot for propagating action po- tential at different lengths of a passive fiber with different tapering ratio showing attenuation at different points along the length of the fiber.	37
3-11	2-fiber bundle and its equivalent cable representation	39
3-12	Some unique coupling matrices for a 2-fiber interaction model to simulate interference effects.	42

3-13	2-fiber bundle transient response caused by various coupling matrices shown in Figure.3-12. Transients caused by coupling matrix B_1 , B_2 , B_3 , and B_4 for a two-fiber interaction system, demonstrating coupling parameters capable of hyper-polarizing, depolarizing, and interference-free response in nearby fiber as one fiber settles to resting potential 65 mV from an initial membrane potential 0 mV .	42
3-14	Different coupling matrices for the 3-fiber model in mode 2 to simulate interference effects.	43
3-15	3-fiber bundle transients due to different coupling matrices given in Figure3-14. Transients due to coupling matrix B_1 , B_2 , B_3 and B_4 for a 3-fiber interaction system showing coupling parameters capable of hyperpolarizing, depolarizing and interference free response in nearby fiber while one fiber settles to resting potential of $-65 \ mV$ from an initial membrane potential of $0 \ mV$.	43
3-16	Different coupling matrices for the 3-fiber model are arranged in a triangular pattern to simulate interference effects	44
3-17	3-fiber bundle transients due to different coupling matrices given in Figure3-16. Transients due to coupling matrix B_1 , B_2 and B_3 for 3-fiber transients showing coupling parameters capable of transmission without signal interference on the other fibers while one fiber settles to resting potential of $-65 \ mV$ from an initial membrane potential of $0 \ mV$ in 3 fiber arrange in a triangular pattern	44
4-1	As demonstrated in [1], the organisation of distinct cells from pho- toreceptors to the RGC network, as well as the relevant sections, are taken into account while modelling the suggested single layered network of visual cortex.	50
4-2	ON-BC response is encoded as square pulses (sustained depolariza- tion or hyperpolarization) due to light intensity transduction, fed to the post synapse of the RGCs, and the corresponding spike rates.	54
4-3	OFF-BC response is encoded as square pulses (sustained depolar- ization or hyperpolarization) due to light intensity transduction, fed to the post synapse of the RGCs, and the corresponding spike rates.	54

4-4	Two distinct morphology of RGCs were used in the proposed work. (a) Midget RGC with 4 dendritic terminals connecting to the ON and OFF-BCs, (b) RGC with 6 dendritic terminals connecting to ON and OFF-BCs.	56
4-5	Functional aspect of the neuron in Figure.4-4a	57
4-6	RFs connectome specificity for 3 × 3 grid of RGC in Figure4-4 cell connectivity. (a) RF due to RGG dendritic spread in Figure4-4a connectivity corresponding to 4 selective orientation and (b) RF due to RGC dendritic spread in Figure4-4b connectivity corresponding to 4 selective orientation.	58
4-7	Connectivity matrices for detection of four directional edges namely vertical, horizontal, and two diagonal components from left hand side to the right right hand side respectively for neuron model in Figure4-4a and RFs corresponding to Figure4-6a	58
4-8	Connectivity matrices for detection of four directional edges namely vertical, horizontal, and two diagonal components from left hand side to the right right hand side respectively for neuron model in Figure4-4b and RFs corresponding to Figure4-6b	59
4-9	Different orientation 3×3 photoreceptor stimulus matrix connected to the neuron in Figure4-4a via BCs in configuration of vertical edge selective connectivity matrix shown in Figure4-7 to simulate spik- ing activity at different ion concentrated localized locations of the neuron shown in Figure4-10, Figure4-11, Figure4-12 and Figure4-13.	61
4-10	Spiking activity due to input matrix 1 near the synapse, at the junctions with localized ion clannels and the soma respectively	62
4-11	Spiking activity due to input Matrix 2 near the synapse, at the junctions with localized ion clannels and the soma respectively	63
4-12	Spiking activity due to input Matrix 3 near the synapse, at the junctions with localized ion clannels and the soma respectively	64
4-13	Spiking activity due to input Matrix 4 near the synapse, at the junctions with localized ion clannels and the soma respectively	66

4-14	BC (ON in light green and OFF in dark green semi-sphear) con- netivity of orientation selective RGC in human primary visual cor- tex showing oriented feature extraction and edge estimation	67
4-15	RFs connectome specificity for RGC in Figure4-4 cell connectivity. (a) Sample vertical gradient input patch to 0° and 90° Orientation Selective RGC cells, (b) Response at different locations of the 0° Orientation Selective RGC cell corresponding to the input sample data shown in Figure4-15a fed to the photoreceptor cell, and (c) Response at different locations of the 90° Orientation Selective RGC cell corresponding to the input sample data shown in Figure4-15a fed to the photoreceptor cell	68
4-16	Sample input image from BSDS database for ON and OFF RGC oriented edges.	68
4-17	Sample edge reconstructed images from ON and OFF RGC oriented edges (scotopic vision) for the sample images in Figure 4-16	69
4-18	Edge detection response of the scotopic vision model and color vision model to some input images	70
4-19	Visualizations of matches and errors of scotopic vision and color vision compared to BSDS ground truth edges. Edges are thickened to two pixels for better visibility; the color coding is green=true positive, blue=false positive, red=false negative	70
4-20	Coupled fiber connectivity neighborhood (top right) concerning central fiber of interest at n_7 for connectome specificity for detec- tion of verticle edges shown in connectivity matrix(bottom right) superimposed over the red block for computing overall orientation response at n_{13}	75
4-21	Sample process of detection of uncoupled OS edge extraction in an image from BSDS database and convoluting with the HOG angle image to extract histogram of extracted edge orientation angles	77
4-22	Normalized histogram selectivity of the coupled RGC network and uncoupled RGC network computed at $0^\circ/180^\circ$ from test images	79
4-23	Normalized histogram selectivity of the coupled RGC network and uncoupled RGC network computed at $45^\circ/225^\circ$ from test images	80

4-24	Normalized histogram selectivity of the coupled RGC network and uncoupled RGC network computed at $90^{\circ}/270^{\circ}$ from test images.	80	
4-25	Normalized histogram selectivity of the coupled RGC network and uncoupled RGC network computed at $135^\circ/315^\circ$ from test images	81	
5-1	Morphologycally detailed midget and parasol RGCs used in the simulation model	87	
5-2	Overlaping RF formation due to orientation selectivity type config- uration.	88	
5-3	Connectivity matrices corresponding to midget and parasol cell con- nections with BCs forming RFs shown in Figure 5-2 of different sizes respective to their dendritic spread	90	
5-4	Spike trigger for midget RGC layer with dendritic spread over 3×3 spatial grids for different orientation selectivity configurations	91	
5-5	Spike trigger for parasol RGC layer with dendritic spread over 5×5 spatial grids for different orientation selectivity configurations	92	
5-6	Spike trigger for parasol RGC layer with dendritic spread over 7×7 spatial grids for different orientation selectivity configurations	92	
5-7	Orientation selectivity histogram showing specificity of different RGCs within grid sizes of 3×3 neighbourhood for midget RGC and 5×5 , 7×7 neighbourhood of parasol RGCs	93	
5-8	Edge map reconstructed from input image in Figure5-8a by the orientation selective RGC network corresponding to different RF sizes.	94	
5-9	Edge map constructed from orientation selective midget and parasol RGC layers corresponding to three different RF sizes showing multi- resolution behavior with midget RGCs replicating high resolution texture as well as boundary estimation and larger RFs extracting coarser boundary maps.	96	
5-10	Parasol RGC morphologies used in striate cortex and magnocellular layer	99	

5-11	Parasol RGC connectivity with ON-BCs for normalizing gradient change along specific orientations
5-12	Connectivity matrix for boundary detection type RGC shown in Figure5-10b with segmentation type response with orientation specificity to 0° , 45° , 90° and 135°
5-13	Parasol RGC network connected to ON-BC network and OFF-BC network showing segmentation type behavior. Boundary and contour map reconstruction type behavior due to orientation selectivity type network connected to parasol RGC layers with sympathetic connectivity with ON and OFF-BC layer that are being projected onto magnocellular region
5-14	Parasol RGC network connected to ON-BC network and OFF-BC network showing segmentation type behavior. Boundary and contour map reconstruction type behavior due to orientation selectivity type network connected to parasol RGC layers with sympathetic connectivity with ON and OFF-BC layer that are being projected onto magnocellular region
6-1	Visual cortex inspired learning model
6-2	Sample response to an input image at S1, C1 and S2 layers for different RF size of 'S1' and 'S2' layer and three pooling operations in of the complex cell layer C1 and C2 with RF sizes of 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15 RGC neighborhood is shown for the designed network 112

List of Tables

4.1	Izhikevich propagation and bursting membrane parameters taken from [2, 3]		60
4.2	Orientation selective ON RGC layer response at 0° , 45° , 90° and 135° orientation and OFF RGC layer response at 0° , 45° , 90° and 135° orientation in scotopic vision corresponding to sample images in Figure4-16a.		65
4.3	Orientation selective ON RGC layer response at 0° , 45° , 90° and 135° orientation and OFF RGC layer response at 0° , 45° , 90° and 135° orientation in scotopic vision corresponding to sample images in Figure4-16b.		65
4.4	Performance comparison of the proposed framework with existing state-of-the-art-models on BSDS500 database		72
4.5	Neuron attributes considered for generation of coupling matrices.		78
4.6	Coupling matrix for the coupled fiber system considered for fiber coupling neighborhood with respect to the fiber of interest at n_7 .	•	79
5.1	Orientation selective ON RGC layer response at 0°, 45°, 90° and 135° orientation and OFF RGC layer response at 0°, 45°, 90° and 135° orientation in scotopic vision corresponding to sample images in Figure 5-8 respectively.		95
6.1	Retrival performance of the hmax model after incorporating the proposed morphologically detailed RGC neuron model in the S1 and S2 layer.	. 1	14

Glossary of Terms

AIC	Active ion channel
AP	Action potentials
BC	Bipolar cells
ELFENN	Electric Field Effects in Neural Networks
fMRI	Functional magnetic resonance imaging
HLNS	Hierarchical linear-nonlinear structure
HOG	Histogram of Oriented Gradients
LG	Lateral Gyrus
LTP	Long term potentiation
LTD	Long term depression
ODS	Optimal Dataset Scale
OIS	Optimal Image Scale
ODSF	Optimal Dataset Scale F score
OISF	Optimal Image Scale F score
ON-BC	ON-bipolar cells
OFF-BC	OFF-bipolar cells
OS	Orientation-selective
OS-RGC	Orientation-selective retinal ganglion cell
PVC	Primate visual cortex
\mathbf{PSG}	Post Lateral Gyrus
RF	Receptive field
RGC	Retinal Ganglion Cell
SNN	Spiking neural network

Symbols and Notations

Δx	Differential length
c_m	Specific membrane capacitance per unit surface area
r_m	Specific membrane resistance per unit surface area
r_a	Axial resistance per unit length
Na^+	Sodium ions
K^+	Potassium ions
Cl^-	Chlorine ions
g_{Na}	Maximum specific membrane conductance due to sodium
	ion channels per unit surface area
g_K	Maximum specific membrane conductance due to potas-
	sium ion channels per unit surface area
g_L	Maximum specific membrane conductance due to leakage
	ion channels per unit surface area
E_{Na}	Equilibrium potential for Sodium ion channels
E_K	Equilibrium potential for Potassium ion channels
E_L	Equilibrium potential for leakage ion channels
G_{Na}	Instantaneous Sodium ion channel conductance
G_K	Instantaneous Potassium ion channel conductance
G_L	Instantaneous leakage ion channel conductance
$lpha_m$	Sodium ion channel opening rate for m-gate
$lpha_n$	Potassium ion channel opening rate for n-gate
$lpha_h$	Sodium ion channel opening rate for h-gate
eta_m	Sodium ion channel closing rate for m-gate
eta_n	Potassium ion channel closing rate for n-gate
eta_{h}	Sodium ion channel closing rate for h-gate
m(t)	Probability of open m-gate at time 't'
n(t)	Probability of open n-gate at time 't'
h(t)	Probability of open h-gate at time 't'
V(x)	Membrane potential at location x

$V(x + \Delta x)$	Membrane potential at location $x + \Delta x$
$V(x - \Delta x)$	Membrane potential at location $x - \Delta x$
$I_a(x)$	Axial current at location x
$I_a(x + \Delta x)$	Axial current at location $x + \Delta x$
$I_a(x - \Delta x)$	Axial current at location $x - \Delta x$
I_T	Trans-membrane current
I_{ionic}	Ionic current due to active or passive channel dynamics
I_c	Current across lipid bilayer membrane capacitance
I_{Na}	Current due to Sodium ion channel dynamics
I_K	Current due to Potassium ion channel dynamics
I_L	Current due to leakage ion channel dynamics
I_{inj}	Injected current to a fiber
$\frac{dV}{dx}$	Differential change in membrane potential per unit dif-
	ferential length
$rac{dI_a}{dx}$	Differential change in axial current per unit differential
	length
I_{AP}	Current due to active action potential
D	Diameter of a fiber
L	Length of a fiber
R_{lon}	Bulk axial resistance of a fiber with diameter D' and
	length ' L '
G_L	Bulk leakage membrane conductance of a fiber with di-
	ameter ' D ' and length ' L '
C_m	Bulk membrane capacitance of a fiber with diameter ' D '
	and length ' L '
I_{prop}	Propagating current from point A' to point B'
$rac{dD}{dx}$	Differential change in diameter per unit differential
	length
R_{ix}	Axial resistance inside fiber ' x ' due to endoplasm
R_e	Extracellular resistance due to exoplasm
R_{ax}	Axial resistance to propagating signal along the axis of
	fiber ' x '
R_{exy}	Extracellular resistance to ionic mobility from fiber 'x' to
	fiber ' y '
V_e	Potential outside fiber
V_{ix}	Potential inside fiber ' x '
I_e	Extracellular current due to ionic mobility
I_{ix}	Axial current in fiber ' x '
I_{Tx}	Transmembrane current for fiber ' x '

I_{inj_x}	Injected current to fiber ' x '
I_{ion_x}	Current due to ionic exchange or leakage ions for fiber
	x'
A and B	Coupling matrices
ϕ	Forced input to the system
C_{mx}	Membrane capacitance for fiber ' x '
a	Izhikevich's control parameter for spiking activity
b	Izhikevich's control parameter for spiking activity
c	Izhikevich's control parameter for spiking activity
d	Izhikevich's control parameter for spiking activity
k	Izhikevich's control parameter for spiking activity
C	Izhikevich's control parameter for spiking activity
v	Izhikevich's membrane potential for spiking activity
u	Izhikevich's recovery current
v_t	Izhikevich's threshold potential for spiking activity
v_r	Izhikevich's resting membrane potential
Ι	Input stimulus to Izhikevich's membrane model
$V_{threshold}$	Threshold potential for membrane potential to consider
	as a spike
$V_{m(i,j)}$	Temporal membrane potential of a neuron at spatial lo-
	cation i^{th} row and j^{th} column
$F_x(i,j)$	Firing rate of a neuron at spatial location i^{th} row and j^{th}
	column